UKRAINE UNREST

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Past Kiwanis International World Service Medal recipient Father Pedro Opeka serves the masses in Madagascar.

Cover photo by Joseph Sywenkyj

AUGUST 2014 03
President’s Message
Gunter Gasser | Kiwanis International President

This Smile’s for You

I joined Kiwanis to improve my community of Spittal an der Drau in Austria. Every day, I see the positive influence my club is making in the lives of children in the community. However, the reach of my club and your club extends beyond our city lines. We are impacting the global community too.

During my recent travels to Madagascar to review the progress of maternal and neonatal elimination efforts, I had the privilege to visit with Father Pedro Opeka. In 1989, the Catholic priest started Akamasoa, which translates into “good friends.” The humanitarian association fights poverty in Madagascar’s capital city by restoring dignity to men and women through meaningful employment (page 36).

Father Pedro’s association empowers people who have only lived in cardboard houses in the garbage dumps and fought rats for food scraps. Working hand in hand with the poorest of the poor, Akamasoa’s supporters build homes, schools and communities so families can be safe from disease and other threats. In the 15 years since its founding, the organization has grown to support 18 villages where 30,000 people, including 10,000 children, live, work and study. It is estimated nearly 1 million Malagasy people have benefitted from Akamasoa at one point or another.

I tell you about this man’s incredible work because you support it. The Kiwanis International Foundation has awarded grants for Father Pedro to buy food and other supplies needed to sustain life. I will never forget being surrounded by thousands of children who were singing and dancing while we were touring a new school building. Among the crowd, a group of children stood holding a sign that said, “Thank you, Kiwanis.”

It’s easy to see the impact our clubs are having on our community where we live, but Kiwanis is much bigger than that. Unfortunately, most of us never get to see the lives we are improving in far away places. Most of us will never get to see the smiles on the faces of children who now have a bridge linking them to the future. Even though we can’t see them, I know many children around the world are smiling from our good charity.

Executive Perspective
Stan Soderstrom | Kiwanis Executive Director

A Birthday Party Invitation

An organization that works with and for children should know something about birthday parties. These annual gatherings are times to enjoy food, games and gift giving—annual rituals that most families hand down from generation to generation.

Of course, these parties aren’t just limited to children. In 2015, Kiwanis will mark a special birthday—our 100th birthday—and we, too, are planning a great celebration. And we want every Kiwanis-family member to join the fun.

On New Year’s Day, the Tournament of Roses Parade will begin the official observance with a Kiwanis float featuring a birthday cake and sharing a message of Kiwanis’ 100 years of inspiring children. Later in January, the Detroit Kiwanis Club No. 1 will host the official Kiwanis birthday party with a weekend of fun and service. Kiwanians from around the world are invited.

Between February and May, a worldwide centennial cities tour will take place, bringing the Kiwanis birthday observance to cities across North America, Asia and Europe. The centennial celebration will conclude in June in Indianapolis with our 100th convention. Key Club, Circle K and Aktion Club conventions will all be held concurrently, and the event will bring together thousands of Kiwanis-family members from around the world.

And of course, no birthday is complete without a birthday gift. Our gift will be from us to the world, the elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus, and we’ll formalize that accomplishment in Indianapolis. This is a four-day event that shouldn’t be missed.

Most important is every club’s opportunity to celebrate the anniversary in its own community. A website full of centennial celebration resources awaits you at www.kiwanis.org/kiwanis100.

Hundreds of people are already working on the planning for the various aspects of the Kiwanis 100 celebration. I hope you, too, will be a part of our organization’s 100th birthday. Whether its ordering a special Kiwanis 100 shirt or car decal or attending one of the many Kiwanis centennial events, I hope you’ll accept my invitation to celebrate with your club.

Happy 100, Kiwanis!
Becoming a Model Club is about more than raising money. It’s about making a lifesaving impact on thousands of women and babies. As more than 630 Kiwanis clubs have discovered, it’s about bringing the world to your club—so your club can help change the world. Protect the connection. Be an inspiration. Find out how your club can become a Model Club. Download a brochure at www.TheEliminateProject.org/ModelClubBrochure.

BECOME A MODEL CLUB.

www.TheEliminateProject.org
NEWS
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
TRENDS, TIPS, FACTS AND FIGURES FROM KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

HALO AWARDS

Last month, we told you to nominate a Service Leadership Programs member for a Teen Nick HALO Effect Award, and the July winner is Morristown High School Key Clubber Zachary Certner of Morristown, New Jersey! Zachary is a co-founder of Special Needs Athletic Programs (SNAP), a nonprofit organization that provides autistic children with sports programs to improve their social and athletic skills. The award is presented by Kiwanis Vision Partner Nickelodeon. HALO honorees “Help And Lead Others” with their good deeds. Learn more at www.teennick.com/shows/halo-awards.

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Karen Samayoa on Facebook

“Thank you so much for everything! :) I am very grateful towards you guys for making my dreams a reality.”
~ regarding a scholarship awarded by the Kiwanis Club of Santa Monica, California

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Be a part of history, celebrate Kiwanis’ 100th anniversary in the city where it all began: Detroit, Michigan.
The event is hosted by 2014–15 Kiwanis International President John Button, with Kiwanis dignitaries and leaders from around the world.
Registration and more information is available at www.kiwanis.org/detroit.

A FOCUSED APPROACH

“Think about it. If we start with the premise that we are here to help everyone we meet enjoy a happier and more productive life, won’t our behaviors focus in that exact direction?”
Susan A. “Sue” Petrisin Kiwanis International vice president

A HISTORY OF SERVICE

“Nearly 20 years ago, I joined a visit to Pakistan for our first Global Campaign for Children (IDD). It choked me up to talk about it to this day. This past April, I went to Haiti to witness the elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus. Yes, my heart broke once again, but it swells with pride at the difference we’ve making.” Read more at http://kwn.is/kihaiti.
Lance M. Incitti Kiwanis International Foundation president
The President and the Pope

Kiwanis International President Gunter Gasser, while visiting the Italy-San Marino District of Kiwanis, was able to meet and shake hands with Pope Francis during a visit to the Vatican. President Gasser brought the Pope well wishes from some 600,000 Kiwanians around the world.

Changes on the Books

This past January and April, the Kiwanis International Board approved a number of changes to Policies, most of which are housekeeping in nature to align policy with actual practice. The board also approved a new interpretation of the Kiwanis International Bylaws regarding fees and dues paid by members of new clubs chartered in August and September.

Learn more at http://kwn.is/ki2014policies.

MNT in NYC

Kiwanis International had an important seat at the table during a recent immunization panel discussion at the U.S. Fund for UNICEF Annual Meeting in New York. Randy DeLay, left, chairman of The Eliminate Project campaign, highlighted the importance of immunizations and the progress Kiwanis and UNICEF have made in their global effort to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. Read more about the forum at http://kwn.is/unicefforum.
NEWS

KIWANIS CALLING
Show your Kiwanis pride with new cell phone cases for Kiwanis, Circle K and Key Club in the Kiwanis Store. Cases are available for iPhone 4 and 5 and Samsung S3 and S4 for US$22. Go shopping at www.kiwanis.org/store.

DOODLE ME
Let’s try to tell the world about Kiwanis’ 100th anniversary on January 21, 2015, with a Google doodle!

Google changes its home page “doodle” almost daily. And Kiwanis wants its day. You can help us campaign for that to happen.

The Google doodle team considers requests from Google users, so email your Kiwanis idea to proposals@google.com. Let’s see if we can get on Google!

ON SOCIAL MEDIA
Brett Currah on Twitter
“Excited to be building bikes for Toronto Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club @TKBGC with colleagues from @TD_Canada.”

IN TIMES OF CRISIS
When disaster hit Washington state in the U.S. recently in the form of a mud slide, Kiwanians stepped up and worked together to raise funds. Quickly. In less than a week, 12 Kiwanis clubs in Snohomish County raised US$12,000 (and counting) to be used where needs caused by the disaster had yet to be identified.

08 KIWANIS MAGAZINE.ORG
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The Formula

Recognition: What’s the formula for member retention?

Show your members how much you value what they do for the club and community. Recognizing others isn’t just something leaders should do. It is everyone’s responsibility. And because we want to ensure our clubs and our communities are more impactful in our next century of service, it’s up to each of us to share what we love about Kiwanis with others.

That’s why we’re creating a special recognition program for The Formula, designed to recognize four categories of effort:

1. The efforts of people who invite others to join them in serving the children of the world. A 35-year member of the Kiwanis Club of Northwest Indianapolis, Indiana, John Bloom enjoys doing what he can to tell the story of his club and make prospective members feel welcome. “I know that my soft sales pitch is often appreciated by and needed by some folks while others appreciate a more direct ‘ask’ from a committee member or chairman who can deal with the more reluctant service club shopper,” Bloom says.

2. Clubs that take steps to make themselves stronger and more relevant, like the Moorpark, California, Kiwanis Club, which two years ago had 22 members and now boasts 39. “Typically, people want to join because they see we’re a low-key group that does wonderful things for our community,” says club President Uté Van Dam.

3. Club openers who create new Kiwanis clubs, like Jim Dooley of the Peoria, Illinois, Kiwanis Club. “I think we just finished our tenth club, I’ve yet to meet somebody I didn’t like,” Dooley shares. “Typically, people are very polite. Even if they say no and don’t want to be a part of the club, you’ve met a new friend. And so my advice would be: Don’t be afraid to do it and take somebody along with you so you don’t get the Scarlett O’Hara syndrome of ‘I’ll think about that tomorrow.’”

4. Club counselors who help clubs become stronger. Eda Medina de Wong of the Metropolitan, Panamá City, Panama, Kiwanis Club, for example, encourages Kiwanians to strengthen their clubs with the same argument. “If we do not have hands to help those that are in need, we are not going to be able to change our community. … It doesn’t matter how big or small the community service is, we are changing communities; you are changing lives.”

Learn about our new recognition program and how to acknowledge members by visiting www.kiwanis.org/recognition.
Celebrate Kiwanis
100 years strong

Centennial umbrella
70002 $100

Commemorative coin
70013 $18

Cabby hat
70008 $30

See what’s new at
www.kiwanis.org/store.
COVER STORY

… Yesterday, I burned a Russian flag … the Russian flag burned. And Russia will burn as well. Glory to Ukraine,” said Roma, 13, right, who took an active role during the protests, even during dangerous and violent clashes with riot police where he threw broken cobblestones over burning vehicles, toward police lines. “It isn’t about being scared. I wanted to help people. We didn’t want to do anything bad. We just want to make a much much better country for children, for children like me.”

“Glory to Ukraine - to all her people ...

UKRAINE UNREST

EASTERN EUROPEAN KIWANIANS WORK TO BRING NORMALCY TO KIEV’S YOUTH. | PHOTOS AND STORY BY JOSEPH SYWENKYJ

The struggles between Ukraine and Russia are complex, and Kiwanis magazine does not attempt to analyze the issues behind the current unrest. Rather, this is a story about the Kiev Kiwanis Club’s Easter egg hunt, put into the context of children, youth and families living through very difficult times. “It is at times of crisis that we especially need to organize events for children,” says Kiwanian Valery Pavlenko.
Mykola, 17
Mykola, 17, from Cherkasy Oblast, is a first-year political science student at Kyiv Mohyla Academy, often referred to as Ukraine’s premier university. Here he stands for a portrait in one of the university’s eight libraries.

Mykola supported the mass protest movement, often referred to as the Euro Maidan, from the very beginning, when on November 21, the Ukrainian government—at the time led by deposed former President Viktor Yanukovych—turned away from signing a free trade agreement with the European Union and instead moved the nation closer to Moscow.

The mood at the beginning of the protests was celebratory. However, after riot police violently broke up hundreds of protestors in the early morning hours of November 30 on Kiev’s Independence Square, Mykola described a change in tone. By mid-December, after the Ukrainian parliament passed what Ukrainian activists described as draconian anti-protests laws, he took an active role among some protestors, throwing broken cobblestones toward police.

Speaking in April, approximately two months after Yanukovych fled Ukraine, he said, “I would like to see positive developments in Ukraine, no corruption, everyone receives good salaries, good education, good medical care … just a normal European nation with its values and beliefs. This is how I see the future. This is how I would like to see the future.”
“I do not understand a lot about politics, but I understand the Russian government wants to decide Ukraine's future and I do not like this. I look at this negatively,” said Sophia, 12, a sixth-grader at School Number 17 in central Kiev. She has traveled to several European Union nations to take part in ballroom dance competitions.

Sophia has a ribbon tied to her backpack in the colors of the Ukrainian flag.

“I am very saddened about the situation in Ukraine, but this has not affected my life and education at all. I am very saddened that people died to better our lives and for our future. But there is nothing that can be done about this now. Of course I want to live in an independent country, but if Ukraine were to join the European Union, I would only be happy. There (in the European Union) are completely different people, different values, good governments without corruption. … They have better roads (than in Ukraine) and a completely different life.”
Ivan, 15
“On this place could have been me.

I thought it was the end. I didn’t say it at the time, but I thought it,” said Ivan, 15, a ninth-grader at School Number 17 in central Kiev, recalling his emotions as he watched an online video of peaceful pro-European Union protestors, many college-age students just several years older than him, dispersed in the early morning hours of November 30. This event was a catalyst for the protest movement, commonly referred to as the Euro Maidan, as hundreds of thousands of people came into the streets the next day to demonstrate against the government of then-President Viktor Yanukovych, his policies and the abundance of corruption in Ukraine.

In February, as Yanukovych and his inner circle fled Ukraine for Russia, the Russian government began to claim it needed to protect the rights of Russian speakers in Ukraine as one of the reasons for its stance towards Ukraine. “I speak the Russian language,” said Ivan. “At school I speak in Ukrainian. In Kiev, no one says I am a bad person for speaking in Russian.”
“If not us, then who?”

said Lora Pavlenko as her husband, Valery, nodded in agreement when asked why they work on the many projects they organize for youth, low-income families and the disabled.

This husband and wife were charter members of the Kiwanis Club of Kiev in 2007. The club has 15 members, most of whom are between the ages of 20 and 35 years old.

“If the revolution was happening at this moment, we still would carry out today’s event and people would still come,” said Valery of the club’s Easter egg hunt. “This revolution was a revolution of dignity. It was not a coup or military action. ... It is at times of crisis that we especially need to organize events for children. Social programs are being closed. We need to organize even more assistance for these children and these families.”

Want more? View a photo slideshow and read about the journalist behind the stories and photos by downloading the Kiwanis magazine iPad app from the Newsstand.

Valery, a pastor at a small church, also freelances as a web designer and currently serves as president of the club. Lora is past president of the club and works as a private Ukrainian language and literature teacher, as well as at a center for underage pregnant women.

Both Valery and Lora supported the mass protest movement.

Valery, along with other Kiwanis volunteers, brought food and other supplies to assist the people living on Independence Square in freezing temperatures for three months.

Almost two months after Yanukovych left Ukraine, Lora said, “I see that change has taken place on the level of people’s mentality. People have started to think. Think, plan and believe and change some.”

Speaking of change, Ukrainians elected a new president in late May, this one known for his pro-European views: billionaire confectioner and veteran politician Petro Poroshenko. ☛
Kiwanians Valery and Lora Pavlenko
It's ridiculously early in the morning.
The sun flirts with the idea of rising over the historic city of Saint Marys, Georgia, and the birds and bugs create a jarring cacophony that provides a backdrop to the morning events. Because even though it’s still somewhat dark, there’s quite a bit of commotion on the street.

Look up information on Saint Marys and you’ll find that it’s known as “the gateway to Cumberland Island National Seashore.” But that’s not what’s bringing all the excitement to town today. Nope. It’s the other reason you’ll find in your research: the Saint Marys Rock Shrimp Festival.

This festival, held in the fall when, presumably, the weather is a bit cooler (depends on whom you ask), pays homage to the area’s most famous tiny celebrity: the rock shrimp.

Rock shrimp is what you’d call a distant cousin of the more well-known shrimp you get at the grocery store, and is common in the warmer waters from Virginia to the Gulf of Mexico. The difference? These guys are small, really small (think popcorn shrimp), and are tough. Really tough. (Think lobster shells on a tiny shrimp.)

And the Saint Marys Kiwanis Club has stumbled upon the perfect fall festival by inviting the rock shrimp to be the star of the show.

“The rock shrimp is sweet, and people line up for one of these meals,” says 2012-13 Saint Marys Kiwanis President Chris Thurner.

THE SAINT MARYS, GEORGIA, KIWANIANS HOST A HUGE FALL FESTIVAL, BUT THE STAR ATTRACTION IS A SHRIMP.

STORY BY KASEY JACKSON | PHOTOS BY CURTIS BILLUE AND KASEY JACKSON
The Kiwanis Club of Saint Marys does more than boil up shrimp for a fundraiser once a year. Club members are active all year in numerous activities, such as the annual Thanksgiving food drive, where they feed about 100 families. The club also stages the annual “Christmas for Camden Kids,” buying gifts for children in need in Camden County, Georgia.

**FALL FUNDRAISER**

The Saint Marys Rock Shrimp Festival, celebrating 42 years this year, draws 5,000 to 10,000 people and nets about US$14,000 for the club. That money goes directly back into the community for a host of projects. To name just a few: There’s a Thanksgiving dinner feeding hundreds of families, a Star Student and Star Teacher program, college scholarships, a Christmas toy project and a reading project.

“The biggest single donation is to the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl,” Thurner says. “It’s a competition among elementary, middle and high school teams. It’s a quiz show, where the schools compete against each other and have to answer questions about books they’ve read. It’s heartwarming and encouraging to see the students care this much about reading.”

The club donates money toward the purchase of books for this project and also helps with transportation.

And when all of this isn’t keeping the club’s 67 or so members busy enough, they can be found volunteering at one of the eight elementary schools (out of nine in the area) where they sponsor a K-Kids club. (They also sponsor two Builders Clubs and one Key Club.)

As Thurner tells about the club’s involvement in the community, most of the club members are scurrying around the streets, checking on vendors, setting up signs, directing traffic, selling T-shirts, pointing runners toward the start of the 5 and 10K races, answering questions about the parade route and, maybe most importantly, putting on aprons to begin the spotlight task of the day: cooking.

“We’re not just giving money—we’re hands-on, big time,” Thurner says.

It was Jason Cain and his family’s first visit to the Saint Marys Rock Shrimp Festival. Cain, of Floyds Knobs, Indiana, ran the 5K and also the mile run with his son. It was an experience he won’t soon forget.

“It’s really exciting for me to share running with him,” Cain says of his son, age 5 at the time of the race. “I’m excited to see him show interest so early and be able to run a mile without any issues. He loves running with me. He’s at the age where he wants to be like Daddy in every way, so I’m certainly enjoying this while it lasts.”
‘FOR THE KIDS’

Walking through the crowd, Kiwanis members stay busy with the day’s events, but still find time to say hi. There are lots of laughs. Handshakes. “See-you-laters.” It’s a tight-knit community; that’s obvious. As the parade passes by, the scene is like something straight out of a movie. It’s so … small town. Everyone here seems to know one another. Waves aren’t just thrown out to strangers in the crowd; they’re thrown out to best friends. Teachers. Students. Church members. Neighbors. Moms and dads and grandparents. Sailors marching in the parade carry kids on their shoulders and salute veterans in the crowd. There are even a few dogs.

“I really enjoy walking through the crowds, talking to the people,” says Saint Marys Kiwanian Barbara Mizelle. “I love being totally involved and seeing the interaction of the club members—everyone steps up and enjoys teaching the community what Kiwanis is and what we stand for and how we work so hard for our community and children.”

Back under the shade of a wooden pavilion, Kiwanis members assigned to the cooking crew squeeze past one another. A few people are mixing batter for homemade hush puppies. Two others are cutting, breading and cooking the fish. Another four or five are handling the rock shrimp. And another handful are packing the food and handing off to volunteers who act as “runners,” taking the food to the hungry crowds waiting in line.

Even while standing over a steaming pan of oil, frying up the rock shrimp to a beautiful golden brown, Kiwanian Allen Rassi has time to pour his heart out about why the club comes back here, year after year.

“We do it all for the kids,” Rassi says. “That’s what we’re here for. That’s what keeps this machine running. These kids in this community are everything. They’re just such great kids.”

Kiwanians and other volunteers work countless hours to make the Saint Marys Rock Shrimp Festival a success. Visitors to the festival, such as Jason Cain (pictured at left with his son) get more than just a delicious seafood dinner. There’s music, shopping, a parade and, of course, the 5K and children’s races, to name a few.
It’s back-to-school season, but some families and teachers struggle to afford necessary supplies. That’s where Kiwanis clubs come in.

**Story and photos by Jo Lynn Garing**

That time of year again: back-to-school and week after week of advertising for new school supplies, backpacks and clothes.

But not all families can afford to purchase new items each year for school. And many teachers are finding it difficult to have a fully stocked classroom without reaching into their own pocketbook.

That’s where the Goshen, Maple City, Indiana, Kiwanis Club comes in.

Tools-4-Schools, a program started by Maple City Kiwanian Dick Barnes in 2002, provides free school supplies for teachers and students in Goshen. The program has grown from providing school supplies to one school to serving nine schools and about 160 teachers. This past year, Tools-4-Schools distributed more than US$18,000 worth of binders, erasers, reference books, protractors, paper, light bulbs, storage containers and such.

“There’s still a need in our community to help the teachers in their classrooms and to help their students succeed,” says Janet Buccicone, Tools-4-Schools co-chairwoman. Sixty-seven percent of our students locally receive free and reduced-price meals. Six of the seven elementary schools are Title 1 schools (with high numbers or percentages of disadvantaged students).

Our members believe this program continues to be needed in our community.”

Buccicone says the club budgets $5,000 for
Goshen, Maple City Kiwanis members gather and prepare supplies for their annual Tools-4-Schools project. The project allows teachers to "shop" for school supplies, lessening the burden of spending their own money for their classrooms.

The project each year. They also accept donations from the community.

"Some of the members in our club made these little yellow school buses that we put out at collection spots," Buccicone says. "And we also shop the deals to find what we need."

The club also receives support from other community organizations.

"Green Lockers is a church organization that goes into the schools at the end of the school year," Buccicone says. "As the kids are throwing out perfectly good things, they collect them, sort them and then we go pick it up."

School supplies are stored in a warehouse owned by the Goshen School District. The Tools-4-Schools committee works together nearly every week to sort supplies, put things away, fill online orders and deliver orders to teachers.

Throughout the school year, the club also hosts several open houses at the warehouse where teachers can shop for supplies.

At an open house this past September, Julie Sours, a middle school and high school German teacher was shopping for supplies.

"It's very helpful," Sours says. "I often buy stuff with my own money. There's not a lot of opportunities to get reimbursed, especially for stuff you use every day. You've got to have pencils and paper in the classroom, and if the kids don't have it, they still need it. So to have an opportunity like this is really neat, and to feel supported by the community is great too."

Seventh-grade math and sixth- and seventh-grade science teacher Krista Kempf loaded up on hot commodities for the classroom like tape, pencils, pens, Wite-Out, dry erase markers, protractors, scissors, tape and glue sticks.

"It's so helpful for me to get classroom supplies without having to go out and spend my paycheck on pens and pencils," Kempf says. "A lot of times students have trouble bringing their own supplies, and it's just nice to be able to provide them with supplies so it's not getting in the way of their learning."

"There's still a need in our community to help the teachers in their classrooms and to help their students succeed."
In northwestern Malaysia, you’ll see signs of Kiwanis spinning out of doorways accompanied by bursts of “Bye, Mom! Bye, Dad!” Or puttering down a lane on the back of a scooter. Or waiting at a stoplight. Or hustling through the doorway of a school.

In the evening, you’ll find signs of Kiwanis in homes: on a desk or in a bookshelf, but always close at hand to assist a child with her homework.

Since 2009, the Going to School with Kiwanis project has been helping underprivileged children succeed in school, initially with a backpack distribution and, more recently, with gifts of dictionaries. The program originated with the Kiwanis Club of Bandaraya Ipoh and has since spread to involve 12 other Kiwanis clubs.

“According to statistics from Education Malaysia, there are currently an estimated 1.8 million pupils in primary schools throughout our nation,” reports Suzi M. A. Aziz, administrator of the Kiwanis Down Syndrome Foundation’s Ipoh Centre. “Sixty-eight percent are considered poor. Twenty-two percent come from problem families. And 10 percent are categorized as ‘orphans and others.’”

To serve so many students, the clubs appealed to their communities. One donor contributed 3,000 lunch boxes and water tumblers for the backpack distribution. Individuals and corporations could sponsor a book at RM20 (US$3.25) each. 1,000 donors were given the honor of presenting their 50 dictionaries in person to the students. Alumni, the Kiwanians discovered, eagerly welcomed the opportunity to give back to their alma mater.

Each year, the project has achieved its objectives and more, inspiring the opening of the Kiwanis clubs of Sungai Siput and Gunung Rapat, as well as four Circle K clubs. One philanthropist matched the school bag donations to establish a university scholarship. One educator expressed thanks in a letter:

“We, the teachers and pupils of SJKC Poay Chnheh … extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciations to Kiwanis for the distribution of dictionaries to our school,” wrote administrator Chong Loon Siook.
When a Kiwanis club has staged the same project many years in a row, it’s very likely its members have great memories and stories to share.

Take the Kiwanis Club of Ozark Empire, Missouri, for example.

In 1950, a group of civic-minded men decided to work closely with the public schools to help children in Springfield, Missouri. Their work led to the chartering of a new Kiwanis club. Their big project idea: Provide underprivileged school children with new shoes. It was a big commitment, but one they tackled head-on.

“The men bought a case of apples and immediately began selling those apples one-by-one on Springfield’s downtown street corners, using the profits to buy new school shoes for kids,” says Ozark Empire Kiwanian Rick Williams. “The die was cast, and over the following six decades, the club’s apple-selling project has grown into a large countywide event to support children.”

The plan was to have an adult, a Kiwanian, sit with the students one-on-one to fit the shoes, showing the children they are important and valued. The project, now in its 64th year, is going strong. Guided by the schools’ advice on which children should receive the shoes, club members purchase the footwear, stock shelves, measure the students’ feet and spend time talking to each student during the process.

“The thing I enjoy the most about the Shoe Buddy project is spending time fitting the children and watching their reaction at getting brand-new, brightly colored shoes,” says Kiwanis member Tom Whitson. And about those memories … there are a few that stick out for Whitson.

“There was one child who would not tell me that she didn’t like the style of shoes she received,” he recalls. “She came back the next week, and we gave her what she really wanted. She was very appreciative.

“And there was the one child who was in high school when he received his shoes, and he later became the class president at Missouri State University.”
Past Kiwanis International World Service Medal recipient Father Pedro Opeka serves the masses in Madagascar.
Father Pedro Opeka decided to become a priest at the tender age of 15. At 22, he found himself a bricklayer in Madagascar, where he would begin his journey as a missionary.

Father Pedro would eventually establish a humanitarian association known as Akamasoa, which means “good friend.” Akamasoa now consists of five reception centers around the island’s capital city of Antanarivo, composed of 18 villages where 2,926 families have settled. That’s 15,560 people, of which more than 60 percent are children under the age of 15.

“Working with the poorest is a mission that you choose freely,” Father Pedro says. “And this must be lived and acted out in the spirit of fraternity and with the utmost humility, but without forgetting the courage and boldness which are needed to defend the dignity of poor and forgotten families and children who have been left behind by modern progress.”

Kiwanis magazine talked with Father Pedro recently, about his successes, his goals, the Kiwanis World Service Medal and what he wants to do next.
Tell us about yourself.
I was born in Buenos Aires in Argentina and my parents are Slovenian. I entered the Community of Vincentian Fathers. Our founder, St. Vincent de Paul, personally sent the first French missionary priests to Madagascar in 1648. This beautiful country needed missionaries, so I decided to become one and then volunteered for the Madagascar Mission, where I’ve been living for the past 44 years.

Do you remember your first impressions of Madagascar?
I arrived in Madagascar on October 26, 1970. I worked on the coast of the Indian Ocean in the town of Vangaindrano, 900 kilometers from the capital. I remember being welcomed as a friend and brother. I worked among the Antaisaka tribe, who accepted me into their community with great joy. I saw a people who were happy and who knew how to share with each other and live with an exemplary sense of solidarity. They lived quite simply. They were poor, but knew how to share the little they had. Unfortunately, this sense of solidarity has largely deteriorated since 1975, particularly in cities where there is much hardship.

Speaking of people living in hardship, what was it like to see families living from what they found on the garbage dumps?
My first visit to families at the Antananarivo garbage dump was in 1989. I remember being petrified. It was a real shock to see so many very young children fighting with dogs and pigs for scraps of garbage. I couldn’t sleep that night. I knelt down in my bed and prayed to God to help me to do something for these children and their families living in extreme poverty. I felt a force come over me. Next morning, I
went to the garbage dump and I started to speak with the poorest families in the world. I introduced myself as a priest and told them: “If you love your children, I’m going to help you and together we’re going to work for a better life for your children.” They replied: “We agree!” Then the extraordinary adventure of Akamasoa began. This year, we’re celebrating our 25th year of fighting for justice for the poorest and to wipe out poverty.

How did you help these families? With the strength of the gospels and the grace of God, I started working with the poorest, living with them in their neighborhood, without being known by anyone and without any money, but with the passion and faith that poverty isn’t inevitable and that it can be beaten with love, truth, work and education.

What’s the main objective of Akamasoa? If you want to help the poorest, you have to set up an organization with clear objectives. We set up a solidarity movement, not just a charity, in order to assist poor street and garbage-dump children and families and help them to reintegrate into society. We’re involved with more than 10 different areas of poor people’s lives: from shelter from the street to health, schooling, work, building accommodation, the environment, safety, drinking water, energy, Sunday services and burials.

You were awarded the Service Medal from Kiwanis International in 2005. What did this mean to you? The gold medal that Kiwanis International gave me in Honolulu was a very significant and unforgettable moment. Every international recognition offers encouragement to our fight against poverty. It was very moving to see the fraternity among members who had come from across the world and yet were like one big family. I saw the enormous work and commitment of Kiwanis and the humanitarian spirit and beliefs of its members, particularly in helping children across the whole world.

Project Akamasoa has been the beneficiary of Kiwanis International Foundation grants. How has this money been used? This money was used to buy medication, educational supplies and rice for the malnourished children of Akamasoa. We now look after 25,000 people every day in all aspects of their lives and we spend a lot of money to help them. We provide work to 3,000 men and women. We wanted to fight poverty through work, school and discipline.

What are you the most proud of in all that you’ve accomplished in life? What gives me the greatest joy is having removed 11,550 children from the street and garbage dump who are now in school and have started a new life with real hope. These children were the innocent victims of this world of extreme poverty. Now, when I see all of these children at school, I say, ‘Thank you, God, for having chosen me as your instrument to help through all these well-intentioned people who trusted us in this fight against poverty.’ Our fight against poverty is based on concrete action rather than empty promises.

What’s next? There’s still much to do. Thousands of families with several children are still living in extreme poverty, and we have no more space and not enough money to do more to help these families who are still on the street. Now we have to focus our efforts on education so that thousands of children and young people can prepare for their own future and so that they in turn can become agents of change and progress for their own brothers and sisters. Today in Akamasoa’s schools, there are almost 200 instructors and teachers who used to live on the street. This is the next generation.
Members of the Northwest Middle School Builders Club in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, share an unbridled passion for serving others in the nearby village of Tobaccoville. Among their pet projects is the Riverwood Therapeutic Riding Center, a 53-acre ranch that provides equine-assisted activities for adults and children with special needs.

But the middle schoolers don’t support the center financially. Rather, they perform a variety of chores that are physically demanding yet fun, as evidenced by the essays they write when their work is done.

“The Builders Club generally does grounds work for us,” notes Kyle Petty, the center’s barn man. “They use their numbers to tackle jobs that would take me too long to do myself, even if I had that much energy. They’ve cleared riding trails, making it safer for our horses and volunteers to use them. They’ve cleared the woods from around our outdoor riding arena. And they’ve repainted benches our families and visitors use.”

The Builders Club had worked at Riverwood a year ago and wanted to return this school year, says Bob Neal of the Kiwanis Club of Winston-Salem. About 15 to 20 members participated in autumn and spring projects, organizing into teams and using hand tools to clear brush and limbs from outdoor riding trails.

“This project allows the kids to learn the value of service to others,” Neal stresses. “After completing the work, they were able to watch a therapeutic riding class and see special needs children experiencing horse therapy.”

The kids also made a connection with the horses.

“Farm animals are foreign to most of the middle school kids,” Petty explains, “but our horses do what they do best: offer patience, strength and calm. The kids are soon smiling and offering them rubs and treats.”

“The experience of a task faced and completed by a team is pretty hard to beat,” Petty adds. “They get to see a glimpse of the natural world—horses, chickens running around, fresh air, flowers, dirt, the smells of a farm. They’re helping other people for the sake of doing something good—all beneficial experiences.”

The experience definitely is not lost on the Builders Club members. Each one is required to write a brief essay, which Neal says reinforces the learn-
ing experience from their service, while providing feedback to Kiwanis advisors and the center. Here’s a sampling of what the kids wrote about their recent experiences:

“In Builders Club, we went to a special orthopedics horse center. It’s called Riverwood. Riverwood is a center for children with special needs who could be stuck at home all day. Riverwood lets kids ride horses and have fun. We helped by helping clean up some trees and branches around the place. We thinned out undergrowth to make the woods less spooky for the horses. Now you can see clearly. It was a lot of hard work trimming trees but we had plenty of teamwork and fun.”

— Meghan Jones, 7th grade

“I really enjoyed going to Riverwood. This is the second time that I’ve been to help. This time we cleared brush and trimmed tree limbs that were in the way of the horses. We all worked hard and had fun while doing it. I really enjoyed it and I hope we can go back.”

— Kendall Britton, 8th grade

“I had fun on the field trip helping and cleaning Riverwood. It was also very cool to see the horses and give a ride to somebody who couldn’t really do the things other people can do.”

— Ashley Barber, 7th grade

“I had a great time at Riverwood. What I and everyone else did was easy. We were cutting tree limbs, to clean up for their fundraiser. We cut the limbs, drug them to a tarp to be collected and dumped. I helped and had a good time.”

— Zack Pace, 6th grade

“I had a fun experience at Riverwood. I liked helping cut the trees and meet the horses and learn about what they do and how the process works. I was proud to be part of the club.”

— Charlotte Soothill, 6th grade
SHOWCASE

CHILD SAFETY IS NO TRIVIAL PURSUIT

STORY BY DICK ISENHOUR | ILLUSTRATION BY CURTIS BILLUE

Child safety is no game for the Edmonton, Alberta, Kiwanis Club. Twice a year, the club stages Trivia Night, an evening of purposeful fun and friendly—though often heated—competition. The events raise thousands of dollars for Kiwanis Safety City, a facility that provides safety training for tens of thousands of Alberta children every year.

Modeled after a popular pastime in British pubs, Trivia Night has become a mainstay in the Edmonton area. The concept was introduced to the club in 2008 by Roy Bird, who oversees the events and is known by many as the “trivia master.” Since then, on an evening each October and April, hundreds of local residents, including members of neighboring Kiwanis clubs, file into the Londonberry Community League Hall to test their knowledge of trivia.

“We have a loyal following,” Bird says, “and are in danger of outgrowing the community hall we currently hold it in. Many teams attend, not because they think they can win, but just to see how many silly answers they can discuss among their teammates. There’s a lot of laughter, as well as groans and cheers when the answers are given.”

Teams of up to six people compete against each other to see who can get the most correct answers to 60 questions posed to them by the trivia master. (Test your skills against the trivia master at http://kwn.is/kitrivia.)

“The atmosphere is fun, but occasionally tense,” says club member Ali Grotkowski. “I don’t think any team has ever had a perfect game. Your team is usually doing well if you’re getting more than 50 percent of the questions right.”

In addition to paying a CAD$10 entry fee, contestants take part in a silent auction. Items are donated by businesses and politicians, and could include office furniture, books, tools, clothing and artwork. Donors also provide team prizes given out during the event. A typical evening nets the club $3,000 to $4,000, earmarked for Kiwanis Safety City.

Sporting a miniaturized traffic and pedestrian site, Kiwanis Safety City features life-sized operational traffic lights, railroad and pedestrian crossings and scaled-down buildings donated by supporting corporations. Bird says these all give the site the look and feel of an actual working city.

Children’s programs, he adds, include pedestrian traffic safety; Pedal Pushers bicycle safety for ages 5-8; a Pedal Pushers bicycle camp for ages 9-12; scooter parties; babysitter courses; safety and environment day camps.

Trivia Night also benefits local Kiwanis clubs.

“Trivia Night itself sees a tremendous amount of cooperation between all clubs in the area,” Bird explains. “Set-up, take down, kitchen duties, registration, bar, silent auction are all assigned to individual clubs. It’s truly a cooperative effort.”
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"It is when you give of yourself that you truly give," wrote Lebanese author Kahlil Gibran. And, that unselfish style of self-sacrificing giving is just what Burbank, California, Kiwanis Club members are doing.

It all started in 1997, when Kiwanis member Stephen Veres read a newspaper story about a widowed mother, who was killed as she was attempting to put gas in her car. The woman was struck by a hit-and-run, drunken driver. With three of her six children watching, she died at the scene. Her children were destitute and homeless. Orphans. Veres knew he had to help. He wrote to fellow Kiwanians, describing the family’s tragedy. An outcry for help erupted throughout the ranks. Her children were destitute and homeless. Orphans.

Veres knew he had to help. He wrote to fellow Kiwanians, describing the family’s tragedy. An outcry for help erupted throughout the ranks. Her children were destitute and homeless. Orphans.

Within days, countless gift certificates and checks showed up and continued coming in for the next three years. They didn’t stop until the children’s future became secure.

Fresh from the triumph of their efforts, members realized there were many more children in need of help and established an ongoing program: Kiwanis Cares About Children.

The first family helped, under the new KCAC project was a very sick Mike Hele and his 14-year-old daughter, Allison. Mike had an inoperable tumor on his neck, which spread to his vocal cords. A single parent, Mike was terrified of what would happen to Allison after he was gone.

The Burbank Kiwanis Club reached out to him, helping the family of two up to his death. More important, after Mike passed away, they carried out his wishes, helping to find a good home for Allison. Afterward, they supported her education.

“We were very happy to hear Allison is now out of school and doing great,” Veres says.

Recently, the KCAC helped the Satterstrom family, who didn’t have money to pay their murdered son’s funeral expenses. The Kiwanians also provided food, clothes and money to help the boy’s six needy siblings.

Since its inception, the KCAC program has helped numerous other children and families, and there’s always work to be done.

Says Veres: “We’re already excited to begin aiding the next child that we find in need of help.”
In 2015, Kiwanis will turn 100. A celebration this important requires preparation. Is your club getting ready? Add your inspiration to our global celebration. Get ideas and information on the 100th anniversary website!

Get ideas and information at Kiwanis.org/Kiwanis100.
A new K-Kids club in the Philippines wasted no time in leaving a digital service footprint. The K-Kids Club of Mayamot Elementary School in Antipolo City recently celebrated Kiwanis One Day by teaching classmates, friends and family computer skills learned from its sponsoring Kiwanis Club of Antipolo West.

Forming the K-Kids club and seeing it launch its first service project were logical next steps in the club’s long-standing relationship with the school, according to club President Wilfredo Pertubal.

“For the past 26 years, we’ve been inspiring young graduates with our Leadership Excellence medals presented during every commencement exercise,” Pertubal explains. “Many of these students are from families without the resources for computers or training on their own. This puts the children at a disadvantage, and many of them aren’t able to make it into high school.”

With help from the One Laptop Per Child Foundation, which is based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the club provided the school’s third-graders with XO computers. The learning tool is designed specifically for students in developing countries. Club members were able to teach students the XO operating system until each student could master the machine.

“The school children learned computer skills quite easily through hands-on training,” Pertubal notes. “They were able to discover various programs designed for kids in elementary school. They mastered the XO operating system in a very short time, becoming proficient in writing and reading.”

Impressed with how quickly the kids absorbed what they were being taught, the Kiwanis club began exploring ways to expand the program to the rest of the school. Their search ended with the chartering of the K-Kids club in January and the scheduling of Sharing My Computer Know-how with a Friend day as an event for Kiwanis One Day in April.

“Since they were trained ahead of their peers, the K-Kids thought of this activity as their first project during their summer break,” Pertubal says. To commemorate the day, the club produced a video using The Sharing Song as a background.

And, of course, the events of the day will be stored forever in the memories of the participants.

“I invited my younger sister, Regine, because I wanted to help her learn computer and see for myself if I can share what I’ve learned,” an exuberant Raven Eve, K-Kids club treasurer, said after the day. “Next time, I will invite my best friends and probably some of my classmates too, and teach them some games and music.”

“It’s an awesome feeling to see kids sharing their knowledge with family and friends,” Pertubal adds. “We hope to inspire more kids to do the same next year during our celebration of Kiwanis One Day.”

The kids weren’t the only ones inspired by the day, however.

Phillip Prudenciado, faculty advisor of the newly chartered K-Kids club, was so impressed by the activity he joined the Kiwanis club.
Kiwanis Youth Protection Week is September 7–13, 2014.

Inspire your club to help protect young people—and members’ reputations. Prepare for Youth Protection Week. Make sure every member has the updated guidelines. Make time for youth protection training. Make an important week come alive by getting ready now.

www.kiwanis.org/youthprotection
Birthdays

These clubs celebrate 25th, 50th and 75th anniversaries in September 2014. For a more complete list, visit www.kiwanis.org/birthday.

75th—1939
Hornell, New York, September 8
Miami Beach, Florida, September 11
Sheldon, Iowa, September 14
Clearfield, Utah, September 22
Union City, Tennessee, September 28

50th—1964
Deltona-Southwest Volusia, Florida, September 3
Grand Island, The Third City, Nebraska, September 8

25th—1989
New Kingston, Jamaica, September 6
Windsor, Colorado, September 6
Southeast Polk, Iowa, September 7
Sussex Vale Golden K, New Brunswick, September 12
Golden Tagum, Philippines, September 15
Linz-Nike, Austria, September 16
Shelley, Idaho, September 19
Kremstal, Austria, September 19
Winston-Salem Golden K, North Carolina, September 21
Borgomanero, Italy, September 25
Norlanco-Rheems, Pennsylvania, September 27
Alphen Aan Den Rijn, Netherlands, September 27
Greater Millsboro, Delaware, September 27
Tain-Tournon, France, September 27
Dayton Township, Nevada, September 29
Bluenose Golden K, Nova Scotia, September 29
Cascade Park, Washington, September 29
Barbados South, Barbados, September 29

Did you get it?

The new Kiwanis retail catalog arrived in May. Ask your club secretary to show it off... and build Kiwanis awareness in your community.

See what’s new at www.kiwanis.org/store.
It’s human nature: When you love something—when something really matters to you—you want to share it. You want other people to love it with you. And you want it to be more than something you “do.” You want it to be part of your life. That’s The Formula: Take something you love. Share it with others. Make it a part of your life. It’s Kiwanis. **Love it. Share it. Live it.**
Cars change a lot over 25 years. So, too, do service organizations.

On the left is a Ford Model T that rolled out of a Detroit plant during the week of Kiwanis’ founding, January 21, 1915. On the right is a Ford Deluxe built in January 1940—just in time to take part in Kiwanis’ 25th birthday party later that month.

“The 1915 Ford functioned properly,” reported the March 1940 issue of The Kiwanis Magazine. “But it lacked the improvements and additions that 25 years of mechanical progress and inventive genius had made possible. The new Ford, streamlined, with smoothly functioning parts, greater power, speed and control seemed to be the last word.”

Similarly, the magazine added, every year brings new values and increased possibilities for service.

“It was fitting and appropriate that these two cars be used in the anniversary exercises.”

A “first-class blizzard” met the Kiwanians that Monday morning, wrote Managing Editor Merton S. Heiss. The motorcade traveled throughout the area: to Acacia Park Cemetery to lay a wreath at the grave of the first Kiwanian, Joseph G. Prance; a side trip to a Windsor, Ontario, radio station to record an anniversary message; to Detroit’s Masonic Temple for a luncheon honoring the Detroit club’s five surviving “pioneer” members; over to the Griswold Hotel to dedicate a plaque at Kiwanis’ birthplace; and then returning to the Masonic Temple for a banquet and dance, where President Bennett O. Knudson spoke of changes that would transform Kiwanis in the future.

“We do not know to what peak Kiwanis may rise for its Golden Anniversary,” Knudson said. “But we do know that there will still be Kiwanis, and we can and should dream and plan for an organization which will even more completely and adequately accomplish its then objectives than the Kiwanis of today.”
Kiwanis members, do you know an inspiring teen who’s creating major impact?

- A teen who is leading others to join their movement and take action on causes that are important to them?

- A teen with a unique, powerful story who took their personal experience and, through service, made it meaningful on a bigger level – a level that really made a difference?

That's awesome!
We would love to hear about this person. There's a chance we'll shine the HALO spotlight on them!

We're now accepting nominations for the HALO Effect!

HALO Effect recipients will be recognized across TeenNick digital, press and on-air channels. Each teen recipient has the chance to donate $5,000 to a charity of their choice.

To find out more about HALO Effect or to nominate a teen, go to www.teennick.com/halo
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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