



# THE FORUM

Newsletter of the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas Inc.

## Winter 2008-2009

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The FAWCO Forum is published twice a year. Email submissions to the editor at editor@fawco.org

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## Pew champions military and overseas voters

Lucy Stensland Laederich  
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An exciting initiative of Pew Charity Trusts' Center on the States is the "Make Voting Work" project, headed up by Michael Caudell-Feagan, a passionate and eloquent advocate for voting rights. The stated objective of the project is to promote "accuracy, convenience, efficiency and security" in voting systems, and one of its focuses is the UOCAVA<sup>1</sup> population and the federal election process. Covered under that law of 1986 are not only private sector citizens, federal employees and uniformed service members overseas, but also military families and members of the armed forces within the United States if they are not voting in their "state of record." Most estimates<sup>2</sup> put that voting population at around 6 million, the equivalent of a very significant "swing state."



FAWCO U.S. Liaison Lucy Stensland Laederich; Michael Caudell-Feagan, Director, Make Voting Work and Senior Officer, PEW Center on the States; and Peter Goldfarb, AARO Board of Directors, at the PEW Summit on Military and Overseas Voting, September 2008.

In September 2008, Pew and MVW organized a "summit" on Democracy at a Distance, gathering representatives of not only overseas advocacy organizations like FAWCO but all branches of the military, federal agencies like the office of the Inspector General and the Federal Voting Assis-

tance Program, Secretaries of State and local election officials, and members of state legislatures. Over the 1½-day meeting, participants heard panelists discuss technology trends, local implementation of UOCAVA, and the military and overseas voting experience. One panel, for example, showed the huge disparities between states like Alabama (military voters need 72 days to complete the process) and Kansas (27 days), and yet another the kind of problems projected for 2008 (military voters in 25 states were destined to have problems even if all went well, and those in 13 would not be able to meet ballot receipt deadlines).

One specialized session on the second morning was devoted to a pioneering project undertaken at the initiative of Pew: a serious exploration of the merits and potential of developing a uniform law that would cover federal elections. The Uniform Law Commission is responsible for having studied and developed a great number of laws that apply across state lines, the best known of which is probably the Uniform Commercial Code. This is the first

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## BioVision recognized by Hilton Foundation

Paula Daepen  
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Since 2005, FAWCO members around the world have been focusing on worldwide malaria prevention and supporting BioVision's projects for sustainable malaria eradication. This is the first time in FAWCO's long history that a single foundation has claimed ongoing FAWCO support—a testament to the trust our members place in BioVision and the quality of their projects.

FAWCO recently nominated BioVision for the 2008 Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Award, and they became one of a small group of finalists in contention for this prestigious prize, presented annually to a charitable, non-governmental organization that has made extraordinary contributions toward alleviating human suffering. At 1.5 million dollars, the Hilton Prize is the world's largest humanitarian award. There is only one winner every year, and in

August it was announced that the Prize would go to the world's largest NGO, BRAC.

Nonetheless, the Hilton board of directors decided to award a substantial grant to BioVision for their projects in Africa, saying, "the foundation was very impressed by the work BioVision carries out and they hope that the grant will help BioVision spread their message a little further." Furthermore, they wish to give serious consideration to BioVision again in 2009.

The winner, BRAC, was launched in 1972 by Faze Hassan Abed as a relief agency following the Bangladesh war of independence. BRAC (formerly known as the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee) is considered today to be the largest anti-poverty group in the world, reaching more than 110 million people. BRAC focuses the

(Continued on P. 6)

FAWCO is a network of independent American and international volunteer organizations representing private-sector citizens overseas. Founded in 1931, FAWCO is a non-partisan, not-for-profit U.S. corporation with over 75 Member Clubs representing more than 15,000 individuals throughout the world. A recognized non-governmental organization (NGO) since 1995, FAWCO was granted special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the UN in 1997.

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# NEW HORIZONS

## VILNIUS

### 39th biennial fawco Conference 2009

Wed 18 - Sun 22 March

## 'Open Doors to New Horizons'

- 1<sup>st</sup>** > Time in a former Eastern Bloc country,
- > Conference promoting climate friendly goals: to fly carbon neutral; to reduce, reuse, recycle, to increase awareness; and using a "Green Key" (environmentally friendly) conference hotel

#### PLUS

- > UN/NGO and US Issues: "FAWCO On the World Stage" and "FAWCO and US Issues"
- > Parallel Meetings for Club Presidents & Reps "Face2Face"; "SWOT Analysis to determine your clubs **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities and **T**hreats"
- > More BOOST (**B**e **O**pen, **O**rganized and **S**uccessful **T**oday) Sessions focussing on club websites, fundraising & promoting your clubs' publications
- > Workshops: "Life Behind the Iron Curtain," "Sex Trafficking," "Good to Great..."

## FAWCO member participates in groundbreaking voting experiment

Based on a report from Melanie Salava  
President, AWC Luxembourg

*Okaloosa County (FL) is home to a great number of overseas voters, many in the military. Working closely with Barcelona-based Scytl Secure Internet Voting, county officials devised and set up a unique 2008 experiment for internet voting at three pilot sites around the world.*

For years, Melanie Salava (AWC Luxembourg) and her husband found the Okaloosa County election officials to be prompt, efficient and available for questions. In their eight years abroad, they had always voted by mail or fax.

Melanie and Gary wanted to make history by participating in the 2008 Okaloosa experiment. "When we cast our vote at the electronic voting kiosk, we knew we were testing a model that could be used for the rest of the United States in future elections. Any means that could help American citizens exercise their ability to vote more effectively and efficiently seemed great to us!"

First, they received a letter from Pat Hollarn, Supervisor of Elections from Okaloosa County, asking if they wished to participate in an Okaloosa Distance Balloting Pilot project. Though she had already voted, Mel-

anie decided, since her husband was traveling to one of the three sites, in Ramstein, Germany, to vote electronically, also. Her electronic vote would supersede her paper ballot.

They were carefully informed and prepared ahead of time. The voting location was delib-

erately placed near the Ramstein military base so anyone from Okaloosa County could cast a vote, with or without military ID.

Melanie reports: "When we arrived at our location on Saturday, November 1, we were greeted by Barbara and Tom Wood, Okaloosa

Distance Balloting Project volunteers. They carefully checked our identities, explained how the computer system worked and had us complete a survey for feedback on the process. When the computer displayed the ballots, we could answer on the touch screen. If we forgot to answer or wanted to change our minds, we were able to do that. At the very end, we were given a final chance to review our answers. We ourselves printed out our ballots – so no one would see our choices – folded the ballots and put them into a ballot holder manned by Tom Wood. We then received a sheet with a code to check later on our own computers that our votes had indeed been cast."

"Gary and I found the process easy, modern and pain-free. I definitely recommend this type of system again!" ❖



Melanie Salava (AWC Luxembourg) and her husband Gary voting in Ramstein, Germany in the Okaloosa County (FL) voting experiment

## Four FAWCO Girls Attend Eleanor Roosevelt Workshop

Pam Perraud  
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As part of this year's celebrations for the 60th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and in recognition of Eleanor Roosevelt's unique role as the driving force behind the final adoption of the UNHR, FAWCO donated \$3300 in scholarship money to the Eleanor Roosevelt Girl's Leadership Workshop.

FAWCO should be proud that four girls whose mothers are FAWCO members were selected to participate in this year's summer program held at Eleanor Roosevelt's own private retreat at Val Kill, near Hyde Park, NY. This highly selective program selects 60 girls entering the equivalent of 10th or 11th grade. Girls are chosen based upon a written application and essay on a subject of human or social rights. The purpose of the program is to "create a more just world by preparing young women

for future positions of personal, political and professional leadership, using the example set by Mrs. Roosevelt."

Eleanor Jacobs, daughter of Amanda Norton (AWC Luxembourg); Carlotta Ruiz, daughter of Julie Nauman (AAWE Paris); Shannon Copley, daughter of Louise Greeley-Copley, (FAUSA) and Jill Kennedy, daughter of Mary Kennedy (AWOC Greece) participated in seminars and workshops run by successful women who are in leadership positions in human and social justice-related organizations. They also traveled to New York City to meet with representatives from the US Mission, the UN and UNICEF. The program inspires girls at a critical age to participate in social causes.

One of the FAWCO participants, Shannon Copley, said "The Girl's Leadership Workshop was an inspiring and unbelievably amazing

experience. It opened up a whole new outlook, and convinced me that it is truly possible to work effectively towards a goal you hold dear whether it is on a personal scale, such as attending the college of your dreams, or on a global one, such as the establishment of human rights worldwide."

Because of the success of last year's program, the FAWCO Board will donate money to the program again for 2009. Applications for next year's program will go online in December at [www.ervk.org/html/glw.html](http://www.ervk.org/html/glw.html). ❖



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*Eleanor Jacobs*



*Shannon Copley*



*Carlotta Ruiz*

*Not Pictured:  
Mary Kennedy*

## Regional Reports — Highlights

### Region 3 – Paris, France

Katharine Claringbull  
President, AWG Languedoc-Roussillon

FAWCO hosted a Regional Meeting in early October 2008, when members from Paris, Lyon, Languedoc-Roussillon, Belgium and the Netherlands spent a weekend networking and improving their knowledge of FAWCO's growth from 1931 into this century. Terri Knudsen, FAWCO 1st VP from Aarhus, Denmark, informed us that there are 11 FAWCO regions globally, on six continents and in 38 countries, and fifteen thousand individual members. The breadth of size among clubs varies – Shanghai has 900 members, one of the Paris clubs has 600 members, whereas Terri's club has 35 members. FAWCO is now implementing a CRM (Constituent Relationship Management) system in order to improve interaction with our clubs. Terry confirmed the success of *Grandma-2-Grandma*, *Malaria Networks*, *One Member-One Tree Challenge*, *Clubs in Motion* is also successful and now stands at 4732 cumulative club kilometers run, walked or biked.

Ray Cheng, founder, President and CEO of Jian Global Services and a familiar face at FAWCO conferences, continued his exposition of FAWCO's role in a Web 2.0 digital world. He urged all clubs to use the web to go beyond

the borders of their own membership base and reach out to the global community. We need to aim high in our global reach – Ray pointed out that FAWCO uses the same software used so successfully by President-elect Obama. Clubs should monitor and update their website constantly, and establish wide-ranging links to appropriate websites in order to reach the greater community. Ray introduced a number of Web 2.0 concepts, including crowd sourcing/mass collaboration, which added to our collective understanding of living in a flat world.

Elsie Bose, President of The FAWCO Foundation discussed the various forms of philanthropy as well as the applications and decision-making process of The Foundation. The philanthropy Focus and Strategy Committee will select a critical global issue (suggestions from clubs are most welcome) to support via a four year program of fund-raising and education. FAWCO is an agent of change, and corporate sponsorship will be solicited. This project will

be launched at the Vilnius conference.

Lucy Laederich, FAWCO's US Liaison, discussed the need for representation in Washington of overseas Americans and described the recent creation of the Americans Abroad Caucus by interested Congresspersons. Had this caucus existed prior to the passing of the TIPRA (Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act), it might have protected the interests of Americans overseas, many of whom found their US tax burden significantly increased under the new law. If overseas Americans were counted as a demographic group, they would represent the 26th state in terms of population. Because of their potential importance, the Pew Center on the States has taken up their cause and hopes to help simplify the election process for both the civilian and military populations voting from abroad.

The day ended with an extremely lively dinner in a traditional Montparnasse bistro and those participants who stayed in Paris were given a private guided tour of the flea market

the next morning, to round out their total "Paris" experience.

*(The complete conference report is available at the AWG-LR website: [www.awglr.org](http://www.awglr.org).)*



*Participants of the Region 3 Meeting in the gardens of Reid Hall (Paris Campus of Columbus University)*

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### Regions 2 and 5 – Lueneburg, Germany

#### FAWCO AND FUN

A FAWCO regional meeting was held on November 7-9 in Lueneburg, Germany. Frauke Rademacher-Heidemann, Regional Coordinator, organized everything to achieve the right balance between FAWCO business and fun. Thirty-four ladies, representing thirteen clubs from Germany, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Saudi Arabia, met to prepare for the upcoming annual FAWCO conference in Vilnius, Lithuania and review FAWCO initiatives and club activities.

The FUN part of the conference centered on touring and learning the history of the charming, medieval city of Lueneburg.

Beth Molnar  
FAWCO Rep AWC Hamburg

#### Fine American Women Conferring Overseas

Sus Ewing Bölke  
AWC of Hamburg

I just returned from Lueneburg, a town with 1030 years of history, where I spent a weekend touring the town, visiting the beautiful Brick Gothic style churches with their amazing Baroque organs, Renaissance houses with stepped facades and crooked walls and the fascinating salt



Participants at the Regional Conference in Lueneburg, Germany

works, which financed the town's growth while eventually causing many of its buildings to sink into the ground.

More important than the sightseeing, however, I enjoyed the company of 34 fascinating women of like mind. We heard updates on the participating clubs and the current FAWCO

projects and discovered how much we have in common. We share so much more than our origins and our overseas status; we are educated, caring women who are interested in peace, education, women's health, empowerment, and equal rights and want to give something back.

The FAWCO business conducted this weekend consisted for the most part of preparations for the 39th Biennial FAWCO Conference in Vilnius next March. The thought of spending five days with these, and so many more, fascinating women from around the world has taken hold of me. This will be five days of, yes, some touristic experiences like mine in Lueneburg, but much more of talking, sharing and celebrating together. The Conference will consist of general meetings, workshops, and social/cultural events in this old city of Lithuania, and the designated European Capital of Culture for 2009. It will deal with new and old targets, in particular, health and environmental themes as exemplified by the *One Member One Tree* and the *Heart Pillow* projects and so many more we know less about, among others *bilingualism* and *cultural education* for expat children, citizenship issues, anti-war activities and the exercise program *Clubs in Motion*.

#### Newcomer to FAWCO

Kate Bogumil  
AWC of Hamburg

Two concepts accompanied me after this Regional: First, FAWCO provides you with opportunities to get involved and to find a project here.

Second, it is all about the people you meet. Some women were meeting for the first time, while others were old friends, but the atmosphere could not have been more welcoming.

These women are having a blast and are truly passionate about what they are doing; it was so easy to get caught up in it all. ❖

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(Continued from P. 1 - Overseas voters...)

time they have accepted to investigate election reform. The possibility that they might propose to Congress a uniform state law eliminating the unnecessary obstacles to voting by the UOCAVA population cannot fail to excite any member of that often frustrated group.

Another, focusing on "federal strategy" for implementing election reform led to the formation of a working group which held its first transatlantic meeting at the end of October. That informal but passionate group of voting rights advocates, of which FAWCO will be a member, will look at current legislation and practices affecting military and overseas voters and investigate a range of strategies to "make

voting work" for them in time for the next federal elections.

FAWCO is extremely fortunate to be a part of this process, a logical extension of its work in the Seventies to obtain voting rights for overseas civilians, and its work immediately following the 2000 election to ensure that at least some barriers to voting from abroad were addressed in the landmark Help America Vote Act of 2002. As FAWCO's U.S. Liaison, I promise regular progress reports<sup>3</sup> on the work of this voting rights advocacy group and this latest initiative of the Uniform Law Commission.

<sup>1</sup> *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act*

<sup>2</sup> *GAO report on UOCAVA voting, June 2007*

<sup>3</sup> *www.fawco.org: home page under US Liaison and via bulletins to the US Liaison subscription list* ❖

(Continued from P. 1 - And the winner is...)

majority of its activities on poor rural women, recognizing them as change agents for their families and communities, and simultaneously combines micro loans, education, health services, job creation and human rights education for poverty reduction. BRAC has expanded beyond Bangladesh into other Asian and African countries and today BRAC is blazing a trail for development organizations around the world. They are certainly, like BioVision and so many other worthy organizations, deserving of this recognition. Biovision has expressed their deep gratitude to FAWCO for our nomination and support that has resulted in this very significant grant. Our successful nomination of BioVision is yet another way that FAWCO helps to make an impact on world problems.

As Conrad N. Hilton stated in his last will and testament, creating this prize, "...there is a natural law, a Divine law that obliges you and me to relieve the suffering, the distressed and the destitute." ❖

### FAWCO salutes:

*Members of the Americans Abroad Caucus, almost universally re-elected on November 4 and, we hope, ready to continue in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. The current members are:*

#### **The Americans Abroad Caucus, Representatives Carolyn B. Maloney and Joe Wilson, Co-Chairs**

1. John Boozman (R-AR)
2. Michael Capuano (D-MA)
3. André Carson (D-IN)
4. Donna Christensen (D-VI)
5. Steve Cohen (D-TN)
6. Michael Conaway (R-TX)
7. Susan Davis (D-CA)
8. Tom Davis (R-VA)—did not run on November 4
9. Mike Doyle (D-PA)
10. Charles A. Gonzalez (D-TX)
11. Kay Granger (R-TX)
12. Alcee Hastings (D-FL)
13. Michael Honda (D-CA).
14. Rush Holt (D-NJ)
15. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)
16. Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY)
17. Gregory Meeks (D-NY)
18. James McGovern (D-MA)
19. Jim Moran (D-VA)
20. Donald Payne (D-NJ)
21. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL)
22. Christopher Shays (R-CT)—defeated on November 4
23. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
24. Henry Waxman (D-CA)
25. Joe Wilson (R-SC)
26. Frank Wolf (R-VA) – did not run on November 4 ❖

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## FAWCO Alumnae Meet in Florida

The FAWCO Alumnae USA, better known as FAUSA, did business and had fun at its eighth Annual Meeting, October 9-11, in magical Longboat Key, Florida, organized by Ginny Andersen with her husband Bill's help. The meeting's speakers focused on local interests: Professor Emeritus Joseph Lappin educated us about important research taking place at the Mote Marine Laboratories, and Dr. Nancy K. Schlossberg discussed how to handle transitions. In addition, the group toured the Ringling Circus Museum in Sarasota.



Participants in FAUSA's eighth Annual Meeting, October 9-11, in Longboat Key, Florida

Jane Indreland  
president@fausa.org

FAUSA's philanthropic efforts benefited from the event. A raffle for a beautiful quilt created by Kay Miller, in which all FAUSA members could participate, raised \$1,520.00 for FAUSA's education award. At the final dinner, a silent auction raised \$1,182 for the charity fund, and \$505 was contributed to The FAWCO Foundation Kids Help School Supplies Project.

Past Annual Meetings were held in Cape Cod, Montana, Chicago, Maryland's Eastern Shore, San Antonio, Seattle, and New York City. They are a wonderful opportunity to see a part of the United States you might have missed earlier. Next year, we will be in Durango, CO. Of course, the best thing about these events is getting together with other FAUSA members.

To see photographs from Florida, and to learn more about FAUSA, please visit our website: [www.fausa.org](http://www.fausa.org). The site has an exciting new feature allowing you to easily register and pay online.

Remember, when it is time to come home you have a friend in FAUSA! ❖

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## FAWCO Emergency Relief Fund

### Community Alliance to Be Recipient of Emergency Relief Fund



Subsequent to the May 12, 2008 earthquake that struck Sichuan Province in China and which cost the life of over 85,000 people and left over 10 million homeless, AWC of the Hague requested the activation of the FAWCO Emergency Relief Fund, which is a fundraising program that provides an emergency response to aid

victims of a current world crisis. All member clubs were first invited to help in the search to identify a worthy project to receive FAWCO's cumulative donation.

On November 1, 2008, FAWCO issued a press release announcing the recipient of the Emergency Relief Fund. Community Alliance, an independent, non-profit organization located in Beijing, has been chosen to receive the funds and will use them to construct a community center in Hongbai County of Sichuan Province. The community center will specialize in helping the elderly residents of the area to cope with the psychological impact of the earthquake. Once a recipient was selected, member clubs and their members began organizing fund raising projects throughout the world—wherever a FAWCO member club exists.

This demographic sector, the elderly population, has been neglected as a result of China's rapid growth as well as its population control program, and it is the goal of the Community Alliance, which was founded in 2006, to "...ensure social justice and welfare for the elderly, especially women who are among the most disadvantaged in communities. We protect the rights of the elderly as part of the struggle for legal rights and social progress in China."

Hongbai County consists of six villages and is one of the areas worst affected by the earthquake. The northwest border of the county is just three kilometers from Wenchuan, the epicenter of the Sichuan earthquake. About 95% of the homes were totally destroyed. The

county has a population of 1107 people, among whom about 680 are elderly women.

This project will also provide training to primary family caregivers of older female victims to promote better understanding and support between the generations. Workshops will be held to train the personnel in charge of gender and aging issues so that they will be empowered to become future trainers and leaders in coping with the social and psychological impact of disasters.

The FAWCO Foundation will donate \$10,000 from its own budget for this project. The goal is to raise an addition \$15,000, which amounts to about \$1.00 per FAWCO member to cover the estimated \$35,000 total cost. The ERF fundraising campaign will accept donations through May 2009. To make a donation, please go to: [www.fawco.org](http://www.fawco.org) or [www.fawcofoundation.org](http://www.fawcofoundation.org). ❖



**Barcelona Women's Network:  
BWN's Walking Group**

Clubs in Motion was launched April 25 to encourage FAWCO clubs to exercise in order to benefit their health and to increase FAWCO awareness.

Clubs have been sending in the number of kilometers they have walked/run/

Club and individual results will be announced at the FAWCO Conference in Vilnius.

Clubs in Motion: Move it!

and we are now up to 4,732 kilometers! Informal and organized groups from clubs all around the world have ranged from breast cancer awareness walks/runs to serious marathon participants. Results and photos can be seen by going to [www.fawco.org](http://www.fawco.org) and clicking on the red 'Clubs in Motion' box on the home page.



## The FAWCO Foundation Announces Two New Awards

Elsie Bose  
president@fawcofoundation.org

### The 2009 FAWCO Foundation Mary Mag Hasse Volunteer of the Year Award

The award is named in memory of Mary Mag Hasse, who served as FAWCO President from 1965-1969, was the Founder and the first President of The FAWCO Foundation (1967) and served as Foundation President from 1971-1975. Mary received the FAWCO Circle of Honor Award in 2007 shortly before passing away in California. She embodied the attributes of the ideal volunteer, attributes that still resonate today, over forty years after the founding of The FAWCO Foundation.

Each year, members of FAWCO clubs dedicate thousands of hours assisting individuals and organizations in need of a helping hand. These volunteers frequently play key roles in the success of projects and programs dedicated to helping children, the elderly, the homeless, the hungry and the abused. Often they work through their club's community service or charity committees.

The FAWCO Foundation takes great pleasure in recognizing this dedication and will accept one nomination per FAWCO club for the Mary Mag

Hasse Volunteer of the Year Award. The recipient of the Award will receive \$1,000 to be donated to a club charity of her/his choice.



*JENNIFER POLLARD was the recipient of the 2008 AWC of Basel FAWCO Members Award for University Degree Study Programs sponsored by Shirley Kearney. She is a physician from the US, pursuing a Masters Degree in Public Health at the Universidad de Columbia in Bogotá, Columbia. She is a member of AWC of Bogotá.*

### The 2009 FAWCO Members Skills Enhancement Award sponsored in part by AWC of Zurich

In today's world, furthering one's education may not always take place in the traditional halls of a university. The Members Skills Enhancement Award will aid those who wish to acquire new skills or enhance existing ones. The award for \$3,000 is open to the members of FAWCO clubs.

Combined with the AWC Basel FAWCO Members Award for University Degree Study Programs sponsored by Shirley Kearney, these two new awards for 2009 round out a category of awards that recognize and support the wide range of interests and passions of FAWCO club members.

Please go to The Foundation website: [www.fawcofoundation.org](http://www.fawcofoundation.org) to review the guidelines and download the applications. Applications must be received by January 16, 2009. ❖

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The FAWCO Foundation is the philanthropic arm of FAWCO. It was created in 1967 as a not-for-profit corporation registered in the State of Missouri to administer all awards and grants on behalf of FAWCO. For more information, please contact [info@fawcofoundation.org](mailto:info@fawcofoundation.org)



*Ramona Nussbaum (AWC Bern) with her intrepid group of voyagers: Roman, Josh, Reanna and Mariah aboard the MSC Lirica, participated in*

### The FAWCO Foundation's Kids Help Fundraising Dream Cruise 2

*Navigating the Mediterranean for Charity*

*Thanks to the logistic help of the AIWC Genoa and the sponsors who supported and assisted with this event: Osiris Travel srl, MSC Crociere SpA, Ditta CAVO LUIGI. DPS srl., the Dream Cruise 2 voyagers enjoyed a dream vacation and raised over \$3,000 for a future philanthropic program. ❖*

## The FAWCO Foundation Development Grants Program

Elsie Bose  
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### Your support goes "Heart to Heart"

During the FAWCO 2008 Conference in Seoul, Korea, The FAWCO Foundation designated 'Heart to Heart,' nominated by the AWC of Shanghai, as the recipient of the "Critical Health Concerns" Development Grant sponsored in part by AWC of Basel.

Heart to Heart is a Shanghai based foundation that assists children in need of heart surgery who come from impoverished rural areas of China. The grant will sponsor a child's surgery and care.

Heart to Heart's Executive Director, Christine Cullen recently sent AWC Shanghai's FAWCO Rep. Susan Kreuer an update informing her that the FAWCO sponsored child, Ma, Li Na, a one-year-old baby from a small farming village in An Hui Province, was admitted to the Shanghai Chest Hospital. She suffers from a PDA congenital heart defect, aggravated by renal stones due to ingesting melamine-tainted milk formula. Li Na was operated on November 5th.

We are pleased to report that surgery was performed on fourteen-month-old, Ma Li Na with-

out complication, and she was discharged from the hospital on November 13. She will stay with relatives in Shanghai, visiting the Children's Hospital of Shanghai for evaluation to remove the kidney stones caused by the tainted milk. The costs for this surgery will be covered by the Chinese government. Updates on Li Na's progress will be posted on The FAWCO Foundation website: [www.fawcofoundation.org](http://www.fawcofoundation.org).❖



*Ma, Li Na with her grandmother at Shanghai Chest Hospital.*