**The Live Your Dream Award**

**Soroptimist International**is a global volunteer organization that provides women and gender diverse individuals access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.

On behalf of our local Club – **Soroptimist International of Cambridge** – We are writing to tell you about our annual awards program designed to achieve that goal of 'economic empowerment'... the Soroptimist ***Live Your Dream: Education & Training Awards for Women.***

On an annual basis, our Club offers cash awards to deserving local women and gender diverse individuals who:

a)  are pursuing post-secondary education/skills training

b)  are the primary financial provider for their family

c)  have a financial need

Since its creation in 1972, the ***Live Your Dream Awards***program has provided more than $45 million in education grants to over 44,000 women across the 21 countries in our Soroptimist Federation...

The **Cambridge Soroptimist Club** has awarded education grants through this program every year since our formation in 1981. Locally, $12,000 in education grants were disbursed in 2023-2024 to five deserving women by Soroptimist Cambridge. This year we hope to give even more.

Eligible applicants for the **Live Your Dream Award**:

  provide primary financial support for themselves and their dependents (children, spouse, partner, siblings, and/or parents)

  have a demonstrated financial need

  are enrolled in, or have been accepted to, a vocational/skills training program or an undergraduate degree program

  are motivated to achieve their education and career goals

  reside in Waterloo Region

  are not a previous Live Your Dream Award recipient

  do not have a graduate degree

  are not a Soroptimist member or an immediate family member of a Soroptimist (i.e. spouse/partner, parent, sibling, children or grandchildren by adoption, blood or marriage)

Eligible women are invited to submit an application, along with two reference letters, online at <http://bit.ly/LYDA-apply>**.** *If an applicant requires assistance to complete their application, our Soroptimist Club would be happy to provide that support.*

**The deadline for applications through the online application system is November 15, 2024**

The most challenging aspect of this program is getting applications into the hands of eligible women.  Please post and share the attached flyer within your premises and forward the information to any women or gender diverse individuals you know who are striving to attain higher education in the hopes of better supporting themselves and their families.

If you have any questions about the **Live Your Dream Awards** program please don't hesitate to contact us.

Dianne Long and Bonnie Domonchuk

Live Your Dream Award Chairs

Soroptimist International of Cambridge

cambridgesi.lyd@gmail.com

519-716-4330

https://soroptimistcambridgeon.org/live-your-dream-award

Thank you for providing deserving eligible individuals

with the opportunity to achieve economic empowerment!

*"This award helped me recognize my own strengths and encouraged me to keep going. It genuinely touched my heart to see how proud my children were of me and that I could set such a good example for them."* Amanda 2018 winner.

*“Thank you everyone for letting the Live Your Dream Award not only encourage and inspire but also acknowledge – for seeing those of us that might need to jump an extra hurdle or two so that we too can cross that finish line.”* Pavlina 2024 winner.