Building the Dream
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BUILDING THE DREAM

Since 1921 Soroptimist has been on a mission to help women and girls around the world realize their potential and live their dreams. We know that when women are educated and have opportunity and choice, they lift themselves up, build healthier families, break the cycle of poverty, and improve their communities and the world.

In FY15/16, we laid some important groundwork for the future of our organization. We strategically thought about what our next 100 years will look like and how we can achieve our ambitious goals to reach exponentially more women and girls who need our help. With support from our leaders, clubs, members and supporters, we’ve committed to the future of Soroptimist by investing in the dreams of women and girls through our Dream Programs. These programs have demonstrated their impact and ability to change lives in powerful ways, as evidenced in this Annual Report.

Thanks to the dedicated work of our Soroptimist clubs and members, and the support of our generous donors and supporters, Soroptimist accomplished much in the last year. We are proud to share highlights of our efforts in this report. Together, we’re empowering women and girls to live fuller, more productive lives.
The Soroptimist Dream Programs—The Live Your Dream Awards: Education & Training Awards for Women and Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls—are dedicated to helping women and girls achieve social and economic empowerment.

Thanks to your support of these programs, we are giving women and girls the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential and live their dreams.
INVESTING IN WOMEN AND THE POWER OF DREAMS

*Live Your Dream Awards: Education & Training Grants for Women*

The Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards program provides financial support to head-of-household women working to enhance their economic status and create better lives for themselves and their families. Recipients may use the cash grants however they choose in support of their education goals—including for tuition, books, childcare and transportation.

This year, thanks to our generous donors, funding for the program increased by $131,152 (7%) and 62 additional women received the award (5%).

**IN FY15/16:**

- **1,355** women’s lives were improved
- **$1.9 million** in education grants was disbursed through the program
- **20** Soroptimist countries and territories gave awards

“The Live Your Dream Awards mean stability for my family and me. I will use the awards to pay for my tuition, so that no matter what this next year has in store, I will not have to put my schooling on hold for financial reasons.”

—Terreia Wadud, 2016 *Live Your Dream Awards* Recipient
EACH YEAR, SOROPTIMIST GRANTS THREE $10,000 LIVE YOUR DREAM FINALIST AWARDS

TERREIA WADUD
Canada

As a young child in Canada, Terreia was adopted away from her indigenous tribe into an emotionally and physically abusive home. She ran away and was an ideal target for pimps in the sex trade. Her desperation led her to use drugs and alcohol to numb her pain. When she began to turn her life around for herself and her children, she realized her biggest obstacle to get a job that would support her family was her lack of education. Now working toward completing her bachelor’s degree, Terreia plans to start her own counseling service to help other indigenous women who have suffered from trauma.

ESPERANZA
Mexico

Esperanza, who goes by an alias for safety reasons, was born to a very poor family who sold her as a child bride. When the man she married unexpectedly died, Esperanza took a job to support herself and her family. But shortly thereafter, she realized she had been tricked into sex trafficking. After several years she was able to escape her nightmare and return to her family. She is now risking her life to rescue other women and girls from the horrors she experienced. She is studying to become a lawyer, so she can help these women even more.

SANDRA ROJAS FERNANDEZ
Bolivia

Sandra was sent to live with relatives when she was just a child. Unfortunately for Sandra this turned out to be a childhood full of neglect, abuse, and rape. She married young and had four children with her abusive husband. She found the courage to leave and start a new life, but not without facing many more obstacles, including the death of her son, and an explosion at a local mine that destroyed her home and all her belongings. She has endured incredible hardship, but Sandra is determined to keep going and is studying to become a chef so she can make a better life for herself and her family.

Watch Terreia and Sandra tell their stories at: http://www.soroptimist.org/awards/live-your-dream-awards-finalists.html
**LIFTING WOMEN UP**

*Live Your Dream Awards* recipients face enormous obstacles including poverty, domestic and sexual violence, substance abuse and death of a spouse. Yet, with just a little help, they have the strength to achieve their goals. The numbers tell the story.

**Past Live Your Dream Awards recipients report:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94%</td>
<td>Have earned or are continuing to work toward an educational degree/certification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81%</td>
<td>Of those who completed their education have secured higher-paying employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82%</td>
<td>Of those who completed their education report an increased standard of living for themselves and their dependents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95%</td>
<td>Have increased self-esteem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96%</td>
<td>Are serving as a role model for their dependents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“The *Live Your Dream Award* changed my life by providing me with confidence to move forward as a survivor and start my own non-profit to help other women like myself.”

—Tyra, *Live Your Dream Award* Recipient
“I learned how to be a better version of myself.”
—Dream It, Be It participant

Dream It, Be It aims to help girls grow up to be strong, successful, happy adults. The program targets girls in secondary school who face obstacles to their future success. Dream It, Be It provides girls with access to professional role models, career education and the resources they need to live their dreams.

IN FY15/16:

- **8,634 girls participated**
- **443 DREAM IT, BE IT PROJECTS WERE HOSTED BY SOROPTIMIST CLUBS IN 14 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES**
- **$264,579 was contributed by clubs in support of local DREAM IT, BE IT PROJECTS, along with 24,825 volunteer hours**
BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES

By reaching girls when they are still young, we can equip them with the tools they need to make good choices, rebound from obstacles, and get on track to achieving their educational and professional goals.

Dream It, Be It participants report:

- **90%**
  - are more confident about their future success

- **86%**
  - created achievable goals for the future

- **87%**
  - feel more prepared to pursue their career goals

- **80%**
  - believe Dream It, Be It has provided them with new tools to overcome obstacles to their success

Girls participate in an activity as part of a Dream it, Be It conference hosted by Soroptimist's Japan Minami Region.

Watch this short video to see how we are helping girls achieve success through the Dream It, Be It program.
Soroptimist Club Grants for Women & Girls

Helping Clubs Extend Their Reach

At the end of FY15/16, Soroptimist comprised 20 countries and territories, including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guam, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Northern Mariana Islands, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, United States, and Venezuela.

In 2016:
Clubs: 1,284
Members: 30,230

Change in Members from FY14/15: (786)

Member information can be found at: <Soroptimist.org/rise/DirectorySearch>.

In FY15/16:

$177,000
Granted to 43 Soroptimist projects in six different countries

10,804 women and girls
Were helped through club grants projects

The Soroptimist club in Batangas Premiere, Philippines, used its grant to lead a livelihood training project at a local women’s prison.

1,384 women and girls were provided opportunities for economic advancement

2,938 women and girls gained access to educational opportunities

1,772 women and girls were given tools and resources to help them live free from violence

4,710 women and girls gained access to healthcare
Mobilizing and Empowering Online

LiveYourDream.org

LiveYourDream.org connects a passionate community of volunteers and activists and empowers them to take action for women and girls. The online volunteer platform engages supporters in Soroptimist’s award-winning programs such as the Live Your Dream Awards and Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls. Dreamers also take action on campaigns to end domestic violence, support survivors of sexual assault, stop teen dating violence and end human trafficking.

77,387
Total Supporters Signed Up Through LiveYourDream.org

13,829
Actions Taken to Improve the Lives of Women and Girls

$13,176
Raised Through Donation Campaigns

2016 Recipient of:

People throughout the world were dismayed by the brutal rape of a young woman at Stanford University in 2016. Our LiveYourDream.org community joined together in a powerful act of solidarity with the survivor—submitting more than 3,000 messages of encouragement during our “Dear Survivor” campaign. Many of these messages are included in a book, “We Are With You: A Love Note to the Stanford Survivor and Every Woman.” Published by Soroptimist, a copy of the book was shared with the Stanford survivor.
## Statement of Financial Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY2016</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>$14,384,416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES</td>
<td>2,844,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL NET ASSETS</td>
<td>11,540,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</td>
<td>14,384,416</td>
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</table>

## Statement of Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY2016</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REVENUE</td>
<td>$5,999,446</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXPENSES</td>
<td>6,248,342</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</td>
<td>($248,896)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS BEGINNING</td>
<td>$13,628,156</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECLASS OF MEMBER DUES TO DEFERRED REVENUE</td>
<td>($1,839,150)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS, ENDING</td>
<td>$11,540,110</td>
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Financial information taken from the audited financial statements dated August 31, 2016. The full audit is available at <Soroptimist.org>. A copy may be requested by contacting Soroptimist International of the Americas at <siahq@soroptimist.org>. 
Allocation of Contributions
Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2016

Contributors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLUBS/REGIONS</td>
<td>$894,054</td>
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<tr>
<td>INDIVIDUALS</td>
<td>789,743</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORPORATIONS</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,703,797</strong></td>
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*Contributions do not include funds for disaster relief

Allocation of Operating Expenses
Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2016

Program Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEMBER SERVICES</td>
<td>1,394,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNANCE</td>
<td>726,468</td>
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</table>

Support Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FUNDRAISING</td>
<td>$756,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL/ADMINISTRATIVE</td>
<td>$313,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,123,856</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“I donate to the Laurel Society because I believe in the Soroptimist mission and want to ensure that we have enough funds to reach all the women and girls who need our help. I know that my donations support our Dream Programs. I also like having a choice in what programs I want to support.”

KEIKO ANDO  
SI/Sano, Japan

“I believe that even small donation will be a big help if it is made every month by a large number of people with goodwill. I hope to encourage more members in my country to join this marvelous program.”

VIRGINIA “GIGIE” PEÑALOSA  
SI/Mandaluyong, Philippines

“When you commit to a certain amount each month, you don’t just contribute money, you contribute to our collective impact of educating, enabling and empowering many women and girls.”

DREAMS COME TRUE THANKS TO YOU

Everything we do is made possible by our amazing donors. In FY15/16, we raised $1,703,797 through our Monthly Giving Program, the Laurel Society and Club Giving. Thanks to you—our members, clubs and friends—women and girls around the world create better lives for themselves, their families and their communities.

THANK YOU!

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS | FY15/16 ANNUAL REPORT
With generous support from our donors, Soroptimist is helping women and girls in tangible and sustainable ways.

Won’t you join us?


Interested in becoming a Soroptimist sponsor? Contact Susan Doughty at susan@soroptimist.org.
Sorooptimist International of the Americas®

Improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.