



I Believe... Children Are Our Future

Karen Monville
MI District Governor

The first six months of our Optimist year are now history. We have accomplished some great things during this time frame, but have many opportunities and challenges ahead of us for our District. We only have six more months to “press on to the greater achievements of the future” and make our dreams and goals a reality.

We have done our fall house cleaning and dropped our inactive and non-paying members. Now that spring is here it is time to start anew and watch the pea garden grow (if you attended a second quarter meeting, you heard VP Dee Rushforth explain why our region is called Dee's Peas). We need to add new members to replace those that we have lost so that we can continue to support all of the great youth programs that our clubs sponsor in their respective areas.

Optimist International has provided the tools to help us be successful. We have continued the “Just Ask” membership campaign and this year Optimist International has even supplied pamphlets to help us answer the questions when someone does ask. They have also implemented a Certified Builder program to assist with New Club Building. These individuals will come to our District and assist us with building a new club. We need to provide the site and a few key contacts, and they will assist us with the rest. Our District needs more members and more clubs to serve an ever-expanding youth population. If you

have an area where you would like to build a new club but are not sure what to do or would like assistance, please contact either myself or MI District New Club Building Chair, Lovelis Patrick.

At both of our Regional meetings, we had the pleasure of having our International Vice President Dee Rushforth and his wife in attendance. Those of you that were at the meetings, heard him challenge each of us to try a new program in our clubs — something that we have not done before. He will be attending our third quarter meeting in Livonia also and will be checking on our progress. He also challenged us to plant the seeds and grow our pea garden.

The third quarter meeting in Livonia promises to be a wonderful meeting. In addition to all of the great break-out sessions that are planned, we will be having the District contests for Oratorical and CCDHH. We also will have the readings of the Michigan District winning essays. **Shawne Duperon** from Vision Works will present information on how we can obtain free publicity for our clubs and our functions. **T.J. Rancour**, Boys & Girls Club National Youth of The Year for 2004 and his mother will be with us presenting his winning speech and telling us about his experiences traveling the U.S. this past year. Elections for 2005-06 Lt. Governors will also take place at the general session on Saturday.

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Optimists In Action



From the Desk of the District Secretary-Treasurer

Linda Ingersoll
MI District Secretary-Treasurer

Even though the ground is still covered in snow in many places, Spring is truly on its way, bringing with it a renewed energy. Many animals are coming out of hibernation, to rejoin life's activities; spring flowers are pushing their way to the earth's surface to catch the energy from the sun.....and it's time for our clubs to re-energize and keep the momentum going by focusing on new growth. This can happen through new members, new activities and a renewal of this year's goals.

Hopefully Honor Club status is on your club's list of goals. This year's requirements make it a very attainable goal, but as always, it does require focus. Each club needs a plus one in membership as well as payment of their financial obligations. This doesn't sound too hard, but there are many Michigan District clubs that are still in arrears of their District dues obligations. Club Presidents, Secretary-Treasurers, and Board Members – please take a moment to review your financial status and don't let a neglected invoice hold you back from achieving Honor Club.

Spring also brings with it a time to plan for your club's future – yes, it is time to elect next year's club leaders. As we start the third quarter of our Optimist year, identify future leaders, hold officer elections and be sure to complete and submit your Officer-Elect Report by May 20. This relatively simple form is vital to the smooth transition for next year. Governor-Elect Don needs this information to prepare his District Directory and ensure all clubs have the information they need for 2005-2006.

As we start our third quarter, I look forward to continuing to provide support to your clubs. Please contact me if you have questions or need information.

Linda Ingersoll
536 Green St
South Haven, MI 49090
Phone: (269) 639-1871
Fax: (269) 639-8951
Email: lkingersoll@i2k.com

I Believe... (Continued from Page 1)

As you can see, we have many exciting things taking place at this meeting so it is definitely one you won't want to miss.

Officer-Elect forms are due **May 20, 2005**. Timely completion of these forms helps the future leadership of our District prepare for the following year. Please remember to submit the information for your club on time. Changes can be made at a later date, if needed.

Remember the new requirements for Honor Club recognition this year — plus one in membership and fulfillment of your financial obligations. Is your club on track to receive this recognition? If not, what do you have to do to make that happen and get the

recognition for all of the great things you do in your club.

We have already had one individual meet the challenge of the District Membership Incentive (details on Page 3). **Floyd Addison** of the Dearborn club has sponsored eleven new members and therefore receives free registration and two nights lodging at our District convention in Bay City in August. Congratulations, Floyd!!!

Thanks to all of you for your efforts so far this year. I Believe in you. I Believe that Children Are Our Future and we will all do our very best to serve the youth of our communities. I look forward to seeing all of you in Livonia.

Michigan District Directories

All club presidents, secretaries, treasurers, District Chairpersons, Lt. Governors, Assistant Governors, and Past Governors are provided with a District directory. If you have not yet received yours, please contact Governor Karen at

(989) 671-1287 or kardana@ameritech.net to get yours. Also, we have a supply of extra directories. If you would like to purchase a directory for \$10, please contact Governor Karen.



Membership Attendance and Retention

Betty J. Howard
MI District Membership Chair

Why are attendance and retention so important? If our organization is to survive and to provide high quality service to our youth and community, we need to retain as many of our members as possible. When members participate in their club activities and are enthusiastic about promoting the Optimists International mission, it strengthens a club's member retention.

Here are some suggestions to help your club retain its members:

- Retention starts with recruitment.
- When you lose a member, you should recruit two in order to show growth.
- Renewal should be the last step in the long process of retention.

- It is important to focus on the first and/or second year member, take time to find out what each member wants from the club.

It is known that when new members feel they are getting some value out of their club, they are more likely to remain a member for years to come. So join the "Round 'Em Up Membership Campaign" targeting former and inactive club members. The primary idea is to focus on the retention of existing club members and reactivating members who have dropped out of your club. For each five former members brought back into a club, the club can apply for the "Round 'Em Up" banner patch.

Michigan District Optimists Membership Growth Incentive Program

In an effort to recognize those individuals who sponsor new members into our organization, the following membership incentive program will be implemented:

All individuals who sponsor 3 new members between February 1 and June 30, 2005 will have their name entered into a drawing for **free registration** at the Michigan District Convention in Bay City August 26-28, 2005.

All individuals who sponsor 5 new members between February 1 and June 30, 2005 will have their name entered into a drawing for **free registration and two nights lodging** at the Michigan District Convention in Bay City August 26-28, 2005.

All individuals who sponsor 10 new members between February 1 and June 30, 2005 will automatically receive **free registration and two nights lodging** at the Michigan District Convention in Bay City August 26-28, 2005.

2005 Michigan District Convention

The Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center in Bay City is the site chosen for the Michigan District Optimist Convention to be held August 26-28, 2005. Start your weekend with golf, shopping or just exploring on Friday. The "Island" Hospitality Room is the place to be on Friday night. Come see what Myra and Polly have cooked up now! Saturday promises fun training sessions and great entertainment at lunch. Saturday night's dinner will be followed by an

optional cruise on the Princess Wenona. We'll float down river and around the Saginaw Bay. Music provided by the Pear-It-Hedz will take us straight to "Margarittaville".

Reservation forms will be available soon. Add this summer event to your calendar now.

Corporate and Optimist of the Year Awards

Juanita Bryant
MI District Chair

The **Corporate and Optimist of the Year Awards** are relatively new awards to Clubs in the District. This is the fourth year that the awards have been offered. Governor-Elect Don Brose was the recipient of the 2003-2004 Michigan District Optimist of the Year Award.

The **Michigan District Optimist of the Year Award** was established to stimulate Club interest in District activities by directing recognition to an individual for his/her outstanding contributions to the local club, the community, humanity and the Michigan District. The intent of this award is NOT to duplicate the Hall of Fame Award but to open a whole new award that focuses on local club members. The nominee does not have to be a Committee Chair, Club Officer or District Representative. Although emphasis shall be placed on current activities, the nominee's background of past activities, creatively-led projects and past honors will be taken into account in making the selection.

Nominations for this award must include a written description of the nominee's work (restricted to two pages) attached to a completed "Nomination of Michigan District Optimist of the Year" form. This form can be found in the Michigan District Optimist Directory.

Clubs may choose to nominate for consideration to receive the **Corporate Optimist Award**, an individual, business partner or corporation, which in the judgement of the club, provided services, facilities, funds, personnel, etc., to help the club fulfill their objectives as an Optimist organization. No special form is required to submit this nomination, however, a written nomination outlining the nominee's contributions must be submitted.

Nominations for these awards are restricted to one, for each of the awards, for each club. Nominations must originate from Optimist Clubs in good standing. Clubs submitting nominations will receive credit through the District's Achievement and Awards Program.

For a more detailed explanation of the Awards and a copy of the **required form**, please see Section 7 of the Michigan District Optimist Directory. Completed nominations must be received by the District Chair, Juanita Bryant no later than **June 30, 2005**. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to call.


Juanita Bryant
23950 Plumbrooke
Southfield, MI 48075
Phone: (248) 353-8557

Planning Ahead with Governor-Elect Don Brose

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure" ~ *Colin Powell*

The importance of being prepared for a given task can never be underestimated. From organizing your club Oratorical Contest to preparing your Youth Appreciation Event to leading your youth club, any task is much more enjoyable when the homework is done, and everything is organized and in place ahead of time. If your plans include leading your club or zone next year, it is infinitely important. The task ahead may seem daunting, but if one is prepared, it will become the best experience of your Optimist life.

The District is here to help. By comparing plans and ideas with experts, with those who have already successfully served in your position, and with your fellow future leaders, you can create a plan

 that will insure success and enjoyment. Following are those District Learning Opportunities. I look forward to joining you and supporting you.

Lieutenant Governors-Elect Introduction — Saturday, May 14 at The Holiday Inn In Livonia (3rd Quarter District Meeting).

Information for Everyone — July 6-9 Optimist International Convention, New Orleans.

Assistant Governors-Elect and Lieutenant Governors-Elect Training (looking for 100% attendance) — Saturday, August 6 at the Kellogg Conference center in East Lansing.

President-Elect and Lt. Governor Elect Breakouts — Saturday, August 27 at our District Convention at the Doubletree in Bay City.

President-Elect Training with Optimist International President-Elect Mike Listenburger — Saturday, September 24 in Sarnia, Ontario with the Southwestern Ontario District and Sunday, September 25 in Kalamazoo.

The Foundation Still Needs Your Help

Fatima Plater

MI District Optimist International Foundation Representative

The first half of our Optimist year has past and the Optimist International Foundation **still needs your help**. Perhaps, a better way of putting it would be to say that the children we serve, still need your help.

As a district to date, we are donating to the Optimist International Foundation an average of less than \$2.00 per member. If, every Michigan District Optimist gave \$5.00, we would be able to give at least \$20,000 per year. Our contributions go toward the support of the Oratorical Contest, Essay Contest, JOOI, Childhood Cancer and CCDHH scholarships.

We need **more** Michigan District Optimists to contribute to the "Dime A Day" program, that helps to expand our war chest in the battle to eliminate childhood cancer. We need **more** Michigan District

Optimists to join our President's Club, which contributes toward establishing future grants for clubs internationally.

I'd like to congratulate **Mason Optimist Cub**, the winners of our district "Dime A Day" (first quarter) pledge drive. They donated funds for 10 members and won a **free registration** to the Optimist International Convention in New Orleans in July.

Once again, I'm requesting silent auction items for our third quarter meeting at the Holiday Inn Livonia, May 14, 2005. Clubs receive A&A points for silent auction contributions.

Please ask me about the different ways you can help our Optimist International Foundation. I believe that we will continue to **"Bring Out the Best in Kids"**, through our ever expanding generosity to the Optimist International Foundation

International Development

Optimist International

www.optimist.org

"To work for international accord and friendship among all people."
- from the Purposes of Optimist International

The organization's International Development Department continues its mission of building Optimist Clubs in areas outside its existing borders. By promoting Optimism throughout the world, ID continues to provide new communities the experience of "Bringing Out the Best in Kids."

Clubs from all over the world are improving their community and its opportunities for young people by implementing a program of service projects, as well as the fundraising projects to finance those service projects. Each Club has the autonomy to decide its own program of service projects based on the needs of its community. It can be a dynamic experience to work with other Club members to decide as a group how to meet the needs of your community. Currently, there are Optimist Clubs in 33 countries

For a detailed list of the actual Clubs in different areas of the world, outside of the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean, visit the Optimist International website at www.optimist.org.

If your Club wishes to organize a new Club in one of the Target Countries, (the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Belgium, Mexico, or any of the Caribbean island nations where there are no Clubs), it can become a Sponsor Club, which is eligible for reimbursements up to \$2,000 (U.S.) based on receipts for expenses made in the formation of the new Club. The receipts must be submitted to the ID Department along with a summary of the expenses, once the new Club has had its organizational meeting.

Contact the ID department to get the appropriate forms or to get more information about International Development.

Need Ideas For New Projects or Fundraisers?

If so, visit the Optimist International Online Resource Library at www.optimist.org. It's packed full of great projects and fundraisers that have won Community Project Awards (CPA) at the International level. Check it out!

Third Quarter Meeting Details

Jeanna Clifford and Terry Sabo
MI District Conventions & Meetings Co-Chairs

Our third quarter Michigan District Meeting is fast approaching on May 13-15, 2005 at the Livonia Holiday Inn in Livonia, Michigan. We have worked hard in trying to bring you a fun-filled but yet informative District Meeting.

Our weekend will be starting out on Friday evening with the executive board meeting and the ever-popular hospitality room that will be overlooking the indoor pool area.

Saturday's events will include the general session meeting along with great breakout sessions. If you are a club president, secretary/treasurer, general board member, a "first-timer", or are simply

interested in more detailed information on Optimist International programs then these sessions are for you. Many of the Michigan District leaders will be on hand along with our Optimist International Vice-President, Dee Rushforth. The highlight of the week-end occurs on Saturday afternoon with our Michigan District Oratorical Contest Finals. This is an event that you will not want to miss and will leave you shaking your head in amazement as to the talents of our youth. The evening will conclude with dinner and a local professional comedian for our entertainment. It will be a great weekend of fun, fellowship, and service to our youth.

SEE YOU IN LIVONIA!!!

Hotel Reservations and Directions

When making your reservations, please mention that you are with the MI District Optimists. To get the group rate, reservations must be made by **April 29, 2005**. Room rate is \$89.00.

Holiday Inn - Livonia West
17123 North Laurel Park Drive
Livonia, MI 48152
(734) 464-1300

The Holiday Inn - Livonia West is conveniently located at the I-275 and Six Mile Road Exit. It is located across the street from Laurel Park and is less than 20 minutes from Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Optimist International News

Optimist International to Send Relief to Tsunami Victims

Optimist International is joining relief efforts throughout the world to aid victims of the tsunami that hit southern Asia last December. Optimist International President Yves Berthiaume is urging Members, Clubs and Districts to send donations to the Optimist International Foundation and the Optimist International Foundation of Canada. The Foundations will then send the funds to the Red Cross. The Red Cross has responded to the disaster by attending to the immediate needs of victims and working on efforts that will be needed in the future in regard to food, water and sanitation, vaccination and health, shelter, supply packages for families, communication between survivors and their loved ones and psychosocial assistance for the survivors. See optimist.org for more details.

June Designated as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

The Optimist International Board of Directors has designated June as Optimist International Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

During the month of June, Clubs, Zones and Districts are asked to perform projects designed to raise the public perception of children's cancer and gain public support for Optimist International's efforts to serve these children while seeking a cure. Any monies raised in the course of completing these projects can be used for local Childhood Cancer Campaign (CCC) services and initiatives or sent to OIF-CCC, where they will be set aside for research initiatives and a matching grants fund for future Club-level CCC community projects.

The CCC hopes to establish Optimist International, in the eyes of the public, as the leading force to rid the world of childhood cancer.

Anyone Interested In Golfing?

Immediate Past Governor Marc Katz is organizing a Golf Outing on Friday, May 13, 2005. Anyone that is interested in golfing that day, please contact Past Governor Marc by emailing him at marcoblue1@hotmail.com or by calling (248) 219-5949.

Optimist Memorial Service

We will be holding a Michigan District Optimist Memorial Service at the District Convention in late August of this year. Any Optimist Club that wishes to recognize a member that has passed on this past year, please contact Immediate Past Governor Marc Katz.

Marc D. Katz
2350 Oxford
Berkley, MI 48072
marcoblue1@hotmail.com

Member-Celebrity Golf Outing Fundraiser

Harry Margo, Fatima Plater, Marc Katz
Optimist International Foundation Committee

A Member-Celebrity Golf Fundraiser for the Optimist International Foundation and Junior Golf Championship will be held on **Sunday, May 1, 2005** at Heather Highlands Golf Course in Holly, MI. Shot gun start at 1:30 p.m. with Dinner at 6:30 p.m. So far, we haven't gotten very many entries. You don't need a celebrity in your foursome to golf. Please help the Foundation and our Junior Golf program by attending.

Cost is \$100.00 per person for golf, dinner and prizes (includes a \$35 donation). To have a celebrity join your foursome – pay their entry! If you just want to come to dinner, the cost will be \$55. If you'd like to sponsor a hole, the cost will be \$100.

There will be a hole-in-one contest, closest to the pin, longest drive, and raffles. If you can donate something for a prize, please contact Harry Margo or Marc Katz.

If possible, please try to make up your own foursome. If not, we can put you with others if needed. Please see the registration form below, make a copy, complete it and follow the mailing instructions on the form. Our goal is 25 foursomes, which should raise a minimum of \$1,750 for the Optimist International Foundation and \$1,750 for the Junior Golf Tournament. Questions? Call Harry during the day at (616) 361-1167 or email him at ceioffice3268@aol.com.

Submit Registration Forms NO LATER THAN April 26, 2005

Member-Celebrity Michigan District Fundraiser for the Optimist International Foundation and Junior Golf Championship

WHERE: Heather Highlands Golf Course
11450 East Holly Road
Holly, MI 48442

WHEN: Sunday, May 1, 2005
Tee off at 1:30 p.m. (Shot Gun start)
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

COST: \$100.00 per person for golf, dinner and prizes (includes \$35.00 donation). To have a celebrity join your foursome, pay their entry! Make checks payable to **Michigan District Optimist**.

DONATIONS: Optimist International Foundation and to send additional Michigan District Junior Golf Championship entrants to the International Tournament in Florida.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____



**Please complete information above and mail with check to arrive by
April 26, 2005 to Harry Margo, P.O. Box 2086, Grand Rapids, MI 49501.**

Optimist International Jr. Golf Championship

Harry Margo
MI District Jr. Golf Chair

If you are planning a local tournament, **I must know:** 1) the Name of the Club and Chairperson with contact information, and 2) the date of your tournament so we can let parents know all the information about a tournament in their area. It would also be helpful if you can estimate how many you plan on sending to the District Tournament. Please email the above information to me at: ceioffice3268@aol.com or fax to (616) 361-0556.

The 2005 Michigan District Junior Golf Tournament will be held on **Monday June 27, 2005** in Grand Rapids, Michigan at the **Elks Highlands Golf Course** at Grand Rapids Elks Lodge 48 for both boys and girls. Unfortunately we cannot hold a separate tournament for the Girls. I **MUST** receive applications for the District tournament **NO LATER THAN June 25, 2005**. On-site registration **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED** – all entrants **MUST** be pre-registered **AND have competed in a local tournament**.

I have had several calls with questions like will the Jr. Golfers be able to have a practice round and is there a hotel-motel near by where their family can stay. We have been able to reserve with the Highlands a practice time between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday June 26, 2005, even though this is a private club, they want to help. The members are willing to let our young golfers practice before our tournament on Monday.

I have also secured a special pricing for those families who want to come in a day early on Sunday to practice and stay over in Grand Rapids at the **Baymont Inn & Suites** at 2151 Holton Court (off Walker Avenue and I-96) Walker, MI 49544. To make reservations,

please call (616) 735-9595 and tell them you are with the MI District Optimist Jr. Golf Tournament. Because this is an Optimist Program and the Baymont Inn works with the Elks as well, they have offered this one time special price of only \$59.00 per night plus taxes. This Inn has a indoor swimming pool and fitness center, plus a complimentary breakfast along with many other features as well. Oh, did I mention it is only 3 miles from the course?

Pre-Qualifier Fees: Optimist International has requested that all local tournaments (pre-qualifying for the District tournament) help defray some of the costs that Optimist International incurs in running such a prestigious championship tournament by sending \$7.50 for each local tournament participant. Each club will need to complete a 2005 OIJGC District Fee Report Form to show the number of participants in their pre-qualifying tournament and send it with their check for the fees to our MI District Secretary/Treasurer (see address below). I will send you a packet with all required forms if you email or fax your address to me.

The Michigan District Jr. Golf Championship Tournament will have tees available for sponsorships. For just \$50 your Club's name will be put on a sign and set in front of a tee so each Golfer and their family can see who is helping sponsor our tournament this year. Please help us send more golfers to the International Tournament by sponsoring a tee. Checks should be made out to **Michigan District Optimist**, with a note that it is for Junior Golf sponsor signs and sent no later than **June 15, 2005** to **Linda Ingersoll, MI District Secretary-Treasurer at 536 Green St. South Haven, MI 49090**.

JOOI Governor Message

Ruth Wang
2004-2005 MI District JOOI Governor

We've had the pleasure of chartering two new clubs. Taft Middle School was sponsored by JOOI of New Prospect. This is their second JOOI Club. Farmington Hills East at Costick Center was sponsored by Farmington Hills Club. Ann Arbor currently has a new club at Tappan Middle School with 25 charter members!

We are in the process of setting up video teleconferencing between Niles High School in Berrien County and Clarkston High in Oakland County for JOOI Board meetings.

On March 12th, we held the JOOI District Conference at Oakland Community College. We would like to give special thanks to Dr. Lane Glenn, the Dean of Student and Academic Services for providing us with a grant to offer this conference at no charge to our members! We had 21 clubs attend and nearly 175 people joined together to celebrate being Michigan JOOI members.

The Oakland Community College Optimist Club hosted us and provided tremendous support to make this happen. Special thanks to Advisor Steve Ogg!



2003-2004 Community Project Award Winners

Ann Hamilton
2003-04 MI District CPA Chair

Single Club Entries

Category	Project Name	Optimist Club
Childhood Cancer	"Meeting the Need"	Breakfast Kalamazoo
Citizenship	"Respect for Law"	Central Flint
Community Improvement	"Light Up Decatur"	Decatur
Culture & Education	"Middle School Summit - New Image 2004"	Northwest Detroit
Fund-Raising	"Hustle For Kids With Cancer"	New Prospect
Health & Welfare	"Kids' Christmas Shopping Spree"	Jackson
Joint Projects with JOOI Club	(no entries)	
Safety	"Kindergarten Fingerprinting"	Decatur
Sports & Recreation	"Mother/Son Bowling Party"	Reese
Youth Appreciation Week	"Student of the Month Recognition Program"	Southfield-Lathrup
	Multiple Club Entries	
Sports & Recreation	"Zone 15 Junior Golf Tournament"	Clinton Township Area Roseville St. Clair Shores Anchor Bay Northwest Macomb

2005 MI District Tri-Star Basketball Event

Jim Walker
MI District Tri-Star Basketball Chair

The Michigan District Tri-Star Basketball Tournament is coming soon! The date for this year's district tournament is Saturday, April 30, 2005 and will be held at BeechWoods Recreation Center in Southfield, MI.

As the date is fast approaching, we urgently need to know if your club is having a local Tri-Star Basketball event and if your club is planning on participating in the MI District Tournament.

April 9, 2005 either by email: overridejw@aol.com or by calling (248) 909-1646 . A packet of information including a Registration Form, directions, and cost will be sent to you.

BeechWoods Recreation Center is located just south of Nine Mile Road and west of Telegraph Road/U.S. 24. For a map or more detailed directions, please contact Jim Walker or visit yahoo maps.

BeechWoods Recreation Center
22200 Beech Road
Southfield, MI 48034



If your club is planning on attending, please have your name, address and phone number to me no later than

Optimists In Action

Nicole Ingersoll
Editor

As many of us are ready to put our winter coats away and get ready for the spring season and outdoor activities, here's some bits and pieces of what your neighboring Clubs have done to keep their minds off the winter blues.

The **Kent of Grand Rapids Optimist Club** prepared a full taco bar dinner for the families at the Ronald McDonald House. The Club is involved in cooking dinner on a quarterly basis for those families who cannot afford to house themselves in hotels while their sick child is being treated at the area hospitals. They always get a great turn out and plenty of smiling faces.

The **Greater Muskegon Optimist Club** sponsored a billboard design contest and selected a student's submission for the billboard. The billboard is now on display on Seaway Drive in downtown Muskegon displaying the OI logo and the student's art work.

The **Highland Park Optimist Club** had 75 kids participate in a pancake breakfast and a program for Martin Luther King Jr. on January 15.

The **Optimist Club of Bloomfield Hills** reached out to 2,250 kids during their Children's Holiday Wish Project. Each child was given a gift for the holiday season. Over \$80,000 in gifts and/or monetary donations was received to fund the project.

Birmingham Optimist Club co-sponsored an Imagineers 2005 Contest where over 250 fifth graders participated in the event. It is a design and build contest where students are challenged to "fill a need or solve a problem" using household materials. The event helps to increase public awareness and commemorate Engineer's Week.

The **Anchor Bay Optimist Club** held an Italian dinner fundraiser at Giuseppe's Restaurant in Mt. Clemens where 15 percent of the restaurant's proceeds for the day were donated to the new Oncology Center at Mt. Clemens General Hospital.

The **West Bloomfield Optimist Club** has been busy raising over \$1,000 for the Childhood Cancer Campaign. They also have been focusing on the number of participants in the Essay and Oratorical Contests. The Club had well over 75 kids signed up.

The **Optimist Club of Royal Oak** participated in a joint fundraiser with the Royal Oak Women's Club. They hosted a Vegas Night. The Club just finished their Oratorical Contest and had 19 boys and girls compete. The winner will be competing in the Region 3 Contest on April 23, 2005.

If you have never seen them before, you're truly missing out. The **Davison Optimist Club** recently held its 21st Annual Camel Races. The Club raises about \$15,000-\$18,000 from this event. It is a sell-out each year.

The **Muskegon Heights Optimist Club** recently had their Youth Activity Center vandalized by 4 youths. The Club and the local YMCA sponsor an after school and summer program at the building. Though the damage was estimated at approximately \$75,000 the building was insured and the rebuilding has begun. This has truly brought the Club and the community closer together.

Grosse Pointe Lakeshore Optimist Club entertained a huge audience with their best fundraiser, a wild game dinner and golden gloves boxing event.

****WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!****

Has your Club had a successful fundraiser, conducted an awesome activity for the kids in the community, built a new Club or JOOI Club? Please send me your information via email or U.S. mail.

Nicole Ingersoll
536 Green Street
South Haven, MI 49090
ingenm@hotmail.com

Get On Our Email List!!!

If you'd like to receive the OptiViews early or be reminded of upcoming events send an email with your name, club name and email address to: hhamil@wowway.com

Next OptiViews Deadline
June 18, 2005

Submit articles via e-mail
to: hhamil@wowway.com



Websites

Michigan District
www.michiganoptimists.org

Optimist International
www.optimist.org



W.J. "Knobby" Walsh
Publisher/Editor

Heather A. Hamilton
OptiViews Editor

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.

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