

Soroptimist International of Washoe County
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SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

January 28, 2011
RELEASE DATE: Immediately

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Local Soroptimist Club Project Fills Growing Need
*Soroptimist International of Washoe County and Reno team up to provide
emergency supplies for children placed in temporary shelters.*

By: Sonya Sistare, Soroptimist International of Washoe County, 775-815-6202, sistares@unce.unr.edu

RENO – The Washoe County and Reno chapters of Soroptimist International are teaming up for the third year in a row on their “Totes for Kids” project. Working with Washoe County Child Protective Services, the “Totes for Kids” project provides emergency supplies for area children during an often stressful and scary situation.

The emergency totes are given to children ranging in age from newborn to 17 years old who have been removed from their home for their own protection. Often these children have only the clothes they are wearing at the time, and depending on the situation, may have to wait hours before being placed in safe housing or foster care. On Saturday, January 29, volunteers from both Soroptimist clubs will shop at an area retailer for new clothing and supplies to fill 100 totes. They meet again on Saturday, February 5th to pack the customized totes for each age group. The Soroptimists’ goal for this project is to make the transition more comfortable and less frightening to the child: providing a change of clothes, socks, underwear, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, a teddy bear or toy, a snack and water. The packing event will take place on Saturday, February 5th from 8a.m. to 11a.m. at the Social Services Building, located at 350 S. Center Street.

“We have learned from Child Protective Services representatives that our efforts really do make a difference. Knowing that our Totes bring a smile to a young child’s face or just provides a small distraction during a difficult time is very satisfying.” says Christine Wells, event coordinator for the Washoe County club. She added both the Washoe County and Reno clubs depend on their ongoing fundraising efforts to provide this much-needed service. Cash donations are always welcome to help fund this and their other community service projects. For more information or to donate funds to this project, call Chris Wells with Soroptimist International of Washoe County, 775-742-6587.

SUMMARY

What: “Totes for Kids” Project

When and Where: Packing takes place on Saturday, February 5, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m., at Washoe County Social Services, 350 S. Center Street.

Who: Co-sponsored by Soroptimist International of Washoe County and Soroptimist International of Reno. Contact Chris Wells, 742-6587.

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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.