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Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

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LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

PHOTO BY ALLISON V. SMITH
My nine-year-old granddaughter Maya was concerned about all the harsh things happening in the world today and wondered aloud how kids like her would recognize “the Kiwanis good guys.” She decided to make a large “K” for me to carry. “That way, wherever you go, all the kids will know you’re a Kiwanis good guy,” she said.

Since 1915, Kiwanis clubs have been made up of Kiwanis good guys who have worked to promote peace and understanding through service. We believe we can build better communities to combat hate and prejudice by creating enduring friendships and rendering altruistic service to others. When people volunteer together, it’s easier to accept and appreciate each other’s differences.

As Kiwanians, we see that acceptance and appreciation happening, especially in our youth programs, such as our K-Kids and Builders Club. At the beginning of the school year, children often worry about their differences and about how they’ll be treated. The transformation that happens in just a few weeks is amazing. The kids learn how to work together and appreciate one another. They learn how their differences make them special and they learn to spread that light, life and hope to others.

This is just one of the reasons kids need Kiwanis. There are thousands of Kiwanis clubs all over the world meeting the needs in their communities so every child can grow up happy, healthy, safe and loved.

How do you support the Kiwanis good guys? Maybe it’s time to invite a potential Kiwanian to a service project, meet an absent member for coffee, help open a new club, shake the hand of new members and invite them to sit at your table.

Through Kiwanis, we begin as fellow “members” and develop into good friends who, together, are dedicated to making the world a better place, a place where all children can be happy, healthy, safe and loved.

What will you do for the Kiwanis good guys today?
It’s the season of generosity. It’s the time of good will. It’s the perfect moment to give to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund. Kids need Kiwanis, and your gift helps Kiwanians reach them—by funding grants that help change children’s lives. Make your holiday gift today.

kiwanis.org/holidaygiving
Flipping for a good cause

Now is the time to register for the **2017 IHOP National Pancake Day**!

Since beginning this celebration in 2006, IHOP restaurants have raised nearly US$24 million to support charities in the communities in which they operate.

Money raised on National Pancake Day benefits **Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals**, a Kiwanis International Preferred Charity.

For more information, visit nationalpancakedayvolunteer.com.

Convention update

The **106th Annual Kiwanis International Convention** will be hosted by Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, June 18–21, 2020.
New leadership role
The new position of district partnership coordinator is responsible for connecting clubs with Kiwanis International’s official partners and supporting clubs in developing and maintaining signature projects in their communities. The partnership coordinator may also help form new partnerships in selected regions, applicable to those areas. The group conducted its training in Indianapolis this past October. Contact your district office for information.

What’s all the buzz?
Did you know new Kiwanis clubs get a one-year membership to Portalbuzz for free?
Did you know that existing clubs can try Portalbuzz for free for 30 days?
Wait. You don’t know what Portalbuzz is yet? It’s OK. We’re here to help.
Learn more about how Portalbuzz can help your club manage its business at portalbuzz.com/kiwanis.

Marketplace perks
Beyond the club benefits of service and fellowship, members also can enjoy a host of benefits found in our Kiwanis Marketplace. What type of benefits, you ask? Everything from discounted group insurance rates to a Kiwanis Visa® Rewards credit card and fabulous global adventures courtesy of Kiwanis Travel. Find it all and more at kiwanis.org/marketplace.
Retired insurance executive **Gil Rushing** uses a tried-and-true method for attracting new members to the Kiwanis Club of Monroe, North Carolina: talk to friends, family and workmates. He knows it works, because it worked on him.

“When I joined, it was because of one of the guys whom I’ve known a long time,” says Rushing, a six-year member. “We were playing golf and he asked me, ‘How about joining Kiwanis?’ I didn’t have any idea what Kiwanis did, but I went to a meeting and saw a bunch of people I knew.”

Shortly after signing up, Rushing was appointed membership chair—a position he still holds. During his time in office, the club has increased its membership to just over 50. He’s sponsored more than a dozen new members himself, and also helped guide approximately eight others, who were approached by other Kiwanians, to membership.

“They kind of call me the closer,” Rushing says. “When people attend our meeting, they get an application and a booklet outlining what Kiwanis does. I get their phone number, then follow up in a week and invite them back a second time. That’s usually how we find out if they’re going to join.”

He credits his decades in the insurance business with his success in attracting new members. The trick, he believes, is to stay constantly on the lookout for high-quality potential members in your own networks of friends, family and work associates.

“I started inviting buddies I play golf with,” he says.

The local public education system is also fertile ground, because the club maintains Terrific Kids programs in each of the county’s 31 elementary schools.

“We have a lot of members who are in the school system,” Rushing says. “It kind of goes hand-in-hand with what we do.”

Ideally, he’d like to see the club’s...
membership swell to at least 55—a number he's just a few newcomers shy of attaining. He says another trick to increasing membership is to encourage every member to approach solid prospects.

"Everybody can help out," Rushing advises. "Bring in people you work with or friends you know. It's a snowball effect."

It also doesn't hurt to talk up your club. Fortunately that's not a problem for the Monroe group, which is deeply involved in numerous area projects. Indeed, their reputation often precedes them.

"We’re well known," Rushing says. "We call ourselves the fun group, and we all have a good time. It’s just a great group to be with." — Sam Stall

Committee changes

Effective October 1, 2016, the district standing committees required by Kiwanis International have changed, with three former committees being eliminated: children and youth services; fundraising; and public relations. Some of those efforts will now be headed by a new category of appointments called “key positions”: risk manager, youth protection manager, The Formula (membership/club opening) coordinator, leadership development coordinator, partnership coordinator and public relations coordinator.

Contact your district office for more information.
Travel contest 2017

Does your New Year’s resolution involve seeing more of the world? This January, Kiwanis Travel is giving away a cruise for two—and entering the giveaway is as easy as sharing your opinion.

What is the prize?

A seven-day Rhine River cruise for two with excursions in Switzerland, Germany, France and the Netherlands.

Highlights:

- Travel back in time to the medieval village of Riquewihr.
- Visit one of the largest wine cellars in Europe in Breisach.
- Venture into the Black Forest, known for its fairy tales and fables.
- Tour the famous red-walled Heidelberg Castle.
- See Anne Frank’s statue and the secret annex where she wrote her diary.
- Choose your own day-long adventure in Strasbourg, with options ranging from a foodie excursion to a sightseeing tour of historical architecture.

How do I enter?

On January 5, visit Kiwanis International’s official Facebook page (facebook.com/Kiwanis) for the link to the contest page. To enter, simply let us know your favorite Kiwanis Travel trip from the list of available offerings. That’s it!

The deadline to enter the contest is 11:59 p.m. ET on January 19, 2017. The winner will be announced on the Kiwanis International Facebook page on Saturday, January 21—which is also Kiwanis’ 102nd birthday.
More to love

Want more? Here is a sampling of other upcoming Kiwanis Travel trips:

- Cuba: January 2017
- Caribbean Cruise: March 2017
- Dutch Waterways: April 2017
- Kiwanis convention tours (several options): July 2017
- England’s Castles, Cottages and Countryside: July 2017

More to love

Want more? Here is a sampling of other upcoming Kiwanis Travel trips:

- Cuba: January 2017
- Caribbean Cruise: March 2017
- Dutch Waterways: April 2017
- Kiwanis convention tours (several options): July 2017
- England’s Castles, Cottages and Countryside: July 2017

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It’s the day before the Garland, Texas, Independent School District-sponsored Key Leader camp, and a small group of high school students gathers in a circle for introductions. Some are confident and joking around. A few look nervously at their own name tags, while others are so shy and quiet that when they do talk they seem to almost choke on their words.

One young man introduces himself as Jorge, but then announces that everyone can call him George. He walks a fine line between shyness and confidence, not quite sure how much of himself to reveal to the others.

When George says he loves to play guitar and sing, everyone presses him to sing, but he immediately withdraws. His body language reflects the words that he can’t speak: He won’t; sorry. Not today, but maybe someday.

They finish their introductions and prepare for tomorrow’s sessions as student facilitators, leaders among their peers.

Though their appearances, backgrounds...
and interests are different, they do have at least one common bond: All of the students at this special Key Leader camp in Cedar Hill, Texas, are English Language Learners. From 15 countries around the world, representing Hispanic, Arabic, African and Asian cultures, they have come to learn the Key Leader way and achieve their personal best through service leadership.

MENTAL WALL
Near the back of the camp’s auditorium-size worship center, a towering climbing wall looms over the tables and chairs and bends out over the students. Looking up, it’s hard to imagine scaling such a structure alone without harnesses, ropes and guides. Many ELL students probably feel like they are facing their own mental climbing wall, without help, without support.

Some of the students’ teachers are serving as adult facilitators. They say it’s difficult enough for most teens to learn a new language and social norms in a new place, but even harder to overcome the rigors of schoolwork and personal problems at the same time.

Some ELL students are without parents, living with strangers who fight. Some are seen as expensive burdens and drop out to find work. Add family pressures to succeed, complex visa and sponsorship issues, and you have a mountain of stress.

“I was trying to do everything myself, but I just couldn’t because of my (lack of) English,” George says. “While I’m here (in camp), it’s the best feeling ever. You can talk to anybody, and they’re not going to judge you,” he says. “My self-esteem goes up whenever I feel that, and I see myself growing, because I want to be someone in life.”

CHANGE THE PERCEPTION
Margaret Rutaquio, ELL Leadership teacher at South Garland High School, says program founders Deborah Canup and Roseo Caburian wanted to change the perception of non-English-speaking students. Many kids were ashamed of being called ELL students and when asked to write personal essays, had horrible stories to tell.

“While I’m here, it’s the best feeling ever. You can talk to anybody, and they’re not going to judge you. My self-esteem goes up whenever I feel that, and I see myself growing, because I want to be someone in life.” — George
“We showcased how beautiful it is that they have a second language and it’s not a detriment to them,” Rutaquio says.

A passion for serving the community brought them together as a family, and quickly spread to other high schools.

“People began to hear about the ELLs and their community projects,” says Canup.

“When I learned about the Key Leader camp from the Garland Kiwanis Club, I knew it must be afforded for each student, so we worked together with Kiwanis to organize a GISD/Kiwanis camp so that as many ELLs as possible could experience the Key Leader program.”

LABELS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Warda, a Key Leader student facilitator, stands out among the crowd, not because she wears a colorful hijab over her head and neck, but because she beams with confidence and energy.

“Leadership has helped me in many ways,” Warda says. “In the morning, I was thinking how I changed from first year to this year; how my confidence built up at this camp.”

Garrett Pruessner, ELL Teen Leadership teacher at Lakeview Centennial High School, is proud of Warda. She has blossomed and joined every single club, activity and officer position.

“She’s become a role model for the rest of the students,” he says. “When she comes to the after-school tutorials, she’s helping other students think about what they want to do with their time and futures.”

It wasn’t always easy though. All of the student facilitators have a story to tell: about when they arrived at school and were bullied, or they were made fun of based on their skin color, country of origin or speech.
Hanna was called the “silent girl.” Warda was called a terrorist. Uy was made fun of because of his name. Overcoming prejudice from a few teachers and students for being different is not an easy thing to do alone.

POWER OF CAMP
During a breakout session, George encourages one of the students to participate and add her thoughts to the discussion. As facilitator, he listens and makes sure everyone in his group feels included.

“The students who are kind of loners and feel that they don’t fit in were really hesitant to be part of camp,” says Garrett. “But what I’ve seen since then is that relationship building and that bond where a few students in particular have really grown.”

It’s the last day of the camp. George is now playing guitar and singing with friends outside—and anyone can listen. He’s laughing and singing and confident, just like he is when leading his group. His voice no longer is soft and subdued, but present. He beams as other students call out his names. George! Jorge!

Michelle Corbin, ELL Leadership teacher at North Garland High School, sees George as a natural leader.

“He doesn’t see it though,” she says. “He has an effect on people that he doesn’t even see.”

These students are on the right path toward reaching their potential. And George might sum it up best: “Key Leader makes you be a better person.”

“Leadership has helped me in many ways. In the morning, I was thinking how I changed from first year to this year; how my confidence built up at this camp.” —Warda
Most of what you’ve heard about Paris is true. It’s breathtakingly beautiful. It’s the City of Love and the City of Light—and you’ll see examples of both. The profound sense of history and culture of Paris will leave you speechless. You’ll probably eat like you’ve never eaten before. You’ll definitely walk a lot. Your visit likely will exceed every expectation you have.

Before you make your way to Paris for the 2017 Kiwanis International convention, I want to show you a few of my favorite neighborhoods. I want to tell you about some of the things I like to do with visiting friends—or even on a quiet excursion on my own.

I’ve lived in Paris all my life. And while I’ve traveled to many places, Paris is still my favorite city in the world.

Let’s take a walk together, shall we?
THE AREA: TOUR EIFFEL, CHAMPS-ELYSEES, RUE CLER, CAFÉ CONSTANT, MAMIE GÂTEAUX

I arrive at Café Constant before noon, squeeze into a small chair and order one of the daily specials on the blackboard menu. But it’s the desserts that always catch my eye. Café Constant excels at desserts. Profiteroles maison, tarte fine aux pommes, île flottante caramel fleur de sel.

“ Totally worth the extra pound you’ll gain,” I always tell myself.

What I love most about Paris is that it’s a place you experience, not just visit. I marvel at geraniums on a tiny balcony. I squeal every time I eat a pear and almond pie at Mamie Gâteaux or walk by a fruit stand or a cheese shop on Rue Cler.

The city constantly fills all your senses, and inspires you to find joy and delightful comfort in the small, simple things that define our fondest memories, our best moments in life.
THE AREA: SAINT-MICHEL, NOTRE-DAME DE PARIS, ÎLE SAINT-LOUIS, SHAKESPEARE AND COMPANY CAFÉ

The Latin Quarter, an area in the 5th and 6th arrondissements of Paris and located on the Left Bank, is known for its art and history-infused atmosphere. Home to La Sorbonne and other schools, this area of the city is brimming with bistros and a lively energy that is most palpable.

Walk along the River Seine and fill your senses with the beauty of Notre-Dame de Paris. Follow the gargoyles, the smell of fresh crêpes wafting through the air and sit on a bench in the garden behind the cathedral. This is where I usually take out the book I’m currently reading or jot down a few thoughts in my journal while listening to a musician playing the accordion in the background. Cliché? Definitely. But this is still one of my favorite spots.

Île Saint-Louis, one of the most authentic neighborhoods in Paris, is only a small bridge away. Treat yourself with a Berthillon ice cream (you can’t miss the queue of people on the sidewalk—it’s worth the wait!) and keep strolling along the island, where it feels as if everything was created with an attention to detail—from monumental doors to the little flower shop on Rue Saint Louis en L’île.

Finally, visit the famous Shakespeare and Company bookshop, founded by American George Whitman in 1951. Order a cup of coffee (or a chai latte, my personal favorite) at the bookshop café and gaze at Notre-Dame while snacking on literary treats such as Proustian madeleines or a FlapJack Kerouac. This, my friend, is what we call “joie de vivre.”
THE AREA: JARDIN DES TUILERIES, PYRAMIDE DU LOUVRE, JARDIN DU PALAIS ROYAL, PONT DES ARTS, SAINT-GERMAIN DES PRÉS

Located on the Right Bank between the Louvre Museum and the Place de la Concorde, the Jardin des Tuileries was built atop the clay pits of the former city tile factory. Walk through the garden, visit the Musée de l’Orangerie, which displays Monet’s “Water Lilies,” grab a gelato, find a seat and lounge around one of the fountains or green patches for a lovely rest (my personal recommendation after a long day at the Louvre). Fun fact: Did you know that the neighborhood kids have gym class at Jardin des Tuileries?

The Pont des Arts is one of my favorite bridges. To be honest, there’s not much to it. It was the first metal bridge in Paris, has been featured in many films and has long been overwhelmed with more than a million “love locks,” creating a safety concern (several of the bridge panels were replaced with glass panels in 2015 to deter tourists from hanging more locks). But aside from the tourist attraction the locks have created, it’s the view. There’s nothing quite like it. These are images that have been carved into our memory even if we have never been there to see them for ourselves. The bridge connects the École des Beaux-Arts to the Louvre. Sitting on a bench facing west, I stare at the Eiffel Tower and boats gracing the Seine. After a while, I turn around and bask in the beauty of Notre-Dame and Île de la Cité. A gentle breeze brushing my face, here, where history was made, where a civilization and a culture were born, I am beyond words. Every time. And then I go for a pistachio macaron at Ladurée. Every time.
THE AREA: RUE MONTORGUEIL, MONTMARTRE, LE MARAIS, PLACE DES VOSGES, MERCI, BOOT CAFÉ

A ray of light or reflection on wet asphalt, the smell of fresh baguettes pervading the still air, geraniums and ivy tumbling over sun-dappled century-old buildings like visual poetry. I take a deep breath, unable to think of another way to capture so much beauty at once.

I like Paris most at dawn.

Paris has been welcoming unending waves of travelers for centuries, never disappointing as it effortlessly unfolds its history and culture to all. The Marais, which spreads across parts of the 3rd and 4th arrondissements, is probably the trendiest neighborhood, where medieval Paris and hip designer shops co-exist in perfect harmony. There are a few things you can’t possibly miss if you visit the Marais: the Place des Vosges, built in the late 16th century and still considered the most beautiful square in Paris; a falafel on Rue des Rosiers, the heart of the Jewish quarter; the Musée Picasso and the stunning Musée Carnavalet with its 200 galleries that trace the history of Paris from prehistoric times to today.

Take time to explore the narrow, sandwiched streets, visit Merci, a three-floor loft that houses vintage furniture and unique clothing creations, read a book while sipping wine at La Belle Hortense or have an iced latte and slice of homemade banana bread at Boot Café, the tiniest, cutest coffee shop in the city. Let the beautiful scene imprint itself onto your being. You’ll remember this forever.

You’ll remember Paris forever too.

Irène Nam is a French photographer and social-good enthusiast. Her works include visual communication, storytelling and campaign development for nonprofit organizations. She’s the founder/curator of TEDxYouth@ BoulogneBillancourt and works as a film production and development manager at Keystone Films.
‘tis the season

KIWANIANS AROUND THE WORLD CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH HOLIDAY FÊTES AND FESTIVALS. HERE’S A LOOK AT SOME OF OUR FAVORITES.

Over the past decade, Kiwanis magazine has taken you on a holiday tour of the world. You’ve skated across the ice in the shadows of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Strasbourg, France. You’ve boarded a bus in Colombia to witness the joy in children’s eyes as they sang, danced and laughed on a nighttime tour of lights. You’ve lost count counting the 1 million LED lights that illuminated a Minnesota park.

And, yes, you’ve even snuggled up for a kiss beneath the mistletoe at a German Christmas market.

In this issue, Kiwanis magazine samples a few of our favorite holiday stories from the past. But just some of our favorites. There just wasn’t space to go sledding down a snowy slope in warm Atascadero, California. Or take an icy “Polar Bear Plunge” in Northville, Michigan. Or crown a new St. Lucia on the shore of Sweden’s Lake Möckeln. Or ...

Where will Kiwanis magazine go next?
Tell us about your club’s Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, New Year, Boxing Day, Omisoka or other end-of-year holiday by emailing shareyourstory@kiwanis.org.
Meanwhile ... happy holidays!
Ice Skating

STRASBOURG, FRANCE

Photos by Jack Brockley
Christmas Bus
VILLA VICENCIO, COLOMBIA
Photos by Archivolatino
Christmas Market

LÜBECK, GERMANY

Photos by Hardy Müller
Kiwanis Holiday Lights
MANKATO, MINNESOTA, USA
Photos by Ackerman+Gruber
CRAFT SERVICE

IN SHADES OF THE SEASON, AN INDIANA AKTION CLUB CREATES COLORFUL HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KASEY JACKSON
Kiwanian Holly Forville wanders around the room, offering tips to the focused artists seated at round tables. Mostly there’s laughter and chatting. Everyone is attentive. They’ve done this before. And they’re ready to do it again.

The Kiwanis Club of Shelbyville, Indiana, sponsors the Shelbyville VC Aktion Club, and members from both are here today for the annual holiday ornament painting party, in its eighth year.

Forville offers advice because she knows what she’s doing. This ornament project was her idea, after all.

“I love doing ceramics,” she says, “and we were wracking our brains for a new fundraiser, which is hard for any club. The first year was a disaster. But by accident, one of the ornaments got wet and when I was wiping it off, I realized the paint stays in the grooves even when cleaned. So now we have these painting parties, and everyone loves it.”

Kiwanians and Aktion Club members sell the popular ornaments to family and friends, door-to-door and at a local craft fair. Cost: US$5.

“People call and ask where we’ll be set up at the fair,” Forville says. “So now we stay in the same spot each year. We’re easy to find.”

Juleanne Skinner (facing page) is a charter member of the Shelbyville VC Aktion Club. She says she likes to give the ornaments to her sister.

“I love painting them,” she says. “I love all the different colors.”

“So now we have these painting parties, and everyone loves it.”
For 16 years, the Southwest Environmental Center of New Mexico had hosted Raft the Rio, a treasured community event that brought families and volunteers together every summer to sail down the Rio Grande. But in 2015, Raft the Rio sank out of sight due to limited funding and staff. Inspired by a community-wide desire to keep the annual tradition alive, three Kiwanis clubs—Sun Country de Las Cruces; Mesilla Valley and Las Cruces—stepped forward to host the event together.

“To have it just disappear from the city was too bad, and we really wanted to keep the tradition alive,” says Jim Pudlewski, secretary of the Kiwanis Club of Las Cruces. “We were going to our local farmers’ markets to get people to register ahead of time, and quickly learned that this was something people wanted to have in town. They were so thrilled it was coming back.”

The clubs were successful, and the event relaunched on June 25 with roughly 60 participating rafts, tubes, canoes, surf boards and boats. A popular class of “creative floating devices” included a Viking crew on a dragon-headed dinghy, a wide-mouth fish that looked part stegosaurus and a long-legged mosquito hovering above a cooler of picnic goodies. Prizes were handed out for fun categories such as “least likely to finish” and “most effective use of recycled materials.”

The Kiwanis clubs raised a small amount of funds, but more importantly, they were happy to keep Raft the Rio afloat and already are planning for next year.
WINNING SEASON

FLORIDA K-KIDS TAKE THE “LEAD” IN LEADERSHIP.

STORY BY LAURA NEIDIG • PHOTO BY ERNST PETERS/THE LEDGER

By recruiting a popular teacher into its Service Leadership Programs’ line-up, a thriving Kiwanis club revived a slumping K-Kids program. Now, the K-Kids of Brigham Academy in Winter Haven, Florida, are knocking service leadership out of the park.

Fourth-grade teacher Adam Smith—aka Polk County Public School’s 2015 Teacher of the Year—accepted the Kiwanis club’s overtures to take over as faculty advisor at Brigham Academy. Smith. He promptly turned over the leadership reins to the students, who run nearly every aspect of the club. They enjoy that level of ownership, and he coaches them through the process of selecting their community-service activities.

“Membership in the K-Kids is over capacity,” says Craig Clevenger, 2015–16 president of the sponsoring Winter Haven Kiwanis Club. “The club is larger than an elementary grade class.”

Members’ enthusiasm showed at an Earth Day event when they spent a day planting trees and flowers, pulling weeds, digging irrigation trenches and spreading mulch to beautify their own school.

CHECK IT OUT

HOW A KIWANIS-OPERATED LIBRARY IS BRINGING EDUCATION AND HOPE TO YOUNG LIVES WHEN IT’S NEEDED MOST.

STORY BY MATT GONZALES

In 2002, the Benton-Franklin Juvenile Justice Center in Kennewick, Washington, was seeking a community partner to help fund an on-site library. The nearby Kiwanis Club of Richland stepped up with a US$2,000 donation, but it soon became clear that more than cash was needed to get the library off the ground.

“They needed help,” Kiwanian George Evans says.

So George and his wife, Bette, decided not only to donate, but to take on the entire operation of the library as a project through the Richland Kiwanis Club. Fourteen years later, the library is thriving with a 2,000-book collection and volunteer staff from the Richland Kiwanis Club, Tri-Cities Industry Kiwanis Club and Columbia Kiwanis Club.

The Evanses handle volunteer recruitment and administrative duties for the library, and they also vet all newly donated books for inappropriate content. They try to solicit books that are popular among the residents—everything from graphic novels to John Grisham and James Patterson books.

It’s a lot of work, but Bette says it’s plenty worth it.

“The other day, a kid said to me, ‘Before I was locked up, I had only read two books in my life. I’ve read 70 since I’ve been here.’ That’s an example of why we hang in there,” she says.

George, too, believes the impact the library makes on the center’s residents is undeniable.

“I had no idea who these kids were likely to be when we took this on,” he says. “But after 14 years, I’ll say this: Don’t underestimate these kids.”
For many people, a lifetime of service begins in Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs. When your Kiwanis club sponsors K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club and others, you build crucial skills—in the people who will build a better world. Thank you for empowering Kiwanis family members of all ages and abilities.

Is your club looking for a sponsorship opportunity? 
Get started at kiwanis.org/charter.
DRIVEN TO SUCCEED

PERFECT WEATHER AND VINTAGE CARS COME TOGETHER TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHILDREN.

STORY BY SAM STALL

Good fortune has always smiled on the Marco Island Car Show. Begun in 2005 by the Kiwanis Club of Marco Island, Florida, and held every February on the Sunday before U.S. Presidents’ Day, the massive outdoor gathering has enjoyed uniformly fair weather in a state that’s famous for its surprise thunderstorms.

“We’ve had clear skies every year,” says Past President Dennis Pidherny. “We’ve been very, very fortunate, because if it rains the show cars won’t come out.”

The good weather is good news for hundreds of children who benefit from the funds the event raises. This year brought in almost US$30,000—enough to purchase two books per child in two elementary schools and finance a host of other projects.

“We also give each child in one of our local schools a Christmas present,” Pidherny says. “When you figure 700 kids at maybe US$12 a head, that money has to come from somewhere.”

The event began 12 years ago as the brainchild of Kiwanian and classic car enthusiast John DeRosa.

“We were looking for a new type of fundraiser, and I brought up the idea of a car show,” DeRosa recalls. “I used to own a 1977 Corvette and go to car shows, and I thought having one on Marco Island would be fun. We gave it a try, and it’s grown into our biggest fundraiser of the year.”

A record 4,500 people showed up for this year’s one-day event, perusing a stable of 200 classic autos ranging from antique models to sleek muscle cars. The first year there were only about 125 vehicles, but now the club turns away potential entrants for lack of space.

“People talk about the show two or three months before it happens,” DeRosa says. “It’s become really popular on the island.”

Each attendee is asked to make a US$5 donation, which helps fund the club’s myriad community projects. The event, which didn’t seem like a sure winner when it was first considered, now runs like a finely tuned engine.

“Twelve years ago when it started, we were afraid nobody would show up,” Pidherny says. “Now it draws out almost the entire community.”
View the past while you work on the future.

July 13–16, 2017    |    kiwanis.org/convention
A HEART FOR THE CITY
KIWANIS CLUB EMPOWERS INNER CITY KIDS THROUGH SPORTS.
STORY BY WENDY ROSE GOULD

At roughly 30 members, the North Phoenix, Arizona, Kiwanis Club is a perfect fit for serving the community and making a difference in the lives of kids. The club’s primary fundraiser is a walkathon, which brings in thousands of dollars that are funneled right back into the community. The funds, for example, support Heart for the City, which works with at-risk, troubled youth through after-school activities. The club has been involved with Heart for the City for three years and recently donated US$2,000 to purchase sports equipment for the kids involved in the program.

“At Heart for the City, we work hard to empower the kids,” says its director, Joe Eriquez. “We start with physical activity because research has shown that inner-city kids tend to be less active and more prone to health issues. Within our sports programs, youth are taught to process their emotions and release a tremendous amount of pent-up anger.”

Eriquez shares the story of one person whom he believes represents the vision he has for the organization. The young man was homeless a year and a half ago. Heart for the City found a family who provided him a home, and it arranged tutoring to prepare him for college entrance exams. Now he has a full-ride scholarship to Pueblo Colorado University to play football.

BANNER PARADE
FIFTY-SEVEN FLAGS FLY HIGH IN A SEWARD, NEBRASKA, CIVICS LESSON.

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Seward, Nebraska, have a lot of experience with flag poles. Over the past 15 years, they’ve installed 876 flag poles in their community. Recently, the club put up a parade of flags along U.S. Highway 34, welcoming travelers to the city.

Fifty-seven flags fly proudly in the parade of flags, which is anchored by the American flag on a 50-foot pole flanked by flags representing the five branches of the U.S. military, the prisoner of war/missing in action flag and the flags from all 50 states. In addition, U.S. territorial flags line a pathway that connects the Parade of Flags to a nearby hiking and biking trail.

The civic-minded Kiwanians wanted the display to serve as a teaching tool for youth, so each flag pole is equipped with a black band. A smart phone, held up to the band, displays the user with information about that state and its flag.

The Seward Kiwanians needed US$62,000 to install the parade of flags, and the community responded. With the help of the Key Club of Seward High School, the Kiwanis club will maintain the flags, which need to be mended or replaced on a regular basis.

“We get all kinds of good comments about it,” says Seward Kiwanian Marv Taylor. “There’s a great deal of pride associated with the flags. It’s a true community project.”

The Parade of Flags project received a grant from the Kiwanis International Foundation in 2014.
Reach out to our partners. And reach more children.

Your club changes children’s lives. When you partner with organizations that have similar missions, you make a difference in even more lives. So reach out to a Kiwanis partner. Create a new bond. Increase your visibility. And enhance your club’s next signature project. Go to kiwanis.org/SPtoolkit.

Have suggestions for other Kiwanis partners? Let us know at partners@kiwanis.org.
When Up with People visited Bermuda this past April, the globetrotting ambassadors of hope, positivity and understanding wanted to give the community a good show. But they also wanted to give some good to the community.

During their two-week stay, the 100-member international cast put its mission—inspiring young people to make a difference in their world—into action, completing more than 2,700 hours of community service, volunteering with more than 30 local charities and schools and reaching more than 10,000 youth.

Of course, they didn’t do it alone. The Kiwanis clubs of Bermuda helped coordinate—and joined in—service projects across the island. The clubs hosted “A Taste of Bermuda” luncheon for the group, promoted performances and served as host families for the traveling performers.

“Bermudians are very hospitable,” says Past Lieutenant Governor Leleath Bailey, who spearheaded the Bermuda/Up with People partnership. “So it was no surprise to me when my next-door neighbor volunteered to do most of the driving to their meeting place each day and bought tickets for her family to see them perform.”

Up with People, which is a Kiwanis International Promotional Partner, performed more than a dozen times during its stay, and its four public concerts helped raise scholarship funds for budding young Bermudians who wanted to join the international touring group.

“Seeing Up with People for the first time blew my mind and I will always remember it,” Bailey says.

The group left behind a love of service—a passion shared by their Kiwanian hosts—but took a little bit of Bermuda with them. Five Bermudian youth began their journey with the July 2016 Up with People cast, and more than 40 others have been accepted to travel and represent their country in upcoming casts.
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Birthdays

These clubs celebrate their 25th and 100th anniversaries in January 2017. (There are no 50th or 75th club anniversaries in January.) For a complete list of club anniversaries visit kiwanis.org/birthdays.

100TH—1917

Kalamazoo, Michigan, January 10
New Haven, Connecticut, January 15
Rockford, Illinois, January 20
Bay City, Michigan, January 27
Friendly Duluth, Minnesota, January 30

25TH—1992

Collierville, Tennessee, January 2
Saintes-Palissy, France, January 27

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WHAT THEY’RE SAYING: KEY LEADER

PHOTOS BY ALLISON V. SMITH

“It’s a beautiful thing to witness young people working together, sharing their thoughts, interpreting for each other and growing in a solid appreciation for what each brings to the common group. There’s a magic that happens when you stop concentrating on your differences and start celebrating them instead.”

Jane Erickson
2016–17 Kiwanis International president
Key Leader facilitator

“Key Leader is a call to service for the rest of your life.”

Dick Peterson | Key Leader program manager

“I think Key Leader helped me communicate with others and talk about my ideas, my experiences and learn from them.”

Jennifer | Student

“It’s like a new family for me. Teen leadership has changed my life.”

Javier | Student

“Before camp, I wasn’t focused on goals. Camp opened my eyes on life. I have to focus on my goals.”

Mauricio | Student

“After every camp, we have leaders who are invigorated and want to do more.”

Margaret Rutaquio | Teacher

“It was one of the most awesome experiences of my life. I’m never going to forget this.”

Kevin | Student

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