

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF LARGO MID-PINELLAS COUNTY, FL 2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Although we held a Charter Ceremony May 14, 2005, our club was not officially chartered until July 17, 2005 at our first Annual Planning Meeting.

July 17, 2005: Charter Ceremony and First Annual Planning Meeting. We chartered with 47 members and chose Pinellas Village, a residential facility for single parents striving for economic self sufficiency as our Club's Identifying Community Service Project.

September 24, 2005 "It's YOUR Birthday" Party at Pinellas Village. SI Largo, SI Holiday Isles and SI Upper Pinellas collaborated to provide a beautiful meal, entertainment and a nice birthday gift for 115 Moms and 2 Dads at Pinellas Village.

October 15, 2005 our club rented a table at a large craft show, soliciting contributions and raising awareness for the **Youth Arts Corps QUILTS!** Program, a free program for girls ages 11 to 17. We received contribution of two sewing machines and a large supply of notions and fabrics

October 24, 2005: Speaker at our meeting was to be **Nobel Peace Prize nominee Jane Roberts from UNFPA**, the UN agency that funds women's needs around the world. Unfortunately our speaker was unable to show. Hurricane Wilma arrived instead.

Pinellas Village Halloween Party: SI Largo supplied the door prizes including (5) \$10.00 Mc Donald's gift certificates for the children and (3) \$10.00 gas cards for the Mom's.

November 18, 2005 many of our members assisted in **Pinellas Village's Annual Fundraiser** as well as contributed items for their silent auction.

Soroptimist Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence November 25, 2005. SI Largo distributed 400 Hotline Cards to Largo Medical Center, Suncoast Hospital and two local Wal-Marts.

Secret Santa Project: On December 14, 2005 230 children residing at Pinellas Village were each given an opportunity to chose a Christmas gift for their parent, expertly wrapped by our members. Children's pictures were taken with Santa and given as additional gifts to the parents.

Many SI Largo members **adopted individual families at Pinellas Village and made sure moms and dads had some gifts from their individual wish list.** None of the residents went without special holiday gifts.

February 18, 2006 members taught a Cooking Class for Pinellas Village Moms while other members helped their children make felt sewing needle holders for them. The club also paid for infant care and gave away some lovely door prizes.

February 23, 2006: SI Largo partnered with League of Women Voters to hold a Largo City Candidates Forum for approximately 50 Largo High School Senior Social Studies students, about 1/3 of these students were registered to vote for the first time on March 7. SI Largo and the League of Women Voters have been urged to hold similar events annually.

SI Largo members participated in the **Largo Day of Good Deeds** in February 2006 and assisted with **The Clothesline Project** in March 2006 bearing witness to violence against women.

SI Largo 1st Fund Raising Event March 4 and 5, 2006 earned over \$1500 selling refreshments at Largo Central Park.

March 7, 2006 Member Pat Gerard was elected Mayor of the City of Largo, the first woman to be elected to that position.

March 8, 2006: International Women's Day- Women's Opportunity Award Dinner. Our winner of the \$500 award was a 30 year old single mother and survivor of many years of abuse who works full time to support her children, ages 16, 11 and 8 and goes to school full time. Janet said "When I succeed, my children succeed."

March 2006, SI Largo received as a donation 500 "Loves Me, Loves Me Not" Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention **Bookmarks** which we have shared with SI Tampa and with **The Haven**. The Haven will in turn share these with Pinellas Village residents when they present a Life Skills class on Domestic Violence.

SI Largo on Bay News 9 TV March 27, 2006:

SI Largo was featured on Bay News 9 "Everyday Hero". The story was filmed at the February 18th cooking class at Pinellas Village and included an interview of our Women's Opportunity Award winner, Janet Wright.

Pinellas Village Earth Day Project April 22, 2006: SI Largo partnered with Pinellas County Cooperative Extension Service, Home Depot, Keep Pinellas Beautiful Stop Litter Program, Winn Dixie Grocery and Waste Management Services to do a **complete makeover for Pinellas Village Landscape**.

Pinellas Village Life Skills Classes and door prizes provided by SI Largo:

January 26, 2006	Dating with Children
February 23, 2006	Understanding and Dealing with Today's Teens
March 23, 2006	Anger Management
April 27, 2006	Dealing with Bullies for Parents and Youth
May 25, 2006	Conflict Resolutions
June 26, 2006	Assertiveness Training

Our second fund raiser May 20 – Woof-Stock II where we earned \$287 as food vendor during this four-hour event. This was also a great "awareness" opportunity.

Members bring items to meetings to contribute to Pinellas Village residents:

Laundry products, feminine hygiene products, diapers, cleaning products, gas cards.

SI Largo collected six boxes of children's books and videos, plus multiple self-help books for Pinellas Village – and, of course, we take our clothing and household items to the Pinellas Village Boutique operated by the residents themselves.