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Extraordinary Special Education Teacher Receives Funding From West Flint Optimist Club

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Swartz Creek, MI – October 14, 2015 – West Flint Optimist Club, the nonprofit organization devoted to supporting local children's charities, presented Kayla Bright with a check for \$1,000 at the Swartz Creek Schools Board of Education Meeting on October 14th. The money will make it possible for the 6th-8th-grade special education class to participate in community-based instruction. Kayla had students from her class there to make short speeches to the Board and the public about what they have learned from this type of instruction. The strategy is to get the special education students into the community for two reasons: so students can learn how to function independently in public settings, and also so the public becomes more aware of community members with special needs.

Last year Kayla Bright applied for and received a grant from the NEA Foundation for the funding. This year the grant was not available and the students of the special education class were going to miss out.

“We were able to fund 5 of the 7 field trips for the class. Kayla Bright has done such a remarkable job of getting these children out into the community for lessons that you just can’t open a book to learn.” states Jeff Dennings, president of the West Flint Optimist Club. The club is sponsoring trips to:

- **Sloan Museum and Longway Planetarium** to learn about the history of our community, provide an option for a recreational activity in the area, and also allow them to practice communication skills with those who work at these locations.
- **Meijer** to learn money and basic calculations. They discuss the issue of want vs. need before shopping to show the importance of prioritizing as adults. Communication skills will come into play as well.
- **Buell Lake** to learn about the science of nature and the importance of safety.
- **Humane Society** to learn about caring for animals properly and how much responsibility is involved in pet care. Students also perform community service while at this location.
- **Michigan State Capitol** to learn about our government and history. Students learn about democracy, the importance of voting, the three branches of government, and the jobs of each branch. Students see the capitol building and are able to see where some of these important jobs take place.

For more information on how to support more projects like this, you can visit www.OptimistsInAction.com. You can also email Jeff at jeffescm@gmail.com.

About West Flint Optimist Club

West Flint Optimist Club was founded in 1963. They are a local non-profit associated with Optimist International. The club volunteers and raises money to support local charities that involve children. Optimist International is a worldwide volunteer organization made up of more than 2,500 local Clubs whose Members work each day to make the future brighter by bringing out the best in children, in their communities, and in themselves. The purpose of all Optimist Clubs is to develop optimism as a philosophy of life utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; to inspire respect for the law; to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people; to aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one’s self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world. By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids.

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URL of full size picture: http://optimistsinaction.com/wp-content/uploads/Swartz_Creek_Special_Education_Kayla_Bright.jpg

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Jeff Dennings at 810-429-3634 or email at JeffESCM@gmail.com.