

Soroptimist International

Founded in 1921, Soroptimist is an international organization for business and professional women who provide volunteer service to their communities. Almost 100,000 Soroptimists in about 120 countries and territories contribute time and financial support to community-based and international projects benefitting women and girls.

The name, Soroptimist, means “best for women”, and that’s what the organization strives to achieve. Soroptimists are women at their best working to help other women to be their best.

Soroptimist members belong to local clubs, which determine the focus of service to their communities. Club projects range from renovating domestic violence shelters, to providing support for prostheses and wigs for breast cancer patients, to sponsoring self-esteem workshops for teenage girls. In addition, Soroptimists participate in organization-wide programs that include the Women’s Opportunity Awards, Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls, the Soroptimist Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence, the Ruby Award and the Violet Richardson Award.

Making a Difference Around the World and in our Community

International Projects

Every four years, Soroptimist International launches a major international project in partnership with a charity, NGO or United Nations agency. Each project is designed to be self-sustaining by the end of SI’s four-year commitment. Soroptimist members around the world join forces to give active support to the chosen project and in doing so, have improved the lives of many thousands of women and children across the globe.

Each Federation takes it in turn to propose an international project. Our current project was initiated by Soroptimist International of Great Britain & Ireland.

Soroptimist International Quadrennial Project 2007 to 2011

Our current Quadrennial Project, [Project Sierra: A Family and a Future](#), was launched at Convention in July 2007. The project supports women caring for children in extreme poverty and provides a caring secure family home for children who are alone or at risk of abandonment. The project location is Sierra Leone, West Africa. Our project partner is Hope and Homes for Children.

Local Projects in York Region

SI York Region is dedicated to improving the lives of the women and girls of York Region with local projects. Areas of focus include mental and physical health, domestic and sexual assault and economic and social development.

Community Awards Honouring Women

SI York Region distributes community awards to women each year. Many of the women chosen have triumphed over daunting challenges. The awards help our recipients to cultivate new skills, further their education and regain independence.

Applications for awards are available in October of each year. Please see the Eastern Canada website for instructions and application forms - <http://www.ecsoroptimist.org/awards.html>

Applications are reviewed by a panel of community judges and all award winners are recognized at our March recognition banquet.

Women’s Opportunity Award - This monetary award assists women to improve their education, skills and employment prospects. Eligible applicants must be women who provide the primary financial support for their families and who are enrolled in or have been accepted to a vocational/skills training program or an undergraduate degree program.

Violet Richardson Award - This monetary award recognizes a female student’s contribution in volunteering with an organization in the community.

Ruby Award - This annual award recognizes a special woman in our community who has made a significant contribution to the lives of women or girls.

Our Mission: Improving the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world.

Becoming a Member

Soroptimists are women who use their special expertise and management skills to advance the work of the group. Members have opportunities for leadership development and are mentored by experienced members. Members choose one of our four planning groups of public awareness, program, membership or fundraising that suits their talents and interest. Everyone embraces the work generated in the spirit of making a difference.

Women who are active in business or professional careers, those embarking upon a career in a profession or business or those who have recently retired, are encouraged to join us. Belonging to Soroptimist offers the opportunity to work with like-minded women towards a common goal. An annual membership fee helps support international projects and club operations. Monthly meetings are held in the evening on the last Wednesday of every month from September to June.

Please contact us if you are interested in becoming a member of Soroptimist International of York Region. For contact information see the back panel.

Live Your Dream



Soroptimist members raise awareness about the unique challenges women face. Live your Dream inspires women and girls to live their dreams and encourages them to pass on their good fortune to others. The campaign celebrates the unique power and accomplishments of women and girls just like you. When women help themselves and one another, amazing things can happen.

Soroptimist International of York Region

19-13085 Yonge Street, Suite 374
Richmond Hill, ON., L4E 0K2

Email:

siyorkregion@gmail.com

Eastern Canada Region

www.ecsoroptimist.org

Soroptimist Foundation of Canada

www.soroptimistfoundation.ca

Soroptimist International of the Americas

www.soroptimist.org

Soroptimist International

www.soroptimistinternational.org

Soroptimist International of York Region



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

a global voice
for women

Soroptimist International



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women