



www.sisouthwestwashington.org

For Immediate Release:

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Soroptimist's Kick-Off Teenager Award Program

Applications now being accepted for Violet Richardson Award

Clark County, WA – (September 29, 2009) - Soroptimist is concerned with the special challenges facing today's girls and young women. The organization launched the Violet Richardson Award program in 2000 as a way to recognize girls for their volunteer service to their communities. The program honors young women between the ages of 14 and 17 whose volunteer efforts include: helping other disadvantaged girls; fighting drugs, crime and violence; cleaning up the environment; and working to end discrimination and poverty.

The program is named after Violet Richardson Ward, the first president of the first Soroptimist club. Richardson Ward was committed to creating opportunities for girls and young women through her affiliations with Soroptimist, the Girl Scout Council and the American Association of University Women. Her passion for volunteer service, particularly as it affected women and girls, has been an inspiration to Soroptimists throughout the years.

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Soroptimist International of Southwest Washington is now accepting applications. Interested applicants can find out more about the program and download an application by going to <http://sisouthwestwashington.org/programs-services/violet-richardson-awards>. The deadline for VRA applications is December 1, 2009.



*SIA Federation 2008 Recipient
Cindy Berman, 18, of Rancho Santa Fe, California*

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Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls.