Gold River Messenger

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Soroptimists Receive Proclamation

Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova & Gold River

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Mayor Garrett Gatewood presented the Soroptimist Int'l of Rancho Cordova & Gold River club with a proclamation honoring the Soroptimist organization's 100th birthday during the October 4, 2021 City Council meeting. The proclamation celebrated the origin of the Soroptimist organization and the local club's accomplishments helping the community's at-risk women and students.

In 1921, a group of women joined an organization in Oakland, California, called Soroptimist, to work toward strengthening their community. At the time, women weren't permitted to join the all-male community groups. Since then, the organization has grown to about 1,300 clubs in 21 countries and territories throughout the world. Soroptimist Int'l of Rancho Cordova & Gold River formed in 2009.

Soroptimist Club Members at Rancho Cordova City Hall (L to R): Club member Rhoda Stewart, club VP Sheryl Longsworth, club member Julie Abraham, and club member Tara Dietel. Photo provided by SIRC&GR

A lot has changed for women and girls in 100 years. But the road to equality continues to be difficult. Women and girls face tremendous challenges, solely because of their gender. And they suffer disproportionately from poverty, racism, sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking.

With its long history of working with women and girls, Soroptimist knows that helping them get education, skills and training is a powerful strategy toward achieving economic empowerment. The organization's Dream Programs provide the access to that necessary education and training.

The Live Your Dream Awards® provide cash grants for women who are pursuing a degree or enrolled in a technical training program. The women, who provide the primary financial support for their families, may use the funds in any way that helps them achieve their educational goals – whether it's to pay for tuition or rent or childcare. Each

Continued on page 10

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Continued from page 1

year approximately 1,800 women receive almost $3 million in cash grants. Since 1972, the program has helped more than 33,000 women and their families gain financial independence. The Soroptimist Int'l of Rancho Cordova & Gold River club has given Live Your Dream awards to 18 deserving women!

Soroptimist's Dream It, Be It® (DIBI) program prepares girls for future career success by providing them with guidance, training and resources. to make good decisions. More than 73,000 girls have gone through the program since it launched in 2015. The Soroptimist Int'l of Rancho Cordova & Gold River club held its first DIBI program virtually with eight secondary school-age girls in December 2020 and their second DIBI program is presently underway with another eight girls.

"Our club is proud to participate in the Dream Programs, as well as other community projects including working with local military veteran and human trafficking organizations and working with the Folsom Cordova USD homeless liaison to support our local homeless and at-risk students," said Club Vice President, Sheryl Longsworth. ★