



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

# *Dare to Dream*

help enable women and girls fulfill their dreams through

• awareness • advocacy • action

**Soroptimist International of the Twin Cities**

**FIRST ANNUAL BENEFIT BREAKFAST**

**Saturday, March 9, 2013**

Improving the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world, inspiring action and creating opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls by advocating for: human rights for all, global peace and international good will, advancing women's potential, integrity and democratic decision making, volunteering, diversity and friendship.

# Thank you...

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Thank you so much for taking the time to be here with us this morning.

Soroptimist International is an international classified service organization for professional women. The name Soroptimist is coined from Latin words meaning “Best for Women” and that is what the organization strives to achieve. Soroptimist are women at their best, working to help other women and girls to be their best.

The first Soroptimist club was formed in Oakland, California in 1921. The Soroptimist International (SI) of the Twin Cities club was chartered in 1939. Today Soroptimist International has 95,000 members and 3,000 clubs located in 125 countries.

As Soroptimist members, we participate in international and federation programs such as our *Birthing in the Pacific* program to provide midwife training and equipment in Papua New Guinea, the Women’s Opportunity Award and the Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence. Soroptimist members also participate in their local club activities which are chosen by the local club. SI of the Twin Cities club has a strategic focus on awareness, advocacy and action concerning human trafficking and domestic violence prevention. We also believe in empowering women through education; and therefore, we provide educational awards to local women and girls.

We are so grateful that you could join us for our first annual Benefit Breakfast and learn more about the work that SI of the Twin Cities is doing in our community and around the world. We are committed to a world where women and girls together achieve their potential, realize their aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide. We hope that you will support us in these activities.

Sincerely,



Lynne Peterson, President  
Soroptimist International of the Twin Cities

# Our Generous Sponsors

We want to give a very special thank you to our generous event sponsors who have donated goods and services that allow us to keep our fundraising expenses low, ensuring that the majority of funds raised go directly to the women and girls we serve.



**American Lung Association in Minnesota**  
[www.LungMN.org](http://www.LungMN.org)



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# Our Guest Speakers



## **Kelsey Soby, Emcee**

Kelsey Soby is a member of the FOX TV 9 News Team. She gets to report ad-lib live breaking news all morning and feels great about helping people get to work as quickly and safely as possible. Kelsey graduated Magna Cum Laude from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. She started her career in news working in the Tennessee Governor's Communications

Office and interning at WTVF-TV in Nashville. As a news anchor and reporter at KEYC-TV in Mankato, Minnesota and at WDAY-TV in Fargo-Moorhead, Kelsey has done everything from on-scene, live reporting to shooting and editing film, to producing entire newscasts and anchoring them.



## **Sharon Sayles Belton**

Sharon Sayles Belton is the Vice President of Government Affairs and Community Relations for Thomson Reuters, Legal. She is responsible for the development and management of Thomson Reuters, Legal's government affairs strategies and initiatives. She also provides oversight and management of the global Community Relations programs, which include charitable

contributions and community volunteerism. Prior to joining Thomson Reuters, Sayles Belton served as director of Community Relations and Corporate Philanthropy at GMAC Financial Services. She managed charitable contributions, community involvement and diversity initiatives. While at GMAC, Sayles Belton led efforts to stem the mortgage foreclosure crisis and created partnerships in several major cities to help distressed homeowners. Sayles Belton served as mayor of Minneapolis from 1994 to 2001. She was the first woman and first African American to be elected mayor. During her time in office, she achieved national recognition as an expert on public/private partnerships in public safety, neighborhood revitalization and economic development. She served on the Minneapolis City Council for 10 years (1984-1994) and was council president from 1990-1994.



## **Kristi Bakken**

Recipient of the Soroptimist International of the Twin Cities' 2012 Women's Opportunity Award is a survivor of domestic abuse and mother of six children, ages 3-13. She exemplifies the courage and resilience of women who overcome obstacles to build a better life for themselves and for their children. Kristi is currently a student at St. Catherine University, working towards a career in nursing.



## **MaMa Mosaic Theatre for Women**

Sha Cage, Rachel Austin and Jamela Pettiford. The piece you are about to see today, entitled *The Silenced!* and written by Sha Cage, combines selected works from Minnesota Girls are Not for Sale and was commissioned by the Women's Foundation of Minnesota. With a 10-year history, MaMa Mosaic Theater has produced

seven main stage theater shows and countless community-based workshops and dialogues. The company is a collective and has been steadily committed to nurturing women of color through theater and unearthing untold stories.



# Awards Program

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Soroptimists work to improve the lives of women and girls in their communities and throughout the world. There are several award and scholarship opportunities available to help meet this mission. Over the past two years, Soroptimist International of the Twin Cities (formerly known as Soroptimist International of Greater Minneapolis) has awarded over \$4,000 to local women and girls.

## **Women's Opportunity Award**

A signature project of Soroptimist International of the Americas, this program is intended to assist women heads of households who are entering or re-entering the workforce to obtain the skills and education they need to improve their employment status through higher education.

## **NCR Past Governor's Award**

This is a special award given by the North Central Region for a woman pursuing postgraduate studies. This \$2,000 award is given annually through special donations from local clubs within the North Central Region.

## **Resilience Award**

A new award being offered by Soroptimist International of the Twin Cities, the Resilience Award is intended to assist high school senior girls who have shown resilience and determination in overcoming difficult obstacles continue their post-secondary education.

## **Ruby Award**

This award is designed to honor women who work to improve the lives of women and girls through their personal or professional activities. Recipients are ordinary women who have worked in extraordinary ways to benefit women and girls. As part of the award, the organization most identified with this extraordinary woman receives a \$250 donation in their name.

# Stats & Facts

We will share our time, talents and financial resources to enrich our communities. Together, we will:

- improve the lives of women and girls
- help women achieve economic and political equality
- serve as a global voice for women
- provide outstanding leadership development opportunities for women
- enhance world peace and understanding

## Soroptimist Objectives

1. Increase access to formal and nonformal learning opportunities
2. Improve access to economic empowerment and sustainable opportunities for the employment of women
3. Eliminate violence against women and girls and ensure women's participation in conflict resolution
4. Ensure women and girls have food, security and access to the highest attainable standard of health care
5. Address the specific needs of women and girls by improving environmental sustainability, and mitigating effects of climate change and disasters

Reducing the incidence of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, self-image and education all depend not only on helping current and past victims, but in building a culture that values and respects the full human rights of women and girls.

## Facts About Human Trafficking

- The UN estimates that 27 million people are enslaved worldwide. That is more than at any other time in history. 80% of victims are female, of which, 50% are children. *(Kevin Bales, Free the Slaves and US Dept. of Justice)*
- Human trafficking is the fastest growing black market crime on the planet second only to drug dealing and generating an estimated \$32 billion per year. *(The UN)*
- The average age of entry into commercial sex in this country is 12-14 years old. *(UNICEF)*
- Females are typically sold for the purpose of sex. Domestic victims report being forced to service as many as 10 men per day on average. International victims report as many as 40 per day. *(Breaking Free)*
- Minnesota is ranked one of the top 13 states in the nation for highest incidence in recruitment of minors. *(FBI)*
- In 2010, the online sales of minor girls being sold in Minnesota increased by 55% over a six month period. *(Schapiro Group Study)*
- When asked, 89% of women and girls used in prostitution wanted to get out but didn't know where to turn for help. *(Journal of Trauma Practice 2, 2003)*

## Domestic Violence Statistics

- Every 9 seconds in the US a woman is assaulted or beaten.
- Around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime. Most often, the abuser is a member of her own family.
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women—more than car accidents, muggings and rapes combined.
- Studies suggest that up to 10 million children witness some form of domestic violence annually.
- Nearly 1 in 5 teenage girls who have been in a relationship said a boyfriend threatened violence or self-harm if presented with a breakup.
- Everyday in the US, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends.
- One in every three adolescent girls in the US is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner.
- 92% of women surveyed listed reducing domestic violence and sexual assault as their top concern.
- Domestic violence victims lose nearly 8 million days of paid work per year in the US alone—the equivalent of 32,000 full-time jobs.
- Based on reports from 10 countries, between 55 percent and 95 percent of women who had been physically abused by their partners had never contacted non-governmental organizations, shelters or the police for help.
- The costs of intimate partner violence in the US alone exceed \$5.8 billion per year: \$4.1 billion are for direct medical and health care services, while productivity losses account for nearly \$1.8 billion.
- Men who as children witnessed their parents' domestic violence were twice as likely to abuse their own wives than sons of nonviolent parents.

## Minnesota Stats About Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

- Nearly half of Minnesota women experience some kind of sexual abuse. (CDC 2011)
- About 22% of Minnesota women have been raped in their lifetime.
- More than 48% of Minnesota women have experienced sexual violence other than rape.

Source: [www.minnesota.publicradio.org](http://www.minnesota.publicradio.org)

# Our International Impact



**Soroptimist International** has consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which oversees UN activities and policies promoting human rights. Representatives from Soroptimist International can request agenda items, submit written statements for circulation to all members of the council, make oral statements at meetings and contribute to other UN gatherings and seminars. Soroptimist representatives are volunteers and work in one of the four UN centers in New York City, Paris, Vienna or Geneva. It is in this forum that Soroptimist representatives can advocate for the Soroptimist mission of improving the lives of women and girls.

Each year, on Human Rights Day (December 10), the President of Soroptimist International announces a project for all the local clubs to participate in. The current project is "Birthing in the Pacific."

## Key Facts and Objectives

Three women per day die in Papua, New Guinea due to complications of pregnancy or childbirth. Birthing in the Pacific aims to save lives by increasing access to skilled birth attendants and health care services in Papua, New Guinea. Soroptimist International works with local partners to apply international best practice and evidence.

## Project Activities

Working with relevant partners to support the roll-out of four levels of educational programs for birth attendants: for clinicians a Pacific Emergency Obstetric Care, for Community Health Workers maternal health and midwifery, for Village Birth Attendants literacy and reproductive health and for midwives learning exchange and professional development.

Helping to ensure that midwives and other birth attendants have suitable equipment for work and training, such as: an obstetric wheel, a calendar to help birth attendants and pregnant women work out their due date, to plan delivery; a "Karim work bilum," pouch of essential tools for safe deliveries, and training aids such as Neo Natalie dolls.

The project team is also auditing facilities for emergency obstetric care to identify the need for improvements.

**"There are still 1,000 women dying a day due to pregnancy and childbirth complications. That is like two giant jumbo jets full of women crashing down daily."**

—Julie Marsaban, SISWP

# Our Federation Impact



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## Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA)

is one of four federations that make up Soroptimist International. SIA clubs are located in 20 countries and territories:

Argentina	Guam	Peru
Bolivia	Guatemala	Philippines
Brazil	Japan	Puerto Rico
Canada	Korea	Taiwan
Chile	Mexico	United States
Colombia	Panama	Venezuela
Ecuador	Paraguay	

**Our programs are the heart of our mission and work, and they continue to empower women and girls everywhere to live their dreams. In 2010-2011:**

- In total \$2,229,354 was disbursed both directly and through our clubs
- This benefited 7,638 women, who are now on their way to better lives
- More than \$1.5 million went to Women's Opportunity Awards (1,221 women), our cornerstone program

### **Additional major programs include:**

- Soroptimist Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence
- Violet Richardson Award
- Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls
- Soroptimists STOP Trafficking
- Disaster Relief

**“Don't be afraid of the space between your dreams and reality. If you can dream it, you can make it so.”**

—Belva Davis

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

# *Soroptimist White Papers*

An organization dedicated to assisting women and girls, Soroptimist aims to create true social and economic equality for women and girls. As a public service, Soroptimist provides white papers on various topics relevant to women that can help those who wish to become more educated about issues facing today's women, or learn what can be done to provide direct assistance to women in need.

**Women and Aging** Examine the issue of women and aging, including concerns around health care; economic security; retirement; violence; housing and caregiving.

**Putting Girls First** Examine three basic areas in which girls face systemic gender inequalities: education, health and violence.

**Unhappily Ever After: The Plight of Child and Mail-Order Brides** Examine the issues of child marriage and mail-order brides, practices that rely on the historical, social and cultural beliefs that view marriage as an economic transaction.

**Women and HIV/AIDS** Read about the many factors that make women vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, as well as the devastating consequences of the disease.

**Teen Dating Violence** Examine the issue of teen dating violence and learn about the obstacles teenagers face when deciding to end an abusive relationship.

**The Gender Wage Gap** Read about why women are earning less than men, long term affects of this issue and global solutions that could close the gender pay gap.

**Balancing Work and Family Life** Examine the many issues women around the world face as they juggle work and family life, and learn about what decision-makers are doing to help parents find balance.

**Women at Work** Learn about women in the working world, the issues they face and what needs to be done to them.

**Women and Education** Read about how schooling impacts a woman's financial status, health and social well-being, and what can be done to end gender disparity in education.

**The New Face of Slavery** Learn about the trafficking of women and girls worldwide, and find out what can be done to end this widespread problem.

**Women and Cardiovascular Disease** Learn about the number one killer of women and how they can protect themselves from this deadly disease.

**Women and Poverty** Explore poverty as a gender issue and find out what can be done to end the growing problem that affects women the world over.

**Reaching Out to Women When Disaster Strikes** Learn about the special challenges facing women during natural disasters and acts of war, and what can be done to assist this vulnerable population.

**Domestic Violence as a Workplace Concern** Examine the ways that domestic violence can affect the workplace, and what businesses can do to keep their employees safe.

### **Breast Cancer and Low-Income Women**

Learn how women throughout the world are affected by breast cancer by varying degrees.

**Prostitution is Not a Choice** Read about how the world's oldest "oppression" continues to be one of the most overlooked human rights abuses of women.

*Source: [www.soroptimist.org/whitepapers/whitepapers.html](http://www.soroptimist.org/whitepapers/whitepapers.html)*



**When we dare to dream for women and girls,  
amazing things can happen. They go forward with  
courage to do great things for themselves, their  
families, communities and the world.**



# Our Local Impact



**Soroptimist International of the Twin Cities (SITC)** is one of 15 chapters within the North Central Region of SIA federation that covers:

Iowa • Minnesota • Nebraska  
North Dakota • South Dakota

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For the past few years, the Twin Cities chapter has strategically focused on human trafficking, domestic violence and empowerment through educational awards, awareness, advocacy and hands-on service.

## **Community impact in the past two years has included:**

- Over \$4,000 in educational awards to deserving local women and girls overcoming adversity
- Over \$3,000 donated to award winning local organizations dedicated to the elimination of human trafficking and assistance to survivors such as: Breaking Free, Civil Society, Sarah's...Oasis for Women and Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center
- Hands-on service projects and donations to: Jeremiah Program, Sarah's...Oasis for Women, Robert B. Lewis House, Habitat for Humanity and Emergency Foodshelf Network

## **Other community impacts include:**

- A Child Slavery Art Exhibit from child victims of human trafficking at the Minnesota State Capitol was held to raise awareness about human trafficking. The Twin Cities club worked with Civil Society, a St. Paul agency that provides victims with food, shelter and medical and legal help. (2011)
- Hosted a *Dreams Die Hard* human trafficking awareness event at the Varsity Theatre, Minneapolis (2009)
- The Twin Cities club was awarded a \$7,500 grant from SIA that allowed us to provide services to the Robert B. Lewis House (of 360 Communities) that included mentoring and tax assistance, financial assistance that would allow women to maintain their path forward in recovery from domestic violence when other funding was not available. Examples include payment of first month's car insurance to maintain transportation to work and storage facility rent to avoid losing what little possessions the women had when they came to the Lewis House. (2008)

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

# Fiscal Responsibility

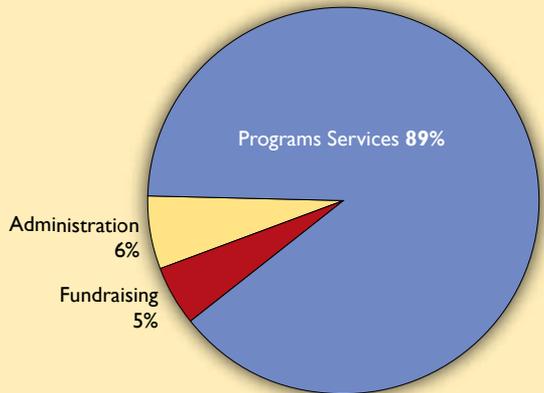
A Nonprofit Operational Analysis is a measure of how well the organization is managing money with regard to its sector and mission. For 2010-2011, SIA received an above average rating, which means the organization is managing its money well when compared to others in the women's rights revenue category. Find us on [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org).

## Soroptimist International of the Twin Cities Financial Analysis

SITC works very hard with area merchants to gather inkind donations whenever possible, allowing 89% of all funds to go directly to programs and services compared with an industry average of 78%. Soroptimist International of the Twin Cities is a recognized public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, Federal Tax ID #41-6025028.



**90% of all programs and services funding stays within the Twin Cities community to benefit local women and girls.**



# What We Can Accomplish Together

**\$50**

Provides a new resident welcome kit (*basic hygiene essentials—  
toothpaste, soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, sanitary supplies, etc.*)  
at Sarah's...Oasis for Women and their birthday gift card

• • •

**10 people donating \$50 each**

Provides an additional Resilience Award to a deserving  
high school senior girl to pursue her educational goals

• • •

**15 people donating \$100 each**

Provides an additional Women's Opportunity Award  
to a deserving woman head of household to  
pursue her educational goals

• • •

**One person donating \$50 per month**

Provides an additional Resilience Award

# You can help women and girls through Soroptimist

**Sponsor** – make a monetary donation (monthly or one time)

**Volunteer** – your time or services to assist in a local club project

**Join** – become a member of the local club

**Educate** – host a joint awareness event with the local club



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**[www.SoroptimistTwinCities.org](http://www.SoroptimistTwinCities.org) | 612-770-4201**



Soroptimist International is a vibrant, dynamic organization for today's professional and business women. We are committed to a world where women and girls together achieve their individual and collective potential, realize aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.