

"Optimist OPTICS"



*"Everything We Do
is for the Kids"*

This Week's Program

March 10th, 2010

*Jim Thomes—running for 49th District Senate seat
and father to member Cheryl Graves*

Next Week's Program

March 17th, 2010
TBA

**Ron Eberhart
President**



**Ed Harrison
Memorial
Golf Scramble**

Financial Support for:



President Ron called the meeting of the Downtown Optimist Club to order at 12:11. He greeted all members before leading us in the Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, and the Optimist Creed.

Returnees included: John Schuck, Larry Lewis, Shannon Marshall, John Campbell, Ann Pendley, Dan Phillips, Chris Gelhausen, and Emily Baxter.

Sunshine Report delivered by Don Julian: Paul Jennings was released from the hospital and now back at the Protestant Home. Gary Burk will have his ankle surgery on Wednesday, March 10 at 8:30 am. Cards were passed around for members to sign to be sent to both Paul and Gary.

Half pot was won by Ken Dennis for the second week in a row! He graciously donated it back to the club.

A lot was on our member's minds this week as Sarge was able to collect conscience money from: Ann Pendley, Chris Gelhausen, John Schuck, Don Julian, Ron Eberhart, Ken Dennis, Bob Levi, and Roger Heathcotte.

Announcements:

- President Ron and Emily Baxter visited Joshua Academy this past Monday representing JOOI. Ron spoke to the six grade students about leadership. He mentioned that the students were really smart and well behaved until it was time for the cookies and apples!
- Karen Morris gave an update on the upcoming NOW meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 18th at Ri Ra Irish Pub. Contacts have been made asking to help serve as hosts for the event. The meeting will consist of a 45 minute social gathering and a 45 minute PowerPoint presentation on the Optimist Club.
- Ken Dennis spoke to us on the Essay Contest. There were 34 contestants consisting of 2 mail ins.....which were chosen as the winners. Essays 17, 13 & 16 were chosen as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.
- Doc Bender continued his medical moment on the topic of viruses. He started with asking which President in the last 100 years was mostly in a wheelchair and why? Franklin D Roosevelt as a result of polio. Doc was an intern when the polio outbreak began. Polio started as a subtle virus much like a cold with symptoms such as: body aches, soreness and stiff neck, and headaches. Paralysis was the ultimate result of Polio. With the creation of the Polio vaccination, Polio is gone!!

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Optimist Club of Evansville - Downtown, Inc.

Meetings: 11:45 am Wednesday,

"New" Old National Bank Building, Downtown, Blue and Gold Room

Mail Club at: P.O. Box 15905, Evansville, Indiana 47716 - 0905

www.evansvilledowntownoptimist.org

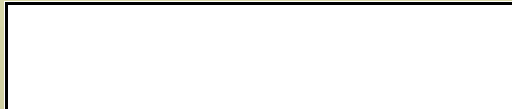
Evansville Downtown Charitable Foundation, Inc.

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This Week's Program



Next Week's Program



**Ron Eberhart
President**

.....Continued

Karen Morris introduced our speaker, Gino Gott. Gino is the President of an Evansville Advocacy Group called Foster Parents for Children, Inc. This Group was formed in 1988 by Foster parents operating in the Evansville Regional Group. In 1991 they were incorporated and known as a 501c3 Entity. They operate are volunteer operated with four officers and a lot of opinions on how things should be done but focused on engaging the community. In Vanderburgh County there are approximately 70 licensed homes some which house up to 8 wards of the state at a time. A Foster Parent is given \$1.04 an hour to care for a child along with a one time clothing allowance of \$200 which must be used within the first 30 days of housing a child. As of March 1, children may be placed in adjoining counties if all homes in Vanderburgh County are full.

This group provides three primary things to the Foster Parents of Vanderburgh County: monthly meetings, a food cooperative, and clothing. The meetings are a forum to talk with other parents and to receive the required 10 hours a year of training. Food is purchased in bulk from several area locations as well as being received by farms to help distribute to the foster families. A clothing shelter is located in St. Anthony's Church on First Avenue. This shelter has been operating for 15 years and is currently looking for a new larger location. They are open on Thursdays from 8 am to 11 am accepting new or gently used clothing. They will also accept cash donations and began looking into Grant Opportunities last year with the receipt of a \$2,000 grant of which \$700 was used to purchase clothing for the shelter. They strive to keep the court system from failing our children!

President Ron presented a \$50 gift card from Wal-Mart to be used by the Group as needed along with the plaque and lucky pen to Mr. Gott. The meeting was adjourned by the ringing of the bell at 1:06.

Please join us next week when our speaker is Jim Thomes. He is a candidate for the 49th District Senate Seat.



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