



**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

## Fall 2021 Review Making a Difference

**As we completed our fall projects, we were filled with gratitude for the support of our community; especially our annual sponsors. As a club we give our time and financial resources generously, but the truth is we need the help of the community to fully realize our goals and objectives. Please know you are appreciated more than words can express.**

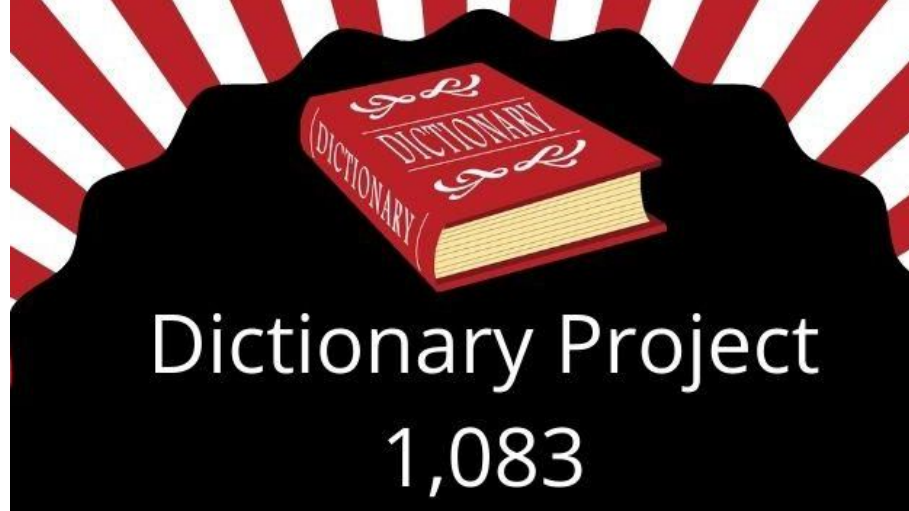
Autumn brought a whirlwind of fundraising activities to the Twin City Area Optimist Club. Three online raffles earned over \$6000 (restaurant gift cards, shopping gift cards, and handmade quilt). KOEZE Nuts, Mascot pecans, and Oberle sausage gift box sales netted close to \$5500.



We hope to return to in person fundraisers sometime in 2022.

Throughout this newsletter you will find brief details from some of the many projects we completed.

## CLUB PROJECTS



Over 1000 dictionaries were delivered to third graders at southern Jefferson County schools. This is an annual project that has been ongoing for many years.

## Annual Art Contest



Mistress of Ceremonies Mary Kay Scott announces art contest winners. First Place winners Sophia Leiner, Macie Tomlinson, Savannah Brown, and Bryce Shepard. Not pictured First Place winner Ella Shy and Best of Show winner Katie Deevers.

To view additional art contest photos visit our public Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/twincityoptimistclub/>

## Twin City Area Optimist Club Art Contest 2021

The Twin City Area Optimist Club Art Contest took place on Sunday, November 14, 2021 at Elks Lodge 1721 in Festus. The annual event had 299 entries with 199 student artists exhibiting artwork. The students and their art were represented by the following schools in Jefferson County: Festus High School, De Soto High School, De Soto Junior High School, Herculaneum High School, Senn-Thomas Middle School, Hillsboro Junior High School, Crystal City High School and Jefferson R-VII. Two entries were submitted by homeschooled students. Entries were showcased in art categories, photography and three-dimensional art.

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.

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## Head Start Projects



### Christmas

Club members met to assemble and wrap gifts for 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 were not able to host in person Christmas parties again this year; however, Santa (aka Joe Hatfield) made appearances via ZOOM.



## Head Start Thanksgiving Baskets

In addition to Christmas gifts, 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.

Volunteers shop for fresh food and other basic needs. Thanks to members for their continued generosity. We could not provide this quantity of food without their support.

## 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 club will continue to support this project throughout the year.

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

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## **St. Louis Crisis Nursery**

The club collected and delivered donations to the St. Louis Crisis Nursery.

Cash donations from members allowed the club to purchase two Graco Pack-n-Plays. Homemade infant sock caps were donated, along with clothing, diapers, and other baby essentials.



All donations will be made available to Jefferson County families.

## Donations to Support Community Events



Debbie Hogenmiller and Judy Williams present Kathy Ogle of Jefferson County Toys and More with a \$500 check.

The donation helped purchase underwear which was included with Christmas gifts for over 2000 Jefferson County children.



Pictured: Sgt. Jessica Griffaw, Optimist Pat Parsons, Sgt. Lewis Pippin, and Optimist Judy Williams

Twin City Area Optimist Club donated \$500 to Shop With a Cop.

## Jewelry Project

Members cleaned out their jewelry boxes and produced 30 pounds of jewelry. The baubles will be repurposed into new jewelry. The proceeds from sale of new designs will benefit the

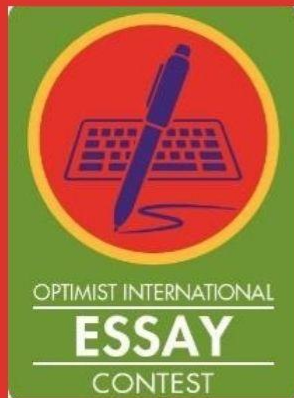


organization, Monarch. The organization helps to support the victims of sex trafficking in their recovery. For information about Monarch go to:

[Monarch Jewelry - Purchase With A Purpose Today](#)

## Upcoming Projects

# Twin City Area Optimist Essay Contest



Essays must be postmarked  
by January 31, 2022

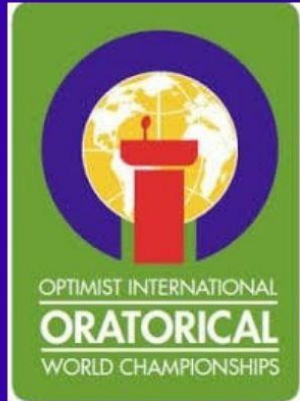


To access informational letters and registration forms for both contests click on our website link:

<https://twincityoptimist.org/>

# Twin City Area Optimist Oratorical Contest

Deadline to apply  
February 3, 2022



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



## JOI Club



The Junior Optimist Club held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual BB 5K walk for suicide awareness on October 23, 2021 at Larry Crites Memorial Park.

The club was able to award eight scholarships to essay winners. The theme for the essay was “What would you do if you knew someone did not want to live any longer”.

Members have been writing letters to local nursing home residents.

The club shopped for items to donate to the St. Louis Crisis Nursery-Jefferson County for families in need at Christmas. Members purchased paper products, toys, personal hygiene products, detergent, and dish soap. Members were divided into six groups, each having a budget of \$100.00.

18 members participated in this project, including 10 new members. In addition, many parents participated along with TCA members.



# Childhood Cancer

Our club is currently following three children in their cancer journey. We support the families financially with gift cards for gas/food and occasional gifts.

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Thank you to all our 2021 sponsors. We could not continue to serve the youth of our community without your support. Your contributions allow us to expand our outreach to the community.

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**Sandy Vest,**  
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## 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



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 2021-2022

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636-208-1395

**President Elect**  
Peggy Scott

**Past President**  
Mary Kay Scott

**Secretary**  
Cathy Elliott

**Secretary Elect**  
Debbie Hogenmiller

**Treasurer**  
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Carroll Metzger

### Board Members

**2020-2022**  
Janice Boyd  
Judy Kuhlman  
Barb Schmidt

**2021-2023**  
Elizabeth Check

Pat Parsons  
Judy Williams



[Visit our website](#)

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