

**Soroptimist**  
[suh-rop-tuh-mist]

Join us today!



**noun.** A global volunteer network of women who work to improve the lives of women and girls.

*Best for women.* What the organization strives to be—women at our best, helping other women to be *their* best.

See [SOROPTIMIST.ORG](http://SOROPTIMIST.ORG).

## Soroptimist Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Soroptimist?

Soroptimist is a global women's organization whose members work to improve the lives of 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.

### What is the organization's mission?

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

### Why does Soroptimist focus on women and girls?

Soroptimist was formed because in 1921 women who were interested in volunteering in their communities were not permitted to join male service organizations. Since that time, the organization has worked to help women improve their standing in the world. Despite tremendous strides, women still do not enjoy equal economic or social status with their male counterparts. As an organization of and for women, Soroptimist feels uniquely qualified to tackle the challenges facing today's women and girls.

### What programs does Soroptimist offer?

Soroptimist offers several programs that improve the lives of women and girls and every club is encouraged to participate in SIA's Dream Programs—Live Your Dream: Education & Training Awards for Women (formerly Women's Opportunity Awards) and Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls.

The Live Your Dream: Education and Training Awards for Women assists women who provide the primary source of financial support for their families by giving them the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects. Each year, nearly \$1.9 million in education grants are awarded to more than 1,300 women, many of whom have overcome enormous obstacles including poverty, domestic violence, death of a spouse, and/or drug and alcohol abuse. Uniquely, Live Your Dream Award recipients may use the cash grants to offset any costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education, such as books, childcare, tuition and transportation.

Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls helps girls grow up to be strong, successful, happy adults by targeting girls in secondary school who face obstacles to their future success. It provides girls with access to professional role models, career education and the resources to live their dreams. Soroptimists work in partnership with girls in small groups or a conference setting to provide information and resources they want and need to be successful.

### How are Soroptimist programs funded?

Soroptimist programs are funded by investment income, member dues, and contributions from clubs and members. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, Soroptimist also depends on outside contributions from businesses and individuals who support the Soroptimist mission. Visit [Soroptimist.org](http://Soroptimist.org) for more information.