

# what is an Optimist Club

adult volunteers in action  
to benefit youth

An Optimist Club is a group of civic-minded men and women who care about our community's youth! To support our activities, we conduct various fund raising events such as sales of Christmas trees, fruit, and corn, golf ball shoots and social events; 100% of the money received from these fund-raisers is used for the benefit of youth. Other operating expenses are paid through membership dues and other income.

Optimist Clubs usually meet weekly or every other week for about an hour during lunch or dinner; project committees schedule separate meetings to plan events.

*Riverside Optimist Club meets Mondays at noon at the McCormick Cafe in Billings, 2419 Montana Avenue. Join us as a guest next Monday!*



# youth programs produce big smiles

Each Optimist Club determines its own projects based on input from club members and the community. Our Billings-area Optimist Clubs have organized the programs below.



## Childhood Cancer Campaign

Optimist International's goal is to be the leading force in ridding the world of childhood cancer. We assist children with cancer and their families with transportation and lodging, and raise funds for cancer research.

## Youth Fish & Wildlife Education Program

We send 260 kids fishing during a 2-day event at Lake Elmo! Optimists provide the kids with lunch and ice cream; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks teaches them about fish and wildlife.

## Optimist Junior Golf

This Optimist project encourages youth participation in golf. Optimists raise funds to send competitors to Optimist District Junior Golf Competitions.

## Just Say No Programs

Riverside Optimist Club sponsors "Just Say No to Drugs" programs in three Billings [elementary] schools.

## Zoomontana Playground

The Optimist Clubs in Billings fund & install the playground equipment at Zoomontana.

## Special Children's Camp

Several Billings Optimist clubs collaborate to provide a one-week residential summer camp for special-needs children in the mountains near Red Lodge.

## Oratorical & Essay Contests

We sponsor speech and writing contests to encourage youth to express their own opinions about the world in which they live. Local winners advance to compete for scholarships at the district and international levels.

## Eyeglasses for Children

Each year Riverside Optimists provide eyeglasses for less fortunate children in the Billings area.

## Friendship House Activities

Riverside Optimist Club sponsors a Christmas party and other activities for children at the Friendship House of Billings.

## Santa's Helpers

Riverside Optimist Club, in consultation with local school principals, provides gift cards to six families so that parents may buy Christmas gifts for their children

## Eagle Mount

Riverside Optimist Club sponsors three picnics in the park for Eagle Mount summer day camp.