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**Soroptimist International of
Bellflower was chartered on
May 2, 1953**

For more information about the
Bellflower Soroptimist Club, be
sure to check out our website:

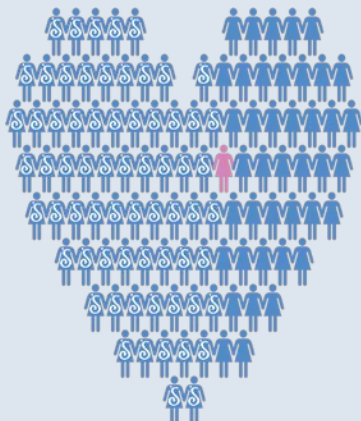
<http://www.soroptimistbellflower.org>

and go to our Facebook page and
"Like" us!

**Bellflower Soroptimists
PO BOX 301
Bellflower, CA 70706**

Our theme this year is:

**"Making a Difference, One
Woman At A Time"**



April, 2013

Soroptimist International Of Bellflower

**A service organization made up of women who strive to make a difference
for women and girls in local communities and throughout the world**

Presidents Message:

Happy Spring! It's been a while since you have received a newsletter from the Bellflower Soroptimist Club and we apologize for that! We are still here and still working to raise money and make a difference for women and girls.

In November we held our very successful Fashion Show that was attended by close to 200 women. It is because of that great event that we are able to give away money to deserving women, girls and organizations at our upcoming "Live Your Dream Award Tea" on May 14. At this event not only will we pay tribute to deserving women, we will enjoy a traditional style English Tea, with all the "proper English" food. We invite you to come be a part of this great event! Check out our website for the flyer with all the information!

We held our Las Vegas Night with the Noon Lions in March and unfortunately it did not make the money for us that it normally does. Because of that, the amount of money that we are able to give away will be reduced but at the same time it allows us to "Go back to the drawing board" to see what other fund-raisers we can come up with so that we can make money ...so that we can then give it away!

And on much happier note – it is with great excitement that I am able to say that we have inducted 1 new member and have a verbal commitment from another who says she is going to join our club! Yeah!! The more the merrier, as they say!

Again, to all our members, I say many thanks for all that you do. You are making differences in so many lives by being a part of our club. Whether you come to meetings or not, you are an integral part of this great group of women. It's the selling of tickets, it's the donation of prizes for the fashion show; it's the brainstorming you do... Every single thing you do helps to transform lives. Thank you! Now spread the word and let's look for some new members!!

President Sue



On the look-out for new members!!

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK



National Volunteer Week is a time to celebrate people doing extraordinary things through service. Established in 1974, National Volunteer Week focuses national

attention on the impact and power of volunteerism and service as an integral aspect of our civic leadership. The week draws the support and endorsement of the president and Congress, governors, mayors and municipal leaders, as well as corporate and community groups across the country.

Mother's Day 2013

Mother's Day is just around the corner and LiveYourDream.org has the perfect gift for this occasion! We joined with jewelry artist Amy Volchok to offer a handmade sterling silver "Live Your Dream" bracelet. This gorgeous, specially designed piece is an elegant and inspirational reminder to live your dream each and every day.



[Order a bracelet](#) for your mom or another influential woman in your life. Or, share this link, http://bit.ly/Shop_LYDbracelets, with your partner or children and hint at how much you would love to receive this unique Mother's Day gift. Then don't forget to act surprised when you open the package on your special day!

We are pleased to share that in support of our mission, Amy Volchok is donating 50% of every sale back to Soroptimist programs that help women and girls to live their dreams. It's the Mother's Day gift that keeps on giving.

Our Impact

Don't be afraid of the space between your dreams and reality. If you can dream it, you can make it so.
— Belva Davis

When we dare to dream for women and girls, amazing things can happen. They go forward with courage to do great things for themselves, their families, communities and the world. Here, you'll discover how our collective efforts of time, talent and treasure have made a real difference in the lives of women and girls all over the world. Their stories continue to inspire and amaze us!

Our programs are the heart of **our mission** and work, and they continue to empower women and girls everywhere to live their dreams. In 2010-2011, clubs disbursed more than \$1.5 million in education grants, benefiting 1,221 women through **Women's Opportunity Awards**, our cornerstone program. Funding increased by \$81,270 (5.5 percent) and recipients increased by 20 (2 percent). The Women's Opportunity Awards enjoy a 75 percent participation rate. Progress also was made through the other SIA programs and projects, including raising awareness about sex slavery and the approval of an anti-prostitution resolution. In total, \$2,229,354 was disbursed both directly and through our clubs, benefiting 7,638 women, who are now on their way to better lives.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY WE RAISE GO TO?

- *Women's' Opportunity Award – Soroptimists signature service project, financially assists women entering or re-entering the workforce in obtaining education or training they need to improve their ability to provide for their family and themselves. These women are head of household and are the primary source of financial support for their families. Our donation to them is a positive life-altering moment for many of the women.*
- *Local Domestic Violence Shelter*
- *Scholarships for girls going onto college*
- *Local drug and alcohol treatment center for women*
- *Soroptimist Village – A low-rent senior citizen complex in Norwalk. Built in 1963 by Soroptimists and managed by Soroptimists, housing is provided for 60 low-income seniors.*
- *Violet Richardson Award – A recognition program for young women between the ages of 14 – 17 who are engaged in volunteer action within their communities or schools. Money is given both to the young woman and to the organization she volunteers to.*
- *We support many organizations within our local community. Among them are the Brakensik Library; Bellflower Volunteer Center; The Los Cerritos YMCA and many more.*
- *Additionally we help women and girls around the world. Read the article in this newsletter about the December 10th appeal for how we make a difference every December. Additionally we helped the disaster victims in Japan following the Earthquake and tsunami as well as aided victims of sexual abuse in Haiti after the earthquake that ravaged that country. And this is just a few examples of how we make a difference around the world.*

If you would like to help make a difference in women and girls lives but are unable at this time to become a member, you can still help by making a financial donation. Any donation you make is tax-deductible since we are a 501 C-3 organization.

Send your check to our PO Box. (PO Box 301 Bellflower, CA 90706)

We will send you a receipt to use for your taxes. And if you want your check to be ear-marked for a specific cause - the Soroptimist Village or the Women's Opportunity Award or... just indicate on your check and we will apply your donation to that specific award.

Thank you for your consideration! Your donation will help us to continue to make a difference in women and girls lives!

And it's tax-deductible. A win-win for everyone – that's for sure!



Soroptimist International

Being a member of the Soroptimist Organization means that you are helping to make a difference for women all over the world. In our club, the Bellflower club, we do not ask that you pay anything extra to help make this difference. Just being a member and paying your normal dues means that you are helping a woman in need somewhere in the world. One big project that all the Soroptimists in the world (and that's a lot of us!) participate in is our December 10th Appeal.

Every year, on Human Rights Day (December 10) the President of Soroptimist International selects a project that provides direct assistance to women in extreme need.

Past projects have provided: aid for refugees in camps in Malaysia; protection and help for women AIDS sufferers in Uganda and the Ukraine; scholarships for girls in Mongolia and Rwanda; vocational training programmes and shelter for vulnerable women and children in Paraguay; education and nutrition for abandoned children in Vietnam; malaria protection for pregnant women and young children in Benin, West Africa; enhanced access to education for girls in impoverished areas of Pakistan and support for long term patients at the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia.

December 10 President's Appeal

by Alice Wells, President, Soroptimist International

Can you imagine:

- Having to deliver your baby on the floor because there are not enough beds?
- Knowing that the odds of you and/or your baby surviving are not in your favor?
- Having to bring your own food and drink to a birthing center when your child is about to be born?
- Not knowing when your child will be born?

These are all challenges that women face when giving birth in Papua New Guinea. For women who live in the highland provinces of the country, there are still traditions and practices concerning pregnancy and childbirth that reflect superstition and lack of education.

Read more about the 2011-2012 December 10th President's Appeal.

<http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/presidents-message>



Calendar of Events:

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| April 26 – 28 | Spring Conference in Ventura |
| May 7 | Business Meeting |
| May 14 | Awards Luncheon (check out our flyer on our website for details!) |
| June 4 | Business Meeting |
| June 11 | Program Meeting |

Think about the message below. And then when you have thought about it, think about *becoming* one of those women and become a member of Soroptimist International of Bellflower! Join us in making a difference, one woman at a time! Call Susan Held @ 562-862-8669 or e-mail her at Susan@manorinsurance.net

Charles Malik

***“The fastest
way to change
society is to
mobilize the
women of the
world”***