

“Optimist OPTICS”

The half pot was won by no one. It was a big day to collect money!

Buddy prizes of Subway gift cards were given by Sean Kingston to Gary Burk and Shannon Perry.

Mike Burk announced that he is collecting checks for the Salvation Army. He then introduced the speaker, Christy Hughes, from the Evansville Association for the Blind. Christy is a vocational instructor who goes to homes in a 90 mile radius of Evansville to help children and adults gain independence. The blind can do anything we do except drive a car or fly a plane, although it can take years for children to learn to tie shoes and zip jackets. The kids learn through fun activities like daily hikes and parties. Volunteer opportunities are available. The Day at the Mall is a spring event. Second graders and older work on city bus transportation, handling money, and using utensils at meals. Shopping is turned into a scavenger hunt. The USI Summer Program involves 6 weeks of helping those with all kinds of disabilities. Reading volunteers are needed. Fall brings White Cane Day where the public is educated regarding visual impairment. Tables are arranged at the zoo for identifying visual acuity.

In answer to our questions, Christy explained that paper money is identified by an app on I-phones or bills are folded a certain way. Pennies are smooth on the sides and quarters and dimes have ridges. Some blindness is corrected, but retinitis pigmentosa gets worse and worse. Emotional stress is harder if a person has had vision and lost it. Many blind people have trouble with balance and are taught to walk faster to walk straighter. Only about 10 % or less of blind people have guide dogs. They must first be 16 and be independent, use a cane, and cross the street. The largest cause of visual impairment is macular degeneration. The Evansville Association for the Blind has a furniture factory.

Since our certificate maker was in Ireland, Christy will receive her certificate at a later date. Next meeting will be Jan. 9th. Mark announced that 2 coaches will be speaking, but it will be Deena Laska Lewis on “Dance for Health, Dance for Life.”

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Olson



Ed Harrison
Memorial
Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:

YMCA
Camp Carson



Optimist Club of Evansville - Downtown, Inc.

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 11:45

“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.