

Billings Gazette News, August, 1999

Soroptimist International of Billings

Receives \$6,000 Grant for BTIO Program

Grant will fund project serving youth in the community

Billings, Montana - Soroptimist International of Billings recently received a \$6,000 grant from The Soroptimist Foundation for the club's Soroptimists Assisting Young Women in Need (SAY WIN) project to enable the continuing expansion of the club's identifying project "Baby Think It Over".

"Teen pregnancy can have a devastating long-term impact," stated Anne Stapleton, president of Soroptimist of Billings. "According to a recent report by The Robin Hood Foundation, more than 80% of young mothers end up in poverty and reliant on welfare, many for the majority of their children's critically important developmental years."

Soroptimist International of Billings (SIB) was one of 40 Soroptimist clubs to receive a grant from Soroptimist International of the Americas Foundation. About \$250,000 was awarded in varying sums for projects that benefit women.

Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) was founded in 1921. SIA members are professional and executive businesswomen who "make a difference for women" through service projects based on community need.

In addition to the SAY WIN project SI Billings holds an annual fundraiser, "A Night of Wine and Roses" on 1/30/99, to provide funding for Women's Opportunity Awards (WOA). WOA is a cash grant for women in need of further education to upgrade their employment status. **END**