Soroptimists go for WATER AND FOOD

Programme NEWS

Soroptimist International of Europe

Issue No. 37, November 2012

Project of the Month

This month's winner is SI Sweden for their project "Because I am a Girl" carried out by several Swedish Clubs. The project fulfilled Programme Goal no. 1 "Soroptimist International will improve the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment or enabling opportunities and objective no. 1 "increase access to formal and non-formal learning opportunities."

The project is implemented in cooperation with the development organization called Plan and European electronic products recycling company Regenersis. SI Sweden called upon Soroptimists to turn in unused or unwanted mobile phones which were collected through shops and companies. With the collected money of repaired or recycled mobile phones, SI Sweden aims to prevent and stop female genital mutilation.

In addition, the recycling of the used mobile phones is also environmentally beneficial.

PFR no. 27237 asserts that the idea first came up in 2010, and Soroptimists throughout Sweden were asked to bring used or unwanted mobile phones to the annual Union meeting. So far, around 5000 mobile phones have been collected, sold or recycled.

Some 500 hours have been put in this initiative by around 50 engaged volunteers. So far, 10,450 USD have been raised to benefit projects against female genital mutilation.

Congratulations to SI Sweden!

Soroptimist Best Practice Awards 2013

Soroptimist Best Practice Awards recognize outstanding Club/Union Projects in each of the new five Programme Focus Objectives that improve the lives of women and girls. Two best projects are chosen per Objective – one for action and one for advocacy – from the **nominated** best practices. Each Union and Single Club are eligible to nominate 2 projects **per objective**. One overall winner will be chosen for the area "education and leadership" to put emphasis on our long-term theme. Entries are due to SIEHQ in Geneva on or before **February 28, 2013.** The winners will be awarded at the Governors' Meeting in Berlin, Germany in July 2013. In addition, they will receive recognition in a special Best Practice brochure, on the SIE website and in *The Link.*

Note: *In case of lack of best practice submissions, the Soroptimist International of Europe Programme Team will take the liberty to scan through the Programme Focus Reports and choose successful projects and contact the respective Union or Single Club to acquire more information.*

ENTRY FORM

Entries received after February 28, 2013 will NOT be included in the Best Practice Awards judging.

Club: SI of _____
Union: _____
Contact Name: _____
Email: _____
Project Title: _____
Start date: _____
Programme Focus Objective: _____

Project Description: Describe the project not exceeding **two** typewritten **pages**. Explain how your project meets the following criteria:

- Justify **relevance** and **importance** of the project.
- Have clear project **goals/objectives** related to the respective Programme Focus Objective.
- Specify **how** the project improves the lives of women and girls and how many of them have been benefitting from the project.
- Indicate whether **other organisations** have been involved.
- Show how much **funds** have been used. And whether funds were raised by SI club or other organisations.
- Illustrate with **pictures**: before/after
- The project should have been **implemented** during the Soroptimist year **October 2011 – September 2012.**
- Has to be a project that has already been reported as **PFR** (please give PFR registration number)

Entries to: suba@soroptimisteurope.org



December 1 – World AIDS Day

14 years ago, World AIDS Day was initiated as the first ever global health day to unite people worldwide in the fight against HIV, demonstrate their solidarity for people living with HIV and remember people who have died.

Although these past years have seen many scientific advances in HIV treatment, there is still vast need for awareness creation on how to protect oneself from HIV, and stigma and discrimination remains

a reality for people living with HIV. Especially leadership and action for women is vital since they are disproportionately affected by HIV. In some countries, young women and girls can be 4-13 times more likely to be HIV-infected than young men. Whereas in the Caribbean, the Middle East, North Africa and Oceania, almost 50% of adults with HIV are female, in many countries of Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America the numbers of women living with HIV grows at an alarming rate. Women also disproportionately experience the impoverishment caused by AIDS and the burden of care giving.

World AIDS Day is an opportunity for Soroptimists to raise awareness on the facts about HIV and put your knowledge into action. You can also show your support by calling your governments to dedicate significant resources to programmes to:

- empower women and girls through law reform and legal support;
- social mobilization and economic empowerment schemes;
- campaigns against violence and inequality, harmful traditional practices;
- the provision of female condoms;
- the integration of HIV into sexual and reproductive health services;
- the prevention of early marriage;
- efforts to keep girls in schools and to provide them a good education;
- securing schools as learning environments free of sexual violence for girls.

To learn more about what you can do on December 1st, please visit: www.worldaidsday.org/

The Programme Team
Soroptimist International of Europe
72 rte de Florissant,
1206 Geneva
Switzerland

Tel : +41 22 346 08 80

E-mail: suba@soroptimisteurope.org
www.soroptimisteurope.org

December 10 – Human Rights Day

"Where we come from does not determine who we can become. What we look like places no limits on what we can achieve. We should all have the right to express ourselves, all have the right to be heard, all have the right to be what we can be: To reach for the sky and touch the stars. No matter who we are, no matter whether we are man or woman, or rich or poor: My voice, my right. My voice counts."
- Desmond Tutu, a key figure in the defeat of apartheid in South Africa

Human Rights Day 2012 is dedicated to the inclusion and the right to participate in public life. Soroptimists are invited to reaffirm and encourage others to reiterate your rights to voice your opinion and to take part in public discourse and decision-making processes without any hesitation, threat or fear.

The way Soroptimists are a global voice for women, everyone has the right to make decisions that shape their communities. Fulfillment of the right to participate is fundamental to the running of a democracy. This theme draws directly from the articles 19, 20, and 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which speak of the right to freedom of expression and opinion.

This Human Rights Day, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) intends to highlight that participation in public life can only achieve its full meaning and valid significance when everybody is fairly included in the decision-making process.

For more information, please visit: www.ohchr.org/

SI President's December 10 Appeal

Birthing in the Pacific will be carried on as the December 10 Appeal. This project takes international best practice and evidence and applies it to the local situation in Papua New Guinea – increasing access to both skilled birth attendants and functioning health care services - using education, empowerment, and enabling opportunities to save lives and livelihoods of women in Papua New Guinea. For more information about this project and the December 10 Appeal, please visit: http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/our-projects/december-10-appeal/birthinginpacific

New management of Programme Focus Reports (PFRs)

The SIE Programme Team would like to inform you that the PFRs are now being directly submitted and managed by SI HQ in Cambridge. The most important matters to be noted are that you can only submit PFRs in English and need to be patient until the PFRs are approved. Please note that you have to enter your projects directly into the online as SI no longer accepts mailed, e-mailed, or faxed PFRs. The access codes to submit the PFRs are still the same:
http://www.reports.soroptimistinternational.org/
username: sie
password: geneva

For questions, please contact SIE HQ.

Global Impact Report

PFRs are also instrumental in compiling the Global Impact Report. The very first one was published for the year 2010. The brand new Global Impact Report 2011 on "Educate to Lead for Sustainable Development" is now available under http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/resources/global-impact

FEATURED WEBSITE:
www.plan-international.org/

Plan – Promoting child rights to end child poverty is the oldest and largest children's development organization in the world. Plan works in 50 developing countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas to promote child rights and lift children out of poverty. In 2011 alone, Plan reached almost 57 million children in 58,053 communities.

Please keep checking www.soroptimistprojects.org for new projects!