



# Twin City Area Optimist Club

P.O. Box 475

Festus, Missouri 63028

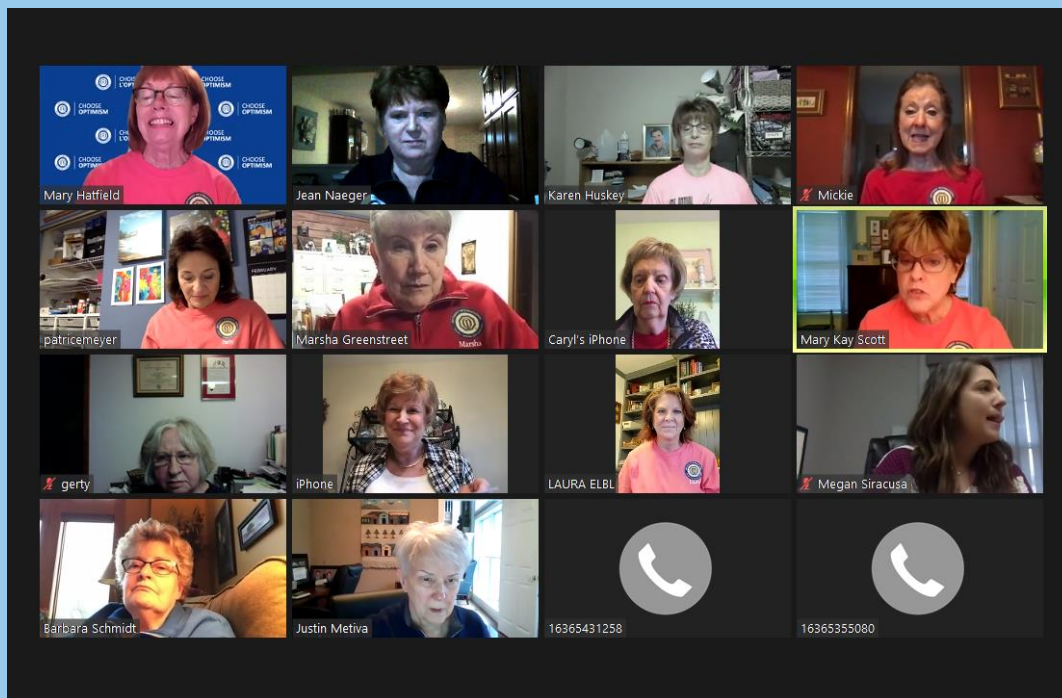
[www.twincityoptimist.org](http://www.twincityoptimist.org)

Follow us on Facebook

Affiliated with Optimist International – Serving Youth and Community since 1919

## February 2021 News: Making a Difference

### Optimist Day February 4, 2021



TCA Optimist members wore their Optimist shirts with pride, celebrating International Day of Optimism. The Optimist logo sat proudly over our hearts during the February 4th ZOOM meeting.

## CLUB PROJECTS

### "Rising Together In Optimism"

Using this year's East Missouri Optimist theme our club combined forces for a very successful food drive benefiting the Hillsboro Food Pantry.

Watch your in box for information regarding a future joint project with the Festus-Crystal City Rotary Club.



**Check the updated donation totals above. Special thanks to Project Chair Janice Boyd for assuring a very successful food drive.**

The Hillsboro Community food drive of Saturday, January 30, 2021 collected 3,356 items and \$440 in donations. The need of the community is evident by the line of cars coming to pick up food on Thursday mornings. Here are the dedicated food pantry workers: Board member Wilma Schack, Director Connie Browning, Secretary-Treasurer Jeanie Schultz, and pantry volunteers Mary Johnson, Reda Prestidge, Patty Gray, Greg Gray, Christopher Hunt, Mark Beveridge, Donna Turner and Nova Hart.

Many Optimist members helped on that dreary rainy day. Jean Naeger was on top of marketing and with the help of Mary Kay Scott keeping the drive on track. The Optimists gave a huge supply of donations that day and it is good that members had large cars to ferry it over from Festus! Patty Meyer took some very good pictures of the event as shown in this newsletter and for the *Leader Publications*.

Hillsboro Lions were busy with volunteers and brought donations and worked the drive. Marsha Greenstreet brought two popups to keep the workers dry. Lion's President Jennifer Brody sent out marketing repeatedly. Many Lions worked in the rain.

Mandy Alley of the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce designed the flyer that we used in our marketing. She contacted the Civic Club and Hillsboro Title for donations. She is a talented lady!

Chief Brian Gaudet of the Hillsboro Fire Protection Department and Chief David Brown of the Mapaville Fire Protection Department sent fire trucks and firefighters to assist with the food drive. They also sent out "blasts" on their Facebook pages.

Amanda Mange did some blasting of her own with the Southern Gateway Association of Realtors. Homestar Financial Corporation gave a huge donation of food. Good going Amanda!

Although the day was rainy as forecasted, it turned out to be a sunny day with all the needed donations and the optimistic attitude that was the reality.

Thank you all!  
Janice Boyd  
Food Drive Chair



#### Optimist Volunteers

Kneeling: Ellie King with Hillsboro Mayor Buddy Russell.  
Standing: Patty Meyer, Mickie Huskey, Sherry Armstrong, Marsha Greenstreet, Jean Naeger, Mary Kay Scott, Amanda Mange, and Project Chair Janice Boyd.

Not pictured but delivered club donations include Carol Schanz, Julie Ferrell, and Tammy Moran.



Food Drive Volunteers...there were more!!!



Food Pantry Director Connie Browning, Optimist Amanda Mange, Keran Fears, Branch Manager for Homestar Financial Corporation, and Hillsboro Mayor Buddy Russell.



Mickie Huskey (left) and Project Chair Janice Boyd collecting food donations.

## Head Start Easter Food Baskets



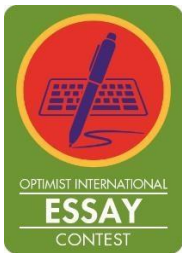
It's hard to believe but Easter is around the corner (April 4). Food collection and drop off on **Thursday March 18th** in the Parking lot at Quonset Lanes (Poppy's) from 12 to 1 PM. We will be focusing on food pantry items, personal care items, and household items (not covered by food stamps such as laundry detergent) these items are mostly contributed by our members at this drop off. I will be sending out the list of food items to members by email.

On **Monday March 29th** we will shop at Schnuck's in Festus for the perishable items including Easter dinner. Pick-up by the Head Start Family counselors will be later that day. We are currently working with Head Start to get the information about the families and children so an Easter Basket can be made for each child. We will need 5 to 6 volunteers to help with the food collection on March 18th, additional Easter Basket makers (guidelines for the baskets will be provided); shoppers and organizers (5 to 6) for March 29th. Please give me a call or email if you can help with this great project.

Thanks!  
Carroll Metzger  
Project Chair

---

## Essay Contest

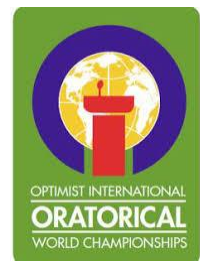


Essay Chair Geralyn Cash reports she has received five essays by the January 31, 2021 deadline.

---

## Oratorical Contest

Applications must be received by February 24, 2021. Any questions, please contact Oratorical Chair Mary Kay Scott.



## Book Club



### Book Review

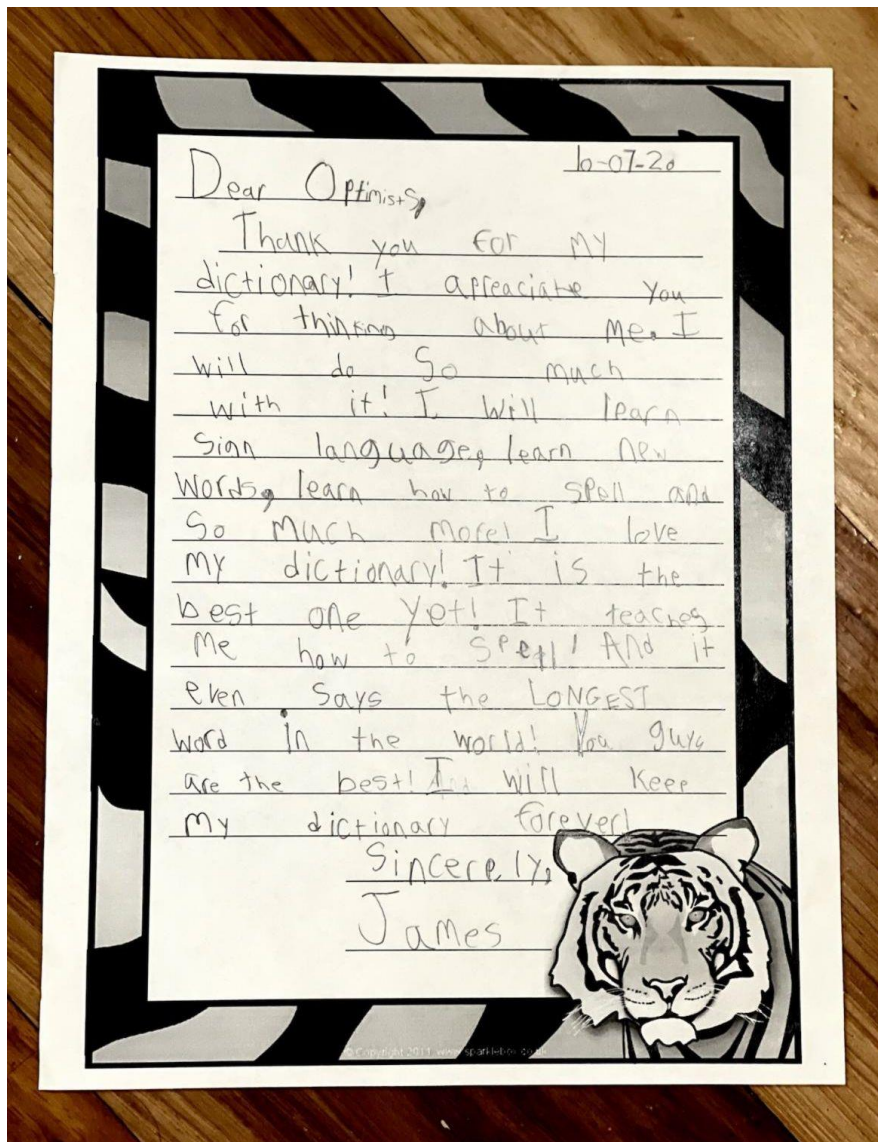
Remember TCA Optimist Book Club will be reviewing the A Man called Ove by Fredrik Bachman. Book Club will meet immediately after the evening ZOOM meeting on February 25th. Those interested just stay on the call.

All are welcome!

Please email Mary Kay Scott with future book selection.

## Thank you

Just couldn't resist adding this thank you for a dictionary from a Festus Elementary student. It says it all!



# ZOOM MEETING SPEAKER

**Optimist Member Karen Huskey  
February 4, 2021**



The Nurses for Newborns organization is interested in receiving tummy time quilts and infant sock caps (knit or crochet) from our club. The mission of Nurses for Newborns is to lower infant mortality and teach safe sleep practices. They provide a Pack 'n Play for new mothers.

The Twin City Area Optimist Club can help with the tummy time quilts and infant sock caps. If you sew or knit or crochet, please consider using your spare time (who doesn't have spare time these days with the pandemic?) to help new mothers and infants with your skills.

Here are some examples of tummy time quilts that I have made for my cousin, Patty. Patty is a nurse midwife in Ketchikan, Alaska. There is a problem with infant mortality in Alaska and Patty works with others at the OB/GYN clinic to help parents learn and implement safe sleep. Two incentives given to new parents are a tummy time quilt and an infant sock cap.

The size of the quilt can be anywhere from 30" to 36" square...there is no exact measurement that is right or wrong. The quilt can be of whatever design or pattern you decide to make. It can be of whatever material you have in your stash or care to work with. That being said, these little quilts are for newborns so durability of fabric should be of prime consideration. I use cotton prints and solids as well as cotton flannel or fleece. The quilts do not need batting but use it if you wish.

I do not knit but I have some examples of caps my mother, Mary Lou Creech, knit for the babies. Mom inspired some other ladies at her assisted living facility to pick their needles and hooks (some are crochet caps) back up and use their skills and talents to help others.

Are you interested in getting back into sewing or knitting or crocheting? Nurses for Newborns can use our help. While we are still dealing with the pandemic and limited activities outside our homes that we can/should take part in, why not sew and knit and crochet?

Karen Huskey  
Project Chair



Sample Quilt

Thanks to Sherry Armstrong who donated diapers



Sample hat and quilts



Thanks to Sue Joggerst for crocheting these hats. she has already delivered 15 to Karen and will have 15 more soon.



## GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEWEST TCA MEMBERS



### Kathy Moss joined November 2020

My name is Kathy Moss. I'm 61 years old and live in Herculaneum. My husband Jim and I have been married 39 years. We raised three children, Amber, Ashley, and Drew. In August 2019, Drew passed away from complications with a car accident he had in December 2007. We have one grandson, Oliver age 5.

I am interested in helping out with a couple of different projects, but the one that stands out to me is the art contest. I enjoy seeing young people expressing themselves through art. My middle daughter is an amazing artist. We saw her talent at a very early age.

I am looking forward to meeting everyone soon and getting involved in some upcoming projects.

## Maria Hoepfner joined February 2021

My name is Maria Hoepfner. I grew up in Jefferson County in the Fenton area and attended Northwest School district most of my childhood. I attended college in Mississippi and was not wanting to follow the family business, however it was inevitable. My father was a cabinet builder which was the best education I earned and that led to my current career as a Kitchen and Bath Designer. I have a business in outside sales working from home and able to be there for my family when they need me.



God blessed me with 4 children 26, 18, 14 and 13 yrs. old and along with my loving companion Gregory of 17 yrs.

I became involved with the Optimist Club when my daughters joined the JOI Club over 7 yrs. ago. I was raised that we are all out to help each other out and be a good citizen. I wanted my daughters to have that instilled in them young so they could develop a sense of community and learn to see the good when all they see nowadays is so much bad out there. The girls leader, Katie Huck has always been my hero. With her wonderful leadership skills, a heart of gold, a strong woman, yet so soft, sweet and sincere. My family has loved everything that the club along with Katie has provided for them. I was encouraged to join and I want to be more involved with our community in supporting and helping any way I could. So here is where now my journey begins.

---

## JOI CLUB

### Best "Act of Kindness" Award for 2021

Certificate of Recognition & Appreciation was presented to Kristen Hopkins. Congratulations and thank you for collecting can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

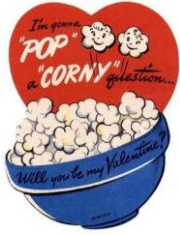


JOI member Kristen Hopkins, right, presents aluminum tabs to the Crystal City McDonald's Manager, Gerta.

---



## JOI Fundraiser



Doc Popcorn Fundraiser earned \$385 plus \$250 from three optimist members and \$100 from First State Community Bank.

## JOI Update

The TCA Optimist board approved \$700 to order 100 more inspirational yard signs. Thanks for your support!

The JOI club members, several parents, Mary Hatfield, and Katie Huck helped place 35 requested signs last week from Hillsboro to Herculaneum areas. Requests are coming from the Nextdoor app. Nextdoor app is a great way to communicate with people in the local community.

BB 5K committee has met recently to start organizing for the suicide awareness/ prevention walk/ run on Saturday, October 23, 2021.

JOI club members discussed a way to help the DeSoto Baby Ministry.

*Katie Huck*  
JOI Adult Advisor

*Debbie Schumaker*  
JOI Chair

## FUNDRAISERS

### 2021 Sponsorship Campaign

The annual sponsorship drive continues. I would like to thank members assisting with follow-up contacts. The personal touch makes all the difference.

Thank you to: Barb Schmidt, Carol Schanz, Cathy Elliot, Debbie Hogenmiller, Dorothea Kehm, Ellen Bridgewater, Janice Boyd, Judy Williams, Katie Huck, Kelly Winkelman, Marsha Greenstreet, Martha DeMent, Nicki Russell, Phyllis Neff, Shari Roberts, and Sue Boyer for reaching out to potential sponsors.

As of press time we have received \$6800 from 24 sponsors. In addition, \$335 in pledges has been received from past members.

Jean Naeger  
Marketing Chair

# Raffle Basket Fundraiser

**DRAWING THUR.  
APRIL 1, 2021**



Raffle for Scratch Off  
Lottery Ticket Tree  
**One entry for every \$10 donation**

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

Donations can be made thru  
Venmo @TC-Optimist  
or mail check and this card to:  
**TWIN CITY AREA OPTIMIST CLUB**  
PO BOX 475, FESTUS, MO 63028



We've missed out on several of our fun fundraisers this past year, so here is your opportunity to have some fun and help TCA raise money! In April, May and June, we will raffle off specific baskets with a spin of the virtual wheel (like for the quilt giveaway) on the first Thursday of each month.

- In April, we will raffle off a Lotto Tree.
- In May, we will raffle off 3 Booze Baskets (Wine, Beer, and Liquor.)
- In June, we will raffle a Restaurant Gift Card Basket.

As in the past, we need your help in filling the baskets. Please contact Barb Schmidt if you can donate. You can either mail your donation to Barb or drop them off with Phyllis at Quonset Lanes!

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Barb Schmidt  
314-603-1099  
[b.schmidt70@yahoo.com](mailto:b.schmidt70@yahoo.com)

## NEED A HUG TODAY?

Thank you Judy Kuhlman for sharing this "virtual" Optimist hug.  
Take a few minutes to reach out to an Optimist member with a call, text, email, card. We could all use a little love.

*You've Been Hugged By an Optimist!*

It's wondrous what a hug can do,  
A hug can cheer you when you're blue.  
A hug can say... "I love you so",  
or "Gee! I hate to see you go."

A hug is "Welcome back again!"  
And "Great to see you!"  
Or "Where've you been?"

A hug can soothe a child's pain  
And bring a rainbow after rain.  
A hug! There's just no doubt about it,  
We scarcely could survive without it,  
A hug delights and warms and charms,  
It must be why God gave us arms...

Hugs are great for fathers and mothers,  
Sweet for sisters, swell for brothers.  
And chances are some favorite aunts  
Love them more than potted plants.

Kittens crave them. Puppies love them.  
Heads of state are not above them.  
A hug can break the language barrier,  
And make the dullest day seem brighter..

No need to fret about the store of 'em.  
The more you give,  
The more there are of 'em.

So stretch those arms without delay  
And give someone a hug today

source unknown



Members meet every Thursday at Noon - 1 p.m. via **ZOOM**.

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

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



[Visit our website](#)

