

## Upper Arlington Optimist Club "Bringing Out the Best in Kids"

As part of Optimist International, which operates more than 3,000 clubs, the Upper Arlington Optimist Club provides services, scholarships and sponsorships to benefit the youth of Upper Arlington.

### Key Activities:

- **K-12 Youth Basketball Program** - This year the Club celebrates 40 years of their Basketball program. Currently there are nearly 800 boys and girls participating in our basketball program which offers age-appropriate skills development, competitive leagues and championship tournaments. High School students can also serve as coaches and scorekeepers.
- **Student Essay Contest** - The Club sponsors an Essay Contest for students under 19 as of Dec. 31. It provides scholarships to the top three finishers.
- **Student Oratorical Contest** - The Club sponsors an Oratorical Contest for students under 19 by Dec. 31. Winners receive cash awards.
- **Optimist UAHS Speech & Debate Tournament** - UAHS is the annual host to the Central Ohio District Speech and Debate Tournament. This year the UA Optimist Club sponsored this November. Almost 20 high schools and over 200 students competed in 13 different categories of competition. Over 80 teachers, coaches and parents will be serving as judges.
- **Varsity Basketball Sportsmanship Scholarships** - To recognize positive life skills, each year the club awards two \$1000 "Sportsmanship" scholarships to an Upper Arlington High School boy and girl basketball player to be sent to the college of their choice.
- **Middle School Washington DC Trip** - The Club annually provides \$1000 to both schools for financially disadvantaged 8<sup>th</sup> graders to participate their class trip.
- **Respect for Law** - The club recognizes a student(s) & a police officer for distinguished and dedicated service advancing Respect for Law to the community.
- **Funding for School District Projects** - The Club has made over \$350,000 to support various initiatives in the Upper Arlington schools. These donations included instructional technology, science field trips, sports equipment and programs to support developmentally disabled students.
- **Hearing Impaired** - The Club coordinates with the teachers in the UA Public Schools to help in their activities including financial assistance.

The UA Optimist Club was founded in 1953 and the first service club in the City. Membership is open to men & women. Meetings are typically held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 6:30pm -7:30pm from September through May. Members are expected to participate in the direction and implementation of Club programs and activities.

For information/questions:

Contact UA Optimist President Paul Boyer, 937-6417, [jpaulboyer@columbus.rr.com](mailto:jpaulboyer@columbus.rr.com)  
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