

# Salty Soroptimist News

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**SOROPTIMIST®**  
**Investing in Dreams**

*Celebrating the past ~ Creating the future  
Where women and girls thrive, and dreams really do come true*

## President's Message

Happy New Year! Doesn't it feel great to be starting with a new month and a new year? I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. December was filled with busy Soroptimists doing what they do best, giving and serving.

I am so proud of the way our Breakfast with Santa unfolded. It was a tremendous success. Santa's Soroptimist elves did everything we could to make this the best Christmas ever for our single moms. I wish to personally thank each person who donated toys and clothes as well as those who put so much energy into collecting donations, delivering to the moms and coordinating the event. Janis' church was stellar in the way they donated toys and delivered gifts. Jan's yoga studio came in a close second on toy donations.

We also held a successful fundraiser and chose our Live Your Dream award winners in December.

With 2021 behind us it is time to get back down to business. I am looking forward to the months ahead. As Vern McLellan said, "What the New Year brings to you depends a great deal on what you bring to New Year."

*Carolyn Roberts, President, SI of Salt Lake*

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# ***SI SLC Members Brave the Snow; Celebrate in Style***

*By Cheri Richardson*



We weren't exactly dreaming of a White Christmas party, but we got one just the same. On Wednesday, December 15, eleven of our members braved the snow to attend our annual Christmas party, held at the Jordan Villas Clubhouse.

The Christmas party has always been a time of gathering just to enjoy the company of the fabulous women who make up our membership, and this year was no exception. We had great food, a great time visiting around a single table, and a great Christmas gift exchange - with the T-Rex being the sought-after prize.

We held the drawing for the fundraiser, and our own Rita Offrett won the grand prize. (She also got the T-Rex. So much for her saying that she never wins anything!) Congratulations to Rita and thanks to all who contributed.

My most sincere thanks to all who attended our celebration.



Cheri and Loretta



Cathy and Carolyn



Jan and Pat



Carma and Julia



# Fall Fundraiser a Great Success!

By Cathy Stevens

Congratulations to Rita Offrett, this year's winner of our Fabulous Fairmont Hotel Trip fundraiser. This 3-night stay at one of the 5-star Fairmont Hotels in a city of your choosing plus airfare, was sponsored by Winspire Inc.



Rita learns she won the Fall Fundraiser Vacation!

Tickets were sold on the SISLC website for 2 months with the winning ticket drawn at our Christmas party on December 15th. It was so exciting that one of our members had the winning ticket.

This year's trip fundraiser, along with Giving Tuesday, netted over \$4,000.00. Thanks to all of you who bought and sold tickets and promoted our event!

## Soroptimist International President's Appeal 2021 – 2023

By Rita Offrett

"Opening Doors to a Bright Future", is the Soroptimist International (SI) President's Appeal, 2021-2023.

The Appeal unites Soroptimists, Clubs, Unions and the five Federations, with the aim of delivering tangible benefits to some of the world's most marginalized women, girls, and their communities. This project dove tales very well with the Soroptimist of the Americas Dream Projects. "Opening Doors to a Bright Future" will cement the Soroptimist belief and commitment to Education throughout the life-course, and its immense power and fundamental role as a driver for sustainable development, peace, and equality.

Investing in girls' education brings high rewards, breaking cycles of poverty and aiding economic growth. Education empowers women, girls, and their communities, delivering skills and knowledge, while increasing confidence. Education and Mentoring enables women and girls to make informed decisions affecting their future wellbeing, health, participation, and quality of life.

"Education is the tool to tackle multiple barriers faced by women and girls today. Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, progress was visible in the delivery of quality education around the world, however, the past 17 months, has taken a toll, with UNICEF estimating 156 million children and young people are out of school. Of these, six out of 10 have no access to basic literacy and numeracy.



Estimates further suggest 750 million adults are illiterate, with many living in poverty, facing marginalization, and disadvantage. Inequitable access to educational resources and learning is exacerbated by the digital divide, and as such, opening the door to education is an essential goal in each of our Appeal projects.

At our Salt Lake Soroptimist Christmas Party, we gathered \$135 in donations to be forwarded to the President's Appeal. If you did not attend and would like to donate to the SI President's Appeal, please contact Treasurer Loretta Peterson.

# SI SLC Awards Six Live Your Dream Awards

By Teresa Just

I am happy to share with you that Soroptimist of Salt Lake selected six women to receive *Live Your Dream Awards*.

We awarded a total of \$8,000.

- \$2,000
- \$1,700
- \$1,300
- \$1,000
- \$1,000
- \$1,000



A very special thanks to our judges:

- Marin Christensen – Associate Director, Utah Women & Leadership Project
- Samira Harnish – Founder & Executive Director, Women of the World
- Casey Fagan, Resident Service Manager, Geraldine E. King Women's Resource Center

An award banquet will be scheduled later this year.

Our first-place recipient, Mandy Van Dijk Hutt agreed to let us share her story. She is an amazing woman who has overcome many challenges in her life. Here is a summary of her story.



*I was a young mom. My first child was born when I was 19 and due to financial hardships, I had to leave school. Her dad unfortunately chose to not be in her life and so I put 100% of my focus on supporting her. For a very brief time I was on food stamps and state assistance, I had to live in low-income*

*housing, and I was determined to do better. I worked 3 jobs to get us off state assistance. I was very thankful that it was available for us, but I wanted it to go to others who I felt needed it more than we did.*

*I married 3 years later and had 2 more children, boys. I continued to stress education to my own children throughout their lives. In 2010 my husband passed away from cancer. His battle was 10 months long and through it we were able to say our goodbyes and have the hard talks. He died at home with our family surrounding him and I believe his death was peaceful as he had asked. After that, I had very little hope left, I was sad, exhausted, and scared about the future, but I had to keep going for my kids.*

*Through these 11 years without him, I experienced extreme grief, challenges and put the pieces of our lives back together to where we have healed and keep going with the void still a part of our lives. My children have achieved so many wonderful things these past 11 years. The journey did not come without struggles, I worked multiple jobs at a time to get them raised and through school. I hid many tears and many struggles.*

*A few years ago, my son, who was wanting to drop out of college, said "how can you push us to get a degree when you never got yours?" I realized he was right, how could I? So, the next day I showed up at his school with my new student ID card in hand and said, "If I have to finish school, so do you." From there a dream became a reality.*



*I had always regretted not finishing my education. Now I have a new drive, a new purpose. Through my husband's cancer journey there was so much focus on medicine and so little focus on the end of life that when it finally came to the final days, we were unprepared as to what to expect. I was grateful to a hospice nurse who lovingly guided me through. In his journey of death and being present for others in my family who have passed away, I found my purpose. To be with patients and families during the last moments of their lives. To guide them through the process of transition, to help them pass on peacefully. Through this I have learned the art of reiki for pain management, meditation, of holding and creating a calming and peaceful space in which someone can die, while allowing their families to say their last goodbyes.*

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Once I have my degree as a counselor I plan to open "The Center for Grief", where those experiencing grief (not only death related) can come to express their emotions through art therapy, music therapy, yoga, exercise, movement, meditation, gardening, group therapy, and recreational outdoor therapy. If I can make a difference in the life of one person, who finds themselves as lost and empty as I felt in my empty shell 11 years ago, then I have successfully reached my dream.

I only have 1 year until my Bachelor's; I can't quit now. I just need some help getting there.

From the bottom of my heart, Thank you!



### The Global Impact of the Live Your Dream Awards Program

**live YOUR dream**  
education & living awards for women®

**Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards®**  
Igniting Change for Women

**OUR GLOBAL IMPACT IN FY20/21**

- ▶ \$2.6 million+ in education awards disbursed
- ▶ 1,871 motivated women received an award
- ▶ 886 women received additional support beyond an award

**WOMEN ARE ECONOMICALLY EMPOWERED**

Past recipients report:

- 85% completed their education and improved their standard of living
- 94% increased their self-esteem
- 97% are now living in a safe environment (of the 53% who are survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, trafficking and/or prostitution)

**WOMEN & FAMILIES GAIN INDEPENDENCE**

Recipients said:

- ▶ "It helped me lot financially, but more than that, I can see that many people support me mentally. I realized I wasn't alone and that was the biggest help to me. Having received the Live Your Dream Award was a great success in my life and gave me confidence." —Japan
- ▶ "Knowing that this group of ladies had chosen me, and believed that I could succeed was the extra boost that I needed at times. Choosing to squeeze classes into my already busy schedule was a challenge. Soroptimist had invested in me; I was not going to let them... or myself! I have always believed in myself. However, one can never underestimate the empowerment that comes from someone else believing in you too!" —U.S.A.
- ▶ "Despite facing violence and more, with your support I was able to stay in school. Thank you so much, keep up this wonderful volunteer work." —Brazil

View the full *Live Your Dream Award* Impact Report at: <http://bit.ly/LYDAImpact>

**SOROPTIMIST** Investing in Dreams

**LIVEYOURDREAM.ORG**

**SOROPTIMIST.ORG**

# Breakfast with Santa Recap

By Teresa Just

Our 15<sup>th</sup> annual Breakfast with Santa is now in the "history books".

Thank you to all our members, volunteers and donors who contributed their time and money.

I heard from so many people who were disappointed that we did not have our traditional in person event. I share your disappointment; however, I can personally tell you that Breakfast with Santa made a huge impact for the families we served.

Quote from one of the mothers:

*"Thank you so much! On the application I didn't have a chance to write thank you! It is thanks to programs like you that women can succeed many times after traumatic events! You will make my children's Christmas Amazing, they have been through so much I. Their little age. We were in Domestic Violence, and they were present many times when their dad beat me, thankfully we are not in that situation anymore. I am grateful for programs like yours that make difficult times a little bit easier. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"*

I personally had the privilege of delivering to two special ladies who are both previous Live Your Dream award recipients. Both sent me a text expressing their gratitude.

*"Thank you so much ..... I am overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness and kindness. Everything I have is because of angels who walk the earth who have blessed me and my children. Even the shoes and shirt I have on today was a gift from others. We are so grateful for the love and sacrifice of others. Merry Christmas and know you are loved....."*

*"Happy New Year. I wanted to thank you for the AMAZING Christmas. You are so kind and sweet to sacrifice for my family. They were so surprised and grateful. You made all of them smile like I haven't seen in a while. You are a true angel. Thank you so much."*

I also received a text on Christmas from another mother that simply read "Thank You".



I want to highlight a few people in our club who really went above and beyond in collecting donations for our families.

Janis Nash rallied her entire neighborhood around Breakfast with Santa. They created an Angel Tree and placed it in their church. They hung an angel for

each of the two wishes, per child, total 144 representing the 72 children in the program. All angels were taken, and gifts donated. Estimated value is over \$6,000. WOW! And if that was not enough, they collected donations and assembled Christmas stockings for each of the 72 children.



Through Jan Crane's amazing relationships, the yoga studio she attends once again donated carloads of toys valued at over \$2,700. AMAZING!

We received many other gift donations from members and the community. In total we received in-kind toy donation valued at over \$9,500.



We also want to recognize the generous donations given by Jennifer Lanzetti and her

business Bid-n-Buy. Jennifer donated clothing items and gift bags for each of the 36 moms. THANK YOU!



Thank you to all the committee members.

- Carolyn Roberts
- Pat Murdoch
- Carma Ingram
- Angela Yarborough
- Julia Vernon
- Diane McCarty
- Margy Russotto
- Janis Nash
- Cheri Richardson

Our ongoing thanks to American Express for their donation this year and for being a continuing sponsor of our Single Moms' Breakfast with Santa!



Celebrate with me another successful Breakfast with Santa!



...for making the 2021 Breakfast with Santa an amazing success!!!

## ***Upcoming Events***

Jan 5	• Board Meeting 5:30
Jan 5	• Newsletter Deadline
Jan 12	• Volunteer at Women's Resource Center
Jan 19	• Program Meeting TBD
Feb 2	• Board Meeting 5:30
Feb 2	• Newsletter Deadline
Apr 29 - May 1	• Rocky Mountain Region Conference, Cheyenne, Wyoming

## ***Happy Birthday***



AMY CAPUTO - JANUARY 23



## ***With Sincere Sympathy...***

**St. George, Utah** - Anthony Paul Montano, 31, passed away November 12, 2021. He was born March 5, 1990, in Salt Lake City, Utah to Paul Arthur and Wendy Ruiz Montano. He married Cecilia Cortes.

Anthony was Kay Ruiz' grandson. Our deepest sympathy and best regards go out to Kay and her family.



SOROPTIMIST®  
Investing in Dreams

**SOROPTIMIST**  
International of the Americas

**ONE** mission  
**MANY WOMEN**  
countless dreams

**OUR MISSION**

To improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.