



Greetings Optimistic Champions,



I hope this newsletter finds you all basking in the glow of your own brilliance, because boy, do we have some shining stars in our midst! Our fearless leader, Emily Baxter, has reclaimed her rightful place at the helm of the Downtown Optimist Club, and she's steering us towards greatness with the finesse of a seasoned captain.

**Emily's Grand Return:** With the grace and wisdom befitting a true optimist, Emily opened our latest meeting with a prayer that could move mountains, followed by pledges to our beloved American Flag and the Optimist Creed. With her back in charge, we knew we were in for a ride

filled with laughter, inspiration, and maybe even a few surprises.

sciatic nerve is giving him the fits. Hang in there, Jeff. We miss you.







more!

**Sunshine Report:** Despite the trials and tribulations of life, our stalwart members continue to persevere. Jeff Olson and Gary Burk may be battling their own versions of a sci-fi movie, but their spirits remain as bright as ever. We're sending all our positive vibes their way! Jeff's

**Exciting Announcements:** Emily had us all buzzing with excitement as she shared some thrilling news. We're teaming up with the Boys and Girls Club for a Pass, Dribble, Shoot Contest next year, and we'll even be lending a helping hand with their garden planting – because nothing says optimism like getting your hands dirty in the name of community! But wait, there's

We're gearing up to provide 75 glasses for the upcoming Eclipse on April 8th. Get ready to witness the cosmos in style, folks!



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Ed Harrison Memorial Golf Scramble



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## **Optimist Newsletter Continued**

**Sarge:** Dan Phillips took the reins as our Sarge extraordinaire, shaking us down for some conscientious money with his St. Patrick's Day trivia. Who knew New York hosted the biggest celebration, or that a four-leaf clover could have a whopping 56 leaves? Only Dan, apparently!

Sadly, the Half POT drawing landed on Rich Hawley, who's off gallivanting out West, watching tennis of all things! We'll save your winnings for your return, Rich – don't worry!







**Featured Speaker:** Linda Schaffer, the entrepreneurial guru from EVSC New Tech High School, dazzled us with tales of innovation and ingenuity. With her award-winning students, Jason Barnwell and Elie Huff, leading the charge, they're lighting up Evansville with their solar light and camera project. EVSC New Tech High School, with 365 students has recently moved to the former Harwood School Building with several million dollars of renovation. She brought two award winning students with her who had won the "Change Maker Challenge" sponsored by the University of Evansville. Jason Barnwell and Elie Huff. Linda has taught for almost 30 years and the last several years with New Tech. She teaches students how to create and run their own business. They plan, market and find financial aid for their business. If they put in the work and meet the requirements, she will help them launch their business. Jason and Elie won the challenge with their solar light and camera project. They will be working to get it up and running in Evansville in the Promise district and also Jacobsville District. The have been working with Centerpointe Energy and the Police department to implement their program. They have entered their project in the Indiana State competition. Each has won a full ride from U. of E. which is worth \$250,000. Talk about hitting the jackpot!

Save the Date: A quick reminder that our March 27th meeting is cancelled due to Spring Break shenanigans. Take this time to recharge those optimistic batteries and come back ready to conquer the world!

APPRECIATION

That's all for now, folks. Stay optimistic, stay resilient, and remember: together, we're unstoppable!



Ed Harrison Memorial

Golf Scramble

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Optimistically yours,

Emily Baxter President & Chief Optimism Officer Downtown Optimist Club





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