Programme NEWS

Soroptimist International of Europe

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Project of the Month

This month, the Programme Team would like to honour SI Tirana (Albania) for their Advocacy project "Media Training on HIV/AIDS". The Programme Focus Objective of this PFR is: Support programmes and policies that eliminate HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and other major diseases.

This project was realized in partnership with the local NGO STOP AIDS. It addresses the importance of awareness creation among key media representatives which will result in improved HIV/AIDS prevention. Comparatively, Albania's HIV/AIDS rate is low but risks are present and the local media has been passive in providing information. Hence meetings with media directors and trainings for journalists were organized and a partnership was forged between the Tirana club and a pool of journalists.

PFR no. 18099 describes how articles by trained journalists informed people correctly on the main HIV/AIDS prevention measures. This is a health issue which is much stigmatized in Albania. The club recommends that "these efforts on this subject should be continued, because the needs are evident".

Water Best Practice Award 2011 - € 10,000 Prize!

We kindly ask for each Union and Single Club to submit 1 project that has reached the excellence in the area of water and sanitation. The winner will be awarded **€ 10,000** at the Governors' Meeting in Palermo, Italy. Application deadline is: **February 28, 2011.**

Extended Deadline for SI/E Best Practice Awards 2011

During the Governors' Meeting in Palermo, Italy, different projects will be awarded SI/E Best Practice Award 2011. For the SI/E Best Practice Awards in the ten Programme Focus Objectives, each Union is eligible to nominate 2 projects per objective and each Single Club can recommend 1 project per objective.

The entry form and the project description criteria are available on www.soroptimisteurope.org. Please send in your entries to suba@soroptimisteurope.org before **February 28, 2011.**

March 8 – International Women's Day



It is time to prepare for the celebration of International Women's Day on March 8th! This year IWD marks its 100th anniversary. The official theme is "Equal access to education, training and science and technology: Pathway to decent work for women", thus this theme directly relates to SI's new Long Term Project. All over the world, actions will be undertaken to recall that the fight for women's basic human rights is still ongoing. To see what kind of events are organized by other organizations close to your home or add your own event and publicize it, please visit the website:
http://www.internationalwomensday.com/

March 22 – World Water Day

Another important day to commemorate in March is: the World Water Day. "Water for cities: responding to the urban challenge", this year's theme, will focus on the consequences of the rapid urbanization process faced by numerous countries on the management of water resources. Today, every second person lives in a city. The urban population is particularly growing in developing countries where the necessary resources to solve the problem of urban sanitation in a sustainable way are missing.
http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/mainindex.html is the official website where you will find more information on the events that will take place and on how to submit your own projects.

Soroptimists go for water
safe water = safe life



Soroptimists were major actors in last year's campaign: World's Longest Toilet Queue! The coalition has launched a brand new campaign for 2011, called The World Walks for Water.

This action intends to create awareness on the water and sanitation crisis. You are asked to walk 6km in solidarity with those who have to walk on average 6km to fetch water. For more information, please visit http://www.worldwalksforwater.org/eng/

Soroptimist Project Matching

This month, we feature the project **"UKR0001 – Ready for Life".** SI Kiev, Ukraine, seeks to help visually impaired girls living in a boarding school to develop their skills and improve their living conditions for their future. 51 girls from the age of 6 to 17 years are currently living in the boarding school in Boyarka, a town close to Kiev. They all have poor vision. Coming from very poor families or being orphans, they are staying at the boarding school to receive an education.

The SI Club Kiev has been in contact with the boarding school for over 10 years and knows the needs. The goal of the project is to help visually impaired girls to become independent, provide an education for them and address their health issues. **Funding needed: 2360 EUR**

www.soroptimistprojects.org

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Comic book to explain MDGs to children

"SCORE THE GOALS: Teaming Up to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals" is a new educational tool for children between the ages of 8 and 14. It takes the form of a comic book (and its educational guide) where the main characters are 10 of the most famous football players in the world. Throughout the book, the adventures they are living enable children to discover and reflect on the 8 MDGs. To download the comic book in different languages, please visit: http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/sport/comicbook

SoroptiVoice blog

SI will be launching its new website. If you are involved in programme and may want to write an article for the SoroptiVoice blog, please contact us.

FEATURED WEBSITES:

www.africanwomenandwater.org

The Global Women's Water Initiative is a capacity building joint project of international NGOs. Its goals are to empower local women by equipping them with technical knowledge, networks and funding, thus offering help for self-help. Grassroots women leaders are trained in water, hygiene and sanitation planning strategies, technologies and its implementations.



www.projectwet.org/

Project Wet is an NGO which addresses children, parents, teachers, community educators and corporations. Water education for children is the mission to be pursued, by publishing water resource material, giving training workshops, organizing water events and building a worldwide network of water educators. Besides project ideas on water education, the site presents education tools sorted by topics such as sanitation, natural disasters or water history.



www.womenforwomen.org/bridge/

The outstanding movement "Join Me on the Bridge" has been created by women in Rwanda and DRC. They met on a bridge connecting their two war-torn countries to demand peace and justice. On March 8th this year, women all over the world will meet on bridges under the shared slogan "Stronger Women Build Bridges of Peace." Please find more details about joining or organizing a meeting on a bridge in your own city on the website. See you on the bridge!!!



www.worldwatercouncil.org/

The World Water Council is a platform uniting local, national and international public and private stakeholders since 1996. These environment federations, research institutes and corporations try to raise awareness on the scarcity of water, and its sustainable use. Every three years, the World Water Council organizes the World Water Forum, the world's largest event on water. Soroptimist had a high level presence at the World Water Forum in Istanbul in 2009. The next World Water Forum will take place in 2012 in Marseille, France.