



Twin City Area Optimist Club

P.O. Box 475

Festus, Missouri 63028

www.twincityoptimist.org

Follow us on Facebook

Affiliated with Optimist International – Serving Youth and
Community since 1919

December 2020 News: Making a Difference

*Merry Christmas,
Happy Chanukah,
and a Happy New Year*

However you celebrate the holidays, please be safe.



CLUB PROJECTS

Head Start Christmas

Thanks to our Head Start Committee: Martha DeMent, Kitty Ebersoldt, Laura Elbl, and Mary Hatfield.

Barb Schmidt, Elizabeth Check, Martha DeMent, Laura Elbl, and Katie Huck were up to the task of wrapping and bagging gifts. A little dressing up for the season included!



Head Start Christmas carries on without Santa, Mrs. Claus, or the TCA Optimist Elves

Some 30+ years ago we were alerted by one of our members to the need for the Head Start students to receive some help at Christmas time. It began with shoes for each student, later adding hat, mittens, and the gift of a toy. It has blossomed into a party with a visit from Santa and a picture with him as well. This year as with many things we are scaling back on the party with the children, but not on the gifts.

67 students received a warm sweat suit, a book, two coloring/sticker books, crayons, hat, mittens, and socks. They also received tooth brush, tooth paste, and dental floss.

Martha DeMent
Project Chair

Shop with a Cop

Board of Directors Approves donation to Shop with a Cop.

Board members approved a \$500 donation to the Shop with a Cop Organization.

245 area children were given \$100 each to shop for gifts. The Shop with a Cop Organization is made up of 30 first responder agencies throughout Jefferson County and currently provide gifts in 10 Jefferson County school districts.



President Mary Kay Scott and Phyllis Neff presents check to Sergeant Jessica Griffaw, President of JeffCo Shop with a Cop program.



Childhood Cancer



Jeffrey Vitt

Another great scan!

His counts were much better this time, all of his physical assessments have greatly improved, and his scan was all clear.

Thanks to Jeffrey's mother Jessica Vitt for sharing the good news.

JOI CLUB UPDATE

JOI Club Continues to Receive Positive Response from their "Don't Give Up Movement" Signs

The JOI Club has five more signs plus two in Spanish. Debbie Schumaker reported the police department and the fire department have been called. JPAD district and Festus library have our inspirational signs. Katie Huck reported that our signs are helping people. An Optimist member informed us that someone who was having a bad day saw our sign and they made the decision to call for help. What a positive life choice to make!!

The JOI Club continues to offer the community signs that help those with anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, or just need an encouraging word.

Katie Huck
JOI Adult Advisor

Debbie Schumaker
JOI Chair



Crisis Nursery Donation

The club cancelled its shopping trip to Walmart this year; however a \$500 donation was sent to the Crisis Nursery. In addition, gifts and household supplies were delivered from the JOI and TCA Clubs.

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DiAnne Mueller, M.S., L.P.C.

stlouis.bbb.org

November 24, 2020

Twin City Optimist Club and
Jr. Optimist Club
418 Deer Crossing
Festus, MO 63028

Dear Friends:

Thank you for how thoughtful you are towards the Saint Louis Crisis Nursery! Your donation of cleaning supplies, paper towels, new toys, and personal care supplies is such a special gift to us. We are honored that you took time out of your busy life and schedule to think of us and to help our sweet little ones!

Our goal is to create a safe haven for the kiddos that come through our doors because feeling safe, secure, and nurtured should be a part of every child's world. So, when you generously offer to help us and gift us with your resources it stirs in us a renewed sense of hope in our mission to *save babies' lives, keep kids safe, and build strong families.*

You are the reason we can continue to provide the youngest among us, and their families with warm meals, warm baths, and warm arms to hold them. You help support them at their darkest hours.

With a full heart and exceeding joy,



DiAnne Mueller, MS, LPC
Chief Executive Officer

This letter is a written acknowledgement of your gift as required by the IRS and should be retained for tax purposes. No goods or services were provided, in whole or in part, for this contribution.



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Regional Administrative Office: 11710 Administration Drive, #18 • St. Louis, MO 63146
• Phone: (314) 292-5770 www.crisisnurserykids.org

FUNDRAISERS

KOEZE Nuts/Mascot Pecans

Thanks to Patty Meyer for chairing this fundraiser and to Pat Parsons for assisting.

Profit from the KOEZE sales was \$4,025.45 plus a \$100 donation.

Four cases of Mascot pecans were also sold for a profit of \$394.00



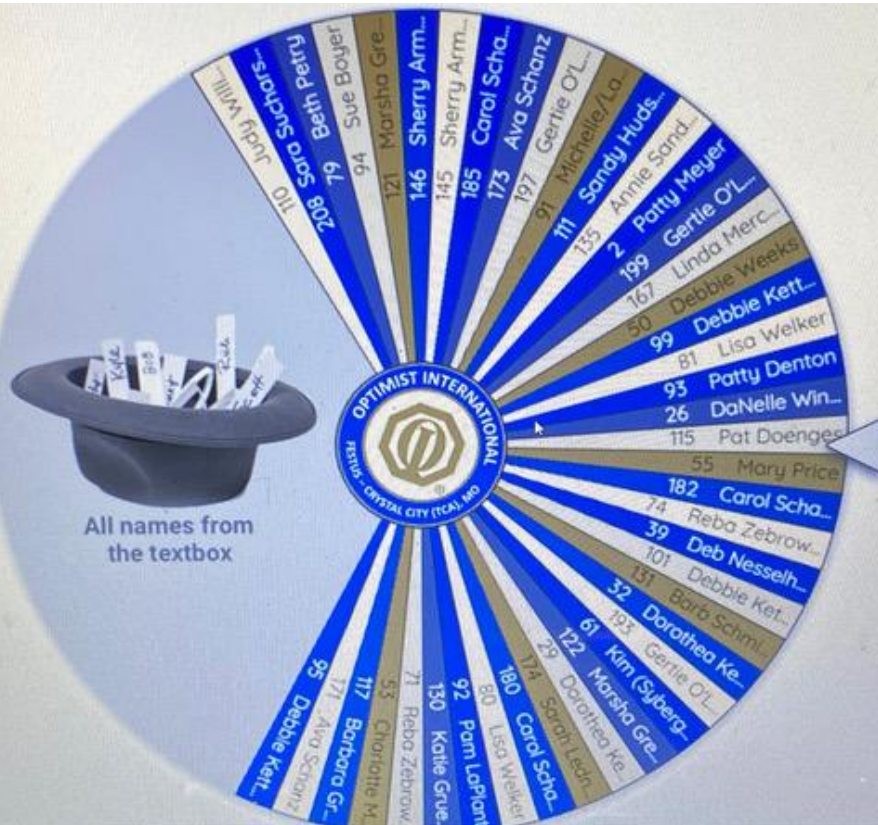
Quilt Raffle

Drum Roll Please, and the winner is...

PAT DOENGES

Thanks to Pat Parsons and Phyllis Neff for co-chairing raffle.

Congratulations to Pat Doenges. Pat's name was selected from 213 entries to win the beautiful Stars and Pinwheels King size quilt created and donated by Optimist member Karen Huskey. Thank you Karen, for your donation and helping our club raise \$2,130.



Oberle Gift Boxes

That's a Lot of Sausage!

Thanks to Cindy Cherry for chairing this fundraiser.



Pat Parsons hands Peggy Scott and Judy Williams their orders



Looks like Carol Schanz placed a pretty big order. Check out her bag and look at the new gift box design..

Ladies, we have sold 181 boxes of Oberle Gift Boxes!!! **Y'all are wonderful!**

You ladies ROCK!!! Our profit from this quick and easy fundraiser this year is \$1015.50. THANK YOU!!!

Also, thanks to Pat Parsons for being my extra helper and pair of eyes to check my figures.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Cindy Cherry
Project Chair

TIS THE SEASON --ZOOM--ZOOM

Holiday Party with Games and Memories



Zoom Group Chat

From Peggy Scott to Everyone:
 Google says its HUTZELBROT
<https://gingerandbread.com/2016/12/09/hutzelbrot-the-german-take-on-a-christmassy-fruit-bread/>

Sixteen members joined the ZOOM meeting on Thursday evening December 17th. This was our virtual holiday party. We played several games and shared stories of Christmas past. Memories were told of favorite gifts that some still keep, a husband's misplaced gift that turned up many years later in an abandoned briefcase, and dolls of all kinds were described in great detail. Each member added her memories throughout the call.

Of course we can not forget traditional family recipes. Sue Boyer said her mother made Hutzelbrot (a German fruit/nut bread), a Ste. Genevieve holiday treat. Peggy looked it up during meeting as shown above. Marsha Greenstreet said her mother always made hickory nut fudge and to this day she still makes a batch for her brother. She said it costs more to mail than it costs to make and she uses pecans instead of hickory nuts.

We missed seeing many of our members. We hope you join us in the new year. Peggy will be setting up a practice ZOOM meeting for those who are a little nervous about ZOOMing. Watch your email soon with a date and time for training.

Hutzel Bread
GERMAN HOLIDAY BREAD

1 (8 oz.) pkg. mixed fruit (dried)
16 oz. raisins
14 oz. peaches (dried)
6 oz. apricots (dried)
16 oz. prunes
4 c. nuts
5 lb. all-purpose flour

2½ c. + 2 tsp. sugar
3 pkg. *RapidRise* yeast
½ c. warm water
1 Tbsp. salt
1 Tbsp. Crisco
2 c. prune juice (from your cooked prunes)

In one pan, combine mixed fruit, peaches, and apricots and cook until soft. Add 2 cups sugar. In another pan, cook prunes (remember to save juice) until soft. Simmer raisins and let set in water. Do not let get soft. Drain fruit (keep prune juice separate). Combine all, except raisins. Cool and mash fruit. Add raisins.

In small bowl, put 3 packages *RapidRise* yeast, 2 teaspoons sugar, and ½ cup warm water. Stir to dissolve. It will rise to top of bowl. In 6 quart pan, put 2 cups prune juice, 1 tablespoon Crisco, ½ cup sugar, and 1 tablespoon salt. Add yeast mixture and 5 to 6 cups flour. Let rise until double or triple in size.

In *large* dish pan, put 2½ pounds flour; add yeast mixture, all cooked fruit, and 4 cups nuts. Mix together and work in the rest of the flour. (Work until it starts to look like frozen bread dough - will feel heavy.) Place in warm place and let rise until it reaches top of large pan, about 2½ hours. Make into loaves and let rise again. Bake at 375° for 40 to 45 minutes. Will be dark in color.

Given to Dave Baumann by his mother, Irene.

Dave Baumann

Hickory Nut Fudge

2 c. sugar
½ tsp. salt
1 c. half & half
2 tbsp. white corn syrup

2 tbsp. margarine
½ tsp. vanilla
½ c. chopped nuts

Combine sugar, salt, milk and corn syrup. Cook gently over medium low heat to 236° or soft ball stage. Remove from heat and drop in butter and let cool. Add vanilla and beat to thick consistency. Add nuts. Spread in greased 13 x 9 inch pan. Cut in squares when set.

Marsha Greenstreet

Pandemic Can't Stop Santa



**Santa and Mrs. Claus,
(aka TCA Optimist Mary Hatfield
and Arnold-Imperial Optimist
Joe Hatfield)**



**Santa's Virtual Helper,
Peggy Scott**

Thanks to Mary, Joe, and Peggy for taking time to ZOOM with the Head Start classes in DeSoto on Thursday, December 17th. Santa came back on Friday, December 18th for an encore visit with more kids, including a few Optimist members grandchildren. Santa shared a valuable life lesson with the children. We may be different but we

should be nice to one another and be friends. Santa Joe did a great job collecting information from the children so his elves can get busy making the requested toys. Of course, Santa said he couldn't promise everything but he was sure he would bring something they would like.

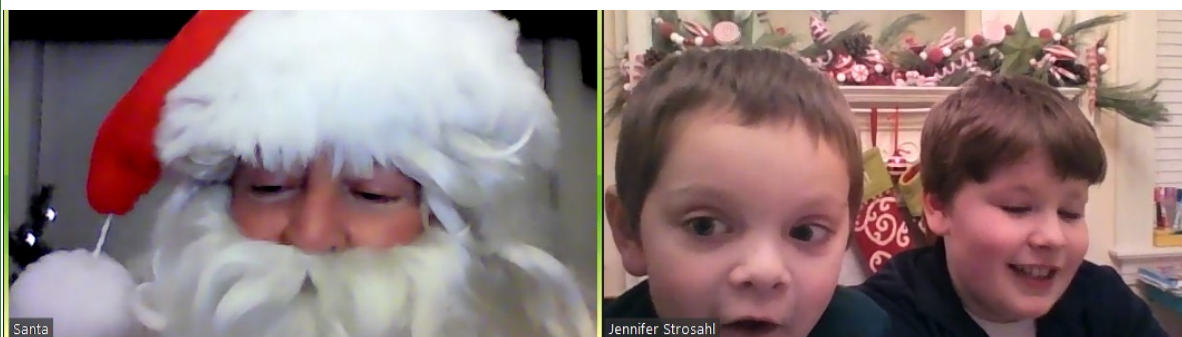
Oh and on a personal note, Santa likes all kinds of cookies. Chocolate chip may be his favorite but he wouldn't turn down an Oreo!



Santa visits with Blake Neff, Phyllis Neff's grandson. Blake is in second grade and loves computers, you tube, and video games. He showed Santa a birdhouse he made and a sample of what he would like for Christmas. Blake inquired if any more kids were on ZOOM. Santa told him each child gets his own special time.



Ashton Huck, the grandson of Katie Huck is a 7 year old second grader. He is working on good behavior. The first thing he told Santa he wanted is a dog, which was not on the list sent to Optimist Santa! We will see if Santa can deliver. Ashton would also like a mountain bike, Hot Wheels Scorpion Sting Racetrack, and action figures.



Evan & Owen Strosahl are the grandsons of Jean Naeger. Evan is a nine year old fourth grader. Owen is five years old (and as he told Santa "almost six"); he is in kindergarten. Santa asked about their pet, a bearded dragon named Bob. Santa wasn't familiar with this type of lizard but Evan took time to enlighten him. Santa told the boys he heard they are good helpers; Owen then said "we have been helping with laundry and trash" (Grandma Jeanie thinks that may be an over-statement!). It seems the Hot Wheels Scorpion Sting Racetrack, and action figures are in hot demand this year because they asked for them just like Ashton.



Shaelynn and Raegan Donovan were joined by their mother Kim. Shaelynn is a five years old kindergartener; her sister Raegan is a three year old preschooler. Shaelynn would like Legos and Raegan a bike. Shaelynn did suggest to Santa that he might like sugar cookies or maybe peanut butter



**Members meet every Thursday at
Noon - 1 p.m. via ZOOM.**
Our Club will continue looking at the sunny side of everything and being committed to bringing out the best in our area youth.

Keep current with club activities,
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