



# 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

## March 2021 News: Making a Difference

### **The Aunt Rose Project (Addressing "Period Poverty") Club ZOOM Meeting February 18, 2021 Speaker Renee' Gerlach**



I started The Aunt Rose Project in 2016 after attending the Women's March in St. Louis. I met so many inspiring Women that day that I wanted to take action. I wanted to help the most vulnerable and underserved young women in my area. I wanted to do something that could possibly make a big difference in their lives and help them be confident and stay in school. I wanted to level the playing field. But how?

I spoke to many of my friends and people I knew who worked in public schools about the challenges some of these girls face. I asked myself and them, what is most needed and not provided? I found out that period poverty is a real thing for some teens in our area. And so, The Aunt Rose Project was born.

The name comes from a misunderstanding I had when I was young. One of my friends said she couldn't go swimming with us because "Aunt Flo" was visiting. I asked her why her Aunt Rose wouldn't let her go. She laughed and said no... Aunt FLO! I decided to use Aunt Rose because, who do you go to when you don't have your Mom? You go to your Auntie. Aunt Flo might hold you back, but Aunt Rose wants you to be able to go everywhere and do everything!

At one time, period products were given to a local alternative school until one morning I received a call from The Jefferson County Foster Children's Fund (JCFCF). I was told about the challenges teens face in Foster Care and Protective Custody.

Teenage girls are the hardest Fosters to place. When you have a family willing to take them, there are usually more than one in the home. That can be a bit of an expense for these families who are underfunded as it is. Missouri ranks 49th in resources provided to Foster Families. At any one time there are 700-800 children in Foster Care right here in Jefferson County. JCFCF wanted to know if I would be interested in helping to provide period products for these girls. This was exactly the opportunity I had been looking for, and it turns out, a perfect fit!

We have been working with JCFCF for three years now and last year were able to provide period products for 98 girls. This year our goal is to triple that number.

In 2020 with many foster families losing their outside jobs due to the pandemic, the need has been even greater. This is a monthly expense that does not go away and our girls need us more than ever. We need period products in every shape and size. Just like our girls.

I would like to thank the Optimists for planning a collection drive and the opportunity to raise awareness of Period Poverty.

Thank you for your support!

Renee' Gerlach

**PLEASE NOTE: A product drive is scheduled for April 1st. Refer to Club Projects section of newsletter for details.**

## How Do You Play BINGO? By ZOOM of course!



TCA Optimist members had a fun ZOOM evening meeting on February 25th with BINGO. Congratulations to our BINGO winners: Caryl Harness, Patty Meyer, Phyllis Neff, Kelly Winkelman, and Sue Boyer. Great job calling numbers Mary Kay Scott.

Winners received BINGO scratch off tickets.

## Facebook 101

**DID YOU KNOW?** Our club has two Facebook Pages.

**DID YOU KNOW?** One is public and one is private for our club members only.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Our private page posts are not shareable. Our public page posts are shareable

**DID YOU KNOW?** Anyone can see/like/follow our public page

**DID YOU KNOW:** Our private group page is by invitation only.



Above is logo on our club group page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/115975301760806>. Any member of group can post and comment, it will only be seen by fellow members. All members are encouraged to join this group to keep up with club activities. **Contact Jan Norrick to receive invitation to join this group.**



Above is logo on our public page: <https://www.facebook.com/twincityoptimistclub/> Only administrators can post to this page. You can comment on posts. Anyone visiting our post will see your comments; members of the community, our sponsors, other interested parties. All posts are shareable to your personal page or any other group pages you are a member. **You are encouraged to share public posts to grow our page, increase community awareness of our projects, and spread brand recognition.** Please visit our public page and click on the like/follow buttons.

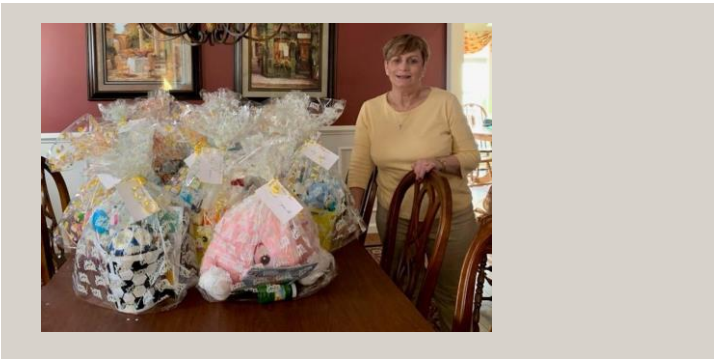
Should you have any questions regarding the two different pages, please contact Jean Naeger.

## CLUB PROJECTS

### Head Start Easter Food Baskets

Thank you to Head Start Easter Baskets Chair Carroll Metzger and our generous members who donated food or cash donations. As always our baskets are overflowing!

*Thank you!*



Martha DeMent and Laura Elbl are our resident bunnies, creating Easter baskets with goodies for the children in the five Head Start families the club served this holiday.



Volunteer: Patty Meyer, Mary Hatfield, Sherry Armstrong, Phyllis Neff, Mickie Huskey, Debbie Hogenmiller, and Karen Huskey



Volunteers: Carol Schanz, Sue Joggerst, Jean Naeger, Carroll Metzger, Janice Boyd, and Mary Kay Scott. (not pictured Gerty O'Leary and Janet Whitmer)



As you can see our members came through yet again to provide a tremendous amount of food and personal care products.



Members braved the cold and rain!

# Nurses for Newborns

Thank you to Project Chair Karen Huskey for making, collecting, and delivering items.



Sherry Armstong



Mickie Huskey



Patty Meyer



Sue Joggerst made 50 newborn hats



Karen Huskey with handmade tummy time quilts



All the donations

We would like to thank Sue Joggerst, Janice Boyd, Sherry Armstrong, Carol Schanz, Mickie Huskey, Katie Huck, Patty Meyer, and Karen Huskey for their donations. Items collected included tummy time quilts, infant clothing, diapers, baby wipes, grooming items, and a litter of stuffed bunnies. (We apologize if we failed to recognize anyone. There may have been additional items dropped off at Poppy's that weren't accounted for.)

---

## The Aunt Rose Project



**The Aunt Rose Project**

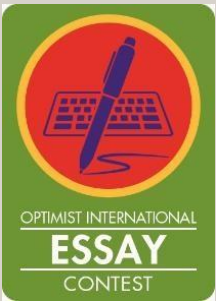
DATE: **Thursday April 1, 2021**  
TIME: 12-1 pm  
PLACE: Quonset Lanes parking lot  
ITEMS NEEDED: sanitary napkins and tampons



### Period Poverty

Hopefully none of us had to experience period poverty growing up. Hopefully none of us were embarrassed because we lacked sanitary supplies and missed school. As women we can certainly empathize with teenage girls who do not have the means to provide for their menstrual needs.

The Aunt Rose Project helps address this need within the foster care system. Please take this opportunity to collect sanitary napkins and tampons for **The Jefferson County Foster Children's Fund**. All size pads and tampons are needed as well as any size boxes. Larger economy boxes can be divided into smaller quantities.



## Congratulations to our Essay Contest Winners

### First Place Winner - Justice Lutes



Justice Lutes is currently a freshman at Jefferson R7 High School where she excels in art, writing, and science. In her spare time she enjoys drawing, writing short stories, and playing with her dog, Bandit. In the future, Justice would like a career in the science field with the ability to help animals as well. She is also an advocate for animal and human rights. Justice will receive a certificate, medal and \$500 cash award.

## Second Place Winner - Alyssa Vincent



Alyssa Vincent is a freshman at Jefferson R7 High School. She is a competitive dancer at DPU Dance and on the Jefferson High School dance team and track team. She enjoys art, music, and reading in her free time. Alyssa cannot wait for college. She hopes to attend NYU and work as a Child Psychologist while working on a book of her own! Alyssa will receive a certificate, medal and \$250 cash award.

---

## Third Place Winner - Abigail Wilson



Abigail Wilson is a senior at Festus High School. After high school, Abigail will be going to Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota where she will play volleyball and major in psychology. Post-graduation, she plans to attend law school. Abigail will receive a certificate, medal and \$125 cash award.

Thank you Geralyn Cash for chairing this project

---

## Oratorical Contest

Applications were extended to March 10, 2021. The club competition with five participants will take place via ZOOM on Tuesday March 16, 2021. The Regional competition will be held later in April. Any questions, please contact Oratorical Chair Mary Kay Scott.



## Club Donations

During the March board meeting the board of directors approved donations to the following:

\$ 500 Mary's House of Hope  
\$ 500 Backstoppers  
\$ 500 Ronald McDonald House  
\$1000 Kades Playground

In addition, the board approved a donation to the EMO Golf tournament. \$100 will go for a club sponsor sign and \$75 will sponsor a player.

---

## Book Club



### Book Review

Remember TCA Optimist Book Club will be reviewing *The Lager Queen of Minnesota* by J. Ryan Stradal. Book Club will meet immediately after the evening ZOOM meeting on March 25th. Those interested just stay on the call.

All are welcome!

Please email Mary Kay Scott with future book selections.

---



# JOI CLUB

Donations may be made to  
Twin City Area Optimist  
Club, P.O. Box 475, Festus,  
MO 63028 or send to  
Venmo @joi63028



## **DON'T GIVE UP INSPIRATIONAL YARD SIGNS GIVE AWAY**

**(while supplies last)**

**SATURDAY MARCH 20, 2021**

**from 1 PM TO 4 PM**

**FESTUS LIBRARY PARKING LOT**



THESE SIMPLE WORDS HAVE BEEN HELPING PEOPLE GET THROUGH THE DAY. WOULDN'T YOU LIKE ONE FOR YOUR YARD?

Sponsored by the Twin City Area Junior Optimist Club

Questions call Katie Huck 314-520-6340

Kids making a difference in our community

---

## JOI Update

The JOI Club is working on becoming pen pals for residents at Festus Manor Nursing Center.

*Katie Huck*  
JOI Adult Advisor

*Debbie Schumaker*  
JOI Chair

---

## FUNDRAISERS

### 2021 Sponsorship Campaign

We currently have 35 sponsors with sponsorships of \$8800. We have additional commitments that should bring us up to 10,000 in sponsorships for 2021. In addition, \$335 in pledges has been received from past members.

Jean Naeger, Marketing Chair

---

## Raffle Basket Fundraisers

**DRAWING THUR.  
APRIL 1, 2021**



Raffle for Scratch Off  
Lottery Ticket Tree  
**One entry for every \$10 donation**

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

Donations can be made thru  
Venmo @TC-Optimist  
or mail check and this card to:  
TWIN CITY AREA OPTIMIST CLUB  
PO BOX 475, FESTUS, MO 63028



**PLEASE NOTE: There are around \$330 in lotto tickets on the tree!!**

We've missed out on several of our fun fundraisers this past year, so here is your opportunity to have some fun and help TCA raise money! In April, May and June, we will raffle off specific baskets with a spin of the virtual wheel (like for the quilt giveaway) on the first Thursday of each month.

- In April, we will raffle off a Lotto Tree.
- In May, we will raffle off 3 Booze Baskets (Wine, Beer, and Liquor.)
- In June, we will raffle a Restaurant Gift Card Basket.

As in the past, we need your help in filling the baskets. Please contact Barb Schmidt if you can donate. You can either mail your donation to Barb or drop them off with Phyllis at Quonset Lanes!

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Barb Schmidt  
314-603-1099  
b.schmidt70@yahoo.com

---

## Condolences



**Delvin Eugene "Gene" Thompson, beloved husband of member JoAnn Thompson, passed away on March 5, 2021. Our thoughts and prayers go out to JoAnn and family for their loss. To view obituary click link below:**

[Delvin Eugene Thompson Obituary - Visitation & Funeral Information\(vinyardfuneralhomes.com\)](http://vinyardfuneralhomes.com)

---



Members meet every Thursday at Noon - 1 p.m.  
via **ZOOM**.

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](#)

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

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [twincityoptimist@gmail.com](mailto:twincityoptimist@gmail.com) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!