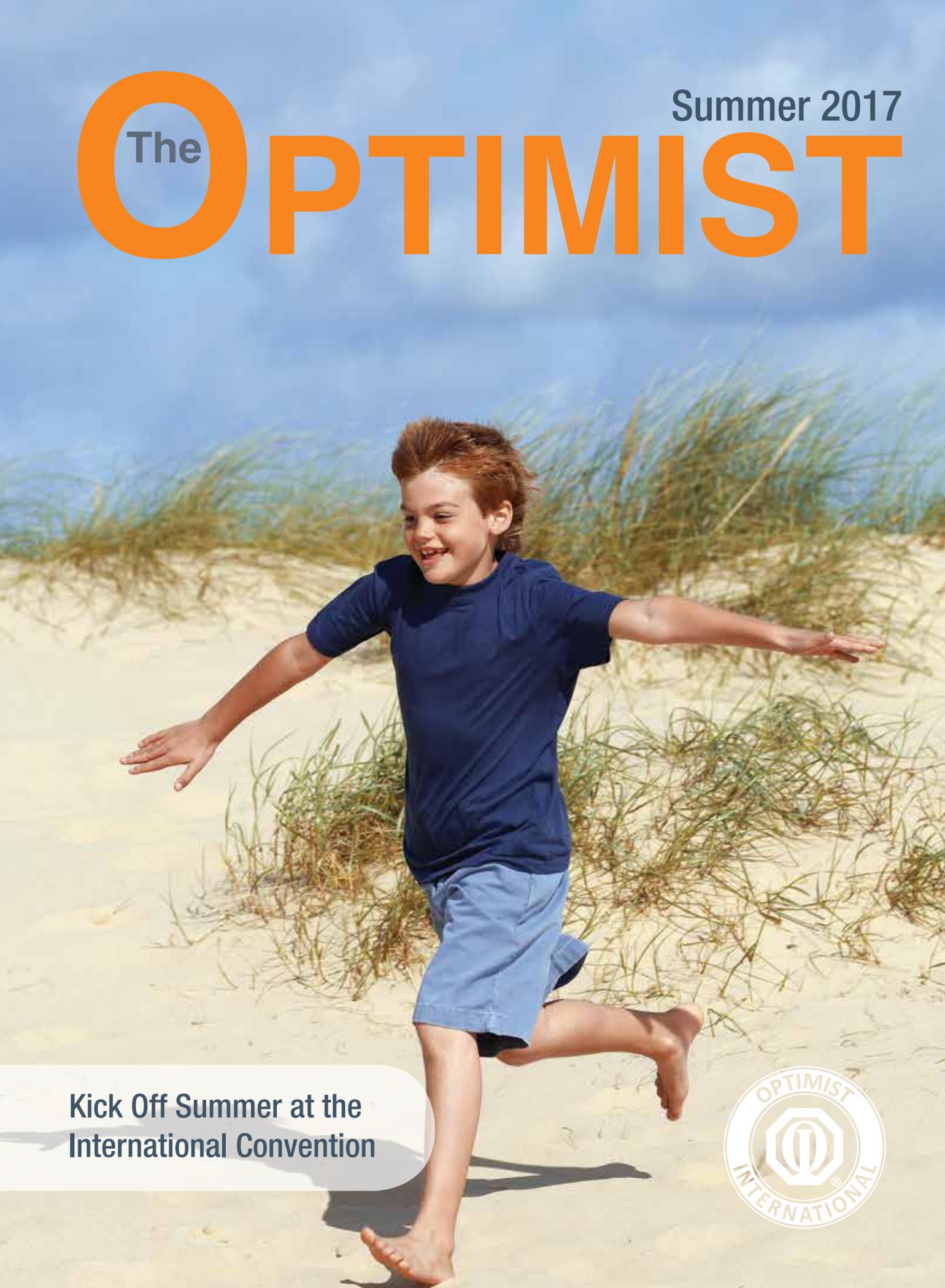


Summer 2017

# The OPTIMIST



**Kick Off Summer at the  
International Convention**



# JEAN NADEAU

International Convention Keynote Speaker  
Friday, July 7 – First Business Session

*"I've got no time to lose. Nor do you.  
So brace yourself, things could turn ugly.  
A 60 minute eye-to-eye talk about what  
it takes to bring out the best in youth,  
in yourself and in your community!"*

To learn more about Jean Nadeau,  
visit [jeannadeau.net](http://jeannadeau.net).



## MISSION STATEMENT

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimist 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

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.

**The 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 located in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Europe. Periodicals postage paid at St. Louis, Missouri, and at additional mailing offices. Subscription rate: \$4.50 per year for Club Members, \$5.00 per year for nonmembers.

No responsibility is assumed for the opinions expressed by authors of articles or claims by advertisers.

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

© Copyright 2017. OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL.



# Features

Summer 2017 | Vol. 97, No. 4

- |    |                                      |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| 2  | Message from President Jim Kondrasuk |
| 3  | Optimism: It's for Everyone!         |
| 6  | Optimists in Action                  |
| 12 | Respect for Law                      |
| 17 | Are You Optimist Strong?             |
| 18 | 99th International Convention        |
| 23 | Start a Junior Optimist Club         |
| 24 | Junior Golf                          |
| 29 | Three Generations of Optimists       |
| 30 | OIF/CCOF Donor List                  |

## The Optimist

The Official Publication of Optimist International

**Managing Editor** Ronda Vaughn

**Editor** Heidi Schertzer

**Graphic Designer** Nancy Letts

**Editorial Office** 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108

**Office** (314) 371-6000

**Fax** (314) 371-6006

**Email** [magazine@optimist.org](mailto:magazine@optimist.org)

**On the Cover** All Members are welcome at the International Convention! Learn more on pages 18-21!



# GREETINGS TO MY FELLOW OPTIMISTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS,

We have reached the halfway point in the 2016-17 year: the “Year of the Honor Club!” Everyone has been working very hard to keep our Clubs strong, healthy, active and a valued part of our communities. That is the basic concept behind Honor Club – it helps us do what we do best as Optimists by keeping our Clubs strong, and permitting all of us to give back to our communities by serving our youth. By doing this, we also grow personally! All of this is what makes Optimists and Optimism so great!

We have some great happenings going on in the Optimist world:

- The Albuquerque International Convention is coming up and I hope you plan on attending! It is a great city to visit. The convention will offer many great Optimist training and personal development opportunities, as well as greeting old Optimist friends, and making new ones. Sharing and learning from each other is a great Optimist way to learn!
- The Optimist International World Oratorical Championships has completed its second year. The oratorical contest is Optimist International’s longest running program – established in 1928. Including the preliminary round of contests from the Club, Zone and Districts, it is estimated that over 6,000 youth participated! In addition to the traditional oratorical contest, many Districts also run the Communication Contest for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing and serve even more youth. The essay contest has the same impact: serving more youth. From the Club level on up, it is estimated that some 5,000 youth participate. We can be proud as Optimists on the number of youth we serve each year through our programs.
- The Optimist Junior Golf Championships are about to begin for the year. After District qualifiers, some 700 youth will travel to Florida for the Championships. When looking at the qualifiers at the District levels, our youth golf tourney is the largest youth golf tournament in the world – close to 6,000 youth participate at all levels. This tournament has been ongoing since 1967!
- Junior Optimist International continues to thrive. We now have some 15,000 Members, led by a great Board of Directors and President. Junior Optimist International is our future! Junior Optimist International Members graduating from high school will now receive a complimentary one-year membership in a traditional Optimist Club or College Club! Reach out to the Junior Optimist Club in your area and invite graduating Members to join your Club!

- Our College Clubs are being revitalized. The Board has made changes to make it easier to be a College Member, and hopefully this will entice our College Members to join a traditional Club after college.
- We have added over 5,800 Members, 29 new Clubs and 44 Junior Optimist Clubs since October 1.
- The momentum from the “Year of the Honor Club” will keep us moving ahead with healthier and stronger Clubs. Remember when a Club achieves Honor Club status, it serves 100 more youth in the community being served, and that really is what we are all about as Optimists – serving more kids!

All the above bode well for the future of our great organization: doing what we do best to provide service to youth and communities. However, we have to be aware of one downside! Through March 31 based upon our overall net numbers, going forward there will be some 60,000 youth who will not get the service they need from an Optimist Club.

That sounds like a very big number, and in some ways, it is! Nevertheless, if every Club adds just one Member, we move from a deficit of service to an increase of 12,000 more youth served. That has to be our goal – remember the “Power of One!” We each need Optimist to find their own replacement! In addition, each Honor Club represents 100 more youth being served. If 15% of our Clubs achieve Honor Club status, over 30,000 additional youth will be served!

We all need to work together in the next four months as we complete the “Year of the Honor Club.” Youth, our future, need us and what we offer as Optimists more than ever. Using the “Power of One,” we can turn a deficit of service to a positive number. And that is what we need to do as Optimists. Let’s all work toward that goal, and be able to serve more youth, not fewer.

Together We Can! Together We Will!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Kondrasuk".

Jim Kondrasuk  
International President 2016-17  
Optimist International



# OPTIMISM: IT'S FOR EVERYONE!



## OUR POSITIVE OUTLOOK

Our upbeat outlook and our commitment to creating a more optimistic future for kids is what differentiates Optimist Clubs from any other volunteer opportunity. The powerful, positive force of Optimist Club Members has touched communities in the United States, Canada, the nations of the Caribbean and other countries throughout the world. From sponsoring youth athletic leagues, to weatherizing the homes of the elderly, to conducting oratorical contests for young people—Optimist Clubs are responding to the special needs of our local communities. Although we come from all lifestyles, Optimist Club Members share one common trait: we know that we can make a difference in the lives of others.



## OPTIMIST CLUB MEMBERS RECEIVE AS MUCH AS THEY GIVE

- The fellowship of proactive people with optimistic mindsets
- New social and working relationships with individuals from a cross section of our communities
- The opportunity to develop and demonstrate leadership skills locally, regionally, nationally and internationally
- The satisfaction of making a difference in our communities

Whether you are searching for an outlet to help your community, personal development, or rewarding camaraderie, you will find what you are looking for in your local Optimist Club. Joiners become more tolerant and empathetic to the needs of their community.



## JUST A FEW OF THE MANY PROJECTS CONDUCTED BY OPTIMIST CLUBS

- Service work to families in need
- Working directly with local schools to enhance education
- Tutoring and mentoring young people
- Substance abuse prevention programs
- Coaching youth sports teams
- Fundraising to benefit families in need
- Assisting disaster victims

For more information about joining or starting an Optimist Club, or about membership recruitment and retention, contact [membership@optimist.org](mailto:membership@optimist.org).

# NEWS

## Optimists Accomplish P.G.I. Goals

The following Optimists submitted their requirements for achieving Level VII of the Personal Growth & Involvement Program between March 1 and June 1:

### LEVEL VII

Alfred G. Adams, Jr. AL-MS



### INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF SERVICE

Thank you to all Optimist Clubs and Members for participating in the International Week of Service March 25-31! The week was a chance for service organizations around the globe to partner with one another to make a big difference in their communities. The date for the 2018 International Week of Service is yet to be determined.

To learn more about projects completed during the International Week of Service, visit [weekofservice.org](http://weekofservice.org)

## ADD GRADUATING SENIORS TO YOUR CLUB

In order to help students remain Optimists, Optimist International is offering all Junior Optimists graduating from high school a free membership for any adult or college Optimist Club. Your Club will not be billed a \$15.00 processing fee OR international dues for a full calendar year. This is a great opportunity for all Optimist Clubs. Please encourage any graduating Junior Optimists to take advantage of this opportunity by joining either their local Club, or a Club where they will be attending college.

If your Club has a graduating Junior Optimist senior who wishes to take advantage of this offer, contact [membership@optimist.org](mailto:membership@optimist.org) or call 800-500-8130 ext. 226.



# VIEWS

## CONGRATULATIONS to the Top 10 Member Sponsors for the 2016-17 Optimist Year!

MEMBER	CLUB	MEMBERS SPONSORED
John Dina	Optimist Club of Naples, FL	35
Matthew Janes	Optimist Club of Fort Worth, TX	32
Haley Limper	USI Optimist Club, IN	26
Matty McGarvey	Bennie-Johnnie Optimist Club, MN	22
Abby Riegelman	Bennie-Johnnie Optimist Club, MN	21
Marc Nettles	Boyertown Optimist Club, PA	19
Jonetta Carter	Optimist Club of Winchester, VA	18
Brian Poe	Sylvan Hills-Sherwood Optimist Club, AR	16
Edward Goltz	Optimist Club of Boyertown, PA	16
Matthew Minx	Lake Lotawana Optimist Club, MO	12

### *Reel* OPTIMISM — VIDEO CONTEST —

## Winners Awarded at Convention

The 2017 Reel Optimism video contest received outstanding entries from adult Clubs, Junior Optimist Clubs and other organizations and individuals from throughout North America. The 2017 contest topic was "Optimism." Optimist Members and the general public were able to view, share and vote for their favorite video from May 12-31.

The winning videos will be shown during the upcoming International Convention in Albuquerque. Members representing the winning Clubs will be invited on stage to receive their \$750 Club grants courtesy of Optimist International, the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.

To view the videos of all of the finalists, visit [Optimist.org/ReelOptimism](http://Optimist.org/ReelOptimism) or search the hashtag **#ReelOptimism** on Facebook or Twitter. Thank you to all Optimists who participated!

# OPTIMISTS IN ACTION

During the month of May, Optimist Clubs spread Optimism by conducting any program or special event that meet the needs of their community!

Here are a number of Clubs who brought out the best in youth, their communities and themselves in May:



**Battle Creek Optimist Club** collaborated with Girls on the Run participants and provided decorated pillowcases to the children in foster care.



**Morning Optimist of Moreno Valley** cleaned a local hiking trail that the Club previously adopted.



**Plant City Optimist Club** honored a local law enforcement officer at a Respect for Law ceremony.



**Kettering Noon Optimist Club** and the local Junior Optimist Club contributed to a Spring Market event featuring crafts and vendors.



**Minot Junior Optimists** helped clean and rake leaves at the Roosevelt Park Zoo.



**Optimist Club of Lockwood** held a Safe Kids event to teach the importance of safety in various activities.



**Noon Optimist Club of Western Des Moines** conducted a school gardening project complete with a pizza lunch!



**Royal Optimist Club Kingston** helped students at a local school plant a vegetable garden including crops such as corn, sorrel, lettuce, and callaloo.



**Optimist Club of Van Wert** hosted a youth Bike Rodeo to teach the importance of bike safety, and included bike inspections and an obstacle course.



**Optimist Club of New Ulm** donated and volunteered at a Mother and Son Hoedown!

*Thank You*

to all Optimist Members  
and Clubs for participating in  
Optimists in Action month!

**Mark your calendars  
for May 2018 for  
Optimists in Action month!**

FORGING AHEAD WITH

# INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Optimist International Board of Directors approved a pilot program aimed at accelerating development of Optimist Clubs around the globe. The so-called “225/10 Program” created an affiliation fee of \$225 US per year and membership dues of \$10 per Member. The idea was to make it affordable for just about anyone to become associated with Optimist International.

Mamadou Gueye, the President of the Optimist Club of Dakar, Senegal writes: “I have realized that we cannot carry out transformational change in our community when there is no hope. So, I joined Optimist International in a bid to team up with like-

minded people who attach the utmost importance to community work.”

Mamadou’s Optimist Club works toward rehabilitating a school library and is trying to address the issue of street begging by children.

**“Only home-grown efforts can lead to sustainable wellbeing among our community. In this respect, Optimist International is a framework wherein we can harness our strengths and unlock our community members’ full potential in an effort to create a better Senegal in a better world.”**





The Optimist Club in Senegal was the first to organize under the pilot program followed quickly by the Optimist Club of Bamako, Mali. Two new Clubs have organized in Ghana and another is planned later this year. Tema District Optimist Club President Emmanuel Kofi Dogbe reports his group got involved because of the philosophy of Optimist International.

“As volunteers joining an Optimist Club, we bring positive service in our community and provide a helping hand to the needy,” said Dogbe.

Optimist Clubs continue to flourish in Uganda under the guidance of past Michigan Governor and International Development Ad Hoc committee member, Robert Schiller.

“What began as a Junior Optimist effort in 2003, has grown into a model international growth effort with five Junior Optimist International Clubs, and two more in development, and one adult Optimist Club, Kupsya Agents of Millennium Progress (KAMP), and two more adult Clubs in formation.”

There are weekly, and sometimes daily, inquiries from people around the world who want to become part of the Optimist family. Uday Niraula is a University lecturer from Kathmandu, Nepal who reached out to Optimist International.

“We, a small group of like-minded friends, with our own effort are in small-scale social services with the motto of ‘Let’s do whatever we can do for a better society,’” said Niraula. “During our social interactions, the most worrying thing what we found is the people who are deeply pessimistic about the future. We concluded that the pessimism, particularly the pessimism in the youth, will hinder our society’s development.”

Niraula and his like-minded friends began searching for supporting institutions in order to affiliate and discovered Optimist International, which he believes will allow his group in Nepal to combine the philosophy of Optimism with actions. The Optimist Club of Kathmandu plans to focus on empowering women.

New Club projects are underway around the globe in places like Costa Rica, Chad, India, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and Guinea. They demonstrate that a year after the pilot project for international development began, a nearly century old service organization is still very relevant in the 21st century.



Contact the New Club Building Department at [newclub@optimist.org](mailto:newclub@optimist.org) if you know of an international community that could benefit from an Optimist Club.



## AIMING FOR THE

# Fences!

Submitted by: **Gwen Gable,**  
**North Perimeter Optimist Club, GATEway District**

Each Optimist District may be different, but each District encourages fun, fellowship and optimism! Each year, Districts encourage Members to serve more youth by recruiting more Optimists. Membership growth campaigns should be motivating and exciting.

The membership growth campaign in the GATEway District is all about baseball and aiming for the fences! During the 2016-17 Optimist Year, all GATEway Optimists are invited to play ball and become a "GATEway All-Star!" The growth campaign provides Optimists the opportunity to step up to the plate, hit a single, double, triple, a home run or hit a grand slam. With each new Member and new Club, the sponsoring Optimist moves around the bases. The goal? To grow the GATEway District and impact the lives of more children and more members of our community.

After all, Jackie Robinson once said, **"A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives."**

All Members are asked: "Are you willing to step up to the plate, aim for the fence, and hit it out of the park? Will you complete a signing contract with a great team? Are you going to hit a home run or a grand slam?"

Governor Rudy Corn says, **"Together we can make a difference!"**

Governor Rudy's goals of increasing membership and adding new Clubs will require the efforts of all GATEway Optimists. That's teamwork! And, with practice, focus, and determination, Members of the GATEway District believe they will be successful.

During the 1st quarter GATEway conference, the GATEway all-star plans were rolled out.

Lt Governors began developing their game plan, Club Officers began implementing the plans and Clubs began stepping up to the plate and swinging the bat. At the 2nd quarter GATEway conference, spring training took place! Workshops focused on how to scout, recruit and attract new Members, how to "pitch" Optimism in the community, how to be the best game announcer in town, and reminders to simply "step up to the plate and swing for the fences!" Now, we are in the 7th inning stretch – time to re-evaluate strategies, call in the best closer, and stretch our abilities as we round the bases to pull off a win!

As the season progresses and we enter the 8th Inning, GATEway Optimists continue to participate and be involved, host NOW events and invite potential new Members, throw out the pitch, swing for the fences to achieve the District's growth goals and increase the impact in our communities. We are re-energized and the bats are ready to win the GATEway World Series!





# LEBANON OPTIMIST CLUB'S GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

Submitted by: Nancey West, Optimist Club of Lebanon, Pacific Northwest District

The Optimist Club of Lebanon, Oregon is a symbol of cooperation in drawing their community together, not once but twice. On September 13, 2016, the Club held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to donate an octagon-shaped gazebo to the city, the second such donation.

Twenty-five years ago, Bill Rauch, accountant, Dennis Clark, dentist, and Jim McDaniel, local leader, all representing the Optimist Club, agreed to manage funds and organize a project to construct a gazebo at Ralston Park. The community quickly rallied behind the project.

In 1991, the Optimist Club presented the Ralston Park gazebo to the City of Lebanon. The gazebo has become a prominent symbol for the community to hold activities such as Concerts in the Park, Christmas Tree Lighting, National Neighborhood Night Out, and countless weddings and celebrations. However, Ralston Park is limited to 50-100 people at an event.

In 2012, Rauch, McDaniel and Doug Phillips, President of the Optimist Club at the time, seized upon the idea that Lebanon could create new opportunities with a larger outdoor stage at Academy Square Park, near the city library and Senior Center. They took their vision to local engineer Shawn Turrentine. He accepted the role of project designer, and joined the Optimist Club. Phillips became the project manager.

Local businesses again stepped up to provide labor and equipment. To raise funds, the Optimist Club sold bricks which the purchaser could have their name, business, nonprofit, club, school, memorial

to someone, or simply a famous saying, etched on the stone. The completed bricks are displayed on the floor of the 1,134 square foot gazebo.

The recent dedication ceremony was hosted by the city as a thank you to the many Optimist Members who worked on the project. Phillips read a long list of the local businesses who donated services and materials, whose contributions made it possible to complete the gazebo without any use of taxpayer money. The two-hundred citizens in attendance also enjoyed food and music, making it the first concert in the freshly completed stage.

Joining the festivities were Dick Disney, Past Governor of the Pacific Northwest District; Linda Disney, Past International Vice President of the West Coastal Region; Bruce Gilbertson, Governor-Elect of the Pacific Northwest District; and Fran Bounds, Lt. Governor of Pacific Northwest District - Zone 3. Many of the 100-plus Members of the Lebanon Optimist Club attended.

The project did not distract from the many areas the Club supports to encourage youth in the community. Though the completion took four years, the Optimist Club remained faithful in their commitment.

"We could have done it cheaper and quicker," Turrentine explained, "but I felt the steel and concrete were the best choice because of their low maintenance and it lasts longer than wood."

The Optimist Club had a dream and with the long wait being over, the gazebo now stands ready for the future.





# RESPECT FOR LAW

Submitted by: **Sharon M. O'Neil, Optimist Club of Akron, Ohio District**

The Optimist Club of Akron, Ohio, is the oldest, active Optimist Club in the Ohio District of Optimist International. After 94 years, we are still going strong.

For many years, our Respect for Law Program included honoring an officer of the Akron Police Department (APD) and a Fire/Medic of the Akron Fire Department (AFD). In 2006, we expanded it to include a Deputy from the Summit County Sheriff Department.

Once again, on April 4, 2017, we expanded our Respect for Law Program to include a K-9 Handler of the Year award. The first recipient was from the Akron Police Department. The honoree was Officer Alan Jones and his partner, Midnite.

At the presentation, in addition to the recipient, his wife and daughter, also attending were Chief James Nice of APD; Chief Clarence Tucker of AFD; Akron Deputy Mayor Charles Brown; Marilyn Keith, President of Akron City Counsel; 15 club members, three possible new members, Zone 3 Lt. Governor Dick Henson and his wife, Jan; six members of the Akron Fire Department and twenty three members of the Akron Police Department.

Officer Jones was told about the award six weeks prior to the event. He didn't actually believe it, as his fellow officers are always playing jokes on each other. When Officer Jones saw the article in the Akron Beacon Journal on Monday, April 3rd, he finally believed it was true.

At an Optimist Club luncheon, Officer Jones was honored and presented with a personal plaque and a larger one for the Akron Police Department. A Member of our Club, Lt. Cynthia Christman, who retired on March 31 after over 25 years of service with the APD, donated the larger plaque, which will hang on the wall of the Akron Police Department.



He was also given a gift certificate to a pet store for Midnite and a tin of assorted chocolates and nuts for the handler's family. Every year, we will add the name of the new recipient to the big plaque.

We are hoping more Clubs throughout Optimist International can adopt this program and expand their Respect for Law program.

We will be continuing with this program every year. There are many departments in Summit County with K-9 Handlers and partners. We want everyone to realize that K-9's are members of the law enforcement department. Treat them with respect. They might save a life and it could be yours.



The following is the recommendation from Akron Police Department Sgt. Chris Davis for the K-9 Officer of the Year:

*"I recommend Officer Alan Jones for K-9 Optimist Officer of the Year for several different reasons. Officer Jones has shown true dedication to his position as a K-9 handler in the SNUD (Street Narcotic Uniform Detail) Unit for the last five years. Jones and his K-9 Midnite are a great team. Al has done numerous demonstrations with Midnite and is always enthusiastic and their presence at the various venues is a crowd pleaser. Al is always working to elevate his skills as a K-9 handler and it is evident when you watch him and Midnite in action. Al has always stayed in great shape which makes him an excellent representative for the K-9 unit. Al has been a member of the SNUD unit and the SWAT team for over 20 years. The position of K-9 handler requires a level of dedication that exceeds the normal demands of a typical police officer. Officer Jones has embraced that challenge since the day he started in the unit. Al's positive demeanor and enthusiasm for the job is emblematic of the values that the Akron Police Department strives for."*



# BATTLE BUDDIES

Submitted by: Larry Perkins, Palmetto Optimist Club, South Carolina District



The Palmetto Optimist Club located in Sumter, South Carolina just proudly completed their 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of this unique event which combines health, physical fitness, and the Respect for Law program.

Nettie Bryant, the Club's Director of Physical Fitness and a former member of the United States Air Force, created "Battle Buddies." The idea she presented allowed members of law enforcement and emergency personnel to assist the kids in overcoming the obstacles on the course. The purpose of the program is to teach kids that law enforcement will help them later on in overcoming life's obstacles that cross their paths. Nettie organized the law enforcement and emergency volunteers.

After the first event, the Club decided that "Battle Buddies" would be held each Fall and Spring.

The President of the Club, Bonnie Sherbert, worked to organize the Club Members and duties, which

included registration, raffle tickets, concessions, and volunteer members at each obstacle. Bonnie's husband, Mike Sherbert, is quite skilled in woodworking and created most of the course's obstacles.

Over 120+ kids participated between the two "Battle Buddies" events and we were blessed to add 3 new Members and 17 kids who wanted to join our upcoming Junior Optimist Club.

SAFE Kids from Palmetto Tuomey were on hand to teach kids safety on bikes and much more. There were demonstrations in the Fall event which included martial arts, cheerleading, and more. Future events will also include gymnastics.

A drawing for a 3-day/2-night stay at the premium resort 'Camelot by the Sea' located in Myrtle Beach was raffled off. All proceeds from the event has been earmarked for scholarships offered by the Club in essay and oratorical contests.

Overall, the feedback was tremendous and we look forward to this bi-annual event.

# SOCIAL, SERVICE AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP AKA “CLUB WITHIN A CLUB”

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is a “Club within a Club”?

A “Club within a Club” is a group of at least 15 new Optimist Members who are added to your Club in order to expand service to your community. They are still Members of your Optimist Club, but they function somewhere outside the scope of your Club’s traditional membership base and activities.

### What are some examples?

Examples include:

- A morning or afternoon Club who adds 15 new Members by adding an evening meeting to accommodate community Members unable to meet during the day.
- A Club with an older membership base who brings in a group of young professionals or college students to bolster membership, help with existing projects, and bring new ideas and excitement.
- A Club who recruits a group of teachers or other school personnel to work directly with the school.
- A traditional Club who partners with a group of coaches to add sports program to their Club’s activities.
- A group of Members who focuses solely on one project all year like a major town fair or childhood cancer. Think of them like an expanded committee.

The point of a “Club within a Club” is to get Optimist Club’s to think “outside-the-box” in their membership recruitment and activities. There are unlimited possibilities!

### How do I form one?

Look for any opportunities within your community. An opportunity could be a special project that needs to be accomplished or another volunteer group in your area to mutually benefit from a partnership with your Optimist Club. Consider your Club’s current membership. Are there any groups in your community that you are failing to attract? Examples include younger people, teachers, men, women, etc. The most successful Optimist Clubs have diverse memberships reflecting a cross-section of all ages, genders, professions, and backgrounds existing in their communities. Why are these groups not joining your Club? What could you do to change that? A common example of an Optimist Club who fails to attract younger Members or working people because they meet in the morning or afternoon.

### What is the cost?

There is no Charter fee. Clubs will be billed for the Members of the “Club within a Club” in the same manner in which they are billed for other Members. A regular, adult Member still pays the \$15.00 processing fee and full International and District dues. If they are Friends of Optimist, college Members, \$30 under 30, etc., they will be billed accordingly. Any class of Optimist Member may be included in a “Club within a Club.” They will be included in your dues billing along with your other Members.



### **Does the “Club within a Club” have its own officers?**

They may have *informal* officers to help conduct their meetings and business. The main Club’s officers and Board of Directors are still the legally responsible party.

### **Can they open their own bank account?**

Maybe. The “Club within a Club” does not have their own unique governmental filing information, which is required for nonprofits to open a bank account in most countries. You would need to ask your bank about the process of opening another account using the same governmental filing information.

Groups that wish to have their own officers and/or bank account may be better off as a new, independent Optimist Club. (See below for more information.)

### **How does this differ from new Club building?**

A “Club within a Club” is not fully autonomous to operate how it chooses. The main Club’s Board of Directors is still legally responsible for the new group’s activities and finances. This is great for groups who do not wish to worry about Club administration, officer elections, governmental filings, etc. Many groups wish to be autonomous. If a group wants to have their own legally responsible officers, bank accounts, etc., they should be formed as a new Club. If you are unsure if a group should be a new Club or a “Club within a Club,” call the Membership Department at 800-500-8130 ext. 226.

### **When did this start?**

This is something your Optimist Club has always been able to do. You are autonomous to decide whom you recruit, when you meet, and what projects you do. The only difference is that now there is a New Club Building award credit and Builder of Excellence award tied to expanding your Club as of the 2016-17 Optimist year. The new group may also receive a roll-up Creed banner, if desired.

### **When does it end?**

This is not an incentive with a set end date. We plan to continue to award New Club Building credits as long as Clubs are participating in this incentive. Expanding and diversifying our Clubs is critical for long-term viability.

### **My Club just had a successful membership recruitment drive and added 15 Members. Do we receive credit for a “Club within a Club?”**

While this is a great accomplishment, it is not a “Club within a Club” unless these 15 Members are doing something differently than your Club’s traditional activities.

### **If the “Club within a Club” eventually decides it should become its own Optimist Club, will they be able to?**

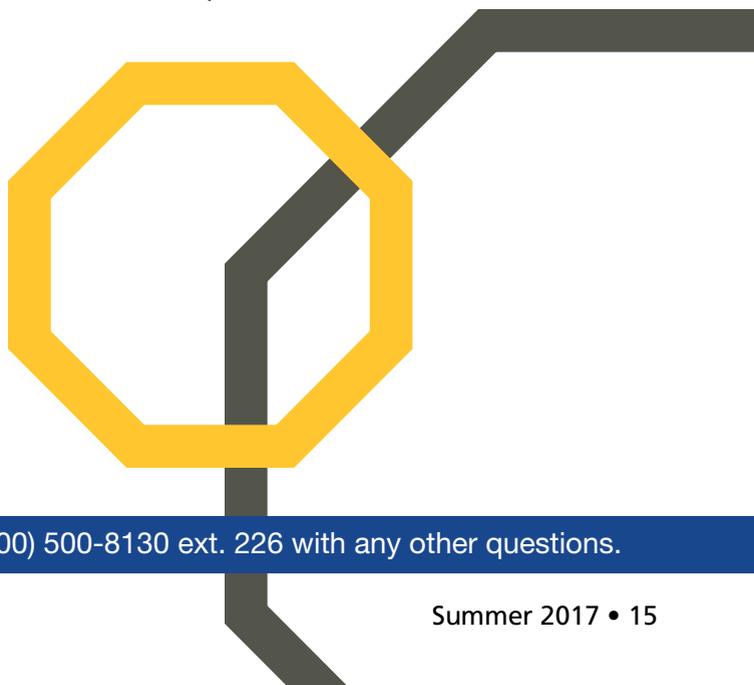
Yes.

### **If they do break off to form their own Club, will the original Club be hurt for awards purposes?**

No.

### **Once we have identified and recruited our 15 Members, how do we notify Optimist International?**

All 15 Members must be added on the same day. You may add the Members yourself online at [optimistleaders.org](http://optimistleaders.org). After the 15 Members have been added, notify Optimist International that you have done so at the contact information at the bottom of this page. You may also send the full list of names and contact information to Optimist International to add the new Members to your Club’s roster for you.





# CHE'S PLACE

Submitted by: **Ed Lucy, Optimist Club of Bolton, Central Ontario District**

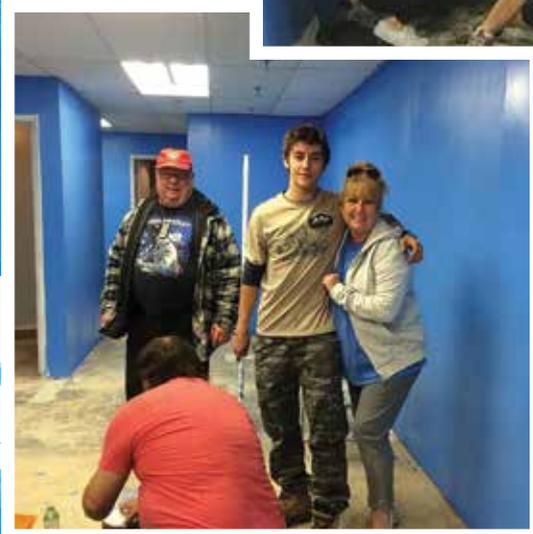
On May 21, 2016, tragedy struck our community and 18-year-old Francesco Molinaro lost his life. Francesco was taken from his family and friends too early. In an effort to create something positive from this senseless act, Che's Place was born. This Centre will provide a wide range of diversity and options to entertain and enrich our young people as well offering opportunities that some may not be able to obtain otherwise.

Che's Place is a Youth Welcome Centre that bears Francesco's nickname. Che's Place is located in Bolton and it is where our local youth can gather and call home, welcoming all with care and respect. Our goal is to empower youth in achieving their goals and dreams. This will be achieved by providing a safe and friendly environment where the youth can feel welcome and safe while creating lasting friendships.

Our youth are committed to participating in local community service and events. We wish for our youth to have a voice within their community and Che's Place will afford them that opportunity. Che's Place consists of both youth and adult committees and several sub-committees. At present, we have approximately 50 youth and adult volunteers contributing their time and effort in making Che's Place a success.

The Ontario Provincial Police and the Bolton Optimists Club have generously collaborated with us and we encourage others to join us in creating this unique and exciting Youth Centre.

Follow Che's Place on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!



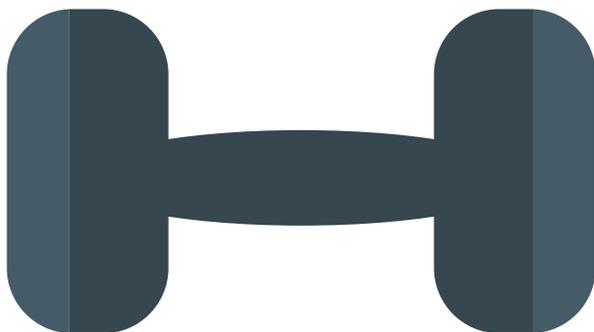
# ARE YOU OPTIMIST STRONG?

Calling all Governor-Elects, District Leadership teams, and Optimist Members! October 1st is coming soon, and it's time to start planning for the 2017-18 year. How can you begin? Schedule an "Optimist Strong" Conference! "Optimist Strong" Conferences are being developed by the Optimist International Leadership Development Committee, utilizing Optimist trainers, to provide leadership, team building, and growth training for each District at their first quarter meeting.

During each "Optimist Strong" Conference, training will be offered in a 4- to 5-hour time period and will include topics ranging from recognition, motivation, and inspiration to growth. There will also be time to discuss your District's and Optimist International's plan of action for the year. In preparation for each meeting, "Optimist Strong" trainers will work with District Governors and their Leadership Development Committees to plan and conduct each conference so that it fits within the District conference framework.

Why should you be interested? Optimists gaining effective skills and empowering Clubs to succeed through world-class training is only the beginning. Giving Members the opportunity to think creatively, reflect, and experience Optimism from a new perspective is the real value of an "Optimist Strong" event. These conferences promise to energize you as an Optimist. And as an incentive, each District willing to sponsor a conference will be allocated \$500 to reduce registration costs and encourage attendance.

Be ready to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Schedule your "Optimist Strong" Conference today! For more information, contact Stephanie Monschein, Senior Director of Leadership Development and Club Support, at [leadership@otpimist.org](mailto:leadership@otpimist.org) or (800) 500-8130, ext. 261.



# 99TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

JULY 6 - 8, 2017

## STAY CONNECTED WITH THE 2017 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

ALBUQUERQUE CONVENTION CENTER ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

### Prepare Before You Go!

Check out the convention page of the Optimist International website for all related information and updates. Visit [optimist.org/convention](http://optimist.org/convention) for all of the following and much more:

- Hotel Information
- Online registration
- Tentative schedule
- Workshop listing with descriptions
- Exhibitors
- About Albuquerque



### Follow the Fun on Facebook

Make sure to visit the Optimist Facebook page for convention news and updates. You will find fun facts about events and the host city, as well as what other Members are saying about convention. The photo gallery will be updated often with pictures of workshops, business sessions, attendees and more.

Please take a moment to “like” the page at [www.facebook.com/optimist.international](http://www.facebook.com/optimist.international). Share your thoughts about the upcoming convention and respond to posts made by other Optimists. Be part of the conversation before, during and after the convention!



### Tweet About It!

Optimist International wants all the Members to be part of the 99th annual International Convention this year. While every Optimist may not be able to travel to Albuquerque, they can still stay up to date on the events taking place!

Follow [@Optimistorg](https://twitter.com/Optimistorg) on Twitter. If you do not have a Twitter account, it's easy and free to sign up at [twitter.com](http://twitter.com).

By following the convention hashtag, **#OI2017**, you can get an inside view on the convention. Clicking on a hashtagged word in any message will show you all other tweets on that category.

Members attending the convention will get updates and information on training sessions, speakers, and events. Find out about some of the great attractions Albuquerque has to offer and the best places to have dinner or do some shopping. Learn more about the bylaws amendments or resolutions being voted on this year.

Use the hashtag **#OI2017** to join the conversation and follow what other Optimists are saying. It's the next best thing to being there!





### Live From Albuquerque

All the action at the 2017 International Convention will be streamed live. The Board of Directors meeting, the Opening Ceremonies, and the Business sessions will be streaming live on the Optimist channel at [optimist.org/stream](http://optimist.org/stream).

Here are approximate times for each event. If you are unable to attend, tune in to the live streams.

## WEDNESDAY JULY 5

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
8:30 AM-3:00 PM

## THURSDAY JULY 6

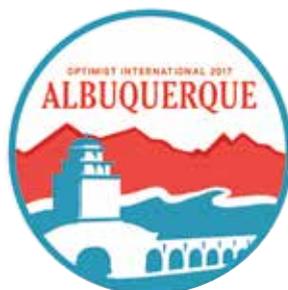
**Opening Ceremonies**  
7:00-8:30 PM

## FRIDAY JULY 7

**First Business Session**  
9:00-11:30 AM  
Keynote Speaker Jean Nadeau  
Awards Presentations  
Resolutions Report & Voting

## SATURDAY JULY 8

**Second/Closing Business Session**  
1:00-3:30 PM  
2015-16 Distinguished Governors  
Awards Presentations & Introductions  
Bylaws Report & Voting  
President-Elect Nick Prillaman  
President Jim Kondrasuk's  
Closing Remarks  
Optimist Creed



If you have any questions, please send them to [convention@optimist.org](mailto:convention@optimist.org) or call (800) 500-8130.

# Convention Entertainment

The International Convention offers something for everyone!

Be amazed at the various group events featuring the following entertainment:



## ALBUQUERQUE BOY CHOIR

### Opening Ceremonies

**Theme: Together We Can!**

**Thursday, July 6, 7-8:30PM**

New Mexico's premier boy choir, the Albuquerque Boy Choir features boys ages 6-18 from across the metro area. The choir has performed in many prestigious local venues and has toured across America, and as far away as Australia. The Albuquerque Boy Choir emphasizes the musical education of its members. The Choir Director is Mark Scholz, member of the Northwest Optimist Club of Albuquerque. Learn more about the Albuquerque Boy Choir: [abqboychoir.org](http://abqboychoir.org)



## JEAN NADEAU

### First Business Session

**International Convention Keynote Speaker**

**Friday, July 7, 9-11:30AM**

Jean Nadeau is an author, international professional speaker and a radio host in Quebec, Canada. He is uncompromising on this: he is not an inspirational nor a motivational speaker! He actually likes to say that he is more of an intense speaker. He is frank, brutal, tough and sometimes even obnoxious, yet very funny! However, once you get to know him, you understand that he has a big heart and an even bigger gut for how you can and should re-think your personal and professional growth. He tells it like it is and gets in your face to make you face reality. Brace yourself and meet Jean Nadeau.

To learn more about Jean Nadeau, visit [jeannadeau.net](http://jeannadeau.net)



## MARIACHI NUEVO SONIDO

### Appreciation Luncheon

**Theme: Amazing Albuquerque**

**Friday, July 7, 11:45AM-1:30PM**

You are in for a treat! As you sit back and relax at the luncheon, enjoy the fun sounds of Mariachi Nuevo Sonido. The seven mariachi musicians from Chihuahua includes brothers and cousins, and 3rd generation mariachis. Their music ranges from traditional mariachi to jazzy Tijuana brass and catchy New Mexico Rancheras.



## **DJ BRAD KING – KING MOBILE MUSIC**

### **Presidential Banquet**

**Theme: UP, UP AND AWAY!**

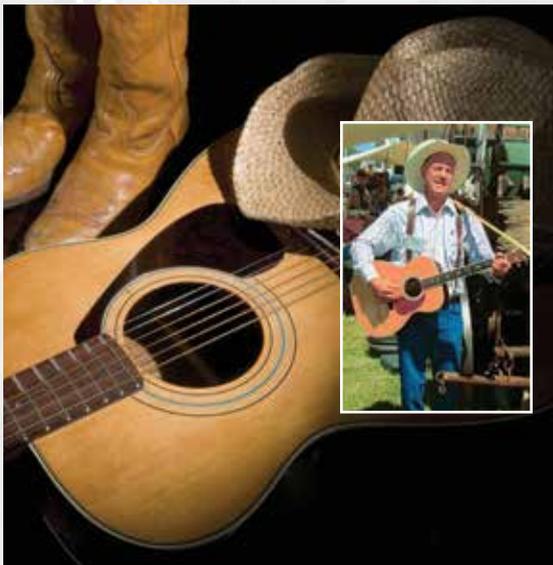
**Saturday, July 8**

**Presidential Reception 5:30-6:30PM**

**Presidential Banquet 6:45-8:45PM**

**Presidential Ball 8:45-11PM**

Get ready to be entertained from the moment you walk into the room, between dinner courses and into the night! This will be an Optimist International President's Banquet like none other before. King Mobile Music is more than just a team of DJs - they are entertainment professionals!



## **EARL GLEASON**

### **Fellowship/Old Timers Breakfast**

**Saturday, July 8, 7-8:30AM**

Come and enjoy breakfast while listening to the music of Earl Gleason, a cowboy, yodeler, singer, western and country music singer songwriter. He is a member of the Western Music Association and inducted into the National Traditional Country Music Hall of Fame in 2010.

Earl taught himself to play the guitar at a very young age and while working on the family farm and serving over 25 years on the Albuquerque Fire Department, he wrote and sang from his heart. In the 1960s and 1970s, Earl was the lead singer and songwriter for *The Country Watchmen*, a gospel group that toured the southwestern states for 12 years.

To learn more about Earl, visit [earlgleason.com](http://earlgleason.com)

## **GIVE BACK IN A BIG WAY**

The Route 66 Optimist Club of Albuquerque gives back to their community in many ways. One big project they do is giving back to those who need it most. Below are lists of items that you can bring to convention to help the homeless in Albuquerque. Anything you can give will help make a difference:

- Women's Home: children's clothing (3 months—size 16)
- Homeless teens ages 15-17: socks, t-shirts, baseball caps, and personal hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, shower cap (hotel amenities), toothbrush, toothpaste, combs, hairbrushes, and deodorants
- Miscellaneous items: baby blankets, backpacks, small and large totes

For questions, contact [convention@optimist.org](mailto:convention@optimist.org)

# SAN DIEGO JUNIOR OPTIMIST PONY SCOUTS

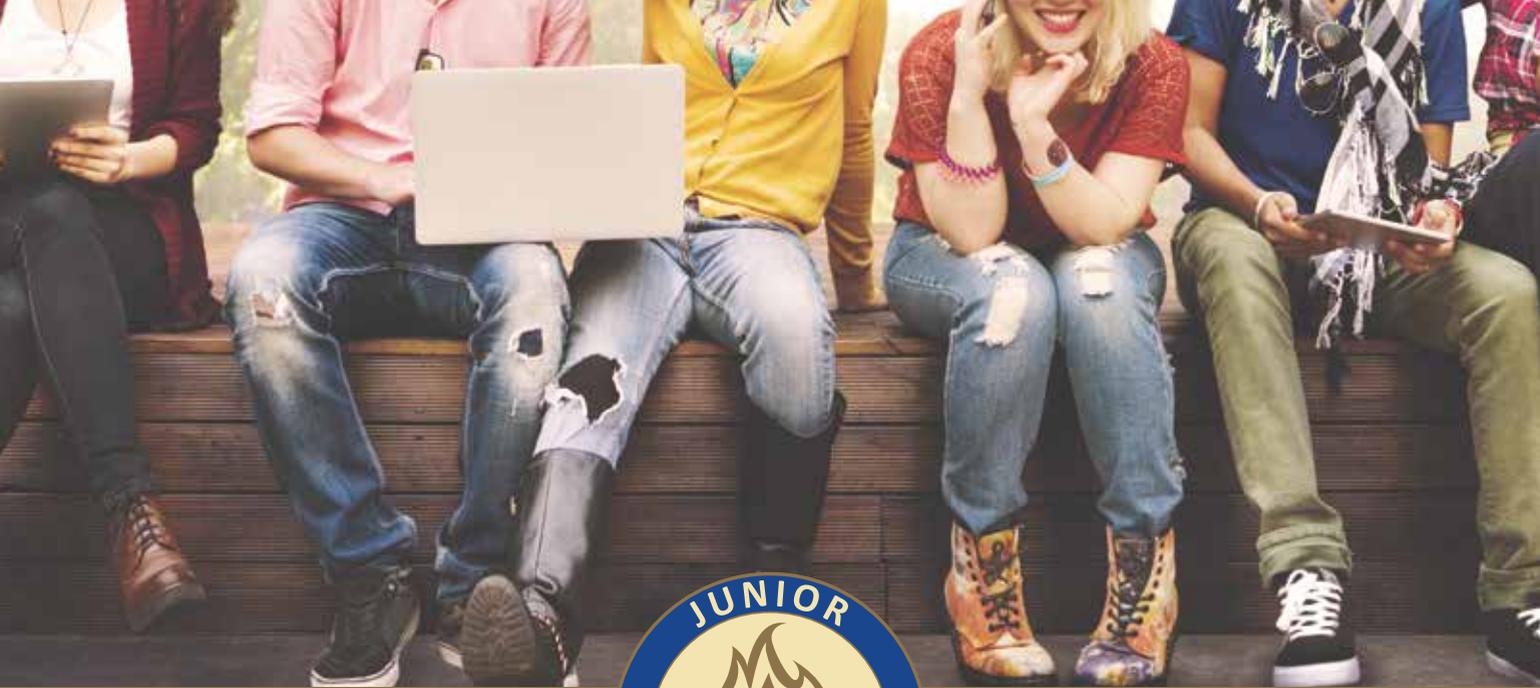
A new and invigorating Club has made its way into the heart of Junior Optimists, the San Diego Junior Optimist Pony Scouts. This group of excited, young, vibrant, and determined equestrians are creating quite a stir and gaining a large amount of public interest in the horse and family community. The Pony Scouts are a group of elementary to high school age riders, who share the same desire to enhance the lives of children through their mutual love of horses.

The Club President and founder, Avalon Harro, is an ambitious nine year old with nothing, but success and service on her mind. Without any assistance what so ever, she took the initiative to create posters with markers, construction paper, and glitter, along with a sign-up sheet for any interested Members. Within the first week of the posting of the sign-up sheet, she had already gained five potential Members! As sign-ups increased each day, it became apparent that a meeting would soon ensue.

At the first Pony Scouts meeting, Club President Avalon Harro and Vice President O'Hara Wickham discussed the importance of horse show preparation along with a basic demonstration on horsemanship. After the presentation on competition prep, they then led the Members in a craft, which consisted of making horse-themed necklaces and earrings.

The top priority on their to-do is to collaborate on a service project event. This Club has obtained an overwhelming interest amongst non-equestrian families, and hopes to extend their reach beyond their immediate horse community. Just like horses who live and thrive in a herd, this group of Junior Optimists plan on doing the same as they learn to rely on each other and work together.





**START**

# A JUNIOR OPTIMIST CLUB

Creating a new Junior Optimist Club comes with many benefits for the community and potential young Optimists. Club Members are given leadership opportunities, which in turn creates better communication skills. Optimist Members are taught how to solve problems in peaceful ways and to expect the best of life. Providing an option for youth to help better themselves while participating in projects that will benefit the community will be a lifelong gift that will carry on into adulthood. It only takes eight Members to charter a Junior Optimist Club and there are no restrictions on who can join. Creating positive lifestyles is the goal and one of the best reasons to start a Junior Optimist Club in your community!

Contact [youthclubs@optimist.org](mailto:youthclubs@optimist.org) to obtain more information about Junior Optimist Clubs.

## GOLF

**Teeing Up at the Optimist Championship**

Across the globe, junior golfers are gearing up for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship. Currently, District qualifying golf tournaments are involving youth in your communities. Volunteering at local Optimist qualifying tournaments is a great way to reach out to some top-notch young people in your area. Get involved in your local qualifier. Volunteers are needed on and off the golf course, so contact your District chair to find out more about how you can get involved.

Golfers face a tough field at PGA National Resort and Spa – July 18–August 2, 2017. The Optimist International Junior Golf Championship is a wonderful opportunity for Junior Golfers from around the world to develop global friendships that will serve them for the rest of their lives. They not only play on championship courses, they will meet, dine, play and have fun on and off the course. Off the course, golfers can participate in the glow ball event, long drive competition, enjoy the video arcade room, swim and attend the Par-tee night (DJ/photobooth) or just hang out with their new friends. Two parent/child tournaments are scheduled for those parents wanting to golf with their child on championship courses.

Track the progress of your hometown players by viewing the daily scores posted on the Optimist website at [www.optimist.org/golf](http://www.optimist.org/golf)

**Hugh Cranford All-Scholastic Team**

After reviewing the qualifications of a record number of impressive applicants, the Hugh Cranford Committee has selected the following exceptional student athletes for the 2017 High Cranford All-Scholastic Team:

**Academic Award Winners**

**Davis Hingtgen**  
Orlando, Florida



**Anina Ku**  
Basking Ridge, New Jersey



**Victor Lim**  
Cincinnati, Ohio



**Nicole Suppelsa**  
Rolling Hills Estates, California

**Community Service Award Winner**

**Tyler Rover**  
Wesley Chapel, Florida

This team exemplified an impressive balance of academics, golf and community service. The All-Scholastic Team is named for Hugh Cranford, who served as executive director of Optimist International from 1967 to 1986. He was instrumental in starting the Optimist Junior Golf program and in 1978 led the efforts to co-sponsor the Optimist Junior World Golf Championships in San Diego, the forerunner to today's Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. Cranford passed away in August 2014.

## Fall Junior Tour Events

The Tour Events provide additional opportunities to qualify for the Championship. Ranked by Junior Golf Scoreboard, the tour travels to attractive locations such as Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Ft. Worth, Texas and Wesley Chapel, Florida in the spring. These 36-hole events are open to both boys and girls ages 11-18. The competition is very determined as participants all have their eyes on the big prize, which is a spot in the Championships.

In the fall, the tour events are held in Canada and Colorado:

August 30-31, 2017 - Kingsville Golf and Country Club in Kingsville, Ontario, Canada

October 14-15, 2017 - Green Valley Ranch Golf Club in Denver, Colorado

For more information on these tournaments, visit [www.optimist.org/golf](http://www.optimist.org/golf)

## 13th Annual Optimist International Tournament of Champions

November 11-12, 2017

PGA National Resort and Spa, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

An invitational event for Boys 11-13, Boys 14-15, Boys 16-18, Girls 11-13 and Girls 14-18 which is ranked by Golfweek and the Junior Golf Scoreboard and is included in the AJGA Performance Based Entry process.

For more information, go to [www.optimist.org/golf](http://www.optimist.org/golf)



AWARD CEREMONIES   OPENING CEREMONIES   GLOWBALL GOLF   LONG DRIVE COMPETITION   PARTEE NIGHT





# HOT SUMMER NIGHTS DAYS

The place to be July 5-8 will be in the Optimist International Foundation kiosk at the International Convention. Mark it on your “to do” list to stop by and meet the Optimist International Foundation Board, staff and committee volunteers.

Stop by the kiosk for the following:

- A chance to purchase the limited edition 2017 International Convention pin highlighting an Albuquerque icon: the International Balloon Festival.
- Participate in the annual Women's Philanthropy Council Purse Snatch. After a year off, the Purse Snatch is back. New (and some gently used) purses, backpacks and other bags have been graciously donated. A daily selection will be made available for auction to the highest bidder. A great chance to support the Optimist International Foundation endeavor and walk away with a designer bag!
- Along with the Purse Snatch, Optimist International Foundation is bringing back the mystery bag event. Daily bags will be made available for a small purchase price. Value will range from \$10 all the way to \$200. Another chance to win some great gifts and support Optimist International Foundation.



The Optimist International Foundation kiosk is the hot place to be during the International Convention. Visit the kiosk to learn more about how the Foundation supports the mission of Optimist International through its many fundraising efforts. You can also learn about all the great opportunities to support the Optimist International Foundation efforts through the various fundraising events that will be happening.

See you in Albuquerque!





# FOUNDATION HELPS FUND 22 NEW PROJECTS

Optimist International Foundation and the Club Grant Committee are pleased to announce the 2017 Club Grant Program winners! Due to the volume and excellent quality of grant applications received this year, the Optimist International Foundation Board awarded an additional two grants. The following 22 Clubs will be awarded a \$500 matching grant at the International Convention in Albuquerque.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2017 WINNERS:

**(F.A.C.E IT) Fight Abuse and Child Exploitation**  
Sawnee Optimist Club of Cumming, GA

**Blankets for Kids**  
Playa Vista Optimist Club, CA

**Child's ID Program**  
Optimist Club of North Platte, NE

**Bike Rodeo**  
Hill Country Optimist Club, TX

**Optimists "Robotics is Elementary" Program**  
Sacramento Breakfast Optimist Club, CA

**Storybridge Amarillo**  
Southwest Amarillo Optimist Club, TX

**Kids' Night Out!**  
Ozark Optimist Club, MO

**Denim & Diamonds Special  
Needs Prom**  
East Fort Bend County, TX

**Getting Totally Eclipsed in Saline County**  
Optimist Club of Marshall, MO

**Embracing Hope and Building Great**  
San Antonio-Valley Hi Optimist Club, TX

**Audio Bibles for Blind People**  
Echo Hills Optimist Club of Accra, Ghana

**Goulds Rams Community Garden**  
Greater Goulds Optimist Club, FL

**Middleton Optimists "Cops and Bobbers"**  
Middleton Optimist Club, WI

**The Tassel is Worth the Hassle!**  
Evening Optimist Club of St. Joseph, MO

**Demonstrating on Tough Situations (DOTS)**  
Optimist Club of New Ulm, MN

**Picnic with a Purpose**  
Optimist Club of Yuma, AZ

**Mitzi's Girl Scouts\***  
Oceanside Optimist Club, CA

**BristleBots**  
Tuskegee Optimist Club, AL

**Move-It**  
Optimist Club of Minnesota Valley, MN

**Special Needs Hoedown**  
Bluegrass Optimist Club, KY

**New Shoes-Happy Beginnings, House of Hope,  
Free Home, Cherokee County, Georgia**  
Laurel Canyon Optimist Club, GA

**The Keep Girls in School Challenge (KGSC)\***  
KAMP Optimist Club, Uganda

\* Funded by the Women's Philanthropy Council

**THE CLUB GRANT PROGRAM** is a yearly program designed to assist Clubs in funding new projects. For more information please visit [oifoundation.org](http://oifoundation.org) or call the Optimist International Foundation office at (800) 500-8130.

THE CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION  
IS READY TO



# Spread Relief

The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation is proud to be a partner of the Canadian Optimist Clubs in their effort to promote and encourage Canadian youth. We developed programs to help these Clubs make their mark and succeed in helping their community.

**The Outsourcing Program** helps the Clubs optimize their fundraising efforts by providing charitable tax receipts to donors and by using Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation resources, like the online donations. Each quarter, \$500 **Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation Club Grants** are remitted to Canadian Clubs in order to help them develop community projects that benefit Canadian children at large. You may find more information on these programs on our website.

And now, there is the **Spread Relief** program.

Last July, the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation Board of Directors announced a moratorium on the Childhood Cancer Campaign. The objective was to enlarge that well-known and well-loved program in order to help more kids and their families across the country.

The always-growing number of Clubs and Members were asking for a way to help kids with a range of health issues. Physical disabilities generate high treatment costs for a family. Every community has special needs and asking the Optimists for some help is often the first thing that comes in mind when in need of support. Unfortunately, we were not able to help the Clubs in helping children with mental health problems, cystic fibrosis or heart diseases, for example, as much as we would have liked to. Our health program was very narrowly focused.

The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation has broadened its program to assist more children and families dealing with

more diverse health issues. The mission will include projects focused on assisting children and families dealing with more mental and physical health issues, or promoting and raising awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle to inspire entire communities.

Starting on October 1st 2017, the **Spread Relief** program will:

- Develop a template for Clubs to use to identify and assess the needs in the community;
- Through a committee, select from all the project submissions those that exemplify this program;
- Give seed money to the chosen projects, based on funds available and the Club's needs;
- Share the projects on the Foundation's platforms to promote the program's success and inspire other Clubs.

**The closer you are to a community, the more you know their needs. We therefore think Optimist Members and Clubs are well placed to know how they could serve youth in their own community. Optimist Members are well-known for their active work and we have committed to help them. The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation is ready to Spread Relief from coast to coast. Are you?**



# THREE GENERATIONS of Optimists

## A TRUE STORY OF FLOURISHING YOUTH

**Imagine a large garden. To have magnificent flowers, you need to work the earth, sow and tend your seeds. You need to water to hydrate the plant and soil, and sunlight to caress their petals. Some people claim that they grow bigger and prettier if you talk to them.**

An Optimist family functions exactly the same way. The children are the flowers; the water and the sun are the examples shown by the parents, and even the grandparents.

Nina Strickland, President of the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation, and her husband Fred, have sown Optimism in their family. The Optimist culture has taken root for three generations. Fred Strickland's involvement began in 1980, when he joined the Optimist Club of Moore in Southwest Ontario. Involved in Christmas activities and youth golf tournaments in his Club, his passion resulted in him serving on Club and District levels, and holding a Chair position on an International committee. His Optimism spread to his wife, who was involved informally during a time when only men were admitted as Optimist Members.

In 1990, Nina Strickland finally became an Optimist Member, and performed every important role in her Club, District, and various International committees. Her involvement reached its peak when she was appointed President of the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation, a first for a woman.

Denise Nacev, their daughter, often claims that she cannot remember a time without Optimism in her life. It is therefore not surprising that she has been active along with her parents since she was ten years old, in her parents' Club activities and with her Junior Optimist Club. She is now an Optimist Member and has served at the Club, District and International level.

Denise and her husband, Tony, have raised two boys, Mathew and Andrew. Both are Junior Optimist Members who have continued their grandparents' tradition within their local Junior Optimist Club and in their District.

If you ask them why they continue to cultivate their "Optimism garden," they would answer that they receive as much as they give. Fred and Nina have had the opportunity to influence the lives of many youth through the years. Denise has learned many leadership skills and overcome a fear of public speaking. Andrew, who is on the Autism Spectrum, has gained confidence, friendships, and leadership skills. Mathew is sharpening his natural leadership abilities and enjoys mentoring younger Optimist Members.

With three generations volunteering at the Optimist Club, District and International levels, we can expect to continue to see youth flourishing. Are you cultivating your garden?



## Christian D. Larson Partners Membership

645 Dr. Charles Boyd (In Memory)

### Top Ten as of March 31, 2017

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Arizona	Ted Gaffin	\$14.03
New Mexico-West Texas	Suzann Owings	\$11.02
South Carolina	Doug Griffin	\$10.99
Colorado-Wyoming	Joe Priester	\$10.34
South Texas	John Blackwell	\$10.09
Alabama-Mississippi	Debra Merritt	\$9.83
Capital-Virginia	JoAnna Tremper	\$7.76
North Carolina East	Bill Edgerton	\$7.60
Indiana South	Kathy Underwood	\$7.58
Pacific Southwest	T G Thomas	\$7.10

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Colorado-Wyoming	Joe Priester	\$15,975.70
South Texas	John Blackwell	\$15,250.30
Iowa	Don Pfeiffer	\$14,672.60
Michigan	David Fries	\$14,259.70
North Carolina West	Bill Teague	\$13,040.50
Alabama-Mississippi	Debra Merritt	\$10,756.00
Indiana South	Kathy Underwood	\$10,325.26
Arizona	Ted Gaffin	\$9,735.28
Southern Wisconsin	Maureen Crombie	\$9,219.65
GATEway	Cathy Robinson	\$8,807.37

## Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

District	Representative	Average Contribution Per Member
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Douglas Kirby	\$21.70
Pacific Northwest	Peter Smith	\$15.41
Dakotas-Manitoba-Minnesota	Wes Shewchuk	\$14.54

District	Representative	Total Contributions
Alberta, Montana, Saskatchewan & Northern Wyoming	Douglas Kirby	\$23,372.81
Central Ontario	Susan & Jim Lyngé	\$17,928
Southwestern Ontario	Edward Stevens	\$16,709



Canadian Children's  
Optimist Foundation

# Donor Listings

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from January 1, 2017 – March 31, 2017 for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of *The Optimist*.

## SILVER BENEFACTOR - \$25,000

QUÉBEC WEST

Jean-Claude St-Onge

## BRONZE BENEFACTOR - \$15,000

ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI

Optimist Club of Madison, AL

CENTRAL ONTARIO

Optimist Club of Aurora, ON

DAKOTAS-MANITOBA-MINNESOTA

Optimist Club of Bismarck, ND

GATEWAY

Optimist Club of Jasper, GA

INDIANA SOUTH

David and Karen Kirkman

Optimist Club of Mooresville, IN

NORTH CAROLINA EAST

Optimist Club of Henderson, NC

## EMINENT BENEFACTOR - \$10,000

CAPITAL-VIRGINIA

Jeffrey M. Johnson

EASTERN ONTARIO

Club Optimiste d'Embrun, ON

IOWA

Optimist Club of Corydon-Wayne, IA

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

T G Thomas

QUÉBEC EAST & ACADIE

Club Optimiste de Rivière-du-Loup, QC

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Optimist Club of Roseville-Fontainebleu, ON

## DISTINGUISHED BENEFACTOR - \$5,000

EAST MISSOURI

Donald Hilgedick

OHIO

Thomas W. Kendo

PACIFIC CENTRAL

Optimist Club of Elk Grove, CA

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Ed R. Murphy

SOUTH TEXAS

Optimist Club of Houston-South End, TX

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Optimist Club of Kitchener West, ON

WEST MISSOURI

Optimist Club of West Plains, MO

## HONORED BENEFACTOR - \$2,500

CAPITAL-VIRGINIA

Optimist Club of Winchester, VA

ILLINOIS

James M. McClure

NEW MEXICO-WEST TEXAS

Sandra A. Wooten

PACIFIC SOUTHEAST

Optimist Club of Los Angeles-Japanese-American, CA

QUÉBEC EAST-NORTH SHORE

Club Optimiste de Cap Santé, QC

SOUTH CAROLINA

Optimist Club of Columbia-Breakfast, SC

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Optimist Club of Sombra-Sombra Township, ON

## BENEFACTOR - \$1,000

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING

Brian Duck

COLORADO-WYOMING

John P. Oss

Andrew Stanger

ILLINOIS

H. R. McLane

Ronda Vaughn

INDIANA NORTH

Warren E. Kneuss

NEBRASKA

Lori G. Blum

NORTH CAROLINA EAST

Henry C. Edmondson

NORTH CAROLINA WEST

Gladys Highland

PACIFIC CENTRAL

Eugene W. Murray

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

James P. Minyard

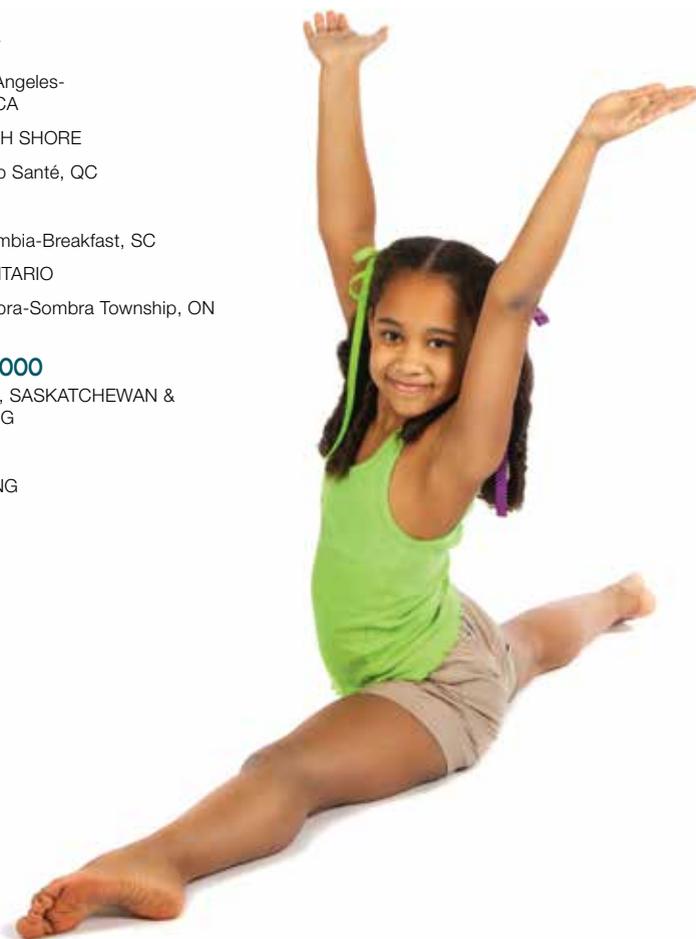
Optimist Club of Santa Paula, CA

QUÉBEC SOUTH

Cécile Mathieu

SOUTH CAROLINA

Marino A. Garbin



For more information about the Foundations, see pages 26-29.



"I'm trying to drag the file to my desktop, but it won't move past the edge of my screen."



"Steve Jobs said to 'stay hungry, stay foolish'. So I left class and went to lunch early!"

A mom texts, "Hi! Son, what does IDK, LY, & TTYL mean?"  
He texts back, "I Don't Know, Love You, & Talk To You Later."  
The mom texts him, "It's ok, don't worry about it. I'll ask your sister, love you too."

A man called his child's doctor, "Hello! My son just snatched my pen when I was writing and swallowed it. What should I do?"  
The doctor replied, "Until I can come over, write with another pen."

A mom and a son come home from the grocery store. The boy immediately empties out a box of animal crackers and the mom asks him why.  
The boy says, "You should not eat it if the seal is broken, so I'm looking for the seal."

An 11-year-old boy spent a beautiful Saturday playing video games. His older sister tried coaxing him outside by warning, "Someday, you're going to be 30 years old, single, and living in Mom's basement playing video games all day!"  
He replied, "I can only dream."



*together we can...*

**MAKE  
EDUCATION  
AFFORDABLE**

Wise investment in youth yields a greater return of educating and engaging our youth in global awareness, responsibility, and participation.

Thanks to generous contributions from individuals, organizations, and foundations, Optimist International is able to annually award thousands of dollars in scholarships to hopeful college students.



Donate to the Foundations today!  
[oifoundation.org](http://oifoundation.org)      [ccof-foec.org](http://ccof-foec.org)



Canadian Children's  
Optimist Foundation

# CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE



**BECOME AN OPTIMIST AND BRING OUT  
THE BEST IN YOUTH, YOURSELF AND  
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

[www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org)

