



ACWW - "Working with Women Worldwide"

By Peggy Knapp

People often enquire how we, as members of the Women's Institutes of Canada, are connected with the United Nations (UN). The answer is that each of our provincial Societies, through their constituent membership, are members of the Associated Country Women of the World, which holds consultative status at the UN. And through our ACWW Area President for Canada, we as Society members, have a direct link.

In January, Dr. Lila Engberg, Home Economics/Family Studies Consultant with the University of Guelph, contacted me with a concern she wished to have brought to the attention of the planners preparing for the World Food Security meetings of the Food and

Agriculture Organization (FAO), which are to take place later this year.

But it was already January 23, and in order to have an item considered for the committee's agenda, it had to reach the FAO Planning Committee at the end of January. "Do you have access to ACWW?" she asked.

From that question came a flurry of fax messages: to ACWW General Secretary in London, thence to Mrs. Hacket-Pain, the ACWW World President in Ditching, south England, and to the chair of the ACWW United Nations Committee, Mrs. Ingunn Birkeland, Oslo, Norway, with my request that Dr. Engberg's request be supported and passed on to Dr. Carmen Basili, our UN representative to FAO, the United Nations, Rome.

All of this activity resulted in a final fax to me, saying ACWW had lent its support to Dr. Engberg's suggestion, and that Dr. Basili would take it to the proper authorities. We shall all await the outcome, secure in the knowledge that we did what we could.

Does a concern or an idea from just one woman really matter? Can just one person make a difference? The evidence says, "Yes!"

Peggy Knapp is the Associated Country Women of the World Area President for Canada.



Pictured above are some of the AIDS orphans in the village of Tweyambe (Way-ombee) in Uganda. Peggy Knapp, Area President for Canada, is delighted with the response. ACWW is still receiving funds for the Ugandan Projects; thanks to the generosity of Women's Institute members, the goals will be met.

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This acrostic, uses the letters of the Women's Institute. It was written during lunch at a recent Subdivision 6 meeting. It was submitted by Elsie Postma, PFO, Codrington WI, Northumberland East.



Branching Out in Glengarry District

The Maxville Rainbow Women's Institute began with a group of Maxville and area women who had worked together on various school, church and community organizations; they

wanted to continue their friendships. Thirteen women attended the charter meeting on June 12, 1995. "Rainbow" was chosen as part of our Branch name because it symbolizes hope, promise and inclusiveness, because a warm welcome is always extended under our rainbow.

Highlights of our first year's program included: making Christmas arrangements using natural materials; European desserts; raising the awareness of risk factors for heart disease and strokes in women; and, activities for teens. We look forward to socializing, learning and being active in community issues in years to come.

From the other WI meetings we have attended, our group concluded that, once involved, women are "passionate about the Women's Institute!"



Pictured from left to right are Luella Robinson - Membership Coordinator, Maryanne Kampouris - Branch Secretary/Treasurer, Fairley Kennedy - Vice President, Di Jaggassar - President, Betty McDonald - Program Coordinator and Joan McKay - District Director. Margaret Phillips, Tweedsmuir History Curator, and Helen McIntosh, Public Relations Officer, are absent.

Submitted by Di Jaggassar, President, Maxville Rainbow WI, Glengarry District.