



Soroptimist International of Farmington Valley, CT

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For Immediate Release

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF FARMINGTON VALLEY
PROVIDES "WELCOME KITS" TO PRUDENCE CRANDALL CENTER

Farmington Valley, CT – Soroptimist International of Farmington Valley, CT (SIFV) - a group of women including business professionals - was awarded a \$2,500 grant from its federation Soroptimist International of the Americas in support of a project for Prudence Crandall Center (PCC), a domestic violence program located in New Britain, CT. The project entitled “Welcome to a New Hope...a New Beginning” allowed SIFV to purchase items and assemble/deliver 170 "Welcome" kits of personal care items to women and infants arriving at PCC's Emergency Shelter without these essential items. The kits provided items that lasted 2-3 days and helped the women and infants in their "new beginning". They were assembled and delivered throughout the year with final delivery in June 2011.

“We are so pleased that our club has again been able to have such a positive impact on an organization that offers so many services to women and children,” said Tracy Scala, SIFV president. “Domestic violence knows no social or economic boundaries and Prudence Crandall Center's mission is very much in line with that of Soroptimist - to improve the lives of women and girls. We have had a relationship with PCC for over 5 years and are always looking for creative ways to support its mission as well as ours," added Ms. Scala.

Throughout the relationship, SIFV has provided almost \$20,000 in support to Prudence Crandall Center – through monetary and in-kind contributions. This support includes grant money to purchase computer equipment and 21 beds, bedding, linens, cribs, etc. for PCC’s Emergency Shelter residences; funds from fundraising efforts; and several professional workshops in topics such as self-defense, computer skills and personal fitness & nutrition. Recently SIFV was awarded a \$500 grant from its region – Soroptimist International Northeastern Region – to help establish a Child/Teen Resource Center at PCC. These funds purchased paint, tables, chairs and supplies so this population at PCC has a bright, safe place to help their young hearts heal.

“Providing the ‘Welcome’ kits and supplies needed for the Child/Teen Resource Center are a few of the ways our members show appreciation for what they have. We can see how we are directly improving lives," commented Ms. Scala. "Our members want to continue our relationship with Prudence Crandall Center. It's fulfilling and promotes our mission...a win-win for both organizations."

Soroptimist International of Farmington Valley, CT is a 501(c)(3) organization comprised of a diverse membership of professional and business women who are committed to improving the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world. For more information about Soroptimist visit www.soroptimist.org or www.soroptimistner.org. If you are interested in the Farmington Valley, CT club, contact SIFV at sifarmingtonvalley@soroptimist.net.