STAND UP Against Human Trafficking
by Mary Adams, AWC The Hague

Being “rescued” from human trafficking is not a guarantee of freedom, economic independence or personal empowerment. Our positive experience with the FAWCO Target Project, Free The Girls, encouraged us to do further research into the critical success factors for “sustainable rescue.” We learned that individuals, communities, the private/public sectors, universities, NGOs and governments are already implementing an impressive human trafficking eradication tool set. In 2015, a decision was made to make this information public through the joint effort between FAWCO and The FAWCO Foundation in a symposium: STAND UP Against Human Trafficking. The Hague, city of International Peace and Justice was selected as the venue.

(Continued on page 8)

The FAWCO Experience
by Mary Adams, AWC The Hague

Prostitution is legal in the Netherlands. Do prostitution laws really protect women or do they create a fuzzy line between legal sex work and human trafficking? A precursor to the STAND UP Against Human Trafficking Symposium, the FAWCO Experience was a members-only program developed to give a deeper understanding of the journey trafficked survivors take from rescue to empowerment (within Dutch borders).

(Continued on page 8)

Georgia Regnault Honored
by Emily van Eerten, AWC The Hague

At the closing of the STAND UP Symposium, longtime AWC The Hague member and FAWCO Counselor Georgia Regnault (pictured right) was presented, by the Mayor of The Hague, Jozias van Aartsen, a with Royal Dutch recognition naming her a Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau.

(Continued on page 6)
by Monica Jubayli, AWC Lebanon, FAWCO President 2015-2017

Last year FAWCO went through a significant exercise—“rebranding.” This resulted in the introduction of a new and inspiring logo with tagline, as well as a refreshed Mission Statement. After the adoption of the rebranding package, the Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF) was created to keep the momentum of FAWCO’s movement forward into the future.

Cora Lee Findley (AW Eastern Province), and the task force members Christine Funke (AWC Cologne), Jodi Gentilozzi (AWC The Hague), Rick Chizmadia (FAUSA), and acting as advisor, FAWCO Counselor Celine Brown (AWC The Hague) are taking a deep dive into what is FAWCO by studying all areas of association. By examining FAWCO’s purpose, as outlined in the Bylaws and the Mission Statement, the task force will spell out the goals FAWCO wants to achieve, identify the action steps necessary to achieve them (including individual resources as well as time and financial support required) and a timeline.

This process will take much time and effort, but the rewards will be many-fold as FAWCO will be able to:
- Address the needs of its Member Clubs and how FAWCO brings value to their organizations.
- Be more proactive than reactive.
- Understand how The FAWCO Foundation and FAUSA fit in with FAWCO’s goals.

Ultimately, the goal is to put in place a strategic plan that will help FAWCO concentrate its efforts and direct the energy of its volunteers. All will be working together to achieve our common goals that support the Mission Statement.

In the days ahead, the SPTF will continue its review and research to complete their analyses of FAWCO programs, committees and task forces. They will be asking to hear from you, both clubs and members. A survey is in the works to be sent out in mid-January. In the meantime, remember that in the wake of the rebranding process, our goal is to team our new look with a solid plan for FAWCO’s future direction.

What a significant six months FAWCO has had!
- The FAWCO 1st VP Communications, Sallie Chabalibie, and her team have been working hard since the Interim Meeting last March to update all FAWCO’s communications materials with our new look.
- FAWCO Youth Cultural Volunteers visited Dublin, Ireland June 7-12. (See article page 7.)
- The Biennial Conference Committees have been working since the summer. The Nomination Committee is putting together a slate for the next term’s Board, while the Resolutions and Recommendations (R&Rs) Committee has been reviewing the 2015-2017 R&Rs and will be proposing R&Rs for the 2017-2019 term.
- The Strategic Planning Task Force has been meeting regularly since July. (See President’s Message on this page).
- Conference information has been available since August, with the launch of the dedicated conference newsletter, Spotlight on Mumbai. It has been sent out to help FAWCO members plan and prepare to attend the Biennial Conference in Mumbai in March 2017. (See article on this page.)
- Conference registration went live on September 1st.
- The FAWCO Experience held in Amsterdam October 6th and 7th was a sold-out event. (See article page 8.)
- FAWCO and The FAWCO Foundation successfully hosted the Symposium: STAND UP Against Human Trafficking in The Hague October 8th and 9th. (See article page 8.)
- FAWCO co-sponsored a panel on Human Trafficking at a Side Event of the UN conference on Transnational Organized Crime in Vienna on October 19th. (See article page 5.)
- The Region 5 meeting was hosted by AWC Berlin November 11-13. (See article page 10.)
- It has been non-stop for the Global Issues Task Forces as they bring value to their organizations.
- US Liaison, Lucy Laederich, and Mary Stewart Burgher, US Voting from Overseas Committee chair, reminded all of us, several times, to register to vote. (See article page 3.)
- The FAWCO Board and all its volunteers are working hard to better serve its members and their clubs.

In March 2017, AWC Mumbai (AWCM) will be hosting FAWCO’s 43rd Biennial Conference, the first to be held in Region 11. AWC President Meenakshi Advani (Biennial Conference Chair) has been working with Dottie Wagle, AWCM Conference Planning Chair, and their team to put together a very special conference including The FAWCO Foundation Night celebrating its 50th anniversary, local speakers, pre- and post-conference city tours, optional dinners, a chance to meet AWCM members who will buddy up with FAWCO delegates to show them their fascinating city... and a little bit of Mumbai Masti (mischief). This year there is a lot of pre-conference information available in the monthly issues of Spotlight on Mumbai, a newsletter with practical tips, details about tours and activities, fun facts about India, as well as conference business updates. You can find all of this and more on the FAWCO conference webpages available to registered users of the FAWCO website. Go to www.fawco.org and click on the Conference logo to register.
Empowering Women and Girls through Knowledge and Skills


At the March 2016 FAWCO Interim Meeting in Frankfurt, Education – Empowering Women and Girls through Knowledge and Skills, was announced as the overarching theme for the FAWCO Target Program 2016 - 2019.

The first year of the program was launched with an awareness raising campaign, featuring a blog series Let's Get Schooled and a monthly Target Bulletin. Both have been well received by FAWCO and FAUSA members. Let's Get Schooled explores issues related to education for women and girls on the global front – such as barriers to girls’ education, the devastating and all-encompassing impact of poverty, and global education policy makers and the role data plays in influencing their decisions. The Target Bulletin keeps you up to date on program developments, links to our blog on the FAWCO website, and features how Member Clubs and FAWCO Task Forces are raising awareness about the importance of women’s and girls’ education. Sign up to receive the bulletin through the “Subscribe” button at the top of the FAWCO home page.

Preparation for the second phase of the Target Program began in May with the release of the Target Project Application. By the September 30, 2016 deadline, 18 applications were received from ten Member Clubs and FAUSA. The Selection Committee is presently reviewing the applications and will announce a shortlist of proposals on January 6, 2017. Member Clubs will have the opportunity to vote for the Target Project in early February. The winner will be announced at the Biennial Conference in Mumbai, India.

The announcement in Mumbai will mark the launch of the fundraising phase of the Target Program. The FAWCO Foundation, under the leadership of the Target Fundraising Coordinator Sahar Elhallaq (AIWA Rabat), will kick off the fundraising campaign running from April 2017 through February 2019.

The Target Program follows a three-year cycle of issue awareness and education, project selection, fundraising, project monitoring, review and evaluation. The Target Program demonstrates the power of FAWCO Member Clubs working together toward a common goal to create change and to increase knowledge and awareness of the global issues impacting women.

Let’s Get Schooled

Overseas voters as an important voting block

According to one of the most reliable sources for voting statistics, the U.S. Election Project, approximately 58.2% of eligible US voters cast ballots in this year’s presidential election. This was down only slightly from 2012, when turnout was 58.6%, and well above 2000’s rate of 54.2%. Turnout may actually end up higher than in any presidential election year between 1972 and 2000.

The Election Project’s Michael McDonald, associate professor at the University of Florida, estimates the voting-eligible population (VEP) as a whole at 231,556,622, and considers that 4,739,596 of these are “overseas eligible”.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP), which calculates the overseas vote at approximately 4% of the total US vote, estimated that 2.6 million overseas Americans might vote in 2016 and expected increased turnout from 2012. If the Democrats Abroad primary was any indication, they appeared to be right: 34,570 voted this year, up from the 22,715 who voted in 2012. If the US vote, estimated that 2.6 million overseas Americans might vote in 2016 and expected increased turnout from 2012. If the Democrats Abroad primary was any indication, they appeared to be right: 34,570 voted this year, up from the 22,715 who voted in 2012. If the Democrats Abroad primary was any indication, they appeared to be right: 34,570 voted this year, up from the 22,715 who voted in 2012.

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Volunteers registering and requesting ballots over the FAWCO-OVF website cannot help but be aware of the importance of this voting block and the impact of the overseas absentee vote in many elections (including Florida in 2000). In addition to the highly visible presidential results, several close Senate and House contests over the past decade were won by margins smaller than the number of overseas ballots received, including those won by Senators Jim Webb in Virginia in 2006 and by Al Franken in Minnesota two years later.

FAWCO is therefore proud to contribute to encouraging and facilitating the overseas vote and grateful, once again this year, for the invaluable assistance of its partner, U.S. Vote Foundation.

Updates from the FAWCO UN Reps Team

by UN Liaison Laurie Richardson (AWA Vienna) and the UN Reps Team

Vienna

Laurie Richardson, UN Liaison: I serve on the Executive Committee of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW) in Vienna. We organize special programs and events associated with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), especially related to their work on preventing human trafficking. I recently spoke on a panel on “Preventing Trafficking, Trade and Exploitation of Women and Children” in connection with a UNODC conference on transnational organized crime, where I reported on the FAWCO/FAWCO Foundation Symposium STAND UP Against Human Trafficking. With NGO CSW Vienna, I work on joint statements for the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and collaborate with local schools on a program to study the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). And yes, there are lots of acronyms to keep track of when you work around the UN.

New York

Erica Higbie, UN Rep: I am Treasurer of NGO Committee on the Status of Women in New York, and chair the Advocacy and Budget Committees. As a Director on the Executive Committee of the NGO Department of Public Information (DPI), I head up a mentoring initiative for NGOs new to the UN, and work on fundraising for the next DPI Conference. I am involved with the Working Group on Girls, but taking a leave from the Steering Committee this year to focus on my other roles. Planning will begin soon for the 61st Commission on the Status of Women. I hope to see FAWCO there in numbers like the past two years.

Valia Mitsakis, Youth Rep: At the start of the year, I attended the UN Youth Forum and the Winter Youth Assembly. In March, I joined the FAWCO delegation at the CSW60 and participated in the Youth Forum. I attended the Summer Youth Assembly with another member of FAWCO Youth and then in September, I reported on the UN General Assembly for the radio station where I work. I attended press briefings with foreign leaders and observed meetings, especially concerning the refugee crisis.

Jane McCall Politi, UN Rep: I am Vice Chair of the NGO Committee on Migration. My work on the Subcommittee on Migrant/Refugee Children’s Issues focuses on early childhood development (education and care) for children in emergency situations in host/resettlement countries. I helped draft a position paper, “Positive Effects of Innovative Early Childhood Development Programs on Refugee Youth Resilience” for the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) NGO Consultations in June. Preparations for the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Migrants and Refugees in September included consultations and high-level meetings with the civil society action committee.

Geneva

Stacy Dry Lara, UN Rep: Again this year, I covered Human Rights Council sessions at the UN in Geneva in March, June and September. Months of planning led to the NGO CSW Geneva Flashmob on October 11 to celebrate the International Day of the Girl. The flashmob was a huge success with support from the Permanent Missions in Geneva of the US and Canada, UNICEF, UN Office in Geneva, the OHCHR, and Plan International.

Anne Riz, UN Rep: I am Treasurer of NGO CSW Geneva which has been instrumental in the Committee’s work to clarify its objectives and procedures. In October, NGO CSW Geneva, in partnership with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, hosted a forum “Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls in a sustainable Development Perspective,” including panels and discussions on women in decision-making, equal pay, unpaid care work, and government procurement.

(Continued from page 3)

FAWCO and the Overseas Voter

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The FAWCO Human Rights Task Force (HRTF) publishes a monthly bulletin to raise awareness on human rights issues for women and girls in the areas of economic and political empowerment, peace and conflict, and violence against women. In addition, the task force encourages FAWCO members and FAUSA groups to participate in activities throughout the year related to these topics.

In the fall of each year, the HRTF asks members to participate in the Rutgers 16 Days Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign. The theme coincides with the HRF’s focus on education. Given the worldwide refugee crisis and its relevance to this year’s theme, the HRTF recommended that groups collect school supplies for local refugees; hold a book discussion on The Moon is Low; by Nadia Hashimi, a moving novel about an Afghan refugee family; and/or provide books about refugees to children in the local community.

Countries facing violent conflicts have the worst education indicators in the world, especially for girls. According to UNESCO, girls in conflict areas are almost two and a half times more likely to be out of school in general and 90% more likely to be out of secondary school. Yet, education can actually help prevent conflict. The UNESCO report also states that: “…girls’ and women’s value lies in their youth, beauty, and sexuality and not in their capacity as leaders” and The Mask You Live In focuses on the message to boys that their success is “…tied to dominance, power, and aggression.”

In the spring of each year, the HRTF encourages members to commemorate V-Day and One Billion Rising, global movements to end violence against women and girls, which take place on February 14th. For 2017, the HRTF is recommending that FAWCO/FAUSA groups help address root causes of gender-based violence by screening and discussing two films: The Representation Project with young people in their community. Miss Representation addresses the misrepresentation that “…girls’ and women’s value lies in their youth, beauty, and sexuality and not in their capacity as leaders” and The Mask You Live In focuses on the message to boys that their success is “…tied to dominance, power, and aggression.”

In addition, the task force encourages FAWCO member clubs and/or FAUSA groups to participate in activities throughout the year related to these topics.

Boys and men face their own challenges from gender inequity, including harmful and unrealistic expectations about masculinity. The limiting beliefs that males are taught not to feel or empathize, to be stoic and tough and judge their manliness based on their sexual conquests, lead directly and indirectly to gender-based violence, the rape culture on college campuses, based on their sexual conquests, lead directly and indirectly to gender-based violence, the rape culture on college campuses, and many other problems. In addition to endangering women and girls, these norms do a grave disservice to men and boys, robbing them of their humanity.

The FAWCO Youth Cultural Volunteers Program flourished in its fourth year as seven of our seven FAWCO cultural volunteers travelled to Dublin for a week in June. They were hosted by AWC Dublin members and joined by Carson and Ian, two local youth volunteers. The enthusiastic feedback described the week as an “unforgettable experience.”

The teens representing FAWCO, all between the ages of 13-17, were from IWC Cologne, IWC Turinò, AWC Hamburg and AWC Berlin. Thanks to the organization and energy of the Dublin Club President Rheagan Coffey and her capable team, the group enjoyed a fun week including both sightseeing and volunteering.

The FAWCO Youth program, which seeks to raise the awareness in today’s youth of the world around them encouraging them to become responsible global citizens, offered a different program this year. Volunteer work involved clearing out the gardens of two local residents, which took a lot of time and energy. It was, as reported by Pascal Shrady (AWC Cologne), “hard work,” but “really fun!” He said he learned “how much little things can have a huge impact.”

The teens visited Malahide Castle and Kilmainham Gaol, experience a Ghost Tour and saw some of Dublin, discovered Irish history and even had an Irish dancing lesson! Their hosts did a wonderful job planning a diverse week of activities for the group. As we have come to discover in the FAWCO Youth Program, the group melded together effortlessly. Giulia Schwartz (IWC Turinò) described it like being “surrounded by siblings.”

As part of the program, the teens were asked to write about their experiences. Laura Wilhelm (AWC Cologne) summed her observations beautifully: “The Cultural Volunteers trip was definitely eye-opening. It allowed me to meet many new people and to learn and experience new, interesting things... With friends, both garden work and exploring a new city were suddenly much more fun! This experience is one I will remember and treasure.”

The majority of “Lintjes” (Royal ribbons) are bestowed on the King’s birthday in April during the so-called “Lintjes Regen” (Rain of Ribbons). The Mayor’s office graciously agreed to expedite the announcement of Georgia’s award to coincide with the Symposium sponsored by FAWCO and the FAWCO Foundation, two organizations who benefited from Georgia’s ongoing volunteer commitment. Georgia’s husband, Peter, her three children, Alexander, Lara and Philippe and many of Georgia’s long-term FAWCO friends were able to raise a glass in celebration of this extraordinary recognition.

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Georgia surrounded by the “instigators” of her award from AWC The Hague.

Georgia receiving her medal from the Mayor of The Hague.

AWC members Emily van Eerten and Gretie Engelness spearheaded the group who prepared the application for Georgia’s nomination. The group researched Georgia’s volunteer history, interviewing people in a variety of organizations. With a mountain of information, a strategic decision was made to focus on Georgia’s service to the local community, over the years both helping Americans and others integrate into Dutch society and showcasing Dutch society to the international community. The AWC of The Hague, FAWCO, the Benoorderhout Neighborhood Association, and a former US Consul General in The Hague all contributed to the preparation of the application.

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Banner photos of the FAWCO Youth Cultural Volunteers Program: Dublin!

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CoMensha, a Dutch NGO, described their collaborative support model linking organizations throughout the entire sustainable rescue chain from shelter to prosecution, health and advocacy, skill training and repatriation. The Deputy Director of the International Victimology Institute (INTERVICT) at Tilburg University described the victim-centered research conducted by the Institute as applied in criminal courts and support organizations, busting the stereotypes of the ideal victim for trafficking.

The two-day event was well attended by FAWCO members as well as the general public. Day One featured the role of government with the keynote address delivered by the Dutch National Dutch Rapporteur, Corrine Dettmeijer. Describing her unique independent role for policy recommendations and forming common goals through international knowledge exchange networks, she reminded us, “Behind every policy and statistic is the story of a human being.”

A representative from the US Embassy discussed the Trafficking In Persons report, a diplomatic tool that is creating a common language and measurement system for national “trafficking track records.” Lucy Laederich, FAWCO US Liaison, presented an overview of three US anti-trafficking campaigns and how US departments are working together to stop human trafficking. The following sessions shifted from government to NGO actions and solutions. Three organizations were highlighted: Free The Girls for their individual retail economic empowerment; Not For Sale where a Dutch bank is collaborating with government-led initiatives to “follow the money” of traffickers, as well as a new service for their clients ensuring a clean supply chain.

The success of the Symposium was made possible through the volunteers and support from our FAWCO clubs and sponsorship from OBI Networks, London & Capital, and The American Women’s Club of the Hague.

The remainder of the day was devoted to labor trafficking, Stop the Traffik associated the power of consumers with “action heroes” fighting for clean supply chains in industry; FairWork described its European commission and the signs of labor trafficking. The final activity was a group exercise using an online survey on how their news stories have pressured governments to enforce laws and pressured businesses to ensure slave-free supply chains, showing millions of viewers that everyone can make a difference in the fight against modern day slavery.

The next morning, the last stop in Amsterdam was a shelter for women rescued from trafficking, The Amsterdam Trafficking Coordination Center, which provides shelter, counseling archival information to victims of trafficking. The Director welcomed us with a short presentation and then a tour of the facility to experience how the center gives tough love with a generous heart.

The rest of the Experience took place at one of The Hague’s most unusual museums, Humanyway House. The group spent the afternoon in three sessions: a workshop to learn how to detect labor trafficking provided by FairWork; a test on human rights and FAWCO’s involvement; and the museum’s reality experience as a refuge into the unknown.

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Volunteering with Refugees*  
by Molly Moylan Brown, AWC Berlin

Begin by imagining yourself in relationship with a stranger – in this case a refugee. Dwell there for a moment and imagine how our refugees’ perception of a WHOLE has been undermined through war, death, exile and families divided. It is human behavior to want first to feel safe, to stand apart, before creating the conditions for empathy and understanding. How do we overcome this fear of the “stranger,” bravely reach across to them and embrace “difference.” The more diversity in our life, the more empathetic we become.

There is a saying, “The blessing is outside your comfort zone.” We do not want the refugees’ feelings of disconnect to re-seed a cycle of violence. This must be at the root of our volunteer work. We must listen to them with open hearts, work to understand them and make room for the gifts they have brought with them. While we continue to address the problems of their basic and material needs, we must also continue to enlarge our moral imagination to include the possibility of transformation – theirs and ours – through relationship. We must imagine and grow into the idea that we can be enlarged, made better by this stranger. To do this work, we are working in service to whole community. Being a neighbor is a moral concept, we share a collective responsibility for what happens. We have an opportunity as neighbors to help our refugees’ perception of themselves as part of a WHOLE, this happens one person at a time, one relationship at a time. The more diversity in our life, the more imagination to include the possibility of transformation – theirs and ours. While we continue to address the problems of their basic and material needs, we must also continue to enlarge our moral imagination to include the possibility of transformation – theirs and ours – through relationship.

FAUSA Region 5: Setting Records and Refugee Crisis Opportunity  
by Angelika McLaren, AWC Berlin, Region 5 Regional Coordinator

The fourth Regional Meeting in Berlin broke a few records: a total of 51 attendees (and some spouses) from 16 clubs and 8 countries participated, including 7 of the 8 clubs in Region 5. The fun began on Thursday night with a special benefit concert by Robin Meloy Goldsby at the Steinway Haus. Friday was dedicated to Berlin sights and history, including an excursion to Potsdam and a visit to the Stasi Museum.

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On Saturday we had the honor of presentations by the Presidents of FAWCO and The FAWCO Foundation and we were able discuss our regional issues. The current refugee crisis was addressed in a substantive panel discussion moderated by Angelika McLaren, AWC Berlin, Region 5 Regional Coordinator.

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by Patti Meek, AWC Dublin, The FAWCO Foundation President

The FAWCO Foundation supports the philanthropic goals of FAWCO by developing, administering and fundraising for programs that improve the lives of women and children worldwide.

2017 FAWCO FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

The FAWCO Foundation raises and administers funds to support our core programs: Education Awards, Development Grants and the FAWCO Target Program. This year we will be offering $42,000 in Education Awards and $31,500 in Development Grants, as well as launching our fundraising campaign for the FAWCO Target Program: Education - Empowering Women and Girls Through Knowledge and Skills.

2017 DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

The Development Grants program includes seven grants, each targeting an area of global concern outlined by the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Development Grants program is open to all FAWCO clubs and to FAUSA, who each have the opportunity to nominate two charitable projects per year. Each grant of $4,500 will fund projects with an immediate impact for the people they support.

Health:
- Critical Health Concerns, sponsored in part by Renuka Matthews
- The Coughlan Family Foundation Support in Sickness and Health
- AWG Languedoc-Roussillon Feeding the World

Education:
- AW of Surrey Hope Through Education
- Pam Dahlgren Educating Africa’s Children

Human Rights:
- Breaking the Cycle, sponsored in part by AILO Florence
- FAUSA Displaced Women and Children

2017 EDUCATION AWARDS

The FAWCO Foundation offers Education Awards in three separate categories, Academic Studies Awards, a Dual Cultural Award and Member Awards. We are honored to announce a special award in the Member Award category, The FAWCO Foundation 50th Anniversary Members’ Award for study in the field of Education, sponsored by the Counselors of FAWCO, FAUSA and The FAWCO Foundation.

For children of FAWCO and FAUSA members:

- VIOLA WHEELER ARTS AWARD $4,000
- HUMANITIES AWARD $4,000 sponsored in part by AAWE, in memory of Gertrude de Gallaix
- CAROLINE NEWTON HUMANITIES AWARD $4,000
- AWG PARIS IT AWARD FOR YOUNG WOMEN $4,000
- SCIENCES AWARD $4,000 sponsored in part by AIWC Genoa, in memory of Frieda Bacigalupo Natali

For children and grandchildren of FAWCO members:

- DUAL CULTURAL AWARD $4,000 sponsored in part by Lee Sorenson, in memory of Dudley Sorenson, and by Donna Erismann and AWC Bern, in memory of Suzanne Erismann
- For FAWCO and FAUSA Members:
  - AWC BASEL AWARD FOR UNIVERSITY DEGREE STUDY PROGRAMS $5,000 sponsored by Shirley Kearney
  - FAUSA SKILLS ENHANCEMENT AWARD $4,000
- WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY AWARD $4,000 In honor of AWA Dubai’s 21 years serving the international community in Dubai

The FAWCO Foundation 50th Anniversary Members’ Award $5,000, sponsored by the Counselors of The FAWCO Foundation, FAWCO and FAUSA

The FAWCO Foundation Turns 50

The FAWCO Foundation was established by FAWCO President Mary Mag-Hasse and her Board in 1967. During the 1960s, as its network of clubs expanded, FAWCO began fundraising for scholarships, both for European nationals to study in the US and for American students educated abroad to continue their studies in the States. In order for these donations to be tax deductible, and in order for these awards to be made to FAWCO members and their children, a separate foundation was created. The FAWCO Foundation was incorporated in the State of Missouri, holding its first Board meeting on February 26, 1967.

For five decades, The FAWCO Foundation has worked diligently to fulfill its purpose to implement FAWCO’s philanthropic concerns and interest in the global community. While the Education Awards Program was the cornerstone of the Foundation’s work, our Development Grants Program was initially established in 1997 in response to requests for emergency help in disaster relief efforts. The program has evolved so that we now fund ongoing humanitarian projects championed by FAWCO member organizations.

As of 2016, The FAWCO Foundation has made a difference in the lives of women and children around the world by giving more than $1.3 million in grants and awards.