

# Welcoming the refugee

## Heart to Heart Sisters planning multicultural event

By Jan Brunette  
VP of Christian Life

It is often difficult to acknowledge the changes that are taking place in our neighborhoods and congregations as a result of the abundant relationships available to us with people of many different ethnicities. Yet it is incredible to realize some very important facts. We are all ethnic. We are all multicultural. And with Christ's love within us, we can open our hearts to everyone as we rejoice daily in the God of all nations. We don't need to leave America to view the mission field. It is often a block or a mile away.

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency,

there are more than 65 million refugees in the world today, the most ever. These people and their families have had to leave their homes due to conflict or persecution, many with only one suitcase in hand. Among them are Christian men and women and their families. Many have found refuge in Texas. Some live near you and would love to know someone cares. What an amazing country we live in — one that opens the door for us to embrace all cultures.

The district Heart to Heart Sisters (H2H) program seeks to unite women of all cultures, revealing a love motivated by Christ Himself. In addition to sharing some of the H2H ministries at the last LWML Texas District convention in Waco, other sisters are now planning a one-day multicultural event for



Heart to Heart Sisters are, from left, Mary Afsharirad, Brunette and Senait Gonfa.



Heart to Heart Sisters at the LWML Texas District convention in Waco are, from left, Brunette, Joyce Williams, Gonfa and Yirgalem Ketema.

women on Oct. 13 to be held at Our Redeemer, Irving. In time, it is the H2H committee's hope that these events will be available in all major cities

in the months and years ahead. May God continue to give us the freedom and blessing of serving others for Him — for all cultures and for all nations.



*In Praise to the Lord!*

*Sing to the Lord, all the earth!  
Tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations  
(1 Chronicles 16:23-24a).*

**SAVE the DATE**

June 20-23, 2019  
38th Biennial Convention  
Mobile, Alabama  
[www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)





**Stay connected**

[lwmltxdist.org](http://lwmltxdist.org)  
Send LWML news and photos to  
Janna Atkins at  
[districtnews@lwmltxdist.org](mailto:districtnews@lwmltxdist.org)

## MITES IN ACTION



## 2018-20 disbursements have begun!

Joy Cowan, LWML district vice-president of Gospel Outreach, recently made two stops to award mission grant funds.

**LEFT:** Cowan presents the first installment for Scholarships for Seminarians to Linda Hagge, LCMS Texas District treasurer, and Rev. Ken Hennings, Texas District president emeritus.

**RIGHT:** Concordia University Texas staff members James Candido, vice-president for Philanthropy, and Meghann Bolton, director of Foundation Relations, are appreciative of the LWML Texas District's support for DCE Scholarships, which will help Concordia University Texas students preparing to become directors of Christian education.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Let's meet our goals!

In October 2016, I attended the LWML Strategic Planning meeting in St. Louis. The Board of Directors developed six goals based on the LWML Primary Targets, which are our organizational goals for each biennium.

Over the next six months, I will share these goals and pray that each LWML group and individual considers how the goal may be implemented at the local level as we implement them at the district level.

### GOAL: Train and mentor future generations

1. Develop a process to gather information from young women on how they might contribute to



*Joyfully serve the Lord  
Openly confess the Gospel  
Yearn to grow in God's Word*

LWML's mission and vision.

2. Develop a mentor program to partner a seasoned LWML woman with a young woman.

3. Stay on the cutting edge of technology to disseminate information and encourage participation (check out our redesigned website at [lwmltxdist.org](http://lwmltxdist.org)).

4. Engage youth in LWML missions. For more ideas and resources, visit [lwml.org/growthanddevelopment](http://lwml.org/growthanddevelopment) and [lwml.org/young-women](http://lwml.org/young-women). Remember to be open to change, be willing to change and be accepting and encouraging.

**Serving with JOY**  
Debbie Curry

# Filled To Overflow

**2018-20 Mite Goal:**  
\$350,900

**Mites received through July:**  
\$38,460

**Mission grants paid through February:** \$18,500

*(Including overage from previous biennium)*

**Send mites to:**  
LWML TEXAS DISTRICT  
ATTN: FRANCES MOLITOR  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY  
P.O. Box 820  
ANDERSON, TX 77830