Soroptimists go for WATER AND FOOD

Programme NEWS

Soroptimist International of Europe

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Project of the Month

This month's winner is the **SI Club of Kourou**, French Guyana, for their advocacy project "Awareness: prevention information on breast cancer". The Programme Focus Objective of this project is no. 4: "Ensure women and girls have food security and access to the highest attainable standard of health care."

The goal of this project is to inform women about cancer screening and other detection and prevention methods, as well as to provide general information about the disease. It is vital that the Guyanese women are informed about the risk factors and treatments for breast cancer. The overall purpose of the project was to help women with non-metastatic breast cancer and their families to have better understanding of the disease and its treatments, since prevention and early detection maximize the chance of being cured.

Soroptimists of SI Kourou partnered with the "Association des Vétérans de Kourou" to distribute brochures, hand out guides about breast cancer and additional documentation about other types of cancer. They also participated in a "walk for health" and sold cakes at the Kourou Market in order to fund projects for breast cancer.

PFR no. 22032 states that the financial input amounted to $500, club members offered material and spent up to 100 hours working for the project. This initiative helped distribute information to the public at large, an estimated number of 200 people. Approximately, $100 were raised. Additionally, the project has increased the awareness of SI Kourou in the field of health.

Congratulations Club Kourou!

NEW PROGRAMME GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

At the 2011 SI Board Meeting in Montreal, Canada, Board members, Silent Observers, and Programme Voting Delegates engaged in a facilitated process to select new programme goals and objectives for 2011 – 2013 (and beyond). We now have two strategic goals and have streamlined and redefined our PFOs to **5 instead of 10**.

Goal 1: Soroptimist International will improve the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment or enabling opportunities.

Objectives:

1. **Increase access to formal and non-formal learning opportunities.**
2. **Improve access to economic empowerment and sustainable opportunities for the employment of women.**
3. **Eliminate violence against women and girls and ensure women's participation in conflict resolution.**
4. **Ensure women and girls have food security and access to the highest attainable standard of health care.**
5. **Address the specific needs of women and girls by improving environmental sustainability, and mitigating effects of climate change and disasters.**

Goal 2 : Soroptimist International will be a global voice for increasing access to education and leadership for women and girls.

Objectives :

1. Strengthen and increase Soroptimist International's presence as an advocate at all levels.
2. Intensify activities and partnerships that raise the international profile and visibility of Soroptimist International.

As many of you will have noticed by now, the new PFOs are featured in the Programme Focus Reporting System Form. We encourage members to continue to submit their Project Reports and to answer as many questions as they can regarding initiatives, though it is **not** mandatory to fill out all. Only the questions marked with a red asterisk * have to be answered to submit a report.

PFRs are important because SI uses them to gauge what issues are crucial and what methods are successful in your local communities. When we do advocacy work at the UN or other multinational events, we use the information provided in the PFRs to understand what needs of women and girls, Soroptimists are responding to and what kind of projects are most successful to meet those needs.

Information from PFRs are also regularly used for our publications and reports, such as the Programme News, selection of the Project of the Month, SI's monthly Global Voice, the Global Impact Report, and the Best Practice Awards. For more information, please visit http://reports.soroptimistinternational.org/reports (username: sie / password: geneva) where you will find the full FAQ and video tutorials.

One million pounds for Project SIerra
We reached the milestone target £1m (1,166,429 EUR) for Project SIerra! SI President Alice Wells announced this fantastic news at the SI Great Britain and Ireland annual conference in Brighton, England declaring, "Congratulations must go to all Soroptimists world-wide for the dedication, time, money and support they've given to Project SIerra during the past four years." Joe Glackin who oversees Hope and Homes for Children's work in Sierra Leone said that "the huge fundraising effort and practical support we've received from Soroptimist International has made an unquantifiable difference to vulnerable women and children in Sierra Leone."

Soroptimist Project Matching
Another great news is about the Soroptimist Project Matching. In October 2011 alone, we have raised 9,281.- Euros for four different projects on www.soroptimistprojects.org. The donations have all been transferred to the supported clubs and they have started implementing their projects. Please visit the Soroptimist Project Matching website for regular updates and keep supporting our club efforts. Thank you!

SI/E Best Practice Awards 2012
This Award recognizes outstanding club/Union Projects in each of the ten Programme Focus Objectives that transform the lives of women and girls. This is the last time, the awards will be given out for ten PFOs. As of 2013, it will be for the new five PFOs. One best project is chosen per Objective and one overall winner will be named from the nominated ten best practices. Each Union is eligible to nominate 2 projects per objective and each Single Club can recommend 1 project per objective. Entries are due to SIEHQ in Geneva before **February 29, 2012**. Please download the entry form from www.soroptimisteurope.org.

The Programme Team
Soroptimist International of Europe
72 rte de Florissant,
1206 Geneva
Switzerland

Tel : +41 22 346 08 80

E-mail: suba@soroptimisteurope.org
www.soroptimisteurope.org

Soroptimist Project Fundraiser
We are looking for a Soroptimist to help SI/E with grant writing and fundraising so we can continue to implement efficient projects. More information will soon be available on SI/E website. If you are interested, please contact siehq@soroptimisteurope.org

December 1 – World Aids Day



Each year, World Aids Day is commemorated on 1 December and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Visit http://www.worldaidsday.org/ to get involved.

SI President's December 10 Appeal
The Birthing in the Pacific information pack for clubs is now available on:
http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/our-projects/december-10-appeal/birthinginpacific
10 December marks Human Rights Day !

Toulouse Training Seminar
The main objective of the Training Seminar for North African Single Clubs was to provide more information about SI, SI/E, the functioning of clubs, and Federation Programme matters. The seminar was conducted by SI/E Past President Monique Rivière and SI/E Programme Executive Suba Parthiban for 14 participants. The trainers used the opportunity to present the new Programme Goals and Objectives as well as the new PFR form. Participants were very keen to learn about the Project Matching programme and also shared their successful club projects.

UN Women – Progress of the World's Women – 2011 – 2012
This year's report, "Progress of the World's Women" focuses on justice. The report highlights ways in which governments and civil society are working together to reform laws and create new models for justice delivery that meet women's needs, such as those outlined by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Legal framework case studies are featured to show that all over the world constitutions have changed, laws have been overturned, and judicial systems have been reviewed. Many developing countries have made great progress.

In Nepal and Rwanda women's share in parliament is now 33 and 51 percent respectively. 173 countries now guarantee paid maternity leave, 139 constitutions guarantee gender equality, 125 countries outlaw domestic violence, 117 countries outlaw sexual harassment and have equal pay laws and 115 countries guarantee women's equal property rights.

Whereas part I focuses on justice systems, part II analyzes advances towards the MDGs from a gender perspective. The report shows that many governments are moving towards implementation of CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) provisions to ensure that women are protected in the private and public spheres as well as represented in schools, at work and in government office. "Progress of the World's Women" shows that while much more can be done, laws and justice systems can provide an essential mechanism for women to realize their full rights.

FEATURED WEBSITE:
www.tablefor2.org/tft_usa/

TABLE FOR TWO

" Table for Two" is an initiative which aims to right the nutrition imbalance in our world by simultaneously addressing issues of obesity in developed countries and malnutrition in the developing world. TFT partners with restaurants, corporate cafeterias, universities and other food establishments to serve healthy, nutritionally balanced TFT-branded meals as part of their menu.

A 25 cent charge is added to the price of these meals, which is then used to fund School Meal Programmes in countries including Uganda, Rwanda, and Ethiopia. These meals not only provide children with much-needed calories and nutrition but they also provide an incentive for parents to send their children to school, thus helping to achieve higher school participation rates.