



Dear Optimists and Friends,

Fifty years of “Helping Optimists Help Kids!”. As we celebrate our Semicentennial, we reflect on the accomplishments of the last fifty years - sustaining numerous Optimist International programs and assisted Clubs in meeting the needs of the youth and their communities. We thank you, Optimists and friends, for making all of these dreams for our youth and their families come true!

We have had a trying year, all of us, in many ways. The pandemic has put a halt to the implementation of some programs, some clubs from meeting and some donations from coming to the OIF. Despite all of this, we are Optimists! We found new ways to meet with one another; we found new ways to conduct projects for the youth; the OIF found ways to continue to fund the club grants and scholarships to support our youth!

Your Foundation looks forward to a monumental year as we celebrate and work together to ensure that our endeavors will continue into the next 50 years. The OIF will have numerous special celebratory events and incentives for Optimists and Clubs to commemorate our 50th anniversary. I am thrilled to announce that we are partnering with Jeff Hanson, artist and philanthropist, using his art to enhance many of our incentives and special promotions during the 2020 - 2021 Optimist year. Many of you may have had the pleasure of meeting Jeff at our Optimist International Centennial Convention in Louisville.

Jeff believes, *Every act of kindness helps create kinder communities, more compassionate nations and a better world for all ... even one painting at a time.* We are very appreciative of Jeff’s optimistic spirit, his beautiful artwork and his dedication to supporting philanthropic causes in our communities. The OIF Board and Staff are grateful to Jeff Hanson Art for supporting our Foundation and partnering with us to celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

Please join me to make this OIF 50th Anniversary a banner year in raising contributions to support the numerous Optimist International Youth programs and Club projects that our Foundation funds. I invite you to support our Foundation at whatever level you are able. If we all join together, our next 50 years of “Helping Optimists Help Kids” will certainly be extraordinary!

Here’s to 50 more years of supporting Optimist International Programs and Optimist Clubs!

Yours in Optimism,

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