

29 Diamond Education Grant (charity number 1139668):

These grants are open to any woman who permanently resides within the boundaries of SIGBI (ie within one of our 26 countries). Further information about the Fund plus an application form, can be found on the [SIGBI Website](#).



Leanne Ross was a young mum employed part time as a student support worker in her local College for the Deaf when she spotted an opening for Sign Language Interpreters for which there is a national shortage. She applied for a grant in 2012 to enable her to attend a course leading to a Diploma in Sign Language Interpreting. “A career in interpreting would allow me to support my family and choose my working hours so my work life balance would be better”, she said. “Without your support I would not have been able to enrol”.



Christine Dunn was another recent recipient of the Diamond Education Grant, which helped her to finance a Motorcycle Instructor’s course, and is now a qualified Motorcycle Instructor. She hopes to set up her own school one day, and says “this has made a huge difference to the prospects for me and my children and I really cannot thank you enough for putting your faith in me”.



George Shute used her grant towards her studies for a qualification in Sage accounting. Georgie spoke about her award at the 2009 SIGBI Conference in Manchester to explain how the Diamond Education Grant had helped her gain not only the qualification she desperately needed but also the confidence to put herself forward for job opportunities. It also, she said, brought her a new awareness of the opportunities available, even when you are stuck in a difficult position, the assistance that was available and the work of Soroptimists across the world.