

Model Programs as outlined from SIA

Soroptimist International of the Americas' Model Programs

Soroptimist International of the Americas is an organization comprising professional and executive business women dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls by providing community service. Balancing community service goals and busy business schedules can often be difficult. Model program kits help by minimizing research and development time needed to establish and maintain service projects. Model programs provide guidance in planning and implementing projects by offering proven methods and resources for achieving success. Model program kits are available in the library of the member's only section of the SIA web site.

Designing a Club Mentoring Program for Girls

Sociologists have noted that the presence of positive influences in a child's environment are even more crucial than genes in determining whether a child will struggle or thrive. The Designing a Club Mentoring Program for Girls introduces a way to help girls in the community have positive influences through mentoring. It provides step-by-step instructions for clubs wanting to start and maintain their own mentoring programs for girls, including information on assessing community resources, recruiting girls to participate, matching mentors and mentees and dealing with potential problems should the arise.

Shelters: Beginning a Life Without Violence

In 1994, a resolution was passed by mail ballot making the prevention of domestic violence an identifying SIA focus. Shelters: Beginning a Life Without Violence was developed to assist clubs in addressing the problem of domestic violence at a community level. This kit includes general information about domestic violence, the history of shelters and the international response to violence against women. In addition, it provides tools for clubs to support a domestic violence shelter and women who have been the victims of abuse. It contains information on providing basic support to shelters, remodeling rooms in the shelter and conducting a mentoring program for shelter clients.

Domestic Violence Action Projects: Strategies for Communities Without Shelters

One of every three women in the world has been beaten, raped or somehow abused. Many of these women have been victimized by their intimate partners. Soroptimists are committed to ending domestic violence and supporting its victims. This model program kit was created for clubs in communities that do not have domestic violence shelters or other well-developed domestic violence or prevention services. In addition to presenting general information on domestic violence and international responses, it also provides information on creating a domestic violence strategy for the community that targets victims, society, and institutions. It includes a community education project, a letter-writing campaign and information on providing emergency shelter to women who have been victims of domestic violence.

Trafficking: Assisting Victims and Advocating for Change

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime estimates that 2.5 million people in 137 nations are currently held in positions of slavery. The United Nations estimates the total market value of such exploitation to be \$32 billion, and about \$10 billion from the initial sale of individuals. Poor women and girls comprise the majority of the international slave population. Lured into foreign countries by fraudulent job offers, sold by their families or kidnapped by traffickers, most of these women are forced to work in the commercial sex industry. This kit defines trafficking and slavery and explains how and why women are trafficked; presents information about trafficking in each SIA country; supplies information about international laws that pertain to the trafficking of women; provides information on launching national and international advocacy campaigns; explains how to set up and maintain a network of experts to assist women who have been trafficked; and contains an extensive international resource list.

Early Detection of Breast Cancer

Around the world, over 1.1 million cases of breast cancer are diagnosed each year. This figure represents 10 percent of all diagnosed cancers and 23 percent of cancers diagnosed in women. Although incidence rates vary by race and geographic origin, a clear pattern exists with regards to income level. Specifically, poor women around the world are far more likely to have advanced and incurable cancer upon diagnosis, and therefore are more likely to die from the disease. The late-stage diagnosis common among low-income women has been attributed to a number of factors, arguably the most important of which are a lack of breast health awareness and limited access to early detection procedures. This model program kit offers information about breast cancer including who gets it and why; explains early detection procedures highlighting the importance of mammography, breast self-examination and clinical breast exams; and describes a club project that helps low-income and uninsured women gain access to mammograms.