Programme NEWS

Soroptimist International of Europe
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Project of the Month

This month's winner is SI Lumière Bamako (Mali) for their project "Drilling for the women of Bandiagara". The Programme Focus Objective of this project is no. 5: Improve access to clean water, sanitation and essential food resources.

The main objective of this project is to provide clean drinking water for women of Bandiagara by installing drilling pumps. The women of Bandiagara lack safe drinking water and need water for the production of vegetables. The SI Club of Lumière Bamako worked in partnership with SI Messina and SI Lipari from Italy. The project is completed and the women can use the water pump. Nonetheless, more funds are needed to build a fence around the vegetable garden.

According to PFR no. 19328, the funds raised were $12,250, 30 women and 20 girls were helped and the members have dedicated more than 200 hours for the project. Congratulations!

SI's Monthly Focus

Each month, SI will focus on a particular issue affecting women and girls.

This Month's Focus is: *the situation of women and girls in the aftermath of natural disaster.*
To learn more about this subject, please visit:
http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/monthly-focus1

Soroptimist 2011
19th International Convention
July 10 to 14, 2011 – Montréal, Québec, Canada

A new attendance record is in reach! As of April 18 2011, over 1020 Soroptimists had committed to being part of the 19th International convention. In order to enhance the networking possibilities for Soroptimists and to intensify the anticipation of the 19th International Convention an official Facebook page was launched. Come and join us on Soropt2011 http://www.facebook.com/pages/Soropt2011-19th-Soroptimist-International-Convention/139347412804100.
Don't miss a chance to win a free registration! At least one Soroptimist from each federation will have their full registration fee covered by the Convention Committee. Send your name, your registration number and your federation name to the convention secretariat (si2011-montreal@jpdl.com) and specify that you wish to apply to the "Send a Soroptimist to Convention" programme. For more details you may go on the SI 2011 website http://si-montreal2011.org/registration.html
Less than 100 days to the start of the Convention! See you in Montreal!

PEACE PRIZE 2011

It is our greatest pleasure to announce that the winner of the Fourth Soroptimist International of Europe Peace Prize for 2011 is Sylvia Borren from the Netherlands. The Jury agreed that it was an incredibly difficult task to choose the winner as all nominees demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to peace building. The Peace Prize will be officially awarded at the Governors' Meeting of Soroptimist International of Europe in Palermo, Italy, on May 28th, 2011. To read the full press release, please visit www.soroptimisteurope.org

May 2-8 Global Action Week

The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) is a civil society movement that aspires to end the global education crisis. Each year since 2002, millions of people across the world take part in activities during the Global Campaign for Education's 'Global Action Week' to call on leaders to take action on the UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of achieving universal primary education by 2015. This year's theme for the Global Action Week is: women and girls' education – an issue that still sees one in four women in the world unable to read and write.

"It's a Right! Make it right! Education for women and girls now!"

Soroptimists go for water
safe water = safe life

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR

EDUCATION

Soroptimists can also get involved in the campaign to call on world leaders to ensure that female education is prioritized. 2011's Global Action Week will revolve around 'story-telling', inspiring people to tell stories on women and girls' education and how they have been affected by education or why they believe education is an important right. For more information, please visit www.globalactionweek.org

Soroptimist Project Matching

www.soroptimistprojects.org

This month, we feature the project: **"KE0003 – Support for Female inmates, released prisoners and their families".** The SI Kisumu club in Kenya seeks to address basic needs of female inmates in the Kodiaga women's prison where the living conditions are extremely poor. This project attempts to improve the living conditions for female inmates and their children. In particular, SI Kisumu would like to ensure access to education for the children of the female inmates, provide counselling services and train released prisoners on small business development. Besides financial support, this project also requires equipment, teaching materials and exchange of experience. **Funding needed: 7393 EUR**

To contribute to this project, please email:
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May 15 – International Day of Families



International Day of Families is observed on May 15th of every year in order to create awareness of issues related to families. UN recognizes the family as the basic unit of social life and as a vital agent of sustainable development. Since 1994, the International Year of Families, UN has given special attention to families in response to changing social and economic structures which have affected and still influence their stability in many regions of the world. As part of an integrated and comprehensive approach for the protection of the family, it is very important to recognize women's contribution to its cohesion, as well as their potential to create strong and peaceful communities worldwide. This day should give governments and communities around the world the opportunity to reflect upon ways to promote policies which enhance women's decision-making ability, promote equality between the sexes, enhance women's equal participation in employment and shared parental responsibility. This year's theme is "Confronting Family Poverty and Social Exclusion."

May 21 – World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, celebrated on May 21st, will give Soroptimists the opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity. It is crucial to recognize that tolerance and respect for diversity enhance the potential of culture as a means of achieving prosperity, sustainable development and global peaceful coexistence. That's why Soroptimist Programme Focus Objective no. 8 intends to "promote peaceful conflict resolution, inter-cultural and inter-racial tolerance and condemn genocide and terrorism". Soroptimists can use this occasion to celebrate cultural rights and dialogue by inviting those around them to participate in the cultural life of their community, express themselves, share knowledge of their culture, and reflect upon ways in which we can encourage respect for cultural identity.

FEATURED WEBSITES:

www.unwomen.org

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women was created in July of 2010, marking a new milestone in accelerating the Organization's goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

www.everywomaneverychild.org

"Every Woman Every Child" is a global effort uniting governments, philanthropic institutions, the United Nations, civil society, NGOs, the business community, health-care workers, academic and research institutions around the world that support the "Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health". It provides a new opportunity to improve the health of hundreds of millions of women and children around the world.

www.unicef.org

The United Nations Children's Fund is the driving force that helps build a world where the rights of every child are realized. UNICEF tries to influence decision-makers and partner with a variety of grassroots organizations to turn the most innovative ideas into reality. UNICEF is responsible for upholding the Convention on the Rights of the Child.