

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

**December 4, 2008**

**RELEASE DATE: Immediately**

**Contact: Margaret Hall, Awards Committee, Soroptimist International of Washoe County, 775-971-3242, [siwashoecounty@hotmail.com](mailto:siwashoecounty@hotmail.com)**

**WASHOE COUNTY SOROPTIMIST SEEK APPLICANTS FOR  
WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITY AWARDS**

*Recipient to receive cash grant for educational expenses*

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

**RENO** – Women who serve as the primary wage earners for their families and seek financial assistance to go back to school can now obtain applications for the Women's Opportunity Awards, Soroptimist International of Washoe County's major service project. Applications are available by contacting Margaret Hall at 775-971-3242 (evenings please.) Completed applications must be returned to Soroptimist International of Washoe County by December 15.

Since 1972, the Soroptimist Women's Opportunity Awards program has provided 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 will provide a \$3,000 cash grant to its award recipient, who will then advance to the Soroptimist Sierra Nevada Region level, where one recipient will receive \$5,000. The program culminates with the award of \$10,000 to three finalists.

Soroptimist International of Washoe County is a volunteer organization for business and professional women dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. Founded in 2005, the Washoe County club is part of Soroptimist International of the Americas where almost 100,000 Soroptimists in about 120 countries and territories contribute time and financial support to community-based projects that benefit women. In addition to participating in the Women's Opportunity Awards program, Soroptimist International of Washoe County helps children living in transition by supporting the Kids Kottage emergency child protection shelter as well as the "Totes for Kids" program with Washoe County Child Protective Services. For more information about how our club improves the lives of women and girls, call Sonya Sistare at 775-815-6202.

**SUMMARY**

**What:** Women's Opportunity Award

**When and Where:** Applications due December 15 to Soroptimist International of Washoe County

**Who:** Contact Margaret Hall, 775-971-3242 or [siwashoecounty@hotmail.com](mailto:siwashoecounty@hotmail.com)

###

*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 100,000 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).*