



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

2024 - 2025 Annual Report

To the Voices of Optimism,

Throughout this past year, I was reminded that some of the most meaningful moments in Optimism happen when young people realize their voices matter. Whether through a scholarship opportunity, a Club project, a JOI leadership experience, or the support of a caring Optimist, these moments often go *beyond words* and leave a lasting impact on children and communities.

This Year's Impact

The 2024-2025 year brought several exciting milestones and opportunities for the Optimist International Foundation.

- **10% Dime-a-Day milestone:** For the first time in Foundation history, more than 10% of our Optimist Club Members contributed at the Dime-a-Day level or higher.
- **Optimist Day partnership:** Partnered with Optimist International to support childhood cancer programs and hospitals throughout our Districts on Optimist Day in February.
- **JOIful Giving Weekend:** Launched the first annual JOIful Giving Weekend in support of the JOI Summit and the future leaders of Junior Optimist International, building upon last year's Superhero Weekend of Giving.

This year also focused on strengthening communication and engagement throughout the Foundation through our monthly FOMO (*Foundation Opportunities & Member Outreach*) newsletter initiative, helping share Foundation resources, recognize accomplishments, and highlight the impact local Clubs and Districts are making within their communities.

Our Club Foundation Representatives and District Foundation Representatives continue to serve as the heart and voice of the Foundation within their communities. Your dedication, leadership, and willingness to engage members in meaningful conversations about giving and service are what continue to move this organization forward.

Beyond Words: Where Every Child's Voice Matters

This year's theme was more than just words on a banner. It reflected our belief that every child deserves the opportunity to be heard, encouraged, and supported. Through scholarships, grants, youth leadership programs, and community partnerships, this Foundation continues to create opportunities that can shape lives for years to come.

Thank you to our Board of Directors, Foundation staff, donors, volunteers, Club Foundation Representatives, and District Foundation Representatives for your continued dedication and belief in this mission. Your support allows this Foundation to continue growing, adapting, and finding new ways in *Helping Optimists Help Kids!*

Thank you for your generosity, your Optimism, and your commitment to the children and communities we serve. It has truly been an honor to serve as your President this year, and every scholarship awarded, every grant funded, and every young person encouraged through our programs represents a voice being heard and a future made brighter through Optimism.

Yours in Optimism,

Ben DeRemer
2024-2025 President
Optimist International Foundation

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:

Ben DeRemer, *President*
Fatima Plater, *President-Elect*
Deanna Morrow, *Treasurer*

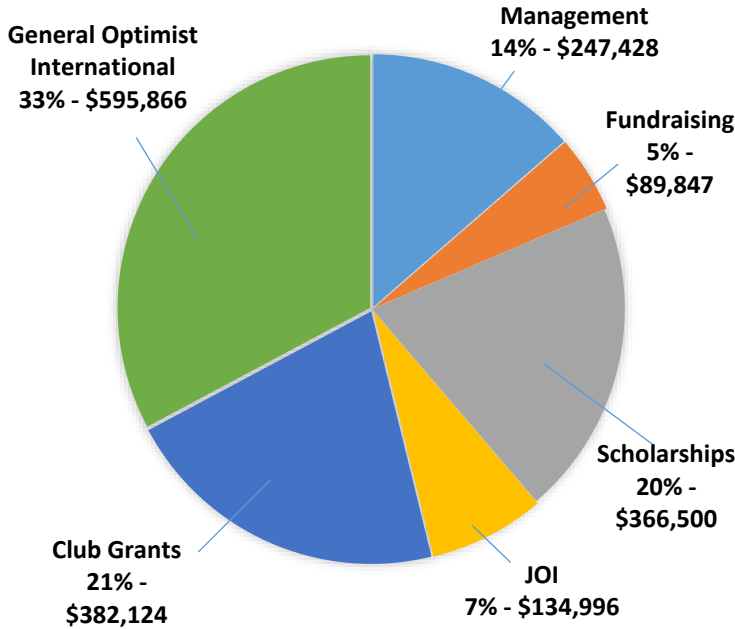
Ken Garner, *Director*
Jennifer Kendo, *Director*
Craig Boring, *Executive Director/Secretary*



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\$1,816,761 EXPENDITURES



Key Achievements:

- Assisted 1,094 Optimists to help 29,405 children and their families by awarding 27 Club Grants.
- Continued to support the ongoing work of the Junior Optimist program with \$134,996 in funding.
- Sent 131 students off to college with Optimist International oratorical, essay, and CCDHH scholarships totaling \$284,500.
- Supported the OI World Oratorical Championship by funding the U.S. and International Regional winners, plus the first and third place winners in the finals totaling \$55,000.

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

Financial Information: 10/1/24 - 9/30/25

Revenues and Support

Public Support	\$1,927,614
Revenues, Gains and Losses	\$1,859,916

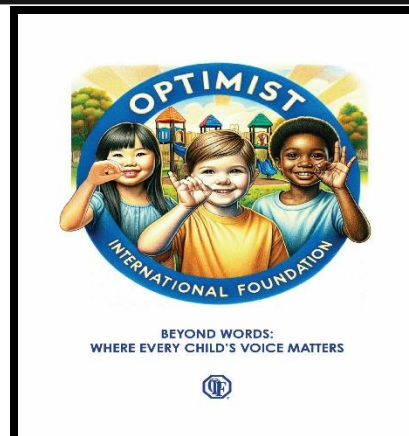
Expenses

Program Services	\$1,479,486
Management/Fundraising	\$337,275

Net Assets

Beginning of year	\$8,948,175
End of year	\$10,918,944

Per Audited Financial Statements



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