

Soroptimist International
of Garden Grove
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FACT SHEET: Soroptimist International of Garden Grove

History: Soroptimist International of Garden Grove (SIGG) was chartered on November 1, 1987 with 21 members. Today, the club has approximately 30 members, all committed to the Soroptimist mission of improving the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.

Meetings: Meetings are held twice per month, at 12 noon on the second Thursday of the month, at Kiwanisland Park, 9840 Larson Avenue, Garden Grove; and at 6:00 p.m on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Marriott Suites Hotel at the intersection of Harbor Boulevard and Chapman Avenue. One meeting per month is devoted to the business of the club; the other meeting includes an educational program on an issue or community need related to women and girls.

Local Service Activities:

- *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens Training* – SIGG provides training in the Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens to teen mothers in the Garden Grove Unified School District. This program has recently been expanded to include training for teenage foster girls in Orange County's Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program through a grant from Soroptimist International of the Americas.
- *Soroptimist Women's Opportunity Award* – cash grant given annually to a woman head of household seeking to improve her economic status through education and training
- *Soroptimist Violet Richardson Award* – recognizes young women between the ages of 14 and 17 engaged in volunteer action within the community and/or their school
- *Soroptimist Ruby Award for Women Helping Women* – recognizes a woman in the community who is improving the lives of women and girls personally, professionally, or through volunteerism.
- *Soroptimists STOP Trafficking* – SIGG partners with other area Soroptimist clubs and the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force to raise public awareness about the trafficking of women and girls, primarily for purposes of sexual exploitation.
- *Soroptimist Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence* – SIGG participates in this annual effort to raise awareness about domestic violence as a workplace concern by placing cards with local domestic violence hotline information in local businesses and public restrooms.
- SIGG also provides financial support to Garden Grove area organizations working to improve the lives of women and girls.

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

International Service Activities:

- *Global Fund for Afghanistan* – For the last three years, SIGG has made a significant donation to this organization, earmarking the funds to plant orchards for cultivation by women heads of household in rural Afghanistan.
- *December 10th President's Appeal* – In honor of International Human Rights Day, SIGG makes a financial donation each year to an international project selected by the Soroptimist International President. The 2009 project, *Hope and Dreams for Everyone*, prevents human trafficking in Moldova by providing life skills education and sustainable living conditions for vulnerable girls. Mainly because of poverty, women and girls in Moldova are widely exposed to trafficking.
- *Project Sierra* – SIGG contributes financially to this four-year Soroptimist International Project, which provides education, job training, family reunification, and crisis support resources to teenage mothers in Sierra Leone, Africa, in partnership with Hope and Homes for Children.
- *Mary Nyanjega Academy* – SIGG sponsors two AIDs-orphan girls to attend school in Nairobi, Kenya for a year. In 2006, SIGG's contributions enabled the completion of a project to bring running water to the school.

Fund Raising Activities:

Funding to support SIGG's service activities comes from "The Really Low Tea," an annual event held in the spring. The Really Low Tea is a spoof of high teas, and involves hat contests, silent and live auctions, and other opportunities for community members to support SIGG programs while enjoying a fun, high-spirited luncheon. The 2010 Really Low Tea will be held at the Garden Grove Community Center in May. For more information, please visit our website, www.gardengrovesoroptimist.org, or contact Stacy Margolin at (714) 741-5168.

The Soroptimist Organization:

SIGG is part of Soroptimist International of the Americas, an international volunteer organization for business and professional women. Almost 95,000 Soroptimists in more than 120 countries and territories around the world contribute time and financial support to community-based projects benefiting women and girls. For more information about Soroptimist International of the Americas, please visit www.soroptimist.org. For more information about how Soroptimists around the world are a global voice for women, please visit www.soroptimistinternational.org.

For More Information:

Club Website: www.gardengrovesoroptimist.org

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