



**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

## **2022**

# **Fall Review**

## **Making a Difference for the Kids**

**This newsletter goes out to our members, sponsors, and community individuals who have expressed interest in updates on club activities. We last updated you in the spring and now is the time to tell you all about our summer/fall. This club doesn't skip a beat. We will also alert you to upcoming events in which you may want to participate.**

### **PROJECTS**

On May 5, 2022, the Twin City Area Optimist Club recognized seven high school students for Youth Appreciation Day. They were selected by their respective schools for being a person of good character, striving to always do their best, and making a positive impact on their community.



From left to right: Delaney McCoy, Allison Faerber, Janei Jackson, Royce Haynes, Jefferson



## Olivia Drinen Wins EMO District Oratorical Contest

Olivia Drinen won the East Missouri Optimist Oratorical Contest on May 1, 2022. She received a \$2500 scholarship.

She later competed in the next level of competition, called the MidAmerica Regional Contest, on July 21, 2022, at St. Louis University. The winner of this contest won a scholarship for \$5000.

Each Regional Winner went on to compete in the World Championship Contest for a chance to win a first, second, or third place scholarship of \$15,000, \$10,000, or \$5,000 respectively.

TCA Optimist Club is very proud of Olivia for her accomplishments. She was an 8th grader from Senn Thomas Middle School when she competed in our club and district contests. She competed with high school graduates in the regional contest.

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## Respect for Law

TCA Optimist Club honored our local law enforcement officers on July 14th. Officers were nominated by their departments for the honor.





## Nurses for Newborns

In July members donated handmade tummy time quilts and hats along with other newborn items to Nurses for Newborns.

**nurses for newborns**

Anyone wanting to donate to Nurses for Newborns please bring items to July 21st or 28th meeting.

**List of needed items:**

- Baby care items (lotion, shampoo, baby wash)
- Baby formula (preferably Enfamil w/Lipil)
- Baby wipes
- Bottles
- Canned food
- Car seats (5 point car seats only, less than 5 years old)
- Clothing (preemie to size 4T)
- Diapers (all sizes & pull ups)
- Gift cards
- Pack-n Plays
- High Chairs

**PROJECT CHAIR:  
KAREN HUSKEY  
1-314-420-2625**

Handmade items, i.e. tummy time blankets or baby sock hats. Cash donations accepted.

## Brenden's Friday Backpack Food Drive

On August 4th we held a community food drive benefiting Brenden's Friday Backpack Program. This non-profit provides individual serve food items and snacks to feed hungry kids over the weekend. To learn more, click on link: [Brenden's Friday Backpacks - Home \(brendensfridaybackpacks.org\)](http://brendensfridaybackpacks.org)



**Community Food Drive to Support Brenden's Friday Backpack**

Date: Thursday August 4, 2022  
Time: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
Place: Taytro's Bar and Bistro Parking Lot  
331 North Creek Dr., Festus, MO

Sponsored by Twin City Area Optimist Club

Items Requested:

- Soups, (tomato or chicken noodle)
- Vienna Sausages, Ramen Noodles, mac n cheese, breakfast bars, Pop Tarts.
- Snacks: trail mix, Rice Krispies Treats, beef jerky, nuts, butter or crackers

(PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATES!)

In cooperation with **Taytro's BAR & BISTRO**

**3,310 items donated**

## Twin City Days

The club participated in Twin City Days events by hosting a family bowling evening. Families received free bowling

game and shoe rental from Quonset Lanes. All the kids received treat bags. We thank Quonset Lanes for partnering with us to offer this fun event to the community.



**Family Bowling Event**  
DATE: Friday September 9, 2022  
TIME: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Quonset Lanes  
2004 N. Truman Blvd.  
Crystal City

Per person:  
one FREE Game  
FREE shoe rental

For more information contact:  
Phyllis Neff: 636-795-3665

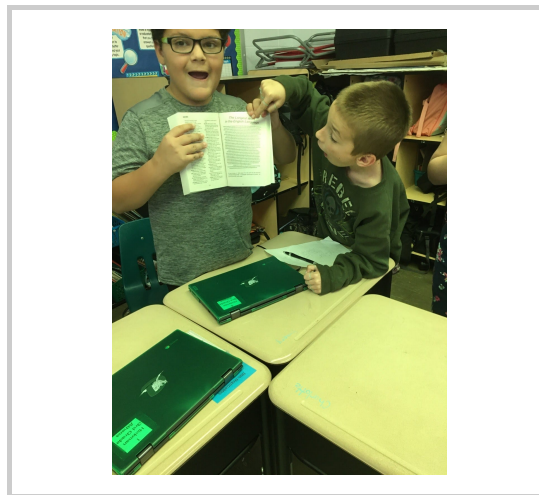


## Dictionary Program

Third graders from Fourteen schools in southern Jefferson County received dictionaries.

“Educators describe third grade as the time when a student transitions from learning to read to reading to learn.”

Dictionary Project  
1,086  
Dictionaries will be delivered to 14 southern Jefferson County Schools third graders.



We support the local Head Start Program in multiple ways. Twice a year before Easter and Thanksgiving the Head Start staff selects five deserving families to receive food, personal hygiene and household supplies. Members are encouraged to donate five like items for each of the collection periods. The club's budget also provides funds to purchase additional items and fresh food. Members complete the shopping and Head Start staff delivers several months of provisions to the families.

We also host annual Christmas parties for the two Head Start facilities in Hematite and De Soto. Children receive hats, gloves, sweatshirts/pants, books, and more. They also get a visit from Santa with a gift for each child. Most of the children have also received coats from our Coats for Kids Program.

Recently TCA Optimists have donated money to cover supply costs for an Eagle Scout project to build 16 Head Start Lending Libraires for Jefferson and Franklin Counties. The club also donated close to 1000 used books to fill the library boxes. Karter Reese is the boy scout working on this project to earn his Eagle Scout rank.



## Coats for Kids Program

The club's Coats for Kids Program has been ongoing for around 30 years. TCA Optimists work with area school counselors to provide coats for those in need. Recent years has seen a marked increase in requests. We are fortunate to receive a \$5,500 grant from Jefferson Foundation. That along with annual fundraisers, sponsorships, and donations help us to keep up with demand. Recently schools are also requesting hats and gloves. Since the start of the school year, we already distributed close to 500 coats and orders keep coming in.

Our club assembled learning boxes for Parents as Teachers affiliate. Forty boxes, along with additional pre-school supplies were donated. These learning materials help to improve cognitive and gross/fine motor skills. We were fortunate to receive a matching \$300 Childhood Health and Wellness Grant from Optimist International Foundation.



Parents as Teachers®





## Annual Art Contest

TCA Optimist Club held its annual Art Contest on Sunday November 6th at the Elks Lodge in Festus. 182 students from 11 southern Jefferson County schools entered over 250 pieces of art for judging. Here are some of the volunteers who helped make this year's contest successful.



First, second, and third place winners in each category received gift cards and all student artists present for the award ceremony received art supplies.

Best of Show winner was Ava Elliott, De Soto High School, with her entry "US."



Taking first place in Digital Design was Amelia Duepner of De Soto Junior High with her entry "Take the Shot".



Art Ages 12-13, Shawn Ringles, De Soto Junior High School, with his entry "My Favorite Character".

Check out our Facebook page for more Art Contest photos: [\(20+\) Twin City Area Optimist Club | Facebook](#)

## Upcoming Projects

Thanksgiving Food Baskets for Head Start families.

Head Start Christmas Parties will take place in early December.

Annual Optimist Essay and Oratorical Contests. Visit our website for more information about entering these contests to earn scholarship opportunities: <https://twincityoptimist.org>



## Old Bags Auction

Date: Thursday August 18, 2022



20 bags  
earned \$2180

## Old Bags Auction

Every year members gather their "surprise" bags with contents from cash, gift cards, chocolate, wine, more.

This is an internal fundraiser with members at a weekly meeting. Proceeds go to our general fund to help cover administrative costs. This allows the club to use fundraising, sponsorships, and community donations for youth projects.

## Mouse Races

In September TCA Club held its first in-person fundraiser since Pre-Covid in March 2020. It was a successful event with a profit of \$6080. Revenue from this event goes into our fundraising account to be used for upcoming projects benefiting the youth of southern Jefferson County.



### MOUSE RACES

Twin City Area  
Optimist Club  
Fall Fundraiser

DATE: Saturday September 17, 2022  
TIME: 7 pm (doors open at 6 pm)  
PLACE: Festus VFW  
900 VFW Dr., Festus, MO

#### Non-Refundable Tickets

Profit:  
\$6080



Pub: 314 471 7213  
Ven: MO 63028  
Mail: MO 63028

Tickets include beer, snacks, & soda  
Add a subheading  
Thank you for  
supporting our kids



## Bunco

Bunco's Back! Members and their guests got together on October 7th for the first time since the pandemic to enjoy Bunco. This is a small fundraiser we hold three-four times a year. It is a fun social event for our members and helps to add money to our fundraising account. \$870 was earned for our youth and community projects.

## Quilt Raffle

Congratulations to Kim Elbl on winning the October 13th quilt raffle. We truly appreciate member Karen Huskey for creating and donating this Shoo-Fly pattern quilt. The online raffle earned the club \$1140.





## Junior Optimist Club (JOI)



Recently our Junior Optimist Club (JOI) held its fourth annual BB 5K Walk for Suicide Prevention on Saturday, October 22nd. Area students were asked to write an essay entitled: **"What are your thoughts about a class being offered in our school on mental health awareness?"** Winners were recognized at the walk and received scholarships.



*Essay winners for 4<sup>th</sup> Annual BB 5K 2022 (pictured in order as noted below.)*

Two 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winners (\$250 each)

EMMA TUCKER

LUCY DIX

Seven 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners (\$500 each):

MEGHAN MELLOR

KAILA HESSE

MADY GEILER

EMILY DAHMM

LEYA POGUE

EMILIE TORRES

MORGAN BROOMBAUGH

Total: \$4000 in scholarships awarded to above essay contest winners.

Thank you to all our 2022 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.

THANK YOU TO OUR  
PLATINUM PLUS SPONSOR  
\$2000



THANK YOU TO OUR  
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\$1000



**MARIE NEEDY - KOHLER**

"Home is where the story begins"

**C: 314.952.0904**

[marie.needy@cbgundaker.com](mailto:marie.needy@cbgundaker.com)

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THANK YOU TO OUR  
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**Jennifer Jones**  
314-952-3994



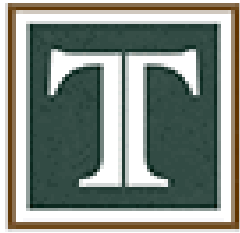
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**Sponsorships**

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. She will provide instruction for donation.

## 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 Facebook page tagged
- Sponsors included on our website
- Sponsors are displayed at all public events

## Gold Sponsor: \$500-\$999

- Includes photo and logo of you or business
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- Sponsors are displayed at all public events

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- Includes business logo
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- 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 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 2022-2023

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910-264-6852

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Debbie Hogenmiller

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Ruth Ann Adams

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**2021-2023**  
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Judy Williams

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