



# 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

## November 2025 News Making a Difference For Kids

### President Cathy Elliott

Dear Ladies,  
November — the months are falling as fast as the leaves!

Our Optimists have been working fast and furious, pouring energy and compassion into seven different programs and events this month. Together, we helped five Head Start families enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving (and beyond) with generous food baskets. We've kept children warm through our coat project, celebrated creativity through the Art Contest, and continued our fundraising traditions with Nut Sales, Holy Moly cleaning cloths, a beautiful Quilt Raffle, and support for Shop with a Cop. And somehow... we still found time *"To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet"* — reminding us that optimism isn't just a belief, it's a conversation. A gift we offer through every greeting, every act of service, every moment when we choose positivity over impatience or indifference.



Even in a month of activity and accomplishment, we also felt the heaviness of loss. Two of our precious members transitioned from our club to the eternal chapter of service. Their absence is deeply felt. Yet the example of their lives calls us forward. They lived with faith. They served with hope. They loved with intention. And we honor them best by carrying those same qualities into our own days.

As we close out November, may we continue to uplift others, strengthen our community, and live each day in faith, hope, and love — just as they did.

Yours in Optimism,  
Cathy Elliott  
President, Twin City Area Optimist Club

# Welcome New Members!



Janice Surdyke



Nancy McAnany



Michele Horrell

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## In Memoriam Cindy Cherry



On November 10, 2025, the Twin City Area Optimist Club lost a long-time member and dear friend, Cindy Cherry. Cindy joined the relatively new Twin City Area Optimist Club in 1993 and embraced its mission of optimism and service with her whole heart. Her radiant optimism and generous spirit were perfect examples of what it meant to be an Optimist.

For 32 years, Cindy faithfully lived out the purpose of our organization—bringing out the best in children, in her community, and in herself. Her service with the club included acting as club treasurer twice, in 2007-2008 and 2009-2010, and as club president in 2016-2017. During her time as an Optimist, she sponsored eight new members, including two who are still active today.

Cindy's giving nature was well known. When the Twin City Optimist Club launched its community sponsorship program in 2018, Cynthia R. Cherry, CPA, LLC became the first Gold Sponsor. In 2014, Cindy offered the use of her office's basement as storage for the Coats for Kids project, disregarding the potential impact of increased traffic and noise to her business.

Visiting with Cindy was always a joy. She loved to talk about her family, her dogs, and her love for travel. She was a fan of Elvis and Johnny Cash, whose pictures were included with the many family pictures displayed in her office. Cindy showed interest in others' families and thoughtfully remembered the details they shared. She lifted others with words of encouragement and offered quiet reassurance when a listening ear was needed.

More than her actions, it was Cindy's *spirit* that embodied what it means to be an Optimist. She showed her faith in God, her love for her family and friends, and her belief in the good that shines within each of us. She loved being an Optimist. Cindy didn't just recite the Optimist Creed—she lived it.

[Obituary Information for Cynthia R. Cherry](#)

Submitted by: Carolyn McKinney



## Optimist Holiday Girl's Night Out



**Cindy had fun with filters as she prepared to become TCA Optimist President.**



**Celebrating Spring**





**EMO 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter District Conference, April 2017**

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**The President's Roast delivered some surprises as  
Cindy completed her presidency.**

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**Evening meeting with crafts.**



**One of the last meetings Cindy attended was the Old Bag Luncheon in July 2025.**

## **November 6, 2025**

### **Wendy Wulf, Family Empowerment Program**

#### **Board Updates**

The Board approved three new Optimist applications:

- Eren Scaggs, sponsored by Sponsor Laura Elbl
- Michele Horrell, sponsored by Ellen Bridgewater
- Nancy McAnany, sponsored by Laura English

Welcome ladies!

A new project called the Sunscreen Project was voted in with funding of \$800.00. Funds will be used for educational information about the risks of sun exposure and to purchase 1 oz. containers of sunscreen that can be distributed at community events.



The board approved an additional \$250.00 for the Adolescent Boys Project to make more bags to give out at their holiday party on December 5.

Leader Publications has chosen to support the Twin City Area Optimist Club at its Wedding Fair on February 1, 2026. We have the opportunity to be at the event at the Corpus Christi Center in Imperial to collect donations for our club as well as share information about our club.

### **Family Empowerment Program**

Marian Bozak introduced our guest speaker Wendy Wulf from the Family Empowerment Center, a community-based program run by the St. Louis Crisis Nursery. The Family Empowerment Center provides support to help families move from crisis into stability. One of the main goals of the program is to prevent child abuse by helping in these family situations.



In addition to immediate crisis intervention, the program includes home visitations, case management, counseling, parenting support, and parenting education at no charge. The services are designed to meet the specific needs of each family with an emphasis on family safety and stability. The program may also help families with utility payments or needed supplies such as food, toiletries, cleaning supplies and even Christmas toys. The Twin City Area Optimist Club also has provided coats through the Coats for Kids program on request.

Family Empowerment services are available in Jefferson County through Mercy Hospital. Families are referred through a variety of paths including a 24-hour help line, (314) 768-3201.

<https://www.crisisnurserykids.org/>

Jefferson County Family Empowerment Center: 314-374-1700

Submitted by: Carolyn McKinney

## **November 13, 2025**

### **Kim Richardson, Parents as Teachers**

#### **Announcements**

Members were reminded to keep the family of Cindy Cherry, Marsha Greenstreet, and Pam Cernik in thought and prayer.

Two new members were inducted today.

- Janice Surdyke, sponsored by Laura Elbl
- Nancy McAnany, sponsored by Laura English with Jean Naeger standing in for Laura

Welcome ladies!

Becky Francis is giving the gift of life to her brother Bruce! After intensive testing,

Becky was found to be a match to donate a kidney to Bruce. Becky will travel to the Mayo Clinic for the procedure scheduled for December 8. Please keep Becky, Bruce, caregivers, doctors and nurses in thought and prayer. Best wishes to Becky and Bruce for successful surgeries!

### **Parents as Teachers (PAT)**

Our guest speaker today was Kim Richardson from Parents as Teachers. This program services children from birth up to 5 years old to increase school readiness. It was initially developed in Missouri in 1981 by a kindergarten teacher as a pilot project. It is now mandatory in all Missouri school districts, and is implemented across the United States and in several other countries.



Parents as Teachers develops curricula that support a parent's role in promoting school readiness and healthy development of children. Learning experiences are customized for the individual needs of each family and child.

PAT offers home visits from prenatal to kindergarten. The visits help educate parents and connect families to community resources and other families. The parent educator is able to observe the parent-child interactions in the familiar environment of their own home and provide information on child development. These visits also provide early detection of developmental or health issues, and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Parents as Teachers is a universal access program. Families do not have to be low income or have children with special needs.

The Twin City Area Optimist Club supports Parents as Teachers by providing PAT Boxes that are distributed to families in need. The supplies provided in the boxes help parents continue working with their children at home.

Kim mentioned several times the impact of screen time on child development and explained that post-covid, many young children displayed autism symptoms while not diagnosed as being fully autistic. This is known as digital or virtual autism. This is a topic Kim is very passionate about and many members expressed interest in having her return to speak specifically about this issue.

For more information on Parents as Teachers, reference the following links:

<https://parentsasteachers.org/>

<https://www.missouripat.org/>

Submitted by: Carolyn McKinney



# November 20, 2025

## Thanksgiving Celebration

### Announcements

- Holy Moly Cleaning Cloths are on sale for \$5.00 each and make great holiday gifts! See Kathy Todd to purchase.
- Head Start Winter Parties will be Tuesday, December 9 at De Soto, and Wednesday, December 10 at Hematite. A few more volunteers are needed. Please contact Laura Elbl or Alicia Cummiskey if you're interested.
- Susan DeClue and Jessica Korte are selling \$10.00 raffle tickets for a beautiful Christmas Quilt. The drawing will be at the December 17 meeting. Please share the raffle on Facebook as the public may want a chance to win!

New member Michele Horrell, sponsored by Ellen Bridgewater was inducted today. Welcome Michele!

After a delicious holiday lunch, Marian Bozak introduced a game to identify Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade balloons. Forty pictures were distributed among the tables and members had to move around to view the pictures and record their guesses. While nobody got all 40 correct, a number of people scored over 30 and received prizes. This competition got everyone moving after a big lunch and involved a lot of head scratching. Some of the balloons pictured originally debuted as far back as the 1930's such as Felix the Cat. Others were very current, including an Anime character that made many of us wish we had our kids or grandkids with us to help out! Thanks go to Marian for another fun activity!

Submitted by: Carolyn McKinney



Jessica Korte and Alicia Cummiskey made the rounds to view all of the photos.

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Kathy Jensen, Barb Bates, Mickie Huskey, Jo Ann Thompson, Katie Huck, and Gerty O'Leary compared notes.

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Judy Williams, Sue Boyer, and Jennifer Wooldridge had fun trying to identify the balloons in the photos.



Kathy Todd and Ruth Ann Adams made good progress as they circulated.



Some winners of the balloon identification game:  
Jessica Korte, Jean Naeger, Peggy Scott

## TCA OPTIMISTS IN THE WILD

### Optimists Support Chef Leroy

Twin City Area Optimist Club members turned out to support Chef Leroy Brown by dining at Taytro's on November 15. The restaurant held a benefit to help Leroy after a recent stroke left him unable to work. Leroy is a great friend to our club, preparing our weekly lunches and accommodating special requests. Our members have been happy to offer support with donations through our club and Taytro's. We all wish Leroy a full and speedy recovery and can't wait until he's back with the TCA Optimists.



Kirstie Zych enjoyed a night out with her hubby.



Carolyn McKinney, Debbie Hogenmiller, and Amy Baum ran into each other.



Carroll Metzger and Kathy Jensen waited at the bar for a table.



## CLUB FUNDRAISERS



### Shake, Rattle, and Roll: Bunco Bash!

Twin City Area Optimist Club members and friends gathered at H.W. Herrell Distributing Co. in Imperial on November 20 for their final Bunco night of 2025. Attendees brought a variety of tasty dishes to snack on throughout the evening. Many game rounds passed quickly with the players at the first table hitting Buncos early on, ending the round.

After the third game, wins, losses, and Buncos were tallied. There was a tie for the most wins requiring a roll-off won by Diana Stueve with Lynne Wendel taking second. Third prize went to Christine Bradshaw; the winner of most Buncos was Linda Portell. Finally, the prize for most losses was awarded to Rosie O'Shaughnessy. The 50/50 raffle was drawn before the end of the evening with Carroll Metzger taking home 50% of the total pot!

Congratulations to all winners, and a big thank you to Carol Schanz for hosting this fun-filled evening!

Submitted by: Carolyn McKinney



Optimists and friends that help keep the games running smoothly!  
Megan Siracusa, Tabitha Brauch, Tyler Waddell, Karleh Brauch,  
Kahli Brauch, Carol Schanz, and Debbie Kettler





Winners for the evening

Top row left to right: Diana Stueve, Lynne Wendel, Christine Bradshaw  
 Bottom row left to right: Linda Portell, Rosie O'Shaughnessy, Carroll Metzger

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# Quilt Raffle



Purchase raffle  
chances for 72" x 93"  
hand stitched  
Christmas Quilt



<https://givebutter.com/TCAOQuilt>

**Drawing Dec. 18, 2025**

One entry for every \$10 donation: CASH, Pay with GiveButter using QR code, or check to TCA Optimist Club, P.O. Box 475, Festus, MO 63028 (include your name and phone number).  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**



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## Wine Event ---SAVE THE DATE

Ticket sales begin the first week of December. Purchase tickets at meetings or with QR code on flyer.

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*Join us for a*



## **WINE TASTING, DINNER, AND AUCTION FUNDRAISER**

*Sample wines from a  
variety of Missouri wineries.*

*\$60/person  
May reserve  
a table of 10*

**Master of Ceremonies:  
Channel 4 News  
Reporter Russell Kinsaul**



**DATE:** Saturday, February 21, 2026  
**TIME:** 6 PM  
**VENUE:** Oak Valley Golf Course & Resort  
1230 Abbey Lane Pevely, MO

Scan QR code to  
reserve spot  
(service charge  
applied)  
or mail check to  
Twin City Area  
Optimist Club,  
P.O. Box 475,  
Festus, MO  
63028

**Proceeds support the projects of the  
Twin City Area Optimist Club**

**Minimum Age 21 years**



## **GRANT UPDATE**

Twin City Area Optimist Club President Cathy Elliott and Grant Chair Jean Naeger accepted a check for \$2000 from the Optimist Club of St. Louis. This represents two \$1000 grants for specific club projects. One is for the annual dictionary project which provides dictionaries to Jefferson County third grade students; the other is for the bike safety program which provides free bike helmets to area youth. Thank you to the Optimist Club of St. Louis for their generosity in support of these two important projects.





## CLUB PROJECTS



### Head Start Baskets

This year's Thanksgiving Head Start Food Basket Project was a tremendous success thanks to the generous contributions from the members of the Twin City Area Optimist Club. Our members worked together to collect a wide variety of non-perishable goods during our scheduled noon meetings from October 30 – November 20. A number of Optimists gathered at Schnucks on November 24 to shop for missing and perishable food items to complete the baskets. The final baskets were

distributed to Head Start personnel on November 25.

Our Optimists worked together during the collection period ensuring that every basket was thoughtfully prepared. The teamwork and dedication displayed during the preparation, shopping and distribution phases of the project, truly embodied the spirit of giving to make a meaningful impact on five local Head Start families. Among these households, there were a total of five adults and fourteen children ranging in age from six months to fourteen years.

Through our club's collective efforts, we were able to make a meaningful difference for these Head Start families during the holiday season.

Committee Co-Chairs: Debbie Kettler and Jan Buechting.

Shoppers: Patty Meyer, Mickie Huskey, Karen Francis, Donna Long, Barb Bates and her daughter, Pat Doenges, Kirstie Zych, Judy Williams, Sue Boyer, Carol Schanz and Debbie Hogenmiller

Submitted by: Jan Buechting



Head Start personnel filled up 2 vehicles with Optimist donations.





Jan Buechting, Pat Doenges, and Donna Long



Debbie Hogenmiller, Pat Doenges, Donna Long, and Barb Bates



Barb Bates posed with her daughter and Patty Meyer when they were photo-bombed by Donna Long.



Kirstie Zych and Karen Francis



Debbie Kettler and Carol Schanz



Donna Long, Pat Doenges, Mickie Huskey, Kirstie Zych, and Debbie Kettler loaded purchases into vehicles.





The Twin City Area Optimist Club Art Contest was held on Sunday, November 23 at Elks Lodge 1721 in Festus. This is an annual event of the club and a favorite of many members. This year the contest was funded by a \$1000 matching Childhood Health and Wellness grant from the Optimist International Foundation.

The students and their art were represented by the following schools in Southern Jefferson County: Crystal City High School, Danby Rush Tower Middle School, De Soto High School, De Soto Middle School, Festus High School, Grandview High School, Herculaneum High School, Hillsboro High School, Hillsboro Jr High School, Jefferson V-II High School, Senn Thomas Middle School, St. Pius X High School, and Twin City Christian Academy. There were also some entries from homeschooled students. Entries were showcased in art categories, photography, three-dimensional art and graphic/digital art.

Optimist members spent Friday morning before the contest at the Crystal City Library sorting and labeling all of the entries. Sunday morning a large crew of Optimists and some helpful young men showed up bright and early to set up tables and display artwork. Judges had time before the contest officially opened at 2:00 p.m. to view the artwork and make their winning decisions. After which, students, parents, teachers, and the general public had a chance to view the 383 entries submitted by 267 talented student artists.

The Best of Show winner was Cassidy Hoehne, Hillsboro High School, with her entry "Caravaggio's Narcissus Artist Study". First place winners in three art categories were: Art-Ages 12-13 Hannah Fast, De Soto Middle School, with her entry "The Burning City", Art-Ages 14-15 Chloe Armbruster, Danby-Rush Middle School, with her entry "Ophidian", and Art-Ages 16-19 Rosalie Tedford, Festus High School, with her entry "Ballerina". Taking first place in photography was Ryot Schmidt, De Soto High School, with his entry "Dull Eyes". Three-dimensional art first place winners were Emma Rowden and Faith Smith, Herculaneum High School, with their joint entry "Band Together". Graphic design/Digital art first place winner was Ryan McFarland, De Soto Middle School, with his entry "Billy Eillish".

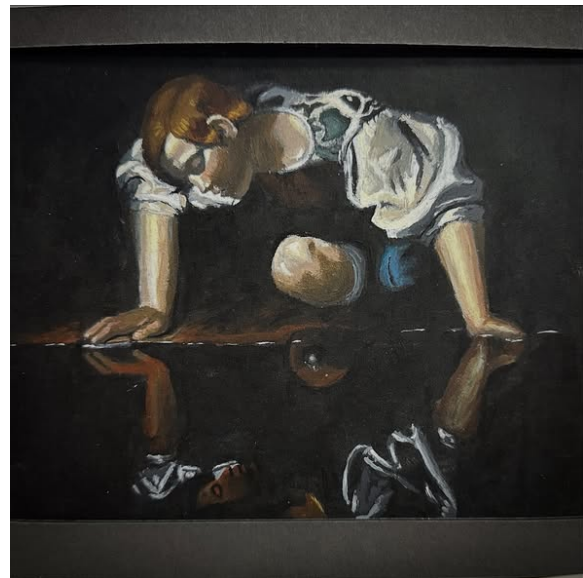
It takes many people to put on this art contest! Thank you to Amy Baum for volunteering to chair this year's event. Thanks also to Peggy Scott for acting as Emcee,

and to Phyllis Neff for dealing with an uncooperative sound system. And thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to make this a successful event including St. Pius X High School student helpers Mason and Owen, and Zac Casey, Marian Bozak's grandson from Festus. Danita Miller's son Colt was also on hand to help out. Finally, we want to thank all of the student artists who entered their art as well as their art teachers who instructed them and families who supported them.

Congratulations to all of the artists and winners!

Submitted by: Carolyn McKinney

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Best in Show: Cassidy Hoehne from Hillsboro High School with  
"Caravaggio's Narcissus Artist Study"

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The 1st place winner of Art-Ages 12-13: Hannah Fast, from De Soto Middle School, with her entry "The Burning City".



Ryan McFarland from De Soto High School with his winning entry in Graphic Design/Digital Art, "Billie Eilish".



"Ballerina", the 1st place winner of Art-Ages 16-19, by Rosalie Tedford of Festus High School.



"Ophidian", 1st place winner of Art-Ages 14-15, by Chloe Armbruster of Danby-Rush Middle School.



"Dull Eyes", by Ryot Schmidt of De Soto High School, won 1st place in the Photography category.





Judge's Choice ribbon



Emma Rowden (pictured) and Faith Smith of Herculaneum High School won the 3-D Art category with their entry "Band Together".





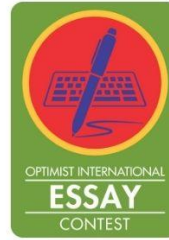
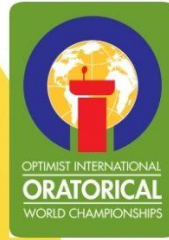






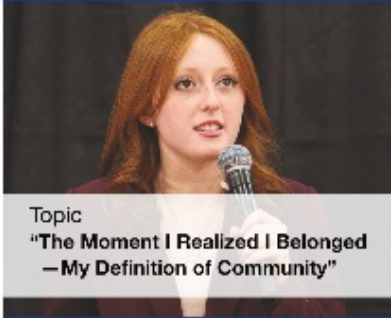


# SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY



Visit our website for details  
and application forms for  
both contests  
<https://twincityoptimist.org/>

# OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONTESTS 2025-2026



Topic  
"The Moment I Realized I Belonged  
— My Definition of Community"

## ORATORICAL CONTEST

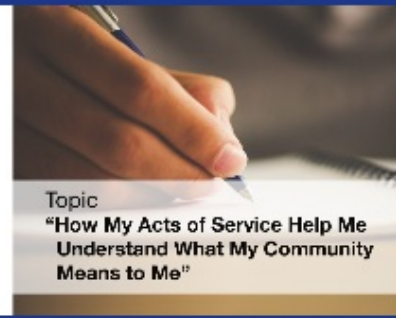
Beginning in 1928, the Oratorical Contest has become the longest-running program of Optimist International. The contest is designed for young people to gain experience in public speaking and provide them with an opportunity to compete for multiple college scholarships with a pre-assigned topic.

District Scholarships:  
First Place: \$2,500 • Second Place: \$1,500 • Third Place: \$1,000  
**with a chance to win up to \$22,500 at the  
World Championships level**

## ESSAY CONTEST

The Essay Contest is sponsored by Optimist International to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live. The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship!

**One District Scholarship of \$2,500**



Topic  
"How My Acts of Service Help Me  
Understand What My Community  
Means to Me"



Topic  
"The Moment I Realized I Belonged  
— My Definition of Community"

## COMMUNICATION CONTEST FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

This contest offers an opportunity for students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing to present their thoughts in the community, gaining skills, which can only come from signing or speaking to a large audience. Patterned after the Optimist Oratorical Contest, the contest offers youth the chance to compete in speech or sign language with the chance to win a college scholarship.

**One District Scholarship of \$2,500**

## KIDS SPEAK OUT! SPEECH CONTEST

All young people can compete in the Optimist Oratorical Contest. The "Kids Speak Out" contest is a "pre-Oratorical" program that provides a more equitable competition for younger speakers.



Follow complete Official Rules posted on [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org)

The **Optimist International Essay and Oratorical Contests** are annual scholarship competitions sponsored by Optimist International to provide young people with the opportunity to express their views and win college scholarships.

The Essay Contest gives students a chance to write about their opinions on a pre-assigned topic related to the world they live in. **Prizes:** Winners at the club level advance to the District contest to compete for a scholarship, typically **\$2,500** at the District level, funded by the Optimist International Foundation.

The Oratorical Contest is a public speaking competition where youngsters prepare and deliver a speech on a pre-assigned topic. It's one of the longest-running programs of Optimist International. **Prizes:** More than **\$150,000** in college scholarships is awarded



annually. District winners can receive **\$2,500** for first place, with a chance to win up to **\$22,500** at the World Championships level.

The Twin City Area Optimists Club hosts both the Essay and Oratorical Contests. For more information and contest application forms visit our website.

<https://twincityoptimist.org/>.

Essay Contest: <https://twincityoptimist.org/essay-contest>

Submitted by: Jean Naeger

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## Dime -A- Day Optimist International Foundation

### The Dime-A-Day Program

**What is Dime a Day?** An annual contribution level to the Optimist International Foundation, (OIF) which is the charitable fundraising arm of Optimist International. The amount represents a donation of **one dime (\$0.10) per day** for one Optimist year (365 days) = **\$36.50**. Individual members who contribute at this level are recognized with a special "**Dime-A-Day**" lapel pin.

### What the Funds Support

The unrestricted funds raised through the Dime-A-Day campaign are critical because they enable the OIF to support the core programs that reach millions of children each year.

- **Scholarship Contests**
- **Youth Programs**
- **Club Grants**
- **Administrative Support**

Peggy Scott is the club's OIF Representative and can provide you with a copy of the Dime-A-Day donation form or you can download a copy: [dime-a-day-form.pdf](#)

Submitted by Jean Naeger



**Planning Session  
November 5, 2025**

The Board members of The Foundation of the Twin City Optimist Club met on November 5 for a three-hour strategic planning session. As the Foundation is about to begin its third year, we felt it was timely to take a pause and evaluate our progress and plans. The group began with reviewing accomplishments and confirming the Foundation mission statement which is to increase resources, raise funds and improve the lives of the youth of the community in support of the Twin City Area Optimist Club.

We reviewed our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) and then moved on to setting goals for the next few years. These goals included: Clarifying areas of financials such as the source and category of funds received and dispersed; and reporting quarterly to the Club and members. We will develop policies to insure the implementation and consistency of these goals.

Other strategies for the future were discussed namely: more effective communications with the Club's Board of Directors and Members, the development of joint committees and the review of Foundation policies with the Club Board. The size and replacement of the board members was also considered and will be developed further during the coming year. The Foundation Board is positive about continuing to grow, to open up new possibilities for supporting the Club's projects and programs, and being a part of the Optimist Community.

The Foundation Board members are: Carroll Metzger, Pat Parsons, Gerty O'Leary, Ellen Bridgewater, Mary Kay Scott and Judy Williams. You are invited to address any questions about the Foundation to any of the Board Members.

Submitted by: Carroll Metzger



The Foundation Board  
Front: Judy Williams

Left to right: Carroll Metzger, Ellen Bridgewater, Mary Kay Scott, Gerty O'Leary, and Pat Parsons



# EAST MISSOURI (EMO) OPTIMIST DISTRICT



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## CONFERENCE / CONVENTION DATES

Feb 6-7, 2026

EMO 2nd Quarter Conference  
Virtual

May 1-2, 2026:

EMO 3rd Quarter Conference  
Hilton St. Louis Airport, St. Louis, MO

## EMO District Convention

August 21, 22, 23, 2026  
Installation of Officers  
Governors' Choice Awards  
Comfort Suites  
Rolla, Missouri

## 108th

## Optimist International Convention

June 28 - July 1, 2026  
Hyatt Regency  
Jacksonville, Florida

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## JOI CLUB

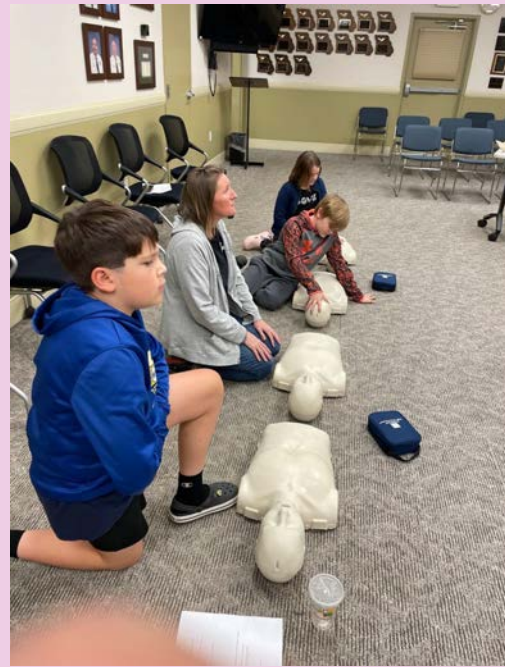


The Junior Optimist Club's November meeting was held at the Joachim Ambulance District. Kenny Strathmann, Deputy Chief, provided CPR Training to approximately 10 members as well as attending parents.

The JOI club thanks Kenny for his time and training!

Submitted by: Debbie Schumaker, Student Advisor





*Debbie Schumaker*  
*JOI Adult Advisor*

*Carol Schanz*  
*JOI Chair*





# Amazing Race Fundraiser

Join the Adventure—Support a Great Cause! To help the Crisis Nursery

## Get Ready for the Amazing Race!

Are you ready for fun, excitement, and a chance to make a difference? Gather your friends, family, or coworkers and put your teamwork to the test in our Amazing Race Fundraiser!

## Event Details

Date: 12/20/2025

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Autumn Ridge-starting and ending

Registration Fee: \$20.00 per person

## How It Works

Teams of 2 compete in thrilling challenges at checkpoints around town.

Each checkpoint brings surprises, puzzles, and chances to earn points.

Race to finish first and claim amazing prizes!

## Why Participate?

Support the Crisis Nursery of Jefferson Co

Have fun and build lasting memories

Win exciting prizes

## Register Today!

Sign up: [debbie268244@gmail.com](mailto:debbie268244@gmail.com)

Questions? Debbie Schumaker 314-471-7213

## All Ages Welcome!

Don't miss out on this unforgettable day of teamwork, laughter, and giving back. Invite your friends and family, and let's race for a cause! There will be Christmas Caroling and party at end of race!

The JOI Club Thanks you for your participation!



## SAVE THE DATES



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

December 2 Board Meeting  
December 4 Meeting - Board Update  
December 5 Adolescent Boys Party  
December 9 Head Start Party - De Soto  
December 10 Head Start Party - Hematite  
December 11 Meeting  
December 18 Holiday Party & Baked Goods Auction  
December 25 Christmas - NO MEETING  
January 1 New Year's Day - NO MEETING  
January 6 Board Meeting  
January 8 Meeting - Board Update  
January 13 Dine to Donate - Qdoba  
January 15 Meeting - Monarch Jewelry  
January 22 Meeting - JOI Club Updates  
January 23 BUNCO  
January 29 Meeting  
February 1 Leader's Wedding Fair  
February 3 Board Meeting  
February 5 Meeting - Board Update  
February 5 Optimist Day!  
February 6-7 EMO 2nd Quarter Conference - Virtual  
February 12 Valentine's Day Party  
February 19 NOW Meeting  
February 21 Wine Tasting Dinner & Auction  
February 26 Chili Cookoff and Brenden's Backpack Assembly

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**Members meet every Thursday from Noon - 1 p.m. at Taytro's. Please RSVP by 8:00 a.m. on Monday by contacting Kathy Todd.**

**The last Thursday of the month is an evening meeting held at the United Methodist Church in Festus. Members are invited to bring their own dinner at 5:30 to socialize. The meeting starts at 6:00 p.m.**

**Our Club will continue looking at the sunny side of everything and being committed to bringing out the best in our area youth.**

Board of  
Directors  
2025-2026

President  
Cathy Elliott  
573 883 0924

President Elect  
Donna Masters

Past President  
Peggy Scott

Secretary  
Marian Bozak

Secretary Elect  
Jessica Korte

Treasurer  
Becky Capps

Treasurer Elect  
Ellen Bridgewater

Board Members

2024-2026  
Mary McDowell  
Debbie Kettler  
Carolyn  
McKinney

2025-2027  
Becky Francis  
Megan Siracusa  
Donna Long

Keep current with club activities,  
like us on Facebook, and  
visit our website.



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