

2008-2009 International CPA Winner Descriptions

Best Overall Community Service winner:

Club Optimiste Les Yeux de la Monteregie (50003)

Voyage en train et sejour de decouvertes

The Club organized an educational and fun day-long activity for a group of visually impaired and mentally handicapped children from the Quebec Centre District. Many of the children had never been away from home and were excited to be taken on their first train ride. During the ride, the children were encouraged to discuss their goals and aspirations with Club Members.

When the group arrived at their destination, they were greeted by tour guides dressed in the native dress of the Huron culture. The guides discussed the lives of the Huron people, using artifacts and a native dance. The children had the opportunity to participate in daily activities of the Huron people, such as pearl necklace making and group dancing.

A number of the students overcame their fears by stepping out of their secure day-to-day environment. This activity has not only provided an opportunity for the children learn about different cultures, it also helped them to gain self-confidence and improve their social skills.

Best Overall Fundraising winner:

Optimist Club of Barbican Pines (78338)

Igniting Optimist through Fundraising

The Optimist Club of Barbican Pines conducted a car raffle to raise funds to improve and expand the building and surroundings of a local school. Relationships were built with local community groups and businesses to support tickets sales and the purchase of a new car with an approval for a waiver of the duties and taxes. The ticket sales representatives used the opportunity to spread the word of Optimism while visiting 10 of the 14 parishes in Jamaica.

The raffle raised \$5,035 and \$2,471 was used to refurbish the kitchen and construct fencing at the Shortwood Basic School. The remaining funds were placed into a fund for future Club projects. Two new Optimist Clubs and a JOOI Club were built as a direct result of this activity.