Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation Responds to the Call

The Ste-Foy Optimist Club is Supporting a Humanitarian Aid

A crazy idea? Maybe, but it most certainly is an extraordinary priceless experience. With the help of their teachers, Ms. Nicole and Mr. Manon, around forty 3rd and 4th grade students from Ecole Fernand-Seguin in Quebec City decided to help for the third straight year students and teachers in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade who live in Puerto Plata. The school’s clientele is large part comprised of Haitians who are prohibited from attending Dominican schools.

The objective for the teachers was to sensitize their students as to the abundance that surrounds them, and their good fortune for being able to go to school with all the necessary tools to succeed. They explained to them that this was not the case for all the children of the world, and wanted to help develop awareness and humanitarian values, such as sharing, solidarity, commitment, and respect for differences. In order to foster some commitment to the cause, students are partnered with a Dominican or a Haitian student to exchange correspondence.

To reach their objective, the young students make and sell soap during the school year. This activity allows them to present their projects to adults (Club Members), and other students from their school. School supplies were bought for 40 students: notebooks, pencils, erasers, rulers, backpacks. Ms. Nicole and Mr. Manon will make a special trip to personally deliver the supplies to them in mid February.

This will also have a number of tools for the students to use for scientific experiments and will participate in the school life.

The project will raise student awareness about their consumer habits, over all waste in society, and other possible living alternatives. The experience will enrich the students and change their outlook to better understand human values, differences, openness toward friends, community and the world.

A sentiment of pride will allow them to feel that together, despite their young age, they can make a difference and help children in need. They will understand that individual or collective mobilization, involves a personal choice that can make all the difference in the world to a person in need.

Leadership Summits Success for 2015

Summit Training Topics Include All New Content:

On February 21, the first Leadership Summit for the 2015 year kicked off in Anaheim. With 46 Optimists in attendance, the room was full of energy and smiling faces ready to learn how to become a better leader. The one-day training experience covered various topics and provided attendees the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to lead a relevant and thriving group or organization. After the Anaheim Summit wrapped up, attendees raved about the topics, such as “Conflict Resolution,” the enthusiasm of the trainers, which included International President Ken Garner, and the networking benefits and opportunities from being in a room full of Optimists. One attendee noted, the Anaheim Summit “Brought Out the Best in leadership through a variety of techniques and strategies for improving our organization for Members, communities, and foremost – youth!” Following the Anaheim Leadership Summit, other successful Summits were held in San Antonio, Tampa, Nashville, and Virginia Beach.

Upcoming Leadership Summits:

April 18, 2015 St. Lawrence Region Leadership Summit
April 25, 2015 Kansas City Leadership Summit
May 16, 2015 Minneapolis Leadership Summit
June 13, 2015 Detroit Leadership Summit

For more information on the 2015 Leadership Summits visit www.optimist.org/summit.

Share Your Summit Story:

Have you attended one of the Optimist Leadership Summits? If so, we want to hear from you! Let us know about your experience, what you learned, and how you plan to implement what you learned in your Club or District. If you have photos from the event, please share those, too! Send your comments to magazine@optimist.org to be included in future publications of The Optimist.