



SI Quadrennial Project 2007-11

Soroptimist Activity and Events update (September 2009)

Around the world Soroptimists continue to excel in the imagination, energy and quality of activities to support our SI Quadrennial Project - Project Sierra: a Family and a Future. Here is just a sample of projects in recent months.

On International Women's Day 2009, **SI Malta** (SIGBI) launched a partnership with local Girl Guides. To prepare for the event, the young women researched our Quadrennial Project via the website, and raised a fantastic sum of Euro1,500 in local collections. Well done!

SI Pine Rivers (SISWP) focussed on raising awareness of anti-trafficking for IWD, linking their advocacy with support for Project Sierra. Members took part in a two hour community radio programme with anti-trafficking experts.

SI Canterbury (SIGBI) chose the 8 September 2009, the UN International Day of Literacy, to publish "Voices in Verse", a book of poetry written by Soroptimists. Sixty five Soroptimist poets from 11 countries and all Federations contributed to the anthology in a celebration of literacy and the bonds that unite us across all boundaries. All the profits from sales of "Voices in Verse" will go to Project Sierra: a Family and a Future. Another lovely gift to buy for someone special to you! You can purchase "Voices in Verse" (anthology and accompanying CD of readings) costs GBP£12.50 + shipping and is available from Pat Wood tishwood21@aol.co.uk or for non UK residents from www.etspress.com

SI Golden West Region (SIA) has challenged all its clubs to a competition to do something in their community to raise **AWARENESS, FRIENDS and FUNDS** for Project Sierra. Each Club is asked to report by March 2010 on the programmes undertaken, the funds raised, the outreach to make new friends and introduce new Soroptimist members; and to submit a Video of its Club Challenge which will be shown at the region Conference.

Activities suggested by the Region's SI Liaison Committee include:

- Organize Concerts, 'frugal' lunches, quiz nights, or walk-runs. Sales of African items such as jewelry, cards, calendars, etc. at community events to raise **AWARENESS, FRIENDS AND FUNDS**.
- Put on an African Dinner and raffle off African items for a **FUNDS-raiser**.
- Put information on your Club website to bring about **AWARENESS** of the project.
- Put in club and community newsletters so all members and your local community have **AWARENESS** of the project.



Hope & Homes for Children

The **Soroptimist Residential Club** in London (at 63 Bayswater Road, and fondly known as “63”) celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2009. The anniversary cake was baked and beautifully decorated by Soroptimist Jackie Paling, and “63” Management Committee made a handsome donation to Project Sierra to mark the celebration.

Since the **Project Sierra Study Tour** in February 2009, all the Soroptimists who took part have spoken at meetings and conferences, organised events, raised funds and gained publicity for the Project, enriched by their experiences. They include selling items purchased in Sierra Leone (hand dyed fabrics; jewellery), holding exhibitions, making Gift cards, organising parties, encouraging clubs to host African themed dinners and making links with Sierra Leonean residents in their areas, forging new local friendships and links through Project Sierra. **SI President Hanne and IPP Margaret**, who both visited Project Sierra, generously asked those attending their Change of Insignia dinner in Denmark and other well wishers to donate to Project Sierra rather than giving personal gifts. Over \$2,000 was raised – this will fund the secondary school education for 7 teenage mothers for a year. A wonderful gift!

Soroptimist clubs in all Federations will be marking **International Friendship Day** (3 October) by sending greetings to their Friendship Link clubs and a small donation to Project Sierra in the name of Friendship Links. Started by **SIGBI Friendship Link Coordinator** Georgie, the idea spread through the **Soroptimist Chatline** and Federation Project Sierra Liaisons. (Poster available on www.projectsierra.org)

The **Count Your Blessings** fundraiser game (written by **SI Carlisle**, SIGBI – copies for download from www.projectsierra.org) has been played around the world. Carell Wingrave (**SI Edmonton**, SIA)’s grandchildren tried it. Collen wrote: “Dear Grandma, Jacklyn and I learned very much from this fundraiser. We learned mom has 20 pairs of shoes. We learnt that we have lots of everything in the house and that we should be thankful for it. I know that sounds pretty basic but it’s the truth. I’m glad that your club started this fundraiser. Sincerely, Collen.” And from Jacklyn: “Dear Grandma, I had a lot of fun doing this project. I learned that not giving to the needy is not nice so it is good to Count your Blessings. Love Jacklyn”

SI Dewsbury and Yorkshire Region clubs (SIGBI) are sponsoring a performance of “African Sanctus” at the Leeds City Hall. A club member sings in the choir of over 200 voices who will perform, along with dancers and drummers. The venue and other sponsors have given permission for an exhibition, short presentation and ‘envelope collection’ for Project Sierra.

To date, 175 Programme Focus Reports have been added to SI’s on-line database registering activities to support Project Sierra. Excellent – though this is only a fraction! Do submit a PRF. Also, inform your Project Sierra Ambassador or Federation Liaison of events and plans, or email to project.liaison@soroptimistinternational.org Action photos are particularly welcome for the website. See the latest “Ideas Bank” listing and other reports on the website for more information and ideas for your club. See the impact of your involvement in interviews with young mothers on the **new Project Sierra DVD on YouTube** (via www.projectsierra.org).

Thank you for the wonderful work and support, giving even more young mothers and children opportunities to face their future with confidence. Keep it up!

September 2009



Hope & Homes for Children