



# Twin City Area Optimist Club

P.O. Box 475

Festus, Missouri 63028

[www.twincityoptimist.org](http://www.twincityoptimist.org)

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Affiliated with Optimist International

Serving Youth and Community since 1919

## March 2022 News Making a Difference For the Kids

### INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBER

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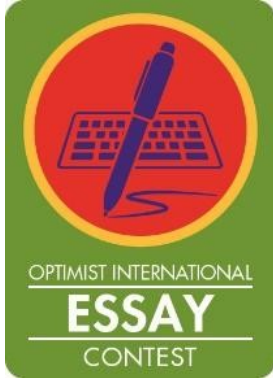


**Welcome new member Penny Roth  
with her sponsor Laura Elbl.**

## **ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS**

There were 15 entries for the TCA Optimist Essay Contest. Students were assigned the topic, **"How Does an Optimistic Mindset Change My Tomorrow."**

The following entries in the contest were:  
9 essays - Festus High School  
1 essay - Grandview High School  
2 essays- Homeschooled participants



1 essay - Jefferson R-7  
1 essay - Christian Outreach School  
1 essay - St. Pius X High School

The top three winning essay participants received a cash prize from the club. In addition, the first-place essay will be sent to the East Missouri Optimist District Contest for a chance to earn a \$2500 scholarship.

First Place: Ava Beers, Sophomore at Festus High School - cash award \$500

Second Place: Liliana Knickman, Senior at Festus High School - cash award \$250

Third Place: Lucas Warren, Senior at Festus High School - cash award \$125

Thank you to Geralyn Cash, Essay Contest Chair.



**First Place Winner Ava Beers**



**Second Place Winner Liliana Knickman**



**Third Place Winner Lucas Warren**

## ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNERS



Our club held the Oratorical Contest on March 22. The title given was "**Staying Optimistic in Challenging Times**", and each of the speakers showed remarkable insight on the subject. We are proud of their demonstration of initiative and leadership skills.

First Place: Olivia Drinen, 7th grader at Senn Thomas in the Dunklin School District - cash award \$500

Second Place: Olivia Blair, 6th grader at Senn Thomas - cash award \$350

Third Place: Kristen Hopkins, 11th grader at Jefferson R7 - cash award \$200.

Each student received a monetary reward from the Twin City Area Optimists. The first and second place winners will go on to the regional zone competition in April held in Union, and possibly on from there.

The Optimist International Oratorical Contest is a yearly competition that enables students to use their ideas and voices, and possibly win scholarships adding up to \$19,000 for the ultimate winner.

Locally, we send out contest information and applications in January to the local schools and speech teachers. Any person under 19 can apply, it is not necessary to be in a certain class. Homeschoolers are encouraged to apply.

Thank you, Oratorical Co-Chairs Mary Kay Scott and Phyllis Neff. We thank the following members for serving as officials during the contest: Carroll Metzger, Amanda Mange, Ruth Ann Adams, and Pam Cernik.



**First Place Winner Olivia Drinen**



**Second Place Winner Olivia Blair**



**Third Place Winner Kristen Hopkins**

## MEETINGS

**March 3, 2022**  
**Communications Guide Presentation**  
**Jean Naeger**

On March 3, 2022, Jean Naeger presented the second part of the Communication Guide to the club. You may access the entire guide by clicking this link <https://conta.cc/35SOWjU>. The Marketing



Committee hopes you will take the time to familiarize yourself with the many ways we inform our members of club business and activities. Any questions can be directed to Jean.

## March 10, 2022 Second Hand Heros Valeri Lee



Valerie Lee, Founder and Executive Director of Second Hand Heros was our speaker for the March 10th meeting.

Second Hand Heros is a non-profit 501 3c organization, providing FREE clothing, shoes, baby items, household goods, decor, bedding, and other essential needs.

Their mission is to offer families and individuals the necessities and resources to live an efficient lifestyle.

Items can be donated, sizes swapped out, or pick up needed items. Second Hand Heros accepts all sizes and gender, preemies-adults; as well as shoes, toys, household items, decor, bedding, hygiene products, feminine products, non-refrigerated foods, diapers, baby wipes, and cleaning supplies. To learn more, you may go to their Facebook page:

[\(20+\) second hand heros - Search Results | Facebook](#)

**Second Hand Heros**



*"Anyone can be a hero, simply offer a hand!"*

They also have a sales page: [\(20+\) Second Hand Heros Sales Page | Facebook](#) where they sell donated items. All proceeds will go directly to help keep Second Hand Heros open and running.

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## March 17, 2022 Party Time



The TCA party ladies did not disappoint. There were several 50 shades of grey games during the St. Patrick's Day party. Most members turned out in their finest green attire. Peggy Scott had the least green, but the party committee took care of that by giving her a green hat to wear.

Members each received a lucky penny, which only worked for Mary Kay Scott

who won \$18 in weekly raffle.

Club member Carroll Metzger noted that in addition to St. Patrick's Day it was the Jewish Purim holiday. She mentioned that the last time the two holidays fell on the same day was in 1984. She said Saturday Night Live performed a skit. You can click on link below to view the video. You will need to scroll down the page a bit to find the video.

[When 'Saturday Night Live' celebrated Purim and St. Patrick's Day | The Times of Israel](#)



Please note: Next month above photo will become our new group photo included at the bottom of each monthly newsletter. We see many new faces. Now that we continue to meet regularly our group photo will be updated periodically. Back row needs to get a little taller, so we see all your smiling faces!

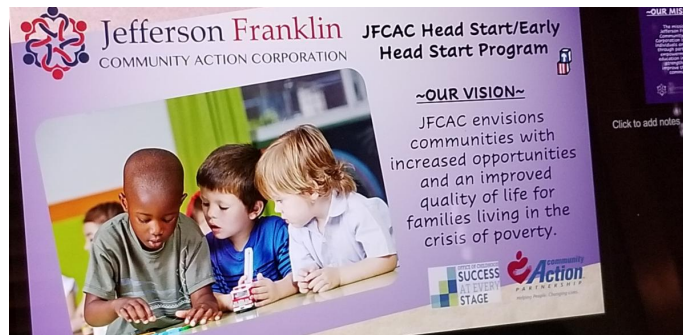
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**March 24, 2022**  
**Jefferson Franklin Community Action Corporation**  
**Lisa Tindall and Cara Greenwald**



Left: Lisa Tindall, Maternal Infant Coach  
Right: Cara Greenwald, Family Community Engagement Coordinator

Lisa Tindall and Cara Greenwald from Jefferson Franklin Community Action Corporation (JFCAC) were our speakers for the March 24th lunch meeting. The Head Start program which our club supports, is one of the services this organization provides.



Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) is funded to serve pregnant mothers, infants, and toddlers in its EHS program. Children three to five are served through HS. Programs provide prenatal care, family enrichment, health and wellness, and educational instruction.

JFCAC can also direct parents to other services within its organization such as housing, behavioral health services, energy assistance, WIC, etc.

Currently JFCAC serves 478 children, approximately 140 of those children are served by the Hematite and DeSoto HS centers in southern Jefferson County.

For more information about JFCAC and its benefits please visit their website: [www.jfcac.org](http://www.jfcac.org)

Please note: most items have been received. There are 10 adults and 17 children; **additional toothbrushes and toothpaste would be helpful. Dryer sheets and no tears shampoo are still needed.** Committee Chair Pam Cernik will continue to collect donations at weekly meeting through April 7th. You can call/text her at 314 709 0491 with questions or to see what she may want to add to baskets. **If you prefer, cash donations are accepted to purchase fresh food items, and other necessities.**

## **Head Start - Easter Baskets and Food supply**

Please Bring to Weekly meeting - 5 like items  
donations are accepted

Project Chair: Pam Cernik 314-709-0491

### **PERSONAL CARE ITEMS**

HAND SOAP  
BODY WASH  
NO TEARS SHAMPOO  
SHAMPOO  
CONDITIONER  
LIGUID HAND SOAP  
RAZORS  
TOOTHBRUSH AND TOOTHPASTE

### **HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**

DISH SOAP  
LAUNDRY SOAP  
FABRIC SOFTENER  
SPONGES  
DISH TOWELS  
CLEANING PRODUCTS  
TOILET PAPER

### **FOOD ITEMS**

CANNED VEGTABLES  
CANNED SOUP  
CANNED FRUIT  
CANNED CHILI  
BEANS: CANNED OR DRY  
CEREAL/OATMEAL  
CANNED TUNA/CHICKEN  
PEANUT BUTTER  
APPLESAUCE  
MAC AND CHEESE  
SALT AND PEPPER  
PASTA AND PASTA SAUCE  
STAPLES: FLOUR, SUGAR





# The Aunt Rose Project

Our club donated another load of sanitary products to the Jefferson County Foster Children's Fund for the Aunt Rose Project. The club donated 1780 tampons and 2760 sanitary pads. Feminine hygiene supplies will be distributed during the upcoming Easter event for foster children. This is an ongoing club project, funded by the club's budget. Club fundraisers and sponsorships allow the club to provide feminine hygiene supplies several times during the year.



Project Chair Caryl Harness along with club members Janice Boyd and Cheri Phillips join Aunt Rose Project Founder Renee Gerlach. to deliver products.



Karen Huskey takes a selfie of fellow Rosie Project shoppers, including Caryl Harness, Janice Boyd, Sue Boyer, and Cheri Phillips.

## BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet at **5 p.m.** at Poppy's before the evening meeting on Thursday, March 31st to discuss both *Grab on to Me Tightly as if I know the Way* and *The Art of Keeping Secrets*. Please bring book suggestions to March meeting or send your recommendations to Mary Kay Scott.



### 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

**Book Club meetings will start at 5 p.m., prior to the start of the evening meeting on the last Thursday of the month.**

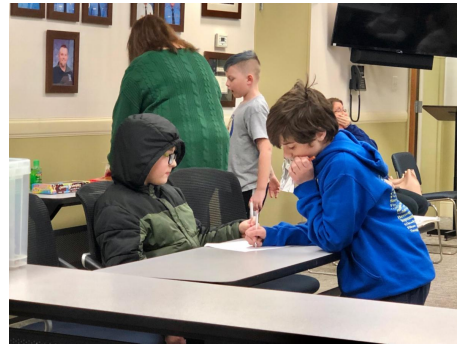
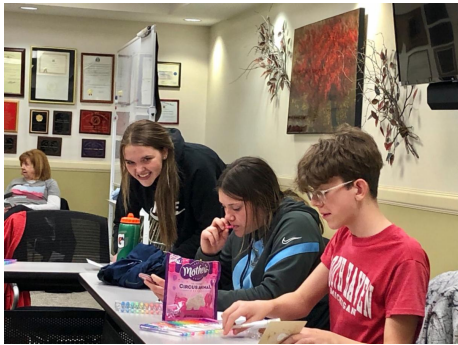
## JOI CLUB

During the March 3, 2022, JOI Club meeting members were asked to become Pen Pals with Autumn Ridge residents. Members started the project during the meeting. An adult representative will deliver the notes and return any replies.

The youth had an excellent time on this project and were very creative.



Hopefully they will receive a few Pen Pals!



*Debbie Schumaker*  
JOI Adult Advisor

*Carol Schanz*  
JOI Chair



## ZONE 10



Come out and support Arnold-Imperial Club at their second annual pancake breakfast on April 16th. South Side Club will also be in attendance. Let's show our fellow Optimists some love.

### Zone 10 Meeting



Mark your calendar for next Zone 10 meeting on Wednesday **April 23rd** at Pietro's. This meeting will be in combination with South Side Club meeting.

Meeting starts at 6:00 p.m., arrive at 5:30 p.m. to order food.

**RSVP to Lt. Governor Phyllis Neff by Tuesday April 22nd.**

## FUNDRAISERS



Sponsorships continue to come in. We have received over \$15,000 in donations and anticipate over \$16,000 in total revenue.

Judy Williams picked up a \$500 check for gold sponsorship from first time sponsor Eric Greenstreet of Greenstreet Contracting & Restoration.

## SAVE THE DATES



**Note upcoming noon meeting events. To assist with projects, please contact Committee Chair.**

### **Essay and Oratorical Winners - April 21**

Essay Chair GERALYN CASH  
Oratorical Chairs MARY KAY SCOTT and PHYLLIS NEFF

### **Youth Appreciation - May 5**

Chair BARB SCHMIDT

### **Respect for Law - July 14**

Chairs CINDY CHERRY and CHEYENNE PRATT

# MOUSE RACES



## Twin City Area Optimist Club Fall Fundraiser

### SAVE THE DATE

Saturday September 17, 2022  
Festus VFW Post 3777

Help us help the kids



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

#### 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

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.

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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.**

**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**

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visit our website.**



**Visit our website**