



SOROPTIMIST[®]

Investing in Dreams

Soroptimist International of Hamilton
Awards Committee
PO Box 1012
Hamilton, MT 59840
Sihamilton.org
sihamiltonawards@gmail.com

Do you know a woman or girl who helps make the world and her community a better place? Someone who sees challenges instead of obstacles? Soroptimist International is a volunteer service organization for business and professional women committed to improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. A key step to empowerment is education. Soroptimist International of Hamilton provides several awards and scholarships to local women and girls.

Live Your Dream: Grant program for women who are working to better their lives through additional schooling and skills training. Currently enrolled or has been accepted to a vocational or undergraduate program. Must be the primary financial support for herself and dependents. One award of \$3000 and one award of \$2000. Top recipient is eligible for consideration of regional and national awards. **Deadline: November 15**

Fellowship: Woman established in her career, already with a Bachelor's or Master's degree, with a worthwhile plan to return for an advanced degree or advanced certification. Two awards given. **Deadline:** January 31

Scholarships

- **Spark the Future Award:** Woman seeking to expand her education and improve her life who is currently enrolled or has been accepted to an undergraduate program. One award given. **Deadline: January 31**
- **Options:** Woman who is 50 years or older who is currently enrolled or has been accepted to a vocational or undergraduate program. She is her primary financial support. One award given. **Deadline: January 31**
- **Edwards Charitable Foundation:** Woman who is 40 years or older who is currently enrolled or has been accepted to a vocational, academic or certificate program. She is her primary financial support. Two awards given. **Deadline: January 31**
- **Patti Furniss:** Woman who is currently attending or accepted to attend classes at the Bitterroot College, and demonstrates financial need. Two awards given. **Deadline: January 31**
- **Trina Petersen Pro-Tech:** Woman who is currently attending or accepted in a vocational, technical or training program (trade, medical, computers/IT) who demonstrates financial need. Two awards of given. **Deadline: January 31**

Ruby: Recognition of service award that acknowledges women who are working to improve the lives of women and girls through their personal or professional activities. SIH donates \$250 to charity of choice. Nomination **Deadline:** January 31

Violet Richardson: A recognition program for young women ages 13-18 whose volunteer activities make the community and world a better place. Two awards of \$250 each. Recipients pick a charity of their choice and SIH donates \$100 to that charity. **Deadline:** January 31



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Thank you for your interest in a Soroptimist International of Hamilton (SIH) award or scholarship. There are several items you need to be aware of:

- Preference is given to a current or former resident of Ravalli County.
- Soroptimist members and their immediate families are not eligible for any Soroptimist monetary awards available to the public.
- All monetary awards require **two current (within the last year)** letters of reference from people who are not related to you. Suggested references include: Employer, school instructor, academic advisor. See the "Guidelines for Letter of Reference" that you may give to the two people you select to write your reference letters.
- Specific awards or scholarships may have additional requirements. Please review the application for details.
- Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to improving the life of women or girls.

We want to ensure this process goes smoothly for you, and we are available to meet privately to assist you with completing the application and answering any questions you may have. Please call any of the Awards Committee members listed below if you have questions or need assistance.

Sincerely,

Sandra Amsden (406) 381-3526
Mary Lyn (406) 360-6279
Sue Smith (406) 381-1270
Carmela Bowns (503) 422-5688
Nancy Bussiere (651) 334-4677
Nancy Hutchinson (209) 482-8277
Dixie Dies (406) 381-0922
Chris Rowles (406) 361-0638



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**Guidelines for Letters of Reference
For a Soroptimist International of Hamilton Award or Scholarship**

Below is a suggested letter for you to provide to the individuals you are requesting a letter of reference from.

Date

Dear Name,

I am requesting a letter of reference on my behalf in support of my application for an award from Soroptimist International of Hamilton (SIH) in an effort to continue my education and improve my life. The SIH Awards Committee considers these letters of reference crucial to their judging process, and asks that you address specific attributes. Please include the following points in your letter:

- How long have you known me and in what capacity (employer, school instructor or faculty, etc.)?
- What is your knowledge of my educational goals and progress toward achieving these goals? Discuss any barriers or difficulties I have overcome.
- Describe my level of responsibility and accountability.
- Describe what you believe to be my particular strengths in my personal, educational, or professional life.
- Give examples of specific accomplishments I have achieved.
- Describe how I am an inspiration to other women or girls.
- Is there any additional information SI Hamilton should know about me in regard to this award or scholarship?

Please return your dated letter of reference to me at the address below so I can include it with my application form prior to the application deadline of February 28. Thank you again for your time and commitment to helping me improve my life.

Sincerely

Your Name and address