**Soroptimist International of Edmonton**

 **Joy Award: Recognizing Women’s Efforts to End Human Trafficking**

Fact Sheet September 2015

**Organizational Profile**

Soroptimist International of Edmonton is part of Soroptimist International of the Americas. Headquartered in Philadelphia, PA, Soroptimist is a cause-related philanthropic federation of clubs improving the lives of women and girls through education and economic empowerment. The major program, Live your Dream: Education and Training Awards provides cash grants for women seeking to improve their lives with the help of additional education and training. The organization also sponsors the Live Your Dream Campaign in recognition of the power of women and their dreams. Visit the Campaign’s online home at [www.LiveYourDreamCampaign.org](http://www.LiveYourDreamCampaign.org) . See [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org) for more information.

**Organizational Mission**

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

**Recognition Program**

The Soroptimist International of Edmonton **Joy Award: Recognizing Women’s Efforts to End Human** **Trafficking**, acknowledges women who, through their personal or professional activities, work to improve the lives of women and girls, specifically in the area of human trafficking. The work of these women helps to promote the issues that are important to the Soroptimist organization. Honorees are ordinary women who have worked in extraordinary ways to benefit women and girls. Examples of the type of work honoured include: spearheading an effort to open a safe house, lobbying to affect legislative change with respect to human trafficking, starting a mentoring program for at-risk girls, providing education to the public, law enforcement and law makers on the current issue. The program enables Soroptimist International of Edmonton to thank these women and encourage others to explore ways to assist women and girls at risk.

**Eligibility Requirements**

Women who reside in Alberta and who are, through their efforts, helping to end the human trafficking of other women or girls, are eligible for the Soroptimist International of Edmonton Joy Award. These women have identified and focused on a need in their communities, which has significantly contributed to the improvement of women’s and girls’ lives.

The majority of the work should have occurred within the past two years. Previous winners, Soroptimists and Soroptimist employees are not eligible for the award.