



A global volunteer organization that economically empowers women and girls by providing access to education, the single most effective anti-poverty intervention.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS

Our Target Population

Soroptimists believe EVERY woman and girl has a right to live her dream. It's stated in our vision: Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams. We know all women and girls can face discrimination solely because of their gender. We also know some women and girls face greater challenges because of circumstances that have or could derail their dreams.

Working in 21 countries and territories, Soroptimist economically empowers women and girls who have faced obstacles such as poverty, violence and teen pregnancy. Through our Dream Programs, Soroptimist provides these women and girls with access to the education and skills training they need to reach their full potential and live their dreams.

We do this work because we believe:

- some women and girls face specific barriers to reaching their full potential and living their dreams and these are the women and girls who need our help;
- quality education, more than any other intervention, holds the greatest potential to transform the lives of women and girls;
- women and girls who have faced obstacles such as poverty, sexual and domestic violence, homelessness, addiction, teen pregnancy and other circumstances are in most need of access to resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams;
- our Dream Programs specifically support the UN Secretary General's call for accelerating women's economic empowerment because they are rooted in the UN agenda for women's equality;
- our brand-unifying Dream Programs can maximize Soroptimist's impact on these women and girls and help us to be better known for our work;
- our Dream Programs have the highest potential to improve the lives of the women and girls they benefit, and also their families, communities and the world at large.

Who are the specific women and girls we are trying to reach through the Dream Programs?

Live Your Dream Awards

For this award, we seek applicants who have overcome obstacles and are trying to get their lives back on track, build a better life for themselves and their families, and lift themselves and their families out of poverty through education and skills training. These women—who have dependents—have overcome obstacles including domestic and sexual violence, teen pregnancy, addiction, health issues, the death of a family member, or mental health issues. They want to increase their standard of living but lack the financial resources to access the education and training to succeed.

Around the world, head of household women have the highest poverty rates. Helping these women improve their education and skills offers them the best chance of improving their lives and the lives of their children—ensuring more positive outcomes for generations to come.

Dream It, Be It

For this program, we seek girls who do not have access to the resources or information they need to adequately plan for their futures. We focus on girls in secondary school who, in most cases, are between the ages of 14 and 18. We aim to empower girls at risk for having their dreams derailed because of obstacles including poverty, unstable home lives, living in foster care, or teen pregnancy. They lack access to professional role models and career education, and do not understand the steps needed to accomplish their goals. Helping these girls identify their career goals and path to success will empower them to overcome the barriers they face now and in their future in order to live their dreams.

In order for this strategy to continue to be successful, we must continue to change the way we think and the way that we approach our work. We need to align our resources at every level – club, region and federation – to focus on the Dream Programs. We know our Dream Programs:

- Are evidence-based
- Create a measurable impact on women and girls
- Address a need in all of our communities
- Support the work that matters to us including ending violence against women and girls and lifting them out of poverty
- Define our impact to a larger audience
- Appeal to potential members and supporters
- Attract funders

Working together, following the same strategy, reaching for the same goals, focusing on our common mission and programs, we can do everything that is important to us including securing the future of Soroptimist for generations to come.