

2011-2012 International CPA Winners:

Best in Writing Project

Diva's Day Out

Kettering Noon Optimist Club from the Ohio District

On a Saturday morning, 210 female guests, also known as "divas," arrived at a banquet center for an Optimist brunch. The divas were greeted by Club Members and Brad Pitt...well, Brad was a cardboard cutout, but the fun was real! Door prize tickets were issued at the membership table, where attendees could learn more about the Club. Members wore bright pink boas so they could be easily recognized as they mingled with the guests. Divas were asked if they would like to purchase raffle tickets for the many fabulous baskets filled with items donated by local businesses and vendors. Divas were also invited to visit vendor displays, which were carefully chosen based on their merchandise. Vendors displaying jewelry, baked goods, cookware, and handbags, just to name a few, participated in the event. As the divas were seated, they were offered mimosas, bloody marys and the Club's special "diva juice," which was a lovely pink drink consisting of cranberry juice and champagne!

The Club welcomed six new Members and raised awareness of their work in the community. A grand total of \$3,068.13 was raised to benefit their local backpack program, which provides easily prepared, nutritious food for the weekend to children in the free or reduced school lunch program.

Best in Film Project

The Forgotten

The Evening Optimist Club of Albuquerque from the New Mexico West Texas District

Club Members made Christmas gift bags from both purchased and donated items and distributed them to children traveling on busses or trains over the Christmas holiday. The goal was to provide every child (from infant through high school) traveling on interstate buses and trains some holiday cheer by giving each child an age and gender specific gift bag. Many of these children had very little or nothing for their Christmas. While some of the children were in route to be with family for the holidays, many were traveling (usually with a single parent) seeking a better opportunity or seeking refuge from a bad situation. In either case, these kids were traveling on a holiday in a dismal environment and were left out of the opportunity for receiving gifts from other civic or services organizations.

Best Youth Project

The Forgotten

The Evening Optimist Club of Albuquerque from the New Mexico/West Texas District
(see above description)