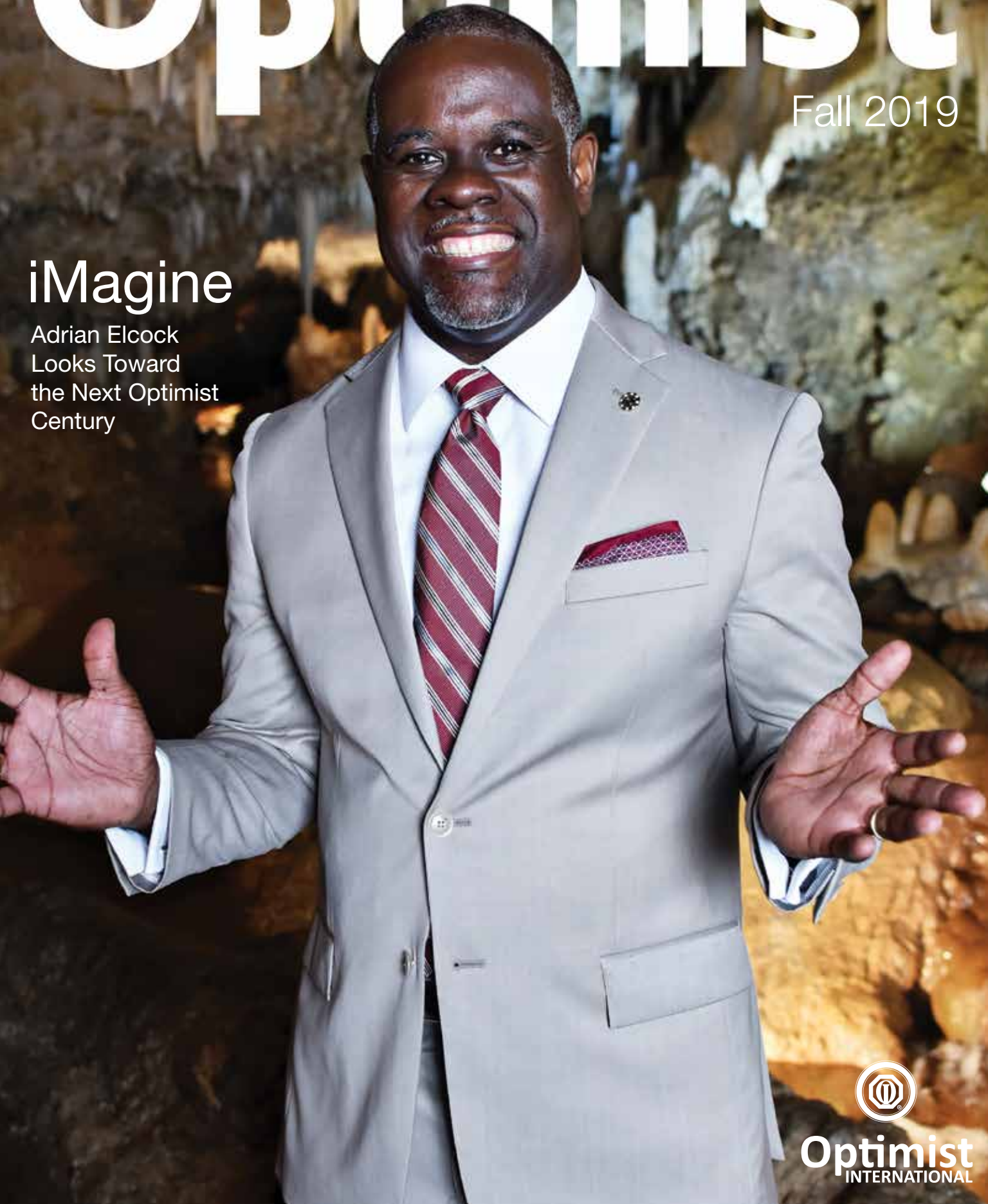


# Optimist

Fall 2019

## iMagine

Adrian Elcock  
Looks Toward  
the Next Optimist  
Century



Optimist  
INTERNATIONAL





# iMagine



## THIS WILL BE A CONVENTION LIKE NO OTHER!

June 28 – July 1, 2020

The sleeping room rate is **\$128** plus applicable state and local taxes (currently 15%) in effect at the time of check out. *Parking is complimentary.*

[optimist.org/convention](http://optimist.org/convention)



### 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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## Optimist

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**On the Cover** Optimist International President Adrian Elcock wants you to iMagine a new service organization.

**Correction:** An article in our Summer 2019 issue incorrectly stated that the JOI Clubs involved in raising \$8,600 for pediatric cancer research. The Pony Scouts presented the check at the 2019 International Convention, however the money was raised by Dance for a Cure, involving JOI Clubs from Eastlake, Bonita Vista, Otay Ranch and Olympian high schools. We regret the error.

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# iMagine

## A YEAR WITH ADRIAN ELCOCK

By Rachel Webb

**A**drian Elcock has an assignment for Optimists: iMagine. As president for the 2019-2020 Optimist Year, Elcock wants members to imagine what Optimist International can be. He wants them to imagine the organization's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and what it will take to get us there.

The word "imagine" is simple, but the goals are not.

"We must re-imagine the financial, marketing and operational platforms of Optimist International to become the premier volunteer organization of the world," Elcock says. "Many of these goals will require change from what has once been the norm so we can begin imagining what the future of our organization will be."

Service organizations face a challenge in attracting members today, Elcock said, as the global trends have

seen individuals supporting specific causes rather than the variety supported by Optimists. Elcock believes that this could be an opportunity for growth because Optimist Clubs support a diverse range of causes, which could appeal to a broader range of potential members. He recognizes that to reach these audiences and inform them of the work we do, that Optimist International must embrace technology and improve its presence in the digital space of marketing and communication.

"The first part of the dialogue has to be anchored around technology. Many of our communication tools are not as up to date as we would like," Elcock says. "We have to let people know that we have been involved in whatever their particular cause may be, and that there are many children who have benefited from Optimist International initiatives associated with that cause. Creative use of technology and expanded communication within the digital sphere will allow us

to be more efficient and effective in spreading our message."

Elcock's vision and ambition have been ingrained in him since childhood. Elcock grew up in the Caribbean nation of Barbados, the son of Everson and Maureen. He lived in a modest home with his siblings while his father built a successful electrical and lighting business. He earned a degree in accounting from Pace University in New York, and immediately went to work at the auditing firm of Arthur Andersen. But his home country and community called to him, and he returned home to work in the family business.



**Adrian's energy, dynamism, thoughtfulness, ability to work hard, and a passion for whichever Cause he serves is absolutely infectious," Jacobs says.**



In 1998, Elcock joined the Optimist Club of Barbados, Bridgetown, at the encouragement of sponsor Dr. Carol Jacobs. Jacobs first met Elcock when they were both involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Even at that initial contact, she sensed his commitment to service. Jacobs invited Elcock to an Optimist Club meeting. Within weeks, he was involved in one of the Club's projects at a rural primary school.

"Adrian's energy, dynamism, thoughtfulness, ability to work hard, and a passion for whichever Cause he serves is absolutely infectious," Jacobs says. "I saw in him a natural and charismatic leader who was not afraid to roll up his sleeves and work hands on. He has carried that with him in his service at every level of this organization."

Tracy Huxley, of London, Ontario, is serving as Elcock's Chief of Staff. She echoes Jacobs' observations about his dedication and vision.

"I've appreciated Adrian for many years for his dedication to be thorough and meticulous with his thoughts and words,"

Huxley says. "It will be exciting to watch the transformation of the organization into the next century under his leadership. President Adrian focuses on new approaches that will reflect the world today and the diverse nature of our International organization."

Elcock is a Director of The Elcock Companies, married to his wife, Ann, a Partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers. Their daughter, Sanaa, is 13. Service to their community is a staple of family life for the Elcocks and radiates well beyond Optimist International.

Community involvement includes being on the Parochial Council of St. George Anglican Church and he is the Church's representative to the Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Barbados. Elcock has also served as the Deputy Chairman of the Fair Trading Commission of Barbados, the Chairman of the Barbados Tourism Authority, a Director of the Child Care Board of Barbados and Deputy Chairman of Barbados Conference Services, Ltd.

Elcock's community involvement also extends to the arts. In





Barbados, he's a Trustee of the Barbados Gallery of Art Trust, and is an avid collector of artwork from the Caribbean. He's also a booster of the region's music as a major reggae fan.

"I believe in the power of music to enhance moods or to create a story," Elcock says. "Music conveys the feelings that our own words cannot describe. I feel the same way about art. Caribbean art tells the story of the islands—the struggles and the pain—in a very elegant way." It is for this reason that he has charged his Activities team to explore new ways to engage the world's youth using the creative arts.

Elcock is the second Optimist International President to serve from the region and he is quite proud of being able to continue

the service done in Optimism by Caribbean Optimists. "If I have something to achieve at the end of this year it will be that I have exposed more people to who Caribbean people are on the world stage and how we can be an equal partner on the world stage," says Elcock.

The legacy of this presidency is something that Elcock hopes continues beyond his own years, both as an Optimist leader and in his own life.

"For my little time here on earth, I want to make it a better space," Elcock says. "A better space for my child to grow up in, for my wife to live in and for new minds to grow and flourish."

**Imagine that!**

## iMagine at a Glance

### The Theme

iMagine is a theme centered on Optimists imagining a world that is better than it is today. A world where people are kinder, caring, humble, and thankful. Our projects and our communications should be based on this positive mantra.

### The Vision

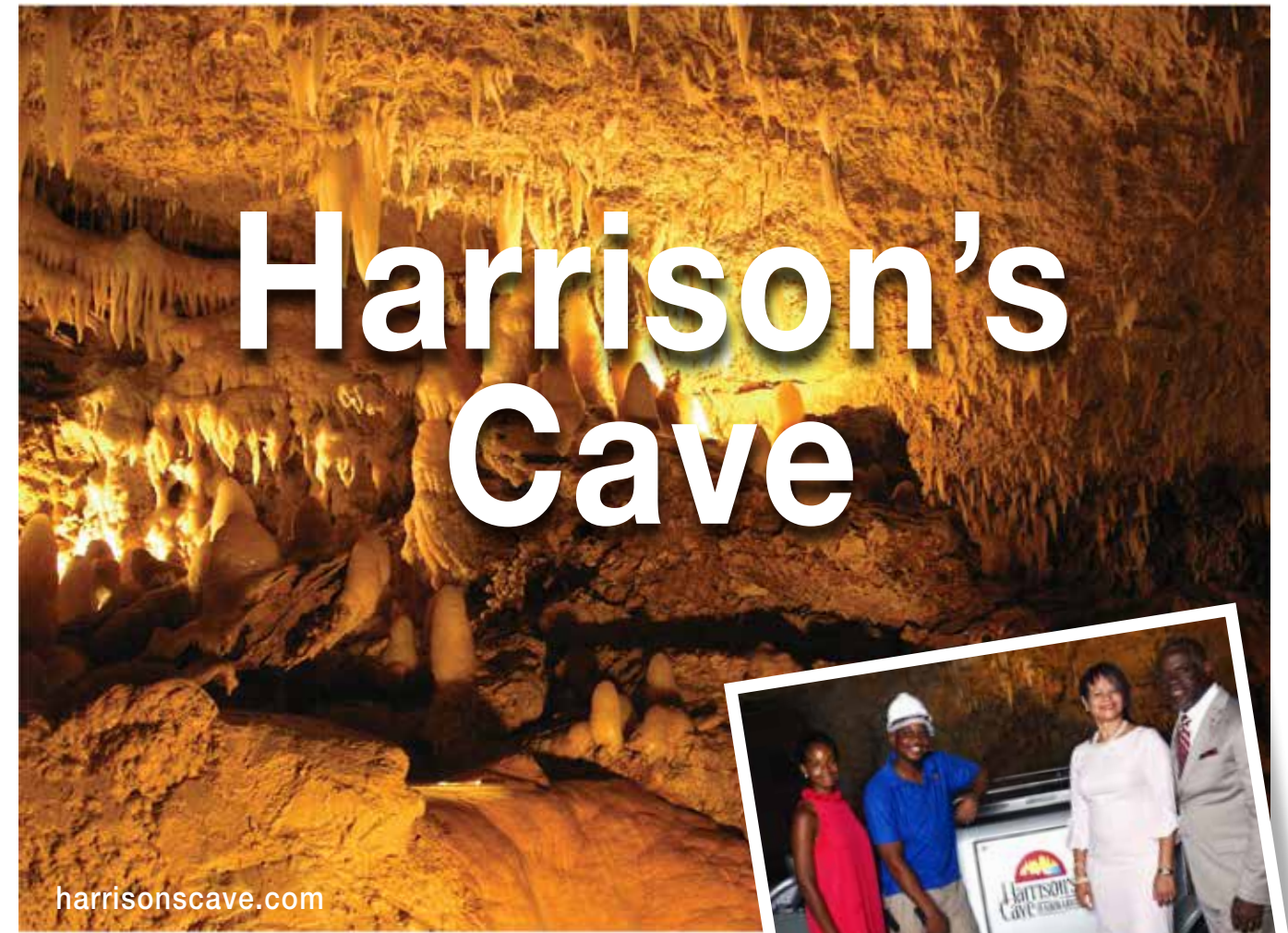
Our vision will be to re-iMagine the financial, marketing and operational platforms of Optimist International to allow it to be the premier volunteer organization that values all children and helps them to develop to their full potential.

### The Plan

- Explore revenue streams to strengthen the financial base of the organization, with immediate focus on key sponsorships of our convention and signature programs
- Create impactful digital marketing initiatives reflecting a modernized approach to communicating our messaging to members and non-members
- Make our International Convention even more engaging, exciting, and relevant
- Expanded and improved training using technology and professional resources
- Define new, and reimagine existing global programs/projects that can be rolled out regardless of geography
- Strengthen the organization's membership base through increased engagement to attract new club members, improve our membership retention by 5%, and to expand into communities not yet served

### The Result

A stronger more relevant organization where Optimists and like-minded people will continue to leave a legacy of outstanding service to the world's youth and the communities in which they live for another century of service.



# Harrison's Cave

[harrisonscave.com](http://harrisonscave.com)

## Unearth the Adventure

At the heart of Barbados lies one of its greatest wonders - the magnificent Harrison's Cave. Located in the central uplands of the island, this crystallized, limestone cave is characterized by flowing streams, deep pools of crystal clear water and towering columns.

Gaze in wonder at the white flow stones and in awe at the beauty of the speleothems that adorn the cave. Harrison's Cave is a gem of an experience, so be sure to visit and unearth the adventure! Explore one of Barbados' Greatest Wonders!

Harrison's Cave is the backdrop for the official photoshoot of President Adrian and his family, in celebration of his Country Barbados and for the generous support of the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. sponsorship of the 2020 Optimist International Convention at the Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel in Chicagoland, Illinois.



[visitbarbados.org](http://visitbarbados.org)



# Optimists take the Plastics out of Paradise

By: Harvey Ouchi, Optimist Club of Honolulu

Hawaii is often a synonym for paradise, but the remoteness and beauty of the islands does not make them immune to pollution and other environmental threats.

The Optimist Club of Honolulu recently undertook a project at one of their local natural gems—removing microplastics from the beach at Hanauma Bay. The project coordinated by Optimist Harvey Ouchi continued a strong tradition of Optimists engaging in environmental protection around the world.

Microplastics are tiny bits that break off from cleaning products or larger pieces of plastic that have started to breakdown. Their presence causes environmental harm in numerous ways, including threatening the animals that eat them, and they're found in waterways across the globe.

A simple removal system of buckets with cloth filters allows volunteers to sift and separate microplastics from sand and water. With a few hours in the sun, Optimists can replicate this project in their own communities, and make their own part of the world a bit more like paradise.



Photo courtesy of Hawaii State Parks



Photo courtesy of Harvey Ouchi

The group included members of the Optimist Club of Honolulu as well as the Kalani High School Key Club and the McKinley High School basketball team.



Photo courtesy of Harvey Ouchi

Harvey Ouchi and Russell Yamauchi filter microplastics and litter from sand and water.

Hanauma Bay is a natural swimming pool that was formed by a volcanic crater on the shore of Oahu.



# Optimists Working Across Continents



Above: Members of the Altamonte Springs-South Seminole Optimist Club welcomed Anastasia Tsogbe-Glover to a meeting in March. Photo courtesy of Steve Kranzberg.



Right: Altamonte Springs-South Seminole Member Janna Yves smiles with Anastasia Tsogbe-Glover. Photo courtesy of Steve Kranzberg.



Optimist International has been aggressively expanding in the African and Asian continents over the last five years. As part of its strategy, Optimist International has encouraged the “twinning” of clubs in North America with these clubs across the pond. One example of this is the relationship built at an International Convention in 2016 between the Accra Optimist Club of Ghana and the Altamonte Springs-South Seminole Optimist Club in Florida. Since then the clubs have been exchanging ideas and supporting each other, and this recently included a reunion when Anastasia Tsogbe-Glover visited the South Seminole Club on a trip to the U.S.

Above: Anastasia Tsogbe-Glover, president of the Accra Optimist Club of Ghana, left, poses with friend Eileen White, of the Altamonte Springs-South Seminole Optimist Club, during her visit from Ghana. Photo courtesy of Steve Kranzberg.



The recent study showed that those scoring high on an optimism assessment were likely to live 11 to 15% longer on average than non-optimists.

## Did You Know Optimists Live Longer?

Optimists have long believed in the power of positivity to improve our communities and our lives, but a study recently found that those with a positive outlook are also more likely to live longer.

Earlier studies have reported that optimists are less likely to suffer from chronic diseases and other health problems. The recent study showed that those scoring high on an optimism assessment were likely to live 11 to 15% longer on average than non-optimists. Moreover, optimists are more likely to have “exceptional longevity,” or a lifespan of at least 85 years, the study found.

Researchers from Boston University’s School of Medicine and Harvard University’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health reached their conclusion after following 69,774 women for 10 years and 1,429 men for 30 years. Subjects started by answering survey questions assessing the optimism of their outlooks, as well as their health and habits such as diet and exercise. The results were published in August in the science journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences for the United States of America*.

The study defined optimism as “a psychological attribute characterized as the general expectation that good things will happen, or the belief that the future will be favorable because one can control important outcomes.” There is no word on whether any participants are Optimist International members.

The study does have some limits. The researchers don’t understand why optimism is connected to a longer life, and they cautioned that the study did not find a direct cause-and-effect relationship. Most of those tested were likely to have advanced degrees and reported being physically active—both factors that are also related to a longer lifespan. However, researchers found that the optimists still lived longer even when those factors were taken into account, according to *Scientific American*.

Are you worried about a pessimist in your life? The study’s authors told *Scientific American* they believe that optimism is a modifiable attribute that could be harnessed to promote healthy aging. In other words, you can teach your favorite grump to turn their frown upside down. A great way to start is to invite them to an Optimist Club meeting!



# 200 Years of Fun & Service

In 100 years, Optimist International has had countless Members devote themselves to supporting the youth of their communities. We've tracked down some of our longest serving Optimists to ask them about their service to their communities and to Optimist International.

Roy Fox and Bob Polchya are charter members of the Shelby Optimist Club in Michigan, while George Henry is a charter member of the Optimist Club of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The three of them have contributed more than 200 years of service to Optimist International, and remain vital members of their Clubs. They were kind enough to share a bit of that history with us, which we are sharing in their own words.



Roy Fox, charter member of the Shelby Optimist Club, joined in 1948 at age 24.

**Q. Why did you decide to join the Optimist Club?**

A. My father was a faithful member of the Rotary Club in our area. His dedication led me to like the idea of a service club, but I wanted to work with friends my age to do our own thing. The idea of dedicating our projects and fundraisers to befriending the youth of the community appealed to many of us as young fathers, and led us to Optimist International.

**Q. What Optimist Club project has been your all-time favorite?**

A. It still makes me smile to

remember the bike-safety projects. Kids rode bikes a lot back then, and we taped safety reflectors to lots of bikes in a day's work. I liked seeing the kids ride away safer than when they came in. That was really hands-on.

**Q. What are you most proud of in your Optimist career?**

A. I am pleased that the range of activities and achievements has broadened. While we started as "Friend of the Boy" we have grown to become "Friend of Youth." Much of our focus was athletic when we started, but we now support students' reading, speaking, learning, camping and other activities. Our Club holds the charter for the local scout troop. We work with the school on speaking contests and to award annual "Boy and Girl of the Year" recognitions. I am proud to be a Charter member and part of the long history of such a club.

**Q. Is there any one moment that was most special to you as an Optimist?**

A. There have been many moments

that were special. I've had fun times with friends at fundraiser dances or Optimist installation meetings, sitting at meetings with my son and son-in-law who joined the club, having a granddaughter named as Girl of the Year as sponsored by the Optimist Club and watching my grandsons chair successful Optimist fundraisers. Also, being recognized as a Charter Member at our 70th anniversary meeting.



George Henry, Optimist Club of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, joined 1950, age 27

**Q. Why did you decide to join the Optimist Club?**

A. I was recruited to become a member because I was a good

swimmer, and the Club needed me to represent them in the Annual Cedar Rapids Service Club "Olympics", a multi-event competition between most local service clubs. Our medley and freestyle swim team of Optimist members: Ken Marsh, John Stark, Jim Gilchrist and I, who all swam in high school, won the swimming events, and set the 160-yard record for a 20-yard pool in the Iowa Masters Swimming Program. I think the record stands today because soon after we set the record the standard pool length went to 25 yards!

**Q. What were some of the projects your Club did at that time?**

A. The Christmas Tree Project was our annual fundraising event. One year, we ordered 7,000 trees. It was a cold and windy winter, but we persevered and sold the trees from \$1 up to \$7.50. We ran the tree lot for over 60 years.

**Q. Is there any one moment that was most special to you as an Optimist?**

A. Not so much one moment, but several multi-day, white-water rafting trips over the years, when I was honored by many Club members and their families to be their river guide. These trips were on the Green and Yampa Rivers in Utah and Colorado. For 45 summers, and over 350 trips, I had the opportunity to be a Hatch River Expeditions boatman and river guide to thousands, including 3,500 Cedar Rapids area residents and Optimists, as well as many national, international adventurers, plus several dignitaries, including the Robert Kennedy family, Art Buchwald, Andy Williams, John Glenn and James Whittaker,

the first American to climb Mt. Everest.

**Q. Are you a veteran? If so, where did you serve?**

A. While attending Coe College in Cedar Rapids I was in the Army ROTC. I later signed up with the US Army Air Corps (predecessor to the US Air Force) for service in World War II, training to be a B-24 bomber pilot. Once trained, I was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant and told my war duty station was to be an air base in Italy. I took a troop train to the Atlantic coast and boarded the US's largest ocean liner, Miss America, for Italy. Once there I was assigned pilot on a B-24 and over the next two years, my plane



Bob Polchya, charter member, Shelby Optimist Club, joined November 1948, age 18

and team made, and was fortunate to survive, over 20 bombing runs on European targets.

**Q. Why did you decide to join the Optimist Club?**

A. I had many friendships with community leaders and was inspired by their beliefs in helping the youth. Having lost my parents at 4 and 12 years of age, then being raised by grandparents and aunts, that inspired me to feel the need to

provide service to youth, and so I joined the Optimist Club.

**Q. What Optimist Club project has been your all-time favorite?**

A. The yearly sportsman's raffles and banquet.

**Q. What are you most proud of in your Optimist career?**

A. The Optimist community building. Construction started when I was president of the Club, approximately 1979 to 1980. It was completed with volunteer labor, and financed through the proceeds of the weekly bingo games and rental income when used by other groups and individuals. The building opened in 1981.

**Q. Is there any one moment that was most special to you as an Optimist?**

A. I would say the recognition as Club secretary with district reps, members and wives upon my departure for military service during the Korean War. We had a special dinner and gifts and guests.

**Q. Where did you serve?**

A. I was in the air force as a custodian (Airmen's service club) FEAF (Far East Air Force). Tokyo, Japan. Three years (4 year enlistment).

**Q. Did you ever serve as an officer at the Club, District, or International level? If so, what office?**

A. I was Club president twice, and lieutenant governor for the District. I also served as Club Secretary and was recognized as the youngest in Optimist International.





Wyatt Rewoldt and his mother, Erica Hammel, lacked a safe place to live for many years.

# Optimist Club of St. Clair Shores builds a fresh start for Wyatt

by Maureen Moore  
Optimist Club of St. Clair Shores

In November, 2013, Wyatt Rewoldt suffered “shaken baby syndrome” at the hands of his father’s girlfriend. At just a year old, the devastating abuse left him with hearing, visual, speech, physical, and learning disabilities that will shape his life permanently.

This abuse propelled Wyatt’s mother, Erica Hammel, to advocate for children in a way that her state of Michigan has not seen before. At the same time, Wyatt’s story moved the Optimist Club of St. Clair Shores to break all belief barriers of what is possible, and build a safe haven, a home, for this mother and child to provide stability – an environment to heal, and grow.

“I really want to fight for the rights of children,” Hammel said. “Child abuse is a national epidemic. Wyatt’s Law is desperately needed. Currently there is no child-abuse registry in this state.”

Wyatt’s Law would create a public registry of convicted child abusers available for anyone to access, making it easier for parents to determine whether their children have contact with people who have a history of abuse. Michigan, like many states, has a database of individuals convicted of child abuse, but those records are not available to the general public. The law proposed by Hammel is similar to one adopted in Indiana.

As Wyatt endured four brain surgeries and two eye surgeries since 2013, and Hammel lobbied Michigan lawmakers to pass this legislation, they lived in a broken, unsafe home.

At the time of his parents’ divorce, Wyatt’s father had begun renovating the family’s house and the job went unfinished. Walls were torn down. Electrical wiring was left exposed. There were plumbing issues throughout the structure. Safety hazards lurked everywhere.

Wyatt, as a disabled child, was extremely vulnerable to catastrophic injury and an unhealthy home environment. Hammel was unable to work full-time, as she needed to care for Wyatt, so money was tight. Finishing the renovations was not possible.

“We knew we could do something to help them,” said Maureen Wark, a member of the Optimist Club of St. Clair Shores. Local media had reported the plight of Wyatt’s journey. Wark and her husband Jim, a builder, were shocked at the reality, and scale, of the unlivable site.

To build a safe and healthy home for Wyatt and his mother became the cause for Jim and Maureen Wark. The Optimist Club held community fundraisers and Jim reached out to local contractors who all but donated every bit of their time and effort. A GoFundMe account was started to collect funds for the renovation.

More than \$80,000 stood between Wyatt’s safety, and a new home for this courageous mother and son. The Optimist Club of St. Clair Shores, its members, the community, and outreach of Jim Wark and his fellow contractors have made now “Wyatt’s House of Hope,” a home.



Members of the Optimist Club of St. Clair Shores, as well as numerous businesses and tradespeople contributed to renovate the home safely.

Media covered the ribbon-cutting and house-blessing ceremony on July 2.

“I want to give the Optimist Club all the praise in the world,” Hammel said. “Without you, none of this incredible generosity would have happened.”

Hammel is encouraging everyone to follow her family’s story on her Facebook page “Wyatt the Warrior.”

“I really want to fight for the rights of children,” Hammel said.



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All proceeds benefit the  
Optimist Oratorical Contest.



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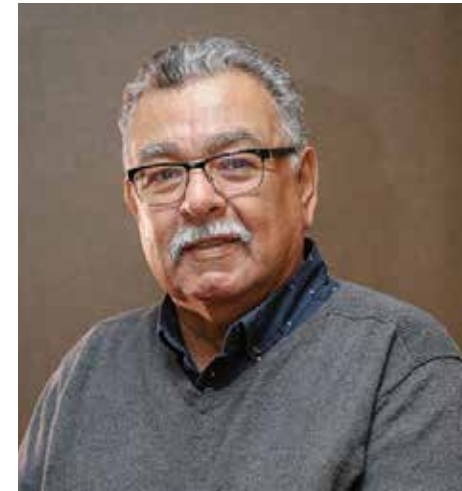


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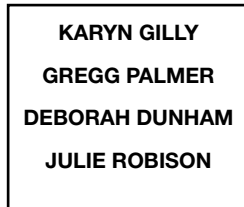
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## Leadership Webinars

Save the dates for our leadership webinars! Webinars are held on Mondays from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., Central Standard Time. Email [leadership@optimist.org](mailto:leadership@optimist.org) for more information.

- ▶ **November 18**  
**How to use the Scholarship Programs as a model for STAR.**  
Optimist International is building STARS via the scholarship programs for our youth. Through our contests in speech, essays and sign language, Optimist Clubs-Zones-District provide Service and Training for young minds.
- ▶ **December 16**  
**How to Hold a Club Oratorical Contest**  
Are you unsure how your Club can start an Oratorical contest? We will take you through the steps from beginning to end on planning and holding a Club Oratorical contest!
- ▶ **January 20**  
**A Goal Without a Plan is Just a Wish.**  
We will use the SMART Goal Strategy to work through the process from goal-setting to completion using an example of a plan to invite prospective members to an event your club would like to have (similar to a NOW event).





Photo by Lexie Hassell



# IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES!

## Congratulations to our top three finishers!

**First Place: Alyse Saucedo**  
*Our Lady of Peace Academy*  
*San Diego, California*  
**\$15,000**

**Second Place: Michael Morgan**  
*duPont Manual High School*  
*Louisville, Kentucky*  
**\$10,000**

**Third Place: Dylan Hyun**  
*Strongsville High School*  
*Cleveland, Ohio*  
**\$5,000**

*Above: From Left: Diana Carlin, Optimist Oratorical Committee Chair; Melvin Bannister, Optimist International Foundation President; Michael Morgan, second-place winner; Alyse Saucedo, first-place winner; Dylan Hyun, third-place winner; Optimist International President Rebecca Butler Mona; Janet Lloyd, Activities Committee Chair; Benny Ellerbe, Optimist International Executive Director.*

# World Oratorical Championships

## Make Optimism a Reality

Optimist International's tradition of supporting education continued this summer when more than 60 competitors participated in the 4th Annual Optimist Oratorical World Championships. The scholarship money up for grabs was part of more than \$500,000 in annual scholarships that are administered by the Optimist International Foundation.

To view video of the competitions, visit [www.optimist.org/oratorical](http://www.optimist.org/oratorical)



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
**ESSAY**  
 CONTEST



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
**ORATORICAL**  
 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
**COMMUNICATION**  
 CONTEST  
 FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

Over **\$500,000** in Scholarships for post-secondary education for more than **25,000 Students** around the world!



# JOI Kids Change Game in Fighting Poverty

by Bob Schiller  
Past JOI Committee Chair



When was the last time your Club conducted a game-changing project? Game-changing consists of events or ideas that affect a significant shift in the way of doing or thinking about something. Social innovation is defined as a unique solution to a social problem that is more effective, efficient, sustainable or just than existing solutions and benefits many.

Junior Optimists in Uganda did this when they devised a poultry-keeping program to raise money for youth in their community, while also improving food security and teaching agricultural skills. The Karambi Junior Optimist Club received a grant from the McGinnity Family Foundation for \$2,000 to cover the cost of the building and start up costs for egg production.

Karambi is in western Uganda, hundreds of miles from the capital of Kampala. Agriculture and subsistence farming dominate the city's economy and paying for school-related needs can be a challenge for many families.

"Youth Poultry Keeping at Karambi is a youth-led and empowering project using poultry sales to support those students," says Karambi JOI President Nyakato Fiilo. "It is aimed at helping the junior members realize



their dream of keeping and completing school with a major focus on the girl child."

The JOI club will ensure profit maximization in the bid to fight poverty among students and their families, while also increasing the creativity and productivity of the students, Fiilo says. The project will be carried out at school where youth members of the club will actively be engaged in all activities. In addition the project will improve the health of the Club's members and the community.

The project's overall budget is \$10,000 but the funding from the McGinnity foundation represents major progress toward that goal.

Administrators at the Karambi Secondary School allocated land for the project's hen house, and the grant allowed the 55-member JOI Club to obtain materials. Meanwhile, students led construction efforts by excavating the site, ordering handmade bricks, transporting the bricks to the construction site and more, all done by hand.

The finished building of the Karambi JOI Youth Poultry Keeping Project will house 500 "egg-layers" and the appropriate amount of roosters to produce eggs! Karambi JOI, with the help of their adviser Past KAMP Optimist Club President Thembo Salatier, will sell the eggs to their community and nearby in the Kasese District.

Profits go to Karambi JOI to help fund school needs, and each Karambi JOI Member will receive a "layer" and a rooster for their family to enable each family to begin a sustainable source of food.

The question now is...What's your next game-changer?

## JOI and Food for Life

Both of the Oakville JOI Clubs volunteered as a group at Food for Life twice this year. Food for Life collects donated food, and most importantly fresh produce from local farmers and grocers. The fresh produce is often not the pretty looking uniform shaped carrots or potatoes, but there is nothing wrong with it, other than it needs to be checked and sorted into bags to be delivered to families and foodbanks. Fresh produce is the item most often missing from food banks.

During their most recent visit to Food for Life, Junior Optimist Clubs of Oakville, sorted and packed 5,220 pounds of canned/packaged goods as well as cucumbers that they sorted and bagged. That is equivalent to 5,220 meals shared in our community!

Below is a photo of the JOI Clubs presenting Laura Hickerson from Food for Life with a JOI tshirt signed by all the members and the JOI Advisors. Everyone had a fantastic time, with a great impact!





All Photos by Tina Valant



# Highlights from the 2019 Junior Golf Championships



Optimist International has hosted some of the largest and most prestigious Golf Tournaments in the Junior Golf world for many decades!

Over two weeks this summer, over 600 young golfers from 27 countries around the world, converged at the Trump National Doral Resort in Doral, Florida to compete in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship.

Check out these highlights from the exciting tournament that continues to attract some of the best junior golfers from around the world!

For details on the full list of winners please visit [www.optimist.org/golf](http://www.optimist.org/golf)

Thank you to the following sponsors for their support of the 2019 Optimist International Junior Golf Championship!

- Greater Miami Convention and Visitors
- Bureau Florida Sports Foundation
- Prize Possessions
- Extraordinary Photography





# Committed to Cancer Research

## The OI Foundation has Contributed \$1.3 Million and Counting

By Rachel Webb

It's easy to see the results of an Optimist Club's project when it involves winning a championship trophy or smiles at a Christmas party. But some of Optimist International's greatest achievements can only be viewed on a microscope slide, invisible unless you know what you're looking at. It's a setting where the tiniest progress is a major triumph.

The Optimist International Foundation has contributed \$1.3 million to pediatric cancer research at Johns Hopkins University since 2000, bringing researchers closer to improving treatments for the dozens of diseases that make up the world of cancer, and maybe even inching toward a cure. And those victories will be felt by doctors and patients the world over.

"While the Optimist International Foundation money is coming here, I would remind everyone that the benefits of it are out there for the whole world to take advantage of," said Dr. Donald Small, the Kyle Haydock Professor of Oncology and professor of pediatrics, cellular and molecular medicine and

human genetics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. On behalf of the faculty, fellows and patients here and throughout the world, I thank them for their commitment to improving the lives of children with cancer."

Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, has a strong reputation as one of the country's top medical schools. The school and its associated hospital have a long-term reputation for scientific advances that have become staples of modern medicine, such as the invention of CPR. Money from the Optimist International Foundation has also helped to put the institution on the map for its work in pediatric oncology.

Many hospitals do a great job of treating pediatric oncology patients, but Hopkins is set apart for its commitment to researching treatments.

"The only way we can make changes in outcomes for patients is research, to increase the cure rate and improve side effects," Small says.

Some pediatric cancers have seen significant advancement in treatment and survival rates. For example, acute lymphocytic leukemia has a five-year survival rate of 90 percent, up from just 57 percent for children diagnosed between 1975 and 1979. Despite those successes, cancer remains the leading cause of disease-related deaths for those under the age of 19.

Despite the prominence of childhood cancer—about 1 in 285 children will be diagnosed with cancer—the field receives little research funding in the US. Just 4% of the research dollars provided by the U.S. government's National Cancer Institute goes to pediatric cancer. This makes support from private organizations such as Optimist International Foundation a vital resource for those seeking both cures and improved treatments.

Optimist International's relation with Johns Hopkins dates to 2000, when OI created a research fellowship in pediatric oncology and hematology, Small said. Many research fellows enter the lab as part of a three-year fellowship, Small said. The OI Foundation funding has allowed those fellows to stay in the lab through four and sometimes five years, allowing them to bring their research closer to completion.

Although Optimist International's funding focuses on Johns Hopkins, the program has had an international influence, Dr. Small says. The university attracts students and fellows from across the world, and when they're done, they often move to other countries and cities to set up practice or continue their lab work.

"In that way, the Optimists are really supporting improvement not just for kids with cancer here at Johns Hopkins, but for kids with cancer throughout the world," Small said.

In 2012, the OI Foundation committed an additional \$500,000 to create the Optimist International Innovation Research Fund. This funding helps to support the labs themselves by paying for staff such as technicians and basic supplies. As of July 2019, OI had paid about \$278,000 toward that goal.

At the 2019 Optimist International Convention in Louisville, President Rebecca Butler Mona and OIF President Melvin Bannister presented a check to Hopkins representatives for \$100,000. That money will support blood and bone-marrow transplant research. This was in addition to a similar \$100,000 donated by OIF in 2018 at the Ottawa Convention for this very important research.

"The Foundation's work with Johns Hopkins is among our most significant programs," said Foundation Director Craig Boring. "This allows us to help children with cancer and their families on a world level, in addition to the important work done by our Clubs in their communities."

Much of the childhood-cancer research conducted at Hopkins centers on moving patients away from traditional chemotherapy, and the nasty side effects involved, toward molecular targeted therapy and immunotherapy. This is possible because technology

allows physicians and researchers to sequence the DNA of a patient's tumors and develop therapy involving those specific cells, Small said. Traditional chemotherapy targets all of the body's cells, which is responsible for many side effects including hair loss, lowered immunity, and health problems that can reappear decades later.

"Now that we know the genes that are mutated, we can develop therapies against them that will not harm normal cells, but will harm malignant cells," Small said. "This is especially important in pediatric cancers, because side effects can come back to bite them in adulthood. We would not see the same thing if we were able to get away from chemo and do targeted therapies."

Small also expressed gratitude for the individual Optimist Clubs that often help families impacted by cancer with housing, transportation or treatment costs. The Foundation's Childhood Cancer Campaign offers grants to Clubs that want to fund a childhood-cancer project in their communities.



Dr. Donald Small, a researcher at Johns Hopkins, stands with Ashley with the end-of-treatment bell, which patients ring when they have completed their cancer treatment.



## OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD



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**CRAIG BORING**  
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## Dear Optimists and Friends,

As we enter the 49th year of the Optimist International Foundation let me express my profound gratitude to the members of Optimist International and the Clubs whose support has made it possible to provide the financial backing that has made such a difference in the lives of so many children. Our partnership with Optimist International and our ability to fund key programs, such as the Oratorical World Championships, grows stronger every year thanks to you.

This year's theme is Go for the Gold. Gold has always represented excellence and this year is no different. We strive for excellence in keeping every member informed about what the Foundation does for them, their Clubs and their communities. We make every effort to encourage our members to support the Foundation financially and to become advocates for the Foundation. We pledge to be the best stewards of your donations and to ensure they make the biggest impact in helping children.

My goal for the Foundation is to have the best year ever, both in funds received and programs supported. I need your help to make this happen. Please participate in one or more of our donation programs, from Dime-A-Day to Friends of Today. Learn about the many programs the Foundation supports by going to our website [oifoundation.org](http://oifoundation.org). Talk about the Foundation. Let everyone know that you support the Foundation and encourage them to do the same. Be an advocate for the Foundation. Be an advocate for Optimism. Be an advocate for the children.

Sincerely,

*Bill Meyers*

Bill Meyers



The Optimist International Disaster Relief Fund provides grants to Optimist Clubs that serve areas impacted by natural disasters. These funds allow Clubs to evaluate their communities' own needs following a hurricane, tornado or other catastrophe, and empower them to help rebuild. Contribute to this program by donating at [oifoundation.org](http://oifoundation.org), or sending a check to:

**Optimist International Foundation**  
4494 Lindell Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO, 63108

*Designate "Disaster Relief Fund" on your check or when making an online donation.*



## Can you spare a dime... to help build the Optimist Mission?

Support the Optimist International Foundation for as little as **\$36.50** per year to fund Optimist International programs and services.

## Go For The Gold

For more information visit  
[www.oifoundation.org](http://www.oifoundation.org)





# Friendship Benches

## Promote Kindness

The school playground can be a lonely place for a child if they don't have a friend to play with. But an idea from Zimbabwe is changing things, and the Club Optimiste de Ste-Julie, Quebec, has decided to borrow the idea.

The Friendship Bench project is an intervention developed in Zimbabwe to provide a safe place for people struggling with anxiety and depression to find help. When they sit on that bench, they know somebody will come and listen, a very precious thing when you feel lonely.

This idea has traveled the world and inspired many projects. Dozens of Canadian schools already have a Friendship Bench, a great way to put forward openness and empathy, to develop these children's social skills, and even to stop bullying.

Thanks to the CCOF Club Grants program, the elementary school du Moulin in Ste-Julie, Quebec, will have their own bench.

There are many ways Optimist Clubs can help your local school. Be inspired by the Outsourcing project Club Optimiste de Embrun, Ontario, and plant trees in the schoolyard. Or borrow the Club Optimiste de Ste-Épiphanes Club Grant idea and buy some deskcycles for ADHD and anxious children. So many Clubs, so many ideas. And so many ways the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation can help you help children.

Imagine what these children could do with your help.



Canadian Children's  
Optimist Foundation

## CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION BOARD



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President



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Past President



**Dianne Josling**  
Director



**Ann Richer Doyle**  
Director

Welcome to new CCOF board member Ann Richer-Doyle, proud member of the Club Optimiste Beacon Hill, Ontario, since 1988.

Way before she was an Optimist member, she was already in charge of the Oratorical and the Kids Speak Out Contests. She has often been in charge of the Essay Contest in her Club and at the district level. In 2008-2009 and 2012-2013, she became District Secretary with the Eastern Ontario District. She also was District Foundation Representative in 2007-2008.

As a result of her experience with OI Scholarship Programs over the years, she is quite aware of the importance of the Foundation and its impact with youths. Welcome on board, Ann!

## Spring survey yields positive change for CCOF

Last Spring, the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation sent a survey to every member and Club President in Canada, to get feedback about our recognition items, our programs and our general work. We asked for suggestions on how we can improve.

Overall, the surveys showed that most Clubs and individuals agree that it is time to revamp the recognition process used by the CCOF. Many called the recognition items "outdated". A common theme was that donations should go to programs for children and youth, and not CCOF administration or recognition of donors. Participants suggested other ways of recognizing donors such as tax receipts, certificates of appreciation and thank you letters.

The provision of recognition items does not influence donations, respondents said. The Board has reviewed the recommendations and decided to modify the structure of the recognition process, awards and policies, to better suit our donors' needs and wishes. This will help us move into the 21st century.

We will now invest only in recognition items our donors really want, and in communications. We will make sure more money from the Foundation goes back to the community and we will make our donors proud to help the Optimists of Canada.

Have a great 2019-2020 Optimist year!

*The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation would like to thank Frankie Jordan, of Jordan Consulting (Regina SK), for preparing and analyzing the survey.*



## CHRISTIAN D. LARSON PARTNERS MEMBERSHIP

|                             |                        |                                 |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 721 Fred Strickland         | 725 Marvin Smith       | 728 Albert Jackie Young         |
| 723 Pam Kettering           | 726 Janet Newman Smith | 729 Charles C. Mayhew           |
| 724 Jeffery L. Kuchenbecker | 727 Jule Wilson        | 730 Marcia P. Streete Hendricks |

## TOP TEN as of June 30, 2019

| District             | Representative      | Average Contribution Per Member |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| East Missouri        | Sallie Westenbarger | \$22.79                         |
| Arizona              | Marcia Aurand       | \$19.22                         |
| Colorado-Wyoming     | Ron Benson          | \$17.38                         |
| Alabama-Mississippi  | Nancy Ryan          | \$15.32                         |
| New York-New England | Debra Davis         | \$14.96                         |
| Capital-Virginia     | Barbara L. Grizzard | \$14.67                         |
| North Texas          | Stephanie Sullivan  | \$12.69                         |
| Pacific Southwest    | Melissa Cohen       | \$11.49                         |
| South Texas          | Gil Ortiz           | \$11.29                         |
| Michigan             | Steve Sucher        | \$10.78                         |

| District            | Representative      | Total Contributions |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| East Missouri       | Sallie Westenbarger | \$35,140.28         |
| Michigan            | Steve Sucher        | \$33,376.91         |
| Colorado-Wyoming    | Ron Benson          | \$24,702.85         |
| Iowa                | Dave Phillips       | \$22,682.44         |
| GATEway             | Kevin Bush          | \$20,059.85         |
| North Texas         | Stephanie Sullivan  | \$17,953.01         |
| Alabama-Mississippi | Nancy Ryan          | \$16,363.00         |
| South Texas         | Gil Ortiz           | \$16,275.41         |
| Ohio                | William R. Able     | \$15,140.00         |
| Indiana North       | Julie Robison       | \$13,507.35         |

## CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION as of June 30, 2019

| District  | Representative    | Average Contribution Per Member |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming | Tiim Bell         | \$43.45                         |
| Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota                        | Keith Norman      | \$18.95                         |
| Eastern Ontario                                   | Sylvain Couturier | \$13.34                         |

| District  | Representative           | Total Contributions |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming | Tim Bell                 | \$34,063.27         |
| Southwestern Ontario                              | Jurgen and Kathy Walther | \$23,906.91         |
| Midwestern Ontario                                | Warren Bechthold         | \$17,328.57         |



Canadian Children's  
Optimist Foundation

## DONOR LISTINGS

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from April 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019, for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of Optimist.

### Bronze Benefactor - \$15,000

INDIANA SOUTH  
Optimist Club of Santa Claus, IN

### Eminent Benefactor - \$10,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN  
& NORTHERN WYOMING  
Optimist Club of Duval, SK

CAPITAL VIRGINIA  
Brooke E. Johnson

### Distinguished Benefactor - \$5,000

EAST MISSOURI  
Craig Boring  
Optimist Club of St. Louis-South Side, MO

EASTERN ONTARIO  
Club Optimiste de la region de Cornwall, ON

IOWA  
Bettendorf Optimist Club, IA

QUÉBEC WEST  
Claude Normand

### Honored Benefactor - \$2,500

EASTERN ONTARIO  
Club Optimiste de St.Albert, ON

GATEWAY  
Mary F. Still

INDIANA SOUTH  
Robert W. Thompson

MICHIGAN  
Sharon A. Regiani

MIDWESTERN ONTARIO  
Optimist Club of London-Southwest, ON

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST  
Melissa Cohen  
Hugh McDonald

### Benefactor - \$1,000

COLORADO-WYOMING  
Judy McCune

EAST MISSOURI  
Marcus Sheker

EASTERN ONTARIO  
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Connie J. Webb

KANSAS  
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NORTH CAROLINA EAST  
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QUÉBEC CENTER  
Jeanne-Paule Duhamel  
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QUÉBEC EAST & ACADIE  
Denise Desbiens  
Vallier Côté  
François Larouche  
Berthier Lebel  
Club Optimiste de Cap-Chat, QC

QUÉBEC WEST  
Sylvana Ross

SOUTH CAROLINA  
Harry F. Smithson

WISCONSIN NORTH-UPPER MICHIGAN  
Wayne Leiternann





ROUND ABOUT THE CAULDRON GO;  
IN THE POISON'D ENTRAILS THROW.  
TOAD, THAT UNDER COLD STONE  
DAYS AND NIGHTS HAS THIRTY-ONE  
SWELTER'D VENOM SLEEPING GOT,  
BOIL THOU FIRST I' THE CHARMED POT.

DOUBLE, DOUBLE TOIL AND TROUBLE;  
FIRE BURN, AND CAULDRON BUBBLE.

FILLET OF A FENNY SNAKE,  
IN THE CAULDRON BOIL AND BAKE;  
EYE OF NEWT AND TOE OF FROG,  
WOOL OF BAT AND TONGUE OF DOG,  
ADDER'S FORK AND BLIND-WORM'S STING,  
LIZARD'S LEG AND OWLET'S WING,  
FOR A CHARM OF POWERFUL TROUBLE,  
LIKE A HELL-BROTH BOIL AND BUBBLE.

DOUBLE, DOUBLE TOIL AND TROUBLE;  
FIRE BURN AND CAULDRON BUBBLE.  
SCALE OF DRAGON, TOOTH OF WOLF,  
WITCHES' MUMMY, MAW AND GULF  
OF THE RAVIN'D SALT-SEA SHARK,  
ROOT OF HEMLOCK DIGG'D I' THE DARK,  
SILVER'D IN THE MOON'S ECLIPSE,  
ADD THERE TO A TIGER'S CHAUDRON,  
FOR THE INGREDIENTS OF OUR CAULDRON.

DOUBLE, DOUBLE TOIL AND TROUBLE;  
FIRE BURN AND CAULDRON BUBBLE.

COOL IT WITH A BABOON'S BLOOD,  
THEN THE CHARM IS FIRM AND GOOD.

-Macbeth, by William Shakespeare, Act 4, Scene 1

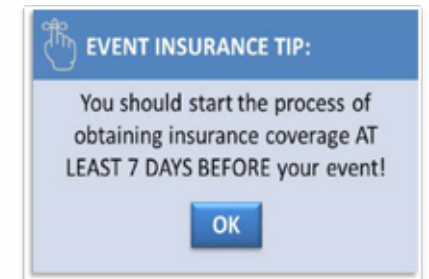
## What's Left on Your Event Planning Checklist?

- Club Event Decided
- Made Location Arrangements
- Satisfied Event Insurance Requirements

If you are being required to provide proof of liability insurance or want to add an Additional Insured, submitting a request for a Certificate of Insurance is an easy task to check off your list! Mercer Consumer, a service of Mercer Health & Benefits Administration LLC\* ("Mercer Consumer") Optimist International's broker, can help you.

### If you're holding an event, simply:

1. Go to [oiclubinsurance.com](http://oiclubinsurance.com).
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3. Click the "Online COI Request" button or click the "Download Now" button to print the COI Request Form.
4. You will receive a confirmation email once your request is received.



Mercer Consumer  
Optimist International's  
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