

Introduction

The Medway Towns Soroptimist Trust is an independent registered charity, number 1175474, which was established in October 2017 with an endowment of funds from Soroptimist International Medway Towns (now Soroptimist international Medway and Maidstone). Therefore the Trust's prime motivation is the continuance of the Soroptimist mission:

SI mission: Soroptimists transform the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities.

Soroptimism

Soroptimist International is a recognised Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) representing women from all over the world. Soroptimist International (SI) and Soroptimist International Great Britain & Ireland (SIGBI) both have consultative status at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the United Nations (UN), which gives a voice on important discussion papers, and allows Soroptimists to attend the Commission on the Status of Women in New York each March, and contribute to the "Agreed Conclusions". This status would not be possible without the fantastic work being done by, and facilitated by, Soroptimists at local level.

There are nearly 80,000 Soroptimists worldwide, the majority of whom belong to their local Club, where they can make friends with like-minded women, have fun and work on projects that help improve lives.

The Soroptimist Club was established in Medway in 1946, and actively works to support the community locally, nationally and internationally, through service and through funding.

Our priorities

As the grants we award are modest in size, it is important to us that we maximise their impact. Therefore our priorities are to:

- reflect the Soroptimist Mission;
- give preference to projects which support women and girls;
- favour local causes, supporting need in Medway and north Kent for preference;
- continue to support individuals through established organisations;
- support the Soroptimist mission by occasionally supporting local, national or international Soroptimist projects;
- be responsive and react to urgent requests between board meetings.

Who can apply for a grant

Please read these guidelines before completing your application.

We make grants to fund charitable work. You must be a constituted not-for-profit organisation or UK registered charity.

Only one grant per organisation can be supported at any one time.

Please note that unsolicited requests for funding which are not on the application form are unlikely to be successful.

We very occasionally make small donations to benefit individuals. These must:

- be requested via a not-for-profit organisation seeking an emergency payment
- or
- contribute to the costs of a project run by a recognised not-for-profit organisation.

What you can apply for

Priority is given to work being delivered by groups working to combat social disadvantage, particularly for women and girls.

Projects will not usually be funded retrospectively.

The Trust may also support Soroptimist International projects.

What we do not fund

We do not make grants towards:

- General appeals or letters requesting donations. We do not have the resources to reply to appeals which are not submitted on our application form.
- Local authorities, or work usually considered a statutory responsibility.
- Schools, colleges or universities. We will not fund the education of pupils or students, but may consider funding additional services or facilities.
- Projects that promote religion.
- Capital applications.
- Organisations that do not provide direct service delivery to clients (such as umbrella, second tier or grant-making organisations).
- Organisations that do not have charitable aims (such as companies limited by shares and commercial companies).
- Organisations that have received a grant from the Medway Towns Soroptimist Trust during the previous 18 months but have not provided a satisfactory report on the work undertaken.

How to apply

There are no deadlines and applications can be submitted at any time, provided that:

- you do not have an active grant from us;
- we are not already assessing an application from your organisation;
- all reporting requirements on previous grants have been met.

Applications for this programme are submitted by email using our application form.

Knowingly providing false information will invalidate any application or grant.

In the first instance, it is acceptable to email the form without signature. If you are offered a grant, a signed version will be required.

To make an application, please complete the grant application form and email it to **MedwayTST@yahoo.com**

for the attention of **The Chairman, Medway Towns Soroptimist Trust**

It normally takes between three and six months for a decision to be made on applications to the Medway Towns Soroptimist Trust. The decision of the trustees is final.

In submitting your application, you are confirming that:

- the funding will be spent as described;
- funding will be spent within one year of being awarded;
- you will report back progress as requested, possibly by giving a short presentation;
- you will complete a monitoring report at the end of the funded activities;
- you will acknowledge the support of the Medway Towns Soroptimist Trust in communication as appropriate.