



# 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

## May 2021 News: Making a Difference

### Community of Hope - Haiti Club ZOOM Meeting April 15, 2021 Speaker Heather Tucker



Heather and Brian Tucker, Co-Founders/Executive Directors, Community of Hope Haiti, Inc. and their children set out on a mission. They wanted to invest in the next generation.

Their mission began in 2014 on Grand Vide, Haiti on the island of LaGonave, 31 miles from mainland Haiti. Traveling to this area was dangerous, with a five hour boat ride to send an email buy eggs, etc. Supplies, logistics, and economic growth was stunted.

They prayed for a boat to make travel safer and after three years their prayers were answered. The villagers built a pier which provided jobs, hope, and the door for commerce. A boat lift was installed to protect boats and provide safe transport. Deliveries came for the first time.

A depot for fish processing, ice, and fuel was built. By partnering with local fishermen and practicing sustainable fishing they were able to produce food and jobs, while restoring depleted fisheries. Fisherman were able to sell their fish in the market. A community center was built and more grades were added to the local school.

The Tuckers did not go to Haiti to give a man a fish to eat for a day but provided the resources to teach a man to fish so he will eat for a lifetime.

Information was taken from online slide presentation.

Jean Naeger, Marketing Chair

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## **The Project -- For His Families, Inc. Club ZOOM Meeting May 13, 2021 Speaker Heather Crosby**



### **Mission**

To promote the strength and healing of families by:  
EMPOWERING Parents, ENCOURAGING Children, SUPPORTING Families, and GROWING Our Community ~in a way that demonstrates~ Respect, Worth, Accountability, Compassion, Love and Grace so we all may realize our value as children of God and seek His purpose for our lives. Amen.

In February 2020, For His Families, Inc. opened the doors of its new program called THE PROJECT to connect with parents, children and families and grow our community through group activities, family events, and community service projects.

Our volunteers are everyday people doing everyday things to make everlasting impacts in everyday lives.

Through this first year of operation, most of our volunteers have been students from Crystal City Elementary School since we happen to be located right next door. Despite COVID-19 shutdowns, The Project survived its first year. Approximately 15 to 18 volunteers participate in the program daily and earn service hours. Since the program began, volunteers of The Project have given 2609.5 hours of their time toward activities and services to make our world better and brighter.

Each month the volunteers participate in various contests. They compete against one another to earn the most service hours and win gift cards. They also work cooperatively to reach group service hour goals. If all of their combined service hours reach or surpass the goal, then the volunteers are awarded a celebration (e.g., a BBQ and fun day at the park, pizza party and cosmic bowl, group night at the movies, etc.). Additionally, volunteers earn tickets based upon

their service hours and by completing tasks on Community Service Bingo cards, which are then entered into monthly drawings.

The volunteers seem to truly enjoy the activities and services they provide. These are just some of the differences and joys they have made in our community: Artwork hung in the Main Street windows for "Shine Bright Main Street", Giant Jenga sets for Sunnyhill and My Place, Valentines for nursing centers, Built their own bike rack, Built and currently maintaining their own garden, Re-Painting Fire Hydrants throughout Crystal City, Helped unload the U-Haul for a new family in town, Helped a neighbor rehab a retaining wall, Assisting with prep work for the Friday night homeless ministry, and opening soon ... Free Community Puzzle Library.

**Heather L. Crosby**

Director/Volunteer

The Project

For His Families, Inc.

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

## May 20, 2021 Live and in person club meeting in the park

Over 30 club members enjoyed each other's company (finally) on Thursday May 20th at the Larry Crites Park in Festus. We shared brags, announcements, held a new club member induction, awarded 2019-2020 Dime-A-Day pins, sold restaurant raffle tickets, 50/50 tickets, ate dessert, and were home by sundown. Once again a very efficient group of ladies.

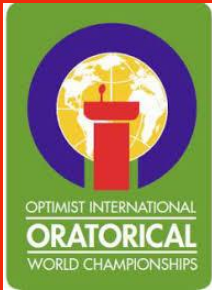


President Mary Kay Scott inducts new member Maria Hoepfner



Maria with her sponsor Mary Hatfield

## CLUB PROJECTS



### **Congratulations to our Oratorical Contest Winner**

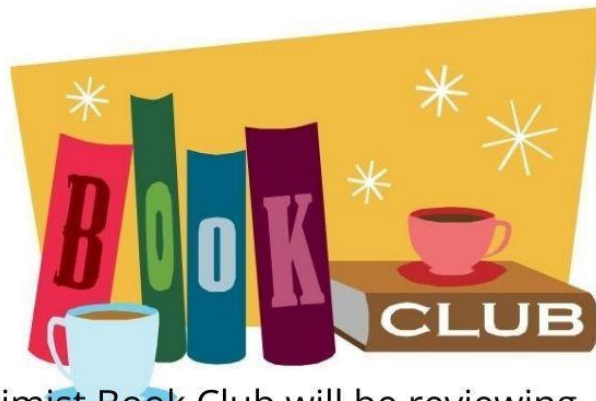
**Olivia Drinen**  
**Second Place Winner - Club Contest**  
**First Place Winner - Regional Contest**  
**Third Place Winner - EMO District**



Congratulations to Olivia for continuing on with the Optimist Oratorical contest. After winning second place at our club level, Olivia won first place at the regional contest on April 18th, and won third place on May 1st at the EMO District Contest. You will recall Olivia is a 7th grade student at Senn Thomas Middle School. We look forward to Olivia's return next year to go all the way to the Optimist International Oratorical Contest.

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## Book Club



TCA Optimist Book Club will be reviewing *Women in Sunlight* by Frances Mayes. Book Club will meet immediately after the evening ZOOM meeting on June 24th. Those interested just stay on the call. All are welcome! Please email Mary Kay Scott with future book selections.

**Please note: There will be no Book Club meeting in May.**

## Childhood Cancer



### Hailey Walker

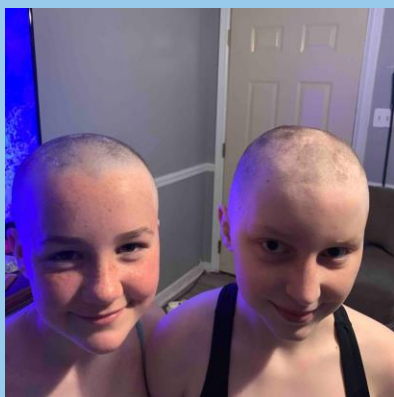
Hailey Walker was only five years old when she was diagnosed with Second Grade Astrocytoma (brain cancer). She has been through countless rounds of chemotherapy over the past six years and now faces several weeks of daily radiation treatments.

This has, of course, taken a toll on her family. A go fund me account has been set up if you are interested in learning more about Hailey's cancer journey or wish to contribute.

Please continue to keep Hailey and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you,  
Carroll Metzger CoChair Cancer Committee

Click here: [go fund me for Hailey Walker](#)



As Hailey's hair started falling her sister Savannah (left) shaved her head in support. A true act of sisterly love.

## JOI CLUB

### JOI Update



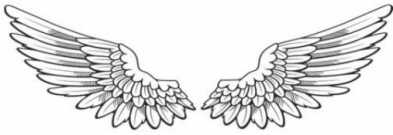
Junior Optimist Club monthly meeting was Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup>.

- We prayed for the father of Maddie, Olivia and Katelyn Blair who is at Barnes Hospital for abdominal surgery. Please keep him in your prayers.
- We have received a donation from Thai Rama for \$250 for inspirational signs. We have ordered 50 more signs.
- Received sponsorships for BB 5K from Twin City Monuments and FSCB. Participant forms and sponsorship forms were handed out. Anyone interested let Debbie or Katie know.
- Discussed about the essay for BB 5K this year which is **“What would you do if you knew someone that did not want to live any longer?”**
- Jacob, Kristen, and Sophie have written their pen pal from Festus Manor. Anxiously awaiting a response back.
- Hope to be able to visit the Rescue Mission with food items to stock their selves and receive a tour in July. Mrs. Louise Sardo will let us know.



- Lap blankets were given out to Elizabeth and Audrey. They are available at JoAnn's for \$4.00. We will give out at Christmas to residents at Nursing Center.
- Debbie will have a swim party sometime this summer.
- Next meeting with guest speaker Officer Mike Caveness, Festus Resource Officer is scheduled on June 3, 2021 at 7 pm.

Katie Huck  
JOI Adult Advisor



Debbie Schumaker  
JOI Chair



## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual BB 5K**



### **5K Suicide Awareness Walk**

#### **Saturday, 8AM**

#### **October 23, 2021**

#### **At Larry Crites Memorial Park**

**(Formerly West City Park)**

Cost of 5K - \$30  
Includes t-shirt, certificate of appreciation, snacks, fruit and Behavioral Health Information  
Unable to walk, T-shirts may be purchased for \$20  
Student cost without t-shirt \$10  
Checks to TCA Optimist at PO Box 475, Festus MO 63028 or Venmo @JOI63028

Proceeds will help fund a local school  
Winner of funds raised will be announced at the 5K

ALL AGES ARE  
WELCOME TO  
PARTICIPATE

**Contact information:**  
**Debbie Schumaker 314-471-7213 or**  
**Katie Huck 314-520-6340**

# EMO District - Third Quarter Conference

Conference in person or virtual  
April 30-May 1, 2021



**CONGRATULATIONS  
ERIN TURNER**

*2021 East Missouri  
Optimist District Essay  
Contest Winner*



Erin Turner from the O'Fallon Club won first place in the EMO District Essay Contest. She was present to read her speech during conference on Saturday May 1st.

Meet Morgan Moats, the EMO District Oratorical Contest Winner, who won a \$2,500 scholarship! She advances to the Middle America Regional Oratorical Contest. Congratulations Morgan!

**CONGRATULATIONS  
MORGAN MOATS**

*2021 East Missouri  
Optimist District  
Oratorical Contest  
Winner*



**MANGO LADIES ATTEND 3RD QUARTER CONFERENCE**





Those in attendance from left to right: Phyllis Neff, Mary Hatfield, Sue Boyer, Club President Mary Kay Scott, Barb Schmidt, Caryl Harness, and Jean Naeger

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**HONOR CLUB 2019 - 2020**



**Phyllis Neff, Club President 2019-2020, receives recognition for leading our club to Honor status.**

## FUNDRAISERS

### Raffle Basket Fundraisers



#### **Congratulations to Spirits Chest Winner Phyllis Neff**

Party at Phyllis' house! She won a large quantity of wine, liquor, and beer. Also, a beautiful handmade chest was built by Gary Boyd (husband of club member Janice Boyd) and donated for this fundraiser.

**This raffle earned the club \$1300.**

# June Raffle

**DRAWING THUR.  
JUNE 3, 2020**



Raffle for restaurant gift cards  
**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



**RESTAURANT GIFT  
CARD RAFFLE  
DRAWING THUR.  
JUNE 3, 2020**



Hardees  
IHOP  
54th Street Grill  
The Brick on Main  
The Best Kept Secret  
Olive Garden  
The Blue Owl  
Las Brisas Mexican

Ruby Tuesday  
Pasta House  
Trattoria Giuseppe  
Tucker's Place  
Main & Mill  
Chick Fil-A  
Taytro's Bistro  
Brio  
Petit Patee  
St. Louis Bread  
Red Lobster  
Russell House  
Chili's  
Zia's  
Frankie Gianino's  
Thai Rama  
Eleven Eleven Mississippi  
Budweiser Brew House



**PLEASE NOTE:**

In June, we will raffle restaurant gift cards.

NOTE: Over \$700 gift cards donated.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Barb Schmidt  
314-603-1099  
b.schmidt70@yahoo.com

## Dime-A-Day

This year, Optimist International Foundation is celebrating its 50th Anniversary! By contributing a gift of \$50 in celebration of our Anniversary, you will receive a 50th Anniversary special edition Dime-A-Day pin. Would you consider joining the movement of "Helping Optimists Help Kids?"

Please note: Our club number is **30165**. If you do not know your member number please contact Phyllis Neff. You may mail your Dime-A-Day form with payment to OI as noted on form or give to Phyllis our Club Foundation Representative.

You can access form online by clicking: [Dime-A-Day](#) or contact Phyllis for paper copy.



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](#)