



# Programme NEWS

Soroptimist International of Europe

Issue No. 21, July 2011

## PROJECT OF THE MONTH

This month's winner is SI Slatina (Romania) for their advocacy project "Community Rudari – Gypsy Children Education". The Programme Focus Objective of this project is no. 9: Ensure equal access to education and training for women and girls throughout their lifespan.

The goal of this project is to give gypsy children a quality education and also help them with their homework as well as give them the opportunity to engage in extracurricular activities like arts and sports. The aim is also to advise their mothers on how to foster their children's education. Since the traditional learning methods have not been effective, the Club realized that the pupils need more personal attention, such as learning in smaller groups. Therefore, this project emphasizes on closer teacher – pupil relation.

Project partners were Slatina General School no 1, Slatina Children's Palace, Slatina's City Hall and the Danish Union. Through the successful collaboration with the Children's Palace, homework support and cultural/sports activities are enabled. Thanks to the City Hall, the Rudari children have free admission to cultural events.

PFR no. 20898 asserts that 500 hours were dedicated to the project, 600 USD were raised in funds, and 15 women and 15 girls were helped.

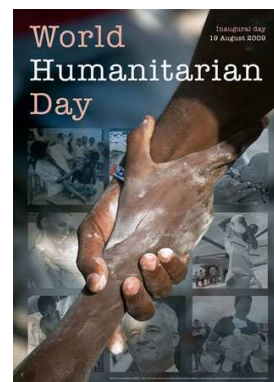
Congratulations Club Slatina!

## August 19 – World Humanitarian Day

On August 19th of this year World Humanitarian Day will be celebrated for the third time since the General Assembly passed resolution 63/139 in December 2008 to mark a day to Commemorate humanitarian service. The date of this international observance was chosen in memory of the Canal Hotel bombing in 2003 which took the lives of 22 humanitarian workers, including the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

The number of deaths of on-duty humanitarian workers has tripled since 1990. Because violence against humanitarian workers seems to be increasing, it is important to raise public awareness of the benefits of humanitarian assistance, honor those who lost their lives in the name of service and continue to emphasize the diversity and neutrality of aid workers. Dispelling the increasingly strong misconception that aid is a western idea imposed on needy countries is integral in improving both the safety of aid workers and the efficacy of their efforts. Spreading the message that humanitarian aid is independent from political, economic and military objective through this international observance.

There is no logo for World Humanitarian Day to insist on the notion that this particular observance is not confined to a single organization or agency. The aid provided by humanitarian workers reflects all cultures, ideologies and backgrounds and to present a united front, nongovernmental organizations, government agencies and international groups across the world will be celebrating this day together. As in years past, events across the world will be organized to celebrate those who have devoted their time and effort to humanitarian aid, while emphasizing the inextricable connection between the protection of human rights and humanitarian workers. More information about World Humanitarian Day and its origins can be found at <http://www.un.org/en/events/humanitarianday/>



**Soroptimist Project Matching - [www.soroptimistprojects.org](http://www.soroptimistprojects.org)**

This month, we feature the project: "PAN0001 – Soroptimist Training Center for Women and Girls". Soroptimist International of Volcan has begun construction of a permanent training center for women and girls in Panama. Tourism in the

small town of Volcan is a rapidly growing sector and the goal of this project is to prepare unemployed women and girls to take advantage of this economic development.

Through a previous project, “Manos de Esperanza,” SI Volcan has been offering classes on subjects like quilting, cooking and gardening and has already seen some of its participants attain respectable jobs. Women who have benefited from this training have not only gained valuable skills and income, but also an increased sense of self-worth and accomplishment. To continue these classes, a permanent, specialized facility will need to be built. As part of this project, SI Volcan is using its ties within the community to construct a building that will serve as both a training center for women and girls and a meeting place for Soroptimists.

**Funding needed: € 12,400.-**

To contribute to this project, please email: [suba@soroptimisteurope.org](mailto:suba@soroptimisteurope.org)

### Rotterdam Training Seminar

The SI/E Programme Team organized a Training Seminar for Union Programme Directors and Assistant Programme Directors to provide them with more information about Federation programme matters as well as what the tasks of the new PDs and APDs will be. The Seminar took place in Rotterdam, the Netherlands on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

The following are the most important tasks of the Union PDs. Please note that these are merely guidelines from the Federation and the Union is responsible for drafting a concrete Job Description for PDs.



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At the beginning of the biennium, the Union PD and APD will decide how to share the following tasks:

- Promote the Programme Focus Objectives, SI, SI/E and Union Projects, UN initiatives and campaigns (often based on the monthly Programme News) to the clubs by working with and giving directions to the clubs
- Coordinate efforts of Club PDs and APDs
- Liaise with and report to SI/E Programme Team on Union Programme matters. *The first effort to create this working relationship was this present seminar.*
- Assist in developing and designing Union projects
- Lead in the selection of Union nominations for Best Practice Awards
- Communicate SI/E programme decisions and forward materials/information to Club PDs and APDs
- Promote and coordinate the online SI database to submit Programme Focus Reports (PFRs)
- Inform the Federation Programme Team about Union programme activities and projects
- Fulfill, upon request of the Union Board or the SI/E Programme Team, special tasks in connection with Programme activities such as to draft documents, to organize workshops, to address letters to Clubs etc.

### SI Quadrennial Report

It is with great pleasure that SI announces the launch of SI's 2007-2011 Quadrennial Report.

This report is in electronic format and is available on SI's website:

<http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/assets/media/documents/Quadrennial-Report-2007-2011.pdf>

SI thanks all SI Officers and post-holders for making this another successful quadrennium! We hope that you enjoy reading about the highlights of these past four years.

### FEATURED WEBSITES:

[www.madre.org](http://www.madre.org)



Using the slogan “Demanding Rights, Resources and Results for Women Worldwide,” MADRE is a women's right group that works with community-based organizations to address women's issues and provide both resources and education to women in need. MADRE runs projects in 12 countries concerning women's health, economic and environmental justice and peace building.

[www.wsscc.org/wash-advocacy/campaigns-events/women-leaders-wash](http://www.wsscc.org/wash-advocacy/campaigns-events/women-leaders-wash)



**Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council**  
*Inform. Engage. Enable.*

Women Leaders for WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) promotes gender equality in decision-making regarding water supply and sanitation. By bringing together distinguished women leaders from various sectors and countries this initiative hopes to positively impact women's lives.

[www.undp.org/women](http://www.undp.org/women)



The United Nations Development Programme promotes gender equality as not only a human right, but also as a means of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The UNDP has chosen areas like poverty reduction, democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, environmental justice and HIV/AIDS.

[www.change.org/](http://www.change.org/)  
**change.org**

Change.org allows members to build momentum for various social justice campaigns through both the spread of information and petitions calling for action. This international network also helps to connect interested social activists with NGOs doing similar work.