Soroptimist International of Boise is proud to announce the winners of our “Women’s Opportunity Awards”

Soroptimist has been helping women since 1972 through the Women’s Opportunity Awards program. This program provides cash grants to women who are working to better their lives through additional skills training and education.

Our 1st place winner of a $3000.00 cash grant is Charlotte Tomevi who is attending BSU, working toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. Her childhood dream was to be a doctor but in her second year of college she got pregnant & left school to dedicate her time to raising her son. Her relationship with her fiancé’ began like most but over time it became unhealthy, abusive and violent. She knew she needed to leave when she began to fear for her child’s life and her own life. One weekend while he was out of town she took her son and left. It has been a struggle but she is determined to complete her education so she will have the opportunity to change the lives of others. The most important change she wants is to be able to give her son the same opportunity to achieve his dreams.
Our 2\textsuperscript{nd} Place winner of a $2000.00 cash grant, Dawn Juker, is attending BSU to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Her goals include helping women and children who are victims of abuse. Dawn says that looking back it’s hard to imagine that she would allow herself to be a victim of domestic abuse but she was. In the past four years she divorced, lost her job, lost her house after being rejected for a loan modification 5 times with 2 children to support. She has had to file bankruptcy, stand in line at the health and welfare office, wade through unemployment paperwork, and fight an IRS garnishment. But in a short 15 months she has managed to maintain a 4.0 gpa. Dawn stated “Although I may have been a victim in my past, I refuse to be a victim for the rest of my life.”
Our 3rd. place winner of a $1000.00 cash grant is Janet Sargent who plans to become an RN. She would like to work with children and/or cancer patients as a bilingual (Spanish) nurse. Janet moved to Boise with her 10 year old son after a divorce due to physical abuse. She incurred over $65,000.00 in legal fees to defend and protect her son and herself. While they are much safer in Idaho, financially it has been a struggle. Janet said that being an RN will be both rewarding and will help provide stability and security for her son and it is a career that she knows will be fulfilling.

These women have worked very hard to improve their skills and make a better life for their families. Their stories are so very compelling and show strength and determination.

Soroptimist is an international service organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls.

For more information about Soroptimist or the “Women’s Opportunity Award” go to: www.soroptimistboise.org or http://www.facebook.com/siboise