

Winter 2018

The OPTIMIST

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Ottawa, Ontario
July 7-10, 2018



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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Managing Editor Benny Ellerbe
 Editor Heidi Schertzer
 Senior Designer Nancy Letts
 Editorial Office 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108
 Office (314) 371-6000
 Fax (314) 371-6006
 E-mail magazine@optimist.org

On the Cover Plan your trip now to the 100th Annual Optimist International Convention. For more information about the convention, see pages 16-18.



WE TOUCH THE FUTURE

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



Teacher/NASA astronaut Christa McAuliffe's motto was, "I touch the future; I teach." She knew her calling and had a passion for it. We Optimists also affect the future through our work, dedication and commitment to bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves. Every day we have the opportunity to make a difference in a child's life, a difference he or she will carry with them for a lifetime. Our membership and involvement allows us the privilege to influence the future, make the world a better place for others, and commit to invest in our youth.

As Optimist Members, we receive all the benefits of belonging to a prestigious service organization. We participate in Club meetings and feel a sense of belonging while participating in fun and fellowship. Combined with this, we find ourselves part of an organization dedicated to making a difference and being a force of positive change in our communities. We no longer have to "wish" something could be done. We only have to mobilize our fellow Optimists to make things happen.

Our children – our future – face many challenges and great opportunities in our complex and fast-paced world. All types of obstacles, influencers, and temptations bombard the youth of today. To survive, they must have guidance and positive role models. As Optimists, we have the knowledge, skill, and opportunity to plant the seeds of hope.

Marion Wright wrote in her book, "Children must have at least one person who believes in them. It could be a counselor, teacher, preacher, friend. It could be you. You never know when a little love, a little support will plant a small seed of hope."

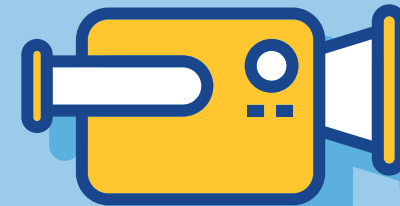
Through our programs and activities that allow young people the opportunity to demonstrate their unique talents and abilities, and our direct involvement that creates positive role models, we give these young people hope and a glimpse of tomorrow.

For almost a century, men and women like you and I have been enjoying the rewards of self-satisfaction that come from giving ourselves in service to the youth of our respective communities. Through this service, we are helping to develop and determine the conscience and future of generations to come. As we bring out the best in youth, they are determining in their bodies, minds and spirits what our tomorrows will be.

Rise up my fellow Optimists! We must answer the challenge. We must be ready to serve as many young people as we can by providing more projects, more programs and more involvement. How do we do this? With our own families, careers, and other lifestyle interests that demand so much of our time. How do we do more, how do we become more "Optimist Strong?" The solution is simple: we must attract more Optimists who are fully committed to our mission.

In every community, there exists an opportunity to increase and strengthen our outreach or impact by attracting new Members or establishing new Clubs. Invite someone to become involved in our movement to bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves. Invite them to come be an Optimist.

Be Optimist Strong – Be the Difference!



WIN A CLUB GRANT IN THE 2018

Reel OPTIMISM — VIDEO CONTEST —

The sixth annual Reel Optimism video contest will allow adult Optimist Clubs and Junior Optimist Clubs to submit videos with the chance to win a \$1,500 Club Grant. Using the creativity of Club Members, partners and community resources, Clubs are asked to create a short video that illustrates the topic: "Living the Creed."

Contest Categories:

- "Living the Creed – Adult" – a video (3:00 minutes or less) that visually illustrates the topic of the Optimist Creed. Submissions by adult Clubs only.
- "Living the Creed – Youth" – a video (3:00 minutes or less) that visually illustrates the topic of Optimist Creed. Submissions by Junior Optimist Clubs only.

Club grants will be awarded in each of the categories with funding courtesy of Optimist International, the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation!

Contest Dates:

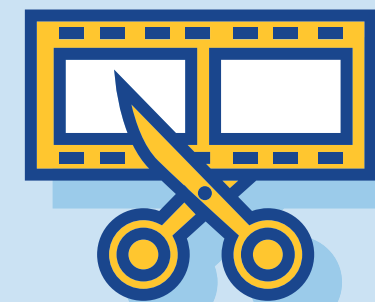
- February 16 – April 20, 2018
Members and Clubs submit videos on www.optimist.org/ReelOptimism following the submission guidelines.
- May 11, 2018
Finalists in each category will be announced and voting will be opened to the public.
- May 31, 2018
Public voting ends.
- June 1, 2018
The videos receiving the most votes in each category will be announced. All Reel Optimism video submissions will be shown at the 2018 Optimist International Convention in Ottawa. Winning Clubs and individuals will be invited on stage to receive their awards.

Entries will be judged and nominated as finalists based on:

- Club, organization or group name included in video
- Explanation and utilization of theme
- Use of visuals and effects
- Creativity
- Clear storyline and flow
- Use of time
- Video quality

More details:

www.optimist.org/ReelOptimism



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 September 1 and December 1:

LEVEL VII

Mary Bérubé	QUSUD
Nadine Bissonnette	QUCE
Colleen Coombs	MDS
Terry Gorman	DMM
Cindy Hobson	TA
Calvin Hunter	CAR
Tim Johnson	TA
Danielle Lamontagne	QUSUD
Pauline Langelier	QUSUD
Sylvain Ménard	QUSUD
Dattel Minott	CAR
Donald Mitchell	MDS
Bob Pancich	AMS&NW
Patrick Prendergast	CAR
Steve Stillman	NMWTX

LEVEL X

Terry Gorman	DMM
Donald Mitchell	MDS
Granville Newell	CAR
Lestina Potts	SC
Marcia P. Streete-Hendricks	CAR
Blondette Wright	CAR

For more information about Professional Development Programs offered, visit www.optimist.org

International Officer Candidates Sought

Candidates for the offices of Optimist International President-Elect, International Vice President-Elect and International Board Member for 2018-19 are now being sought. Clubs will elect Optimists to these positions during the online voting session in June (specific dates are still to be determined).

Self-nominations for these positions must be received in the International Office no later than April 1, 2018. The International Candidate Qualifications Committee will also announce its nominations for these positions by March 1. If you want to recommend someone for an International office to the Candidate Qualifications committee, please fill out the evaluation/recommendation form that can be found at optimist.org.

Club Election Time is Coming Up

All Optimist Clubs should be making preparations for electing new officers for the 2018-19 administrative year. Now is the time to seek out qualified and interested Club Members for a leadership position.

After your election is complete, be sure to submit the Club Officer Elect Report (COER) to Optimist International so that your incoming Club President can receive important communications. The deadline for submitting the COER is May 20.

Dr. Carl Bowen & Fernand Rondeau



The Optimist International family mourns the loss of two Past International Presidents – Dr. Carl Bowen and Fernand Rondeau.

1964-65 International President Dr. Carl Bowen passed away October 28, 2017. Dr. Bowen was a dedicated Optimist for over 60 years and served many roles including Club President, District Lt. Governor and Governor, and International Vice President. Dr. Bowen was also a World War II veteran, and a practicing dentist for almost 60 years.



1988-89 International President Fernand Rondeau passed away November 29, 2017, at the age of 87. Rondeau was a member of the Canadian Armed forces and eventually went onto work at an insurance agency. He was a dedicated Optimist for over 30 years and held many leadership roles.



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.

Optimist Clubs should contact local media with details about their Optimists in Action Month program. Take photos and videos and share your Club's program on social media by tagging #OptimistsInAction. After completing your May project, send in your Club's project details and photos to Optimist International to be featured in a future issue of The Optimist magazine! Stories can be sent via e-mail to magazine@optimist.org or a hard copy to: Optimist International, Attn: The Optimist Editor, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108.

DID YOU KNOW

About Our Scholarship Contests?

Optimist International sponsors three scholarship contests for students to earn money to pursue opportunities in higher education: the Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (CCDHH), the Essay Contest and the Oratorical Contest. The contests are conducted at the Club level, then Zone and Regional (if necessary) and at the District level. District-level scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundations and awarded by Optimist International.



ORATORICAL CONTEST

Beginning in 1928, the Oratorical Contest has become the longest-running program of Optimist International. The contest is designed for young people to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with an opportunity to compete for multiple college scholarships with a pre-assigned topic.

The Oratorical topic for the 2017-18 School Year is: "Where are My Roots of Optimism?"

OPTIMIST DISTRICT COMPETITIONS

Optimist Club Oratorical Contest Winners will compete at the Optimist District Contest for a chance to win up to a \$2,500 scholarship.

The District deadline to submit winners to Optimist International is May 15.

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ORATORICAL REGIONAL COMPETITIONS

One Optimist District Winner will compete at the Optimist Regional Contest at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri on June 28. The Regional Scholarship award is \$5,000. Scholarship must be redeemed by the age of 25.

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ORATORICAL WORLD COMPETITIONS

Each Regional Winner will compete in the World Championship Contest on June 29 for a chance to win a first, second, or third place scholarship of \$15,000, \$10,000, or \$5,000 respectively.

ESSAY CONTEST

The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live. The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship!

The Essay topic for the 2017-18 School Year is: "Can Society Function Without Respect?"

The deadline for Clubs to submit their winning essay to the District Chair is February 28. The deadline for Districts to submit their winner's information to Optimist International is April 15.

COMMUNICATION CONTEST FOR THE DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING

This contest offers an opportunity for students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing to present their thoughts in the community, gaining skills, which can only come from signing or speaking to a large audience. Patterned after the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the contest offers youth the chance to compete in speech or sign language with the chance to win a college scholarship.

The Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing topic for the 2017-18 School Year is: "Where are My Roots of Optimism?"

The deadline for Clubs to submit their winner to the next level of competition is set by the District. District deadline to submit a winner to Optimist International is June 15.

Visit www.optimist.org/scholarships for more information about our scholarship contests.



JUSTICE HILL: THIRD IN ONE, FIRST IN ANOTHER

Submitted by: Lois Duke Whitaker, Ph.D., Breakfast Optimist Club of Columbia, South Carolina District

Justice Hill, a senior at Heathwood Hall Episcopal School in Columbia, South Carolina was named third in the Optimist International World Championships Oratorical Contest in 2016 (\$5,000 award). The Breakfast Optimist Club of Columbia sponsored him where he was the recipient of a \$500 award. Justice went on to win the South Carolina District Oratorical Scholarship Contest (\$2,500 award) and the Optimist International Southeast Regional Contest (\$5,000 award). In total, Justice in that competition was the recipient of \$13,000 in scholarship awards.

Fast forward to August 3, 2017 at the National Bar Association's 92nd annual convention in Toronto, Canada. Heathwood Hall student Justice Hill finished first place in the 2017 Dr. Martin Luther King Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition, sponsored by Metlife. Justice received an additional \$5,000 scholarship for this award. To advance to the national competition, Justice had to deliver his speech at a regional competition held in Spartanburg, South Carolina on May 28, 2017. He won that competition and received \$1,000 in scholarship money.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition is a contest designed to motivate high school students to excel in education. The competition encourages students to express their views on a preselected topic and focuses on the ability of the students to communicate orally and in writing. The contest is designed to give young people experience in public speaking and reviewing legal documents, as well as provide an opportunity for them to obtain some financial support to continue their education.

Justice's speech lasted for seven minutes. After he delivered the speech, it took less than 20 minutes for the judges to declare him the winner. The topic for all of the contestants was "What Would Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Say about the Student Protests in the 2017 Presidential Election of Donald Trump?"

On Sunday, August 6, 2017, (three days after being named first in his latest oratorical competition), Justice e-mailed the Chair of the Breakfast Optimist Club of Columbia's Oratorical Contest the following:

"Good evening Ms. Duke-Whitaker,

This is Justice Hill, the Southeast Region and third in the World Optimist International Oratorical Winner. I just wanted to inform you that I finished first place in the Regional Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition in Spartanburg back in June. Following this I went on to compete in the National Competition held in Toronto, Canada, and I am blessed to say that I finished first place and can call myself the 2017 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major for Justice Oratorical National Champion. I wanted to let you know of this accomplishment because you gave me my start with the Optimist Club, and it really jump started my confidence in my speech skills. I thank you for all that you have done, not only for me, but also for students across the State. You guys are really inspirational and I appreciate the platform you are providing for students across the state. We are the future, and you guys really seem to take initiative in preparing us for the duties of tomorrow. Once again, I thank you and the entire Columbia Optimist Club. You guys have provided me with a pedestal that has just led to many more blessings and opportunities.

Best Regards,

Justice Hill."





STATE FARM PRESENTS \$25K CHECK TO TREYNOR JUNIOR OPTIMISTS

Submitted by: Keep Kids Alive Committee of the Treynor Junior Optimist Club, Iowa District

A big check ceremony occurred at half time of one of the Treynor High School boy's basketball games this fall. A State Farm representative presented a twenty-five thousand dollar check to the Treynor Junior Optimist Club. This ceremony ended the 2017 *Keep Kids Alive* project in Treynor, Iowa, and started the 2018 version. In both years, State Farm has donated \$25,000 toward traffic safety measures for this town of 950.

Project co-chairmen, Alexandra Lowe and Tyler Pollock, accepted the check. This 2018 money will be used to provide the basis planning for a community-walking trail. The 2017 funds have provided four new radar speed signs on the four highways coming into Treynor. Safety signs, street banners, safety events, a high school mock crash, and educational reminders were also funded. Both grants came about by on-line voting by the public on a State Farm website.

In addition to the check ceremony, Junior Optimists operated an education table during the games that tested the visitor's safety

knowledge. Correct answers won a green safety tee shirt. Tee shirts were also thrown into the crowd during the games. A shirt was tossed for every 3-point shot or free-throw shot made by Treynor. 35 shirts were tossed to both the Treynor and opposing team fans during both games.

Thanks to the Judd Knispel State Farm Agency, 500 reflective arm or ankle snap bracelets were given out to fans from both schools free. These bands are to be worn by athletes running on public streets and highways before sunrise, or after sunset. They can also be attached to bicycles, wagons, strollers, and other pedestrian vehicles that need to be seen by drivers in low light. The bands had the message "#TreynorStrong".

The *Keep Kids Alive* effort in Treynor came about by the accidental traffic death of Tristan White while he was training for wrestling. He, and other athletes, were jogging on a public roadway in November 2015.

For more information on the *Keep Kids Alive* program, visit www.keepkidsalivedrive25.org.



THE POWER OF ONE CHILD

Submitted by: Connie Webb,
Trenton Dade Optimist Club, GATEway District

One child spoke and a school district listened.

Each month the Trenton Dade Optimist Club recognizes a "Student of the Month" from the four schools of Dade County Georgia. The child is chosen by the school principal and teachers. The child is presented with a certificate honoring him for achievements, self-improvement, community service, and contributions to others; and his school classmates are treated to a pizza party in his honor.

On October 4, 2017, Gabriel Yarborough, a fifth grader at Davis Elementary School, and son of Ivy and Mark Yarborough, was honored as Student of the Month for being instrumental in the Dade County School System revamping school bus service for elementary students. Gabriel had written a letter to his Principal, Josh Ingle, expressing concern regarding over-crowding on the bus and other safety issues on the bus. Mr. Ingle passed Gabriel's letter up the school district's chain of command. Because of Gabriel's action, the elementary children from Davis School now have their own bus, separate from the high school and middle school students. When the high school and middle school bus reach a certain point in their route, the driver radios Davis School. The elementary bus is then dispatched to meet them and the two buses complete the route. This results in elementary children with older siblings arriving at home at the same time.

Below is Gabriel's follow up letter to Mr. Ingle expressing the positive results of the action taken:

"Dear Mr. Ingle,

My name is Gabriel Yarborough. I ride the bus to New Home (Big Woods). I have always arrived home in the afternoon around 5:30. Yesterday I got home at 4:30. Also, I feel safer on the bus without the older students. There is so much room now. We don't have to sit three to a seat. Yesterday there was no cussing at all. I love how this bus arrangement is. Thank you for helping me and my friends.

Gabriel Yarborough"

A simple message submitted by a child that changed an important situation. One child spoke and the school district listened.





ROBOTS INVADE LONDON AREA SCHOOLS

Submitted by: Darcy Walsh, Optimist Club of London-North, Midwestern Ontario District

I want to share how PROUD I am to be a Member of an organization that not only brings out the best in youth, but in its Members as well.

I am a newer Member to the Optimist organization, currently in my fourth full year. I sit in rooms with people whom have been Members for 20, 30, 40 years, and think sometimes, "These people know and have experienced so much, what do I as a new Member have to offer?"

If I can tell you a story, I will try not to be too long winded. It will explain how a group of people changed my life.

One not-so-sunny day, a small group of students approached a teacher on the school playground and declared, "This school sucks. We are bored; there is nothing here for us. All the same kids are on all the sports teams. What's here for us to do?"

That teacher asked the small group of elementary students if they would like to learn to work with robots, and they all enthusiastically replied "yes!" That teacher started a lunchtime program where students of any age and skill level all began to learn coding and how to program robots to perform tasks using Dixie cups and flash cards.

That teacher approached me one day and explained what she was doing, and asked in an unsure voice, "Do you think your Optimist Club would help me buy two robots so I can move this program along?"

She also added that in this program she had noticed that students were becoming stronger in math, and they were using teamwork, creativity, persistence and patience. I replied, "Write a letter, and I will bring it to our Board, and they will decide."

The Board approved the request, and the teacher purchased two robots, which she proudly named OPTI and MISTY. Since that date, many more robots have joined the class, and the group is thriving, with 30% of the schools population participating in one form or another. Talk about success!

Our Club invited that teacher, along with a few staff members and 16 students, to come to a dinner meeting and show us just what they are doing. I invited multiple Clubs and area schools to join us and share in the fun. We were amazed. Students turned adults into curious children, all playing together as they shared in their joy of learning. Schools made connections with Clubs in their area that night. Requests for funding to start similar Clubs in other schools were submitted, and no one was left disappointed.

I then thought, "What do I do now?"

I contacted the manufacturer of this robot and asked if they do workshops. They replied that they do for both students and teachers. We agreed to meet. After a brief but enthusiastic meeting, we agreed to put something together.

I approached my Club's Board of Directors and asked if this was a project they wished to undertake. They replied, "Yes, just go for it! We have witnessed first hand the possibilities in this, you have our support." I then scheduled a date for a learning workshop for educators with hopes to spread this joy and fun through not just many more schools, but with hopes other Clubs would like to participate in this event. Again, I was not left disappointed.

With the financial help of multiple Clubs across three Districts, a successful event was held on September 30, 2017 at Regina Mundi College in London. Nearly 100 people consisting of 67 teachers, Club Members, Optimist Governors, Governor-Elects, Lt. Governors and school board officials from two school boards shared in a day of learning to use robots and how students benefit from learning through play.

Immediately after, my e-mail inbox exploded with messages from schools wanting to get in touch with Optimist Clubs in their area. Teachers have offered to sign up. Teachers have sent e-mails expressing their thanks for putting together a fantastic day. We even received Twitter comments like "BEST PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM EVER." Clubs have responded. Schools are being supported with funds to start similar programs. The Midwest District has added STEM learning/coding and robotics to their activity list. Clubs are planning similar events in their areas.

Complete success.

If it were not for Optimist Clubs willing to work with me, I would have never felt this pride.

Some of the Club Members in attendance I see on a regular basis. Some only at quarterly meetings. Some only at annual conventions. Some I had never met before. Some of the Clubs who helped fund that day only know me through one or two e-mails.

I just want to say thank you to everyone in the Midwestern Ontario District, the Southwestern Ontario District and the Central Ontario District who helped me in making this day the success it was. Not only has their help given me this huge sense of pride, but also they have positively affected the lives of educators and students in Ontario for the immediate and distant future.

Not only are you bringing out the best in kids, you brought out the best in me.



OPTIMIST CLUB OF JEFFERSON CITY



For 60 years, the Optimist Club of Jefferson City has been selling Christmas trees to raise funds for youth related programs the Club sponsors.

The Christmas tree lot had a record-breaking year with 550 trees sold and over \$17,000 in sales. The trees were from Michigan, North Carolina, and Nova Scotia, Canada. The lot opened the Friday after Thanksgiving, and closed December 18. The trees are typically 4-12 feet tall, with the average tree being 6-7 feet.

It takes a number of days and many volunteers to unload and set up the trees on the lot. Along with Club Members, members of the Jefferson City High School Jays baseball team helped with the initial set up.

The Christmas tree lot is the largest fundraiser for the Club and all the funds go directly to the youth of

Jefferson City. Since local youth are directly benefitting from the sales, a number of customers keep coming back instead of buying their trees from large franchises.

Although the Christmas tree lot may be the largest project for the year, the Optimist Club of Jefferson City host a number of service projects. They run a number of popular Optimist programs, such as Youth Appreciation dinners, Childhood Cancer Campaign, and Club Oratorical and Essay Contests. However, the Club has many remarkable projects. The Club run the finals for the Pinewood Derby for the Cub Scouts. They provide dictionaries for all fourth-grade students in parochial and public schools, as well as give money for Project Graduation events at all area high schools. The Club runs the WHALE (We Have A Little Emergency) Program, which is a child safety seat occupant identification program. Stickers are placed on child safety seats and the vehicle to alert safety personnel a child is in the car and important medical information if the car was in an



accident. They have donated \$10,000 to a new building for the Boys and Girls Club. They have also sent a boy and girl to Boys and Girls State for decades. A sign is located on the Christmas tree lot for customers to know exactly where their funds are going.

Ralph Biele, Member of the Optimist Club of Jefferson City, has been helping with the Christmas tree lot for 22 years. He recognizes a number of customers who have been buying their trees at the lot since he started, including people who once brought their children, and eventually began bringing their grandchildren. He recalls many happy, feel-good memories of the Christmas tree lot, and the extraordinary people (and animals – a baby owl once made a tree its home) he has met over the years.

"There was a lady probably 80-90 years old who asked for a 4-foot cedar tree," he said. "I told her we don't sell cedar trees, but she wanted one because that's what she had when she was growing up. She asked where she could buy one, and I told her I would check with my buyer and told her to come back tomorrow. After she left, I grabbed one of the other guys and we went to a farm on U.S. 54 and asked a farmer if we could cut down a tree, and he said sure. So we cut it down and brought it back. The lady came back, and I told her my buyer had one tree left and sent it. She

asked how much she owed, and I told her no charge because we were able to get it with the rest of the lot we bought.

"I told the guys that as long as she's alive she'd come back. And sure enough, she was back next year, and we went back out and got her another tree."

For many families, picking out a Christmas tree is a joyful memory. Bringing home a Christmas tree may mark the beginning of the exciting holiday season for some children. However, some families may not have the funds to give their children the Christmas their children deserve.

"We had a lady stop on a cold day with no coat on and shower shoes, and you could tell she didn't have any money," he said. "She said, 'I've got two little girls, and they've got \$5. Can they get a tree?' I told her sure and had the girls pick out the tree they thought Santa Claus would leave the most presents under. I thought they would pick out a \$100 tree, but it would not have made any difference. They picked out one, and we wrapped it and put in their car. We did not take her \$5."

"Our motto is 'Friend of Youth,' so if we can't give a tree away for a kid for Christmas, what are we doing here?"



OPTIMIST STRONG

CONFERENCES

The Optimist Strong Conferences were held this past fall in 33 Districts. The Optimist Strong Conferences were designed to bring new training to all Optimist Members attending their first District conference of the year. An expert outside trainer worked with members of the District Leadership team to provide training to start the year strong and provide new ideas to Clubs and Zones to help with growth, fellowship and fun! The most unique aspect of the Optimist Strong Conferences was the variety between Districts. Each leadership team was asked to develop training to fit each District's needs.

The following goals were achieved:

- Provide leadership, team building and growth training
- Help each District/Club leader kick their year off with a strong start as a result of the training provided
- Expert trainer provided by Optimist International for high energy, engaged and training to carry forward
- Gather with fellow Optimists to share fresh ideas and think outside the box
- Learn new strategies to take back to your Clubs/Zones for membership growth and retention, and meetings and activities

"They were well prepared, knowledgeable, enthusiastic and motivating. They encouraged participation and input from everyone. The spaghetti challenge was fun – interesting to see how groups approached this. They didn't focus on numbers, they focused on doing. I've had positive feedback from many people that attended and heard from a few that weren't there that were told they missed a good meeting! I feel the meeting set the tone for the year – to make changes in how and what we do, building enthusiasm for Optimist, and working to make the organization more appealing to others – being the organization others want to be part of. I really think it was worth having to get the District and whole organization start the year off on such a positive and uplifting note." – Donna Aker, Capital Virginia District



Thank you to each District who hosted an Optimist Strong Conference to better themselves for the youth in their communities! Each Optimist Strong trainer was well-received and appreciated for their time. Another thank you to each Member who took the time to attend the conferences.



LET'S BE OPTIMIST STRONG IN OTTAWA!

JULY 7-10, 2018 | SHAW CENTRE (OTTAWA CONVENTION CENTER)



LEARN • NETWORK • COLLABORATE • EXPLORE • TRAIN • EXHIBITS • FELLOWSHIP • FUN

START PLANNING NOW

RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM FOR CONVENTION!

The Convention events will take place at the Shaw Centre (Ottawa Convention Center). The main hotel block is at the Westin Ottawa and there are rooms available at the nearby Novotel and Les Suites Ottawa Hotels – all within walking distance of the Shaw Centre.

To book your reservation go to the housing section of the convention page of the website at optimist.org/convention. As long as there are sleeping rooms available, the deadline to make your reservation is June 1, 2018. The sleeping room rates start at \$169 per night Canadian plus taxes & fees.

***If traveling from outside of Canada, you may need a passport, be sure to check the expiration date or get one ordered right away.*

TOP 5 REASONS to Attend the 2018 Convention

1 Training!

This is an opportunity for District and Club Officers to attend leadership seminars, which are all included in the cost of registration. Workshops conducted on a variety of topics to educate you on many areas of interest within the organization and provide the chance for personal development.

2 Optimist Camaraderie!

This year's International Convention will offer a great opportunity to network and meet hundreds of dear friends who all share the same mission: *"By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves."*

3 Location!

The three-day conference schedule allows time to come early or stay after to experience the excitement of the host city.

4 Historical event!

This year will be the 100th annual convention and you don't want to miss it. The Ottawa convention will be the start of the organization's Centennial year. Workshops will be offered to prepare for the Centennial year, along with historical displays in the expo area.

5 Expand your Horizons!

Refresh your Optimist Supplies and learn new fundraising and project ideas! This will give you the chance to brainstorm and practice teamwork with your fellow Optimists. You are sure to hear a wide variety of new and unique ideas to share with your Club.

REGISTRATION

You can register for the convention online or download the form at optimist.org/convention. Save money by registering before the "early-bird" deadline, which is May 1. All other pre-registrations must be postmarked or faxed no later than May 31 and received at the International Office by June 9 to ensure proper processing.

Continue to check the convention page for updates at optimist.org/convention and if you have any questions or need assistance, contact us at convention@optimist.org or 314-881-1305.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY, JULY 7, 8 & 9

The Ottawa Host Area Committee will be hosting morning and afternoon boat tours - \$10 donation

FRIDAY, JULY 6

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Club Trainer Class

SATURDAY, JULY 7

7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Office
 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Vice Presidents-Elect & Governors-Elect Training
 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. District Trainer Class
 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. US District Foundation Representative Training
 3:00-6:00 p.m. Credentials Registration
 Community Involvement Expo
 Youth Information Desk
 6:30-8:00 p.m. Junior Optimist International Banquet

SUNDAY, JULY 8

7:00-7:45 a.m. First Timers Orientation
 7:00-8:00 a.m. Faculty Meeting
 7:00 a.m. Leadership Development Packet Pick-up/Drop-off
 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Office
 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Registration
 Credentials
 Youth Info
 Community Involvement Expo
 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. District Chair Designate Training
 Leadership Development
 Club Fitness Advisors, Membership & New Club Building
 8:30-11:30 a.m. Vice Presidents and Governors Training
 9:00-11:15 a.m. Workshops: 9:00-10:00 a.m., 10:15-11:15 a.m.
 1:00-5:00 p.m. Club Presidents-Elect & Lt. Governors-Elect Training
 Club Secretary-Treasurer Designate Training
 District Secretary-Treasurer Designate Training
 1:00-4:30 p.m. Workshops: 1:00-2:00 p.m.; 2:15-3:15 p.m.; 3:30-4:30 p.m.
 4:30-6:45 p.m. Foundations William H. Harrison Dinner

SUNDAY, JULY 8 (continued)

7:00-9:00 p.m. Opening Ceremonies
Theme: Optimist Strong!
Entertainment; Parade of Flags; National Anthem, Introductions
President Nick Prillaman

MONDAY, JULY 9

7:00-7:30 a.m. Training for volunteers working Registration
 7:00-8:00 a.m. Certified Trainer Meeting
 7:00-8:15 a.m. Club Presidents-Elect & Lt. Governors-Elect Breakfast
 7:00 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Leadership Development Packet Pick-up/Drop-off
 7:00a.m.-6:00 p.m. Office
 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Registration
 7:30am-4:00 p.m. Banquet Coupon Exchange
 7:30am-4:00 p.m. Community Involvement Expo
 7:45-8:45 a.m. Credentials Desk
 9:00-11:30 a.m. 1st Business Session
Keynote Speaker; Awards Presentations; Resolutions Report & Voting
 12:00-2:15 p.m. Appreciation Luncheon
Theme: From Sea to Sea to Sea!
 2:30-3:30 p.m. Workshops
 3:45-4:45 p.m. Town Hall Meeting
 5:00-6:00 p.m. Vice Presidents' Council
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Reception: Foundations President's Club Members (by invitation)
 5:00-8:00 p.m. Ottawa Host Area Event - \$5 per person

TUESDAY, JULY 10

7:00-8:30 a.m. Old Timers Breakfast (this is optional for everyone)
 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Office
 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Banquet Coupon Exchange
 8:00 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration
 8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m. Workshops
 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Offsite event to see the Musical Ride from the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) - \$20 per person
 11:45-12:45 p.m. Credentials Desk
 1-3:30 p.m. 2nd/Closing Business Session
2016-17 Distinguished Governors; Awards presentations & Introductions
Bylaws Report & Voting
President-Elect Rebecca Butler-Mona's Speech
President Nick Prillaman's Closing Remarks
 3:30-4:30 p.m. 2019-2020 Vice Presidents Orientation
 5:30-6:30 p.m. Reception: Pre-President's Banquet
 6:45-8:45 p.m. President's Banquet (black tie optional)
 8:45-11 p.m. President's Ball

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Optimist Leadership Academy-English
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Optimist Leadership Academy-French



YOUTH PROGRAM

Don't leave the little ones at home! Optimist International Host Area Committee Members are making plans for great things to happen for your children and grandchildren during the convention in Ottawa.

SUNDAY, JULY 8

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Off Site Tour (Lunch provided)
5:00-5:30 p.m. Youth Information Meeting with Parents-On Site
6:00-9:00 p.m. Get Acquainted Party-On Site (Dinner provided)

MONDAY, JULY 9

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Off-Site Tour
(Lunch provided at location)

TUESDAY, JULY 10

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Off-Site Tour (Lunch provided)
6:00-9:00 p.m. Youth Activity-On Site (Dinner provided)



NEW

Sign Up in Advance for Workshops & Training

Offered for the first time this year, attendees can pre-register for all workshops and training sessions at the Ottawa Convention. It offers Optimist International the opportunity to ensure we are offering the sessions that people want to attend and even add a session if we see a particular session filling up. Handouts will be provided for the sessions that Members pre-register for. This does not mean that Members cannot decide to attend a session that they have not registered for, but they will not have access to any handouts until after the convention. Contact leadership@optimist.org for workshop and training session questions.



OPTIMIST LEADERSHIP ACADEMY WEDNESDAY, JULY 11 OTTAWA, ONTARIO

The Optimist Leadership Academy is a full day training session usually held the day after the Optimist International Convention is completed. The training focuses on developing high-level leadership skills.

The Optimist Leadership Academy (OLA) is a joint project between the Leadership Development Committee and the Candidate Qualifications committee. It was designed to recognize Members for their leadership skills and to develop future leaders for our organization.

Each year in February, Members who have been recognized as either a Distinguished Club President or a Distinguished Lt. Governor in the prior year or a Member who has been recommended by either a Vice President, Vice President-Elect, OI Board Member, Governor or Governor-Elect are invited to submit an application and an essay. This information goes to a committee comprised of members from both the Candidate Qualifications and Leadership Development Committees that chooses the Candidates for the next Leadership Academy. The only other commitment that Optimist Leadership Academy members are asked to complete is to recommend other potential candidates to be considered for the Leadership Academy.

If you are one of "the best of the best" or know someone who is, please make a recommendation to leadership@optimist.org. If you need further information, please contact the Leadership Development department at Optimist International at leadership@optimist.org.

Recruit Members to Serve More Youth

To help our Clubs achieve the goal of more service, we have empowered you with great tools to do just that!

Recruit a Teacher for \$30 Incentive

The “Recruit a Teacher” incentive is one of our most popular incentives due to the beneficial value to Optimist Clubs. Optimist Clubs are encouraged to recruit teachers from their local schools. Optimist International will waive the \$15.00 membership fee and offering a year’s dues for only \$30!

Why Teachers?

Optimist Members of all professions are important to Clubs, so why the emphasis on teachers?

- Strong connections with local schools is extremely beneficial for Optimist Clubs. 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.
- Provides the foundation for new Junior Optimist Clubs.



Social, Service and Young Professionals Group/Club within a Club

The Social, Service and Young Professionals Group is a way for your Club to expand their outreach and strength in their community. A Social, Service and Young Professionals Group could provide a traditional Club with an increased volunteer work force to tackle more complex projects and provide a platform for younger professionals to join an Optimist Club. Social, Service and Young Professionals Group must have a minimum of 15 individuals who have not been Optimist Members or Friends in the past four months.



Use a Social, Service and Young Professionals Group for your Club to:

- Attract Members who are unable or unwilling to participate in your current Club meetings and projects.
- Attract younger Members and professionals with new ideas and unique skill sets.
- Gain more volunteers for service projects your Club currently hosts.
- Expand your Club’s reach in your community.
- Energize current Members who may be looking for different opportunities within the Club.
- Have fun!

PRESIDENT NICK'S 2ND QUARTER INCENTIVE

The growth of our Clubs is the main priority for the health and success of Optimist International. The 2nd Quarter Incentive is targeted at our local Clubs to encourage them to add new adult Optimist Members. Additionally, new Junior Optimist Clubs are a key to future successes and an area of opportunity. Roll-up banners are a sought after item for Clubs and Optimist road signs are a valuable tool for local branding and marketing of our Clubs in their local communities.

Recruit seven new Members into any adult Optimist Club OR charter a new Junior Optimist Club in the 2nd Quarter and receive your choice of:

- Roll-up Optimist Creed banner
- Roll-up Optimist Purposes banner
- Optimist road sign

For questions, contact membership@optimist.org.

Club Grant for NEW Junior Optimist Clubs!

As a special incentive for the 2017-18 Optimist Year, the Optimist International Foundation has approved a grant program to help new Junior Optimist Clubs conduct a service project or give a scholarship! Junior Optimist Clubs with 25 Charter Members or more built between October 1, 2017, and September 30, 2018, are eligible for a \$100 Club Grant. Contact youthclubs@optimist.org for more information.

As of December 30, there are 15 new Club charters and 492 new charter Members!

- Dragon Leadership Program Junior Optimist Club, Arizona
- Fantom-234 Junior Optimist Club, Pacific Central
- Flint Hill Junior Optimist Octagon Club, Capital Virginia
- Ice Robotics Junior Optimist Club, Pacific Central
- Joy Midlothian Junior Optimist Club, North Texas
- Junior Optimist Club of Bowie Elementary, North Texas
- Junior Optimist Club of Margaret Brent, Maryland-South Delaware
- Kupsya Agents of Millennium Progress, Uganda
- Malone Junior Optimist Club, North Florida
- McQueen Robotics Junior Optimist Club, Pacific Central
- Paws of Joy Junior Optimist Club, Arizona
- Pinecrest Junior Optimist Club, North Carolina West
- Savannah Arts Academy Junior Optimist Club, GATEway
- St. Theresa Girls Science Junior Optimist Club, Michigan
- Tribe Junior Optimist Club of West Handley, North Texas

Help the Junior Optimist International Board to reach their goal of 1,200 new charter Members for the 2017-18 year! Visit www.junioroptimist.org for more information about building a Junior Optimist Club in your area.



SAVE THE DATE: Junior Optimist International Convention

July 5-7, 2018
Ottawa, Canada

Optimist District Conventions

When your District has their Conventions, it would be a great gesture to invite the Junior Optimist District or Club Officers. A lot of Districts already do this and it allows the adults to see what the Junior Optimist Members are doing in their communities. Having the adults and youth together creates bonds and ultimately, sharing the passion of Optimism!

The Junior Optimist World Experience

Submitted by: **Madison O'Hara Wickham, Immediate Past Junior Optimist International President**

On October 21st, 2017 the eyes of Junior and Adult Optimist in Southern California were opened. Brother John Bailanda, an Optimist Member from Uganda, made the trip to visit the sunny State of California to meet up with old friends from the Kensington Optimist Club and create more friendships. I, O'Hara Wickham, had the honor of housing Brother John for the few days he spent in San Diego.

Despite his travels being for Optimist business, my family and I set time aside to take him to the happiest place on earth... Disneyland! It was quite an experience. The first real rollercoaster we went on for the day was none other than Thunder Mountain. As the turns became faster and the dips became wilder, Brother John feared that his final moments on Earth were coming to an end. By the last turns and drops, Brother John's expressions of fear and horror turned to ones of thrill and excitement. However, our day was more than one of Disney-filled fun. With any spare moment, especially in those excruciatingly long lines, we took full advantage of our time and listen to the information Brother John wished to impart on us.

His explanation of life in Uganda and difference between the struggles they faced and ones I do made me realize how truly blessed I am. All of his information was truly impactful, but one piece resonated with me on a different level. For many girls in Uganda, puberty marks a decrease in school attendance because of lack of funds to afford feminine hygiene products. In many case, girls drop out of school completely after missing too many days.

Due to the lack of education, women face a greater struggle in the realm of careers, and therefore, find it nearly impossible to fully provide for themselves and move up the ladder of economic opportunity. After the reality of their situation set in, I fully understood what was being said to me. I thought, "What can I do to help?"

The Kupsya Agents of Millennium Progress Optimist Club (KAMP) have created a program, called Keep Girls In School (KGIS), in which people are able to sponsor a girl in Uganda. For just \$9, you would be guaranteeing one girl a chance in receiving a full year's worth of education.

"There will always be a reason why you meet people. Either you need to change your life, or you're the one that will change theirs."

In the case of Brother John and I, we both had something change in our lives. Through him meeting me, he was able to spread the word to new hearts and minds. In addition, through me meeting him, I was able to come away with a realization and a new cause to fight for.

If you would like to sponsor a girl in need and help change her life for the better for only \$9 a year, please contact youthclubs@optimist.org.



GROWING THE GAME



Growing the game of golf is important to the future of Optimist International. Optimist Golf continues to give opportunities to junior golfers since 1978. Golf is more than a game. It teaches life lessons. Young players learn the value of hard work, discipline, commitment, concentration and sportsmanship.

Optimist Junior Golf is augmenting another Optimist Junior Tour Event. Currently six Optimist Junior Tour Events are in the plans for the 2018 year. These 36-hole tournaments are ranked by Junior Golf Scoreboard with the top finishers advancing to the Championship. These events help spread the Optimist name, brand and help build the local qualifiers.

OPTIMIST JUNIOR GOLF TOUR EVENTS

January 27-28, 2018 – Junior Players Golf Academy Open held at Wexford Plantation, Hilton Head, South Carolina

March 4-5, 2018 – Greg Norman Champions Golf Academy Open at Barefoot Resort, North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

March 24-25, 2018 – Waterchase Golf Course, Ft. Worth, Texas

Late August – Kingsville Ontario Canadian Open located in Kingsville, Ontario Canada. Top finishers will advance to the 2019 Optimist Championships

In the fall – Orlando, Florida. Location to be determined

October – Green Valley Ranch in Denver, Colorado. Top finishers will advance to the 2019 Optimist Championships

\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED HUGH CRANFORD ALL-SCHOLASTIC

Two special awards recognizes the academic and community service accomplishments of five junior golfers. Golfers can apply for one or both awards.

This year's essay topic: *"The USGA and R & A have proposed a number of significant changes to the rules effective January 1, 2019. Share your thoughts on no more than three rule changes."*

Golfers selected receive an exemption into the 2018 Optimist Championship, tournament entry (includes golf, hotel accommodations and meals) and a \$1,000.00 scholarship.

For more information, visit www.optimist.org/golf

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

The 13th Annual Optimist Tournament of Champions is highly ranked and known for its strength of field. The Tournament held at PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, is for top finishers of the summer Optimist Championships, winners of Optimist District qualifiers, golfers who are included in the Top 100 overall *Golfweek* and Junior Golf Scoreboard rankings and other top junior golfers from around the world. This junior championship tournament is a 36-hole event for male and female junior golfers ages 11-18. The Tournament of Champions is also ranked by Junior Golf Scoreboard, *Golfweek*, World Amateur Golf and is included in the AJGA Performance Based Entry process.

BOYS 16-18

Thomas Pfoestl (Italy)	75-75 – 150
Zubin Chandra (Singapore)	77-74 – 151
Lorenzo Elbert, Jr. (East Point, Georgia)	79-73 – 152 *

BOYS 14-15

Papon Sawatyanon (Thailand)	72-74 – 146
John Daly (Clearwater, Florida)	71-79 – 150
Sean-Karl Dobson (Austin, Texas)	74-77 – 151

BOYS 11-13

Qilin Yu (China)	72-74 – 146
Alexander Dalmau (Coral Gables, Florida)	74-75 – 149
Jay Brooks (Boca Raton, Florida)	75-74 – 149

GIRLS 14-18

Anne Yu (China)	70-73 – 143
Aline Krauter (Wesley Chapel, Florida)	71-76 – 147 *
Siyen Chen (China)	72-75 – 147 *

GIRLS 11-13

Shannyn Vogler (Sherrard, Illinois)	76-81 – 157
Minnie Byun (Bradenton, Florida)	78-81 – 159
Kokoro Ouchi (Malaysia)	84-77 – 161

* Won by Scorecard playoff

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!

THANK YOU to the Palm Beach County Sports Commission and Srixon for their continued partnership supporting the Optimist Junior Golf Program.





OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION GRANTS

The Optimist International Foundation is accepting applications for the 2018 Club Grant Program. Grants will be awarded to Clubs that start a new project that impact the youth in their community. The Club Grant Program provides 20 matching grants of \$500 to Optimist Clubs.

EXAMPLES OF HOW SOME OF THE OPTIMIST CLUBS USED THEIR GRANTS LAST YEAR:

- **The Playa Vista Optimist Club of Marina del Rey, California**, provided blankets, socks and personal care items to children in the foster care system when they were moving locations.
- **Ozark Optimist Club of Ozark, Missouri**, sponsored a "Kid's Night Out" event in conjunction with the local Fire and Police departments to promote understanding of First Responders' roles and encourage active lifestyle.
- **Middleton Optimist Club of Middleton, Wisconsin**, hosted a "Cops and Bobbers" event in conjunction with the local Police Department. This event promoted community goodwill and a fun time.
- **Laurel Canyon Optimist Club of Canton, Georgia**, helped host a "New Shoes-Happy Beginnings" event that provided new shoes to children as they begin school.

Eighteen additional Clubs received grants to start new projects that impacted their community.

Any eligible Optimist Club that has a new project or event should apply by visiting Optimist International Foundation's website at oifoundation.org.

Any adult Club served by the Optimist International Foundation is eligible to apply as long as they meet the following guidelines:

- The project must be new to the Club.
- The project must start and finish between April 2018 and March 2019.
- Grants to Clubs will be matching grants, with Clubs expected to show plans for matching the money and reporting the results. Clubs will complete follow-up reports.
- Grants are only for one year.
- Club dues must be current.
- Clubs might consider using the Pass Through Program to obtain donations from local businesses and Foundations.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

JANUARY 2, 2018

Applications available online at oifoundation.org and by fax or mail upon request.

MARCH 9, 2018

Applications are due! Applications must have been received in the St. Louis office. Please do not send applications to the Optimist International Foundation's P.O. Box.

MAY 18, 2018

Winners are notified and asked to identify someone to receive a check at the International Convention in Ottawa.

CHILDHOOD CANCER CAMPAIGN Matching Grant Relaunch

The Childhood Cancer Campaign has been a significant endeavor for the Optimist International family for many years. Many children and organizations have benefited from the caring support of Optimist to fund research at Johns Hopkins, plus much needed local projects.

Optimist International Foundation is proud to announce the re-launch of the Childhood Cancer Campaign Matching Grant Program. 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.

Although the Matching Grant Program has been dormant recently, Clubs in the past have benefited from this great program:

"The Optimist Club of San Antonio expanded its efforts to support children afflicted with cancer thanks to a Childhood Cancer Campaign Grant. In addition to supporting Camp Discovery, a local camp for kids with cancer, monthly activities were provided by the Optimists for the young patients at the Children's Hospital of San Antonio. For an hour the kids forgot about their cancer treatments and just had fun; the Optimists had fun too!"

We hope your Club will consider utilizing this grant opportunity to help fight this awful disease that affects children. Information and details are available on the Optimist International Foundation website.



Spread Relief



Is your Club looking for ideas to Spread Relief in your community in 2018? Here are some great projects from Canadian Optimist Clubs that could help you to foster your creativity and launch a new, wonderful, health related project!

The Kids Mental Health Optimist Club of Canada developed a grant program to assist teachers from elementary schools working directly with children experiencing mental health challenges. Last year, the Helping Hands Grant for London Elementary School supported two schools in the area. This year, they expect to expand to more schools. We applaud their exceptional work on raising awareness on mental health issues!

For the fifth year, the Optimist Club of Newmarket has been raising money to support children with cancer. Their Motorcycle Poker Ride has raised more than \$30,000. All of this edition's proceeds have been donated to the Southlake Hospital Paediatric Oncology Clinic. This Clinic aims to provide care closer to home for children who have cancer, relieving patients and their families from the burden of repeated trips to Toronto, or having to live separately while the child is receiving treatment.

For many years, the Vanier Optimist Club has been raising funds for the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. This year, they are continuing their good work and broadening their horizons. They are aiming to raise \$25,270 to buy an EOS x-ray imaging system. What is that? It is a low-dose x-ray system decreasing the radiation dose by 50% and captures full body images in a single scan as a child stands inside the machine. It is used to diagnose, plan treatment, and assess post-operative condition. The Club approached the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario about their needs. This system will be used in many departments and help many children in Eastern Ontario.

These are only a few of the great ideas supported by the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation in the past year. It is now time for Clubs and Members to submit new projects. The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation is ready to Spread Relief from coast to coast. Are you?

Visit www.ccof-foec.org for more information about the Spread Relief program.



CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING AT THE RIVIÈRE-DU-LOUP OPTIMIST CLUB

In December 2000, the Rivière-du-Loup Optimist Club was in its thirtieth year. Club President, Denis Moisan, decided to introduce a new humanitarian based activity, Sharing Christmas. As a businessperson, he was aware that many of the town's youth would not be receiving Christmas presents. It would be very difficult to bring out the best in youth when their family is going through hard times.

Elementary schools and local support organizations identified around 50 children under the age of 12. The children attended a Christmas brunch at the hotel where the Club holds its weekly dinners. Club Members provided entertainment activities and each child received a generous brunch, a visit from Santa Claus and the Ice Fairy, candy, a stuffed animal and a voucher, sponsored in part by local merchants, which allows them to purchase clothes or shoes.

Over 50 children benefited from this Christmas project, where for the first time they too were able to experience the enchantment of the holiday season. In 2016, the activity's 17th year, the participating 226 preschool and elementary school age children's eyes sparkled at receiving this act of generosity.

Members of the Club would not have completed the following without the project:

- **Over 200 children** benefitting from this act of sharing
- Raise **over \$20,000** to contribute to local youth's well-being
- Optimists committing to making financial contributions of **up to \$1,000 year after year**
- Donors benefitting from tax receipts thanks to the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation
- Repeat sponsors remaining loyal for many years for all children in Rivière-du-Loup to have a Christmas celebration
- Nettoyeur Magique (local dry cleaning business) **giving new life** to thousands of stuffed animals to become a confidant to children during difficult moments
- **Sense of pride** of providing less fortunate children with a real Christmas and experiencing their genuine smiles



The 80 Members of the Rivière-du-Loup Optimist Club believe it is possible and rewarding to generate wonderment and well-being in children.

Christian D. Larson Partners Membership

653	Andrew Stanger	659	Dana LaMon	665	Glannis Creech (In Memory)
654	Jon Ehram	660	Charles B. Munro	666	Pat Behn
655	Thomas D. Wagstaff	661	Larry MacKay (In Memory)	667	Myron Rheame
656	Denise Nacev	662	Daniel Frappier	668	Mary Madden
657	Carol Hodges	663	Jimmy Lamm	669	Martha Hitzfelder Blackwell
658	Don Kettering	664	Raymond Clark	670	Paul H. Hellrich

Top Ten as of September 30, 2017

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Arizona	Ted Gaffin	\$36.54
Capital-Virginia	JoAnna Tremper	\$22.72
Alabama-Mississippi	Debra Merritt	\$20.28
South Carolina	Doug Griffin	\$19.69
Colorado-Wyoming	Joe Priester	\$19.26
East Missouri	Sallie Westenbarger	\$17.67
New Mexico-West Texas	Suzann Owings	\$16.97
North Carolina East	Bill Edgerton	\$16.40
Pacific Central	Joan Estepa	\$15.79
South Texas	John Blackwell	\$15.40

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Michigan	David Fries	\$45,092.14
Iowa	Don Pfeiffer	\$30,049.10
Colorado-Wyoming	Joe Priester	\$29,749.42
East Missouri	Sallie Westenbarger	\$28,784.19
Arizona	Ted Gaffin	\$25,358.68
Ohio	Jennifer Kendo	\$23,398.60
South Texas	John Blackwell	\$23,291.60
Alabama-Mississippi	Debra Merritt	\$22,187.00
Capital-Virginia	JoAnna Tremper	\$20,428.00
GATEway	Cathy Robinson	\$19,975.57

Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Douglas Kirby	\$33.89
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota	Wes Shewchuk	\$33.88
Pacific Northwest	Peter Smith	\$31.01

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Douglas Kirby	\$36,501.47
Southwestern Ontario	Edward Stevens	\$26,822.00
Central Ontario	Susan & Jim Lyng	\$26,399.14



Canadian Children's
Optimist Foundation

Donor Listings

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from June 1, 2017 – September 30, 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

ARIZONA
Barbara Mabee

IOWA
Optimist Club of Davenport, IA

KANSAS
Optimist Club of Topeka, KS

NORTH CAROLINA EAST
Optimist Club of Goldsboro, NC

NORTH TEXAS
Optimist Club of Fort Worth, TX

OKLAHOMA
Don and Deborah Crall

BRONZE BENEFACTOR - \$15,000

ALABAMA – MISSISSIPPI
Optimist Club of Montgomery-Capital City, AL

CENTRAL ONTARIO
Optimist Club of Cornwall, ON

COLORADO – WYOMING
Sam and Mary Keiffer
Optimist Club of Boulder, CO
Optimist Club of Colorado Springs-Academy, CO

IOWA
Optimist Club of Washington, IA

MICHIGAN
David Fries

MIDWESTERN ONTARIO
Optimist Club of Bryanston-Birr, ON

NORTH CAROLINA WEST
Optimist Club of Weaverville-North Buncombe, NC

WISCONSIN NORTH – UPPER MICHIGAN
Optimist Club of Wausau, WI

EMINENT BENEFACTOR - \$10,000

ALABAMA – MISSISSIPPI
Optimist Club of Montgomery-Central, AL

COLORADO – WYOMING
Optimist Club of Denver-Denver Tech Center, CO

INDIANA NORTH
Josefa H. Schaper

IOWA
Optimist Club of Bloomfield, IA
Optimist Club of North Liberty, IA

KANSAS
Optimist Club of Olathe, KS

MICHIGAN
Optimist Club of Huron Valley, MI

NEW YORK – NEW ENGLAND
Optimist Club of Lockport-Barge Canal, NY

OHIO
Obie L. Mills
Optimist Club of Van Wert, OH

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
Optimist Club of Tacoma-West, WA

WEST MISSOURI
Optimist Club of Marshall, MO

DISTINGUISHED BENEFACTOR - \$5,000

GATEWAY
Optimist Club of Senoia, GA
Optimist Club of Tucker, GA

IOWA
Donald Pfeiffer

KANSAS
Kieth Bodine

MICHIGAN
Debra Berry
Marilyn Lenox-Bosma
Optimist Club of Clarkston Area, MI

NEBRASKA
Judith Conway-Kluge

NORTH CAROLINA EAST
Sandy Cyphers
Wayne E. Sidelinger

NORTH CAROLINA WEST
Ronald E. Jones

OKLAHOMA
Patricia A. Thomas

QUEBEC EAST & ACADIE
Raymonde Michaud

HONORED BENEFACTOR - \$2,500

ALABAMA – MISSISSIPPI
Helen E. Howard

ARIZONA
Optimist Club of Casa Grande-Sunrise, AZ

ATLANTIC CENTRAL
Joseph M. Edwards

DAKOTAS – MANITOBA – MINNESOTA
Optimist Club of Bismarck-Mandan-Missouri Valley, ND

INDIANA NORTH
Optimist Club of Fortville, IN

INDIANA SOUTH
Optimist Club of Fishers, IN

IOWA
Cynthia L. Barber

NEBRASKA
Optimist Club of Lexington, NE

NEW MEXICO – WEST TEXAS
Venus T. Sanford

OHIO
Optimist Club of Troy, OH

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST
Mark and Connie Weinsoff

QUEBEC EAST – NORTH SHORE
Club Optimiste de Shawinigan-Sud, QC

QUEBEC EAST & ACADIE
Regis Malenfant

WISCONSIN NORTH – UPPER MICHIGAN
Optimist Club of Manitowoc-Sunrise, WI

BENEFACTOR - \$1,000

ARIZONA
Optimist Club of Tuscon-Heat, AZ

CALIFORNIA SOUTH
Dennis K. Andolsek

CAPITAL – VIRGINIA
Thomas D. Wagstaff

CARIBBEAN
Dave Wilson

CENTRAL ONTARIO
Brenda McDonald

COLORADO – WYOMING
Kenneth Hiseler

DAKOTAS – MANITOBA – MINNESOTA
Carmen Bakken

EASTERN ONTARIO
Nicole Paquette

LOUISIANA
Lenor B. Cox

MICHIGAN
Linda L. Thompson
Optimist Club of Gratiot County, MI

NORTH CAROLINA EAST
Kathy C. Sandifer

NORTH TEXAS
Jill Rodgers

OHIO
Optimist Club of Fairfield, OH

OKLAHOMA
Optimist Club of Pryor Creek, OK

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
Richard O. Disney

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST
Melissa Cohen

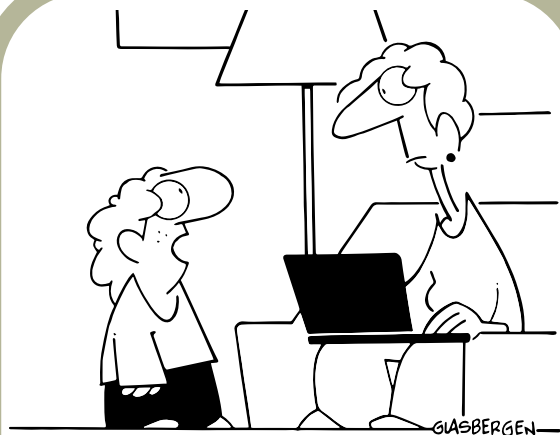
QUEBEC CENTER
Patrick Labrie
André Montpetit

SOUTH TEXAS
Martha C. Hitzfelder-Blackwell
Optimist Club of Metrocom-Live Oak, TX

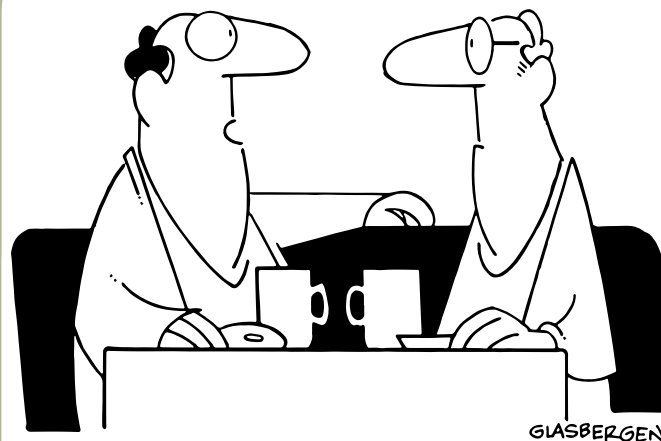
SOUTHERN WISCONSIN
Vernon and Cheryl Andren

TENNARK
Thomas Rasmussen

For more information about the Foundations, see pages 26-29.



"Everything is going wrong today!
How do I reboot myself?"



"Identity theft has gotten out of hand.
Everyone at my high school reunion had their
identity stolen by some old person!"

A salesman talked a man into buying 10,000 personalized pens for his business with the promise that he would be eligible to win a 32-foot yacht. A born gambler, the man agreed.

Well, he won, and a few weeks after the pens arrived, his prize showed up: a 12-inch plastic yacht with 32 plastic feet glued to the bottom.

.....
A woman noticed her husband standing on the bathroom scale, sucking in his stomach. "Ha! That's not going to help," she said. "Sure, it does," he said. "It's the only way I can see the numbers."

.....
When asked for his name by the coffee shop clerk, a man answered, "Marc, with a C." Minutes later, he was handed his coffee with his name written on the side: Cark.

.....
"Guess what?" yelled a teenager as he burst through the door of his house. "I got a 100 on the Spanish quiz that I didn't even know we were having."

"That's great!" his mother said. "But why didn't you know about the quiz?"

"Because our teacher told us about it in Spanish."



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Saint Louis University • St. Louis, Missouri



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NEW MEMBERS = NEW IDEAS, LEADERSHIP & ENERGY!

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