



The Optimist Gist

The Newsletter of the Pittsburgh North Optimist Foundation

March 2020

We help make a positive impact on young people!



Spotlight: Second Harvest

Guest speakers Bonnie DeMotte (President of Second Harvest) and Chip Burke made a presentation to the Pittsburgh North Optimist Club on Wednesday, March 4 at Lauri Ann West Community Center. Second Harvest is a non-profit thrift store and gathering place that is planning to open in the heart of Sharpsburg.

Origin: Three-prong origin. Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church had a large bequest that was to be used to help support the local population. This was paired with agencies reporting that St Vincent DePaul's closure had left a large void with people accessing affordable material goods in the Sharpsburg area. These were paired with the 53 year history of the Harvest Fair hosted by FCPC.

Why: Sharpsburg is in need of a local place to access material goods. Transportation is a struggle in the area.

Where: 624 Clay Street (building purchased in January)

Mission: Both need and relational. Provide access to material needs in Sharpsburg and design a space to support community gathering.

Goal: Raise \$2 million total and eventually build a self-sustaining business. The budget will cover the building, rehab for the building, truck for goods, financial deficits for the first 3 years, and contingencies for construction issues. There is a projection to have profits in four years. Create 5 living wage jobs that can ideally be hired locally.

Long-term goal: Once the building and thrift store are self sustaining, reach out and support existing fantastic groups that already exist in the area.

What you can do:

- Join the committee to help raise funds and support the mission - engage in any way you can.
- Donate (any amount) to help support the cause
- Advocate
- Support

Allotment team plan for PNOF's involvement:

- Club donation
- Member donations with donations matched by the club
- Help with goods geared towards kids (in the future)
- See board member with any comments, suggestions, or ideas



Duck Race

The Lucky Ducky Derby IS coming! With the current shutdowns the date is uncertain. We will still work with the FC District Association to choose a date that works for both organizations. Sponsorships are currently available at the same levels as in previous years:

Double Diamond Level:	\$1000
Diamond Level:	\$500
Platinum Level:	\$250
Gold Level:	\$100
Gift Level:	Gift/Gift
Card Donations to be used as prizes	

Ducks can be purchased (and named) for \$10 per duck or 6 ducks for \$50. More information can be found on the website [here](#) or email Joyce at Joyce_DeLuca@comcast.net

Laurie Ann West Summer Camp

The Optimists are once again proud sponsors of the 2020 Friday Speaker Series for Summer Camp at Lauri Ann West Community Center. We have a pre-approved pledge of \$2,800 this year, which includes three iPads for after school homework assistance.

The speaker list is:

- 6/12 Pittsburgh Zoo
- 6/19 Warhol Museum
- 6/26 Assemble Pittsburgh
- 7/3 Pittsburgh Reuse
- 7/10 Mad Science
- 7/17 Assemble Pittsburgh
- 7/24 Pittsburgh Aviary
- 7/30 Pittsburgh Reuse
- 8/7 Jump Bunch Olympics
- 8/14 Pittsburgh Zoo

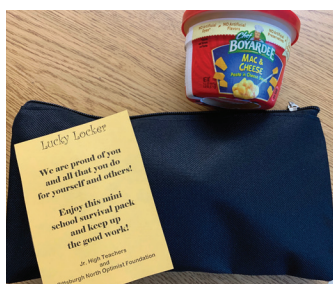


Wrestling Tournament

The Allegheny County Wrestling Tournament was a great success! The PNOF sponsored a weight class and our ad in the program outlined our youth programs. Wrestlers from over 30 schools participated in over 750 matches.

The Recognizing Raiders Program

Some unsolicited positive feedback was shared from parents of 7th and 8th grade students who have been recognized by the Recognizing Raiders Program at Riverview Junior/Senior High School. The program encourages positive behavior and characteristics in junior high students; monthly themes are based on the Optimist Creed and is supported by our Foundation. March's theme is "Work Ethic". The Program continues to move forward and recognize students. Currently over half of 7th and 8th graders have been recognized and there are still a handful of Town Halls remaining this year!



Lucky Locker Program

Also at Riverview Junior High the Lucky Locker Program is officially up and running. It acknowledges positive random acts of kindness and positivity around the building. It also serves as a vehicle to get basic supplies to students in need along with a note explaining what earned them the recognition from the teachers. The first supply kits have been distributed.



Fox Chapel High School Zen Den

The Fox Chapel High School Zen Den is a space set aside in the high school that allows students to unplug, de-stress, and spend a maximum of 10 minutes taking a mental break if they need one. The Zen Den supports mental health

concerns that students face and features calming colors and soft spaces. Teachers are trained in meditation and calming techniques. The technology-free space is staffed during all lunches and can also be used for full classes who can use the space for part of their curriculum. The Optimist Club has been asked to help fund part of this space. The next steps will be for the allotment committee to discuss this and then the proposal will be sent to the board for approval.



Batter Up!

Last year we supported the Fox Chapel Area Baseball and Softball Association teams and Cooperstown tournament trip and Sharpsburg and Blawnox Baseball Associations (\$1,100). Fox Chapel (includes Aspinwall and Indiana Township), Blawnox, Sharpsburg, and Shaler baseball teams have been contacted and will be sponsored by PNOF with a projected donation of \$1,600 this year. There will be no home run derby this year but maybe in the future.

On the Horizon



Bongiovanni Golf Outing

Register for this year's Carl Bongiovanni Scholarship Golf Tournament at Pittsburgh National Golf Club [here](#). Sponsorships are available. Questions? Contact Steve Swanson at sswanson@bontool.com or at 724-612-3338.

When: June 19, 2020

Where: Pittsburgh National Golf Club

Price: \$175

Includes: Lunch, Dinner, and Golf

Fundraising Goal: \$15,000

PNOF Financials

A financial report was given at the meeting:

- The amounts in our three accounts (two scholarship and main account) were given
- Updates were provided on recent donations for boxing gyms, Cooperstown, Trib advertisement, Racquet Club down-payment for 2020 party, FC wrestling event
- Anticipated donations for Camp Guyasuta, \$5,000, Band Together, Fox Chapel District Association, little league baseball teams
- We spent \$4,000 on projects in the first quarter
- Our club is in the top 10 for service amongst Optimist clubs
- We are about 1/3 of the way to our goal for the year!



The Pittsburgh North Optimist Foundation | pittsburghoptimist.com

We are a voluntary, organization of local civic-minded men and women motivated by the desire to contribute to the community. By believing in young people and empowering them to be the best they can, Optimist volunteers continually make this world a better place to live. There are 105,000 members who belong to more than 3,200 clubs world wide serving over six million young people every year.