Soroptimists go for WATER AND FOOD

Programme NEWS

Soroptimist International of Europe

Issue No. 36, October 2012

Project of the Month

This month's winner is SI Steyr, Austria for their project "Mother learns German". Their aim was to better integrate women whose mother-tongue was not German. 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." While mothers were learning German, children were cared for. The Soroptimist members of the Steyr club created the education material themselves in order to instruct the language.

PFR no. 26815 reports that a total of €1586 has been raised to support the language education of these women and 12 women have benefited directly from this initiative.

Congratulations to SI Steyr, Austria!

CAST your VOTE!

One of our project partners in Haiti, Malya Villard-Appolon, co-founder of KOFAVIV, Commission of Women Victims for Victims, has been selected as a top 10 CNN Hero! This is a powerful statement to the life-saving programmes of KOFAVIV, which are up and running partially thanks to the valuable support of Soroptimist.

Now, Malya needs support to help her win the prestigious title of 2012 Hero of the Year and a monetary prize. KOFAVIV will use the prize money to expand their critical services for women and girls who have been raped, keep the doors to their Women's Center open and strengthen programmes with young girls, some of the most vulnerable survivors of sexual violence.

Use the following link to vote for Malya and help stop rape in Haiti: http://edition.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cnn.heroes/2012.heroes/malya.villard-appolon.html

Thank you!

October 15 – International Day of Rural Women
October 16 – World Food Day





In line with Soroptimist International of Europe's biennium theme "Soroptimists go for Water and Food" for 2011-2013, the United Nations observes International Day of Rural Women as well as World Food Day in mid October. Also, this year's theme for the 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women earlier this year was "the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges" where Soroptimists presented their action in this area. We initiate and implement numerous projects that empower rural women.

In recent years, the crucial role women play in rural economies of their countries was more and more appreciated and acknowledged. Women's harvest feed their families and generates income that sustains local economies. Apart from their vital caring functions for their children, elderly relatives and the sick, women are involved in crop production and livelistock care, and provide food and water for their families. Recognizing these efforts and raise more awareness, the UN initiated the International Day of Rural Women first in 2008.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his message last year rightfully said: "Despite the heavy responsibility rural women shoulder, they lack equal access to opportunities and resources. This hampers their advancement and holds all people back." Investing in rural women will lift people out of poverty and it would benefit these women's children as they would gain better access to health services, education and nutrition.

For more information, please visit the following websites:
International Day of Rural Women
https://www.un.org/en/events/ruralwomenday/
World Food Day
http://www.fao.org/getinvolved/worldfoodday/en/

SOROPTIMIST PROJECT MATCHING

It's been two years since Soroptimist International of the Americas and Soroptimist International of Europe collaborated to launch Soroptimist Project Matching and its corresponding website: **www.soroptimistprojects.org**. The Boards of both Federations

agreed to partner on this initiative to increase the impact of Soroptimist projects on the lives of women and girls and to be able to track and measure that impact. In October 2010, when we launched the website, there were only two projects. Currently, there are 31 projects. 14 projects are seekings support, 4 are in progress and 13 projects have been completed. Every year, we have received well over 100 questions and clarifications at headquarters offices of which an average of 40 come directly through the website. We continue our marketing efforts to encourage more and more clubs to benefit and support through Soroptimist Project Matching.

From the launch, the programme has been more popular within our Federation where we have a longer history with project matching/Project Exchange Pool. However, we are very pleased to see participation picking up among clubs in SIA.

The following is a sample feedback we have received from a club that has received support:

"The programme was the key to successful implementation of our project by linking us to the donors who funded the project. This enabled us to achieve our objective of keeping our girls in school the whole time they were needed there. The donation enabled us reach the girls for a whole year and thus their general school performance improved, they had notable improved self-esteem as they did not have to worry about leaks." - Vivian Namayi, SI Club Mumias, Kenya – received support

In this issue, we would like to feature the following two projects:

"MG0001 – Seeds for All"

SI Union of Madagascar has established a project entitled "Seeds for all" to assist the small land holders - agriculturalists recognized as the pillar of the country's economy but who are the recurrent victims of climate disasters as well as economic upheaval. This project concerns three SI clubs of the Union of Madagascar. The project target population is composed of about 180 households amongst which 45 women and 135 young adult girls. These beneficiaries are female breadwinners grouped into peasant women association and owners of cultivable land tracks.

The project has four components:
- Technical training and extension services to beneficiaries;
- Improved seed supply adapted to agro-climatic conditions of the areas;
- Small implement supply;
- Fertilizer and agricultural inputs.

SI France has already pledged their partial support to this project.
Funding needed: EUR 8,663.-
http://soroptimistprojects.org/projects/mg0001-seeds-for-all

"EC0001 – Health is Wealth"

SI Ibarra, Ecuador, seeks to continue to fund their health service clinic which provides local women and teen mothers with ovarian cancer screenings and gynecological exams. The clinic has been in operation for eleven years with great success.

The project was developed in 2001 and was funded by a SIA club grant. At this time, the need to educate women about gynecological health was evident and the programme became an integral part of SI Ibarra's service to improve the lives of women. Through the years, the rate of ovarian cancer has increased, as has the number of adolescent mothers and the cost of gynecological testing in local clinics. Through informational meetings, women will be educated about the need for and advantage of gynecological exams. Latin American culture views gynecological exams as embarrassing, unnecessary, costly and painful.

This project will help decrease the rising percentage of ovarian cancer and viral diseases by providing women with PAP smears and consulting them about the results. Positive results will be referred to the local cancer clinic. Additionally, adolescent mothers will receive information, testing and counseling.

The project will continue to provide valuable gynecological health services to local women and teen mothers therefore decreasing their risk of ovarian cancer and gynecological infections.
Funds needed : EUR 2,525
http://soroptimistprojects.org/projects/ec0001-health-is-wealth

November 25 – International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women



On November 25th, we commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women established in 1999 by the UN General Assembly to raise public awareness on a problem that is pervasive around the world. Violence against women takes many forms – physical, sexual, and psychological. It is not confined to a specific culture, region or country, or to a particular group of women within a society. As such, it is a serious international problem, particularly when it takes place within conflict situations. We invite all Soroptimists to organize activities on this day as well as in the following 16 days to raise public awareness against Gender Related Violence leading up to International Human Rights Day on the 10th of December. Please visit:
http://www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/

FEATURED WEBSITE:
www.unwomen.org/
Created in 2011, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women seeks to accelerate the UN's goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Over this past few months, UN Women has been very visible and instrumental in initiating new ventures that you will be able to discover by visiting the website.

"Gender equality must become a lived reality."
- Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women

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