



SOROPTIMIST  
Best for Women

# Soroptimist Indy Metro Quarterly Newsletter

Apr - May - Jun 2017

## Meet Suzy the Soroptimist!!

Suzy is like all Soroptimist's, trying to be the best woman she can be while helping to improve the lives of other woman and girls. If you see her out and about make sure to take a picture and share it so we can all experience her adventures.



Suzy the Soroptimist was created by Soroptimist member Lauren Taylor. She was created so that her ethnicity and outfits can be changed to reflect the wonderful diversity of the woman throughout the world that we help and represent.

*"If one is lucky, a solitary fantasy can totally transform one million realities."*

*-- Maya Angelou, author*

## How to sign up for AmazonSmile and support Soroptimist Indy Metro

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile

1. Sign in to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
2. Select Soroptimist International of Indianapolis Metro as your charity of choice.
3. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation.

To change your charity:

1. Sign in to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
2. From your desktop, go to **Your Account** from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to **Change your Charity**. Or, from your mobile browser, select **Change your Charity** from the options at the bottom of the page.
3. Select Soroptimist International of Indianapolis Metro.

For more information about the AmazonSmile program, go to <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.

## Upcoming Meeting dates

Meetings are usually on the first Monday of the month except when there is a holiday.

July 10, 2017  
August 7, 2017  
September 11, 2017  
October 2, 2017  
November 6, 2017  
December 4, 2017

# Why Women and Girls?

Soroptimist means "best for women" and that's what we strive to be—an organization of women at their best helping other women to be their best. As a volunteer organization of business and professional women we feel uniquely qualified to help women and girls live their dreams.

It's true that both men and women live in poverty, face discrimination and must overcome obstacles. But throughout history—in every country in the world—women and girls face additional obstacles and discrimination solely because of their gender.

## Why do women and girls need our help?

### Consider the following:

- One in three women have been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in their lifetime.
- According to a recent report, of the 600,000-800,000 people trafficked across international borders annually, 80 percent are female.
- Women work two-thirds of the world's working hours but earn only 10 percent of the world's income, and own less than 1 percent of the world's property.
- Of a total 550 million working poor, 330 million (60 percent) are women.
- The United Nations estimates that globally women's unpaid care is worth up to \$11 trillion annually.
- Two-thirds of the 880 million illiterate adults are women.
- Of the more than 110 million children not in school, approximately 60 percent are girls.
- By age 18, girls have received an average of 4.4 years less education than boys.
- In some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, adolescent girls have HIV rates up to five times higher than adolescent boys.
- Pregnancies and childbirth-related health problems take the lives of nearly 146,000 teenage girls each year.

- An estimated 450 million adult women in developing countries are stunted, a direct result of malnutrition in early life.
- Two million girls and women are subjected to female genital mutilation every year, and thousands suffer needlessly from obstetric fistula. Gender discrimination often begins at a young age—in some cases even before birth—and girl children are devalued and discriminated against throughout the world. In many cultures, girls are considered to have little or no value, and therefore poor families often opt not to educate their female children. Without an education, women are less likely to find sustaining work at a living wage, and are more likely to remain poor throughout their lifetimes.

Because of the prevalence of gender discrimination, harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, female infanticide and pre-natal sex selection are still widespread. Additionally, the devaluation of women leads to girls and women being sold into human bondage and sexual slavery. Women also experience discrimination in food allocation and lack of access to health care, which results in lower survival rates. And women around the world experience sexual abuse and domestic violence on a daily basis.

By initiating club projects that benefit women and girls, and by honoring women who help women and girls, Soroptimist clubs and members improve the status of women and girls. Soroptimist projects and programs aid women economically, and empower them to make positive changes in their lives and their communities.

This article was taken from the Soroptimist International website. <http://www.soroptimist.org/whywomen/whywomen.html>

*Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.*

Midwestern Region: [simwr.org](http://simwr.org)

Federation Website: [soroptimist.org](http://soroptimist.org)

International Website: [soroptimistinternational.org](http://soroptimistinternational.org)

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOT LINE / 1-888-3737-888 / or TEXT: BEFREE**