



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF DAVIS

July 28, 2020

“When you lift up women, you lift up humanity.”

~ Melinda Gates

About Soroptimist International of Davis

Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization providing women and girls with access to the education and training they need for economic empowerment. Soroptimist International of Davis has approximately 50 members supporting local, regional and international programs.

Local SI Davis programs provide women and girls with meaningful assistance to help them improve their lives. This includes mentorship and financial assistance at key points in their lives. Our goal is to address the root cause of economic hardship by lifting up women, so they can lift up their families, and our communities. Our programs provide a “you-can-do-it” message that changes the lives of recipients and their families, and creates a lasting impact for our community.

Our three signature programs are:

- Live Your Dream
- Dream It Be It: Career Support for Girls
- High School Scholarships

The funds from 100+ Women Who Care will be used to support these programs.

Live Your Dream

Live Your Dream, a signature Soroptimist program, identifies female heads of household who are completing undergraduate education or vocational training. It encourages women to advance or complete their education, gain skills and improve employment prospects. They articulate a plan that will lead to better lives for themselves and their families through education, and we provide mentorship and financial assistance to help them reach their goals.

In 2020, the club recognized four single mothers for their resilience and determination to complete their educations despite extraordinary adversities such as domestic violence and economic hardships. The top recipient was honored, based on the strength of the recommendations of her co-workers and teachers, at the regional level (Northern California and Nevada) and awarded additional grants to complete her educational goals.

She wrote, “I want to extend my sincere and deep gratitude for this Live Your Dream scholarship, times two. I am able to afford food and rent, and all of my son’s and my own needs, without stress or worry. I have never been in that position before, not since I was 16.” SI Davis members offer Live Your Dream awardees continued support and professional mentoring. We frequently hear from our LYD alumna how impactful our program was at a pivotal

time in their lives. Many alumna go on to “pay forward” the support and encouragement they received, and some join Soroptimist clubs.

Dream It Be It

Dream It Be It is a hands-on, career-readiness and life skills training for at-risk teens. We’ve partnered with Davis’ continuation high school, Martin Luther King Jr. High, for five years. Club members and volunteer speakers meet with students once a month to teach practical skills and introduce students to local employers and a range of professional opportunities. Students practice creating achievable goals and discuss with club members strategies to anticipate and overcome potential obstacles.

Scholarships

Each year, SI Davis awards college and trade school scholarships to female high school seniors in the Davis Joint Unified School District. In 2020, the club awarded a total of \$8,000 to four graduating seniors to pursue career-building degrees, certificates and licenses. Students awarded these scholarships show the ability to triumph over hardships that children shouldn’t have to face. These girls have exhibited resilience and have solid plans to move into adulthood with financial independence. In addition to the scholarships, we provide mentoring, which may include weekly check-ins to hold them accountable to their educational plans, computer assistance, or guidance with selecting courses and developing a course plan.

Use of funds

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically undercut our fundraising capacity and threatens the success of our programs, which target the very populations most severely impacted: female heads of household – particularly women of color. Our programs serve those who have been disproportionately affected, particularly by loss of child care and income. The cancellation of our primary fundraising activity, the beer and wine booth at the Davis Farmers Market’s Picnic in the Park, left us with a budget shortfall of more than \$30,000. Our Big Day of Giving efforts partially offset this shortfall, but combined with the loss or cancellation of fundraisers this fall, we still face a shortfall in excess of 50% – a substantial income gap in the year ahead.

Support from 100+ Women Who Care would sustain our programs that support women and girls in Davis and Yolo County. We welcome 100+ Women Who Care to join us in lifting up women by investing in their dreams.