

"Optimist OPTICS"- continued



Ed Harrison
Memorial
Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:

YMCA
Camp Carson



Conscious money was collected from several members for various reasons. After several were asked about calling their buddy, buddy prizes were won by myself and Ron.

Our Sarge, Mike, collected money from half of the room. His questions today focused on our guest speaker from the United Way. He asked which counties the United Way of Southwestern Indiana covered and what year was United Way formed. The counties are Vanderburgh, Warrick and Spencer and 1887 was the year founded. Mike also made mention that he has a mandatory meeting for work on upcoming Wednesday's for the rest of the year, so will need to leave early from the meetings each week.



Karen Morris introduced our speaker, Carol Braden-Clarke, President United Way of Southwestern Indiana. Carol has been with the United Way in some capacity for the past 26 years. Years ago she worked at Illinois Power and was assigned to work with the local United Way Agency at the Salvation Army. She saw many coming into the Salvation Army for the free government cheese. That Thanksgiving she helped to make and hand out the baskets of food. She realized at that time, that many of those receiving a basket were individuals she went to school with and people she knew and decided this is what she wanted to do in life, to be part of this

organization of help. The United Way does partner with some 50 agencies throughout the community to help people in need. Some of these agencies include: YMCA, YWCA, Red Cross, and Voices.

The United Way also has some programs that they run including 211, Early Childhood Development Coalition, Indiana Nonprofit Resource Network, and Bank on Evansville/ VITA. United Way 211 connects residents in 10 southwestern Indiana counties with comprehensive and up-to-date information about basic health and human needs. The Early Childhood Development Coalition is a collaboration of groups which share a believe that our community's investment in early childhood development will prepare all children birth to five in Southwestern Indiana for success in school. Bank on Evansville and the Free Tax Preparation program (VITA) provide families with tools to help them on the path to financial stability.

We are very fortunate to live in a Community with generous people and a network of resources to help those in a time of need. The annual kickoff of fundraising starts next week with a goal of \$4.1 million to be donated.

Have a great Labor Day Weekend!

Shannon

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