

# The OPTIMIST

Spring 2018



**Spring into Action – May is Optimists in Action Month!**





# OPTIMISTS IN ACTION MONTH

During the month of May, Optimist Clubs will create a widespread spirit of unity bringing together Optimist Members and other community volunteers for a variety of local-based activities, fundraisers and special events.

Optimist Clubs can conduct any program or special event that meets the needs of their community!

Take photos and videos and share your Club's program on social media by tagging **#OptimistsInAction**

For questions, contact [marketing@optimist.org](mailto:marketing@optimist.org)

#### MISSION STATEMENT

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

#### VISION STATEMENT

Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the first volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop to their full potential.

#### PURPOSES OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

To develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; To promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; To inspire respect for the law; To promote patriotism and work for international agreement and friendship among all people; To aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.

#### THE OPTIMIST CREED

##### *Promise Yourself-*

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.  
To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.  
To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.  
To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.  
To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.  
To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.  
To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.  
To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.  
To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.  
To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

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## The Optimist

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**On the Cover** Optimists in Action Month is May. Participation is simple: plan and host an event to better your community! Contact [marketing@optimist.org](mailto:marketing@optimist.org) for questions.



# LET'S CATCH THE FEVER!

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 2017-18  
President H. Nick Prillaman, Jr.



As we say goodbye to the chill of winter and embrace the warmth of spring, let us catch Spring Fever! The fever to serve more youth than ever before. This is our time to shine and embrace the energy and excitement that Spring Fever brings. Spring is the season of growth! Its gentle rains and warming sun bring forth a resurgence of growth and vitality. New growth is everywhere, and the soil is rich and fertile awaiting the planting of new crops. The flowers and the trees are in full bloom reminding us this is an excellent time to renew our commitment as Optimists to serve more children by spreading the seeds of Optimism.

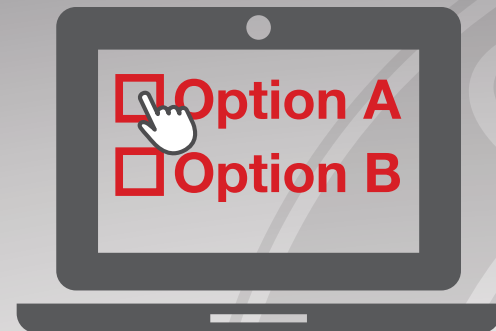
It is the perfect time to reinvigorate and reenergize your Members and strengthen your Club. Reach out and plant the seeds for future growth by inviting perspective Members to your Club functions and projects. Plan a New Optimist Welcome (NOW) event and cultivate new Members for your Club that will bring new opportunities, new ideas, new energy, new leadership, and perhaps, a new beginning or direction for your Club's volunteer activities. Share Optimism with a new "Friend" – a Friend of Optimist. Add a completely new dimension to your existing Club and build a "Club within a Club," or sow the seeds of Optimism in a new

community looking to serve and promote the well-being of its children – build a new Club! Let us spread the fever of Optimism and recommit ourselves to our mission of bringing out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

With the gloom of winter washed away by the showers of spring, the dazzling sun warming the earth and spirits beginning to soar, let us commit ourselves to look at the sunny side of everything and make our Optimism come true. Let's catch the fever and dedicate ourselves to making sure all our Members are made to feel welcomed, kept informed about Club activities, and communicated with on a regular basis, so the value they feel for their membership is kept strong – Optimist Strong! Strong Members produce strong Clubs that enhance our ability to serve more youth, develop and mentor our leadership and bring value to the membership experience. While we are looking for new Members, let us not forget to support, recognize and nurture our existing membership. They provide the foundation of our Clubs and keep them healthy, vibrant and strong.

Healthy membership growth is essential in order for the Clubs of our Districts and Optimist International to continue to provide services for the children in our communities and across the world. So, do not delay! Ask someone to become a Member or "Friend" of your Club. Go and start building that new Club you have been thinking and talking about. Let us make our third quarter a quarter full of new Optimist blooms that will bring smiles, excitement and joy to the new children we will serve. Catch the fever and spread it everywhere!

**Be Optimist Strong – Be the Difference!**



# VOTE ONLINE

For the next Optimist International At-Large Board Directors

Your Optimist Club will once again have the ability to participate in the election of Optimist International At-Large Board Directors by casting its vote online. Voting

begins on May 1 and ends May 30. But to be eligible to vote your Club must have a valid e-mail address for your Club President on file with Optimist International. And your Club will need to have all of its financial obligations paid by April 30.

### Dates to Remember

**April 30** – Club voting strength is determined per International Bylaws and an e-mail is sent to every Club President outlining online voting procedure.

**May 1** – Online election voting will open for 30 days.

**May 31** – Results of elections posted on the Optimist website (pending audited review of ballots).

Make sure your Club President's email address is correct in the Optimist membership database to ensure that your Club receives the voting procedures. The Club President or Secretary should:

- Go to [www.optimistleaders.org](http://www.optimistleaders.org).
- Login with your credentials.
- If you do not know your credentials, click on the "Password Recovery" link.
- Click on your name and confirm e-mail is correct or enter correct address.

## Reel OPTIMISM VIDEO CONTEST

### CAST A VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE REEL OPTIMISM VIDEO

When creating a video entry for the 2018 Reel Optimism contest, adult and youth Clubs were asked to construct a short video that visually illustrates the topic, "Living the Creed." Optimist International received many outstanding submissions and the International Marketing & Communications Committee has narrowed the contest down to a limited number of finalists in each category.

An integrated Facebook and online contest experience allows you to view, share and vote for your favorite video. Votes are tabulated based on "Likes" with Facebook users allowed to submit one vote per day during the voting period. Help promote your favorite videos by visiting the contest site and the Optimist International Facebook page often. Encourage your social media connections to participate, too! Public voting will be open from May 11 to May 31.

During the Optimist International Convention in Ottawa, winning videos in each category will be announced and shown on stage. Each winning video will receive a \$1500 Club grant, courtesy of Optimist International, the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.

Save the dates of May 11 to May 31 to cast a vote for your favorite Reel Optimism entry by visiting [www.optimist.org/ReelOptimism](http://www.optimist.org/ReelOptimism) or the Optimist International Facebook page.

# NEWS & VIEWS

## Optimists Accomplish P.G.I. Goals

The following Optimists submitted their requirements for achieving Levels VII and X of the Personal Growth & Involvement Program between January 1 and March 1:

### LEVEL VII

Bruno Boucher	QUSUD	Patricia McLean	CAR
Daryl Cisney	NE	Charles Mansfield	NE
Debra Coleman	AL-MS	Ardis Moody	NE
Robert Desrochers	QUCE	Diane Moquin	QUSUD
Richard Felt	NE	Kenneth Munch	DMM
Burt Foreman	NE	Star Munch	DMM
Pierre-Paul Gemme	QUSUD	Willis Nickelson	NE
Vera Hendrix	AL-MS	Blance Ortiz	NMWTX
Helen Howard	AL-MS	Ron Platt	MI
Lora Kander	NE	Richard Raasch	NE
Jim Kelly	MI	David Thelen	NE
Sue Labatzky	OH	Connie Webb	GATE

### LEVEL X

Sue Armstrong	OH
James Howie	SWONT
David Martin	DMM

For more information about Professional Development Programs offered, visit [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org)



## Recruit your Junior Optimist Club Graduating Seniors!

This is a great time to add your Junior Optimist Club Members to your adult Club! We are continuing the free membership for one year to all graduating seniors who join their local adult Club or College Club. By offering this free registration for the year, the hope is that they will continue with the Club and this would allow for younger membership. There are approximately 1,000 Junior Optimist Members graduating this year that could join your Club!

## Recruit a Teacher for \$30

Optimist Members of all professions are important to Clubs, so why the emphasis on teachers? A strong connection with local schools is extremely beneficial for your Optimist Club. More teachers on your roster strengthens this connection. They can open doors for attracting more students to our youth projects – including Oratorical, Essay, Sports and other programs. Teachers are able to provide first hand insight into the needs of the children of your community. They also provide the foundation for new Junior Optimist Clubs. Your Optimist Club will serve more children!

**Optimist International is waiving the \$15.00 membership fee for teachers and educators, and offering a year's dues for only \$30!**

Please contact the Membership Department with any questions:  
(800) 500-8130.

*\*\* This promotion may not be used in conjunction with any other membership promotions including "Friend of Optimist." Clubs will be billed \$30.00 at the time the teacher is added to their roster and then will not be billed dues for that Member for a calendar year.*



**THANK YOU** to all Optimist Members & Clubs for participating in Optimist Day!

Our organization greatly appreciates every one of our Members striving each day to bring out the best.

Mark your calendars for Optimist Day 2019: February 7! Participation is simple – wear your Optimist gear to spread Optimism and positivity in your local community.





## Without **YOU**, There Are No Scholarships

Here are some shocking United States student loan debt numbers:

**Total Student Loan Debt:** \$1.31 trillion

**Total U.S. Borrowers with Student Loan Debt:** \$44.2 million

Beginning in 1928, the Oratorical Program has become the longest-running program sponsored by Optimist International. The contest is for youth to gain experience in public speaking by providing a platform for students who might not have an opportunity to engage and speak in front of an audience. As a huge bonus, these scholarships help to assist the recipient in the pursuit of further education at a college, university, trade school, and other types of educational institutions.

The Optimist International Oratorical Program scholarships are funded by Member donations to the Optimist International Foundation and Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation. It is important that all Members understand the significance of supporting the Foundations in order to continue the funding for the contest. Please make sure to recognize the Foundations and any Member that donates funds to the scholarships.



SAINT LOUIS  
UNIVERSITY  
EST. 1818

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual World Oratorical June 28-29, 2018

Saint Louis University Center for Global Citizenship  
St. Louis, Missouri

### Why new and additional funding is needed for the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships:

- Increases the number and the amount of scholarships available
- Provides a unique opportunity to interact with other youth from around the world
- Heightens the name recognition of Optimist Clubs
- Offers partnership with experts in the field of communication, speech, and debate
- Enhances both the Oratorical Contest and Kids Speak Out programs
- Stimulates the recruitment of contestants
- Attracts new Members into Optimist Clubs who share our passion for developing public speaking skills in youth
- Provides opportunities to start new adult Optimist Clubs and Junior Optimist Clubs with emphasis on public speaking activities

To contribute, please visit: [www.optimist.org/oratorical](http://www.optimist.org/oratorical)



## My Optimist EXPERIENCE

Submitted by:  
**Matilda Weeden, Former Junior Optimist Member**

Last spring, I had the opportunity to compete in the Southern Wisconsin District Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. This contest was between myself and about seven other students. We were asked to answer the question "How the World Benefits from Optimism." Each person answered the question very differently, but not in the way that you would think. Sure, the answers themselves were different, but also the way they were presented were different. Some students signed their answer and had an interpreter speaking for them. Others spoke their answer while an interpreter signed for them. The Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is very unique in that it bridges a gap between deaf and hard of hearing people that not many people know exists. It allows each individual to communicate how they really want to, and yet everyone in the room can still understand and participate.

Last year was not the first time I was able to compete in the contest. My sophomore year of high school I participated as well and it certainly made a difference. What I learned from these competitions was how to interact with other people from different places and different situations. This contest even played a role in my life as a Junior Optimist Member. I was given the confidence to run for International Board of Directors largely in part from this competition. The barriers I may have previously had were definitely broken down some by the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The contest encourages you to get out of your shell and meet new people, speak in front of a panel of judges and an audience, and to interact differently with people through sign and speech.

My Junior Optimist experience was a great one. For seven years, I was able to serve, learn, meet new people, and travel to conventions with my Club mates. I held several leadership positions locally and in my District. During my senior year of high school, I was also able to start attending my adult Club meetings. I would say that my Junior Optimist experience and the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing both helped each other. I was definitely more comfortable meeting new people at the Communication Contests for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing because of my exposure to other people

at Junior Optimist conventions. In Junior Optimist, I would not have been able to get up in front of large audiences and speak if I did not participate in the Communication Contests for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Now as a freshman in college, I can't say enough good things about how these two opportunities have shaped my life. Junior Optimist has given me forever friends across the country. Even more important than friends, Junior Optimist helped me find a passion in service and travel. The passion is so great that my intended degree is in International Studies.

Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has increased my communication skills immensely and allowed me to be more comfortable with audiences and people in general. These two experiences are key parts of my growth in the latter part of my childhood. I would recommend both to anyone who has the chance to participate.





# OPTIMISM HAS NO BORDERS

Submitted by: Thérèse Tremblay, Templeton Optimist Club, Québec West District

During an activity of our Templeton Optimist Club, Luce Cormier, one of our Members, told us about a very special situation.

Luce is a teacher and she knows a little boy who is living through a very difficult period. This young boy, who is about ten years old, can no longer attend school because he is fighting two types of cancers. As his is a special case, he needs to receive treatment in a specialized hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. His mother, a single parent, has been at his bedside for several months and does not know anyone in the Memphis area. She makes do with limited resources and stays in a hotel.

Through Benny Ellerbe, Executive Director of Optimist International, the Curve Optimist Club of Memphis has offered to help this boy from our region.

After having communicated with the boy's nurse to learn what he would like, the representatives

of the Curve Optimist Club of Memphis went to visit them. They presented the young boy with a Nintendo DS console and a gift for his mother to lighten their burden.

Within 48 hours, many Optimists opened their hearts and brought comfort to this mother and her son. **That is the strength of Optimists making a difference!**



A very special, heartfelt thank you from our Members in the Templeton Optimist Club to the Curve Optimist Club Members in Memphis, who answered the call for this very courageous young boy.

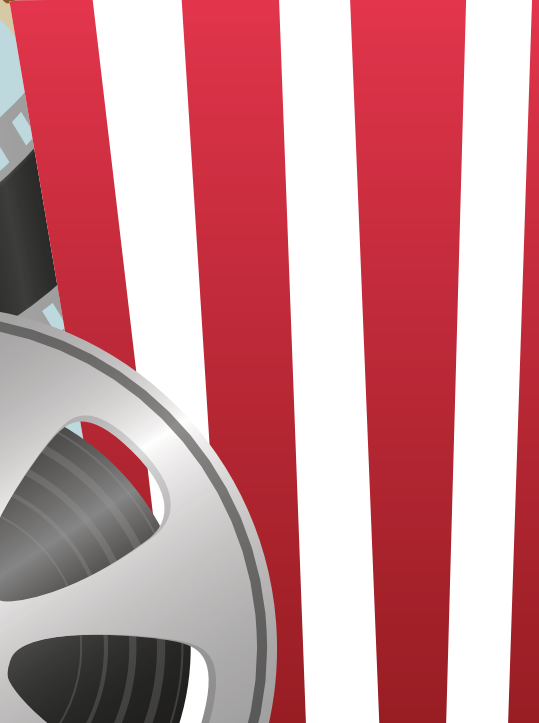
## thank you!



## Optimist Club of Dubuque

Submitted by: Carl McCarthy, Optimist Club of Dubuque, Iowa District

The Optimist Club of Dubuque, Iowa has been hosting the Boys and Girls Club Christmas Party for its members for over 25 years! The members from the Boys and Girls Club are treated to a first run movie, popcorn, drinks, candy and a prize – each youth takes home a gift for Christmas. More than 100 youth attend this event! This year's film was Coco and the party was on the day the film released in theaters. For many of the youth, this is their first time in a movie theater. What some take for granted is a special treat for these kids. The Optimists are at the theater to greet the youth, hand out the snacks and prizes, and enjoy the movie with the members. The Optimists friendly faces and cheery dispositions make the event even that much more memorable. The partnership between the Optimist Club and the local Boys and Girls Club is outstanding! We reach so many youth through our Club and help make a difference. For an event to be taking place after a quarter of a century sure says something special about the people and their commitment to our youth.





# SUNSHINE OPTIMIST CLUB OF BARBADOS BEACH CLEANUP

Submitted by: Sharon Codrington, Sunshine Optimist Club of Barbados, Caribbean District

Browne's Beach was awash with the golden color of the Sunshine Optimist Club of Barbados on Saturday, January 27, 2018. Club Members, along with approximately 40 Girl Scout Brownies, parents and Junior Optimists, made their presence felt as they converged on the beach at 6:30 a.m. for the Club's half-yearly cleanup.

Assisting the Club were Sade Deane and Jamilla Sealy of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN). They educated the children and adults on the importance of preserving the environment and the proper procedure for a beach cleanup, such as: the protective clothing to wear, documenting the types of garbage collected, and taking note of the weight of each filled bag.

When all complete, a total of 110 pounds of garbage was collected.

According to Club President Anne Wilkinson, "The enthusiasm of the Girl Scout Brownies and Junior Optimists was truly heartwarming and their participation in such a worthwhile activity must be applauded."

**Thank you to the Sunshine Optimist Club of Barbados and additional volunteers for doing their part in making the world a better, cleaner place!**



# QUÉBEC CENTER DISTRICT'S OPTIMIST WORK CAMP DAY

Submitted by: Michel Régis, Club Optimiste de Lachine, Québec Centre District



Located in the heart of the Lanaudière region on a 40-acre peninsula on the edge of Lake Pierre is a vacation camp for young children with disabilities: Camp Papillon.

Since 1938, Camp Papillon annually welcomes nearly 1,000 young campers living with a disability for summer or winter stays. The Camp Papillon team makes sure these young people, who come from throughout Québec, have the chance to participate in outdoor life in an adapted and safe vacation camp.

Beginning in 1997, the Québec Centre District holds an annual Optimist work camp day to renovate the cabins and perform maintenance at the site.



During the last 20 years, the Québec Centre District and all of its Optimist Clubs, has amassed tens of thousands of dollars for the Camp Papillon Optimist work camp activity. Over time and with the support of numerous volunteers, we have succeeded in renovating 16 cabins that house the youth. Coming into Camp Papillon, you can see all the renovated cabins lined up along Optimist Avenue.

For Québec Centre District, Camp Papillon has meant thousands of volunteer hours spent on renovating and constructing cabins. Each year the following takes place: reconstructing stairs, balconies, roofs, fences, ramps, etc., removing mountains of leaves and branches along the 40-acre site, applying liters of paint to all the buildings, maintenance of welded pipes and electrical wiring, washing and cleaning cabins, and various other tasks.

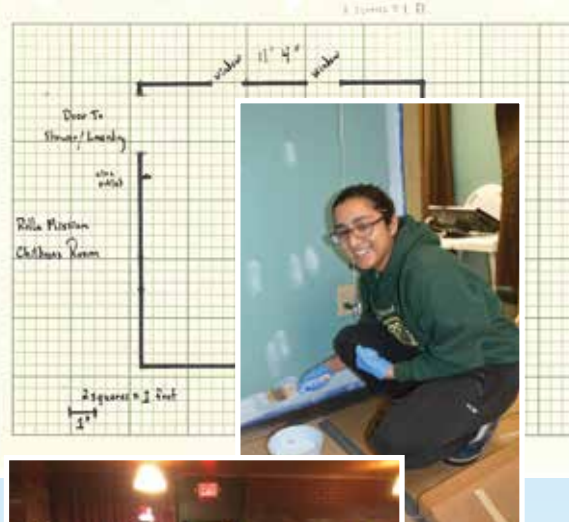
The Camp Papillon Optimist work camp day is a success for all the Québec Centre District Members! This accomplishment is due to a group of Optimists who, since 1997, have spent many weekends and hours organizing the work day so it is an unforgettable moment for all the volunteers.

A big thanks to Diane, Rodrigue and Patrick Michaud, Paul St-Amour and Monique Legault, as well as Robert Desrochers, who this year, have passed the torch to a new team. Congratulations on the excellent work you have done for all these years!



# THE "JOI" IN GIVING

Submitted by: Ashley Barth, Rolla High School Octagon Club, East Missouri Junior Optimist District



**The Rolla Mission aims to be a refuge for area citizens in need, by providing meals, showers, a free laundromat, a safe place to lounge, and even an area to sleep during cold winter nights. The non-profit organization helps citizens in the local area overcome obstacles and create better lives for themselves. When Rolla High School's Junior Optimist International Club (JOI, which is also referred to as Octagon Club), became aware of the Mission's goal, they decided to look deeper into the organization to see what they could do to help. Members' curiosity turned into a passion for volunteerism and led to a large project that benefited the children of their community in an imaginative way.**

When a touring group of Octagon Club Members walked into The Mission's "Children's Room" in September of 2017, it was obvious what their next project would be. A small room with dark, peeling paint and broken toys was no place for a child to dream in, so the Club knew it was time for a revamp. At the following meetings, Members designed a room complete with bright paint and new furniture, and devised a budget to present to the parent Optimist Club of Rolla for financial assistance.

By December, the Club was given the go-ahead and began the process of ordering supplies. Latex paint for the walls, epoxy paint for the floors, and rocking chairs were donated upon request by a local business,

as well as books from the public library, making the task even more achievable for the small, student-led group. The physical renovation took place the third week of January, a snowy one for Missouri. A few dedicated Members and their Club advisor braved the weather, working for three days to clean, paint, and decorate the room, and assemble furniture. Filled with hot air balloons and posters from the Disney movie, *Up*, the room was themed with an inspiring message in mind, "Adventure is out there!", reminding children to not give up on their aspirations and that things can only go "up" from where they have been.

With support from The Mission's staff and cooperation from the citizens residing there, the Club's goal was achieved without struggle.

The Mission's director, Ashley Brooks, explained to Members the initial reactions of children who entered the room: "The kids, whenever they would walk in the room, I wish you could have heard the excited squeals coming out, because you did that for them, it was like their own gift. While their moms are doing laundry, it's a gift to them as well, for their kids to have their own playroom and have all of these great toys for them to play with that are educational, and that the moms can have the time to relax. Many of those kids may not have toys at home, or if they do they might be broken or old. But just the fact that you gave them that gift, it's incredible."



Not only was the community rewarded with the project, but the participants themselves, as they soon came to realize.

"What I aimed to accomplish by doing this project was doing something that would benefit a bunch of other people, not just me. So many people come in and out of The Mission and they have been through a lot. It's important that when they come to the shelter they feel there is a safe, clean spot for their kids to go, where they won't have to worry," senior Octagon Member Elizabeth Kemp said.

Kemp began the project with the selfless objective of helping others, and along the way benefited as well.

"Volunteering gives you the opportunity to help in someone's life and it helps you learn to be more appreciative in your own life," Kemp said.

Senior Member Jessica Qiu took on a leadership role in the project.

"In general, I think community service makes you a better person. You gain insight on your local community and become more empathetic and aware. You also become more appreciative for the things you have while knowing your hard work is going towards a good cause," Qiu said.

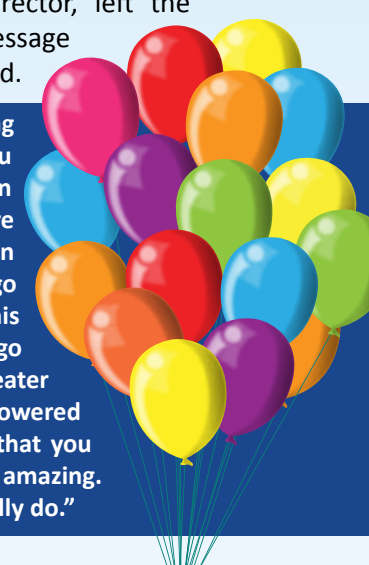


Members found that the work they put into the project was worth it, and that service learning and participating in projects much bigger than themselves brought them joy and understanding.

"By being a part of this project, I have learned many things not only about my community but of myself and my peers. It took much coordination and hard work to accomplish this task and it was a very rewarding experience. I met new people and became aware of issues in my local community that I wouldn't have been conscious of had I not participated in this project," Octagon Club Treasurer Diya Allada said.

Mrs. Brooks, The Mission's director, left the Club with an uplifting message after the project was finished.

**"That's what I think is so amazing about your group, is that you are starting volunteering when you're in high school, and you're already building the foundation of who you are. So, when you go out in the world, you have this foundation to grow from and go up from there to do even greater things, because you were empowered when you were young to know that you can change the world. It's just amazing. I think you all are incredible. I really do."**



The Octagon Club Members will continue to visit The Rolla Mission to clean the room, help prepare meals, etc. as the year progresses, and are still collecting toys to donate. They are eager to begin their next project, but in the meantime will continue to live as the Optimist Creed states, "By looking at the sunny side of everything and making their optimism come true."

Like The Rolla Mission Facebook here: [www.facebook.com/therollamission](http://www.facebook.com/therollamission)





# OPTIMISTS GATHER IN NEPAL



The first Optimist conference held outside North America and the Caribbean convened in February. Five Optimist Clubs in Nepal gathered in the capital of Kathmandu for a day of training, fellowship and strategic planning designed to take the Optimist movement to the next level in the country.

“Five Members from each of the Clubs were invited to the conference,” said Uday Niraula, the President of the Optimist Club of Kathmandu. “We also held an official business session at which policies and programs were developed for Optimist Nepal and an election was held for the Executive Committee.”

Optimist Club of Kathmandu acted as host for the conference. Seminars included Better Understanding Optimist International and Optimist Nepal, Let’s be Optimistic, and Kids Psychology and Parents-Kids Relationships. The group also developed a slogan to embrace for the remainder of this year: “Let’s Expand and Build Incredible Relations.”

“It’s absolutely gratifying to have you and your clubs come together,” said Optimist International President Nick Prillaman, who addressed a gathering of the Club presidents in a video conference call. “We’re thrilled about your commitment to embrace the challenge of serving children in your country. I commend you and thank you for being a part of our organization.”

No less than a dozen policy decisions were produced at the conference. Optimist Clubs in Nepal plan to conduct a Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) in conjunction with the timing established by Optimist International.



The Members of Optimist Nepal will coordinate a national contest. The Clubs also agreed to conduct a campaign for organ donations for needy children.

Members at the conference have already embraced the idea of growing their Clubs and the organization in Nepal. They want to make the Optimist presence in their country large enough to form a District and the Club representatives pledged to work together to expand the Optimist presence into neighboring countries of the Asia-Pacific Region. Niraula reported that as part of that effort, two guests at the conference were from cities just across the border of Nepal in India.

Those attending the gathering agreed to meet again this fall in the city of Pokhara, where the local Optimist Club will act as host. In the meantime, several members are finalizing plans to seek the proper travel documents to attend the 100th Optimist International Convention in Ottawa, July 8-10.

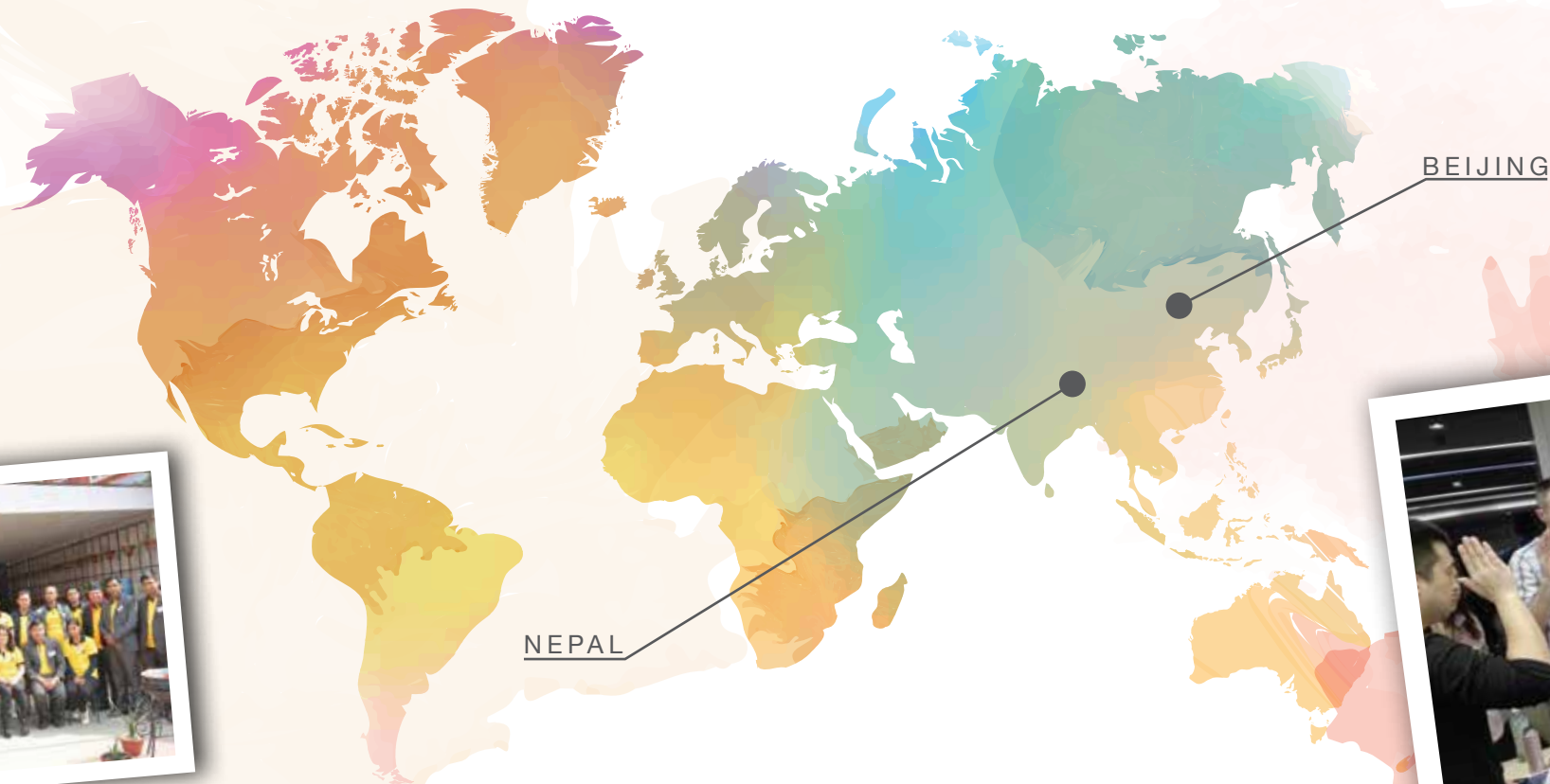
# OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL LAUNCHES FIRST CLUB IN CHINA

An organizational meeting was held March 31 for the Optimist Club of Beijing representing the first Optimist Club in the People’s Republic. The 19 Members of the new Club initially plan to work on a mobile library project that will help bring reading materials to children in remote areas.

A huge congratulations to Charter President Markus Masseli for his efforts. He initially reached out to Optimist International in January 2017. He helped guide the project to its successful conclusion. And an equally big thank you needs to go out to the June He Law Firm of Beijing and attorney Janet Hui, who provided pro bono legal assistance during the development phase of the project and will continue to do so during the government registration process. She is one of the charter Members.

The Club is a diverse group of individuals from various backgrounds and include not only Chinese Nationals, but also Members from several countries. The Club membership began growing instantly and reached 25 people within the first 48 hours of its existence. President Masseli reports the first additional Member is a colleague of Ms. Hui who was working late in the office building where the organizational meeting was held. She inquired about the Optimists and decided to join. Social media and word of mouth are fueling the quick expansion of the Club.

The Optimist International Board of Directors approved of the creation of Optimist International-China at its meeting in March. The Optimist Club of San Antonio, Texas has agreed to sponsor the Club in Beijing.



# CONVENTION IS FOR EVERYONE!



The annual gathering of Optimists is open to each and every Member, and their guests! There truly is something for everyone and a great opportunity to make lifelong friends. Are you an everyday Optimist from whom others could gain insight? How about a volunteer who has a successful program, a Member looking for a unique project idea or maybe a first-time Club or District Officer? Are you thinking about being a Club or District officer in the future? Are you someone who supports an Optimist Member in the family? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you have something to contribute and gain from attending the International Convention!

## OTTAWA: CANADA'S CAPITAL

Ottawa is Canada's capital, a dynamic showcase city of more than one million people. Located in Ontario at the Quebec border, it's a place where you'll hear English and French spoken in the streets; where you can discover Canada's proud heritage at impressive national sites and famous landmarks, including the Rideau Canal (a UNESCO World Heritage Site). It's a city steeped in culture, with world-class museums and galleries displaying stunning national collections and special exhibitions from Canada and around the world.

Ottawa is a destination alive with celebration, beginning each year with February's Winterlude, continuing through May's Canadian Tulip Festival, heating up July 1 with the biggest Canada Day celebration in the country, and going all-out with headliner summer music festivals.

This city is a uniquely beautiful place: an urban center on the edge of nature where you can enjoy the great outdoors — just outside your hotel room, and nearby in the surrounding country side. There's an easy cosmopolitan vibe here, and Ottawa is known for being both welcoming and walker-friendly. Explore the distinctive local neighborhoods, including the historic Byward Market. By day this area boasts a bustling farmers' market and chic shops, and at night it hums with activity at the restaurants, pubs, and nightclubs. This is also a city that enjoys the finer things in life, with a culinary community that's earning wide acclaim, unique boutiques and shopping districts, a lively local music and art scene, and always exciting nightlife. For more detailed information on what to see and do and where to dine and shop visit [www.tourism.ottawa.ca](http://www.tourism.ottawa.ca).

**This is Ottawa, Canada's capital. Come experience it for yourself!**

**The Convention and Ottawa Host Area Committees are working hard to create a memorable experience for everyone!**



**BOAT RIDES** on Dow's Lake will be available for spouses and guests of convention attendees on Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, July 7-10, 10 AM and 2 PM for up to 10 people at a time. The Host Area suggests a minimum \$10 donation per person per tour and all proceeds will benefit the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.

The boat will leave from Dows Lake and make its way down the Rideau Canal, a UNESCO world heritage site with a historic military origin. The journey is 7.8 Kilometres (4.85 miles) and will take approximately 45 minutes roundtrip passing a number of notable sites along the way including Dows Lake and nearby Carleton University, Lansdowne Park/TD Place Stadium, fancy restaurants, many international embassies, Ottawa University and the National Arts Centre.



**ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY** on Tuesday, July 10 at 10 AM for all convention attendees, spouses and guests to see the world renowned Musical Ride by Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada as represented by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This special performance has been arranged just for Optimists from and coming to Canada! For more information about the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, visit [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca). There will be a \$20 charge per person to attend which includes transportation.



**PICNIC** at Confederation Park on Monday, July 9, from 5-8 PM for a minimal cost of \$5 Canadian per person. Enjoy the great outdoors and the exhilarating sites of Ottawa from this location. When not being used for events, Confederation Park is an urban oasis away from the hustle and bustle of downtown Ottawa. Located at the corner of Elgin Street and Laurier Avenue, Confederation Park occupies an area of 2.63 hectares. The park opened in 1967 as part of Canada's centennial celebrations, and today is a popular feature of Confederation Boulevard, the Capital's ceremonial and discovery route. Confederation Park hosts several sculptures and monuments, like the South African War Memorial, the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument, and the memorial fountain honoring Colonel By, which stood for nearly a century in Trafalgar Square in London, England. There are separate links to sign up for these events on the convention page of the website at [optimist.org/convention](http://optimist.org/convention).



## PRE-REGISTRATION FOR ALL WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING AT CONVENTION

As the Leadership Development Committee continues to strive to make the annual convention the premiere training event for our organization, the committee is interested in what types of training our convention attendees like and which sessions they are attending.

This year, there will be pre-registration for all training sessions offered at the convention. This process started last year on a small scale with pre-registration requested to attend the officer-elects training. This year, the committee is asking everyone to sign-up for all training sessions during the convention. This process offers a couple of advantages in that, if an attendee is signed up for a training session, they will receive the handouts for the session as long as they are in the session no later than five minutes after the session starts and stay for all of the training. Additionally, if a particular session cancelled before the convention begins, the attendee will be notified and choose another session to attend. In addition, the pre-registration process will help attendees plan for training sessions that will best benefit them as individuals and as a result, provide the best training opportunities overall to meet their needs.

This process does not mean that convention attendees cannot choose which sessions they would like to attend once they get to convention. It simply means that there will not be any handouts available for them until after they return home following convention. Any attendees may request the handouts after convention and they will receive a link to a Dropbox folder to download any of the handouts they would like.

The Leadership Development Committee believes the pre-registration process will offer the opportunity to add additional sessions if needed or to replace a workshop that is not drawing interest. If you have questions or need more information regarding training, contact [leadership@optimist.org](mailto:leadership@optimist.org).

### YOUR SOURCE FOR UP-TO-DATE CONVENTION INFORMATION

Visit [optimist.org/convention](http://optimist.org/convention) to view the agenda and learn more on numerous topics, including registration fees and group meals costs, housing, travel and rental car discounts, youth activities, group tours, entertainment for the Opening Ceremonies, Appreciation Luncheon, Old Timers Breakfast, featured events, and more.

**If you would like information sent to you, e-mail [convention@optimist.org](mailto:convention@optimist.org) or call (800) 500-8130 ext. 205 or 221.**



## Background Checks Ensuring the safety and security of your organization

We understand the importance of protecting your Optimist Club and the children you serve. IntelliCorp has partnered with Optimist International to ensure Optimist Clubs receive comprehensive and validated screening services at the lowest possible cost.

### Optimist Discounted Background Check Package

We help deliver a thorough picture of your applicant, so you'll get a full representation of who you're hiring based on your specific requirements.

Package Price: \$14.55

#### Includes:

- Validated Criminal Database
  - Validated Nationwide Sex Offender
  - Validated Department of Corrections
- Unlimited Single County Searches (7 year address history)\*
- SSN Verification w/Address History
- Government Sanctions (Terrorist Search)

Note: \*Some courts charge a mandatory fee. These are treated as pass-through fees to our clients and are clearly highlighted before processing the search.

#### Package Add-Ons

- Federal Criminal Searches
- Motor Vehicle Reports
- Employment Verifications
- Education Verifications
- Adverse Action Letters
- Drug Testing
- Credit Reports
- I9/E-Verify



#### Program Benefits

- Preferred pricing
- Criminal product validation
- Compliance resources
- Best-in-class client service
- System & product training sessions
- Secure online process

Please Note: Information and preferential pricing provided for U.S. Clubs only. Canadian Clubs should contact IntelliCorp for more information.

### Contact:

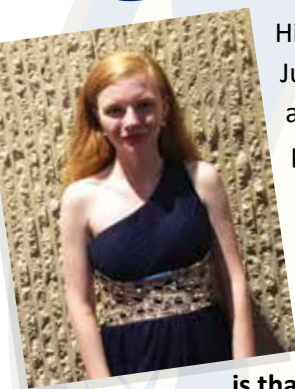
IntelliCorp Sales  
800-539-3717  
[sales@intellincorp.net](mailto:sales@intellincorp.net)  
[www.intellincorp.net](http://www.intellincorp.net)



Sign up today at [www.intellincorp.net](http://www.intellincorp.net) and complete the first page of the registration process. Use promotion code: **OPTIMIST**

I N T R O D U C I N G . . .

# joiNations



Hi, I'm Amanda Heinzmann and the Junior Optimist International Board and I would like to introduce a new program at this year's Convention!

**Junior Optimist International Nations! (joiNations! – JOIN!) is crafted around the "Model United Nations Student Program."**

**The uniqueness of "joiNations!" is that it is focused specifically on those Members that are part of the Junior Optimist International program which is currently includes 15,000 +/- youth enrolled in primary and secondary educational levels, or Home-Schooled.**

**Purpose:** The purpose of Junior Optimist International Nations (JOIN!) is to promote the pillars of Junior Optimist International by creating an event at the international convention that encourages global cooperation through public speaking opportunities. Based off of a Model United Nations platform, each Club has one or multiple representatives (delegates, if you will) that present an issue effecting the entire international community that they believe is paramount and requires greater action.

Once each problem has been introduced and there has been time for supporters and nay-sayers to speak, that problem will be voted on as to whether or not to add to the overall list. Once there have been five issues compiled, they will be voted on, where one problem will receive the most votes and will be the topic of interest for the upcoming year. Each Club will return to their communities not only with more mature speaking and persuasion abilities, but also with an issue to conduct a service project for. This allows every Club to do what is in their economic capacity to achieve, but still impacts a global calamity that this organization deems most pertinent. It also adds to the "international" component to our international organization, especially as we continue to grow and develop to all corners of the world. This addition is important because many do not feel as though we are truly international past the honoring of the flags in the introduction of the general meeting. Overall, JOIN! presents Members with an opportunity to enhance their public speaking with a topic they feel passionately about, creates a scenario that forces critical thinking centered on global topics, and impacts an issue that has worldwide effects.

## Junior Optimist International Convention

**July 5-7, 2018**

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Junior Optimist International Convention registration for adults and youth is \$199 CN and includes the following meals:

July 5 – Dinner

July 6 – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

July 7 - Breakfast, Lunch and President's Banquet

Visit [junioroptimist.org](http://junioroptimist.org) for a schedule of activities and more information!

# Hugh O'Brian Youth Community Leadership Workshop

Submitted by: Antelope Union High School students, Arizona Junior Optimist District

After participating in the 2018 Hugh O'Brian Youth Community Leadership Workshop (HOBY CLW) event held at Antelope Union High School, we were inspired to reach out to others and be a more effective part of our community. We felt as if we could bring out more positivity by demonstrating leadership directed towards our local junior high students and community members. Instead of having the HOBY CLW once a year exclusively for freshman, we could have our own CLW of sorts, but for junior high students.

The HOBY CLW showed us that positive leadership can have strong and lasting effects on a community, either by bringing people together, helping peers made good decisions in school and in life, and make a community a stronger, more positive place overall. We as Junior Optimists would strive to be not only positive role models, but also friends to everyone who walks through our doors. The HOBY CLW showed us that you do not have to be the most outgoing or confident person in the room to be a leader – just believe in yourself and what you stand for. It also showed that being a leader is not possible all by yourself; you need others to help you become the best person and leader possible.

The CLW also had many eye-opening workshops that reflected on the effect of positivity on others, and how we could use that positive energy to break social barriers. We hoped that we could take the experience from those workshops and redirect it towards the community. The CLW combined fun activities and inspirational messages to show us that being a leader is not always about how well you can tell people what to do, but rather how well you work as a team to get the task done. We are in the process of starting our own chapter of Junior Optimist with the help of our sponsor, the East Valley Optimist Club. We are so excited to see where all of this will lead and how we can make a difference in the world around us!



# WEEK OF KINDNESS

## Project Ends with a Rousing Welcome to Scott Elementary!

Submitted by: Donna Priester, Academy Optimist Club, Colorado-Wyoming District

Katrina Smith, the Colorado-Wyoming District Junior Optimist District Governor, submitted her Week of Kindness Project to the Junior Optimist International Board and Junior Optimist Clubs are responding!

The Scott Elementary Junior Optimist Club in Colorado Springs held their Week of Kindness by cheering fellow students on each day with videos and examples of kindness. The final day of the week (Friday) they held a rally as students were dropped off for school holding signs with "kindness inspirations" for the students and parents who were driving through the school's "Kiss and Go" drop-off. The theme of the day was: "You can never be TU-TU kind when you're all TIED up in Kindness!" Everyone at the school were encouraged to wear something special to show their commitment to kindness.

What a wonderful way to start a day and thanks to the Junior Optimist Club at Scott Elementary for leading the way in helping us all remember that **kindness is the way to make a difference in our world!**



## JOI Kittens Optimist Club

Sponsored by the Westminster Optimist Club of Colorado

Submitted by: Donna Priester, Academy Optimist Club, Colorado-Wyoming District

Step back a few years and imagine a group of second grade girls who realized that there were things outside themselves that might need their help.

Fast forward to now – the girls who started to "make a difference" in second grade are in fourth grade. They still have a passion for helping others. Their mothers are helping them achieve their goals and someone mentions Junior Optimist International.

Now things change and the mothers ask,

**"What is a Junior Optimist Club and how can we get involved?"**

While asking questions, doing research, and asking the right people, they discover that the Colorado-Wyoming Optimist District has a chair with a passion for Junior Optimist Clubs. They ask their questions, receive instructions and the "JOI Kittens" are born.

At this time, they meet at a bike/coffee shop every other Thursday morning to hold their Junior Optimist Club meetings before school. They are planning projects for animals and people! They have even decided to bring their first grade sisters into the Club to learn the importance of giving.

They are excited, thrilled, and busy planning the next projects to help in their community! I wish we could all give kids the opportunity to find that they have worth and can bring value to the place that they live. **Congratulations to JOI Kittens, you all are amazing!**





# CHANCE OF A LIFETIME

## Optimist Junior Golf Provides Youngsters More Than Just a Round of Golf

The Optimist Junior Golf Program helps foster and develop all aspects of the game. Golf teaches the value of honesty, integrity and respect both on and off the course. Junior golfers build their rankings at The Optimist. It is an opportunity for them to market themselves and assess their skills against other junior golfers from around the world. College coaches use these rankings to identify possible players for scholarships at their schools. Golfers also make lifetime friendships. Junior golfers ages 10-18 from around the world make their way to the qualifiers in hopes of making it to the Optimist Championship at PGA National Resort and Spa held this July.

To see the locations of the Optimist Qualifiers visit [www.optimist.org/golf](http://www.optimist.org/golf)

Help a child advance to the Optimist Championship by contacting your District Junior Golf Chair.

Make a child's dream come true!

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Mark your calendar for the championship at PGA National this summer.

July 17-22, 2018 | Boys 10-11, 12-13 and Girls 10-12

July 22-27, 2018 | Boys 14-15 and Girls 13-14

July 27-August 1, 2018 | Boys 16-18 and Girls 15-18

### WHAT A VOLUNTEER RECEIVES AT THE OPTIMIST CHAMPIONSHIP:

- Breakfast each day worked
- Lunch each day worked
- Hotel discount staying at PGA National Resort and Spa
- Tournament shirts – receive two tournament shirts if working more than one day

**The success of our program is because of continued support from our volunteers. Volunteer at your local qualifier or at the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship.**



# MARC KATZ

The Optimist International Foundation is pleased to welcome Marc Katz from the Michigan District as the newest member of the Optimist International Foundation Board.

*"Having been a supporter of the Optimist International Foundation since joining the organization over 20 years ago and having served numerous years as my Club Foundation Representative and twice as the Michigan District Foundation Representative, I welcome the opportunity to serve the members of Optimist International Foundation as a Board Member. I would like to help the Foundation build its corpus so that additional scholarship opportunities can be made available to the youth that we serve. My experience of serving on other boards allows me to understand how boards function, and I plan to bring those skills to the Optimist Foundation Board."*

Marc will begin his four-year term on October 1, 2018. Marc has been an Optimist Member since 1993.

He has served in many capacities within the organization including Governor of the Michigan District, Optimist International Vice President, and Optimist International Board of Directors, among other roles. He is currently serving as Chair of the Optimist International Pension Fund. Marc has served the Optimist International Foundation as a District Foundation Representative, as well as a Club Foundation Representative.

He is a William H. Harrison Society Member, Christian D. Larson Partner and a member of the Presidents Club. Marc has been a supporter of Optimist International Foundation in many other ways!

## CONGRATULATIONS MARC!

If you are interested in running for the Optimist International Board, contact Craig Boring, Optimist International Foundation Executive Director, at [craig.boring@oifoundation.org](mailto:craig.boring@oifoundation.org). Interested individuals have until December 15, 2018 to submit application for consideration. Elections will be held in February 2019.



There is a quick and easy way to support Optimist International Foundation when you shop at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com). The Foundation is participating in the AmazonSmile program. Every time you shop, AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the Foundation.

On your first visit to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), search for Optimist International Foundation. Select the Foundation as your charitable organization to receive donations before you begin shopping. Every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation towards the Foundation's mission of "Helping Optimist Help Kids!"

After you register on AmazonSmile, your Amazon online shopping will remain the same. The only difference is that you start shopping by going to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) instead of [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). If you have any questions about AmazonSmile, contact the Foundation office at (314) 371-6000.

# DISASTER RELIEF FUND

After the devastation of Hurricane Harvey and Irma, Optimist International created the Disaster Relief Fund. This fund is open to all Clubs in an area impacted by a natural disaster to help their communities recover. A chance for Optimist International and the Optimist International Foundation to do what they do best - help others.

We are happy to announce that the first grants of \$1,000 went to the Clubs over the past few months. Those first recipients were:

**Bryan College Station Optimist Club, Texas** – Provide food for families in the Brazos Valley Area

**Northside Optimist Club of Santa Barbara, California** – community event with motivational speakers and catered by a local bakery impacted by mudslide

**Optimist Club of Anguilla, British West Indies** – Clubhouse restoration

**Optimist Club of Galveston-Noon, Texas** – Provide supplies, and monetary supplements for staff and students of Galveston Independent School District to return to work and school

**Optimist Club of Pasadena, Texas** – Pasadena Independent School District

**Optimist Club of San Antonio, Texas** – Texas Diaper Bank

**South Texas District** – Blessed Angels Community Center



The Disaster Relief Fund is supported by the kind donations of Optimists throughout the world to help others in a time of need. The funds are collected and reserved for projects after a natural disaster occurs. To date, Optimist International and the Optimist International Foundation have helped communities through local Clubs in Texas and the Caribbean due to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

If you are interested in learning more about the Disaster Relief Fund, contact [info@oifoundation.org](mailto:info@oifoundation.org).



## CHILDHOOD CANCER MATCHING GRANTS ANNOUNCED

Optimist International Foundation re-launched the Childhood Cancer Campaign Matching Grant Program on October 1, 2017. Optimist International Foundation is very excited to refocus resources onto this important program area for Optimist International.

Sandy Williams, Optimist International Foundation President states, "The Childhood Cancer Campaign is a wonderful Optimist effort that allows Optimist to raise much needed funding to allow families and children to fight this awful disease. The Childhood Cancer Campaign Matching Grant effort is just one way the Optimist International Foundation is helping support local, community based efforts."

We are proud to announce the first awards to this endeavor. The following Clubs will be receiving a \$1,000 grant to assist in a local Childhood Cancer program:

- **Bettendorf Optimist Club, Iowa**
- **Optimist Club of Brentwood, Missouri**
- **Optimist Club of Del Mar-Solana Beach, California**
- **Optimist Club of Fort Smith, Arkansas**
- **Optimist Club of Trenton-Dade, Georgia**
- **Optimist Club of Watertown, South Dakota**
- **S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Optimist Club of San Diego, California**

*"On behalf of our Bettendorf Optimist Club, I want to express my sincere appreciation for having our grant application approved by the Grant Committee. The grant received will enable us to provide additional funds to the amount raised by students in our 'Coins for Cancer' fund raising events at the Paul Norton and Hoover elementary schools in Bettendorf this spring. The funds will be provided to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital to support families with children receiving treatment at the hospital."*

– Dave Phillips, President, Bettendorf Optimist Club

Clubs will be able to receive a matching grant up to \$1,000 to fund a local childhood cancer project. These projects can be traditional childhood cancer efforts Clubs have supported over the years. New to the effort, the scope of the matching grant program has been broadened to include health and wellness projects that relate to childhood cancer.

For more information, visit the Optimist International Foundation website at [www.oifoundation.org](http://www.oifoundation.org)



# THE CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION Responds to the Call

When you live in the province of Québec, spring may be your favorite season. Indeed, it is always nice to see the sun coming out, the snow melting and the buds booming when you have spent the past three months or so with your feet warm in boots and holding a shovel. This is why the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation's staff has decided to welcome spring by presenting the Club Optimiste de Cap-Saint-Ignace from Cap-Saint-Ignace one of the four \$500 Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation Club Grants in 2017.

The project was developed in partnership with the local school daycare service. After school, the participating children could learn about gardening and the environment. Then, when the snow finally melted, the extracurricular activity

could move outside. There, the children from Cap-Saint-Ignace learned how to plant seeds and to take care of a garden.

Alain Brebion, Member of Club Optimiste de Cap-Saint-Ignace, thought they would have launched the Optimist Garden project even if they did not get the grant, though the money has been a well-received surprise. With the \$500 offered by the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation the Club has purchased gardening tools for the participating children so that they can have their own garden at home and spread the love of gardening. The Club could also buy some door prizes to engage the students.

This is not the only thing the Cap-Saint-Ignace kids have received. They could share the



organic vegetables that they harvested. What a great way to encourage children to eat more vegetables! They even produced enough crops to sell some at the local farmer's market, always with the support of the Optimist Members.

Therefore, the Cap-Saint-Ignace's children have acquired a number of skills. They have learned how to sow crops, how to harvest vegetables, how to take care of their environment and how to communicate to sell their crops. In addition, what about the Optimist Club? They have networked and promoted their Club with the daycare staff and the parents, and they could build bridges with the

agribusiness, an important business in that area of the Lower St. Lawrence region.

"This is the kind of activity our Club is interested in," said Alain Brebion. "Besides the Optimist garden, we also have a soap-box race. We are in direct contact with the community and I think it is good for our Club."

**Would your Club like to receive a \$500 Club grant for a project they hold dear? You have until June 30 to send the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation your application for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Visit [ccof-foec.org](http://ccof-foec.org) or call (514) 593-4401 for more information.**





## Christian D. Larson Partners Membership

671	Gil Ortiz (In Honor)	674	Thomas W. Kendo, Jr.
672	Dave Phillips	675	Bob Ives (In Honor)
673	Julius F. Wall	676	Alex Goldberger

## Top Ten as of December 31, 2017

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Arizona	Marcia Aurand	\$13.79
New York-New England	Bruce Maclain	\$7.91
Iowa	Dave Phillips	\$7.73
Colorado-Wyoming	Ronald V. Cisco	\$7.25
Maryland-South Delaware	Richard F. Price	\$5.31
South Texas	Carol Hodges	\$4.47
Alabama-Mississippi	Tolanda R. Beal	\$4.38
Kentucky-West Virginia	Ramona Allen-Ramsey	\$4.21
New Mexico-West Texas	Suzann Owings	\$4.09
North Florida	Perry Albritton	\$4.07

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Iowa	Dave Phillips	\$18,149.37
Colorado-Wyoming	Ronald V. Cisco	\$11,388.90
Michigan	Cherryl R. Thames	\$10,720.20
Arizona	Marcia Aurand	\$8,455.86
Ohio	William R. Able	\$6,903.50
South Texas	Carol Hodges	\$6,899.30
Maryland-South Delaware	Richard F. Price	\$6,315.50
West Missouri	Theresa Evans	\$5,616.09
GATEway	Connie J. Webb	\$5,580.00
New York-New England	Bruce Maclain	\$5,559.60

## Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Pacific Northwest	Earl Pollock	\$63.39
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Douglas Kirby	\$22.76
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota	Jo-Anne Pelzer	\$8.06

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Douglas Kirby	\$18,797.57
Pacific Northwest	Earl Pollock	\$11,601.24
Southwestern Ontario	Edward Stevens	\$10,149.50



Canadian Children's  
Optimist Foundation

## Donor Listings

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from October 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017, for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of *The Optimist*.

### SILVER BENEFACTOR - \$25,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING  
Douglas G. Kirby

MARYLAND-SOUTH DELAWARE  
Richard F. Price

NORTH FLORIDA  
Optimist Club of Gulf Breeze, FL

OHIO  
William Stone

### BRONZE BENEFACTOR - \$15,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING  
Geneva Sopchysyn

DAKOTAS-MANITOBA-MINNESOTA  
Optimist Club of Minot, ND

MARYLAND-SOUTH DELAWARE  
Bertha Price

OHIO  
Jim and Ellen Brautigam

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN  
James W. Kondrasuk

### EMINENT BENEFACTOR - \$10,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING  
Glenn W. Turple

DAKOTAS-MANITOBA-MINNESOTA  
Optimist Club of Central Minnesota-Noon, MN

INDIANA SOUTH  
Stanley and Cindy Stewart

SOUTH TEXAS  
David X. Chavez  
Pamela Mabe

WEST MISSOURI  
Janet L. Jones

### DISTINGUISHED BENEFACTOR - \$5,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING  
Guy Gibson

KENTUCKY-WEST VIRGINIA  
Optimist Club of Morehead, KY

NORTH CAROLINA WEST  
Kathy Howard

### HONORED BENEFACTOR - \$2,500

ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI  
Optimist Club of Daphne, AL

KANSAS  
G. Joseph and Diana Pierron

MICHIGAN  
Daniel J. Mills

MIDWESTERN ONTARIO  
Jim Dandy

### BENEFACTOR - \$1,000

ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI  
Sally Mitchell

ATLANTIC CENTRAL  
LaVera Seymour

CENTRAL ONTARIO  
Dennis D. Kwasnicki

DAKOTAS-MANITOBA-MINNESOTA  
Optimist Club of Brandon Valley, SD

GATEWAY  
Glen D. Weber

IOWA  
David Phillips

KENTUCKY-WEST VIRGINIA  
James S. Dotson

MICHIGAN  
Eunice and Dennis Kallio

NORTH CAROLINA EAST  
Donald and Judy Harritan

NORTH CAROLINA WEST  
Ronald and Ann Lackey

NORTH FLORIDA  
William A. Large

QUEBEC EAST AND ACADIE  
Denis Moisan

SOUTH TEXAS  
John T. Blackwell  
Bob C. Hartwig  
Wynona R. Steinweg

WEST MISSOURI  
Meghan Lewis  
Julius Wall

WISCONSIN NORTH-UPPER MICHIGAN  
Carol A. Eirich



For more information about the Foundations, see pages 25-29.



"I'd like to live longer, but only if you can add years to the beginning of my life, not the end."



"At summer camp, we learned how to make WiFi smoke signals!"

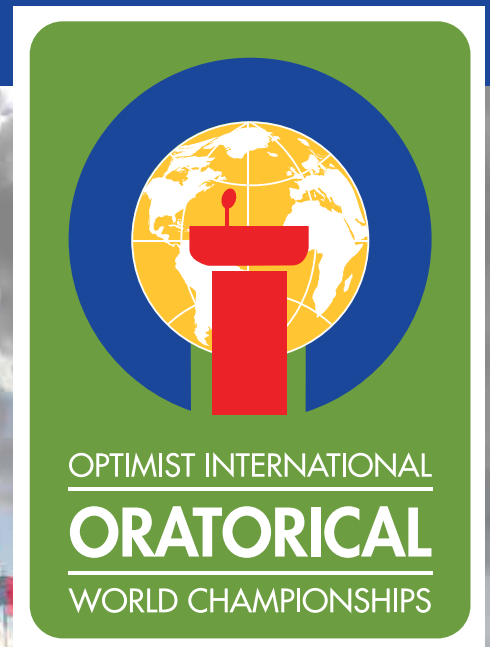
Four high school boys afflicted with spring fever skipped morning classes. After lunch they reported to the teacher that they had a flat tire. Much to their relief she smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test today so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper." Still smiling, she waited for them to sit down. Then she said: "First Question: Which tire was flat?"

A woman is in kitchen preparing dinner for her husband. She asks: "Honey, what's on tv?" Husband replies: "Dust, honey!"

A little boy asked his father, "Daddy, how much does it cost to get married?" Father replied, "I don't know son, I'm still paying."

At the mall, a five-year-old boy joined the other children in line waiting to sit on the Easter Bunny's lap. When it was his turn, he didn't move; he just stared. "Don't you want to sit on the bunny's lap?" his mom asked. "No!" he shouted. "There's a man in his mouth!"

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