A Kiwanis-sponsored sewing program helps women in Vanuatu become self-sufficient.
View the past while you work on the future.

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The best gifts are those you can share with others. Kiwanis is one of those gifts. I spent a week in Tanzania traveling with a team representing our Kiwanis and UNICEF partnership for The Eliminate Project. Together, our contributions have provided for the virtual elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus in Tanzania, and we experienced firsthand what the sustainability of that project looks like. We also witnessed a host of education opportunities now afforded children and families. If this week were to be summed up in one word it would be zawadi, the Swahili word for gift.

The doctor at the immunization clinic said having immunizations available was truly a gift of life for moms and babies. A young mother who had been so tentative and afraid while her son had his immunizations ended our time at the clinic by inviting me to her home. The worker said locals usually don’t offer that to strangers and that her invitation was a real gift. As we were ending our visit to another hospital, a nurse ran after us and took my hand in hers. “Thank you for helping our children,” she told me. “You are all a gift to our village.” They all saw Kiwanis as a gift, a gift to be shared.

Let’s share Kiwanis by working with UNICEF, completing our pledges and making additional contributions to The Eliminate Project to protect or save moms and babies. Share Kiwanis by inviting others to join us in new clubs in cities, villages, towns and communities around the world. Share the gift of Kiwanis by inviting others to join us in existing clubs. Share Kiwanis so all the world’s children are happy, healthy, safe and loved.

Zawadi, the gift. Who will you share the gift of Kiwanis with today?

During high school, Key Club was my most important student activity. I learned important leadership skills, public speaking, how to travel to a convention or conference in a far-away city and how to organize a simple service project. Later, I would become active in CKI, and my penchant for Kiwanis-family involvement continued to grow. I fondly remember dedicated Kiwanians who served in advisor roles, and they inspired me to ultimately join Kiwanis. When I joined the Kiwanis staff in 1997, I oversaw the Key Club and Circle K departments and enjoyed the best part of the job: working with the youth boards of each group. There, I had the opportunity to advise some truly amazing young leaders making a difference.

I know our youth leaders are busy, and they may miss opportunities to show their appreciation. But I also know the biggest payment for advisors is watching these young men and women achieve and excel. Whether you get a formal thank-you or the unofficial vote of appreciation when young people keep coming back, I thank you. Your work is so important.
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REASON TO BE PROUD

A big thank you for the well written January/February 2017 Kiwanis magazine. This is, in my opinion as a 20-plus-year member, the best and most interesting issue received in a long time.

The two main stories (“War Games” and “Ruby Bridges: A Purposeful Life”) as well as the Paris picture tour were of the highest quality and an ample contribution that you can be proud to distribute worldwide.

I suggest you include full stories of other club programs, not just small photos and two line comments. Recognition is important, but the whole story is crucial and necessary in order to inform members and our friends why we’re proud to be Kiwanis members.

Keep the top quality news articles coming.

Jules V. Turcsanyi
Mount Dora, Florida, Kiwanis Club

HELPFUL STUFF

Thank you! Thank you! As I looked through the January/February 2017 Kiwanis magazine, I noticed a short note about the U.S. Internal Revenue Service Form 990. I’ve been filing the 990-EZ form for many years, and it is not EZ! It takes hours. Following the magazine’s advice, I went to kiwanis.org/form990 and discovered I could file a 990N e-postcard. After registering our club with the IRS, it took five minutes to complete the form.

Bonnie Richards
Kiwanis Club of Crofton, Missouri

Editor’s note: The 990N e-postcard is easier than the Form 990 and Form 990-EZ, but is not available to all clubs. Clubs should make sure they’re using the correct form based on their annual gross receipts.

ICONS OF CHANGE

Many members of my Kiwanis club have remarked that the recent article, “Ruby Bridges: A Purposeful Life” (January/February 2017), was excellent and timely.

It is very fitting that on behalf of our club, I am writing on this (U.S.) Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday. Both King and Bridges became historic icons of peaceful change. Like Bridges, her teacher Barbara Henry championed the ideals of freedom, racial equality and the goodness of mankind.

Joan Laabs
Kiwanis Club of Wild Rose, Wisconsin
SERVICE CONTINUES

Thank you for the wonderful article about the service our club performed for the earthquake victims of Pescara del Tronto, Italy (“Sound Money,” January/February 2017). We continue to help families and children affected by the tragedy. With other associations, our club spent a day full of warmth, affection and solidarity with 100 people of Arquata, another town affected by the earthquake. They spent a day in our city of Pescara, where they visited monuments, ate lunch, and we presented them with gifts.

Angela Catalano
Kiwanis Club of Pescara, Italy

NEW CLUB PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY?

Get the knowledge you need before you begin—with online education.

Go to Kiwanis.org/CLE.

APRIL/MAY 2017  7
WHAT’S HAPPENING
TRENDS, TIPS, FACTS AND FIGURES FROM KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

AGE-APPROPRIATE PLAY
What’s new from Kiwanis Vision Partner Landscape Structures? Smart Play: Nook is for kids ages 6 to 23 months, sized just right for little crawlers and early walkers. Colorful activities capture attention and support whole-child learning across key developmental domains. Smart Play: Loft is for kids ages 2 to 5 years. Handrails lead them up the steps and into a world of imaginary play, with a built-in find-it game, learning activities, lower level clubhouse and more interactive elements to engage developing minds and bodies. Together, Nook and Loft span a critical period of childhood development. playlsi.com/smart-play

LEGACY OF PLAY CONTEST
This annual contest sponsored by Landscape Structures, a Kiwanis Vision Partner, will kick off April 13. You still have a couple of weeks to enter to win US$25,000 in playground equipment. Learn more at kiwanis.org/legacyofplay.

FLAG SEASON
Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day. Make your club known for celebrating the American spirit and spreading patriotism in your community. Give away or sell Atlas Flag stick flags at parades and festivals, sell flags and flag kits for homes and businesses, or offer our exclusive flag subscription program. Visit kiwanis.atlasisflags.com for more information.
BOARD ACTION
The Kiwanis International Board revised the wording of Article X, Section 1, of the Kiwanis International Bylaws to state “each affiliate and subsidiary” rather than “each entity.” This is a clarification to the amendment adopted by the House of Delegates in 2016 permitted by the standing rules, but not a change of intent or outcome.

The Kiwanis International Board adopted policy changes, clarifying affiliates and subsidiaries. For full details, visit kiwanis.org/0117policies.

MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM
Want to receive matching funds for sharing your love of Kiwanis? The Formula has just the grant for you. Open to any North American district, matching grants funds awarded will range from US$1,000 to $7,500 to support club opening or club coaching events. The grant application must be approved by the district board and signed by The Formula district chair, district governor and governor-elect. Complete grant applications must include a proposed event budget as well. For more information and to apply, please visit kiwanis.org/districtgrants.

SCHOLASTIC UPDATE
Have you visited the Scholastic page on the Kiwanis website lately? It’s updated with new links, new resources and new information. If your club is interested in any literacy project for your community, make this your first stop to find out about options available to you through our partner, Scholastic Books. Go to kiwanis.org/scholasticprograms to see the new, improved site!
AMAZING TRANSFORMATION
FROM FAILING TO THRIVING: THE REDMOND KIWANIS CLUB STORY.

The Kiwanis Club of Redmond, Washington, has seen it all. From being a thriving, 50-plus-member club to extinction to now, it’s a club that’s increasing its membership and impact on the surrounding community.

Few would remember a time when the club experienced higher membership numbers and a thriving community presence. And few would remember that seemingly overnight the members were gone. But current members remember the turning point:

When there were 4.

“From my perspective,” says member David Carson, “it came down to the sheer and utter will to resurrect our club by the ‘Fab Four,’ as those remaining members are now known. The passion with which these pillars of our club have attacked the waning membership issue has been amazing to experience.”

John “Pat” Vache recalls how the transformation began. “We started with our own networks,” he says. “We looked to city and county residents who were rooted in civic and community service. Our main focus was targeting like-minded individuals who want to serve our community as much as we do.”

The Formula played a big role in the reformation as well. “They brought a team of ‘ground troops,’ who came to Redmond, set up shop and helped organize an open house for our club.” Vache credits The Formula’s assistance with expanding the club’s reach within its community. Reintroducing Kiwanis to the Redmond community has added a lot of new Kiwanians to the club.

“We’re dealing with growing pains as 80 percent of our club is new, so the culture is rapidly evolving,” Vache says. “But it also means we have a younger club. The momentum is exciting and bodes well for our community in the things our club currently does and will be able to accomplish in the future.”

The club is continuing its long tradition of providing meals to various community groups in need.

“We provide dinner for a youth shelter and breakfast for various before-school program attendees,” Vache says. “We also clean up the streets quarterly and have adopted an arts trail with the objective of beautifying it so members of the community can enjoy the space.” Moving forward, the club’s main focus is capturing and embracing the diversity in its community.

“Microsoft is headquartered in Redmond,” Carson says. “We could use the type of talent Microsoft attracts.”

Visit kiwanis.org/theformula to learn how The Formula can work for your club. Share your Formula success story by emailing loveit@kiwanis.org.
We’ve come to the most important part of The Eliminate Project: fulfillment. If you made a pledge, it’s time to make your gift ... and your impact. Help protect 55 million lives from maternal and neonatal tetanus.

TheEliminateProject.org/give

Finish the fight. Fulfill your pledge.
SEWING CIRCLE

THREADS ACROSS THE PACIFIC PROJECT HELPS VANUATU WOMEN BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT. STORY AND PHOTOS BY KASEY JACKSON

It’s only a few days into summer, and the lunchtime crowd at The Beach Bar in Mele Bay, Vanuatu, already screams of vacation and leisure time. A quick survey of the scene reports about five tables with various numbers of guests, presumably all expats and tourists in flip-flop shoes and colorful island attire, most of them sipping a frozen drink or popping the top off a Tusker, the local beer. This piece of paradise might be off the beaten path, but throughout the day, it’s bustling with activity. This exact spot is the jumping-off point for adventure seekers heading to Hideaway Island for a day of snorkeling, diving, kayaking or sailing. Later in the day, many of the same people will be back here, often in the same chairs, saying to the friendly staff, “Mi wantem Tusker.” They’ll get what they came for.

A few wooden tables at the bar’s outdoor seating area have been shoved together to accommodate eight people, seven from New Zealand and one from the United States. Four women huddle at one end of the table. At the other: three men and one woman. Unlike the sand-covered sun soakers around them, this group is here to talk business.
The men are from Rotary New Zealand. While visiting Vanuatu, they heard about Threads Across the Pacific, a sewing project with Kiwanis ties that, like them, came from New Zealand. One of the men is a journalist and he’s here to interview Caroline Mason, a Kiwanis member from New Zealand who runs Threads Across the Pacific. While they talk about the project, the women at the other end of the table put their heads together. It’s important stuff. An exciting prospect. Conversation begins over chips and pizzas.

“If they say 700 wide, it needs to be 700 wide.”

“Yes. And it will be. And it needs a drawstring.”

“Maybe Janet can get this job. It will be huge for her.”

“They’ll stencil their own hotel logo on each bag, right?”

The conversation continues, everyone talking quickly and over one another.

“Tell me again why didn’t they want her to add the cord? The drawstring?”

“Because we weren’t sure if we go black to match the logo or go with the same color as the fabric.”

“She very well might get this job.”

“If she does this one right, it could lead to other jobs.”

“Yeah. What do they call those things at the end of the bed? The foot cloth thing.”

“A bed runner?”

“Yes. A bed runner. Making laundry bags can lead to other things. Like bed runners.”

“How’d they find Janet?”

“They found her through us, word of mouth.”
“It’d be a big break for her if she gets this job.”
“It certainly would.”

Severe Tropical Cyclone Pam devastated Vanuatu in March 2015. With sustained winds reaching 175 mph and gusts around 200 mph, experts say it was one of the worst natural disasters to ever hit the South Pacific islands of Vanuatu.

After the storm, Caroline Mason wanted to help the people of Vanuatu, known as Ni-Vanuatu, or Ni-Van. So she took up a collection of quilts from friends and other donors throughout New Zealand. It wasn’t a tough sell. Everyone wanted to help. Within three weeks, she was on her way to Vanuatu—with about 750 handmade quilts.

But it was what she saw there that changed everything.

“When I was delivering some of these quilts, a woman took me into her little home and showed me how the salty, muddy river had swept through her house and destroyed the hand-driven sewing machine she had,” Caroline recalls. “The image of that muddy, rusty machine stayed with me after I returned home.”

Caroline says she couldn’t stop thinking about the abundance of sewing materials that many people—including herself—have in their homes. And she wanted to do something. She wanted to do more.

Turns out she could do a lot. When Caroline learned that New Zealand Kiwanians had been shipping containers of supplies to Vanuatu for more than 20 years—everything from school books to school furniture—she wanted to be a part of it all.

She joined the Kiwanis Club of Matamata, New Zealand, in January 2016. Now her Threads Across the Pacific equipment and gear finds itself on those same shipping containers, all headed to Vanuatu, an almost-2,000-mile journey across the sea.

“New Zealand Kiwanis members have been wonderfully generous in providing the Threads project with as much container space as we need,” she says. “And the Port Vila (Vanuatu) Kiwanis Club has been marvelously supportive too. They process everything through port and customs and then store the machines and boxes until we arrive for the workshops.”

She also gets countless hours of help from friends in New Zealand who sort, stack and pack supplies for shipment to Vanuatu. Then, once in Vanuatu, the strong New Zealand expat community rallies around her to unpack, sort and stack on the other end. Every little bit of help is important for such a large-scale project to be a success.

Caroline and a few of her circle of sewing friends, Kay Gray, Alison Leslie and Jeanne Brown, weave through the rows of women who are all seated at a school desk inside a brand-new school building in Mele Bay. The women are here to learn to sew. It’s the second week of sewing workshops on the island, and the first in this location. During

Susan Taravaki and Lina Willie
the previous week, the instructors worked with beginners at a Catholic church closer to the capital city of Port Vila. This location at the Suango school is spacious, spread over two classrooms. One classroom is filled with beginners; in the other classroom, the more advanced seamstresses.

Alison and Kay teach the advanced group. They’re not only great at sewing, they’re great at teaching. It’s apparent as Alison asks for everyone’s attention. “I know you’re working on your turtles, but let’s everyone gather around me for a moment to talk about shorts,” she says. Immediately, the women gather around for a tutorial. Alison holds the paper pattern against her hips to show how it will create a nice pair of shorts.

Janet Kaltovei is in this advanced group. She’s the same Janet the Kiwi instructors were talking about over lunch earlier in the day. Caroline and the other instructors have chosen Janet for an important role.

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“The main goal of our workshops is to get electric sewing machines and sewing skills into the hands of Vanuatu women and schoolgirls so they can either sew for themselves and their families, or to sell to other villagers or visitors arriving in cruise ships on the island,” Caroline says. “Secondly, we want to identify women who can go a step further and become sewing tutors to other women and girls.” Janet will be one of those women.

Johanna Taravaky has maybe the loveliest sewing machine in the room. She’s one of the only women in the workshop who owns her own machine, a hand-cranked, black and gold Singer with a distinct sound. Johanna laughs and asks others to listen. She’ll tell you it sings. Hers is one of only two manual machines—all the others are newer, electric versions brought from New Zealand. (Caroline says from now on, all the machines will be new so the instructors aren’t wasting time fixing them. She also reveals the surprise: each of the Ni-Van women will take one of the machines home to keep after the workshop.) Johanna’s sewing skills are fairly spot-on. Though soft-spoken, she’s not nearly as shy as many of the other women around her, so she’s become somewhat of a spokeswoman for the group.

“I’m talking on behalf of many of us, and we’re very happy,” she says. “I think this is a very good program. For visitors to come and make workshops for us, this is our first time ever. For local mamas and their villages, we are very fortunate. We’re going to sew things for tourists. We’ll all work together. I’m very proud and very fortunate.”

Lina Willie and Susan Taravaki sit next to each other and often stop to help others with a thread that won’t cooperate or to double-check a measurement.
Already, it’s obvious that some of the women are leaders and find as much satisfaction in helping as they do in finishing a lovely bag or dress. Lina and Susan don’t hesitate to offer tips.

“I’ve been sewing a lot, but most of it was not quality work like I’ve learned here,” Lina says. “I’m so excited to maybe sew things to sell and make money. I’m so excited because I’ve learned a lot.”

Susan shows great pride in the pieces she made this week.

“I feel happy,” she says. “I sewed before, but only one thing: the island dress. Maybe I will make different kinds of dresses now. I think it’s important for women to learn a skill like this. I can be independent and help my family. I’d like to say a very big thank you for the knowledge, for the sharing of knowledge to us. I’m very blessed.”

Janet Kaltovei first attended a Threads Across the Pacific workshop in 2015. Now, as a sewing tutor, she’ll take over when the New Zealand women head home. Then it will be Janet’s job to keep her fellow Ni-Van women on course. She’ll lead workshops and pass along the skills she has learned.

Janet has created a flurry of excitement around the workshop circle. A representative from a new resort has approached Janet, asking if she could make a sample laundry bag to be used on the property. This request has the potential to turn into a real job. Real money. As the instructors move around the room, talk of Janet’s potential contract is the topic of discussion. The call is supposed to come in any time now. She’ll find out if she got the job or not.

“Janet is a very hard worker,” Alison says. “She went to our first workshop and she got very keen on sewing. She has a sewing machine from us, and she’s taking commissions from the local women to make mama dresses. She sews beautifully. She’s hungry for knowledge and she’s hungry for patterns. We can’t produce enough patterns for her. She wants more and more.”

A day passes. The whirring of sewing machines does little to drown out the laughter of schoolchildren, all lined up at the windows. They come every day to watch the women, many of them their own mamas, aunties and grandmamas. They can’t seem to stop smiling either. Seems everyone in the village is happy for the Threads Across the Pacific workshop. Even back at The Beach Bar, daily greetings are complete with inquiries. “How are the ladies and mamas doing?” Word on the beach is that there will be an end-of-workshop fashion show. Everyone wants to know what time and where.

Back in the classroom, Janet is keeping mostly to herself while stitching fabric. But inquiring minds want to know: Has she heard anything?

“The good news I got today was that I was accepted for the contract,” she says, a huge smile spreading across her face. She seems almost relieved to be asked. “I am so glad I got the contract. I am so thankful that I met Alison one year ago and she shared with me a lot of things. And again now, she is here. She brought me projects and patterns that I can work on and share with other ladies. And now that Caroline is organizing other tutors, I’ll be the person teaching them. I will be teaching other women at my home. I’m so glad to help.”

In the background, Caroline checks on her pupils. She offers words of encouragement.

“Very nice. Look at you! Sew it straight on. Plain stitch. Start right there …”
Clickety, clickety, click. The wheel of life is fraught with peril. Click: You’re caught driving under the influence of alcohol and sent to court, where you’re given a stiff fine and a lecture about public safety. Click: You’re ill and referred to the hospital, where you undergo a costly appendectomy. Click: House fire. Click: Divorce. Click: Taxes. It’s enough to send an eighth-grader in search of a second job.

For the past 11 years, the Kiwanis Club of Greencastle, Indiana, has been giving young teens a peek at their futures by hosting its annual Reality Experience. Five area schools bus their eighth-graders to the expansive York Auto Family Community Building at the Putnam County Fairgrounds, where each student passes through a gauntlet of 14 wage-depleting stations. Darian is married. By the luck of a draw, he picked an “M” card rather than an “S.” Now he cradles an oversize die, closes his eyes with a wish and casts for the number of children he’ll support. The cube rocks between zero and one before resting on ... four. He’s stunned: “I have four kids!”

A friend pats him on the shoulder and assures him, “You’re a dentist. You make $111,000 a year. You’ll be all right.” Most of the students do all right through the initial stages, establishing savings accounts at the bank, purchasing or renting a residence and paying for utilities. Then, they meet June Brattain. She sells cars.
“When we get back to school, we see the effect of this Reality Experience on the students. They begin to realize how their success in school is connected to success later in life.”
“We try to help them make sensible decisions, but some of them just can’t resist,” Brattain says as she shakes her head. “They may have four or five children, but they just have to have a sports car.

“We tell them that if they get into financial trouble later, we’ll be happy to help them with a trade-in.”

Brattain will be ready. She has a roomy family mini-van with a five-year plan at just $250 a month.

Booth after booth, the students see their wages dwindle. Insurance. Clothing. Furniture. Health care. Vacations and entertainment. And the unpredictable, ruthless, spinning, clicking Wheel of Life.

“It’s really the wheel of misfortune,” says Marlene Masten, who operates the booth with Georgenna Gick. They both are members of Kappa Delta Phi philanthropic sorority. Though the wheel offers positive outcomes (tax refunds, lottery winnings), it also has costly consequences (court costs, house fires). “It’s the ruin of a lot of the kids,” Masten adds.

Across the room, Kathleen Glaser stands near the League of Women Voters’ election booth. A Cloverdale Middle School counselor, Glaser watches her students as they finish the serpentine course. Their smiles and frowns are clear evidence of their fates.

Each school has its own methods by which its students can select careers from a list of 131 occupations. Cloverdale matches each student’s academic performance to career opportunities. With excellent grades, you can select a lucrative career with a six-figure annual salary. Lower grades limit choices, including a cashier job at $16,600 annually.

“When we get back to school, we see the effect of this Reality Experience on the students,” Glaser says. “They begin to realize how their success in school is connected to success later in life.”

Lindsey, a Cloverdale student, has run out of money. To make ends meet, she picks up a second job as a guard.

“Ms. Glaser!” she calls out.

“I don’t know how my mother does it,” the student says gleefully. “I’m going home to give her a hug.”

Mary Timm knows that feeling. A couple years ago, she went through the Reality Experience. As a psychologist, married and with one child, she did quite well, finishing with a $4,500 surplus. Did it have an impact on how she looks at life? “Oh, definitely,” she nods.

“It was really eye-opening for me and my friends,” she says. “I saw a lot of people who changed a lot after that.
They got better grades. They were a lot more focused.”

Now a sophomore and Key Club member at North Putnam High School, Timm sells items such as sofas and refrigerators at the furniture and appliance booth. She’s one of many community volunteers who help Kiwanis stage the experience every year. At the vacation and entertainment booth, Rotarians sell trips to Caribbean islands or tickets to Indianapolis Colts football games. In the kitchen, the Lions Club serves pizza, breadsticks, salads and drinks. Area bankers advise students on savings accounts and investments. Realtors sell and rent homes and apartments.

Other volunteers just enjoy volunteering.

“We’re a close-knit group,” says Brattain of her fellow car sales staff. “They’re not Kiwanians, nor Rotarians or Lions or bankers. She points to the tall fellow at the end of the table. “He’s the town handyman,” she says. “He can fix anything, and he just loves to help kids.” Then she wraps an arm around the woman beside her and says, “She’s my best friend. Everyone in town knows her, and she’s always volunteering.”

James Maxwell was instrumental in organizing the annual event when his Kiwanis club took it over from the local professional women’s group in 2006. This year, he turned over the leadership reins to Justin Long. But Maxwell remains involved, tapping his pencil to point out different styles of furniture. “This one is a little cheaper, but it may not last you very long,” he tells his customer. The student decides to spend the extra money for more durable furnishings. Maxwell and the student calculate the purchase and subtract the total from the student’s check register.

“You’re running low,” Maxwell warns. “Your next stop is medical. Then, the Wheel of Life. Good luck.”

Clickety, clickety, click.
A community effort

The Putnam County community helps the Greencastle Kiwanis Club put on its annual Reality Experience. Here’s a short list of who’s who:

• Kiwanis organizes the event.
• Schools prepare students, transport them and counsel them afterward.
• Manpower, a human resource consulting firm, sets career salaries.
• Business, government and medical representatives consult on prices and provide volunteers.
• Service groups and citizens volunteer.

“It was really eye-opening for me and my friends. I saw a lot of people who changed a lot after that.”
Shooting for
SHOOTING FOR THE GREATER GOOD

WHILE FOCUSING ON WHAT’S POSSIBLE INSTEAD OF IMPOSSIBLE, PHOTOGRAPHER SETS HIS SIGHTS ON A PROJECT WITH PURPOSE.

INTERVIEW BY KASEY JACKSON • PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JEREMY COWART

If you need some motivation in your life, look to Jeremy Cowart.

Cowart knew he liked art—painting especially—by the time he was in high school. He studied graphic design in college and worked for a few ad agencies after graduation. But he quickly realized he didn’t like working in the corporate world. So he bailed. Started his own graphic design company. And then, following the advice of a friend, he picked up a digital camera.

At first, he photographed friends. Living in Nashville, Tennessee, he found himself surrounded by artistic people (search for “Music City” on the Internet, and you get Nashville, so no shortage of portrait or band work). And having little to no formal photography training didn’t stop Cowart from making a name for himself. It didn’t take long for him to be seen hanging with (and photographing) the likes of everyone from Taylor Swift to Sting and having his work published everywhere from ABC to ESPN and Rolling Stone to TIME.

But while hanging with celebrities may seem the pinnacle for some, it wasn’t enough for Cowart. Not even close.

In 2009, he had a big idea, so he put it on his blog, not knowing what to expect. The idea? Offer free portraits to people who otherwise can’t afford

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“Make failure your friend. You can’t shy away from failure. I’m just not afraid of failure anymore. You just gotta pick up and keep going.”

photography. The immediate response was incredible:

3,400 photographers.
5,000 volunteers.
41,000 portraits.
543 locations.
42 countries.

So, Help-Portrait was born. And it continues today.

When tragedy struck Haiti after an earthquake, Cowart took his camera to document the scene. Real people. Real stories.

Cowart’s list of accomplishments and life-changing projects is inspiring. The Huffington Post named him “the most influential photographer on the Internet” in 2014, but Cowart, always wanting to do more, said one question loomed in his mind: “What is my greater purpose?”

In other words, he isn’t finished. There’s no rest in this guy.

This all seems impossible for the man who has a video, appropriately called “I’m Possible,” that has reached almost 3 million views online. The premise of that video was how he lived most of his life believing he would fail. How his most-muttered words always had been: “I can’t.”

Until he realized he could.

Cowart’s biggest project (so far) is a dream he says he’s had for a handful of years now—and it’s moving along, step by step. The Purpose Hotel, launched as a crowdfunding project (meaning those who back the project become part of the project as co-founders) through the online site Kickstarter, is planned to be a global hotel chain where you, as a visitor, can “change the world in your sleep.” Each room will sponsor a child and tell his or her story. Everything in the hotel will be linked to a cause or a nonprofit. According to Cowart, “this hotel is going to change the world.”

Kiwanis magazine talked to Cowart about dealing with failure and celebrating success. And, most importantly, what it means to take a big chance and be brave.

Why do you think the Kickstarter for the Purpose Hotel was such a success? Why do you think so many people were willing to give money for a project and to a person they’d never even met?

I think there are a lot of great causes out there that people are excited about, but the causes themselves are not connected to each other. To take a project like the Purpose Hotel, where you combine so many causes, and you connect them all, I think that’s something really exciting. So many young people, when they buy something or use something, they want it to be doing something good, to help or change the world. That’s our goal with the hotel, that everything inside those walls is helping something or somebody.

Tell us a little about a few of the charities that will be part of the Purpose Hotel.

Every room key will be connected to The Giving Keys. We want to have a Charity Water well in every lobby to teach people about the need and importance for clean water. Every room will sponsor a child through Compassion
International. The internet fee will fight human trafficking through International Justice Mission.
There’s a lot going on and we’re really excited about these and all of the charities we plan to work with. (Note: At press time, the Purpose Hotel plans—including which charities will be featured—were still being finalized.)

How do you keep learning?
I love learning. I love to be challenged. If I feel I know something well, I tend to get bored, which is why I’m not a photographer as much because it doesn’t challenge me as much as it used to. I’m moving into new territory and I love challenging myself as much as I can. With photography, I just dove in. I was self-taught. I figured it out.

Why do you think you were such a success with photography?
There are people who spend years at college or in classes and workshops who never make it.
Why do you think you did?
I don’t really know. Being in Nashville helped. It was easy to find work. Everyone’s a musician. Maybe I was in the right place at the right time. Obviously, I worked hard. But I think everything just came together.

It’s difficult to find people who want to volunteer their time and efforts. Do you think with things like Kickstarter and GoFundMe, that it’s become too easy to be an “armchair volunteer,” to feel like you’re making a difference by clicking a button on your phone?
The internet and armchair volunteering is part of it, but I think there’s just so much need, nonprofits are everywhere at every turn, and there are great causes everywhere, so I think people don’t view these causes to be as special as they used to be. I think the needs are as special and greater than ever. But I think there’s too much going on and people are tired and weary of always being asked for money or for their time to help.

So how do you get people to back your ideas? How can more people be motivated to help?
I think it’s got to happen through creativity and motivation. You simply must bring new ideas and new approaches. I think that’s why so many people got excited about the hotel. It was just so different and so exciting. People saw it as a way to help with a project that would then, in turn, help 50 to 100 nonprofits. Talk about armchair activism. I get to go sleep on a comfortable bed and help all of these great causes? Yeah. That’s a no-brainer.

What would your tip be for someone who is scared to go after their own big idea?
Make failure your friend. You can’t shy away from failure. I’m just not afraid of failure anymore. Our first Kickstarter project for the hotel failed, and everyone saw it. And I just didn’t care. I just said, ‘Oh well, we’ll just launch another one immediately. We’ll just try again.’ And it worked. You just gotta pick up and keep going. No matter what.

What dream do you have that you’d like to see become reality?
We’d love to know. Email us at shareyourstory@kiwanis.org.

Learn more about Jeremy Cowart and The Purpose Hotel by visiting thepurposehotel.com.
AN ENTIRE TOWN COMES TOGETHER TO CREATE AN INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND.

STORY BY JAMIE J. GOOCH

W
ater-main breaks, bees and time conspired against the original Kiwanis playground at Christmas Run Park in Wooster, Ohio. Built in 1990 by an army of 1,000 volunteers over the course of a week, it was a huge community undertaking. Boards were cut, stained and bolted together to create the largest playground in Wayne County—a wooden castle-like structure complete with towers, bridges and a maze of walls.

The much-loved playground had more than 1,000 visitors a week. Unfortunately, the installers hit a water main when building it, says City of Wooster Public Properties Maintenance Division Manager Curt Denning. It started to deteriorate and had breaks over the years, forcing the city to close the playground and work around the structure each time to repair it. The water main needed to be moved. Decades of use and weathering began to take their toll on the play structure. Then wood-boring bees moved into the primary timbers, causing structural issues.

The passage of time did more than deteriorate the playground. It also changed the idea of what a playground should be. The Americans with Disabilities Act became law in 1990 and standards covering public playgrounds went into effect in 2012. The city needed a playground that was more accessible.

RIGHT PEOPLE, RIGHT TIME
Just as circumstances conspired to necessitate removing the old playground, people from different parts of the community came together via the Kiwanis Club of Wooster to plan and build a new playground. The mayor, Robert F. Breneman, who is also a Kiwanian, mentioned the city was planning to remove the old playground. Jim Lanham, who had just begun his term as president of the club in 2014, was looking for a new playground project to take on. Cameron Maneese, who had helped build the original playground, was director of the Wayne County Family and Children First Council. She and a group of parents with children who have special needs were looking for accessible play spaces in the area.

“The timing worked out really well,” says Kiwanian Ashley Brillhart, Recreation &
Community Center supervisor for the City of Wooster. “It went from us brainstorming about what to do with the space to becoming a great opportunity to build a new playground.”

Plans were made to begin raising funds for a replacement playground as the city put out bids to remove the old one and prepare the site. The goal was for the Kiwanis club to contribute US$250,000 and the city to chip in about $100,000.

“It was bittersweet for everyone who worked on the original playground, but we were excited to jump on it because we felt ownership,” says Lanham, who had become involved in Kiwanis while volunteering to help build the original playground. The club was so excited to get started, they began by looking at companies that offered playgrounds similar to the old one.

“It was a knee-jerk reaction,” Lanham says. Many Kiwanians had helped build the old wooden structure, so their first reaction was to build another one. “Then someone said maybe we should ask the kids in the community what they want.”

Brillhart and Andrew Guidetti, supervisor of Traffic, Signs, Parks for the city, helped solicit feedback from Wooster’s elementary school children. Brochures were sent out, allowing the children to circle pictures of the playground equipment they liked, draw the type of playground they wanted and write in comments. They were surprised by the results.

“We got about 800 of those back,” Lanham says. “They told us they didn’t want the same kind of playground. The next thing we did was shift gears to look at companies that provided more modern equipment.”

The stakeholders met with a representative from Landscape Structures, a Vision Partner of Kiwanis International, who explained the benefits of current playground equipment that is easier to install, safer and provides access for children with special needs. That access takes many forms, including transition points that make the equipment easier to use, quiet spaces for children who need some down time apart from the noisy play area and equipment that supports sensory play for kids with various cognitive abilities.

WORKING WITH THE COMPETITION

Certain in the knowledge of what the children of the community wanted and what modern equipment was available, the next step was to raise the funds. Kiwanis club members made donations and part of the proceeds from the club’s regular annual fundraising efforts were routed to the playground. And the community got involved.

Alicia Wallace, immediate past president of the Wooster club, was chair of the fundraising committee at the time. She contacted foundations first to get the ball rolling, applying for grants from the Kiwanis Ohio District, Kiwanis Children’s Fund (formerly the Kiwanis International Foundation) and others. Those grant funds helped
prove to the community that the new playground would come to fruition, helping to get the ball rolling. The Wayne County Community Foundation allowed the Kiwanians to send 500 fliers at no cost to solicit donations. Brillhart set up a Facebook page to keep community members updated on their progress. Businesses were pledging their support. The city was on board. It was all going well, until competition for funds threatened to derail the entire process.

The Cornerstone Elementary PTO members had decided they were going to build a special needs access playground for their school, which was only a quarter of a mile away from the Kiwanis playground site.

“Their plan got bigger and bigger, which was great, but they were building it at the same time,” Lanham says. “This isn’t New York City with billionaires living here. There is only a small pool of donors in a community our size who can write $50,000 checks. We didn’t want to compete for them against the Cornerstone folks. Initially, there was a bit of a panic.”

The two groups decided to work together instead of compete. Lanham and two other Kiwanians sit on the Cornerstone board. The organizations went to large potential donors together, asking them to support two different playgrounds.

The teamwork paid off. Kiwanis and the City of Wooster raised $443,000 for the playground, well beyond their $350,000 goal. The extra money allowed the Kiwanians to expand their equipment purchases, which included dual zip lines, real and artificial boulders to climb, swings in different areas for kids of different ages and abilities, a treehouse structure and a merry-go-round and a rocking boat that are wheelchair accessible.

BUILD DAY ARRIVES
On April 16, 2016, Eric Sheffer, president of Penchura LLC, the Landscape Structures playground consultant in Michigan and Ohio, put on his striped referee shirt and headed to the build site. He had already provided Kiwanis and the city with the game plan for organizing the 300 volunteers needed to construct the playground. Denning’s team had prepared the site and Guidetti’s workers were standing by in case any heavy equipment was needed. The plan was to build the structures in one day.

“It’s too difficult to get people to come back over multiple days,” Sheffer says. “Depending on what equipment is being installed, I can tell how many volunteers are needed to get it built in a day. Never underestimate the power of people.”

Denning said Sheffer knew exactly what the community build would take, right down to how many step ladders, bags of concrete, shovels and loads of mulch (375,000 cubic yards) would be needed. “It was great to have that guidance so the day of build we weren’t scrambling around,” he says.

Local businesses donated tools, gloves, food, landscape supplies, discounted site prep and even photography services. Volunteers came from churches, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and, of course, Kiwanis.

“I hated to see the old playground go, but the thing that energized me was someone at a Kiwanis meeting said: ‘If they have to tear it down, we need to build it again,’” Lanham recalls. “The next generation of kids needed to have their new playground experience.”

Now all of the community’s children can participate in that experience. Jen Proano, a mother of three, had given up on taking the kids to the old playground. The wooden walls made it impossible to keep an eye on her kids and Meg, her daughter with special needs, didn’t have much to do there. Now her family can enjoy the playground together, along with the rest of their community.

“I want to thank everyone who put their time, effort and money into it,” she says. “They may not see the ramifications of how important it is for a child like Meg to feel like they belong. My daughter is nonverbal. She can’t speak for herself, so others in the community have to speak up for her. We’ve just been blessed with a community who feels playgrounds like this are necessary and important.”

Interested in building a playground? Learn more about Kiwanis Vision Partner Landscape Structures at kiwanis.org/lsi.
SHOWCASE

“It’s personal all the way down the line. And the kids go home with the new shoes on their feet.”

BEST FOOT FORWARD
A FLORIDA CLUB FITS HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN WITH NEW SHOES AND SOCKS.
STORY BY JULIE SAETRE • PHOTOS BY MOLLY DEMPSEY

The first time Esther Anderson volunteered with her Kiwanis club’s Shoes and Socks project, she cried.

It was an unexpected reaction, she recalls. When she joined the Rockledge Kiwanis Club, she wasn’t immediately impressed with the long-running effort, which brings new athletic footwear to children. Surely, she thought, the students had more pressing needs.

That initial experience changed her mind quickly. Some children were clad in kicks that were falling apart; many had never worn a new pair.

“When you arrive, you see children who don’t even make eye contact,” Anderson says. “By the time they leave, these kids have smiles on their faces and think they can fly in their new shoes.”

Since 1978, Rockledge club members have distributed more than 96,000 pairs of shoes and socks through the Nestor Hebert Shoe Fund, named after the businessman who started the project decades earlier. This year, 13 schools will benefit from their efforts.

It’s no small feat, Anderson says. The club maintains a nonprofit fund devoted strictly to buying new shoes and socks; a separate nonprofit account holds monies used to rent, air-condition and maintain a storage warehouse for the purchases.

Parents sign permission slips to allow their children’s participation and indicate the necessary sizes.

On distribution day, it’s not just grab-and-go. Assisted by members of the Rockledge High School Key Club, Kiwanians provide a custom shoe fit for each child—as many as 190 per school—to ensure comfort and durability.

“It’s personal all the way down the line,” Anderson says. “And the kids go home with the new shoes on their feet.”

To keep the shoe flow constant, the club hosts its Children’s Charities Golf Tournament each spring, an event that brings up to US$15,000 annually. The club also mails 4,000 pledge requests per year, and some businesses display shoe-fund cans for additional collection opportunities.

Donations, Anderson says, come about in unexpected ways. A visitor to a hair salon, for example, saw a collection can and stopped in surprise. As a child, she told staff, she had received free shoes from the program; it was a fond memory. Dropping money into the can, she added that it felt good to give back.
SCHOOL ZONE
IN A REMOTE REGION OF INDIA, ONTARIO KIWANIANS SEND SCHOOLS TO CHILDREN.
STORY BY LORI ROBERTS

In some parts of the world, children can’t go to school. Home is a village so remote they’d have to travel many miles just to sit in a classroom. Generations of children, in fact, have never opened a book or done simple arithmetic. This reality exists in remote, tribal villages of India, where illiteracy soars high above the country’s rate of around 27 percent.

Ekal Vidyalaya schools have been addressing just such situations since the late 1980s. These one-teacher schools meet under a tree or in a clearing or modest building, within walking distance of children who have no other opportunities to learn.

Since 2009, the Forest City-London Kiwanis Club of Ontario has supported two Ekal Vidyalaya schools in the Ferozepur District of Punjab, India. Members have received appreciative notes from Ekal graduates, including a police constable and a young woman who helped carry the torch in the 2012 Olympics.

Parshotam Gupta, the president of the Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of Canada and a Forest City-London Kiwanian, spearheaded the club’s Ekal school project with the support and encouragement of Les Files, a fellow Kiwanian.

Twenty years ago, children existed in a world of illness and superstition, says Gupta. Now, teachers receive special training to understand an area’s beliefs and customs in hopes they might educate the children with facts. Today, about 95 percent of Ekal students move on to traditional schools at the fifth-grade level.

“Things have changed considerably since the beginning of the Ekal movement,” Gupta says. “Still, lots needs to be done.”
Have extra time? Lucky you! See more of France before or after the

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SHOWCASE

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A GARDEN

WITH A KIWANIS CHILDREN’S FUND GRANT, A COMMUNITY AND ITS KIWANIS FAMILY PLANT AN EDUCATIONAL GARDEN.

STORY BY WENDY ROSE GOULD

Many lessons are learned within a garden’s walls. For example, tilling and tending soil demonstrate the payoff of hard work and instill patience. And harvesting crops teaches the gardener about growth, life cycles and the importance of healthy eating.

The staff of Sudduth Elementary School in Starkville, Mississippi, the Parent-Teacher Organization and the Oktibbeha County Master Gardeners recognized these inherent lessons and teamed up to create the Sudduth Elementary Environmental Discovery (SEED) garden.

The project was a success, but the garden still needed some work. That’s when Mississippi State University’s Circle K Club and the Starkville Kiwanis Club stepped in. To renovate and expand the green space, CKI applied for, and received, a US$2,000 CKI Tomorrow Fund grant from the Kiwanis Children’s Fund.

“The big problem was that the garden was located on an extreme slope, and the kids had trouble footing,” says Don Kargis, a Starkville Kiwanis Club and PTO member who headed the project. “Our big budget items were to build a retaining wall, fix the slope, create proper irrigation and drainage and add more beds.”

With the Tomorrow Fund—as well as support from the school, other clubs, community members and businesses—CKI of MSU redesigned the garden and added 14 raised beds for a total of 20. With remaining supplies, members plan to create several beds that are more accessible to the school’s special needs classes. This increase in size and accessibility allows the garden to serve more children, explains Kargis.

Teachers who want to participate in the SEED garden program enroll their classes in weekly 30-minute sessions. MSU students and Oktibbeha County Master Gardeners teach the hands-on lessons, which are considered supplemental, like music or art.

“They learn about everything from basic biology to gardening techniques to life cycles,” Kargis says. “We also reinforce nutritional habits and do tastings so the children can taste what they’re growing.”

As the SEED garden shows, when a community comes together, it can achieve—or grow—anything.
Imagine a calm kitchen, with a casserole cooking in the oven. Suddenly, the dish erupts into flames and the kitchen fills rapidly with smoke. Now imagine you’re not an adult, but a child, enveloped by the dense, dark haze. Would you know what to do?

Thanks to a two-decade commitment by the Kiwanis Club of Orillia, Ontario, tens of thousands of children have learned how to survive such a situation. In 1998, after a two-year fundraising drive, the club purchased a Fire Safety House. Located in a 28-foot trailer and manned by members of five fire departments, the Fire Safety House hosts students in grades 2 through 5. Once inside, the children see a kitchen equipped with a stove. A fire prevention officer explains what will happen next: A simulated fire will break out, first from the oven, then from a pot on the stovetop. Simulated smoke will billow into the trailer. And then the most important part: The children learn how to escape safely.

Longtime club member Jerry Wink has nurtured the project from the beginning. “The fire departments do a great job in preparing the children,” Wink says. “It’s not a scary experience. When the fire alarms go off and the smoke starts coming, they know about planning escape routes, the process of dropping and rolling and getting out—not looking for a hiding place.”

Wink says fire department personnel estimate that nearly 100,000 children have passed through the house. With its 20th anniversary approaching, the trailer was showing its age. A new version carried a steep CA$100,000 price tag; so Wink and his fellow Kiwanians once again got to work raising funds.

In-kind contributions of materials and labor from Kiwanis club members and businesses took care of $20,000 of the $50,000-plus needed for a thorough renovation. Firefighter associations donated $5,000, a variety of cash donations matched that sum and the Orillia Kiwanis Club pitched in $20,000.

The rehabbed trailer welcomed students during Orillia’s Fire Safety Week in October 2016, and Wink couldn’t be happier. “Our area has not had a child fatality in a fire,” he says, “and we’d like to think that maybe we’ve had some small part in making an effect on those statistics.”
SHOWCASE

AN APPLE A DAY
INNOVATIVE IPAD PROGRAM KEEPS KIDS CALM BEFORE SURGERY.
STORY BY KIMIKO MARTINEZ

It’s not unusual these days to see kids with their gazes glued to an iPad or smartphone screen. Technology makes for a great distraction on road trips, in restaurants and, as an Alabama Kiwanis club has learned, at the hospital.

After Homewood-Mountain Brook Kiwanis Club member Justin Fincher’s encounter with a scared, screaming child, Children’s of Alabama—a pediatric health system—rolled out an iPad program at its Benjamin Russell hospital location to entertain and distract young patients who are going into surgery.

“I’m in the operating room getting things ready for surgery, and I notice this little kid crying on the table,” says Fincher, an integration engineer for surgical services at Children’s of Alabama. “People were trying to calm him down, trying to get his attention off of being separated from mom and dad. Finally, a nurse finds an iPhone, and he’s immediately distracted. And I’m thinking, ‘Why can’t we do this? We have 55-inch screens for the surgeons. Why can’t we play cartoons on those while we’re waiting?’”

Instead of playing cartoons on the operating room monitors, however, the hospital preloaded iPads with games and shows, which patients can enjoy until they fall asleep on the operating table.

Fincher remembers an instance in which staff was having a difficult time prepping an autistic patient for surgery.

“They were trying to give him an IV, and he wouldn’t come out from under the covers,” Fincher says. “I walked up with an iPad, and his arm immediately shot out from underneath the sheet.”

The iPad calmed him down and distracted him enough that the nurses could get the patient ready for surgery without resistance.

“Our goal with this is to reduce the number of children we have to give medicine to,” Fincher says. “And I know we’ve reduced that number with this program.”

When members of the Homewood-Mountain Brook Kiwanis Club learned about the program and its popularity, they immediately wanted to help. The club’s US$15,740 donation has allowed the program to expand by adding 10 iPads at Children’s South and 10 in the operating rooms of the Lowder Building.

The decision wasn’t difficult, says club president Jamie Brabston. “It was a no-brainer. We just loved the idea.”
When you love what you do, it shows. It shines in everything you accomplish. It rings out in everything you say. It’s the kind of passion that people want to share. So make your love for Kiwanis an inspiration to fellow club members and a reason for nonmembers to join. It all starts with what’s in your heart.
SHOWCASE

TRAVELING HEAVY
A FRENCH VISITOR TIPS AIRPORT SCALES WITH OVERWEIGHT LUGGAGE FILLED WITH SUPPLIES FOR BENIN’S CHILDREN.
STORY BY JULIE SAETRE

When Séverine Petit arrived in Abomey, located in Benin, West Africa, she knew she was a long way from her home in France. While she and the village residents shared the French language, the culture itself clearly couldn’t be more different. Benin—some 4,000 kilometers (2,500 miles) from France—sees little tourism and faces many economic challenges.

“Arriving in Benin caused me to feel a great shock due to the differences of population and lifestyle,” says the Riom, France, Kiwanian of her February 2016 trip. “I was struck by the level of poverty.”

But if anyone can deal with culture shock, it’s Petit. After all, she traveled to Abomey solo, bringing with her four fully stuffed suitcases weighing a total of 60 kilograms/132 pounds. Her Kiwanis club paid for the excess-baggage fees.

“It was not difficult,” she says, as if carting a heavy load of school supplies (including 30 kilos of pencils alone), clothes, mosquito repellent and personal-care items was just an ordinary daily task.

The journey to Benin reflects Petit’s commitment to actively practicing Kiwanis’ service mission. Simply making donations isn’t her style; she also wants to put her passion for helping children into action.

“I was looking for a humanitarian trip to Africa because it was near and dear to my heart,” she says. “I had thought about it for several years, and the passing of a close friend made me decide to pursue this dream while it was still possible.”

During Petit’s 20-day stay, she not only distributed the much-needed supplies, but also assisted with classwork in a girls’ shelter and at the local school and volunteered at an orphanage housing 20 children between the ages of 2 and 7. The response, she recalls, was immediate and endearing.

“As soon as I arrived, the children welcomed me warmly and with joy. Children seek our knowledge and our kindness. Every day, I was deeply touched as I gave them a little bit of myself.”

Petit was so moved, in fact, that she has continued to work on Benin-based projects through her own association, Des Mots et Des Crayons (Words and Pencils), and the Benin-based not-for-profit organization Carrefour Jeunesse (Youth Crossroads). Soon, she will return to Benin to spend a week in the city of Comè. A spare dressing room in her home holds the clothing she’ll deliver to Comè’s children. And more soon-to-be-stuffed suitcases await.
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SHOWCASE

BIRTHDAYS
THESE CLUBS CELEBRATE THEIR 25TH, 50TH, 75TH AND 100TH ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY AND JUNE 2017.

100TH—1917
Lowell, Massachusetts, May 3
Phoenix, Arizona, May 15
Woonsocket, Rhode Island, May 17
Washington, District of Columbia, May 19
Lansing, Michigan, June 7
Winnipeg, Manitoba, June 15
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, June 30

75TH—1942
Cape Girardeau, Missouri, June 26

50TH—1967
Mulhouse Doyen, France, May 2
Strasbourg, Kléber, France, May 3
Clovis, El Desayuno, New Mexico, May 11
Colonial Plymouth, Michigan, May 11
Cedar Hills, Beaverton, Oregon, May 11
Iowa City-Old Capitol, Iowa, May 25
Glasgow, Kentucky, May 31
Riverview, Michigan, June 1
Wales, New York, June 6
Davao City, Philippines, June 6
York-Leicester, New York, June 7
Rock Valley, Iowa, June 7
Bridgeton, Missouri, June 15
Sonora, California, June 22
Osaka, Japan, June 27

25TH—1992
Chino Hills, California, May 1
Akureyri Embla, Iceland, May 11
Bandon By-The-Sea, Oregon, May 12
Dubois, Wyoming, May 12
Rolle-Auboone, Switzerland, May 15
Lingen-Meppen, Germany, May 16
Cuba, Missouri, May 20
Barneveld, Netherlands, May 26
Fredrikstad-Glommen, Norway, May 26
Galt, California, June 2
Hu Wei, Yun Lin Hsien, Taiwan, June 16
Torino, Italy, June 30
REACH OUT.  
BY REACHING  
INSIDE.

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kiwanis.org/childrensfund
The Game of Life

Follow Grace and Trey as they chase their dreams in the Kiwanis Reality Experience.

Grace Burdge and Trey Blaydes have pretty good ideas about what they want to do as adults. The two South Putnam County Middle School eighth-graders pick their jobs and venture into a maze of utility bills, food purchases and the frequently unmerciful Wheel of Life.

Who will survive the Greencastle, Indiana, Kiwanis Club’s Reality Experience?

Grace

Career: Coach
Monthly pay: US$2,083
Family: Single, 0 children

Mortgage = $375 month
Food, Clothing, Furniture
Yes
Wheel of Life

Trey

Career: Veterinarian
Monthly pay: US$6,325
Family: Married, 2 children

Mortgage = $375 month
Career Counseling
Medical/Dental/Optical
Wheel of Life

It’s costly supporting a family of five: $1,200 for food and $225 for clothing.

Food, Clothing, Furniture

None needed.

With the draw of a card, Grace pays only $40 for vitamins.

Medical/Dental/Optical

What luck! Grace receives $50 for being a “good neighbor”!

Wheel of Life

Grace finishes the game with $2,126.

Game Over

Trey has $813 at the game’s end.

With a high-paying job and a little luck, Grace clearly succeeded. Trey survived by supplementing his dream career’s salary with a second job. In this game, money is one measure of success. Happiness is another. Learn more about this Kiwanis game of life at “Wheel of Fortune,” starting on page 22.
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WHAT’S YOUR STORY?
If your club has a success story, simply email a summary and a few photos to shareyourstory@kiwanis.org to be considered for possible future use in Kiwanis International publications.

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