

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **STOLEN GIRLS ... STOLEN DREAMS**

Tackling the issue of human trafficking and looking for ways to help end it, Soroptimist International of Davie recently hosted its second annual poster contest, “Stolen Girls ... Stolen Dreams,” on January 7, 2016 at Old Davie School Historical Museum. January is recognized as Human Trafficking Awareness Month, and the Davie club, in partnership with Soroptimist International of the Americas, has accepted the mission to educate the community about human trafficking.

Twenty-two entries were received from McArthur and Western High School juniors and seniors. The poster size art reflected the students’ vision of the sorrows and tragedies associated with human trafficking. Many of the attendants to the evening’s awards ceremony were awe struck at the beauty these young artists produced about a subject so tragic as human trafficking.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Corey Steinberg was the keynote speaker and she held the audience in the palm of her hand as she related stories of young girls just like those in the room whose lives had been touched by the horror of human trafficking. Broward County’s Human Trafficking Coalition & Victim Advocate Jumorrow Johnson also addressed the 75+ guests with advice for parents and students about personal safety and tips on how to identify trafficking victims.

SI Davie’s President, Angie Krumenacker, presented an FBI Special Agent with backpacks assembled by the club that are filled with clothes, hygiene products and meal gift cards. These special backpacks are distributed by the FBI to rescued human trafficking victims around southeast Florida and is another club project addressing this important issue.

Finally, the awards were announced! The Winners of the poster contest are First Place: Nysa Barrios, McArthur High School, for “Two Faced;” Second Place: Kristina Capeles, Western High School, for “Uncaged Dancer;” and Third Place: Krista Nickle, McArthur High School, for “Manipulator.” As their names were called, the winners were each presented with a ribbon and a cash filled envelope.

Club members were delighted when last year’s first place winner, Paris Casasola-Zepeda, appeared as a guest. He is currently attending Broward College with the goal of becoming a medical anatomy artist, creating illustrations for medical books and publications. The Soroptimists commented that they’ll be able to say, “We knew him when!”

Soroptimist International of Davie is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls. Organized in 1983, the Davie club is part of an international organization of over 90,000 women with programs worldwide. In the past 30 years, Soroptimist International of Davie has supported a variety of service projects, gifting over \$250,000 in awards to local women and girls, with additional in-kind resources and donations.

For additional information about Soroptimist International of Davie please visit [www.sidavie.org](http://www.sidavie.org).

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