

LOGO

## **SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF BANGALORE**

(AFFILIATED TO SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND)

### **A WORLDWIDE ORGANISATION OF SERVICE CLUBS OF WOMEN**

#### **IN BUSINESS AND PROFESSION**

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Soroptimist International is a worldwide organization of service clubs of women in business and professions. There are over 90,000 members in 3000 clubs in 125 countries across the globe under 4 Federations – Federation of the South West Pacific (Australia), Federation of the Americas, Federation of Europe and Federation of Great Britain and Ireland Limited (SIGBI). Clubs in India are affiliated to SIGBI. SI Bangalore is the 13<sup>th</sup> of 16 Clubs in India with 4 each in both Kolkata and Mumbai, 3 in Chennai, 2 in Pune, and one each in Burdwan, Madurai and Bangalore.

SI Bangalore became the first club in India to be granted FCRA Registration by the Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi. This has facilitated the receipt of contributions from SI Clubs abroad for our projects. SI Bangalore is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, and have received exemption under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act. We have applied for tax exemption under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act. SI Bangalore website is maintained by our young member.

**Global face-** Soroptimist International (SI) has General Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council, (ECOSOC). It is represented through agencies and their meetings by way of its subsidiary organs in UN Centres throughout the world. SI delegations in major UN meetings and forums advocate for policies and actions supporting our aims and objectives. Our studies and projects provide substantial data by way of statistics. We observe important UN International Days.

Soroptimists mission is to improve life of women and girls by identifying their needs and working through targeted service projects to fulfil these needs. It works through a network of working women from diverse professions. Translated from Latin, **Soroptimist means “best for women”**.

**Vision** -SI aims to be a global voice for women through awareness, advocacy and action. Through international goodwill, understanding, and friendship, we strive for:

The Advancement of the status of women

High ethical standards

Human rights for all

Equality, development and peace.

**Core Purpose** -To advance human rights and the status of women.

**Core Values-** Soroptimist International is committed to -

-service to local, national and international communities.

-active participation in decision-making at all levels of society.

-international goodwill and understanding.

In the course of our work we embarked upon a very challenging Project – the LAMBANI TRIBAL VILLAGE PROJECT. The village is located 75 km. from Bangalore, 15 km. from Kanakapura Town, with a population of 270 people, of whom 130 are women and girls They had not a single toilet, no proper water, bus, school, medical facilities. They lacked training and development for the youth. In the absence of alternate income generating activities apart from farming, it seemed abandoned by mankind. There existed abundant scope to develop their potential and turn their disadvantage to advantage.

**Our work received recognition**— Our mega-Project – **The Lambani Tribal Village Toilets Project**, in which we were supported by 12 Clubs of the Swiss Union, won us the **Best Practice Award** under the category “Water, Sanitation and Food Supplies” of the European Union as well as Soroptimist International ! The very first toilet in the village was inaugurated on World Health Day, 2009. 62 large, roomy toilet-cum-bathrooms, are eco-friendly, self-digesting and do not contaminate the underground water table, have since been built at the village, making it an over Rs. 15 lakh project !

With some assistance from the Zilla Panchayat Office, Ramanagaram, we conducted training classes in needlework, embroidery and tailoring for the village women and girls from November 2008 to October 2009.

Members of SI Bangalore are frequent visitors to the village. Regular health check-ups are done and basic medicines/tonics are dispensed to the needy. A couple of awareness programmes were held on medicinal plants – their cultivation and usage, including kitchen remedies as first aid, was explained since the village does not have any medical facilities. Persons with orthopaedic problems/accident victims are helped to get proper treatment. Other major tasks in hand for the Soroptimists is to help the villagers with education and literacy, income generating activities, solution to their water problems and de-addiction.

### **Our Recent Activities**

- \*World Environment Day was observed with distribution of “Tulsi” plants in Commercial Street.
- \*Notebooks received from Infosys were distributed to poor children of schools in remote areas of North Karnataka and Bangalore.
- \*International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed with a Speech Contest for High School students of Bishop Cotton Boys School.
- \*Hepatitis B , Typhoid, MMR Immunisation programme was held at St. Benedict School, Kumbalgod for hundreds of children by our doctor members.
- \*Vision 2020 – A Programme on Education and Leadership was conducted at St. Benedict School, Kumbalgod, St. Joseph’s School and PU College, Francis Xavier School, Chikkakammanahalli in association with Prasanna Trust- Swamy Sukhabodhananda initiative.
- \*World Peace Day was observed with an Art Contest for the children of two Government Schools at Gopal Ramnarayan School which hosts our Stars of tomorrow project.
- \*World Vision Day was observed with cataract surgeries for senior citizens at Little Sisters of the Poor.
- \*At Home for the Aged, Hosur Road an entertainment programme was arranged with live band, magic show and a sumptuous lunch.
- \*Children’s Day was celebrated with a visit to Anatha Ashram at Wilson Gardens and distribution of snacks among 30 orphan inmates of the Ashram.
- \*Visited Victoria Hospital Burns Ward in observance of International day for elimination of violence against women.
- \*To observe World Disabled Day, a computer worth Rs. 30,000 was donated by a member to the Spastics Society. Bus passes worth Rs. 15,000/- were donated to physically challenged children.

7<sup>TH</sup> CHARTER ANNIVERSARY- 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 – SI Bangalore’s celebrations at a member’s farmhouse. Three events – a Bharatyanatyam recital, Vegetable carving demonstration and a Puppet show, were organised by members and dinner was hosted. Five international SI guests – three from Switzerland, and two from York Ebor, UK were provided hospitality, accommodated in the farm house, entertained and taken for shopping and sight seeing. They toured our Project sites like the Lambani tribal Village and Prison Ministry. They also experienced the “mehendi” ceremony as a part of Indian wedding celebrations.

In observance of World AIDS Day, an interactive talk and presentation was organized through Asha Foundation for prevention of AIDS to 60 women at Goodwill Foundation, Viveknagar, Bangalore. Sponsored food packets were distributed.

Two of our Doctor Members visited Anekal and donated 500 cloth cut pieces received from a donor to poor students. These will be tailored in their unit according to their requirement as suggested by the Director. They also conducted a health check-up for the poor students in the boarding house.

Role of women in Civil Society- With the general consensus and participation and resources from all the 16 Clubs of India, a film was presented by SI representative at the SI Convention in Montreal, July 10 to 14, 2011. One member mobilized Rs. 25,000/- towards making of the film on Projects of all the clubs in India.

Two members, Psychologists, conducted psychometric testing and counseling at the WOW (Welfare of women and children) event, the proceeds of which went for dialysis of poor patients.

In observance of World Autism Day, our doctor member who runs a child centre, distributed Autism Awareness Posters to be put up in psycho-education centres, hospitals. One of our guest from SI Singapore attended the meeting and also carried the posters to be put up in schools at Singapore.

Three of our Members joined in the rally in support of Gandhian Anna Hazare who went on fast unto death in Delhi.

Stars of tomorrow project- Gopal Ramnarayan Government School final assessment English test was given and high scorers were awarded prizes sponsored by a member. Literacy day celebrations saw Elocution contests by children on value system, puppet show by a member and English group songs by the children taught by a member. Prizes were given and 300 sponsored food packets were distributed.

In a proposal made by our doctor member, another member donated a second hand computer to Sumangali Sevashram, Hebbal to print worksheets for children. One more member volunteered to teach at the school.

In observance of World Environment day, SI Bangalore members held a meeting at the residence of a Solid Waste Management and Composting expert. She demonstrated the making of compost from dry leaves and kitchen waste, both by vermicomposting and with maggots.

A social activist and member of the Solid Waste Management Round Table, spoke to representatives of 10 families at Talacauvery Nagar, at the residence of one of our Members, on solid waste management and segregation of waste at the source. Bags from ITC were sold to the Residents to store their paper and plastic waste, which would be collected by the BBMP every Saturday, and would be recycled by ITC. It is hoped that within 3 months, Talacauvery Nagar will be a garbage-free locality.

Laughter Club Members and SI Bangalore held a similar programme at Jayanagar and distributed CDs and posters.

Two members gave a presentation and talk on Herbal remedies and medicinal plants with live demonstration at St. Josephs school, Anekal.

Partnering with SI Scarborough, SI Bangalore will educate a poor meritorious student from Maddur who scored 96% in the Class X exams so that she can pursue her education undisturbed under the "SHINING STARS" Project.

### **Projects since inception in 2003. We have collaborated with-**

St.BENEDICT SCHOOL a school for the children of underprivileged daily wage earners provided immunization, hampers, computers, laboratory equipment.WE CARE

a trust for underprivileged children – provided Mid-day meal .CONCERN FOR WORKING CHILDREN (CWC), SNEHA NILAYA helped migrant and working kids. LEPROSY REHABILITATION CENTRE by donating bedsheets and providing support for Rainwater harvesting. Supported PRISON MINISTRY, SOCARE IND which provide foster home to children of life-time prisoners. ASHWINI which supports slum children, UNNATI SGBS Trust which provides vocational training to children,SACRED HEART SCHOOL, donated computers,ANATHA SISHU ASHRAM, orphanage, provided steel cupboards, blankets, bedsheets, water purifier and kitchen provisions. Essentials to SEVA SADAN. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND, donated uniforms and white canes. CRISTO ANATHALAYA,GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL, immunization and school bags.KUSHAL FOUNDATION with doctors services and awareness programmes.

Funded heart surgery of a 15-year-old girl with congenital heart disease. .

St. Anthony's Kannada school, white shoes and socks were distributed to children and incentives to teachers. A member conducted Spoken English classes for teachers during summer holidays.

Art contest was conducted on "International Peace" for 230 children from 30 schools with candle-lit peace march.

An interactive talk for slum women on domestic violence . There was an exchange of personal histories by members from Alcoholics Anonymous.

A Breast Cancer Detection Camp and talk on natural remedies for slum women was organised.

Cataract surgery camp at Ainulla Hospital for 18 poor and aged people was held.

Speakers from Freedom Foundation conducted an interactive session on drugs and alcoholism.

Apart from these, we have forayed into a few other areas that include:

Helping a physically challenged sports enthusiast to participate in the World Master's Athletic Championship in Madrid and Doha.

Organized a play to commemorate our first anniversary during our Charter Night and donated Rs 25,000 from the earnings to Unnati SGBS Trust.

Myraada Satellite Centre, a platform to reach out to rural masses- Several programmes were conducted on mental health and nutrition, womens well being, quiz on environment and sponsored prizes were distributed for the regional winners .

In continuation of our efforts , being a group of professional women with opportunities to network across countries, we believe that our main strength comes from being able to connect with the needy and with people who want to contribute meaningfully to the society.

Through our intervention, we were able to mobilize a Grant of Rs. 12 lakh from Target Services, India to Child Care. The money will run an educational programme across 100 slum centres in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

The attempt is to care, to complement, to network, to focus on diversity and diversification of effort, rather than commitment to a single major project that would be impossible to execute. As we look back on eight eventful years of SI Bangalore, we realize that our mantra has been to realize the endless possibilities of 'Can Do'.

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