

## *Soroptimist:*

[Su-rop-tu-mist]

*A global volunteer network of women  
who work to improve the lives of women and girls.*



Soroptimist International of Bellflower is part of a world-wide organization with almost 76,000 members in 120 countries and territories who contribute time and financial support to community-based and international projects primarily benefiting women and girls.

Founded in 1953, Soroptimist International of Bellflower is a volunteer service organization for women of all ages, cultures and ethnic groups. 28 members of Soroptimist International of Bellflower support both the international and local community projects by providing financial assistance and hands-on time and talent.

Being a Bellflower Soroptimist means helping:

- ❖ Girls get money to help with college
- ❖ Women who are primary heads of household receive money to improve their education or job skills
- ❖ Low-income seniors have safe housing
- ❖ Women get funds to continue their college education
- ❖ Domestic Shelters and Drug and Alcohol rehab facilities get our money to help the women
- ❖ Children in the local school district get our donations
- ❖ Local organizations get financial support and our involvement
- ❖ And as an international service organization, we are helping both women; children, families and communities that have been affected by natural disasters.
  - 2011 – Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan
  - 2012; 2013; 2014 – Typhoons in Philippines
  - 2014 – 2015 – Clubs requested and used funds for disasters that affected their communities and areas
  - 2015 – 2017 - The International President's Appeal supports projects in Nepal with a focus on improving the lives of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities

Soroptimist International of Bellflower is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit- organization. We do amazing things world-wide and are able to help so many within our own community through the money we raise from our fundraisers and from generous donations from local and international organizations such as *Stonewood Mall; Pacific Symphony; Smart and Final; La Mirada Theatre; Sheraton Cerritos Hotel; Silpada Foundation; Lazy Dog and Ross Dress For Less.*

We are thankful for the contributions we receive. We would not be able to make the difference we make without the support of our generous donors. Our name, Soroptimist, means best for women. And that's who we are – women at our best, helping other women to be their best.

Our Club website address is:

<http://www.soroptimistbellflower.org/>

Our Facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/SIBellflower>



## **Within the community, the Bellflower Soroptimists donate to these local organizations:**

### **Soroptimist Village**

Soroptimist Village is an attractive low-rent senior citizen housing complex in Norwalk, CA. The Village is supported and managed by ten Soroptimist clubs working with the City of Norwalk Housing Authority. Club representatives serve on the Board of Directors. Completed in 1963, the Village has touched countless lives. Housing is provided for 60 low-income seniors, including a senior couple who act as resident managers. Rents are approximately 25% of the usual rents in the surrounding area. The Soroptimist Clubs host monthly birthday celebrations and holiday parties for the "Villagers". Soroptimist Village provides safe, attractive and neighborly living for its residents who otherwise might be living on the streets. Bellflower Soroptimists have provided support to and been a part of the Village since its planning stages.

### **Su Casa ~ Ending Domestic Violence**

Su Casa ~ Ending Domestic Violence is a nonprofit, community-based organization dedicated to the philosophy that every individual has the right to be free from violence or the threat of violence. Su Casa has a 24 hour hotline for crisis interventions; an Emergency Shelter Program and a Transitional Shelter Program. Soroptimist International of Bellflower has supported Su Casa financially almost since its founding in 1979 and currently has 2 club members who serve on the Board of Directors of Su Casa.

### **Little House**

Little House is rich in history and tradition. Six women who were dedicated to providing treatment for alcoholic women founded Little House in 1952. The drug and alcohol addiction program at Little House consists of many phases of treatment and residential services. They offer 28 residents the opportunity to remain in the program for six months or longer, depending on their needs. Bellflower Soroptimist has provided supported to Little House almost since its inception - financially as well as providing a Christmas holiday luncheon.

### **Community Family Guidance Center**

Community Family Guidance Center has been serving the community since 1976. Community Family provides mental health service to children and families in the Southeast Los Angeles County. Bellflower Soroptimists are glad to help support them in this worthwhile effort with a financial donation.

### **Low Cost Community Counseling Center**

The Low Cost Community Counseling Center is a mental health agency that has been in the community and surrounding areas since 1970. Fees for counseling to couples, men, women, teens, and children are on an income-based sliding scale. Services, which include individual or group counseling for: domestic violence, anger management, bereavement, women's support group, parenting, and substance abuse, are usually court mandated or referred by the Department of Children and Family Services. In addition to financial contributions to the Counseling Center, several of our club members volunteer their counseling service to the organization. Additionally, the Director of this non-profit organization is a member of the Bellflower Soroptimists.

### **Bellflower Unified School District**

Bellflower Unified School District not only provides quality education but also has a Head Start Program, a Caring Connections Program and a tutoring program. They have Distinguished and Blue Ribbon schools. The Bellflower Elementary Ensemble perform at the annual Christmas party that Bellflower Soroptimists hold for the women and children of Su Casa and Little House. Bellflower Soroptimists give donations to the Bellflower Ensemble and to Caring Connections.

### **Caring Connections**

Caring Connections is a non-profit organization that was created in 1992 as a Healthy Start collaborative to meet the needs of the children and families of the Bellflower Unified School District. This collaborative organization consists of more than 50 local agencies dedicated to helping children and families in the community by:

- Improving Student Achievement and attendance in school
- Increasing awareness of available community resources
- Providing families with connections to community resources
- Connecting individuals to high quality programs and services offered by collaborative partners

### **Bellflower Volunteer Center**

The Volunteer Center has been in operation since 1955 and gives opportunities for youth to serve in their communities wherever volunteers are needed. Soroptimist International of Bellflower contributes financially to the Volunteer Center and to the holiday program that the Center coordinates.

## City of Bellflower – Miss Bellflower and Bravo Awards

### Miss Bellflower

The Miss Bellflower pageant is a big event within the City of Bellflower. Local businesses, service organizations and individuals support the young women with their growth and college ambitions. The purpose of this event is to inspire our future community leaders. One of the club's member serves on the Board of Directors, and several other members help mentor the girls. Additionally, the Bellflower Soroptimists help sponsor this event.

### BRAVO Awards

The Bellflower Soroptimists support the City's BRAVO awards with a financial donation. BRAVO stands for Bellflower Recognizes Acts of Valor and Outstanding service. Recipients are those who have been involved in public safety, medical care or community-related acts during the past year.

## Awards Given by Bellflower Soroptimists

### College Scholarship Award

The Bellflower Soroptimist club has, for over 40 years, given scholarships to help girls with their college education. This award comprises of a scholarship fund of \$400 per year for four years (\$1,600 total). The student must meet the required eligibility and performance requirements to be selected and receive the award.

### Helping Dreams Come True Award

The "Helping Dreams Come True Award" was created by Soroptimist International of Bellflower to help women between the ages of 20 - 40 achieve their dreams by giving them financial resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects. We chose the ages of 20 - 40 because there are many instances when girls graduate from high school and think they don't need or want additional education or training. As the years pass by, they come to find out that life is not what they imagined and they want/need to further themselves educationally or vocationally in order to get ahead. But, when they are out on their own and no longer eligible for the college scholarships they might have received at graduation, furthering themselves becomes not an option, but a dream.

### Live Your Dreams Award

The "Live Your Dream Award" is SIA's cornerstone program that Soroptimist clubs throughout the Federation participate in. It assists women who provide the primary source of financial support for their families by giving them the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects.

### Additional Monetary donations are given to the Soroptimist organization. They are for:

**Disaster Funds;** Monies donated help to increase awareness about the ways in which women and girls suffer disproportionately from disasters— while working to help them rebuild their lives and their families lives.

**Founders Pennies;** donations support federation programs.

**Club Giving;** donations ensure our Soroptimist Federation can increase the number of women and girls who benefit from our global programs.

**Even more donations are made:** And throughout the year, we may receive requests from organizations or individuals who need a helping hand. If we are financially able, we try to help.



Community awardees, Scholarship and Live Your Dream Awardees with Club President and City and State representatives

Soroptimists are women who believe in the power of joining together to make the world a better place for women and girls and those in need. Soroptimists inspire women and girls to live their dreams and encourages them to pass on their good fortune to others. Bellflower Soroptimists are part of a global force of women, working for a united cause – to make the world a better place for women and girls and their families through volunteer work. We believe that when women help themselves and one another, amazing things can happen.

Some of the Bellflower Soroptimists who are making a world of difference



We are an organization for and by women, using our collective power, to help other women transform their lives and the lives of their families – locally and throughout the world.

