



# Twin City Area Optimist Club

P.O. Box 475

Festus, Missouri 63028

[www.twincityoptimist.org](http://www.twincityoptimist.org)

Follow us on Facebook

Affiliated with Optimist International

Serving Youth and Community since 1919

**HAPPY**

**HOLIDAYS**

**December 2023 News  
Making a Difference For Kids**

**Message From President Peggy Scott**



Holidays bring time for reflection.

Happy holidays, my fellow Optimists. It's the time of year when good tidings and cheer fill our days, along with baking, shopping, wrapping and decorating. Please, take a few moments to reflect on the blessings that we experience every day.

In addition to my hubby, my four children, my beautiful granddaughter, and my dad (healthy and home now), I also feel blessed almost daily by you - members of the Twin City Area Optimist Club.

What an awesome group of women you are!

When something needs to be done, Optimists are up for the challenge. Food, coats, and raffle tickets are purchased. Toys are wrapped. Pinecones are smeared with peanut butter. Plans are made. Emails are exchanged. Reminders are texted. And it's all done with the best of intentions for the improvement of our communities and to support local children and families.

The twin city area is a better place because of the work you do. Thank you for your support and your hard work. Here's to an exciting year to come.

Peggy

## November 30, 2023 PAT Box Assembly Foster Boys Bags Assembly



Alleen Davis  
De Soto Parents as Teachers



Kim Richardson  
Festus Parents as Teachers



## Parents as Teachers Boxes

The My PAT Box is a project that serves the under-served children of the Festus and De Soto area Parents as Teachers' organizations. We assembled a total of forty boxes (20 for De Soto and 20 for Festus). These boxes contained items that help with the development of fine and gross motor skills in preschool children. Bubbles, Play-doh, watercolor paints, pencils, crayons, markers, paint, sharpener, eraser, glue sticks, scissors, stickers and drawing paper filled each box. Optimist members either placed vinyl letters on the lid that read My PAT Box in primary colors of red, yellow and blue or shopped to fill the boxes.

A big thank you to all who helped.

Submitted by Project Chair  
Debbie Hogenmiller

During November evening meeting members helped to create PAT boxes or assemble bags of personal hygiene products for foster boys.





### The Adolescent Boy's Health Project

The Adolescent Boy's health Project was completed on Friday, December 15. Four Optimist members helped distribute 25 gift bags to foster boys at the Jefferson County Foster Children's Christmas Party. The bags contained the book "The Boy's Book" as well as deodorant, body wash, toothbrush and toothpaste. Previously, five of the bags had been given to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for their volunteers to give to boys ages 9-13 in foster care. All the bags contained a survey in a self-addressed, stamped envelope to help evaluate the effectiveness of the program which is a new club project. Phyllis Neff, Mary Hatfield, Katie Huck and Carroll Metzger distributed the bags. Members who assisted in shopping for the bags' hygiene items were: Kirstie Zych, Sue Boyer, Caryl Harness, Katie Huck, and Ruth Ann Adams. The bags were assembled at the evening meeting on Thursday, November 30.

Project Chair  
Carroll Metzger





## December 7, 2023 Board Meeting Highlights

### Highlights from December 5, 2023, TCA Board Meeting:

- The board voted in three new members, Star Boehme, Jessica Griffaw, and Jessica Christopher.
- The annual sponsorship requests will be sent soon.
- Coats for Kids project, coats are being delivered to schools upon request.
- The EMO District service project for second quarter will be coordinated with the club's contribution to Brenden's Friday Backpack Project chaired by Kirstie Zych. Details to follow.

Please note, other information from the board meeting may be shown in more detail throughout this newsletter.

**December 14, 2023**  
**Karen Lanter,**  
**Executive Director of St. Louis HELP**



### St. Louis HELP Donates Health Equipment

The guest speaker at our December 14 lunch meeting was Karen Lanter, the Executive Director of St. Louis HELP which stands for Health Equipment Lending Program. They are a non-profit agency located at 300 Bailey Road in Crystal City as well as their St. Louis location at 9709 Dielman Rock Island Industrial Drive that collects, cleans, and repairs durable medical equipment which is then given away or loaned to individuals in need. The most requested items are wheelchairs and bathing equipment, such as shower chairs, transfer benches and tub railings. They also accept walkers, hospital beds, bed rails, dry shampoo, incontinence pads and pull-ups (no diapers).

Founded in 2008, St. Louis HELP has served over 2,000 people in the last 12 months, and the demand for medical equipment continues to increase. The agency is looking for volunteers willing to help repair and clean equipment, drive a van and pick up donations, as well as answering phones and e-mails. They also are looking for organizations and locations in the community to hold donation drives to collect health items. Equipment donations can be dropped off at the Crystal City and St. Louis locations on Wednesdays and Saturdays 9 am – 1:30 pm. For more information or to request equipment go to their website at [www.STLHELP.org](http://www.STLHELP.org) or call 314-897-4357.

Submitted by Beth Watts

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## December 21, 2023 Holiday Party

Thanks to our party committee for a fun time. Party Committee members: Caryl Harness, Judy Lowe, Beth Watts, Kathy Todd, Lisa Ermer, and Phyllis Neff. Unfortunately, Kathy Todd wasn't able to attend as she is recuperating from surgery. Never fear Kathy, Judy Kuhlman was still trying to sell those Holy Moly's for you.



As you can see from photos, the party had a snowman theme. Judy Lowe is trying to downsize and "regifted" some items. There might have been a few old Southern Living cookbooks being awarded as trivia prizes. The three sweater contest winners received their very own copy of the TCA Optimist cook which is the gift that keeps on giving. It was printed for sale as a fundraiser ten or more years ago!



Cute table settings -- can you guess what the snowman body is made of? Thanks to Beth Watts and Kathy Todd for creating these cute snowmen out of cans of food.



Party Committee



A little less traditional



Snowman cupcakes for all



Festive Sweaters



A there were more!



Contest winners: Pat Parsons (ugliest sweater), Marsha Greenstreet (prettiest sweater), and Karen Huskey (funniest sweater)



Peggy Scott took home Karen Huskey's homemade peanut brittle for an oral auction price of \$55.















## CLUB PROJECTS





Janice Boyd and Mary Hatfield share Optimist information. Thanks, Mary for promoting our club with the community.



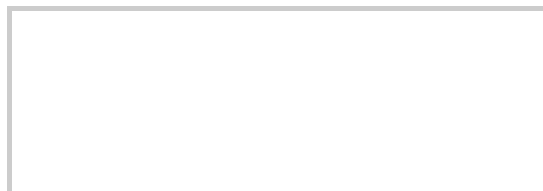
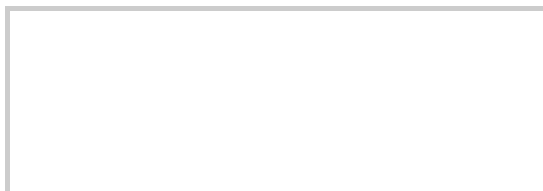
## WinterFest

Our booth at the recent WinterFest event in Festus was quite a success! We helped children make edible tree ornaments for wildlife. The kids loved smearing peanut butter on pinecones and then rolling them in birdseed.

It was so successful that we ran out of pinecones early and Joe Hatfield had to procure more by permanently borrowing some from a nearby yard! Since no one answered the door when he tried to obtain permission, he took the liberty of relieving the yard of some of its pinecones. It was quite the heist!

Thanks to Carolyn McKinney, Peggy Scott, Sue Joggerst, Janice Boyd, and Carroll Metzger for volunteering at the booth today! We were also assisted by Joe Hatfield and Rob Scott from the Jefferson County Optimist Club.

Submitted by Project Chair  
Mary Hatfield







Sue Joggerst and Peggy Scott assist children with craft project.

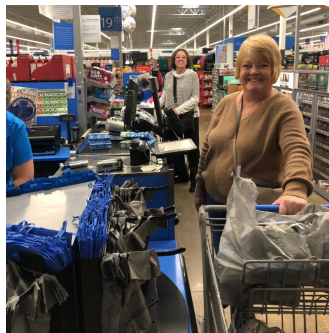


President Joe Hatfield and Rob Scott from Jefferson County Optimist Club lend a hand.



## Homeless Youth Initiative

With the \$1000 matching grant from Optimist International Foundation (OIF) the club was able to purchase additional personal care items for the homeless youth of Jefferson County. Project Chair Pat Parsons with TCA members Donna Long and Debbie Floyd recently made a little shopping trip to purchase food, personal hygiene items, and clothing. We continue to thank OIF for approving our grant requests. With the extra funds we were able to double our financial support to the Homeless Youth Initiative.



Pat Parsons, Debbie Floyd, and Donna Long TCA members love to shop!

Robin Scott from Homeless Youth Initiative accepts donation.





November 21, 2023, Chairs Laura Elbl and Cathy Elliott organized the Head Start Gift Bagging for the kids Holiday Party this year.

Participating in the event with Laura Elbl and Cathy Elliott were Debbie Hogenmiller, Kirstie Zyrch, Mickie Huskey, Patty Meyer, Sue Boyer, Ruth Ann Adams, Martha DeMent and Meg who is Laura's niece.

With the help of these amazing ladies, the task was completed in an hour!

Submitted by Cathy Elliott Project Co Chair



**BAGGED AND READY TO GO!**

**NOW IT'S PARTY TIME**



Twin City Area Optimist Club brings Christmas Joy to Hematite and De Soto Head Start Children.

The Twin City Area Optimist Club helped 113 Head Start children celebrate Christmas with songs, gifts and the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus who made their appearance on December 6 at Hematite and December 8 at De Soto. Gift bags containing an outfit, hat, gloves, mittens, toy, book, toothbrush and toothpaste, a stuffed animal, crayons and coloring book were provided for each child. In addition, kids over three received a 6 pack of Play-doh and the kids under three received hand puppets.

Mrs. Claus sat patiently while the children gathered around her as she read "Twas the Night Before Christmas". The children burst into song singing "Jingle Bells" as Santa entered the classroom. Each child's name was called to have a picture taken with Santa and then given their gift bag. Mrs. Claus shared a secret with the children telling them that it was Santa's birthday. They surprised Santa by singing happy birthday to him. The children were well behaved and very excited during the party.

The Twin City Area Optimist Club has been providing Christmas parties for Head Start children since 1988. Other programs and services projects that the club supports include Brenden's Backpacks, Art Contest, Essay and Oratorical Contests, Coats for Kids, Respect for Law, Youth Appreciation and more.

We would like to recognize Ameren MO for their \$2000 grant to help fund this project.

Thanks to all our volunteers who assisted with the parties.

Hematite volunteers: Laura Elbl, Cathy Elliott, Kirstie Zych, Dana Hanna, Barb Schmidt, Jean Naeger, Donna Long, Mary Hatfield, Joe Hatfield, Debbie Buenniger and Mickie Huskey.

De Soto volunteers: Laura Elbl, Cathy Elliott, Donna Long, Debbie Hogenmiller, Beth Watts, Kirstie Zych, Mary Hatfield, Joe Hatfield, Mickey Huskey and Debbie Bradley (friend of Cathy Elliott).

Submitted by Project Co-Chair  
Cathy Elliott

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## Hematite Party



Hematite Head Start Party Volunteers

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Hematite Students

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Hematite Students



Special thanks to project  
co-chairs Cathy Elliott and  
Laura Elbl



Sue Joggerst and Mickie Huskey





Mary Hatfield aka Mrs. Claus



Santa - Joe Hatfield, President of Jefferson County Optimist Club and his lovely bride TCA member Mary Hatfield.



Jean Naeger, Sue Joggerst, Mickie Huskey, and Dana Hanna



Debbie Buenniger and Donna Long



## De Soto Parties





De Soto Head Start Party Volunteers



De Soto Students

## FUNDRAISERS





**QUILT RAFFLE**

Purchase raffle chances for American Heartland Quilt measuring 76"x78"

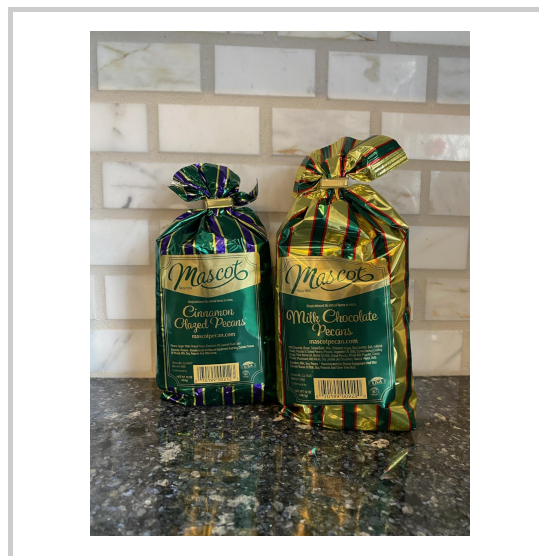
Drawing Nov. 30, 2023

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
EST. 1909 - CENTRAL CITY, MO

One entry for every \$10 donation:  
Venmo @Karen-Huskey or  
check to TCA Optimist Club,  
P.O. Box 475, Festus, MO 63028  
(include your name and phone number)

Thanks to Karen Huskey for donating another beautiful quilt. The raffle earned \$1410. In addition, \$92 was raised from matching pillows raffle.

Congratulations to Sue Jogerst, quilt raffle winner.



### Koeze Nut Sale

The Koeze nut shipment arrived at Fantasy Pool on Friday afternoon. The nuts were sorted on Saturday morning, December 2, at 9:00 a.m. by members: Peggy McCraith, Mickie Huskey, Sue Boyer, Beth Watts, Gerty O'Leary, Katie Huck, Beth Winkler, Pat Parsons, Carroll Metzger, Debra Bradley (Patty Meyer's friend), Debbie Hogenmiller, Ruth Ann Adams, Barb Schmidt, and Patty Meyer.

All nuts were sorted, orders pulled and picked up by 11:05 a.m. Sales were up from last year. Koeze sales netted a profit of \$4587.67. When all the Mascot nuts are sold there will be additional revenue of \$856.80.

Submitted by Project Co-Chair  
Patty Meyer

Thanks to Pat Parsons and Patty Meyer for taking on this project again this year.

Also, thanks to all who sold nuts, bought nuts, and helped sort nuts!



Thanks to KOEZE sorters -- couldn't do it without you!

## JOI Club

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### JOI Club December News

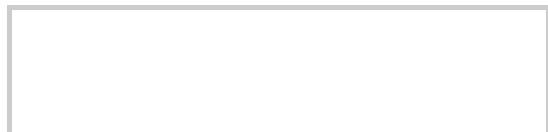
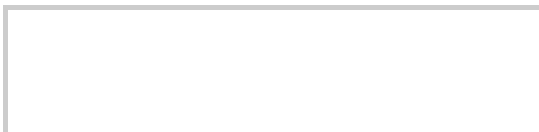
November activity updates: On November 30 the JOI Club assisted the Festus Armory with their toy distribution project. It took about two hours to complete the sorting of toys that Santa will deliver to military children. The JOI club also sent two Walmart gift cards to Robin Scott of the Homeless Youth Initiative. Gift cards also will be issued to a pet rescue of the club's choice.

The December 7 meeting was called to order by President Maddie Blair. The club welcomed three new members, Addison Bates, Sparrow and Avalon and Adalyn Eldridge. Meeting activities included writing Christmas cards for the residents at Autumn Ridge. The cards will be given out when the club sings carols at Autumn Ridge on December 16 from 2 pm to 3 pm. After caroling, a Christmas party and gift exchange will be held at Quonset Lanes from 3pm to 6 pm.

Future club activities discussed were a bingo and/or brunch fundraiser.

Meeting adjourned.

**JOI members lend a helping hand to  
the Armory Christmas toy distribution project.**







Caroling at Autumn Ridge  
followed by Christmas party at Quonset Lanes





*Debbie Schumaker  
JOI Adult Advisor*

*Carol Schanz  
JOI Chair*





## East Missouri Optimist District

Please plan to attend the EMO second quarter conference either by ZOOM or in person on Saturday February 24, 2024. You can join your fellow Optimists in person at Quonset Lanes.

Our club will be donating food to Brenden's Friday Backpack Program as our service project for second quarter. Kirstie Zych will tell us more about this project in the new year.



# FOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE

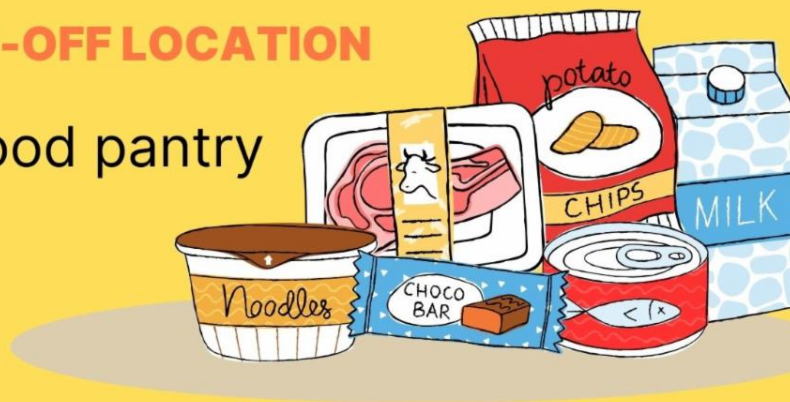


## SECOND QUARTER EMO DISTRICT SERVICE PROJECT

All EMO clubs are challenged to host a food drive as a service project for the second quarter. Hold drive anytime between January 1 - February 24, 2024.

### 📍 DROP-OFF LOCATION

Local food pantry



**GOAL: Collect minimum 100 items per club to recognize the 100 years OI has been an international organization.**

## RECIPES

The following recipes are from the delicious dinner Mary Hatfield served at the December board meeting.



## Roasted Brussels Sprouts Salad with Cranberries and Feta

★★★★★  
5 from 2 votes



### Prep Time

15 mins

### Cook Time

20 mins

### Total Time

35 mins

This easy roasted brussels sprouts salad is definitely a holiday side dish favorite in my house. Full of flavor, sweetness, and tanginess from a delightful lemon maple vinaigrette.

Course: Salad, Side Dish

Cuisine: American

Keyword: brussels sprouts, brussels sprouts salad, roasted brussels sprouts

Servings: 4

Author: Tania

## Ingredients

- 1.5 lbs brussels sprouts, ends trimmed and sliced lengthwise
- 2 cups red or green seedless grapes, halved *or less*
- 2/3 cup dried cranberries
- 1 cup feta cheese

### Lemon Maple Vinaigrette:

- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice *or more*
- 2/3 cup extra virgin olive oil *or less*
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon dijon mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste

*cransins  
sliced almonds - honey roasted*

## Instructions

1. Preheat oven to <sup>350</sup>400 degrees F.
2. Place prepared brussels sprouts, flat side down, on a sheet pan and toss with 2-3 tablespoons olive oil, and salt and pepper to taste (about 2 teaspoons salt, 1/2 teaspoon black pepper). Roast for about 20 to 25 minutes, flipping with a spatula halfway through. Let cool.
3. **Meanwhile, make the vinaigrette:** combine all vinaigrette ingredients and shake well.
4. In a large bowl, toss brussels sprouts with grapes, cranberries, feta, and the dressing to taste. Serve and enjoy!



Lasagna

Becky Rowley  
2/27/10

Mozzarella  
Parmesan  
Lasagne

- 1) 2 lb ground chuck
- 2 big onions
- 3 buttons garlic
- 1 big green pepper
- 1 1/2 c. Celery

Cook altogether - but not until done

- 2) Put in another pan - (not necessary)
- 1 8oz can tomato paste
- 1 med can tomatoes
- 1 pk spaghetti sauce mix
- 1 lg can mushroom (at end)

Cook until hot - then combine with first part - (Not necessary to do #2) after #1 part is done & veggies are tender - add the #2 ingredients & simmer - the longer the better the taste

- 3) Cook lasagna noodles - Drain & rinse with hot water - oil & salt in water

- 4) Break bottom of pan - layer noodles and meat mixture and cheese -

over

Continue layers until all used up - Make sure there is a layer of cheese on top.

Lasagne noodles

cheese mixture - mozzarella cheese & parmesan cheese -

Bake on slow oven for an hour or so.



Here's what's cookin' Waldorf Astoria Cake Serves

Recipe from the kitchen of Bake 350° for 30-35 min

1/2 cup shortening 2 eggs 2 1/2 cup cake flour  
1 1/2 cup sugar 2 egg whites cooking 1 tble vanilla  
2 tble cocoa 1/2 tsp vanilla 1 tsp soda  
1 tsp salt 1 cup buttermilk



Cream shortening, eggs + sugar. Make a paste of cocoa + cooking  
add to shortening etc. add this mixture to flour + salt +  
buttermilk a little at a time. Add vanilla.  
Mix sugar + egg whites together + add to each ingredient  
last. Do not beat hard after adding brown sugar  
and soda.

Here's what's cookin' Fluffy White Frosting Serves

Recipe from the kitchen of (Frosting for Waldorf Astoria Cake)

5 tble flour 1 cup milk 1 cup butter 1 tsp vanilla  
1 cup milk 1 cup milk 1 cup milk

Cream together until light + fluffy. Then like whipped  
cream, add cooled mixture of flour + milk. About a spoon at  
a time (small spoon) whip until consistency of  
whipped cream.



Suggest doubling recipe

ling: 8oz cream cheese  
1 stick also  
1 box xxx sugar  
1 cup chopped pecans  
1 teaspoon vanilla

Recipe from Amy Baum - served at club meeting

Goopy Butter Cookies

1 cake mix-whatever flavor you want (Red Velvet cake mix used for meeting)

1 8oz cream cheese

1/2 stick butter

1/2 cup powdered sugar

Extra powdered sugar

Thoroughly soften butter and cream cheese. Mix ingredients until it starts to form a dough.

Make balls and roll in extra powdered sugar.

Bake 8-10 min on 350.

# SAVE THE DATES



**Note upcoming events.  
To assist with projects,  
please contact  
Committee Chair.**

December 21 Club Holiday Party

December 28 NO MEETING

January 2 - Board meeting

February 24 EMO District Meeting via ZOOM or in person



**Members meet every Thursday from Noon - 1 p.m. at Taytro's. Please RSVP by 8:00 a.m. on Monday by contacting Cathy Elliott.**

**The last Thursday of the month is an evening meeting held at Poppy's Parlor. Meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to order food, please contact Phyllis Neff on Monday prior to meeting.**

**Our Club will continue looking at the sunny side of everything and being committed to bringing out the best in our area youth.**

Board of  
Directors  
2023-2024

President  
Peggy Scott  
314 420 0897

President  
Elect  
Debbie  
Hogenmiller

Past  
President  
Carroll  
Metzger

Secretary  
Ruth Ann  
Adams

Secretary  
Elect  
Kathy Todd

Treasurer  
Janet Mace

Treasurer  
Elect  
Becky Francis

Board  
Members

2022-2024  
Cathy Elliott  
Katie Huck



Patty Meyer

2023-2025  
Amy Baum  
Beth Watts  
Kirstie Zych



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like us on Facebook, and  
visit our website.



Twin City Area Optimist Club | P.O. Box 475, Festus, MO 63028

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