



Programme news

Soroptimist International of Europe

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PROJECT OF THE MONTH

This month's winners are 29 Danish clubs for their funding efforts with project title "Walk the World", with the aim to support meals in developing countries. The Programme Focus Objective of this project is no. 9: Ensure equal access to education and training for women and girls throughout their lifespan.

This is the sixth time that these Danish clubs participate in the annual global Walk the World event on the 29th of May. This walk aims to raise funds for school meals, particularly for girls in countries with low enrollment rates.

The Danish clubs raised funds for school meals in Burkina Faso as well as partnered with UN in order to provide clean water for schools. Burkina Faso is a very poor country with an incredibly low school enrollment rate. However, access to food and water serves as an incentive for poor parents to send their children to school.

PFR no. 20898 asserts that an amount of 42,000 USD was raised which will provide 742 schools girls with a daily nutritious meal and water for a whole year. This will be a considerable improvement in the school enrollment of girls and their learning.

Congratulations to Danish clubs!

September 21 – International Day of Peace

2011 marks the 30th anniversary of the signing of a resolution to create the International Day of Peace. On September 21st of each year, millions of people gather across the globe to celebrate peace initiatives and demonstrate a continued commitment to ending violence and war. Observance of the International Day of Peace also calls for political and personal ceasefire; acknowledging that individuals, as well as political entities, play a crucial role in creating and promoting peace. Last year's theme focused on Youth for Peace and Development with the slogan "Peace=Future, the math is simple." Creating solidarity across generations has great implications for world peace in years to come. This theme recognizes the connections between peace, development and youth; development is easiest in times of peace; and youth are the future of development.

There are a number of ways to celebrate the International Day of Peace. The UN observes this day by ringing the Peace Bell at the New York headquarters, one of the two times the bell is rung each year. At noon on the 21st, some organizations schedule a minute of silence to recognize those who have lost their lives working for peace. Other activities include sending encouraging letters to UN peacekeepers, collecting and melting down firearms and peace walks. Organizations like Roots and Shoots list ideas for Peace Day activities and instructions on how to create eye-catching and festive dove puppets. The white dove, though not an official logo of International Day of Peace, represents peace and goodwill in many cultures and is used to portray a peace offering. To find events near your or event ideas, please go to www.internationaldayofpeace.org

September 8 – International Literacy Day

International Literacy Day celebrates the 4 billion literate people in the world while raising awareness of the 780 million people who cannot read or write worldwide. Women constitute over 2/3 of the world's illiterate population and increasing literacy has a positive correlation with empowerment and personal expression.

Visit www.un.org/Depts/dhl/literacy/index.html



Soroptimist Project Matching - www.soroptimistprojects.org

This month, we feature the project: "**KE0004 – Keep Girls in School.**" Girls in Mumias, Kenya are often forced to skip school during menstruation due to inadequate sanitary supplies.

These frequent absences jeopardize girls' education as they are more likely to fall behind in their schoolwork and eventually drop out. Those who do choose to go to school while menstruating often resort to using old rags or blankets instead of sanitary napkins, a practice that makes them increasingly vulnerable to infection.

The good news, however, is that this problem is fixable with knowledge of proper hygiene practices and adequate access to sanitary supplies. SI Mumias has decided to undertake this mission of awareness raising and supplies distribution. The club is asking for soap, panties, sanitary products and monetary donations so that menstruation no longer threatens the future of the village's girls. The club will also supervise informative sessions for girls and their mothers to explain the use and importance of proper hygiene so as to end the unsafe menstruation practices used in Mumias. By enabling girls to attend school both more comfortably and more consistently, this project positively impacts their prospects for a successful future.

Funding needed: 8,000 EUR

SI UN Representative Vacancy – Paris and Vienna

Soroptimist International currently has two vacancies for SI UN Representatives in Europe: One in Paris and one in Vienna. If you live in or near to Paris or Vienna, have a passion for advocacy at the highest levels of



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global governance, and want to join an established team of Soroptimist working to promote the status of women and girls internationally, please apply!

The application form can be found in the members section of the SI website:

<http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/member-area>

(username: member / password: Cambridge). Click on 'General UN Information and Guides to Events' and scroll down to find the UN Rep Application form. You are also advised to read through the UN Representative Manual which goes into detail about the UN and the role of SI Representatives. The deadline for applications is September 30th.

UN CEDAW

The Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted a general recommendation on the protection of women's human rights in conflict and post-conflict situations. This recommendation will address various conflicts, including violations occurring in international and non-international armed conflicts, as well as in situations of extreme violence which may not be classified as armed conflict as women experience widespread violation of non-derogable right to life.

FEATURED WEBSITES:

www.un.org/en/globalissues/women/

This section of the UN's Global Issues website is devoted to women's rights: the history, foundation, projects and challenges. This is a valuable source of information on the UN's approach to women's rights and current discussion on important matters like violence against women and women's role in peace and security.

www.bridge.ids.ac.uk

Bridge is a research institution committed to promoting gender equality. They offer a number of informative reports about the relationship between gender, development, poverty, health and policy. Their goal is to disseminate information on gender to aid policy makers, activists and researchers in mainstreaming gender issues.

www.fao.org/dimitra/home/en/

The Dimitra project aims to increase the visibility of rural women and their role in peace and development. As part of the Food and Agriculture Organization since 1998, Dimitra has worked tirelessly to promote the interests of rural populations, believing that full participation is the only means of achieving true equality.

www.femcities.at/004/About?aid=1164

Femcities is a European network for the exchange of good policies on gender and women's rights. This exchange of ideas and practices is designed to enhance political agendas across the European Union in the best interest of women.

www.pinkstinks.co.uk

Pink Stinks is a campaign to examine the culture of "pink" that has invaded girls' lives and taken a toll on their self-esteem. By providing a counterpoint to messages in the media that narrowly define "feminine", Pink Stinks empowers girls to defy social conceptions and increase their involvement in perceived "masculine" domains.

www.thewip.net

The WIP (Women's International Perspective) is a journal of opinions, reports and analyses on issues affecting women. Drawing from a number of sources and reader submissions, the WIP is a nonpartisan source of information on political, cultural and economic issues across the globe.