

Domestic violence initiative raises \$1,500 for area shelter

Published: Thursday, February 03, 2011

In November, the Soroptimist International of Connecticut River Valley solicited contributions from the community for the Domestic Violence Initiative. Community members promised to step forward and take a stand against domestic violence.

The resulting donations allowed the club to contribute \$1,500 to the County's Domestic Violence Shelter. Members have raised almost \$2,600 in just four months.

Michelle Waldner, director of the New Horizon's Domestic Violence Shelter, accepted the check at the club's Annual Holiday celebration. The remaining funds will be used for future domestic violence programs.

The club applauds Mayor Giuliano, the honorary Chairman of the Domestic Violence Initiative and the Middletown Press for their support in Soroptimist Connecticut River Valley projects.

The Connecticut River Valley Club (formerly the Middletown Club) was chartered in May of 1949.

Many of the community's business owners, hospital administrators, teachers and community directors, have been the driving force in the success of Soroptimist in Middlesex County and around the world. These women have shared their time, expertise and money, and have continued to work to advance the human rights and the status of women.

Connecticut Soroptimist Clubs are found in Bridgeport, New Haven, Willimantic, Hartford, Meriden and Waterbury. Soroptimist International was founded in 1921 and comprises approximately 95,000 members in more than 120 countries and territories worldwide. Members volunteer time and energy to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.

100% of Connecticut River Valley Soroptimist community contributions are distributed back into Middlesex County. Other ongoing projects include providing rice for the Amazing Grace program and filling emergency bags for the Red Cross.

For more information, contact Gerry Cote Bennett at bennett7072@sbcglobal.net or search www.soroptimist.org. Monthly dinner meetings are held in Middletown at the Cypress Grill.