



An international volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS

Soroptimist Violet Richardson Award 2012-2013 Impact Report

The Soroptimist Violet Richardson award honors girls who are making a difference through volunteer service. In 2012-2013, 55 percent of clubs participated and honored 724 girls. \$141,307 in donations were provided to 474 organizations.

In an effort to determine the impact of the Violet Richardson Award program, SIA sends surveys to recipients three years after they receive the award. Surveys were sent to each of the 28 region-level recipients from the 2009-2010 club year. The results of the survey are as follows:

- 100% of respondents are still volunteering
- 75% of respondents reported that their volunteer work is focused on women and girls.
- 100% of respondents reported that the award increased their self-confidence.

In addition to these quantifiable results, SIA also received stories from the young women about how the Violet Richardson Award has affected their volunteer efforts. The following excerpts were written by 2009-2010 Violet Richardson Award recipients.

From a region recipient who is still volunteering, whose work is focused on women and girls and whose self-confidence has increased as a result of the award.

As a volunteer, I felt more valuable to the team and I am more inspired to help out girls among our beneficiaries. The award also reminds me that I should be more careful in living my life the right way, getting up and higher after a failure and setting a good example that other girls could follow.

From a region recipient who is still volunteering and whose self-confidence has increased as a result of the award.

It gave me the support to continue what I believed in. Knowing I had a wonderful group of women who supported what I believed in made me confident to know that I could continue helping Foster Care children everywhere.

Lizbeth Cabrera, 2011-2012 Federation Violet Richardson Award Recipient

In addition, we survey the federation recipient six months after the receipt of the award. We received the following information from Lizbeth regarding the \$2,500 donation to her organization, Nuestra Voz:

1. How did your organization utilize the \$2,500 donation?

The donation was utilized to fund the many programs that Nuestra Voz offers for example: Big Sisters Big Change camp, children's soccer league, Zumba, Karate, aerobics and business classes etc. The money helped pay for supplies for the camps and decrease the price of membership for the soccer league. The generous donation from Soroptimist helped Nuestra Voz provide various services for the Sonoma community.

2. What specific outcomes resulted from the use of the donation?

The donation allowed the Big Sisters Big Change camp to be offered free of charge, allowing girls from all backgrounds to participate in the program. This is really important because the program has a very important mission of helping the next generation of young ladies be confident and healthy mentally, physically and emotionally. The donation also helped lower membership fees for the soccer league so that more children can participate. It is very important for Nuestra Voz to provide safe and healthy activities for children and teens. Overall the donation has been put to full use.

The last Big Sisters Big Change camp during the summer vacation enrolled 15 girls. In all other programs we work with around 125 girls, 140 moms, 110 boys.



3. How did the donation affect your organization?

Funding is an issue when creating or running programs but with the help of the donation Nuestra Voz was able to provide all of its services without hesitation. Our organization was able to start new programs as well. More people were able to participate creating a larger and more active community. We greatly appreciate the support that Soroptimist has given us.