Programme NEWS

Soroptimist International of Europe
Issue No. 20, June 2011

Project of the Month

This month's winner is SI Cremona (Italy) for their advocacy project "Positive Female Role Models". The Programme Focus Objective of this project is no. 10: Assure women's advancement in management, politics and decision-making.

The goal of SI Cremona Club's initiative is to celebrate women's achievements and create awareness on girls' education. They organized meetings to discuss the importance of civil and moral support for the younger generation. Cremona invited female role models to present their experiences and reflect on the importance of commitment and determination to succeed.

SI Cremona partnered with the Liceum, the State Archives, ANISA and other women's organizations in Cremona. In partnership with these entities, SI Cremona wanted to inform the participants of equal dignity and respectful relationship between the sexes.

PFR no. 20391 asserts that they succeeded in informing and educating more than 250 women (out of which 100 were girls) about women and leadership.

Congratulations Cremona!

Soroptimist 2011
19th International Convention
July 10 to 14, 2011 – Montréal, Québec, Canada
Palais des Congrès de Montréal

In one month we will be enjoying the Soroptimist experience at the 19th International Convention.

A detailed Programme at a Glance is now online at http://si-montreal2011.org/SI_program-at-a-glance.html . Have a look and plan your unique Convention week *à la Montréal*.
For all those of you who are still undecided we have compiled a list of 5 reasons why you simply have to come:

1) Be in the know! Hear first-hand what is happening in SI projects and programmes!
2) It's Montreal! Discover the blend of European and North American flair!
3) Meet famous Canadian women who showcase women leadership in different fields.
4) Make priceless contacts meeting hundreds of professional women from all parts of the globe.
5) Don't be left out. When everyone is talking about this fabulous Convention experience, you will want to be among those saying "I was there!"

We really invite you to register to the SI 2011 and book your Convention Hotel if you have not already done so. Register now! http://si-montreal2011.org/registration.html

Looking forward to greeting you in Montréal!

European Mentoring Programme
First Round Successfully Completed

The first European Mentoring Programme held its final seminar in Malmö for mentees and mentors from the Belgian, German, Luxembourg and Swedish Unions in early June. Participants and coordinators alike praised the first SI/E "Advancing Women" programme, which was realized in collaboration with EAF – European Academy for Women in Politics and Business. The mentees were highly enthusiastic about the experience and impressed by Soroptimist as a whole. In fact, some have already expressed an interest in joining their local clubs. The organizers intend on putting together a PowerPoint presentation about the nine-month programme, which can be used for PR. In line with the SI Long-Term theme "Education and Leadership", SI/E hopes to expand this excellent programme to further Unions. The call for the next round is planned for November 2012.

Soroptimist Project Matching
www.soroptimistprojects.org
This month, we feature the project: **"KE0001 – Transport and home library empowerment initiative ".** SI Club Nakuru in Kenya intends to improve access to school and make the home study environment more conducive for young rural girls in the Mitimingi Zone. This project aims at introducing affordable and secure means of transportation as well as setting up a home library infrastructure. To protect rural girls from often unsafe and unpredictable journey, Club Nakuru plans to provide 30 secondary school girls with bicycles and to construct a parking area for bicycles at schools. **Funding needed: € 6803.83**

To contribute to this project, please email: suba@soroptimisteurope.org

July 11 – World Population Day
Just fourteen years after the UN marked the Day of Five Billion, the world's population is poised to reach 7 billion in 2011. Support for the Day of Five Billion has grown into World Population Day, which is celebrated on July 11th each year to increase awareness about population issues and their effect on the planet.

Last year's theme was "Everyone Counts," emphasizing the need for accurate demographics to efficiently plan schools, heath systems, public transportation and humanitarian aid, among other things. With information from the 2010 census UNPFA, the United Nations Population Fund can illustrate certain trends like progress toward meeting the MDGs and identify what groups are being overlooked. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon highlighted this relationship between census data and representation in his statement "to be counted is to be visible:"



The UNFPA Executive Director directly connected 2010's theme to women and girls by explaining that demographics can be a precursor to the development of programmes that "ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe…and every woman is treated with dignity and respect." There are currently 350 million couples without either knowledge or access to contraceptives and 3 billion people are of reproductive age today. Through empowering, informing and protecting women, issues like these and population growth can be addressed and possibly solved. However, this action is only possible with proper knowledge of these women's location, social situation and access to resources, all of which can be attained through data analysis of a census.

The theme of this year's World Population Day has yet to be announced but www.unfpa.org has suggestions for ways to celebrate, posters, videos and fact sheets available. As usual, there will be worldwide activities and celebrations to commemorate this day!

Overview of SI's Communication Tools
The Global Voice is the new and improved Programme eBlast. This is sent out monthly and reports on UN activities, global actions for Soroptimists, and news clips from around the world. You can also read the Global Voice by going onto www.soroptimistinternational.org under Resources.

The Monthly Focus is an online tool which focuses on a different topic each month. The June Monthly Focus is on Women and Agriculture. Visit http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/monthly-focus1 to learn more about this issue that is related to our upcoming Federation theme "Soroptimists go for Water and Food". The site is continuously updated with new resources and ideas.

The SoroptiVoice blog is a traditional blog. Each Friday a different contributor writes a short piece about their work or a topic which falls under SI's programme focus, etc. Visit http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/blog
SI has also used the blog for special one-off series, such as profiling of convention speakers and the women agents of change competition. SIHQ would like to hear from anyone who would like to contribute

SI's news feed mainly reports any newsworthy event. If anything comes up in our Federation, we could contribute. http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/who-we-are/news

FEATURED WEBSITES:
www.peacewomen.org/
peacewomen
women for peace + peace for women
PeaceWomen is a project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. It is committed to monitoring UN's Security Council as well as the rest of the UN system's policy on women, gender violence and peacekeeping. They offer handbooks in a variety of languages discussing women's role in preventing and ending conflict.

www.womenpeacesecurity.org/
The Working Group on Women, Peace and Security was formed in 2000 and advocates for full participation of women in creating international peace and security.

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