



Patty Meyer photo

## 1,800 pounds of food donated

Tired of sitting home with no service projects to do, members of the Twin City Area Optimist Club held a drive-thru food drive May 21. In one hour, they collected 1,800 pounds of food and more than \$1,300 in donations for local food pantries. Read more on Page 34.

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# Twin City Area Optimist Club collects 1,800 pounds of food

The Twin City Area Optimist Club held a “Zoom-thru” food drive May 21, collecting 1,800 pounds of food for the De Soto Food Pantry.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Optimist Club members have begun holding a weekly Zoom video meeting, and during the May 21 meeting, they encouraged club members and other community members to drop off food at the parking lot outside the old Poppy’s restaurant parking lot.

Club members, wearing masks, staffed the drive-thru lanes and gathered the donations for the project, which was called 1,000 pounds of food – the goal for the food drive.

Optimist Club president Phyllis Neff said club members were eager to tackle something tangible. “So many of our normal projects have been canceled because of this COVID-19, and we knew there was a need at local food pantries,” she said.

“The outpouring of support from our

members who have been safe at home and dying to do something worthwhile was overwhelming,” Neff said. “They came out in droves. This was something that wasn’t canceled.”

She said the majority of the club’s approximately 100 members participated in some way.

Neff said 77 club members and 16 others drove through and dropped off donations. In just under an hour, three SUVs, one pickup and a car were loaded with food

and headed to the De Soto Food Pantry.

In addition, the club collected \$1,300 in cash donations, which will go to area food pantries.

“Our club has had several successful fundraisers and we have generous sponsors in the community, so we are able to donate and help,” Neff said.

Members of the club who couldn’t participate in person promoted the event through the Zoom app and through Facebook Live.

--Peggy Scott