

The Midwestern Region's **Virginia M. Wagner Educational Grant** honors the effort and scholarship of a woman who is attending a college or university to earn a bachelors, masters, or doctoral degree.

First established in 1972, the award was renamed in 2004 to honor Dr. Virginia M. Wagner (Midwestern Region Governor 1982-1984) to commemorate her interest in higher education for women.



The award process begins at the club level where grant amounts vary at the discretion of the club. Four district finalists will receive a \$500 award and in turn be judged at the region level. One region winner will be chosen and will receive a \$2500 award.



### Award Criteria

Applicants must be a resident of one of the Soroptimist Midwestern Region states (see back cover).

Applicants are judged according to several criteria, with an emphasis on effort toward education, as follows:

**Effort toward education** – candidate's and her family's efforts to ensure she obtains an education; use of savings; work while attending school; sacrifices made.

**Scholarship** – based on cumulative grade point average.

**Extra-Curricular Activities** – community and school activities; level of interest and personal effort required; leadership demonstration.

### **Financial Need**

**General Impression** – thought given to vocational goal; aspirations and attitudes towards education, community, and self; overall impression.

Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. Local Soroptimist clubs are the foundation upon which the organization is built. Soroptimist clubs evaluate the needs of women and girls in their communities and then initiate projects that meet the identified needs. Soroptimist members number over 95,000 and are located in more than 120 countries and territories.

Soroptimist's Midwestern Region encompasses the states of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Soroptimist programs are funded by charitable contributions. To learn more, or to make a donation, call 330.524.7113 (Alexandra Nicholis Coon), visit [www.soroptimist.org](http://www.soroptimist.org), or the Midwestern Region website at [www.simwr.org](http://www.simwr.org).

Send completed application to:
<u>Soroptimist International Canton/ Stark</u> Soroptimist Club Name <small>Co.</small>
<u>Alex Nicholis Coon</u> Club Contact Name
<u>2166 Mohler Dr. NW</u> Address
<u>North Canton, OH 44720</u> City, State, Zip Code
<u>ancoon @massillonmuseum.org</u> Email
<u>330-524-7113</u> Phone Number
<b>Applications due by January 15</b>

## Soroptimist International Midwestern Region

[www.simwr.org](http://www.simwr.org)



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

Virginia M. Wagner  
Educational Grant

“Helping women achieve higher  
education”



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

Dr. Virginia M. Wagner

November 6, 2012

Dear Counselor or Advisor,

I am pleased to announce the Virginia Wagner Educational Award scholarship opportunity for women, presented by Soroptimist International of Canton/Stark County. Soroptimist is an international volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. I hope you will encourage participation from women at your college or university to apply for this scholarship. The Virginia Wagner Award is unique to the Soroptimist Midwestern Region, and therefore only women attending schools in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin are eligible to apply.

Some facts about the Virginia Wagner Educational Award include:

- ☺ It is a financial award for women seeking a bachelors, masters or doctorate degree.
- ☺ Applicants taking on-line courses or seeking degrees from on-line universities ARE eligible.
- ☺ Information about the award is available on our club's website at [www.bestforwomencanton.org](http://www.bestforwomencanton.org).
- ☺ At the Canton/Stark County club level, between \$350 - \$500 is awarded to winners annually.
- ☺ Winning applicants go on to compete at the District level (\$500), and those winners at the Region level (\$2500).

Applicants need only visit our club's website—[www.bestforwomencanton.org](http://www.bestforwomencanton.org)—and download the application to get started!

Applications are due by **January 15, 2011**. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions!

Sincerely,

Alexandra Nicholis Coon  
Club Chairperson, Virginia M. Wagner Educational Grant  
SI Canton/Stark County  
[ancoon@massillonmuseum.org](mailto:ancoon@massillonmuseum.org)



Soroptimist International of the Americas Midwestern Region  
Virginia M. Wagner Educational Grant Application 2012

Type or print all information except signatures.

Deadline to club: January 15, 2013

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**APPLICANT DATA** Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent Home Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment # \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
How did you hear about this grant? School \_\_\_ Friend \_\_\_ Internet \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_ (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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**FAMILY MAKE-UP**

Independent adults, complete Part A. Dependent adults, complete Part B.

A. Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Children Number \_\_\_\_\_ Ages \_\_\_\_\_  
B. Mother Name \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Father Name \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Other Dependent Siblings Number \_\_\_\_\_ Ages \_\_\_\_\_

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**HIGH SCHOOL DATA**

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ High School Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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**POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL DATA**

Name of post-secondary school you are attending or plan to attend for the next term. If unknown, please list in order of preference the schools to which you have applied. Use official school names; please do not abbreviate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Year in school next semester (circle): 1 2 3 4 5 Graduate Study \_\_\_ Post Graduate Study \_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_ Enrollment status: Part-time \_\_\_ Full-time \_\_\_

Number of semesters or credits remaining before graduation: Semester(s) # \_\_\_\_\_ Credits # \_\_\_\_\_

Expected graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree sought: Bachelor \_\_\_ Masters \_\_\_ Doctoral \_\_\_

Describe previous degree(s) earned (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

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**GOALS**

Attach a typewritten essay, limited to two pages, covering the following topics. Put your name on each page.

1. Why did you choose to enter this profession?
2. What is your ultimate goal in this profession?

3. How would this grant affect your educational plans?
4. What efforts have you and your family made toward obtaining your degree?
5. What unusual family or personal circumstances have affected your achievement in school, work experience, or your participation in school and community activities?

**TRANSCRIPT** An official transcript of grades for the past academic year **must** be sent with this application. Photocopies are acceptable. On-line transcripts are not acceptable.

**ACTIVITIES, OFFICES, HONORS AWARDS** List all community or school activities in which you have participated without pay during the **past four years** (e.g. work at school or children's school, civic or cultural organizations). Note special awards, honors and offices held.

<u>Activities/Offices/Honors/Awards</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**WORK EXPERIENCE** Describe your work experience during the **past four years** (if homemaker, please indicate). Indicate dates of employment for each job and approximate **number of hours worked** each week. List monthly amounts earned.

<u>Employer/Position</u>	<u>From Mo/Yr</u>	<u>To Mo/Yr</u>	<u>Hours per week</u>	<u>Earned monthly</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**FINANCIAL** To be considered for the grant, this information must be filled out completely.

What do you estimate your total expenses to be: This Year \_\_\_\_\_ Next Year \_\_\_\_\_

How much of this amount is for: Books \_\_\_\_\_ Room & Board \_\_\_\_\_ Tuition \_\_\_\_\_

Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

If you anticipate higher expenses next year, please explain.

Amount you can provide from your earnings \_\_\_\_\_ Amount your spouse/parents can provide \_\_\_\_\_

From prior year IRS Form 1040: Adjusted Gross Income \_\_\_\_\_ Federal Tax Paid \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER FINANCIAL AID**

Please list the name and annual amount of any grants or scholarships you have been awarded for the school year.

<u>Name of Award</u>	<u>School where award will be used</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Check One</u>	
_____	_____	_____	<u>Granted</u> _____	<u>Pending</u> _____
_____	_____	_____	<u>Granted</u> _____	<u>Pending</u> _____

**REFERENCES** Please list three references (not relatives), one of whom is a professor at the school you attend.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Address and Zip code</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
_____	<u>Professor</u>	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

- I certify that all information provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I will notify the designated club to which I have submitted this application if there are any changes.
- I understand that this award is not a scholarship and is therefore taxable for citizens of the United States. (For more information, consult IRS publication 520.) I understand that I will receive a 1099 tax form for any award over \$600.
- I certify that this is the only application I have made this year for a Virginia M. Wagner Grant or for a Women's Opportunity Award from this or any other Soroptimist club.
- I understand that my application becomes the property of Soroptimist International of the Americas, Midwestern Region. The application will be considered confidential, unless the applicant grants Soroptimist written permission to release personal information for the purpose of publicizing the Soroptimist Virginia M. Wagner Grant. By typing or signing your name below, you adhere to the above requirements.

This certifies that I am a resident of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, or Kentucky.

**Applicant Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and agree to the release of my information to the media including, but not limited to, newspapers, magazines, or other print or electronic media.

Accept

Decline

**Applicant Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed application to:  
**Alexandra Coon**  
 Soroptimist Intl. Canton/Stark County  
 2166 Mohler Dr. NW  
 North Canton, OH 44720  
 ancoon@massillonmuseum.org



SOROPTIMIST  
Best for Women

*Soroptimist International  
of Canton/Stark County  
P.O. Box 2336  
North Canton, OH  
44720*

[www.bestfor-womencanton.org](http://www.bestfor-womencanton.org)

November 1, 2012

**TO: FINANCIAL AID – ACADEMIC ADVISOR’S OFFICE**

Soroptimist International of Canton/Stark County is offering the **Woman’s Opportunity Award Program** again this year to aid a mature woman in entering or re-entering school in order to further her skills and training to upgrade her employment status. This program fulfills one of Soroptimist’s goals ... “to strive for human rights for all people, and, in particular, to advance the status of women.”

The Women’s Opportunity Award is given to a first place, second place and special award winner from the Canton/Stark County Club. A cash award of \$550 is available for First Place, \$500 for Second Place and \$400 for Special Award. The local club winner is eligible for \$5000 first place award or one or two \$3000 second place awards from the Midwest Region. From the 28 Region winners, the Federation gives three \$10,000 finalist awards each year.

The following guidelines are used in selecting a winner:

1. Has a family financially dependent upon her.
2. Applicant shows characteristics of maturity in that she is motivated.
3. Financial need.
4. To what extent will her proposed course of study bring advancement or improve present job status.
5. Is in a vocational or technical training program or is completing an undergraduate degree.

The application form is to be completed on-line at [www.bestforwomencanton.org](http://www.bestforwomencanton.org).

**COMPLETED APPLICATIONS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ADDRESS ON-LINE BY DECEMBER 15, 2012.**

We sincerely appreciate your assistance in making women aware of this award and ask for your continued support and help. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

Sincerely,

Christine Shearer (216.408.4124)  
Co-Chair of Foundations Committee  
Soroptimist International of Canton/Stark County  
PO Box 2336  
North Canton, OH 44720

*Improving the lives  
of women and girls,  
in local communities  
and throughout  
the world.*

Since 1972, Soroptimist has been helping women the world over **reclaim their dreams** through the Women's Opportunity Awards program. This program provides cash grants to women who are working to better their lives through additional skills training and education.

*You are eligible to apply if you are:*

- A woman with primary financial responsibility for yourself and your dependants
- Attending an undergraduate degree program or a vocational skills training program
- Have financial need

Are you trying to improve life for yourself and your family?

Are you going back to school?

Do you need financial assistance to complete your education?

**For information about applying to the Women's Opportunity Awards program, please contact:**

**Soroptimist International of** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Club Application Deadline** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount of Club Award** \_\_\_\_\_



1000 North  
 17th Street  
 Washington, DC 20001  
 www.soroptimists.org



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**Soroptimist International of** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

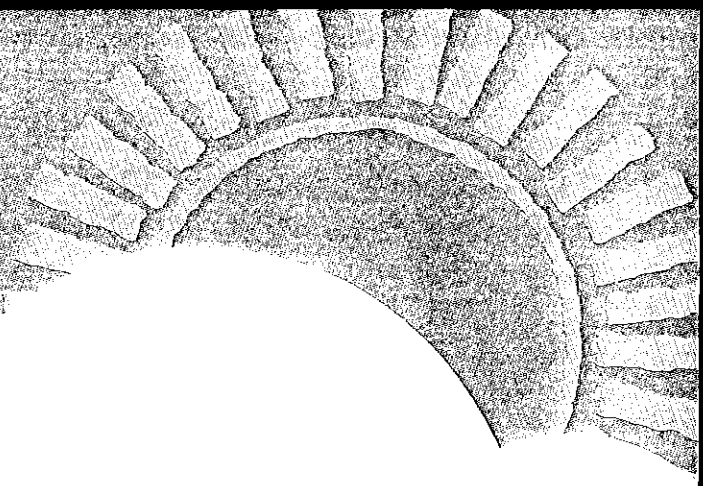
**Club Application Deadline** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount of Club Award** \_\_\_\_\_



Empowering Women  
www.soroptimists.org

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- Have financial need

Are you going back to school?

Do you need financial assistance to complete your education?

**For information about applying to the Women's Opportunity Awards program, please contact:**



1972  
 Soroptimist  
 www.soroptimist.org

**Soroptimist International of** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

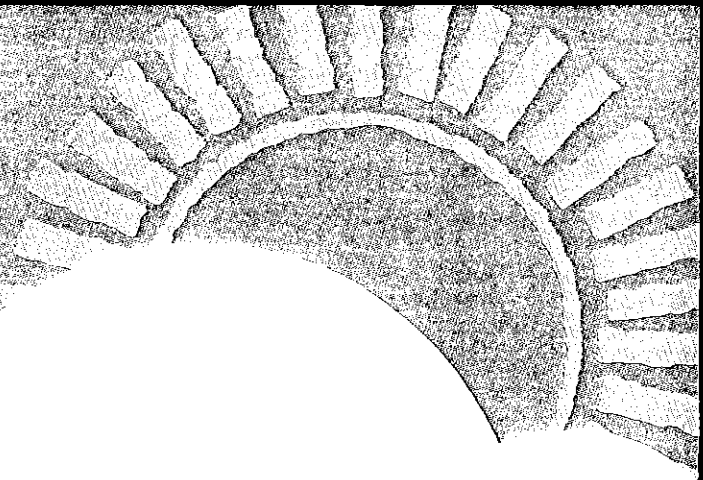
**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Club Application Deadline** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount of Club Award** \$\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_

Since 1972, Soroptimist has been helping women the world over **reclaim their dreams** through the Women's Opportunity Awards program. This program provides cash grants to women who are working to better their lives through additional skills training and education.



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Do you need financial assistance to complete your education?

**For information about applying to the Women's Opportunity Awards program, please contact:**



1999  
 Soroptimist  
 www.soroptimists.org

**Soroptimist International of** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Club Application Deadline** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Amount of Club Award** \_\_\_\_\_





When  
you were  
a girl,

did you imagine

a future

filled with hope

and promise?

But then

your life took

an unexpected turn,

and

you were forced to

put your dreams on hold?

Are you ready  
to begin  
your new life?

## The Soroptimist Women's Opportunity Awards Program

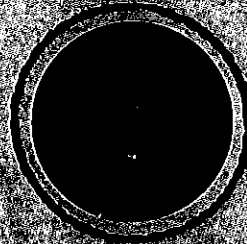
The Soroptimist Women's Opportunity Awards give women the resources they need to improve their education, skills, and employment prospects. Eligible applicants must be women who provide the primary financial support for their families, and who are enrolled in or have been accepted to a vocational/skills training program or an undergraduate degree program.

Each year, Soroptimist clubs in 19 countries and territories assist women in overcoming personal difficulties and bettering their lives through education and skills training. The women may use the cash award to offset any costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education, including books, childcare, and transportation. The program begins on the local club level, where award amounts vary. Club recipients become eligible to receive regional level awards, which are granted through Soroptimist's 28 geographic regions. Currently, each Soroptimist region grants one first-place award for \$5,000. (Note: most regions grant additional \$3,000 awards.) The 28 first-place recipients then become eligible to receive one or three \$10,000 finalist awards.

Barbara Y., domestic abuse survivor, found herself alone in a foreign country with three young children to support. She has learned to speak the language of her adopted land and is pursuing a career in nursing.



A single mother of five, Kathy M. was barely surviving on public assistance. Today Kathy is a dental hygienist and small business owner.



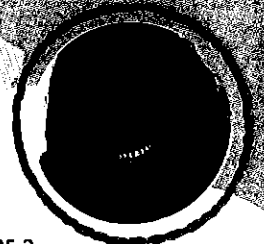
Peggy M. transformed her life from a single mom earning minimum wage at a fast food restaurant to a college graduate who makes her living as a professional speaker and published author.



Guadalupe V. was a young wife trapped in a violent marriage in a country that was not her own. A single mom to two children, Guadalupe eventually graduated from a Ph.D. program and has helped other women to leave abusive situations.



Marina G. was a struggling single mom who ran in marathons and used the cash prizes to support her family. She recently obtained a degree in physical education.



# Application

Women's Opportunity Awards

A program of Soroptimist International of the Americas

## INSTRUCTIONS

### Deadline:

Applications are due each year by December 15 to the address listed in Step 4. Award recipients will be notified between January and June. Not all applicants to the program will be selected as recipients.

### STEP 1: DETERMINE IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE

Eligible applicants must be women who:

- Provide the primary financial support for their families (including children, spouse, siblings and/or parents).
- Have financial need.
- Are enrolled in or have been accepted to a vocational/skills training program or an undergraduate degree program.
- Reside in one of Soroptimist International of the Americas' member countries/territories (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guam, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, United States of America, Venezuela).
- Have not previously been the recipient of a Soroptimist Women's Opportunity Award; are not a Soroptimist member, employee or immediate family of either.

### STEP 2: COMPLETE THE APPLICATION

To fill out the form:

- Select the "Hand Tool," which appears as a small white hand.
- Move the "Hand Tool" and click on the area where you want to type.
- A cursor will appear and you can begin typing to complete the application. (Note: You will not be able to change the type size. Please limit your answers to the space allotted.)
- Once all parts of the form are completed, select "Save As" from the "File" menu and change the file name (for example, "WOAemailappLG.pdf," where "LG" are your initials.) Click "Save."

### STEP 3: OBTAIN REFERENCES

You will need two different people to fill out the reference form, which you received along with this application. Please email this form to your references and request that they email the forms back to you when completed.

### STEP 4: SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

Attach your completed application and reference forms to an email and send them to the contact person listed below by DECEMBER 15.

Soroptimist International of Canton/Stark County

Midwest Region

Soroptimist Club Name

Region

Christine Fowler Shearer

216.408.4124

Club Contact Person

Phone

PO Box 2336

Address

North Canton, OH 44720

City/State/Postal Code

FowlerArtistic@gmail.com

Email Address

### IMPORTANT!

Applications submitted directly to Soroptimist headquarters in Philadelphia will NOT be considered. If you have any questions about eligibility or the application process, please contact <[siahq@soroptimist.org](mailto:siahq@soroptimist.org)>.



SOROPTIMIST

Best for Women

# Application

Women's Opportunity Awards

A program of Soroptimist International of the Americas

## PART I—PERSONAL DATA

Name *(last, first, middle initial)*

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Address *(number and street address)*

---

City/Province

State

Postal Code

Country

---

Telephone *(area code first)*

E-mail Address

---

Date of Birth

Marital Status

---

Number of People Applicant Supports Financially

---

Relationship to Applicant *(children, spouse, parent, etc.)*

Ages *(if children)*

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## PART II—CAREER GOALS

A. Please list the school you are currently attending, or to which you have been accepted, and your proposed program of study (example: San Jose State University, four-year bachelor of science degree program in nursing).

B. When will you complete your program of study (month and year)?

C. Are you currently employed? *(click)* YES NO

If yes, how many hours per week do you work? \_\_\_\_\_

D. Please describe (in 300 words or less) your career goals and how your education and/or skills training support those goals in the space provided below.



**PART III—PERSONAL STATEMENT**

The Soroptimist Women's Opportunity Awards aid women who have faced economic and personal hardships, and are seeking to gain additional skills, training and education. The program helps women who serve as the primary wage earners for their families to enter or return to the work force, or to improve their employment status.

In the space provided below, please tell us in 750 words or less how these statements apply to you, and why you would make a deserving Women's Opportunity Award recipient.

**PART IV—FINANCIAL NEED**

The Soroptimist Women's Opportunity Awards are given based in part on financial need. Your total income will be compared to your total annual expenses. Please be as exact as you can.

A. Total annual household income from all sources (include your income from employment, savings, child support, alimony, Social Security benefits, government assistance, and school loans or scholarships. Also include all income received by any other household members).

B. Please list your annual educational expenses only—do not include those of your children or other family members.

Tuition/School Fees \_\_\_\_\_ Books \_\_\_\_\_

Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

C. Please list your family's annual living expenses in the chart below.

Housing \$ _____ per year	Utilities \$ _____ per year
Food \$ _____ per year	Medical \$ _____ per year
Childcare \$ _____ per year	Transportation \$ _____ per year
Other (please list additional expenses and assign a dollar value to each in the spaces below)	
Expense: _____	\$ _____ per year
Expense: _____	\$ _____ per year
Expense: _____	\$ _____ per year
Total expenses per year \$ _____	

**PART V—REFERENCES**

Using the attached reference forms, please submit two references (from persons not related to you) with your completed application. Applications received without two references will not be considered.

**PART VI—AGREEMENT**

- I certify that all information provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I will notify the designated club to which I have submitted this application if there are any changes.
- I understand that this award is not a scholarship and is therefore taxable for citizens of the United States. (For more information, consult IRS publication 520. Recipients in other countries should check their local tax laws.)
- I certify that this is the only application I have made this year for a Women's Opportunity Award from this or any other Soroptimist club.
- I understand that my application becomes the property of Soroptimist International of the Americas. The application will be considered confidential, unless the applicant grants Soroptimist written permission to release personal information for the purpose of publicizing the Soroptimist Women's Opportunity Awards program. By typing your name below you adhere to the above requirements.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted to: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please provide the name of the sponsoring Soroptimist club listed on the application instructions page.)