Kiwanis International Update

December 2011

Our latest videos

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Kiwanis stories

Let's dance

Get up on your feet and let the rhythm move you. Several clubs go dancing when it's time to serve, raise money or just enjoy some good Kiwanis fellowship. Here are a few examples from around the Kiwanis world:

France: The Kiwanis Club of Mâcon brought together youth from eight dance and gymnastic schools for its 17th annual gala. Proceeds were used to assist disadvantaged children.
Australia: Joining the host farm couple, the Kiwanis Club of East Maitland pitches in to help at an annual hoedown. Two bands kick up the energy with lively music. But that's just part of the fun. There are pony rides, face painting, rides through the river flats in a hay cart and picnics in the grassy fields. Some dancers even camp overnight. Proceeds support the club's child-focused charities.

Georgia: On one special evening, the Kiwanis Club of North Gwinnett (English) host not one, but two, Valentine dances for fathers and daughters of all ages.

The Eliminate Project
Give the gift of life

It's the end of the calendar year, and in many cultures around the world that means this is the season for giving. Through The Eliminate Project, Kiwanis members have the opportunity during the holidays to give the gift of life to babies and women in the poorest, most remote regions of the world.

Consider following Gus Hawkins’ example. The Highland, Indiana, Kiwanian asked friends and families to contribute to the fight against maternal and neonatal tetanus in lieu of birthday gifts. An Indiana District coordinator for The Eliminate Project, Hawkins gifted more than US$1,200 to The Eliminate Project on his 60th birthday on behalf of his friends and family.

You or your club can also give a Walter Zeller Fellowship. A Zeller Fellowship saves or protects more than 690 lives through a one-time gift or two-year pledge of US$1,250. You can honor a relative, club member or friend this holiday season (and always) through the Walter Zeller Fellowship.

Southwest District Coordinator Ron Smith was invited to present on The Eliminate Project at a friend’s baby shower in which all gifts were directed to The Eliminate Project. You can encourage similar demonstrations of philanthropy. Support The Eliminate Project by using your celebrations of life to save the lives of others.

What's your suggestion for incorporating The Eliminate Project during the holidays?

Kiwanis magazine
Healing powers

The toddler boy smiled and laughed as his big brother pushed him up and down the hospital hallways on a small red riding toy. Around and around he went, enjoying each moment to the fullest. The only reason to stop? Chocolate
ice cream in the play room.

At Doernbecher Children’s Hospital, part of Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, where some children receive treatment for life-threatening illnesses and face adult-like situations, staff members do everything they can to make sure the kids feel like kids. Bingo games (where everybody’s a winner), music programs, wagon rides, art opportunities and a classroom right in the hospital give the children a sense of normalcy during what could be the most frightening, tense moments. There, staff members want the children to feel comfortable, at ease. Even the play room is a restricted area: “No white coats allowed.”

But of course this is a hospital, so those “white coats” are everywhere. And some of them wouldn’t be around if it weren’t for Kiwanis.

Read or download the December Kiwanis magazine to learn more about how Kiwanians in the Pacific Northwest District are helping children by training the next generation of pediatric oncologists.

Kiwanis International Foundation
Back to school

What began as an effort to help a group of schoolchildren trapped in the midst of civil strife is turning into a blessing. The saga of the Shillong Children’s Center began in 2010 when violence erupted in the northeast India state of Manipur. An economic blockade closed roads, medical centers and businesses. Children in the rural village of Maram saw their school close, with the prospect of losing a year in their education. That was when Kiwanis helped.

Kiwanian Suetta Albin, who was traveling in India, arranged for the most vulnerable children and their school’s director to go to Shillong in the state of Meghalaya. With the help of Kiwanians from the Texas-Oklahoma District, the Shillong Children’s Center was founded. Working on a shoestring budget, the children were enrolled in school, and after passing all their exams were able to return to their village in six months.

Seeing the need to help children caught in emergency situations, Albin moved the Shillong Children’s Center to a new and larger facility. She returned to Texas in January 2011 to fundraise for the center. Her Belton Kiwanis Club submitted a grant request to the Kiwanis International Foundation’s Children’s Fund. Give today (English).
Children affected by emergencies in northeast India have a safe place to go, thanks to your gifts to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund.

Meanwhile Shillong community leaders interested in supporting the work occurring at the children’s center formed the Kiwanis Club of Shillong, India.

Today the Shillong Children’s Center is a fully furnished, 30-bed facility run completely by volunteers. At no charge, the center assists children and families who find themselves temporarily displaced from their homes due to emergency situations. Help for them is possible, thanks to Kiwanians around the world and the Kiwanis International Foundation.

Convention update
New Orleans, online and in print

There are three places to pick up 2012 convention information, including registration and housing forms.

Online: www.KiwanisOne.org/convention

In print: The December Kiwanis magazine (read or download)

By email: Register to receive regular email postcards about the convention

The magazine and website include travel tips, district hotel assignments, forum topics, entertainment previews, tours and more. The email newsletter provides the latest convention news.

Member tools

Educate your audience

Let’s find out just how well you know Kiwanis:

What does the name Kiwanis mean?
When were women welcomed to join?
Who are some of the groups Kiwanis partners with?

You’ll find the answers about these and many other Kiwanis-related topics in a newly updated Fact Sheet: Education Spots. Bulletin editors can use these nuggets of Kiwanis knowledge in club and district newsletters, and some facts could be used in leader education and new-member orientation sessions. Have fun with Kiwanis trivia at club meetings too!
Member tools
Dates to remember

January 2: Kiwanis float in Rose Parade

January 21: 97th anniversary of Kiwanis' founding

February 15: Deadline to propose Kiwanis International Bylaws amendments

February 15: Deadline for submitting entries for Kiwanis One Day contest

February 15: Filing deadline for IRS Form 990 (U.S. clubs only)

April 22: Kiwanis One Day