

“Why She Gives:” Marie Kennedy

1921 Visionaries

Are you familiar with the 1921 Visionaries, Soroptimist’s recognition program for members who give for at least 5 consecutive years? To start on your membership, be sure to give a gift before the year ends. Some members have been giving for nearly two decades! Marie Kennedy is one such member, and we asked her about why she believes in the importance of supporting women and girls through Soroptimist. Here is her moving answer:



“When I joined Soroptimist in 1990, I had no idea of how it would change my life. My limited focus of work, family, my little part of the world exploded into an awareness of the tremendous struggles of women in my own community and in countries that I had little knowledge of. And Soroptimist gave me a way to connect with them and to help them in a very real way, locally and globally.

My first International Convention in San Francisco in 1995 was exhilarating and resulted in worldwide friendships that continue to this day. Each time I answered the call to leadership, first as Club President and eventually Region Governor, then Chair of the Fundraising Council, my commitment to the Soroptimist mission grew stronger.

I have been a proud member of the Laurel Society for the last 15 years, almost from its inception. It was my privilege to serve as Region chair and to speak about it at meetings ... to take every opportunity to inspire more members to join because I believe so deeply in the importance of the work of Soroptimist.

The Laurel Society provides a way for me to make Soroptimist my “charity of choice”, to put my money where my mouth is and to ensure that the programs that it funds will continue to have an impact on our world and the world to come.

As a wise woman once said: ‘If not us, then who?’”