

# Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.

Improving the lives of women in girls, in local communities and throughout the world



## 2005-2006 Annual Report



# A Message from Soroptimist Leadership

**“I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.”—Helen Keller**

**T**he above quote by the inimitable Helen Keller aptly describes the work carried out throughout Soroptimist International of the Americas. Our clubs and members provide the humble, honest pushes that in the aggregate transform women’s lives in very real and powerful ways.

As you’ll see in the pages of this report, we have many successes to share. During the second year of the Renaissance Campaign, we began to see real progress in all areas. We are stemming the tide of membership losses by remodeling ourselves away from the old service club paradigm and toward a modern, relevant organization with engaged members dedicated to our mission. We have added 5,252 new members and 26 new clubs to our ranks. We continue to explore ways to provide the most valuable membership experience possible.

Our programs keep us in good stead by providing meaningful avenues through which our members help to improve the lives of women and girls. More than \$1,904,000 has been disbursed through our various programs, with an estimated 15,000 women and girls benefiting. Participation, particularly in the Women’s Opportunity Awards, is at an all-time high, with 64 percent of clubs giving at least one award to a deserving woman each year.

Programs are funded in large part due to the generosity of our members, who last year contributed \$1,458,176. About 60 percent of our clubs contributed to the Club Campaign, and 95 percent donated to Founders Pennies. These donations are returned to clubs in the form of cash awards, collateral materials and technical support. We realize that we cannot rely solely on the generosity of our members to fund our programs, so last year we hired the services of IEG to help us on the path to obtaining corporate partners. We added a corporate relations staff position to our ranks and are excited to be diversifying the ways we fund our great projects.

Public awareness is another area where exciting things are happening. We are using new electronic tools and techniques to build our brand, particularly our online brand. And for the first time, the board approved funds to hire a public relations firm to help us with our media activities. Our hits are up 15 percent and coverage is increasingly mission based.

The state of our federation is strong. Our investments are up by 8 percent thanks to sound investment strategies. We should feel pride knowing that more than 80 percent of our total expenses are allocated to programs directly supporting our mission.

Statistics are great as they give an overview of an organization’s progress and financial health. However, they do not tell the whole story. They do not tell the story of a woman who decides to leave her abusive husband after picking up a domestic violence hotline card that was left in the restroom by a Soroptimist member. Or of a girl who re-evaluates her destructive behaviors after attending a mother-daughter conference sponsored by the local Soroptimist club. Or of a single mom who gains the courage to turn her life around after receiving financial and emotional support in the form of a Women’s Opportunity Award. These are the tiny pushes that form a mosaic of caring and progress for the women and girls served by Soroptimist International of the Americas.

This past year was another success story for Soroptimist International of the Americas, its members, leaders and headquarters staff. Even more important, it was a success for the thousands of women and girls around the world who are living their dreams with our help.



The full audit is available in the Library section of the members-only website. A copy may be requested by contacting Soroptimist International of the Americas' headquarters at [siahq@soroptimist.org](mailto:siahq@soroptimist.org).

**Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.**  
Statement of Financial Position • Year Ended August 31, 2006

<b>Assets</b>		<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>		<b>Liabilities</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$913,917	Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$194,482
Marketable securities	12,085,560	Agency funds	58,047
Accounts receivable	149,737	Charitable gift annuity payment	8,504
Inventory	183,501	<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>261,033</b>
Prepaid expenses	112,679	<b>Net Assets</b>	
Notes receivable	84,930	Unrestricted	
Contributions receivable from a remainder trust	19,445	Program service fund	2,549,236
Charitable gift annuity	19,348	Board restricted-investments	566,999
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>13,569,117</b>	<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>3,116,235</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>		<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>	
Equipment	949,992	Dues received in advance	1,410,143
Real estate	2,322,208	General remainder trust	19,445
Accumulated depreciation	(779,475)	Special Purpose	
<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>2,492,725</b>	1709 Guild	99,801
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$16,061,842</b>	Disaster relief	214,569
		Emerging Leaders	51,247
		Venture	200,496
		<b>Total temporary restricted</b>	<b>1,995,701</b>
		<b>Permanently Restricted (Endowment Fund)</b>	<b>10,688,873</b>
		<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$15,800,809</b>
		<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$16,061,842</b>

An electronic version of this annual report is available in the News Room section of Soroptimist's website at [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org).

# Soroptimist means **Best for Women,** and that's what the organization strives to be—

**Soroptimist International of the Americas is an international volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. Each year, Soroptimist empowers thousands of women and girls to achieve their goals and live their dreams.**

The **Women's Opportunity Awards** program is at the core of Soroptimist's efforts to help women and girls live their dreams. Soroptimist's signature program benefits women who, as primary wage-earners for their families, need to improve their employment opportunities. Women's Opportunity Award recipients, many of whom are single moms, often overcome poverty, domestic violence and substance abuse. The 2005-2006 Women's Opportunity Awards finalists were no exception.

Born with glaucoma, a debilitating eye disease that rendered her blind and unable to work, **Fatima Bianchi Aparecida** of Cantaduva, Brazil, was charged with taking care of her elderly parents and mentally disabled brother.



**2005-2006 Fund Development Council Chair Connie Baehr (left) presents Tera LaRey Roberts with a 2006 federation-level Women's Opportunity Award.**

Despite possessing few skills, Fatima was the sole support for her family. After her husband left the family, **Tera LaRey Roberts** of Vernonia, Oregon, USA, was forced to care for her eight children alone in an unfinished and partially exposed home. In order to support her family, Tera needed to find a better paying job. **Maria Aguilera Miltos** of Itacurubi de la Cordillera, Paraguay, was

born without the use of her legs. As a teen, she was brutally beaten and raped, and gave birth to her rapist's child. Despite her severe physical and economic limitations, Maria strived to succeed.

Thanks to this program, each woman is pursuing her dream. Fatima is taking classes to become a Braille instructor; Maria is pursuing a career as an executive secretary; and Tera is working

toward becoming a certified nurse practitioner. For women like these, the Women's Opportunity Awards program is more than simply a financial leg up—it also gives women the emotional support to continue on their journeys to make a better life for themselves and their families.

Soroptimist honors women who work to help other women and girls live their dreams through the **Making a Difference for Women Award** program. The 2005-2006 federation-level recipient is a grassroots organizer and advocate for women and girls. **Kathryn Xian**, of Waikiki,



**Kathryn Xian accepts the 2006 Making a Difference for Women Award at Soroptimist's biennial convention in Philadelphia this past July.**

**Soroptimist programs help women live their dreams by enjoying greater economic and social independence, enhanced opportunities and freedom from violence. Below is a report for the 2005-2006 club year.**

#### **Women's Opportunity Awards**

Soroptimist granted \$1,114,807 in Women's Opportunity Awards, and more than 1,000 women and their families benefited from the program.

#### **Making a Difference for Women Award**

Soroptimist disbursed \$59,684 to Making a Difference for Women recipient's organizations, and 395 outstanding women were honored by the program.

#### **Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls**

More than \$223,000 was disbursed to 33 grant recipients. More than 5,000 women and girls benefited from the grants-funded projects.

#### **Violet Richardson Award**

More than \$213,000 was awarded to 677 girls whose volunteer work makes a difference in local communities and

throughout the world. An additional \$85,000 was donated to Violet Richardson Award recipients' volunteer organizations and causes.

#### **Soroptimist Disaster Relief Fund**

Soroptimist disbursed more than \$100,000 to programs benefiting thousands of women and girls who are rebuilding their lives and communities in the aftermath of natural disasters.

#### **Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence**

Three-hundred forty-five Soroptimist clubs in six countries pledged to help victims of domestic violence and raise community awareness—particularly in the business community—as part of this campaign.

# women at their best helping other women and girls to be **their** best.

Hawaii, has devoted her life to educating young women about gender violence and raising awareness about gender issues through her non-profit organization, The Safe Zone Foundation, and her annual arts and culture festival, Girl Fest Hawaii.



2005-2006 Soroptimist President Jean Barth (left) presents Maranatha Estrada with the Violet Richardson Award.

Soroptimist fosters the work of the next generation of community leaders through the **Violet Richardson Award** program, which honors young women making a positive impact in their communities and the world through their volunteer efforts. **Maranatha Brogado Estrada**, of Kalibo, Philippines, is the 2005-2006 federation-level recipient. Maranatha is chair of the Cagayunan-Aglucay Adolescent Reproductive Health Organization (CARHO), which

works with at-risk teens and educates them about domestic violence, teen pregnancy, health and nutrition.

The **Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls** program offers clubs cash grants in support of innovative community programs. Sample projects include holding skill development classes for domestic violence survivors; sponsoring self-esteem workshops for teenage girls; and offering free breast cancer screenings to low-income women.

Domestic violence impacts women at home and at work. Each year, Soroptimist promotes participation in the **Soroptimist Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence**, an ongoing effort held annually on November 25 (the International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women) to raise awareness about domestic violence as a workplace concern. Club members distribute hotline cards and sample workplace domestic violence policies, and hold information workshops and events on domestic violence. As part of the campaign in 2005, Soroptimist International of the Americas adopted domestic violence guidelines into its personnel policies. The guidelines provide information on how to protect employees from violence and what to do in the event that an employee is a victim.

When disaster strikes, it is often women and girls who are hardest hit. In order to meet the needs of women and girls living in disaster- and conflict-stricken zones, Soroptimist developed the **Disaster Relief Fund for Women and Girls**. During the 2005-2006 year, Soroptimist supported four women-focused disaster relief endeavors, including the South Asia tsunami, which affected Indonesia and Sri Lanka; Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Wilma, which affected the southern coast of the United States; and a mudslide in Guinsaguon, Philippines.

Soroptimist's programs and projects create tangible progress for women and girls around the world. Soroptimists are committed to helping women's dreams become a reality.



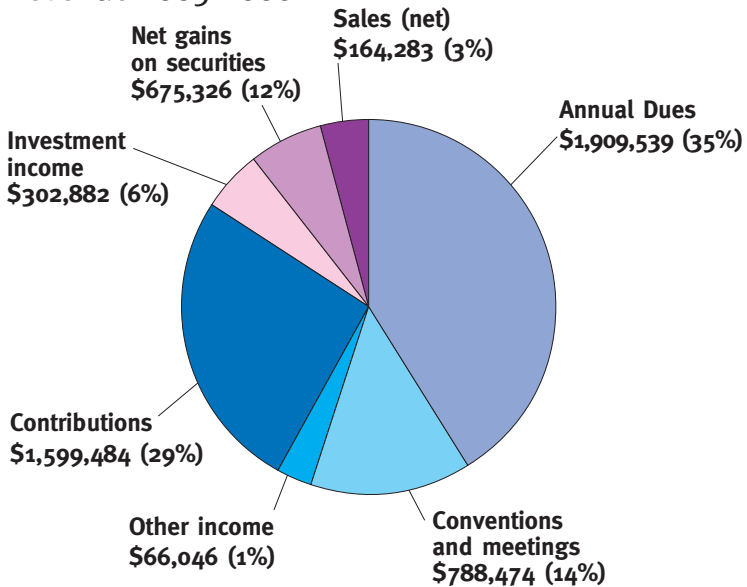
Soroptimist awarded about \$40,000 to the Center for Women's Development Research in India for a project that will create and strengthen employment opportunities and provide health education and services for single women in tsunami-affected areas.

## Soroptimist Accomplishments 2005-2006

- Soroptimist's new organizational brochure, "Living Their Dreams," received both the *Communicator Award* and *Apex Award for Publication Excellence* in the marketing and public relations category.
- Soroptimist's *Best for Women* magazine received the *Communicator Award—Award of Distinction*, and the *Apex Award for Publication Excellence* in the "Most Improved Magazines and Journals" category.
- The Women's Opportunity Awards program received an honorable mention in the ASAE & The Center for Association Leadership's *2006 Associations Make a Better World Awards* program. The Women's Opportunity Award program's new brochure won the *Communicator Award*.
- Soroptimist was awarded the *Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations' (PANO) Seal of Excellence* for successfully completing the Standards for Excellence certification program.
- The Soroptimist Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence and the Soroptimist Disaster Relief Fund for Women and Girls both received *Associations Advance America Honor Roll* recognitions.

## Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.

Revenue 2005-2006



## Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.

Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended August 31, 2006

Support Revenue and Gains	2006 Total
Annual dues	\$1,909,539
Convention and meetings	788,474
Sales (net)	164,283
Contributions	1,599,484
Investment income	302,882
Net gains on securities	675,326
Other income	66,046
<b>Total Support, Revenues and Gains</b>	<b>\$5,506,034</b>

## Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.

Schedule of Contributions

Year Ended August 31, 2006

Contributions	
Founders Pennies	\$142,946
Interest from Cox Note	4,725
Region Contributions	15,011
Club Campaign	328,207
Memorials/Honorariums	5,164
Laurel Society	733,058
Matching Gifts	650
Endowment Fund Contributions—Other	1,000
Disaster Relief Contributions	103,069
1709 Guild	40,501
Miscellaneous	72,376
Live Your Dream Campaign	2,950
Convention Fundraiser	3,480
Emerging Leaders	90,000
Auctions	56,347
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$1,599,484</b>

### 2005-2006 Membership Statistics

• 2005

**Clubs:** 1, 454  
**Members:** 42, 158  
**Countries:** 18

• 2006

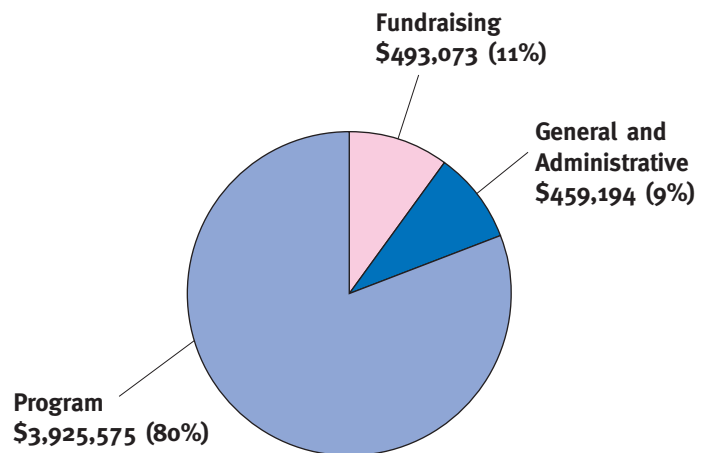
**Clubs:** 1, 447  
**Members:** 41, 875  
**Countries:** 19

A complete roster is available from Soroptimist headquarters. To obtain this information, contact 215-893-9000 or email [siahq@soroptimist.org](mailto:siahq@soroptimist.org).

**Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.**  
Allocation of Expenses, Program Expenses  
Year Ended August 31, 2006

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2006 Total</b>
Membership Services	\$23,502
Soroptimist magazine	191,440
Conventions and meetings	713,638
Board and committees	218,020
Fundraising	113,658
Governors Roundtable	69,840
Soroptimist International	220,098
Public relations	27,734
Personnel costs	1,679,680
Office and occupancy	219,967
Depreciation	175,428
Professional services	294,405
Emerging Leaders	39,214
Miscellaneous	44,451
<b>Program Expenses</b>	
Soroptimists Celebrating Success!	1,489
Workplace Campaign	4,070
Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls	162,866
Violet Richardson Award	65,941
Women's Opportunity Awards	390,639
Venture Projects	17,850
Making a Difference for Women Award	9,338
Disaster Relief	194,554
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>846,767</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,877,842</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$628,192</b>
<b>Net Assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>\$15,172,617</b>
<b>Net Assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$15,800,809</b>

**Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.**  
Allocation of Expenses, Program Expenses  
Year Ended August 31, 2006



**Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.**  
Schedule of Agency Funds  
Year Ended August 31, 2006

<b>Fund</b>	
<b>Project 5-0</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$51,775
Contributions Received	5,523
Distributions	51,775
Ending Balance	5,523
<b>Quadrennial Project: Project Independence</b>	
Beginning Balance	41,047
Contributions Received	164,897
Distributions	161,211
Ending Balance	44,733
<b>December 10th Appeal: Children of Peace</b>	
Beginning Balance	7,270
Contributions Received	593
Distributions	7,863
Ending Balance	—
<b>December 10th Appeal: Roll Back Malaria</b>	
Beginning Balance	—
Contributions Received	118,418
Distributions	110,647
Ending Balance	7,771
<b>Total Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$100,092</b>
<b>Total Contributions Received</b>	<b>\$289,431</b>
<b>Total Distributions</b>	<b>\$331,476</b>
<b>Total Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$58,047</b>



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

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## 2005-2006 Board of Directors

**Jean Barth, *President***

Weston, Colorado, USA

**Sue Miller**

Quincy, California, USA

**Teresita Choa, *President-elect***

Manila, Philippines

**Dede Olson**

Kenmore, Washington, USA

**Sandra Schultz, *Secretary Treasurer***

Glendale, California, USA

**RoseMary Reid**

Peterborough, Ontario, Canada

**Rosemarie Burton**

New Haven, Connecticut, USA

**Jo Ann Stallings**

College Station, Texas, USA

**Mei-Kuei Chen-ku**

Kaohsiung, Taiwan

**Nobuko Tsushima**

Osaka, Japan

**Dirce Diroti M. Cleve**

Curitiba, Brazil

**Alice Wells**

Phoenix, Arizona, USA

**Carmen Diaz De Vuelvas**

Tijuana, Mexico

**Machiko Yamada**

Kudamatsu, Japan

**Dolores Flores**

Makati City, Philippines

**Connie J. Baehr, *Fund Development***

***Council Chair***

Anchorage, Alaska, USA

## Executive Director

Leigh Wintz, CAE

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[www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org)