

Bringing Out the Best



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The Optimist

Winter 2019

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CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPTIMIST FOUNDATION CLUB GRANTS PROGRAM

Big news! As part of its commitment to help the Canadian Optimist Clubs to help Canadian children, the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation has improved the Club Grants program. From now on, your Club may be granted up to \$1,000 for one of your community projects. You have until March 31, 2019, to apply. Visit www.ccof-foec.org to download the application form.

Examples of how the Optimist Clubs used their grants last year:

- **The Club Optimiste de St-Isidore 2017**, Ontario, paid for adapted swimming classes for children with autism. It is difficult for autistic kids to follow regular swimming classes. A large percentage of these children are very afraid and anxious of water. Still, knowing how to swim may save your life and is an important skill that needs to be acquired. Thanks to the CCOF Club Grants, the Club could pay for the registration fees and transportation of four additional children.

- **The Club Optimiste de Hammond**, Ontario, provided their local elementary school under-desk pedallers to help children with ADHD keep their focus in class despite their need to move and their anxiety. Thanks to the CCOF Club Grants, they were able to buy two pedallers that will help these children experience more success in school and build their self-esteem.



- **The Club Optimiste Beacon Hill**, Ontario, organized Christmas help for local low-income families and bought clothes and gifts for about 75 youths. This year, thanks to CCOF Club Grants, they will help 10 more children for whom they have bought toys, winter boots, coats or books.

- **The Club Optimiste de St-Hubert**, Québec, has created a project to help the local elementary school to buy the needed music instruments for their orchestra. The CCOF Club Grant has been part of their fundraising and will allow the students discover some hidden talents and encourage the pursuit of music studies in the jazz program at the local high school.



DIANNE JOSLING

The Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation is proud to welcome on its board of directors Dianne Josling, in replacement of Thomas McNaught who unfortunately passed last summer. Congratulations for your nomination and welcome on board!

Dianne Josling's Optimist life began in 1991 as a Charter Optimist in her home town of Mitchell (West Perth), Ontario. The Optimist Creed shapes her approach to every aspect of each day.

Her Optimist service includes: Distinguished Club President (2002-03), Governor of Midwestern Ontario (2004-05), as well as several District Chair positions

and membership on Optimist International Growth and Activities Committees. For the past five years, she has been serving young people and their families all over Canada through membership on the Advisory Committees for the Childhood Cancer Campaign and its successor, the Spread Relief program.