



S O R O P T I M I S T  
I N T E R N A T I O N A L  
M A N H A T T A N B E A C H

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# LUNA FEST



It was a difficult year to do our traditional fundraising, but two amazing opportunities came our way that allowed us to safely reach our goals.

We sold over 200 tickets in **Dream Raffle 2020**, offering cash prizes in six drawings. The money we raised supported all of our service projects, allowing us to continue the positive impact of mentoring girls of all ages in our community, providing grants to single mothers, aiding those with breast cancer, and funding our other programs.



President Cheryl Abel pulled the six winning tickets, and we thank everyone who took a chance!

The LUNAFEST Film Festival was re-imagined as a virtual event, and we had over 250 people tune in from home in June. One of the filmmakers, Erin Rye, joined us on a podcast with the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce and Jackie Balestra (South Bay by Jackie) for an interview. Erin's insights about the film industry and how women are represented were reflected in her film, "Lady Parts." We missed gathering together for this event but are so glad that our

audience was able to enjoy these wonderful films.



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS WHO CONTINUED TO SUPPORT US:



BLOCK CONSULTING ACTUARIES, INC.



CONTINENTAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION



# live YOUR dream

education & training awards for women®

The signature program of Soroptimist is the Live Your Dream Education and Training Awards, for women who provide the main financial support for their families as they work to improve career options through education.

This year our club awarded \$14,000 to four South Bay women. They were enrolled in community colleges in the health care field (3 are becoming nurses) and planning to transfer to four-year schools. These inspiring single mothers used the funds for child care, transportation, and school expenses.

We were unable to hold our annual awards dinner to celebrate with them in person. They submitted video “thank you” messages that we shared with our club members, telling their stories of overcoming obstacles to improve their lives.



*Blanca Rodriguez, a counselor at Los Angeles Harbor College, welcomed Award Chair Kelly Fogarty to the campus.*

## OUR GLOBAL IMPACT IN FY18/19

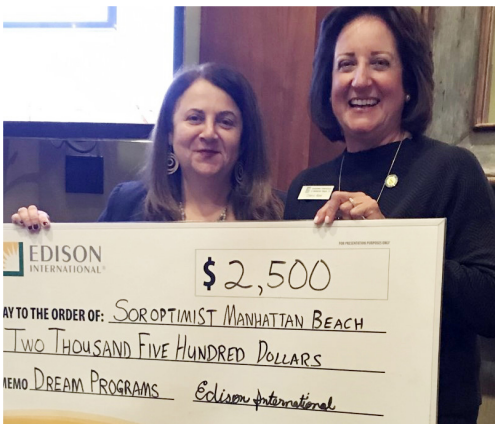
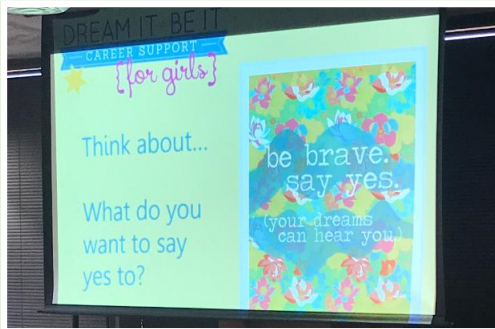
- > \$2.6 million+ in education awards disbursed
- > 1,655 motivated women received an award
- > 918 women received additional support beyond an award
- > Across 21 countries



live YOUR dream  
education & training awards for women®



# DREAM IT • BE IT CAREER SUPPORT {for girls}



This annual program is designed to help girls grow into strong, successful, happy adults. Dream It, Be It workshops assist high school girls who face obstacles to their dreams by providing professional role models, career education, personal assessment, and a roadmap for identifying and reaching goals.

Our session this year had 26 girls primarily from Leuzinger and Mira Costa High Schools. They were great participants and loved what they learned, and the women who presented to them. Highlights included a lunchtime panel discussion from five women who overcame obstacles to make successful careers, and a stress-busting session on meditation featuring a “sound bath.” It all made for an outstanding day!

We sincerely thank our Founding Sponsor Southern California Edison, WPromote for donating their office, White Light Sounds Hermosa Beach for their session, and Adecco.

## FOCUS ON GIRLS



The Mira Costa S Club partners with us in making Breast Cancer Comfort Bags, and they volunteered at the California Pizza Kitchen fundraiser. We support their service projects as well, and

donated dozens of feminine hygiene packages for their project with homeless women. In 2021 we are celebrating our 60th year as sponsors of S Club!

We sponsored a new club for middle-school girls, S Club Juniors, who held a clothing collection day for a shelter in Long Beach. These girls are eager for service opportunities and have so much to offer!

Em-J Krigsman received the Trudy Smart Memorial Scholarship of \$1,500 in honor of her service through S Club. Em-J lead the club as president this year, and will be attending the University of Wisconsin.



We provide volunteers and a scholarship through the Crown Jewel Club, a nonprofit group bringing life lessons and empowerment to fifth-grade girls. We created a \$1,000 grant for a high school graduate who stays in touch and lets us know how the program has impacted her over the years.

# HALLOWEEN BINGO



Our Halloween Bingo was held in October at the Manhattan Beach Badminton Club, bringing about 80 players for games and great potluck dinner. We gave Best Costume Awards and also sold Dream Raffle tickets. Thanks to everyone who joined in.



The 2019 Hometown Fair Wine Garden is always a good time--live music and good wine. We love serving in this happy oasis at the Fair. Remember to tip your bartender!

## BREAST CANCER COMFORT BAGS

Our club will soon reach a milestone of 3,000 tote bags filled with care items to assist women starting chemotherapy for breast cancer in underserved areas of the South Bay. We receive some donated items and purchase what we need, then assemble the bags at our “packing parties.”

We continue to receive feedback about the project and incorporate ideas to increase the usefulness of the donated bags, and to help create a more supportive system. They are delivered to oncology clinics at three South Bay locations, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Outpatient Center, and the bags are available for other patients upon request.

The Manhattan Beach Police Department raises funds for breast cancer with the Pink Patch Project, and we are grateful for their partnership. Together we hosted two fundraisers at California Pizza Kitchen and they also collected money selling t-shirts and other logo items. They raised over \$4,000 and we were joined at our holiday party by Chief Derrick Abell who presented the check, which enabled us to make and distribute 100 additional bags.

We gathered at a specially painted pink lifeguard tower in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month to showcase the project.



# Bette Deziel

On November 3, 2019, Bette Deziel, the last of our beloved Charter Members, passed on to meet with her fellow Soroptimist sisters. We have lots of photos, press clippings and documents from this early era, and these ladies had a blast! They were luminaries of business,



education and society, and embraced the Soroptimist mission, attending every district, region and federation meeting for many years. Bette was an active member for 66 years. She served as President for the 1960-61 term as well as other Board offices, and chaired our club's Silver Jubilee and Golden Anniversary celebrations. She currently was serving as the 2019-2020 Sunshine Chair. Bette and her husband, Don were longtime downtown Manhattan Beach business owners. They owned and operated Don's Jewelers, and were both very active in many organizations in Manhattan Beach. Bette always wore the most stunning gems! She will be greatly missed.



**We are continuing our partnership with Days for Girls International, sharing their vision of the dignity and worth of every girl and woman. Days for Girls provides sustainable feminine hygiene solutions and health education, making it possible for them to stay in school during their periods. We provide fabric and many hours of volunteer time, both at home and attending their Los Angeles work days.**

For our holiday project we collected over \$1,100 in gift cards for teens in foster care through the DCFS office in Torrance. Marixa Barba delivered them to the agency in time for their holiday party in December 2019.

