

Spring 2015

The OPTIMIST

Rain or shine –
BE OPTIMISTIC!



OPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL

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 Ms. Manon, around forty 2nd grade youngsters from Ecole Fernand-Seguin in Quebec city, decided to help for the third straight year forty students and teachers in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade who all live in Puerto Plata. The school clientele is in large part comprised of Haitians who are prohibited from attending Dominican schools.

The objective for these 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 up with a Dominican or a Haitian student to exchange correspondence.

To reach their objective, the youngsters make and sell soap during the school year. This activity allows them to present their project 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 Ms. Manon will make a special trip to personally deliver the supplies to them in mid-February. They will also have a number of tools for the students to use for scientific experiments and will participate in their school life.

The project will raise student awareness about their consumer habits, overall 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.



Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation

NEW CLUB GRANT - 1 WINNER EVERY QUARTER!

The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation (CCOF) is proud to announce the launch of its own CCOF Club Grant. The Foundation will award 4 grants of 500\$ per year for your community project, that means 1 winner every quarter! Visit our website ccof-foec.org



PLEASE NOTE: In 2013-2014, Ecole Fernand-Seguin received the Toupaix trophy in the Solidarity category, a special prize from the green school group of Brundtland (E.V.B.)! This project sets itself apart among all the schools of the group by transmitting human values such as solidarity, ecology, pacifism, democracy, and openness to others.



Leadership Summit 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.



[Anaheim Summit - February 21, 2015]



[Tampa Summit - March 7, 2015]



[San Antonio Summit - February 28, 2015]

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*.