

Optimist

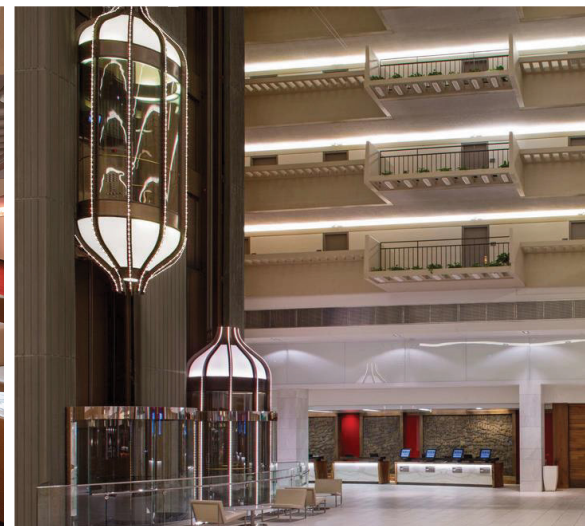
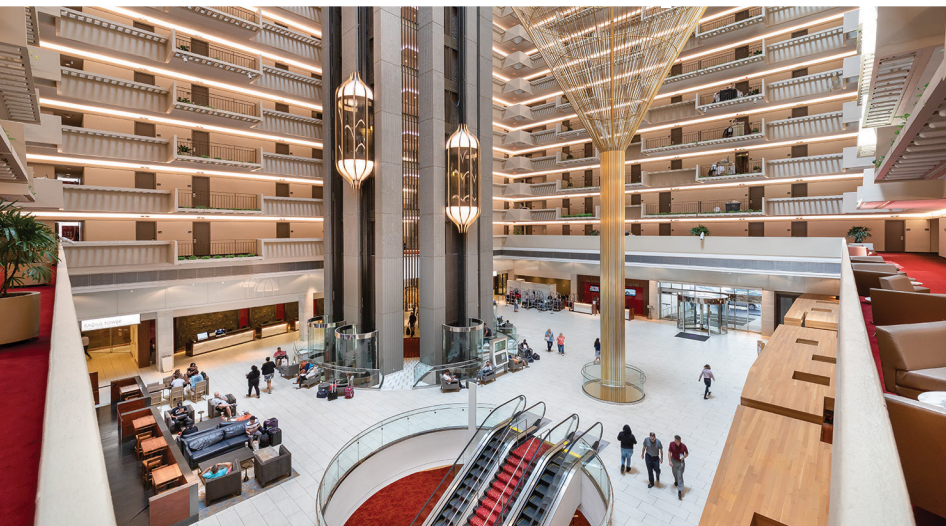
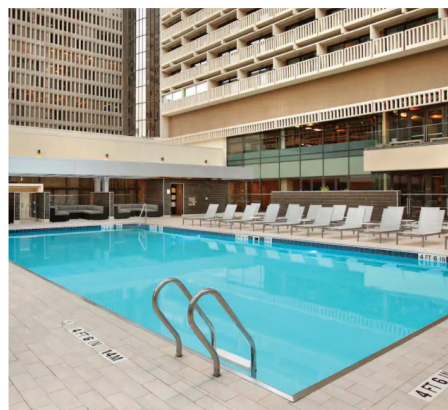
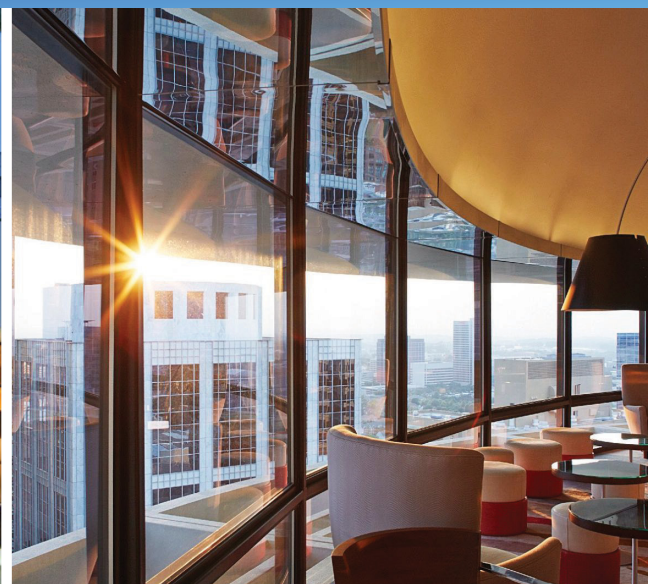
Winter 2021



Optimist International Foundation
Celebrating 50 Years
1971-2021



Optimist
INTERNATIONAL



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FAMILY REUNION

June 30-July 3, 2021

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 premier volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop to their full potential.

PURPOSES OF OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Purposes 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 accord and friendship among all people; to aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's 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

The Official Publication of Optimist International

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Generous support from the Optimist International Foundation made this publication possible.

Active Links

If you choose to print out the magazine, there are hyperlinks for additional digital material throughout the issue. Please be aware those links can only be viewed online.

Optimist (ISSN 1085-5017) (CPN 40032242) (USPS 808-320) is published quarterly in Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer by Optimist International, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108, a non-profit and incorporated association of Optimist Clubs in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Europe. Periodicals posted at St. Louis, Missouri, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to
The Optimist, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108.

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Are Optimists happier than other people? The answer is yes, but not for the reason most people think. The view that Optimists are happy because they always look for the silver lining in times of trouble is only part of the story. Happiness is a state of joy, often caused by external events. The reason Optimists are happier than other people is because they have learned to generate happiness from within.

Many people pursue happiness throughout their lives, rarely attaining it, and finding it fleeting when they do. They find themselves saying "I'll be happy when I get a new job, I'll be happy when I get a promotion, I'll be happy when..." When they achieve these goals, they are happy for a time, but soon they are pursuing happiness again.

The happiness we feel when we get what we want is always fleeting. Optimists have learned to create happiness on a continuous basis. This starts with gratitude. Looking for things to be grateful for increases our happiness regardless of external factors and enables us to find more and more things to be grateful for every day. When you are happy with what you have, you can stop pursuing happiness and direct your effort to living a meaningful life which has sustained value and reward.

This is what draws people to join Optimist Clubs. We surround ourselves with positive people who generate happiness, and our work with youth

gives meaning and purpose to our lives. This work also creates opportunities for engagement and accomplishment as well as relationship building. It is no wonder that every Optimist I meet tells me they are happier and more fulfilled after joining an Optimist Club.

In these troubling times of pandemic and social unrest, it is more important than ever for you to share your happiness with others in your community. Make it your goal to share your Optimist Club with someone you know in the next few weeks. Many people find themselves isolated and looking for opportunities to engage with others in a positive way. Your Club can provide this opportunity with all of the benefits described above. Elsewhere in this magazine you will see the ribbon that will be awarded to you for sponsoring a new Member. There is no better gift you can give to someone than membership in your Club.

The Winter Quarter (Jan-Mar) theme for Optimist International is Happiness. We want you to share happiness with others and find ways to promote happiness in your community. This quarter will culminate with Optimist Clubs around the world participating in the United Nations International Day of Happiness on March 20, 2021. We encourage every Optimist Club to conduct an activity to promote happiness on that day. We will also be live online sharing stories of Club activities that day. Look for announcements about this in the next Leadership Hotline.

While the last twelve months have been trying in many ways, I am eternally grateful for the opportunity as a leader of this organization to engage with Clubs around the world in your mission to promote positive change through our youth activities. We will accomplish great things in the next twelve months, and it makes me happy to know our organization will play an important role in bringing hope and positive vision to a troubled world.

With Optimism,

MARK WEINSOFF

International President 2020-21

International Day of Happiness

Saturday, March 20, 2021

What is the International Day of Happiness?

What is the International Day of Happiness? Since 2013, the United Nations has celebrated the International Day of Happiness as a way to recognize the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world. Find more information about this annual event on the United Nations website: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/happiness-day>.

The United Nations and Optimist International is inviting each person of any age plus every classroom, business and government to join in celebration of the International Day of Happiness.

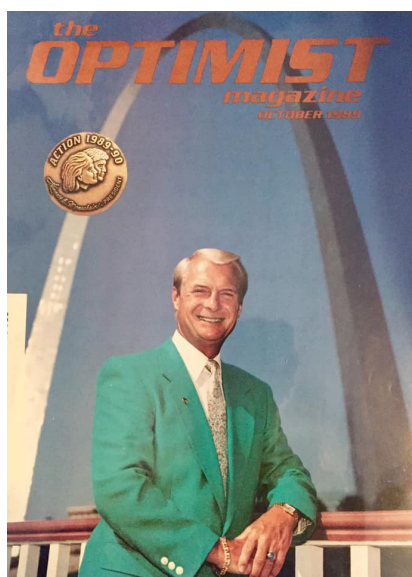
One way to promote happiness yourself is to “pay it forward” by running an errand for an elderly neighbor, complimenting someone, pay for a coffee or meal for someone in line behind you. The possibilities are endless. Snap a picture or talk about your deed using the #HappyOptimist on your social media to spread awareness of this wonderful day.



Tribute to a Great Optimist Leader: Ken Monschein

by **Dave Bruns**
Past Optimist International President

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader." —**John Quincy Adams**



Ken Monschein, on the cover of "The Optimist" October 1989 issue.

Throughout his life, Past International President Ken Monschein was known as a man of Action. In a time when there are far too few examples of great leaders, Monschein—who passed away on January 5, 2021—stands as a shining example of an enthusiastic and dedicated leader. In his acceptance speech at the 1989 Optimist International Convention in Indianapolis, Monschein called Optimists to "ACTION" as he set forth the goals for the new Optimist year.

Two of Monschein's goals stood out above the rest: First, to "serve more kids than ever before" and second, to "have our best year ever in growth." Although Monschein recognized that "Optimist International is the best of all service organizations because we're hands-on," he challenged Optimists to do even more because "we've barely scratched the surface on what we can do." He also recognized that by "all working together" as Optimists, we are able to "make a positive impact on society."

Monschein's words regarding his vision for what the Optimist movement could be were not simply rhetoric. Under his leadership as International President in 1989-90, Optimist International experienced our largest growth in history. Working together, Optimists started an amazing 340 new Clubs. He also expanded our organization globally. Of particular note, 22 new Optimist Clubs were started in Hungary following the fall of the Iron Curtain.

As a former teacher and coach, Monschein believed that effective leadership is the best way to motivate Members of a team to reach their shared goals. At Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, where he earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in education, he showed his leadership in the classroom and on the baseball field. Following graduation, he taught both high school science and physical education. Monschein also coached football, basketball, and baseball during his teaching career. In the early 1960's, he moved to St. Louis where he became a successful business owner.



Kent and Paula Reyling with Stephanie and Ken Monschein at Optimist International Centennial Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

In October 1973, Monschein joined the Optimist Club of St. Louis, Missouri—one of the original eight Optimist Clubs—and became Club President three years later. Perhaps it was fitting that one of his predecessors as President of the St. Louis Optimist Club was Branch Rickey, who was also an outstanding baseball player, coach, and leader. Throughout his life, Monschein fondly remembered going to his first Optimist International Convention in 1976 and being inspired to commit to being a Distinguished Club President. Not only did he meet this goal, the St. Louis Optimist Club also doubled its Membership under his leadership.

After going on to serve as a Distinguished and Outstanding Lt. Governor, Monschein served as the Governor of the Missouri District during the 1980-81 Optimist year. With his guidance, the District started 23 new Clubs and Membership increased by 1,200. Utilizing his experience as a student-athlete, teacher, and coach, Monschein prepared a detailed game plan and recruited the best team he could assemble before assuming each of the positions he

held in the Optimist movement. This was equally true whether he was preparing to serve as Club President or International President.

Monschein realized that putting a good game plan together was simply the first step in the process. Next, he utilized the Awards Program and other motivational tools to inspire his team to put the plan into "Action" on the playing field. As International President, Monschein saw "adding new Clubs and strengthening existing Clubs as a long-term investment" that could guard against the type of economic recession of which the people of North America and many other parts of the world were suffering at the time. In addition, he led efforts to institute internal financial controls that resulted in Optimist International having a significant surplus of funds at the end of his term of office.

After serving as International President, Monschein continued to be an active Optimist Member and was involved in at least 20 successful new Club-building projects. He also recruited a large number of new Members—many of which are serving as Optimist leaders today. One of these leaders is International Vice President-Elect, Lister Florence, who notes that Monschein was a "mentor" to him and fondly recalls "the love, consistent support, and belief in me, and so many others, is a

foundation that we have built and grown from." Similarly, Immediate Past International Vice President Dwight Pollard recalls that "Ken was the reason why my wife, Mikia, and I joined an Optimist Club." Thus, Monschein's legacy as a leader and team builder continues to have a positive impact on our organization as well as on the youth who we are so privileged to serve.

Ken is survived by his wife of 13 years, Stephanie. She serves as the Senior Director of Leadership Development & Club Support of Optimist International. In addition to Stephanie, Ken is survived by three daughters, Beth, Stacey, Amy, and two stepchildren, Chris and Sommer as well as 10 grandchildren. Ken founded the Optimist International Foundation annual print and plate distribution programs. Ken is a huge supporter of the Optimist mission and found the best opportunity to make new friends and build long lasting friendships is by making connections with other Optimist Members. During his last days, Ken spoke optimistically about the organization and we will keep what he held so dear going into the future. In honor of Ken, memorial contributions may be made to Optimist International Foundation.

Ken with his wife, Stephanie.



It's A Golden Jubilee

Celebrating 50 Years of Optimist International Foundation

by Megan Pellock

In the last 100 plus years, Optimist International has given back to the youth in communities across the world. However, without the help of Optimist International Foundation, Optimist International would not have made as large an impact. From providing funding to Club grants and scholarships to supporting Junior Optimist International (JOI) Clubs, Optimist International Foundation has been there to make those dreams a reality.

In 1969, a planning committee was established by Optimist International President Monroe Marlow. The purpose was to look at the key issues and needs that the organization was facing. That led to the formation of Optimist International Foundation (OIF), a 501(c)(3) organization serving exclusively the charitable, literary, and educational purposes of Optimist International.

It was later established with the Articles of Incorporation signed on February 18, 1971 by Charles C. Campbell, Monroe Marlowe, and Hugh H. Cranford. These three along with Norman L. Shipley and Gene H. Sternberg, Sr. formed the first OIF Board of Directors in 1970. During its first years, it supported Optimist

International through the Oratorical scholarships. In the first year, the Foundation raised over \$15,500. Within in the first decade of its founding, the Foundation raised one million dollars.

Fifty (50) years later, OIF is still a key partner with Optimist International, funding the Optimist International Essay, CCDHH, and Oratorical scholarships as well as supporting JOI programs, and is a major underwriter of the World Oratorical Championship. Fundraising opportunities through OIF include Dime a Day, Presidents Club, Friends of Tomorrow, and Christian D. Larson Awards.

"The Foundation is an essential partner with Optimist International, providing funding for scholarships, JOI programs, Club programs, and other initiatives." Jan Oord Graves, the President of Optimist International Foundation said, "OIF is the charitable arm of Optimist International raising the funds to support all of our youth programs."

Without the work of the Foundation, and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation, Oratorical and other scholarship contests would not be as



“The Foundation has a 50 year history of supporting Clubs and programs and they are looking to be even stronger.”

well funded. President Mark Weinsoff speaks on the importance of the Foundation to Optimist International, “The 50th anniversary of the Optimist International Foundation prompts me to take a moment to recognize what our partnership has done to promote positive change in the world. These accomplishments include thousands of College scholarships, millions of dollars dedicated to Cancer research, and disaster relief funds following hurricanes, tornados, fires and mudslides. Grants to Optimist Clubs from the Foundation have enabled them to create new programs to serve their communities. I am grateful for the vast impact the Foundation has on the Optimist organization and communities around the world.”

The purpose of the Foundation is to “Help Optimists Help Kids!” Foundation grants are available to all Optimist Clubs for Club projects and initiatives for the youth in their communities. Other resources, such as videos and webinars, are available to Clubs free of charge on OIF’s website. “The only purpose of the foundation is to support Optimist International and its programs,” Oord Graves stated, “I always emphasize to my fellow Optimists that this is their Foundation, benefitting only Optimist International and their Clubs.”

The Foundation has a 50-year history of supporting Clubs and programs and is looking to be even stronger. During its 50th year, the Foundation has continued to grow and expand, despite the global pandemic. Oord Graves added, “Even at the inception of this pandemic when people began to cancel meetings and fundraisers, the Foundation continued to support the programs and scholarships that it has in the past. In fact, we have expanded.”



Charles C. Campbell
Optimist International
President, 1970-1971



Cameron Tyler, from Jackson, Missouri was the first overall winner of the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships in 2016. As the World Champion, Cameron won \$22,500 in scholarships for competing in the Optimist Oratorical Contests. Pictured: Dave Bruns, Diana Carlin

“In this 50 year anniversary, even with the pandemic, we were able to go above and beyond,” Craig Boring, the Secretary and Executive Director of Optimist International Foundation added. The following initiatives have been added, “We created the JOI Past President’s Scholarship, we began supporting Junior Optimist Golf, and we increased the Club Grant amount to \$1,000. These are three exciting achievements that have happened in this year alone.”

Despite it all, Oord Graves and those working with the Foundation have not stopped their efforts. “The OIF Board has worked diligently to be good stewards in the management of the Foundation’s resources.”

In celebration of the 50th anniversary, the Foundation has partnered with the late Jeff Hanson, a visually impaired artist from Kansas City. Hanson’s artwork is featured on ties, bowties, stationery, and scarves. His art was used to create a special “Dime a Day” pin, President’s Club Award, and others.

“The planning for the 50th anniversary began with a committee meeting at our OI Convention in Louisville. We were brainstorming special 50th anniversary fundraisers when the idea of an online auction was initiated. My husband Ron and I decided on donating a Jeff Hansen painting for the auction,” Oord Graves explains, “I reached out to Julie, Jeff’s mother and business manager. After explaining the purposes of the OI Foundation and our upcoming 50th anniversary, Julie suggested the idea of a partnership with Hanson art. After numerous calls with Julie, we came up with a plan to use his art for the incentives, bowties, and other commemorative items.”



Our Johns Hopkins Partnership renewing hope.

the number Optimists and Clubs that contribute to our Foundation. 100% would be amazing but even getting 50% participation would be fantastic. All donations are appreciated. It doesn't have to be \$100, but whatever you can offer. I would love to see the increased support."

The dues that members pay to be a member of their Optimist Club go to Optimist International for administration and resources, while the money given to Optimist International Foundation goes toward Optimist International scholarships, Clubs, and youth programs. Having Members and non-members find the joy of giving back to something bigger than themselves greatly impacts the Foundation and their efforts. It also gives donors the satisfaction that you will help a child receive money that will help them in school or a JOI Club that is starting a new community initiative and that donation just helped them make that dream a reality.

It is Your Foundation. The reason it exists is to support Optimist Programs. The Foundation is as strong as its Members and their support. Please join with your Foundation on February 18th and beyond in making a difference. Celebrate 50 years of "Helping Optimist Help Kids."

"It was Jeff's mission to raise 10 million dollars for charity. His parents were very involved with his philanthropic goals as well." Oord Graves said somberly, "At the end of this Optimist year, the net proceeds from the sales of our Hanson items as well as any contributions made to the OIF in his name will be tabulated and presented to Julie and Hal Hanson. These net proceeds will contribute towards Jeff's \$10 million goal. It's because of the work of Jeff and his family that this partnership was possible. It all came from them and their giving nature. We are so sorry to have lost this bright, awesome young artist and philanthropist. The Foundation will continue to honor and celebrate Jeff's legacy through this remarkable partnership."

the milestone. A time to reflect on 50 years of "Helping Optimist Help Kids."



Janet Oord Graves, Optimist International President, 2020-2021

Looking to the Future

As part of the International Convention in Atlanta, we will celebrate "Through the Decades", including historical information, different initiatives enacted, and other programs started which will commemorate the work of OIF throughout the years. OIF will have a special reception to celebrate

"One of my goals as President of the Foundation this year is to encourage significant donor participation by the Optimist family. Currently, approximately 8% of our Members and 30% of our Clubs contribute. We are very grateful for that support. I would like to see an increase in

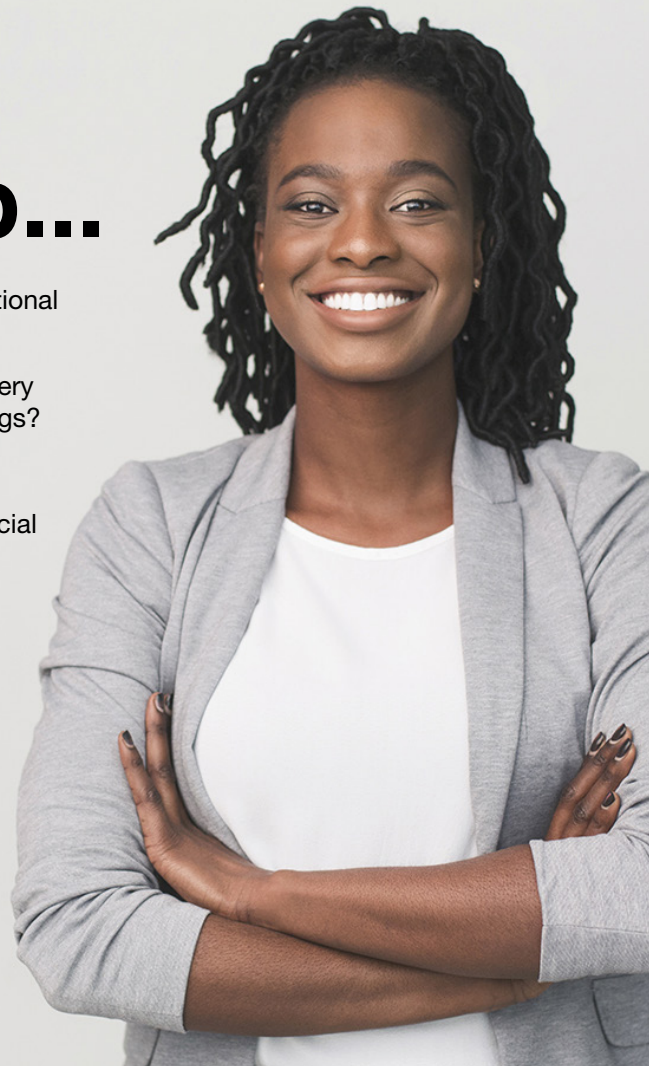
Is your Optimist Club...

- Hosting an event, in-person or virtual, for the International Day of Happiness in March?
- Holding at least one Optimist Club meeting online every month until we are able to return to in-person meetings?
- Hosting a NOW (New Optimists Welcome) activity?
- Did your Optimist Club celebrate Optimist Day on social media on February 4?

Your Club can become a *Certified Optimistic Optimist Club* today! Now, more than ever, we must Choose Optimism.



MAKE THE
PLEDGE HERE



Join in the Ultimate Pre-Convention Virtual Game Experiences



The International Convention planning team hosted BINGO Night on January 22 and February 19. The cost to play was \$10 per bingo card and participants were able to purchase as many bingo cards as they wanted. Proceeds will benefit the 2021 International Convention in Atlanta. Additional virtual games are scheduled for March 19, April 23, May 14, and June 6.

Please visit www.optimist.org/convention or the Optimist International social media sites!



Impacting Youth Through Sports

Jackie Gordon Duvall was recently named the 2020 Harry J. Cowherd Service to Youth Award recipient by the Frankfort Optimist Club (FOC). The distinction is based on volunteer service which benefits the youth of the community.

Duvall was nominated for her work with Family Circle, Inc. which she founded with members of her family. The non-profit supports FAST team (Frankfort All Star Track) which usually competes in the Bluegrass State Games, but the games were cancelled due to the pandemic. Under Duvall's leadership, Family Circle worked with School Resource Officers to identify students who needed proper running shoes in order to stay active and healthy.

A track star at Frankfort High and the University of Kentucky, Duvall saw a need in her hometown and set out to meet it. "I'm super passionate about working with kids, especially in a sport that I have loved literally all my life," she explained. "But knowing that the kids are safe and their families are safe is much more important."

Family Circle, Inc. held a fundraising event in the spring to raise money to provide running shoes for kids who wanted to participate and keep training even though they would not be able to compete. Duvall also worked with NIKE to be able to purchase athletic shoes at a discount for youth and adults. She noted that "it's a small gesture, but we want to keep kids and families active. Statistics show that if kids have adults in their lives who are active and have healthy habits, those habits can last a lifetime."

Under her leadership, Family Circle, Inc. also distributes Thanksgiving baskets, provides school supply assistance, scholarships for sports/activities, and provided basic needs assistance to the homeless shelter

which was set up in the F. D. Wilkinson gym during the beginning of the pandemic and care packages to long-term care facilities.

Duvall serves as associate director of athletics and senior women's administrator at Kentucky State University. She resides in Frankfort with her husband Nicholas and daughter Jaleia.

The FOC has presented the award since 1981 commemorating the life and work of the late Dr. Harry J. Cowherd. Cowherd served the community as a physician, president of the FOC, Governor of the Optimist Kentucky-West Virginia District, Member Franklin County School Board of Education, and Secretary of the Cabinet for Human Resources. As Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Cowherd established the Family Resource and Youth Service Centers in all the schools in the Commonwealth.

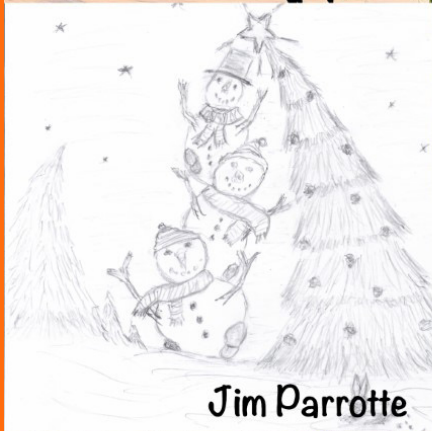
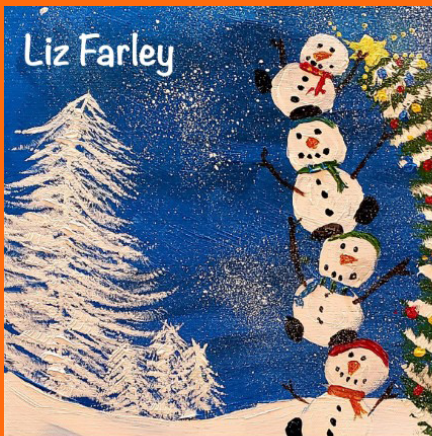
"I am so grateful to receive this award for service to youth in the Frankfort community," Duvall commented. "For several years I have truly strived to give my time, energy, and resources for kids and families within my scope of influence. Over this time, I've truly learned the power of just showing up, caring about others, and doing what you can to support others," she added.

Duvall does not intend to slow down or stop what has been started, "although COVID did throw a curve ball in 2020," she acknowledged. "I look forward to more opportunities to partner with many other organizations to serve and give back to the community."

The announcement of the award was made during a virtual meeting of the FOC by President Jimmy Rogers. A formal presentation will be made when the Club can gather in person again.

JOI Paint Night

The Junior Optimist International Board invited people to attend a Virtual Paint Night on December 20, 2020! The registration was \$5 per household, a donation that will go towards the JOI Annual service project. JOI President Sophie-Chanel Bourré and JOI Committee Member, Kim Priebe led the instructions for the attendees. There was another paint activity with a new painting on February 21. Please check out www.junioroptimist.org or visit the Junior Optimist International social media sites!



Optimist Clubs Win Volunteer Service Award

by **Jennifer Kendo**
Ohio District Governor 2020-21

The Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services selected the Kettering Noon Optimist Club and the Greene Optimist Club for the 2020 Erin Ritchey Memorial Carl Day Volunteer Service Award. The Erin Ritchey Memorial Awards fall into 8 categories. These categories include achievement, business, Carl Day Volunteer Service, community, direct support, educator, Erin's Award, and spirit. The Carl Day Volunteer Service award recognizes individuals or groups that provide significant support and assistance on a volunteer basis to people with developmental disabilities, or to organizations that serve people with developmental disabilities.

The Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services oversees an awards program designed to recognize individuals with developmental disabilities and the people who serve them. The Erin Ritchey Memorial Awards, created by Erin's parents, Kenneth and Nancy Ritchey, recognize the personal and professional efforts of individuals and/or groups throughout Ohio's Miami Valley (counties including Greene, Miami and Montgomery) that make significant contributions to improving the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities.

The Erin Ritchey Memorial Fund was established by her family through the generous donations of people throughout Ohio. This fund makes possible the Memorial Awards, which serve as a tribute to one child so that other children and adults with developmental disabilities, the families who support them, and the people who serve them may know a future of understanding and acceptance.

Nominees are evaluated based on extraordinary contributions that support people with developmental disabilities, positive impact on others, self-organization and outstanding achievement. The nominees must be a resident of, employed in OR located in, Montgomery, Greene, Preble, or Warren counties. Carl Day was a local newsman who volunteered his time to emcee The Erin Ritchey Memorial Awards for many years.

At the awards ceremony in November 2020, Sue Armstrong, Pat Behn, Tom and Jennifer Kendo, all GreenMont Voices Club Members & Club liaisons, were recognized as Volunteer Superheroes in the community. Sue Armstrong & I were delighted to accept the Erin Ritchey Memorial Carl Day Volunteer Service Award on behalf of The Kettering Noon Optimist Club and The Greene Optimist Club.



"Understand we are a group of adult volunteers in an Optimist Club that meets monthly at The Greene in the community room helping our community where some of the Members have disabilities" said GreeneMont Voices member and Ohio District Governor Jennifer Kendo. "Personally, I had little experience working with individuals with disabilities until we formed the GreeneMont Voices Optimist Club. As a Member, I have gained confidence in working with people of all abilities. I have discovered that people with disabilities want to give back to their community and participate in community service activities just as much as everyone else."

In her remarks, Sue Armstrong shared, "I love the work that we do with the GreeneMont Voices Optimist Club. Specifically, helping the Members with developmental disabilities give back to their community, working collaboratively on ideas to serve the community and the interaction of the Club Members."

The Kettering Noon Optimist Club and the Greene Optimist Club jointly sponsored the Special Needs Optimist Club, GreeneMont



Tom Kendo, Jennifer Kendo, Pat Behn, and Sue Armstrong, accepting the Erin Ritchey Memorial Carl Day Volunteer Service Award

Voices, in September 2018. It was the first Special Needs Optimist Club built in the Ohio District. In the 2018-19 year, two additional Special Needs Clubs, We Care Arts Optimist Club and Partners Optimist Club, were chartered in the Ohio District.

A group of Dayton area Optimists approached the Voices Matter of Montgomery County and the Voices of Greene County advocacy groups and shared an opportunity for service and an inclusive membership for individuals with

disabilities. A group that could help develop leadership skills, enhance personal growth, and give back to the community. Advocacy members were excited to join such an organization. It was the birth of the GreeneMont Voices Optimist Club!

I am thankful that I was given the opportunity to help build and lead the GreeneMont Voices Optimist Club. I enjoy working with our Club Members and they enjoy working with me. I feel good helping people who have had to overcome obstacles just to participate fully in the community. As 2020-21 Governor of the Ohio District, I want to encourage my fellow Optimists to investigate building a Special Needs Optimist Club. I am certain there are individuals in every district that could benefit from a Special Needs Optimist Club. A great personal reward awaits!

[Video Link](#)



The Erin Ritchey Memorial Award



Membership Master

Marlene Phillips, member of Riverside Optimist Club, received "100 Members Sponsored" pin at the Governors-Elect Conference. She talks about helpful tips and tricks, so you and your Club will be ready and prepared to recruit.

I get asked all the time, how do you get so many new Members? When I think about it, I am not the only one. My other Club Members are a very important part of that process as well. It is not just a one-person effort, but it is coming together and working as a team. It will make getting new Members much easier.

Are you ready?

Before you begin the process, ask yourself two questions: Is your Club ready for new Members? And is your Club welcoming? If you answered no to any of these questions, your Club may not be ready to bring in new Members. You will know this in your heart and without those two questions with the answer yes, it will be very difficult to ask anyone to join your Club.

- If you are ready to welcome new Members, **know the needs of your Club**. Don't just say things like, "younger" Members. If you are looking for younger people, know the why. Be specific. If you want new leadership, then let them lead when you get them. If you only want "stronger backs" then find another way to fill that void. If you ask someone to join your Club then let them.
- When it comes to meeting the needs, **Define your Club demographic needs**. Instead of saying "younger" Members, pick a target age. I usually suggest half your own age. Having a target makes hitting it a lot easier. If you are looking for a leader or someone to help out, write it down and create a goal. Be aware. Look around you with your eyes wide open. I would suggest that you see people that match your target every single day. You probably don't consider them because they would not normally be in your social circle. Remember, while new Members often expand our social circle, that is not the reason you want to ask them to join your Club. If they are energetic, or thoughtful or community minded, or whatever you are looking for, those are the reasons you want them in your Club.

- **Non-stop recruiting:** Every single event your Club hosts is an opportunity to recruit new Members. If your other Club Members aren't comfortable asking someone, volunteer to be that person who asks for them. It removes the perceived hard feelings some Members anticipate.

Consider this: do ALL your family and friends know you are an Optimist? If not, why not? I talk about my Club all the time. I am proud of my Club. We do great things in our community. Does your Club? Again, if not, why not? When your Club does great things that you are proud to talk about, those are the things that make your Club more attractive to others.

A few more questions to ask yourself:

- **What is your Club type:** Is your Club truly an "optimist" Club? Is your Club Optimistic or do you leave any gathering feeling anything but excited? Once again, if not, why not? This is something you may need to work on and improve if you are looking for new Members.
- **What are your Members' values:** Do you value your Membership in your Club? If you don't, why would you expect anyone else to?

Most importantly, it **Never hurts to ask**. The hardest/simplest part of getting new Members is asking. I have asked some people many times over the years. Something to keep in mind, please do not be annoying!! Some say yes, some say no, some say yes much later. As long as you stay friendly, the opportunity continues. People come to different places in their lives and their priorities change. If you only ask once, you have denied them the chance to join our mission and denied your Club of the benefits new people bring.

Overall, I would have to say that the best way to sponsor new Members into your Club is to have an environment in your Club that is Optimistic and welcoming. Get excited about your Club and ask people who would bring benefit to join you.

Jeffrey Owen Hanson

(1993-2020)



President of OIF, Jan Oord Graves, shares her thoughts on the remarkable Jeff Hanson. The Optimist International Foundation (OIF) is honored to have partnered with Jeff Hanson Art to celebrate our 50th anniversary during this, 2020-21 Optimist year. Optimists across

the world are saddened by the passing of Jeff Hanson, an extraordinary artist and philanthropist. Despite his passing, we will continue to celebrate and be inspired by the life of our friend and champion Jeff Hanson. Below is an excerpt from - Jeff Hanson Art Facebook page.

“Jeffrey Owen Hanson (1993-2020) departed this earth on December 20, 2020, repainting Heaven with a vibrant palette of colors—but not before sharing his contagious smile, generous heart and colorful fingerprints on everything he touched.

Born with a genetic disorder, neurofibromatosis, Jeff became visually impaired from a brain tumor (playfully named CLOD) at age 12. But it was during therapy for that tumor that the accidental artist developed a passion for painting, as well as philanthropy. He “just wanted to give back.”

Despite his low vision, Jeff began painting note cards and selling them at a driveway bake sale, “Jeff’s Bistro.” Proceeds were donated to the Children’s Tumor Foundation. Notecards gradually transitioned to acrylics on canvas, and the self-taught artist developed his heavily-textured, boldly colored signature style. By age 15, Jeff incorporated his art business, and employed his parents as assistants—unexpected new careers for the emergency physician and marketer parents, Hal and Julie.

Jeff began donating some of his paintings to live charity auctions across the country, with his mission to “change the world through art.” By age 20, Jeff made national headlines when his artwork generated \$1 million for charity. And upon his death, at age 27, Jeff had generated \$6.5 million for over 200 charities and was on track to give \$10 million by age 30. Jeff believed “every act of kindness helps create kinder communities, more compassionate nations and a better world for all—even one painting at a time.”

Jeffrey Owen Hanson lived by the motto: Don’t let your CLOD define you! Jeff did not want to be known as “the kid down the street with low vision and a brain tumor.” He wanted to be defined as “the kid who gave a million dollars to charity.” He said, “We all have challenges. It’s not the challenge, but rather your response to the challenge that defines you.”

”

Past Optimist International President Rebecca Butler Mona worked closely with Jeff Hanson and his foundation. "Jeff Hanson was a truly remarkable young man – incredibly gifted with a unique artistic talent, coupled with a spirit of Optimism, generosity, and compassion. I'm so grateful to have been able to introduce Jeff and his family's inspiring story to Optimists at our 2019 Centennial Convention in Louisville, and to have partnered with our Optimist International Foundation to provide a gift of Jeff Hanson Art to the Ronald McDonald House of Kentuckiana as a lasting legacy to brighten the days of children and families for many years to come."

Rebecca Butler Mona continued, "Jeff's mission of changing the world through art, combined with

his philosophy of Optimism and kindness offered a perfect match for us as Optimists, and I've been excited to see the great plans surrounding the 50th anniversary of the Foundation. Jeff's loss is heartbreaking, and our hearts go out to Hal and Julie as they try to navigate the road ahead without Jeff's light in their daily lives. I will always treasure the memories of his smile and hope that each of us will rise to Jeff's challenge to make the world a better place."

Optimist International, Optimist International Foundation, and those touched by Jeff Hansen will continue to celebrate his life and honor the incredible work he has done. May we all be as selfless, kind, and giving as the Hanson family.

HAPPINESS IS SHARING MY OPTIMISM!

I've Shared Mine!
Have You Shared Yours?

Happiness is sharing your Optimism! You can see from my smile I've already shared mine with two new Members I've recruited this year. As International Membership Chair, I believe I have to lead by example, I walk the talk! If we are going to spread Optimism and bring out the best in everyone we meet as well as ourselves, we've got to get more people involved in our mission. How about you? Have you shared your Optimism with someone today? Invite them to "Choose Optimism" and join your Club, or become a Friend of Optimists. It will make a big difference in their life and help them become a healthier, happier, and more prosperous person.

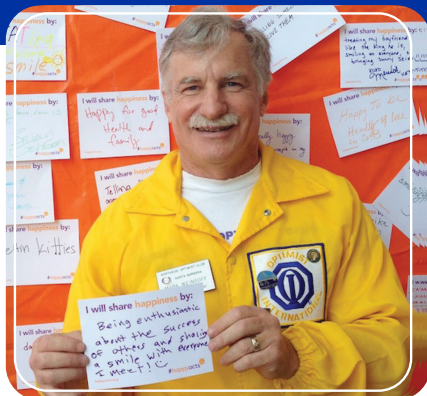


WANT TO SHARE YOUR HAPPINESS? HERE'S HOW!

- 1 Sponsor a new Member!
- 2 Receive your Ribbon from OI
- 3 Take a photo of yourself with your ribbon & send it to Membership@optimist.org

Music Makes People Happy

Start the International Day of Happiness with music!



Mark Weinsoff

International President,
Optimist International



Bill Myers

Actor, Musician, Filmmaker, Writer,
Educator, and Speaker

MARCH 20, 2021 ONLINE

**8:00 am Pacific / 9:00 am Mountain | ONE
10:00 am Central / 11:00 am Eastern | HOUR**

Optimist International will present musical happiness featuring performances, speakers, projects, and happy thoughts.

Join Optimist International President Mark Weinsoff and others as we explore the magic of music and introduce the winners of the 2021 Optimist Musical Happiness Competition.

Featuring the inspiration of Bill Myers!

Bill is a member of the International Centennial Optimist Club and an Emmy Award-winning actor. He is an accomplished actor, jazz musician, filmmaker, writer, educator, and speaker. He will share his vision of why music makes people happy.

Celebrate the winners of the Music Makes People Happy musical and vocal competition. First, second, and third-place prizes will be awarded in musical and vocal performances for youth 11-18 years old.



**FREE FOR
OPTIMIST MEMBERS**



REGISTER NOW



Entertainment for Today's Meeting is...

By Linda Delorme
Member of District and Club Fitness Advisor Committee

While Zoom and virtual meetings have become the new normal, it is important to keep your members engaged and let them have fun!

Virtual reality is our way of doing things now. Our former beloved traditional meetings are now being held in our own homes via Zoom. After spending the day connected online for work or school, the last thing we want to do is attend yet another virtual meeting. If we do, we will probably place it on mute, turn off our video and mentally disconnect.

However, it is not completely negative. In fact, it has opened doors for new and existing Members and provided wonderful opportunities for growth.

Here are some things to consider:

- **Define the purpose of your meeting.** It may be your Club's monthly meeting or an activity planning meeting. Be aware of who will attend and the estimated duration of the meeting as it may deter participation and require two separate meetings.
- **The meeting format, day, and time.** How will you be holding your meeting and when? Pre-recorded or live? Most people are familiar with Zoom. If you need training sessions on Zoom, some of our Optimist Members are available to provide free training sessions. There are also tutorials on the Zoom website. The day and time you host the meeting may also attract different members (younger, older, parents, etc.).



“Remember, there’s no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end.”

– Scott Adams

An Entertaining Night

We spend our days online for work, school, some of us are isolated, and we listen to the news which rarely features feel-good news stories. Are we going to expect our amazingly dedicated, passionate, and loving volunteers to sit in front of a screen, only to stare and listen to someone during yet another boring virtual meeting? Virtual meetings must be fun, entertaining, and bring value for them to sign on to yet another Zoom meeting.

Whatever the kind of gathering or meeting, make it interesting!

Offer them fun, fresh ideas such as themed meetings:

- **key words** (“no” is banned from the meeting)
- **dress-up** (pajama, ball gown, disco, hat night, wig night)
- **virtual backgrounds** (available on zoom or have them decorate their walls)
- **comedy night** (jokes, stories)
- **game night** (host a game after a meeting or just a game night for Members to have fun).

Invite guest speakers now that we have access to anyone in the world, not just within our community. We have an amazing array of talent amongst our Optimist family who will do it just to see you smile!

There is an abundance of resources and ideas available. Your Club Fitness Committee members and District Club Fitness Reps are available to help you with this. Heck, we will even provide the fun if you need some at your next meeting!

It’s important to be organized, share information, offer a platform where they can be seen and heard, where folks from a variety of different backgrounds, each with their own unique talents and personalities, can come together with a common goal, feel good doing their part, and contribute towards a common goal.

- **Think of your audience.** Different personalities have different expectations. Have a plan, stick to an agenda and include some socializing. Your invitation will also have a huge impact. Consider sending both a written email and a video message on social media.
- **Documentation.** An agenda will keep the meeting flowing in the right direction. Minutes can be approved by email and a screen shot is a nice way to capture those in attendance. The virtual world challenges us to redefine our methods, to think of new ways to keep our volunteers engaged. There are countless online articles on this subject with tips and tricks.

But the best and most essential part ...
MAKE IT FUN!

Club News

The Manhattan Optimist Club



The Manhattan Optimist Club installed a new 20 feet Memorial Flag. The stone was donated and carved by Manhattan Monument. This was the brainchild of Keith

Behnke and Clyde Scott, their hard work of bringing in 24 bags of Sakrete among other things has truly reflected the Optimist spirit.



The Sheboygan Optimist Club



The Sheboygan Optimist Club donated \$25,000 to the City of Sheboygan for installation of new playground equipment at Optimist Park on Sheboygan's south side. Mayor Vandersteen thanked the Club Members for their "continued commitment to Optimist Park upkeep and improvements since the park's inception in the early 1980's." Mr. Wolf stressed the importance of the partnership that the Optimist Club and the City have forged for the betterment of families in the neighborhood.

New playground equipment for Washington Elementary School

Past President Dave Bruns was able to share and thank many involved in a two-year project to help bring new playground equipment to Washington Elementary School. In his post he mentions how the project was led by "the Olathe Noon Optimist Club, the Optimistic Happy Hour Volunteers, the Washington Elementary PTO, and the Leadership Olathe Alumni Group." he goes on to thank "Aldi Foods and the Home Builders Association for providing grants to help fund this worthy project serving the children of our community." Last he praises "Ruth Nelson for her outstanding leadership as well as to all the Optimists, teachers, staff, parents, volunteers, community leaders, local businesses, and others who turned this dream into a reality."

Submit your Club or District news for the Spring edition of the Optimist Magazine to magazine@optimist.org by April 1. Reports must be less than 400 words, and may be edited for length, clarity and style. Any pictures should be submitted as attachments.

New Junior Optimist Club helps the environment

“Being connected is important. Being part of a community is particularly comforting, especially so during a pandemic. The newly formed Pacific Trails Middle School Junior Optimist Club offers its Members the opportunity for both. Living up to their name, several Members of the Club recently performed valuable community service while safely sharing some time together and developing camaraderie. The Junior Optimists safely cleaned up the Elizabeth Rabbitt Neighborhood Park and the Del Mar Mesa Preserve Trail. Junior Optimists continue to focus on finding ways to safely help the environment even during these challenging times.”



The Pacific Trails Middle School Junior Optimist Club is sponsored by the Del Mar – Solana Beach Optimist Club in the California South Optimist District.

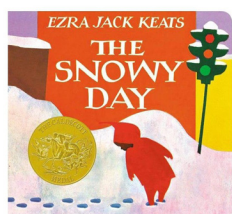
Read More



Outdoor Storybook Trail

Thanks to a partnership among the Farmington & Farmington Hills

Optimist Club, Farmington Community Library, and City of Farmington Hills Nature Center, local families unveiled new outdoor activity in Heritage Park, The new Storybook Trail. The Storybook Trail will feature “The Snowy Day” by Ezra Jack Keats.



Read More

The Manchaca Optimist Club



The Manchaca Optimist Club (MOC) built the eight baseball and softball fields located on 34 acres in south suburban Austin in the early 2000s. The facility was completed with two concession buildings and light towers for each field. Together, with the Manchaca Optimist Youth Sports Complex organization, we completed efforts to provide water and wastewater services to the two buildings in 2019; and since that time has completed work on a detention pond to manage drainage. The youth sports complex serves 800 – 900 youth baseball and softball players and boasts one of Austin area’s largest softball programs.



Olivia's House Playground Project

Nancy Ryan of the Optimist Club of Birmingham Alabama praises the assistance of Optimist International Foundation (OIF) for a 2019 Grant that helped with Olivia's House Playground Improvements. In addition to the OIF grant the Club received a grant from the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation to help with the project.

Optimist's Guide to Finding Happiness in the Little Things



During the Winter Quarter, Optimists are looking to spread Optimism and Happiness throughout their community. Sometimes it is hard to find happiness in the day when you may be hurting or discouraged of where the world is. For Optimists, it can be something as small as the sun is shining outside or cleaning my room. Here are some tips that Optimists do to find happiness in the little things.

1. Find Joy in your Everyday Routine

This can be the first cup of coffee in the morning or being able to watch the sunset from your window, find pleasure in the simple moments.

2. Find Happiness in moments of failure

It was once said, "Failure is part of success." When things don't go your way, think about what you learned from the experience.

3. No job is too small

Optimists understand that each job plays a role in making a project or Club run. No matter what the title, they will make the best of the job.

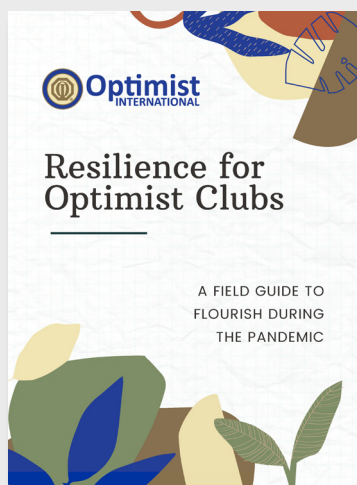
4. Being Open to New and Different Perspectives

Change can be scary but listening to someone with new ideas can be helpful. Trying these new ideas could make things better long term for your Club and may get new Members excited and involved!

5. Actively Choose Optimism

Finding good things throughout the day keeps spirits high and helps you be mindful of what you are grateful for.

Share your Optimistic moments on social media by tagging Optimist International and using the hashtag #chooseoptimism!



Staying Optimistic

In the latest OptiForum, Mark Weinsoff invited staff and Members to talk about "How to Conquer the Pandemic with Optimism." To recap the OptiForum, the Optimist International Communications, Marketing, and Technology Committee created the Field Guide to flourish during the pandemic. The field guide includes resources on financial assistance, the best way to meet with Members virtually, and what Clubs are doing to make a difference in their community. At the end of the webinar, the committee introduced the "Certified Optimistic Optimist Club" for Clubs to receive recognition for their Optimism during the pandemic. You can access the pledge and its requirements in the Field Guide. [Click here to access the document.](#)

Attention
All 2020-2021

CLUB OFFICERS

The LMS Training
Due Date is
Coming Soon!

- All Club Secretaries/Treasurers, Club Presidents, and Club Foundation Reps MUST take the training
- It is free to those positions, please email lms@optimist.org if you have not registered yet.
- They will need to complete the training in order to become an Honor Club or Distinguished Club.

Must be Complete by
MARCH 31, 2021

Refer to the ICD-135 Form
For More Info



www.optimist.tovuti.io

Please email LMS@Optimist.org
for more information

FORE!!!



2021 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Doral Resort and Spa

Miami, Florida

July 14-19, 2021

Boys 10-11, 12-13

Girls 10-12

July 19-24, 2021

Boys 14-15

Girls 13-14

July 24-29, 2021

Boys 16-18

Girls 15-18

WHY WE ARE DIFFERENT THAN OTHER TOURNAMENTS!

Three phases of competitive Junior Golf, top-notch sleeping rooms, scrumptious meals, Adult-Child Golf Tournament, Long drive competition, Glow ball event, USGA rules officials, dedicated Volunteers, College Coaches and Awards Ceremony.

Help a child advance to the Championship by sponsoring them. Contact your local District Junior Golf Chair for more details. This is a once in a lifetime chance for our Junior Golfers.

To find the nearest qualifier at <http://www.optimist.org/golf-qualify.cfm>

Contact your District Chair to help at the local qualifier or advancing a child to advance.

Help a child today fulfill his dreams.

Help a child today fulfill his/her dreams.

For more information
www.optimist.org/golf
314-881-1307

HUGH CRANFORD ALL-SCHOLASTIC TEAM Scholarship Opportunity

Junior golfers selected to the team will receive an automatic exemption into the championship, complimentary registration, which includes tournament entry, hotel accommodations, and meals plus a \$1,000.00 scholarship.

The team will consist of golfers between the ages of 16 and 18 as of the last day of the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship (July 28, 2021). Those accepted must attend the championship to receive exemption and scholarship. The Scholarship will be sent directly to the financial aid department of the recipient's chosen University, College, or Technical School.

THIS YEAR'S ESSAY TOPIC

The year 2020 has been a year like no other.
How has the Covid affected your golf, school, and home life?



Send the application by email to golf@optimist.org or fax: (314) 735-4107.
Application must be received by April 2, 2021.

For more information, visit www.optimist.org/golf or call 314-881-1307



We've got grants!

It is the beginning of 2021 and Optimist International Foundation is busy celebrating our 50th anniversary along with celebrating those Clubs that have won Club Grants in 2020!

Get Creative with Club Grants

What do youth poetry contests, purses, music, and tennis all have in common? They're all projects that won Optimist International Foundation Club Grants in 2020. Applications are open for 2021 Club Grants, allowing Optimists to get creative in how they serve their communities.

As of this year, any adult Club served by OIF is eligible to apply for a grant for up to \$1000 for a new project of the Club. The project must start and finish between April 2021 and March 2022. Grants to Clubs will be matching grants, with Clubs expected to show plans for matching the money and reporting the results. Clubs will complete the follow-up report.

Winning ideas from Clubs in 2020 include *Bike Rally(s) for Visually Impaired Kids* from "Abilities" Optimist Club of Tucson, AZ, *Buddy Luncheon* from Optimist Club of Lower Montco, PA, *Kalamazoo Kids Book Garden Project* from Optimist Club of Kalamazoo-Breakfast, MI, and the *Autism Sensory Kit* from Optimist Club of Wheat Ridge, CO.

Silent Auctions Virtually

While the pandemic was at the front of our minds, the Optimist Club of Lincoln, Nebraska continued to fundraise virtually for the S.A.F.E Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. The 16th annual *Purses of a Purpose* on April 3, 2020 was held virtually. Over 200 items including purses, products, and gift certificates from local businesses, were included in the silent auction. There were also 10 items that were brought to a live auction via Zoom. The funds raised through the event not only furthered the mission of the S.A.F.E Center, but also provides for the safety needs of those experiencing violence.

Preserving the Past

The Optimist Club of Oregon City partnered with Oregon City to hold the "Preserve Our Past" Art and Poetry Contest. The contest requires that entries choose a historic site, landmark, or story from Oregon City and submit a piece of artwork or poetry piece celebrating its history. Not only does it highlight the city's history, but young poets and artists in the community. On May 15, participants will submit their work. The contest will announce a first, second, and third place winner. Each participant that places will receive a monetary prize.

Fun for All!

The Wheat Ridge Optimist Club, located in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, provided Autism Sensory Kits to the Wheat Ridge Police Department. They were received for police to use in the case they encounter someone with autism-associated agitation. These kits will be available to school resource officers as well. A sensory kit includes ear covers, dark glasses to reduce glare of bright lights, a comfort blanket, a doodle board with dry erase markers, a stress ball, and other items. It is designed to assist with calming someone experiencing stress and anxiety related autism. The kits are provided free of charge to first responders, teachers, counselors, school staff, family, and friends of those with autism.

Each of our winners has made an impact on their communities. Your Club can apply for these grants too! Learn more about when applications open at oifoundation.org.

Supporting children beyond the pandemic through Optimist initiatives

Optimist members will vote on best projects and determine recipient Clubs for the 2020-2021 CCOF President's Incentives and the 2020-2021 Club Grants

\$10,000 AVAILABLE IN CLUB GRANTS

1st place \$2,500

2nd place \$1,500

3rd place \$1,000

**PLUS up to 10 more
\$500 Club Grants**



Canadian Children's
Optimist Foundation

With the success of the participatory online voting procedure set up for the 2019-2020 CCOF President's Incentive, the 2020-2021 CCOF President (Jean-Claude St-Onge)'s Incentive will once again this year enable Optimist Club Members to vote on the Clubs which will be awarded the 2020-2021 CCOF President's incentives and the Club Grants. YES, both amounts available will be combined this year. Read on to see how **YOU** can vote for the top projects and increase your number of votes.

How are the number of votes determined? The numbers of vote are based on donations made between October 1, 2020 and May 31, 2021 inclusive. For a given Optimist member, a minimum contribution of \$36.50 Dime-a-Day to the CCOF is required to secure one vote. Then, for every additional \$50 increment of unrestricted donations received by the CCOF from any given Optimist Member (or from individuals*, corporations, and other third parties via contacts or through the initiatives of such Member), one extra vote will apply per \$50 incremental amount (e.g.: a \$250 donation will give you 5 extra votes). Any Club

President may cast one vote for each \$50 unrestricted donation to the CCOF by such Club.

How to submit a project: As we ring in the New Year of 2021, and we look collectively beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCOF is seeking novel project ideas from Optimist Clubs and an amount of \$10,000 will be available through the 2020-2021 CCOF Club Grants Program and the 2020-2021 CCOF President Jean-Claude St-Onge's Incentive to support projects for the benefit of children in various communities. Deadline for submissions is March 31, 2021. [Follow this link for the Application Form.](#)

The 2020-2021 CCOF President's Incentives and Club Grants shall, once awarded, be applied to such projects as will be selected through the online voting process among duly submitted projects. The voting process shall be online through a link provided on the CCOF Website.

Promotion of selected projects: A short summary of the submitted projects together with a relevant photo will be posted on the CCOF Website.

Perhaps YOUR CLUB will be selected as one of the top 3 WINNERS of this year's CCOF President's Incentive and Club Grant or even benefit from a \$500 Club Grant!

**Unrestricted donations to the CCOF from individuals are eligible for tax receipts.*

Spotlight on Mental Health

Optimists support program to help families navigate children's mental health



Poppy, a bunny, is one of the characters that are part of the M.I. understanding lessons

The Kids Mental Health Optimist Club of Canada and M.I.understanding (mental illness understanding) have been working together for the past five (5) years to increase awareness, understanding, and the importance of early intervention when it comes to children's mental health. The website www.miunderstanding.ca creates a community of support for families across Southwestern Ontario. The website offers free videos, resources and easy-to-use tips and tricks for families to start the often-difficult conversations about mental health.

Over the past year, the pandemic has caused a large spike in children's mental health. Long wait lists for support and interruptions to school/community programs have left many families managing their children's increased anxiety on their own. Recognizing this reality, M.I. understanding has created a program, developed with the assistance of the Faculty of Education at Western University and educational advisors with over 25 years of experience, to help children

and their families manage mental health worries and approach complex terrain in creative ways.

This program begins with a comfort video featuring one of M.I.understanding's notable characters, Poppy, accompanied by a stuffed toy version of the character, and activity pages and resources packed with strategies and tools designed for parents to help their children overcome overwhelming feelings.

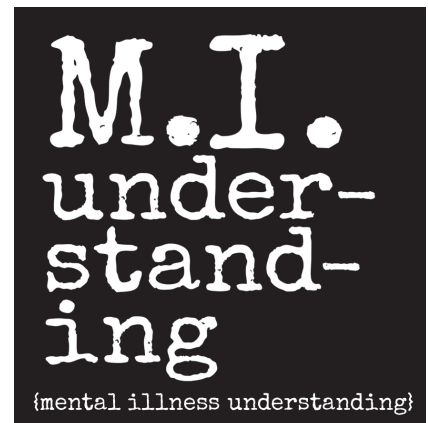
The high-quality plush toy (Poppy) acts as a physical tool to comfort children and support them throughout the exercises. The short videos from Poppy keep children calm and grounded, while coaching the rest of the family on action steps to take when big feelings start. Parents can also benefit from other resources with easy-to-implement strategies and suggestions as part of this program. With resiliency-building tools and resources at the front, this program becomes a gateway to working through worries and helping kids understand that big feelings and anxieties are all part of childhood.

“With everything going on in the world right now, Optimists need to be focused on what they can do to help children and their families, including those struggling with mental health”, says Optimist International President Mark Weinsoff. “This parent-friendly program gives families the practical tools to work with their child to help them develop resilience.”

The first phase of this program will launch on January 28 through an Indiegogo campaign.

The program can be purchased for \$49.99, however, the purchase of two programs for \$99.99 gifts the second program to a vulnerable family.

M.I.understanding is committed to helping families struggling with children’s mental health. They intend to develop more videos/resources and feature other characters to support community needs. A percentage of program proceeds will go to supporting children’s mental health.



For questions or more information, please contact paula@miunderstanding.ca

Your Club can Take Part in the Governance of Optimist International

Make Valuable Changes Organization-wide

Please take time to evaluate the Optimist International bylaws to ensure they continue to effectively serve the organization. This process allows you and your Club to help shape and improve all of Optimist International. To recommend a revision, your Club must submit a proposed amendment citing the article(s) and section(s) and exact proposed wording change to the articles and sections cited, along with a written rationale in 200 words or less for the change. The Club must submit the proposal on Club letterhead signed by the Club President. The proposal(s) may be mailed, emailed and/or faxed to the International Office, but the original Club letter must be received by the International Office in order for the proposal to be considered. All submitted changes will be brought before the International Convention delegates for vote and possible endorsement.

All proposed change submissions to the bylaws must be received at the International Office by 5:00 p.m. (CT), Friday, April 2. Please mail and/or email them to: Dana Thomas, Senior Director of Administration and Operations, Optimist International, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108; dana.thomas@optimist.org

Make Your Club Heard

The Convention resolutions process can be used for any aspect of the organization not covered in the bylaws. Clubs must submit resolutions by 5:00 p.m. (CT), Saturday, May 1 to the Resolutions Committee. The Committee will choose the strongest resolutions and report them to Convention delegates for debate and vote. Resolutions endorsed by Convention delegates are non-binding and are sent to the International Board of Directors for further consideration and study. Please type resolutions on Club stationery and include your Club name, Club number and Club President's signature. All resolutions should be written in standard resolution format: "Whereas... , Whereas... , Whereas... , Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of Optimist International is asked to consider...." Resolutions should be mailed to: Resolutions Committee ATTN: Dana Thomas, Optimist International, 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108; dana.thomas@optimist.org.

CCOF FOUNDATION DONORS

CCOF CHRISTIAN D. LARSON PARTNERS MEMBERSHIP

CCOF TOP THREE from July 1st to September 30th, 2020

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Vince Parker	\$59.91
Pacific North West	Benjamin DeRemer	\$34.96
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota	Donna Suggitt	\$16.53
District	Representative	Total Contributions
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Vince Parker	\$51,404.92
Midwestern Ontario	Warren Bechthold	\$13,059
Quebec Central	Nathalie Gravel	\$8,748.43

CCOF DONOR LISTINGS

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from July 1st to September 30th, 2020 for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of Optimist.

Golden Benefactor - \$50,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING
Gary Cross
Optimist Club of All Nations, Medicine Hat, AB
Optimist Club of Edmonton-Dinner, AB

QUEBEC EAST – NORTH SHORE
Optimist District 54 Québec East - North Shore

Silver Benefactor - \$25,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING
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OIF TOP TEN as of November 30, 2020

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Arizona	Marsi Salmi	\$12.29
North Carolina East	Billy Edgerton	\$8.49
Indiana South	Bob Thompson	\$7.12
North Carolina West	Bill Teague	\$5.41
South Texas	Joe Smith	\$4.97
Michigan	Theresa Jarratt	\$4.45
New Mexico-West Texas	Lynne Martin	\$4.01
Ohio	Bill Stone	\$3.76
Kansas	Dale Fox	\$3.34
Alabama-Mississippi	Nancy Boyd	\$2.85

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Michigan	Theresa Jarratt	\$12,321.60
Ohio	Bill Stone	\$8,701.00
Indiana South	Bob Thompson	\$7,172.20
North Carolina East	Billy Edgerton	\$6,708.30
Arizona	Marsi Salmi	\$6,110.30
South Texas	Joe Smith	\$5,469.10
North Carolina West	Bill Teague	\$5,240.00
Iowa	Janet Lloyd	\$3,786.26
Kansas	Dale Fox	\$3,390.50
GATEway	Kathy Forster	\$3,046.50

OIF DONOR LISTINGS

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from September 1, 2020 – November 30, 2020 for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of Optimist.

Diamond Benefactor - \$75,000

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OIF DONOR LISTINGS *continued*

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Royal Optimist Club of Kingston, Jamaica

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Caroline and Gunar Neumann

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Save the dates for our leadership webinars! Webinars are held on the 3rd Monday of each month, beginning at 7 p.m., Central Standard Time. Email leadership@optimist.org for more information.

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Rewind

A look at more than 100 years of Optimist International memories



Photo: Optimist International Photo Archives

Optimist Week

Mayor Lamport signs proclamation on November 7, 1952, for Optimist Week to be observed in Toronto November 9-15. Members of the city's four Optimist Clubs, from left, Ald. L. M. Reilly, Lear White, Charles Ward, Harold Smith, Keith Bellamy, and John O'Shea

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