



The Torch

Spring 2011



Making a case for smiles



What kid wouldn't want to fall asleep on one of these pillowcases?

delivered more than 300,000 cheerful pillowcases to sick children across the United States and around the world.

The Media-Rose Tree Optimist Club sponsors the JOOI Clubs and supported the project by donating the funds necessary to purchase the fabric. Robin Heckman, consumer science teacher at Springton Lake Middle School, donated the use of her room and sewing machines to the students and parent volunteers.

Through a lot of hard work, the JOOI Clubs produced 30 pillowcases that any child would be excited to have on their bed.

The Penncrest HCI Octagon Club and the Springton Lake Middle School Spartans Junior Optimist Club in Pennsylvania spent a snowy winter on a warm project – sewing soft, cheery pillowcases for children diagnosed with life-changing illnesses. The pillowcases add color to the rooms of young patients who have to spend extended time in the hospital.

The pillowcase project is run by the nonprofit organization ConKerr Cancer, founded by a mother whose young son was fighting the disease and feeling very blue during his hospital stay. She made him special pillowcases, which really cheered him up, and an idea was born! Since its founding in 2002, ConKerr Cancer has

Pennies pile up

When Stingley Elementary School in Centerville, Ohio, decided to help out with “Pennies for Patients,” their Bee Optimist Alpha Club was the go-to group to make it all possible.

In February, the school joined with more than 25,000 other schools throughout the United States to collect money – penny by penny – for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

The Alpha Club helped out by getting collection boxes ready, distributing flyers and making sure classrooms had what they needed to get started. The JOOI Members also visited classrooms throughout the drive to collect the money raised. For almost two weeks, students in grades two through five robbed their piggy banks, gave up their birthday money and asked their parents for their spare change. When one student made a big sacrifice, it inspired their classmates to do the same!

The result? The school's goal was \$500, but the end tally was almost triple that – \$1,400!

WHY GO?

Why should you go to the 2011 Convention in Baltimore? There are as many reasons as there are JOOI Members. To read about a few of them, check out pages 2 and 3.



Hey JOOI Members!

As you probably know, the JOOI Convention is coming soon! This year, the Convention is taking place in Baltimore, and I can promise you it will be an event particularly unforgettable! If you are not sure whether to come, let me tell you that I have only attended one Convention, but it was one of my best experiences within JOOI, and I can assure you that it will be the same for you. During three amazing days, you will have the opportunity to share your experiences, to learn a lot about our famous organization and to have fun with other JOOI Members just like you. Think about it!

You are still not convinced? Think about all of the links you will develop with other people from all over the world. This is an opportunity like no other. People from Canada, the United States and the Caribbean will be there. So much culture in the same event. You just can't miss it – it's either now or you'll have to wait until next year! So, don't hesitate another minute. Join us for the Convention! See you in July!

- Marie-Claude Bourgeois, JOOI Board



JOOI has plans for you!

Wondering what you'll do this summer? I know the answer: we will be together in Baltimore!

Yes! The 2011 JOOI Convention will be just awesome like every year! You have never attended a JOOI Convention? What are you waiting for? This is an experience you must live at least once! I've been to four JOOI Conventions so far and I can't imagine my summer without attending it. I'll definitely be part of it!

Guess what? You totally need to do the same! This is your chance to see amazing speakers, learn a lot more about JOOI, attend super workshops and be part of an outstanding service project with hundreds of other JOOI Members from all over the world! If you want to learn a new language, it's also possible! Whatever your reason is for not being part of the Convention this year, that reason is just not good enough!

I'm excited about meeting you this summer in Baltimore!

- Marie-Pier Tremblay, JOOI Board

Way ahead of the game



JOOI gets in the game! Members get ready to hand off tons of canned goods to a local food pantry.

During this year's Souper Bowl of Caring, JOOI Members at Loving Elementary School in Detroit, Michigan, went far beyond the typical game plan to help those in need during the weeks leading up to the Super Bowl.

The Loving Eagles Junior Optimist Club decided to focus their efforts on SEASONS Ministry, a group that feeds more than 150 homeless and hungry adults and children twice a month in Detroit. The JOOI Club collected more than 870 cans of food for SEASONS.

But the JOOI volunteers did not stop there. In school, students had vocabulary lessons that revolved around hunger, and crossword puzzles, quizzes, discussions and games helped drive the point home. The school principal handled publicity for Souper Bowl of Caring, while Club Adviser Maria Davis arranged for the founder of SEASONS to speak to the JOOI Club about feeding the hungry in the Detroit area.

"The Green Bay Packers may have won the NFL Super Bowl," Club Adviser Fatima Plater said, "but the Loving Eagles JOOI Club is flying high from winning the Souper Bowl of Caring for the hungry in their community."

Calling all leaders!

If you've been thinking about running for an international office in JOOI, applications are due to the JOOI Department by June 1!

JOOI Members should fill out both the application and the biographical release. The forms are available in the JOOI Convention section of www.jooi.org.

Those running will give a speech at the JOOI Convention right before the election. If you want your speech translated from English into French or from French into English, you must turn it in by June 1 as well.

For information, contact jooi@optimist.org.

New Clubs jump into service with JOOI

JOOI has a bunch of new Clubs this year! Welcome to each of them, and thanks to the Optimist Clubs that sponsor them!

Alpha Clubs

Bee Optimist (Centerville-Noon, Ohio)
Cielo Vista Bobcat Alpha Club (El Paso-Cielo Vista, Texas)
DC Everest Riverside Elementary Alpha Optimist Club (Everest Area, Wisconsin)
DC Everest Rothschild Elementary Alpha Optimist Club (Everest Area, Wisconsin)

Junior Optimist Clubs

Camarillo Heights Elementary Junior Optimist Club (Camarillo-Noontime, California)
The Comet JOOI Club (Delavan-Darien-Breakfast, Wisconsin)
Do Something Wonderful JOI (Southfield-Lathrup, Michigan)
Field Elementary JOOI Club (Littleton-Bft, Colorado)
Golden Sunshine Jr. Optimist Club of Lydford (Golden-Lydford, Jamaica)
JOOI Club of Jefferson County, Arkansas (Pine Bluff, Arkansas)
Laurel Canyon, Georgia (Laurel Canyon, Georgia)
Nettle Creek Junior Optimist Club (Hagerstown, Indiana)
Sunflower Junior Optimist Club of Rousseau Primary (Sunset Liguanea, Jamaica)
Woodland North Middle Junior Optimist Club (Radcliff, Kentucky)

Octagon Clubs

ACA Octagon Service Club (Corpus Christi-Downtown, Texas)
Adolfo Camarillo High School Octagon Club (Camarillo-Noontime, California)
Blackhawk Optimist (Weaverville-North Buncombe, North Carolina)
Brighton High School JOOI Club (Brighton, Michigan)
Gray Stone Day Octagon Club (Albemarle, North Carolina)
JOOlous Jazz, California
Leadership Citizen Service JOOI Club (Mesa, Arizona)
Les Guimauves, Quebec (Beauharnois-Maple Grove, Quebec)
Navarre High School JOOI Club (Navarre Beach, Florida)
Rocky River H.S. JOOI Club (Matthews-Mint Hill, North Carolina)
Wayne Blue Devils Octagon Optimist Club (Wayne, Nebraska)
Wayne JOOI Club (Wayne-Corydon, Iowa)

Hi JOOI Members!

What do crabs, international friends and a “no-talent” show all have in common? They can all be found at the 2011 JOOI Convention in Baltimore, Maryland! Not only do we get to experience a new city by the harbor and world-famous seafood, but we can do it together! At the JOOI Convention we will be helping the community, making new friends and creating memories that will last a lifetime. Join me and the rest of the JOOI Board in Baltimore this July for an unforgettable experience. Hope to see you there!

— Samhita Ilango, JOOI Board



Help the legacy live on



Did you know that there is a JOOI Legacy Fund that enables JOOI to keep doing great service work well into the future?

Each year, JOOI Members help build this fund by selling special pins at the JOOI Convention and the Optimist International Convention. This year's pin (left) celebrates Baltimore and the world-famous Maryland blue crab.

Pins are \$25 and proceeds go to the JOOI Legacy Fund. To order a pin or pass an order form along to a JOOI supporter, just click here or jump to page 6.

What is the JOOI Legacy Fund?

The JOOI Legacy Fund is a fund within the Optimist International Foundations. Each year, the JOOI Board of Directors decides how to use \$1,000 from the fund for service outreach efforts.

2011 JOOI Convention Schedule (tentative)

Day 1 – Tuesday, July 5, 2011 – casual dress or “Beach” theme day

10 a.m.-4 p.m.	JOOI Registration
3-3:30 p.m.	Adviser/Chaperone Meeting
4:30-7:30 p.m.	Pool Party/Dinner
8-10 p.m.	JOOI Opening Session
10-11 p.m.	Talent Show Screening

Day 2 – Wednesday, July 6, 2011 – casual dress or “Gilligan’s Island” theme day

8-9 a.m.	International Officer Meeting (mandatory for candidates)
8:30-9 a.m.	Adviser/Chaperone Meeting
9-10:15 a.m.	JOOI Workshops
10:30-11:45 a.m.	JOOI Workshops
Noon-1 p.m.	JOOI Lunch
1-3 p.m.	Service Project
3-4 p.m.	Mystery Forum
5-6 p.m.	Dinner
6-6:45 p.m.	Meet and Greet the Candidates (mingling)
7-9 p.m.	JOOI Business Session (voting)
9-11 p.m.	Talent Show

Day 3 – Thursday, July 7, 2011 – casual dress or “Going Fishing” theme day

**President’s Banquet best dress attire*

8:30-9 a.m.	Adviser/Chaperone Meeting
9-10:15 a.m.	JOOI Workshops
10:30-11:45 a.m.	JOOI Workshops
Noon-12:45 p.m.	JOOI Lunch
12:45-1:30 p.m.	Candidates’ Speeches (same room as lunch)
1:30-2:30 p.m.	JOOI Meet the Candidates Forum
2:45-3:30 p.m.	Elections
3:30-6 p.m.	Free Time
6-7:30 p.m.	President’s Banquet*
7:30-9 p.m.	JOOI Closing Business Session
9-9:30 p.m.	New Officer Meeting
9-9:30 p.m.	Adviser/Chaperone Meeting
9-11 p.m.	President’s Dance
11 p.m.-Midnight	Goodbyes (same room as dance)
Midnight	Curfew



Just by taking a water taxi, you can see all of the sights in this newsletter and much, much more!

See the sights

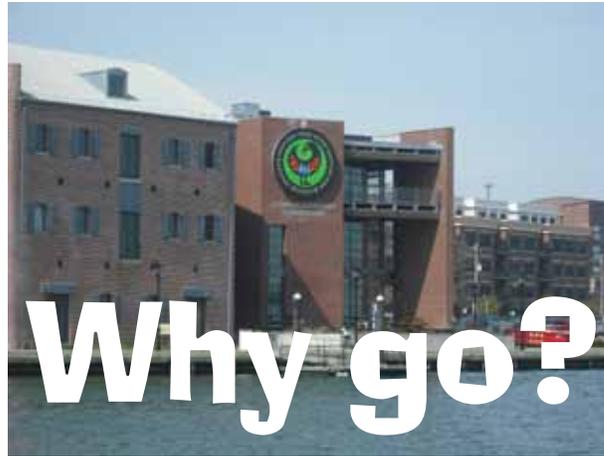
Some Clubs choose to come in a day or two early to tour the city.

How could you miss it?

Why should you attend the JOOI Convention? A better question is why wouldn't you? Every year, the JOOI Convention is the highlight of my summer. It's so awesome to be surrounded by people who share your enthusiasm for optimism and making the world a better place. Better yet, it's a great place to learn new leadership techniques for running your Club, share ideas and get motivated. There are always fun and informative workshops, and every year I've been, I've learned something new. Plus, this year it's in Baltimore, Maryland, right on the harbor. It's amazing! It's an unforgettable experience, and if you have never come, I can guarantee that it's worth it. With that, I look forward to seeing you all in Baltimore!

– Kayleigh White,
JOOI Board

Hello Junior Optimist Octagon International Members!



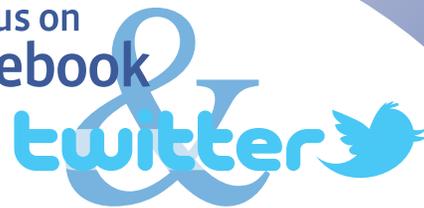
of Baltimore. Also, anyone who is interested in running as an international officer should consider turning in an application! You don't want to miss out, so register for the Convention today!

– Peter Choi, JOOI Board

The end of the year is quickly approaching but that doesn't mean that the fun is over yet! In fact, summer is just the beginning of the fun! The International Convention will be hosted in Baltimore, Maryland, where you will be able to spend days meeting other JOOI Members from across North America and learning from our interactive workshops. Don't forget to bring pins to trade with other district delegates at the Convention! We will also have our exciting service project to serve the community



Find us on
Facebook



Hi JOOI Clubs!

JOOI has some new features!

JOOI is now on Twitter! You can follow
JOOI @ www.twitter.com/jooiclubs.

Hear about the latest news as it happens, and see what other Clubs are up to!

JOOI has also started a **new Facebook page**.

Just Google or search for our page --->

**Junior Optimist Octagon International/Optimiste
Junior Octogone Intl.**

to visit the page and "like" us!



**Make a \$25 contribution to the
“JOOI Legacy Fund” and
you will receive this specially designed
JOOI Convention Pin!!!**



Don't miss this opportunity to support JOOI!

All proceeds will benefit the JOOI Legacy Fund.

Please make checks payable to “Optimist International Foundation” and write “JOOI Legacy Fund” in the memo section or you may pay with credit card as indicated. The pin(s) can either be mailed to you or placed in your Convention Packet which you will receive at registration in Baltimore, Maryland.

Contact any International JOOI Board Member, International JOOI Committee Member or JOOI Staff with questions.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Number of pins:** _____

Total Amount: _____ **Visa** **Mastercard** **Discover**

Credit Card Number: _____ **Exp. Date:** _____

Please mail payments to: Optimist International
Attn: JOOI Department
4494 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108

Or, fax this form to 314-735-4118 (credit card payments only).

Please indicate whether you would like your pin mailed to you or put in your convention packet.

Please mail pin(s) to me at the address indicated.

I will pick up the pin(s) at the Optimist International Convention in Baltimore.

**You may also call 800.500.8130 ext. 218 and place an order by phone.
Thank you for your support!**