Global Spotlight

February 2023 Global Spotlight Newsletter

A periodic publication of our Clubs' activities outside the United States and Canada, as well as development of new Clubs globally

New Optimist Club in Tokyo

There is a new country in the Optimist family. The Optimist Club of Tokyo, Japan, organized in January with 15 members. The Bonita Optimist Club in the Cal South District is the sponsor club. Kato, the first new Club was created in the memory of Kathmandu Valley Optimist Club President Biju Bajachya, of Nepal, who was a friend of Tokyo Optimist Club President Mitsuharu Kato. Mr. Bajachya encouraged the new Club project, and Mr. Kato decided to continue with the development of the new Club to honor his friend.

Tema Optimists Hold Athletics Contests

Athletics were front and center for the Tema District Optimist Club of Ghana. It helped co-sponsor athletic contests for boys and girls in the Bono region of the country. Tema Optimists traveled more than 400 kilometers to the Bono Region.

Optimist Smart Academy Launches Aquaponics Program

Optimist Clubs are known for innovative projects that bring a smile to the face of a child and enhance their wellbeing. There are also projects focused on education that impact entire populations. One such endeavor is underway in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The **Optimist Club of Kinshasa-Pool** created the Optimist Smart Academy as a teaching destination for life skills and career education. The Club recently started an aquaponics program thanks in part to a grant from the **Algaz Foundation**. It will teach participants how to raise fish and vegetables to create a continuing supply of both for the local economy.

Nepal Earthquake Preparedness Awareness Program

Education was also at the forefront of three recent projects in the Nepal District of Optimist International. The Optimist Club of Tulsipur in southwestern Nepal held an Earthquake Preparedness Awareness Program at a local school. Students were taught safety measures should an earthquake strike their region of the country.

Lalitpur Book Drive

The **Scholars Optimist Club of Lalitpur**, a suburb of Kathmandu, conducted a book drive for donations to a community library. The members were joined by District officials for the presentation.

Optimists Distribute Schools Supplies in Nepal

The members of the Optimist Club of Nijgadh, Nepal, in the south-central part of the country, organized their recent project to coincide with Optimist Day on Feb. 2. The members obtained stationery so a packet could be given to dozens of students at the Shree Janaigirli Basic School. Optimist International thanks all of our Clubs for their efforts aimed at improving the lives of young people.

New Club Development

The Nepal District added to its roster of Clubs with the Optimist Club of Budiknantha. Located in a suburb of Kathmandu, it is being sponsored in North America by the Senoia Optimist Club of the gateway District.

Administrative Corner

This is the time of year many Optimist Clubs around the world conduct essay and oratorical contests, two long-standing programs of Optimist International. The **Essay Contest** showcases the writing talents of young people, who can also develop their public speaking skills through participation in a local **Oratorical Competition**. Winning a local competition can lead to the student competing internationally. Many of our Clubs also create an opportunity for the hearing impaired through the **Optimist Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**. We encourage all of our Clubs to seriously consider offering one of these programs in the community they serve.

For more information about international sponsorship, email Optimist staff member Jim Boyd at jim.boyd@optimist.org.

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