



SI Quadrennial Project 2007-11

Soroptimist Events update (August – October 2008)

Here are just some of the many events and activities around the world to promote Project Sierra: a Family and a Future. They illustrate the breadth of Soroptimists' engagement and inventiveness in finding ways to support our Quadrennial Project. Congratulations and thanks to ALL Soroptimists for your support. I hope that the details here, with the Ideas Bank, Programme Focus Report Forms and all the information from our partner Hope and Homes for Children on the website give you ideas and encouragement to build on our fantastic successes to date.

SI Dunfermline (SIGBI) has an ongoing focus on the Quadrennial Project and reserves time at each meeting to discuss progress. To renew their commitment after the first year, the club arranged a supper evening for members and guests. The evening included a meal, a presentation about the Project and our partner Hope and Homes for Children, a light hearted word game using words and phrases from Sierra Leone (to give some fun whilst maintaining a link to the subject) and a coin sorter collection.

Support for Project Sierra can be part of a wider programme of Awareness, Advocacy or Action on relevant areas of the SI Programme Focus. **SI Canterbury** (SIGBI) are currently compiling a book of poetry written by Soroptimists worldwide to highlight the beauty of poetry as a means of communication, to encourage the importance of literacy, promote understanding of different lifestyles and cultures AND support Project Sierra through sale proceeds! Soroptimists worldwide are invited to contribute a poem on the theme of My Life, My Work, My Town /Village, My Country or My World.

A second hand book exchange (**SI Dunfermline**) enabled Soroptimists to support recycling and re-using books, to focus on the education elements in Project Sierra and give a link to World Literacy Day.



Hope & Homes for Children

SI Brisbane City has become distributors for 'The Jammed', an Australian produced film on human trafficking. Proceeds from the sale of the DVD and public screenings (arranged under licence from the copyright owners) are shared between Project Sierra and an Australian NGO, Project Respect, that supports women who have been trafficked into Australia and local sex industry workers. The club has sold over 60 copies of the DVD, which has also been shown at SISWP conference and at a special public screening hosted **SI Westlands** (New Zealand), which raised money for Project Sierra.

SI Prescott Valley (Golden West Region, SIA) supported Project Sierra by holding a wine and cheese tasting at a local winery. The club's Programme theme was to act to end trafficking and violence against women, and to support our International Project and local club programmes. The Project Sierra DVD was shown and the afternoon included a silent auction. Funds were raised for Project Sierra and the club's women's scholarship fund. Another excellent and enjoyable way of bringing women and businesses within the community to promote Soroptimist programmes of local and international service.

The International Day of Peace saw clubs and regions linking their support for Project Sierra with a focus on Peace. In an initiative linking Soroptimists from 2 Federations, three SIGBI members (from **SI Rhyll** and **SI Leeds** clubs) took a 'Walk 2 New York' in September. They walked from Trafalgar Square to London's Heathrow airport before flying to New York. They were met next day by **SI New York** member and United Nations representative Linda Stillman on Brooklyn Bridge and walked to the UN Building where they met more UN representatives and New York Soroptimists. The Walk 2 New York group raised awareness of SI's Quadrennial Project on visits including to the Clinton Foundation, Sierra Leone's Ambassador to the UN, as well as raising funds through sponsorship.

SI President-Elect Hanne's visit to UN bodies in Vienna gave opportunities for our UN representatives to arrange a meeting with senior UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation) officials and profile Soroptimist support for Project Sierra in a discussion of UNIDO's work on women's training in least developed countries.

Many more have been active: Well done to Kathryn Carder, daughter of **SI Stafford** President Judith Carder, who was brave enough to do the world's highest bungee jump – off Bloukrans Bridge in South Africa. Her sponsorship money will go to Project Sierra.

Other Soroptimists are using their artistic talents to support the Project: As well as selling cards of Enid Roberts' beautiful embroidered Peace Garden, the original picture itself is to be raffled for Project Sierra. Ticket sales started at SIGBI Federation Conference in Barbados and are continuing.



Hope & Homes for Children

With "A Stitch in Time" **SI Brisbane City** (SISWP) has raised over \$1000 for Project Sierra from selling embroidered handicrafts made by club members and by the Hills Tribe Village Women in northern Thailand (SI Bangkok Thailand Partner Project). One event where the craft sales and displays on the Project were a huge success was the Deception Bay Lady President's Lawn Bowls Day, sponsored by SISWP Liaison Chris. Crafts were also sold at **SI South Queensland Region's** display stall at Australia's United Nations Association Conference in Brisbane in August.

A patchwork quilt from material designed and hand dyed by young women on the Bo project is being made by Barbara Dixon (**SI Cheshire, N Wales and Wirral**, SIGBI) and will be raffled in 2009.

SI Bangor (SIGBI) held a Concert at Stormont Castle, Northern Ireland's Parliament Buildings, where singers from the Opera Theatre Company presented an evening of operatic arias. The event was a resounding success and raised over £3,000 for Project Sierra: a Family and a Future. Other clubs and regions in SIBGI have reported that they will be organising musical events in 2009.

By early November 2008, over 80 Programme Focus Reports had been added to SI's on-line database registering activities to support Project Sierra. Do please use the PFRFs! They enable SI to chart the full extent of your involvement with your SI Quadrennial Project, and use the information when reporting to the United Nations and others on YOUR work to enable girls, women and their children to have a caring family life and hope for their future.

Don't forget too to keep your Project Sierra Ambassador or Federation Liaison informed of your events and plans, or email to project.liaison@soroptimistinternational.org Action photos are particularly welcome. We can only celebrate and share your successes when we know about them!

Thank you again for your wonderful work – do keep it up!

November 2008



Hope & Homes for Children