



# Soroptimist International of Willimantic

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Soroptimist?

Soroptimist is a 501(c)(3) international organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls. Loosely translated from Latin, Soroptimist is a coined term meaning "best for women."

### What is the organization's mission?

A global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

### Why does Soroptimist focus on women and girls?

Despite tremendous strides, women still do not enjoy equal economic or social status with their male counterparts. As an organization of and for women, Soroptimist feels uniquely qualified to tackle the challenges facing today's women and girls.

### What programs does Soroptimist of Willimantic offer?

- Live Your Dream Award is given to a woman who is head of household and getting an education to improve the life of her family.
- Dream It Be It Conference for High School Girls at ECSU in March each year.
- Dream It Be It Weekly program at Windham High School.
- Domestic Violence Program ~ Welcome bags and Awareness.
- Next Step Program ~ Helping incarcerated women to rebuild their lives.
- Youth Volunteer Award is given to a young girl who volunteers in the community.

### How are Soroptimist programs funded locally?

Soroptimist programs are funded locally by fundraisers and individual contributions. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, Soroptimist depends on outside contributions from businesses and individuals who support the Soroptimist mission.

For more information about the Willimantic Club and o  
visit [www.soroptimistwillimantic.org](http://www.soroptimistwillimantic.org)  
email [joanmerritt@charter.net](mailto:joanmerritt@charter.net)

To learn more about our Soroptimist visit  
[liveyourdream.org](http://liveyourdream.org) and [soroptimist.org](http://soroptimist.org)

