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< **ON THE COVER**

TRUMPET PLAYER

JONATHAN ELLIOTSON

PHOTO BY KRISTAN Toczko

PHOTOGRAPHY

KRISTANTOCZKO.COM
I was having dinner one night, reflecting on two questions I’d been asked that day: “Why are you a member of Kiwanis?” And, “Why are you doing the work you are doing?”

It’s actually quite simple. They’re answers to life’s most fundamental questions: Why am I here? And what am I going to do about it? The answers are a culmination of years of learning about myself, knowing and living my values and years of experience.

We live in a world where the law of cause and effect rules. Our everyday behaviors build the habits that define a lifestyle, which determines the extent of joy or pain we experience in the course of a lifetime.

It’s not the big events that define us. It’s the little ones. It was the time I hugged an athlete who finished his run at the Special Olympics. Or the time I helped a preschooler read her favorite book. It was planting the flowers to brighten up a home-bound neighbor’s front porch.

I’m a Kiwanian because I want to leave the world a little better than I found it. I want to learn as much as I can about the things that interest me. I want to alleviate suffering. I want to share what I have with those who need it more than I do. I want to be happy.

I’ve found my passion. I’ve found that the value of volunteering is much deeper, much more fulfilling and much more important in contributing to a healthy and vibrant community. I’ve gained experience, acquired new skills and met new people because of Kiwanis.

So I ask you: Why are you a Kiwanian? What inspires you to belong to a service organization that serves the children of the world?

There are many more people just like us in our communities who deserve the same opportunity to discover their passion. It’s your neighbor, your work colleague, the parents of your son’s football teammate. It’s the bank president or a teacher. Look around you. Invite them to your club’s next service project. They may just discover their passion.

#KidsNeedKiwanis
Use our 60 years of fundraising expertise to help your club earn up to 300% profit

Request a **FREE** fundraising kit at info@kiwanispeanutday.org

**Coming Soon!**
Certified peanut-free candy bars and all-natural, gluten-free fruit and nut crunch

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News

TRENDS, TIPS, FACTS AND FIGURES FROM KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

Best in show

Years in the planning, a full year of activities and one well-deserved award.

Kiwanis International’s 100th anniversary celebration won Best of Show at the Public Relations Society of America’s Pinnacle Awards Ceremony in Indianapolis. The PRSA Hoosier Chapter recognized Kiwanis for the scope and excellence of a campaign that featured the 100th Annual Kiwanis International Convention and the Centennial Tour, which left a legacy of service in Kiwanis communities worldwide.

Stop by and see us

With only a few weeks until the 101st Annual Kiwanis International Convention kicks off in Toronto, Ontario, June 23–26, the Kiwanis International Foundation invites you to visit its booth and attend its events for updates about The Eliminate Project and to learn how to put fun in your fundraising, share ideas and more.

Visit kiwanis.org/foundation/2016toronto for a complete list of the opportunities our foundation will offer in Toronto.
Show them how you feel

District conventions are a great time to recognize dedicated supporters. Consider honoring Kiwanis members in your club or district with a George F. Hixson Fellowship. Remember to make your gift now to ensure sufficient time for gift processing and creation of the recognition pieces.

For information about the Hixson Fellowship and other recognition programs, visit kiwanis.org/foundation/recognition.

Happy birthday again

Just a year after celebrating Kiwanis’ 100th anniversary, Canada kicks off its centennial year with a party in Toronto’s Roundhouse Park on Friday, June 24, 3–5 p.m. Join the fun with sweet treats, live music and great Kiwanis friends!

A message from Sue

Kiwanis International President Sue Petrisin extends a special thank-you to the Kiwanis family, and reminds clubs and members to fulfill their promises to protect lives from maternal and neonatal tetanus. “Kids need Kiwanis,” she says, “in your community and everywhere.”

Watch the video at kiwanis.org/0616MNTvideo.
Voting rights
Every club in the Kiwanis world has the opportunity and responsibility to help shape the organization’s future by electing officers and members of the Kiwanis International Board. You’ll find the current list of declared candidates at kiwanis.org/convention/business. There, you also can review the 11 proposed bylaws amendments that will be presented to the House of Delegates at the 2016 Kiwanis International convention in Toronto, June 23–26.

Check your list
Make sure you’re prepared for your trip to the 101st Annual Kiwanis International Convention in Toronto. Here’s a quick checklist of pre-convention to-dos:
- Decide on a plan for your phone usage while abroad.
- Consider travel insurance.
- Make two photocopies of all your travel documents and store them separately from the originals.
- Notify your bank and credit card company that you are traveling abroad.
- Book a tour. Or two.
For a more complete checklist, visit kiwanis.org/convention/2016checklist.

Make plans
It’s time to get organized for Toronto. The online scheduling tool is live and ready for you to start creating your own personal convention calendar. Learn more at kiwanis.org/convention/2016scheduler.

Work on it
While you’re filling out your convention schedule, study the many educational opportunities at workshops and forums, such as:
- A town hall discussion about inclusiveness
- An idea exchange of success stories
- First-timers orientation
- Mentoring youth
- What youth know about social media that you should know
Get the complete list at kiwanis.org/convention/2016program.

Hidden gems
Get the highlights of official Kiwanis tours! Brush up on must-see attractions in Toronto. It’s all at kiwanis.org/convention/tours.

Metro Toronto Convention Centre
A Safe Step Walk-In Tub will offer independence to those seeking a safe and easy way to bathe right in the convenience and comfort of their own home. Constructed and built right here in America for safety and durability from the ground up, and with more standard features than any other tub.

✓ Carefully engineered hydro-massage jets strategically placed to target sore muscles and joints
✓ New! MicroSoothe™ Air Therapy System – which oxygenates, softens and exfoliates skin while offering life-changing therapeutic benefits
✓ A NEW heated seat providing warmth from beginning to end
✓ The highest quality tub complete with the most comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub
✓ Top-of-the-line installation and service, all included at one low, affordable price

You’ll agree – there just isn’t a better walk-in tub on the market. So take your first step towards feeling great and stay in the home you love. Give us a call today!

For your FREE information kit and DVD, and our Senior Discounts, Call Today Toll-Free 1-888-380-9164

www.BuySafeStep.com
SLP plans

The biggest events on the Key Club and Circle K calendars are just weeks away.

CKIx, which includes the annual Circle K International convention and the organization’s traditional large-scale service project, runs from June 22–June 24 in Toronto.

Then, July 6–10, more than 1,600 teens will meet in Atlanta, Georgia, for the 2016 Key Club International convention.

Learn more at keyclub.org/convention and circlek.org/convention.

Club website keeping you up nights?

Make it easier with Portalbuzz. For service organizations, it’s the best public website and member/administrator management system. You get:

- Mobile-ready, Kiwanis-branded templates.
- Tools that make your site easy to create—and easy to update.
- A member portal with tools for managing events, meetings, members, billing, volunteer signups and more.

Come see what over 1,000 Kiwanis clubs are buzzing about.

FREE 30-DAY TRIAL Sign up for the full version of the website creator and member portal. No credit card required.
Family affair

When her oldest daughter asked her which high school club she should join, Susie Jang, now a member of the Covington-Kenton County, Kentucky, Kiwanis Club, offered a ready suggestion: Join Key Club.

Unfortunately, Jang soon learned her daughter’s school didn’t have one. The full-time mother of seven was involved in Key Club when she was a high schooler in the mid-’80s. She drifted away from Kiwanis as her family responsibilities grew, but her child’s interest reignited her own passion for service. So she marched down to the Covington-Kenton club and asked about forming a Key Club in her daughter’s school. This was a tall order, however.

“There were only six members,” she says. “They didn’t have any money, so they did a pancake breakfast to raise cash for the Key Club, which was chartered in 2010.”

Jang joined the tiny Kiwanis club shortly thereafter, and brought in 16 new members. Perhaps not surprisingly, those newcomers include her husband and her three oldest children. Her two youngest participate in a new K-Kids club, while the next-youngest two are in Key Club.

“I have nine people in my family (below) and all of us are part of Kiwanis,” Jang says. “I’ve been recruiting pretty hard.” — Sam Stall

Does your club encourage members’ families to join? Tell us about it at loveit@kiwanis.org

Meet your World Showcase Emcee

Ken W. Goodman is a professional entertainer based in Arkansas. He has appeared on regional stages as the leading man in Oklahoma!, The Fantasticks, Annie, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, among others. His corporate emcee credits include Arkansas Children’s Hospital, the AR State Police Chiefs Association and multiple chambers of commerce events.

Mr. Goodman is proud and honored to emcee and entertain on the World Showcase Stage at the Kiwanis International Convention.

Call or email to have Ken join you for your events, or perform his one-man show—he’s been called Sinatra-caliber, “as good as and better than Broadway,” and a “phenomenal talent.”

kenwgoodman.com • 501-463-2799 • email kentertainer@live.com
When she was 4 years old, Maggie Morrison walked into the elegant Brantford, Ontario, home of piano instructor Virginia Blaha and introduced herself with the declaration, “Hello. My name is Maggie Morrison, and I can do a somersault.”

Now she can also play piano.

Jonathan Elliotson started piano lessons when he was 3 years old, but there was no escaping his brass heritage. “I’m the last of five kids,” Elliotson explains. “The joke in our family was that piano was mandatory but trumpet was compulsory.” Mom, Dad, siblings: They all play trumpet. So does Jon.

Morrison and Elliotson are two of the thousands of children and adults who have participated in the Toronto, Ontario, Kiwanis Music Festival over the past 72 years—more than 30,000 competitors this past March alone. Add to that number the students who pass through other Kiwanis-supported competitions from Vancouver, British Columbia, to St. John’s, Newfoundland, and you’ll begin to understand the enormous influence Kiwanis has on Canada’s musical community. Gordon Lightfoot, Sarah McLachlan, Glenn Gould, Justin Bieber and every member of The Barenaked Ladies have performed on Kiwanis stages.

As have Maggie Morrison and Jon Elliotson.
How did you learn about the Kiwanis Music Festival?
I played a lot in Toronto festivals, because that was where I was raised, and everybody—everybody—there talked about Kiwanis. … I ended up going the whole way, and it was a really, really great experience.

What were the nationals like? A lot of pressure?
It was really self-sourced. I put a lot of it on myself. On the flip side, everybody there was super, super nice and really friendly. When we weren’t practicing or competing we were just hanging out. That was one of my favorite parts about going to nationals.

So it was like a support group?
Oh, man. Like music is such a collaborative art, and it doesn’t necessarily mean on the stage, either. I’m at the Glenn Gould School right now, and one of the coolest things is that the four of us trumpet players always hang out together. We’re playing duets. We’re playing quartets. We’re going out for burritos together or grabbing a drink after a concert. We’re always hanging out together.

There’s nothing better than getting on stage with some of your friends and playing some music. It’s fun to compete against each other because you get better that way. But when you get to perform on stage together, it’s just very, very special.
What's so special about Kiwanis music festivals?

The festivals give students a reason to work toward something. So in lessons and in preparation, you prepare for that performance. And it's important to hear what other people are doing. It's important to be involved in the community and have a high level of standard.

What was it like to be an adjudicator at this year's festival?

Oh, my gosh, I can't even tell you. This year, one of the students presented “Dresden's China Figures.” I suddenly remembered playing it with my first teacher, and it was the first piece that I truly loved. And the student performed it just so incredibly beautifully. I just had a surreal moment and was overcome with emotion, because that teacher (Virginia Blaha) passed away this past August. It made me realize how incredibly dedicated all of these teachers are and where they can take you on that musical journey.

What encouragement do you give to children who are interested in music?

I tell them to keep going. Never let anything get you down. Grit and determination and continuing is the number-one way to find success. There's always beauty in the music. Always strive to find those moments. Just keep going. You'll get there if you want to.

Maggie Morrison

PIANO

• Influenced by her mother, Naomi Wratten Morrison, who is a recent recipient of the Kiwanis International Foundation’s Walter Zeller Fellowship award for 22 years of volunteer work with the Brantford Kiwanis Music Festival.

• Has competed at Kiwanis festivals since the age of 3.

• Currently piano teacher, staff collaborator at Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.

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What are your responsibilities as a volunteer at the Kiwanis music festival?
I work five days of the music festival, selling tickets, moving chairs and music stands. I’m also on site throughout the five days of the dance festival, where I emcee, track marks, keep adjudicators on track and anything else that needs done.

Why do you volunteer?
I strongly believe in the values the young competitors gain from participating in the festival. They work hard as individuals, practicing and showing up on time for rehearsals and performances and working together as a team to become a better group and a better individual. The information they acquire from the adjudicators and from listening to each other provides useful life lessons for the students as musicians and as people.

Describe one of your favorite festival memories.
We had a trio of young men who did a fabulous tap number at this year’s dance festival. They came running and sliding onto the stage. One of them slid so fast and far he ended up on the ground. Trust me, he quickly popped up to get into the routine. They were amazing and received a Platinum 94 for the piece. The look on his face when he heard the mark—he obviously thought the fall had ruined the piece—was absolutely priceless.

An average of 350 volunteers are needed each year to keep the Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival running smoothly. Many, including Sue Ostrower (left, teal dress) are long-time supporters of the event.
Everything is in its right place. Golden brown pancakes slide easily off the griddle. Maple syrup oozes over sweet butter, down stacks topped with brown sugar, whipped cream and juicy strawberries. The capacity crowd loves it. A few happy foodies kick it up a notch by adding chocolate flakes to their breakfast bonanza. Along with hot cocoa, orange juice and coffee, the event has an even tastier twist. It’s a fundraiser for a boy suffering from a costly yet treatable health challenge. Everyone feels good about everything. The classic pancake breakfast is a resounding success. Area news media cover it in detail, including the boy and his family being handed a US$25,000 check by the event chairperson.

What’s that old saying? No good deed goes unpunished. Helping others shouldn’t be so hard. It’s nearly impossible to avoid offending someone these days. Still, when you belong to a service organization, you might need to strike a balance between being overly cautious and making decisions that could be seen as tactless, demeaning or damaging to the person or group you’re trying to help.

“What kind of message you’re putting out there is even more political with nonprofit organizations than public companies,” says Scott Robertson, CEO and founder of Robertson Communications, a public relations and marketing agency in Rancho Santa Margarita, California. “Nonprofits often depend on volunteers and community goodwill, so they can’t afford to offend. The bar is much higher.”

The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry, as Scottish poet Robert Burns aptly put
“One sure way to know if a person or group wants your help is to simply ask.”

it, yet some mistakes could have been avoided. Here are a couple of actual scenarios to consider when laying out your plans.

Teaming with Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure seemed like a swell idea to raise funds for breast cancer research, but the fast food restaurant chain KFC and their newly fashioned pink buckets of chicken quickly ran afoul of basic public relations ingredients when critics pointed out that maintaining good body weight was first on the American Cancer Society list of recommendations for prevention. “Eat more chicken to cure more cancer” was a recipe for disaster for both KFC and Komen. The media onslaught attacked everything from carcinogen levels in grilled chicken to the high number of fast-food restaurants in low-income neighborhoods.

Celebrating National Women’s Day in Africa seemed like a reasonable way for Bic Corporation to tout a pen designed especially for female hands, yet some consumers dubbed it condescending and pandering. Bic further embraced the day with a tweet to “look like a girl, act like a lady, and think like a man.” The backlash left an indelible mark.

KNOW THE NEED
The landscape of good intentions is littered with casualties. What steps can you take to avoid becoming one? A good place to start is to fully know the need. Who are you helping and why? How are they best served? Do they actually want your help? It’s not enough to embrace an idea because it makes everyone feel good. How will the recipient of your service be affected?

If you want to support Special Olympics, for example, learn the ins and outs of what the organization’s 4.5 million worldwide athletes really need. Apply that same strategy to any group you might be interested in helping.

“Special Olympics is not about us and them, it’s about all of us,” says Amie Dugan, director of marketing for Special Olympics in North America. “When volunteers and communities embrace this view, eyes are opened and hearts and minds are changed. People with intellectual disabilities combat stigma and isolation. The interaction athletes experience with volunteers is a valuable bridge between isolation and inclusion.”

Volunteers, for example, sometimes approach Special Olympics athletes with a mixture of pity, trepidation and overeagerness.

That can be remedied by knowing the need of the athletes.

“The last thing our athletes want or need is pity,” Dugan says. “Pity only further marginalizes and minimizes people with intellectual disabilities. They tend to be juvenilized by others. Interact with athletes in accordance with their chronological age. While some may need special accommodations or things explained more slowly or more than once, never speak down to them. Respect and encouragement are what they need.
“Remember, these are real athletes who train for months to compete and are guided by trained coaches and officials. Well-intentioned volunteers who wish to help or give tips at competitions can actually interfere with the athletes’ performance, so let the coaches do what they do best.”

A community survey should be your first step before establishing—and continuing—a service project. Available at kiwanis.org/analysis, the Rediscovering Your Community tool identifies local needs, identifies partnership opportunities and assembles information your club needs to create projects that appropriately and effectively address those needs.

When in doubt about your service relevance, reach out to the organization you wish to support. Ask what the best practices are for working with the group and the individuals it serves. Make contact with the organization via its website, local affiliate or main headquarters. Then ask a lot of questions.

“One sure way to know if a person or group wants your help is to simply ask,” Robertson says. “Instead of making assumptions on behalf of the entity being served, ask questions. ‘What do you think about our idea to provide this service? Do you want us to do this? Will our idea help you?’ More often than not, they will answer you directly. A little communication can go a long way.”

Remember the boy at the beginning of this article? Imagine how much more impactful that pancake breakfast could be if the volunteers figured out a way to make the goodies sugar-free or at least reduced in sugar. The boy would feel the full support of the volunteers raising funds for him because they took the time to truly understand and experience his plight. Even if was just for one day. ☺

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5 tips to better know the need

Scott Robertson of Robertson Communications in Rancho Santa Margarita, California, offers these five tips for embracing the needs of individuals and groups you’ve decided to support.

1. Ask … instead of assuming you know the needs of the person or organization you want to support.
2. Know why. “Make sure you are laser-focused on why you would want to support a cause or person,” Robertson says.
3. Focus. Remember to focus on the individual or group you are supporting.
5. Heed your PR. Public perception is important. Ignore it at your own peril, or use it to your advantage. “Public relations can be a double-edged sword,” Robertson says. “It can help you cut through with your message. But it can also cut you if you don’t think things through well.”
Ong Yong Ching hunches over his work. He grabs a white vial. He grabs a yellow cap. He twists the cap onto the vial and tosses it into a box across the table. He grabs another vial and another cap. Around him, his co-workers keep up a lively chatter that echoes in the spacious Mohm Chemical factory in northern Johor Bahru, Malaysia. They laugh, tease one another and casually coordinate their work, calling out requests for more caps and announcing the completion of an order. Ong is quiet and concentrates on his task. Across the table, his box of capped glue vials is nearly full.

When he was 5 years old, Ong was diagnosed with both autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Today, at age 28, he has an impressive résumé. Notable, of course, is his employment at Mohm Chemical. More impressive is his training at the Kiwanis CareHeart Centre.

For more than 15 years, the Sentosa, Johor Kiwanis Club-sponsored center has prepared adults with special needs for careers. Employers value CareHeart credentials, because they know its trainees have the fundamental qualifications for employment, such as punctuality, behavior and social skills. But companies also know that CareHeart goes beyond the basics by offering programs that stress creativity, healthful living habits, environmental stewardship and independence. Above all, independence.
CareHeart Principal Koh Guan Hoe (opposite page) maintains a brisk pace as he leads a tour of the facilities, where trainees tend verdant gardens, feed poultry, brew tea, steam dumplings, weave rugs, and cut and bend recycled cans into colorful desktop peacocks. After lunch, they rush upstairs for a karaoke break.

“I’m often asked, ‘Why are you doing this?’” Koh says with a smile. “They tell me, ‘These people are unemployable.’” His smile turns stern, and his hands wave off such comments. “I say no! No!

“I never expect an employer to lower its standards. It can be challenging, but if you understand an individual’s disorders, you can work with him to upgrade his skills so he meets the employer’s standards.”

That’s why Koh, his staff and Kiwanis supporters seek the latest training programs. Or create their own.
"We have land, so I designed horticulture programs so our trainees learn to grow plants and be close to nature."

— Koh Guan Hoe
Beyond the center’s prawn and koi tanks are three outdoor shelters. Black tarps cover the entries. CareHeart trainees, each carrying a hand-pumped fertilizer canister, draw aside the tarps, revealing rows of shelves filled with what look like two-liter soft drink bottles laid on their sides. From the openings emerge the scalloped brown and white caps of fungi.

“We have land, so I designed horticulture programs so our trainees learn to grow plants and be close to nature,” Koh says. “We have fruits, lime, chili plants. Recently, we introduced mushroom farming, which is very unusual for any special needs center. We are the one and only center to teach mushroom farming.”

One by one, he calls trainees to bring samples. “This one is oyster mushroom,” he says, holding up a white specimen. “The other one is abalone. And that one is black fungus.”

The program involves more than just horticulture. Trainees harvest the mushrooms, package them and sell them at organic markets. “They are learning commercial enterprise,” Koh says. And “social enterprise.”

“We are good at begging,” Koh says. The center’s schedule, which is filled with appointments to welcome potential donors, shows how important contributions are to the center.

“If you give 100,000 ringgits, I am happy,” Koh says. “If you give 100 ringgits, I am still happy. But if we totally depend on donations, one of these days, people will turn around and say, ‘Why are you always asking for donations?’”

So CareHeart finds ways to earn money for itself: mushroom sales, craft sales, café sales, thrift store sales. Creative strategies also are used to stretch those revenues and donations even further. When, for example, an auto mechanic is ready to trash a stack of old tires, CareHeart takes them and paints them with indigenous Australian art patterns. The colorful planters are sold for more revenue.

The last stop on Koh’s tour is the Kiwanis International Art Gallery, exhibiting the work of artists from around the world who live with special needs. The visitors stop to study a detailed pencil sketch of a grazing rhinoceros by Malaysian artist Yap Hanzhen. Nearby is a canvas painted with a snow-blown winter night scene titled “The Orphan Home” by Russia’s Lyahovchuk Vladimir.

Another artist shows a preference for colorful birds and flowers, but his name also appears on one of the museum’s portraits: a woman drinking tea, her head tilted as if asking a question. It is signed, “Y Chin 2010.”

“The woman in the portrait is Ong’s sister,” Koh says. “He loves her very much.”

When Ong Yong Ching arrived at CareHeart, he was very quiet and shy. His father had died in a tragic accident when Ong was 15.

“But I never gave up on Yong Ching and his amazing talents,” his mother says.

Add another notable notation on Ong’s already impressive résumé: Artist.
ROCKET MAN

CANADIAN ASTRONAUT CHRIS HADFIELD HAS COMMANDED THE ISS AND WALKED IN SPACE. HE’S ALSO GREAT WITH A GUITAR. STORY BY KASEY JACKSON

Chris Hadfield knew at the age of nine that he wanted to be an astronaut. It happened, as it did with many of you reading this article, on July 20, 1969, when Neil Armstrong stepped out of the lunar module and planted his boots onto the moon. So many children—and adults—decided that day, as they watched on their tiny black-and-white televisions, that they wanted to be space explorers. They wanted to be astronauts. But there’s one huge difference with Hadfield’s story: He made it happen.

Along the way, he met goal after goal. He became an engineer. A pilot. An astronaut. A colonel. A commander. But he also became a hero and friend to millions around the world, who knew him not only because of these accomplishments, but because he made it his mission to stay connected to those of us back on Earth. We followed him on Twitter. Students and everyday folks watched his fun science experiments from the International Space Station, where we learned how he brushed his teeth in space and what it’s like to cut your fingernails in zero gravity. We liked his stunning photos of deserts and rivers on Instagram. We sang along as he performed David Bowie’s “Space Oddity” while floating on the ISS—in a video posted to YouTube.
There’s a reason he’s called “the most famous astronaut since Neil Armstrong”—he made space exciting and accessible. Colonel Chris Hadfield will be the featured speaker during the Opening Session of the 2016 Kiwanis International convention in Toronto. Kiwanis magazine spoke with Hadfield about space, music and future projects—and what’s hanging in his closet. Here’s a bit of what we learned during that interview.

Kiwanis magazine: Is there anything you haven’t had the opportunity to learn yet that you’d like to?

Chris Hadfield: Oh, yeah. Almost everything. The world is immensely complex. I’ve been fascinated with all kinds of other things. I wish I had time to be more of a geologist and archaeologist. I’m fascinated with the history of how we came to be, both from a planetary point of view and from a species point of view. I’m interested in languages. You learn so much about history and culture and people when you learn the language. And I wish I were a better musician. I play a fair bit and I get to play with symphonies, but I’d love to learn to pick guitar a bit better.

But I’m not dissatisfied. The beauty of it is all that stuff is possible and the decision is up to me. I’m not a person who’s resting on his laurels at all.

Speaking of music, is there one song you wish you’d written?

A friend of mine, Ed Robertson, who’s the lead for The Barenaked Ladies, he wrote the theme song for Big Bang Theory, and he wrote it in a half hour in the shower one day. And I was thinking, that’s a cute little tune. I also would’ve loved to have written some of the big, iconic orchestral pieces that we define ourselves with: “The William Tell Overture,” “The Planets,” by Gustav Holst. And then in popular music, there are so many songs that are iconic for us. “If You Could Read My Mind” to me is just a beautiful song. So almost every popular song I wish I had been capable of writing. But I’m also very happy with the songs...
that I have written and the popular success they have had and how well the album (“Space Sessions: Songs From a Tin Can”) is doing. I wonder at the artistic capability of others more than actually feel envious of it. I feel grateful for it. None of us is the best at anything in the world or the worst. We’re all somewhere in the middle. So I would say I don’t wish I had written any of those songs. I’m just glad I know of them.

What current space or technology projects are you or do you wish to be involved with?

There are some really interesting things going on right now. We just proved the existence of gravity waves, which fundamentally deepens our understanding of how the universe works. We found water flowing on the surface of Mars, and water geysers spewing from the moons of Saturn, helping to feed the rings of Saturn. We’ve had a close look at Pluto and its moons. We’re seeing planets around other stars and we’re talking of sending probes across not just the solar system, but interstellar. That’s amazing.

Meanwhile, six people are living on the space station. And we just landed a rocket ship. SpaceX did that. And Jeff Bezos with his company, Blue Origin, three times has launched the same rocket and capsule, and they’ve landed both safely. So he’s on the brink of taking people up to the edges of space.

And I’m involved in all of it. I work with the Canadian Space Agency. I’m on the Canadian Space Advisory Board. I go down to NASA in Houston quite often. So I’m as mentally engaged as ever. And I love it all.

Does your closet look like an astronaut’s closet or a regular man’s closet?

I would say it’s an astronaut closet. I have flight suits in my closet. What’s intriguing in my case is that they are enormously externally valued. There are people and museums that want them. My closet is distributed around the world. I have a space suit touring Mexico and others are in various museums around Canada. In my closet now, there’s one flight suit, boots and a space flight jacket. I recognize the historic significance of the things I’ve been involved with.

Tell us a little about one of your newest projects, “It’s Not Rocket Science.”

We were just looking, as a group within my family and my company, how can we continue to be a useful, contributing source of ideas and inspiration? So much of what’s missing in the common, popular discussion is actual, informed fact. So if you’re going to discuss a topical issue such as disease or child mortality or vaccination or the difference between weather and climate and the history of our planet, or language—how do you present it to people so they don’t just react to their initial bias? Or with an uninformed decision they’ve already made? We thought, let’s build an animated series based on myself—and slightly comic—but at the same time carefully researched and entertaining.

When a child drowned in the newly opened city pool several years ago, the club launched its Every Child a Swimmer program as a way to prevent similar tragedies.

Modeled after a program club members learned about at the Kiwanis International convention, Every Child a Swimmer teaches water safety and the basics of swimming. It’s made quite a splash in St. Martinville. More than 1,650 kindergarten students have participated in the program through the past 13 years.

“I believe this is a great opportunity for the kids, because I didn’t have that opportunity when I was growing up,” St. Martinville Mayor Thomas Nelson said on the inaugural day of the program. “We need to thank Kiwanis and Mrs. Edna for a job well done. The kids are enjoying themselves.”

Kiwanian Edna Landry is the pool supervisor. She says the program targets the same age group every year so that, over time, every child in the community receives an introduction to swimming. Landry credits the overwhelming success of the program to the synchronized efforts of the club, the city, local businesses and civic organizations.

“The city of St. Martinville provides full use of the pool and liability insurance,” she explains. “Our Kiwanis club provides many of the volunteers and pays for a full staff of certified supervisors, instructors and lifeguards. We also provide bus transportation for the students.”

The principals and teachers of elementary schools in St. Martin parish, along with staff from St. Martinville Early Learning Center, give the project their full support. The Kiwanis club’s efforts are bolstered by members of the Key Clubs it sponsors, who volunteer as swim instructors and serve snacks.

“This is indeed a community effort. My students participate in this program every year,” says Ardelle Ledet, teacher at the Early Learning Center. “It helps them get comfortable around water. With more practice, swimming becomes a lifelong skill for them, which helps them gain more confidence in themselves.”
SWINGTIME
THERAPEUTIC PODS SWAY WITH PEACE AND COMFORT FOR NEW ZEALAND KIDS.
STORY BY MATT GONZALES

Their smiles say it all.
Evan is a six-year-old red-haired boy with chubby red cheeks. And he has multiple serious disabilities. Molly is a 13-year-old girl with a glow of health that belies the health struggles she faced as a baby. Evan and Molly have faced so many challenges in their young lives. But recently, they both found solace in an unlikely place: swing pods.

The therapeutic swings are designed for kids with special needs and serious health problems. Thanks to a NZ$400 grant from the New Zealand-South Pacific District Foundation, the Kiwanis Club of Christchurch donated two pods to the Christchurch Special Needs Toy Library. The Special Needs Toy Library is the only one of its kind in New Zealand.

Charlotte Ganderton, educational resource advisor for the library, already has seen the swings’ impact firsthand.

“They provide a safe haven for children,” she says. “They provide a place of calm—a safe space where the children can relax and feel at ease.”

The swings are especially helpful for children who are on the autism spectrum and who have sensory processing disorders.

Nick Atkins, a Kiwanis Club of Christchurch member, says the project is a great example of how a relatively small gift can make an enormous impact in the lives of children.

“It meets Kiwanis’ ideals superbly,” he says.

Children find refuge and comfort in a New Zealand toy library’s swinging pod.
Bringing play to communities

Create a legacy of play for your Kiwanis club; collaborate with Kiwanis International Vision Partner Landscape Structures to bring playgrounds to the children and families in your community. During the 101st Convention in Toronto, meet Landscape Structures, learn more about the partnership, and try the new Smart Play® Venti™ and Rhapsody™ Outdoor Musical Instruments during your time in the World Showcase. Get more information at playlsi.com/Kiwannis.
A rising drug-abuse epidemic spurred the Kiwanis Club of Marshfield, Massachusetts, to respond with awareness efforts, fundraisers and more.

“In 2015, the club invited a speaker from the sheriff’s department to speak on the dangers of prescription medication and inhalants in the home,” says club treasurer Dick Stetson. “She spoke about how teens would take pills from home medicine cabinets to ‘pill parties,’ where they would be dumped into a community bowl and taken with whatever they were drinking. She also spoke about how they could get high off of aerosol sprays. Needless to say, the talk opened many eyes.

“Our club decided to take a lead in promoting awareness in our area.” The club began with a vigil, placing 1,256 purple flags in a green space to represent the 1,256 Massachusetts lives lost to drug addiction in 2014. Then, Kiwanians gave their annual golf tournament an anti-drug theme, dubbing it “Klubbing Out Addiction.” Simultaneously, a treatment center launched a traveling theater production to spread the word about addiction—especially among teens. Marshfield Kiwanians donated US$1,500 from the golf tournament to the effort, known as Drug Story Theater.

“Two days after the tournament, I found out about Drug Story Theater,” Stetson says. “The Marshfield school system wanted to be the first to present the program, but they didn’t have the funding.”

With Kiwanis funds, the show went on as scheduled—two performances for students and one for the public.

“It was a huge success and hopefully the beginning of making a difference,” Stetson says.

The club’s commitment to ending drug abuse continues with a US$2,500 donation to Marshfield’s Families, Adolescents and Community Together Against Substances.

“Part of the funds will be used to apply for a US$125,000 grant to help addicts and their families,” he says.

Marshfield students were invited to a television studio to promote the Drug Story Theater.
Check out your district website for details—including classroom sessions at your district convention.


New and returning club secretaries have to hit the ground running. Learn what you need to know—before you begin. With Kiwanis International’s club secretary education, you can learn online. Or you can choose a classroom setting at your district convention. Either way, get started on the knowledge your position demands.
LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS
NEW YORK KIWANIS CLUB CREATES HOPE FOR ABUSED CHILDREN.
STORY BY ADRIENNE MURRILL

The Farmington-Victor, New York, Kiwanis Club shines light in a dark place: child abuse. Members not only participate in Bivona Child Advocacy Center activities, but they’ve also donated US$15,000 to its expansion.

Focused on child abuse response, healing and prevention, Bivona ensures victims’ safety and feelings are considered above all others. Annually, 1,500 children benefit from Bivona’s services; sadly, the need continues to grow.

This past September, construction was finished on a new facility at the center. Bivona’s executive director, Mary Whittier, says the center has been able to help 40 percent more clients in the first six months since reopening.

“The team investigates all severe physical allegations,” she says. Forty-two percent of those allegations involve children under age seven and 90 percent of them are sexual.

“One of the great things that has come out of this relationship (with Kiwanis) is the Darkness to Light curriculum,” Whittier adds.

The Darkness to Light training program educates adults about the steps they can take to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to the sexual abuse of children.

Whittier says Bivona’s educator, Stefanie Szwejbka, has gone to many Kiwanis meetings and delivered the training.

“It’s a very empowering learning opportunity,” Whittier says. “We’re all in service of children together.”

New facilities expand the services of New York’s Bivona Child Advocacy Center.
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TAKE IT TO THE HOOP

THIS AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM IS A SLAM DUNK WITH HEALTHFUL LIFE LESSONS.

STORY BY CATHERINE USHER

In Miami, Florida, children dribble, pass, shoot—and connect with other children. It’s all because the Little Havana, Miami, Kiwanis Club runs a youth basketball league at no cost to local families.

“The Youth Basketball League was the first program created by the club in 1976 to provide South Florida children with an after-school program that promotes sportsmanship and keeping healthy and fit in a fun environment,” says Mayra Hernandez, the club’s executive director.

Over those 40 years, more than 5,000 8- to 13-year-olds have participated in the league. Kiwanis club members are coaches and mentors, running practices and drills. While they focus on the fundamentals of basketball, they also emphasize valuable off-court life skills such as teamwork and leadership.

The Little Havana Kiwanians also have built relationships with Florida International University and the National Basketball Association’s Miami Heat, each of which conducts clinics for the kids.

“Children have the opportunity to ask questions, get one-on-one sessions and mingle with all-star players,” Hernandez says.

These relationships have helped the club score much-needed funds, including a US$10,000 donation from the Miami Heat. As a result, Kiwanians continue to reach children through basketball—and to share their love of service and togetherness with Florida youth.

PATHWAY WITH HEART

A FLORIDA KEY CLUB’S PATH LEADS THE WAY TO FITNESS, FUN AND KWANIS-FAMILY FELLOWSHIP.

STORY BY SHAWNDRA MILLER

Ian MacDonald remembers the moment his fellow Manatee High School Key Club members realized the impact their work would have on lives at United Cerebral Palsy of Sarasota/Manatee.

On the first day of constructing a walking trail there, the patients watched as the first truckload of concrete hardened. But they couldn’t wait for the next truckload to arrive. With delight, they walked and wheeled back and forth along the mere 100 feet that had been completed.

That 100 feet of concrete expanded into a fitness trail long enough to encircle a pond, and an outdoor game center, complete with horseshoe courts and a volleyball court.

Gail Lesko, UCP day training manager, says many of her participants have exercise goals.

“Some individuals have a goal of losing weight,” she says, “and the path has helped them to achieve that.”

Before the Key Club’s work, the parking lot was the only option for outdoor exercise. Now many patients have discovered a talent for volleyball, and the path offers a safe, pleasant environment for physical activity. They’ve also joined the Kiwanis family in a newly chartered Aktion Club.
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A child’s fear of getting into trouble sometimes can make doing the right thing hard—really hard. Overcoming that trepidation is what drives the Yell & Tell program. Created by Jean Davidson, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, the kid-friendly discussion teaches elementary school children why it’s so important to notify an adult when there’s an accident, threat, bullying or other dangerous situation.

Davidson created the program after her grandson, Ryder, drowned in a water accident that might have been prevented had an older child not hesitated to call for help. Since then, the message of “See it, Feel it, Yell it, Tell it” has spread worldwide thanks to the help of schools, firefighters, police and service clubs such as the Key Club of Wauwatosa West High School.

“Our goal in participating in the program is to educate the youth of our city about the dangers that come with growing up,” says Alyssa Goodwillie, a co-president of the Key Club.

A Yell & Tell PowerPoint presentation features “Squawk,” the parrot mascot, and a song to help kids remember the importance of telling an adult when danger is near. Books and activities reinforce the message. Squawk even shows up from time to time to shake a tail feather.

“Our favorite part of the program is when the students take everything they’ve learned and put it together in a song,” Goodwillie says. “Seeing the students practice what they learn in a fun and catchy way is always something that is really cool to witness.”

The kids are listening and yelling. Davidson says club members have heard hundreds of success stories. “We have more than 100 children who are Yell & Tell heroes,” she says.

These clubs are celebrating their 25th, 50th, 75th and 100th anniversaries in July and August. For a complete list of birthdays, visit kiwanis.org/birthdays.

100TH—1916
Buffalo, New York, July 3
Hartford, Connecticut, July 15
Youngstown, Ohio, July 29
Indianapolis, Indiana, August 17
Erie, Pennsylvania, August 26
Akron, Ohio, August 28

75TH—1941
Port St. Joe, Florida, July 2

Hayward-Castro Valley, California, July 9
Fenton, Michigan, July 29

50TH—1956
Carpinteria Valley, California, August 10

25TH—1991
Vitry le Francois, France, July 1
Tung Nan, Taiwan, July 31

Zeist Krommerijn, Netherlands, August 5
Miramar Pembroke Pines, Florida, August 8
Idar Oberstein, Germany, August 12
Vibo Valentia, Italy, August 13
Coalinga, California, August 20
Far East Club of Taipei, Taiwan, August 28
When you love Kiwanis, you let people know. That means making it a part of your life. Do meaningful service. Wear Kiwanis apparel. Invite people to join your club. Share Kiwanis by living Kiwanis. Go strengthen what you love ... every day.

Share what you love by living it out loud.
Voices

MOVING THE NEEDLE — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

political shifts in national governments and competing global health priorities are among the obstacles we must overcome in these nations.

The final two countries are Pakistan and Nigeria. Large populations in these countries reflect high numbers of women of child-bearing age who need protection from MNT. These projects will have the highest price tags for completion. The US$1.80 average cost per woman for three immunizations will likely be exceeded in these last immunization efforts. Fortunately, new technologies are emerging, and may play a critical role in some of these MNT interventions. The pentavalent vaccine (a combination of tetanus and four other interventions in one shot) and the UNJECT device (an easier method to deliver a tetanus injection) may be part of the final phases of the project, but both have a higher cost.

In all, we truly have “moved the needle” toward eliminating tetanus. As our foundation continues to receive funds that clubs, districts and individual donors have pledged, we will immediately grant those funds to UNICEF so they can be used in the field.

Eighty-eight percent of Kiwanis clubs have supported The Eliminate Project, and we have raised an average of US$553 per member. We should be proud of our accomplishment, knowing that we have saved the lives of millions numbers of mothers and children.

Once again, Kiwanians, thank you for all you do.

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There is nothing more thrilling than embarking on a journey to discover the world’s profound landmarks as well as the secret gems that only locals know about. Kiwanis Travel invites you to join two exciting travel opportunities this fall! Travel to Switzerland or the Italian Riviera and uncover breathtaking landscapes and colorful cultures.

In August, take a deep breath of pristine Alpine air in Switzerland. Stay in the charming towns of St. Moritz and Villars-sur-Ollon, while you explore one of the most beautiful countries in the world. Hop aboard the Bernina Express and the Glacier Express for two unforgettable train rides through the Swiss Alps. Travel to Zermatt to witness the imposing Matterhorn, and admire Lake Geneva and the pretty town of Lausanne. 

(Trip dates: August 24-September 4, 2016)

As autumn weather arrives, escape to the Italian Riviera and immerse yourself in its cache of pastel-colored buildings, turquoise waters and vaulting cliffs. Visit the historic walled city of Lucca and cruise to charming Portofino. Relish the tranquility of seaside resorts, picturesque harbors and fishing villages. Along the way, uncover the secrets of making gelato and taste delectable Italian cuisine.

(Trip dates: September 24-October 2, 2016)

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