



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women®

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

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS

Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls 2016-2017 Impact Report

Each year, Soroptimist International of the Americas awards Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls to Soroptimist clubs throughout the federation. By addressing specific local needs, these grants help clubs make a lasting difference in the lives of women and girls in their communities.

In order to prepare for Soroptimist's second century, our SIA board of directors has identified a strategy of increasing our collective impact. This strategy has begun to produce results: an increase in our Dream Programs impact; 80,000 supporters engaged in LiveYourDream.org; more and diverse funders; and a slowdown in our membership decline. In order to continue these improvements, we need to continue the strategic direction of increased collective impact identified by our board of directors. As a result, projects related to the Soroptimist Dream Programs will now be given preference when making funding decisions for Soroptimist Club Grants.

For the 2016-2017 club year, 28 projects received grants totaling \$120,000 including \$13,500 given to 6 clubs of funds raised through the 2013-2015 SI December 10th President's Appeal for projects related to education and leadership. Grants ranged from \$500 to \$10,000 each and were given to clubs in 10 different countries: Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Japan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Taiwan, United States, and Venezuela.

Clubs that receive grants provide information about project objectives and outcomes, including stories of participants. Twenty-seven projects have been completed to date. One club received an extension to complete their project.

The results from the final impact reports are as follows:

- 96% of clubs reached their stated objectives
- 2,712 women and girls were helped
- The average cost per life changed was \$44.25
- 849 women and girls were provided opportunities for economic advancement
- 969 women and girls gained access to educational opportunities
- 429 women and girls were given tools and resources to help them live free from violence
- 237 women and girls gained access to healthcare
- 228 women and girls were able to rebuild their lives following disasters

Listed below are three samples from the 2016-2017 final impact reports:

SI/Corona, USA (Golden West Region), Career Planning Workshop: Extending the Value of Dream It, Be It, \$1,500

Focus: Education

SI/Corona used the grant to host a career planning workshop for girls who attended their Dream It, Be It program last year to expand the career information learned. Funds were used to create information packets including paper, folders, and copying, and to rent a bus to transport girls to the workshop. Club members organized the event, created a curriculum and provided continued mentorship to girls.

The project aimed to improve participants ability to make wise career decisions and empower participants to create achievable goals and actions plans for future career success. The club measured the success of the project via surveys and tracking the girls' progress in the program.

Impact:

- 80% of attendees strongly agreed that they:
 - Feel more confident about their future success.
 - Understand how their values can connect with possible careers.
 - Were introduced to role models.
 - Had an opportunity to create achievable goals for their future.

SI/El Hatillo, Venezuela (America del Sur Region), Sustainability of the Projects Tools for Life, \$10,000

Focus: Disaster Relief

SI/El Hatillo used their grant to secure the long-term sustainability of their headquarters office space, so they can continue serving the community and offering training programs to women. The funds were used for repairs due to a landslide and to replace computers that were lost due to theft. Club members oversaw the labor and purchasing of supplies for the project.

The project aimed to increase the number of workshops and hours of workshops offered to women and girls at SI/El Hatillo Headquarters and decrease barriers to participation due to the unsafe building structure. The club measured success by completing renovations to meet safety requirements to reopen. They also measured success by counting the number of workshops offered and how many women and girls attended.

Impact:

- Structural upgrades were completed to allow the space to reopen.
- 50 girls registered in the Skills for Life program.
- Increase in digital literacy classes from 16 to 20 hours a week.
- Increase in cooking classes from 8 to 12 hours a week.
- Increase in hair styling workshop from 8 to 10 hours a week.

SI/Mandaluyong, Philippines (Philippines Region), Vocational/Technical Assistance, \$6,000

Focus: Education

SI/Mandaluyong used the grant in partnership with two schools to provide vocational courses for underprivileged high school girls not immediately going to college as well as Dream It, Be It sessions for girls. Funds were used to purchase supplies for bread and pastry classes, commercial cooking classes, computer systems classes, Dream It, Be It and teen dating violence seminars, as well as clothes and school supplies for the most needy girls. Club members planned the vocational courses with principals and teachers, arranged for the vocational courses to be offered, and facilitated the Dream It, Be It and teen dating violence seminars.

The project aimed to increase support of disadvantaged girls pursuing vocational/technical courses by providing them with the necessary tools and equipment. The project also aimed to increase the girl's self-esteem. The club measured success by conducting interviews of students and teachers and administering a survey to participants.

Impact:

- 100% of girl participants received tools and equipment to attend vocational training.
- 100% of girl participants increased self-confidence.
- 100% of Dream It, Be It participants feel more confident about their future success.
- 98% of Dream It, Be It participants feel more prepared to pursue their career goals.

2016-2017 Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls:

- **SI/Alto Parana, Paraguay** (America del Sur Region): \$5000, *Dressing Freedom*
- **SI/Calgary, AB** (Western Canada Region): \$3500, *Live Your Dream Alumni Luncheon*
- **SI/Canton/Stark County, OH** (Midwestern Region): \$1000, *Dream It. Dare It. Be It. 3-Day Camp*
- **SI/Carmel Bay, CA** (Sierra Pacific Region): \$4000, *Necessary and Nice Bags: Tote Bags for Homeless Women*
- **SI/Columbus and Franklin County, OH** (Midwestern Region): \$4500, *Healthy Bodies/Healthy Minds*
- **SI/Corona, CA** (Golden West Region): \$1500, *Career Planning Workshop: Extending the Value of Dream It, Be It*
- **SI/Curitiba-Batel** (Brazil Region): \$9000, *Women - Rebuilding Dreams*
- **SI/El Centro, CA** (Desert Coast Region): \$1500, *Soroptimist/CASA Foster Girls Mentoring Project and Conference*
- **SI/El Hatillo** (America del Sur Region): \$10000, *Sustainability of the Project Tools for Life*
- **SI/Flagstaff, AZ** (Golden West Region): \$500, *Inspiring Youth Empowerment*
- **SI/Fukuoka** (Japan Minami Region): \$5500, *Training to Aid in the Recovery of Abuse Victims Suffering from Trauma*
- **SI/Greater Providence, RI** (Northeastern Region): \$1000, *Dream Leadership Program*
- **SI/Grosse Pointe, MI** (Midwestern Region): \$6000, *Empowering Ghana Girls Through Education*
- **SI/Hancock County Area, OH** (Midwestern Region): \$2000, *Women's Empowerment Emporium*
- **SI/Ibarra, Ecuador** (America del Sur Region): \$4000, *Health Security for Seniors*
- **SI/Isehara** (Japan Higashi Region): \$500, *Stop Domestic Violence*
- **SI/Kagoshima** (Japan Minami Region): \$5000, *Support to Protect DV Victims & Women w/ Disabilities from Female-Specific Cancers*
- **SI/Lucena City** (Philippines Region): \$6500, *Rediscovering Resuable Diapers and Sanitary Napkins*
- **SI/Mandaluyong** (Philippines Region): \$6000, *VOC/TECH Assist*
- **SI/Martinez, CA** (Founder Region): \$2500, *Get Real Academy - A Dream It, Be It Program*
- **SI/Maui, HI** (Founder Region): \$2000, *Girls Empowerment Project*
- **SI/Miranda** (America del Sur Region): \$9000, *Project Uterus*
- **SI/Moses Lake, WA** (Northwestern Region): \$5000, *Dream It, Be It - Moses Lake!*
- **SI/Rio Negro** (Brazil Region): \$1000, *Women "Sprucing Things Up" - Ceramic tile Application*
- **SI/Sacramento, CA** (Sierra Nevada Region): \$1500, *Dream It, Be It Career Support for Girls/Mentoring Program*
- **SI/Taipei Beacon** (Taiwan Region): \$10000, *Caring for Fromosa Fun Coast Water Park Dust Explosion Victims & Relief Fund Awarding Project*
- **SI/Tampa, FL** (Southern Region): \$3000, *Dream It, Be It - One Day Seminar*
- **SI/Volcan** (Mexico/Centroamerica Region): \$9000, *Training Center for Women and Girls (Phase II - 2nd Floor Construction)*

For a detailed description of any club project, please contact the program department at program@soroptimist.org. Applications for the [2018-2019 Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls](#) are due March 1, 2018.