



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

Soroptimist International of the Tri-Cities

September 25th, 2007

Soroptimist Foundation of Canada
Chair, Jean Violette
223B Keith Rd. W.
North Vancouver, B.C. V7M1L7

RE: \$1000.00 SFC Grants for Clubs

Dear Ms. Violette;

I am writing on behalf of the Soroptimist International of the TriCities Club, with hope that we may be considered for one of the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada's \$1000.00 grants.

Our club, which chartered in 1999, has taken on a signature project for the next 3 years to assist the homeless women of the TriCities area, which to date numbers approximately 52. Our club has been invited to join the TriCities Task Force on Homelessness - a group comprised of multiple levels of government, community support agencies, faith organizations, and health organizations. We have accepted this offer with the understanding that we are specifically interested in working with the women in our community who are currently homeless or who may face homelessness in the imminent future. To date, we have met with the task force, outreach workers, the head of a local soup kitchen and extreme weather shelter and several government representatives to learn more about the complex issue and how we can address some of these women's needs. In addition to working with the task force on some of the broader issues (like detox facilities to address the high addiction levels, mental illness facilities, social housing, and support networks), we have also determined a need for educational and social clinics to establish relationships with this community of women.

The target audience for these "clinics" is the group of homeless women (52); initially, we understand that we need to establish relationships and build trust with these women, so the clinics may be more social in nature - hot meals, cards, puzzles, a video and a chance to get out of the cold. As the monthly clinics expand in nature, we intend to have a podiatrist in to address their foot health issues (which we have been told are severe), a dentist, a nurse, a hairdresser and other services that show the women that someone in the community cares for them. We know they need to be seen first as women, second as homeless. Ideally, once some trust has developed, we may eventually expand the program to include resume writing workshops and interview skills. However, we know that due to the complexity of reasons behind the homeless epidemic, we need to be realistic in our goals.

Improving the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world.

Most of the homeless women in the TriCities do not have any form of transportation, so the clinics will most likely be held at the 3 food bank locations in the TriCities, where the women have been before and can reasonably get to. Two of these locations are church basements; the third is Share Community Services in Port Moody.

Our club has been fundraising for our signature project for the past 6 months; we have raised monies to cover the cost of providing underwear, socks, blankets, pillows, and personal hygiene packages including shampoo, soap, deodorant, tooth brushes, tooth paste and various other items. We have delivered these "essentials kits" to the outreach workers twice already. We have also organized an upcoming clothing drive for coats, flashlights, blankets, hygiene products and socks.

The funds we are requesting from SFC will be used to cover the cost of the food for each evening (probably soup, sandwiches, coffee & juice), cutlery, table coverings, supplies for the social aspect of the evening, paper and photocopying for advertisement in the local soup kitchens. The clinics will be monthly, and it is our intention to offer them on an ongoing basis for years to come and the \$1000.00 grant will kick-start this program.

We hope that our project meets the required criteria and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Sincerely,

Dana Martin
President

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Attachments: Proposed Budget
The "Now" Newspaper Article Dated April 13th, 2007
Photo - Essentials Kits Preparation