



Dear Optimist Club,

Today, the Internet is one of the most effective and efficient ways to communicate. Whether it is through Facebook, Myspace, Yahoo, or another website, the internet gives us the opportunity to connect with all kinds of different people and read news and information from all over the world.

While the Internet has many good qualities and can be very useful, it can also be a source of trouble. Everyday, teens surf the internet and most don't know the dangers of it. Statistics say 10% of teens reported that they frequently have private conversations with online strangers through instant messaging and that 4% of teens have talked with a cyber-stranger about meeting in person. Of those percentages, a lot of them have talked about sex or have discovered that someone online was an adult pretending to be much younger. (Polly Klaas Foundation, 2006) It is apparent that there are many dangers on the Internet and Optimist International and Junior Optimist Octagon International (JOOI) want to help make sure that kids and teens know how to deal with them.

This program will help teens make good decisions while they are navigating the Internet by raising their knowledge about the potential dangers. The JOOI component will complete the Optimist International program because we sincerely think that it is by working together, we will be able to raise teens' awareness. Who knows? Maybe we will save a life or reduce in concrete terms the number of teens touched by cyber-bullying, Internet predators and other internet dangers.

Junior Optimist Octagon International  
Optimist International