Programme NEWS

Soroptimist International of Europe
Issue No. 38, December 2012

Project of the Month

This month's winner is SI Canaya, Turkey, for their project "Support Girls Affected by the Earthquake." 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. 5 "address the specific needs of women and girls by improving environmental sustainability, and mitigating effects of climate change and disasters."

One year ago, the earthquake in Van caused widespread damages. The southeastern city of Van's earthquake killed and left many people homeless. Van is one of the cities with the lowest primary school enrollment rate for girls and the lowest scale of our country's per capita income level.

The Turkish club provided dresses and coats to the girls affected by the disaster. PFR no. 27497 reports that a total of 21 girls have benefitted from this initiative.

The Turkish Union also received a Soroptimist Disaster Grant from the European Federation to implement a project called "Beyüzümü District Soroptimist Kilim Workshop" in order to rebuild a workshop that was damaged during the earthquake. The workshop aims to teach kilim weaving to 40 young women. This project will help young women attain economic independence, considering the low literacy rate of the area.

Congratulations to the Turkish Union for all their excellent work in the area!

United Nations General Assembly declared 2013 as the UN International Year of Water Cooperation. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will be leading the 2013 UN International Year of Water Cooperation. The aim of this International Year is to raise awareness, both on the potential for increased cooperation, and on the challenges facing water management in light of the increase in demand for water access, allocation and services. The International Year will highlight best practices in water cooperation over the past few years. While creating connections with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation will also provide an opportunity to capitalize on the momentum created at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). There is a need to support the conception of new goals and objectives that will contribute towards developing water resources that are truly sustainable.

Given the basic necessity of water to sustain life and its central role in the provision of a wide range of services, water is a crucial and cross-cutting factor at the heart of all the MDGs. Consequently, the active participation and cooperation of all sectors, levels of government, and civil society are critical for ensuring better management and allocation of water resources. While recognizing the differentiated responsibilities between developed and developing countries, Soroptimists have to encourage each nation to take ultimate actions to meet the MDGs.

As a consequence of the declaration of 2013 as the UN International Year of Water Cooperation, next year's World Water Day 22 March will also be celebrating 'Water Cooperation'. The Day is organized as part of the International Year of Water Cooperation. The aim of the celebrations is to raise awareness on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources with a special focus on water cooperation, its challenges and benefits.

To learn more about 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation, please visit:
http://www.unwater.org/watercooperation2013/

Register for the 20th Congress of Soroptimist International of Europe – Berlin 12 – 14 July 2013

SIE is delighted to invite all Soroptimists across the globe to its 20th Congress to be held in Berlin, Germany from 12 – 14 July, 2013.

The primary focus will not only be on informed lectures and thought-provoking theme sessions, but also on Soroptimist friendship and international encounters.

The main plenary will include renowned speakers to address the Soroptimist members. The theme sessions will range from how to initiate effective water and food projects to how partnership can work in the context of development work.

Please register now to benefit from the early bird reductions:
www.soroptimist.waterandfood.eu

SOROPTIMIST PROJECT MATCHING

www.soroptimistprojects.org

This month, we feature the project **"US0002 – Breast Cancer Comfort Bags".** Every woman who receives a diagnosis of breast cancer will experience a range of emotions, fearing for her family and herself, and hoping for the best outcome. This project is designed to communicate the support of other women at this difficult time, and to offer practical assistance. The club SI of Manhattan Beach will provide breast cancer patients with bags filled with supplies that will help them both physically and emotionally.

Many of the breast cancer patients who will benefit would not otherwise be able to buy the items in the comfort bags, including medicines, a thermometer, hand sanitizer and lotion, gentle shampoo, sugar free gum, herbal tea, soft toothbrushes, and a turban. These items will help the women physically, psychologically and emotionally cope with their disease.
Funding needed: EUR 1,640.-
http://soroptimistprojects.org/projects/us0002

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

Partnership Guidelines

Partnerships are essential for Unions and Clubs of Soroptimist International of Europe to increase impact of our projects locally, nationally and internationally. These added resources can ease Soroptimist work and facilitate the achievement of our mission. These partnerships can take a multiplicity of forms and vary from networking to working together to develop and implement a project.

Soroptimist clubs have partnered successfully across the globe with local and international organizations as well as other Soroptimist clubs as we have seen with the experiences of the Project Exchange Pool and more recently with Soroptimist Project Matching. However, other organizations often approach Soroptmist clubs as a source of funding for their existings projects. This does not always qualify as an effective partnership. Therefore, it is important that principles of engagement are outlines from the get-go. Trust is absoulutely critical in a partnership and takes time to develop and very easy to destroy.
As Soroptimist clubs, it is crucial that you ensure when you work with other organizations, it is a true partnership: one that advances the Soroptimist mission and in which Soroptimist is a recognized partner.

Most importantly, from the beginning express what your incentives are and define cobenefits. Try to make sure that your expectations match. The vital principles for a partnership are:

1) Shared values and commitment
2) Well-defined self-interest
3) Equality
4) Reciprocity
5) Communication
6) Know the partners
7) Flexibility
8) Evaluation

The SIE Federation is by no means responsible for the partnerships entered by Unions, Clubs and Single Clubs. Potentially draw a contract between your club and the partner. If you require any guidance or help on this, please approach SIE HQ.

FEATURED WEBSITES:
onebillionrising.org/

ONE BILLION RISING
STRIKE | DANCE | RISE!

ONE IN THREE WOMEN ON THE PLANET WILL BE RAPED OR BEATEN IN HER LIFETIME.

ONE BILLION WOMEN VIOLATED IS AN ATROCITY

ONE BILLION WOMEN DANCING IS A REVOLUTION

On Valentine's Day's 15th anniversary, 14 February 2013, the 1 billion rising campaign is inviting ONE BILLION women and those who love them to WALK OUT, DANCE, RISE UP, and DEMAND and end to this violence. ONE BILLION RISING will move and activate women and men across every country.

www.stoprapenow.org/

STOP RAPE NOW
U.N. ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT



UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action) unites the work of 13 UN entities with the aim of ending sexual violence in conflict. It is a concerted effort by the UN to improve coordination and accountability, support national efforts to prevent sexual violence and respond effectively to the needs of survivors. UN Action works with peacekeeping operations to build programmes and operational strategies. In advocacy, the programme works to create public awareness and political will as part of the campaign StopRapeNow.

www.ohchr.org

This is the official website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Right (OHCHR). OHCHR has the mandate of the international community to promote and protect human rights. OHCHR leads the UN's human rights efforts. They educate and take action to empower individuals and assist States in upholding human rights. It is headquartered in Geneva.

The SIE programme team would also like to wish all Soroptimsts and their families a peaceful and restful Holiday Season!