

# *Domestic Violence Awareness Is Focus Of Woman's Club Of Ste. Genevieve Meeting*

Domestic violence awareness and prevention was the theme of this month's GWFC Woman's Club of Ste. Genevieve meeting, held October 18 at the Big Field Café.

The International General Federation of Women's Clubs in Washington, D.C. has domestic violence awareness and prevention as its signature project for the next two years.

"Our program focused on raising awareness about possible abuses in our community and how we can help victims," GWFC spokesperson Carolyn Bach said.

More than 45 members and guests watched the first edition of the "Mean Girls" skit, depicting a student being bullied by a gang.

"Bullying can take place anywhere, but it strikes most often in our schools," Bach said. "Once the academic year starts, the social hierarchy of popular kids, nerdy kids, and those in between combine with a group dynamic, which too often results in bullying."

Bach said the skit was a way to remind members about bullying behavior and to intervene when possible.

Members portraying the gang were Kathy Hartig, Gayle Langan, Carol Shelton and Kathy Tate. Carolyn Bach portrayed the "good girl" student being taunted by the "mean girls" gang.

Following the skit, guests and members heard presentations from a domestic violence awareness and prevention panel.

Panel members included Carla Crocker from the SEMO Family Violence Council in Bonne Terre, Winnis Sifford from the Regional Family Crisis Center in Perryville and Ste. Genevieve County Prosecuting Attorney Tim Inman.

Chapter president Judy Gustafson facilitated the panel discussion with questions from the audience.

The panel discussed the issue of domestic violence and what services are provided to help those who are victimized.

Inman also offered legal perspec-



**SHELTER ASSISTANCE**—Carla Crocker of the SEMO Family Violence Council in Bonne Terre (right) and Winnis Sifford of the Regional Family Crisis Center in Perryville (left) are pictured with 35 bags of items donated by the GWFC Woman's Club of Ste. Genevieve for the facilities.

tives on domestic violence as well as Ste. Genevieve County statistics and trends.

"Don't remain a victim of domestic abuse. If a person is threatened or abused, there is help and protection through our county court system," Inman said. "There are safe shelters and support services available for victims of abuse."

The SEMO Family Violence Council facility in Bonne Terre and the Regional Family Crisis Center in Perryville serve Ste. Genevieve County in addition to the counties where they are located. For help, call (573)358-3913 or (573)547-2480.

Ste. Genevieve Woman's Club members also filled 35 large shopping bags donated by St. Anthony's Hospital in St. Louis with hundreds of needed items for the two shelters that serve Ste. Genevieve County. In addition, the club also donated funds to help support each shelter.

The next GWFC Woman's Club of Ste. Genevieve meeting will be a day trip November 16 to the Blue Owl Restaurant in Kimmswick for lunch followed by a tour of the Anheuser Estate.

For more information about the GWFC Woman's Club of Ste. Genevieve, call President Judy Gustafson at 483-3883.