

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



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

**November 7, 2008**  
**RELEASE DATE: Immediately**

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**Local Soroptimist Clubs Prepare “Totes for Kids” In Need**  
*Soroptimist International of Washoe County and Reno team up to provide emergency supplies for children placed in temporary shelters.*

By: Sonya Sistare, vice president of service, Soroptimist International of Washoe County, 775-815-6202, [sistares@unce.unr.edu](mailto:sistares@unce.unr.edu)

**RENO** – The Washoe County and Reno chapters of Soroptimist International are teaming up to provide a supply of emergency “Totes for Kids” to Washoe County Child Protective Services. The emergency totes are given to children ranging in age from newborn to 12 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 Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, volunteers from both Soroptimist clubs will be filling 100 totes with new items to make this transition more comfortable and less frightening to the child: a change of clothes, socks, underwear, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, a teddy bear or toy, a snack and water. This event will take place on Sunday, November 9 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the University of Nevada/Washoe County Cooperative Extension office, located at 5305 Mill Street.

“The need for a supply of these totes is ongoing in our area, and we, along with the Reno club, felt we could really help make a difference in the lives of these children by supplying them” says Christine Wells, event coordinator for the Washoe County club. Karen Munson, with the Reno club added that both clubs depend on their ongoing fundraising efforts to provide this much-needed service to Washoe County Child Protective Services. Donations are always welcome to help fund this and their other community service projects. The organizers wish to thank the Wal-Mart at Damonte Ranch for their patience and assistance with their large number of purchases, as well as First Independent Bank of Nevada, Larry Gilman, DDS., and John Zenz with Farmers Insurance for their donations and support of this service project.

For more information or to donate funds or supplies to this ongoing project, call Soroptimist International of Washoe County, 775-815-6202 or Soroptimist International of Reno, 775- 425-2433.

**SUMMARY**

**What:** “Totes for Kids” Packing

**When and Where:** 2 p.m., Nov. 9 at University of Nevada/Washoe County Cooperative Extension, 5305 Mill Street, Reno.

**Who:** Co-sponsored by Soroptimist International of Washoe County, 775-815-6202; and Soroptimist International of Reno, 775-425-2433.

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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 comprises approximately 95,000 members in more than 120 countries and territories worldwide who contribute time and financial support to community-based projects that benefit women and girls. The Women's Opportunity Awards program, which provides cash grants for head-of-household women seeking to improve their economic situation through additional education and training, is Soroptimist's major project. Soroptimist International of the Americas is a 501(c)(3) organization. For more information, visit [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org).*