



The Torch

October 2010



The local community sure is lucky to have the Clover Octagon Club around to help with big projects!

Take it outside!

Hard workers from the Clover Palmetto Octagon Club in South Carolina spent two days last spring helping the local parks and recreation department get ready for summer.

This past May, the Lake Wylie Department of Parks and Recreation needed help getting athletic fields, playgrounds and more ready for a new season, and six JOOI Members showed up to help.

Over the course of two days, they spent seven hours picking up trash; raking little league baseball fields, soccer fields and a track; hauling large rocks from the ball fields; and cleaning up playgrounds. They also raked and removed large branches from a trail leading to an outdoor classroom at a local elementary school so the school could prepare outdoor desks for the learning space.

Thanks to the JOOI kids, everything was in top shape to start summer off right!

JOOI Club zeros in on students to 'take the lead'

The Making a Difference JOOI Club in Michigan hosted its second annual Youth Leadership Development Conference for ninth-graders with hopes of identifying future school leaders.

"Take the Lead" was the theme of the conference, which focused on the value of diversity; the opportunities and problems of social networking; and college access. A grant from the Southfield Community Foundation and the Southfield Public Schools helped make the event happen.

Sixty-three ninth-graders attended the conference. They started by participating in breakout sessions that allowed for open discussions about a range of diversity issues. The JOOI Club wanted to help students learn how to change negative opinions people may have about their generation. They also wanted the younger classmates to realize how they can make positive differences in their schools and communities.

After the breakout sessions, students focused on internet safety, video gaming addictions and social networking. The day concluded with JOOI Members talking about their JOOI Club and all of the opportunities they have to make a positive difference.



Taylor Garland (left) and Sarah Harvin show younger students how to be good leaders – and how to have a good time while they're at it!

JOOI GIVES BACK TO DENVER



After filling bags with all sorts of school supplies (left), JOOI delegates and the young students all get drawn into storyline!

lasting impact that occurs when there are "kids helping kids."

Big thanks!

A big thank you goes out to those who donated to the Summer Scholars cause:

Robert and Alice Kuzniak
Homestead High School Octagon Club of
Cupertino, California
UHS Octagon Club of Underwood, Iowa



It's a date!

JOOI Members should set aside July 5-7 next year. That's when JOOI Members from all over will meet up in Baltimore, Maryland, for the 2011 Convention! The Convention will take place at the Baltimore Renaissance Harbor Place Hotel. More details to come!



One of the top events at Convention each year has to be the big JOOI service project. In Denver this summer JOOI

Members had the chance to spend some time with the children they were helping.

More than 100 JOOI Members and their advisers took part in a service project to benefit Denver's Summer Scholars program.

JOOI Members filled 150 backpacks with pencils, erasers, notecards, highlighters, books and more. They also put together 15 recreational tubs filled with playground balls, jump ropes and chalk for the Summer Scholars schools.

Once the backpacks and tubs were filled, the JOOI attendees loaded three school buses and set out for Columbine Elementary School. Columbine students and JOOI volunteers paired up to read the new books and look at the new school supplies.

The Columbine students were not the only ones excited about the day. The JOOI attendees were thrilled that they were able to actually go to the school and meet the kids they were helping. The 2010 JOOI Convention service project showed the happiness and the

Good dues news

The good news about JOOI dues is that they are the same amount as last year!

Your JOOI Club Adviser and your sponsoring adult club's Secretary/Treasurer will be getting the bill in October, so make sure they are keeping their eyes out!

Don't forget that JOOI Clubs only pay for the first 50 Members of each Club.

Junior Optimist and Octagon Clubs

Tier 1 – \$10
 Tier 2 – \$7.39
 Tier 3 – \$5.22

Alpha Clubs

Tier 1 – \$8
 Tier 2 – \$5.91
 Tier 3 – \$4.17

What are we forgetting?

While you're turning in dues, your Club should also turn in:

- Updated Club roster
- Current e-mail address for Club Adviser

Florida Clubs make quite a team



The Wekiva Dog Fest, including a pet fashion show, face painting and more, started as the brainchild of Milwee JOOI Member Brad Peterson (above).

The Lake Brantley Octagon Club, Lyman Octagon Club and R.T. Milwee Junior Optimist Club in North Florida have made it a good habit of working with each other and with their adult sponsoring club on projects.

On a monthly basis, the Clubs sponsor a dance for mentally disabled youth in the community. The dances are through STOP (Saturday Time Out for Parents) and give parents a chance to run errands or take a little time for themselves while the JOOI Members entertain. For one evening, the JOOI Members take over with dancing, entertainment, snacks and more.

This past year they also teamed up for an event to benefit the Bags of Hope Foundation, an organization that assists homeless individuals in central Florida. The Clubs decided to hold the Wekiva Dog Fest in local Wekiva Park, inviting families to bring their four-legged friends along to this free event. With help from the South Seminole Optimist Club, they sold refreshments – including hot dogs, of course. They invited kids and their dogs to enter a "Top Dogs" contest. JOOI Members helped with food booths, face painting, games and crafts. They also had appearances by McGruff the Crime Dog and the local county's K-9 Unit.

Proceeds from the event helped provide toiletries, clothing and school supplies for homeless in the area.

Octagon Club is go-to group at school

When something needs to be done at Immaculate Conception High in Jamaica, the Octagon Club is the group that steps in. Throughout the school year, the JOOI Club serves a number of needs not just within the school but far beyond as well.

Last winter, JOOI Members helped label books in their school library. They wrote reference numbers on the books and placed due date cards and identification cards in each book. Then the books were passed along to the librarian for shelving. They also helped make minor repairs to some of the books during the school year.

Around Valentine's Day, they helped fellow students out by making beautiful handcrafted cards and putting together packages of candy as a fundraiser. While the candy did disappear faster than the cards, the JOOI Members put their sales hats on and managed to have a sellout before the day was through!

The Octagon Club also enjoys interacting with younger students at nearby Lalyce Grey Basic School. They spent time with the children last year playing games, reading stories and working with the teachers.

The Club also stays busy by providing recycling services twice a week and garbage cleanup once a week at their school.

To get to know your new JOOI Board of Directors, keep turning the pages!

Soup's on!...

Souper Bowl of Caring – a youth-led service movement tied to the big game each winter – is just around the corner.



Dates for conducting the project are January 17 through February 6, 2011.

In the weeks leading up to the Super Bowl, youth groups all over collect money or canned goods that will then be passed along to a local not-for-profit of the group's choosing.

Your JOOI Club can start by registering at www.souperbowl.org. When you register, you will receive a free resource kit. Next, decide which local group will benefit. Then, it's time to promote, promote, promote! The collection drive will last up to several weeks, then your Club will donate 100 percent of the collection to the not-for-profit just in time for game day.

Report back to www.souperbowl.org so JOOI can track how many JOOI Clubs are participating!

A hint about registering

When your Club registers at www.souperbowl.org, make sure the word "JOOI" is in your Club name somewhere so that Souper Bowl of Caring is aware that your Club is a JOOI Club. This will make it easier for JOOI to find out what a difference JOOI Clubs make!

Hello JOOI!

My name is Peter Choi, and I am a junior from Monta Vista High School. I am very involved in community service with organizations such as the California Scholarship Federation and, of course, my Octagon Club. I have a great interest in business and I hope to find a major where I work with people in a business such as public relations, human resources or chief operations officer. To correspond with my passion for business, I am an avid member of Future Business Leaders of America. As listening and representing the public is essential to my beliefs, I took part in my school's student government as the class president last year. This year, I represent the California Association of Student Leaders, a statewide organization that oversees all the student government programs in California, as a state officer. I am excited to serve as your International Director for 2010-2011 and hope to reach my goals of membership expansion, stronger communication and improvement of national programs.

Peter Choi

Reading projects top the list

Last year, tons of kids got into reading more books thanks to the JOOI of Reading. As part of promoting the program, JOOI started a contest to see which JOOI Clubs could come up with the most unique projects during February, which is JOOI of Reading Month!

City Primary Junior Optimist Club in St. Catherine, Jamaica, pulled through with the top project of the month, and the Club received \$100 for future JOOI projects.

Coming in second was the Junior Optimist Society of Festus, Missouri. They came away with \$50 to put toward other great projects.

Congratulations to the winners! For more about the JOOI of Reading, visit www.jooi.org.



Adviser goes above and beyond

JOOI Clubs wouldn't be possible without their advisers, so it is only fitting that JOOI recognizes one exceptional adviser each year. This past year's Adviser of Excellence is Gabrielle Breadon of the Monroe Junior Optimist Club in Monroe, Wisconsin.

Gabrielle has devoted many years to JOOI and has given a huge amount of energy, compassion and time to helping the Monroe JOOI Club succeed.

Congratulations to Gabrielle on this special honor!



Gabrielle accepts her honor as top adviser.

A spirit to serve



Maria accepts the honor from 2010-2011 Optimist President Danny Rodgers.

Ruby Blair was a huge supporter of JOOI and helped make the organization what it is today. In her honor, JOOI presents a Ruby Blair Award to one JOOI Member each year, and this past year's recipient was Maria LoPorto of the Lyman Octagon Club in Florida.

Maria has been involved with JOOI for five years and participates in a number of Club projects. She has been named JOOI Optimist of the Year for her Club and has also been determined to make North Florida District Conventions fun and worthwhile for everyone who attends.

"We are so fortunate to have her as a JOOI Member," said Mike Spalding, President of the adult sponsoring club. "We know we can rely on her to be there to help, to guide, to educate and to bring out the best in those around her. Ruby Blair would be proud."

Outside of her Club and close to her heart is the Special Olympics. Her older brother, Jimmy, participates in the Special Olympics and Maria is his biggest fan. Maria volunteers as a gymnastics and cheerleading inspirational coach for the local Special Olympics and participates in a number of related events throughout the year.

Congratulations go out to Maria for receiving this JOOI honor! As part of this award, she will receive a \$2,000 college scholarship.

Hello Optimists!

I am Kayleigh White, your 2010-2011 JOOI President. Words can't describe how excited I am to lead this amazing organization this year. I am highly honored to be working with a great Board and excellent Committee and staff members. I have many goals for this year, ones I know everyone will be excited about! JOOI is an outstanding organization that exceeds all boundaries of a "service club." About me: I am from the beautiful state of Ohio and I am a senior at Kettering Fairmont High School where I am involved in many activities. My hobbies include playing tuba, reading, writing stories and poems, playing video games, watching sci-fi films, spending time with my friends and family, learning about different cultures, speaking French and, of course, volunteering. I have a bubbly spirit and I thoroughly enjoy life and have a fascination with people. After high school I plan to attend college where I will study special education and become a teacher. One thing you should know about me is that I never have too many good things to say about JOOI. I am a very busy high school student, but my one true passion is JOOI. I've been a member for seven years and I have basically served in every capacity possible within my school and my fabulous district. I love JOOI and the opportunity it gives kids to develop self confidence, leadership skills and a strong experience with service. I look very much forward to this JOOI year and I am confident in my board and myself.

Kayleigh White

Excellence in action



Sam (right) accepts his award from Board Director Matthew Tran.

Each year JOOI presents an award to a JOOI Member who has gone far above the call of duty within his or her own JOOI Club, in the greater organization and in service to the community. This past year's award recipient was Su Hyun "Sam" Ko of the Bonita Vista High School Octagon Club in California.

Sam has been a JOOI Member for more than four years and is taking the reins as President of his Club this year. He has also served at the District level for California South.

Within his Club, he has organized a Souper Bowl of Caring event to benefit a local center for homeless teens and has planned an annual Dance for a Cure that has raised more than \$10,000 for childhood cancer research over the past three years. He is involved with game and refreshment booths at school events, beach cleanups and everything from book drives to blood drives.

Sam not only throws himself into each service project, but he works hard to keep other JOOI Members active, to bring new students into the Club, to help keep the California South JOOI District strong and to make sure the Club maintains a good relationship with its adult sponsoring club. He has been to the past two JOOI Conventions and made sure other Members didn't miss out on this great event.

His service work extends beyond the JOOI Club to his church, where he is involved with missions to Korea, sponsoring needy children and more.

Congratulations to Sam on receiving this honor! As part of this award, he will receive a \$2,000 college scholarship.



2010-2011 JOOI Board of Directors

Kayleigh White
President

364 Avon Way
Kettering, OH 45429
Res: 937-299-2723
Cell: 937-409-3121
specialkay07@
sbcglobal.net
whitek@optimistmail.org



Marie-Pier Tremblay
Past President

691 Laprise
St-Honoré, QC G0V 1L0
Canada
Res: 418-0673-7627
Cell: 418-592-7754
tremblay_mpier@
hotmail.com
tremblaym@optimistmail.org



Marie-Claude Bourgeois
Director

1914 de la Gaillarde
Jonquière, QC G7S 5V9
Canada
Res: 418-695-5771
Cell: 418-815-5771
marie-claude.
bourgeois_712@hotmail.com
bourgeoism@optimistmail.org



Peter Choi
Director

22816 Poplar Grove
Square
Cupertino, CA 95014
Res: 408-253-5730
Cell: 408-309-3318
peterchoi17@
gmail.com
choip@optimistmail.org



Samhita Ilango
Director

1580 Country Vistas
Lane
Bonita, CA 91902
Res: 619-421-4782
Cell: 619-813-5230
samhita.ilango@
gmail.com
ilangos@optimistmail.org



Danny Walsh
Director

1911 Cortina Drive
Dayton, OH 45459
Res: 937-291-0911
Cell: 937-269-9292
danny.walsh@
patkengroup.com
walshd@optimistmail.org



Dear Optimists,

It is my extraordinary pleasure to represent JOOI in the 2010-2011 year as JOOI International President. When I think about this coming year, I am confident in a positive outcome that will benefit all. You have elected an outstanding JOOI Board that truly embodies what the JOOI organization stands for, and Optimist International President Danny Rodgers has appointed amazing adult committee members to work with them. There are many things that need to be done this year, and I can assure you that we will be working our hardest to ensure the success of JOOI.

As we have started this year, I hope that all of you have also started your year of working with your Clubs! There are many people in the world who can benefit from your service and your bright smiles. Like it is always said, "Optimism is contagious; spread it." I think that's such an interesting concept! If you have caught the spirit of optimism, share it with anyone who will listen! This is why I have chosen the theme "Spread the Word for the Kids."

The tool that is most valuable to JOOI for growth and development of the organization is definitely the Members themselves. I believe no one gets the meaning of being an optimist more thoroughly than a JOOI Member. With your vivacious spirits and caring hearts, you are not only the future of the organization, but the future of the world. That's why I ask you to "Spread the Word for the Kids." Take a second to think about how your life has been touched by JOOI. Now, take a second to think about all the kids in the world who have not yet heard the message of optimism, of self-fulfillment through the service of others. One of my goals is to spread optimism into countries that currently do not have any by creating JOOI Clubs in these regions. I believe this is obtainable if everyone works toward it. By the end of the year, I would like to have built at least one Club in a new country.

In addition to this goal, there are numerous others I have set for the organization. In previous years, goals have been number based. An example of this would be to get 1,000 new JOOI Members or 80 new JOOI Clubs. I have decided to do my goals a bit differently. Besides the goal of starting a JOOI Club in a foreign country, my other goals center around positive growth. In my eyes, just one new Club or

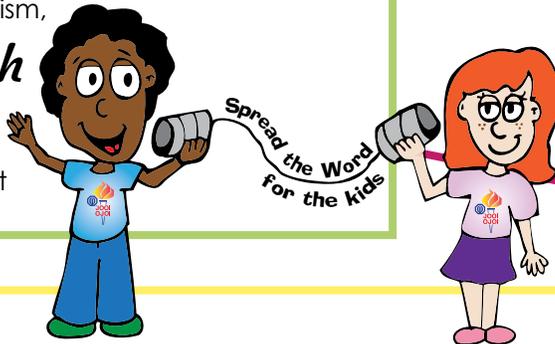
one new Member would be a success for our organization. I would, instead, like to encourage personal growth for the current Members of our Clubs and Districts. I would like Clubs to focus on leadership and service. One way this is possible is through the use of the youth PGI (Personal Growth & Involvement) system, which rewards Members for meeting individual goals. Other programs I would like Clubs and Districts to promote are Souper Bowl of Caring and JOOI of Reading.

Above all these goals, I would most love to see the Members of the Clubs and Districts excited about the work they are doing, because I certainly am. JOOI is a unique organization because it gives young adults the opportunity to serve others while helping themselves grow as individuals. I am honored and privileged to serve an organization that is so conscientious of the needs of youth. I ask for your hand this 2010-2011 JOOI year as we spread the word of optimism and what it can do for us, others and the world. Thank you and please, "Spread the Word for the Kids!"

Yours in Optimism,

**Kayleigh
White**

JOOI President



Hi Optimists!

My name is Samhita Ilango, and I am thrilled to be serving on the 2010-2011 JOOI Board. I am a junior attending Bonita Vista High School and plan on pursuing pediatric neurology in the future. Now, I play on the varsity tennis and lacrosse teams at school. I am an avid reader and enjoy playing the piano. I am pretty busy with school, but my Octagon Club has been a great outlet for me during the school year, as I get to help others and meet new people all the time during fun events. I have been in JOOI for four years and am so excited to make an impact on the upcoming Convention and JOOI organization. It's been exciting for me to see the way JOOI has evolved at my school and grown into such a successful club over the past five years. The Denver Convention was my first convention, and after I got the position, I couldn't believe that I get to put my own input in and make such a difference! I have met the most inspiring people through JOOI and hopefully I can inspire others as well!

Samhita Ilango

Hey JOOI!

My name is Marie-Pier Tremblay and again this year I have the chance to be on the Board of Directors as Past President. I've been a JOOI Member for seven years now, so this is a big part of my life and that's why JOOI means so much to me. Again this year I'll do all I can to reach my goals, reach President Kayleigh's goals and help the organization to become bigger, better and stronger! For my part, I'm living in Quebec, Canada, where I'm studying at the "Cegep de Chicoutimi" in administration. After school, I want to be an accountant. JOOI has been so important to me that I'm really excited about being an Optimist Member next year, and I hope one day to serve on the JOOI Committee to continue to be related with JOOI. Finally, JOOI Members, let me tell you that Kayleigh's team is amazing and I am really excited to work with all of you. So be ready for an outstanding year with JOOI, a year that will be hard to forget!

Marie-Pier Tremblay

My name is Marie-Claude Bourgeois, I am 16 years old and I have been involved in my JOOI Club for the past three years. Since my involvement within JOOI, I have been the Social Activities Director, the Secretary/Treasurer and the President of my Club. I am from Quebec in Canada and I am currently in an International Baccalaureate program in my high school. In my free time, I like swimming, reading, watching movies and spending time with my friends and my family. This year, as an International Director, I can assure you that I will work hard to promote the Childhood Cancer Campaign, to strengthen the communication between the Board of Directors and you and to get more people involved in JOOI. You can also be sure that I will do my best to help President Kayleigh reach her goals all year long. I am very excited to work with the new Board of Directors and you, fellow JOOI Members, and I hope that this year will be one of the most amazing JOOI years. See you at the Convention in Baltimore and have a great Optimist year!

Marie-Claude Bourgeois

2010-2011 JOOI Committee Members



Luke Hearn, Chair
205 Craig St.
Christiansburg, VA 24073
Cell: 919-208-0868
lukemhearn@yahoo.com
hearnl@optimistmail.org



Barb Robertson
505 North St.
Underwood, IA 51576-5027
Cell: 402-650-2422
jooitomk@aol.com
robertsonb@optimistmail.org



Jann M. Van Dreser
1245 Main St., Suite 202
Stevens Point, WI 54481-2864
Cell: 715-570-9808
jannvandreser@
charterinternet.com
vandreserj@optimistmail.org

Hello fellow Optimists!

My name is Danny Walsh, and I will be serving on the International Board of Directors for the 2010-2011 JOOI year. I hail from Dayton, Ohio, and have served as Governor of the Ohio District. I am currently 17 years old and a senior at Archbishop Alter High School, the location of my Octagon Club. I have been a Member of JOOI for three years now, a span that began back in my freshman year of high school. These fantastic years have also included a term as the Secretary of my Octagon Club. Now as a member of the highest level of the JOOI organization, I hope to enhance not only my already wonderful experience with JOOI, but also the connections and experiences among all other JOOI Members. In my term on the Board, I hope to justly and properly represent the greater needs of the entire organization. With the help and guidance of my fellow Board members, I hope to make this 2010-2011 JOOI year one of much prosperity and growth, both in numbers and in spirit. Thank you, and I hope to see you in Baltimore this coming July!

Danny Walsh

My name is Luke Hearn, and I live in Christiansburg, Virginia. I have been involved with JOOI for the past 14 years and have loved every minute of it. Nine years ago, I had the honor to serve as the President of JOOI, and I'm delighted to be able to serve the organization again on this year's JOOI Committee. JOOI has a special place in my heart, as I've seen firsthand how much of a positive impact our actions can have on so many people's lives. I pledge to work very hard to ensure this year is one of the best JOOI has ever seen!

Luke Hearn

What a JOOI to be asked to serve on the International JOOI Committee in 2010-2011. Wife, mother and grandmother of 5, my sixth grandchild is due in January 2011. I was a South Dakota farm girl who moved to Iowa in 1977 with my wonderful husband, Dale. We have two children, Adria and Eric. OK, now you probably know how old I am! I started our Underwood JOOI Club in 2000. "To the world, you might be one person. To one person, you just might be the world." It has changed my life and it can change yours by becoming involved in JOOI.

Barb Robertson

I am a Member of the Stevens Point Noon Optimist Club, joining in 1987. My involvement has included Club President (four times), Lieutenant Governor and serving as chair of numerous District committees. I was also Distinguished Governor in 2001-2002. The last three years I have served on the International JOOI Committee, being very involved in the committee's work and the JOOI Convention.

jann van dreser

JOOI has messages for you!

Don't forget that your JOOI Club has an e-mail box. Make sure your adviser is checking it.

If they're not so technologically savvy, you may want to help them. Just go to www.optimistmail.org. Your User ID is your Club's number (such as A1234). Your password this year is: the best.

Your Club can also turn on the forwarding feature to have messages delivered to another e-mail address all year. After logging in, your adviser can go to "Account Options." They will select "Forwarding" and enter their preferred e-mail address. They should click "Save" and they're done!

Check back often for e-mails from President Kayleigh, future issues of *The Torch* and other fun notices.