



Media Release

Outstanding Youth Recognised

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Two young women were recipients of \$1,000 each as part of the Soroptimist International Mount Gambier Annual Education Grant awarded in memory of Mim Ingham at their Annual General Meeting on 11 February 2015.

Elena Spadotto will undertake a double degree in Journalism/Professional Writing and International Studies at University of South Australia.

"I would like to work towards giving a voice to those who are voiceless. I have grown up with a mother who has a strong social conscience and she has shown me through her example that a woman can achieve so much," said Elena.

Segollene Kasole also has high expectations and will undertake a Science degree at Flinders University with a focus on medical science building to a Masters in Optometry.

"This grant will not only allow me to fulfill my own aspirations and dreams but is a gift to me that keeps giving. My hope, as a refugee is to give back to my community and prove to other refugees that they can accomplish their dream with a lot of determination and dedication," said Segollene.

Mim Ingham was an active member of Soroptimist International during the 1980s and early 1990s and a dedicated teacher who saw the need for student financial assistance in starting training or further study on leaving secondary schooling.

"After Mim's death in 1992 members named the grant in her honour recognising her commitment to education. Our early intention of providing assistance when financial hardship prevents a student from continuing with her chosen career path has continued with over \$69,000 awarded through our continual fundraising efforts," said Margie Russon, newly appointed President of Soroptimist International Mount Gambier.

Over dinner both girls acknowledged the incredible work of members and spoke of the difference each has made to the lives of women and girls throughout the world.

"I continue to be astounded by the strength and dedication of our young people and their desire to contribute to their communities' future. I wish both Elena and Segollene all the best with their future studies," concludes Margie.

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Photo attached (1): Segollene Kasole's acceptance speech

Photo attached (2) Josephine & Segollene Kasole together with Elena & Corrine Spadotto

Photo attached (3) Elena Spadotto & Segollene Kasole 2014 Award Recipients