



# Great Falls Optimists

Volume I, Issue I  
Fall 2008

## Letter from the President

Welcome to the first issue of the quarterly newsletter of the Great Falls Optimist Club. This first edition is a year-in-review thus far for 2008, including highlights from fundraising events and our annual Spring Festival.



Lisa Miles Jackson

We hope that by learning more about our mission and activities you will discover a reason to participate - helping children in our community. We invite you to join our dedicated organization and support our work through donations and membership.

If you are interested in learning more about our activities, please feel free to contact us for more information. You may already be familiar with some of our activities, just not aware that it is the Great Falls Optimist Club that makes it all happen!

I hope you will join us!

## 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 self 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.

This year the Great Falls Optimist Club held several annual events and fundraisers. All were a great success. We kicked off the year's events on April 12 with a huge rummage sale at Krops Crops in Great Falls. The proceeds went to fund the youth-oriented activities supported by the Club, such as Kidz Clubhouse, a local nonprofit that provides summer camp and respite care for developmentally disabled young people.

We also threw our Biggest Ever Spring Festival and Egg Hunt on May 4, sponsored the "Game of the Ages" on July 10 and our Annual Fall Spooktacular at Halloween

### Inside this issue:

<i>Spring Festival</i>	2
<i>"Game of the Ages"</i>	2
<i>Rummage Sale</i>	2
<i>Fundraising News</i>	3
<i>Nick Cafferky Funds</i>	3
<i>Kidz Clubhouse</i>	3
<i>Volunteer &amp; Membership Form</i>	4

® Optimist International

## The “Game of the Ages” Scores Big *Seventh Seals Seniors (16-6) Victory over GF Coaches!*

The Great Falls Optimist Club sponsored the “young versus seasoned” slow-pitch softball game on Thursday, July 10 between local Little League Coaches and The Virginia Cavaliers, a championship travel team started in 1991 by Great Falls resident and Optimist Club member George Hersey.

The game was a chance for some of the Coaches to test their abilities and shake off cobwebs as they came together to take on a highly successful seasoned group of senior citizens who play competitive travel slow-pitch softball around the country.

For six exciting innings the adhoc GF Coaches hung with their elders in a



close see-saw battle that was tied going into the fateful seventh, when the wheels came off! GF Coaches Manager, Mark Casso, was heard to quip, “I guess with our Little League experience we’re only built for six innings, we’ll have to go back to the drawing board if we expect to stay with these guys for seven!”

## Optimist Club Presents *Biggest-Ever Spring Festival*

The Great Falls Optimist Club successfully presented the biggest-ever Great Falls Spring Festival on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Expanded considerably over years past, this year’s festival included entertainment for children and adults, more games, pony rides, an antique car & new car show, and more. “We had something for everyone,” said Festival Chair Candace Campbell. “We had so many games, activities and displays that the Festival filled the field behind the post office, as well as the Village Green and part of the parking lot.

This family event was launched many years ago by Adeler Jewelers when Jorge Adeler started the tradition of having an egg hunt on the Village Green on Palm Sunday. All of the plastic eggs contained candy, but many also contained valuable gems, which he generously donated. Funds raised

through the event were donated to the Great Falls Optimist Club and, in return, the Club provided staffing and other assistance for the event. This year, the Adeler’s officially passed the baton to the Great Falls Optimist Club.

In addition to the traditional inflatable carnival activities such as a giant moon bounce and obstacle course for young people, and the children’s treasure



## Rummage Sale Proceeds Benefit Youth Activities

The Great Falls Optimist Club held a huge rummage sale Saturday, April 12 from 8 am to 2 pm at Krops Crops in Great Falls. Proceeds from the sale funded the youth-oriented activities supported by the Club, such as Kidz Clubhouse, a local nonprofit that provides summer camp and respite care for developmentally disabled young people.



“We collected items from numerous families for weeks,” said George Hersey, Club coordinator for the sale. “We had everything from clothes to furniture to electronics, and prices that can’t be beat!” Owner Larry Krop generously allowed us to use the building to store and sell items for the sale.

hunt with gems still donated by Adeler Jewelers, the Festival also included demonstrations, activities and games provided by local organizations; a 5k run; hay rides; several raffles; a Treasure Chest for Adults with many chances to win valuable prizes; music and entertainment; food sales; antique & new cars and more.

A dozen local nonprofits also participated and provided games, animal balloons, face painting, popcorn, the opportunity to make Mother’s Day presents, and many other youth-oriented activities.

“We are so excited about the huge success of this year’s Festival,” said Campbell. “We look forward to next year being even more of a wonderful, family-oriented day!”

## Fundraising News 2008

### ***\$104,000+ Check Presented to Nick Cafferky Medical Fund***



On February 21, 2008, the Great Falls Optimist Club joined in a check presentation ceremony by numerous local organizations and individuals who helped raise over \$104,000 for the medical expenses of Nick Cafferky, a Langley High School senior, who was left paralyzed from the chest down

after a swimming accident at Dewey Beach, DE.

The Optimists dedicated \$8,000 in proceeds from its Second Annual Barn Dance to kick off the Medical Trust Fund. The Great Falls Optimist Club also became the collection point for funds raised by others. This allowed individuals to make tax-deductible contributions; it allowed nonprofit foundations to make donations; and, most importantly, it allowed many individual fundraising efforts to go forward while the Cafferky family went about the lengthy process of setting up their own trust fund.

### ***\$8,000+ Check Presented to Nick Cafferky Special Needs Trust***

The Great Falls Optimist Club and Elite Fitness presented a check for more than \$8000 to the Nick Cafferky Special Needs Trust on June 8 at the home and graduation party of Nick Cafferky. On hand to present the check were Optimist Club President Lisa Jackson along with Joe Cassella of Elite Fitness and Mindy Mitchell of Sun Design Remodeling Specialists, both sponsors of the 5k walk/run held on the morning of the Optimist Club's Great Falls Spring Festival to raise funds for the trust.



*Nick Cafferky, Mindy Mitchell,  
Joe Cassella and Joda Coolidge.*

### ***\$12,000+ Check Presented to Local Nonprofit, Kidz Clubhouse***

A check for \$12,332.45 was presented to Kidz Clubhouse on Thursday, May 15 at the Great Falls Library during the Optimist Club's regular meeting. On hand to receive the check was founder Diane Anderson as well as children who have attended the organization's programs, and their parents.

Kids Clubhouse is a nonprofit organization in Great Falls that serves the needs of children and adults with disabilities, their

families and caregivers. The organization provides evening and weekend respite care, camps during school breaks, and support groups for parents.

Resources available for families include a referral network to specialists, free tickets to area events, counseling, in-home care and fun family events.



[www.kidzclubhouse.org](http://www.kidzclubhouse.org)

#### Optimist Mission Statement:

A small club with big ambitions, the Great Falls Optimist Club is dedicated to meeting the needs of young people in our community; to supporting activities that contribute to a better future for our children; to promoting an active interest in good government; to encouraging community service among young people; and developing optimism as a philosophy of life. The more people involved, the more we can accomplish. We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Great Falls Library. Won't you join us?

#### Officers

President.....Lisa Jackson  
 Vice President.....Dan Smith  
 Vice President-Youth...Linda Thompson  
 Treasurer.....Eve Chapman  
 Secretary.....Lisa Pozesky  
 Membership Co-Chair....Joda Coolidge  
 Public Relations.....Candace Campbell  
 Newsletter Editor.....Mindy Mitchell

Visit Us On The Web at:  
[www.greatfallsoptimist.org](http://www.greatfallsoptimist.org)



**Optimist Club of Great Falls, VA**  
2008-2009 Membership Application or Renewal

Application for:  New Member  Renewing Member

\*Name \_\_\_\_\_ \*Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

\*Address \_\_\_\_\_ \*City \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\*Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ \*Email \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation Information:

\_\_\_\_\_

Interests/Skills:

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Organizations You Belong To: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for joining; what would you like to get out of your membership as an Optimist?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*\*Required information*

-----

**I am interested in promoting the continuing success of the club in the following ways:**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on Board of Directors    | <input type="checkbox"/> Historian (pictures/scrapbook) | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Skills    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offer my home for social event | <input type="checkbox"/> Produce directory/newsletter   | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance background |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair an activity              | <input type="checkbox"/> Webmaster (keep info current)  | <input type="checkbox"/> PR experience      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bring food for a coffee        | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Please describe)        |   |

**I am interested in the following events (please select at least one):**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn Dance (Fall)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Gift Giving (Nov/Dec) | <input type="checkbox"/> Essay/Oratorical Contest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Festival (Spring) | <input type="checkbox"/> Jr. Golf Tournament (Spring)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentors for Youth        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership Drive  | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Optimist Club          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                    |

Please mail your completed membership form and \$100 annual membership dues  
(for new members, please add one time processing fee of \$35.00) to:  
**Great Falls Optimist Club, Att: Membership; PO Box 233; Great Falls, VA 22066**

For additional information on Optimist Club, please visit our website at: