Soroptimists offer education funds for women

By Caitlyn May cmay@cgsentinel.com

The Soroptimists International Live Your Dream program has helped more than 30,000 women and girls since 1972 and now, it's hoping to add a few more.

Soroptimists International, founded in 1921, aims to better the lives of women and girls throughout the world in more than 21 countries through grants, partnerships and programs.

The Live Your Dream program offers women the chance to invest in their futures by completing their education.

"This is an award, not a scholarship and it is given to a woman pursuing an education to better her ability to support her family," said local Soroptimist member Gale Smith.

Women must be enrolled in an undergraduate program and have dependents to qualify for the grant.

"And dependents can be anyone. Maybe she is taking care of her parents or a spouse, but yes, oftentimes, she's a mother," said Smith.

In 2013, the Pew Research Center — a non-partisan organization that tracks social trends and issues - released a study that noted 40 percent of all households with children under the age of 18 were headed by women meaning the mother was either the sole bread winner or the primary source of in-

According to the report, that number was up from 11 percent in 1960 and it has continued to climb. However, with wages tied to ed-

ucation nationwide, women often lag behind their counterparts in net salary figures.

The Working Poor Families Projected reported that in 2014, almost half of all working mothers were emand service sector positions that offered little hour flexibility and few benefits associated with health care and sick leave.

time, the applications are being done online and the process is pretty straight forward," Smith said. "They

get online and the first thing they do is complete an eligibility questionnaire and then they create an account and then fill out their application."

Award amounts for the ployed in low-income retail Live Your Dream program varies depending on successful applicants. Individuals are given a year-long financial support. However, the funds are not funneled "This year, for the first through the school. Instead, women can use the money in any way that creates a cohesive environment for them to complete their education whether it be a mortgage payment or paying for necessary books for their coursework.

"It can be that they fix their car so they can get to class or childcare," Smith said. "It's anything that makes it easier for them to get to school and further their education."

To apply for the Live Your Dream program, visit bit.ly/ LYDA-apply and fill out an application by Nov. 15.

Awards are expected to be distributed in March around International Women's Day.

WORDS

from **A1**

the highest funded cancer in regards to research, earning \$519.9 million for its budget in 2016, according to the National Cancer Institute. It's widely sponsored and has spurned organizations and non-profits like the Susan G. Komen Foundation and has turned retailer aisles pink with colored products meant to raise awareness and funds.

To mark the month, *The* Sentinel offered the opportunity for breast cancer survivors, current patients and those who have been affected by the disease to tell

their stories. And because those stories are personal and fiercely intimate, they'll be told those who have lived them, in their words, with very little interruption because they are their sto-

This is Susan's...

"I've been in Cottage Grove 30 years. I'm really active with the chamber, with the greeters. This year, I talked it over with Travis (Palmer, chamber of commerce director) and I got my di-agnosis in January and just decided this is the year of the doctor. So, I've just not been out and about because this year, with the chemo, you have a lower

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immune system and I just thought, 'You know, I'm already up here, not around people, let's just stay up here, not around people."

["Up here" is Jeppesen's home, hidden up a long and winding driveway patrolled by her dog Sunshine who, according to Jeppesen, helps visitors find their way up to

the house that over-looks green grass patches shielded from the sun by the red, yellow and orange of autumn

"I had a mammogram Dec. 5 and there was something suspicious and that was December. So they set

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