



Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS, INC.®

Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls

2019-2020 Impact Report

Each year, Soroptimist International of the Americas awards Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls to Soroptimist clubs throughout the federation. By addressing specific local needs, these grants help clubs make a lasting difference in the lives of women and girls in their communities.

In order to prepare for Soroptimist's second century, our SIA board of directors has identified a strategy of increasing our collective impact. This strategy has begun to produce results: an increase in our Dream Programs impact; our supporters engaged in LiveYourDream.org; more and diverse funders; and a slowdown in our membership decline. In order to continue these improvements, we need to continue the strategic direction of increased collective impact identified by our board of directors. As a result, projects related to the Soroptimist Dream Programs are now given preference when making funding decisions for Soroptimist Club Grants.

For the 2019-2020 club year, 23 projects received grants totaling \$50,500. Grants ranged from \$500 to \$4,500 each and were given to clubs in six different countries: Brazil, Canada, Japan, the Philippines, the United States of America, and Venezuela.

Clubs that receive grants provide information about project objectives and outcomes, including stories of participants. Eighteen projects have been completed to date. One club declined their grant and four clubs received extensions.

The results from the final impact reports are as follows:

- 94% of clubs reached their stated objectives
- 2,203 women and girls were served
- The average cost per life changed was \$18.38
- 1,510 women and girls were provided opportunities for economic advancement
- 259 women and girls gained access to educational opportunities
- 83 women and girls were given tools and resources to help them live free from violence
- 350 women and girls gained access to healthcare
- 1 woman was able to rebuild her life following a disaster

Listed below are three samples from the 2019-2020 final impact reports:

SI/Tri-Cities (Western Canada Region)

\$4,000

Project Title: Bea's Closet

Project Focus: Economic Empowerment

SI/Tri-Cities operated a closet with furniture and home goods for women and girls to “shop” after transitioning out of domestic violence shelters in their area. The club had to pivot its model to continue providing this resource during COVID-19, and moved to a “curbside pickup” model to ensure that women were still equipped with what they needed to start their next chapter.

A note from one of their referral sources states: "Bea's Closet has been an invaluable resource for the families at Koomseh. Most often families arrive to our program with very few belongings and Bea's Closet provides them with all the home essentials for their new start in life. Not only does Bea's Closet provide house necessities, they also welcome the clients with so much kindness and care and create an environment where the mothers feel valued and safe."

Impact:

455 women and 910 girls obtained necessary items from the Closet

Women expressed in the evaluations that after shopping the Closet, they felt:

- a decrease in stress
- improved quality of life
- a decrease in barriers to setting up their new home

SI/Tokyo-Sakura (Japan Higashi Region)

\$2,500

Project Title: Dream It, Be It

Project Focus: Education

SI/Tokyo-Sakura partnered with SI/Tokyo-Yayoi, SI/Tokyo-Komae, and SI/Kawasaki-Yuri to provide a Dream It, Be It project to girls living in an orphanage. The clubs evaluated their work through Dream It, Be It evaluations and testimonials from participants. One participant stated that “It was a good opportunity to think about the future by participating to broaden my horizons.”

Impact:

15 girls living in an orphanage participated in the program

The project had the following outcomes:

- 87% of girls increased their ability to set achievable goals
- 93% were introduced to professional role models
- 87% feel more confident about their future success
- Increased the number of clubs working together to achieve the mission.

SI/Miranda (America del Sur Region)

\$3,000

Project Title: Training for Geriatric Caregivers

Project Focus: Economic Empowerment

SI/Miranda provided training to women resulting in a diploma for women to obtain jobs providing care for elderly people with Alzheimer's disease and other illnesses. By learning an accredited trade in a short amount of time, these women are prepared to enter the workforce immediately after completing their diploma and can begin improving their financial situation through employment.

Impact:

39 out of 45 women (87% of participants) were able to obtain their diploma in the program, increasing their employability and economic empowerment.

2019-2020 Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls:

Club Name	Region	Project Title	Amount Granted
Central Jersey Coast, NJ	North Atlantic Region	Dignity Part II	\$ 2,500
Clovis, CA	Sierra Pacific Region	Dream It, Be It	\$ 2,000
Cubatao	Brazil Region	Dream It, Be It	\$ 2,500
Goiania Cora Coralina	Brazil Region	Fashion and Sewing School	\$ 4,500
Gumaca	Philippines Region	Gumaca Teen Center	\$ 3,000
Ishinomaki-Sant-Juan	Japan Kita Region	Housing Repair	\$ 500
Kagoshima	Japan Minami Region	Support for Victims of Sex Crimes	\$ 2,500
Martinez, CA	Founder Region	La Casa Ujima Project	\$ 2,500
Medford, OR	Northwestern Region	Dream It, Be It	\$ 1,500
Miranda	America del Sur Region	Training for Geriatric Caregivers	\$ 3,000
Okanogan Valley, WA	Northwestern Region	Dream It, Be It	\$ 2,000
Porto Alegre	Brazil Region	Transforming Lives	\$ 3,000
Rio Negro	Brazil Region	Conceiving New Dreams	\$ 2,000
Rio Vista, CA	Founder Region	Dream It, Be It	\$ 500
Sao Bento Do Sul	Brazil Region	Dream It, Be It	\$ 2,500
Snyder, Union & Northumberland Counties, Inc., PA	North Atlantic Region	Dream It, Be It Conference	\$ 1,500
Tokyo-Sakura	Japan Higashi Region	Dream It, Be It	\$ 2,000
Toms River Area, NJ	North Atlantic Region	Dream It, Be It	\$ 1,500

2019-2020 Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls Impact Report

Trenton Area, MI	Midwestern Region	Dream It, Be It	\$ 2,000
Tri Cities (The), BC	Western Canada Region	Bea's Closet	\$ 4,000
Vandalia, IL	South Central Region	Soroptimists Skill Center for Trafficking Survivors	\$ 2,000
Yamanashi	Japan Higashi Region	Project to Support Girls Leaving Orphanages	\$ 2,000

For a detailed description of any club project, please contact the program department at program@soroptimist.org.