



PROJECT OF THE MONTH

This month's winner is SI Stuttgart (Germany) for their funding efforts of "Water for Haiti". The Programme Focus Objective of this PFR is no. 5: Improve access to clean water, sanitation and essential food resources.

With the help of the State Academy of Music and Performing Arts, SI Stuttgart organized a terrific concert. Numerous tickets were sold and the end result was an impressive sum of 24,000 EUR. The entire amount was donated to the organization arche noVa. They have been present in Haiti since shortly after the earthquake one year ago. Arche noVa used the fund to construct a complete water system (with public showers, toilets and drinking water supply) for two big schools in a very poor area of Haiti.

PFR no. 17720 asserts that it was advantageous for SI Stuttgart that the head of arche noVa himself presented the project in Stuttgart. We congratulate SI Stuttgart for this magnificent work!

An updated Programme Focus Report form will soon be available on :
www.soroptimistinternational.org
username : sie
password : geneva

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2011 !!!

The Federation Programme Team wishes you all a New Year filled with happiness, adventure, joy and good health! We are determined to continue the wonderful efforts of Soroptimists worldwide to transform the lives of women and girls. We count on your persistent support!



It's a Convention Year !

Registration, hotel, official airline and social event information are now available on the website for the July 10 to 14 Convention in

Montréal, Canada. To register, please visit:

<http://www.si-montreal2011.org/registration.html>

The SI/E Board has decided to offer a limited number of participants from the European Federation a grant of €1000 to partially cover the expenses. Please send your applications with the details of the anticipated travel costs to SI/E headquarters at siehq@soroptimisteurope.org by the end of February 2011.

Soroptimist Project Matching - Got Projects, Need Funding!

One of SI/E and SIA's major efforts this past year was launching the Soroptimist Project Matching website: <http://www.soroptimistprojects.org/>. There are currently eight projects listed that require funding. If, as a club, you feel that the entire project costs are too high for you to fund, we would kindly ask you to visit the site, choose a project and co-fund it together with other clubs from your Union. All these projects need financial support to start the implementation process. We will also publish a major article in "The Link" about successful matchings.

This month we feature: SI Suburban Essex's project **"Emergency Care Kits for Sexual Assault Victims."** This project seeks to provide immediate resources to victims of sexual assault. Since each year hundreds of sexual assaults are reported in Essex County, New Jersey, USA, SI Suburban Essex works with the Essex County Rape Care Center (RCC) to meet the needs of these victims. Members of SISE are trained as advocates who work directly with the victims of assault. This project provides victims with the kits called HUGS: Healing, Understanding and Great Strength, containing cloths, socks, underwear and toiletries. The funds required are \$ 4000.

To fund this project, please email
suba@soroptimisteurope.org

SI/E Best Practice Award 2011 and Water Best Practice Award 2011

During the Governors' Meeting in Palermo, Italy, different projects will be awarded SI/E Best Practice Award 2011 and Water Best Practice Award 2011. For the SI/E Best Practice Awards in the ten Programme Focus Objectives, each Union is eligible to nominate 2 projects per objective and each Single Club can recommend 1 project per objective. We kindly ask for each Union and Single Club to additionally submit 1 project that has, in your opinion, reached the excellence in the area of water and sanitation. Please use the same guidelines as for the Best Practice Awards.

The entry form and the project description criteria have been distributed to all Unions and Single Clubs and are available on www.soroptimisteurope.org. Please send in your entries to suba@soroptimisteurope.org on or before **February 15, 2011**.

2011 - International Year of Forests

2011 has been declared as the International Year of Forests by the UN General Assembly. The purpose is to promote sustainable management, conservation and development of forests worldwide, given the crucial role played by forests in terms of biodiversity and environment.

Deforestation has serious effects on the ecological balance but also affects the lives of women in many areas of the world, and mainly

communities that they depend on forest resources for their survival. In these communities, women are often the first providers of forest resources such as food, wood and medicinal plants, and are the guardians of traditional knowledge. Thus women's roles as users and preservers of forests need to be recognized more strongly by local, national and international actors, in order to facilitate their integration at all levels of decision-making processes of forest conservation strategies and programmes. For more information, please visit http://www.un.org/en/events/iyo_f2011/



February 6 – International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation

The commemoration of February 6 is vital to draw world attention to the millions of girls that fall victims to female genital mutilation. Soroptimists are encouraged to organize activities on this day to mark the event.

February 20 – World Day of Social Justice

February 20th has been defined as the World Day of Social Justice by the UN in order to contribute to the promotion of a social approach towards development, integrating gender equity, social well-being, and human rights as core values of all societies.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will take place from 22 February – 4 March 2011 at the UN Headquarters in New York. This year's thematic focus of the Commission will be "Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work."

Featured Websites:



www.stop-fgm-now.com

"Female genital mutilation has nothing to do with culture, tradition or religion. It is torture and a crime. Help us to put an end to this crime." - Waris Dirie

This campaign is attempting to join forces in the fight against FGM, help the affected women and protect endangered girls.

www.wilpfinternational.org

Founded in 1915, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is the oldest women's peace organization in the world. Today, it's an international NGO based in 37 countries. Ensuring a gender perspective, WILPF lobbies governments, connects communities, monitors and contributes to the work of the UN.

Women of Africa

<http://www.womenofafrica.org>

Women of Africa (WOA) is an NGO created in 2002. It aims to establish sustainable development projects focused on women and children. Its major concern is the empowerment of the local population for their own development.



The Programme Team
Soroptimist International of Europe
72 rte de Florissant,
1206 Geneva
Switzerland

Tel : +41 22 346 08 80

E-mail: suba@soroptimisteurope.org
www.soroptimisteurope.org