Programme news

Soroptimist International of Europe

Issue No. 13, November 2010

Project of the Month

SI of Anittepe (Turkey) is this month's winner for their Hands on Service project "Providing a home health care service and health training to families with poor conditions." The Programme Focus Objective of this PFR is no. 3:
Ensure access to health care for women and girls.

This local project is carried out in cooperation with the Gazi University and shows clearly the various stages accomplished. Initially, health problems are identified and areas of training are recognized. Then the trainings are carried out according to needs. Qualified nurses have made home visits to 70 families and subsequently provided training on nutrition, family planning, pre- and post natal care, child care and elderly care. It is very encouraging news that the club is committed to continue this work every year.

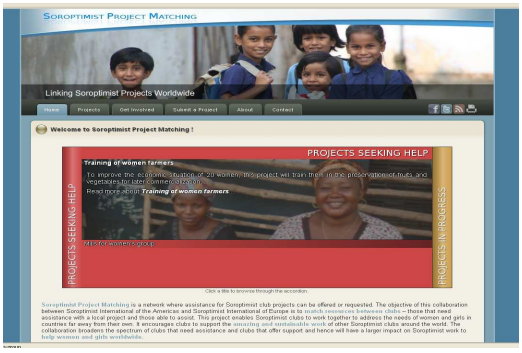
The club's PFR no. 17322 from late October describes very well how the project was realized with home visits, training and support. 150 women and 200 girls have been helped.

Well done, SI of Anittepe!

Soroptimist Project Matching

Soroptimist International of the Americas and Soroptimist International of Europe are proud to announce the launch of Soroptimist Project Matching with our new website: **www.soroptimistprojects.org**
The programme is a joint initiative between SIA and SI/E where clubs/regions/unions can offer or seek assistance. This is a continuation of the Project Exchange Pool. The ongoing PEP projects on the water website are absorbed into this new website.

The Project Matching is an excellent way to join our efforts and truly work in a global initiative as Soroptimists! Projects seeking assistance are welcomed to be submitted at any time throughout the year to the appropriate Federation for review before they are approved and made public on the website. Clubs wishing to assist other projects can search the available projects through the website, where they can then contact the Federation to offer their help.
For more information on how to get involved, see the new Project Matching website!



Human Rights Day

Every year, on December 10th, the International Human Rights Day is commemorated. This year it marks the 62nd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948 by the UN General Assembly, setting down the basic principles of Human Rights.

The occasion of the Human Rights Day creates public awareness on a range of issues and focuses on different topics every year. Last year's emphasis was on non-discrimination: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." This year's focus will be on "human rights defenders who act to end discrimination." It will be an occasion to pay tribute to the work and courage of human rights champions.

Soroptimists go for water
safe water = safe life

On December 10th, human rights defenders are thus encouraged to share their experiences of how they fight against all kinds of discriminations.

Importantly, there are numerous women among human rights defenders who promote and defend women's rights. Let's not forget them and remember that grassroots women's rights activists are doing an amazing work in very difficult circumstances, facing enormous challenges and often putting their lives in danger to create respect for women's rights. A recent example of this is the case of activists fighting against the use of rape as a weapon of war in DRC (Congo).

For more information on Human Rights Day, please visit the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: www.ohchr.org



International Events in Geneva

The SI/E Programme Team has been attending various events related to gender, development and human rights in Geneva.

- Civil Society Development Forum on "Women's Human Rights and Development: Inclusion, Participation, and Equality" organized by the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO). Soroptimist representative was given the opportunity to present on "Women and Sustainable Development." Soroptimist grassroots approach to projects was welcomed by the participants.

- The Conference on Gender Politics in International Governance, organized by the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID, Geneva): Feminist research in international studies, gender and economic governance, gender and security were some of the topics discussed during this two day conference. The creation of the new UN Women agency was also at heart of the debate with in-depth discussions on its future challenges and strategies to become really efficient.

- The Conference on the Use of Rape as a Weapon of War, organized by Prix "Femme exilée, Femme engagée": This conference brought together migrant women, politicians, psychologists, journalists and human rights activists willing to denounce the resort to sexual violence during armed conflict, inform on the widespread use of rape in war, as well as share strategies to prevent this gender-based violence and help women who have been victimized.

- Consultation to review progress on HIV and Human Rights in the context of efforts towards Universal Access to prevention, treatment, care and support. This consultation was organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and focused on discrimination in the context of HIV. HIV related stigma seems to have outlasted many attempts to address it.

Featured Websites:

www.awid.org

AWID (Association for Women's Rights in Development) is an "international, multigenerational, feminist, creative, future-oriented membership organization committed to achieve gender equality, sustainable development and women's human rights." Women's rights are central to AWID's vision and strategy and a tool to achieve peace and sustainable development.

www.amnesty.org

Amnesty International is an independent global movement of members and activists committed to end violations of human rights worldwide. They lead various local and global campaigns to ensure the respect of international human rights standards, which includes, among others, the rights of women, migrants, refugees and prisoners.

www.equalitynow.org

Equality Now works for the protection and promotion of women's human rights. It informs on and protests against women's human rights violations. It also aims to end violence and discrimination against women and girls around the world through the mobilization of the public. Its areas of focus include: rape, domestic violence, reproductive rights, trafficking, female genital mutilations, women's political rights etc.

Don't forget to regularly visit our website:
www.soroptimisteurope.org

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