



# Soroptimist International of Los Angeles

A Global Voice for Women



## PRESS RELEASE

### Soroptimist International of Los Angeles Celebrates 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

#### For Immediate Release

Los Angeles, March 28, 2012 – The Los Angeles club of an international women's service organization for women in business and the professions, Soroptimist International of Los Angeles, will mark its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary on March 31, 2012 at the Los Angeles Athletic Club. The aim of Soroptimist International is to improve the status of women and girls in local communities and around the world. The Los Angeles club was chartered in 1922 and is the third Soroptimist club ever established.

Over the last 30 years, Soroptimist International of Los Angeles has supported multiple direct service projects with over \$1,000,000 worth of in-kind resources, donations, awards and fellowships. The club has served as a major backer of highly regarded residential programs for female scholars, homeless women, and life saving shelter services for women and children who are victims of violence in the home. Annually the club support to their shelter program includes special activities for the child residents and close to \$100,000 worth of facility value. The club is also active in public education on human trafficking, violence against women and teen relationship violence. As part of the celebration the club will award Congress Member Karen Bass the Soroptimist Ruby award. The award honors women who use their personal influence or professional activities, to improve the lives of women and girls. The work of these women helps to promote the issues that are important to the Soroptimist organization, including educational, advocacy and service programs that:

- ◆ Rescue and restore women and girls,
- ◆ Support and empower of women and girls toward an economically sustainable and emotionally self-reliant life,
- ◆ Strengthen decision making ability, integration in local communities and greater society, and a life with dignity and respect.

Ruby honorees have worked in extraordinary ways to benefit women and girls. Congresswoman Bass has over her career and using her professional health provider skills, organizing ability and political acumen has led successful efforts for major policy changes that would make Los Angeles a healthier and safer place to live:

- ◆ Organizing residents in minority and economically challenged neighborhoods to identify and abate conditions that drive negative values and antisocial behavior;
- ◆ Shutting down liquor stores and other irresponsible businesses;

- ◆ Converting dozens of locations into positive land uses that would benefit the residents of a community including private for profit (grocery stores, laundromats) and not for profit service organizations;
- ◆ Won equal access to college opportunity and preparation for South Los Angeles students who were denied A-G college prep classes, a critical factor for the future of the affected students as both the California State University (CSU) system and the University of California (UC) system require the A-G courses of all applicants seeking admission;
- ◆ Founded and led high level efforts to reform the foster care of children in California and the national foster care system;
- ◆ Is co-chair of the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Coalition on Adoption.

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal –Allard will present the Ruby award to Congresswoman Bass.

The anniversary celebration will also include a silent auction, fellowship awards to women completing their graduate education, an award to a teen volunteer, and a grant to a woman returning to the workforce.

submitted by Sheila Tatum, Event Coordinator