

**Soroptimist International of Washoe County**  
**P O Box 5876, Reno, NV 89513**



**SOROPTIMIST**  
**Best for Women**

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**Local Soroptimist Club Celebrates Award Recipients**  
***\$4000.00 awarded to exceptional recipients***

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Reno, NV - Soroptimist International of Washoe County, a volunteer organization for business and professional women, presented \$4,000 in cash awards last week to exceptional recipients from our area. The ceremony was held on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at Rapscaillon's Seafood Restaurant. All award winners will now advance to the Soroptimist Sierra Nevada Region level, where they may be selected for additional awards.

The *Violet Richardson Award* recognizes young women who make the community and world a better place through their volunteer efforts. This year's winner, Carolina Navarrete, a senior at Reno High School and Key Club member, will present the \$500.00 award to her favorite volunteer activity - Special Olympics. "I enjoy helping people with special needs and love seeing them excel in their athletic endeavors" says Carolina.

The *Making A Difference for Women Award* honors women who, through their professional or personal efforts, make an extraordinary difference in the lives of women or girls. Kate High, founder of the Women & Children's Center of the Sierras (WACCS), will use the \$500.00 award to further her non-profit organizations mission. WACCS develops and manages small businesses that offer flexible and supported working conditions for poor and vulnerable women. The support includes skills training, mental health counseling, nutrition and legal advice. This system helps women create and maintain manageable and stable lives for themselves and their children.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the *Women's Opportunity Award*. This program provides women who serve as the primary wage earners for their families with the financial resources to offset costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education or additional skills and training. The award can be used for tuition, books, childcare, carfare or any other education-related expense. The Washoe County club's award of \$3,000.00 was presented to Kendal Stephens, who will use the funds to continue her education at Truckee Meadows Community College. Kendal has overcome many obstacles in her life and remains steadfast in her efforts. Once she completes her studies as a paralegal, Kendal, a single mother of four, hopes to be able to provide her children with the security and stability she has always longed for.

Founded in 2005, the Washoe County club is part of Soroptimist International of the Americas. Washoe County members join with almost 100,000 Soroptimists in about 120 countries and territories to contribute time and financial support to community-based projects benefiting women and girls. For more information or to donate funds to the Washoe County club for future awards, call Sonya Sistare, 775-815-6202.

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*Editor's Note: Founded in 1921, Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. Soroptimist International of the Americas is a 501(c)(3) organization. For more information, visit [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org).*