



## SI Quadrennial Project 2007-11

### Soroptimist Events update (May - July 2008)

Soroptimists around the world are using their strengths to support Project Sierra: a Family and a Future! Reaching for the skies, Francesca Conate (SIA and Project Ambassador in Higashi region) climbed Mt Fuji in Japan on 10-11 August 08, to raise awareness and funds for Project Sierra (see photos gallery). And, on a different continent, Pam Smith (SI Cannock and district, SIGBI) is preparing to climb Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania later this August. Other Soroptimists have been keeping fit, and helping others to do so - for example, SI Busto Arsizio (SIE) organise sporting events. A member of SI Hull club (SIGBI) has raised funds and awareness through teaching a Pilates class at her daughter's school, and SI Kuusamo (SIE) has held a wellness event.

Using her needlework talents, Enid Roberts of SI South Caerfon (SIGBI) has embroidered a Peace Garden, which has been made into a beautiful picture to be raffled for Project Sierra (see photo gallery). Photographs of Enid's delicate needlework designs were printed to make greetings cards, and sold so quickly in regions of SIGBI Federation that a second print run has been ordered. Enid had previously made a Peace Doll for the SI Europe Convention in Vienna. SI Pretoria (SIGBI) raised funds for the Project by raffling a picture painted by one of its members.

Many Soroptimist clubs have raised awareness and funds for Project Sierra through activities in their local communities. SI San Tans (Golden West, SIA) had a booth at a local multi-cultural festival. SI Keighley (SIGBI) ran a stall at the town's Medieval Market. SI Cumberland County (SIA) received 'end of season' donations from local businesses for a table sale. Clubs in London (SIGBI) organised a 'rummage sale' including clothing and crafts from Africa at a community Fun Day. SI Wales South region (SIGBI) feature the Project in publicity posters that they show in displays around the region. SI Thames Valley (SIGBI) held a "Teddy Tombola" for Project Sierra at the UK National Health Service 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations at Windsor Race Course.

Making the link between Project Sierra and other elements of Soroptimist Programme Focus has also seen clubs hosting Fair Trade coffee-mornings and 'lean lunches'. Members of SI Eastwood (Phillipines, SIA) made chocolate lollipops and sold them at their region's "Soroptimists Stop Trafficking" workshop (see photo gallery).



Hope & Homes for Children

Project Sierra prompted SI Lincoln (SIGBI) to research into homelessness within their own community, as well as to raise funds for the project with a variety of events including assisting shoppers at a local supermarket to pack their shopping. SI Scotland North region (SIGBI) included Project Sierra in their exhibition at an event with other NGOs marking the International Day for Eradicating Poverty.

Soroptimists enjoyed family oriented social events with their families and friends on the International Day of the Family (17 May) – these included a lunch party (SI St Albans), tea in the bluebell woods (SI Greater London), barbecue (SI Southport).

Social activities centring around food and drink are very popular – not surprising, but what an array of themes and inventiveness! Another example is SI Newtonards (SIGBI), which held a “P” party for Project Sierra – all food, drinks and prizes began with letter “P”.

Music cheers the soul - a steel band provided entertainment when SI Tynedale and Morpeth clubs (SIGBI) entertained guests at their joint fundraising lunch. Musical events currently being planned include an operatic evening in September at the Parliament Building of Northern Ireland (hosted by SI Bangor, SIGBI) and SI London Anglia region is preparing a concert in Chelmsford Cathedral early 2009.

“Count Your Blessings” is a wonderful initiative of SI Carlisle which involves giving just a few cents to represent aspects of daily life that many will take for granted (e.g. 2p for every tap in our homes). You can download “Count Your Blessings” from the Resources section of [www.projectsierra.org](http://www.projectsierra.org), and adapt the format developed by SI Carlisle as a means of raising awareness and funds for Project Sierra in your community.

Through all this wonderful work and so much more, Soroptimists are enabling women and girls in Sierra Leone to have the opportunity of a healthier, sustainable and caring family life for themselves and their children. Your support through Project Sierra gives them the foundations from which they can continue to build. Do continue, with energy and joy!

As at end July 2008, sixty seven (67) Programme Focus Reports had been added to SI’s on-line database. Do use the PFRF reporting for your Project Sierra projects. And don’t forget too to keep your Project Sierra Ambassador or Federation Liaison informed of your events and plans, or email to [project.liaison@soroptimistinternational.org](mailto:project.liaison@soroptimistinternational.org)



Hope & Homes for Children