Optimism
A way of life
Optimist International and its members celebrate Optimist Day around the world each year on the first Thursday in February. On Optimist Day, members show their pride in belonging to an Optimist Club by wearing Optimist Club apparel – shirts, pins, hats, jackets, etc. – and posting a photo on social media with #OptimistDay2022.

Optimist Clubs may choose a location and distribute copies of the Optimist Creed so others may choose optimism for themselves.

Add a printable Optimist Creed flyer to their website and encourage community members to visit the website and download their very own copy or save it digitally.


Optimist Day gear, apparel, and memorabilia are available at our online licensed merchant stores Schumsky and Ansell’s!

On Optimist Day, and every day, be proud to be an Optimist.
MISSION STATEMENT
By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities, and ourselves.

VISION STATEMENT
Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the first 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 agreement 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 CRED

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.

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

Optimist
The Official Publication of Optimist International

Managing Editor Ronda Vaughn
Editor Jennifer Bagwell
Designer Jason Cook
Editorial Office 4494 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108
Office (314) 371-6000 Fax (314) 371-6006
Email magazine@optimist.org

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

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A another Holiday season is behind us, and the decorations are put away for another year. For most people, the Holiday season is a time of parties & celebrations with family and friends. We hope you took some time to enjoy the majesty of the season. For some people, the Holiday season is a time filled with sadness, self-reflection, loneliness, and anxiety. The Holidays can be an emotionally exhausting and challenging time, which is especially true during a global pandemic.

As we enter this new year 2022, I think of a message in a song from the Broadway musical Annie: “The sun will come out tomorrow, bet your bottom dollar on tomorrow… Tomorrow is only a day away!” However grim or dark today may seem for some, tomorrow can bring change. Tomorrow is always a new day, and we all have a chance at a new beginning.

I want to take you back 100 years. On June 29, 1922 – Optimist International President Cyrus Crane Willmore of St. Louis gavelled the fourth International Convention to order in Kansas City, Missouri. During that time, Optimists would discover a purpose, a mission, and a creed to guide the future of our Organization. At that convention, Optimists adopted a poem entitled “Promise Yourself” by Christian D. Larson as the official creed of the Optimist Club.

According to President Willmore, “The true Optimist can see beyond the shores of an old ocean, and in his vision can see the needs of the entire world. In fact, the entire world is hungry for the help of the Optimists… The larger our field of cultivation, the greater our harvest will be. If we look up on our International relations with naught but self-interest, we cannot fully realize the right results. We have a name above all names in service clubs. It is not difficult to sell Optimism to the up-to-date progressive man who is born with at least a spark of Optimism that needs to be fanned into a flame by our work.”

This second quarter of our optimist year will be a busy one and provides numerous opportunities to promote & cultivate Optimism:

**Optimist Day:** February 3, 2022

**Club Essay Scholarship Contests:**
Topic – “How Does an Optimistic Mindset Change My Tomorrow?”

**Club Oratorical Scholarship Contests:**
Topic – “Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times”

**Club Kids Speak out Contest:**
Topic – “Optimism – A way of life.”

**Optimism – Promise Yourself Video Contests:**
Highlighting tenets of the Optimist Creed.
Divisions: Youth, Members, Clubs
– Cash prizes $250

**Deadline for submission:**
(communications@optimist.org) March 15, 2022
Winners to be announced on March 30, 2022

**Musical Happiness Event:**
March 20, 2022

The Spring issue of Optimist will have recognition and celebration of Members reaching their 100th birthday. Please send pictures and contact information directly to me (patsy.garner@gmail.com) by March 1, 2022, and I will reach out to them personally with specifics.

This New Year is our tomorrow. Time to re-focus and to go the One Degree More in all you do. To all Optimist Members across our globe, Ken and I wish you all a BRIGHT 2022 Year and THANK YOU for BEING AN OPTIMIST!

Patsy Garner
International President 2021-22
Get ready for the fun! The Inaugural Toss for a Cause: 2022 Optimist International Cornhole Championships will be held during the Optimist International Convention, June 30 to July 3, 2022 in Reno Nevada.

Optimists will compete in Cornhole Tournaments during their District Conferences. The winners of the District tournaments will then compete at the Inaugural Toss for a Cause: 2022 Optimist International Cornhole Championships.

There will be additional Cornhole Tournament divisions for others to participate in as well. Let your Members know so they can practice and are well prepared. More information to follow.

For any questions, please contact either your District OI Convention Ambassador or District Community Program/Projects Chair.
Calendar of Events
A look at what’s coming up for Optimist International

FEBRUARY

• Optimist Day
• Winter Magazine Release
• Random Acts of Kindness Day
• Webinar: Bringing out the Best in Yourself & Others – Leadership, Mentorship, & Relationships
• IRS Annual Filing due for all U.S. Optimist Clubs, the IRS annual 990 series returns are due
• Junior Optimist Reading Month
• Registration and housing open for the 2022 International Convention

MARCH

• Optimist International Board of Director's Meeting
• International Day of Happiness
• OIF & CCOF Club Grant Deadline
• Musical Happiness Competition
• Webinar: Optimist Madness, Are we the Big Game?

APRIL

• Q3 Focus Apr/May/June: Optimism, Promise Yourself (Creed)
• OI – Essay District Winners Due
• National Volunteer Week
• Global Youth Service Day
• Webinar: Plant, Nurture, Reap Optimism

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

- **February**
  - **Bringing out the Best in Yourself & Others – Leadership, Mentorship & Relationships**
    Leadership Matters. Learn how to foster collaboration across Optimist clubs, zones, and districts by building trust, facilitating relationships, and mentoring emerging leaders.

- **March**
  - **Optimist Madness, Are We the Big Game?**
    Does your community know who you are? We can help with easy, practical, and fun ways to build name recognition.

- **April**
  - **Plant, Nurture, Reap Optimism.**
    Find out about creative ways to grow Optimism in your community through local projects, volunteer events and partnering with agencies.
Just imagine children arriving at school without eating breakfast or often not prepared for a day of learning due to the lack of items needed. Members of the Optimist Club of Aurora want to make a difference in their community by helping provide some necessities so the children can learn each day. We share our story to inspire the Members of your Optimist Club, other groups, and individuals to do the same for your community.

Children arriving at school without a proper breakfast is not the only concern; often, many children arrive at school missing a pair of mittens, a hat, pencils, crayons, or even a backpack. Parents are usually made aware and do not or cannot provide the item for whatever reason. We do not need to know why. We want to help each parent who requests help. By connecting with the school, the Club was able to take action.

Upon identifying a child in need, the school connects with one of our KIND coordinators and advises what is needed. We acquire the item and deliver it to the school – quickly and without embarrassment to the child. If the cost is not too great, new items are purchased. If needed, we will visit a local thrift shop for a "gently loved" item, bring it home, wash it, and package it, for the child. We are only two months into this project, have received a few requests, and positive feedback.

An Educational Assistant at one of our schools writes, "Sorry for not getting back to you, but the student has been absent and just returned today. The snowsuit fits, and she loves it. You made this little girl very happy today." Comments like this warm our hearts and keep our Club motivated.

We believe this "KIND" project would be welcomed in any community and does not require a large budget to facilitate. We encourage other Clubs, groups, and individuals in a community to reach out to your local elementary schools and begin helping those "Kids in Need" today.

About the Club and Program:
At the beginning of our 2021-2022 year, our Past President, Sandy Bundy, submitted a new project idea to the Board of Directors. This new project, Kids in Need Delivered or KIND, evolved from our connection with the elementary schools in our community.
The power of purpose and why it matters now

by Tracy Brower
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We’ve all heard about how important purpose is to both organizations and people, but as work changes and hybrid work models become the norm, purpose has renewed importance.

After the last year and a half, we need to re-motivate ourselves. In addition, as leaders we need to ensure we’re attracting the best talent, retaining people, and engaging both hearts and minds. Purpose is a critical way we can accomplish these.

But there’s more to know about purpose, and what it takes for purpose to make a difference—for people or for organizations.

Purpose Matters for People and Organizations

Starting with people, purpose matters in many ways. For example, a study in Psychosomatic Medicine found when people have greater senses of purpose, they have less incidence of cardiovascular disease and lower mortality. In addition, a recent study by the University of Pennsylvania found when people had a greater sense of purpose they experienced less loneliness and made better lifestyle choices to protect their health in the face of Covid-19.

Purpose is also powerful for companies. A study published by Harvard Business Review found when companies had a greater sense of purpose, their employees reported their work was more meaningful. And research by the University of Sussex found when leaders demonstrated clear purpose—vision, commitment to stakeholders and strong morals—their people were happier and more productive.

Purpose also delivers benefits in terms of the work experience. A study by Northwestern University found when companies had a greater sense of purpose, their employees reported their work was more meaningful. And research by the University of Sussex found when leaders demonstrated clear purpose—vision, commitment to stakeholders and strong morals—their people were happier and more productive.

Why Purpose Matters Now

Purpose has always impacted people and business, but the disruption of the last year and a half magnify its importance: When we weren't able to go out as much, when we were isolated from our people, and when our lives were turned upside down, we were reminded of what really mattered to us. Through their absence or discombobulation, we were reminded of what we needed and desired for a full life. Purpose has been brought to the top of mind for people.
Defining Purpose and Dreaming Small

Generally, purpose is a belief that your life matters and that you make a difference. It is a sense of being guided by meaningful values and goals. Purpose can be related to families or parenting, career, religion, activism, artistic pursuits, or other contributions to community. In Japanese, the word Ikigai describes a reason for being, or a reason to wake up in the morning.

Purpose doesn’t have to be world-changing either. It can simply be the expression of your talents to help your family or your friends. One woman expressed her ikigai—her reason to wake up in the morning—as the need and desire to make soup for her family. And dreaming small is helpful. Purpose doesn’t have to include pressure to find the cures for diseases or inspire world peace, it can just be doing the next thing that makes sense and performing work which allows you to express your unique capabilities to help others or contribute to the broader community.

The Importance of Alignment

A key element of purpose is alignment. We will be most engaged in our work when the mission and goals of the organization also matter to us—and when we feel like we can make a contribution to the bigger picture. We all want to build castles, not just lay bricks. For example, working on an industrial line making hardware (think: hooks, doorknobs) makes a contribution to our collective need for beauty and efficiency in our environments. Or serving coffee at a diner contributes to people’s opportunities to come together in conversation and community. The accounting clerk who processes payments at the university is contributing to students’ learning and paving the way for them to reach their goals. Companies who can develop a strong purpose, but also help people see how they contribute to it, will reap the greatest rewards in terms of employees who provide discretionary effort and wake up energized for their day.

While a strong purpose can work to motivate and engage, it can also help people choose and clarify their investments of time and effort. Years ago, I worked with Helen who was morally opposed to an industry our company was serving. She asked to opt out of working on those accounts. We accommodated her and she was able to contribute brilliantly to other accounts while team members who didn’t share her concerns served the other account. Or consider Josie who quit her job at a well-known company because she didn’t agree with what she perceived to be the negative impact they were having on the community. Purpose can help people and companies make choices which ensure the greatest match between values, talents, and contributions.

Meaningful Action

In applying the purpose, there are 4 key actions which matter most:

First, clarify purpose. As an individual or as a company, define your purpose with as much detail and clarity as possible, identifying what differentiates your purpose and what makes your contribution to it unique.

Next, articulate purpose. Whether you’re an individual or a company, write down your purpose and revisit it regularly to keep it fresh. Companies should communicate purpose broadly and regularly—reminding people about why the organization exists and what they seek to accomplish so people have a line of sight from their work to the importance of the company’s work overall. Organizations can leverage purpose to unify the organization and galvanize and energize stakeholders.

Then, choose well. Actively use purpose for choice-making. No choice is ideal, but as individuals, we can choose a job or a volunteer effort or a task which is as close as possible to what matters most to us. And we can remind ourselves of how even small, everyday tasks ladder up to something bigger than ourselves. Companies and leaders can use purpose to define strategic choices—where to play and how to win. They can consider purpose to broaden and solidify their impact.

Finally, stay nimble. Monitor, measure, reevaluate and reassess regularly. Circumstances and context will change, and both individuals and organizations will need to shift and adapt. This is resilience, and it will be important for the future of work generally and the work each of us do.

In Sum

Purpose is a big deal, but it doesn’t have to be rocket science. Keep the bigger picture in mind and ensure actions are in alignment with what matters most to you—as a leader within a company or as an individual. As many people have said, “We are the choices we make.” Or this, “We are what we repeatedly do.” Purpose should drive all of these choices and actions—and we will be happiest and most fulfilled when our choices and actions are aligned with a clear purpose.
This fall, we were excited to introduce “Celebrate Community,” a week of service October 10-16, 2021, bringing together all four major service club organizations. Building on collaboration between leaders of Kiwanis International, Lions Clubs International, Optimist International, and Rotary International, Celebrate Community encouraged Optimists to team up with volunteer peers to make an even bigger impact together at a local level.

In a short timeframe, our Clubs came together worldwide with thousands of Optimist and Junior Optimist volunteers teaming up with others, spanning 16 countries on 5 continents, contributing over 175,000 hours of volunteer time serving over 50,000 people. Projects ranged from a focus on the environment to food insecurity and hunger to health and wellness and much more. We saw new friendships and connections made and existing ones strengthened.

THANK YOU to all of our Optimist and Junior Optimist volunteers for making this possible, even with a short lead time. We know our participation and positive impact will be even greater with more notice, so we’re excited to share that you can mark your calendar NOW for our next Celebrate Community: September 11-17, 2022!
OptiForum speaker Ray Young spoke on the importance of how "This is our Time." He spoke to hundreds of people participating in an online virtual forum. Continuing, he said it is time to take the lead. It is time to stop waiting for someone else to perform a task; it is time to step up, step out, make a difference, and stop hoping that things will change by themselves. Every community with an Optimist Club has everything it needs to make a difference and has an edge in leading change.

Your optimist edge is purpose.
The needs of every community are different, as are the needs of every individual in that community. Optimists know what to do and why they need community members to reach out and get involved.

Your optimist edge is a process.
Move from concept to action. Take a vision, know how to help others believe in it, commit to making the change, and follow through till the end.

Your optimist edge is compassion.
Focus on family – explicitly treating people like family, making them feel like they matter.

Optimists value people and want to add value to people's lives. Expand your circle and care for more people, treat them like they are family, treat them like they matter, because everyone matters.
Your optimist edge is perseverance.
While some focus on the past and seem stuck there, and others focus on the future, Optimists act. Optimists do not wait for the right time, conditions, perfect plan, or others to take the lead – because people and causes matter today.

Your optimist edge is passion.
Leading is not about a duty or obligation. Because we love people and want the world to be better, we love what we do, who we do it for, and how it makes a difference.

Catching the vision, sharing the vision, taking action, and keeping on is the Optimist way to show the world that this is our time.

For over 30 years, Ray has enjoyed working with groups and individuals worldwide, including Mexico, Belize, Honduras, South Africa, Bolivia, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, and all over the United States. Ray brings a unique combination of entrepreneurship, leadership development, and systems evaluation and development to offer his clients unparalleled services. Ray specializes in Leadership Development, Team Building, Personal Development, and is a proud member of the John Maxwell Leadership Team.

The start of a new year always brings renewed Optimism. As Optimists, we need to share our Optimism with everyone we meet. When was the last time you shared Optimism and it resulted in a new Member?

Sometimes we get into a rut and need a purpose to remind us why and encourage us to share Optimism with new people.

In the spirit of purpose and sharing, we are launching Optimist Who Do You Know!

CLICK TO FIND OUT MORE!
One of the first questions normally asked after a new Optimist Club organizes is, “How do we come up with the funds needed to complete the projects we want to do?” The first answer normally encourages the Club to organize a fundraising effort. While this is the usual practice in North American and many nations of the Caribbean, fundraising is a concept that is largely unknown in some cultures and countries where there are Optimist Clubs.

Optimist International’s Clubs in Europe, Asia, and Africa are encouraged to develop partnerships with other non-government organizations or entrepreneurs. These partnerships help obtain the resources needed to complete a project that will benefit young people in their area of the world. The Optimist Club of Malta, for example, recently began an afterschool assistance program for children who needed help completing their homework. The Ikber Maghna (Grow with US) Project was made possible with the assistance of more than a dozen businesses that supplied furniture, supplies, and other materials to make the project happen. “In order to be successful, we collaborated with various entities including the Birgu Local Council and various private organizations that supplied the material to equip the place where the activities are held”, said Club President Reuben Buttigieg. “The project has been a major success to the extent that the Club is being asked to organize similar projects in different localities in 2022.”

The Optimist Club of Kinshasa-Pool in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, along with the Optimist Club of Lumbumbashi DRC work tirelessly to make the lives of people better. “We first identify our internal advantages and challenges for our Clubs, and then we look for groups who are similar to us,” said Kinshasa Pool President Joram Kisenstra. “The strength of these partnerships lies in maintaining a climate of courtesy, accountability, and responsibility. Once established, one partnership
can foster another, and we will start from one accomplishment to another.” This philosophy led to the development of the Optimist Smart Academy System to address the high unemployment rate among young people in the DRC. Meeting space was donated by a local hotel, education was provided by a local business school, and funding came from a Canadian-based organization, Mount Everest Management.

Young women’s health has been the focus of a partnership in Uganda through a project created by the KAMP Optimist Club in Kasese. “KAMP partnered with the Rwenzori Peace Bridge of Reconciliation organization to train over 20 JOI members from different JOI clubs in Uganda in making reusable sanitary pads,” said KAMP Member Kule Josam. “This program prevents young girls from having to beg for money to obtain these sanitary requirements.”

Partnerships or working agreements can be multi-layered like the ones in Malta and the Democratic Republic of the Congo or they can be simple ones. This fall, Members of the Optimists, Lions, Kiwanis, and Rotary Clubs were encouraged to partner with each other to increase the effectiveness of the service in the community. Dozens of Optimist Clubs did so during the Celebrate Community week in October. A perfect example of a simple yet effective partnership is demonstrated by the Fusion Optimist Club of New Kingston in Jamaica who partnered with the West St. Andrew Kiwanis Club to provide an ice cream treat for children at Laura’s Basic School.

The examples highlighted here are just some of the many initiatives being developed by Optimist Clubs around the world to provide “hope and positive vision” for young people. They are evidence that when circumstances create obstacles for executing our project ideas, we only need to broaden our horizons and look for partners to help us achieve our goals.

“The strength of these partnerships lies in maintaining a climate of courtesy, accountability, and responsibility.

– Joram Kisendra, Kinshasa Pool President

SAVE THE DATE
Celebrate Community 2022
September 11–17, 2022

Women’s Health Workshop

Ice Cream in the Caribbean

Kiwanis
Lions
Optimist International
Rotary

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On behalf of the Optimist International Foundation, best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

As we move into the 2nd quarter of the Optimist year, there are two matching grant opportunities that Optimist Clubs can receive from the Foundation. The Club Matching Grant is for a new project that Clubs are doing. The grant request can be from $250 up to $1,000. Grant applications are available on the Foundation website and must be submitted no later than March 16th. Winners will be notified by May 11th. The projects must be completed between April 2022 and March 2023. Depending on the amount of the grant request, there will be a minimum of 15 grants awarded. Information on the Club Matching Grant can be found on the Foundation website.

The other Grant opportunity is the Childhood Health and Wellness Grant. These grants are also from $250 up to $1,000. These grants can be for either a new program or for an existing program that a Club will be conducting. There are three grant application dates during the Optimist year: January 28th, April 29th, and August 26th. There are four different areas that a program can fall into: (1) Healthy Lifestyles, (2) Chronic Disease, (3) Mental Health, and (4) Disabilities – physical, intellectual, and developmental. Information on the Childhood Health and Wellness Grant can be found on the Foundation website.

Each year, there are many Clubs that apply for the Club Matching Grant. The Grant Committee, which is made up of Optimist Club Members, makes the decision as to which grant requests are awarded. Many years, the number of Clubs applying for the Childhood Health and Wellness Grant is minimal, and we could award more grants if there were more requests.

All of our Optimist Clubs provide great programs within their communities to benefit the youth. Both grant programs provide the Foundation with an opportunity to give back to the Clubs, so consider applying for a grant this year.

The funding to provide the grants and to provide the scholarships like Oratorical, CCDHH, and Essay comes from the generosity of our Members. Consider making a donation to the Foundation so that we can continue to support all of the programs of Optimist International. Donations can be made directly through the Foundation website by hitting the Donate Now button, filling out a short form, and providing either your credit card number or banking information. You can also set up a recurring contribution to the Foundation with a withdrawal from your bank account on a monthly basis.

Thank you for all that you have done in the past to support the Foundation and all that you continue to do to support the Foundation.

Yours in Optimism,

Marc D. Katz
Optimist International Foundation President 2021-2022
On behalf of Optimist International Foundation Immediate Past President, Jan Oord Graves, we would like to thank you for making the 2020-2021 year for OIF a huge success despite all the ongoing challenges caused by the pandemic. Donors, volunteers, District Foundation Representatives (DFRs), and many more supported the OIF cause so more children and communities could benefit.

The many accomplishments that were reached during the year allowed OIF to support the Optimist Mission to a greater level. We are very appreciative and grateful for all those that stepped forward to be a part of the effort.

We would like to specifically recognize the work of our DFRs. The hard work and passionate effort of each of them at the District level was awesome.

In particular, we would like to recognize above and beyond effort by those who made Distinguished DFR status. Those individuals were:

- Debra Davis, NYNE
- Nancy Boyd, AL-MS
- Ailesia Franklin, INDN
- Dick Disney / Michael Gray, PNW
- Bob Thompson, INDS
- Teri Branch, MDSD
- Debbie Crall, OK
- Charles Spavin, DMM
- Beryle Lantz, NE
- Darlene Friel, WMO
- James Rehm, AMS&NW
- Dale Fox, KS
- Skip Foy, CAPVA
- Kurt Gassen, LA
- Lynne Martin, NMWTX
- Janet Lloyd, IA
- Bill Stone, OH
- Billy Edgerton, NCE
- Ron Benson, COWY

In addition, we would like to recognize the top DFRs that reached Outstanding Level:

- Theresa Jarratt, MI – Overall Total Contributions
- Kathy Forster, GATE – Largest Total Dollar Increase Over Prior Year
- Marsi Salmi, AZ – Highest Dollar Per Member
- Chris McCall, SFL – Greatest Percentage of Increase Over Prior Year

Our sincere congratulations to those that reached the Distinguished and Outstanding Level for the year. And our heartfelt thank you to all the DFRs, donors, and volunteers that made 2020-2021 very special.

Sadly, two great Optimist who reached the Distinguished DFR level in the past year have passed, Dick Disney and Bill Edgerton. We mourn the loss of such outstanding friends, but celebrate their remarkable life. We honor their memory of service to many.

The Foundation and OI work in partnership to fund programs and services to advance the Mission of our great organization. Because of the gracious giving by our members, many in need are assisted.
Announcing the 2022 CLUB GRANT PROGRAM

What is the Club Grant Program?
Any Adult Club served by OIF is eligible to apply for a grant for a NEW project of the Club. The requested amount can range between $250 - $1,000.

OIF BOARD CANDIDATES

Fatima Plater
MI

Thomas Lloyd
IA

CLICK CANDIDATE FOR BIO AND ELECTION OVERVIEW

Election will be held February 1 through February 28, 2022
Votes will be cast online through the OIF website
This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from June 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021 for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of Optimist.

**OIF FOUNDATION DONORS**

**OIF CHRISTIAN D. LARSON PARTNERS MEMBERSHIP**

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<th>District</th>
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<td>Colorado-Wyoming</td>
<td>Ron Benson</td>
<td>$23,942.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Marsi Salmi</td>
<td>$20,023.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>Ailesia Franklin</td>
<td>$19,311.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina East</td>
<td>Billy Edgerton</td>
<td>$19,217.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OIF TOP TEN as of September 30, 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Total Contributions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ernie Dyer</td>
<td>$30,998.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameka Campbell-Green</td>
<td>$28,157.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck Iverson</td>
<td>$23,942.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debra S. Merritt</td>
<td>$20,023.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Rabaut Konrad</td>
<td>$19,311.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William A. Konrad</td>
<td>$19,217.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Errol Green</td>
<td>$19,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirk A. Dale (In Memory)</td>
<td>$18,750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold E. Diekman (In Memory)</td>
<td>$18,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Wildenhaus (In Memory)</td>
<td>$18,250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris McAlpine</td>
<td>$18,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Dring</td>
<td>$17,750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Hakanson</td>
<td>$17,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Sabin (In Memory)</td>
<td>$17,250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan Vomacka</td>
<td>$17,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OIF DONOR LISTINGS**

This is a record of lifetime accumulation levels achieved from June 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021 for individuals and Clubs. This listing is for gifts recorded up to the deadline date for the printing of Optimist.

**Golden Benefactor - $50,000**
- GATEWAY
  - Robert and Alice Kuzniak

**Silver Benefactor - $25,000**
- ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI
  - Optimist Club of Huntsville, AL
- KANSAS
  - Optimist Club of Derby, KS
- OHIO
  - Optimist Club of Kettering-Dor-Wood, OH
- SOUTHERN WISCONSIN
  - Susan K. Kranz

**Bronze Benefactor - $15,000**
- KANSAS
  - Michael and Sherry Ramzy

**Eminent Benefactor - $10,000**
- INDIANA SOUTH
  - Kishor M. Kulkarni
- IOWA
  - Jim and Judy Boyd
  - North Scott Optimist Club, IA
- MICHIGAN
  - Patricia Rabaut-Konrad
  - Brighton Optimist Club, MI

**Distinguished Benefactor - $5,000**
- ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI
  - Debra S. Merritt
- GATEWAY
  - Optimist Club of the North Perimeter, GA
- KANSAS
  - David E. Bruns
- MICHIGAN
  - Optimist Club of Flint-West, MI
- SOUTH FLORIDA
  - Optimist Club of Hollywood-Can-Am, FL
- SOUTH TEXAS
  - Allan J. Eschberger
  - Optimist Club of Greater Copperas Cove Area, TX
- SOUTHERN WISCONSIN
  - CoryAnn St. Marie-Carls
- WEST MISSOURI
  - Charles H. Jerman

Winter 2022 • 17
OIF DONOR LISTINGS continued

Honored Benefactor - $2,500

ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI
Optimist Club of Selma, AL

ALBERTA, MONTANA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHERN WYOMING
James B. Rehm

ARIZONA
Anne M. McBride

DAKOTAS-MANITOBA-MINNESOTA
Sally A. Damm Norby
Optimist Club of Brandon Valley, SD

INDIANA NORTH
Julia A. Robison

KANSAS
Gary L. Slimmer

MICHIGAN
Monetta I. Foster

PACIFIC CENTRAL
John Collins

SOUTH TEXAS
Judy R. Karonka

WEST MISSOURI
Ernest H. VanHooser
Optimist Club of Osceola, MO

Benefactor - $1,000

ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI
Michael A. Holt
Olivia Johnson
Cecile B. Kendall
Kathy S. White

CARIBBEAN
Cameka Campbell-Green
Errol Green
The Pride of Barbados Optimist Club, Barbados
Optimist Club of Old Harbour, Jamaica
Sunset Optimist Club of Liguanea, Jamaica
Sunshine Optimist Club, Barbados

COLORADO - WYOMING
Michael G. Brunschwig

GATEWAY
Christine L. Buss

INDIANA NORTH
Rebecca C. Mahoney

INDIANA SOUTH
Optimist Club of Terre Haute, IN

IOWA
Lee R. Nelson

KANSAS
Clyde Kensinger
Bruce Quantic

LOUISIANA
Laquita G. Jones

MARYLAND-SOUTH DELAWARE
Mary H. Harris

MICHIGAN
William A. Konrad
Richard G. Russell

NEW MEXICO-WEST TEXAS
Robbie Clark

NORTH CAROLINA WEST
Past Governors & District Secretary-Treasurers
Optimist Club, NC

OHIO
Cherie A. Gentry
Optimist Club of Springboro, OH

OKLAHOMA
Dennis Moe

PACIFIC CENTRAL
Sophia D. Scherman
Optimist Club of Rancho Murieta, CA

SOUTH TEXAS
Joe L. Smith
The Automated Clearing House program – or ACH – allows Optimist Clubs to securely pay their bills electronically. It’s an easy and efficient way for Clubs to handle their financial obligations to Optimist International.

Here are several notable advantages of ACH Payments:

• **Convenience** – ACH Payments are easy and efficient. Using ACH Payments frees Club Treasurers of the need to complete a paper check, stuff and stamp an envelope, and make a trip to the post office.

• **Security** – Data indicates that paper checks are the payment method that is most susceptible to fraud. This is because paper checks have bank account and routing numbers on them. If they are mailed, they are handled by a number of people. The more people involved with the transmittal of a paper check, the greater the risk that fraud may occur.

• **Faster** – Paper checks may take many days to be sent, received, processed, and posted. With ACH Payments, funds are transferred between bank accounts within seconds, giving both Optimist Clubs and Optimist International the confidence that funds will be sent/received in a timely manner.

• **Accuracy** – Clerical errors can occur with the manual processes of using paper checks. Utilizing ACH Payments reduces the rate of error. Additionally, with fewer errors, the time previously spent on researching and resolving problems is a benefit to Optimist Members as well as Optimist Staff.

• **Cost Efficiency** – ACH Payments have lower fees than credit card processing fees. Plus, they are more affordable than paper checks because of the time and labor cost required to process paper checks.

To enroll in ACH Payments, simply follow these steps:

1. Go to: [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org)
2. Select: Member Resources
3. Under Administration & Tax Information, Select: ACH Debit
4. Complete and submit the applicable Authorization Agreement

If you have any questions about the ACH Payment enrollment process, please email ar@optimist.org.
Every Optimist Club has the Right To Vote!

- Exercise your Club’s Right To Vote for the Optimist International President, Board Directors and Vice Presidents!

- Make valuable changes with bylaws proposals!

- Speak out through the convention resolutions process!

Read More
In Iowa, they have a bottle redemption law called the "Bottle Bill". This law was enacted in the late 1970s as a litter control measure and early effort to encourage recycling. Buyers of various canned and bottled beverages pay an extra five cents per container at the retail store when they buy the can or bottle. Then they can take back that empty can/bottle to any retail store and get their five cents "deposit" returned, which leads to many collecting bags of cans to take back all at once.

In the generous town of Treynor (population 1,000), the Treynor Optimist Club decided that the people of Treynor may donate their beverage containers year-around, if the money went to support various youth groups and projects. In 1999, they set up their Optimist Can Kennel, a 4' by 8' dog kennel that people could throw their cans and bottles into. Being Optimists, they estimated that they could raise $200 per month. Each month, a different group got the money.

For years, this went on. Sorting would usually take about one hour, and the Optimist Members did all the accounting and financial management for free. The Treynor Community embraced the idea. More cans were donated, and the monthly income grew. The Kennel was enlarged to 8' by 8' by 6' tall. The monthly average income for the Can Kennel went up to $700 by 2020.

The redemption was temporarily shut down due to the pandemic. Still, because it is rural Iowa, many have begun stockpiles in their barns and sheds. After the redemption centers reopened in spring 2021, the backlog was tremendous. It took months before all the groups in Treynor could get their stored cans redeemed. But by August, the last 2020 bags were delivered, and the system caught up. But now, people have seen how easy it is to just donate their redeemable containers. They also see that their deposit money goes to help local youth.

After 22 years of sorting every two weeks, the Treynor Optimist Can Kennel has raised over $200,000 and donated this back to the Treynor community youth programs. For a detailed breakdown of who got the funds and how much, see the website: treynoroptimist.org

Little amounts do add up
Nickel-deposit Cans Reach $200,000 for Small Town Youth
Submit your Club or District news for the Optimist Magazine to magazine@optimist.org. Reports must be less than 200 words, and may be edited for length, clarity and style. Any pictures should be submitted as attachments.
Christian County Optimist Club INC., Missouri

The Christian County Optimist Club hosts coat drives and awards local student Mathew for helping collect the most coats.

Riverside Optimist Club
Ms Community Windsor–Essex County Optimist Club, Ontario
Reaching for the Stars Optimist Club
JOI Club of Forest Glade, Ontario

Riverside Optimist Club and the Forest Glade JOI Club helped the Reach for the Stars Optimist Club and Windsor–Essex sort over 100 boxes of school supplies in order to provide backpacks and lunch bags to kids in their communities.

Moline Breakfast Optimist Club

The Moline Breakfast Optimist Club presented new shoes and winter coats to students at Jefferson Early Childhood Center through the "Shoes & Coats That Fit" program.

Ninety-seven new coats, hats, mittens, and shoes were distributed to the District's youngest learners at Jefferson on December 8, 2021! The club has provided approximately 2,000 pairs of shoes and over 250 coats to students at Jefferson since the program began over 15 years ago.

Optimist Club of Bardstown

Bardstown Optimist Club toy drive.

Morehead Optimist Club

"Shop with a Trooper" effort gives back to local communities by giving children a shopping spree. Each child is typically given a certain amount of money to use on games or toys and clothes, and they are provided with free meals. TPR Scott Ferrell, Public Affairs Officer for KSP Post 8 in Morehead coordinates the Post 8 event each year. Covering eleven (11) counties, the Post 8 “Shop with a Trooper” program is no small undertaking and KSP relies heavily on community support to make it happen. The Morehead Optimist Club is supporting the 2021 program with a $2,000 donation made possible through their bingo operation at Cave Run Bingo. “We are extremely appreciative of what the Kentucky State Police stand for,” said Optimist Club President Bill Redwine. “Their efforts in making sure that kids have a great Christmas is of great interest to us.”
Optimist Junior Golf celebrated its 17th Anniversary of the Optimist Tournament of Champions November 13-14, 2021 at PGA National Resort and Spa. This is an invitational junior golf championship for previous participants of Optimist Junior Golf events and other top junior golfers.

We had 149 participants representing 15 Countries, 24 States and 2 Provinces. The tournament assembled some of the world’s most talented young competitors - many of whom possess the potential to become leading collegiate and professional players.

This event wouldn’t be possible without the help of our volunteers and the Districts and Clubs who support our golfers.

**RESULTS**

**Boys 16-18 Division**

1st Place – Sky Aung (Bradenton, FL) 74-74 148
2nd Place – Jorge Parada (Mexico) 76-73 149
3rd Place – Anthony Garcia (Miami, FL) 76-76 149

**Boys 14-15 Division**

1st Place – Antoine Jasmine (Canada) 77-67 144
2nd Place – Kirill Zubov (Spain) 78-71-149
3rd Place – Elisey Antropenko (Russia) 72-77 149

**Boys 11-13 Division**

1st Place – Vasili Gianakas (Canada) 74-71 145
2nd Place – Clark Mason (St. Petersburg, FL) 75-72 147
3rd Place – Troy Nguyen (Macomb, MI) 74-75 149

**Girls 11-13 Division**

1st Place – Florencia Cuellar (Bolivia) 77-69 146
2nd Place – Krishny Elwin (Puerto Rico) 77-77 154
3rd Place – Nicole Sardina (Doral FL) 77-79 156

**Girls 14-18 Division**

1st Place – Larissa Carrillo (Mexico) 72-70 142*
2nd Place – Jasmine Chen (Pleasanton, CA) 73-69 142
3rd Place – Scarlett Schremmer (Bradenton, FL) 75-71 146

* Won Sudden Death Playoff

Congratulations to all the winners!
Applications are now being accepted for the 2022 Hugh Cranford All-Scholastic Team. Awards will recognize the academic and community service accomplishments of five junior golfers.

Junior golfers selected to the team will receive an automatic exemption into the 2022 Optimist Championship, complimentary registration, which includes tournament entry, hotel accommodations, and meals plus a $1,000.00 scholarship.

**Deadline date April 1, 2022**

For more information on applying for this scholarship, including full eligibility requirements, visit [www.optimist.org/golf](http://www.optimist.org/golf).
Over the years, thousands of Christmas trees have been sold by Optimist Clubs worldwide. Each tree sold not only benefits the community by providing funds to help their local Optimist Club, but it also benefits the environment.

Many will agree that nothing compares to the natural, woody pine smell of a real Christmas tree and, when fully grown, looks gorgeous. The whole family gathers to decorate the tree, and it becomes the focal point of any room, but this is not how it begins its life cycle. The average Christmas tree takes 8 to 12 years to grow to its full height, and during that time, it helps clean the air.

The environmental benefits from real Christmas trees are immense. They absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and emit fresh oxygen; they have less potential to create pollution and biodegrade much faster than artificial trees. After Christmas, the trees can then be ground down into mulch to help grow new things or more trees.

Every year, buying a new tree is better for the environment than getting a fake one. Artificial trees are made from
plastics, and according to NASA Kids, "No matter how many years you reuse an artificial tree, someday it will get thrown away, and end up in a landfill for the next 1000 years!" Furthermore, they come from many different countries, and having been transported from afar causes more pollution and damage to the environment.

Every year farmers plant huge tracks of land with distinct types of Christmas trees, from noble pines to Douglas firs. These farms are often located near the community in which they are sold, therefore not only are you supporting your community and the environment, but you are also supporting the local tree farmers.

Supporting and encouraging family traditions is also beneficial to the community and bringing a live tree home is one that can be enjoyed year after year.
California South Junior Optimist International District Meeting Set Sail!

by Jim Parrotte
California South Optimist District Junior Optimist Clubs Committee Co-Chair
with Co-Chairs Nancy Wickham and Erin Downey

The first California South JOI District Meeting of the 2021-2022 Optimist Year was held at the USS Midway Museum in San Diego on November 21, 2021.

In attendance were 26 Junior Optimists from eight San Diego area JOI Clubs. There were an additional eight adult Optimists attending including JOI Club Advisors, JOI Club Committee Co-Chairs, and the California South Optimist District Governor, Agatha Graney.

The attendees received guided tours of the Museum’s flight deck, hangar deck, bridge area, ready room, and vintage aircraft located onboard the Museum.

Adult JOI Club Advisors, JOI Club Committee Co-Chairs, and the California South Optimist District Governor worked diligently to ensure the JOI Club attendees were able to have a meaningful and entertaining time on the USS Midway Museum.

Following the tour, the attendees departed the Museum and reassembled at the grassy park located next to the Museum for JOI District Meeting Activities.

Key Meeting Activities:

• JOI District Club-to-Club Exchanges, “Icebreakers”
• Museum Docent Presentations, Community Service Focus
• Fun, Food, Museum Touring, Photo Ops, and more!
• Met and exchanged ideas with attending San Diego area JOI Clubs

The Business Meeting discussions led to the commitment to perform a JOI District wide community service project developing “We Care” packages to be provided to seniors and disabled veterans participating in the San Diego County ‘Meals On Wheels’ project.

Aircraft carrier USS Midway, formerly of the United States Navy. Commissioned 8 days after the end of World War II, Midway was the largest ship in the world until 1955, as well as the first U.S. aircraft carrier too big to transit the Panama Canal. Decommissioned in 1992, she is now a museum ship at the USS Midway Museum, in San Diego, California.
California South JOI District Governor, Sydney Mafong opened the JOI District Business Meeting and Activities.
Lots of Trees

Trees, Christmas trees that is, are the major fundraising source for many Optimist Clubs still today.

Club President Larry Shirk reported that the Optimist Club of Southwest Topeka, Kansas’ net profit from tree sales in 1983 was $9,500.00. All proceeds directly supported the many youth activities the Club sponsored. The Southwest Topeka Club was chartered in 1959 and had 50 “very active Members”.

This article was published in the June, 1984 issue of The Optimist.
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**SPEAKER GIFTS**

- Mugs
- Coin sets

**MEETING SUPPLIES**

- Pens
- Notebooks

To plan your next club event, please reach out to Karen Witt

Karen Witt @ karen.witt@shumsky.com

The Official Supplier to Optimist International in Canada

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- Custom Apparel (so much more than just polo shirts!)
- Devon & Jones Men’s Crown Woven Collection® Solid Broadcloth Short-Sleeve Shirt SALE $30.00
- Inspirational decor 6”x6” wood block $8.00 ea.

New items

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www.optimistsupply.ca

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(519) 633-6547
1-800-565-7062
Optimist International Presents: MUSICAL HAPPINESS
MUSIC MAKES PEOPLE HAPPY

This exciting program is designed to encourage and celebrate youth Instrumental and Vocal categories. There will be awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place at the OI level for each category.

Topic: Optimism

READ MORE

#OptimistMusicalHappiness2022

Optimism Promise Yourself Video Contest
Highlighting tenets of the Optimist Creed

Youth and Adult Divisions
$250 Prize

Deadline for submission: March 15, 2022
Winners to be announced on March 30, 2022