



CELEBRATING A CENTENNIAL OF WOMEN EMPOWERING WOMEN

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We Are Soroptimist; A global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. We are celebrating a wonderful milestone this month. October 2021 marks our centennial – 100 years of serving our communities locally and globally.



Soroptimist International of Grand Erie was chartered in 2014 to serve Brantford, Brant, Norfolk and Six Nations of the Grand River. Our local club, over 20 women strong, boasts a diverse membership; we have women from different backgrounds and walks of life, in their 20s to their 70s, all connected in our passion to serve our community and lift-up other women and girls.



- Our focus is on education because educated women and girls are:
- less vulnerable to sex traffickers
 - more likely to leave a domestic violence situation and not return
 - able to access healthcare
 - less likely to live in poverty
 - able to raise stronger, healthier families

When women and girls are empowered, they have a

sense of autonomy, self-confidence, and the power to control their private and public lives. We focus on access to education because we believe it's the most effective way toward empowerment.

Even though Soroptimist clubs have been around for 100 years, we don't work in a vacuum. We join many of the biggest foundations such as the Clinton Global Initiative and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in putting the empowerment of women and girls front and center. Our goals also are



aligned with the United Nation's agenda for women's equality.

The Grand Erie club is proud to share that, every year since our inception, we have locally hosted both of the Soroptimist International of the Americas



DREAM programs, aimed to help women and girls live their full potential.

The Live Your Dream Awards helps women get better paying jobs and increase their standard of living. Applications are currently being accepted for this award program with submissions due November 15th 2021. We will be awarding at least one \$1,000 bursary to a woman that has primary

financial responsibility for herself and at least one dependent, is attending an undergraduate degree program or a vocational skills training program, and has financial need.

Dream It, Be It gives local secondary school aged girls the tools they need to achieve their education and career goals, empowering them to break cycles



of poverty, violence, and abuse. By reaching girls while they are still young, we not only help them stay healthy and safe in the short term, but we can reduce the number of women in crisis in the future. The past two years, our local club was able to "pivot" during the pandemic and host virtual career support sessions and workshops. We included members from neighbouring clubs and made the sessions accessible to girls across the province.

As part of the centennial celebration, we are working with other clubs to reach our Big Goal of investing in the dreams of a half million women and girls through access to education by 2031. If you want to be part of the movement, consider joining us as a member or a sponsor and join our dream team!

