



**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

## **Fourth Quarter 2020 Review: Making a Difference**



### **COATS FOR KIDS PROGRAM**



**Coats for Kids Co-Chairs Cindy Cherry (left) and Judy Williams work at sorting coats on the new coat rack Judy's husband Paul built. More racks were needed to help with storage until orders can be filled.**

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Winter is just setting in and we have already distributed 269 coats in three short months. It is expected the demand will continue after the holidays when students are back in school.

Our Coats for Kids Program is a lifeline for many families. Debbie Runzi, M. Ed, School Counselor for Jefferson High School shared this message: *"The grandmother of one of the male students who received a coat called and wanted to make sure to let you know that she says thank you and that they appreciated it so much!"*

The club works closely with area school counselors and principals to provide coats for students in need. Coats are delivered to the school by club members and distributed by school personnel to maintain privacy. The following schools received coats.

Crystal high school and elementary  
Windsor high school, middle school, and elementary.  
Herculaneum elementary  
Festus high school, intermediate, middle, and elementary  
R-7 middle and elementary  
Hillsboro high school, middle, and elementary  
DeSoto elementary and middle  
Head Start  
Homeless youth initiative  
New Day Alternative school  
Grandview

Below is a list of members who have assisted Cindy and Judy with either shopping for coats or delivering coats to schools. Thank you for your assistance ladies.

**SHOPPING**

Elizabeth Check  
Sherry Armstrong  
Karen Huskey  
Barb Schmidt  
Pat Parsons  
Patty Meyer  
Ellie King  
Judy Williams

**ORGANIZING COATS**

Sandy Mouser  
Pat Parsons  
Kitty Ebersoldt

**DELIVERING**

Sandy Kossmann  
Barb Schmidt  
Kim Polette  
Kitty Ebersoldt  
Gini Skaggs  
Elizabeth Check  
Cheri Phillips  
Pat Parson  
Peggy Scott  
Kim Smith

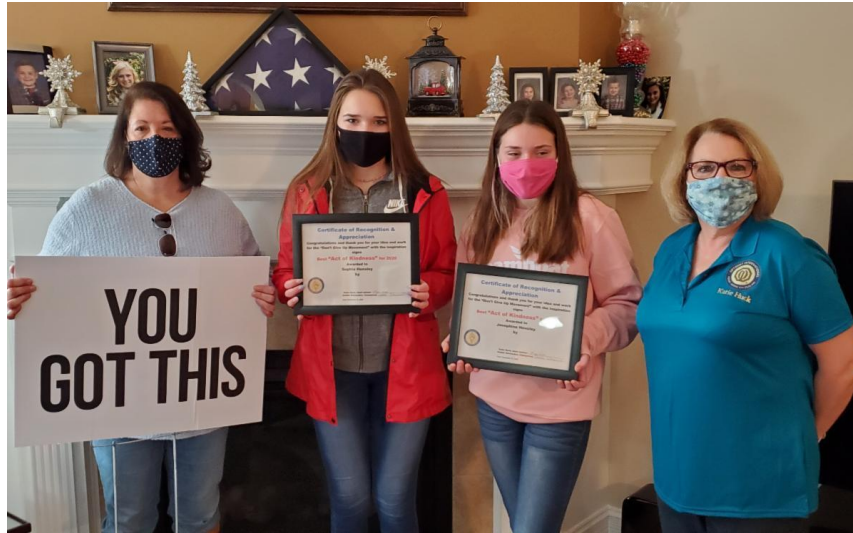
*Apologies if anyone is missing from these lists of helpers.*

**SPECIAL THANK YOU**

**Our Lady Catholic Church Knights of Columbus** donated a dozen boys coats and the **Auxiliary ladies** donated a dozen girls coats for our project. It was much needed at the time we received them. We would also like to thank **Donna Brod** who works for Cindy. She fills coat requests and keeps inventory records.

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## JOI CLUB



Debbie Schumaker and Katie Huck present Sophie Hensley (center left) and Josie Hensley (center right) with the Act of Kindness Award.

### Act of Kindness Award

Josie and Sophie Hensley, two Junior Optimist members were presented the Act of Kindness Award for their idea of the “Don’t Give Up” movement inspirational signs. These signs are displayed around the area to encourage those with suicidal thoughts, depression, anxiety, etc. to realize they are not alone and to seek help.



They suggested the idea and were supported by the club for this project. The JOI Club has had positive feedback from this project already and hope to continue it throughout 2021. Thanks to their mother Maria, the JOI members for handing out signs, and to the Twin City Area Optimists who have supported the JOI Club in this project.

Congratulations Josie and Sophie.

*Katie Huck Debbie Schumaker  
JOI Adult Advisor JOI Chair*

**The JOI Club will be having a doc popcorn fundraiser in January to help buy more signs for distribution in our community. Look for details soon. They will make great Valentines presents.**

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## CLUB PROJECTS

### Drive Thru Food Drives Thanksgiving Food Baskets

In October the club held another food drive benefitting the Ozark Food Pantry. Over 1000 items were collected in one hour along with \$350 in donations.

In addition the club provided Thanksgiving food baskets for five Head Start families. Members donated five like food items and volunteers shopped for additional groceries to keep families stocked with food for several months.



### Head Start Christmas



The club has been hosting Head Start Christmas parties for over 30 years. It all started with a request for shoes and has grown through the years. This year the Optimist Elves were not able to visit with the children personally; however, they still received gifts. All Head Start children received a winter coat, along with a warm sweat suit, a book, two coloring/sticker books, crayons, hat, mittens, socks, and of course a much loved toy. They also received tooth brush, tooth paste, and dental floss.

### Thermometer Project

Optimists are always looking for ways to help. This is what prompted club member Mary Hatfield to suggest purchasing thermometers for area schools during this pandemic. The club's board of directors approved the purchase and southern Jefferson County schools were contacted to determine if they had a need. Nurses and coaches were especially pleased with this offer.

Crystal City High School was the first school to receive thermometers as shown in photo.

The following schools also took advantage of the program and received two quality non-contact thermometers each.

Jefferson R-VII

Our Lady's School

Dunklin R-5

Sunrise R-9

Twin City Christian Academy

St. Rose of Lima Catholic School

Christian Outreach School

Good Shepherd Catholic School





## CLUB FUNDRAISERS



We suffered from the cancellation of our fall Mouse Race Fundraiser. This is one of our major fundraisers for the year and nets us a large portion of our operating budget. We concentrated our efforts on our annual KOOZE Nuts and Oberle sausage/cheese gift box sales. We were fortunate Optimist Karen Huskey generously donated a handmade king size quilt for raffle.

As Optimists we keep an open mind and spirit to continually develop creative ways to fund our projects. With COVID-19, this year has been exceptionally challenging. We appreciate the support of our community during this difficult time.

**Thank you to all our 2020 sponsors. We could not continue to serve the youth of our community without your support. We hope you will continue your sponsorship in 2021. Happy New Year to you all.**

**THANK YOU TO OUR PLATINUM SPONSOR:**

**H.W. Herrell Distributing Co**

**THANK YOU TO OUR GOLD SPONSORS:**

Cindy Cherry, CPA  
Harold and Carol Hagan  
Hovis & Associates  
Twin City Monuments  
Twin City Toyota  
Xi Theta Pi

**THANK YOU TO OUR SILVER SPONSORS:**

Colby J. Portell of Edward Jones  
Commerce Bank  
Crystal Coin and Jewelers, LLC  
First State Community Bank  
Home Service Oil  
Ozarks Federal

Prescription Plus  
Sapaugh GMC  
The Optical Shop, Inc.  
Thomas Industrial Coatings  
Vinyard Funeral Homes Inc.  
Wilburn S. Hinch, Inc.

## THANK YOU TO OUR BRONZE SPONSORS:

Animal Clinic of Herculaneum  
Bank Star  
Bloomsdale Bank  
Cheri Phillips  
Greenstreet Insurance  
Hillsboro Title Company

Laiben Home Inc.  
Lucas Smith Chrysler Center  
Meramec Valley Mutual Ins.  
MSD Liquor  
Pharmax Pharmacy  
Pogolino's Pizza Place

Ponder-Bates Stewart Law  
Sandra Overberg  
Taytros, Lynn Tetrault  
The Triton Group  
Vest Benefit Solutions  
Waites Financial Services



Members continue to 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.



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