

# FOUNDER REGION 2000 CONFERENCE REPORT







# MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

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**THE BIENNIUM IS ALMOST OVER, WHERE DID THE TIME GO?** Just two short years ago, I took the office as Governor Elect and thought I had an eternity before becoming the Governor of Founder Region, but it is almost at hand. Wow! It went so fast. I want to thank Governor Linda in all that she has done to prepare me for the Office. Many thanks, also, to the District Directors who provided the information contained in this newsletter.

### DISTRICT I

Soroptimist seems to be two things; what you get out of it and what you put into it. This can be you as an individual, but in my experience, it is just as much you, as a part of the whole. The clubs of District I gave me a lot of both in the last two years. It is my greatest pleasure to share what they have given to themselves and to their communities in this past year.

**S/I ALAMEDA** gives of their time with their Reading is Fundamental program, and book donations to young students. They provide an entire Christmas from food to gifts and a tree to a needy family every year. They have shared the gift of Soroptimist with several new members and are working to educate them.

**S/I ALAMO/DANVILLE** is a very active club and yet they are most proud of a hands-on project that their members like nothing else. They do the Child Spree held in conjunction with the Salvation Army at Mervyn's stores. This project not only requires their time and energy the day of the event, it also takes lots of advance planning and fund-raising. They work closely with other service groups getting all the volunteers needed to accompany the children and see to their needs. It is a fun and richly rewarding day.

**S/I EL CERRITO** refers to this past year as Millennium Membership Madness. They are boasting five new members this year after a total of four new members in the previous four years. A club goal was set at an All Day Retreat that brought the entire club together to make a plan. Way to Go!

**S/I EL PINABLO** has two projects that they are proud of. A special class meets at Richmond High School for pregnant teenage girls. The girls receive support and education about their pregnancy, as well as, a baby shower that provides emotional support and material gifts. El Pinablo has also become a founding member of the Lupus Foundation support group. The club chose this charity because of the high number of women who have this disease. Again, an example of Soroptimist awareness, advocacy and action.



President Jane of **S/I LIVERMORE** states; "Over the past few years I have sensed that it was difficult for our members to maintain their enthusiasm to recruit new members and to generate the energy and ideas necessary to continue our fund raisers. It is not always easy to overcome the apathy that we sometimes feel, I am truly proud to see my members muster the energy and the enthusiasm needed to continue to be successful, to take pride and find joy in what they do and have done for so many years."

**S/I LIVERMORE SUNRISE** is the newest club in Founder Region, the first club of the millennium. Let us all welcome them as they establish their place in the community. I am sure President Libby is busy educating her club members to the many rewards of being part of this organization.

President Cecilia of **S/I OAKLAND** became a mighty force to be reckoned with, once she learned she could delegate. Development of a community grant

program not only increased the community's awareness of Soroptimism, it educated it's new members as to the aims of Soroptimism. They are very pleased with the success of their Awards luncheon and they have learned how to get press coverage. Just ask them!

It seems that the members of **S/I PLEASANTON/ DUBLIN** are having so much success and fun in their club activities that they didn't have time to add information to this newsletter.

Culinary Capers has become more than just a fundraiser to **S/I RICHMOND**, their entire club works together toward the common goal of a successful event. The rewards are many, not only to the club members whose dedication shows in every aspect of the planning, but also to the community it serves. "It is without a doubt one of smoothest running events I have ever had the pleasure to be associated with" states President Kathi.

**S/I SAN RAMON** President Sherry tells me that they are in a year of transition. They are rethinking their priorities and adjusting to the downsizing of their club. In reading the recap of this year's events, they sound more like Soroptiholics. Fundraisers that are sold out in advance, manning a booth at the Art and Wind festival and a primary focus on the community youth with Baby Think It Over and support of Drake House (a safe shelter for teen girls) sounds very involved to me. This club represents businesswomen operating with efficiency and dedication.

**S/ EAST BAY** – A membership drive, a major fundraiser (the Pastafest) and a clothing drive to provide interview type clothes to women, doesn't sound like an easy year for any club. And yet, this club pulled it all off very well with the leadership of President Ilona and a club of very supportive members. In their spare time, the club sold tickets for a Turkey Raffle, Entertainment Books and distributed



crayons to a favorite grade school at Christmas, made Beauty Bags for the women's shelters and socialized at Whisk parties AND, they only meet once a month.

**S/I TRI-CITIES** pet project for some years now has been the local R.O.P, a sort of welfare to work program as described by their President Colleen. The club gives out ten Good Work Habits Awards to students in the classes. It encourages the basic work ethics. We all know that they are important in getting and keeping a good job, as well as, earning the respect of their coworkers and employers. The students are able to add these awards to their resumes. Letters of thanks from the girls far outweigh any of the other benefits from this program.

CONGRATULATIONS  
YOU ARE ALL  
PHENOMENAL  
WOMEN, DIRECTOR  
AMELIA.

## **DISTRICT II**

District II Director, Dion Weaver asked her clubs, "What does Soroptimist mean to you" and here are their answers.

**JUDI PARENT-SMITH OF ANTIOCH**, states being a member of Soroptimist provides me the opportunity to work on issues that promote the education, advancement and well being of women and girls in society. Additionally, I have the opportunity to give service to my local community, making it a better place for all of us to live. On top of this, I get to do these things with a great group of bright, talented and fun women who have come to be my friends.

**DORIS WEBSTER, PRESIDENT S/I CONCORD** says being a Soroptimist is an avenue by which I can socially interact with an array of like-minded women both locally and globally, enriching my life with friendships and at the same time, I become more aware of and become more effectively involved in addressing other

people's needs. What a nice combination.

**MARILYN GULKEY, PRESIDENT S/I DIABLO SUNRISE** mentions that her club is a group of warm and welcoming ladies. From the first meeting I attended, they were friendly and inclusive. They give generously of their time and money to support all of our service projects. It is an honor for me to be a member of this club. As a Soroptimist, I have been given an opportunity to serve my community and as a result of joining the club, I was also invited to join the Board of Directors of two nonprofit organization that also benefit this area.

**HELEN GRIMES, PRESIDENT S/I EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY** states that Soroptimist means Service, Opportunity, Respect, Organization, Participation, Time, Integrity, Membership, Intelligence, Song, Teamwork.

**LUELLA LILLY,  
PRESIDENT S/I  
LAMORINDA**

mentions that Soroptimist is the ideal organization because the six service areas provide a variety of interests for its members. Even though, they are affiliations for women, AAUW and BPW have a narrower focus. The club meetings provide an opportunity to have learning experiences and social interactions with women of similar interests and positions of leadership. While we focus on many charities for women and children, we are free to help other groups. While we have certain national regulations to follow, we also have the freedom to do what is best for our local area if we choose. The international scope provides the channel for helping women of the world.

**JUDY MOON,  
PRESIDENT S/I  
MARTINEZ,** says the Soroptimist organization gives me an opportunity to reach out to other women. Our club has women of all ages and occupations that come together to help one another and other women in our

community. This international organization gives me the opportunity to join with other women throughout the world. As a large group with connections to the United Nations, we can accomplish much more than anyone of us could achieve alone or as a local club.

**MARGUERITE  
ELCENKO-  
HECIMOVICH,**

**PRESIDENT S/I  
PITTSBURG,** states she joined Soroptimists to be more active in my community. What I got was a whole lot more. Not only am I improving the quality of my community, I am seeing the changes I can make in the whole world by belonging to Soroptimist. Soroptimist means making a difference in our society. Soroptimist means changing the lives of those in need, it means giving others the chance to succeed and it means Fun and Friendship while making a change in the lives of others.

**SANDY TOWNS,  
PRESIDENT S/I  
PLEASANT HILL,** says Soroptimist holds

true to its definition, "Best for Women." Joining has been the best thing to happen to me in many years. The bonds built through common goals of service to others have shaped friendships in my life with other women that could never be broken. For those women and the satisfaction of serving the community, I am grateful and so proud, I could burst!

**KATHLEEN  
GRAHAM,  
PRESIDENT S/I RIO  
VISTA** expresses that the Soroptimist means "Friendship." All Soroptimist members I have met are open of heart and mind. We have all become solid friends that will be there for you no matter the circumstance. This quality is hard to find anywhere. With members aging from 20's to 90's the unity is strong. Not only for ourselves, but the unity of all women worldwide. A strong group of friends builds moral values to share with others while improving oneself. A Soroptimist gains self respect and the respect of others by their good deeds for humankind



and ability to show leadership even if they never thought they had any. Through our kinship, Soroptimist can transform you from meek to dynamic. That spirit resonates around the globe.

**MERRY NAIL, PRESIDENT S/I THE DELTA** cites that one of the things I enjoy most about being a Soroptimist is knowing that all over the world there are women like me, who believe in the importance of supporting women and women's issues. I value the knowledge that future women and girls will have it a little better because of something a Soroptimist once did. Being a Soroptimist means being part of a global "Sisterhood." I like knowing that I am part of the combined strength.

**FRAN FIORENTINO, PRESIDENT S/I WALNUT CREEK** declares that she has learned that Soroptimist has similar but different meanings to each member. Our members value the friendship made, the enjoyment that comes from working together on

community and international service projects that benefit women and children, and the opportunity of working with other business women to achieve worthwhile goals. Finally, the comraderie and involvement leaves each one of us feeling better about ourselves. Soroptimist is not only fun and satisfying, but one of the finest organizations you can belong to.

### **DISTRICT III**

Jean Crawford, District III Director says, "What can I say? The clubs in District III are all great! This has been a wonderful two years for me as your Director. I have had a fun and informative time and have had the opportunity to meet so many special women."

**BENICIA** is such a busy club. It seems that they have something happening every month of the year in their city, whether it be a fund raiser, a project or event, or just helping another organization and they still have to have fun and enjoy themselves. Just to mention a few,

are the Peddler's Fair, the Waterfront Festival, the Handicraft Fair, Bowl-A-Thon, Trivia B, Spring Fling and Western BBQ.

### **S/I CALISTOGA**

presented \$5000.00 to the new Calistoga Family Center this year. The center will house Clinic Ole, as well as, a number of other service for families. The Soroptimist Corner will include a TV and VCR with a library of videos and books on parenting issues. Their main fund raisers are the Champagne Art Preview held the night before the opening of the fair in July, and the Chocolate Cabernet Fantasy every year in February.

**CLEARLAKE** held their first annual Halloween Party in October and are already planning the next one. They do their holiday potluck after Christmas as it is too busy during the holidays. They are working on their Park Walk 2000 in May, a Rummage Sale in June, Mexican Fiesta in July and a Craft Fair in August. Sometime during the busy summer they will do a well needed retreat where

they can plan, but also relax, swim and eat.

**DIXON** began their year planning a Unity Day, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1999 against domestic violence. They obtained a proclamation from the city and painted Dixon purple by putting flyers and ribbons all over town. They had a Candlelight Vigil on October 21 in memory of those who had lost their lives to domestic violence. They ran in Sacramento for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer and then had two days of Glamour Shots (pictures) for Breast Cancer survivors that were added to the Wall of Hope touring the USA. They held a "Walk in Time" Fashion Show and luncheon in November and took Santa pictures at the annual city's Christmas Tree lighting. They honored their life member in December and spring see them preparing for the Dixon May Fair parade and Golf Tournament. They also sponsor a Venture Club.

**FAIRFIELD/SUISUN** is working hard at getting new members. Their membership has

fallen off and that has been their main emphasis this year. Together with the Vacaville club they wrap Christmas presents for UC Davis Medical Center Pediatric Oncology patients.

**NAPA** collected and donated items to the Napa State Hospital during the holidays and held their annual Christmas Bazaar. They also rang the bell for Salvation Army. They manned a booth at the first annual Napa Valley Air Show. One of their social events is Bunko night. They play at members homes once a month and have a fun time, fine wine and good food. Napa and Napa Sunrise hold several joint meetings throughout the year and are working together on social and fund raising ideas.

**NAPA SUNRISE** is having an interesting year. They changed to an evening club and then back to a morning club. They changed the location and day of their meetings and now they are back on track. It has been an interesting year and through it all, they have been working on

their "Women's History Trunk" for the Napa Valley Museum traveling trunk program. It was unveiled at the Women's History Month celebration in March. They hosted district III Meeting in October and put together a toy trunk at Christmas for the children living at the Napa Emergency Women Services safe house.

**ST. HELENA** has some great projects they do every year. They help with the Fire Department Open House, The Harvest Festival Fun Run, their Santa Breakfast and their Crab Feed. Ask them about the Crab Feed, rumor has it they made over \$30,000.00 this year. They also sell calendars to raise funds. Some of the organizations and agencies they help support are the Special Olympics, Red Cross, Napa Emergency Women's Service and Hospice. Both St. Helena clubs work and do events together.

**ST. HELENA** **SUNRISE** provides funds to St. Helena Recreation Department for kids to swim during



the summer, they support Napa Emergency Women's Services, and work at the Harvest Festival. They helped a local family to have a special Christmas and took Santa pictures at the local elementary school. They also share in work and in the spotlight for the annual Crab Feed, but their main fund raiser is their annual Murder Mystery Party. It is a great evening.

**VACAVILLE** is the only club in our district with an S-Club. Kudos for that. The fall fund raiser they chose this year was a Westfield Shopping Trip. They wrap Christmas presents for the Winsor House and UC Davis Medical patients. They raise money for the Make A Wish Foundation with a dinner and silent auction. They hold a Youth Recognition Night each year and honor outstanding youth in their community.

**VALLEJO** celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday this year. Congratulations! They held a Glow in the Dark Golf Tournament in September, they finished the Santa in the summer calendar and

had a Leap into the Millennium Fashion show in February. Their major service project is the Naval Museum Heritage Room. They contribute to Meals on Wheels, High School Sober Grad Night, Senior Citizens meals and strong support local scholarship programs.

**VALLEJO GATEWAY** collects canceled postage stamps to help provide services for the blind and the deaf and they sell See's Candy during the holidays. They support and help "The Human Race" held each May and do a turn around bus trip to Reno. This year they are also doing a Reno at Home fund raiser. When you are driving through Vallejo on I-80, be sure to look for their sign, as they participate in the Adopt-A-Highway program. You might even see them working if you drive by when they are out there cleaning the highway.

## **DISTRICT IV**

District IV Director Cathy Mitchell asked her clubs, "What project made the greatest impact on your community?" Here are their answers.

**S/I CLOVERDALE** In 1999. Cloverdale was able to provide bone density scans to the women in the community free of charge. The program has been ongoing since 1998 when we first participated in the annual community health fair distributing literature about osteoporosis. A grant was written by our club giving us the opportunity to bring the foundation for Osteoporosis research and education to our community at no cost to the public. We targeted senior women at the local Senior Center and on one day we tested almost 40 women. The second testing was held at the Health Fair, The feedback was positive and the demand for tests so great that we will try to do it again.

**S/I HEALDSBURG's** was "A Celebration of Giving." This project came to us by way of a

request from the Department of Social Services. Social Services will no longer provide the names of families in need. We have been able to carry the project forward with some assistance of a family advocate who provided names, followed up on the response of the families and attended the event to assist as needed. The project is held at the Healdsburg Boy's and Girl's Club. Each year we have requested funds from the Healdsburg Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions Clubs. At Christmas time, each child receives a wrapped gift and a certificate for a pair of shoes at Payless Shoesource, each child over 11 receives a \$25.00 gift certificate for the mall and each family receives \$40.00 in scrip to purchase groceries at Safeway.

#### **S/I MARIN**

**S/I MENDOCINO-SONOMA COAST's** project is ESCAPES and was the identifying project of our club in 1993 servicing all segments of our extended community, spanning the coastal

area from Fort Ross to Irish Beach. It counsels/prepares and maintains a hot line for all victims of domestic violence and even provides employment counseling and household furniture for victims beginning life anew. During the first six months of 1999, ESCAPES helped 88 females, 10 males and 85 children who lived with daily violence in their homes. ESCAPES continues to be a major project for our club as we search to find a way to make it self supporting.

**S/I NOVATO's** project, Soroptimist Sounding Board is now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year of production. We are live programs twice each month on topics of general interest to our community. An important program is the candidate debates that air each October. The Sounding Board committee makes arrangements with the candidates running for School Board, City of Novato and Marin County offices to debate on live TV. Often it is the only opportunity community members have to see a candidate in person. Viewers may

call in questions of concern and they are answered on the air. A show with a significant impact this year was one in which showcased young women from minority groups. They spoke about what it is like to grow up in Novato as a minority. They talked about feelings of inferiority they had as they hear negative comments directed to them because of their race. These young women have learned how to respond to such comments, not in anger, but with carefully chosen words that force the speakers to think about what they say. Women of 16 and 17 have taken on the roles of community educators, trying to stop discrimination and serving as models for others.

**S/I SANTA ROSA** moved into the area of domestic violence these past two years with several programs of various forms on how it affects the workplace. We held a forum that was very well attended with approximately 50 businesses in attendance to hear some of the top experts on the issues of domestic violence. We



have also adopted a room at the YWCA for women fleeing from domestic violence situations. We will completely decorate, paint, provide bedding so the room will be ready for a mother and her children.

#### **S/I SONOMA SUNRISE**

The owner of a local coffee shop and our club sponsored a Christmas gift collection project for the teen parent programs on campus child care center and for the mothers and babies, as well. Club members were busy collecting gifts and labeling and placing donation barrels. They were very active in the community working on this project and promoting Soroptimist at the same time. As a result, about a dozen businesses made donations to the teen program. Gifts were donated at our annual Christmas party. A gift wrapping party was held and a party was given to present the gifts to the young mothers. The Center still have many needs that we are trying to address. Helping these young women

complete their education is a win-win situation.

#### **S/I SONOMA VALLEY**

The project this year that has made the greatest impact on our community was our "Hit the road, Jane!" a symposium for Sonoma Valley High School graduating seniors. This was a day long series of seminars on practical life, skills, renting a place to live, women's legal issues, personal safety, bank accounts, credit cards, budgeting, taxes, resumes and interviews, mentors and networking eating disorders and goal setting. We transported 120 senior girls to San Rafael, via chartered buses. Girls received sweatshirts, tote bags and a handbook recapping the seminar content. The response from the girls was overwhelmingly positive.

#### **S/I THE NORTH BAY**

#### **S/I UKIAH**

The project that has the most impact in our community is our

Christmas effort for Christmas of 1999. We served 750 families. Each family received food for a Christmas dinner and a toy for each child in the household. We live in a low income community and many of these children would not have a Christmas dinner and there would be no Christmas presents if it wasn't for our efforts. We receive money from the estate of a past Soroptimist and many community donations to run this project.

#### **S/I YOKAO SUNRISE**

Our project that had the greatest impact on the community was hot socks: Help others tootsies. Soroptimists only can keep em snug. We delivered 547 pairs of socks to Plowshares, Project Sanctuary and the Red Cross. As we made delivery at Plowshares, we were approached by the guests asking for the socks before we could give them to the representative who was in charge of distribution of clothing. She open the cupboard and brought out a small white plastic sack that had about 3 or 4 pairs of socks in it and she said.

"That's all we had left and the cold weather is moving in. You couldn't have timed it any better." It was very moving to see that such a small project affect so many lives.

## **DISTRICT V**

### **S/I ARCATA**

We work together with the local Open Door Health Clinic on a reading project. The clinic has a program called Reach Out and Read. When a child is waiting to see the Doctor they are taken to a reading room where they are read to. The parents are also helped with reading skills. After they see the Doctor he/she prescribes reading for them and the Arcata club provides the books for them to take home. During the year we will have provided between 150 to 175 books, both in English and Spanish. We have been doing this for a couple of years and it has proven to be very successful.

### **S/I OF BIG FOOT COUNTRY**

We have worked the hardest on getting our

membership up. We had a wonderful evening when we asked Governor Linda, during her visit and program, "Limbs for Life," to induct 6 of our 8 new members. We look forward to our annual Awards Dinner in April where we will be presenting our WOA, YCA and two local club awards, the Mary Woodard Memorial and the Jeanne Grosser Memorial. These make our fund raising during our Chinese Auction worthwhile.

### **S/I CRESCENT CITY**

We have added seven new members since the fall. This time of year finds us putting our major fundraiser together. Cow Chip Bingo, which we host each July 4<sup>th</sup>. This year, several of our members will be in Hawaii and not able to work on the event. Needless to say, we are also working hard on raising money by raffling off a theme basket each holiday and a very special one for Installation. The entire membership participates and the baskets are always unique.

### **S/I OF EEL RIVER VALLEY**

We do so many wonderful projects, but the Library Book Program has the largest, most long term effect on our community. We have a breakfast to honor the school librarians, at which time, we give each librarian a group of books, appropriate for their age group to take back to their school. At this time, we support 17 schools in our area from kindergarten to high school. We try to pick books that have to do with women in history, but we do requests from the school librarian also. Books can impact the past, present, and future of each child who visits their school library.

### **S/I EUREKA**

We held our third annual "Women's Health Fair" on February 26, 1999. We had approximately 1400 people in attendance. We were honored to receive the "Seroptimist Celebrating Success" in Health category for this event last year. We had 36 different health care



professionals and vendors, including 3 area hospitals. Local media were community sponsors which helped a great deal with publicity,

along with advertising on the side panel of milk cartons. We offered free breast exams, osteoporosis screening and wellness testing including blood tests done by professionals. There was a lot of information available to the public. This event started out as a service project, but with so much support, it became a fundraiser. Last year we furnished and equipped a playroom for the children at a local shelter for women and children.

#### **S/I FORT BRAGG**

The club says, "pick a holiday, any holiday and we are doing something in Fort Bragg." We organized a Giving Tree, 200 seniors and children from the Project Sanctuary, our identifying project received presents in December. March 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will host our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Whale Run/Walk, one of our major fundraisers. We will be co-hosting with SI Noyo Sunrise the

Award Night Dinner in May. Memorial Day weekend will be a first class Quilt show, Fourth of July we join the other service clubs of the area

to do the world's largest Salmon BBQ. Come join us.

#### **S/I HUMBOLDT BAY**

We support the Alzheimer Day Care Center with our annual Walk-a-thon. This walk has become an event that the community businesses have become involved in as sponsors, with the Day Care Center counting on these generous donations of time and money. It is a project that all of our club members feel proud to be a part of and have fun doing it.

#### **S/I MCKINLEYVILLE**

We support the North Star Quest Camp for adolescent girls as an ongoing project. It directly benefits the young women of our community and the founder/director Karen Moulton, is a charter member of our club. The primary idea behind the camp is to encourage mentoring and empowerment. The

oldest participant has been 80 years old (yoga instructor) down to the youngest girl of 8 years. At risk girls in grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> are invited to

attend. The five day camp is held during the meteor showers in August. High school and college women students are used as camp counselors. The camp is a moving, exciting, joyful and exhausting experience. The girls and women maintain their mentoring and coaching even after the camp is over by periodic gatherings, correspondence and friendships. We are fortunate to be a part of the North Star Quest Camp project as it truly makes a difference in the lives of our young women. This project is making a connection with others in our community by building a cascading, mentoring network.

#### **S/I MENDOCINO**

Our fundraiser has bought out the Mendocino Theatre Company in April. After hearing the story of our Women's Opportunity Award recipient, we know that we have made a

acknowledge the good  
job done by their peers

which encourages  
continued success.

Soroptimist give so much through their presence that a circle is created, a circle of support (Roberta Abaday). Soroptimist means friends, friends who share with each other while giving to others. Friends who are willing to step out of their comfort zone and do something for someone else. Friends who make a difference in the lives of others and in the lives of each other are Soroptimists. (Sylvia Crafton. Soroptimist means opportunity, the opportunity to contribute time and energy towards a community cause and the opportunity to network with like-minded professional women. Personally it has afforded me the opportunity to hone my managerial skills and to build my public speaking confidence. The value of Soroptimist membership cannot be denied. It is up to each person to seize the wonderful opportunities a membership presents. (Sandra Low).

## S/I MAUI

Our identifying project  
is the Sharon Okumura

Nursing Award of \$2000.00 that is presented on our local television station during the Maui Community College Telethon. Four nurses will receive \$500.00 each. In addition to the nursing award, YCA and WOA awards, we sponsor a Jr. YCA award that is given to an eighth grade student from each of our intermediate schools. This award is given to a student who has participated in a community service project throughout his or her intermediate years. It is hoped that through this recognition the winners will be encouraged to continue their volunteerism through high school and beyond. Our Linus Project is in its second year and members will be distributing the security blankets to various organizations. Children often use blankets as protection, for security or just for comfort.

## S/I WAIKIKI

The past year was filled

work, fellowship and

challenge. In

November, 1999, we  
held a major fundraising

event that would find its identified projects for two years. A dinner, silent auction and country store with a theme of "Gift Mystique: Unwrapping a New Millennium" raised close to \$25,000.00. The amount raised was only part of the success, equally important was the participation of our S-Club, the 100% participation of its members and the fellowship, as we worked side by side towards a shared goal. In June we received a \$10,000.00 grant from SIA to support the Women's Resource Center. The center provides a centrally located, readily identifiable site where women in transition or crisis can get information, training and referrals specific to their individual needs.

## S/I WEST MAUI

We donated \$13,500.00- to the Arts and Education for Children Group this past summer enabling any child with



Experts in various music and art fields were brought in for the summer session making this an extraordinary opportunity for the children of Maui.

Members also volunteered their time and plan to participate again this summer. The club celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday on March 1, 2000 with visitors from its friendship links in Japan and Maui's political dignitaries. We award the annual Ho-McKay-McKelfresh Scholarship of \$1500.00 to a Lahainaluna High School graduate attending a college or university.

#### **S/I WEST OAHU**

Our club has had to focus on recruitment this year to keep our club viable. We still managed to keep busy with the Kapolei Spring Festival, American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, the Family Peace Center and Hale Kipa Hapi House, a home for pregnant teens. This year they are promoting Soroptimists at an art show called "Perspectives of Art in Hawaii Today" at the JW MARRIOTT Ihilani Resort. The show will

also be a fundraiser for the club.

#### **S/I WINDWARD OAHU**

This club is holding its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Quilt Raffle fundraiser. Proceeds benefit the Windward Spouse Shelter, the Mary Jane Center, a shelter for pregnant women and other local scholarships. We were instrumental in establishing the location for the Mary Jane Center. Now that it is up and running, the members are looking for another project to take on and lend support to.

## NOTES