

# HEART TO HEART SISTERS

## LWML Texas District

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Heart to Heart Sisters (H2H) Program is an intentional effort to welcome and encourage multicultural women to work side-by-side with all LCMS women in the life and work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). The H2H Sisters Committee assists multicultural women as they motivate, equip, challenge, and provide mentoring opportunities within the LWML for women of diverse ethnic groups to serve the church, participate in the LWML, witness to the world, and grow in relationships.

Through the established district H2H Sisters programs, multicultural women will be enabled to mutually encourage one another, support each other and work together, living out the beautiful diversity that is the body of Christ. Check out [lwml.org/heart-to-heart-sisters](http://lwml.org/heart-to-heart-sisters) for more information.

For information on the program in Texas, check out [lwmltxdist.org/heart-heart-sisters](http://lwmltxdist.org/heart-heart-sisters) or email the H2H Sisters District Leader at [h2h@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:h2h@lwmltxdist.org). The H2H Sisters and District Leader are available to speak at churches, groups and zones. Contact the H2H Sisters District Leader for information.

### **Benefit**

At present, the LCMS has an ever-increasing number of multicultural congregations in our membership. Many of these congregations have yet to hear of the sisterhood and global outreach of the LWML. We can invite, encourage and equip women leaders in these congregations to learn about and participate in the LWML using their gifts in ministry to the world.

As we reach out to multicultural women through intentional district H2H Sisters programs at the conventions and in local events, we will be delighted to see how God uses a variety of gifts and ideas to include more women in the sisterhood of the LWML.



## **LWML Texas District Heart to Heart Sisters Job Description**

As Heart to Heart (H2H) Sisters, you shall:

- Share your passion for Christ and the desire to create fellowship with women of all cultures. Speak at groups and zones when requested.
- Establish a relationship with your own group and/or zone as a H2H Sister.
- Be available and willing to assist the H2H Sisters District Leader in making presentations to the district, zones, and groups when asked.
- Show support to your H2H Sisters District Leader by providing reports and pictures of the activities happening within your church, zone, and local church community, as it relates to the ministry of women.
- Identify potential multicultural sisters and report those women by name to the H2H Sisters District Leader.
- When necessary, assist the leader in preparing and administering a mini conference for all cultures together. Be a part of the planning of special programs and events in your area and district, sharing your goals, aspirations, and dreams.
- Be willing to serve at conventions, retreats, or zone activities when approached by the leader. Set up exhibits with other sisters when needed.
- Be willing to follow-up on contacts that you, your H2H Sisters District Leader, or your District President have initiated.
- Support the H2H Sisters District Leader and/or District President in their understanding of the mission of H2H Sisters and encourage them as they actively seek opportunities to establish relationships across the diverse groups of women.
- Show empathy to your H2H Sisters in their efforts to work among diverse groups of women in the LCMS at large.
- Seek opportunities to be a mentor to other ethnic women. Help women of your culture as often as possible.
- Provide ethnic women the opportunities to share their gifts and develop leadership skills in and among their own cultures and in the LWML at large.
- Do all you can to help women in your culture, and other cultures, to nurture their faith in Christ.
- Most importantly, maintain a regular routine of Bible study and prayer, sustaining your own spiritual growth and strength in Christ and His work for you.
- Acknowledge and understand that a H2H Sister will refrain from soliciting funds for her own personal ministries at any and all LWML functions. Ingatherings at group and zone events may occur if the zone/group desires. Applying for a mission grant is allowed but must follow the procedures outlined by the District Vice President of Gospel Outreach. No campaigning or politicking for a mission grant is allowed during the convention.

## **Lutheran Women's Missionary League Texas District Heart to Heart Sisters Application**

A Heart to Heart Sister is a multicultural woman of the LCMS who has a heart for spreading the Gospel to all people and serving the Lord gladly wherever He calls her. She is willing to report to her church and others in her zone about her H2H Sisters experience. She will keep her H2H Sisters District Leader updated on her LWML activities and seek her H2H Sisters District Leader help and prayers in her efforts to promote the work of the LWML.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname: (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP Code:

\_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP Code:

\_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What is your country of origin: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your involvement at church:

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\_\_\_\_\_

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Tell us a little about your family:

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When and how did you become a Lutheran Christian?

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I am willing to consent to participate in the entire Heart to Heart Sisters Program from \_\_\_\_\_(insert year)–\_\_\_\_\_(insert year), with the option to serve longer if needed.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return application to Heart to Heart Sisters District Leader by email to [h2h@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:h2h@lwmltxdist.org).**

## Ways Groups/Individuals Can Reach Out to Multicultural Groups

Below is a list of activities of which you can personally, or with a group, initiate and/or carry out among multicultural groups in your area. These are especially useful if you have an existing cultural ministry worshipping in your own church. As you go through the list, highlight those that you are the most excited about and perceive as being useful in your area.

- Prepare food for the homeless. If unable to take the food to areas where they live, give it to those who do have access.
- Caring may look like taking diapers, blankets, sheets and bedding, towels, etc. to those refugees in apartments that have nothing. Find people near these groups who understand their needs and perhaps can even take the supplies to them.
- Get some Walmart cards and give them to a person, family or ministry in need.
- Be a volunteer “cuddler” for preemies in the hospitals. Spend time with children in an orphanage.
- Visit older people in the neighborhood, especially at holidays.
- If you can't afford to take someone from another culture or background to dinner, Christ's love can be shared with a cup of coffee at a coffee shop or a tasty treat at the neighborhood donut shop.
- Love is hearing their stories and acknowledging their struggles and remembering them in prayer. In a local group, pray for the people who may be willing to help, never letting fear keep anyone from following through.
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen as an individual or as a group on a regular basis.
- If you love working with children, find a way to provide food for children and families.
- Go to a retirement home and read, sing, play a musical instrument to them — one on one or to the group. Hear their stories, their challenges, their sorrows, their struggles, and their joys and achievements.
- Step out in faith and walk the walk with someone who has an unusual ministry. Get to know them and their previous life stories. Everyone has a story to tell, whether refugees, from Katrina or from a poor American-born family. It is learning their stories of hardship, pain and joys.
- Teach a craft (knitting, crocheting, sewing, quilting, etc.).
- Teach how to cook or bake a specialty item.
- Have a women's tea.
- Organize a women's Bible study specifically for their culture.
- Have a gathering with foods from other cultures.
- Prepare a Thanksgiving meal together.
- Plan an October gathering for children with costumes as a community outreach.
- Offer a children's Christmas program in Spanish (or other culture) using their traditional program and traditional foods served.
- Host a summer cookout including the community.
- Invite them to a summer VBS soccer/crafts.
- Host annual rummage sales, offering free Christian/church materials as well.

- Have ESL classes.
- Offer Zumba exercise classes.
- Offer a meal or desserts for some of their fellowship activities for women.
- Prepare and serve a meal at your home for some of them.
- Provide food after their worship services or money for their own preparations.
- Provide money for their VBS.
- Share cooking classes from both Anglos and the ethnic group – they love to share their food.
- With back-to-school collections and blessings include members of the congregation in the collecting of those items; have a meal served after and be sure to invite the congregation; have the service be bilingual if possible.
- Build relationships through the children and teens who are English speaking already.
- Invite the cultural women to prepare a “feast” for the women of the church and encourage mingling at these events; they could even have a cooking class for one of their favorite foods.
- Encourage women to choose a culture that interests them and get acquainted with that culture; then serve them as the Lord leads.
- Participate in apartment ministries for children.
- Have Christmas in July for the community.
- Start a food bank/clothing drive.

Written by Jan Brunette  
 Heart to Heart Sisters District Leader (2016–2019)  
 LWML Texas District