

DAILY NEWS-SUN

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2005

Soroptimist club gives women a boost

MITCHELL VANTREASE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ginny McClain has many jobs at the Soroptimist Thrift Shop in the Sun Bowl Plaza in Sun City. Every week, she's volunteered at least four hours of her time at the store.

In the end, McClain believes it's worth it because the funds raised at the shop go to local charities. Through the store's proceeds, Soroptimist International of Valley of the Sun will award more than \$50,000 to organizations at an annual breakfast Wednesday.

"We're proud because this money will help out someone's life," she said.

More than 20 local groups and nonprofit agencies will receive donations from Soroptimist, including the Sun City Posse, Interfaith Community Care, Sun Valley Lodge and

FYI

- **WHAT:** Soroptimist International of Valley of the Sun.
- **INFO:** Call 972-8008, or visit www.valleyofthesunsoroptimist.org.

Westside Food Bank. The funds will be used for various programs, such as scholarships, supplies and operations.

"With this money, we hope to meet some of their requests," said Judy Baerg, vice president of the club. "It's all about improving the lives of women and girls."

The first Soroptimist club formed in 1921 in California and incorporated the Valley of the Sun group in 1951. Since then, the organization has contributed more than \$1 million to charities.

Group members are professional and business women

who serve the community while advancing the status of women. The name Soroptimist is derived from two Latin words meaning "best for women."

The club has two main service projects — the Soroptimist Thrift Shop and aluminum can collection bins in Sun City at Bell Camino shopping center, Greenway Center, Sun Bowl shopping center, Thunderbird Plaza and Grand shopping center.

"It's a wonderful organization because we know who it directly affects," said Meredith Flinn, president-elect of the local organization.

Soroptimist created programs, such as a Manners Dinner for junior high school students to practice their manners. Other projects include renovating domestic violence shelters and providing mammograms to

low-income women.

Most of the funds raised, Baerg said, are from the thrift shop, where 40-plus members volunteer inside the store. From stocking to cashiering, they help with the operation of the store.

Rosemary Trahan, a Sun Citian, has been a Soroptimist for four years. She has a variety of jobs at the thrift shop, and she changes tasks each week.

Trahan said she has enjoyed her four years with the group, volunteering at the shop and helping with fund-raising efforts.

"I have a good feeling with this organization, and hopefully we can change someone's life," she said.

To nominate a candidate for a community service profile, contact Mitchell Vantrease at 876-2626 or mvantrease@aztrib.com.

Service fund recipients

Bair Scholarship
Elderfriends
Faith House (Prehab)
Francisca Abah
Girl's Ranch
Glendale Family Center
Helping Hands for Single Moms
Helping U Grants
Interfaith Community Care
Raising Special Kids
Shoebox Ministry
Sun City Area Transit
Sun City Posse
Sun Valley Lodge
Volunteers for Hospice
West Valley Child Crisis
Westside Food Bank
Cerro Gordo School
SI Foundation Fund
Tenby Friendship Link
Violet Richardson Awards
WOA awards

OVER

COMMUNITY SERVICE



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Volunteer Ginny McClain stands behind the Soroptimist International of Valley of the Sun's motto at the club's thrift shop in Sun City Monday. The club's first chapter formed in 1921, and the Valley of the Sun chapter formed in 1951.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Volunteer Rosemary Trahan measures a bedsheet before pricing it at the Soroptimist Thrift Shop in Sun City Monday. The Soroptimists donate funds to local women's charities.

Soroptimist shares Thrift Shop wealth



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Past President Gladys Saandridge, left, and President Peggy McGee of Soroptimist International sit outside Sun Valley Lodge in Sun City, where some residents benefited from the distribution of funds Thursday from the Soroptimist Thrift Shop, 10705 W. Peoria Ave. in Sun City.

STAFF REPORT

A few residents at Sun Valley Lodge in Sun City would not know what to do if they didn't receive aid from the Soroptimist International Valley of the Sun.

The organization Wednesday disbursed \$51,000 to recipients at a reception at its thrift store in Sun Bowl Plaza.

Soroptimist International President Peggy McGee said that without these funds, long-time residents of the Sun Valley Lodge would have not been able to afford to live in the retirement center.

"It will help people to continue to have a place to live," she said.

McGee said the funds donated came from profits generated at the group's thrift store at 107th and Peoria avenues. She said 25 organizations received checks, though the amounts varied based on need and what others were receiving from other organizations, as well as for what the funds would be used. She added that the club tried to help as many organizations as possible.

"It depends on donations, how many people we can help," said Dana Salisbury, Sun Valley Lodge development director.

The Sun Cities Area Transit is another

Soroptimist beneficiary, and SCAT Executive Director Tom Profico said the majority of those donated funds will go toward the general operations of the van the provider is sponsoring. He mentioned the funds could be used for signs and advertising on the van.

Other recipients include Centro Adelante Campasino, Elder Friends, Faith House, Families Forward, Girls Ranch, Glendale Family Development, Raising Special Kids and the Sun City Sheriff's Posse.

The Soroptimists also support ongoing projects, including Allyson House, the Tenby and the Australia Club Friendship Link, and will match funds toward Baer Family Scholarships. The club also sponsors national and international Soroptimist projects, including an organization of the president's choice.

McGee this year chose Project 50, which focuses on providing vocational training and employment for women in developing countries and countries in transition, with goals of alleviating poverty and advancing the status of women.

Soroptimist is a volunteer service organization for women in business, management and the professions, and is part of Soroptimist International of the Americas, made up of 100,000 members in 120 countries.

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Soroptimists aid local groups

Soroptimist International Valley of the Sun donated a total of \$80,000 to more than 15 different organizations such as the Sun City Historical Society, Sun City Library, SCAT, Girls Ranch and New Life Shelter. The money was raised by the Soroptimist Thrift Shop in Sun City and its recycling business. All checks were presented at the thrift shop. The organization, a woman's service club, was formed in 1921.

Recyclers model national plan

By JACQUE PAPPAS
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Volunteer-run aluminum recycling in the Sun Cities is being touted as a model program by the nation's largest beverage can recycler.

Officials from Alcoa Recycling Co., a subsidiary of the Aluminum Company of America, praised two local service clubs Wednesday for joining forces and launching an expanded aluminum can recycling program in the area.

"Your recycling program is probably one of the best in the country," said George Cobb, president of Alcoa Recycling in Nashville, Tenn. Cobb was joined by other recycling industry representatives, elected officials and service club members at a dedication ceremony Wednesday morning.

"This program works because there is community understanding that the money collected goes to many worthwhile charities."

The dedication kicked off a joint-venture in which aluminum

cans from curbside collections and Valley of the Sun Soroptimist donation bins are processed by the Sun City Lions at a recycling post in El Mirage.

The Lions will load, sort and haul the cans to the recycling post using equipment supplied by Alcoa Recycling.

The recycling plant, located on land donated by Parks & Sons, is at 11601 W. Grand Ave.

Cobb said the cans processed at the El Mirage site will be bound into bails and transported via railroad to "melting sites" in Indiana and Tennessee.

"Arizona is a very important state to us. Each person here uses an average of 360 cans per year and that's a high volume," Cobb said.

In 1990, Americans recycled 64 percent of the beverage cans produced — about 55 billion cans — and earned more than \$900 million, Cobb said.

Recycling projects in the Sun Cities, home of the largest volunteer recycling programs in the nation, will be used by Alcoa

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Alcoa praises Sun Cities

— From A1

Recycling as models for other communities throughout the nation, Cobb said.

Alcoa has agreed to purchase cans directly from the Soroptimists, which before sold cans "to a middleman," said Donna Gilliland, club president.

"Today we will start dealing directly with the aluminum can buyer — Alcoa. Hopefully this will give us more money per pound and let us contribute even more to charities throughout the Valley," Gilliland said. "The Soroptimists were one of the first service clubs in the United States to get involved with an aluminum can recycling project. We had the vision 21 years ago to start a program and get to where we are going now."

The Valley of the Sun Soroptimist Club, made up of professional women, started out with two aluminum can collection bins in 1971 and now have four bins in Sun City.

Last year, the group collected more than 30,000 pounds of aluminum cans and donated \$60,000 to area non-profit organizations.

Gilliland said the club hopes to have eight bins at various shopping centers in the community by July.

The Sun City Lions began recycling newspapers in 1966 to raise funds for local sight and hearing programs.

Since its inception, the Lions recycling program has raised more than \$2 million. The overall effort now includes 10 Lions clubs in Sun City, Sun City West, Youngtown, Peoria, Surprise and El Mirage.

Gene Gravlin, president of Sun City Host Lions and coordinator of the recycling project, said the Lions Club has worked with the Soroptimists by sharing proceeds from a curbside recycling program.

Sixteen months ago, trash collector Parks & Sons started collecting glass, newspapers and aluminum cans from about half the homes in the Sun Cities and donated the items to the Lions.

Can proceeds from Sun City are given to the Soroptimists and cans from Sun City West benefit the community's local Kiwanis clubs.

So far, the curbside effort has yielded 1,000 tons of paper, 100 tons of glass and 10 tons of aluminum, Gravlin said.

Dennis Crooker, Alcoa vice president, said a little more than half the aluminum beverage cans on store shelves are from recycled cans.

Soroptimist aluminum can bins are located at Sunbowl Plaza, 107th Avenue and Clair Drive; Thunderbird Plaza, 99th and Thunderbird; Greenway Terrace, 99th and Greenway; and at Bell Camino Center, 107th Avenue and Bell Road. The newest bin will be at La Ronde Center, 107th and Talisman Drive.

Local Soroptimists reach out to troubled girls

By JACQUE PAPPAS
Daily News-Sun staff

About two years ago, Norma knew she needed help for her high-school-aged "problem daughter."

The Peoria mother of three still remembers "the abusiveness, lack of respect. It seemed like we were always fighting. Every time we turned our backs she had run away. We'd have to find her and literally pick her up and drag her home."

In an effort to "piece back a family that was falling apart," Norma placed her daughter in Girls Ranch — a private agency that provides long-term residential placement for troubled girls.

"It's been a long struggle, but it now all seems well worth it. We've seen a noticeable improvement in the last six months," Norma said. "I do foresee her coming back into the family."

In the 40 years since Girls Ranch was created, the non-profit organization has been a part of many success stories like Norma's.

The goal of Girls Ranch is to change girls' disruptive behavior and reunite them with their families, said Ann Barker, executive director.

"Many of these girls are compulsive liars, runaways with really bad attitudes. They need help in changing their behavior before they end up as a statistic in the juvenile justice or welfare system," Barker said.

The idea to help troubled girls developed in the early 1940s when Jewel Jordan was selected by the Board of Supervisors to complete her husband's term of

office as Maricopa County Sheriff.

Jordan soon was in contact with young girls who got in trouble with the law and society and realized there was no place for them to get help.

As a member of Soroptimist Club of Phoenix, Jordan approached the women with idea of forming a home for the girls.

By September 1952, Girls Ranch was incorporated through the efforts of eight Soroptimists Clubs in Arizona, including the Valley of the Sun Soroptimists in the Northwest Valley.

Sun City West resident Barbara Raitz, past president of Valley of the Sun club, is also a member of the Girls Ranch board of directors.

"What these Soroptimists did 40 years ago is as good then as it is now," said Barker, who has worked at Girls Ranch for 18 years.

She said the Northwest Valley club donates \$10,000 a year to the Girls Ranch. The money is collected mainly through aluminum can recycling and the Soroptimist Thrift Shop on Alabama and 111th avenues.

The four Girls Ranch homes — located in Scottsdale, Mesa, Tucson and Flagstaff — serve girls ages 11 to 18.

A professional staff and live-in housemother provide guidance to 10 girls in each home. The girls attend neighborhood schools, share household chores, do volunteer service for the community and learn to live as a family.

The girls are placed in Girls Ranch by their parents.

"Parent participation is mandatory and vital to the success of

this program. We stress family values. Our goal is to successfully reunite the family," Barker said.

Parents attend monthly support group meetings and maintain contact with their daughter's social worker, Barker said.

It costs an average of \$1,290 for each girl to stay at Girls Ranch every month, but Barker said most parents are not able to pay the full cost of their daughter's placement.

For that reason, much of the organization's \$698,000 budget is used for partial payment, Barker said.

"We are entirely funded with the fees and donations from individuals, organizations and businesses. The people in the Sun City area have been tremendous supporters," Barker said. "They like our old-fashioned approach of teaching the girls responsibility and manners."

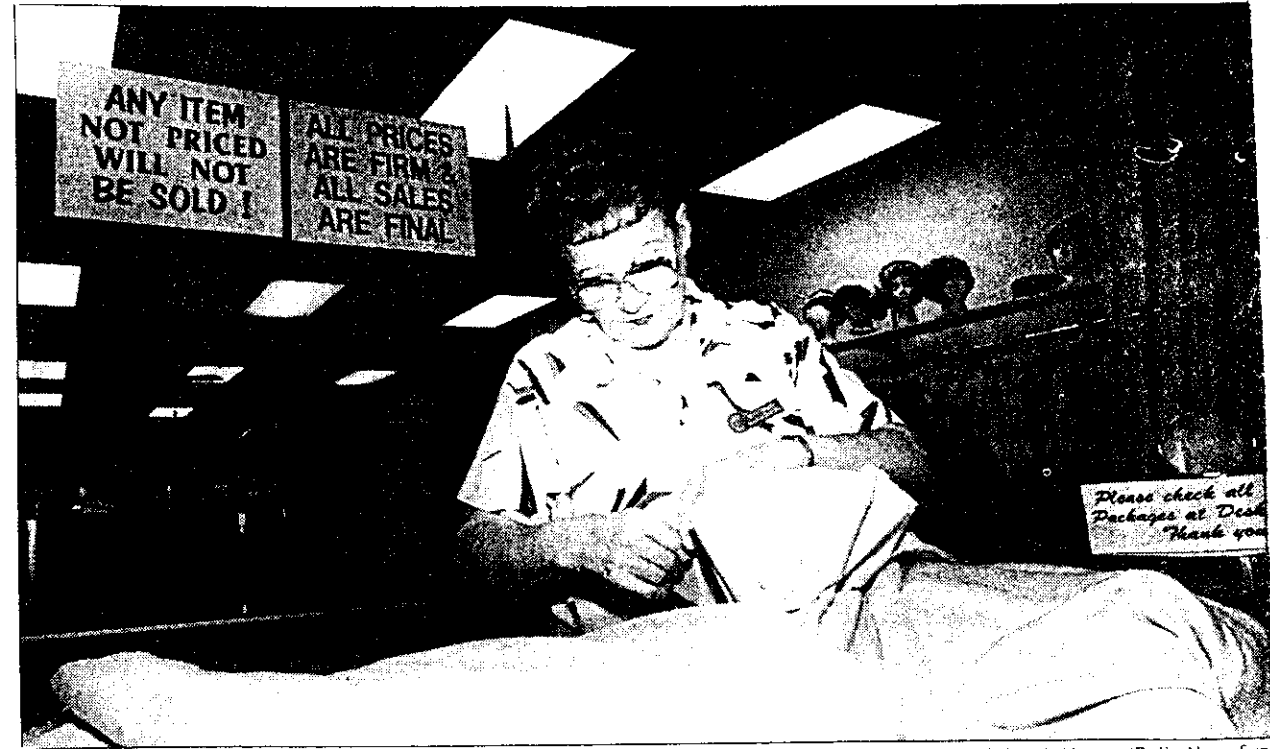
Most girls stay at the homes anywhere from 18 to 24 months. While there, they attend family life seminars, talks on AIDS, cultural events and other activities.

Each home is involved with a number of philanthropic activities such as volunteering in hospitals, nursing homes, cleaning parks and Special Olympics.

"It's important for the girls to give of themselves. It's much better than sitting around doing nothing," Barker said.

She estimates that more than 6,000 girls have participated in Girls Ranch since it opened.

"It's a very simple program. We don't do much more than what is done in a typical family. These are kids who need a good dose of life," Barker said.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Betty Miller, a member of Valley of the Sun Soroptimists, puts hooks on draperies for a customer at the group's thrift shop at 11122 W. Alabama Avenue in Youngtown. Proceeds from items sold at the shop benefit non-profit agencies, including the Arizona Girls Ranch.

Soroptimists donate \$62,000 to local organizations

Soroptimists International, Valley of the Sun Chapter, awarded more than \$62,000 to area service organizations at its June 12 meeting.

Donna Gilliland, 1990-91 budget chairman for the chapter, says \$62,337.35 was handed out to 33 organizations at chapter's annual installation dinner, held at the Luke Air Force Base NCO Club.

According to Ms. Gilliland, the figure is double the amount awarded last year.

The funds were raised through the chapter's thrift shop in Youngtown and aluminum can recycling bins located in Sun City.

The following organizations received gifts:

■ Boy Scouts, \$1,000; Centro Adelante Campisino, \$1,000; Centro Adelante Campisino (special project), \$400; Close-up Project, \$200; Girls Ranch, \$10,000; Girls State, \$135.

■ Glendale Family Development

Center, \$2,000; Hospice of the Sun Cities, \$500; Community Hospice Foundation, \$3,000; "fire" family, \$374; Intefaitth Services, \$6,000.

■ Laubach Literacy Program, \$175; Literacy Environment Grade School Project, \$300; New Life Shelter, \$10,000; Peoria High School Band, \$250; Peoria School Drug Program, \$500.

■ Peoria Summer School, \$1,060; Ronald McDonald House, \$300; Sun Cities Area Transit, \$10,000; Soroptimists International

Special Projects, \$105; Soroptimists International Projects, \$400; Solecito Service, \$1,000; Soroptimist Foundation, \$400.

■ Olive Branch Senior Citizen Center, \$500; Sun Valley Lodge, \$3,000; Sun Valley Lodge Special Project, \$58.35; TAP Award, \$600; Wake-up/Tuck-in, \$1,000; Westside Training Coalition, \$4,000; Westside Food Bank, \$2,000; YMCA Summer Program, \$1,080; Youngtown Community Fund \$500; Young Citizen Award, \$500.

Scouts collect aluminum cans

Service club teams with youths

Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — A local service club has teamed up with some Boy Scouts in an example of intercommunity cooperation in volunteerism.

Through their aluminum can project, the club raises funds for projects, and the Scouts earn points toward community service and a trip to camp.

The aluminum can project is operated by Soroptimists International Valley of the Sun and Boy Scout Varsity Team 6864 from Agua Fria, Dysart, Cactus and Peoria high schools.

Elaine Harr is Soroptimist can bin chairman and a past-president. The bins are located behind shops in Greenway, Bell Camino, Thunderbird and Sun Bowl shopping centers.

To save a \$50 sorting fee when the bins are turned in, the Scouts volunteer each week to climb into the bins and sort out the sacks, bags and non-acceptable aluminum and other objects thrown in with the cans.

"It's both a dirty and dangerous job when there are liquids left in the cans and other metal cans with jagged edges may also be included," said Harr.

Each Saturday, the Scouts and their leader or one of the fathers arrive to sort and clean the bins. Vernon Lawliss and Tom Thacker are team coaches.

On a recent Saturday father Tom Hintz supervised a team comprised of Scouts John Alger, Roger Caldwell, Scott Cowand, John Evertson, J.D. Hamblin, Scot McClure, David Miller, Jared Trimble, Dennis and Vern Wolfley.

At the end of the year, Valley of the Sun Soroptimists send the team to summer camp.

The Soroptimists use the funds from the sale of the cans and the resale shop they operate in Youngtown to provide youth citizenship awards and grants to charitable causes, Harr said.

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Daily News-Sun photo by Frances Guarino

CHARITABLE GROUP — Jane Smith, left, is president of the Soroptimist Club which sponsors a thrift shop in Youngtown. Linda Ohrzda, left, is manager of the shop with assistant manager Barbara Hartleigh. The shop made about \$30,000 last year.

Female professionals meet civic duties as Soroptimists

By JACQUE PAPPAS
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — They pay electric bills for people in need, they paint tattered houses and they donate thousands of dollars to area charities.

These civic-minded women are business leaders in the Sun Cities area.

They are members of Soroptimist International of the Valley of the Sun.

And they hold executive and professional positions in the community, from working as directors of area nursing homes to owners of local bookstores.

Jane Smith, president of the local club, said the Valley of the Sun Soroptimists was chartered in Glendale in January 1951. By the late 1960s, the club relocated in Sun City to ward off the threat of losing its charter because of decreasing membership, she said.

Now the club has more than 40 members and donates more than \$42,000 a year to local charities and organizations in the community.

"People have heard the name Soroptimists, but they don't know who we are or what we stand for," Smith said. "We always welcome new members who qualify."

Members of Soroptimist Clubs are executives, owners, partners, managers or officers of established businesses, or are engaged independently in their professions or are heads or deputies in government positions.

Peggy Britton, past president of the club, said Soroptimists gives business women an op-

portunity to share their experiences.

Britton is co-owner of Denny's Complete Decorating Services in Youngtown.

"It's unique in that we all are working women and we are all either owners, co-owners or managers. These are high-stress jobs and it took a long time for many of us to get here," Britton said. "Since this club is based in a retirement community, members are from all over the nation. We share our experiences and learn from each other."

Club members meet once a week for breakfast.

They generate funds to donate to area charities through sales at the club thrift shop and from aluminum can bins.

In March 1973, the club put its first aluminum can recycling bin in Sun City. Now the club sponsors four bins, which generate anywhere from \$8,000 to \$14,000 a year.

A group of Northwest Valley Boy Scouts monitors the bins and in exchange, the Soroptimists sponsor camp scholarships for the troop.

The thrift shop, 12021 W. Arizona Ave. in Youngtown, opened about eight years ago, said club member Elaine Harr, owner of The Book Trader in Sun City.

Although club members volunteer much of their time at the thrift shop, a manager and assistant manager are paid to run the operation.

Harr said the thrift shop earns a profit of more than \$30,000 a year, which last year was donated to about 22 chari-

ties in the Sun Cities area.

"We want the money we earn from the community to go back into the community from which it came. Every penny we raise goes into the community. Organizational expenses come from membership dues," said Harr, also a former club president. "The important thing is that we do good things for the community. We buy a woman's medicine for her, paint a house, pay people's electric bills — this is what makes you feel good."

Most recently, the club gave \$1,000 to the Hugo relief fund.

Soroptimist International includes four federations with more than 82,000 members in 84 countries. With about 50,000 members in 22 countries, Soroptimist International of the Americas is the largest of the four federations.

Vera Happel, club secretary, said Soroptimists have venture clubs for women who are not in a professional position to qualify them for membership.

Happel said the local club also has a type of auxiliary called Soroptimisters for member spouses.

"This is a very caring group. We work together to achieve our goals in business and for the community. We want to contribute to the people who have given us so much," said Happel, owner of Happy Home Decorating in Sun City. "I can't tell you how many of the girls in the club have helped out my business."

For more information about the club, call 933-7820.

Sun City generosity goes beyond 'the walls'

Editor's Note: the following is the first in a series of five articles examining the work of local clubs and how their activities help others outside of the Sun Cities.

By PEG KEITH
Sun Cities Independent

They're on a mission to help others, young and old alike.

They could be spending their time doing so many other things, yet these women choose activities designed to raise funds for those less-fortunate.

Modest, almost apologetic, the president of the club says, "Even though it's only money contributions, the contributions can't work without money."

Only money?

The dedicated members of the Soroptimist Club of the Valley of the Sun have managed to turn donations of goods -- items donated for resale in the Youngtown Thrift Shop and recyclable aluminum cans -- into cold, hard cash.

And the hard cash is put to use in many ways: for scholarships, aid to youth and those in need.

There's an old saying that



applies to Soroptimists: "If you want something to get done, get a busy person to do it."

The members of this service organization, most of them

working women in managerial positions, are putting a variety of programs to work for young people.

These area clubwomen made the largest contribution last year to Girls Ranch, a home for girls in transition.

"The Soroptimists were instrumental in founding Girls Ranch," says local member Peggy Britton. "We gave them \$6,000 this year."

That's just for starters. The Sun City club recently announced:

• An award of \$650 to Clark Lalliss, 18, a Dysart High School senior who was nominated to become a Congressional Scholar. She will attend the national Young Leaders Conference post-graduate program in Wash-

Soroptimist Grants

The following grants were donated by the Soroptimist Valley of the Sun to area organizations in 1988.

Westside Food Bank	\$4,000
Solecito	\$1,000
Valley View Hospital	\$1,500
Community Fund of Youngtown	\$1,000
Community Hospice	\$1,500
Hospice of Sun City	\$1,500
Interfaith Services	\$3,000
Sun Valley Lodge Residents' Fund	\$2,500
TOTAL	\$32,000

SOURCE: Soroptimist Valley of the Sun



Bret McKeand/Independent

HELPING THE LESS FORTUNATE. Last year, the Soroptimist Valley of the Sun donated more than \$32,000 to local organizations. The funds are generated through club projects and activities. One such project is the club's thrift store, located in Youngtown. The store is staffed by volunteers, including Lorretta Robinson and store manager Linda Ohrada.

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ington, D.C. later this summer.

- An award of \$750 to Scout Team No. 6864, Dysart High School, in appreciation of the Scouts' efforts in keeping the Soroptimist Club's aluminum can bins clean.

The cash award will send the boys to Camp Havasupai at the Grand Canyon for one week.

The Scouts agreed to clean the bins for a year for a community service project.

"When they help their community, they also help us," says Mrs. Britton.

- Cash to sponsor two area high school girls who will attend the Arizona Girls State program.

- Cash donation to Child's Crisis Center, Glendale, which serves children in the northwest Valley. One member of the local Soroptimist club serves on the Crisis Center board of directors.

- Cash for the Peoria School District drug-abuse program.

- Cash for the TAP award, assisting a young woman head-of-household who is trying to get back (or get into) the workforce. In addition, the club has helped several nurses complete their training.

- Cash for the Youth Citizenship award, which normally goes to a worthy high school senior, often for continuing education.

- Cash for the Glendale Family Development Center, where pre-school children are cared for, while older family members are working, learning English, or in other situations.

The list, it seems, goes on and on.

"Sun City is
the most
caring place
in the
world."

—Peggy Britton
Soroptimist Valley of
the Sun Club

The 42 members in the local chapter of Soroptimist Valley of the Sun Club last year donated \$4,000 to the Westside Food Bank, \$1,000 to Solecito, \$1,500 to Valley View Hospital, \$1,000 to the Community Fund

of Youngtown, \$1,500 to Community Hospice, \$1,500 to Hospice of Sun City, \$3,000 to Interfaith Services, \$2,500 to Sun Valley Lodge Residents' Fund -- a grand total of \$32,000 to area individuals, organizations and institutions.

Peggy Britton takes Soroptimism seriously. "We're a service organization, and that's what we do."

She adds, "We did it with a lot of help. Sun City is the most caring place in the world."

Soroptimist Valley of the Sun members confine most of their fund-gathering projects to the Youngtown Thrift Shop (which opened in 1980), and the aluminum can recycling project.

Nationally (and internationally) the Soroptimist Club is classified as a service organization. A member is an owner or co-owner of a business, or holds a managerial position.

Although most of the local club members work, they donate time to the Thrift Shop. Some put in evening hours at home, washing and repairing clothing and getting it ready for sale.

"We're all fortunate to have the shop," says Mrs. Britton. "We got in on the ground floor with it, and we receive a lot of really good merchandise contributions from the Sun Cities."

She says a lot of people come

in to shop for resale items.

"They couldn't afford a \$40 blouse, but they can come to our store and get one."

Most of the members of the Soroptimist Club of the Valley of the Sun live or work in the Sun Cities area: in Sun City, Sun City West, Youngtown, Peoria and El Mirage. Most of the clubwomen are involved in their communities in more than one way, filling volunteer roles, helping with church and local affairs.