



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

We are in uncertain times as the world faces a global pandemic. While no one is immune to COVID-19 and its effect on our lives, we know that women will suffer the most.



Women were doing three times as much unpaid care work as men before the onset of COVID-19.¹ As schools close, caregiving and virtual schooling responsibilities for children are falling even more heavily on women.



Women employees dominate the industries that have been most economically impacted by closures: hospitality, restaurants, and domestic workers.² These women are being laid off and facing the pandemic without health insurance.



The majority of frontline healthcare workers are women. Their risk of infection is increasing as they face shortages of protective equipment.



Women in domestic violence situations are even more at risk as they experience isolation while sheltering-in-place with an abuser.

Live Your Dream Award recipients are facing all of these realities along with additional challenges. They need our support now more than ever ...



Ninety-two percent of *Live Your Dream Award* recipients are single and providing financial support and caregiving for an average of two dependents.



More than half of our *Live Your Dream Award* recipients have experienced gendered forms of violence.



Live Your Dream Award recipients are on the front lines fighting this pandemic—nearly 80 percent of them go into fields like healthcare, mental health, or education.

How can you support your *Live Your Dream Award* Recipients?*

- If you're sewing masks, share masks with your recipients.
- Ask how you can support those working in essential positions.
- Consider whether your club can assist past recipients with their need for technology for education.
- Share local domestic violence resources with all of your past recipients.
- Share online resources to assist parents with helping to educate their children.
- Simply reach out and check in over the phone, email, or postal mail. Connection helps all of us feel less isolated.
- Send a care package of essential items like toilet paper, sanitizing products, or shelf-stable food. Include fun items as well, such as magazines, candy, or anything that may bring a bit happiness to your recipient or her family!

¹Women and COVID-19: Five things governments can do now. *Bhatia, Anita*. UN Women. March 26th, 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/3/news-women-and-covid-19-governments-actions-by-ded-bhatia>

² Ibid.

*Always follow physical distancing and safer-at-home advisories from your local authorities while implementing any of these ideas to keep you and your community safe.