

SOROPTIMIST

Soroptimist International of Hamilton
Hamilton, Montana
Northwestern Region, SIA

Best for Women

Volume 20 Issue No. 3 Sep 2017

Calendar

September

Sep 7 Bus Meeting BJ's
noon
Sep 14 Speaker SOLT
non Bjs
Sep 21, BOD noon BJs
Sep 28, Social, Edge
5:30
Sep 29th—Oct 1st
District 4 meeting,
Missoula

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Sep President's Message

Hello Heroes and Champions!

Ok, I will say it - - it has been very nice to a have a bit of a break from Soroptimist. AND, with all this smoke, I am grateful we are not having our banana booth at the fair!



That said, it's time to get back on track for the year. Our next noon meeting is September 7, with the 2nd meeting September 14.

We have our budget to approve and our retreat to discuss. It's exciting to start a new SIH year.

I have missed everyone and look forward to seeing you all on the 7th!

Marcia
Team Cheerleader

Boys will be ~~boys~~-held accountable, just like girls!



WE ARE
THE
CHAMPIONS

Welcome New Member



Jade Beaty

Be sure to
welcome her to
our club!

Soroptimist International of the Americas info

Since the club has been quiet,
there isn't much news so I have
put some more of the pages from
the SIA brochure in for interest
and education.
Barbara June



Go Team!



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Investing in Women to Achieve their Dreams

Our signature *Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women* program has provided cash awards to more than 30,000 women since its inception in 1972—empowering them to achieve social and economic independence.

Soroptimist has proven that with just a small boost of financial resources and self-esteem, they can get back on track toward their goals.

For far too many women and girls, the path to success is derailed by challenges such as gender-based violence, sex trafficking, poverty, illiteracy, homelessness, teen pregnancy, and sexual assault. We focus on women with dependents, both because they face additional barriers to pursuing an education and because their success has a positive ripple effect on their families.

Annually, we grant nearly

\$2M

in education awards
to more than

1,300

deserving women



What makes our *Live Your Dream Awards* unique and transformational

► ***We trust our recipients to make good decisions.***

The *Live Your Dream Awards* stand out because the program gives cash directly to the women. We trust them to use the money in whatever way best helps advance their education. Some women use it to pay for childcare. Others use it for rent, transportation, books, or tuition. Each woman is empowered to make the best decision for her circumstances. Giving women control over how they use their awards increases their self-confidence and motivates them to reach for their dreams.

► ***The award comes at just the right time.***

Our recipients have overcome multiple barriers to creating a better life for themselves and their families. Most of the women who apply for *Live Your Dream Awards* have already moved past the crisis stage. But being out of crisis is not the same as being successful. A lack of financial resources prevents many women from moving to the next stage of their education and careers. The *Live Your Dream Awards* program fills this gap.

Without financial and emotional support, many women return to violent situations, drop out of school, or fall back into destructive behaviors. Many of these women are just one late bill, one sick child, or one broken down car away from spiraling backward and erasing their hard-won progress. The *Live Your Dream Awards* arrive at just the right time to help them stay focused on the path to achieving their dreams.

► ***It's not just about the money.***

From the moment we make our cash award, we let a woman know we believe in her ability to change her own life. Our award recipients deeply value the vote of confidence the award represents. The emotional support of Soroptimist members and supporters in their local community and around the world increases our recipients' motivation to succeed.

► ***The ripple effect reaches far beyond our recipients.***

The impact of the *Live Your Dream Awards* goes far beyond the individual recipients. The women we work with often make career choices that are informed by their own traumatic life experiences. Many choose helping professions—becoming counselors, nurses, social workers, and legal advocates, working to create change in their own communities.

As one recipient said, "My wounds have become my gifts to offer others." These women are true change-makers who create a ripple effect that goes far beyond their own families.



"[Going back to school]
will give [my daughters]
a positive view of
parenting and a sense of
empowerment as they
reflect on the challenges
I face as a single mother.
They will also gain
a positive attitude
toward women entering
academics at any age,
under any circumstances."

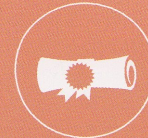
—Lisa, *Live Your Dream*
Awards Recipient

The Live Your Dream Awards have a demonstrated ripple effect on women's lives. Yet, for every woman we are able to help, there are many more in need.

That's why we're seeking bold investments now to grow the *Live Your Dream Awards* program, with the following urgent initiatives:

- ▶ Many women still need our help. The number of *Live Your Dream Awards* applications is currently far higher than we have the resources to fulfill. In fact, of the 4,000 applicants each year, we are currently only able to give awards to one-third.
- ▶ Our research indicates as many as **10 million women in the countries we work in need the unique support Soroptimist provides**. That's why our goal is to greatly increase the number of women who receive our life-changing *Live Your Dream Awards*. In addition, we plan to pilot a program to provide ongoing support to previous award recipients to ensure they can stay on track with their educational goals.
- ▶ Many clubs in developing countries want to do more to support the women in their communities—but can only afford to make very small awards. Additional funds will **allow us to bring more funding to women most in need of support**.
- ▶ We are a learning organization—constantly driving innovation to make our programs more successful. We invest in monitoring and evaluation and hold ourselves accountable for outcomes. Funds are needed for outreach to past award recipients as well as technology for data capture and analysis, **to ensure we are constantly improving our programs to better serve women and girls in need.**

The Numbers Tell the Story:



86%

of *Live Your Dream Award* recipients earned or continue to pursue an educational degree or certificate



82%

of recipients who completed their education reported an increased standard of living



72%

of recipients who completed their educational degree or certification secured higher-paying employment



97%

of recipients report the award has increased their self-esteem

Our Values

Soroptimist is committed to:

GENDER EQUALITY:

Women and girls live free from discrimination.

EMPOWERMENT:

Women and girls are free to act in their own best interest.

EDUCATION:

Women and girls deserve to lead full and productive lives through access to education.

DIVERSITY & FELLOWSHIP:

Women from varied backgrounds and perspectives work together to improve the lives of women and girls



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women®

**Soroptimist of Hamilton
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Hamilton, MT 59840**

Submissions to the newsletter can be sent to:
<mailto:sinewsletter@gmail.com>

If you submit to any of the above locations, you are guaranteed it will reach us!

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Growing Our Movement and Engaging the Next Generation of Women Leaders

If there is one thing we've learned in all these years, it's that when we join together around a common goal, we can move mountains. For nearly a century, our Soroptimist clubs have been on the frontlines of women's empowerment around the globe.

As the world changes, we must adapt as well. To ensure the future of Soroptimist, we must find new ways to engage with younger generations of women who will carry on our work.

To that end, Soroptimist developed an online community of empowerment. LiveYourDream.org provides opportunities for people who wish to support our mission outside of the traditional Soroptimist club model.

Since its inception, more than 80,000 supporters have become active in the LiveYourDream.org community to support our Dream Programs and speak out on important women's issues.

LiveYourDream.org supporters are making their voices heard and raising awareness about some of the most serious challenges women and girls face—including domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

