

Not long ago, my mother noted some of my most recent achievements, and reminded me that this was a path that I had been on all of my life. The memory of receiving the **Optimist Award** during my high school days had slipped my mind.

The story – One day after work, I saw a man stealing an elderly woman's purse. After knocking her down, I alerted other co-workers that they should call the police. I, with no fear, ran after the man, and followed him a number of blocks where he was hiding. When the police came around the corner, I let them know that the man had gone into the home that I was standing in front of. The thief was apprehended, and the woman's purse recovered.

Shortly after, the local Optimist Club honored me with the Optimist Award for that year...My journey through life has continued to stay optimistic, in spite of what the world has exposed me to.

The Optimist Creed:

Promise Yourself —

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Optimist International

<http://www.oifoundation.org/about/index.htm>