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FACT SHEET: Violet Richardson Award

Project Summary

Greenville Soroptimists participate in Soroptimist's Violet Richardson Award program, which was created in 2000 as a way to recognize girls for their volunteer service to their communities. The program honors young women between the ages of 14 and 17 whose volunteer efforts include helping other disadvantaged girls; fighting drugs, crime and violence; cleaning up the environment; and working to end discrimination and poverty. Volunteer actions that benefit women and girls are particularly valued.

The program is named after Violet Richardson Ward, the first president of the first Soroptimist club in 1921. Violet was committed to creating opportunities for girls and young women through her affiliations with Soroptimist, the Girl Scout Council and the American Association of University Women. Her passion for community service, particularly as it affected women and girls, has been an inspiration to Soroptimists throughout the years.

Award Levels

The Violet Richardson Award program begins at the local Soroptimist club level, where the type of award varies. Soroptimist International of Greenville presents a \$300 award to winners and presents a \$150 award to the charitable organization of the winners choosing. Club-level winners then become eligible for one of 28 \$1,000 awards. In addition, \$1,000 will be contributed in honor of these winners to their volunteer organizations. One finalist will be chosen from among the 28 winners for an additional award, including a contribution of \$2,500 to the finalist's volunteer organization.

Applications

Applications are available in hard copy form by contacting Priscilla Winley, Violet Richardson Award chair, at (864) 640.1532. Or, it is now available as an easy-to-use writeable PDF form. Partner organizations such as high schools or girl-centered organizations, such as the Girl Scouts may distribute, also via email, the application to prospective applicants. Applications may be emailed directly to individual girls. In either case, the applicants will then be able to fill out the form on-line and email the completed application directly to the Greenville club email: soroptimist@gmail.com. Applications are due December 1.

Funding

Soroptimist International of Greenville raises funds for the Violet Richardson Award by hosting a Soroptimist High Tea in September annually.

Soroptimist International of Greenville

Soroptimist International of Greenville is a volunteer organization for business and professional women that works to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. Founded in 1987, the Greenville club is part of Soroptimist International of the Americas. Greenville members join with almost 95,000 Soroptimists in about 120 countries and territories to contribute time and financial support to community-based projects benefiting women. The Greenville club helps support local organizations such as Serenity Place, Greenville Literacy, The SC Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition. In addition, the club participates in Soroptimist International of the Americas' major service project, the Women's Opportunity Awards program, which provides 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.