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## **FACT SHEET: Making a Difference for Women Award**

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### **Organizational Profile**

Founded in 1921, Soroptimist International of the Americas is an international volunteer service organization for business and professional women. Almost 100,000 Soroptimists in more than 120 countries and territories contribute time and financial support to community-based projects benefiting women and girls.

### **Organizational Mission**

Soroptimist's mission is to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and around the world.

### **Recognition Program**

The Making a Difference for Women Award program acknowledges women who, through their personal or professional activities, are working to improve the lives of other women and girls. The work of these women helps to promote the issues that are important to the Soroptimist organization. Honorees are women who have worked in extraordinary ways to benefit women and girls. Examples of the type of work honored include: spearheading an effort to open a domestic violence shelter, starting a mentoring program for at-risk girls, or lobbying companies to provide on-site childcare. The program enables local Soroptimist clubs and the Soroptimist organization to thank these women and encourage others to explore ways to assist women and girls.

The program begins on the club level, where the type of recognition varies. Award winners at the club level are eligible for additional awards at other levels of the organization. The finalist receives a \$5,000 donation to the charitable organization of her choice.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

Women who are improving the lives of other women or girls through their professional or personal activities are eligible for the Making a Difference for Women Award. These women have identified and focused on a need in their communities, which has significantly contributed to the improvement of women and girls' lives.

Although Soroptimist clubs are free to honor a woman for a lifetime of good work, the majority of the work should have occurred within the past two years. Previous award winners, Soroptimists and Soroptimist employees are not eligible for the award.

### **Past Recipients**

Past Making a Difference for Women recipients have include: domestic violence expert and advocate Elaine Weiss (the 2004 winner); U.S. Congresswoman Patsy Mink; U.S. Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder; novelist and former district attorney Linda Fairstein; Princess Diana; former child actor and U.S. Ambassador Shirley Temple Black; Philippines President Corazon Aquino; and renowned marine biologist Dr. Sylvia Earle.