



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

Soroptimist Indy Metro Quarterly Newsletter

July 2018 - January 2019

ALL WORTHY OF LOVE

In August, Elizabeth Pilcher with the organization 'All Worthy of Love' (AWOL) spoke at our meeting.

This organization is located in Detroit, MI, Austin TX, and Indianapolis, IN and they reach out to men and women enslaved by street-prostitution. They work in a three stranded cord; prevention, rescue, and restoration. They prevent sex-trafficking through awareness which they promote by speaking at local churches, schools, and groups like Soroptimist to educate the community of modern day slavery.

They rescue victims of trafficking through weekly outreach. The vision for their outreach team is building consistent relationships. They can spend years fostering a relationship before seeing an individual ready to exit the industry. The outreach team is intentionally kept small and requires a one year commitment so the people working the streets see the same people consistently and as a result develop deep friendships. In Indianapolis a team of 4 goes out to the same neighborhood every week. They reach out to men and women working on the street and pray with prostitutes, pimps, drug dealers, and gang members. They believe that the women are enslaved to one thing and the pimps/drug dealers are enslaved to another – but both are worthy of love. People know what is wrong with them, they need to know what is right with them – so the members of AWOL speak truth in love with them. They encourage pray, and tell them they are beautiful and amazing.

Human trafficking victims are often found in street prostitution where they are forced to provide commercial sexual services by a controller or "pimp." Pimps force adults and minors to sell commercial sex on the streets by means of physical abuse, threats, lies, manipulation, and false promises. Street prostitution becomes trafficking when a pimp uses force, fraud and/or coercion to maintain control over the person providing commercial sexual services and cause the person to engage in commercial sex acts. An individual engaged in street prostitution under the age of 18 is considered a victim of sex trafficking regardless of the presence of force, fraud or coercion.

We asked Elizabeth to come and speak at our Bingo event and agreed to ask attendees to bring in toiletry supplies for the hygiene kits they distribute.

If you would like more information about AWOL and what they do please check out their website at: <http://allworthyoflove.org/>

FREEDOM K9

In November we had a speaker from Freedom K9 speak at our meeting.

The aim of the Freedom K9 Project is to provide freedom and a quality of life for survivors that have been subjected to the trauma of sexual slavery and domestic violence through service dogs trained to the highest caliber. They also strive to raise awareness in the community of PTSD and its many forms, especially those forms which are inflicted through violence against women. Many people don't know that the effects of PTSD are prevalent in their day-to-day interactions with civilians and not reserved only for veterans.

PTSD can happen in the aftermath of any traumatic experience, and it is for this reason that 7 out of 10 psychologically abused women develop PTSD. Veterans who return from war with PTSD suffer from the same disorder to the same severity as many victims abused in their own homes. However, the utilization of service dogs to serve those with PTSD has historically only been used for veterans, leaving others who suffer with fewer options. Even though the disorder is the same and the symptoms are often the same, different kinds of trauma cause different kinds of triggers. In other words, there is no "one size fits all" service dog trained for all kinds of trauma. It is for this reason that we not only specialize in training service dogs for abuse survivors, we train each dog specifically for one survivor.

If you would like more information about Freedom K9 and what they do please check out their website at: <https://www.freedomk9project.com/>

Upcoming Important dates

Meetings are the first Monday of the month except when there is a holiday or special event.

Feb 4: Monthly meeting at St. Philip's Church

Mar 11: Meeting & Dinner, location TBD

Apr 1: Monthly meeting at St. Philip's Church

St. Philips Church address:
720 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3116



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Soroptimist Indy Metro 2018 Designer Handbag Bingo

DESIGNER HAND BAG BINGO SUCCESS

On November 3rd, 2018 we held our semi-annual Designer Hand Bag Bingo event at the Faye Glick Community Center. Along with Bingo we raffled off more than 30 baskets of goodies, we also had a booze basket that we raffled off with separate ticket purchases. Attendees were encouraged to bring in a donation for the hygiene kits that the organization we meet with earlier in the year, "All Worthy of Love", hands out weekly to people, usually women, working the streets in Indianapolis. Attendees received a raffle ticket for each donated item up to a maximum of 5 tickets. Hundreds of items were received for the hygiene kits - Thank you!

Designer Hand Bag Bingo was a roaring success, we raised over \$5,000 after expenses.





Bulletin Board

(Member businesses)

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To learn more about Goodwill's
job openings or to apply online, visit:
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To advertise in the monthly Soroptimist International Midwest Region - The Vision!!



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Soroptimist International is a world-wide volunteer service organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world.