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 Lecco**, Italy, for their project: "Concerto Nuevo Tango." The Programme Focus objective of this project is no 4: "Ensure women and girls have food security and access to the highest attainable standard of health care."

The goal of this project was to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the AMCT association, with whom the club has strong ties because the first ever club president, Gabriella Zanini, was a promoter of AMCT (www.acmtlecco.org/). AMCT stands for 'Association for the Care of the Sick in Treatment' in Italian and was created in 1996 to respond to the needs of terminally ill patients and families in the local community who lacked official support services. Their aim is to improve home care through competent and diligent attention, improving the quality of life of the patients, and avoiding unnecessary and often traumatic removal from their family environment.

To celebrate AMCT's anniversary, SI of Lecco collected funds to support doctors, nurses and volunteers who help terminally ill patients in their own homes. The club organized a concert for piano and violin with music by Astor Piazzola. PFR no. 22534 states that the financial input amounted to $9290. The project helped contribute to the needs of AMCT which helps around 32 communes with a population of about 150,000 people.

Congratulations Club Lecco!

Happy New Year 2012 to all our readers worldwide!!!

The SI/E Programme Team wishes you all a New Year filled with happiness, adventure, and good health! With your steady support, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of women and girls!

2012 at a Glance!

27 February – 9 March, 56th Commission on the Status of Women, New York, US
12 – 17 March, 6th World Water Forum, Marseille, France
22 – 24 March, Future African Federation Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya
27 May, International Peace Marathon, Kigali, Rwanda
15 – 17 June, 20th Nordic Soroptimist Meeting, Lulea, Sweden
20 – 22 June, Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
30 June – 8 July, Icelandic Soroptimist Week
14 – 15 July, SI/E Governors' Meeting, Budapest, Hungary
14 – 16 September, Dreiländertreffen, Bad Ischl, Österreich

International Year of COOPERATIVES 2012

2012 has been declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Cooperatives recognizing the contribution of cooperatives to socio-economic development, mainly their impact on poverty reduction, employment generation and social integration. With the theme "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World", the UN aims to promote the development and establishment of cooperatives across the globe.

We encourage Soroptimists worldwide to advance cooperatives and raise awareness of their contribution to social and economic development as well as encourage the creation and growth of cooperatives, especially women's cooperatives.
For more information, please visit http://social.un.org/coopsyear/

2012 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

The designation of the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All recognizes that "access to modern affordable energy services in developing countries is essential for the achievement of … the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development." Over the course of 2012, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's new global initiative – *Sustainable Energy for All*, will continue to partner with governments, the private sector, and civil society to achieve the following three goals:

- ensuring universal access to modern energy services
- doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency
- doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

You will find more information at www.sustainableenergyforall.org/

SOROPTIMIST PROJECT MATCHING

Log onto www.soroptimistprojects.org to see the website's redesigned new look. It is easier to navitgate with completely revamped new buttons, tags, search functions. Here are some of the changes and exciting new features:

- new logo
- a complete new section **"Water and Food"** to promote our Federation theme projects
- prominently feature the club's name
- the donors/supporting clubs are listed under Resources Needed
- quick change between currencies EUR and USD
- you can pledge support to a project through the contact page

Please continue to visit the Project Matching website and give us your support!

This month, we feature the project **"PL0001 – Support for mothers of profoundly impaired children."** Mothers of children with physical and/or mental disabilities often abandon themselves to their children's care. Because of the amount of attention, time and effort required to care for a child with disabilities, mothers are often excluded from social life, suffer from depression and struggle to cope with everyday problems. The aim of this project is to support 10 mothers (often single) who have children with disabilities to cope with this situation. The SI Club of BIelsko-Biala (Poland) plans to organize group activities led by professionals to help mothers understand that while caring for their chlidren, they also have to take care of themselves. These activities will help them to build their self-esteem and confidence, put them in contact with mothers in a similar situation and have professionals care for their children during these activities.

Funds needed: 2,800 EUR

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CSW56 Commission on the Status of Women 27 February - 9 March 2012 — Rural women Empowerment Poverty reduction Rural development

Soroptimist International has launched the **CSW 56 pre-session advocacy tool kit**. This tool kit is designed to help Soroptimists in all 124 countries lobby their Governments and local decision makers to ensure that all Government missions attending CSW 56 are aware of SI's position.

To read the full news story and to access links to the advocacy guide, and the letter and postcard to governments, visit http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/who-we-are/news/post/251-advocacy-kit-for-csw-56-launched.

It is important that as many Government missions as possible are aware of the SI position *before* CSW 56 commences to maximize our influence. We therefore hope that members will take the opportunity to communicate the SI position to their Governments using these above resources.

To find out the minister responsible for gender and equality within your government, please consult the UN Women National Mechanisms for Gender Equality which lists, by country, the minister responsible for gender and their contact details: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/documents/National-Mechanisms-Web.pdf

FEATURED WEBSITES:

www.savethechildren.org

Save the Children.

As an independent organization, Save the Children aims to create lasting impact in the lives of children in need around the world. On this site, you can find out more about Save the Children's work, how you can support the organization or develop partnerships between your local club and Save the Children. The organization is effective in responding to disaster situations and works to resolve the ongoing struggles children face on a daily basis, such as poverty, hunger, Illiteracy and disease.

www.icrc.org/

ICRC

This is the official website of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The ICRC is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. It also seeks to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law. The ICRC is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and directs the international activities conducted by the organization in armed conflicts.

www.unhcr.org

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is the UN agency mandated to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees. The agency's key focus is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. UNHCR was established in 1950 by the UN General Assembly. Since then, the agency has helped tens of millions of refugees.

www.unesco.org

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO is the UN agency focusing on Education, Science and Culture. It aims to contribute to the buliding of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. Visit their website to learn more about their global priorities.

www.ilo.org

International Labour Organization

The International Labour Organization is the only specialized agency within the UN system that has government, employer and worker representatives. Its tripartite structure is very unique and effectively provides a platform for govnernments and employers' and workers' organizations to have a social dialogue to foster social and economic progress.