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OPTIMIST CLUB OF MONACO SOUTH PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The following describes the various youth, community service, and organizational projects that your Monaco South Optimist Club sponsors and/or actively participates in running. This list is not all-inclusive, since we actively encourage our members to create or find new projects in which to get involved.

YOUTH PROJECTS--OUR PRIMARY MISSION

SUPER CITIZEN (Our Premier Service Project)

Our Club presents **Super Citizen Awards** for outstanding citizenship at McMeen, Samuels, Bradley, Holm, MPB, and Hamilton MS, University Park, Lowry, Highline Academy and Slavens schools. At the elementary schools, at one or two assemblies during the school day, a Monaco South member presents each **SUPER CITIZEN** with a framed certificate signed by our Club President, Denver's Chief of Police and Mayor, and a T-shirt proclaiming them to be Super Citizens at that school. Photos are taken of each child with his/her parent and/or teacher. At Hamilton Middle School, Monaco South presents the awards during the evening at gathering of the award winners, their families, their teachers, and Hamilton's school administration

<p>When: Monthly or Quarterly, as assigned Where: assigned school Who: One chairman and one or more assigned per school; 2010 Chair: Don Thomson</p>

COLORADO HISTORY DAY

Middle school and high school students write papers, assemble displays, produce documentaries, or write and perform original live performances related to the year's official theme. Monaco South members serve as judges (except for the papers) at the DPS History Day event and at Colorado History Day held at CU-Boulder. Training is provided. See <http://www.colorado.edu/history/coloradohistoryday/index.html> and www.nationalhistoryday.com for more information.

<p>When: April Where: Hamilton Middle School & CU Boulder Who: Karl Geil</p>

CHILDHOOD CANCER CAMPAIGN

Monaco South supports research into the causes and prevention of Childhood Cancer and assists children and their families who are undergoing treatment. Each year, one dollar from each

Christmas tree sold is donated to a cause that aids the prevention of cancer or treatment of children with cancer. This can amount to \$1200 or more!

LIBERTY DAY

Liberty Day is a non-partisan grassroots celebration of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. Andy McKeon, a Monaco South member, is President of the Liberty Day organization, which teaches kids to learn the constitution, and then go out and quiz citizens in various venues to raise awareness of the constitution and the ideals of our founding fathers. Liberty Day is March 16th, and Monaco South will be helping sponsor activities for civic leaders, DPS teachers and students to learn about and promote the Constitution and its history. See more at www.libertyday.org.

When: Ongoing Activities Where: Various Who: Phil Perington; Andy McKean
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EAGLE SCOUT RECOGNITION DINNER

At the Denver Area Council's annual Eagle Scout Dinner, Monaco South makes special awards for the outstanding Eagle Service Projects for the current class of Eagle Scouts in the Council. The awards are for each Scout District and the Council at large. The dinner is arranged by the Council and hundreds are in attendance, with a special keynote speaker and numerous other special awards made by the Council or the Eagle Scout Association.

When: Annually in Feb. Where: Local Hotel Who: Donlie Smith

ESSAY CONTEST

This event is sponsored by Optimist International, and it awards scholarships to high school students. The Monaco South's involvement is to solicit student entries and to find qualified people willing to read and grade the essays. The winning essay is then forwarded to the District contest.

When: February Where: TJ High School Who: Joe Marci/Wyatt McCallie
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HUGH O'BRIAN YOUTH FOUNDATION

The club provides support and donations to HOBY. Each year, we provide judges to interview HOBY participants at the annual conference for scholarships to the national convention, and attend the HOBY conference to encourage youth leaders that are participating.

When: Each June Where: School of Mines Who: Paul Bernard
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OPERATION STUDENT SUPPLIES

Monaco South purchases school supplies at the beginning of the school year for our Super Citizen partner schools, which the schools then distribute to students who need supplies. Volunteers are needed to purchase/solicit the supplies and deliver them to the schools. We also supply backpacks for the weekend lunch provider program at several schools.

When: Each Fall Where: 8 Elementary Schools Who: Oscar Sorensen

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Established in 1971, the Optimist International Foundation (OIF) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. OIF works with Optimist Clubs located in over 3,800 communities in the United States, Canada, Europe and the Caribbean. A majority of support received by the Optimist International Foundation is unrestricted. These donations are applied to the annual campaign, and are used to support the Oratorical Contest, Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) and Essay Contest scholarships, as well as the Junior Optimist Octagon International program (JOOI). OIF is a major contributor to research at Johns Hopkins to help find cures for childhood cancer. In addition to the annual club donation, individual members are encouraged to give tax-deductible donations.

When: Annual donations from the Club and individuals
Who: Fred Pasternack

ROUNDUP FELLOWSHIP

Monaco South plans and participates in outings with disabled children at Roundup Fellowship. Volunteers are needed to help plan the activities and to attend the outings. Roundup Fellowship staff members look after the children; Monaco South members go along on the activities to interact with the kids. When events are not feasible, the club donates the allocated money to support the ongoing work of Roundup Fellowship.

When: Various
Where: Various
Who: Jim Vanderkamp

TRI-STAR BASKETBALL

This activity is a key program from Optimist International. Volunteers from our club are needed to schedule this one hour basketball skills competition, to recruit participants and to officiate at the events. We hold a club level event at the Boys and Girls Club, and help with the Regional event. Top winners go to the District event at the Pepsi Center. Monaco South also provides assistance at all levels of this great event for kids from 6-11 years of age.

When: Feb/ March/April (finals)
Where: Finals at Pepsi Center
Who: Jack Rife

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS THANKSGIVING DINNER

As it has for the past 30 years, Thanksgiving comes early for about 1000 boys and girls (and their families) at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver and at Girls, Inc of Metro Denver. Members of the Optimist Club of South Monaco serve turkey - about 800 pounds of it - and all the trimmings at two locations on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Kids are bused in from most of the metro area Boys and Girls Clubs to get to the location of the dinner, which for many would be the only Thanksgiving dinner they would have. Some bring their siblings and parents, and many take advantage of the "to go" boxes to take turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie to the folks back home who can't come. Monaco South purchases the food, which is prepared by a local hotel catering operation for free. As they have for over two decades, Monaco South club members have a great time serving the food to the noisy crowd.

When: The Tuesday before Thanksgiving
Where: Boys and Girls Club and Girl's Inc.
Who: Donlie Smith, Russ Paul

CHRISTMAS BASKETS & GIFTS

The Christmas Baskets & Gifts Project is an offshoot of the Thanksgiving Basket Project which was started in the 1980's. This project was expanded in the 1990's to include furnishing fixings

for a full Christmas Dinner and usually some toys to needy families with children in the elementary schools where we sponsor Super Citizen Programs.

The Committee Chairman for Monaco South starts a sign-up sheet about a month before the event (which is always the Saturday before Christmas). The Chairman makes arrangements with various food sources for the essential ingredients of a Christmas Dinner. The Club pays for these items, but we try to get grocery stores to give us a discount price on the food & foil pans that we buy.

When: Saturday before Christmas, 8-10 am
Where: Legion Hall
Who: Don St. John

Early in the morning on the Saturday that we deliver the food baskets, several members of the club will meet to pick up the food and take it to the designated spot for assembling the food boxes for each family. At a designated time, the rest of the members who have signed up to work this project will meet at the assembly area and box up the food for delivery.

The Christmas Gifts, for the children of six families in each school are purchased by Monaco South with budgeted funds and by other benefactors. The Social Services representative at the schools gives us a list of the names, gender and ages of each child. Club members will then deliver the food baskets and gifts to the designated families.

The total time of assembling and delivering the food baskets and gifts is about 2 hours.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

This project is identical to the Christmas basket project, but without the toys. We usually deliver 30-40 full meal food baskets.

When: Saturday before Thanksgiving
Where: Legion Hall
Who: Bob Avery

T. J. CRAFT FAIR

Each year the Club members help the Thomas Jefferson High School control and monitor the traffic flow during the set up of the T. J. Craft fair, which is an event that supports the school.

When: Saturday before Thanksgiving
Where: T.J. High School
Who: Craig Eley

BRAIN BOWL

The Brain Bowl is similar to the old GE College Bowl TV show (for those too young to remember, think Jeopardy with teams), but for middle school kids. Three competitions go on at the same time: one for 6th grade, one for 7th grade, and one for 8th grade.

Teams take a written test and engage in verbal rounds against other teams which test their general knowledge. The teams surviving the preliminary rounds of competition then face head-to-head single elimination in verbal competition rounds until the championship matches at each grade level.

When: January at Fairview/Boulder and Feb. in Denver and Colo. Springs
Who: Karl Geil

In January and February the Brain Bowl hosts over 160 competing teams in three tournaments located in Boulder, Denver/Aurora and Colorado Springs. Teams come from all around the state, and the assistance of 30 other Optimist Clubs throughout the Colorado-Wyoming District is necessary in order to put on the event. This event will be holding a "Super Bowl Championship" tournament in March. Go to <http://www.optimistbrainbowl.org/> to learn more.

ORATORICAL CONTEST

Monaco South participates, along with most of the other Optimist Clubs in the Colorado Wyoming District, in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest, which is a 3 level event. Each year students under the age of 16 years present a 4 to 5 minute speech on the official topic which is determined by Optimist International. The judging is done by 3 members or non-members and the competition is divided into Boys & Girls contests. Each club sends the boy and girl who win its contest to the next level, which is the Zone contest. The winners of the Zone contest move on to compete for the championship of the Colorado/Wyoming District, with the Boys & Girls winners each receiving a \$2,500 college scholarship provided by the Optimist International Foundation.

When: March
Where: Schlessman Y
Who: Keith Gallaway

JUNIOR GOLF

As a major focus program of Optimist International, Monaco South members help with the two O.I. Colo/Wyo District Junior Golf Tournaments. We provide 15 or more people to help with scoreboards, set up, food, give directions, and help with fundraising. Many of the winners are sent to the O.I. International Tournament in Florida. Our club raises funds to help send 20+ kids to this tournament each year.

When: June/July
Where: Various Courses
Who: Joe Marci/Ron
Cisco/John Stoffel

ROBERT SULLIVAN SCHOLARSHIPS

The Robert Sullivan Scholarship fund was established by Monaco South to honor Bob Sullivan who was an outstanding member of the club and president of the Thomas Jefferson High School booster club. This fund annually provides scholarships to deserving college-bound seniors from Thomas Jefferson High School. The fund accepts contributions and also raises funds from selling Rockies baseball tickets and Entertainment Books to club members and others.

When: April 15th
Who: Joe Marci

HAMILTON READING PROGRAM

Each student who scores at least 500 points on the Accelerated Reader program at Hamilton Middle School receives a \$100 Savings Bond from our club. This program encourages reading and literacy in our middle school students. Hamilton has many million word readers and generally earns over 40 such awards each year.

When: April
Where: Hamilton Middle
School
Who: Karl Geil

ALTA VISTA CENTER

The Alta Vista Center for Autism, located in south Denver, is a treatment center for children with autism and related disorders, and has been serving families in Colorado and beyond since 2003. Its services include full and half day programs, clinical and consultation services, home and school program development, and assessments. The club supports the center with an annual donation and members can contribute time and/or goods in kind to help this worthy cause.

DENVER DUCK DROP

Each year, Peggy Lehmann, the Denver City Council person in District 4 organizes and hosts a race of rubber ducks in Goldsmith Gulch at George Wallace Park. The proceeds from sponsoring a duck (donated prizes are awarded!) go to support parent/teacher activities in 5 Denver elementary schools. The Club supports this event by selling duck sponsor tickets, being a bronze sponsor, and with manpower during the race.

When: May Where: George Wallace Park Who: Greg Young
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See more at [DENVER DUCK DROP](http://www.denvergov.org/PhotoAlbum/DuckDrop/tabid/437989/Default.aspx) or <http://www.denvergov.org/PhotoAlbum/DuckDrop/tabid/437989/Default.aspx>

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN

The club supports organizations with donations to help children with hearing impairments. We support Help Them Hear, which provides hearing aids to children who can't afford them. We also support the Cochlear Kids Camp held each summer by the Colorado Neurological Institute at the Estes Park YMCA.

CHILDREN'S SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The club supports the Rise School for down syndrome, the Fire Fly Autism Center, the Schlessman YMCA, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and East High School Constitutional Scholars with annual donations from funds raised by our Christmas Tree Lot.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

MS 150

Our members participate in this 150 mile bicycle ride as a fund raiser for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. This race attracts thousands of riders each year in July. Monaco South members have raised over \$10,000 over the years as riders. Monaco South, along with the assistance of the Tamarac Optimist Club, also sets up and staffs the largest and best rest stop for this long, hot ride. This includes a special tent with water misters to cool down the riders, plus we serve GatorAid[®] and fruit to very tired and worn out cyclists. Hundreds of riders take advantage of our rest stop each year.

When: Last Sunday in June Where: North of Broomfield Who: Michael Chavez, Bryce Slaby, Robert Wardlaw

RESPECT FOR LAW

Each year, around May 1, Optimist International encourages its member clubs to honor one or more individuals in a show of respect for the operation of law. Our club usually honors a Denver area law professional or helps promote respect for law among our youth.

When: April/May Where: Legion Hall Who: Randy Marcove

CUB SCOUT TROOPS

The club sponsors several Cub Scout packs in the Denver schools that are in our area.

When: Ongoing
Where: Elementary Schools
Who: Frank Middleton

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Each year Monaco South honors an outstanding educator from our southeast Denver public schools. The educator is chosen for dedication and results in our schools.

FURRY SCURRY

The Furry Scurry is an annual fund-raiser for the Denver Dumb Friends League and it is always held at Washington Park in Denver. This event gets bigger every year and raises a great deal of money for the League. Monaco South Optimist Club has volunteered to help the League in this endeavor for the last 12 years and our participation has been greatly appreciated by the League.

When: First Saturday in May, and the Friday before for setup.
Where: Washington Park
Who: Don St. John; Bryce Slaby, Phil Perington

We start sending around a sign-up sheet around at the Breakfast Meetings about two months before the event, which is always held the first weekend in May.

We usually have between 15 and 25 members sign up and our responsibility is to set-up the vendor's tents, help them unload their supplies, set up the water tables and anything else that the League wants us to do. We begin by helping to unload the tables and chairs on Friday afternoon.

On Saturday, the starting time for our members to arrive at Washington Park is 5:00 am. As part of the fun, we sell and serve as many as 150 breakfast meals as a fund raiser. We are usually through with our work by or 10:00 AM and the volunteers can both stay and enjoy the event or go on to other activities they have scheduled for that day.

ALZHEIMER'S MEMORY WALK

Similar to the Furry Scurry, each year, members support the Alzheimer's Association by providing early morning (7:00-9:00am) setup and pre-race coordinators. Rewards include a nice T-shirt and the satisfaction of helping a worthy cause. Many members also sign up to do the walk at 9:00 to help raise funds.

When: Mid September 6-9 am
Where: City Park
Who: Joe Marci

MARCH OF DIMES MUD VOLLEYBALL

Similar to Alzheimer's, Monaco South members provide support to help set up, park cars and other lite duties. From 5:30am to 9:00. Breakfast is hosted after the event at a local restaurant.

When: August
Where: Aurora
Who: Cy Regan

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE:

Monaco South sanitary engineers, nattily attired in their white tuxedos and equipped with shovels and buckets, display their "Pooper Scooper" skills to pick up horse droppings during these annual parades. The participants have great fun clowning with the crowd. As our motto goes: "We're #1 in #2"

When: St. Patrick's Day Parade
Where: Downtown Denver
Who: Gary Strowbridge

ORGANIZATIONAL/FUND RAISING

NEW CLUB BUILDING:

We are always looking to find a community which is not currently being served by an Optimist Club and to build a new Optimist Club or JOOI (Junior Optimist Octagon International) club to serve the youth of that community. By going door to door and business to business we solicit new members and hold meetings to establish the new club. Once the club is going, we work to help them build membership.

When: As needed Where: open Who: Anyone with desire

NEWSLETTER:

Monaco South publishes a weekly newsletter of meeting and other happenings. It is titled "*Grandiose Utterings of Monaco South*," "G.U.M.S." for short. Assistance in editing and mailing is always needed. We currently have four editors who rotate one each month preparing the newsletter, and five other members who do the weekly mailing of those copies not sent by email. We always welcome additional members who want to be editors of the month.

When: Weekly Who: Chair, Bob Finkelmeier

NEW PROJECTS:

Monaco South is always looking for new youth and community service projects and has a standing committee for the development of new projects.

When: open Where: open Who: Anyone with desire
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SPEAKERS' BUREAU:

Finding and scheduling interesting speakers is essential to making our weekly breakfast meetings vibrant and interesting. Volunteers are needed to help our speaker chairs find and arrange speakers.

When: Weekly Where: Meeting Site Who: Paul Bernard, Paul Simon
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CHRISTMAS TREE LOT:

Each year, Monaco South establishes and runs a Christmas tree lot. This is the club's major fund raiser for the year and provides the funding foundation for most of our many youth and community projects. One dollar from each tree sale is donated to Childhood Cancer, an Optimist International supported project. We have maintained this lot for over 25 years. We sell up to 1500 trees, wreaths, and garland. ALL members are encouraged to put in a minimum of five 3 hour shifts (we run 9am to 9pm, seven days a week) over 3 weeks, and help out with the set up and teardown of the lot. Often we make a trek to the Evergreen area to cut trees from Ed Collins' land, and sell these trees as the ever popular "Charlie Brown Tree" –the only lot offering this unique tree.

When: Day after Thanksgiving until Dec 24th Where: Monaco and Evans Who: Joe Marci , Mike Miller
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This is the most wonderful time of the year and a great time to get to know your fellow Optimists. The annual club chili cook-off is held on the second Saturday of the month, at the lot trailer. We also get help from local high school youth groups (JROTC, Sports teams, etc.), and make a donation to those groups that participate.

GROCERY CARD SALES

At each weekly meeting, gift cards usable at King Soopers and Safeway are available for sale to members. These are available in multiples of \$25.00, with no maximum. The member uses the card like a debit card for groceries and gasoline at dozens of stores associated with King Soopers (Kroger stores) or Safeway. The member gets **full** value for the card, but the club buys them for 95% of face value, thereby earning 5% of the face value as a fund raiser for Monaco South. King Soopers and Safeway have some of the best discounted gasoline around, and everyone buys groceries each week, so it's a win-win proposition for the club and the members. King Soopers cards are reloadable with your rewards credit card...thus allowing you to benefit as well as the club!

When: Weekly meeting Where: Meeting hall Who: Cy Regan, Donlie Smith
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FUN TIMES

WIVES TO BREAKFAST:

Each year we try to have a special program for our wives at breakfast during Valentine's Day. Volunteers are needed to plan the entertainment for this meeting.

When: Around Valentine's Day Where: varies Who: Chair Needed
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KIDS/GRANDKIDS TO BREAKFAST

Each year we invite our kids and grandkids to breakfast around the end of the year. A fun program is planned to entertain the children...it's all about the kids!!!

When: Last meeting of the year Where: Legion Hall Who: Gary Laman

HONEYMOON WEEKEND

Each year in the summer, many members and their wives/significant others gather in a fun Colorado vacation spot for a weekend of "honeymooning." Golf, shared fun at mealtimes and a wide range of activities, or just relaxing, make this a standout time and most enjoyable weekend to see *Colorful Colorado*.

When: June or July Where: varies Who: Al Gapuzan, Randy Marcove, Howard Fry

YEAR END HOLIDAY PARTY:

Monaco South puts on a holiday party after the Christmas tree lot closes. This event is organized by the members as pot-luck, and is a fun way to meet members and spouses, and have a great time with music, dancing, and good food and libations.

When: After Dec 25th Where: TBD Who: Chair needed

SUMMER PICNIC

In late summer Monaco South puts on a Summer Picnic for members and their families, often with other clubs. Usually, we try to coordinate this with a concert in the park sponsored by the City of Denver. The club provides a barbeque and drinks. Help is always welcome in planning this event.

When: August Where: Local Park Who: Randy Marcove
