



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

January 2021 News: Making a Difference

SHOW YOUR PRIDE



Optimist Day February 4, 2021

Make plans now to celebrate #OptimistDay2021 with your Optimist Club in your community. Show that you are proud to be an Optimist by wearing your Optimist-branded apparel and sharing the Optimist Creed with your community. Now, more than ever, you should Choose Optimism.

Plan to wear your Optimist shirt to our February 4th ZOOM meeting and if you are out and about that day wear it proudly.



CLUB PROJECTS

Upcoming Hillsboro Food Pantry Food Drive

HILLSBORO FOOD PANTRY COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

START COLLECTING NOW!
DROP OFF ON
SATURDAY, JANUARY 30TH
12:00-1:00PM

Please join us in collecting food to benefit the Hillsboro Food Pantry!
All canned goods and other non-perishable donations are welcome.
Contactless Drive-thru drop-off will be at the Hillsboro Food Pantry on
Saturday, January 30th from 12-1pm.
Volunteers will be available to unload your donations.

Food Drive is sponsored by:

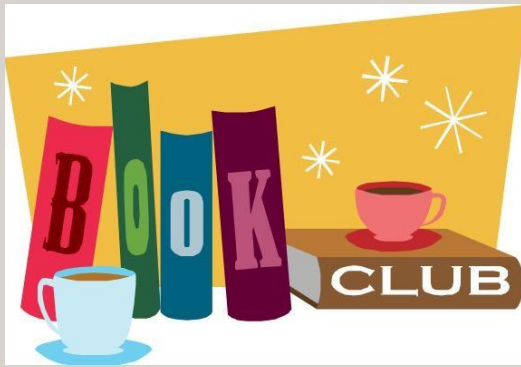
***Twin City Area Optimist Club
Hillsboro Lions Club
Hillsboro Title Company
Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce
Hillsboro Community Civic Center
Southern Gateway Association of Realtors
Mapaville Fire Protection District
Hillsboro Fire Protection District***



For more information contact Janice at
Twin City Area Optimist Club 636-789-2029

Members please start collecting food for upcoming food drive. Contact Project Chair Janice Boyd if you have any questions or you would like to assist with drive. Also, a few members will be bringing donations over from Festus if you cannot come to Hillsboro. Bring food donations to the Home Depot parking lot at 11:00 a.m. for transport to Hillsboro. Loaded vehicles will leave Festus at 11:15 a.m. to arrive in time to assist with drive.

Book Club



Get Ready to Read

TCA Optimist Book Club will be starting up again in February. The first book we discuss will be A Man called Ove by Fredrik Bachman. The first meeting will be on February 25 after our noon zoom meeting. Future meetings will be held when it is convenient for the majority. All are welcome!

Please email Mary Kay Scott with future book selections.

ZOOM MEETING GUEST SPEAKER

Jamie Drye



Jamie Drye was our ZOOM meeting guest speaker on Thursday, January 14th. Jamie's life goal is to help broken people. She is a mother of 4 adopted special needs children in addition to three biological adult children.

In 2012 she started the Timothy Bradford House that became a foundation. The Timothy Bradford House Foundation is named after her first adopted child.

Part of the foundation's work is the Waymaker Project Free Store, providing free clothing, shoes, and personal care products for those in the community who have a need. The Waymaker Free Store was destroyed by the fire at the Recycling Center in DeSoto on December 22, 2020.

Homeless Outreach is another way she serves her mission by working with other organizations in finding new strategies for dealing with the challenge of homelessness.

Jamie has a goal of establishing a crisis center in DeSoto in the Beacon Baptist building where there would be a free store, intermittent soup kitchen (hot food for holidays), counseling services, supervised therapeutic visits, parenting classes, hot showers for the homeless to prepare for job interviews, NA and AA meetings. Funds are needed (\$100,000) to rehab this building to make this happen.

Donations can be made to:

The Timothy Bradford House Foundation or at any Enterprise Bank branch.

For additional information please visit:

<https://www.thetimothybradfordhousefoundation.com>

or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/TTBH2016/>

Cheri Phillips
Program Chair

JOI CLUB UPDATE

JOI Club Distributes More Inspirational Signs



JOI members Josie (left) and Sophie Hensley

"Hot Line" sponsored by
 **24 hr. Crisis Line**
800-811-4760



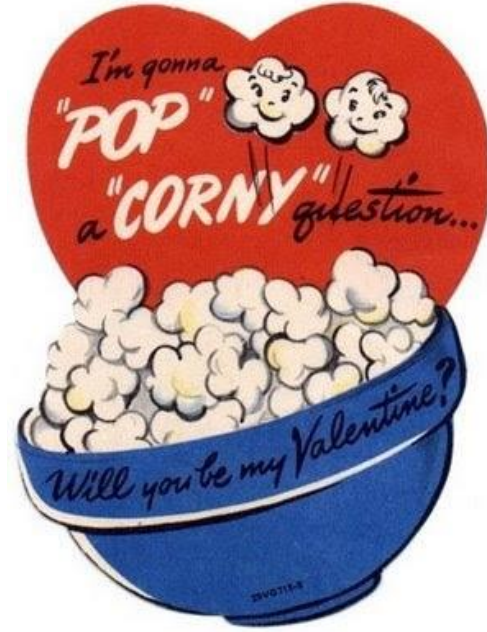
Hensley sisters continue to share the message

JOI Fundraiser

In Time for Valentine's Day

*Don't forget to place your order
by **Thursday, January
28th** using the order form
previously emailed to members or
shown on our website and Facebook
pages.*

Send form with payment to:
TCA Optimist Club
P.O. Box 475
Festus, MO 63028
Please note "JOI- doc popcorn"
in memo line.



You may also give your order/payment to a Katie Huck or Pat Parsons

*Katie Huck
JOI Adult Advisor*

*Debbie Schumaker
JOI Chair*

FUNDRAISERS

2021 Sponsorship Campaign

This is the fourth year for our annual Sponsorship Campaign. Letters and new marketing brochures were mailed on Tuesday January 12th to our potential list of sponsors. In addition, past members were sent a letter, brochure, and a pledge card requesting donations. It was thought that past members may want to support our club with smaller donations.

Special thanks to Barb Schmidt for helping with content and Peggy Scott for design of brochure.

I would also like to thank Katie Huck, Karen Huskey, Mickie Huskey, Phyllis Neff, Pat Parsons, Nicki Russell, Carol Schanz, Barb Schmidt, and Kelly Winkelman for helping stuff envelopes. Their assistance made the process go so much faster.

Below is the new tri-fold marketing brochure. You will need to zoom in for a closer look!

Jean Naeger, Marketing Chair



DICTIONARY PROJECT

A rewarding part of being an Optimist is having interaction with the youth. In September over 1000 dictionaries were distributed to third graders in southern Jefferson County. Stories have been told of many students continuing to use their dictionaries even in college. Unfortunately, our club could not personally deliver books this year. Teachers/principals presented dictionaries to students.

JUNIOR OPTIMIST CLUB

The Twin City Area Optimist Club is proud to sponsor a Junior Optimist International Club. Junior Optimist members, who are ages 11-18, represent the times well by making their communities better - one service project at a time.



Sponsorships

This year, more than before, we rely on the generosity of our community to help support the Twin City Area Optimist Club in its service to our youth. Please help us help the kids by sponsoring our club. Please send your check to the Twin City Area Optimist Club, P.O. Box 475, Festus, MO 63028. If you would like your donation of \$100 or more to be tax deductible as allowed by law, please contact Jean Naeger, TCA Marketing Chair at 314-495-2822 or email jnaeger_at_home@hotmail.com. She will provide the necessary form.

Platinum Sponsor: \$1,000 or more

- Greater visibility at our public events
- Includes photo and logo of you or business
- Sponsors announced on our public Facebook page
- Sponsors included on our website
- Sponsors are displayed at all public events

Gold Sponsor: \$500-\$999

- Includes photo and logo of you or business
- Sponsors announced on our public Facebook page
- Sponsors included on our website
- Sponsors are displayed at all public events

Silver Sponsor: \$250-\$499

- Includes business logo
- Sponsors announced on our public Facebook page
- Sponsors included on our website
- Sponsors are displayed at all public events

Bronze Sponsor: \$100-\$249

- Sponsors announced on our public Facebook page
- Sponsors included on our website
- Sponsors are displayed at all public events



Twin City Area Optimist Club

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Follow us on Facebook

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Mission

By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves.

How We Serve

The Twin City Area Optimist Club has numerous projects and programs serving southern Jefferson County. Let us share just a few of the ways we serve our youth.



COATS FOR KIDS PROJECT

Each year many of the youth in our communities arrive at school coatless and cold. In just three short months (October-December 2020), we provided coats to more than 250 students. We anticipate the need to grow as winter sets in. The club coordinates the project through school counselors and principals. We are proud to say that this is one of our oldest projects, distributing coats for almost 30 years.

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ADJUSTING TO THE PANDEMIC

Our Optimism really was put to a challenge this year since so many projects are face to face. However, our club stepped up and creatively found ways to help our community with

Drive-Thru donations to seven local food pantries, the Crisis Nursery, Brendan's Friday Backpacks, and Homeless Youth Initiative. Each far exceeded our goal of 1,000 items for each. The generosity of our members and community was a gift in itself.

We created in conjunction with the Leader Newspaper an **Art/Science Challenge** featuring local science and art teachers and talented Optimist members. Each week a new project was presented on Facebook Live and a winner was selected to receive a gift card to a local business. This supported parents who faced educating children at home during the pandemic.



With the cancellation of major fundraisers we had to look for new, innovative ways to fund our projects. We set records in selling Koeze Nuts along with Oberle Gift Boxes of sausage and cheese. A beautiful handmade quilt was donated by one of our generous members, netting us over \$2,000. Our Fall Mouse Races and quarterly BUNCO nights had to be cancelled leaving us a big loss in our financial goals.



ORATORICAL CONTEST

Janel Jackson, a sophomore at Herculaneum High School, found success in the annual oratorical contest. She won the competition at the club level and received a first-place award of \$500. She went on to win first place at the East Missouri Optimist District Competition, earning a \$2500 college scholarship.

“Winning the Optimist Oratorical Contest was a very big achievement in my life. I had stepped out of my comfort zone to be part of something I never before had dreamed of doing. Taking risks and being confident in those risks can lead you to amazing places. It can also lead you to meeting amazing very supportive people. Since I've won the contest, it's made me want to take more risks and get involved in more Speech activities and competitions.”
— Janel Jackson



Head Start Christmas. Normally, Santa and Mrs. Claus visit Head Start students in person. But COVID-19 sidelined our tradition. The children, however, did not miss out on gifts including needed coats, hats, gloves, sweatshirts, pants, socks, activity books and supplies and the much-anticipated toy. Santa and Mrs. Claus did visit via ZOOM!

In addition, at Thanksgiving and Easter five families received **food baskets** that last them several months.



RESPECT FOR LAW

This project was created by Optimist International in appreciation and respect for our law enforcement community. This year, seven departments in our area selected outstanding officers for this award. Our club honored these men and women with award plaques and gift cards.





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,
like us on Facebook, and
visit our website.



[Visit our website](#)