

# Central Fairfax Optimist

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities, and ourselves.

*Hope Lives Here*



February 2024

<https://fairfaxoptimist.org>

Central Fairfax Optimist Club P.O. Box 1271 Fairfax City, VA 22038 Email us at [fairfaxoptimists@gmail.com](mailto:fairfaxoptimists@gmail.com) Board meeting 2nd Tuesday each month at the VFW 8469 5703 Vogue Road 730PM. Zoom Jan-Feb. Club dinner meetings April-July on 4th Wednesday @ Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd.



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## Hope for the Children in Ghana!

At our February Club meeting, Maxwell Osei Anokye, President of the Oti Region Optimist Club, Ghana and also a member and Director of our Central Fairfax Optimist Club, will give a presentation and answer your questions about the New Ghana School Project.



We are in the process of establishing a Passthrough Account at the Optimist International Foundation to raise about \$15,000 to build a new middle school. Once completed, the students will no longer have to walk 2 hours to school!

**DON'T MISS THIS MEETING!!**

### Hot News

Our Club-level Essay Contest winning entry has been sent for the District \$2,500 scholarship competition.

On April 24th, we elect a new slate of officers for the 2024-2025 Optimist year.

That means we need each member to step up and participate in the leadership and management of our Club. Without viable participation, none of the above events will happen and will deny kids the opportunities.

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## FEBRUARY 2024

### 1— OPTIMIST DAY

- 1— Oratorical Contest application form deadline
- 7— Inter-Service Club Council 12-1 pm @ the Moose Lodge 3529 Chain Bridge Rd. Fairfax
- 13 — Club Board meeting 7:30 pm on Zoom
- 23— District Executive Board meeting via Zoom
- 24— District meeting, Canterbury Woods Elementary School 4910 Willet Drive, Annandale, VA 22003; **CCDHH Contest** (meeting free to First Timers!)
- 28— Club meeting 7:30 pm on Zoom: New Ghana School
- 28— **Essay Contest Winning Entry due at District**

### MARCH 2024

- 1— Club Oratorical Contest copy of speech deadline
- 6— Inter-Service Club Council 12-1 pm @ the Moose Lodge 3529 Chain Bridge Rd. Fairfax
- 12— Club Board meeting 7:30 pm @ VFW 8469, 5703 Vogue Road, Fairfax Station & Zoom: Essay Contest Winners!
- 19-20— Club Oratorical Contest via Zoom
- 27— Club dinner meeting 7pm for social time; dinner served at 7:30@ Elks Lodge 8421 Arlington Blvd. Fairfax; Essay Contest Winners

## BIRTHDAYS

### FEBRUARY

- 4th Michele Hanson
- 5th Dave Gundry
- 11th Carol Williams
- 24th Trinket Troy

### MARCH

- 19th Susan Bond

## ANNIVERSARIES

### FEBRUARY

None this month. Let's recruit someone!!

### MARCH

None this month. Let's recruit someone!

## FINANCE SUMMARY (2/13/2024)

Operating Account	\$3,182.68
Community Service	\$5,236.73
Youth Fund (12/30/23)	\$5,203.97



# Club News

## PRESIDENT'S POINTS

You can see from the first page, a mixture of hope, excitement, and challenge to build a new middle school in Ghana so children don't have to walk 2 hours to and from school. Doesn't it make you be proud to be an Optimist: a member of Optimist International, our Capital Virginia District, AND ESPECIALLY our very own Central Fairfax Optimist Club? HOPE LIVES HERE.

This sounds almost exactly alike as last month's opening paragraph of President's Points. You are right! Why did I do this? Because it takes an average of 2.6 exposures to get a message across.

Here's an Executive Summary of my message this month:

1. To get the most out of our Club and the Optimist experience, a member must be proactive and involved in all aspects of the Club. That will enhance our efforts in community service, recruiting, and retention. Let your ideas be known and make them happen. Help support the community, club, and others with your involvement, financial and emotional support, and service in whatever form you can.
2. Here are some highlights and updates:
  - Essay Contest: The Club winner's entry has been sent to District for the scholarship competition. Details will be in March's newsletter.
  - The District Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) will have been held by the time you get this newsletter. Details will be in March's newsletter.
  - April is the month to vote for the 2024-2025 Board of Directors. We need you to volunteer for these positions NOW!
  - Limburg scholarship, Oratorical Contest, and the Ghana School project are all in progress. Please support them!
  - The excitement for the Ghana School project is contagious! We will be talking to not just the Capital Virginia, but also Optimist International and beyond! As soon as we are able to establish a pass-through account with the Optimist International Foundation, you will receive a marketing flyer.
3. Following this page, you will see some cute kids whose parents are at Mountain View High School. Many thanks to Anne Grabowski and Trinket Troy for supporting Project Opportunity!

Thanks to everyone for your continued support. Hope Lives Here and YOU make things happen!

Yours in Optimism,

*Dee*

President







## Club News (continued)

### Christmas Gifts for Project Opportunity

Each year the Central Fairfax Optimist Club has purchased Christmas gifts for the children of students at Mountain View High School. The photos are from this year's holiday party held at the school on December 14th, 2023. Trinket Troy and Anne Grabowski purchased gifts for nine children. Project Opportunity is a program at Mountain View High School to help students who are parents. They are given guidance and advice on parenting, children's health, financial guidance, home care, community and school help and many other issues in their student and parental lives. Our Club has been associated with Mountain View and this particular group of students for several years. We are especially glad to be helpful in any way possible for these and other students at Mountain View High School.





# Club News (continued)

## Christmas Gifts for Project Opportunity







# The Puzzle!

Happy New Year! Have you been doing the puzzle in our Club's newsletter? If so, then great! If not, why not? Please let the editor know one way or another.

Can you find the words below? Do you have any suggestions for next month? Please send them to [fairfaxoptimists@gmail.com](mailto:fairfaxoptimists@gmail.com)

M O O R S S A L C T C N M W T  
 B P S S O R U V Z H K T A S M  
 L L I R Y A H I A E U T I I Q  
 O F A W E L G I Y U E M D I S  
 W I S C L T R Z A R I D S K N  
 X O T C K S U J D T L Z S E I  
 T I F K H B V P P E B E N N W  
 L U G T O O O O M Y D D B L T  
 Y E N O M E O A W O C S O I E  
 J W R A I S E L R Y C D O B A  
 K G E O W M N O G D N D K R C  
 F U R N I T U R E H I P S A H  
 B E N C H E S W W T A N J R E  
 K D P M H J Z Z I R C N P Y R  
 S I X C J J V N W H C T A Q T

Print this page and circle the words or just go down the list and find them.

Words can go in any direction. Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

BENCHES  
 BOOKS  
 CLASSROOM  
 DAY  
 FURNITURE  
 LIBRARY  
 MONEY  
 OIF  
 RAISE  
 TEACHER

BLACKBOARD  
 CHAIRS  
 COMPUTERS  
 DESKS  
 GHANA  
 MIDDLE  
 NEW  
 OPTIMIST  
 SCHOOL  
 WATER

What words would you like to see in March's puzzle?  
 Send them to:  
[fairfaxoptimists@gmail.com](mailto:fairfaxoptimists@gmail.com)



# And in conclusion!!

## 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.

*Christian D. Larson*

## Mission

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

## Vision

Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the premier volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop to their full potential.

## Purposes

1. To develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed;
2. to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs;
3. to inspire respect for the law;
4. to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people;
5. to aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.



Member FDIC

Our Kids thank you for your continued support!



Contact our own Bob Devery to plan your travel. Thanks for your support Bob!

Thanks to all our sponsors! Your generous donations are greatly appreciated.

### Smiles for Centreville

14245-P Centreville Square  
Centreville VA 20121



### Prestige Dental Specialists

7617 Little River Turnpike Suite 910  
Annandale, VA 22003