

Dear Conference members and ACWW friends

2020 taught us that nothing can be taken for granted: therefore, make sure that you test positive for faith. Keep your distance from doubt and isolate yourself from fear. Trust in God through it all.

It is my privilege to take you on a short tour of what FSWAU has been doing in the last three years.

FSWAU has experienced a drop in member numbers and I am sure the other organizations can relate to this fact as well. Covid has brought fear into our lives with members preferring to stay home and out of harm's way.

To assist women in fulfilling their rightful place in society, FSWAU has as its mission to support members, to empower them and to equip them with the necessary knowledge and capabilities.

FSWAU is not a charitable organization but members and branches are very involved in helping those in need.

Some of our projects have been:

- Helping farmers and their families in drought stricken areas.



- In conjunction with Changenet SA second hand clothes were collected with which the poorest of the poor could generate some sort of an income.
- An Industrial washing machine was gifted to St Pauls, a frail care facility in Bethlehem.
- One of our annual themes was "Be extraordinarily different" and we focused on helping in our different communities i.e. FSWAU gifted tiles and cupboards with which to renovate two houses for the mentally handicapped in Viljoenskroon.



- Members also reached out to different organizations with projects such As Coffee and cakes, Pancakes and slippers and treats for kids.



Some of the other projects were:

- Gifting baby clothes to Jessica's Wall of Life where throw away babies are looked after



- Bread binders are still being collected with which wheelchairs are bought for needy, disabled people.



- Security companies such as car guards were treated at Christmas

- Adult nappies were collected and gifted to St Paul's in Bethlehem



- An informal settlement outside Bloemfontein was helped with food and blankets.



- Members knitted “Prayer bears” one of which went with Lerato to his adoptive parents in Belgium



- Beanies were knitted for premature babies,



bibs made for the aged
and medical personnel thanked with treats for their work during the covid period.





- Most branches took part in the Women walk the World project of ACWW in which the organization is introduced to the different communities



- School bags were gifted to young learners



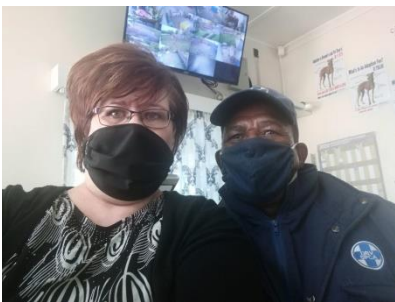
- Masks were made and gifted to old age homes



- The elderly and needy were taught to knit and generate an income



- and the SPCA was also not forgotten



Resolutions are part of any organization and one of which FSWAU is proud of is the work done by members in addressing of the pollution with plastic problem



As our children are extremely important to us, FSWAU requested the minister of Basic Education in the National Parliament to review and revise the proposed new sexual education syllabus which is to form part of Life Orientation from grades 4 – 12. We were supported in this regard by many other sister organisations. The report received regarding this matter was positive in that teachers are allowed to decide whether or not to include this specific part of the Life orientation syllabus. We believe that the Corona virus played a part in this decision.

Yesterday's memories, today's challenges and tomorrow's hope is the core of FSWAU's current year: don't forget the past, just build on the positives.

There's always a moment that separates the past from the future, and that moment is now.

It remains the mission of FSWAU to reach out to those in need and we are proud of what we have achieved in the last three years.

Thank you, Madam

