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INTERNATIONAL INNER WHEEL MAGAZINE 2025-26

President: Kay Morland

Voices of Leadership

Inspiration
from
Around
the World



**STEP UP
&
LEAD** 
by
EXAMPLE

International theme 2025-2026





Inner Wheel is Inspiring



I HAVE DISCOVERED that the only downside to having been born on a very big island in the middle of a very big sea is that we are soooo far away from everyone else on the planet.

By the end of the 2025-26 IW year, in the course of flying to IIW Exec Meetings, IGB Meetings and the many countries that invited me to visit, I am reliably informed that I will have flown 174,065.60 'air-miles' or 275,126.20 kilometres during these 12 months.

That being said, what an amazing year it has been. Jet-lag has become my friend and I have had the joy of meeting multitudes of generous, kind hearted, committed members and the privilege of visiting dozens of heartwarming projects in countries across the IW world.

Unfortunately, I simply cannot cover all the experiences I've had, all projects I have visited, this is just a sample of what has been keeping the wonderful women of Inner Wheel busy this year.

I visited the School for the Deaf sponsored by the Inner Wheel Club of Pune, India and met some beautiful children who happen to be deaf. They were all very excited to put on a dance display for us which was really quite amazing when you consider they can't hear the music. They pick up the vibrations from the floor and follow their dance teacher, it was a real treat to witness.

In Coimbatore I had the pleasure of opening an amenities block at the Anugraha Spine Shelter. This facility was donated by the Inner Wheel Club of Coimbatore for men with spinal injury. All the men present were in wheelchairs and this new facility will provide them with more convenient bathing facilities. I spoke to two very handsome young men at the centre and they both said very enthusiastically, their goal is to compete in the Paralympics.

I visited the Tamil Nadu Association for the Blind Computer Lab, supported by clubs in District 323 and witnessed people with no sight being trained to use computers. The keyboard talks to them, their teacher is also blind and many that have trained at this lab are now employed in the IT industry, just amazing.

The Inner Wheel Club of Madras's project 'Her Auto, Her Power' was one of the most uplifting I visited. Because of the generosity and ingenuity of club members, 6 young single mothers now have a way to grow in confidence and to support their families. *(Editor: Featured cover photo.)*



School for the deaf, IWC Pune



Anugraha Spine Shelter, IWC Coimbatore



Computer Lab for Visually Challenged, D323

Aug 2025

During my attendance at the Inner Wheel Australia Conference, I was privileged to attend the Gala Dinner and witness three world class research scientists receive Cord Blood Research Grants. For over 20 years these grants have been responsible for ground breaking research into the uses of stem cells found in cord and placental blood.



top IWA Conference
right IWA President and Vice-President

Oct 2025

Whilst in the Philippines to attend the IIW Executive Meeting and meet with the 2027 Convention Committee, I visited the Inner Wheel Philippines HQ and also attended their inaugural Charity Golf Day which was a huge success in raising much needed funds to support many projects.



NR Julie with grant recipients



Welcome by
IW Philippines

Charity Gold Day fundraiser



IW Philippines HQ

Feb 2026



In Sri Lanka I visited the Centre for Handicapped. This is an amazing facility which manufactures and fits artificial limbs. I met a young woman who had both her legs blown off by a land mine when she was ten years old, she is now married with two children. Artificial legs have a life span. This young lady was having new legs fitted and allowed me the honour of helping her to put one on. She just stood up and walked as if she had just put on a new pair of shoes. She had the biggest smile on her face.



Feb 2026



Another area of the Centre for Handicapped caters for special needs and we were treated to an amazing dance routine by a number of attendees who also had huge smiles on their faces.



Also, whilst I was in Sri Lanka I had the pleasure of catching up with members of their recently chartered Next Generation Club. I met eight young members and it was interesting and inspiring to listen to them speak about their plans. They are the future of our organisation and listening to them, I would say the future is in good hands.



District 222 Gala Dinner

In District 222 Northern Cyprus I presented 2025-26 IIW Theme scarves to members of the District Executive Committee, was entertained by a dance group of Inner Wheel members and took part in some shenanigans at a Gala Dinner.

Together with District 222 members, I paid a visit to a Special School to present gift bags of winter accessories beanies, caps and other goodies to the pupils. One young man told me he had recently lost his mum and could he have a hug, almost broke my heart.



District 222 Executive Committee



Feb 2026



I was incredibly excited to be in Australia in February to present the Charter to the Inner Wheel Club of Wonthaggi Owls at a celebration luncheon. Members from across Victoria were present to support our newest new club and wish all members in their Inner Wheel journey.



Feb 2026

Charter Members of the Inner Wheel Club of Wonthaggi Owls



IWA President,
A62 District Chairman,
Club President



Basel city tour

In Switzerland I shared a City Tour of the wonderful historic city of Basel with members, followed by a visit with Club Presidents and a celebration dinner with opportunities to chat about club activities and projects. We were driven to Grindelwald a small village in the Alps and took a ride on the ski lift up Jungfrau to the top of the ski run. For me, this was a bucket list moment, to actually be in the Swiss Alps. Next was a trip to Montreux on the picturesque Lake Geneva on the way to the Airport.

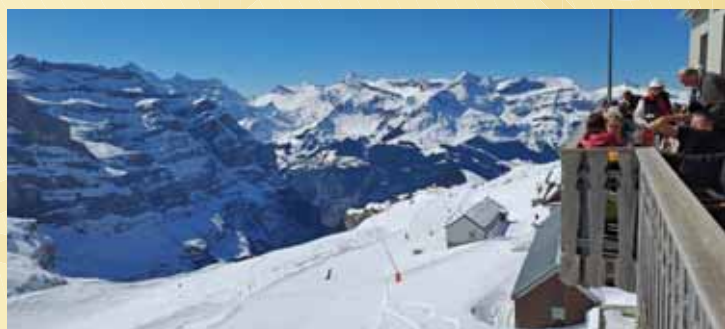


Swiss Chateau de Chillon,
Montreux, Lake Geneva



Swiss Interlaken breathtaking scenery

Mar 2026



Swiss Jungfrau, top of ski run



Mar 2026



I visited Wales to attend the GB&I Conference in Llandudno where the programme opened with an Alice in Wonderland Town Trail. Lewis Carrol and his family used to holiday in Llandudno and his daughter's name was Alice so the town have adopted the story and installed various statues and a park which feature characters from the story.



National President Pam, Llandudno Mayor & Mayoress



Llandudno Beach to the Great Orme and the Royal Hotel

The Conference was excellent with speakers from some of the institutions supported by Inner Wheel members in GB&I. The Anglesey Sea Zoo, Tourette Action, Ronald McDonald House Charities UK to name a few, and the ante-room was filled with all manner of stalls from Inner Wheel Clubs and Districts, charity groups and some commercial stands. I also had the pleasure of meeting the Mayor and Mayoress of Llandudno during my visit.

Apr 2026



I attended the 3-day German Meeting in Frankfurt where I was able to meet new Inner Wheel friends and catch up with a number of existing friends. The event is a much looked-forward-to event on the German Inner Wheel calendar.

I was invited to visit the Albert Schweitzer Kinderdorf Hessen (Children's Home) in Hanau. This home is the subject of a highly successful and unique Inner Wheel Germany Project from 2020 to 2024 which supports traumatised children and is supported by German Inner Wheel Clubs.





Members at the Inner Wheel German meeting



Frankfurt am Main heritage square, the Römerberg

There was also the opportunity to take a tour through the Old City of Frankfurt am Main and learn something about its colourful history. And, a visit to Germany is not complete without a trip to the Neuschwanstein Castle, the Disney Castle.



Neuschwanstein Castle



It was my great pleasure to present IIW Theme scarves to members of the new Inner Wheel Türkiye National Executive Committee and to present Club Charters to two new Inner Wheel Clubs.

We visited the famed Turkish Bazaars of Istanbul, saw the Blue Mosque and visited the ancient underground Basilica Cistern, what an amazing city it is.

Apr 2026



At 12:30 AM April 25 we made our way to the Gallipoli Peninsula to attend the "Dawn Ceremony" in remembrance of the 11,500 ANZACs who lost their lives there in 1915. A very sobering experience but one well worth attending.

We travelled to a very small village near Izmir where Inner Wheel members are supporting the establishment of a much needed children's library. The locals showed their gratitude by entertaining us with a traditional wedding dance.



May 2026



With a group from District 932 in South Africa, I visited the Lambano Sub-Acute Hospice which, with the support of the Inner Wheel Club of Bedfordview, is being set up to cater for people with babies and young children with terminal illnesses who can afford medical care. The profit from this hospice will be used to subsidise the Lambano Hospice, a no charge facility for those who cannot afford to care for terminally ill babies and children.

We visited Avalon Home, an aged care facility which Inner Wheel members visit monthly. They donate groceries, always take a chocolate cake for morning tea and play Bingo with the residents.



We also visited Jakaranda Kinderhuis in Pretoria also supported by Inner Wheel, a gated facility of 20 houses each of which is home to between 10 and 12 children aged 3 to 18. These children are sent here by the courts and may stay any length of time from 1 night to 18 years.



For safety reasons, the faces have been blurred out.



A very special visit for me was our visit to Yokhusela Haven, a refuge for women and their children fleeing domestic violence. It was special because for some years now Clubs in my District in Australia have financially supported this District.



The Liv project supports a pre-school for disadvantaged children from 2 to 5. The school opens at 7 AM, serves breakfast at 8, a snack mid-morning, lunch at 1 PM and another snack sandwich or the like each day. This may be the only food these children have some days.



And finally, the My Walk-School Project. Single-use PVC drip bags, oxygen masks and associated tubing is turned into brand new school shoes. With the support of the Inner Wheel Club of Saldanha, 175 pairs of shoes were donated to students to help ensure that no child is left behind due to a lack of basic necessities. I was honoured to present a pair of shoes to each child in the grade 7 and grade 3 classes. They were so very excited and loved their shoes.



Quilts for Longacres Children's Home, South Africa

In closing I would like to express my most grateful and sincere thanks to all those members who transported me, housed me, fed me and shared their Inner Wheel world with me. To all the National Representatives, National Presidents, District Chairmen and Club Presidents who took on the responsibility of organising my itinerary, and to all the members who shared their community project commitment with me. **Thank you.**

It has been a roller coaster ride and together you have made this a year filled with memories which I will cherish forever.

In friendship and with
HUGE Inner Wheel hugs.



The Global Pulse

Uniting Clubs Under ONE Vision

International Inner Wheel has successfully completed one of its most ambitious global initiatives—connecting Clubs worldwide through official, secure email addresses.

A dedicated team of Board Directors, led by Vice-President Ingelög, was tasked by the International Inner Wheel Executive Committee to achieve this goal of uniting Clubs under a single digital communication framework. With advice from President Kay, four Board Directors were appointed to the team because of their relevant skills and experience. They were later joined by Betty Roberts.



From left: Cecille Ferrier, Susan Chisholm, Ingelög Wyndhamn, Michelle Atkinson, Dorothee Remmler-Bellen, and Betty Roberts (Inset)

Together, the team worked tirelessly across continents to establish and verify non-personal Club email accounts. Their efforts have strengthened governance, ensured continuity during leadership transitions, and enhanced global connection.

Just as each member of the International Executive Committee has an official email address (@internationalinnerwheel.org), now too do the overwhelming majority of Clubs. Not only is this a simple task to replicate for newly chartered Clubs, but it will also enable seamless communication from one year to the next to continue, without the need for updating email addresses with the changes in office holders. It will help to unite Clubs through more streamlined communications and, as no personal email addresses will be used. It will also allow the publication of an online directory of Clubs that enables members to contact Clubs worldwide—a great benefit when travelling and fostering international understanding!

SPOTLIGHT

When the team was established, only 65% of clubs world-wide were using a non-personal, official email address. Despite challenges such as outdated contact details and limited responsiveness in some regions, progress gathered momentum throughout 2025. Some clubs needed mentoring through the process but by November, 95% of Clubs were connected, with significant breakthroughs in several countries and regions.

Final results, achieved in January 2026 and perfectly timed for the distribution of international voting materials, are outstanding:

Of the 4,028 Clubs globally, 96% have official email addresses.

Most importantly, this initiative has modernised communication, strengthened transparency, and ensured that the vast majority of Inner Wheel Clubs can fully participate in international governance—an inspiring example of collaboration, persistence and shared purpose.



ONE VISION • ONE VOICE ONE CONNECTED GLOBAL INNER WHEEL



In Service

In Duty

In Friendship

United using One Format

iiw.yourclubname@gmail.com



Cultivating Confidence

How We Stepped Up Together

The plan to increase membership across Australia began last year, with a strong focus on embracing new approaches. This year, our goal has been to encourage clubs and districts to harness the power of social media—particularly Facebook advertising—as a tool for growth. To support this, Membership Grant Applications of up to \$500 were taken up.

Inner Wheel strengthened its presence within local communities through a range of new promotional materials, including pull-up and teardrop banners, television advertising, business cards, and bookmarks. Television advertising proved successful in two regional areas, further raising awareness and engagement.

Inner Wheel Australia led by example, launching Facebook advertisements in Canberra following an initial enquiry through the IWA website. This initiative also provided a valuable learning opportunity for the team as they explored how to effectively use this platform. As a result, we are delighted to see a new club set to charter in Canberra early next year, with the majority of its members joining through Facebook advertising.

Building on this success, it has been inspiring to witness new members being inducted and to see the growing potential for additional clubs to emerge. Membership zoom meetings were held where ideas were shared.

Membership Chairmen have grown

in confidence through their use of social media. In turn, this has generated a renewed sense of excitement across their Districts and Clubs, as they begin to see tangible results.

SPOTLIGHT

District A60
Inner Wheel Club of Bendigo

Introducing the Team: Bernadette, Deb & Tracy

Prior to the IWA Conference, few members had heard of a Facebook Tile. However, the A60 team quickly recognised its potential and were determined to take action to strengthen their District. A Membership Grant Application was approved, followed by the development of their Facebook Tile—and then the real work began. The influx of interest and new members has created a fresh wave of energy and optimism, demonstrating just how powerful these tools can be.

As Bernadette enthusiastically shared, “I need a PA to keep up with the inquiries!”



Contribution from Julie Brzozowski, National Representative IW Australia



Hearts in Action

A Tradition of Dignity and Connection

For 15 years, the Inner Wheel Club of Regina Eastview (District 707, Inner Wheel Canada) has hosted a cherished St. Patrick's Day tea for clients of the Canadian Mental Health Association's Regina Branch. This tradition is born from a place of deep, personal understanding—every member of the Club knows the heavy toll of mental health struggles, having seen it touch the lives of those they love.

Recognising that the world can often feel isolating for those battling mental illness, the Club intentionally chooses to serve refreshments directly to their guests' tables rather than asking them to line up. This simple act of hospitality is a deliberate choice to offer dignity, comfort, and care.

What began as a community project has evolved into one of the Club's most meaningful missions—a annual reminder that no one has to walk through the darkness alone, and that a little warmth can go a long way in healing the spirit.

SPOTLIGHT

Sue Beng from the Canadian Mental Health Association described the "tea" this way:

We deeply appreciate the Inner Wheel Club of Regina Eastview hosting the annual St. Patrick's Day Tea at the Canadian Mental Health Association, Regina Branch.

This has become an event our members eagerly anticipate each year. Participants thoroughly enjoyed the home baked treats, punch, and especially the kindness of the volunteers who served them. The live music added a special touch, with many members happily singing and moving along to familiar tunes, creating a joyful and uplifting experience. For many of our clients, who often face marginalisation, this event provides not only fun and social connection, but also a meaningful reminder that their community cares about them, helping them feel valued, included, and supported while enjoying entertainment and hospitality they might not otherwise have access to.



Contribution from Frances Goudie, National Representative IW Canada



A Lifeline of Love

Nourishing Hope in Yaoundé

On 26 May 2026, the Inner Wheel Club of Yaoundé (District 915, Inner Wheel Central Africa) stepped forward to support the vulnerable children of the Orphelinat Fondation Famille Chrétienne (FACT). In a socio-economic climate where inflation and economic hardship increasingly push basic necessities out of reach, orphans and vulnerable children are often the first to feel the sting of deprivation. For these children, daily survival is a quiet battle, and regular, nutritious meals can never be taken for granted.

Understanding this profound need, the Club stepped in with a significant donation of essential food staples, totaling £489. Rather than just a drop in the ocean, this contribution represents a vital lifeline, ensuring the children receive the sustained nourishment they need to grow, learn, and simply be children.

The handover ceremony was far more than a charitable transaction; it was a beautiful moment of shared humanity. A dedicated delegation of Club members spent time at the center, bringing not just food, but warmth and presence.



SPOTLIGHT

The day concluded in a spirit of fraternal communion, leaving the children, centre managers, and Inner Wheel members deeply connected by a shared reminder that even in challenging times, no child is forgotten.

These children require permanent, unwavering support. The *dames de cœur* of Inner Wheel have shown true compassion in action."

~ *President of the Fondation FACT*

Contribution from Adèle Tchakountio, National Representative IW Central Africa



The Blueprint of Service

Igniting Change Across Generations

One of the most inspiring milestones in my journey with the *Orange the World* campaign was leading a workshop at the European Rotaract Convention (EUCO) in Opatija, Croatia, this past May. Gathering young, passionate Rotaract members from all corners of Europe, this event powerfully demonstrated the vital importance of engaging younger generations in addressing violence against women and girls. It also highlighted how much we can achieve when organisations with shared values unite for a common cause.

As District Chairman of Inner Wheel District 191 Croatia and a member of the global Inner Wheel *Orange the World* team, I have dedicated myself to elevating this campaign through local club initiatives, media appearances, and public advocacy. The EUCO workshop allowed us to take this advocacy a step further, moving beyond awareness into direct engagement and collaborative action with the leaders of tomorrow.

What resonated with me most was the vibrant, active participation of both young women and men. Together, they openly explored the critical roles that prevention and education play in dismantling harm, and discussed how each of us can actively foster a culture rooted in respect and equality.

These conversations did more than just raise awareness; they laid the groundwork for an exciting future of joint projects and co-branded awareness campaigns between Inner Wheel and Rotaract.

SPOTLIGHT

This experience beautifully reaffirmed that *Orange the World* is at its most powerful when it bridges the generational divide. By fusing the seasoned experience and wisdom of Inner Wheel members with the dynamic energy and creativity of young leaders, we amplify our collective voice. Together, we can reach wider audiences, challenge old mindsets, and drive the lasting, positive change our global communities so urgently need.



Matteo Facchetti President Rotaract Europe and Sandra Neretljaković

Contribution from Sandra Neretljaković, District Chairman IW Croatia



The Compass

Keeping the IW Values at the Forefront

For many years, communication between Inner Wheel District 247 Greece and District 96 Cyprus existed primarily through the detached lens of social media. Though separated by only a short stretch of the Mediterranean Sea, the physical distance often meant that interactions remained digital rather than personal. Recognising the need for a deeper connection, the Chairman of District 96 Cyprus, alongside the National Representative, made a conscious decision to “Step Up” and actively build tangible bridges of friendship and mutual understanding between the two neighbouring Districts.

The true turning point came in March 2026, when a delegation from District 96 traveled to participate in the District 247 Conference in Greece. Moving beyond the online world allowed members to experience the power of real, physical human connection. Discovering a wealth of commonalities—from shared cultural values and histories to a mutual dedication to service—the two Districts instantly felt like family. Before returning home, the Cypriot members extended a warm invitation for their counterparts to cross the sea and experience Cyprus firsthand.

Just two weeks later, an esteemed delegation from District 247—including their District Chairman, the National Representative, and a Past IIW Board Director—arrived in Cyprus. They were met with heartfelt hospitality. The hosts guided them through every major city, opening the doors to every single club across the District. Together, in comfortable face-to-face settings, members exchanged innovative ideas on how to further intertwine their districts and strengthen their collaborative impact.

SPOTLIGHT

The profound nature of this exchange was beautifully captured during a poignant visit to Nicosia, the world’s last divided capital city. Standing together at this historic location while holding olive branches, the members of both Districts sent a silent, powerful message for global peace.



TRUE FRIENDSHIP IS NOT PASSIVE; IT IS AN ACTIVE FORCE.

BY FOSTERING DEEP, PERSONAL BONDS ACROSS GEOGRAPHICAL AND POLITICAL DIVIDES, WE CREATE THE EMPATHY REQUIRED TO FORGE LASTING GLOBAL PEACE.



At the District 247 Conference

Contribution From Tasoulla Voskou, National Representative of District 96 Cyprus



Catalysts for Care

Turning a Project into a Community Lifeblood

When Inner Wheel Denmark launched a national competition to increase organisational visibility, the Inner Wheel Club of Skive won with a visionary proposal: selling unique, handmade bags crafted by women in Madagascar. This project sparks a ripple effect of empowerment and care that spans continents.

Children are the architects of our future, yet they are the most vulnerable to the cycles of poverty. To truly build up a child's life, we must lift up the mothers who nurture them. In Madagascar, a region gripped by intense socio-economic hardship, this project acts as a vital economic engine. By providing impoverished women with a sustainable income, it fosters financial independence, restores dignity, and ensures their children gain access to essential healthcare and education.

The unwavering commitment of Inner Wheel Denmark members is reflected in the substantial funds raised through these sales, providing transformative support for disadvantaged youth. Over the years, these significant proceeds have empowered vital organisations. Beneficiaries include Mødrehjælpen, which provides critical aid to vulnerable mothers; LykkeLiga, which creates life-changing sports communities for children with developmental disabilities; and BROEN, an initiative bridging the gap for disadvantaged youth by funding their participation in local sports and cultural activities.

SPOTLIGHT

BY COMBINING INTERNATIONAL EMPOWERMENT WITH LOCAL CARE, THIS PROJECT CREATES A BEAUTIFUL CIRCLE OF LIFE-CHANGING SUPPORT.

The Inner Wheel members have embraced this initiative with immense enthusiasm. The beautiful, practical bags are proudly purchased for personal use, gifted to loved ones, and showcased at Inner Wheel activities across the nation. Through this simple, elegant endeavour, members prove that sustainable commerce can become the very lifeblood of global and local community care.



Contribution from Grethe Juhl, National Editor IW Denmark



Grateful Leadership

To the Members Who Walked with Me

As National Representative of District 95 (Inner Wheel Egypt and Jordan), I witness countless inspiring acts of solidarity. Yet, some experiences engrave themselves deeply onto the heart, reminding us exactly why Inner Wheel exists: to stand firmly beside one another in moments of profound human vulnerability.

This year, a beloved, long-standing member of the Inner Wheel Club of Zamalek faced every parent's ultimate fear: her daughter was diagnosed with leukemia. What followed was a grueling journey of exhausting treatments and emotional endurance. Throughout this trial, our dear friend embodied unimaginable strength, quietly carrying the heavy weight of fear and hope.

As her Inner Wheel sisters, leadership meant refusing to watch from the sidelines. We stepped up to lead by example, wrapping her in a tight circle of presence, emotional sanctuary, and unwavering encouragement.

The turning point came during a quiet club gathering. Reflecting on her journey, a collective, unspoken understanding swept through the room. We realized that true leadership does not just manage structured projects; it responds to life's rawest moments with immediate, decisive empathy.

In that moment of shared compassion, we chose to transform our collective emotion into a tangible force for good. Pooling our personal resources, we made a significant contribution to the Al Orman Oncology Hospital, a vital institution providing lifesaving treatment to cancer patients, many of whom travel from remote areas.

SPOTLIGHT

"This was not just a donation. It was leadership through love—a declaration to our sister, and to every mother fighting this quiet battle, that they do not walk alone."

The courage of a mother watching her child fight illness taught us profound lessons about resilience and sacrifice.

Through this journey, the Inner Wheel Club of Zamalek demonstrated that leading by example means leaning in when it hurts the most. When one member of our circle suffers, we do not falter. We step up, we unite, and we transform personal pain into collective, community-wide healing.



Contribution from Samia Aboul Fotouh, National Representative IW Egypt & Jordan



The Mirror of Leadership

Discovering Strength in Vulnerability

Leadership is often equated with action, decisive choices, and setting a clear direction. For a long time, that was my exact philosophy: getting things done. However, a profound period of transformation within Inner Wheel Finland completely reshaped my understanding, breaking a decades-long continuum and forcing me to look within.

Although the organisational change was well-founded, it initially sparked deep internal resistance. Outwardly, I led the process with determination; inwardly, I wrestled with uncertainty and conflict. Trying to lead by example while balancing personal values with collective decisions made me pause. I realized I could not expect others to commit to a new path if I was unwilling to walk it myself.

Acceptance was a gradual process of facing my own emotions and letting go of control. It forced a critical self-reflection: *What example am I truly setting?*

This epiphany fundamentally altered my approach. I consciously shifted toward active listening, presence, and openness. Collaboration was no longer just a tool to achieve goals, but the heart of leadership itself. As my internal resistance gave way to clarity, a personal transformation occurred. This shift mirrored outward—conversations became more transparent, trust deepened, and our shared mission gained new strength.

Leading by example does not mean projecting perfection or absolute certainty. It requires the authenticity to face one's incompleteness and grow alongside others. Furthermore, in a democratic organization, acting against personal preference is often necessary; a leader must accept the majority decision and carry it forward constructively.

SPOTLIGHT

True leadership takes shape when we balance inner convictions with collective values. In those defining moments, we must pause and ask:

**WHAT KIND OF
MARK WILL MY
EXAMPLE LEAVE
FOR THE FUTURE?**

**BY LEADING
WITH THIS
MINDSET,
WE NEVER
TRULY
FAIL.**



Contribution from Eve Pylkkänen, National Representative IW Finland



The Power of Presence

Being There When the Community Needs Us

Since 2002, all 42 clubs of Inner Wheel District 86 have collectively championed the “Blue Bus,” a vital mobile youth centre. The “Blue Bus” travels in the Oderbruch region, one of Germany’s most structurally underdeveloped and remote areas, with severe socio-economic challenges. For many local children and youth, isolation, limited recreational infrastructure, and a lack of community resources are daily realities. The Blue Bus steps directly into this gap, arriving at the same towns on a weekly rotation each weekday. Children and teens ages six and above can drop in without registering in advance. For example, in Altwrietz, up to 80 young people board the bus. At each stop, the children can find a safe haven to complete homework, socialize, find a sense of belonging, and access professional social services. Everyone is given time and attention. There is a sense of community as parents and grandparents stop by too—to chat, and catch up.

Adopting the “Blue Bus” as a District 86 project was initiated by Veronica Bleyl (District Chairman 2002-2003) to unite the Clubs. It gives members the opportunity to uplift the population of a remote, low socio-economic region, held back by its past. It enables Clubs to spread out and balance their support and sponsorships to a regional area. Oderbruch was a historically troubled area near the Polish border, formerly under East Germany, and this project encourages engagement with its history and future development. There is confidence and trust in those in charge of the Bus, who are committed to imparting values, providing support and fostering the individual development of the “bus children”.

To this day, the Clubs of Inner Wheel District 86 have faithfully supported and encouraged this vital youth work through generous financial contributions. Each District Chairman has since dedicated herself personally and with great commitment to this project. Each year, members will pay a visit to the “Blue Bus” and each time, they express their fascination and admiration for the outstanding work of the staff and volunteers.

SPOTLIGHT

The true testament to the project’s multigenerational success:

Children who once sought refuge and comfort in the Blue Bus during its early days have now grown up to become its highly motivated, professional staff members.

By leading with unwavering commitment, Inner Wheel District 86 continues to prove that investing in vulnerable youth is the most important blueprint for a better future.



Contribution from Christiane Steinbrenner, National Representative IW Germany



A Symphony of Orange

Illuminating the Path to Hope & Safety

True leadership requires the courage to be impossible to ignore. On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Inner Wheel District 247 orchestrated a stunning visual transformation across Greece. Through meticulous coordination with local authorities, our Clubs bathed the nation's most iconic landmarks in the symbolic orange of the UN's "Orange the World" campaign.

From the historic Bank of Greece in Agrinio and the vibrant Omonoia Square fountain in Athens, to the celebrated "Umbrellas" art installation in Thessaloniki and the majestic Saint Nicholas Stairs in Patras, Greece glowed with a singular message: "Her Safety, Our Priority". The City Halls of Glyfada, Ilioupolis, Kifissia, and Syros joined the glow, alongside the Old City Hall in Chalandri and the S.B.A.P. in Psychiko. Each illuminated landmark stood as a bold sentinel, forcing passersby to confront truths too often kept in the dark.

Cinema for Change: Clubs in Rhodes and Agrinio pioneered "Cinema for a Cause". They organised public screenings of the poignant film "There's Always Tomorrow" (*C'è ancora domani*). Set in 1946, the film's portrayal of a mother surviving a violent, domineering husband served as a powerful mirror to modern struggles against domestic abuse and Mediterranean patriarchy. These packed screenings successfully turned art into both a conversation starter and a vital vehicle for fundraising.

"Step Up" actions beyond advocacy—**Lifelines for Shelters** are grassroots support to help restore the dignity of survivors. The Inner Wheel Club of Rhodes delivered €3,500 in supermarket vouchers to their Municipal Shelter, while Agrinio contributed €700 to support victims and their children. The Inner Wheel Club of Chalandri donated a professional dishwasher to the "Agia Anna" shelter in Kifissia, freeing up staff from manual chores so they could focus entirely on the emotional healing of the 15 young girls in their care. Clubs distributed critical supplies, including infant milk, hygiene products, and clothing, ensuring every woman entering a shelter felt the immediate embrace of a community that cares.

SPOTLIGHT

As the orange lights flickered to life on the Saint Nicholas Stairs, crowds of everyday citizens stopped to ask, "Why?"

That was the spark to ignite a conversation, to speak up for the voiceless, to face hidden truths, to defend the rights of the vulnerable, and to stand up for the dignity of victims.

By showing up with both their voices and their resources, Inner Wheel District 247 proved that leading by example is the only way to build a safer, more respectful future.



Contribution from Maria Nikolidaki, National Representative IW Greece



The Final Milestone

2025-2026, a Year of Stepping Up

There is a certain stillness that belongs to the final milestone of a meaningful journey—a moment when the road behind glows with memory and the road ahead, though unseen, still calls with purpose. As I stand at the closing stretch of my year as National Governing Body President of Inner Wheel India, I reflect not only on what we achieved, but on how deeply this journey has shaped me.

The International President’s theme, “Step Up and Lead by Example”, became the guiding spirit of the year—encouraging us to lead with courage, empathy, and integrity.

At the outset of the year, I shared a vision board inspired by the needs of our society: care for women and girls, healthcare for all, youth development, family welfare, dignity for senior citizens, water and sanitation and awareness against narcotics and drug abuse. It is deeply fulfilling to see these priorities translate into meaningful, collective action.

From July 2025 to April 2026, each month brought purposeful engagement through webinars and initiatives on self-leadership, sustainability, financial literacy, women’s health, artificial intelligence, cyber safety, mental health, and more—each reinforcing our commitment to be informed and do impactful service.

Moments that Defined Inner Wheel India’s Journey

- Golden Jubilee Celebration and Inner Wheel Cricket Championship, graced by International President Kay Morland
- Four Zonal Meets and the National Meet *Aikyam*, strengthening unity and collaboration
- Inner Wheel Idol, celebrating talent and fellowship
- Remarkable district-level projects across six districts during the visit of International President Kay Morland

SPOTLIGHT

Jyoti Mahipal, “As the National President, I strongly believe that the true architects of this journey have been the 27 District Chairmen, who walked beside me every step of the way. This journey has been humbling. It has taught me patience, deepened my capacity to listen and reminded me that leadership is ultimately an inward discipline before it becomes an outward act.

As T.S. Eliot had said, ‘For last year’s words belong to last year’s language, and next year’s words await another voice.’ Perhaps that is the true meaning of this final milestone: not an ending, but a pause of gratitude before the next ascent.”



Contribution from Jyoti Mahipal, National Representative IW India



Strength in Unity

Striving in the Face of Adversity

Despite the challenges posed by the war during the year, the leadership of District 99 remained committed to a clear and ambitious vision for 2025–2026. Under the guidance of District Chairman Sylvia Saba, National Representative Suha Fahoum, and the District 99 Executive Committee, significant efforts were dedicated to strengthening and expanding Inner Wheel Israel through the establishment of new Clubs and their integration into the organisation's values, projects, and activities.

A key focus was on building diverse and inclusive Clubs that brought together women from all three faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Special attention was given to recruiting younger women from a variety of professional backgrounds who demonstrated commitment to both the organisation's principles and the growth of their emerging clubs.

The main milestones of this initiative included:

- Identifying cities and communities with strong potential for establishing new Clubs.
- Recruiting suitable members through recommendations from existing Inner Wheel Clubs across the District.
- Assigning a sponsoring Club to mentor and support each new Club during its development.

SPOTLIGHT

Through mentorship, collaboration, and empowerment, these efforts laid the foundation for sustainable growth and a stronger, more united Inner Wheel community across District 99 with all its Inner Wheel Clubs.



The District Chairman, National Representative, and Executive Committee organised regular visits to meet up with prospective members, where they introduce Inner Wheel's mission and values, discuss project opportunities, and provide guidance on fundraising and community support. Throughout the year, all clubs were encouraged to participate in District programmes, events, and activities to foster connections and strengthen engagement within the wider Inner Wheel family. By supporting new Clubs in organising their own meetings and initiatives, it helped them develop confidence, leadership skills, and a strong sense of purpose.



*Contribution from Suha Fahoum,
National Representative IW Israel*



Architects of Kindness

Building a Legacy: Sowing the Seeds of Respect

Inner Wheel Italy has launched a nationwide educational initiative, beginning with early childhood education. Recognising schools as the ideal environment to foster self-esteem and hope, the project aims to cultivate mutual respect across personal, cultural, and social differences. By championing positive language, active listening, and empathy, Inner Wheel Italy members in this programme are actively addressing educational poverty and relationship difficulties among youth.

To start the whole programme, the National Governing Body of Italy organised two major forums in Padua and Treviso. Featuring prominent psychologists, lawyers, journalists, and sociologists, these events challenged Clubs to "take a step up" in promoting harmony and countering gender-based violence. Clubs are motivated to develop service projects in collaboration with schools.

The response was immediate. Approximately 70 Clubs throughout Inner Wheel Italy were mobilised to implement diverse, school-based service projects. These initiatives achieved widespread success by focusing on five core areas:

- **Expert-Led Education:** Seminars with professionals on healthy relationships, gender equality, and violence prevention.
- **Experiential and Interactive Workshops:** Role-playing and creative teamwork to build empathy and critical thinking.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Targeted programmes combating cyberbullying, addiction, and domestic abuse.
- **Civic Responsibility:** Projects emphasising environmental stewardship and respect for cultural heritage.
- **Inclusive Sports:** Group activities promoting socialization, diversity, and fair play.

Executed in close synergy with local institutions, these activities provided students across all grade levels with practical tools for personal growth.

SPOTLIGHT

Relationship violence remains a deeply felt crisis among young people, but Inner Wheel Italy is meeting this challenge head-on.

By leading with care, kindness, and structured action, members of Inner Wheel Italy are proving that education is the ultimate pathway to building a better, more hopeful world.



Contribution from Daniela Vitali Soderi, National Representative IW Italy



Leading the Change

From Visionary Ideas to Grassroots Reality

The cool morning air at Jalan Menteri Besar Recreational Park in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, was matched by the vibrant energy of orange caps and t-shirts as Inner Wheel District 331 stepped forward to demonstrate that service knows no boundaries.

National Representative of Inner Wheel Malaysia witnessed exceptional leadership from members of the Inner Wheel Clubs of Kota Kinabalu, Kuching, and Miri. Despite the challenge of organising an event across an international border, they proved that “where there is Inner Wheel, there is a way”.

The *Orange The World Walk* was entirely Inner Wheel-driven. Clubs led the planning, designed the merchandise, and prepared educational materials to raise awareness and encourage community dialogue. They also successfully navigated the complex logistics of transporting these resources from Malaysian Borneo into Brunei. Supplier delays and transport challenges tested their resolve, but trust, teamwork, and determination ensured success.



Understanding that ending violence against women requires collective action, District 331 members reached out to contacts in Brunei, sharing the materials and inviting participation in this UN Women initiative. Their leadership helped bridge geographical boundaries and inspire wider community involvement.

On the day of the event, members of the Rotary Club of BSB and local residents joined Inner Wheel in support of the cause. Through its vision, branding, and purpose, District 331 mobilised a community toward a shared humanitarian goal.

SPOTLIGHT

The impact was evident when local partners moved from asking, “How can we help?” to declaring, “Let’s do this again next year.”

This success demonstrates that building bridges in promoting international understanding is leadership in action. By prioritising friendship and service above formalities, members opened doors once thought closed.

District 331 has set an inspiring example: leadership means stepping into the unknown with courage and transforming vision into shared reality.



Contribution from Gillian Lee, National Representative IW Malaysia



The Inner Wheel Journey

How Leading by Example Change Me

A personal reflection from District Chairman Patricia Rodríguez.

For almost twenty years, I have served Inner Wheel with enthusiasm, commitment, and a deep love for our ideals of friendship and service. Yet, despite many invitations over the years, I had never accepted the role of District Chairman. Although I believed in my own abilities, I still hesitated to take that important step.

This year's International Inner Wheel theme, "Step Up and Lead by Example", changed my perspective completely. Those words inspired me to move forward with courage, confidence, and determination.

Serving as District Chairman of District 417 of Inner Wheel Mexico & Ecuador has been one of the greatest honours of my Inner Wheel journey. Beyond fulfilling my responsibilities to our clubs with dedication and joy, I set a deeply personal goal for myself: to charter a new Club during my year in office.

It was not an easy task. Inspiring enthusiasm, nurturing commitment, and guiding new members required patience, leadership, and seamless teamwork. I was also fortunate to have the invaluable support of our Extension Chairman, Mayiya Rigail, whose dedication and encouragement contributed greatly to the formation of the new club. I truly believe that Inner Wheel thrives and grows when we lead with conviction and open doors for others.

SPOTLIGHT

The most meaningful moment of my year came when we officially welcomed this new club into District 417. Seeing these enthusiastic women embrace the spirit of Inner Wheel filled me with immense pride and gratitude.

While this achievement was the result of a collective effort, I was deeply honoured to lead the process and help transform this dream into a reality.



Chairman Patricia Rodríguez pinning the Inner Wheel badge on Fátima Quiroz, Charter President of the Inner Wheel Club of Guayaquil, District 417, Inner Wheel Mexico & Ecuador.

This experience taught me that leadership is about far more than just fulfilling duties; it is about inspiring others through action, trust, and example.

As this Inner Wheel year draws to a close, I feel profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve, to grow personally, and to leave a lasting contribution to our District. I am certain that these new members will become a tremendous source of pride for District 417 and for the future of Inner Wheel.

Contribution from Alma Salmerón, National Representative IW Mexico & Ecuador



Leading with Purpose

Women's Healthcare: a Historic Milestone in Pokhara

Women's health and cancer prevention remain pressing global challenges, often restricted by a lack of grassroots awareness and screening access. In Pokhara, Nepal, this gap was deeply felt by local women with limited exposure to preventive care. Recognising this urgent need, the Inner Wheel Club of Pokhara (District 350, Inner Wheel Nepal) stepped forward with clear purpose.

On 22 November 2025, the Club organised a Mega Health Camp in Pokhara-33, Bagmara—an area identified as highly in need of focused intervention. This initiative marked a historic milestone by introducing advanced HPV/DNA-based cervical cancer screening to Pokhara for the very first time, bringing cutting-edge medical support directly to the community.

Overcoming deep-rooted social and cultural barriers required immense sensitivity. Many women were initially hesitant, but continuous community engagement and empathetic communication gradually built trust.

SPOTLIGHT

The resulting impact was profound.

A total of 150 women received free cervical cancer screenings.

Beyond the numbers, the camp sparked a vital shift toward early detection. During an awareness session led by gynecologist Dr Chum Maya Pun, the room transformed from quiet hesitation to active curiosity as women openly asked questions and shared health concerns.

Strengthened by collaboration with the Pokhara Metropolitan City Health Division and the Provincial Public Health Center (Kaski), the camp also provided free medications. This initiative stands as a testament to impactful leadership—proving that true vision is about stepping forward, creating local change, and leaving a lasting difference where it matters most.

*Contribution from Sarsij Palikhe,
National Representative IW Nepal*





The National Pulse

Uniting Clubs for Thousands of Children

Across the global Inner Wheel community, service projects often begin locally but create an impact far beyond national borders. In Inner Wheel Netherlands, this spirit is embodied in the National Service Project (NSP), which unites all Clubs behind one shared cause every three years.

Coordinated by the National Service Committee, the NSP provides a clear and cohesive framework that transforms individual club efforts into a nationally visible and internationally recognisable movement. It demonstrates how Inner Wheel's values of friendship, service and international understanding can be translated into collective action.

The first NSP, *Hart voor Vrouwen* (Heart for Women), focused on raising awareness of cardiovascular disease in women. Building on its success, the current NSP supports *Stichting Jarige Job*, a charity that helps children growing up in poverty celebrate their birthdays. Through specially prepared birthday boxes, children can enjoy a meaningful celebration and experience the joy, dignity and sense of belonging every child deserves.

The project's success is supported by a strong organisational structure. The National Service Committee, led by Chair Jacqueline van de Voorde, works closely with *Stichting Jarige Job* to ensure continuity and impact. Across the country, nine regional coordinators, known as "Jobbers," support clubs and encourage participation, while each Club appoints a "Jarige Jet" as its local contact person. This network keeps every Club informed, connected and engaged.

This is the global pulse in action: Clubs united under one vision, creating change that reaches far beyond their borders.



SPOTLIGHT

4,122 Children, One Share Vision

The results have been remarkable. In just two and a half years, Inner Wheel Nederland has raised €144,278, enough to provide 4,122 birthday boxes. By the end of the project in December 2026, the goal is to support 4,500 children. In addition to fundraising, more than 100 Inner Wheel members volunteer annually at the foundation's facility, packing birthday boxes and contributing hands-on service.

The NSP is a powerful example of the international theme, Step Up and Lead by Example. By uniting clubs behind one vision, Inner Wheel Nederland strengthens both national cohesion and global identity. Every birthday box delivered is more than a gift—it is a message that no child should feel forgotten.

*Contribution from Nathalie Gruben,
National Representative IW Netherlands*



Lessons from the Chair

What 365 days of Leadership Taught Me

Reflections from Funmi Ogunsi

A year ago, I stepped into the role of National Representative and President of the Council of Inner Wheel Nigeria, entrusted with leading 106 clubs across six districts. Despite four decades in Inner Wheel, this office gave me a deeper understanding of human frailty and the importance of treating one another with respect, courtesy, dignity, flexibility, and adaptability. As coordinator, mediator, mentor, and supporter, I encountered challenges that became some of my most valuable learning experiences.

Leadership Is More About Influence Than Authority: One of my greatest lessons was that leadership is not about constantly being in front issuing directives. True leadership lies in positive influence—bringing people together around a common purpose and shared standards. As a bridge between clubs and districts, people and purpose, and sometimes misunderstanding and resolution, I often had to mediate conflicts directly. I also engaged respected past national executives to help facilitate resolutions in the spirit of “When something is wrong, let us straighten it out.”

I learned to speak the truth with kindness, candour, and restraint, even when faced with discouragement. Organizational cohesion is achieved not through forceful authority, but through patient listening, diplomacy, tact, and firmness.

Trust and Delegation Build Stronger Teams: As the link between Inner Wheel Nigeria and International Inner Wheel, I learned the value of reliability, effective communication, and meeting deadlines. Most importantly, I discovered that leadership cannot thrive on micromanagement. The scope of Inner Wheel Nigeria’s operations requires trust, delegation, and collaboration.

By empowering others, listening to feedback, and valuing team contributions, I found that people perform at their best when they feel trusted and supported. This approach contributed significantly to the success of our national programmes and activities throughout the year.

Great Leadership Happens Behind the Scenes: Our 39th Annual Conference and Rally exemplified another important lesson—successful leadership is often invisible. Behind the event were countless meetings, adjustments, conversations, and sacrifices. It demanded adaptability, resilience, teamwork, diplomacy, and poise.

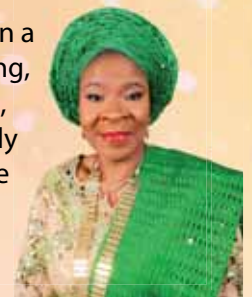
Leadership meant consistently stepping up, solving problems, managing pressures, and keeping people motivated. By working together and combining our strengths, we transformed many moving parts into a successful national event.

SPOTLIGHT

I came in to lead Inner Wheel Nigeria; in many ways, Inner Wheel Nigeria led me.

This journey deepened my respect and gratitude for the women of Inner Wheel whose dedication, compassion, and commitment continue to inspire meaningful service in our communities.

It has been a challenging, humbling, and deeply instructive learning curve.





Stepping into the Spotlight

When Mothers Shine, Communities Thrive

We affectionately call our mothers *Nanays*—the “Ilaw ng Tahanan” or light of the home. They are the guiding presence who nurtures, protects, and illuminates the lives of their families. Yet, in their tireless devotion to others, they often neglect their own well-being. Inner Wheel District 378 embraced the belief that true leadership is demonstrated through presence—showing up where care, compassion, and support are needed most.

This commitment began in 2018 with “Alay ni Juana, Para kay Juana,” a Women’s Month initiative dedicated to empowering women. Recognising its profound impact, the Inner Wheel Club of San Francisco del Monte led the District on a flagship collaborative project, bringing all Clubs together to pool resources and create meaningful opportunities for women in adopted communities.

For this year on 23 May 2026, members gathered at Barangay Doña Imelda, Quezon City, to launch “Ganda Ka ‘Nay,” a special Mother’s Day edition focused on maternal self-care and wellness. The event created a haven of care and celebration, offering heartfelt wellness talks, energising Zumba sessions, financial literacy education, free eye examinations with eyewear, and pampering services including haircuts, makeovers, and relaxing massages.

Witnessing and supporting this special project were members across the District, including organising Club President Melisa Ramirez, Past Club President Roxanne Rosalejos, Past District Chairmen Bette Pangulayan and Khristtine Ngo, and Past International Board Director Fe de Guia, together with fellow Inner Wheel members from across the District.

By choosing to be present, we do more than uplift an individual woman—we strengthen an entire family and, ultimately, the community itself. When a mother shines, her light reaches far beyond her home, illuminating the lives of all those around her.



Contribution from Yolanda Wycoco, National Representative IW Philippines

SPOTLIGHT

Stealing the spotlight this year was the unforgettable “IRampa Mo, ‘Nay!” segment.

Clad in elegant pre-loved gowns generously donated by District members, *Nanays* stepped into the spotlight with grace, confidence, and radiant smiles.

For many, it was a rare opportunity to be celebrated rather than to serve. As they walked the runway, each *Nanay* received a bouquet and proudly introduced herself before the audience like a beauty queen. It was a moving moment of affirmation, dignity, and self-worth—one that left few dry eyes in the room.



Passing the Torch

Mentoring Future Leaders is an Art

Although Inner Wheel was in Singapore since 1946, it was only on 1 July 2022 that the Clubs of Singapore in District 331 divided to form their own District 332. Training for such a 'young' District is essential in passing the torch and mentor future leaders. The second 'Inner Wheel District 332 Training Institute' recently conducted on 14 March 2026 aimed to cultivate confidence and encourage members to step up together. Nearly 50 members and executives from the District's four clubs participated. Through interactive and engaging activities, participants explored three important Inner Wheel themes: International Understanding, Friendship, and Leadership.

The first session focused on International Understanding, a value that is especially relevant in today's world and particularly significant for Singapore, whose position as a global hub enables members to build bridges across cultures, communities and nations. The participants identified practical ways Inner Wheel promotes global friendship, including the vital role of the International Service Organisers to lead and connect members to District and International events. The session concluded on an emotional note as Michael Jackson's 'We Are the World' filled the room. Members spontaneously joined hands, sang together, and celebrated the spirit of unity that defines Inner Wheel members as being part of a worldwide network connected by shared values and a common purpose.

The discussion then turned to 'Friendship', with members reflecting on the qualities that build lasting and meaningful relationships. The conversations were thoughtful, personal and enriching.

The final session explored 'Leadership Styles' through a role-play exercise, highlighting how different approaches to leadership can either encourage or discourage participation. The activity reinforced the importance of inclusive leadership in creating strong and vibrant clubs.

SPOTLIGHT

The catalyst that warmed up the training session was the surprise friendship activity, "Unity Sparks", organised by Immediate Past District Chairman Maria Hassanbhai.

Each participant received a bracelet and a clover-shaped charm symbolising diversity and unity. Members attached the charm, gifted the bracelet to the person on their right, and shared something about themselves. As participants came from all four clubs, the activity quickly created a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

The day concluded on a high note, leaving members better informed, more connected, and inspired to contribute to a vibrant and united Inner Wheel community.



*Contribution from Prabha Rao,
National Representative IW Singapore*



Impact in Motion

Creating Lasting Change by Empowerment

The Inner Wheel Club of Colombo dedicated service projects that create lasting change rather than short-term relief. Two initiatives exemplified this commitment: a sewing programme for vulnerable teenage mothers and the installation of community tube wells in Mannar.

At Ma Sevana Home for Teenage Mothers, a residential care facility for survivors of sexual abuse, the Club supports weekly sewing classes for ten to thirteen young mothers. The programme provided practical vocational skills, progressing from simple garments to skirts, blouses, maternity wear, baby clothing, and tote bags. Beyond technical training, the project helped participants rebuild confidence and independence. Through the dedicated support of member Saroj Amalean, a significant milestone was reached when several young mothers successfully completed garments on their own, transforming self-doubt into resilience and hope.

In Musali, Mannar, where access to clean water remains a challenge for farming families, the Club invested in a long-term solution through the donation of two community tube wells. Today, Wells 233 and 235 provide reliable access to clean water for fifteen to eighteen families each, supported by 1,000-litre storage tanks for drinking water and sanitation. The impact extends beyond health and hygiene. With a dependable water supply, families can cultivate crops such as chillies, peanuts, mangoes, and watermelon, strengthening food security and generating income.

SPOTLIGHT

The programme for vulnerable teenage mothers demonstrated that sustainable service is not only about teaching skills but also about restoring dignity and creating opportunities for self-reliance

These projects reflect the true spirit of creating impactful project by empowering individuals, strengthening communities, and fostering sustainable livelihoods. The Club has created benefits that will continue to grow long after the projects themselves are completed.



Contribution from Rohini Tudawe, National Representative IW Sri Lanka & Maldives



The Quiet Leader

Action More Than Words, Service Without Borders

MBote is a Swiss-based association founded in 2016 by Abbé Zacharie to help secure a better future for children and young people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one of the world's poorest nations. Its mission is achieved through educational support, including the establishment of schools and sponsorship programmes for disadvantaged children, apprentices, and students. One of MBote's key initiatives is its support of Saint Joseph School in Livulu, a densely populated district of Kinshasa. Founded in 2012 by Father Faustin Diatezulwa, the school provides access to quality education in a community where many families face significant economic hardship and educational opportunities are limited.

As enrolment steadily increased and demand from local families grew, the school expanded its vision beyond primary education to include secondary schooling and vocational training. This integrated approach equips young people with practical skills and qualifications, improving their prospects for employment and self-sufficiency. However, the existing facilities soon became inadequate.

To meet these growing needs, MBote began construction of a new two-storey school building in 2023. The project, completed in late 2025, includes six classrooms, administrative offices, a staff room, and a canteen. Although rising inflation increased costs from the original estimate of USD 90,000 to USD 98,000, the project moved forward thanks largely to the generosity of a family friend of Father Faustin, who donated USD 95,500.

Funding for furnishings and equipment remained a challenge until Inner Wheel Switzerland-Liechtenstein stepped in. Through the dedication of Past District 199 Chairman Daniela Voegele during her year of office, Inner Wheel contributed USD 47,030, enabling the school to be fully equipped and ready for use.



SPOTLIGHT

The official opening ceremony of Saint Joseph School's new fully equipped building with furnishings took place on 21 February 2026. Past District Chairman Daniela attended in person and, together with a private donor, proudly cut the ribbon, marking a transformative moment for the children and families of Livulu.



This project stands as a powerful example of how international generosity, local leadership, and a shared commitment to education can create lasting opportunities and hope for future generations.



*Contribution from Rosita Geiger,
National Representative IW Switzerland & Liechtenstein*



Modernising Tradition

Inner Wheel Helping to Build a Nation

Launched in 2022 by the Inner Wheel Club of Izmir, District 244, **TÜRKIYE**, under the leadership of then President Dr Sezgin Öztekin, the project “Leave a Lasting Legacy in Agriculture” was designed to empower women agricultural workers across the Aegean Region. The programme was implemented in Aliaga (2022), Menderes (2023), Menemen (2024), and Bergama (2025–2026).

In partnership with the Faculty of Agriculture at Aegean University, four local municipalities, and the District Directorate of Agriculture, 115 women completed a university-certified training programme over four years. The curriculum combined classroom learning and practical fieldwork, covering agriculture, innovation, e-commerce, cooperative management, and vocational skills.

Supported by five dedicated members of the Club, who contributed a total of £30,500, the project has delivered lasting results. Agricultural productivity and crop quality improved, while participants gained confidence, digital literacy, and valuable marketing and sales skills. The initiative also strengthened gender equality by expanding opportunities for women to become economically independent.

SPOTLIGHT

This programme is a shining example of collaboration between academia, local authorities, government agencies, and a non-governmental organisation, the project demonstrates the power of partnerships in creating sustainable change.

Following their certification, the women established four agricultural cooperatives in their respective regions, marketing their products locally and through e-commerce platforms. Many are now contributing significantly to their household incomes. They have also helped preserve **TÜRKIYE**'s agricultural heritage by reproducing local seed varieties—Kayra, Efe, and Meltem—for the national seed production programme, ensuring benefits that will continue for generations to come.



Contribution from İclal Kardiçalı, National Representative IW Türkiye



Grateful Leadership

On Board IW USA Flight to Our Future Together

Reflections from Martine Gayon

As this Inner Wheel year draws to a close, I find myself reflecting not only on what we have accomplished together, but on the journey itself, one defined by resilience, trust, and above all, gratitude.

Stepping into the role of National Representative and National President of Inner Wheel USA was, for me, both an honour and a formidable challenge. As a French citizen not living year-round in the United States, I was deeply aware of the complexities ahead. Distance, time zones, cultural nuances, and the practical realities of leadership from afar could easily become obstacles.

One of the most defining moments came when I faced a difficult choice: step back to what felt safer, or step fully into the role despite the uncertainties.

Choosing the latter was not easy, but it became a turning point. It was in that moment of doubt that I discovered the true meaning of grateful leadership, trusting others, accepting support, and realizing that leadership is not about proximity, but about connection.

From the very beginning, my installation as IW USA President set the tone for the year ahead. Framed in a spirit of fun and symbolism, I embraced the role as the "Captain of my crew", a lighthearted yet meaningful blink to my previous professional life. This was not simply a theme, but a vision: that we would move forward together, united in purpose, each member playing a vital role as we navigated our way toward a shared destination, the future of Inner Wheel. Like any successful voyage, it required trust, coordination, and a collective commitment to the journey. That image of a crew, working together and supporting one another, became a guiding thread throughout the year.



As we reach this important milestone, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you who walked this path with me. You have not only supported me, you have inspired me.

You have shown that no matter the distance, we are united by a shared commitment and a genuine spirit of friendship.

SPOTLIGHT

Grateful leadership is not about standing alone at the front: it is about recognising that every step forward is made possible by those who walk with you. Throughout this year, I never felt alone. The unwavering support of my Board, the commitment of our District and Club leaders, and the enthusiasm and dedication of every member of IW USA have carried me through moments of uncertainty and transformed challenges into achievements.

On a personal level, this year I have learned to trust more deeply, to listen more carefully. Gratitude is not simply a feeling, it is a way of leading. It is about acknowledging every contribution, valuing every voice, and never losing sight of the people behind the progress.



Harvesting Hope

Transforming Charity into Sustainability

Leadership often begins with a single moment of truth.

In 2017, while volunteering at a kindergarten in Raíces, Zinacantepec, Mexico, Past Club President Kapila Arora was approached by a young girl who said, "We don't only want food. We want books. We want to learn."

Those words changed everything. While temporary aid could ease immediate suffering, it could not create lasting change. It presented a defining choice for the Club's service mission: continue offering short-term relief, or step up to build sustainable opportunities that could transform lives over the long term.

What began as an organisation focused strictly on short-term food support quickly evolved into a mission centered on sustainability, education, and community empowerment. In 2021, the Inner Wheel Club of Herradura, District 417 of Inner Wheel Mexico, launched its first greenhouse gardens, equipped with rainwater harvesting systems and educational workshops. This initiative grew into *Cosechando Esperanza* (Harvesting Hope)—a model that promotes food security, health, environmental responsibility, and local economic resilience.

Today, the tangible impact of *Cosechando Esperanza* includes:

- 60 family and school gardens installed
- 11,200+ hours of sustainability training delivered
- 230,000 organic meals generated
- 580,000 liters of rainwater collected

Beyond these numbers are the real stories: mothers growing fresh food for their families, children learning sustainability through hands-on education, and communities discovering pathways to dignity and self-reliance.

SPOTLIGHT

Reflecting on the programme's success, Kapila Arora shares:

"This journey has taught me that leadership is not about standing ahead of others, but standing beside them—listening, learning, and creating solutions together.

At Inner Wheel, we believe that leading by example means planting seeds of resilience and hope. Because when communities are empowered to grow their own future, transformation becomes inevitable."



Contribution from Alma Salmerón,
National Representative IW Mexico & Ecuador



The Heart of Empathy

Leading With A Heart Across Borders

Reflections from Sènamì Leontine Seriki

District 909, Inner Wheel West Africa, is unique. Unlike many districts that comprise several clubs within a single country, this District brings together members from seven French-speaking countries in West Africa: Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal, and Guinea.

In some of these countries, there are only one or two Clubs. Yet despite the distances, different realities, and national borders, all the Clubs have learned to grow as one Inner Wheel family, united by friendship, service, and international understanding.

As National Representative, it is impossible for me to be physically present in every country. However, through regular exchanges with the Clubs, activity reports, photographs, personal testimonies, and the trust we share, I remain closely connected to the members and the remarkable projects they carry out in their communities.

This year, many humanitarian and social initiatives touched me deeply, but a few encounters left an especially lasting impression on my heart.



Together with members of my club, Inner Wheel Porto-Novo in Benin, we visited a psychiatric care centre in Avrankou. It was a profoundly moving experience. We met people who had once held important positions in society but whose illness had distanced them from their former lives and familiar surroundings.



A few days later, we visited a centre for people with visual impairments in Adjohoun. The director shared that she had been able to see until her junior secondary school years before gradually losing her sight. Despite this challenge, she welcomed us with remarkable dignity, serenity, and joy.



We also spent time with children living with hearing impairments. They greeted us with radiant smiles. Though they could not hear our voices, they responded warmly to our presence, our gestures, and our affection.

SPOTLIGHT

The encounters in the Clubs' initiatives transformed the way I view human vulnerability. I believed we were going to bring comfort, yet it was these individuals who taught us the greatest lessons—lessons in courage, resilience, dignity, and hope.

This year has reminded me that leadership is not merely about coordinating activities or holding a title. True leadership begins when we open our hearts to the realities of others and allow their experiences to shape our own.

Through the service carried out across the Clubs of District 909, I have come to understand that even the simplest gestures—a visit, a listening ear, or a sincere presence—can restore hope and bring light into someone's life.

For me, this is the true meaning of "Step Up and Lead by Example." It is leadership rooted not in position, but in compassion; not in authority, but in humanity.



Compassion in Action

Healing Through Artistic Creativity

For many years, the **Non-Districted IW Club of Carbet Martinique** has proudly supported Amazonas, an association dedicated to women affected by breast cancer. In partnership with artists from Karib'Cultur, the club offers these women, who face significant medical and emotional challenges, opportunities for relaxation and creative expression. Through artistic creation, they are encouraged to find moments of escape, renewed confidence, and emotional well-being.



Unlocking Potential

Discovering Grassroots Talents & Greatness

In Jamaica, education is not free beyond secondary school, and for many young people from low-income families, financial hardship can bring their academic aspirations to an abrupt end. Recognising education as one of the most effective pathways out of poverty, the **Non-Districted IW Club of Kingston, Jamaica**, has for many years made educational support a cornerstone of its service.

Through its scholarship and sponsorship programme, the club assists talented and deserving students whose studies might otherwise be interrupted due to a lack of financial resources. Support includes the provision of textbooks and educational supplies, payment of college tuition fees, school uniforms, and transportation expenses, enabling students to focus on their studies and realise their potential.

This year, the Club proudly celebrates the achievements of two outstanding beneficiaries. Amelia successfully completed her nursing studies with distinction and has recently been appointed as a nurse at Kingston Hospital. Ricardo continues to excel in his academic journey and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Computer Science with the Club's ongoing support.

These inspiring success stories demonstrate the transformative power of education and the lasting impact of the club's commitment to investing in young people. By helping students overcome financial barriers, the Non-Districted Club of Kingston is not only changing individual lives but also contributing to a brighter future for its community.



Contribution from Jasmine Sery, IIW Board Director



The Power of Presence

A Helping Hand for Our Seniors

In Martinique, caring for and honouring older generations is a deeply cherished value. Reflecting this tradition, the **Non-Districted IW Club of Lamentin** has long been committed to enhancing the well-being and quality of life of elderly people through regular visits to residents of a nursing home for dependent seniors.

Club members provide companionship and organize a variety of meaningful activities, including sensory games, reading sessions, and creative workshops such as bouquet making. They also help beautify the outdoor environment by planting flowers and greenery, creating a more pleasant and welcoming setting for residents. Special occasions such as Mother's Day and Christmas are celebrated with festive gatherings that bring joy, warmth, and a sense of belonging.

Beyond the nursing home, the club extends its support to elderly individuals living alone and facing financial hardship, providing essential items and practical assistance to help meet their daily needs.

Through these ongoing acts of service, the Non-Districted Club of Lamentin demonstrates its unwavering commitment to ensuring that older members of the community are treated with dignity, compassion, and respect.



Contribution from Jasmine Sery, IIW Board Director

The Power of Presence

Mentoring Children from Vulnerable Families

The members of the **Non-Districted IW Club of Ljubljana** in Slovenia are dedicated to supporting children from vulnerable families. Many of these children, aged eight to fifteen, live in a youth care centre during their primary school years, where they receive care and guidance in a stable environment.

For many years, the Club has maintained a close relationship with the children, visiting them regularly at Christmas, Easter, and at the end of each school year. Recently, the Club members introduced two new initiatives to support their development: yoga and singing classes.

Yoga helps children who experience emotional or physical restlessness by teaching them focus, self-control, and relaxation through breathing and movement. Singing complements these benefits by encouraging self-expression, confidence, and communication skills. Both activities contribute positively to their emotional well-being and personal growth.

Members also strive to include the children as equals in our activities. Through these shared experiences, they learn tolerance, compassion, and mutual respect while building self-confidence and developing new skills.

The programme has been warmly received by both the children and their caregivers. Encouraged by their enthusiasm and progress, the Club is committed to continuing this meaningful partnership and helping these young people build brighter futures.



Contribution from Julijana Kristl, Club President



The 30th of June

A Preparation for the New Leadership

As the Inner Wheel year approaches its close, the months leading up to 30 June have been marked by service, fellowship, and preparation for the transition to new leadership.

On 3 March 2026, the **Non-Districted IW Club of Lusaka** in Zambia welcomed two new members, Ancy George and Dr Chipso Muyovwe, whose enthusiasm and commitment have already enriched our Inner Wheel family. In April, Club President Betty Sombe led the Club's monthly food donation to the rehabilitation centre, continuing a project that provides regular support to those in need.

A major highlight came in May, when members organised a fundraising project for Providence Home for Disabled Girls, which cares for girls and women aged three to thirty-seven. Through generous contributions, the club raised USD 1,000 and donated clothing, chitenge materials, toiletries, incontinence pads, and essential food supplies. Dr Chipso Muyovwe further contributed 250 toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste. The nuns who manage the home expressed sincere gratitude, emphasizing the value of the donations in supporting the residents. The Club also continued its commitment to service through its regular donation programme to the Chinama Hospital Rehabilitation Centre.

In June, preparations began for the Induction Fellowship and the incoming leadership team. As leadership changes hands on 30 June, the Club celebrates a period of meaningful achievement, confident that the spirit of friendship and service will continue to guide its work in the year ahead.



Contribution from Judy Lewis, Past Club President

25 Years Strong

Using Our Voice For the Voiceless

The 2025-2026 Inner Wheel year was especially meaningful for the members of the **Non-Districted IW Club Maribor** in Slovenia as we celebrated 25 years of friendship, service, and community commitment.

To mark this milestone, many of our activities focused on raising awareness of violence against women and girls through support of the global "Orange the World" campaign.

A key initiative was the virtual exhibition Touch of Red, featuring paintings by one of our members. The powerful artworks portrayed both psychological and physical violence, encouraging reflection and greater public awareness of this important issue.

Throughout the year, we continued our close cooperation with the Safe House and the Mother's Home in Maribor, providing regular donations of food and hygiene essentials. These contributions supported women and children seeking refuge from violence and difficult home situations.

Children also remained at the heart of our service. In partnership with the Palček Children's Crisis Centre, we supplied essential items to help improve the care and well-being of vulnerable children.

As we celebrated this silver anniversary, we reaffirmed our commitment to friendship in service, making a positive difference in the lives of women, children, and families in our community.



Contribution from Tjaša Starčič, Club Secretary



Simple Acts of Kindness

Turning Small Actions Into Meaningful Impact

On 8 March, the **Non-Districted IW Club of Tirana** in Albania chose to celebrate International Women's Day in a meaningful and unconventional way. Rather than hosting a formal event, members took their appreciation directly to where it was most needed—the local market.

With the heartfelt message, "You deserve today and every day," members approached the hardworking women who spend long hours supporting their families and serving their communities. Each woman received an apron bearing the Inner Wheel logo and a rose—simple yet powerful symbols of dignity, respect, and recognition.

This became our true "spotlight moment." In those brief encounters, smiles replaced fatigue, and for a moment, these women felt genuinely seen and appreciated. The experience was a reminder that leadership is not measured by the size of an event, but by the willingness to be present, to connect, and to make a difference where it matters most.

The initiative also left a lasting impact on those who took part. It reinforced the belief that leading by example means bringing empathy into everyday spaces and transforming small acts of kindness into meaningful change.

Through this simple but heartfelt gesture, the Inner Wheel Club of Tirana did more than celebrate women—it honoured their resilience, recognised their contributions, and reminded them that they are valued, respected, and never invisible.



Contribution from Mariana Jordanova, IIW Board Director

Environmental Sustainability

Fostering Care of the Environment in Children

In celebration of Earth Day, the **Non-Districted IW Club of Trinidad and Tobago**, on the small island nation in the southern Caribbean, joined hands with St Augustine South Government Primary School to inspire environmental stewardship among young learners. As part of the initiative, the club donated a variety of plants, giving students the opportunity to participate in hands-on gardening activities while developing a greater appreciation for the natural world.

More than simply enhancing the beauty of the school grounds, the project served as a valuable educational experience, encouraging students to understand their role in protecting the environment. Through this meaningful collaboration, the club helped nurture a sense of responsibility and care for the planet, empowering the next generation to become active advocates for environmental conservation.



Contribution from Jasmine Sery, IIW Board Director



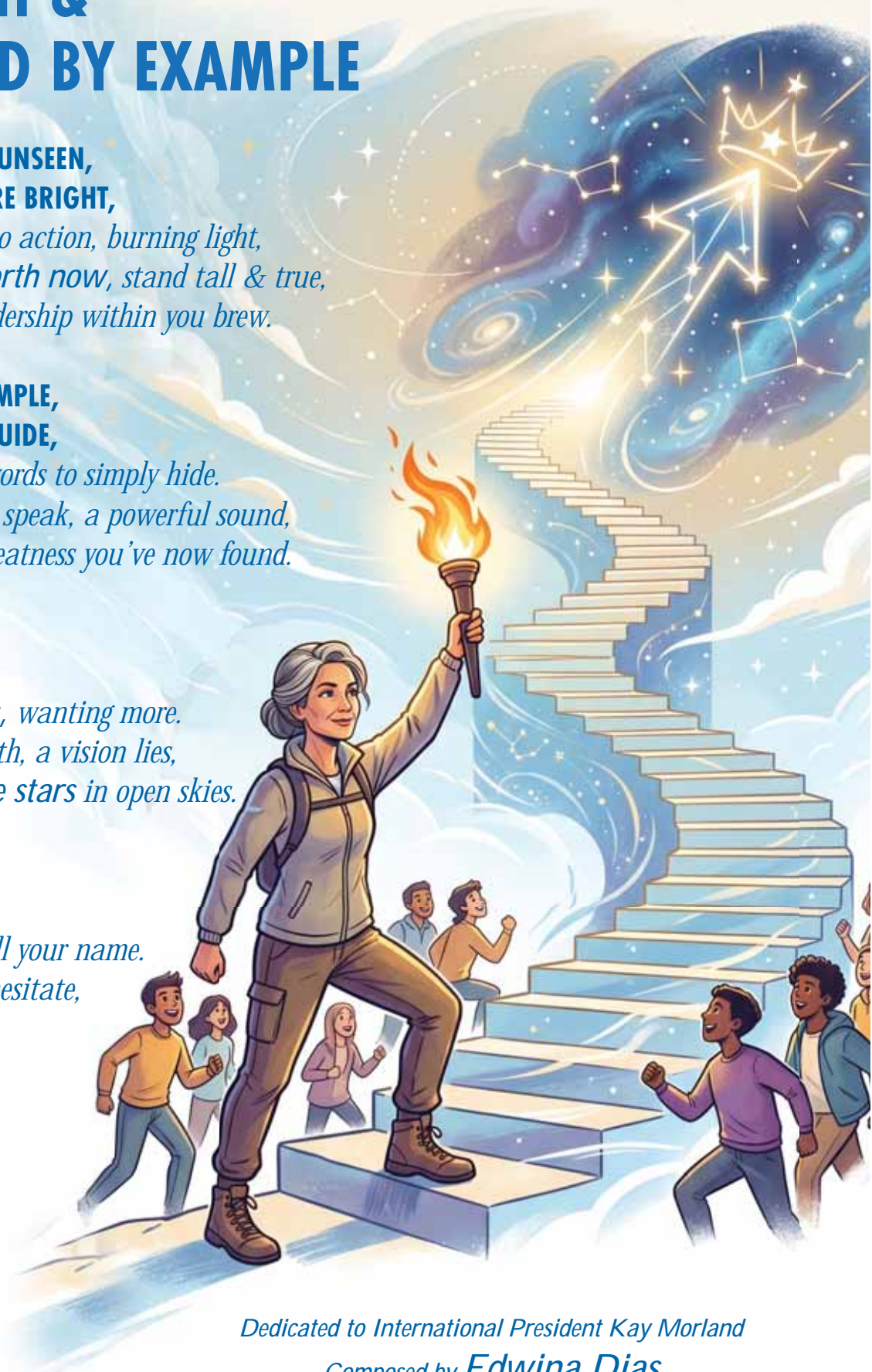
STEP FORTH & LEAD BY EXAMPLE

**A PATH UNSEEN,
A FUTURE BRIGHT,**
*A call to action, burning light,
Step forth now, stand tall & true,
Let leadership within you brew.*

**LEAD BY EXAMPLE,
A SHINING GUIDE,**
*No hollow words to simply hide.
Your actions speak, a powerful sound,
A path of greatness you've now found.*

**BE THE BEST,
THE VERY CORE,**
*Inspiring others, wanting more.
For in your strength, a vision lies,
To reach for the stars in open skies.*

**THE BEACON STANDS,
A GUIDING FLAME,**
*To light the way, to call your name.
Step up now, don't hesitate,
And lead the way,
seal your own fate.*



*Dedicated to International President Kay Morland
Composed by Edwina Dias*