

PROGRAMME FOCUS REPORT FORM**FEDERATION: SI/Europe**

NEW PROJECT/PROGRAMME	X
CONTINUING PROJECT/PROGRAMME	
FUNDRAISING	X

The core purpose of Soroptimist International is to advance human rights and the status of women. In order to do this, clubs undertake service projects in their communities that improve the lives of women and girls. In order to track the success in achieving the core purpose, SI clubs are asked to submit programme focus reports on their successful club projects. Once completed, forward to:

Union Coordinator : *Marlies Binder*

Federation Coordinator: *Jadwiga Teresa Stepien*

Part I. Identification

Date: **May 2006** Club Name: **Soroptimist Club Antwerpen** Union/Region: **Soroptimist International Belgium**

Club contact Name: **Frieda Helsen** Email: **friedahelsen@biz.scarlet.be** tel: **00.32.3.226.59.74**

Project Title: **Restoration project: A new life for the old cinema "Roma"**

Project Partnerships: **N.P.O. "de Roma", the 3 SI Clubs of Antwerpen , professional school VITO de Hoogstraten**

Target Group: **inhabitants of a neglected multicultural neighbourhood in Borgerhout (Antwerp)**

Part II: Programme of Service Area* (Check the box/boxes that best describes your project):

Human Rights/Status of Women: **Education:** **Economic and Social Development:**

Health: **Environment:** **International Goodwill and Understanding:**

Describe your project

(1) **What you did**, (2) **Why you did it**, (3) **How you did it**, (4) **Results and recommendations**

(1) *We supported the N.P.O. "de Roma", which committed itself since three years in giving new life to a protected theatre building in a difficult neighbourhood and which had to face financial difficulties in his last stage of the restoration.*

We gave a signal to the official authorities to convince them to continue sustaining, in a more important and structural way, this magnificent project.

We sponsored the restoration, by students of a professional school together with professionals, of two authentic stained glass domes on the second floor.

We emphasized the fact that protecting and conserving our patrimony, contributes to good understanding in a multicultural community, insisting on the gender equality in our culture.

We made ourselves known as Soroptimist members, to the media, to the authorities, to the general public and to the neighbourhood.

(2) *We supported this project because the restoration and renovation of this historical building with an important socio-cultural influence is the realisation of the inhabitants and volunteers (man and women) of the neighbourhood, together with professional schools and artists and because the cultural influence of the "Roma" makes real difference for the population of this community, revalorising the neighbourhood and bringing back social life, also for women.*

We want to help the community of Borgerhout to fight against the dismembering of the neighbourhood by supporting N.P.O. de Roma. This N.P.O. aims two targets: the restoration of the theatre hall and its exploitation not only as a theatre but also as a cultural center.

We want to valorise the work of the pupils of a professional school by enhancing the importance of the restoration of the two authentic stained glass domes.

(3) *We raised money by organising a successful fund raising concert in the theatre hall "de Roma" with a very popular local singer (Wannes van de Velde), talented musicians (Myrddin y compadres) and famous flamenco singer (Amparo Cortès). Soroptimists sold 400 seats, 800 were sold to the public. One month before the event, the theatre was sold out.*

N.P.O. de Roma made publicity for the fund raising concert at an important press meeting on the occasion of the reopening of the old cinema "the Roma" after the big renovation period, and gave us advertising in all their programmes and posters.

We made and sold programmes (sponsored by advertisings), we made and sold sandwiches together with the two other Soroptimist clubs, we worked together with the volunteers of "de Roma" who sold tickets and did all the service at the bar etc.

A copper plaque to commemorate this Soroptimist project was put up at the wall in the Roma..

(4) *Total benefit of the fund raising concert for N.P.O. "de Roma": 15.749 €*

Project Costs: 9.391,62 € (incomings: 25.110,77€) Estimated number of Hours Spent: ???