Red Hot
International President Sylvester Neal is all fired up about Kiwanis

EXPLORING GENEVA

SAVING JOY IN THE PHILIPPINES
In Geneva, the local scene is made of global influences. See for yourself at the 96th Annual Kiwanis International Convention. Experience a city that draws inspiration from around the world and reflects it in everything from arts and architecture to fine cuisine, handcrafted accessories and more. Be sure to register at www.KiwanisOne.org/convention by January 31 to take advantage of the early-bird rate.

The Palace of Nations contributes to the international ambience, serving as the home of the United Nations Office at Geneva.
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Calendar, igniting an idea, join us, what can Member Services do for you?
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Light your inner fire

Look into the future. What do you see? What does Kiwanis look like? What’s it doing? I see a Kiwanis family that’s stronger in membership, stronger in leadership, and, most importantly, stronger in service. And I’m here to tell you that my pledge as your Kiwanis International president is to give my all, to do what I can to lead this organization in the right direction—toward strength, stability and success.

And I have ideas on how to get it done. Being a former fire chief, I know about fires. In the past, I trained, studied and worked hard to extinguish those flames.

Today, you and I set out to light the fire for Kiwanis.

I’ve given this year a theme: the “Kiwanis Year of the Fire.” As your chief, I’m going to help you build your own fire, and together, we’ll ignite the flame for others until we have a raging bonfire. We have what it takes—that burning passion within each of us to make a difference.

Together, we’ll ignite the flame for others until we have a raging bonfire.

We need that passion more than ever as we get ready to make a difference through The Eliminate Project. Kiwanis, with help from our partner UNICEF, can eliminate maternal/neonatal tetanus from the face of the earth. We changed the world one time. We can—and we will—change the world again.

And I ask each of you for a personal commitment to help improve your local club and grow Kiwanis to meet our goals. Thanks for fueling the fire.
WHAT THEY SAY
What’s one thing everyone should know about The Eliminate Project?

“Kiwanians have always responded to the needs of children. The Eliminate Project offers another opportunity for the Kiwanis family to save the lives of mothers and infants.”

Sylvester Neal
President

“The Eliminate Project will save the lives of 129 million of the poorest, most neglected mothers and newborn babies in 40 countries. All it takes is three 60-cent immunizations.”

Alan Penn
President-elect

“When Kiwanis eliminated IDD, we improved the quality of children’s lives. With The Eliminate Project, Kiwanis will save the lives of babies from painful death.”

Tom DeJulio
Vice President

Another Kiwanis year

This issue of Kiwanis magazine marks the beginning of a new, and hopefully exciting, Kiwanis year.

As of October 1, clubs, divisions and districts everywhere have new leaders. Presidents have attended and completed club leadership education while division lieutenant governors have participated in their own education conferences. Both are supplemented with online training modules via www.KiwanisOne.org/training. (Incidentally, there are online modules for secretaries, treasurers, club board members and membership chairmen too.) Last November, all district governors-elect began their education and training at our headquarters in Indianapolis.

One way to view this is that our organization, from top to bottom, is led by leaders who’ve never done this before—in essence. Most officers are experiencing a new leadership role. And on the last day of the 2010–11 year, when these officers have maximized their on-the-job learning, they’ll pass their leadership duties to the next crop of first-timers.

On the other hand, a new class of leaders is the way we inject new ideas, new energy and increased motivation into our organization. Typically, the training, planning and preparation pay off through growth, increased service and, ultimately, recognition as “distinguished” when the year is completed.

As you read this issue of Kiwanis magazine, you’ll find ideas and tools to help your club excel. On page 48, for example, the magazine’s new “Next” department is designed for you to cut out sections and discuss at your next club meeting.

I also encourage you to turn to page 20 and learn about our new Kiwanis International president, Sylvester Neal. Despite his new role, he’s anything but a rookie, and he’s lighting fires around the Kiwanis world. And on page 16, view the men and women who have committed themselves to lead Kiwanis around the world in the year ahead. I think you’ll be impressed with our organization’s plans for this new Kiwanis year.
AUSSIE AKTION

The Aktion Club insert from the June 2010 edition of the Kiwanis magazine titled “A Chance to Shine” elegantly states a message I try to convey to Australian Kiwanians. It’s unfortunate some people have difficulty associating with people who have a disability, and I plan to use the insert to educate and enlighten.

Peter Zander
Kiwanis Club of Brighton,
South Australia

READY TO ELIMINATE

I’m glad to learn of the global campaign for children (The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis eliminating maternal/neonatal tetanus). We have relatives and know friends’ children who suffered from this disease. Personally, this announcement fills me with satisfaction, and I hope to give my 100 percent effort to help Kiwanis achieve its goal of reducing the number of deaths among the world’s children.

Atenaida Marcias
Kiwanis Club of Manta, Ecuador

LOOK AT OUR NEW LOOK  Welcome to Kiwanis magazine. We’ve fixed up the place and added a few surprises here and there, such as “Worldview” (page 10), “Fix it” (38) and “Next” (48). Many of the new features of this remodeling project offer opportunities for readers to speak up. So e-mail us at magazine@kiwanis.org. Join Kiwanis’ social networks at KiwanisOne.org/connect. Send us your club’s stories at KiwanisOne.org/shareyourstory. And take the survey at kiwanismagazine.org/survey. We’d love to hear from you.

Jack Brockley, managing editor

Send your letters, comments and concerns to magazine@kiwanis.org.

Lose Something?

If you didn’t file your IRS Form 990 on time, your U.S. club could lose a lot—namely its tax-exempt status. Filing is easy. Go to www.KiwanisOne.org/form990 and click on the “How to file” button.
Kiwanis clubs thrive on the good will—and good cheer—of their members. Make sure your meetings reflect the true spirit of the folks who attend. From the satisfaction they take in serving people to the enjoyment they get from each other’s company.

Whether you’re club president or a passionate member, you can make a difference. Keep it light. Keep it fun. And keep ’em coming back.

What every productive meeting needs...

**someone to set a good example.**

We can help give your meetings a boost. For guidance and good ideas, go to KiwanisOne.org/fun.
You could almost taste the enthusiasm during the 2010 Key Club International and Circle K International conventions, where celebrities Clay Aiken, Ethan Zohn and Relient K entertained and inspired Kiwanis-family teens and twenty-somethings.

Members of the Kiwanis programs proved they know how to serve, lead and socialize by electing leaders for the new year, singing and dancing in talent shows, participating in educational workshops and showing off their best projects during the ever-popular Service Fairs.

If you’ve ever been to a Key Club or Circle K International convention, you know that attending just one of these events can give you enough energy and ideas to keep your Kiwanis club running at full speed all year. Consider attending one or both of the 2011 conventions when CKI goes to Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Key Club heads to Phoenix, Arizona. Learn more about the 2010 and 2011 conventions at www.circlek.org/convention and www.keyclub.org/convention.

“Use this enthusiasm to light fires of compassion in your clubs, your communities and your schools.”

—Sylvester Neal at Key Club’s 2010 convention
Policy updates

The Kiwanis International Board has revised the following policies to read:

D. DISTRICTS AND CLUBS
3. Regions
Kiwanis International is divided into seven (7) regions, defined as follows:
- Africa: The continent of Africa
- Asia-Pacific: The area generally considered to be “Asia” plus the island nations in the western Pacific Ocean, including the continent of Australia
- Canada and Caribbean: The Eastern Canada and Caribbean District and the Western Canada District
- Europe: The area generally considered to be Europe, including Eastern Europe
- Latin America: Central America and South America
- Middle East: The area generally considered to be “the Middle East”
- United States and Pacific Canada: All districts that include one (1) or more of the 50 states of the United States, which includes the Pacific Northwest District.

B. INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATION
14. Criminal History Background Checks for Specified Officers and Candidates
Kiwanis International requires any current International Officer (the International Board and District Governors) or candidate for an International Office, as well as any current officers or candidates for offices in direct line of succession to Governor (all hereafter referred to as “specified office” or “specified officer”), to submit to a criminal history background check as part of the eligibility criteria to hold that office. Successful completion of the background check (a “clear check”) is based on verification that none of the convictions stated in Procedure or similar thereto have been determined for that person. A clear check is necessary to be an eligible candidate for a specified office and thus must be completed before the candidate elections are held.
Kiwanis International recognizes only its own criminal history background check process as valid. All background checks shall be reviewed and evaluated by the Executive Director or designee based on criteria stated in Procedure, and the International Board shall only be advised if a check indicates a problem or concern that may require further investigation or disciplinary action.
Any officer or candidate subject to disciplinary action by the International Board shall have the right to appeal such action as detailed in Procedure. The International Board shall have final authority on the matter.
Background checks are valid for a period of two years. All current and incoming specified officers and candidates for such offices who have not had a clear criminal history background check conducted and verified by Kiwanis within the past two years are subject to a new check.

15. Accountability of Kiwanis International Officers
All Officers of Kiwanis International, which includes district governors, and all offices in direct line of succession to Governor are subject to the same ethical standards and disciplinary actions.

Focus on the family

In November, the 600,000 adult and youth members of the Kiwanis family will celebrate Kiwanis Family Month, honoring their partnership in community service.
November is a good time to plan a family reunion of sorts. Plan a social event, like a picnic for all your Service Leadership Program members and their families. Or organize a joint service project, like collecting blankets for the homeless or stocking the shelves of the local food pantry.
Add a few more members to the family tree by chartering a new Service Leadership Program in your community. All the tools you need are available at www.KiwanisOne.org/charter.

Free cleft surgery which takes as little as 45 minutes and costs as little as $250, can give desperate children not just a new smile—but a new life.

"...one of the most productive charities — dollar for deed — in the world.”
— The New York Times

Donate online: www.smiletrain.org or call: 1-800-932-9541

According to the U.S. Government, women should take sufficient levels of folic acid (400 micrograms/day) during pregnancy to help prevent neural tube defects and reduce the risk for cleft lip and palate. When folic acid is taken one month before conception and throughout the first trimester, it has been proven to reduce the risk for neural tube defects by 50 to 70 per cent. Be sure to receive proper prenatal care, quit smoking and drinking alcohol and follow your health care provider’s guidelines for foods to avoid during pregnancy. Foods to avoid may include raw or undercooked seafood, beef, pork or poultry; delicatessen meats; fish that contain high levels of mercury; smoked seafood; fish exposed to industrial pollutants; raw shellfish or eggs; soft cheeses; unpasteurized milk; pâté; caffeine; and unwashed vegetables. For more information, visit www.SmileTrain.org. Smile Train is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit recognized by the IRS, and all donations to Smile Train are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS regulations. © 2010 Smile Train.
In the 1960s, obstetrician Oscar Van Hemel was tired of seeing premature babies die. So he pieced together an incubator from materials found near his Ugandan clinic. Now, almost 1,200 Van Hemel Baby Incubators are in use and saving lives.

The Kiwanis Club of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, set up a foundation to continue the doctor’s work and now handles fundraising activities, product development, production and shipment of the incubators.

Most of the devices are sent to developing nations, including Kenya, Tanzania, Cameroon, Ghana, the Philippines and Cambodia.

Generosity can be contagious. This past year, six Kiwanis clubs in Malaysia—Bandaraya Ipoh, Butterworth Penang, Larut Matang, Manjung, Meru Valley and Teluk Intan—donated 5,500 Kiwanis school bags to 120 area schools. They labeled the project “Going to School with Kiwanis.”

Impressed and inspired by the dedication and generosity of these clubs, a group of community leaders and school board members decided to form two new clubs in Malaysia. And while the Kiwanis clubs of Sungai Siput and Bidor were being chartered, Kiwanians received more inquiries about building even more clubs.
A U S T R A L I A
Safe and secure

There are lots of ways kids get to school in Darlington, Australia. Some walk. Some ride in cars and buses. But, until recently, almost none rode bicycles.

“Students getting their bikes stolen had been a problem for years,” says Glenelg Kiwanis Club Secretary Peter Symons. “It had reached the stage where students wouldn’t ride their bikes to school.”

For 18 months, the school tried to raise enough funds for a bike storage unit. The efforts were unsuccessful until Glenelg Kiwanians offered a helping hand and the financial backing to get the job done.

Having a safe place for students’ bicycles has doubled participation in the school’s “Wheels Days” program—an extended lunch break with a variety of cycling activities. Some parents bring their bikes and join in the fun too. Plus, the school started teaching bike safety.

M A N I T O B A
Downhill racers

Racers, on your mark! Get set! Coast!

When the Kiwanis Club of Brandon, Manitoba, revs up Kar Derby in May, you won’t find drivers piloting 750-horsepower rockets. Instead, you’ll find 8- to 14-year-old boys and girls steering motorless crates down an inclined track.

“The children love driving their cars and having their friends and families watch,” says Brandon Kiwanian and race Chairman Vern Gilbertson. “Most kids dream of racing a car, and it’s evident from the smiles on their faces how much they enjoy racing.”

This past year, 90 children raced in the 24th annual event, and each one received a reward for participation. Their prizes include Best Design, Best Decorated and Most Original cars. The mayor, police chief, fire chief and other local dignitaries judge the competition.

About 500 friends and families line the route to cheer on the racers, making the event one of Brandon’s favorite family affairs.
In 1993, New York native Michael Iafrato was looking for a place to fulfill his passion for service while attending St. Leo College in Florida. He found it at the campus Circle K club—along with some enduring relationships and powerful experiences.

“Circle K is one of my fondest college memories,” he says today. “I made lifelong friends there. I’ve been in some fellow members’ wedding parties, and they’ve been in mine.”

That sense of connection is especially important to Michael, 35, whose career in the hospitality industry has required several moves over the years. For this longtime club member, officer and generous donor, Kiwanis has always been there.

“It’s like a big family,” he says. “I can always count on a club being nearby. Even when you’re far from home, you’re never really far from home.”

Their commitment to others has also led Michael to include the Kiwanis International Foundation in his estate planning.

“I’m big on planned giving—on looking at the legacy you leave behind,” he says. “A lot of folks think it’s only for rich people. But anyone can set aside some money and share the wealth.”

Michael was particularly inspired by the examples of Bo and Mary Shafer. “Bo is a very important Kiwanian to me,” he says. “When I saw his and Mary’s Legacy Fund, I knew Bo was right—we should do more.”

Michael now lives in Arizona with his wife, Melody Jordahl-Iafrato. They’re both committed to service, personally and professionally: Melody is a physician and a new Kiwanian. The couple recently moved to Show Low, Ariz., where Melody treats low-income patients, including the local Hopi population.

Read more about Michael and find out how you can enhance your legacy at kiwanis.org/foundation.
Tips for year-end giving

As the year winds down, the thoughts of many turn to giving. The Kiwanis International Foundation appreciates those who keep us in mind. This year, consider:

- Itemizing gifts rather than taking the standard tax deduction.
- Deducting out-of-pocket expenses, such as mileage, associated with charitable work.
- Contributing appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares. Transfer shares directly from your account—enjoy the deduction for the full current value and avoid capital gains tax.

We encourage you to seek advice from your accountant or financial advisor. For more information about ways to give, visit kiwanis.org/foundation.

Our global campaign: What’s next

The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis eliminating maternal/neonatal tetanus is under way. In Las Vegas, Kiwanis International convention attendees started the giving with outgoing president Paul Palazzolo’s spontaneous “pass-the-basket” gesture. Now come the campaign’s next steps. Through May 2011, we’ll focus on public education:

- Develop a strategic plan, guided by renowned fundraising consulting firm CCS
- Name the Kiwanis volunteer director and advisory committee
- Appoint district leaders educated about MNT
- Provide MNT education for Kiwanians
- Build excitement and momentum through leadership gifts

In July 2011, we’ll launch global fundraising at the Geneva convention, along with UNICEF and other philanthropic partners. We’ll also provide a campaign update.

Of course, we welcome any gifts you wish to give now. Contribute online at www.TheEliminateProject.org. (Hit the “Give” button to get started). Or use the pledge envelope in this magazine. Write “Eliminate” on your check or gift form.

Mel’s flight of generosity

Mel Cowart, who has been the most generous individual donor to the Kiwanis International Foundation, received the Elite Eagle award at the 2010 Kiwanis convention in Las Vegas. A Life Member and Foundation trustee, Mel provided the lead gift in the recent New Beginning Campaign. He also is a Heritage Society member, a George F. Hixson Fellow at the 26 Diamond Level and a C.T. Bush Fellow at the 25 Diamond Level. In fact, the pathway to the international Kiwanis headquarters in Indianapolis is named in honor of Mel and his wife, Mary.

Planned giving

Honored donors

When the Mary & Bo Shafer Legacy Society was created in 2009, Randy and Drue DeLay immediately stepped up.

“Drue and I could think of no better way to show social concern than through a legacy gift honoring Bo and Mary Shafer,” says Randy, a longtime member and Kiwanis International trustee. “We consider it an honor and precious opportunity to return part of the blessings we have received from Kiwanis.”

Members of the Mary & Bo Shafer Legacy Society are those who designate future gifts of $50,000 or more to KIF. These can include bequests in wills and full or partial distributions from life insurance and trusts. Bequests can be for specific amounts or for residual percentages reasonably expected to meet the $50,000 minimum.

Information about planned giving is available at www.kiwanis.org/foundation/plannedgiving. Try out the fun, simple personal gift calculator (www.kiwanis.org/foundation/calculator) to help plan your future gift to the Foundation.

For more information, including registration forms for the Shafer Legacy Society (or the Heritage Society, which celebrates planned gifts of any size), contact lbrimmer@kiwanis.org.
When the Mary & Bo Shafer Legacy Society was created in 2009, prior to Mary’s death, Randy and Drue DeLay immediately stepped up to the plate.

“quote,” says Randy, a long-time member and Kiwanis International trustee. At KIF, we’re deeply grateful to Randy and Drue for their generosity.
In 1993, New York native Michael Iafrato was looking for a place to fulfill his passion for service while attending St. Leo College in Florida. He found it at the campus Circle K club—along with some enduring relationships and powerful experiences. “Circle K is one of my fondest college memories,” he says today. “I made lifelong friends there. I’ve been in some fellow members’ wedding parties, and they’ve been in mine.”

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—Michael Iafrato

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Read more about Michael and find out how you can enhance your legacy at kiwanis.org/foundation.
Kiwanis Kids freshen up

The Kiwanis Kids elementary school programs (K-Kids, Terrific Kids and Bring Up Grades) will get an all-inclusive website refresh over the next months. The new site will instantly identify and describe all four Kiwanis Kids program, with quick access to materials and information to help you start the programs in your community. The website (actually four websites in one) will feature resources for advisors, educators and parents, as well as students. Stay tuned!

TOOLBOX

Manage members online

Club secretaries now have the option to add, edit and delete members online under Club Management within www.KiwanisOne.org (the member resource site). This is the same area used for online monthly and annual reporting. This process puts your new member(s) immediately into the Kiwanis International database. Bonus: You can generate the invoice to send with payment.

To get started, sign in at www.KiwanisOne.org/login. Click the “Member Management” link on the secretary dashboard or click the “Member Management (KI)” button in the “Secretary” menu at the left.
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- **Vice President** Thomas E. “Tom” DeJulio, Fordham, Bronx, New York

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- Executive Director Stan D. Soderstrom, Pike Township-Indianapolis, Indiana

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**Kiwanis regional & family leaders**

- Kiwanis International-European Federation President Jérôme Hennekens, Stein Masskentj
- Kiwanis Asia-Pacific Chairwoman Bette P. Eavestaff, Kirikiroa, Hamilton, New Zealand
- Key Club International President XinLei Wang, San Gabriel, California
- Circle K International President Amanda Marfisi, San Angelo, Texas
Introducing our 2010-11 leaders

Alabama, Colean T. Bailey, Homewood-Mountain Brook; Andean and Central America, Luis M. Jiménez Correa, El Dorado, Bogotá, Colombia; Australia, David C. ‘Dave’ Allen, Tea Tree Gully; Austria, Albert Koffler, Bregenz; Belgium-Luxembourg, Filip Delanote, Torhout; California-Nevada-Hawaii, Thomas ‘Tom’ Millham, Tahoe Sierra, California

Capital, Thomas A. ‘Tom’ Varner, Ashland, Virginia; Carolinas, Todd Hildebran, Salisbury, North Carolina; Central Canada and the Caribbean, Paul Toussaint, Schooler, Martintique; Colorado District in Formation, José Víctor Espinoza Barcia, Manta, Ecuador; Connecticut, Paul Toussaint, Schoelcher, Martinique; District in Formation, José Víctor Espinoza Barcia, Manta, Ecuador; Florida, Thomas Ramiccio, Lake Worth; France-Monaco, Gérard Conte, Mende les Sources, France

Georgia, Patrick Tritt, the Classic City, Athens, Georgia; Idaho, Larry Forsberg, Sycamore, Illinois; Indiana, Elaine Cummings-Bullard, Seymour, Indiana; Iceland-Faroes, Öskar Guðjónsson, Kopavogur-Eldey; Illinois-Eastern Iowa, Larry Forsberg, Sycamore, Illinois; Indiana, Elaine Cummings-Bullard, Seymour, Indiana; Italy-San Marino, Salvatore Costanza, Castelvetrano, Italy

Japan, Hiroshi Kawasaki, Tokyo; Kansas, John C. Martel, Pittsburg-Sunflower, Kentucky-Tennessee, James T. ‘Jim’ Mann, Clarksville, Tennessee; Korea District in Formation, Yong Min Choi, Sae Chinju, Chinju City; Louisville-Mississippi-West Tennessee, Barb Thompson, Florissant Valley, Missouri; Massachusetts, Paul Tritt, Castelvetrano, Italy

Michigan, William M. ‘Bill’ Gohier, Haslett; Minnesota-Dakotas, Lowell A. Disrud, Fargo Rough Riders, North Dakota; Missouri-Arkansas, Barbara K. ‘Barb’ Thompson, Florissant Valley, Missouri; Montana, Ed Mangis, Helena; Nebraska-Iowa, August J. ‘Gus’ Dornbusch, Lincoln Sunrise, Nebraska; Netherlands, Luit Ezinga, Zierikzee, Schouwen-Duiveland

New England, Ronald R. ‘Ron’ Sanville, Hardwick, Vermont; New Jersey, Marc H. Litwack, the Chathams; New York, Michael W. ‘Mike’ Malark, New Scotland; New Zealand South Pacific, Robert ‘Bob’ Reay, Mt. Roskill, New Zealand; Northern California, Paul Mannes, Haugesund, Norway; Ohio, John E. DeVLibiss, West Alexandria

Pacific Northwest, Frank L. Morehouse, Tigard, Oregon; Pennsylvania, Susan C. Gräb, Hershey-Hummelstown; Philippines Luzon, Romeo Mariano, Tagaytay; Philippine South, Ernesto Caballero Baluyot, Metro Davao; Rocky Mountain, C. Bert West III, Little Pass-Woodland Park, Colorado; Southwest, Bruce Knappenberger, Phoenix, Arizona

Switzerland-Liechtenstein, Max P. Oesch, Sihltal-Zürich, Switzerland; Taiwan, Chin-Hsiang Lu, Shu Jen, Texas-Oklahoma, Sam J. Curry, Mineola, Texas; Utah-Idaho, Robert ‘Bob’ Dempsey, Rupert, Idaho; West Virginia, Kevin Dean, Suncrest Area, Morgantown; Western Canada, Lori Beneteau, Northmount, Calgary

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Kiwanis International Foundation

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Past International Presidents

Wes H. Bartlett, Algona, Iowa, 1971-72
Ted R. Osborn, the Blue Grass, Lexington, Kentucky, 1975-76
Stanley E. "Stan" Schneider, Crestline, Ohio, 1976-77
Merald T. Enstad, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, 1980-81

Raymond W. "Ray" Lansford, Columbia, Missouri, 1984-85
Donald E. "Don" Williams, Berea, Ohio, 1985-86
Frank J. DiNoto, Rosemead, California, 1986-87

Gene R. Overholt, Colonial Plymouth, Michigan, 1988-89
Noris A. Lusche, Golden K-Foothills, Lakewood, Colorado, 1989-90
Wil Blechman, MD, North Miami Beach-Sunny Isles, Florida, 1990-91
William L. "Bill" Lieber, North Macon, Georgia, 1992-93

Ian Perdriau, AM, Melbourne, Australia, 1994-95
Eyjólfur "Eddie" Sigurðsson, Reykjavið-Hekla, Iceland, 1995-96
Gerald P. "Jerry" Christiano, York-Leicester, New York, 1996-97

Glen M. Bagnell, CM, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, 1998-99
Nettles Brown, Natchitoches, Louisiana, 1999-00
Bo Shafer, Knoxville, Tennessee, 2000-01
Brian G. Cunat, McHenry, Illinois, 2001-02

Juan F. "Ito" Torres Jr., MD, Antipolo, the Philippines, 2002-03
Case Van Kleef, Plover, Wisconsin, 2004-05
Stephen K. "Steve" Siemens, Des Moines, Iowa, 2005-06

Nelson Tucker, Northridge, California, 2006-07
David A. "Dave" Curry, Silver Bow, Butte, Montana, 2007-08
Donald R. "Don" Canaday, Meridian Hills, Indianapolis, Indiana, 2008-09
School’s out, and Sylvester Neal, star defensive back and senior at Stephen F. Austin High School, hops on a city bus for his commute home. He finds a seat, leans back and relaxes. It’s another day in the life of a Texas teenager. Yet this ordinary day in 1962 is destined to be one of the most important days in Neal’s life—a disastrous, miraculous day.

“Smoke!” someone calls out, and the passengers gawk through their windows as a smudged exclamation point rises above the Austin, Texas, skyline. “It looks close,” Neal thinks. “Is it in my neighborhood? Whose place could it be?” When the bus reaches his stop, the horrific scene of a house fully engulfed in flames answers his questions.

“That’s my house!”

A flood of new questions rush into his mind: “My sister came home early today. Is she OK? What about all our stuff?”

His sister was safe, but the Neals lost everything. Syl, however, gained everything.

“I was standing in a neighbor’s yard and watching the firemen—people who didn’t even know us—trying to save our home,” says Neal, nearly 50 years later. “I knew right then, that’s what I wanted to do. I wanted to put on Superman’s cape, rush into burning buildings and save little kids.”

It was more than a career-defining moment. It was a life-defining moment that has influenced his role as a husband, father and, for the past 30 years, as a Kiwanian. Starting October 1, it will influence us all when Neal begins his term as Kiwanis International’s 2010–11 president.

As a former firefighter, Sylvester Neal teaches grandsons Victor and Todd to respect the benefits and dangers of fire. As president, he’s asking Kiwanians worldwide to build bonfires of passion for service.
Neal thinks. “That’s my house!”
“I used to put fires out,” Neal says. “I trained other people to put fires out. I taught families how to prevent fires, and I told kids not to play with fire. I was an advocate for building fire-safe buildings.” Now, Neal says, he wants to start a fire.

“I know how destructive fire can be; I’ve experienced it myself. But fire can also be a good thing. That’s the kind of fire I’m talking about. Kiwanis has been carrying the torch of service for 95 years. I want us to build a raging bonfire.”

Child’s dream
Man’s drive

Simply wanting to be a fireman didn’t make Sylvester Neal a fireman. Much of the credit, he believes, goes to Willis and Ima Neal.

“My parents were sharecroppers,” he explains. “They worked a farm near Hornsby Bend, Texas, where we grew cotton and corn. We had horses, chickens and other animals.

“I look back on those days now and realize it was a hard life. At the time, though, I didn’t even know it was work. I just thought that’s how people lived.”

As his older siblings moved away from the farm, there came a time when there weren’t enough Neals to handle all the chores. Willis and Ima moved their family to Austin.

Texas’ capital city was a jolt of culture shock for a 13-year-old boy who had attended a one-room schoolhouse and rarely associated with people outside his close-knit extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins.

“Back in Hornsby Bend, just about all our neighbors were relatives,” Neal recalls. “You never wanted to do something wrong, because a cousin would tell on you and your aunt would spank you and send you home, where your mom would spank you. Then your dad would spank you because you made mom spank you.”

With the values learned in Hornsby Bend and Willis Neal’s do-your-best work ethic embedded in his character, Neal was ready for the big city. He was ready to take on multiple jobs to help the family. He was ready to confront racism with a cool head and to change hearts and minds by friendship and example. And he was well prepared to rebuild his life when that tragic fire destroyed everything he owned.

Scholarship smoked
Career sparked

In high school, Neal was certain he’d winning a football scholarship. He’d earned all-conference honors, and at a playoff game his senior year, university scouts were in the stands looking for recruits.

“I had the worst game of my life,” Neal moans. “That little slot receiver from San Antonio juiced me, caught passes over me and made me miss tackles. I let my teammates down, my family, my coaches and myself.”

Without a scholarship, he couldn’t afford university tuition. Instead, he fell back on his dream to help others and landed a job with the Austin Fire Department.

As a rookie firefighter, Neal...
was assigned to the oldest, most rundown section of Austin, where dilapidated buildings and dangerous streets filled his days with fire and emergency runs. “We were the busiest station in the city,” he says. “I probably got more experience in those three years than other firefighters who’d been around for 10 or 15 years.”

It was exciting work, until one tragic fire swept away his superhero naiveté. “There was a little girl in a closet,” he says. “She thought she could hide from the fire. We couldn’t find her. We didn’t get to her in time.”

The experience showed Neal he couldn’t be Superman. “It made me realize that prevention and education were the keys to saving lives, and I dedicated my career in that direction,” he says.

Call to duty
Kiwanis connection

By 1968, Neal’s career in Austin looked promising. But the United States Army wanted him too, drafting him and sending him to Fort Polk in Louisiana for basic training.

“That was during the Vietnam War,” Neal says, “and it looked like I’d be sent directly from basic to the front lines. I would have done whatever they asked, but they saw I had firefighting experience, and they needed firefighters in Alaska. So for my ‘overseas assignment,’ they sent me to Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks.”

On one of his first runs there, he dared to challenge his captain’s orders to roll up the hoses and head back to the station.

“All my experience in Austin told me there was still fire in that building,” he says. “Here I was, a buck private telling his captain that he’s making a mistake. But he listened to me. We opened up that wall and sure enough, it was still burning. I saved that captain’s reputation that day.”

As the day of his discharge approached, Neal went looking for a civilian job and was surprised when the color of his skin fast-tracked one of his applications. An Alaskan fire department, facing a court’s integration order, offered him a position. No exam. No physical agility test. Start tomorrow.

“Some people might have taken the job, thinking it was only right since they’d been held back too many other times,” he says. “I had to say no. I knew if I got in on a free ride, no one could trust me, and trust is an important thing when you’re going into a burning building with your buddy. All they would know is that I got the job because I’m black, and I couldn’t accept that.”

A former record-holding penny collector, Neal continues to fill his home and garage with jars, banks and boxes of the coins. He once cashed in nearly 800,000 pennies because they were too expensive to move to a new home.

trust me, and going into a burning building with your buddy.
Neal eventually landed a job with the Fairbanks International Airport Police and Fire Department, advancing to chief in 1980. That’s when his boss’ boss invited him to lunch.

“He was an important man,” Neal says, “but I didn’t know him. I couldn’t think why he’d be asking me to lunch.”

Inside the restaurant, Neal was welcomed to a meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Fairbanks. He’d been to other organizations’ meetings, but this one was different.

“I noticed that Kiwanis and I share the same ideals,” he says. “It has the same passion that I felt when I watched those firemen trying to save our house. When I read that first Object—’to give primacy to the human and spiritual’—they had me.”

Kiwanis has “had” Neal ever since: through his move to Anchorage when he was appointed Alaska’s state fire marshal; through heart surgery and through his move to Auburn, Washington, where these days he coordinates the Valley Club’s Bring Up Grades project.

**Kiwanis mission**

**Hero’s heart**

It’s standing room only at Auburn, Washington’s Hazelwood Elementary School. It doesn’t matter. Many of the visiting parents are too excited to sit anyway.

The students are antsy too. One boy in a faded yellow Star Wars T-shirt scratches his crew cut, while his other hand picks nervously at the frayed hole in the knee of his camouflage trousers. A girl sits smartly in her starched turquoise-and-yellow jumper. Beneath her chair, her violet sneakers swing wildly. A loose shoelace lashes the floor with each kick.

BUG day’s a big deal at Hazelwood. The boys and girls worked hard all year, and they deserve to be recognized for their impressive report cards.

One by one, the students’ names are called. People clap. They cheer. Proud parents snap pictures. At the center of the celebration are three Valley Kiwanis Club members.

Cara Rudd hands out the BUG certificates, and Jim Schwend passes out the colorful BUG bumper stickers. At the end of the line, Sylvester Neal holds a box of BUG pencils.

“Way to go,” he says as the children shake his hand and grip their new pencils. “Great job.” His eyes sparkle. He smiles. He may not be rushing into burning buildings, but he’s still helping kids. He may not be Superman. But the kids at Hazelwood make it clear that just being Syl is the next best thing. **km**
Meet the Neals

Syl and Doris Neal’s home is just like any grandparents’ home. On a wall leading from the garage, arranged like a family tree, are pictures of their children: Angela, Sylvia and Sylvester Lee from Syl’s first marriage, and their sons, Keith and Todd. On a stairway landing, a display of jars, banks and frames show off just a small part of Syl’s once record-holding penny collection. On the kitchen island, next to the sink, are binders filled with Doris’ genealogical research.

But there’s also two scooters leaning against a garage wall. At the top of the stairs is an air hockey game. SpongeBob dances across the living room TV screen. A school calendar is taped on the kitchen wall, near the telephone.

“Most of the people our age have retired and they’re going on cruises, but we’re raising a family,” Syl says. “Our grandsons, L.T. and Victor, live with us. (Todd—called L.T. for ‘Little Todd’—is 6, and Victor’s 5.) Sometimes it’s hard to keep up with them, but it’s always exciting.”

Doris Neal keeps the excitement organized.

Syl first laid eyes on Doris, née Mims, at Kealing Junior High School in Austin. He was the new kid in town, and he knew right away Doris was “the one.” He devised a plan to follow her home from school, but she wouldn’t give him the time of day.

In a change of tactics, Syl befriended her brother, Carnegie.

“I’d go over to his house to play basketball or just hang around, when all I really wanted to do was see her,” Syl says.

It worked. Their first date was to a movie, with her brother as chaperone.

Shortly after graduation, however, Syl married another high school girlfriend and soon had a family. The marriage lasted five years.

“After the divorce, I ran into Doris,” Syl says. “I told her I was single again, and she told me, ‘I know. I’ve been waiting on you.’ That just knocked me off my rocker.”

That was in August of 1977. By October, she announced their engagement to her parents. But her father said no.

“No man was good enough for his daughters,” Doris says. “He was very protective. I’d always been an obedient daughter, but all of a sudden it just came out of my mouth and I said, ‘I’m not asking for your permission. I’m just asking for your blessing.’”

Syl and Doris married the following January.

Grandsons Todd and Victor have moved into Doris and Sylvester’s life, filling their home with action figures, bicycles, crayons—and youthful energy. They’re also supporting Grandpa as he lights fires of Kiwanis service worldwide.

service for 95 years.
build a raging bonfire.
Exploring **Geneva**

**THE WONDER WITHIN,**

Kiwanis International can help you make the most of your convention visit to Geneva. In collaboration with Kuoni Travel, we’ve set up a number of daily tours in and around Geneva during the convention. They’re especially useful for attendees’ guests, who may be looking for well-structured ways to see the area while business is in session.
THE BEAUTY BEYOND

And with our pre- and post-convention tours, attendees and guests can even take the time to explore more of Switzerland and some of Europe’s most beautiful locations. There’s no shortage of ways to enjoy the city and its surroundings—before, during and after the convention. So pick your favorite tours before you book your flight.

On the following pages, you’ll find details about locations in and around Geneva itself. Many of them are included in the tours we’ve arranged with Kuoni Travel. When you find something you like, book your tours at www.KiwanisOne.org/convention.

Geneva's spectacular day and night, but it's only an introduction to the wonders you'll find in and around your convention host city.
JET D'EAU
SCENERY AND STROLLING

Legendary lakefront So many of Geneva’s offerings are accessible from the city’s great walkway. Whether you’re looking for public art, intriguing shops or just a beautiful view, you’ll find it along the lakefront.

Jet d’Eau Located where Lake Geneva empties into the Rhone River, the fountain is visible throughout the city. Originally used for a hydraulic power network, the pump now shoots water 450 feet into the air for enchanted spectators.

The Pâquis Baths This beach is a popular gathering spot on the lakefront. Enjoy the view. Soak up the sun. Stop by the famous snack bar for plates of pâtés and cold cuts, mixed salads and other fine foods. The Pâquis Baths are a bustling attraction where all of Geneva meets.

Aiguille du Midi On a Kiwanis International tour—and by way of the world’s most famous cable car—you’ll enjoy this mountain peak in the Mont Blanc mountain range. While you’re there, get a 360-degree view of the range and Mont Blanc itself.

Carouge The populous streets and shaded squares of this nearby town make it a great place to amble through, with stops at antique stores, souvenir shops, restaurants and bistros.

ARTS AND ATTRACTIONS

Flower clock Geneva is the center of the watchmaking world, famously symbolized by this floral artwork at the edge of the lakefront English Garden. The functioning clock has more than 6,500 flowers in eight concentric circles—and the largest second hand in the world.

Clock Malbuisson Like any good watch, this one hasn’t stopped running since it started, which was in 1962. Every hour on the hour, 16 bells chime here in the Passage Malbuisson—along with a march of 13 chariots and 42 bronze figures.

Musée d’Art et d’Histoire Since 1910, this has been a destination location for art lovers from around the world. See great works and artifacts of Western culture, from its beginnings to the present day.

Tour tip
When you plan your trip, give yourself time before and after the convention. Kiwanis’ tours of Switzerland and Europe are fun and affordable—well worth the extra days.

Look for the Swiss flag for sites included on official Kiwanis tours.
Rath Museum Devoted to the fine arts, the Rath Museum hosts large temporary exhibitions. The museum specializes in archaeology, ancient art and contemporary art.

Montreux Jazz Festival This world-famous event—hosted annually in Montreux, fewer than 60 miles from Geneva—coincides with next year’s Kiwanis International convention. From July 1–16, enjoy free or ticked concerts featuring acts from around the world at numerous venues throughout Montreux.

ARCHITECTURE AND INSTITUTIONS

St. Peter’s Cathedral Marvel at one of the world’s great architectural beauties. And if you’re feeling hardy, climb to the top of the north tower for a panoramic view of the city, the lakefront and the mountains beyond.

Chillon Castle It’s just an hour away, and Kiwanis International can take you there. Feel awed by history and architecture that date to the 12th century. Be inspired by the beautiful location between Lake Geneva and the Alps. Then enjoy Montreux and the “Swiss Riviera” on the way back.

The Place Neuve This storied plaza is home to the Grand-Théâtre opera house, the Conservatory of Music and the Rath Museum.

The Palace of Nations Completed in 1936 for the League of Nations, the “Palais” is home to the United Nations Office at Geneva. It hosts more than 25,000 delegates each year—and a roaming band of peacocks, which remain at the request of the family who bequeathed the land. Also check out the Armillary Sphere, the symbol of the United Nations, Geneva.

Place du Bourg-de-Four Another man-made wonder, this public square is popular for its 16th century architecture. It also includes 18th century attractions such as the “flowered fountain” and the façade of the Palais de Justice (courthouse).

Tour tip
Got European ancestry? Get back to your roots with Kiwanis and Kuoni Travel tours through Germany, Italy, France and other destinations.

Tour tip
Ah, Paris. For many people, it’s a dream destination. Kiwanis International’s “3 Days in Paris” excursion is one of the most affordable and convenient ways to spend time in the City of Light.
Reformation Wall
Five feet tall, 100 meters long ... and 450 years in scope. Statues of figures of the Protestant Reformation line this popular site.

European Organization of Nuclear Research
Tours are rare at the “CERN,” the world’s largest particle-physics laboratory. Thanks to Kiwanis International and Kuoni Travel, you have a special opportunity to explore the facility’s awesome equipment and history of scientific wonder.

CHOCOLATE AND CHEESE (AND MORE)

Gruyères A Kiwanis International tour takes you to this picturesque village, where the famous gruyere cheese is made. You’ll even visit the factory for a demonstration. Back in Geneva, you’ll have no shortage of other world-class cheeses to sample.

Chocolate
Switzerland is one of the great contributors to the world’s supply of fine chocolate. At any number of specialty shops in Geneva, you can help yourself to some of the best handmade chocolates on Earth: milk, dark, white, with nuts or without ... whatever you desire.

Vineyards Want to discover Swiss wines? Kiwanis International and Kuoni Travel offer a tour that will take you on a two-vineyard visit just outside the city—complete with a wine-tasting in the traditional Carnotzet.

COMPLIMENTARY TOUR

Book your room with the official Kiwanis tour operator, Kuoni Travel, and you’re all set to see Annecy—the Venice of the Alps. That’s because your 2011 Kiwanis International convention hotel package includes a complimentary trip to the popular French resort.

Officially classified as a "town of history and art," Annecy is located on the second largest lake in France, facing some of the most outstanding mountain scenery in the world.

Register for the convention, sign up for tours and book your hotel online now at www.KiwanisOne.org/convention. Download forms online or look for them in a special Geneva section of your December 2010 Kiwanis magazine.
Saving joy

What could compare to the joy a family feels when a new baby’s born? Maternal/neonatal tetanus can quickly turn a family’s joy into despair—even death. Four Kiwanis family members traveled to the Philippines to see how Kiwanis and UNICEF can keep joy alive for babies, mothers and their families through The Eliminate Project. Here are their stories.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JACK BROCKLEY

Overhead vents pour an air-conditioned breeze over four Kiwanis-family members as their UNICEF van creeps through Manila’s Monday afternoon traffic. Outside in the humid heat, motorcycles zip and weave through the narrow openings between car doors and bumpers. Up ahead, a truck edges left to change lanes. A biker, his hulking body virtually hiding the machine beneath him, pulls up beside the van and pauses to plot a new route through the maze. The message on the back of his T-shirt boasts, “Pain is just weakness escaping the body.”

Only minutes earlier, the Kiwanis visitors had seen pain—real pain—in the frail bodies of two newborn babies. Nebraska Kiwanians Lenora and Milford Hanna, Virginia CKI member Brian Cofrancesco and Florida Key Clubber René Miller were in the Philippines on a site visit for the new global campaign for children, The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis eliminating maternal/neonatal tetanus. Their agenda included a tour of San Lazaro Hospital, one of the Philippines’ oldest health-care institutions, where they came face to face with maternal/neonatal tetanus.

Metro Manila—a collection of communities that surrounds and includes the capital city—has officially eliminated MNT, so babies born in the city are rarely infected. But in some urban slums and remote, rural areas newborns remain at risk, and occasionally a child is rushed to Manila with hopes a big city hospital can save his life. It’s a desper-
ate battle against time, because neonatal tetanus can kill an infant in just four days.

Gab Michael lay sleeping when the Kiwanis team was led to his window. His one-week-old body was a mere island on the child-size hospital bed. Sweat dampened his thick black hair. An oxygen mask engulfed his face. An IV line taped to the back of his left fist pushed fluids and antibiotics into his bloodstream.

Down the hall and around the corner, in another hospital bed, Princess Mae grimaced in her sleep. Straps of tape—one beneath her nose and the other across her chin—held an intubation tube in her throat, because unlike Gab, who only needed an oxygen mask, she couldn’t breathe on her own. Peeking out from the end of her pink Mickey Mouse blanket, a foot clenched, contorting her toes.

Gab and Princess were infected with Clostridium tetani spores at birth, when their umbilical cords were cut with unsterile equipment. They had about three days of pain-free life before abdominal convulsions began. When their mouths locked tight, they stopped eating.

Riding away from the hospital in the UNICEF van, the Kiwanis-family members knew Gab and Princess likely would die. Neonatal tetanus’ death rate globally is near 100 percent. Yet the group’s Philippine visit had just begun. The journey would prove a whirlwind of intense emotions. Here are their experiences, in their own words.
**René Miller**

**KEY CLUB OF JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL, TAMPA, FLORIDA**

**WHAT HE SAW:** Miller talked and played with the children while their mothers met with doctors.

The obvious focus of The Eliminate Project is to protect children, so I felt great excitement about actually meeting some of the children during my trip to the Philippines. But I didn’t expect that every child I met would make such a memorable impression on my life.

I was lucky enough to visit a birthing center in Dumaguete City on the day a baby boy was born. Thankfully, he was born very healthy. When I shook the father’s hand and congratulated him on becoming a new dad, I saw pure euphoria in his eyes.

I realized then The Eliminate Project was not only protecting innocent children, but it’s also protecting that indescribable feeling that that man must have had when his son was born. How many fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, aunts and grandfathers are robbed of that happiness when their precious newborn dies by tetanus?

I met another young boy named Franklin. He was play-

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**Lenora Hanna**

**KIWANIS CLUB OF LINCOLN-NORTHEAST, NEBRASKA**

**WHAT SHE SAW:** Lenora Hanna had the difficult assignment of a one-mother-to-another interview with Alona Lamog, who had just lost a son to tetanus.

How do you cope with the loss of your child? How must it feel when your perfectly healthy newborn suddenly becomes very ill and most likely will not live beyond its first week of life? How agonizing must it be to watch your child die a horrible and painful death that could have been prevented?

I had the opportunity to meet and talk with Alona Lamog, a mother who lost her son to tetanus in April. When I asked her why she hadn’t been immunized, she said she felt it wasn’t necessary. She’d had two healthy children with no problems after their birth. But this birth was different.

The setting was the same. She was using the same *hilot*—an attendant who uses traditional birthing methods. But this baby came very fast, and there was no time to get ready for the delivery. The *hilot* said she used bamboo to cut the umbilical cord, but this time she didn’t have time to sterilize it.

I asked Alona if she’d get the vaccine now, and her answer was no, because she’s not planning to have any more children. But if she gets pregnant again, she says she’ll be vaccinated. She knows better now.

As a mother, I can’t imagine the sadness I’d carry knowing I could have prevented my child’s death. Every child deserves the chance to live, and every parent—rich or poor—loves her child the same. We need to remember that.

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Ready to go home, a newborn lays cradled in his mother’s arms. His mother came to a health clinic in Dumaguete City, where clean delivery practices are followed.

Alona Lamog tells Lenora Hanna (left) her first two children were born healthy, so she thought her third child would be safe from tetanus. A few days after the delivery, her baby—a son—died.
As I arrived in the Philippines for my introduction to The Eliminate Project, I couldn’t help but reflect upon a similar opportunity I’d had years ago to take a team to Bhutan for Kiwanis’ iodine deficiency disorders project. I remembered how impressed I’d been with the job the UNICEF staff was doing there. They were so committed to eliminating IDD, all while working on many other projects.

This year, while visiting the Philippines, I witnessed again UNICEF’s commitment to the children of the world. They have an enthusiasm for their work though they face what seem like insurmountable odds. With people like Joyce Ducusin, M.D., of the national office of the Philippine Department of Health, UNICEF Philippines’ Health Specialist Marisa Ricardo, M.D., and Private Fundraising and Partnerships Chief Michelle Borromeo, what they bring to the table will far outweigh our fundraising efforts. Together with the countless dedicated rural health workers in the field, they’re the ones who will conduct the educational campaigns, administer the shots and follow up to ensure we actually eliminate maternal/neonatal tetanus.

The Eliminate Project is a great opportunity for Kiwanis members to work with another group of people who, like us, care about children. Together, we’ll protect millions of mothers and children against suffering horrific deaths.

Joyce Ducusin, M.D., explains to Milford Hanna the importance of maintaining accurate records of every woman’s prenatal visits and vaccinations at a Negros Oriental clinic.

After spending time with the children of a Basay fishing village, René Miller sits down and makes friends with one of the local grandmothers, who offers to tell his future by reading his palm.

It’s because of children like Franklin and the newborn that I know The Eliminate Project is so genuinely worth-
Brian Cofrancesco

CIRCLE K CLUB OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

WHAT HE SAW: Nationwide, every Wednesday is vaccination day. On this day Cofrancesco talked to mothers about their decision to protect their unborn children.

We were taken to vaccination day at a health center in Dumaguete City. Swarms of women and children packed the entrance lobby. The women were incredibly candid with us and even allowed us to sit in the room as they received their tetanus vaccines. As I watched one young, pregnant mother, I noticed she was nervous, although she was smiling. I asked her how she felt, and she said she was scared of the needle but very happy to be protecting her future child from tetanus.

I also visited with mothers who had just delivered their babies, and most were able to say that they’d received their vaccinations. As I said hello to a baby less than an hour old, it was a comfort to know that, because he was born in a clean facility and the mother was vaccinated against tetanus prior to the birth, he would live.

In this barangay, vaccination day brings free shots for mothers and children. This, unfortunately, is not the case in some places. Our experience at this hospital reflects the eagerness of many mothers to protect their children when they are taught how. They often just lack the necessary resources.

The Eliminate Project will give more than 1 million Filipino mothers and children access to the vaccines. Worldwide, it will protect more than 129 million mothers and their babies—most of whom cannot afford 60-cent vaccines. It will allow 129 million mothers and their babies to live.

SO CLOSE

The Philippines is so close to defeating MNT. Only nine provinces in the 7,107-island archipelago remain at risk.

THE PROBLEM

The poverty and remoteness of the nine remaining regions present formidable hurdles to a nationwide victory over MNT. The families live many hours away from clinics, and mothers prefer to use traditional birth attendants. These hilots, as they are known, use bamboo or other unsterile equipment to cut the umbilical cord and treat the wound with herbs, garlic, ash or even wasp’s nest to hasten healing.

THE CONSEQUENCES

In 2009, 149 MNT cases were reported in those resistant regions, and only 44 percent of deliveries were at health facilities attended by medical professionals.

THE PLAN

With Kiwanis International’s assistance, the Philippine health department, UNICEF and the World Health Organization will conduct three rounds of tetanus immunizations in the nine provinces, targeting 1,083,465 women between the ages of 15 and 40. At the same time, an advocacy and educational campaign will instruct communities about the importance of clean delivery practices and of seeking skilled attendants at birthing facilities.

Gab Michael and Princess Mae are among the few lucky newborns who have beaten the odds and defeated neonatal tetanus. They’re both currently at home with their families.

Read more about MNT and how you and your Kiwanis club can get involved in The Eliminate Project at www.TheEliminateProject.org.
Before the birthing center opened, the closest hospital was 15 miles away and inaccessible for most Owerri women.

Just how far does US$3,147 go in Nigeria? Barbara Dittrich was amazed to find out it was enough to drastically reduce mortality rates among women and infants in one African city.

By developing an e-mail relationship with the Kiwanis Club of Owerri, Nigeria, Dittrich’s Kiwanis Club of North Thurston, Lacey, Washington, identified the dire need for medical equipment and supplies at the Amuzi Health Centre. Then it teamed with the Kiwanis Club of Oliver, British Columbia, to raise the money to equip the clinic.

“This is what happens when clubs reach across borders to serve,” says Innocent Ugochukwu, past president of the Kiwanis Club of Owerri. “It showed us that there are friends abroad committed to bringing aid to those across the globe who cannot help themselves.” — Jamie Moore
26 One Day ideas

Kiwanis One Day is only six months away: April 2, 2011. You won’t want to miss that opportunity to show everyone what Kiwanis service is all about. To help you plan an impactful, impressive One Day, here are 26 proven project ideas:

1. Host an Easter egg hunt in your area.
2. Pack backpacks full of healthy food for schoolchildren to take home on Fridays so they get something to eat over the weekend.
3. Play Bingo at the senior center.
4. Deep clean a nursery-school classroom’s toys.
5. Build a playground.
6. With your K-Kids, set up a stand and offer lemonade for free.
7. Stuff and sew Kiwanis dolls.
8. Work with a fire station and conduct a car-seat safety fair.
10. Plant flowers at your town hall.
11. Host a clothing drive and donate the apparel to a charity.
12. Donate blankets and cleaning supplies to an animal shelter.
13. Spruce up a park by weeding and refreshing the mulch.
14. Get help from your Key Club to take senior citizens grocery shopping.
15. Organize a basketball tournament with your local Boys & Girls Club.
16. Distribute nutritious snacks to your CKI students to sustain them through final exams.
17. Surprise your K-Kids or Builders Club and its faculty advisor with an ice cream social.
18. Work with your Aktion Club to send letters of thanks to deployed military personnel.
19. Work with a pediatrician to coordinate an immunization clinic.
20. Paint a mural on a retaining wall.
21. Clean up a beach and recycle any aluminum or glass.
22. Conduct safety checks at area playgrounds.
23. Paint the recreation room at your local Boys & Girls Club.
24. Host a bike rodeo.
25. Celebrate graduates from your Bring Up Grades program with a special ceremony and invite their parents.
26. Conduct a basic Internet class for senior citizens so they can e-mail, Facebook, Skype and network with their grandkids.
Robots on the move

Classwork culminates in a day of competition

Maneuvering through a maze can be a difficult task, but imagine designing, building and programming a robot to do the same assignment all on its own.

Unfazed by the challenge, a dozen teams comprised of Kenner Collegiate and Vocational Institute students spent four months preparing for the 7th annual Peterborough, Ontario, Kiwanis Club’s robotic competition.

The event includes two contests: The maze challenges teams to create a self-contained robot that can navigate through a course of obstacles as quickly as possible. A wrestling event pits opposing robots in a pushing war, attempting to shove one another off a platform.

The highest total points determines the winners.

Monica White, Kenner Collegiate’s science curriculum chairwoman, says the activity gives students a way to learn outside their school’s normal curriculum.

“It’s a great learning opportunity for the students, because it builds upon their knowledge and it’s fun,” White says. “This is about them and their creation. It’s great hearing the excitement as the robots smash into each other and fall into pieces.”

Ron Horton, chairman of the robotics committee, remembers one dramatic showdown.

“In the wrestling contest this year, one robot went underneath another one and flipped it over,” he recalls with a chuckle. “I enjoy watching the kids seeing their robots do their thing.” —Adrian Kendrick

Get your motor running

Consider these tips when starting your own robotic competition:

- Recruit someone who knows how robotics operate.
- Seek publicity in the school and community to encourage student participation and attract sponsors to cover the costs of robot kits.
- Inform participants and school staff about the benefits and rules of the competition.
- Work closely with the school’s faculty and administrators to coordinate classroom lessons with the contest’s learning experiences.
- Look online to find contest advice or to order kits, such as Lego Mindstorm Robot Kits.
If there’s strength in numbers, the Kiwanis Club of McMinnville, Oregon, is a rapid gainer. The club began a membership campaign last October with 40 members. By August, it had reached 80—beyond the club’s goal of 75.

“It’s definitely been a challenge,” says Ken Whiting, the club’s president. “Everyone’s rolled up their sleeves and jumped in head first.”

To power up, the membership committee meets regularly and identifies prospects. Members then go out and meet people. “We talk about Kiwanis all the time,” Whiting says. “When one of us walks into Staples to buy a ream of paper and talks to the store manager, we ask, ‘When are you going to join Kiwanis?’”

Once new Kiwanians are welcomed aboard, they’re encouraged to do what they enjoy so they become enmeshed in the club culture.

“We try to find something for everyone so everybody feels involved and that they belong,” Whiting says. “Just because we don’t have a committee that might interest someone doesn’t mean we can’t create one.”

—Cathy Usher
Caitlin Johnson loves the sounds of thunder, laughter and Tim McGraw. Though that’s fairly common ear candy for a native of Fayetteville, Georgia, this 21-year-old takes nothing for granted when it comes to hearing the symphony of life. Diagnosed with a hearing impairment at 6 months old, Johnson and her parents tried many treatments with varying degrees of success. After a cochlear implant at age 4, she suddenly blossomed. Supporting her all the way were her grandfather Marvin Johnson and his White Oak Golden K, Newnan, Georgia, Kiwanis Club.

“When I was diagnosed with hearing loss, no one imagined I’d attend such a great school as Georgia Tech,” says Caitlin, now a third-year biomedical engineering student. “Who knows where I’d be if it weren’t for my parents taking risks and Kiwanis’ support?” —Nicholas Drake

“I love hearing the voices of my family and friends. Being able to distinguish voices of each individual is still amazing to me.”

—Caitlin Johnson

Sound support

For many years, Marvin Johnson and his Kiwanis club have supported the Auditory-Verbal Center in Atlanta, where his granddaughter Caitlin learned to optimize her restored hearing ability.
**Team Spirit**

**Joyce Greene**  
**Weston, Connecticut**

When Joyce Greene first started collaborating with Kiwanis years ago, it was strictly professional. She was part of a UNICEF team that assisted Kiwanis in its very successful global campaign to fight iodine deficiency disorders.

After years of work with the organization, the relationship became personal when she moved to Connecticut and joined Weston’s club.

“I really enjoy the local aspect of community service,” says Greene. “And I never would have joined if it hadn’t been for our work on the IDD campaign.”

—Kimiko Martinez

**Family Values**

**Rickie Santer**  
**New York District governor**  
**Circle K International**

In elementary school, Rickie Santer thought Kiwanis was a bunch of guys who hung out on Tuesday nights. But when he tagged along delivering Thanksgiving food baskets with his father, a middle school teacher and Builders Club advisor, that image changed.

“I remember going to this woman’s house and seeing how surprised she was,” Santer says, “and how grateful she was, knowing she could feed her family.”

Now at age 20, with Builders Club, Key Club and CKI membership on his résumé, Santer says service has infiltrated every aspect of his life, from choosing friends to choosing a career path—teaching elementary school math.

“My whole life is thinking, ‘who can I help today?’”

—Kimiko Martinez

**100 Years of Caring**

**Cory Tipton**  
**Philippi, West Virginia**

Cory Tipton turned 100 years old on May 31, but that’s just one of his many accomplishments. In the 1930s, under Tipton’s direction, the Bonnie Oaks Industrial School for Boys, a facility for delinquent youth, achieved early racial integration and his boys choir performed for the president of the United States. He’s also a 37-year member of the Kiwanis Club of Philippi and an Alcoholics Anonymous counselor.

**Born to Row**

**Paul Randall**  
**Elkhart, Indiana**

In 2002, Elkhart, Indiana, Kiwanian Paul Randall was fighting for his life. Stricken by a heart attack, he was rushed to the hospital. Only a few days later, the 85-year-old patient was running on a treadmill during rehabilitation. “The nurses boiled over,” Randall laughs. Soon, a doctor took Randall aside and told him to go home; he was clearly well enough to handle rehab on his own.

A former runner who finished 11 marathons after the age of 60, Randall, now 93, has won eight World Indoor Rowing Championships in Boston. “Five days a week on the machine,” he says of his dedication to the sport. “That’s what it takes.”

—Matthew Gonzales
We get our share of jokes and puns. Most, though, are in poor taste and it would be a ‘moosestake’ to repeat them.

—Palmer Kiwanis Club President Steve Brown

If the moose chips are falling where they may, you must be in Palmer, Alaska, for Moose Poop Palooza. The annual celebration of the Palmer Kiwanis Club raises piles of cash for community service. “There are more moose than people in most of Alaska,” says club President Steve Brown, “so a moose theme always resonates with people. It’s a really fun activity that draws the community together.” Here’s the scoop:

Members collect, shellac and number more than 750 moose poop nuggets, each one about the size of a walnut. Then, they sell tickets, each bearing a number that corresponds to a nugget. On the day of the event, a Palmer firefighter drops the droppings from a five-story ladder onto a target on the ground below. Entrants whose nuggets plop closest to the bull’s-eye win cash prizes. Profits from this past June’s fundraiser were used to buy dictionaries for the city’s third-grade students.
Pulling strings

What’s more fun than watching the annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade on television? Actually walking in the parade as giant balloon handlers!

That’s what the Kiwanis Club of Sparta, New Jersey, found out when members volunteered to steer the enormous floats through the streets of New York City.

On the big day, Kiwanians receive costumes, directions and a bus ride to Central Park. This past year, 11 club members handled geodesic-shaped balloons and two members were assigned to a Spider-Man balloon.

“We were behind Miss America and right in front of Shrek,” club President Mike Zingaro recalls.

The balloon-bearing Kiwanians were interviewed for a statewide television news broadcast, and they made the local newspaper.

— Tamara Stevens

In the key of PR

An open piano on a public sidewalk with bold-print instructions to “play me” is an irresistible invitation. That’s what the Kiwanis Club of Valparaiso Noon, Indiana, hoped when it placed five pianos around their town’s square. The resulting publicity was music to members’ ears—and great fun for the community.

The two-week project, dubbed “Piano Squared,” attracted the media and brought out Valparaiso’s virtuoso, impromptu ensembles, “Chopsticks” duos, the cast of a local play (in costume) and a crowd of pedestrian pianists.

“Some people looked at them for a minute,” says club member Aaron Ingram. “But then most tried to remember at least one song from a childhood piano lesson.”

— Amy Wiser

“All problems are solvable—if you but listen to the philosophy of unselfish men and follow their advice.”

— Donald A. Johnston, first president of the Detroit Kiwanis Club No. 1
Tackling tetanus

The following words are related to Kiwanis’ new global campaign for children. Can you find them in the puzzle?

Dirty jobs

Sometimes service gets sloppy. Here’s a couple of the dirtiest clubs in the Kiwanis family:

Swab the rock

Land, ahoy. Sailing ships off the coasts of Norway once used a white rocky outcropping known as Risørfløkken as a landmark to help them steer safely into Risør harbor. Though it’s no longer needed for navigation, it remains a monument to the city’s seafaring past.

But someone has to keep it clean, so the Kiwanis Club of Risør, along with Lions and Rotary clubs, volunteered to share in the maintenance of the old mariners’ landmark.

“We’ll keep our promise,” the club reported in a Sorlandet Division newsletter, “though the task of applying lime to a large rock surface is terribly messy.”

Don’t worry, be hoppy

Every June, Dublin, Ohio, Kiwanians may seem a bit jumpy. That’s because it’s time to get to work on their annual Frog Jump and Festival.

Modeled loosely after Mark Twain’s “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County,” the event found its legs in the mid-1960s and has grown by leaps and bounds since. The key to its success, notes Kiwanian John Popovich, is the willingness of club members to go “froggin’.”

“We travel in groups, but some people are still squeamish about actually touching frogs. Some will only hold the flashlights.”

On the day of the festival, competitors select their frogs (some bring their own) and place them in one of eight rings depending on age group and level of competition. The first frog that jumps out of its circle is the winner.

Proceeds are earmarked for the U.S. National Alliance of Mental Illness and the Dublin Food Pantry.

—Dick Isenhour

UP NEXT

Coming soon in the December issue of Kiwanis:

- Actress Téa Leoni talks about MNT, UNICEF and helping children
- French Kiwanis clubs skate into the holidays
Birthdays

These clubs celebrate anniversaries in November and December 2010.

75th—1935
Southwest Saint Louis, Missouri, November 13
Fennimore, Wisconsin, November 21
Secaucus, New Jersey, December 2
Rochester, Minnesota, December 5
Umatilla, Florida, December 5
Hutchinson, Minnesota, December 10
Robinson, Illinois, December 10
Lebanon, Ohio, December 18

50th—1960
Birmingham-East, Alabama, November 9
Linkville, Klamath Falls, Oregon, November 9

Burton, Michigan, November 11
Springfield Evening, Illinois, November 14
Manotick, Ontario, November 22
East Sacramento Midtown, California, November 22
Kempenfelt Bay, Barrie, Ontario, November 30
Danvers, Massachusetts, December 6
Missoula-Sentinel, Montana, December 6
Hugoton, Kansas, December 12
Clinton Valley, Mount Clemens, Michigan, December 14
Kaukauna, Wisconsin, December 14

25th—1985
Zürich am Stampfenbach, Switzerland, November 11

Lenexa, Kansas, November 14
Cosenza, Italy, November 15
Denver Tech Center, Colorado, November 26
Seacoast (The), Portsmouth, New Hampshire, December 11
Beaver Dam, A.M., Wisconsin, December 11
Golden K Athens, Georgia, December 11
Catskill, New York, December 12
Steyr, Austria, December 17
Ranchos (The)-Madera, California, December 18
Sullivan County, Pennsylvania, December 27

See a full list at www.kiwanis.org/birthdays.

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WHAT IF YOU COULD SAVE A BABY’S LIFE?

With The Eliminate Project, you can. Maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) kills one baby every nine minutes. But three doses of a 60-cent vaccine can protect babies—and their mothers too. Kiwanis and UNICEF have joined forces to bring this vaccine to 40 countries, eliminating MNT from the face of the Earth by 2015. What can you do now? Grow your club, because you’ll need strength to take on the challenges of the campaign. Learn about MNT, and advocate for the cause. Over the next five years, the work you do to eliminate MNT will change the world. Find resources at www.TheEliminateProject.org.
**Next**

**Things to Save & Remember**

**Kiwanis Calendar**

Are your club’s holiday season plans underway? Make sure holiday parties and projects are given ample time on your club’s October meeting agendas.

**November** is Kiwanis Family Month, which kicks off with Key Club Week, November 1–5. Give your Service Leadership Program clubs special attention this month. Maybe even plan a social event or joint service project to involve everyone.

**The Eliminate Project:**
Action plan in October & November:

- Share what you know about MNT with your club, community, family or school using facts and resources from www.TheEliminateProject.org.
- Engage the Kiwanis-family members you support.
- Strengthen your club through growth.
- Plan to send a club representative to the 96th Annual Kiwanis convention in Geneva, Switzerland, July 7–10, 2011, for the project kickoff.

**Igniting an idea**

Imagine losing all your possessions in a house fire. Now imagine how your club could help families who have suffered this kind of loss. Develop ways of supporting victims of house fires in your community. Here are some ideas.

- **Re-create a photo album.** Rally the neighbors, friends, extended family and teammates to search their own albums for relevant photographs, especially if they include the family members. Give them copies.

- **Put together hygiene kits,** including toothbrushes, toothpaste, cotton swabs, hand soap, lotion, shampoo, washcloths, etc. Keep them on hand, so they are available when needed.

- **Find out clothing sizes of the family members and use your club network to collect seasonal clothing in those sizes, including socks, shoes, caps and undergarments.**

- **Put together hygiene kits,** including toothbrushes, toothpaste, cotton swabs, hand soap, lotion, shampoo, washcloths, etc. Keep them on hand, so they are available when needed.

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**What can Member Services do for you?**

You’ve got questions. They’ve got answers. You are always welcome to contact the Member Services department at the Kiwanis International Office for help with these and many other topics:

- Roster updates.
- New or existing merchandise orders.
- Service Leadership Program club chartering.
- Report filing.

Call +1-800-KIWANIS, ext. 411 (U.S. and Canada), or +1-317-875-8755, ext. 411 (worldwide) or e-mail memberservices@kiwanis.org.

**JOIN US!**

Our Kiwanis club would like to invite you to our next meeting.

Time: ________________ Date: _______________________________________

Location: _______________________________________________________

If you have questions, call me: ________________________________

—Rickie Santer, Circle K International New York District governor

“My whole life is thinking, ‘who can I help today?”

—Rickie Santer, Circle K International New York District governor
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