A Letter From The President-

Dear Fellow Optimists,

The 2013-2014 Optimist year was a year of fireworks with a theme “Get Fired Up….For The Kids”. We had a great team of dedicated Optimists that served as DFR during this year and lit up the skies!! This year saw an increase in the number of Club Foundation Representatives from 39% at the beginning of the year to 54% of the Clubs having a CFR on record at the end of the year. This individual serves as the liaison between the Optimist International Foundation and the Club to educate the members about the Foundation and how their donations support the many Optimist International programs.

Dime-a-Day donations increased from 3.7% of our members donating in the 2012-2013 Optimist year to 5% of our members donating in the 2013-2014 Optimist year. The Women’s Philanthropy Council increased the number of members by 50% and set a new record with the sale of the Pink Purse Pins. Our overall unrestricted donations exceeded our goal for the year and set a new record for unrestricted donations to the Foundation, with an increase in donations of 11% over the 2012-2013 Optimist year. This was quite an accomplishment in these challenging economic times.

Fifteen of the DFR’s finished the year as a Distinguished DFR. Seven of the DFR’s set a new “Best Ever” donation record for their District. The number one District in total donations was Michigan, which set a new record for all Districts in the Optimist International Foundation.

I’m pleased to report that all of the Foundation Board members are William Harrison members. I was very honored to have served on the Foundation Board for four years and as President during the 2013-2014 Optimist year. I would like to thank all of the Board members, the Foundation staff, the DFR’s, CFR’s, and the committee members for their hard work, dedication, and support during the “Get Fired Up…For The Kids” Optimist year. A huge thank you to all of the donors to the Foundation for your generous support and because of you, the Foundation is able to continue to “Help Optimists Help Kids”.

Optimistically,

Karen Monville, President

Mission:
Seeking, receiving and managing funds and real and personal property for the benefit of Optimist International and its Member Clubs for charitable, literary, and educational activities.

Vision:
We envision a Foundation that can provide significant funding for Optimist International’s youth and service programs and is proudly supported by individual Optimists, their Clubs, and the community at large.

Board of Directors:
Karen Monville, President
Mel Betts, President-Elect
Ed Finn, Treasurer

Bill Teague, Director
Don Crall, Director
Steve Skodak, Executive Director/Secretary

Staff:
Steve Skodak, Executive Director
Shenita Taylor, Director of Donor Services
Allyson Pope, Volunteer and Development Coordinator

Jessica Hurn, Donor Relations Manager
Connie Pellock, CFO - Optimist International
Michelle Hayes, Accountant - Optimist International
Key Achievements:

- Sent 152 students to college with Foundation-funded scholarships totaling $330,334
- Paid out $201,475 to Clubs utilizing the Club Campaign program and added an additional $59,572 in interest for their use while providing charitable, literary and educational programs
- Assisted Clubs in receiving $297,750 in charitable contributions for their local programs through the Pass Through program
- Raised $355,000 for future scholarships, ending the year with fifteen endowed scholarships and 26 five-year scholarships
- Ended the year with 186 donor members to the Women’s Philanthropy Council, their fundraising efforts accounted for four additional Club Grants and one funded Girls Oratorical Contest Scholarship
- Added 30 new Presidents Club members bringing the annual total to 412 members
- Increased the amount of Clubs with Club Foundation Representatives by 16%

Financial Information:

Revenues and Support
- Public Support $1,183,573
- Revenues, Gains and Losses $603,102

Expenses
- Program Services $1,176,297
- Management/Fundraising $287,529

Net Assets
- Beginning of year $2,960,962
- End of year $3,283,811

Per Audited Financial Statements

General O. I. Grants:
Childhood Cancer Campaign, Club Campaign Fund, The Optimist, accounting, growth, disaster relief, International development, allocated staff time for programs, training at International Convention, endowment payouts

Management and Operations:
Audit, legal, banking, investment expense, some convention expenses, currency transactions, state registrations

Fundraising:
Recognition program, planned giving, brochures

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