



## OPTIMIST BLIND YOUTH ASSOCIATION, INC.

Dara Laski  
President

January 2020

Marcia Laski  
Vice President/  
Secretary

Steve Duben  
Treasurer

Dear Friend,

I'd like to tell you what I know about blind children. They are tall, short, bright, curious, courageous, ambitious, helpful and kind. And what does that say about blindness? That blind children are like all of us! And like for all of us, I believe that everything is possible. We should have high expectations, provide good training and education, and keep open the doors of opportunity for blind children. I know that blindness does not have to stop a child from accomplishing goals and fulfilling dreams.

**Board of Directors**

Wayne Geffen  
Marla Gray  
Hugh McDonald

That is why I am asking you to support the Optimist Blind Olympics, which I have been involved in for 37 years. The Olympics provide blind children the opportunity to make wishes come true, to go for the GOLD and compete with other young people their own age with similar physical challenges. They will participate in the 50-yard dash, archery, rowing, goal ball, rock wall climbing, kayak racing, soccer, challenge track and obstacle course with little or no vision.

The OPTIMIST BLIND OLYMPICS is an OPTIMIST event on OPTIMIST grounds – PACIFIC LODGE in Woodland Hills.

At the end of the Optimist Blind Olympics weekend, the children go home with more than medals and the volunteers and staff are left with full hearts. We all share in the amazing moments and memories, new friends and knowledge that blindness or visual impairment need not prevent children from living life fully and productively.

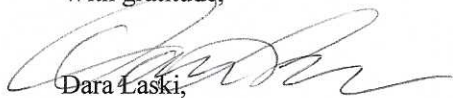
The 2020 Optimist Blind Olympics will be here before you know it. Please save the date, Saturday, April 25, 2020, on your calendars. We will host athletes from California, Arizona, Utah, Nevada and Texas, who are excited to participate in the games. Many of the athletes feel this is the best weekend of their year and work hard during the school year to be able to qualify for the trip. In addition to the Olympics, the children are treated to a dinner dance, a day at Magic Mountain, Santa Monica Pier Touch Aquarium, bowling and lodging for the long weekend. We will have more than 200 athletes participating this year!

This Optimist wonderful event is only possible with generous donations from our friends and community members. The weekend costs more is about \$ 70,000 for the Olympics, housing, transportation, meals and entertainment for the children. Your contribution will assist our blind athletes in achieving new heights by helping to bring them here to participate in the games and activities. And while the day is filled with exhilarating challenge and competition, it is also a rich experience of warmth and camaraderie that they—and you—will never forget.

Please make your tax-deductible donation to the **Optimist Blind Youth Association (OBYA), P.O. Box 5208, West Hills, CA 91308**. If you have any questions or would like more information about the Optimist Blind Olympics, please call me at (818) 402-5741 or visit our website at <http://www.OptimistBlindYouth.org>.

The finish lines crossed today are the starting points for bright and positive tomorrows. Join us!

With gratitude,



Dara Laski,  
President - Optimist Blind Youth Association

# SPONSOR-A-CHILD

## FOR THE 2020



Please help the Optimist Blind Youth Association (OBYA) bring visually impaired athletes (ages 6 to 22) to participate in our annual OPTIMIST BLIND OLYMPICS. Children from Los Angeles, Ventura, San Diego, Riverside, and Fresno counties as well as Arizona, Utah and Texas are eager to compete in the track and field Olympics.

The athletes compete for medals, make new friends and gain in self confidence and esteem. Their courage and determination are truly inspiring.

For only \$25.00, (more if you'd like), you can sponsor a child by helping to offset the expense of transportation, food and housing. We will advise you of your sponsored child's name and it may even be possible for you to meet or communicate with him or her.

This event is sponsored by the Optimist Blind Youth Association and the PacificSouthWest, Cal South and PacificSouthEast Districts of Optimist International.

Please contact Dara Laski, President of OBYA, if you need more information about sponsoring a child or about the Optimist Blind Olympics (818) 402-5741 or inquire by email at daralynnInc@aol.com

*Optimist Blind Olympics  
Saturday April 25, 2020*

*9:00 – 3:00*

*Pacific Lodge*

*Youth Services*

*4900 Serrania Avenue*

*Woodland Hills, CA 91364*

Please send your tax deductible check to:  
(Federal ID 95-3868720)

Optimist Blind Youth Association  
P.O. Box 5208  
West Hills, CA 91308



Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Apt, Suite or Unit number: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship Amount(Minimum of \$25.00 for Child Sponsorship): \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You!**