

Optimist Club of Birmingham

The Flagship Club of the
Alabama-Mississippi District
December 2025 -January 2026

In our 98th Year of Service to
Youth & the Community

www.birmingham.amoptimists.org
www.facebook.com/BirminghamOptimistClub

Meets 3rd Thursday
12:00 Noon

FEBRUARY 19TH MEETING TO BE HELD AT
ALABAMA POWER COMPANY, ELECTRA ROOM
600 18TH ST. N., BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203

***PLEASE ARRIVE IN TIME TO PURCHASE LUNCH FROM
THE ATRIUM CAFETERIA (OR BYO LUNCH) & BE READY
TO BEGIN THE MEETING AT NOON.**

Essay Contest Chair **Desiree Bates** will be introducing the top 3 winners of the Club Contest as they share their essays on the topic of "How My Acts of Service Help Me Understand What My Community Means to Me". Each winner will receive a cash prize, a medallion, and participation certificate. The 1st place winner's essay will be submitted for further competition in the AL-MS District Contest for the opportunity to earn a \$2,500 college scholarship to the college of their choice

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DECEMBER 18

The Optimist Club of Birmingham held its annual Christmas program on Thursday, December 18, at City Club Birmingham. It was wonderful to see so many of our Club Members and guests at the meeting!

Our special guest was 12-year-old **London Koi Jones**, daughter of **Optimist Renee Green-Jones** and **Derrick Jones**, who attends Alabama School of Fine Arts and is already a vocal sensation, as well as an actress and performer! She shared her beautiful gift of voice with us by singing her debut single, "O Holy Night".

The Club was also delighted to have **Mr. Dan Williams**, **Director of Jefferson County DHR**, with us for the presentation of thirty \$150 gift cards for foster youth, ages 19-21, served through Jefferson County DHR's Independent Living Program. The Club wants to express our deepest gratitude to The Caring Foundation for its generous support of Kards for Kids.

LETTERS FROM SANTA

The Optimist Club of Birmingham sponsored a new fundraiser during the Christmas season, "Letters From Santa," to benefit the Club's 501(c)3 Birmingham Optimist Youth Foundation to help support projects the Club conducts throughout the year.

Club members were asked to sponsor at least 3 "Letters from Santa" to be sent to their children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends, etc. Along with a "Letter from Santa", recipients also received an "Official Certificate" from Santa for being on the "Nice List"! For those who might not have anyone in mind to send the letters to, the opportunity to donate the letters for the children at Ronald McDonald House and/or for the women and children at First Light was also available. Co-Chairs of the Committee, **Teresa Jones**, **Clara Greene**, and **Nancy Ryan**, made sure that all of the children at RMH, as well as the women and children at First Light, received a letter and certificate from Santa, so that no one was left out!

MEMBER NEWS

DECEMBER Birthdays: 5th Anita Lee, 6th – Shakira Marshall, 17th – Adrienne Pearson

DECEMBER Anniversaries: 3rd – Lynn & Mark Taylor, 15th – Jon & Nancy Rya,

JANUARY Birthdays: 4th – Teresa Jones, 4th – Mary Wright, 8th – Leon Evans, 8th – Laneta Fullenwiley, 17th – Linda Carter, 21st – Allan Evans, 27th – Rotasha Madden, 29th – Ron Taylor

JANUARY Anniversaries: 28th – Sri & Dr. Sudha Gutti

Hope you each enjoyed your special day!

LUNCH SERVED AT PATHWAYS WOMEN & CHILDREN'S SHELTER



Optimist Club of Birmingham members and community volunteers served lunch at Pathways Women and Children's Shelter on Saturday, January 3. Pictured L to R are: Tiffanie Cook (soon to be new member), Joshua Cook (guest), President Sharon Wilson, Adrienne Pearson, Audrey Pickett Wray (guest), and Desiree Bates.

Pathways offers safe housing, resources, and comprehensive support services for women and children experiencing homelessness, to help them achieve stability and self-sufficiency. For more information, please visit: <https://pathwayshome.org/>

"BE THE CHANGE" VIDEO

President Sharon Wilson shared an inspiring video at the Club's Annual Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 18.



SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

LETTERS FROM SANTA



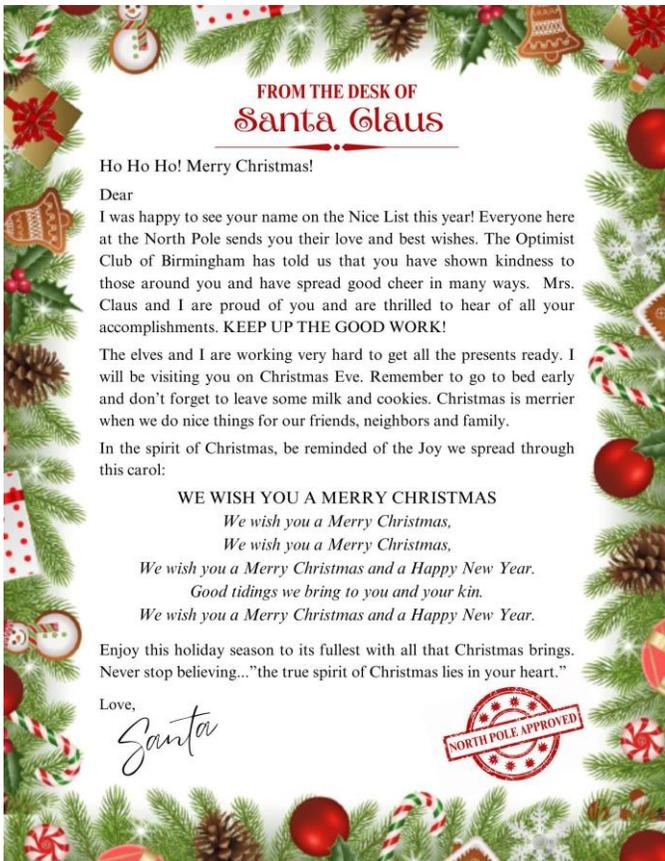
"Letters From Santa" was a great success and brought smiles to the faces of children of all ages, among which included the 11-year-old nephew of Teresa Jones, Alexander Batson! His smile says it all! ❤️😊



Clara Greene & Teresa Jones putting "Letters from Santa" and "Nice List" Certificates together to be mailed to children of all ages!



Nancy Ryan presents "Letters From Santa" and "Official Nice List" Certificates to Zelma-Mae Cable, Programs & Activities Manager, for all the children residing at Ronald McDonald House in Birmingham.



In order to protect the privacy of the women and children at RMH and First Light Shelter, a letter and certificate was provided without the name for RMH and First Light Shelter to fill in for the recipients.



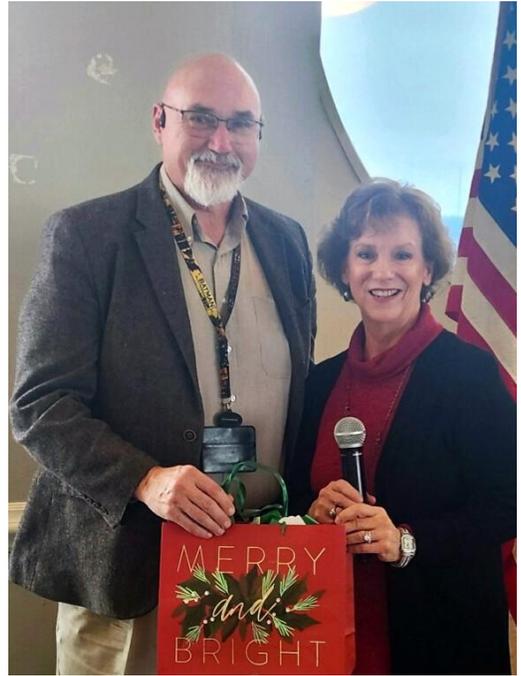
Nancy Ryan presents "Letters From Santa" and "Official Nice List" Certificates for all the women & children residing at First Light Shelter in Birmingham to Camilla Jones, Director of Volunteer Services.

SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

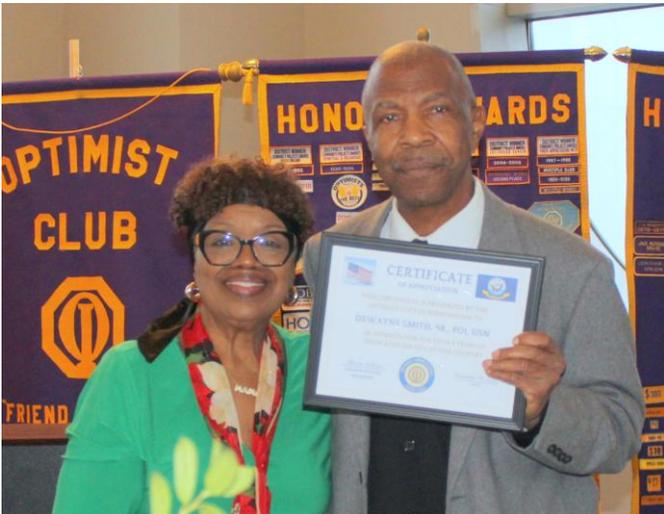
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON CITY CLUB BIRMINGHAM, DECEMBER 18TH



President Sharon Wilson with our guest entertainer, London Koi Jones



Kards for Kids Chair Nancy Ryan presents gift cards for Christmas gifts for foster youth ages 19-21, to Dan Williams, Director of Jefferson County DHR.



Sharon Wilson recognizes Veteran Dewayne Smith, Sr. PO1, USN with a certificate and American flag lapel pin. Thank you for your 4 years of service to our country!



Dr. Paul Amamoo & Bertram Perry



Dr. Paul Amamoo, Debbie & Don Kirkland



Connie Demand & Clara Greene

SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES



Tiffanie Cook & Taytem Nichole Evans, daughter & granddaughter of President Sharon Wilson



Nicole & Herman Webb



Don & Debbie Kirkland



Doris Lee



Paula Hines, Dewayne & Mary Smith, & Shirley Miller



Adrienne Pearson & Danella Johnson

SNAPSHOTS FROM CLUB MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES



Dr. Paul Amamoo



President Sharon Wilson



Leon Evans & Carolyn McCoy



Jon & Nancy Ryan

SALVATION ARMY BELLRINGERS



Underneath the mistletoe!



The Optimist Club of Birmingham carried out its long-standing tradition of **"Ring the Bells" for the Salvation Army** during the Christmas season! Optimists **Ron Taylor** and **Adrienne Pearson** were two of the several volunteers who rang the bells outside the Belk Summit location at various times on December 8th, 9th, and 16th, as scheduled by **Desiree Hutcherson-Bates** who served as Chair!