Soroptimists go for WATER AND FOOD

Programme NEWS

Soroptimist International of Europe

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Project of the Month

This month's winner is the **SI Club of Zwolle**, the Netherlands, for their project 'A Chance for her Future.' The Programme Focus Objective of this project is no. 1: "Increase access to formal and non-formal learning opportunities."

This project was implemented in partnership with the association *Generatie Tanara* (young lives) in Romania.

The goal of this project is to provide financial support to enable a girl to attend college and to get a proper training in order to find a job. The girl that club Zwolle chose has a lot of potential but has been abused for many years. Now she got the opportunity to return home.

With this project, club Zwolle hopes to empower the girl and encourage her to lead her life on her own without becoming a victim again. The club members supported the girl through their friendship club Timisoara and went for a visit. Although this project was not realized through the Project Matching programme, this is an ideal model of two friendship link clubs cooperating in a project. This is exactly what we would like to see more on the Project Matching website.

PFR no.22189 states that the club raised $ 1300. The club strongly believes in the outcome: the professional education and psychological empowerment of women!

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign which runs from November 25th (International Day Against Violence Against Women) until December 10th (Human Rights Day) in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a human rights violation.

The 16 Days of Activism aims to raise awareness at the local, national, regional and international levels about gender-based violence, strengthening local work while at the same time linking it with global work, providing a forum for dialogue and strategy-sharing and pressuring governments to implement commitments made in national and international legal instruments.

This year's theme is "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World" and will highlight issues such as women and peace-building, the challenge to militarism, the proliferation of small arms and their role in domestic violence, sexual violence during and after conflict, political violence against women - including pre/during/post-election violence - and sexual and gender-based violence committed by state agents, particularly the police or military.

This year, UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet unveiled a 16 step policy agenda based on the three critical pillars of prevention, protection, and provision of services. Her call for action, urges world leaders to mobilize political will and investment to ensure that women can live a life without violence. For more information please visit: http://www.saynotoviolence.org/join-say-no/2011-16-days-activism-against-gender-violence-campaign

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 2012

The preparations for the 56th Commission on the Status of Women, taking place from 27th February - 9th March 2012, are well underway. SI has submitted its written statement on the priority theme, "the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges". To read the statement, visit http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/si-at-the-un/agencies/comission-on-the-status-of-women.

Pre-session advocacy materials will be made available in the coming weeks to help you lobby your government on critical issues. Check the SI News pages regularly for information http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/who-we-are/news. We will also update you in the next Programme News!

SI President's December 10th Appeal message

Here is an excerpt from Soroptimist International President Alice Wells' message which is all about her appeal: "This project is called 'Birthing in the Pacific' and works to increase the skills and education of health professionals and birth attendants in Papua New Guinea with the goal of reducing maternal mortality and morbidity.

What will your donations do to support Birthing in the Pacific?

- Your donation of **$1 USD** can provide an obstetric wheel. This is a calendar that uses events such as Christmas and Easter to help birth attendants and pregnant women work out a due date so that they know when to go to a facility and deliver.
- Your donation of **$100 USD** can provide a clinical birth attendant with a 'Karum work bilum' which is a pouch of essential work tools for safe deliveries or provide buckets and goggles to a "class" of village birth attendant graduates to ensure clean deliveries for those unable to make it to a birthing center.
- Your donation of $300 USD can send a registered midwife to a Midwives' Society professional development course or cover costs for village (traditional) birth attendants to attend a local training course covering basic reproductive health care and hygiene or support community health workers to attend a five month Department of Health maternal competency course."

To read SI President's full message, please visit:
http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/presidents-message

The 2011 State of the World's Girls Report

Plan International is a children's development organization working in 50 developing countries across Africa, Asia, and the Americas to promote child rights. Plan's campaign *Because I'm a Girl*, aims to fight gender inequality, promote girls' rights and raise millions of girls out of poverty. Each year, in the run up to 2015, the target year for the Millennium Development Goals, Plan will be producing one girl report. Each report provides tangible proof of the inequalities that still exist between girls and boys.

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Plan recently published its fifth report examining the rights of girls throughout their childhood, adolescence and as young women, the report is titled: *"The State of the World's Girls 2011 - So, what about boys?" and* it shows that discrimination is far from being an issue just for girls and women, that gender is also about boys and men, and that this needs to be better understood in order to have a positive impact on societies and economies.

To read the report, please click on the following link:
http://plan-international.org/girls/static/docs/biaag-report-2011-english.pdf

Soroptimist Project Matching

This month, we feature the project **"KE0005 – Water and Sanitation for Grandmothers/Widows."** The SI Club of Kisumu Winam is working with the Christian Women's network (CHIWONET) for safe drinking water and the promotion of better hygiene in villages in Kenya. The availability of safe drinking water and proper sanitation is a big problem in Kenya, especially in rural communities where water supply and treatment are inadequate or non-existent. The project entitled "Water and Sanitation for Grandmothers/ Widows" is to be implemented in the Kawere village, of the Rachuonyo District. Although this region has large quantities of rainfall all year round, households still lack potable water; and the situation is worse for households headed by grandmothers and widows who care for vulnerable children.

The project aims to improve access to potable water and sanitation for households headed by widows and grandmothers by installing rain water harvesting tanks, distributing water guard canisters for water treatment, and informing villagers about the use of pit latrines and hygienic measures through monthly visits. This will hopefully result in the reduction of waterborne diseases as well as those associated with poor sanitation and contribute to the well-being of the community in the long term.

Funds requested: 6195 EUR

UNHCR: 2011 - A Year of Anniversaries

On December 14th 2010, the UNHCR celebrated its 60th birthday and thus inaugurated a year of important anniversaries. This past year, 2011, the refugee agency marked the 60th anniversary of the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (July 28) and the 50th anniversary of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (August 30). To highlight this year of commemorations a ministerial-level meeting of all Member States of the United Nations is being held in Geneva on December 7-8. This gathering will give states the opportunity to formalize their accession to the relevant conventions. States and other participants in the event will also be able to make concrete pledges of commitment and recommendations to address specific issues related to forced displacement and/or statelessness.

FEATURED WEBSITES:

www.srfood.org/

On this website, you can follow Olivier De Schutter, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. It is very interesting to explore the nine priority areas the Special Rapporteur has identified, namely agribusiness, agrifood paradigms, climate change, food aid and development cooperation, governance and the global food crisis, intellectual property rights, land rights, national implementation and trade. Here, you will find his reports on the country missions as well as other official reports. It can also help you to get ideas for projects related to our Federation theme "Soroptimists go for Water and Food."

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.