

2010-2011 International CPA Winners:

Best Overall Community Service Project

Storybook Characters Book Fair

Wayne Optimist Club of Corydon from the Iowa District

The Club focused on designing a program targeted towards children ages 0-5 years that were in need of a school-ready summer program. The Storybook Characters Book Fair introduced the joy of reading and the world of books to youth. At a community fair, Optimist Members brought books to life through their characters. Children were entertained by a train conductor reading "The little Engine That Could," Dr. Seuss reading "Green Eggs and Ham" and many others. Children were invited to make their own "reading buddy" stuffed rabbit and received a book and book bag to take home. This project benefitted the children that participated, raised awareness of the Club in the community and resulted in interest from potential new Members.

Best Overall Fundraising Project

St Jude Children's Research Hospital Fundraiser

Jackson Noon Optimist Club from the East Missouri District

A raffle for a king/queen-sized quilt and a baby quilt was conducted to raise money for childhood cancer research at St Jude Children's Hospital. The adult quilt was made and donated by the niece of a Club Member. Tickets were sold by individual Members and also at local businesses. Donation jars were placed in a variety of local establishments with the contributions designated for St Jude's. Hunter, the childhood cancer survivor who was the focus of the Club's CCC project last year, volunteered to help sell raffle tickets. The Club received great publicity from community newspapers promoting the raffle, ticket sales and the winners being selected. A grand total of \$1500 was contributed to St Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Optimist Innovation Award

Our Christmas Gifts for Homeless Teens

Garden City Optimist Club of St Catharines from the Central Ontario District

Members of the Club were passionate about sponsoring a project to assist and support the 20 youth between the ages of 16-19 staying at The RAFT (Resource Association for Teens), a shelter for at-risk and homeless youth. Some of the children have no family connections and the Club wanted them to have a Christmas holiday to remember. Stockings were purchased for the teens to decorate. Club Members filled the stockings with gifts, including personal care items and candy. Local businesses contributed clothing, coats and bedding for all the youth. Club Members donated items to fill the shelter's pantry and to make a special Christmas dinner. It took 4 vans to transport all the donations to the shelter.