



DICTIONARY PROJECT

A rewarding part of being an Optimist is having interaction with the youth. In September over 1000 dictionaries were distributed to third graders in southern Jefferson County. Stories have been told of many students continuing to use their dictionaries even in college. Unfortunately, our club could not personally deliver books this year. Teachers/principals presented dictionaries to students.

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, represent the times well by making their communities better - one service project at a time.



Sponsorships

This year, more than before, we rely on the generosity of our community to help support the Twin City Area Optimist Club in its service to our youth. Please 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 or email jnaeger_athome@hotmail.com. She will provide the necessary form.

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



www.twincityoptimist.org
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Twin City Area Optimist Club

P.O. Box 475
Festus, Missouri 63028

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. Let us share just a few of the ways we serve our youth.



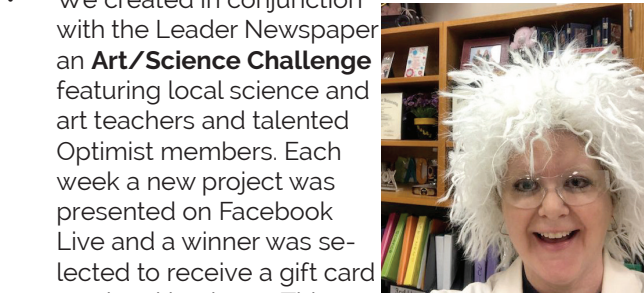
COATS FOR KIDS PROJECT

Each year many of the youth in our communities arrive at school coatless and cold. In just three short months (October-December 2020), we provided coats to more than 250 students. We anticipate the need to grow as winter sets in. The club coordinates the project through school counselors and principals. We are proud to say that this is one of our oldest projects, distributing coats for almost 30 years.



ADJUSTING TO THE PANDEMIC

- Our Optimism really was put to a challenge this year since so many projects are face to face. However, our club stepped up and creatively found ways to help our community with **Drive-Thru donations** to seven local food pantries, the Crisis Nursery, Brendan's Friday Backpacks, and Homeless Youth Initiative. Each far exceeded our goal of 1,000 items for each. The generosity of our members and community was a gift in itself.
- We created in conjunction with the Leader Newspaper an **Art/Science Challenge** featuring local science and art teachers and talented Optimist members. Each week a new project was presented on Facebook Live and a winner was selected to receive a gift card to a local business. This supported parents who faced educating children at home during the pandemic.
- With the cancelation of major **fundraisers** we had to look for new, innovative ways to fund our projects. We set records in selling Koeze Nuts along with Oberle Gift Boxes of sausage and cheese. A beautiful handmade quilt was donated by one of our generous members, netting us over \$2,000. Our Fall Mouse Races and quarterly BUNCO nights had to be cancelled leaving us a big loss in our financial goals.



ORATORICAL CONTEST

Janei Jackson, a sophomore at Herculaneum High School, found success in the annual oratorical contest. She won the competition at the club level and received a first-place award of \$500. She went on to win first place at the East Missouri Optimist District Competition, earning a \$2500 college scholarship.

“Winning the Optimist Oratorical Contest was a very big achievement in my life. I had stepped out of my comfort zone to be part of something I never before had dreamed of doing. Taking risks and being confident in those risks can lead you to amazing places. It can also lead you to meeting amazing very supportive people. Since I've won the contest, it's made me want to take more risks and get involved in more Speech activities and competitions.

-- Janei Jackson



- Head Start Christmas:** Normally, Santa and Mrs. Claus visit Head Start students in person. But COVID-19 sidelined our tradition. The children, however, did not miss out on gifts including needed coats, hats, gloves, sweatshirts, pants, socks, activity books and supplies and the much-anticipated toy. Santa and Mrs. Claus did visit via ZOOM!
- In addition, at Thanksgiving and Easter five families received **food baskets** that last them several months.



RESPECT FOR LAW

This project was created by Optimist International in appreciation and respect for our law enforcement community. This year, seven departments in our area selected outstanding officers for this award. Our club honored these men and women with award plaques and gift cards.

