



# “Optimist OPTICS” - continued



Ed Harrison  
Memorial  
Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:



Their biggest program is Grade Leveling Learning. The purpose is to help in various reading programs to ensure that the kids excel in reading by the 3rd grade. If this is not accomplished it can affect children’s learning ability in the upper grades. They are 4 times more likely to graduate from high school if they are good readers. Another program to help 200 children is the summer learning loss prevention with teachers to assist kids to prevent learning loss during the summer. Cost for that program is about \$1100 per child. In addition they have a literacy program to help 450 low income children by providing 13 new books. Just is about \$1.81. Many people donate money to sponsor these children.

Sean saved the best news for last. Centerpointe Energy is donating over a half million dollars to help renovate and to expand the Caldwell facility on Delaware Street. They want to build a STEM lab, kitchen, and community room. They were able to negotiate a 40 year lease with the city for \$100.

Now the answer to which 3 sports the YMCA invented. Basketball. Volleyball. Racket ball. Sean told us that 95% of the people they help are in low income families.

A great meeting with tons of information about the outreach programs of our YMCA.

**Next meeting will be another Zoom meeting on March 24th.**

Ron Eberhart, February Newsletter Writer



**Meetings: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 11:45am**  
**Old National Bank Building, Downtown; Blue and Gold Room**  
**Mail Club at: P.O. Box 15905, Evansville, Indiana 47716 - 0905**  
[www.evansvilledowntownoptimist.org](http://www.evansvilledowntownoptimist.org)  
**Evansville Downtown Charitable Foundation, Inc.**