

PROGRAMME FOCUS REPORT FORM

FEDERATION: SI/Europe

NEW PROJECT/PROGRAMME
CONTINUING PROJECT/PROGRAMME
FUNDRAISING

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 and/or Federation Coordinator : Marlies Binder

Part I. Identification

Date: 1 March 2007 Club Name: SI Antwerpen Union/Region: Belgium
Club contact Name: Christel VERSWYVELEN Email: independence@skynet.be

Project Title: **Het Greet Rouffaer Huis**

Project Partnerships: none

Target Group: victims of burn wounds and their families, friends, fellow class members at school, etc..

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 sponsored "Het Greet Rouffaer Huis", a house where burn victims can get free medical, psychological, judicial and just plain personal help and support after they leave the hospital and start their long recovery. We invited the founder of the house, Greet Rouffaer. Greet is a famous actress in Flanders. She became a burn victim herself in 1997, when her trailer on the set exploded. Speaking out of her own experience and knowing the total lack of support after a hospital stay, she decided to found a "house" where all burn victims can turn to.

(2) Statistics show that about once a day someone is accidentally, but badly burnt. These victims often end up in a solitary environment because of their fear to be seen by the outside world. After the physical pain is somewhat under control and the long recovery period starts, there is only one place they can turn to for the support they need: "The House" is the place to be. The expensive costs of medical equipment (burn-masks, custom-made pressure suits, etc.) and medical assistance (daily massages, daily cleaning of wounds, etc.) are not always covered through the regular social security system. Cfr. Only one pressure suit is covered by the social security system. Patients need to wear this suit night and day for about one year. Children, however, grow out of it within the year. They need more than one pressure suit. We wanted to support the "House" by raising funds to help them pay for a second pressure suit for children whose parents are unable to afford one.

(3) We contacted Greet Rouffaer and Patrick Declerk, director of the "Greet Rouffaer Huis". Greet Rouffaer enthusiastically jumped into the fundraising. She even made private pictures of her recovery period available for the first-time. We helped her in digitalising them and prepared a Power Point presentation. She gave a very emotional and personal story of her experiences during our club's open house meeting on 1 March 2007.

(4) Everybody in the room was very touched by Greet's personal experience and the work being done by a group of enthusiastic volunteers and medical specialists at "the House". We recommend to spread the existence of "The House" to other clubs and to promote the idea around the world. More information on this recommendable initiative may be found on www.hetgreetrouffaerhuis.be
Our club raised € 1.500,00, which pays for a suit to help out a young child whose parent are unable to pay for one.

Project Costs: € 76

Estimated number of Hours Spent: 40 h