

ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2007 – JUNE 30, 2008

August 4: Pinellas Village Back to School – members assisted in leading games, monitoring traffic flow and safety measures, especially around the air-filled jumping-jack playground equipment, dispensing food, and distributing backpacks filled with school supplies. We furnished Scientific Calculators for students who required them.

August 24-25: June and Shireen attended **Professional Development Seminar**, Philadelphia.

August 9: Youth Art Corps Open House: Several SI Largo members had orchestrated **donation of 36 bolts of quilting fabric, lots of threads, lace, and flat irons** by Glenda's Sewing Studio to Family Resources Youth Art Corps for their summer "Quilts" project; Darlene and June attended the Open House at Wildwood Rec Center, 1000 28th St S., St. Petersburg.

September 8: Pinellas Village Green Armada Cleanup: Members helped in distributing food and water and assisting in childcare; Emily brought books, puzzles, videos and craft items and coordinated children's activities during this **day-long event**.

October: **The club received a \$3,000 Grant from Oaklawn Foundation** for our work in the area of **Economic and Social Development!**

October 5 & 6, District II Meeting: Several members attended the annual Fall Meeting of our District; Bobbie Grunz presented our **Pinellas Village projects, winning the District GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARD**. APRIL 19, 2008 Bobbie and Rayshall again gave this presentation at **Southern Region Conference against the winners of the other three Districts and WON BY A LANDSLIDE**.

October 20: **Philippine Festival for Operation Pumpwell:** The club raised sufficient funds to drill about **12 deep water wells** in the impoverished Bicol Region of the Philippines, **bringing fresh water to about 2,400 people**. The extravaganza included a sampling of Pilipino food, history, singers, dancers, and fashion show. Tickets were donation of \$25. Additional funds were raised selling beverages, Philippine treasurers, collecting percentage of vendor table profit and through a silent auction. Helen Piloneo and Darlene co-chaired; **approx. 90% of the club members participated and we received press coverage**.

November: Soroptimist International of the Americas Disaster Relief Fund Grant:

Our club was granted \$16,000 to assist Pinellas Village in payment of their escalated property insurance premiums. This provided almost three months of insurance premiums and gave Pinellas Village the financial breather they needed.

November 7: Regular meeting - **Lore Raymond, who among other things is a teacher, syndicated author, and VisionMapping Workshop presenter was inducted into membership and presented us with “Conch Pearls of Wisdom”**

November 10: Day of Good Deeds: Members participated in this Volunteer Corps Advisory Board sponsored event; helping with room setup and tear down and other items on the agenda; the club had a table at the event to distribute bookmarks and club information.

November 26: FIVE PALLETS OF HAIR CARE PRODUCTS (L’Oreal and Nioxin) were donated by Beauty Alliance. They were **distributed to 14 homeless and emergency shelters and to two other Soroptimist clubs in the Tampa Bay area for their service project sites.**

November 27: Soroptimist Night at The Silver Queen: Several Members attended this annual Shopping Night and SI Upper Pinellas Dinner Meeting that followed.

December 3: CLUB MEETINGS WERE CHANGED TO MONDAY NIGHTS:

Our Holiday Meeting, entitled “Relax and Reflect” on the Year’s Blessings, was well attended and appreciated.

December 10: SI President’s Appeal: During the month of November, members followed a collection calendar and counted their pairs of shoes, the number of hours of TV watched the number of miles driven on a certain day, etc. The money was donated to SI President’s Appeal- **Restoring Dignity, Overcoming Obstetric Fistula in Ethiopia.**

December 12: Pinellas Village “Secret Santa”: Nearly all members and lots of friends participated in our third successful “Secret Santa” event. Due to recent surgery, Santa Denny was replaced by Santa Scott Stees. (No Santa suits were available for borrowing, so Mrs. Santa went on line and bought a Santa Suit with their own funds!) Judy Stees was Chair of the event. **About 230 children found that “perfect” gift for their Mom/Dad and Donna Hurst and other Scrap-Bookers helped children create their own Greeting Cards. Darlene took photos again this year and they were distributed after the event to the parents.**

January 7: Regular monthly meeting: **Hypnotherapist Mary Ramsey of “Body-Mind Balance” was inducted into membership. Mary offered her \$350 Stop-Smoking program at \$25 for Pinellas Village residents.**

January 13: SI Orientation and Refresher: Several members and prospective members gathered at June’s home for orientation about Soroptimist structure and programs at the International, Federation, Region and District levels.

February 6: Largo Chamber Women in Business “A Balancing Act” Forum & Expo” Our club had two tables at the Expo, one for club PR display (including our brand new brochures) and the other for Pinellas Village Display. We sold BeadForLife.org jewelry and new Live your Dream t-shirts. PV ED Jackie Tatsak brought a big check to the event in recognition of the \$16,000 Disaster Relief Fund Soroptimist Grant; St. Pete Times was present and took pictures.

March 8: Women's Opportunity Award "Live Your Dream" Luncheon was held at Cypress Palms Bonsai Spa Dining Room. Evelyn and Kathy's Committee orchestrated a magical time of celebration to honor our Winners!

April 7: Regular monthly meeting: Tess's Philippine Project: Education was presented by Dr. Pascual to be voted on at Annual Planning Meeting.

April 18-20: **Southern Region Conference**, Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort, included a PJ Party two nights at Linda & Marvin Feldman's Condo, and concluded with announcement that **SI LARGO WON GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARD FOR PINELLAS VILLAGE PROJECTS.** *Great Presentation* had been made on Saturday by Bobbie Grunz and Rayshall Poinsette.

May 1: **Mayor's Prayer Breakfast** – Our member Mayor Pat Gerard awarded Ellen Jensen with **Lifetime Humanitarian Award!** Ellen was one of our Charter members and will be 91 years young in June.

May 6: **Mother's Day at Pinellas Village** – Annaliese Smith chaired this event and it was **another wonderful success.** In addition to about six members, we had four "Friends of SI Largo" helping. We had a huge collection of great gifts and wrappings and there are loads left over for the next Secret Santa. We used construction paper and stickers for the cards and the children were very creative. Barbara, our "Friend of SI Largo" that rescued June when she fell at Cypress Palms on March 8, came to our rescue again with her picture taking skills. There is nothing like those children's smiles and imaginations!

May 16: **Our first Movie in the Park Fundraiser:** Shrek III Movie was billed as Family Night!

June 1: **Annual Planning Retreat** was held 1 – 4 PM on Sunday afternoon. **Significant new Projects approved by the membership include Tess' passion – her Pilipino Project: Education, a project at Bay Pines Veteran's Hospital, presented by Bobbie G., entitled "Women Vets Rape Recovery Room", and a program whereby we will be providing "Welcome Home" gift baskets for each "new resident" family at Pinellas Village.**

June 23: **United Nations Association, Tampa Bay Chapter Public Service Day** with Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio featured 5 Organizations: Americorps National Service, Peace Corps, Habitat for Humanity, Medecins San Frontieres, and Soroptimist International. Our logo appeared on the flyer and we displayed fabulous story boards that Mindy prepared for us. The event was held at University of Tampa. SI Tampa joined SI Largo Mid-Pinellas at for the display.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST:

- Our brochure was redesigned by Mindy and 1500 were printed;
- Program by Cherin Stover, Wealth Building Coalition, resulted in one of our members becoming VITA tax preparer in support of the Earned Income Tax Credit Program. Total EITC dollars from the 8 VITA Sites = **\$1,558,442.00**
- At least one of our members (there may have been more) mentored a child who resided at Pinellas Village. This was done formally through Gulf Coast Community Care who had also provided a program at one of our meetings.
- Informal mentoring was done by members on a casual basis with some of the single moms at Pinellas Village.