



SWIS 2014-2015 NEWSLETTER



SWIS District

April/ May / June Volume 18, Issue 3

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Message from Governor Jeff



Jeff Kuchenbecker

A Call for Lt. Governors:

Every organization needs leaders. They are the people who determine where the organization is going and how it will get there. Volunteer organizations, like the Optimists, must fill a broad range of leadership positions every year. Each year means a new slate of leaders.

The SWIS District is currently recruiting for Lt. Governor positions for the 2015-16 Optimist Year. Each of the Zones within the SWIS District (currently eight) has a Lt. Governor assigned to it. The Lt. Governor acts as the connection between the clubs in that Zone and the District.

To be considered for a Lt. Governor position, leadership experience is certainly desirable. Experience with any Optimist Club leadership position would be beneficial. Being a prior club President is not a requirement.

I thoroughly enjoyed my stints as Lt. Governor. It is a great way to learn more about the other clubs in the Zone and District, and meet fantastic people doing wonderful work in their communities. Many of those developed into life-long Optimist friendships.

So, what are you waiting for? If you, or someone you know, has an interest in becoming a Lt. Governor, or want more information, please contact Governor-Elect Howard Crofoot at Crofoot@platteville.org.

Governor Jeff.



SWIS District - 3rd Quarter Report

Greetings to all SWIS Optimists; finally Spring has come, and it seems most are happy.

We had a successful 2nd Quarter meeting in January, organized by current Governor, Jeff. For those of us who could attend, it was a great time of sharing ideas, information etc. in the morning session, followed after lunch by a program of presentations by myself, in thanks to the many wonderful Optimists who helped me during the past year. We had a lot to be thankful for throughout the entire District.

To start, we had **9 clubs** recognised for longevity, including,

- (1) Madison Downtown, with 39 current members, alive and thriving for **90 years**:
- (2) Oregon: with 18 members, celebrating **45 years**:
- (3) Monroe Morning, with 127 members, celebrating **45 years**:
- (4) Portage, with 21 members, celebrating **45 years**:
- (5) McFarland, with 45 members, celebrating **25 years**:
- (6) Milton, with 14 members, celebrating **25 years**:
- (7) Whitewater Community, with 21 members celebrating **20 years**:
- (8) Dodgeville, with 3 members, celebrating **10 years**:
- (9) Cottage Grove, with 17 members, celebrating **5 years**:

What a great heritage our SWIS District has; I was so proud to recognize these clubs for all the wonderful, and varied ways they have served the youth of our District.

In summary, they served **10, 675 young people**: A proud tradition.

We then moved on to present **16 Banner Patches** to club Presidents for **"Bringing out the Best"** in their communities, including:

- . Zone 1: Club # 09101: Pete Olsen: Mequon-Theinsville:
2. Zone 1: Club # 09103: Don Eisenhauer: Menominee Falls:
3. Zone 2: Club # 09086: Dennis DuChene: Kenosha Noon:
4. Zone 3: Club # 09230: Kim Adams: Whitewater Community:
5. Zone 4: Club # 09035: Tristan McGeough: Cambridge:
6. Zone 4: Club # 09172: Adam Miller: Stoughton:
7. Zone 5: Club # 09095: Madison Downtown: Jon deFiebre:
8. Zone 5: Club # 09025: Madison Breakfast: Jeanne Topol:
9. Zone5: Club # 09050: East Madison/Monona: Richard Shropshire:
10. Zone 6: Club # 09117: Monroe Morning: Gail Eiserman:
11. Zone 6: Club # 09925: Brodhead: Christine Dieckhoff:

SWIS District - 3rd Quarter Report Cont.

12. Zone 6: Club # 09926: Monroe Noon: Lori vanNatta:
13. Zone 7: Club # 09083: Madison Sauk Trails: Bonnie Spindler:
14. Zone 7: Club # 09917: Mazomanie/Wisconsin heights: Nancy Viste:
15. Zone 8: Club # 09202: Waunakee: Leonard Allen:
16. Zone 8: Club # 09093: Lodi: Diane Karls:

Next came "**Honor Club " Awards**, (2013-14); for **14** clubs, and included:

Mequon/Thiensville, Menominee Falls, Kenosha Noon, Whitewater Community, Cambridge, Stoughton, East Madison/Monona, Madison Downtown, Monroe Morning, Brodhead, Monroe Noon, Madison-Sauk Trails, Mazomanie/Wisconsin Heights, and Waunakee.

The work of all these clubs culminated in serving 24, 220 youth. A great job by all.

Then I had the honor of presenting awards to **2 "Distinguished' clubs**, who cooperated to give birth to a "new" club, the "**New Glarus Area Optimist Club**". The clubs involved were the **Madison (Downtown) club** which celebrated 90 years in 2014, and the **Monroe Morning club**, celebrating 45 years in existence. **Vern Andren** of **Madison** did heroic work to get things organized in time and registered with OI for recognition for 2013-14. The **Monroe** club was represented by **Curtis Weimann, Gabrielle and George Bredon**, all 4 of whom were recognized as "**Builders of Excellence**" by OI.

There's still more to celebrate:

(1) Optimist Foundation Award to OIF District representative: **Maureen Crombie**:

(2) Special Governor's District OIF Award: Peter Olsen, Mequon.

Outstanding effort to raise additional funds for OIF in 2014;

(3) HENRY STINER AWARD: Jo'El Pearlman, Kenosha Noon.

Presented annually by the Governor to a SWIS Optimist member who consistently embodies the "Spirit and Purpose of Optimism", and unselfishly performs beyond all reasonable expectations. Awarded for organizing annually for 3 years a "Tail-gate party plus Brewers Baseball game" for Optimists to coincide with the 4th Quarter meeting.

SWIS District - 3rd Quarter Report Cont.

Henry Steiner was a Monroe Optimist who embodied the concepts listed above throughout his lifetime. He was tragically killed in an auto accident.

(4) SWIS Governor's "Special Club" award: **Monroe Noon club**.

At the time of 2nd Quarter meeting 2014, this club lost a **former club President, and SWIS Governor, Barb Nelson (Banner Babe)**. In memory of Barb, the club was challenged to bring in as many new club members as possible; they did enroll 10 new members in 2014.

(5) SWIS Governor "Special" Awards;

1. **Bonnie Spindler & Howard Crofoot**: for the numerous hours work involved in setting up parameters for the 'NEW' SWIS website'
2. **Jim Kondrasuk**: setting up Madison as a site for OI - SUMMIT, May 17, 2014.
3. **Terry & Lindsey Hyland**: Personal support and behind the scenes work all year.
4. **Eric deGroot and Brock Sarnstrom**: Multiple years work on the SWIS District Quarterly Newsletter.
5. **Donna Cairy**: Recognition of 10 plus years dedication to organizing, running, coordinating, etc. the SWIS District CCDHH.

Special "Thanks" to

- (1) **Josh Zaidel**, SWIS District Secretary/Treasurer for exemplary dedication and service to the SWIS District for the past year:
- (2) Similar recognition and Thanks to **Jim Kondasuk** and **John Wytttenbach** for over a year 's work in guiding my steps in leading the SWIS District.

George E. Breadon, 2013-14 SWIS Governor

Every Optimist Club Has A Right To Vote



EVERY OPTIMIST CLUB HAS THE RIGHT TO VOTE

For the Optimist International President, Board of Directors and Vice Presidents.

Support our own Southern Wisconsin – SWIS Candidate for 2015-2016 OI President Elect **JIM KONDRASUK**



WHAT: The Optimist International Candidate Qualifications Committee is pleased to announce that Jim Kondrasuk from the Southern Wisconsin District has been selected to be the nominee for the office of 2015-16 International President-Elect.

WHY: We are thrilled in Jim's announcement, as he continues to serve well-beyond the SWIS District. Jim is married to Debra, and resides in Monona Wisconsin and they have 4 grown children with extended family. He's a UW Madison graduate, has been an optimist for 25 years. Jim has been in many optimist leadership positions, including SWIS Distinguished Governor in 1993-1994. For more information click on: [Jim Kondrasuk Bio](#).

WHEN: Your Optimist Club will have the ability to participate in the election of Optimist International officers by casting your vote online from June 1-30.

HOW: Each Optimist Club in good standing with Optimist International shall be entitled to one vote for each 25 members or major fraction based on the membership recorded in the International Office on April 30, 2015.

To be eligible to vote, your Club must have a valid e-mail address for your Club President on file using www.optimistleaders.org and need to have all of its financial obligations paid by April 30.

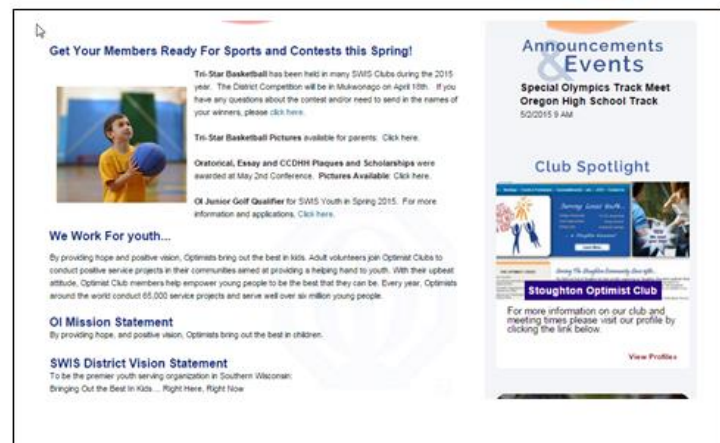
Dates to Remember:

- April 30:** Club voting strength is determined per International Bylaws.
- May:** E-mail is sent to every Club President outlining online voting procedures.
- June 1:** Online election voting will open for 30 days.
- July 1:** Results of elections posted on the Optimist website.

For supporting Optimist International information: [click here](#).

THANKS in ADVANCE for your SUPPORT of JIM KONDRASUK, our own SWIS OPTIMIST.

Updated 2015 Website



UPDATED 2015 WEBSITE

www.swisdistrict.org

Implemented: April 2015

Leadership Tools: For ALL Optimists and 'Logon pre-established' for current Club, District Officers and Past Governor's. (*see Leaderboard*)

District Optimist Clubs: Monthly Featured Clubs, Accomplishments in Youth, Community, and Fundraisers, Finding Clubs, District and Club Event Calendar.

Youth Programs: Club, District and JOOI programs information and schedules.

Conference Plans: Current SWIS and Optimist International planned events. Registration and information for up-coming conference.

Resource Info: Visitors & Optimist One-Stop location for optimist information including documents, OI links, SWIS & OI Officers.

Upcoming Current Events: General Optimist info, upcoming events, follow-up on events for announcements, pictures, etc.

Announcement Events: Rotation of upcoming Club and District events.

Club Spotlight: Clubs chosen for sharing with other clubs. (*Profile needed completion by club officers to be candidate—see Leaderboard*).

We Work for Youth: Optimist Mission & Vision.

Facebook Feed: Current 'Facebook' events or Optimist Creed.

You tube Channel: Current Creed & OI New Orleans Convention, more can be added.

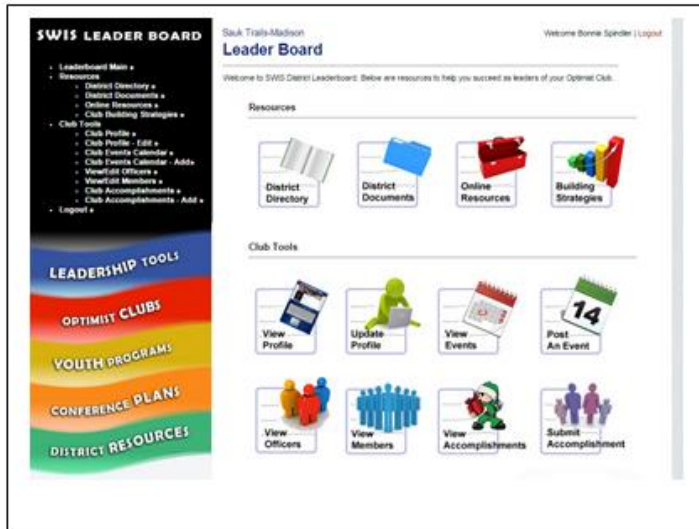
Club & District Calendar: Up-coming Events previously entered by webmaster, club leaders.

Optimist Resources:

- *Leaderboard Tools;*
- *Optimist/Public Resource.*
- *Optimist Intl Websites.*

[SWIS District Current Leaders Contact Info](#)
[Current Governor's Pictures and Message](#)

Updated 2015 Website Cont.



Leaderboard LOGON:

Current Club/District Officers: Passwords set-up, Club Profile Needed for each club, each club leaders/members info coming from OI records. (*Updates to e-mails need to be through www.optimistleaders.org by club officers*). Quarterly down-loads of OI planned.

Resources: Includes 3 previous years of docs & current info updated each quarter. Leaders '**one-stop**' OI & SWIS documents.

Club Tools: Profile each club, needs updating.

Club Events: View, adding and posting.

Club officers & members, for each club.

Club Accomplishments to share with other clubs in: Youth, Fundraising, Community.



Optimist International is YOU!!

We need to work towards a goal of reaching more Youth, and to provide the best service we can to our young people who will be the leaders in the future.

OI President Ken Garner gave a wonderful encouraging speech at the OI Convention last year in Las Vegas and gave us all a GOAL to work towards achieving 100,000 Optimist Members by our 100th Optimist Year in 2019. (We are currently in the 71,000 range).

Don't forget that Friends of Optimist for \$100 a year will count; plus a Friend of Optimist provides your club with a \$40 check to put into your treasury. *It can be looked at as a 'fundraiser' !!*

If your club is in need of a "Booster Shot" to keep fit in your community, please contact the District Club Fitness Advisor, Vern Andren, or you can contact me for assistance or questions.

We are OPTIMISTS and I BELIEVE WE CAN DO IT. Let's GROW our CLUBS to have more helping hands to do our projects and touch the lives of more kids!

Optimistically yours,
 Joanne Ganske
 OI Club Fitness Chairperson
 The Great Plains Region
[608-798-6302](tel:608-798-6302) (days)
[608-576-4433](tel:608-576-4433) (cell)
[608-798-1093](tel:608-798-1093) (fax)

97th Optimist International Convention

JULY 9 TO 11, 2015,
HILTON NEW ORLEANS RIVERSIDE

Please review information on the OI website for specifics.

The Convention opens on Wednesday, July 8th and the fun continues until Sunday July 12th, after the Presidential Banquet ends on Saturday night, July 11th.

Online registration is now available, as well as *Hotel Reservations*.

Rates start at \$109 (plus tax) to \$159. (Please check the multiple options for price)

An exciting program of speakers, etc. is listed for your perusal on the website, and also in the OI Magazine. More information will be available at the 3rd Quarter conference, May 2nd.

For details on this 3rd Quarter meeting, contact current Governor, Jeff Kuchenbecker.



GOOD LEADERS are also GOOD FOLLOWERS!

The article by Joanne Ganske is outstanding. I hope it is placed close to this note. **Remember, Optimist International IS YOU!!!**

That being said, we have many 'past' leaders **who** need to inspire new leaders. New leaders need to enhance their skills and awareness of themselves, for themselves. I thought I remembered General and President Eisenhower say that **Good** leaders also have the skills to be good followers. Optimist International Needs people **Willing to Lead** and **Willing to Help** the current leaders. It is critical if you are president of your club this year that you **please** consider being Lt. Governor and inspiring more leaders for your club **and zone**. Who will you elect as your Lt Governor at our 3rd quarter meeting?

For your reference, here is a Big Friendly reminder: IT IS TIME for COER (Club Officer Elect Reports) to be completed and reported to OI. IT IS TIME to get NEW board members. IT IS TIME to get new members. IT IS TIME to get new Lt Governors for next year. **Strengthen your club with your leadership to help to serve more Youth in your community.** Let's show your pride and help to get our new leaders ready to lead. Don't wait and make their job harder by waiting until the last moment. **INSPIRE THEM, ENCOURAGE THEM, ELECT THEM, HELP THEM!!**

We are the **Best SWIS District** in all of Optimist International. Let's all get our Club Officer Elect Reports done on line to OI to continue to let them know how great are! The final report (President's Pride) is due before 9/30/15. Our college clubs can complete it before 5/31/15 (if desired).

THANK YOU

VERN ANDREN

SWIS CLUB SERVICES/FITNESS CHAIR

Restoring Hope Transplant House

If a club is looking to help out in another area for servicing youth! *The cost per night to stay at this Restoring Hope Transplant house is \$35 for the family. The house picks up the remainder of the cost 'free' to the families awaiting a transplant....with Help from Donors!;-)*

This is a comfortable 'house that helps to feel like home' where families await any kind of transplant; ie: heart, bone marrow, lungs, kidneys, etc, etc, etc.

For example a 14 yr old needed a kidney transplant and stayed at this house (with his parents) until a kidney was available. Sometimes the stay is a few weeks or months and the costs do add up!

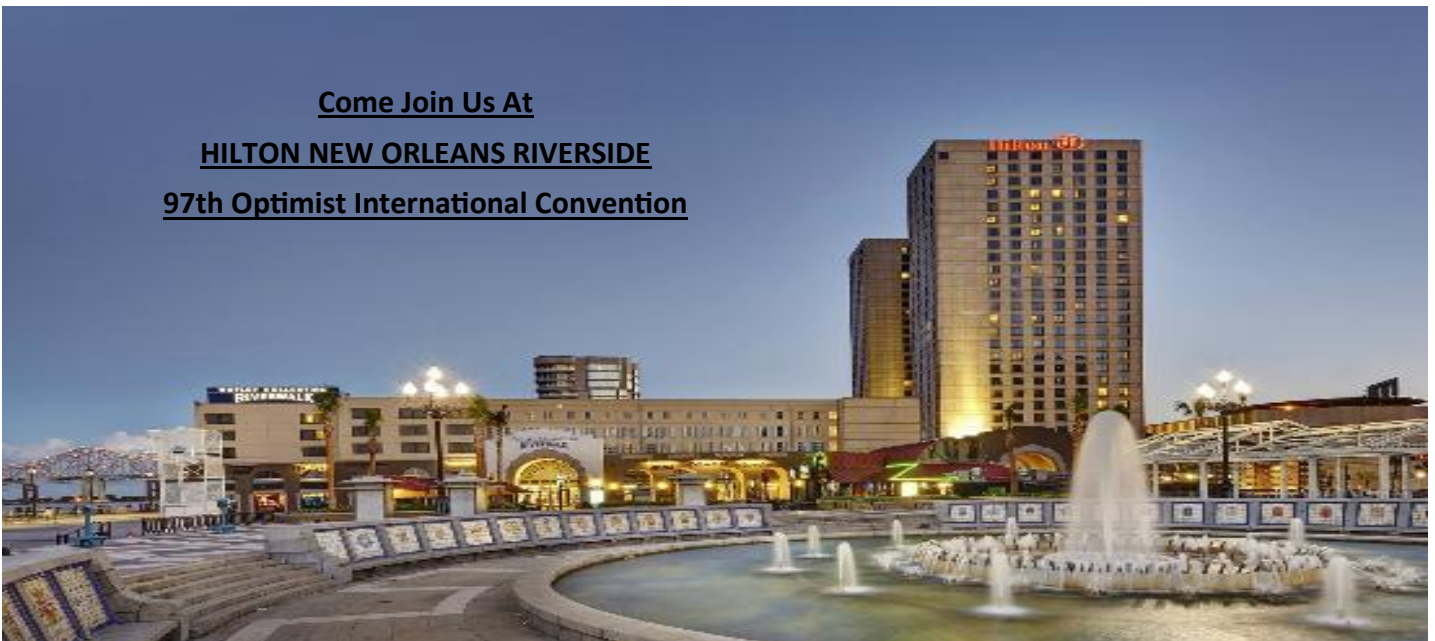
Since this house can help Youth awaiting for a transplant...maybe some clubs might have some extra funds available that could be designated as a contribution to help the families to pay for a few nights room & board. (For example, only \$105 would pay for 3 nights stay!)

Cindy Herbst is the Executive Director and is available and willing to speak to Optimist Districts or individual clubs on this house and explain how it came to exist. Her contact information is at the end of the 1st attachment.

This is a great cause....so I wanted to share the information if a club (or district) is looking for **an interesting program** to present to the members. The Restoring Hope House is open to assist families from WI, MN, IA, MI, IL. This house most often has adults staying here...but when there are teenagers in need, they can certainly use the help.

Best Optimistic Regards,
Joanne Ganske,
[608-798-6302](tel:608-798-6302) (direct)

Come Join Us At
HILTON NEW ORLEANS RIVERSIDE
97th Optimist International Convention

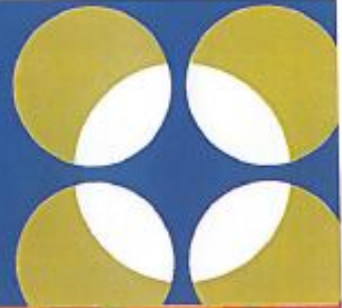


Restoring Hope Be A Match

Be involved. Transplant hope.

Join the Be The Match Registry®.

Patients need you! For thousands with blood cancers like leukemia or other diseases like sickle cell anemia, a marrow transplant is their only hope for life. If you have diverse ancestry, patients especially need you because they are most likely to match someone who shares their heritage.



Andy, local Middleton, Wisconsin man, registered for Be The Match over three years ago. This past December he got the call that he was a match! He started the new-year by donating some of his Peripheral Blood Stem Cells (PBSC) to a patient dying from cancer & gave the lady the gift of a cure! Donating was a profound experience for Andy -



In Andy's words, "we are all a wellspring of life, if you can, share it."

It takes an ordinary person to be someone's cure! You have the power to save a life.

Join Andy, register today for **Be The Match!**

"Donating was much less invasive than I thought it would be." Thanks to modern technology, most collections are from the arm in a procedure similar to donating plasma. "I had four days of booster shots to get my bone marrow cells pumped up and into my blood stream and then spent a day at the Rock River Valley Blood Center having those cells removed and sent off to the recipient in need. Aside from some aches from the meds and a few needle pricks it was painless! I only missed two days of work – one for pre-donation screening and another on my donation day ... if our roles were reversed it would be good to know there are people out there who cared enough to donate for me."

**Marrow Donor Registry Drive,
Ages 18 to 44**

Date: TODAY!

Time: NOW!

Register ONLINE

www.rrvbc.org

Click on "Marrow Program" then

Click on 

- Step 1:** Confirm Registry Guidelines
Step 2: use **PROMO CODE:**
SWAB4LIFE
Step 3: Complete Registration
Step 4: Receive & Return
 Cheek Swab Kit

Anyone can join the registry,
as long as they:

- Are between 18 and 44 years old.
- Meet health guidelines.
- Are committed to donating to any patient in need.

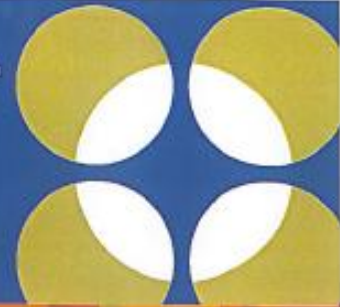
BE  **THE MATCH®**
 BeTheMatch.org

Restoring Hope Be A Match Cont.

Be involved. Transplant hope.

Join the Be The Match Registry[®].

Patients need you! For thousands with blood cancers like leukemia or other diseases like sickle cell anemia, a marrow transplant is their only hope for life. If you have diverse ancestry, patients especially need you because they are most likely to match someone who shares their heritage.



- Every 4 minutes, one person is diagnosed with a blood cancer.
- Every 10 minutes, someone dies from a blood cancer.
- That's more than 6 people each hour, or 148 people each day.
- Patients are searching for a cure.

YOU could be someone's CURE!

Cellular therapy is the only known cure for blood cancer. In order for this to be an option, the patient must find a life-saving donor that shares their tissue-type. Only 30% of people have a matching tissue-type donor in their family. Therefore, 70% of patients turn to Be The Match in hopes of finding their life-saving donor. Thousands of patients are searching for their match. They may be searching for **YOU!** It takes an ordinary person to be someone's cure. Be The Match connects blood cancer patients with their life-saving marrow match, but only if you JOIN!

Be extraordinary. Join Be The Match & **be someone's cure!**

Join Be The Match

Because tissue types are inherited from your ancestry, patients are most likely to match someone who shares their racial or ethnic heritage. If you have a diverse heritage you are especially needed. **Join today!**

Register ONLINE

www.marlow.org/join

Step 1: Confirm Registry Guidelines

Step 2: use **PROMO CODE:SWAB4LIFE**

Step 3: Complete Registration

Step 4: Receive & Return

Cheek Swab Kit

Anyone can join the registry,
as long as they:

- Are between **18 - 44 years-old**.
- Meet health guidelines.
- Are committed to donating to any patient in need.

BE  **THE MATCH[®]**
BeTheMatch.org

Restoring Hope Mission Statement



Updated: 2015

Mission Statement/Q&A

What is a transplant house?

A transplant house is a non-profit “home away from home” for eligible patients and their caregivers who are in the Madison area for organ, bone marrow or other transplants at UW Hospital & Clinics. A transplant house is not a medical facility. It is a caring environment that offers high quality, affordable accommodations for patients and their adult family members/caregivers. In addition to physical housing, the House offers hospitality, compassion and hope to support the healing journey for the patient and family. The support is provided by a small core staff, many volunteers and through interaction between other families facing the same challenges.

Restoring Hope Transplant House is designed to offer both private and community space. The facilities foster and support independence by providing shared kitchen and laundry facilities. Each guest will have a private room but may share a number of common areas including multiple living and tv rooms, dining rooms, sun porch and front porch where they can interact with the other guests.

Why is it needed?

Transplant procedures are complex and can involve considerable time away from home as patients await and prepare for procedures, recuperate afterward and return for follow-up appointments. Some of a patient's time in the area is spent at the hospital, but a good portion can be spent at local hotels while receiving outpatient care. The scope of medical care and the out-of-pocket costs can create additional financial challenges during what is already a very difficult time for patients, their families and their caregivers. The House offers patients and their caregivers a sense of community during an often long and difficult process. We have had repeat guests who have stayed here 30+ times. Most return for the family-like atmosphere while also taking advantage of the huge cost differential between the House and an average hotel. The well-being of the caregiver is another key and often overlooked aspect in the overall recovery of not just the patient but the entire family. This is an extremely stressful time for all but especially for the caregiver as they juggle the health of a loved one in addition to all of life's challenges back home, with family, at work, financially and physically. The built-in sense of community and support that our transplant family guests will find here is something they simply cannot find elsewhere and it absolutely makes a difference in recovery.

How many people could be served?

Approximately 550 solid organ and bone marrow transplant procedures are performed in Madison each year. Since most of those procedures are performed for people who live outside the Madison area, at a minimum there is an estimated need for accommodations for days to months for patients and caregivers. Transplant surgeons and program staff in Madison have long seen a strong need for this type of facility to come to the Madison area and are eager to refer patients and help where they can. Restoring Hope Transplant House fills that gaping void in available affordable housing while also offering a built-in support system of caring and understanding.

Restoring Hope Mission Statement Cont.

Are there other transplant houses?

This is the FIRST house of its kind in the state of Wisconsin devoted entirely to transplant patients and families. Regionally, The Gift of Life Transplant House in Rochester, Minnesota supports families and transplant patients served at Mayo Clinic and there are now several others scattered about the country.

Who is behind the effort to offer a transplant house in our area?

The inspiration for "Restoring Hope Transplant house" came out of a diagnosis of multiple myeloma for Wes Herbst. The support and hope the Herbst family received at The Gift of Life Transplant House in Rochester, Minnesota gave the whole family hope and encouragement. That experience led to developing a non-profit board of directors and meeting with hospital healing houses to begin the necessary work to start a transplant house in the Madison area to support the world-renowned transplant program available here. With the non-profit organization formed, a board of directors with very specific talents providing leadership and under the direction of Cindy Herbst as the Executive Director and Co-Founder, Restoring Hope Transplant House first opened its doors to guests in January of 2013.

Restoring Hope Transplant House is supported by three staff members, a board of directors and a group of dedicated volunteers. The UW Hospital and Clinics Bone Marrow and Organ Transplant teams have been involved in the Transplant House since its founding. We are the referral of choice for UW Hospital. We are part of the Middleton Chamber of Commerce, University of Wisconsin Cancer Council and serve on multiple Hospital and Community minded committees. We also have strong relationships with all Donate Life partner organizations, Wisconsin State Lions, Lioness & Leos groups as well as Rotary.

Who is managing the efforts to continue making this House a reality for families in need?

A non-profit corporation was formed in the name of Restoring Hope Transplant House, Inc., who purchased the house. The management team of Restoring Hope Transplant House, led by Executive Director Cindy Herbst, has surrounded themselves with an exceptional team to guide them, including accounting, banking, marketing and strategic planning all with expertise in non-profit organizations as well as experienced attorneys. The board of directors for the House includes devoted members from the Madison area that have previous board experience as well as members involved in transplant and construction fields. They have the enthusiastic support of local transplant care providers.

What is needed to keep the doors open and Restoring Hope Transplant House operational?

As a non-profit, various forms of funding are essential on any and all levels in order to continue offering this home to families in need. In addition to the funding required to offset regular operational costs, we also have very exciting expansion plans for a renovated 16 bedroom home ready to go to construction once the necessary funding needs have been met. Storytelling and spreading the word about the house to both statewide communities as a resource for families and to potential donors is also critical for the future of the House. The vision for Restoring Hope Transplant House is one of community serving community. Volunteer support will also be an essential part of keeping the House operational. We envision the house "belonging" to the community in the best sense, giving as many people and businesses in the area as possible the opportunity to participate in supporting the community of transplant families.

What sponsorship opportunities exist?

Sponsorship opportunities include individual or corporate naming rights for various rooms and other visible areas in and around the House. Regular monthly pledges can be made and are critical to assist with various house-related expenses and supplies. Third party events that support the mission of the House are also a great way to get a group or business involved in supporting a great cause. In addition to modest revenue generated from guests of the House, funding will be pursued through endowments, grants and aggressive local fundraising.

Restoring Hope Mission Statement Cont.

What does it cost to operate the House?

We have now been operational since January 2013 with lean budget principles and practices. We are pleased to find that our operations budgets prior to opening have been sound and we continue to make minimal adjustments as needed. Our 990 information is available upon request.

What have you learned about caring for transplant families since opening your doors?

- They are relieved to be in a home-like setting as opposed to a hotel that lacks many of the comforts and amenities of home such as access to our stove, oven, kitchen utensils, refrigerator, freezer, dishwasher, sink, coffee maker, washer and dryer and more
- They find enjoyment and comfort in visiting with other guests who are going through very similar journeys. From early morning breakfast conversation gatherings at the table to watching Badgers and Packers games with people from all parts of Wisconsin in the tv room to putting a puzzle together in the living room with someone whose husband just had the same transplant as yours to slicing up a freshly-baked pie and sharing laughs with a house full of others, there's something very magical and soothing about people facing challenges together.
- Their friends and family back home are relieved to know that they are well cared for while they are away from home and loved ones. Oftentimes, we host single caregivers while a loved-one is in the hospital. It is a relief for all to know that a caregiver or patient is not facing this daunting journey alone.
- Saving money means everything in uncertain times. To get home-like accommodations at a fraction of the cost of a hotel is very meaningful to our guests – especially those who are in Madison long-term.
- Everyone loves downtown Middleton. So many amazing restaurants within walking distance, fun shops, bank, post office, walking and biking trails and a very safe and friendly community. All of our guests feel very at home in this community.
- All of our guests come as complete strangers and so many leave as dear friends. It's a credit to the environment created by those who stay with us and the compassion of the transplant community.

Restoring Hope Transplant House | 7457 Terrace Avenue Middleton, WI 53562 | 608-831-1726



A \$35 per night home away from home for transplant families | For more info please visit www.restoringhope.org



CINDY HERBST
Executive Director

7457 Terrace Ave.
Middleton, WI 53562

www.restoringhope.org
restoringhope@tcs.net

p: (608) 831-1726
c: (608) 516-3318

Restoring Hope Open House

RESTORING HOPE TRANSPLANT HOUSE

7457 Terrace Avenue - Middleton, WI 53562 - (608) 831-1726 - www.restoringhope.org

Transplant House Is Open!

First and Only Recovery Home in Wisconsin for Transplant Patients

Restoring Hope Transplant House is now open. Bone marrow and organ transplant patients and caregivers visiting the Madison area in search of life-saving care at nearby University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics now have a comfortable, affordable and caring environment to call their home away from home during their stay.

Restoring Hope Transplant House recently finished an extensive cosmetic renovation and redecorating phase of existing rooms. We are now able to provide \$35 a night bedrooms for eligible transplant patients and caregivers – each with a new double and twin bed, 5 public bathrooms – three with showers, community kitchen, on-site laundry, spacious living rooms on both floors with an ample supply of books, transplant related information and material, big screen televisions with cable tv for community use, Wi-Fi throughout the house, a great front porch outfitted with relaxing new furniture, an office and an on-site living quarters for round the clock staff.

Our long-term goal of major renovations to increase the capacity to 16 bedrooms is still very much in the works, but we are extremely excited to begin offering this service to the many transplant families in need of immediate support that we hear from on a regular basis.

Please visit www.restoringhope.org for more information.

Restoring Hope Transplant House can impact the quality of life for a transplant family.



About Restoring Hope Transplant House

Restoring Hope Transplant House is a non-profit home established to serve organ and bone marrow transplant patients and their families. The home features five generously-sized guest rooms, multiple sitting rooms, full kitchen, laundry, cable tv, wi-fi and a tranquil yet convenient location in downtown Middleton, just five miles from UW Hospital.

For more information, please visit www.restoringhope.org or call us at (608) 831-1726.



Restoring Hope Open House Cont.

Restoring Hope Transplant House | 7457 Terrace Avenue Middleton, WI 53562 | 608-831-1726



YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

From our transplant family to yours, I would like to wish you all the very best as you navigate through your own transplant journey. Please know that you and your family are welcome here throughout your stay. While no two paths to the same goal are ever the same, it is the dream of reaching that goal that bonds us all together. You can do this - we can help!



Cindy Herbst
Executive Director
Restoring Hope Transplant House



A \$35 per night home away from home for transplant families | For more info please visit www.restoringhope.org



CCDHH Contest

Hello Everyone! I hope this finds you well! Here is the information you will need for the upcoming Optimist CCDHH contest on April 11th at the Super 8 motel in Monroe WI.

The address of the hotel is 500 6th St. Monroe WI 53566 and the phone number is [608-325-1500](tel:608-325-1500). The topic this year is "How My Optimism Will Help Me Press on to the Greater Achievements of the Future"

The contest will begin at 10:30 am in the conference room.

Lunch will be served after the contest around 11:30 am. The winner will be announced at lunch. If you plan to eat lunch please RSVP to Donna Cairy by April 1st. You may pay for lunch on April 11th.

The presentations will be recorded as the winner's presentation will be shown at the SWIS District Optimist conference on May 2nd.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Donna Cairy at [608-558-5633](tel:608-558-5633) (voice, text, facetime) or donnacairy@gmail.com

CCDHH

Monroe teen shows the power of speaking optimistically

Mary Jane Grenzow

MONROE - Most people struggle with public speaking - the hands that turn clammy, the stomach that turns somersaults, the dread of suddenly drawing a complete blank or worse. The anxiety is so widespread that numerous online sources consistently cite the fear of public speaking as our top phobia, even above the fear of death, the fear of spiders and the fear of heights.

It would stand to reason that someone who is deaf or hard of hearing - particularly a teenager - might be even more anxious about public speaking than a person with full hearing.

Apparently, Matilda Weeden didn't get that memo.



Matilda Weeden of Monroe, right, delivers a speech during the annual contest for deaf and hard of hearing students, sponsored by the Southern Wisconsin District of Optimists International, inside the Super 8 Hotel in Monroe Saturday. (Times photo: Anthony Wahl)

The 15-year-old sophomore at Monroe High School walked to the front of the conference room at the Super 8 motel in Monroe Saturday morning and calmly addressed the audience, explaining in a prepared speech why her sense of optimism is preparing her to meet her future goals.

Weeden was participating in the Southern Wisconsin Optimist Communication Contest, a public speaking contest for deaf and hard of hearing young people from across southern Wisconsin. The annual contest, open to junior high and high school students with a hearing loss of at least 40 decibels, drew four contestants, with a \$2,500 college scholarship from Optimists International at stake.

Each contestant gave a 4- to 5-minute speech in whatever format they were most comfortable: verbally or in conjunction with sign language. The four contestants Saturday each gave their speeches verbally, as an interpreter provided the sign language equivalent.

Each contestant addressed the topic "How my optimism will help me press on to greater achievements in the future," a fitting topic, given the contest is sponsored by the Optimists, an international service organization that works to help children.

The contest for deaf and hard of hearing students helps level the playing field, according to Donna Cairy, the contest organizer. Cairy, a teacher of deaf and hard of hearing students at Monroe Middle and High schools,

CCDHH Cont.

has organized the contest for the past 10 years.

"It gives equal access to scholarship money," she said. The Optimists run a similar speaking contest for hearing students, and while deaf or hard of hearing students can compete in that contest, they could potentially be marked down for the quality of their speaking voice. "They can't hear themselves," Cairy said, and the alternative contest gives those with a hearing problem the same opportunity to win the same amount of money for college.

Weeden said the sense of optimism in her own life has served her well: It has helped her have confidence, be a better friend and will ultimately help her to reach her goals.

"As a leader my optimism has helped me become the governor of the Southern Wisconsin Junior Optimist and Octagon clubs," she said in her speech, noting that a positive outlook gave her the confidence to run for governor. She credits family friend Gabrielle Breadon with encouraging her to get involved with the Junior Optimist group.

The leadership skills she's developed will serve her well, she said. In July, Weeden plans to leave for a year of studying abroad in Australia. Her mother, Joann Weeden, is a native of Australia, and Matilda Weeden will be staying with relatives she hasn't met. In her speech, Weeden acknowledged being away from family and friends won't be easy but "with an optimistic attitude I know that I can make new friends and advocate for myself."

Weeden said she wasn't too nervous as the contest, her first time competing, approached.

"I procrastinated," she admitted after the competition. "I wrote most of it (the speech) yesterday." She ran through the speech a few times to make sure she was within the time constraints, but said she wasn't overly nervous or apprehensive about standing up and delivering her message.

Ultimately, judges chose another contestant, Michaela Mulroe, as the winner. Mulroe is a senior at Monona Grove High School.

But it's likely not the last time Weeden will be speaking publicly. Cairy said Weeden already plans to enter again.

And Weeden will need the experience if she pursues her career goal of working for the United Nations.

"I love history, I love politics," she said. "I was in the Model U.N. for the past two years. It was so much fun."

She touched on her dream for the future in her speech:

"My optimism has helped me to communicate with other delegates to create resolutions and pass them. Hopefully, someday I can use my optimism in the real United Nations to create real resolutions that will help whole countries and individual people."

<http://themonroetimes.com/main.asp?sectionid=2&subsectionid=22&articleid=46949>

SWIS JOOI



Hello everyone!

I would like to formally invite you Junior Optimists to this year's annual District JOOI Convention.

Each JOOI District is required to host a convention and I hope to make this year's convention one to remember! The convention will take place on Saturday May 9th from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Kalahari resort in the Wisconsin Dells.

The registration cost for the day (including lunch) is \$12.50 per person OR \$25 per person for Friday night and Saturday (this gives you access to the Waterpark and other fun activities located in the resort!).

The deadline for registration is April 16th as we need to book rooms.

To register please email matilda.weeden@gmail.com or call 608-558-3291:

Here are some things we will be doing:

Ice Breaker (game)

Club Share (what has each club done this year)

Guest Speaker (former international JOOI President AJ Cifuentes)

Service Project (making cards for patients in the children's hospital)

Electing new district officers for next year 2015-16!

Any member interested in running for JOOI Governor, or any other elected position, please send in your name and other pertinent information as soon as possible.

I really hope EACH club can attend this awesome event and be ready to spread JOOI!

-Matilda Weeden

SWIS District JOOI Governor 2015

Wisconsin Leadership Seminars (WILS)

Wisconsin Leadership Seminars (WILS) is excited that for the 38th consecutive year we will provide our annual 3-day leadership seminar for outstanding high school sophomores from across Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The high-energy weekend consists of team-building activities, motivational speakers, community service, and panels of key leaders from various industries, small group discussions, a talent show and more. The 2014 Seminar will be held June 12th – 14th, 2015 at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. This year we already have 200 students nominated to attend and are busy recruiting even more!

WILS provides an outlet for these outstanding sophomores to gain confidence, learn more about themselves and develop their leadership skills. We are proud to offer this leadership camp to hundreds of students every year at no cost to the schools or attendees. This would not be possible without generous support from organizations like the Optimists. Over the last 5 years the Optimists have provided over 65 sponsorships for WILS attendees from their local communities. It is because of these donations that we are able to continue this program.

I hope that your club will choose to support WILS and the students of their local communities again by sponsoring nominated students to attend WILS 2015. A sponsorship of \$200 covers all of the costs of the seminar for the weekend, including seven meals and lodging for the three day seminar.

You will hear from a volunteer with WILS via mail, email and/or phone shortly to let you know who the nominated student is in your area. I hope that your club will choose to support nominated students with a sponsorship of \$200 which covers all of the costs of the seminar for the weekend.

Thank you again for all of the support the Optimists have given to this program.