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NEWS RELEASE

SOROPTIMIST SPONSORS LIVE YOUR DREAM ART CONTEST **Encourages students ages 4 to 18 to draw a present-day woman who inspires them**

Date: September 24, 2009

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PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—Soroptimist, an international volunteer organization for business and professional women whose mission is to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world, invites schools to participate in its Live Your Dream Art Contest by encouraging their students draw a present-day woman who inspires them.

The contest is open to both boys and girls, ages 4 to 18. The woman can be someone the student knows personally, or a prominent woman he or she admires. If their artwork is chosen as a finalist, students will have the opportunity for it to be viewed by thousands of people on the Soroptimist Live Your Dream Campaign website at LiveYourDreamCampaign.org. Winners will also receive \$100, as will their schools. The contest is being sponsored in honor of International Women’s Day and Women’s History Month, which take place in March.

“Last years art contest, where children could draw any woman—real, fictional or historical—who inspired them was a huge success and brought in over 4,350 entries. It opened the door to get children thinking about the many accomplishments women have had over time,” said Soroptimist President Catherine Standiford. “Even today, women continue to make a difference. In this years art contest, we want to kids to consider the positive affects these inspirational women have on their lives on a daily basis.”

Artwork will be judged in the following categories: Category 1: Ages 4-6; Category 2: Ages 7-9; Category 3: Ages 10-12; Category 4: Ages 13-15; Category 5, Ages 16-18. Schools must collect all work from their students and send them in one package to **Soroptimist, 1709 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, Attn: LYD Art Contest**. The deadline is **December 31, 2009**. The winner will be announced on March 8, International Women’s Day.

Contest rules, instructions and posters are available at LiveYourDreamCampaign.org. For contest questions, contact info@liveyourdreamcampaign.org.

Headquartered in Philadelphia, Pa., Soroptimist is a 501(c)(3) organization offering programs that improve the lives of women and girls through three distinct platforms: economic empowerment, elimination of violence and gender equality. Its major program, the Soroptimist Women’s Opportunity Awards, provides cash grants for women seeking to improve their lives with the help of additional education and training. Each year, more than \$1 million is disbursed to deserving women through this award-winning program. The Soroptimist Live Your Dream Campaign celebrates women, their accomplishments, and the power of their dreams. Visit LiveYourDreamCampaign.org and Soroptimist.org for more information.

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