



STRONG & INDEPENDENT Soroptimist International of Fayette County



Introducing Soroptimist UpliftHER: Empowering Women, One Obstacle at a Time!

We're thrilled to launch Soroptimist UpliftHER, a dynamic new initiative designed to engage members in impactful change. Each quarter, we'll spotlight a critical barrier faced by women and girls on their journeys toward education and economic empowerment. You'll gain valuable insights and be equipped with project ideas to take meaningful action.

Here's what's ahead:

- January: Trafficking
- March: Single Parenting
- May: Period Poverty

Join us in uplifting HER by tackling these challenges head-on! Together, we can create brighter futures for women and girls everywhere.



Join Fayette Gives: November 7, 2024!

We need your help! Please join our campaign to reach \$3,000 and 30+ donors. Spread the word—tell your friends and family about the important work we do and encourage them to join us in making a difference. Feel free to forward this message to get others involved!

On November 7, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., visit www.fayettegives.org to donate. Your support helps local charities win cash prizes and strengthens our community. If you prefer to donate by check, make sure it's received by 8 p.m. on November 7 at the Community Foundation of Fayette County.

- Minimum donation: \$25 per charity
- Donate online or by check
- Hourly cash prizes for nonprofits!

Let's make Fayette stronger together! #FayetteGives



Take Action to End Menstrual Inequity!

Menstrual inequity affects ****500 million women worldwide****, including many right here in Pennsylvania. We need your voice! Help us advocate for ****Senate Bill 906, The Pennsylvania Menstrual Equity Act****, which will provide access to disposable menstrual products for those in need.

By writing to your legislators, you can make a real difference in the lives of women and girls facing period poverty. Let's work together to ensure access to basic necessities and promote menstrual equity for all.

****Act now**** and help pass Senate Bill 906!



Period Positive Campaign a Success!

Period Positive supplies were delivered to local schools including Uniontown, Laurel Highlands, Albert Gallatin, Connellsville, Vo Tech, Brownsville, Turkeyfoot, and Adelphoi. Over 1,000 individual pads and 350 tampons were distributed, and we still have 2,000 pads and 500 tampons remaining to distribute to local middle schools.

This initiative was a huge success, with approximately 17,000 products collected at 24 participating local businesses. Linda's office was overflowing with donations! We'll continue building on this momentum to support menstrual equity in our community.



Thank You to our local businesses!

Vanity Salon - Nancy's Swim Spa - Shear Symmetry Salon - First Presbyterian Church of California Pa - Crossfit of Uniontown - Amys Quilt Room - OmBody Massage and Wellness - Color Me Relaxed Salon - Perfect - 10 Nail Salon - Trinity Spa - Revive Salon - Terri's New Image Salon - Fayette Chamber ofCommerce - Fort Byrd Church Brownsville - Clifton Mills Church - Shady Grove Church - Hazelton Church - Domestic Violence Services of SW PA - Bruceton Wellness Center - New Life Covenant Church - NovaCare Uniontown and Masontown Locations - Light on the Hill Church Donegal - Adagio Health - Womens Grief Support Group - Cindy Sterling

Rendu House Update

On October 8th, Deborah McClelland, Linda Kaiser, and Denise DeHase attended the Rendu House board meeting and had the opportunity to meet with board members. While the house currently doesn't have any residents, there has been growing interest, and they've received several inquiries. The Rendu House is entirely funded by grants and donations, and they are ready to welcome any woman who is a veteran or the spouse of a veteran, with or without children.



Photo taken from
<https://nazareth.org/renduwomensshelter/>

During the meeting, we shared our club's mission and discussed how we could support their future residents when they arrive. The Rendu House's goal is to help women become self-sufficient through job training and education—a mission that aligns closely with our own. The board members once again expressed their gratitude for our recent support, and we look forward to attending their next meeting in November to continue building this partnership. Together, we can make a difference in these women's lives!



Transition Coaches October Meeting Recap:

On October 17th, the Transition Coaches held their monthly meeting, where Chris Kaufman led an engaging session with the girls, discussing STD's, safe sex practices and teenage dating. Following the insightful talk, the girls got creative by painting pumpkins generously donated by Linda Kaiser, bringing a festive fall touch to the meeting.

Looking ahead, next month's session promises to be equally engaging. We plan to host a guest speaker with an EMS background to share insights with the girls, one of which has expressed a strong interest in becoming a paramedic after graduation! We're thrilled to see the girls exploring future career paths.

Join Us in Orange the World 2024: CALL IT OUT!



Picture from SI International Great Britain and District website



From November 25 to December 10, Soroptimist International St Albans & District will once again "Orange the World" to raise awareness and take action against violence toward women and girls. This year's theme, **CALL IT OUT!**, urges everyone to move beyond awareness and actively speak up against gender-based violence. Orange, a symbol of hope and a future free from violence, will shine brightly across the globe during these 16 Days of Action.

Learn More About Monthly Gifts



For years, Soroptimist members have generously given monthly, but in 2019, we officially launched the **Stargazer Monthly Giving Program**—and it's been growing ever since! Today, more than 1,000 Stargazers are helping to make a difference, and the number keeps rising. Together, Stargazers contribute over \$65,000 each month to support our mission, fueling positive change and empowering women and girls. Join this inspiring community and help us continue to grow! Use the QR code to the left to begin your gift!

District IV Fall Meeting Recap: "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work"

On October 5, 2024, District IV Director Carol Walsh kicked off the Fall Meeting, "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work." Attendees, dressed in team jerseys with mini megaphones and Soroptimist blue pompoms, posed for a group photo. Carol welcomed first-time attendees with a special strawberry treat.

SI Fayette's Mary Len Hajduk, NAR Fundraising Chair, shared tips on building lasting partnerships with sponsors for Soroptimist Dream Programs. Members Catherine Forman and Vicky Sheetz role-played strategies for recruiting Live Your Dream applicants.

Deb Cook and Carol Rosemeyer of SI Somerset presented Soroptimist's history, including their club's projects over the years. Mary Len Hajduk concluded by awarding SI Somerset President Deb Menser her Stargazer pin.





The Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women

This award honors non-Soroptimist women who are making extraordinary efforts on behalf of other women. This award gives the club and the entire organization the opportunity to say “thank you” and encourage others to explore ways to assist women.

The Soroptimist Ruby Award recipient should be a woman who:

- Has worked to improve the lives of women and girls;
- Has had a significant impact on the lives of women and girls;
- Inspires and encourages other women.

Eligibility

- A woman in the community who is improving the lives of women or girls through her professional or personal life.
- By identifying and focusing on a need of women and girls, this woman has contributed to the improvement of their lives.
- Although clubs may honor a woman for a lifetime of good work, the majority of the work should have occurred within the past two years.

[Click Here to Nominate Someone](#)

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“She made broken look beautiful and strong look invincible. She walked with the Universe on her shoulders and made it look like a pair of wings.”

-Ariana Dancu

Upcoming Events

November 2, 2024 - Warrior's Rock Concert, Connellsville High School

November 7, 2024 - Fayette Gives

November 13, 2024 - Member Vendor Sale

December 11, 2024 - Soroptimist Christmas Party

May 2-4, 2025 - The NAR (North Atlantic Region) Spring Conference will be in Glen Falls, New York . The theme is “Walking the Red Carpet”

Do you know a business Oscar, Emmy or Tony Worthy?

The Soroptimist NAR Club Challenge is underway, with each club working to bring in at least one sponsor to help make our May 2-4, 2025, conference an unforgettable experience. It's time to encourage and support. We encourage all members to request local business participation and to support our sponsors throughout the event by visiting the vendor room. Here's a quick look at our sponsorship levels. Please ask if you need more info!

Oscar Level - \$1,000

Sponsors a business session, Live Your Dream Awards Luncheon, or Awards Banquet. Look for event signage, electronic recognition, and their logos on the NAR website. Oscar sponsors also join us at the luncheon or banquet with 4 tickets!

Emmy Level - \$500

Sponsors two workshop sessions. These supporters receive workshop signage, electronic recognition, and 2 tickets to the Live Your Dream Luncheon.

Tony Level - \$250

Sponsors a coffee or beverage break on Saturday. Look for their signage and business cards on the break tables, along with electronic recognition.

Announcing NAR Pillar Power Awards!

**Impact
(Programs)**



**Engagement
(Membership)**



**Philanthropy
(Fundraising)**



**Brand Recognition
(Public Awareness)**



- Each club submits one local project per Pillar to their District Director.
- The District Director and Vice-Chair will select one project per Pillar to represent the district for NAR judging.

.NAR Pillar Continued....

- Top district projects for each Pillar will be part of a panel discussion at the Spring Conference.
- Winning projects will be awarded at the Saturday banquet during the Spring Conference.
- Applications and Pillar details will be available on the NAR website and sent to clubs by the District Director when ready.

Member Spotlights



Mary Lenora Hajduk

Mary Len Hajduk has been a dedicated Soroptimist sister since 1996 and is also an accomplished attorney. She treasures the lifelong friendships she has built, and continues to build, within our group. A fun fact about Mary Len is that in 2019, she sang "Country Roads" with her granddaughters on a rooftop in Sydney, Australia—a memory she holds dear. One of her inspirations came from meeting a young artist at Touchstone who emphasized the importance of self-care early in life. Recently, she even learned how to organize her bookmarks in Google, she's always eager to pick up new skills! For Mary Len, success is simple - it's being able to sleep at night!

Denise DeHaas has been a Soroptimist sister since 2003 and is passionate about helping women and girls. A self-employed family therapist, Denise enjoys the opportunity to network and socialize through her work. Recently, she's been inspired by Soroptimist initiatives like "Paint the World Orange" and the "Blue Jean Project." Guided by her faith, Denise defines success as being content with where you are and with what you have in life. In her free time, she loves crafting, reading, cross-stitching, and, of course, catching up on sleep. Currently, she's working on a Christmas stocking for a friend's baby.



Denise DeHaas



Deborah McClelland

Deborah McClelland is a retired nurse with 51 years of experience and has been a dedicated Soroptimist sister since 2008. She is passionate about service, especially when it comes to supporting young women and girls. Currently, Deborah is involved in the CYS project, which she values for its focus on helping women build a brighter future. In her free time, she enjoys antiquing and traveling. A firm believer in the power of prayer, Deborah counts her family as her greatest success.

Women Helping Women: The Power of Mentorship and Support

There's something extraordinary about women lifting one another up. In a world that can feel competitive and uncertain, the value of having strong mentors, supportive friends, and a nurturing network is immense. When one woman succeeds, her success often clears the path for others, creating a ripple effect of empowerment.

Mentorship plays a key role in this process. More than just offering advice, a quality mentor is a role model and advocate, helping navigate challenges and providing perspective. These relationships are built on trust and mutual growth. When women mentor women, they not only help others succeed but also inspire future generations to do the same.

Equally important are the supportive friends and colleagues who stand by us during difficult times and celebrate our successes. These personal and professional bonds remind us we're never alone on our journeys. Together, they form the backbone of confidence and resilience that helps us push through challenges and embrace new opportunities.

Each of us has something valuable to offer—a lesson, encouragement, or support. As we lift each other up, we build a culture of mutual empowerment where more women can thrive. When women help women, we create a world where everyone can succeed.

Pumpkin Whip



This quick and creamy pumpkin mousse is the perfect fall treat, layered with crunchy gingersnap crumbles for added texture. Cream cheese and instant pudding create a rich, mousse-like consistency without the hassle of custard-making, while canned pumpkin and warm baking spices bring the cozy flavors of pumpkin pie to life in every spoonful.

[Find the recipe here.](#)