

"Optimist OPTICS" - continued



Ed Harrison
Memorial
Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:

YMCA
Camp Carson



Guest Speaker

Suzanne Draper, Executive Director of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)

An Evansville native, raised by parents who adopted her, Suzanne always wanted to be a social worker and give back to the community. She had experience working for the State of Indiana in Indianapolis for 2 years, then returned to Evansville and worked 10 years in child protection recruiting foster parents.

On staff of CASA, Suzanne trains volunteers to work with alleged victims of abuse or neglect. The children, from infancy to 21, are wards of the state in foster homes. CASA had started in 1976 in Seattle when a juvenile court judge wanted a lay person to make recommendations for children. By 1984, Evansville had CASA in operation thanks to Judge Lensing and Joan David. About 21 new volunteers have been trained this year after Covid put a damper on plans. Volunteers go into the homes, learn about substance abuse, child abuse, and poverty as contributing to foster care. Volunteers do over \$750,000 worth of work, are intrigued by the court system, and make recommendations to the court. Many volunteers are over age 60, with 80-90% being Caucasian and 79% are women. Last year 1270 children were served by CASA volunteers. Currently 166 children are being helped with 284 on a waiting list.

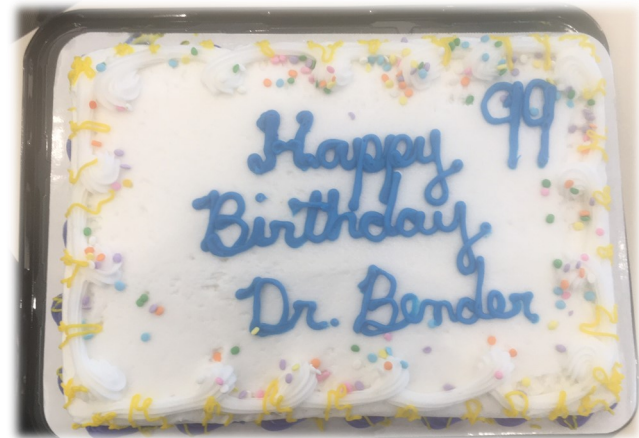
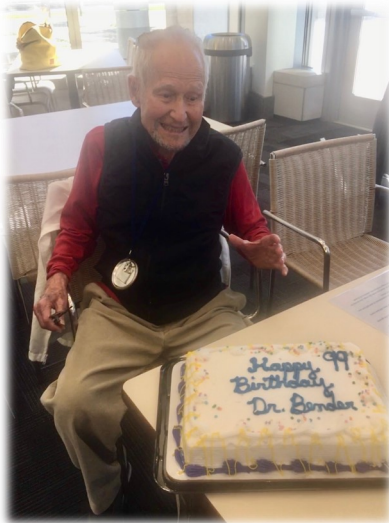


Adjournment: 1:05 PM

Members all enjoyed a piece of cake for Doc Bender's 99th birthday coming up Nov. 6. Thanks Dan for bringing in the cake and slicing it for everyone! Doc said it was the best cake he ever ate!

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Olson



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
Evansville Downtown Charitable Foundation, Inc.