

In our 96<sup>th</sup> Year of Service to  
Youth & the Community

# Optimist Club of Birmingham

The Flagship Club of the  
Alabama-Mississippi District  
November 2023

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
12:00 Noon

[www.birmingham.amoptimists.org](http://www.birmingham.amoptimists.org)  
[www.facebook.com/BirminghamOptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/BirminghamOptimistClub)  
[BirminghamOptimistClub@gmail.com](mailto:BirminghamOptimistClub@gmail.com)

The November 9<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon, meeting will take place at City Club, 1901 6th Ave N, Ste 3100, Birmingham. We will meet on the 32<sup>nd</sup> floor. The cost of the meal will be \$21/person.

## November 9<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting

Our meeting will feature guest speaker, **Maria L. Hatch**, Outreach Coordinator for UAB Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. Maria is the founder and CEO of Maria's Women Health and Wellness. She has 10 years of experience as a Community Health Resource Worker. She is also a Commissioner for Fairfield Housing Authority. Maria has two daughters and two grandchildren and is very active in serving her community and church in many ways!

## Last Club Meeting

The October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting featured the Installation of Club Officers & Directors conducted by our distinguished guest, AL-MS District Governor **Jeff Keener**. Club President **Carolyn McCoy** also presented her plans for the Club during the 2023-2024 Optimist year!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, Board Mtg. on Zoom, 1 pm  
Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Program at City Club, 12 noon. **Reservations due by Thursday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.**  
More details available later!

## MEMBER NEWS

**November Birthdays:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Dr. Kim Carr, 11<sup>th</sup> Valencia Flowers

Hope you each enjoy(ed) your special day!

Please note: If your birthday and/or anniversary was not included, please email the dates to Nancy Ryan at [nryan95@charter.net](mailto:nryan95@charter.net), so they can be added to the list!



Friend of Optimists, Brandi Werther, shared this picture of hers & her husband's (Eckart) children, Kamron & Jurnee, grandchildren of Ruby & Glenn Peterson, Sr.

## IN THE NEWS

The Optimist Club of Birmingham is so honored to have this amazing young woman as one of our newest Optimist members!! **Zoé Champion** has been a part of our Optimist family since she was 7 years old, when she began volunteering with our Club, along with her sister, Chandler, and her parents! She embodies the spirit of a true Optimist! Thank you, Zoé, for carrying out the mission of Optimist International by the way you care for your parents, your community, and yourself with such dignity and grace!



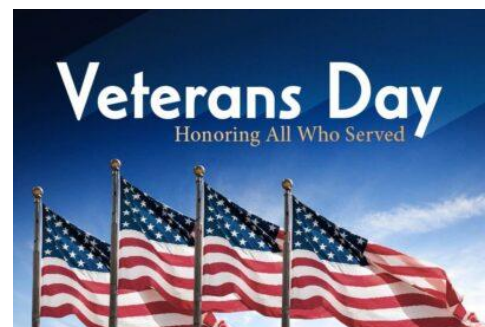
Picture of Zoé taken in 2019, while volunteering with Club members at Olivia's House.

Zoé and her family's story was not only featured in an article on [uab.edu/news](http://uab.edu/news) ("Balancing Act: One UAB student's story of strength and determination", October 12, 2023), but she was also interviewed on WBRC 6, which was published on October 23<sup>rd</sup>! You can see and read about the full interview by clicking on the link below:

[https://www.wbrc.com/2023/10/23/uab-student-athlete-works-towards-her-dream-while-taking-care-her-seriously-ill-parents-full-time/?fbclid=IwAR1o8gcc9R-5X5DqyJE\\_cjEltVMauTfsVacf6VGSDvoDZeZtCHP7au0kmKs](https://www.wbrc.com/2023/10/23/uab-student-athlete-works-towards-her-dream-while-taking-care-her-seriously-ill-parents-full-time/?fbclid=IwAR1o8gcc9R-5X5DqyJE_cjEltVMauTfsVacf6VGSDvoDZeZtCHP7au0kmKs)

## SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS

The Optimist Club of Birmingham will be carrying out our long-time tradition of "Ringing the Bells" for the Salvation Army at Christmas time. The dates set for ringing (in 1 hour time slots) this year are **Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>**, and **Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 10am–1pm**, at **Belk at The Summit (next to the Apple Store)**. We prefer to have at least 2 volunteers for each hour. A schedule will be sent out soon to sign up for volunteering, or please let [Nancy Ryan](mailto:Nancy Ryan) (205-531-5992) know if you are interested in participating!



## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

The Optimist Club of Birmingham was honored to have AL-MS District Governor Jeff Keener as our distinguished guest at the October 12th Club Meeting to conduct the Installation Officers & Directors for the 2023-2024 Optimist year! President Carolyn McCoy also presented her plans for the current year, which began on October 1st.



Pictured L to R: AL-MS District Gov. **Jeff Keener**, Secretary **Teresa Jones**, Club Foundation Representative **Roger Vaughan**, Director **Ron Taylor**, Director **Jon Ryan**, President **Carolyn McCoy**, Treasurer **Leon Evans**, Director **Angene Coleman**, Asst. Treasurer **Erma Hinton**. Not pictured: Vice President of Administration **Sharon Wilson**, Vice President of Youth Work **Anita Lee**, and Directors **Dr. Paul Amamoo**, **Jacqueline Holder**, and **Adrienne Pearson**.



**President Carolyn McCoy shares her goals and plans for the 2023-2024 Optimist year!**



**Teresa Jones, Angene Coleman & Clara Greene**



**AL-MS District Governor Jeff Keener shares some words of wisdom with our Club Members.**



**Mark & Ron Taylor**



**Jon & Nancy Ryan**

## RED RIBBON WEEK

The Optimist Club of Birmingham sponsored a door contest at both **Robinson Elementary School** and **Phillips Academy** in recognition of "Red Ribbon Week", the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention awareness program, which takes place annually October 23rd-October 31st. The theme of this year's "Red Ribbon Week" was "Be Kind to Your Mind. Live Drug Free."

The doors were judged on November 1st by **Angene Coleman**, Chair of the event, **Anita Lee**, Co-Chair, and volunteer, Lee Adams.

Thank you to all who took part in the "Red Ribbon Week" activities!

The following winners from Robinson Elementary received cash prizes to use for their class:

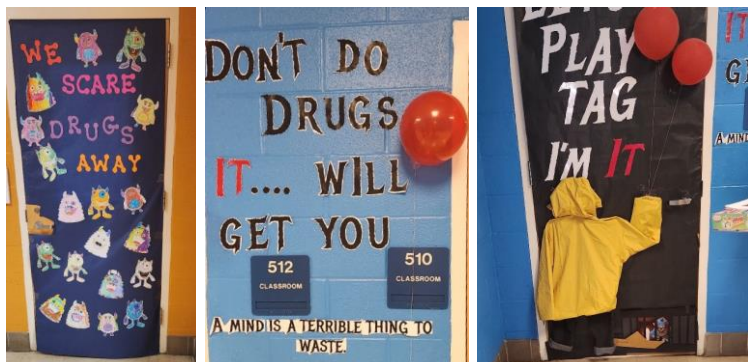
- 1st Place - Mrs. Ledlow - \$100
- 2nd Place - Mrs. Crutcher - \$75
- 3rd Place - Mrs. Geiry - \$50



Pictured L to R: Angene Coleman, Mrs. Geiry, Mrs. Crutcher, Principal Henderson, Mrs. Ledlow & Anita Lee



Angene Coleman presents prizes to door winners!



The following winners from Phillips Academy received cash prizes to use for their class:

- 1st Place - Mrs. Sullivan - \$100
- 2nd Place - Mrs. Dillard - \$75
- 3rd Place - Mrs. Phillips - \$50



Pictured L to R: 3rd Place winner Mrs. Phillips, Asst. Principal Mrs. Wiggins, Counselor Mrs. Dudley, Judges Mrs. Lee Adams, Mrs. Anita Lee, & Mrs. Angene Coleman, 2nd Place winner Mrs. Dillard, and 1st Place winner Mrs. Sullivan with college student teacher.



Angene Coleman presents prizes to door winners!

