Boulder High School Pantherz Z Club Celebrates 10th Anniversary with Induction

BOULDER, Colorado – (April 20, 2022) On Thursday, April 28, at 5 pm at Boulder High School, the Boulder High School PantherZ Z Club will induct new members and celebrate its 10th Anniversary. Alumni, BHS faculty and Zonta Foothills Club members will be on hand to commemorate the milestone. In the fall of 2012, under the guidance of Club advisor, Michelle Carpenter, a group of six members met after school and started to plan how they could support their school and community through service and advocacy. Chartered in 2013 by sponsor The Zonta Foothills Club of Boulder County, the Z club has supported more than 100 BHS students. Carpenter, a Boulder High Spanish teacher, explains: “Boulder High School is honored to be partner with Zonta International. Our students are learning to become effective leaders as they participate in meaningful service projects with their mentors.”

What is a Z Club?
Z Clubs were first started in 1948 by Zonta International to provide youth the opportunity to develop leadership skills, explore careers, and improve international understanding through service and advocacy. Z Clubs are formed on high school campuses to provide resources and mentorship to encourage members understand their community and gain an international awareness of the issues that impact women and girls. Z Club members are the leaders of tomorrow, and through Zonta membership they learn communication skills, as well as gain civic leadership experience and career development assistance as well as a commitment to service and advocacy.

What has the Boulder High School Panther Z Club Accomplished?
The Boulder High School PantherZ Z Club has been involved in many projects over the last 10 years. Local organizations like EFAA, Safe House Progressive Alliance for Non-Violence, Moving to End Sexual Assault, The Reentry Initiative, Mother House, Share-a-Gift and Community Foodshare have been the focus of ongoing club projects. In 2020 the group produced a video urging community members to be counted through the US Census2020. They also went door-to-door delivering fliers and talking with community members about why the census is important. In 2021 the Club created a school-based campaign urging fellow students to get the COVID vaccine. They have also been active in prevention of violence against women. For the last 8 years the Club has created a Silent Witness display in the Boulder High School library to convey the tragedy of violence and support victims by promoting local resources at Safe House and Moving to End Sexual Assault. In addition to service work, the club has heard speakers talk about careers from medicine to criminal justice to education to social work and visited local colleges, universities, and businesses. The club has had a 100% graduation rate and many graduates continue in the Zonta organization as members of the Flatirons Golden Z Club.

What is The Zonta Foothills Club of Boulder County?
An all-volunteer organization, Zonta Foothills Club of Boulder County has supported women and girls in Boulder County since 1982. Best known for their Zonta EducateZ project, which supports under resourced women and girls with scholarships, they support the Boulder Valley Schools, Community Food Share, the Milagros Scholarship, Moving to End Sexual Assault (MESA), Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA), Community Food Share, Sister Carmen, Harvest of Hope and others through service, advocacy, scholarships, and other support. The Foothills Club has awarded more than $80,000 in educational scholarships to women since 2010 and provided more than 45,000 books to Boulder families through free libraries. They mentor high school and college-aged women through their Z Club programs. The Zonta Foothills Club of Boulder County is part of Zonta International. Founded in 1919 in Buffalo, New York, Z is a leading global organization of empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

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