

On April 23, 2003, Soroptimist International of Billings presented their annual charity awards at a banquet held at The Northern Hotel in downtown Billings.

Peg Dare, Immediate Past President and Joey Voto, Vice President of Soroptimist, coordinated the event. The Soroptimists annual fund raiser, "A Night of Wine and Roses" was held in January at The Depot. Over \$30,000 was raised at this event. Some of the proceeds went to Dress For Success – Mary Anderson, helping women with cloths and special need for job interviews and after a successful job more help is given each client; Toastmasters Women's Prison Gavel Club Felonious Forum – Kurt Stickney, enhancing self-esteem through teaching public speaking skills; and, Yellowstone River Parks Association – Paige Spaulding, protecting and teaching about the ecosystem along the Yellowstone River.

Other charity recipients include the Young Artist Program, SIA Foundation, Disaster Relief Fund, MSU Fran Elge Scholarship, Northern Rockies Cancer Center, ZooMontana and the club identifying project "Baby Think It Over".

Women's Opportunity Award, for mature head of households for education or retraining to enable them to upgrade their job status or re-enter the work force, was awarded to Sunny Williams.

The Violet Richardson Award, for youth between ages of 14 - 17 who make the community a better place through volunteer efforts awarded to Rose Stahl of Park City, involved with St. Vincent's Hospital, Special Olympics and Stillwater Convalescent Center - THE TEDDY BEAR DRIVE, a special Christmas project gift drive for local families; and, Kathryn Foster of Columbus, who was involved with the Stillwater Youth Center for the past three years. She and her family adopted a local elderly couple to help. Kathryn also volunteers every week at The Senior Citizens Center.

Soroptimists' continuing programs of recognition:

Women Helping Women, which honors women who consistently and effectively use their resources, talents and influence to help other women achieve their potential, honored Dress For Success, represented by Mary Anderson; and, Women of Distinction, which honors women who have made outstanding achievements in their professional, business or voluntary activities relating to Soroptimist Programs of Service, honored The Billings Food Bank, represented by Sheryle Shandy.

Soroptimist International of Billings is an association of executive women participating in community and world-wide service striving to make a difference for women. If you are interested in becoming a member or desire more information you may write to P.O. Box 2322, Billings, MT 59103, call Membership Committee Peg Dare 656-7204 or visit the organizations Website at <http://www.shopmt.com/sib>.

