



Soroptimist Violet Richardson Award 2010-2011 Impact Report

The Soroptimist Violet Richardson award honors girls who are making a difference through volunteer service. In 2010-2011, 54 percent of clubs participated and honored 854 girls. Donations were made to 802 organizations totaling \$127,258.

In efforts to determine the impact of the Violet Richardson Award program, SIA sends surveys to recipients three years after they receive the award. Surveys were sent to all 28 region-level recipients from the 2007-2008 club year. The results of the survey are as follows:

- 100% of respondents are still volunteering
- 43% of respondents reported that their volunteer work is focused on women and girls.
- 86% of respondents reported that the award increased their self-confidence.

In addition to these quantifiable results, SIA also received stories from the young women about how the Violet Richardson Award has affected their volunteer efforts. The following excerpts were written by 2007-2008 Violet Richardson Award recipients.

This region recipient is still volunteering and her work is focused on women and girls. Her self-confidence has increased as a result of the award.

Hello, I am [in] Girl Scout Troop 3 of the Girls Scouts of Japan, Shimane Prefecture. Currently, I am a junior in college and am now job hunting. I am not involved in any particular volunteer projects now, but I am planning to participate in a volunteer activity in a foreign country during my summer break. When you are involved in volunteer activities, your efforts are rarely evaluated objectively and sometimes you are not sure whether your thoughts and actions are right or not. Receiving the Violet Richardson Award reminded me that what I was doing had meaning and it gave me the confidence to continue my volunteer activities.

This region recipient is still volunteering and her work is focused on women and girls. Her self-confidence has increased as a result of the award.

The Soroptimist Violet Richardson Award has inspired me to continue volunteering and helping others. Receiving this award demonstrated to me the importance of giving back and how truly special it is. I hope to encourage other young girls to start giving back, and continue their volunteering efforts for years to come.

This region recipient is still volunteering.

It has helped me learn more about the issues in my community. The award was great but helping others and making it better for someone else makes me more confident in knowing my help is valuable.

Talia Leman, 2009-2010 Federation Violet Richardson Award Recipient

In addition, SIA surveys the federation recipient six months after the receipt of the award. The following report was received from Talia:

1. How did your organization utilize the \$2,500 donation?

We used it to launch the anti-bottle project <http://www.randomkid.org/content/130/117>, a project where students across the USA are selling safe, re-usable water bottles that can be rolled up and put in their pockets. We have 13 schools and organizations involved to date. By selling the bottles, we can decrease oil dependency, reduce green house gasses and eliminate future landfill waste. From the sale of the water bottles, we are funding green water solutions for local communities (recycling bins and solar panels) and safe water solutions in the developing world.

2. What specific outcomes resulted from the use of the donation?

We have sold 2000-3000 bottles so far. We are still funding all kinds of things from the sales of the bottles, but if you want to see one outcome, visit this link: <http://animoto.com/play/9rlizyYe2MH8sSkVO851Ig>.

(Note: The bottles cost us \$4, and we sell them for \$10. We can accomplish a great deal with nearly \$20,000. So you are getting a big return on that \$2500.)

3. How did the donation affect your organization?

It allowed me to launch what may be our largest and most successful program ever. This project has spread to: Texas, Hawaii, California, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Florida, Minnesota, Washington DC, Missouri and more. I can't even begin to thank you for believing in me, and helping me grow this idea. We can not achieve our dreams if people aren't willing to put their faith in us. You put your faith in me and I am forever grateful.