



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

January 2022 News Making a Difference

**Meet New Optimist International Director
Cheryl Brenn
(January 13, 2022)**



Our club is very fortunate to be the first club new Optimist International (OI) Director Cheryl Brenn has visited since taking over leadership of OI. She is not only the first woman at the head of OI, but also the first woman to lead any of the four international service organizations (Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, and Optimists).

Cheryl talked about how women have a different approach to leadership and now was the time for change. She spoke of empowering women. All service organizations have been losing members and changes are needed to succeed going forward.

She referred to the pandemic and how schools have dropped programs because funds were needed to address COVID. It is up to us, as Optimists, to step in by continuing to bring out the best in kids.

Cheryl said that as women we tend to support others before ourselves. She said to remember that when in an airplane we are asked to put on our masks first so that we can then help others. We need to address our own needs before we can be of service to others.

With soft music, we took a few minutes to meditate as Cheryl read the Optimist Creed. By quietly listening and her accents on certain words, made us all feel differently and empowered by our creed.

**Laurie Hyde, Nursing Specialist
Nurses for Newborns
(January 20, 2022)**



Laurie Hyde, Nursing Specialist for Nurses for Newborns, was guest speaker for our January 20th meeting.

Nurses for Newborns exists to provide a safety net for families most at-risk. In order to prevent infant mortality, child abuse, and neglect the agency provides in-home nursing visits which promotes healthcare, education and positive parenting skills.

Referrals for services come from hospitals, physicians, social workers, as well as 20% self-referred. The agency works with all income levels. Clients may include mothers with mental, substance abuse, or abusive relationship issues.

Services are provided up to two years after birth and help to address safety and wellness concerns.

For more information about this agency please click on link:
www.nursesfornewborns.org

**Optimist Day
February 3, 2022**



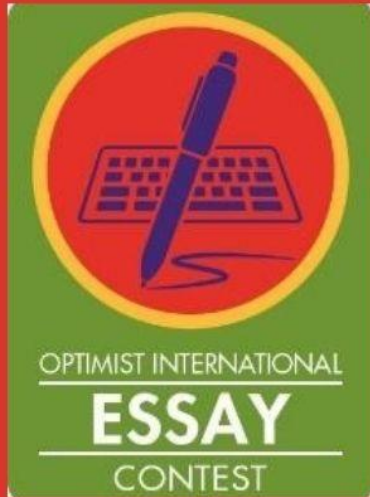
Optimist International and its members celebrate Optimist Day around the world each year on the 1st Thursday in February. On Optimist Day, members show their pride in belonging to an Optimist Club by wearing Optimist Club apparel – shirts, pins, hats, jackets, etc. –and posting a photo on social media with #OptimistDay2022.

Optimist Clubs may choose a location and distribute copies of the Optimist Creed so others may choose optimism for themselves.

Please wear your Optimist logo shirts to February 3rd meeting. We will take a group photo after meeting.

CLUB PROJECTS

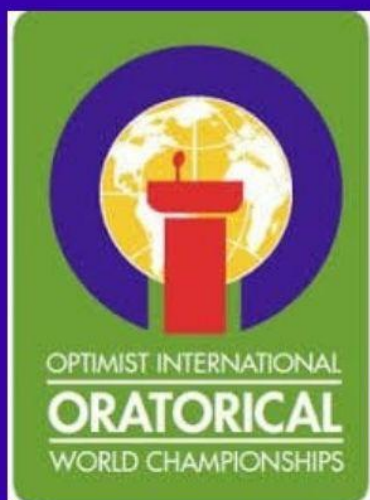
Twin City Area Optimist Essay Contest



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)

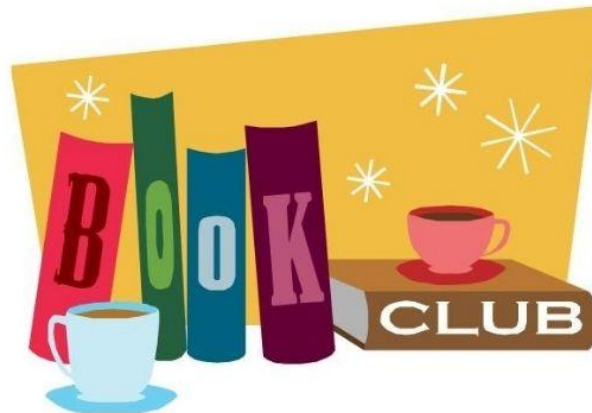


You may go to our website to download the instruction letters and application forms if you have a student who is interested in competing. This is a great opportunity for students to earn cash awards from our club. In addition, club winners have scholarship opportunities. Please click this link to view/print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

<https://twincityoptimist.org/>

BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet at 5:15 p.m. at Poppy's before the evening meeting on Thursday January 27th to discuss *Big Stone Gap*.



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

January meeting cancelled. No update at this time

Debbie Schumaker
JOI Adult Advisor

Carol Schanz
JOI Chair



CHILDHOOD CANCER

Emma recently started a new chemo drug for her leukemia. If all goes well, she will begin maintenance treatment the end of April or beginning of May.

Emma turned two on January 20th. If you would like to follow Emma's cancer journey, click on Facebook link: [\(20+\) Turning Darkness to Light - Emma's Faithful Fight | Groups | Facebook](#)



FUNDRAISERS

Sponsorship Campaign

The 2022 Sponsorship Campaign is underway. With the loss of in-person fundraising events, it is even more important for our club to seek financial support from the community. Below is the new tri-fold brochure that was sent to all potential sponsors. The brochure highlights a few of our projects and will also be included in NOW (New Optimists Welcome) packets and uploaded to our website. In addition, a copy of the sponsorship request letter is included. If you or anyone you know would like to become a sponsor, please contact Jean Naeger, Marketing Chair.





Thanks to:
Pat Sweet, Patty Meyer, Janet Mace, Debbie Hogenmiller, Gerty O'Leary, and Jean Naeger for folding, sorting, stamping, and sealing sponsorship packets. Not pictured Barb Schmidt and Mary Kay Scott. Packets were personally delivered or mailed on January 13, 2022.



DICTIONARY PROJECT

Each fall, the Twin City Area Optimist Club distributes more than 1,000 dictionaries to third graders in southern Jefferson County. In this age of "Google," we are told by area teachers that a paper copy of the dictionary is still invaluable. Students learn research skills as they use dictionaries to find correct spellings, definitions, and synonyms for words.

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 for details.



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



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



COATS FOR KIDS PROJECT

Our Coats for Kids project has been providing coats for children in need for more than 30 years. Each year, our committee chairperson coordinates the project through area school counselors. This season alone, the club has provided more than 300 coats. The requests keep coming in.

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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. **Online raffles** have replaced in-person fundraisers during the pandemic. Annual sales of KOEZE nuts, and Oberle gift boxes have contributed to our financial health. The generosity of our members has helped to fill the gaps in revenue. The support of our annual sponsors allows the club to continue its service to youth.
- The club maintained social distancing by holding **community drive-through events**. Approximately 10,000 items were dropped off to benefit food pantries, Brenden's Friday Backpacks, and the Jefferson County Foster Children's Fund. The club provided 100 individual boxes of school supplies for the area Parents as Teachers Program. Nurses for Newborns benefited from the talents of our members as they knitted or crocheted little hats for newborns and donated items for Jefferson County parents.
- The club provided **monetary donations** to Kacie's Playground, the Homeless Youth Initiative, Parents as Teachers, Mary's House of Hope, seven local food pantries, Shop with a Cop and Jefferson County Toys and More.

AUNT ROSE PROJECT

The Twin City Optimist Club has adopted the **Aunt Rose Project** as an ongoing mission. 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.

ART CONTEST



Twin City Area Optimist Club was thrilled to host its annual Art Contest which received about 300 entries by 200 local student artists from southern Jefferson County schools and home school students. Katie Deevers from Jefferson High School won Best of Show for her entry, titled "Grateful."

"I would like the viewers to look at my artwork and feel grateful for everything they have, no matter how little it is. Winning this contest helps me know that the meaning of the drawing came across to others who viewed it."

-Katie Deevers



SUPPORTING LOCAL FAMILIES



Each Thanksgiving and Easter, five families are chosen by Head Start staff to receive several months of groceries and household supplies. Members provide five like items for baskets and cash donations. The club budget provides additional fresh food items for each family.

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.

HEAD START CHRISTMAS

In person Christmas parties were again canceled due to COVID-19, but area Head Start students still received their gifts including warm clothes, a toy, mittens, hat, sticker book, stuffed animal, books, toothpaste and toothbrush. Santa made an appearance via ZOOM.



The club will restart in-person fundraisers when it is deemed safe to gather in large groups. Until then, we rely on member and community support.



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Board of Directors

2021-2022

President

Gerty O'Leary
636-208-1395

President Elect

Peggy Scott

Past President

Mary Kay Scott

Secretary

Cathy Elliott

Secretary Elect

Debbie Hogenmiller

Treasurer

Laura Elbl

Treasurer Elect

Carroll Metzger

Board Members

2020-2022

Janice Boyd
Judy Kuhlman
Barb Schmidt

2021-2023

Elizabeth Check
Pat Parsons
Judy Williams

January 2022

Dear Community Member:

The Twin City Area Optimist Club is a volunteer organization dedicated to bringing out the best in youth through various projects and programs. The club serves southern Jefferson County.

The majority of the club's projects are made possible through fundraising events; however, COVID-19 has forced us to cancel major fundraisers. We of course have devised creative ways to earn funds but we will fall short of our usual financial goals. We also rely on generous donations from the community. Your financial support means so much to this organization.

We remain dedicated to supporting our youth and their families during these unprecedented times and look to you for your generosity.

The various levels of sponsorship are highlighted in the enclosed brochure. As the sponsorships increase so too does the level of recognition. **As required by tax law, a process must be followed for a donation of \$100.00 or more to be tax deductible. Please contact Jean Naeger at jnaeger_athome@hotmail.com or 314 495 2822 if you would like your sponsorship to be tax deductible. She will provide the necessary instructions.**

Please let us know what levels you would like to sponsor and send your donation to the above listed mailing address.

Thank you for considering this request for a donation to the Twin City Area Optimist Club.

Sincerely,

Gerty O'Leary
President, Twin City Area Optimist Club
636-208-1395



Ask and you shall receive!

Ellie King asked if the names of board members and Venmo information could be included in newsletters. Also, President Gerty O'Leary requested more details regarding meeting reservations. Thank you, ladies, for your input.

Going forward you will find this additional information at the bottom

of the newsletter. Should you have additional requests to improve newsletters or want to write an article, provide a recipe, share a poem, quote, cartoon, etc., please contact newsletter editor, Jean Naeger.



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.

Our VENMO account, **@TC-Optimist 2122**, can be used to make donations to our projects or Fundraisers.

Please make sure to include your phone number and a memo indicating what the donation is for.

**Board of Directors
2021-2022**

**President
Gerty O'Leary
636-208-1395**

**President Elect
Peggy Scott**

**Past President
Mary Kay Scott**

**Secretary
Cathy Elliott**

**Secretary Elect
Debbie Hogenmiller**

**Treasurer
Laura Elbl**

**Treasurer Elect
Carroll Metzger**

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**2020-2022
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Judy Kuhlman
Barb Schmidt**

**2021-2023
Elizabeth Check
Pat Parsons
Judy Williams**

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



[Visit our website](#)