



# Twin City Area Optimist Club

P.O. Box 475

Festus, Missouri 63028

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

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Affiliated with Optimist International

Serving Youth and Community since 1919

## November 2023 News Making a Difference For Kids

### Message From President Peggy Scott



Because of the wonderful members of the Twin City Area Optimist Club, it's been my honor to represent our club at two memorable events. I tagged along to deliver dictionaries to third graders and rode along to say goodbye to club member Nell Austin. I couldn't be prouder of the work we do.

At local schools, children were delighted to receive a dictionary of their own. They wrote their names inside the covers, looked up the longest word - more than 1,900 letters - and discovered that they could teach themselves sign language. It was "dictionary day." Teachers, administrators and students celebrated.

A group of us traveled to Alton, IL, to be part of funeral services for

our dear Nell. Her family thanked us, not for being there Sunday to say the creed and our tearful goodbyes. They thanked us for a club that gave Nell so much. During Nell's final days, her walls were decorated with cards from her Optimist friends along with a silly photo of us in Halloween costumes holding a message for Nell. She knew our love and friendship.

Both projects brought home for me a simple but important fact. Optimists create a better place for our kids, our communities and our members. We make a difference.

President Peggy Scott



### Farewell Nell

It is with a heavy heart we say a final goodbye to Optimist Nell Austin. She joined our club in March 2018.

Nell's sponsor Judy Williams remembers: "Nell was such an asset to our club. I met her at a resale shop and talked Optimist. She came to a meeting and fell in love with what we do. We helped ease the grief of losing her husband."

Click link to access Nell's obituary:

[Nellie "Nell" Austin, 83, Festus | Obituaries | myleaderpaper.com](https://www.myleaderpaper.com/obituaries/nellie-nell-austin-83-festus)

**November 2, 2023**

**Pony Bird**

**Jeff Doty, Grant and Donor Relations Manager**

Our speaker for the today was Jeff Doty, the Grant and Donor Relations Manager of Pony Bird. Jeff provided us with information on Pony Bird's mission which is "to enrich the lives of individuals with disabilities." In 2022, Pony Bird merged with Next Step for Life to provide services for disabled individuals in four primary areas: community living/residential services, employment services, community support service and family support and leisure services. Pony Bird now serves about 1,100 individuals per year, with 110 people living in their residential facilities.

Pony Bird offers day programs and activities, respite services for family members as well as working with 100 employers in the community to provide employment opportunities. Pony Bird receives most of its funding from the state of Missouri which only provides for basic living needs. Services and events such as dances, sports, Special Olympics and entertainment nights that make life memorable for the residents are solely supported by donations from the community. Pony Bird sponsors several fundraisers each year including The Great Taste held in February, A Night at the Races in June and a golf tournament. More information can be found at



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## November 9, 2023 Board Update 2022-2023 Perfect Attendance

Highlights from November 7, 2023, TCA Board Meeting:

- Elise Reineck was approved as a new TCA member; she is sponsored by Phyllis Neff.
- Snow Policy reminder regarding our weekly mtgs – If Festus R-6 calls off school for a full day or a partial day, we will not meet.
- JOI CLUB UPDATE: by Katie Huck. Next year the JOI club will be celebrating 20 years of sponsorship with our club. Chartered in November 2004 so our celebration would be around November 2024. We should plan a joint celebration of some sort. A decision was made that funding would be a joint endeavor and we would try to invite some of the original or past members.
- New project for the boys in foster care was presented by Carroll Metzger. A book written for adolescent boys along with a bag of deodorant, shaving cream, body wash etc. will be included. Bags will be distributed at the Foster Childrens' Christmas party by Renee Gerlach from the Aunt Rose Project. An \$800 project budget was approved by the board. A survey to determine if this project should be continued will be included in the bag.



Congratulations to members with perfect attendance for 2022-2023 Optimist year. Please note the total number of years each member has achieved this distinction.



Carroll Metzger  
Kirstie Zych  
Ruth Ann Adams

one year  
one year  
one year

Laura Elbl  
Debbie Hogenmiller  
Kathy Todd

two years  
two years  
two years

Cathy Elliott

three years

Patty Meyer

four years

Debbie Schumaker

five years

Jean Naeger

six years

Katie Huck  
Barb Schmidt

seven years  
seven years

Judy Kuhlman

ten years

Pat Parsons

twenty-seven years

Barb Bates

twenty-eight years

Sue Boyer

thirty-two years

Caryl Harness

thirty-three years

Pat Doenges

thirty-five years

**November 16, 2023**

**IT'S A WRAP!**



80 Head Start gifts wrapped by the TCA elves in just 15 minutes!  
Thanks to Cathy Elliott and Laura Elbl for chairing the Head Start Christmas parties.







**November 23**  
**Happy Thanksgiving**  
**NO meeting**

## **CLUB PROJECTS**

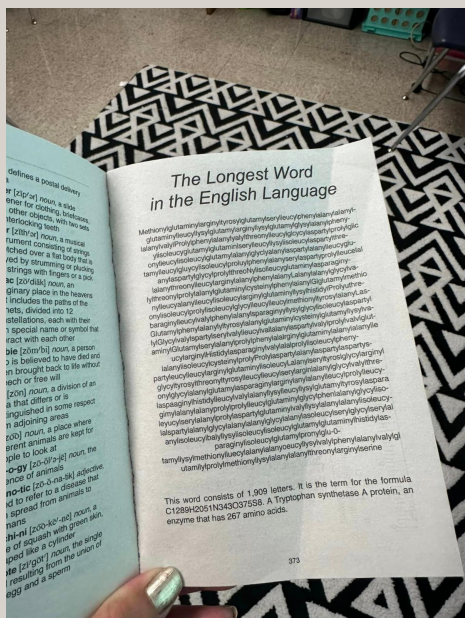
### **Dictionary Project (Continued from last month)**



Dr Siefert delivers dictionaries along



with Optimist Alicia Cummins, Laura Lohman, and President Peggy Scott to Festus Elementary third graders.

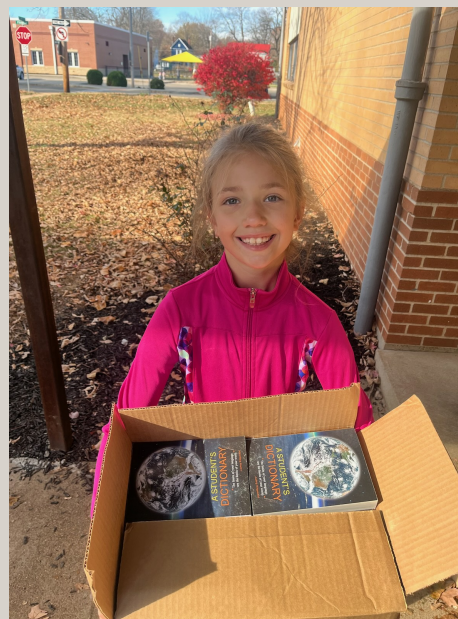


Laura Lohman with her Festus Elementary third grade daughter Collette.

World's largest word -- there will be a test on Monday.

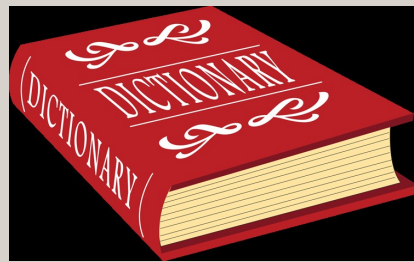
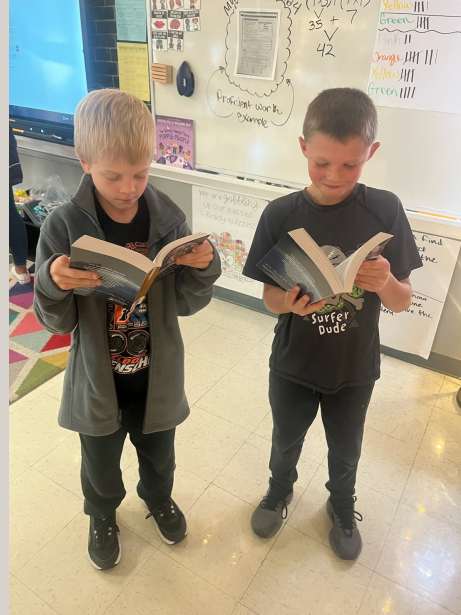
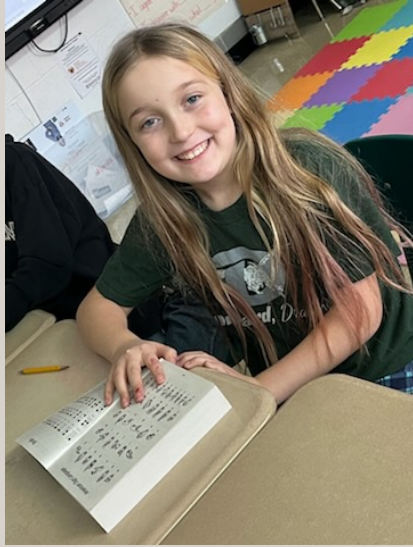


Students from Athena School checking out the sign language section of the dictionary.



Students from Washington-Franklin Elementary School in Farmington receive dictionaries. Extra dictionaries were available through the Optimist Club of St. Louis grant. TCA member Donna Long's daughter teaches third grade and is grateful for the donation.





Barb Schmidt delivers dictionaries to Sunrise School.

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## Annual Art Contest

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Best of Show



**Sailor Tucker**  
**Age 15**  
**Herculaneum High School**

### Twin City Area Optimist Art Contest



Annual Art Contest  
November 5, 2023  
2:00pm-4:00pm  
Elks Lodge 1721  
4 Elks Acres  
Festus, MO



The Twin City Area Optimist Club Art Contest took place on Sunday, November 5, 2023, at Elks Lodge 1721 in Festus. The annual event had 322 entries with 215 student artists exhibiting artwork. The students and their art were represented by the following schools in southern Jefferson County: Festus High School, De Soto High School, De Soto Junior High School, Herculaneum High School, Senn-Thomas Middle School, Hillsboro High School, Hillsboro Junior High School, Crystal City High

School, Danby-Rush Tower (R-7) Middle School, St. Pius X High School and Jefferson R-VII. Three entries were submitted by homeschooled students. Entries were showcased in art categories, photography, three-dimensional and graphic/digital art.

Best of Show winner was Sailor Tucker, Herculaneum High School with his entry "Untitled." First place winners in three art categories were: Art – Ages 12-13 Julianna Dalaviras, Hillsboro Junior High School, with her entry "Serenity", Art – Ages 14-15 Katie Strawhun, De Soto High School, with her entry "Penguin" and Art-Ages 16-19 Kyla Cook, De Soto High School, with her entry "Three Crosses." Taking first place in photography was Anna Frantzen of Hillsboro Junior High School, with her photo "Frosty Morning." Three-dimensional art first place winner was Brianna Wagner, Festus High School, with her entry "Buck Book." Graphic design/Digital art first place winner was Alexis Jackson, De Soto Junior High School with her entry "Parrot Pop."

The Twin City Area Optimist Club strives to “bring out the best in kids” with events such as the art contest that encourages Jefferson County youth to grow in confidence and self-esteem.

Submitted by Art Contest Chair Patty Meyer

## Head Start Thanksgiving Baskets



Thanks to members who donated items or cash donations for our annual Thanksgiving baskets for Head Start families.

### OUR FIVE FAMILIES

Family 1: 2 adults – 1 female and 1 male

1 child – 1 yr old boy

Family 2: 1 adult - 1 female

2 children - 6 yr old girl, 4 yr old boy

Family 3: 1 adult – 1 female

3 children – 3 yr old boy, 2 yr old boy, 7-month-old girl

Family 4: 1 adult - 1 female

2 children – 5 yr old girl, 2 yr old boy

Family 5: 2 adults – 1 pregnant female & 1 male

2 children – 11 yr old boy, 5 yr old girl, newborn baby soon



TCA shoppers and Head Start staff







Thanks to Pat Parsons for chairing Head Start Thanksgiving Baskets Project and Katie Huck for helping with weekly drop off of donations.

In addition, thanks to the following shoppers:

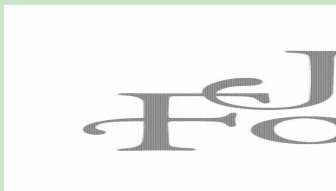
Carol Schanz  
Katie Huck

Judy Kuhlman  
Debbie Hogenmiller  
Sue Boyer  
Kathy Todd  
Karen Huskey  
Judy Williams  
Pat Parsons

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## Grants

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### Jefferson Foundation Awards \$6000 Grant

Thanks to Mary McDowell for renewing the grant request with the Jefferson Foundation. The foundation awarded an increase of \$500 from last year, authorizing a \$6000 donation to fund our Coats for Kids Program.

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### VFW Post 3777 - Festus, MO Donates \$500 to Coats for Kids Program

You never know when a simple conversation can reap financial rewards. During the fall Mouse Race fundraiser, President Peggy Scott spoke with a member of the local VFW. He said he thought the post may want to help us out with a project.

Judy Williams volunteered to call the gentleman and talk to him about our coats program. Well, we know our Judy can be very persuasive. He offered to present a donation request to the VFW Post 3777 Board of Directors for consideration. We appreciate another local organization supporting our club with a \$500 donation.

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### Optimist International Foundation Awards \$1000 Matching Grant

Jean Naeger received word recently that the \$1000 matching grant she submitted to Optimist International Foundation in late August was approved. The funds will be used to purchase hygiene products, clothing, and other basic needs for the Homeless Youth Initiative. Pat Parsons will coordinate the purchase of items.

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### Ameren Missouri Authorizes \$2000 Grant

Jean Naeger has been notified that the \$2000 request to help fund Head Start Christmas Parties has been approved. The Ameren Missouri grant will help offset the cost of the parties. The annual events serve both the Hematite and DeSoto Head Start facilities. More than 100 children will receive



sweatshirts and pants, hats, gloves, books, coloring books with crayons, toothpaste with toothbrush, along with other items. They also receive a gift from Santa, and Mrs. Claus will read a story to students. Each student takes home a photo with Santa. Thanks again to Cathy Elliott and Laura Elbl for co-chairing this project and all the helping hands who make this a memorable experience for the kids.

## Fundraisers

Please support this fundraiser by purchasing chances and sharing flyer with family and friends. You can share post from our public Facebook page. [\(20+\) Facebook](#)



# QUILT RAFFLE



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



**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)**





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## JOI Club

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### JOI Club News

The November 2 meeting of the JOI Club was called to order by the club's president at the Joachim Ambulance facility.

#### Old Business:

The BB 5K, suicide awareness event, held on October 21, was a success with more than 50 people walking at Larry Crites Park in Festus. Scholarships for essays in the amount of \$4,500 were awarded to participating students. Due to a rainy Saturday, the Halloween Party in Larry Crites Park was cancelled. Events from the Halloween Party included pumpkin carving and a costume contest. Olivia Blair won the costume contest as Bell and KK won the pumpkin carving contest with his pumpkin the devil.

#### New Business:

Members voted not to continue to visit the Ronald McDonald house, but to help with foster kids in our community. A vote to contribute \$100 to a dog shelter was approved.

Getting in the Christmas spirit, members scheduled their Christmas party/caroling activity for December 16 at Autumn Ridge from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. After caroling, members will go to Quonset for bowling from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. A \$10.00 Secret Santa gift for either a boy or girl will be exchanged. (Participation not required)

After enjoying refreshment treats, the meeting was adjourned.





*Debbie Schumaker*  
JOI Adult Advisor

*Carol Schanz*  
JOI Chair





## SAVE THE DATES



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

November 30 - Evening meeting. Assemble PAT boxes and foster boys' hygiene bags.

December 5- Board of Directors Meeting - Hostess Mary Hatfield

December 6 & 8: Hematite and DeSoto Head Start Christmas Parties contact Co-Chairs Cathy Elliott and Laura Elbl if you would like to assist with this project.

December 21 Club Holiday Party

December 28 Evening meeting TBD



**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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## Special Halloween 2023 Edition

There was just too much fun and so many photos, I just had to put out a special Halloween edition of our monthly newsletter.

Thanks to all who attended and added to the noise level in the room. When our club gets together, it tends to get rowdy.

Jean Naeger  
TCA Newsletter Editor

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The candy corn themed Halloween party was held on October 26 at Poppy's, with 39 club members in attendance. A dinner of witch's fingers with eyeballs, stinky feet and warts (a delicious grilled chicken salad with Halloween accoutrements) was served, followed by candy corn themed desserts of fruit and pudding, as well as chocolate cake. The party was attended by numerous witches, hippies, children's toys, pirates, a VERY large cow, and many others. There was dinner discussion of Would You Rather (for example, hand out candy to trick-or-treaters or watch horror movies all evening), a Halloween Name That Tune game, as well as Halloween trivia. We learned that Daylight Savings Time occurs after Halloween due to intense lobbying from the candy industry. Who knew! There was a lot of apprehension while playing the mystery game of identifying items by touch labeled spider legs, witch hair, warts, mummy skin, Frankenstein fingers, Dracula brains, demon tongue, and yes, ghost poop. The anticipation of touching the unknown produced some very funny faces and fearful reactions. Scentsy car bar prizes (donated by Lisa Ermer) raised the stakes for some serious competition. Judging by the volume level in the room, a scary good time was had by all.

Special thanks to party committee, Caryl Harness, Judy Lowe, Phyllis Neff, and Beth Watts for another fun themed party.



Can you guess the TCA Optimist members?  
A few may be hard to identify.

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Build your own salad

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Witches -- Oh My!  
Donna Long, Peggy Scott, Peggy McCraith, Judy Williams, Linda Portell,  
Carroll Metzger, Debbie Floyd, and Caryl Harness



Phyllis Neff before her Mary Kay  
makeover.



Jean Naeger and Karen  
Huskey pair up to represent  
the best and worst students  
with lots of Smarties and Dum  
Dum candies.





And the beat goes on... with Judy Lowe, Katie Huck, Beth Haberer, and Betty Aders.



Judy Lowes - who would have guessed?



Double trouble with Debbie Floyd and Donna Long.



Cheyenne Pratt was bigger than life with her cow costume.



Also pictured Donna Long and Kittie Ebersoldt.



Katie Huck, Pat Parsons, and Beth Haberer work on Halloween trivia.



Mary McDowell, Pam Cernik, Beth Winkeler, Patty Meyer, and Mary Hatfield enjoy the evening.





Phylis Neff keeps company with Carrolyn McKinney, and Pat Doenges.

**WOULD YOU RATHER HALLOWEEN EDITION!**

**WOULD YOU RATHER**  
Face a Zombie Apocalypse or an Invasion of 10-ft spiders?  
©2020 Confessionsofparenting

**WOULD YOU RATHER**  
Put "I'll Be Back" or "I Told You I Was Sick" on your gravestone?  
©2020 Confessionsofparenting

**WOULD YOU RATHER**  
Hand out candy to trick-or-treaters or ignore trick-or-treaters and watch horror movies all night?  
©2020 Confessionsofparenting

**WOULD YOU RATHER**  
Eat a caramel apple or a caramel popcorn ball?  
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**WOULD YOU RATHER**  
Would you rather go to a Halloween party or go Trick or Treating?  
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**WOULD YOU RATHER**  
Listen to the song Monster Mash on repeat or Werewolves of London?  
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# WOULD YOU RATHER HALLOWEEN EDITION!

## WOULD YOU RATHER

Wear an incredibly itchy wig all night or super uncomfortable fake teeth all night? ©2020 Confessionsofparenting

## WOULD YOU RATHER

Be a member of the Brady Bunch or the Addams' Family?

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## WOULD YOU RATHER

Would you rather go trick or treating with an embarrassing parent or an embarrassing teacher?

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## WOULD YOU RATHER

Have vampire teeth or a witch's mole on your nose?

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## WOULD YOU RATHER

Get your groove on to "Thriller" or boogie down to "Monster Mash"?

©2020 Confessionsofparenting

## WOULD YOU RATHER

Never celebrate Halloween or Thanksgiving again?

©2020 Confessionsofparenting



# WOULD YOU RATHER HALLOWEEN EDITION!

## WOULD YOU RATHER

Be super sweaty in your onesie costume on a warm Halloween night or out in your tiny/thin costume on a cold Halloween night?

©2020 Confessionsofparenting

## WOULD YOU RATHER

Visit Munich's Oktoberfest or London's Guy Fawkes Night?

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## WOULD YOU RATHER

Be locked in a room full of snakes or rats?

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## WOULD YOU RATHER

Light a bonfire or a candle at the graves of the dead?

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## WOULD YOU RATHER

Wear something that makes it impossible to pee wear something too tight that you can hardly breathe?

©2020 Confessionsofparenting

## WOULD YOU RATHER

Frequently use the word "brilliant" or "clever"?

©2020 Confessionsofparenting



Debbie Hogenmiller, Mary Kay Scott, Peggy Scott, and Lisa Ermer



Kittie Ebersoldt, Judy Williams, Patty Meyer, and Laurie Lohman



Mickie Huskey, and Peggy



Betty Aders and Linda Portell

# HALLOWEEN GAMES



Party Queen Beth Watts



Do we dare put our hands in the bags?



Caryl Harness, Judy Kuhlman, and Jean Naeger attempt to guess the contents of mystery bags under the watchful eye of Beth Watts. Beth was kind enough to provide wet wipes for our hands after we made the plunge into some nasty stuff.

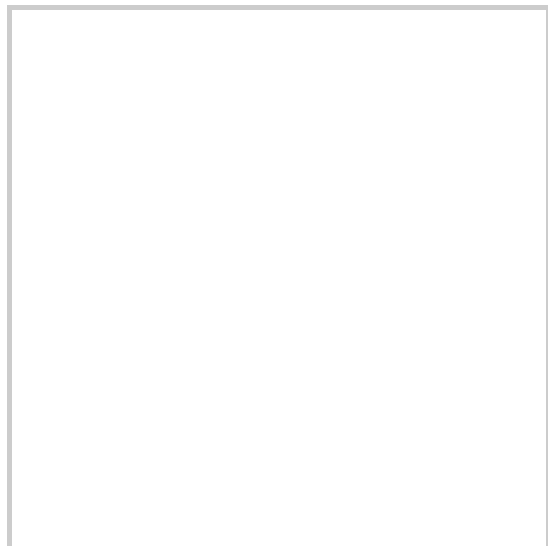
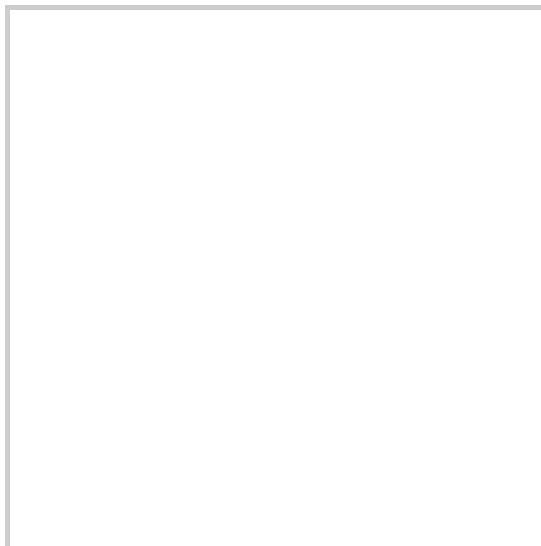




The face says it all. Janet Mace and Rosie O'Shaughnessy look a bit apprehensive.



Beth looks a little evil. Wouldn't you agree?  
Mickie Huskey and Peggy McCraith don't seem to notice.







To the delight of Karen Huskey, Mary Kay Scott, and others there were prizes for game winners!



Phyllis isn't too sure about this bag.



Judy Williams, it may not be wise to milk this cow aka Cheyenne Pratt.





Patty Meyer, Mickie Huskey  
and Peggy McCraith



Beth Watts and Katie Huck



Sandy the Squirrel from Sponge Bob,  
aka Patty Meyer



Angie Eisenbeis and Kirstie Zych



Desserts to match the candy corn theme.



A cow and a witch -- what do they have in common? I haven't a clue! Cheyenne Pratt and Peggy Scott.



Kathy Jensen, Carroll Metzger, Dorothea Kehm, Rosie O'Shaughnessy, Judy Lowe, and Caryl Harness





Angie Eisenbeis, Sue Boyer, Linda Portell, and Janet Mace



Kirstie Zych, Kathy Todd , Judy Kuhlman, and Katie Huck



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2023-2024

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314 420 0897

President Elect  
Debbie  
Hogenmiller

Past President  
Carroll  
Metzger

Secretary  
Ruth Ann  
Adams

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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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## Special Edition 2023 Art Contest



Twin City Area Optimist Club  
President Peggy Scott  
2023-2024

The Twin City Area Optimist Club would like to recognize and thank the artists who participated in our annual art contest. The talent of local artists is always amazing. We appreciate all the art teachers who instruct their students and encourage them to express themselves through their art. A special thanks to the family and friends who attended the art contest and provided the support these artists deserve. Students sharing their talents with the community enriches all our lives.

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# Twin City Area Optimist Art Contest



Annual Art Contest  
November 5, 2023  
2:00pm-4:00pm  
Elks Lodge 1721  
4 Elks Acres  
Festus, MO



The Twin City Area Optimist Club Art Contest took place on Sunday, November 5, 2023 at Elks Lodge 1721 in Festus. The annual event had 322 entries with 215 student artists exhibiting artwork. The students and their art were represented by the following schools in southern Jefferson County: Festus High School, De Soto High School, De Soto Junior High School, Herculaneum High School, Senn-Thomas Middle School, Hillsboro High School, Hillsboro Junior High School, Crystal City High School, Danby-Rush Tower (R-7) Middle School, St. Pius X High School and Jefferson R-VII. Three entries were submitted by homeschooled students. Entries were showcased in art categories, photography, three-dimensional and graphic/digital art.

Best of Show winner was Sailor Tucker, Herculaneum High School with his entry "Untitled." First place winners in three art categories were: Art – Ages 12-13 Julianna Dalaviras, Hillsboro Junior High School, with her entry "Serenity", Art – Ages 14-15 Katie Strawhun, De Soto High School, with her entry "Penguin" and Art-Ages 16-19 Kyla Cook, De Soto High School, with her entry "Three Crosses." Taking first place in photography was Anna Frantzen of Hillsboro Junior High School, with her photo "Frosty Morning." Three-dimensional art first place winner was Brianna Wagner, Festus High School, with her entry "Buck Book." Graphic design/Digital art first place winner was Alexis Jackson, De Soto Junior High School with her entry "Parrot Pop." The Twin City Area Optimist Club strives to "bring out the best in kids" with events such as the art contest that encourages Jefferson County youth to grow in confidence and self-esteem.

Patty Meyer, Art Contest Chair



Best of Show



**Sailor Tucker**  
**Age 15**  
**Herculaneum High School**

## First Place



**Brianna Wagner**  
**Age 17**  
**Buck Book**  
**Festus High School**



**Kyla Cook**  
**Age 16**  
**Three Crosses**  
**De Soto High School**



Anna Frantzen  
Age 12  
Frosty Morning  
Hillsboro Junior High School



Alexis Jackson  
Age 13  
Parrot Pop  
De Soto Junior High School



Katie Strawn  
Age 15  
Penguin  
De Soto High School

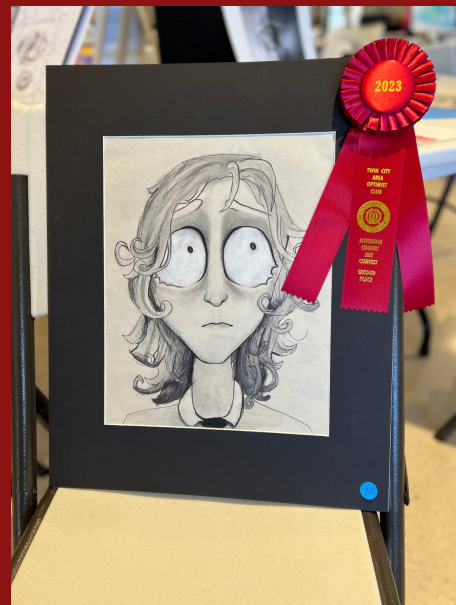


Julianna Dalaviras  
Age 13  
Hillsboro Junior High School

## Second Place



Amelia Wiles  
Age 12  
Drops of Jupiter  
Hillsboro Junior High School







Miabella Lamar  
Age 17  
De Soto High School

Laney Shoopman  
Age 12  
Danby Middle School  
Jefferson R-7



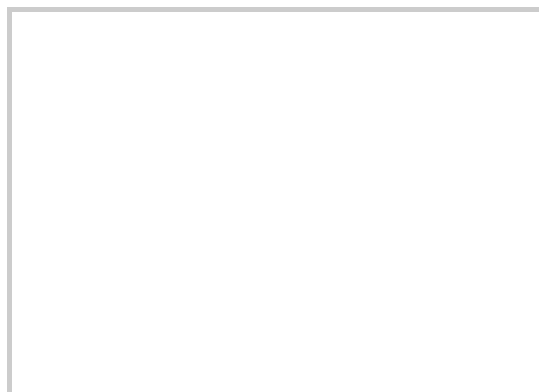
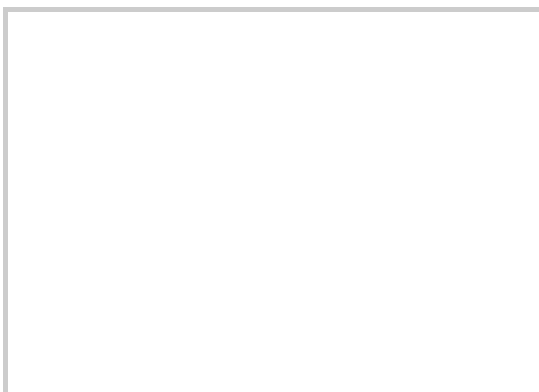
Ella Montgomery  
age 15  
Pink Lamb  
Festus High School



Allyson Roberson  
Age 17  
Blob Fish  
Festus High School



## Third Place





Aubrey Cromman  
Age 17  
Wybie Lovat  
De Soto High School



Alice Dupree  
Age 13  
Hidden Trail  
Hillsboro Junior High School



Sidney Steel  
Age 13  
Dare to Dream  
Hillsboro Junior High School



Hayden Mouser  
Age 14  
Herculaneum High School





Jackson Gladden -  
De Soto Junior High  
"MP 4/4 Half & Half"



Ryli Meulen  
Hillsboro Junior High School  
"Palette and Brush"

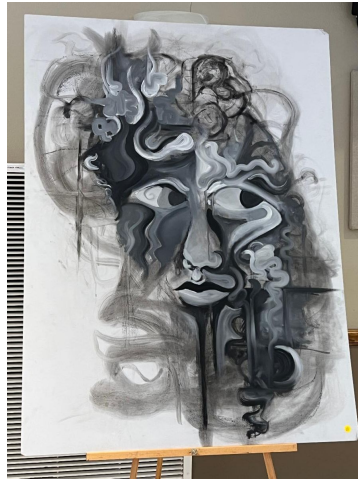


Elley Miller  
De Soto Junior High School  
"Strawberry Snack"



Allyson Roberson  
Festus High School

Sparrow Buehme  
Home School  
"Early October"

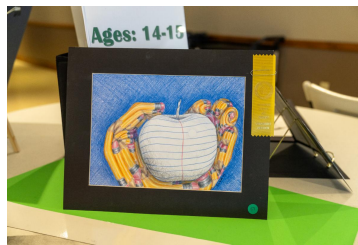


Avalon Buehme  
Home School  
"Boma Waterway"

Joshua Roth  
Festus High School  
"Schizophrenia"

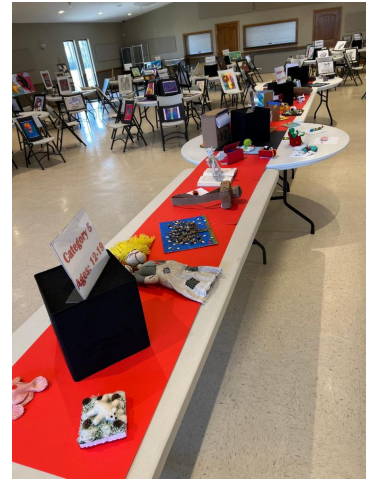


Unable to identify artist



Ella Montgomery  
Festus High School  
"Knowledge in Your Hands"

John Brown  
De Soto High School  
"Leaves"



Three Dimensional Art  
Ages 12-19



De Soto Junior High School art  
teacher---Ashley Daegling



Mistress of Ceremony Mary  
Kay Scott



"Siamese Twin Rag Doll"

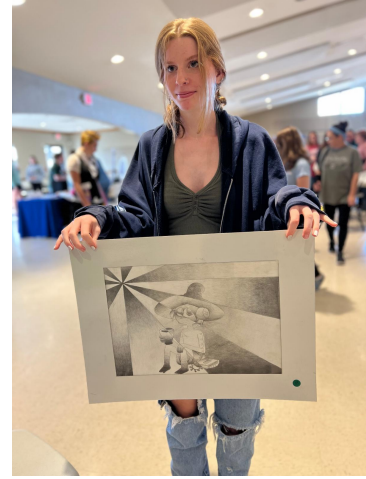


Peggy Scott, TCA Optimist Club President

Beth Watts, TCA Member



Mariah Riley  
De Soto High School  
"Hideaway House"



Mackenzie Donjon  
Jefferson R-7



Brynn Huelzer  
De Soto High School  
Ducky Wucky



Unable to identify artist



Optimist International President-Elect  
Jan Oord Graves with Cheryl Brenn,  
Executive Director of Optimist  
International



Art contestant Alexis Jackson from  
De Soto Junior High School with  
Optimist International President Tracy  
Huxley.





Special thanks to Patty Meyer, Art Contest Chair for an amazing job organizing event.



Thank you to the Elk's for donating the space for art contest, the Festus Public Library for receiving artwork and providing room for sorting. We appreciate the art teachers, judges, and volunteers who put in the time to make this event successful.



Peggy Scott, TCA Optimist Club President  
 Tracy Huxley, Optimist International President  
 Jean Naeger, East MO District Governor-Elect



Phyllis Neff, East MO District Governor  
 Tracy Huxley, Optimist International President





The Twin City Area Optimist Club receives annual sponsorships from businesses/ members of the community.

## Students, Teachers, Family, and Friends Attend Art Contest











Some of the many volunteers who assisted with the Art Contest.



Thanks to the following members who assisted with sorting art prior to event: Barb Bates, Carroll Metzger, Jean Naeger, Elsie William, Pat Doenges, Janet Mace, Mickie Huskey, Nancy Doering, Peggy McCraith, Mary Kay Scott, and Patty Meyer.

Members who assisted with event: Carroll Metzger, Barb Schmidt, Ruth Ann Adams, Janet Mace, Mickie Huskey, Peggy McCraith, Sue Boyer, Patty Meyer, Beth Watts, Carolyn McKinney, Kathy Todd, Katie Huck, Beth Haberer, Phyllis Neff, Debbie Kettler, Debbie Hogenmiller, Peggy Scott, Mary Kay Scott, and Jean Naeger.

## More Artwork

















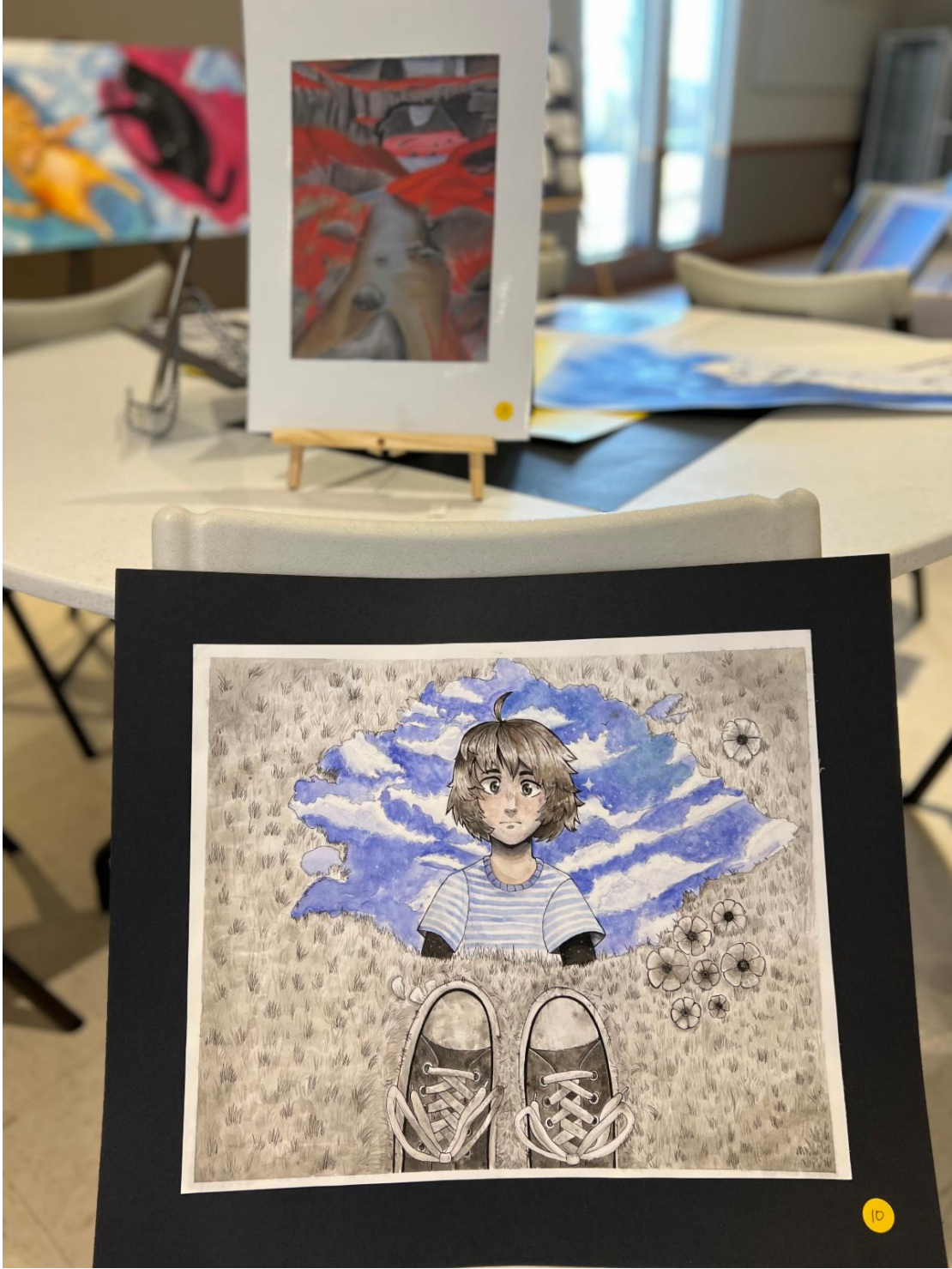




















Michael Boles, Optimist International Vice President - Middle America Region  
Phyllis Neff, East Missouri Optimist District Governor  
Peggy Scott, Twin City Area Optimist Club President  
Tracy Huxley, Optimist International President  
Cheryl Brenn, Optimist International Executive Director  
Rod McKenderick, Optimist International Board Member



TCA Optimist Katie Huck



TCA Optimist Mary Kay Scott (Event Mistress of Ceremony)  
Liz Christman, Optimist International Leadership Development Chair  
Jean Naeger, East Missouri Optimist District Governor-Elect

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Michael Boles, Optimist International Vice President - Middle America Region  
Tracy Huxley, Optimist International President  
Joe Hatfield, Jefferson County Optimist Club President  
Liz Christman, Optimist International Leadership Development Chair

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## Fundraiser

Twin City Area Optimist member Karen Huskey made and donated the beautiful quilt on display at the art show. This is our latest fundraiser, see flyer below for raffle information. Thank you for your support.



## Sponsors

Throughout the year the Twin City Area Optimist Club provides services to the youth and community of southern Jefferson County. The club is active in fundraising, but we could not support all our projects without the generosity of our sponsors. Below is just a sampling of the club's activities as shown in last year's annual tri-fold report.

If you would like to learn more about the TCA Optimist Club or become a 2024 sponsor, please contact Marketing Chair Jean Naeger at 314 495 2822.





## DICTIONARY PROJECT

The Twin City Area Optimist Club distributes more than 1,000 dictionaries to third graders in southern Jefferson County. Students learn research skills as they use dictionaries to find correct spellings, definitions, and synonyms for words. Educators describe third grade as the time when a student transitions from learning to read to reading to learn.

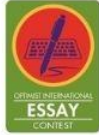
## JUNIOR OPTIMIST CLUB

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



## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Twin City Area Optimist Club offers scholarship opportunities through essay and oratorical contests. Visit our website [www.twincityoptimist.org](http://www.twincityoptimist.org) for details.



## LET YOUR OPTIMISM SHINE THROUGH

- The Twin City Area Optimist Club continues to create new opportunities to fund projects for the youth of our community. Public events are back and we held successful Mouse Races in the fall, along with an online quilt raffle.
- Annual sales of KOEZE nuts and Oberle gift boxes contributed to our financial health.
- Members continue their generosity both financially and as volunteers.
- Annual sponsorships and grants allow the club to continue its service to youth.
- The club continued product drive-through events, benefiting Brenden's Friday Backpacks and the Aunt Rose Project.
- The club supports the Parents as Teachers program with school supplies.
- Members knitted and crocheted hats for infants and provided other essential needs to the Nurses for Newborns program.
- Five Head Start families received Thanksgiving and Easter food baskets.
- The club provided monetary donations to support other community projects, including the Homeless Youth Initiative, Mary's House of Hope and Jefferson County Toys and More, to name a few.



## AUNT ROSE PROJECT

The Twin City Optimist Club has adopted the Aunt Rose Project. The need to provide sanitary products for teenage girls living in foster care has become a project dear to our hearts. It is hard to comprehend the insecurity period poverty can have on these girls.



## Sponsorships

We continue to rely on the generosity of our community to support the Twin City Area Optimist Club in its service to our youth. 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.

### 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**  
[www.twincityoptimist.org](http://www.twincityoptimist.org)  
 Follow us on Facebook @twincityoptimistclub

### 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. Here are just a few of the ways we serve our youth.



## COATS FOR KIDS PROJECT

Our Coats for Kids project is the club's largest project and has been operating for more than 30 years. Each year, the need grows. During Fall 2022, more than 600 coats were distributed. The Project Committee works with local school counselors, Head Start staff and others to identify needs and fill requests.

Affiliated with Optimist International | Serving Youth and Community since 1919

## ART CONTEST

Twin City Area Optimist Club hosted its annual Art Contest which received more than 250 entries from about 200 local student artists from southern Jefferson County schools and home school students. Ava Elliott of De Soto High School won Best of Show for her entry, titled "Us."



## HEAD START CHRISTMAS

After a two year absence, Twin City Area Optimists returned to Head Start facilities for Christmas parties. This year, 107 children received a variety of gifts, including warm clothes, mittens, hats, stuffed animals, toys and more.



## ORATORICAL CONTEST

Olivia Drinen, a student at Senn-Thomas Middle School, won Oratorical Contest honors at the club and district levels. She received a total of \$3,000 in scholarships for her victories. "Participating in the contest was an incredible experience that taught me so many things," Olivia said. "I gained confidence and met lots of amazing people. It was truly a marvelous time!"



## RESPECT FOR LAW

This project was created by Optimist International in appreciation and respect for our law enforcement community. Southern Jefferson County law enforcement agencies were honored for their service to the community.



THANK YOU TO OUR  
PLATINUM PLUS SPONSOR  
\$2000



THANK YOU TO OUR  
PLATINUM SPONSORS  
\$1000



Xi Theta Pi  
Hillsboro Chapter  
of Beta Sigma Phi



THANK YOU TO OUR  
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**Colby Parise**  
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**MARIE NEEDEDY - KOHLER**

"Home is where the story begins"

C: 314.952.0904

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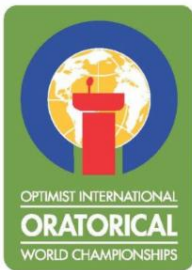
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Vinyard Funeral Home  
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## **Upcoming Scholarship Opportunities**

The TCA Optimist Club will soon be contacting local schools to seek participants in essay and oratorical contests. Visit our website soon to download application forms. [Volunteering, Helping Children - Twin City Area Optimist Club \(twincityoptimist.org\)](https://www.twincityoptimist.org) This is an opportunity to earn scholarships while sharpening essay and oratorical skills.

# OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONTESTS 2023-2024



Topic  
"How to Change the World  
with Optimism"

## ORATORICAL CONTEST

Beginning in 1928, the Oratorical Contest has become the longest-running program of Optimist International. The contest is designed for young people to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with an opportunity to compete for multiple college scholarships with a pre-assigned topic.

District Scholarships:  
First Place: \$2,500 • Second Place: \$1,500 • Third Place: \$1,000  
**with a chance to win up to \$22,500 at the  
World Championships level**

## ESSAY CONTEST

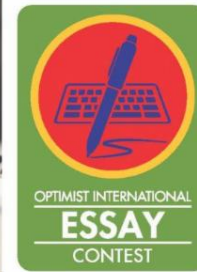
The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live.

The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship!

**One District Scholarship of \$2,500**



Topic  
"Optimism: How It Connects Us"



Topic  
"How to Change the World  
with Optimism"

## COMMUNICATION CONTEST FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

This contest offers an opportunity for students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing to present their thoughts in the community, gaining skills, which can only come from signing or speaking to a large audience. Patterned after the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the contest offers youth the chance to compete in speech or sign language with the chance to win a college scholarship.

**One District Scholarship of \$2,500**

## KIDS SPEAK OUT! SPEECH CONTEST

All young people can compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest. The "Kids Speak Out" contest is a "pre-Oratorical" program that provides a more equitable competition for younger speakers.



Follow complete Official Rules posted on [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org)



Board of  
Directors  
2023-2024

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Peggy Scott  
314 420 0897

President Elect  
Debbie  
Hogenmiller

Past President  
Carroll  
Metzger

Secretary  
Ruth Ann



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.

---

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



Visit our website

Keep current with club activities,  
like us on Facebook, and  
visit our website.



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

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