

Soroptimist International of Washoe County
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SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

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Local Soroptimist Club Celebrates Women with Awards *\$3,000.00 awarded to exceptional recipients*

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Reno, NV - Soroptimist International of Washoe County, a volunteer organization for business and professional women, recently presented \$3,000.00 in cash awards to exceptional recipients from our area. The ceremony was held on International Women's Day last Tuesday, March 8th at La Fuente Mexican Restaurant.

The *Fiat Lux Award* is a memorial club-level award honoring those who exhibit a "good light" within their community. We were pleased to present this award to Betty Himpelmann, a volunteer at Hosanna Home Women's Shelter. Since 2009, Betty has been the coordinator for Esther's Closet, which provides gently used clothing for the homeless and indigent women who come to Hosanna Home for assistance. Thru her efforts, Esther's Closet has grown into a public Boutique, using the funds raised to support Hosanna Home. She presented her \$500.00 award to Hosanna Home for use in expanding Esther's Closet.

The *Violet Richardson Award* honors young women for their volunteer actions in their community. This year's winner, Elizabeth Quinn, was honored for her work with the Northern Nevada RAVE Family Foundation. This organization provides respite to those caring for children with special needs. Elizabeth plans bi-weekly activities for the children and helps with fundraising. She presented the \$500.00 award to the Northern Nevada RAVE Family Foundation.

The *Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women* acknowledges women who are working to improve the lives of women and girls through their personal or professional activities. Tammy Treadwell, the Women's Services Coordinator for Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission, was pleased to receive this award for her efforts. She has been instrumental in expanding the Mission's Recovery program from five women to its current 20, thru her integrity and commitment. She will use her \$500.00 award to help fund this worthy cause.

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 \$1,500.00 was presented to Samantha Hayes, for her commitment to further her education in support of herself and her family. Samantha is a student at UNR in the nursing program, and an aspiring writer. She was an inspiration to everyone in attendance for her positive outlook in spite of the hardships she has faced.

Founded in 2005, the Washoe County club is one of 1,500 clubs that make up Soroptimist International of the Americas, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. For more information or to donate funds in support of these annual awards, contact Sonya Sistare, 775-815-6202 or visit our website at www.siwashoe.org.

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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.