

The Zonta Club of Ashtabula Area sponsored a 5K/1 mile walk for the "Race Against Violence" in Ashtabula County and the world! This is our second year of this Race, and the proceeds go to Homesafe, a shelter for abused individuals and the children involved in the violence in Ashtabula County. The Race is held on September 30th to kick off the month of October's theme of Violence Prevention. Leading up to this event, our Race Chairperson and the Community Outreach Director of Homesafe were interviewed on a local TV talk show, we had articles in three papers about violence prevention and what this race meant, and the race information was shared on social media. The participants heard messages from the Executive Director of Homesafe, an Ashtabula County Commissioner, and a Zontian. Along the race route the 60 participants read messages of hope and ways that they could fight violence in their own community/family. The race event was followed up with a guest speaker at our October membership meeting, who spoke about his experience in surviving domestic violence.

The Zonta Club of Ashtabula Area is also in the planning process for our Lights of Love tree lighting and float for the holiday parade. Both a reminder that besides the fact that "Zonta says NO" to violence, the holidays are much more enjoyable without violence in them -- whether it be in Ashtabula or anywhere else in the world!

Linda Coblitz