



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

The Development DISPATCH

A Publication of Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.®

100 Years of Transforming Lives!

PAST

Fifty years ago, Terezinha Nunes boarded a plane to Chicago to meet the women who would change her life forever. A group of Soroptimists had heard the story of a young woman in Brazil whose dream was to improve the education system. They wanted to help pay for her schooling. Thanks to the generosity of those Soroptimists, Terezinha went on to become an accomplished education researcher and a Professor at the University of Oxford.

"I can't begin to tell you how important that gift from Soroptimist was for me," said Terezinha. "Without that initial push, without that gift, I would not be who I am today. I would not have been able to give back to my community as I did."

PRESENT

Earlier in 2021, Soroptimist announced our federation *Live Your Dream Awards* recipients. One of those women was Lindsay, a member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe. Lindsay's dream is to finish her degree in psychology and give back to her community. She recently founded a non-profit to provide Indigenous communities with social and wellness support through youth mentorship and outreach services. But she wants to do more.

"Currently, there is no Psychologist on my reservation. **With the help of the *Live Your Dream Awards*, I can [...] provide the better mental health care needed within my community.**"

FUTURE

For a century, Soroptimists have been helping women and girls like Terezinha and Lindsay live their dreams. To build on the success of our collective impact these past 100 years, we are excited to begin our 2021-2031 Big Goal that will launch us into our second century. Alongside our leaders, clubs and members, we will begin to invest in the dreams of half a million women and girls!

So we wish to say **thank you for your generosity**, which is making this impact possible—from our bright past to our brilliant future!

Laurel Legacy: Leaving A Mark

October 3, 2021 will mark Soroptimist's 100th birthday and we will be celebrating our history and legacy with members from around the world!

What better way to honor this historic moment than by making a legacy gift?

Learn more about the ways you can give or request more information about becoming a Laurel Legacy member by contacting Erica Cheslock, Director of Donor Relations, at erica@soroptimist.org or give us a call at 215-893-9000.

You will also receive a special Laurel Legacy pin upon joining!



Message from your Fund Development Leaders

"I am honored to serve as your President for the 2021-2022 year! I am incredibly excited to pay tribute to our past century of accomplishments and lead us into our next century of supporting women and girls through our life-changing Live Your Dream Awards and Dream It, Be It programs!"



Kazuko Morita
SIA President,
2021-2022

"As we embark on our 2021-2031 Big Goal of serving half a million women and girls through our Dream Programs, I am reminded of the women and girls whose lives we have already changed. I am grateful to serve as the Fundraising Council Chair for this year to ensure we can continue our programs long into the future!"



Chihiro Kon
SIA Fundraising
Council Chair,
2021-2022

Meet Sheila Jefferson-Ross, Stargazer for 10 years!



Sheila Jefferson-Ross
SI/Sacramento North, CA

Sheila was born and raised in California. Growing up, she was not encouraged to attend college, nor did her parents have the resources for tuition. Instead, Sheila went straight to work. Luckily, she found a company that supported her education and growth and helped her to go back to school. Today, Sheila is proud to have her own business!

During the 2008 Convention in Taiwan, Sheila was moved to make her first donation to support our global Dream Programs. A few years later, she heard about recurring giving and found that a smaller donation each month was easy to manage. Sheila is often reminded of the company that helped her go back to school and believes in supporting SIA so women around the world can follow their educational dreams.

Sheila wants all members who love our mission to know joining Stargazers is a great way to contribute! She knows if those funds were to stop, there would be a lot of women who could miss out on a chance to live their dream.

You can join Sheila as a Stargazer by returning the included slip or by donating online here: <https://sorooptimist.org/stargazers.html>

Join us in Seoul, Korea for the 47th Biennial Convention!

Ensure that you receive an exclusive invitation to the famous **Laurel Society Event** which is a highlight of every convention! To receive an invitation, you must be considered active in our Laurel Society recognition during this 2020-2022 biennium by either:

- Reaching Attaché level (\$1,000) since September 1, 2020.
- If you've already reached Attaché prior to this biennium, contributing a minimum of \$500 since September 1, 2020.

The event has limited capacity, so it is **first come, first serve**. Be sure to achieve active status so you can save your spot once registration opens!

