

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.

Many have found inspiration in The Optimist Creed. In hospitals, the creed has been used to help patients recover from illness. In locker rooms, coaches have used it to motivate their players.

Optimist International adopted this creed in 1922. It was originally published in 1912 in a book titled: "Your Forces and How to Use Them." The author was Christian D. Larson, a prolific writer and lecturer, who believed that people have tremendous latent powers which could be harnessed for success with the proper attitude.



For more information, call our club President, Trish Verne at 919-942-4144.

www.ch-optimists.org

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Optimist Club of Chapel Hill



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Affiliated with Optimist International
Chartered March 24, 1998

Who we are...

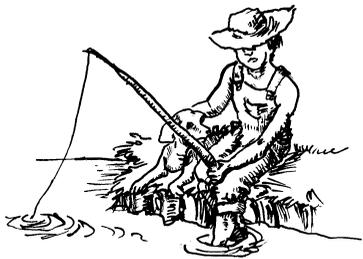
There are many service clubs and volunteer opportunities in our community – you could probably list three or four -- but what makes our club unique is our focus on **Optimism**. As Optimists, we believe that through positive action in our community we can create a better tomorrow. The focus of Optimist clubs, since the inception of the movement in the 1920s, has been on self-improvement and serving as a positive role model for our youth. Developing Optimism as a way of life, for both club members and the youth we serve, will help to make our community a better place to live. We are passionate about helping kids. We believe there is no greater legacy than to help our children live a better life. There are many opportunities available within the club for participation. If you also want to help kids and to have fun in the process, we encourage you to consider joining us as we strive to better our community and ourselves.

What do we do? We help kids!

Although we are a relatively young club, we have established a variety of activities intended to benefit the youth of Chapel Hill and the surrounding area. The intent is to involve club members with youth in activities so both have fun and, depending upon the activity, share learning experiences. We have listed some of the club activities below.

Essay Scholarship Contest This annual event allows students 18 and under to compete for a \$2500 college scholarship by writing an essay on an assigned topic. The contest gives young people the opportunity to write about the world in which they live. Entries are received from high schools in and around Chapel Hill and area home-schooled students.

Fishing Derby a special time when club members join with a group of youth to enjoy a day of fishing and fellowship at one of the local lakes. For some, this is the first opportunity they have had to go fishing.



Seeing the look on the faces of the children is something that, although it can't adequately be described with words, seems to make this activity effortless as well as memorable for all involved.

Childhood Cancer Campaign Optimist International is committed to the goal of ridding the world of childhood cancer. Our club is engaged in this cause through monetary donations to Duke and UNC hospitals. In addition, we provide specific services to children diagnosed with cancer and their families.

Octagon Club



As part of our mission to help kids, we sponsor the Octagon Service Club of East Chapel Hill High School. With this teen service club, we provide a positive alternative to less constructive social groups. Through their participation, these young adults learn important lessons of citizenship, teamwork, communication, self-esteem and money management.

The club gives them opportunities and incentives to develop their leadership skills at the Club, District and International levels. They can gain individual and club recognition for their leadership and service achievements.

Watermelon Party

Annually we organize a watermelon party for children being treated at Duke Medical Center and attending Duke's Camp Kaleidoscope near Henderson, NC. Over 50 kids and camp counselors partake of fresh watermelon. There is even a watermelon seed spitting contest. Accuracy counts as much as distance! .

Oratorical Contest

gives children under the age of 19 the chance to voice their opinion on a selected topic. First conducted in 1928, the contest now awards more than \$150,000 annually in scholarships to winners around the country. The top winners in our district will share \$5000 in college scholarships.

Teachers' Closet

Twice a year, we donate school supplies to area elementary and middle schools to provide needed materials for learning. These items are used by students who cannot afford to purchase them on their own.

Shop with a Cop

In late Fall, we invite a number of deserving students recommended by social service counselors at local schools to go on an expense-paid shopping trip with local police officers. This gives the students the opportunity to do some Christmas shopping, while interacting with local law enforcement personnel in a positive environment

These are some of the opportunities we are providing to our youth. To help pay for these activities and enable us to provide support to various benevolent programs, we engage in a number of fundraising activities. Some of these are: Collecting donations through our "Kisses for Childhood Cancer" program and by partnering with other area organizations in joint fundraising efforts.

Our fund-raising arm, the Optimist Foundation of Chapel Hill is designated by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, charitable foundation, allowing for tax-deductible donations.

The Club meets at 5:30 PM on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. If you would like to find out more about the club and how you help us help kids, please call the contact number on the back of this brochure.

Together we really can make a difference in the lives and futures of our youth.