

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY



Fellow Optimists,

Thanks for all you do to make a meaningful difference in your local community. We share your values in working together to help make our corner of the world a better place, and we'd probably all agree that the need for Optimism has never been greater.

With that in mind, leaders of four major service Club organizations – Kiwanis International, Lions Club International, Optimist International and Rotary International – have been meeting regularly over the past 18 months to share ideas and to identify opportunities to collaborate more. We're excited to share that we've agreed to a joint effort launching this fall around a theme of **"Celebrate Community"** focused on local community service during the week of **October 10-16, 2021**.

We encourage all of our local Clubs to conduct service projects in this timeframe; better yet, reach out to your peer service Clubs and work together to make an even bigger and more visible impact!

For this first "Celebrate Community" initiative, we're keeping things simple with a menu of recommended projects which can be conducted at little or no cost, and lend themselves to partnering with other organizations in the community – yet can make a significant difference to those served.

Here are some suggestions for service projects from which to choose based on your community's needs:

- **Environmental:** community clean-up (parks, trails, schools), tree planting
- **Food Insecurity:** collect food for local pantries, package meals for donation, community garden
- **Health & Wellness:** support local hospitals or Ronald McDonald House; organize or participate in walks or runs for health causes (cancer, JDRF, autism, etc.)


We encourage you to organize a project that fits the needs of your community and the interests and talents of your m=Members. Consider ways to team up with other service Clubs to magnify your impact. Imagine having our volunteers working together as we Celebrate Community through service!


We'll be providing some helpful resources to assist you in planning and sharing your "Celebrate Community" projects – like a Facebook page and links to "Club finders" for our peer organizations to assist in teaming. If you're already working on joint projects with other service Clubs, please continue!

As we wrap up October 10-16, we'll be seeking some simple information to understand the projects conducted around the world, the teamwork between our groups, and the impact on our communities. We're excited to see what we can accomplish together!

Thank you again for all that you do, and we hope you share our enthusiasm for a chance to shine a spotlight on our service and expand our positive impact by teaming up to "Celebrate Community!" We look forward to building on this in the years to come!

Yours in Optimism,


Mark Weinsoff
President, 2020-21


Patsy Garner
President, 2021-22