



Twin City Area Optimist Club

P.O. Box 475

Festus, Missouri 63028

www.twincityoptimist.org

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Affiliated with Optimist International

Serving Youth and Community since 1919

December 2021 News Making a Difference

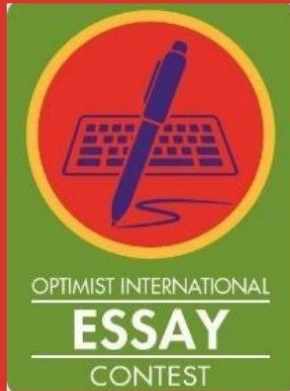
INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBER



Sponsor Mickie Huskey with new member Peggy McCraith

CLUB PROJECTS

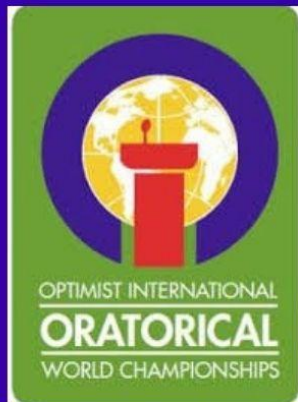
Twin City Area Optimist Essay Contest



Essays must be postmarked
by January 31, 2022



Twin City Area Optimist Oratorical Contest



Deadline to apply
February 3, 2022

Local contest will be held March 3,
2022 (time TBD)



You may go to our website to download the instruction letters and application forms if you have a student who is interested in competing. This is a great opportunity for students to earn cash awards from our club. In addition, club winners have scholarship opportunities. Please click this link to view/print informational letter and application forms:

<https://twincityoptimist.org/>

Jewelry Project



Elizabeth Check reports she received 30 pounds of jewelry from our members. You will recall the baubles will be repurposed into new jewelry. The proceeds from sale of new designs will benefit the organization, Monarch. The organization helps to support the victims of sex trafficking in their recovery. For information about Monarch go to: <https://monarchjewelry.org/>

Thanks to all members who cleaned out their jewelry boxes and to Elizabeth for bringing this opportunity to us.

Head Start Thanksgiving Baskets

Five families are chosen by Head Start staff to receive food at Thanksgiving and also at Easter. Members continue to donate five like items as well as cash donations.

In addition, the club budgets \$750 each time to shop for fresh food and other basic needs. Thanks to members for their continued generosity. We could not provide this quantity of food without your support



Shoppers pictured left to right:
Kitty Ebersoldt, Ms. Betty and Ms. Nicole from Head Start, Karen Huskey, Pat Parsons,
Debbie Hogenmiller, Elizabeth Check, Janet Mace, and Katie Huck. Not pictured:
Martha DeMent, and Sue Boyer.

.Thanks again to Pat Parsons for chairing this project.

Head Start Christmas

Club members met to assemble and wrap gifts for 95 Head Start students. Gifts included: warm clothing, hat, mittens, sticker book, stuffed animal with book, socks, crayons and coloring book, toothpaste and toothbrush, along with a gift from Santa.

Unfortunately we are not able to host an in person Christmas party again this year due to COVA concerns, but we hear Santa and Mrs. Clause (a.k.a. Joe and Mary Hatfield) may make a ZOOM appearance.



Thanks to to Elves Sue Boyer, Mickie Huskey, Elizabeth Check, Laura Elbl, Kelly Winkelman, Pam Cernik, Judy Kuhlman, Mary Hatfield, Debbie Hogenmiller, Peggy McCraith, Janet Mace, Judy Williams, and Ruth Ann Adams, not pictured Martha DeMent, and Barb Schmidt.



Ruth Ann Adams, Elizabeth Check, Janet Mace and Mickie Huskey help gather items.



New members Ruth Ann Adams and Peggy McCraith hold gifts with long time member Judy Williams. Great to see new faces helping with projects.



Project Co-Chairs Martha DeMent and Laura Elbl with Peggy McCraith.



Judy Kuhlman, Pam Cernik, and Elizabeth Check bag toys for delivery to Head Start facilities.



Debbie Hogenmiller and Elizabeth Check are all about the wrapping!



Martha DeMent with Judy Williams. These ladies have seen many a Head Start Christmas party.

Thank you Co-Chairs Martha DeMent and Laura Elbl.

The Aunt Rose Project



Pictured Optimists: Caryl Harness and Cheri Phillips, with Aunt Rose Founder Renee Gerlach, and Optimist Janice Boyd.

Twin City Area Optimist Club donated 3862 tampons and sanitary pads to The Aunt Rose Project. [\(20+\) The Aunt Rose Project | Facebook](#)

Items are given to Jefferson County Foster Children's Fund for teenage girls in foster care.

The ladies of TCA Optimist Club are proud to be Aunties!



St. Louis Crisis Nursery

Karen Huskey collected and delivered donations to the St. Louis Crisis Nursery.

There were several large monetary donations, from members, which allowed Karen to purchase two Graco Pack-n-Plays. 45 homemade infant sock caps were donated, along with clothing, diapers, and other baby essentials.

Karen has been assured that everything donated will be



distributed to Jefferson County families.

Thank you Karen for coordinating this project.

BOOK CLUB



Reading List January - April, 2022

January: *Big Stone Gap* by Adriana Trigiani

February: *Grab on to Me Tightly as if I Know the Way* by Bryan Charles

March: *The Art of Keeping Secrets* by Patti Callahan Henry

April: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* by Mark Haddon

The meetings for the book club will be 45 minutes before the start of the evening meeting on the last Thursday of the month.

JOI CLUB

JOI Christmas Party



New JOI member Blake Neff



JOI Chair Carol Schanz with Sophie Hopfner



JOI meeting 12/2/2021

The JOI Club decided to assist with sorting Christmas toys for the Army 220th Division at the Festus Armory on Friday, December 3rd.

A motion was made to donate \$100 to Ronald McDonald House since the club is not able to visit due to COVID. The club will continue to save soda tabs to donate when visitors are again welcome.

Kristen suggested continuing the pen pal project. All members will write a card or letter to a nursing home resident. Kristen's mom will deliver the cards to residents of Autumn Ridge. Members also enjoyed making ornaments for the residents.

Debbie Schumaker
JOI Adult Advisor



JOI members, TCA members, and parents assisted with Christmas toys sorting at the Festus Armory.

Debbie Schumaker
JOI Adult Advisor

Carol Schanz
JOI Chair



CHILDHOOD CANCER

PRAYER WARRIORS NEEDED

Unfortunately, **Hailey Walker** was hospitalized recently. She is back home but she and her family could use our thoughts and prayers.

Carroll Metzger
Childhood Cancer Committee

Jeffrey Vitt

Thank you God, his scan was all



clear. This was year 4 out of treatment, so now we get to go down to scans once a year!! We are so thankful.

Jessica Vitt (Jeffrey's mother)

FUNDRAISERS



Susan DeClue is the quilt raffle winner. She was delighted to win the quilt, hand crafted by her long time friend. Susan's husband Steve accepted quilt on her behalf.

**DRAWING THURSDAY
DECEMBER 9, 2021**



Raffle for a "Made in the Shade"
Multi-color 61"x76" Quilt
One entry for every \$10 donation

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

Donations can be made thru
Venmo @TC-Optimist2122

or mail check to:

TWIN CITY AREA OPTIMIST CLUB
PO BOX 475, FESTUS, MO 63028



Sincere thank you to Karen Huskey for donating this beautiful quilt. Did you notice the octagon pattern? Does it remind you of the Optimist logo?

Earned \$1000



Another successful KOEZE fundraiser. There was a **\$4581.10** profit, an increase of **\$555.65** from last year. In addition, **\$388.80** was raised from the sale of Mascot pecans.

This is a major project with lots of nuts and numbers to keep track of!
Thanks to Project Chair Patty Meyer and her able accounting assistant Pat Parsons.



Barb Schmidt, Janet Whitmer, and Jean Naeger find a surprise nut treat in each box.



Teamwork by Sherry Armstrong, Janet Mace, Mickie Huskey, and Peggy McCraith.





Debbie Hogenmiller and Pat Parsons are all smiles as they open yet another box.

Pat Parsons, Katie Huck, Patty Meyer, and Sue Boyer keep up the pace.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped sort the orders: Jean Naeger, Barb Schmidt, Mickie Huskey, Linda Alessi (friend of Patty Meyer), Sue Boyer, Katie Huck, Janet Whitmer, Peggy McCraith, Debbie Hogenmiller, Pat Parsons, Sherry Armstrong, Patty Meyer, and Janet Mace

Thanks to everyone who purchased Oberle gift boxes. 89 boxes were sold resulting in a profit of **\$511.50**.

Cindy Cherry took on project again this year. Thank you, Cindy.

A green and white fundraiser poster for Oberle Meats. The poster features the Oberle Meats logo in a red oval at the top right. The text on the poster reads: "FUNDRAISER", "Oberle meat/cheese gift boxes for the holidays", "EACH BOX CONTAINS", "1lb OBERLE SAUSAGE AND", "1/2 LB GARLIC CHEESE STICK", "\$17.50/box", "pay with check to TCA Optimist Club", "or for your convenience you may Venmo Cindy:", "@Cindy-Cherry-14". At the bottom left is the Optimist International logo, and at the bottom right is the text: "Project Chair: Cindy Cherry", "Order deadline December 9th", "pick up Sat. December 11th, 9 am-12 noon". The poster is decorated with a green border featuring white triangles and a white border featuring green triangles.

MEETINGS

December 9, 2021 Speaker

Blake Tilley, Executive Director of Development and Jefferson College Foundation was our speaker for the December 9, 2021 meeting.

TCA Optimist Club Scholarships were originally



established in April of 1995. Term scholarships are awarded providing at least five \$500 scholarships annually, distributing \$250 for both the fall and spring semesters.

Scholarships are restricted to Jefferson County residents demonstrating a financial need with minimum high school GPA of 2.0. To date, approximately \$54,300 has been awarded to 136 students by the TCA Optimist Club.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Holiday Party December 16, 2021

46 Members attended a fun filled holiday party on December 16th. There was a lot of laughs and maybe a few tears. Members were asked to tell about the weirdest Christmas present ever received, most meaningful Christmas gift ever received, or favorite Christmas tradition.

Some of the highlights included a handmade bra made out of Southern Comfort velvet bags, trains, puppies, birth of twins on Christmas day, and switches from Santa! Many remembered trips to St. Louis to view Stix, Baer & Fuller and Macy's Christmas window displays.

To view video with members' memories visit our private group Facebook Page. When you click on link if your get into page you are a member. If you can't get in then you need to request membership so you do not miss out on club news.

May your holidays be filled with fun, family, and fabulous food.
Wishing each of you a safe, healthy New Year.

Thanks to our party committee: Caryl Harness, Judy Lowe,
Leisa Spiker, Cheri Phillips, and Phyllis Neff



**O Christmas Tree,
O Christmas Tree,
How lovely are thy branches!
Elizabeth Check and Barb Schmidt
are decked out in holiday splendor.**







Guest and "new member to be" Beth Peyton shared a Christmas memory.



Members meet at Taytro's every Thursday at Noon - 1 p.m. The last Thursday of the month is an evening meeting. Time and place TBD.

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