

# Welcome to the Soroptimist International of Placerville's Website.

Please take the time to look around to see who we are and how we serve our community. Hopefully you will discover that you would like to be a part of what we do and will want to join us. Leave your comments below.

A message from the President...

Welcome to our club! We would be thrilled to have you as a member of Soroptimist



International of Placerville (SIP). We are a global women's organization whose members work to improve the lives and women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. Soroptimist programs focus on providing women and girls with access to education, which is one of the most effective ways to end social problems disproportionately affecting women and girls.

Soroptimist International (SI) has consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council, which oversees U.N. activities and policies promoting human rights. It is in this forum that Soroptimist representatives can advocate for the Soroptimist mission of improving the lives of women and girls. Our past efforts have been, in conjunction with other SI clubs, to purchase solar cookers for women of Darfur, Sudan.

As part of our mission to assist women and girls' economic empowerment through education, we award many educational scholarships and awards. We present three (3) yearly scholarships to high school seniors. We provide each of these girls with a \$1,000 scholarship to help defray the educational costs.



2018 Winners Pictured L to R: Angelic, Alyssa, Grace, Friday, Hayden & Kaitlin

Our **“Live Your Dream Award”** of \$2,500 is given to assist women who provide the primary source of financial support for their families. Our **Violet Richardson Award** is given to a teen girl who contributes to her community through their volunteer work; a donation to their charitable organization is also given.

Our newest global program is **“Dream it, Be It: Career Support for Girls.”** “Dream it Be It” focuses on girls in secondary school who face obstacles to their future success. The idea of this program is to provide girls with access to professional role models, career education and the resources to live their dreams. We have delivered this mentoring, dream-building curriculum for the past four (4) years in Placerville High Schools; we are in the planning stages of our 2018-19 partnership with Independence High School in Placerville. We look forward to another successful year serving these high school girls.

Our awards and many of the programs we support are financed through club fundraisers. Our primary event is *A Chocolate Affair* (We may have met you there!) We have been doing this fundraiser for over 20 years. This event takes a lot of community involvement and countless members' hours. Join us February 9, 2019 for our 21<sup>st</sup> *A Chocolate Affair*.



Our signature “giving” program, called Helping Hands, provides funds for women experiencing emergencies. Through partnerships with many local agencies we provide financial assistance to help women and their families. You can read more about this under the Helping Hands Tab. During Club year 2017-2018 we gave approximately \$15,000. You can imagine the joy we feel to know that we helped over 35 families secure employment, reach educational goals or simply keep them from homelessness.



We also support many local service agencies such as The Center for Violence Free Relationships, CASA of El Dorado County and Courage Worldwide (providing restorative services to trafficked minor girls) to name just a few. Additionally, in the past 2 years we've donated \$3,500 to fund solar lights destined for families in rural Bongo community in Ghana. Sadly, most Ghana families are forced to use kerosene lanterns because there is no electricity. The fumes from the kerosene lanterns result in serious respiratory diseases and health issues, including blindness. Imagine the difficulties for children to complete their studies, or midwives trying to deliver babies at night in dark rooms filled with carbon dioxide. Our donation purchased 120+ lanterns which have been delivered to Ghana on our behalf.



Whew! I know that sounds like a lot, but we do it together. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 530-613-4757. Again, welcome to our club's website!!

Debbie Rice  
President  
Soroptimist International of Placerville