

CITY OF KETTERING, OHIO, CELEBRATES DOR-WOOD Optimist Club's 50 YEARS of COMMUNITY Service

Submitted by: Mike Athmer, Dor-Wood Optimist Club, Ohio District



Kettering, Ohio's Dor-Wood Optimist Club celebrated its 50th anniversary of community service during June 2015. Dor-Wood's tradition of serving all youth in the community highlights the work of countless area people.

Dor-Wood's long-time and popular tradition of serving all youth in the community was highlighted during a 50th anniversary dinner by a proclamation read by Kettering Mayor Don Patterson declaring on behalf of the city that June 2015 is Dor-Wood Optimist Club month in Kettering, Ohio.

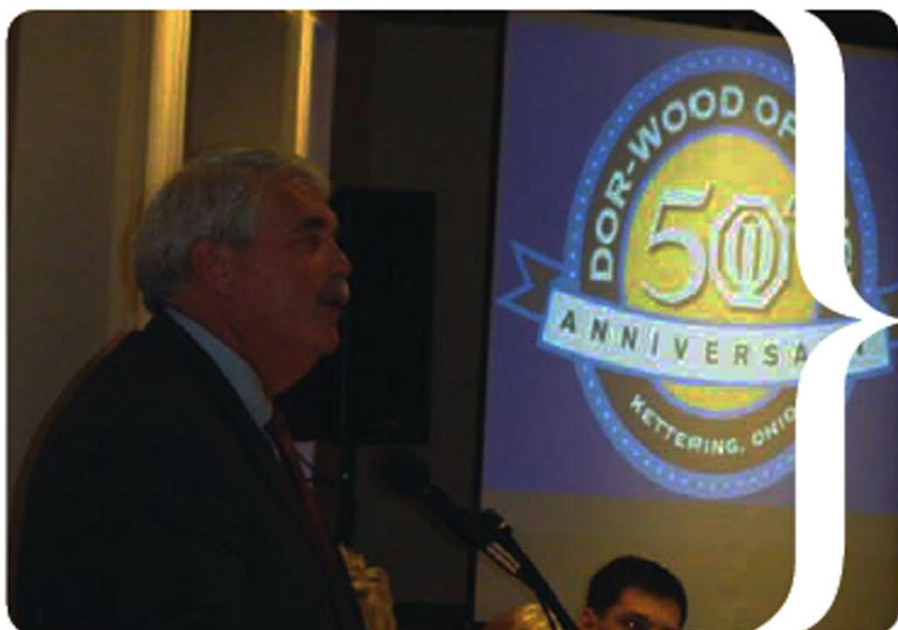
The proclamation recognized Dor-Wood for its 50 years as an integral part of Kettering, its service to youth in the community, and its effort to bring out the best in the city's youth since June 12, 1965.

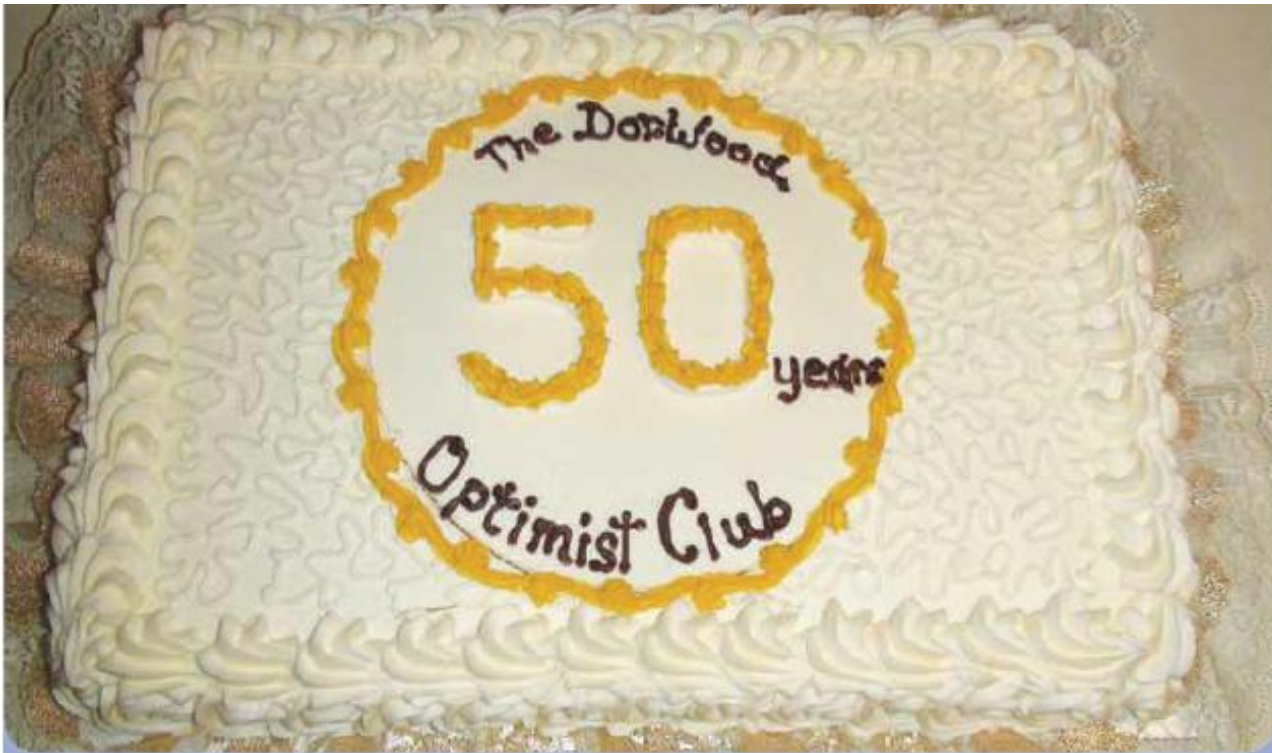
SUMMARY OF DOR-WOOD OPTIMIST CLUB COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Dor-Wood Optimist has a tradition of actively supporting community programs such as local programs such as the Kettering Holiday at Home festivities; Avenue of Flags, Golf for Kids, Kettering Backpack Program; the Kettering Fairmont High School – Kettering Alter season opening football game and accompanying Robert Moore Starter Football Trophy; Optimist Club building; Optimist Oratorical and Essay contests; additional elementary, middle school, and high school schools programs; and numerous other community-sponsored projects and initiatives.

CLUB HISTORY

When did it all start? The Dor-Wood Optimist Club was officially organized on May 13, 1965. It was chartered by Optimist International on June 12, 1965. The term Dor-Wood originated from the name Dorothy Lane and Woodman Drive Optimist Club of Kettering, Ohio. Its sponsoring Optimist Club was the East Kettering Optimist Club. While the current weekly Dor-Wood meeting location is the Presidential Banquet Center, the Club has met in numerous locations over the years. Although the initial Club meetings were regularly held at Vito's Venice Inn, the initial planning meeting was held at the Parkmoor Drive-In on Woodman Drive.





CHARTER MEMBER JOE MCCLOUD RELIVES THE BEGINNING

BEFORE HIS UNTIMELY PASSING JUST ONE MONTH BEFORE THE CLUB'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, THE CLUB'S MOST SENIOR MEMBER AND A CHARTER MEMBER, JOE MCCLOUD, PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF THE CLUB'S STARTUP IN 1965.

“We are an active service club,” said McCloud. “Original startup Club Members included business people from companies like Top Value, Delco Products, Winters National Bank, occupants of Woodlane Shopping Plaza, Ohio Bell, and other companies whose location and community focus was centered in the Dorothy Lane-Woodman Drive area of Kettering.”

McCloud laughingly informed the Club that in 1965, Dorothy Lane and Woodman Drive were single-lane roads. The Club's first fundraiser was raffling off a TV, which raised \$500. McCloud also remembered how the Club began selling Christmas Trees – without much knowledge. Although tree lot locations have moved around

over the years, at its peak, the Club sold nearly 1,500 trees at two locations in Kettering.

McCloud also reminisced about how many Members of the Dor-Wood Optimist Club over the many years provided countless service hours and contributions to the Kettering community. Over the years, Dor-Wood Club membership peaked at 120 Members, and today still totals 100 Members.

Today's diverse Club membership includes corporate business officials, Kettering school officials and administrators, retired teachers and administrators, community judges and lawyers, local business owners, and banking and financial management.

Joe McCloud reflected, “When asked to help on a community project, even if we did not always know how to do it at first, we still simply got it done. I am extremely proud to be a Dor-Wood Optimist. We truly live up to the motto: 'Friend of Youth'.” Words that still ring true for the Club 50 years later.

For more information about the Dor-Wood Optimist Club, please visit the Dor-Wood Optimist Club website at www.dorwood.org.