



Photos by Don Tracy

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

Soroptimist International of the Americas
2007-2008 Annual Report

The power of dreams. The power of Soroptimist.

Soroptimist understands the power of dreams. We know that all women have the potential for greatness. This past year, our clubs, members and federation proved just that. Through Soroptimist and our amazing programs, we helped countless women and girls discover the power of their dreams.

We have many accomplishments to celebrate, despite an uncertain economy. We are proud to report that the organization's assets have performed better than many in these hard times and we remain confident about our future. Women and girls in need, however, are struggling more than ever before and so, we continue to focus on our mission with renewed vigor. We are thankful for the strength, loyalty and dedication of our members.

As we complete year four of our five-year Renaissance Campaign, we have made progress in meeting the major goals that support our federation Strategic Plan. In 2007-2008 we continued to focus on Soroptimist's mission as a powerful recruitment and retention tool, welcoming 4,198 new members and adding 23 new clubs to our ranks. In addition, 444 clubs met the membership challenge of recruiting four or more new members during the club year. As we continue to explore ways to provide the most valuable membership experience possible, we redesigned and reorganized the members area of the website, and developed additional resources, templates and tools for clubs.

Our programs are the cornerstone of our mission and they continue to provide meaningful avenues through which our members help to improve the lives of women and girls. In 2007-2008, Soroptimist disbursed \$818,282 through its various programs. Our clubs and regions distributed another \$1,292,878, for a total of \$2,111,160 that was used to benefit an estimated 11,227 women. In addition, the Women's Opportunity Awards enjoyed a 66 percent participation rate (88 percent not including Japan) and 69 percent of clubs supported at least one SI project. The biggest program success of the club year was the launch of the Soroptimists STOP Trafficking project.

Soroptimist also focused on advocacy, encouraging members to act on issues that impact women and girls, and continued to offer informative white papers on women- and girl-focused topics.

Public awareness is another area where exciting things are happening. In particular, the Live Your Dream Campaign continues to engage members and non-members alike with the Soroptimist missions. A webisode series on the Live Your Dream site <LiveYourDreamCampaign.org> was launched, following the life of Sena Kimbrell, a Women's Opportunity Award recipient and a single mom struggling to overcome obstacles in her quest to live her dream. We continued to explore social networking sites as tools to increase awareness of Soroptimist, as well as other electronic tools and techniques to build our brand. This past year visits to our redesigned website increased 20 percent and more than 1,800 mission-focused articles ran in the media.

These challenging economic times are affecting greater numbers of women and girls, and thanks to the generosity of Soroptimist clubs and members we continue to fund our many wonderful programs. There was an increase in the amount of clubs giving to the Annual Club Campaign, with 67 percent of clubs participating, and a significant increase in the number of clubs giving at recognition levels. Founders Pennies remained steady at 96 percent participation, while contributions to the Laurel Society decreased this year. We also continue to seek outside avenues of funding, such as our corporate sponsorship program, and creating awareness among non-members about our programs and mission.

As you can see, we have made wonderful progress on many levels in 2007-2008. To all our members, clubs, leadership, donors and partners—thank you! Your efforts and commitment this past year have truly made the “best for women” a reality. Because of you, thousands of women and girls are realizing the power of their dreams through the power of Soroptimist.



Machiko Yamada



Sharon Fisher



Leigh Wintz

Soroptimist International of the Americas is a volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. Each year, Soroptimist programs empower thousands of women and girls to achieve their goals and live their dreams.

Soroptimist Women's Opportunity Awards

Established in 1972, the Soroptimist Women's Opportunity awards is SIA's core program, helping women who have suffered hardships to reclaim and live their dreams. The program benefits women who, as primary wage earners for their families, need to obtain the skills training and education necessary to improve their employment opportunities. Award recipients, who have overcome poverty, substance abuse and domestic violence, work toward improving their lives and those of their families.

Three outstanding women were finalists at Soroptimist's federation level for the 2007-2008 club year: Mispah Evangelio of Aklan, the Philippines; Joyce Snow of Columbia, Maryland; and Colleen Sword of Welland, Ontario, Canada.

Mispah Evangelio suffered discrimination as a member of an indigenous tribe in the Philippines and grew up in dire poverty. A single mother, she had always dreamed of becoming a school teacher so she could teach her people basic literacy and uplift their situation. Today, Mispah is living her dream of obtaining a college education by earning a degree in elementary education.

When Joyce Snow was a young girl, she dreamed of becoming a nurse. But life took a different turn when she was raped and later married an abusive man. She fell into a life of despair, drugs and prostitution. Today, Joyce works in the nursing field and is studying to be a licensed practical nurse.

Diagnosed with epilepsy when she was 5 years old, Colleen Sword used to suffer 30 seizures a day and still takes medication to control her seizures. The single mother also has four small children who have diagnoses of autism and epilepsy. Colleen is now studying for a degree in psychology and behavioral science technology with plans to work with special needs children.

Thanks to the Soroptimist Women's Opportunity Awards program, these women can now reclaim their lives and fulfill their dreams. They have the financial help, emotional support and hope they need to lead better lives.

Soroptimist Violet Richardson Award

Soroptimist is proud each year to honor the volunteer work of young women making a positive impact in their communities and the world through the Soroptimist Violet Richardson Award. Cindy Berman, 18, of Rancho Santa Fe, California, is the 2007-2008 federation recipient. While a junior at La Jolla Country Day School, she introduced her school to an online viral fundraising strategy focusing on microloans to help impoverished women in Guatemala. She partnered with Project Concern International and today her program, Amigos Para Siempre, continues to give Guatemalan women opportunities to support themselves and their families.

Soroptimist Making a Difference for Women Award

Soroptimist honors women who work to help other women and girls live their dreams through the Soroptimist Making a Difference for Women Award program. The 2007-2008 federation-level recipient is Anne K. Ream of Chicago, Illinois, who is making a difference in the lives of



Mispah Evangelio



Colleen Sword



Cindy Berman



Photo Credit: Don Tracy

“My richness comes from helping others and knowing that I've made a difference in someone's life. I want to thank Soroptimist for making my dreams possible.”

—Joyce Snow
Soroptimist Women's
Opportunity Award Recipient



Photo Credit: Don Tracy

“Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us.”

—Wilma Rudolph

“At the heart of our work is a simple belief—that public testimony can change the world, making it a more fair, just and safe place for women.”

—Anne K. Ream
Soroptimist Making a Difference for Women Award Recipient

women through The Voices and Faces Project (TVFP). After surviving a brutal rape, Anne founded the nonprofit national survivors network to give a voice and face to survivors of sexual violence, a horror she knows too well. TVFP raises awareness of how this human rights and public health issue impacts victims, families and communities. At the heart of the project is a simple belief that “public testimony can change the world, making it a more fair, just and safe place for women.”

Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls

The Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls program offers cash grants in support of innovative community projects that make a real difference in the lives of women and girls. Addressing a variety of specific local needs, projects include offering computer skills training, helping women with free breast cancer screenings and providing support to domestic violence victims.



SI/Mandaluyong, Philippines, received a \$5,000 Soroptimist Club Grant for its Participatory Project, which teaches livelihood skills to women.

Soroptimist Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence

In its 11th year, the Soroptimist Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence focuses on the fact that women do not leave abuse behind when they go to work. Abusers often harass women at work by phone, email, or in worst-case scenarios, by coming into the workplace. As part of the campaign in 2007-2008, clubs pledged to help victims of domestic violence and raise awareness, particularly within the business community. Members distributed tens of thousands of domestic violence hotline cards; organized public forums; collaborated with local advocacy groups; and supported domestic violence shelters. Clubs also encouraged employers to adopt and implement policies that protect women in the workplace.

Soroptimist Disaster Relief Fund for Women and Girls

When disaster strikes, it is often women and girls who are hardest hit. In order to meet the needs of women and girls in disaster- and conflict-stricken zones, Soroptimist developed the Disaster Relief Fund for Women and Girls. During the 2007-2008 year, Soroptimist supported six disaster relief projects, including those in Ecuador, the U.S. and the Philippines, to help women and girls recover from a devastating flood, hurricane and typhoon respectively. Earthquake victims in Peru were also helped, as were women survivors of a large-scale fire in the Philippines. Among relief efforts were distribution of basic emergency necessities as well as establishment of income-generating programs for women.

Soroptimist Live Your Dream Campaign

Soroptimist’s Live Your Dream Campaign is a program that inspires women from all walks of life to live their dreams and encourages them to pass on their good fortune to others. Launched on International Women’s Day (March 8, 2007), the award-winning microsite <LiveYourDreamCampaign.org> features women who are recipients of various Soroptimist award programs. In 2007-2008, a four-part webisode series about Women’s Opportunity Award recipient Sena Kimbrell was featured, offering a glimpse into her daily life and her amazing determination and courage. The campaign is sponsored by Soroptimist’s partners, PINK magazine and Janney Montgomery Scott, with all proceeds supporting Soroptimist programs.



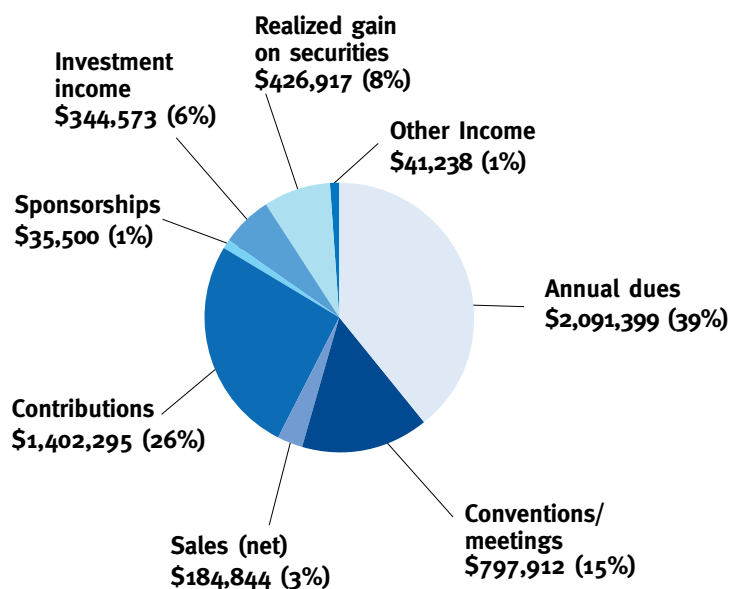
Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position • Year Ended August 31, 2008

Assets		Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Assets		Liabilities	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,529,844	Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$226,776
Marketable securities	11,410,986	Agency funds	25,517
Accounts receivable	85,257	Deferred revenue	44,224
Inventory	137,444	Total liabilities	296,517
Prepaid expenses	135,417	Net Assets	
Beneficial interest in charitable remainder trust	14,648	Unrestricted	2,403,623
Total current assets	14,313,596	Temporarily Restricted	
Fixed assets		Dues received in advance	1,646,649
Equipment	619,481	General remainder trust	14,647
Real estate	2,324,134	Special purpose	
Accumulated depreciation	(825,802)	Disaster relief	187,512
Total fixed assets	2,117,813	Venture	162,269
Total Assets	\$16,431,409	Total temporarily restricted	2,011,077
<p>The full audit is available in the members section at < Soroptimist.org > . A copy may be requested by contacting Soroptimist International of the Americas' headquarters at < siahq@soroptimist.org > .</p>		Permanently Restricted (Reserve Fund)	11,720,192
		Total Net Assets	\$16,134,892
		Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$16,431,409

Soroptimist Accomplishments 2007-2008

- Soroptimist's Live Your Dream campaign webisode series, *This is My Dream: Sena Kimbrell*, was awarded the 29th Telly Award bronze-level distinction in the "not-for-profit film and video category." The webisode series also received a Silver W3 Award, which honors creative excellence on the web.
- The Live Your Dream campaign and website, LiveYourDreamCampaign.org, received the Communicator Awards of Distinction in recognition of creative excellence for communication professionals.
- Soroptimist launched a new awareness project addressing the sexual slavery of women and girls. On January 11, 2008, the first U.S. national day of Human Trafficking Awareness, Soroptimist members distributed specially designed flyers, which helped citizens identify victims and combat sexual slavery, around the world.

Revenue 2007-2008



Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended August 31, 2008

Support Revenues and Gains	2008 Total
Annual dues	\$2,091,399
Convention and meetings	797,912
Sales (net)	184,844
Contributions	1,402,295
Sponsorships	35,500
Investment income	344,573
Realized gain on securities	426,917
Other Income	41,238
Total Support, Revenues and Gains	\$5,324,678

Schedule of Contributions

Year Ended August 31, 2008

Contributions	
Founders Pennies	\$193,442
Club Campaign	488,468
Memorials/Honorariums	4,790
Laurel Society	601,575
Disaster Relief Contributions	92,434
Corporate Contributions	35,500
Convention Fundraising	10,688
Miscellaneous	10,898
Total Contributions	\$1,437,795

2007-2008 Membership Statistics

In 2007 and 2008, Soroptimist comprised 19 countries and territories including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guam, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, U.S.A., and Venezuela.

- **2007**

Clubs: 1,429

Members: 40,971

- **2008**

Clubs: 1,434

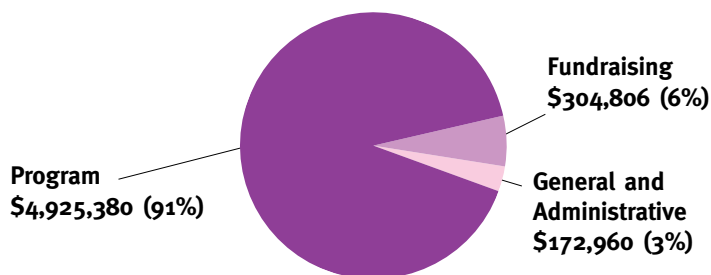
Members: 40,279

A complete roster is available from Soroptimist headquarters. To obtain this information, contact 215-893-9000 or email < siahq@soroptimist.org > .

Allocation of Expenses, Program Expenses Year Ended August 31, 2008

Expenses	2008 Total
Membership services	\$89,619
Soroptimist magazine	204,425
Conventions and meetings	621,496
Board and committees	281,811
Fundraising	72,868
Governors Roundtable	89,945
Soroptimist International	258,631
Public relations	73,392
Personnel costs	2,070,823
Office and occupancy	275,744
Depreciation	215,999
Professional services	272,832
Miscellaneous	57,280
Direct Program Expenses	
Women's Opportunity Awards	409,869
STOP Trafficking	35,698
Violet Richardson Awards	72,122
Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence	765
Club Grants	178,235
Making a Difference for Women Award	9,814
Disaster Relief	89,012
Celebrating Success	3,039
Venture	19,727
Total Expenses	\$5,403,146
Change in Net Assets from Operations	(\$78,468)
Unrealized loss on securities	(\$1,148,649)
Realized gain retained in restricted revenue	\$268,930
Change in Net Assets	(\$958,187)
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$17,093,079
Net Assets, end of year	\$16,134,892

Allocation of Expenses, Program Expenses Year Ended August 31, 2008



Schedule of Agency Funds Year Ended August 31, 2008

Fund	
Project 5-0	
Beginning Balance	\$161
Contributions Received	7,141
Distributions	6,897
Ending Balance	405
Quadrennial Project: Project Independence	
Beginning Balance	12,807
Contributions Received	3,165
Distributions	15,972
Ending Balance	—
Quadrennial Project: Project Sierra	
Beginning Balance	1,226
Contributions Received	122,485
Distributions	103,034
Ending Balance	20,677
December 10th Appeal: Restoring Dignity: Hamlin Fistula Relief and Aid Fund	
Beginning Balance	—
Contributions Received	55,148
Distributions	50,713
Ending Balance	4,435
December 10th Appeal: Project Punjab	
Beginning Balance	5,696
Contributions Received	115
Distributions	5,811
Ending Balance	—
Total Beginning Balance	\$19,890
Total Contributions Received	\$188,054
Total Distributions	\$182,427
Total Ending Balance	\$25,517



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

2007-2008 Board of Directors

Machiko Yamada, *President*

Kudamatsu, Japan

Cathy Mitchell

Cloverdale, California, USA

Alice Wells, *President-elect*

Phoenix, Arizona, USA

Catherine Standiford

Cypress, California

Sharon Fisher, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada

Irmeli Melz Nardes

Rio Negro, Paran, Brazil

Dulce Gozon

Caloocan City, Philippines

Pina Pileggi

Caracas, Venezuela

Sachiko Inoue

Osaka, Japan

Joan Stallard

Mount Vernon, Ohio

Hyunsook Lee

Seoul, Korea

Kaneko Tomiyama

Sapporo City, Japan

Fannie Louie

Boise, Idaho, USA

Sylvia Winterling

Alexandria, Virginia, USA

Junko Matono

Fukuoka, Japan

**Linda McDoniels, *Fund Development
Council Chair***

Rancho Cordova, California, USA

Executive Director

Leigh Wintz, CAE