Overwhelmed by generosity

Kiwanians lift life’s burdens for Albanian families
WHERE DREAMS COME TO LIFE

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Bank on the benefits

Request the only credit card that contributes to Kiwanis International with every purchase you make—at no additional cost to you.

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For more information about the rates, fees, other costs and benefits associated with the use of this credit card, or to apply, call 866-438-6262 toll-free or write to P.O. Box 15020, Wilmington, DE 19850.

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Hail to the club

Though there are many important leadership positions within Kiwanis, you may be surprised to learn that the most important of these is not the international president, members of the international board, your district governor or even the lieutenant governors. Rather, it is the club president.

The club is where Kiwanis service takes place. Its fundraising makes service projects possible. It’s where growth—or the lack of growth—takes place. It’s where the Kiwanis experience happens for members. It is where we retain or lose members. It’s where the “rubber meets the road,” so it’s important that committees at all levels understand their main goal is to provide meaningful support to clubs.

If these things are true—and they are—then all of us in leadership outside the club level must understand our role and develop our own plans and programs accordingly. We must support club presidents in every way we can and strive to make them successful leaders. We must provide them with the best training, the best resources, the best counsel and mentoring. And we must communicate with them regularly, providing them with the most current information, best practices and helpful hints.

When our club presidents are successful, Kiwanis is successful. The winners are those who serve, especially children.

What do you think? Send your thoughts to me in an e-mail at president@kiwanis.org.

DONALD “DON” CANADAY Kiwanis International President
Newsroom

NASHVILLE UPDATE

Make sure you’re in Music City, USA, June 25-28 for the 94th Annual Kiwanis International Convention. You’ll help set the course for Kiwanis’ future. You’ll meet plenty of fellow Kiwanians. You’ll be inspired and motivated. You’ll learn. And you’ll have lots of fun.


Dance with Jud
Judson Laipply’s *Evolution of Dance* set all kinds of YouTube viewing records, but his thought-provoking message inspires change. Don’t miss the fun and motivation at the opening session Thursday afternoon.

Set a new course
A top executive business coach, Jeff Wolf brings to Saturday’s convention forum lineup his passion for empowering people to seek new paths, new attitudes and new commitments as they fulfill business and personal goals.

Write a new song
Songwriter Billy Montana’s words put Garth Brooks, Jo Dee Messina and Sara Evans at the top of the country music charts. Martina McBride, Lee Greenwood and Brooks & Dunn have dominated radio air time crooning Rob Nashvillet update
Crosby tunes. At the age of 10, James Dean Hicks performed beside the legendary George Jones. Now he’s writing songs for John Michael Montgomery and Aaron Carter. At the 2009 Kiwanis International Convention, the three lyricists will compose a presentation about Music City’s music scene. Tune in with the trio at the Chart Toppers Celebration, where everyone’s invited to a reception honoring distinguished members and Gold Key recipients.

**Take care of business**

Decisions made by club representatives during the convention’s House of Delegates will forge Kiwanis International’s future. Visit www.KiwanisOne.org/convention to read the proposed Bylaws amendments and resolution, which delegates will consider in Nashville.

**Join the parade**

Parades are always fun, but a 2009 Kiwanis International exhibition promises to top them all. The Kiwanis Hit Parade will display some of the best Kiwanis projects from around the world. Come to Nashville and pick up a few ideas for your own club. Exhibits are being arranged by the Kiwanis districts.

---

**Consider the candidates**

These Kiwanis members have announced their candidacy for the Kiwanis International board. Officers and Region I positions will be elected at the 2009 Kiwanis International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, June 25-28.

**President** (Elect one)

Paul G. Palazzolo, Illinois-Eastern Iowa District

George Francis, California-Nevada-Hawaii District

**President-elect** (Elect one)

Sylvester “Syl” Neal, Pacific Northwest District

Mark Garman, Kentucky-Tennessee District

**Vice president** (Elect one)

Michael R. Anderson, Rocky Mountain District

Jerome E. Peuler, Capital District

**Region II—Eastern Canada and the Caribbean and Western Canada districts**

Stan L. Storey, Florida District

Stewart Ross, Minnesota-Dakotas District

John Button, Eastern Canada and the Caribbean District

**Trustees**

Region I—United States

Pam Fleming, Alabama District

Region III—Europe

The Region III trustee will be elected at the 2009 Kiwanis International-European Federation convention, June 4-6.

---

Get to know the candidates. For candidates’ biographical information, visit www.kiwanismagazine.org.
**What They Say**

**What does Kiwanis service mean to you?**

“Kiwanis service occurs when your actions have a positive impact on someone else. In other words: making a difference in someone’s life.”

—Don Canaday

International President

“Kiwanis service is the positive impact we make on the self-esteem of youth, especially those we reach through our Service Leadership Programs.”

—Paul Palazzolo

International President-elect

“The greatest monument Kiwanians will leave to mankind will not be made of mortar, stones, brick or glass but, rather, the lives we touch.”

—Sylvester Neal

International Vice President

—What does Kiwanis service mean to you? Send your thoughts to magazine@kiwanis.org.

---

**The kids are counting on you.**

As you’re working with your Kiwanis club to make a difference in the lives of children, please remember that Kiwanis International’s member services team is here to support you.

Whether you have a question, an opinion or you just need someone to talk to about Kiwanis, we’re here for you.

Just give us a call.
800-KIWANIS, ext. 411 (U.S. and Canada)
or 317-875-8755, ext. 411

You can count on us.

www.KiwanisOne.org
On the Web

ToolBox

Present like a pro

A PowerPoint presentation on how to create and give PowerPoint presentations? Genius! Kiwanis International tested the program at 2009 midyear conferences, tweaked it and now you can download it from the Web, ready for real-world application. Look for it at www.KiwanisOne.org/workshops.

Template of style

Using a free design template downloaded from KiwanisOne.org, the Kiwanis Club of Union, Missouri, posts an easy-to-manage Web site that’s helpful to members and guests. It also reinforces the Kiwanis brand by following Kiwanis International graphic standards.

Tutorials for you

Online tutorials can help your club build and maintain its Web site:

- The Webmaster Guide links to resources for newbie and experienced Web builders.
- A user’s guide for creating a Web site using the free club site templates.
- Guidelines instituted by the Kiwanis International board for operating a club Web site.

Can they find you?

“Find a Club” is the second-most-visited page on the Kiwanis International Web site (www.kiwanis.org). That means a lot of Internet users are looking for Kiwanis clubs—possibly yours. If your club’s Web site isn’t listed at www.kiwanis.org/findaclub or if the address is incorrect, e-mail the Web address (URL) to internet@kiwanis.org today.

Sneak a peek

The new and improved Key Leader Web site won’t go live until later this year, but you can catch a preview now at www.kiwanismagazine.org.

ClickIt

Using a free design template downloaded from KiwanisOne.org, the Kiwanis Club of Union, Missouri, posts an easy-to-manage Web site that’s helpful to members and guests. It also reinforces the Kiwanis brand by following Kiwanis International graphic standards.

Energize your Web site and enroll your club’s URL at www.KiwanisOne.org/webtools.
The Kiwanis International Foundation presents its 2007-08 financial statements. For a copy of the audit report, send your written request to Kiwanis International Foundation, Attn: Audit Report, 3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, Indiana 46268, or e-mail your request to foundation@kiwanis.org.

ANNUAL REPORT
2007-08 report of finances for the Kiwanis International Foundation

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
Statements of Financial Position (000s) Years ended September 30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$803</td>
<td>$586</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>7,695</td>
<td>6,638</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable</td>
<td>1,775</td>
<td>1,640</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receivable from Kiwanis International</td>
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<td>1,768</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash value of life insurance contracts</td>
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<td>160</td>
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<td>Other assets</td>
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<td>Office equipment, net</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>$10,563</td>
<td>$10,825</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
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<td>$—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payable to Kiwanis International</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants payable</td>
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<td>Annuities payable</td>
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<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
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<th>Net Assets</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<td>$(1,170)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted for programs</td>
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<td>$1,807</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
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<td>$9,762</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td>$10,111</td>
<td>$10,399</td>
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| Total liabilities and net assets | $10,563 | $10,825 |

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
Statements of Activities (000s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>RESTRICTED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration fees</td>
<td>$28</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income, net of fees</td>
<td>$674</td>
<td>$124</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restriction</td>
<td>$1,602</td>
<td>$(1,602)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenues</strong></td>
<td>$2,538</td>
<td>$1,199</td>
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<table>
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<th>Expenses</th>
<th>YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2007</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>RESTRICTED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program and education</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>General and administrative</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>$4,025</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The ride of their lives
Therapeutic riders trot their stuff in a Kiwanis competition

The young man didn’t smile. He couldn’t smile. For lack of muscle tone, his face couldn’t pull the corners of his mouth into a grin.

Kiwanis gave him a reason to smile: a Kiwanis Equestrian Competition for Special Athletes trophy.

“He took his award to school, slept with it every night, and I saw him smile for the first time,” remembers Nora Fischbach. As executive director of Strides Unlimited Therapeutic Riding Center in Granada Hills, California, she’s witnessed many such miracles when persons who have disabilities ride horses. And through 15 years of attending the Kiwanis competition, she has seen how the event inspires and builds self-esteem among participants.

For the past 15 years, the Kiwanis Club of Warner Center, California, has staged the competition, which attracts about 120 riders from 11 different therapeutic riding clubs throughout Southern California. The daylong event is highly anticipated by the competitors, who are both physically and mentally challenged.

For the club’s 31 members and a host of volunteer supporters, the day is the culmination of a year’s worth of planning. The show includes a fundraising raffle, a parade of athletes, breakfast and lunch for the competitors, clown performances, a glossy program loaded with advertising and a grand display of trophies and ribbons.

“After it’s over, we absolutely collapse,” says Waren Center Kiwanian Howard Miereanu. “But it is so worth it.” —Curt Seeden

For this special athlete, there’s nothing finer than showing off a Kiwanis blue ribbon. In addition to providing ribbons and trophies, Kiwanis members serve breakfast and lunch, publish a program and help set up the arena.

Giddy up
Keep these tips in mind if your club takes on a project like this:

1. Every member must participate and get sponsors.
2. Start planning early.
3. Ensure insurance coverage.
4. Get families’ permission to take and publish photographs.
Ever wish you could turn up the volume on life – without wearing an embarrassing device? Now you can with **Loud ‘N Clear**, the personal sound amplifier that’s disguised as a cell phone headset!

**Loud ‘N Clear** turns ordinary hearing into extraordinary hearing. It’s so powerful you can hear a conversation from across the street! Best of all, it has dozens of everyday uses. Now you can:

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- Hear better at Bingo, card games and other events where you can’t afford to miss a word.
- Enjoy lectures, movies, shows and church like never before.
- Keep “an ear on” the children when they’re playing out of range.
- Make the wildlife come alive during nature walks or hunting trips.

**Loud ‘N Clear** is compact and portable, so it’s always handy when you need a little extra volume.

Through this special offer, you can get **Loud ‘N Clear** for only **$19.99**! It comes complete with our 60-day Total Satisfaction Guarantee. And that’s not all ... For a limited time, you’ll even get a second **Loud ‘N Clear FREE** with your purchase (just pay shipping and handling). That’s two for the price of one! Supplies are limited.

**HERE’S HOW TO ORDER**

1. Call a friendly operator toll-free at **1-800-853-7240**.
2. OR visit our website at [www.getloudandclear.com/kw](http://www.getloudandclear.com/kw) (be sure to type the full address so you get the discounted price).
3. OR send your name, address and a check for $34.97 (includes S&H) to: Loud N Clear Offer KW, PO Box 4525, Pacoima, CA 91333

(NJ & CA residents MUST add sales tax).

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Luis Rosa-Valentin, a sergeant in the United States Army infantry, was two months into his second tour of duty in Iraq when the bomb exploded. The date was April 21, 2008, two days before his 25th birthday. The blast took both of his legs, his left arm and his hearing. It broke every bone in his face. It left him in a wheelchair, perhaps for the rest of his life.

The explosion also sent him home, back to Maryland, where he and his family faced tough, new challenges. “Wounded vets are recognized when they come home,” says Bob Carr, co-chairman of the “Wounded Service Members Care Project” conducted by the Kiwanis Club of Crofton. “We wanted to do something that had lasting value.”

The club spearheaded $40,000 of remodeling work at the sergeant’s parents’ house. Nearly 15 local contractors volunteered time, materials and expertise—so the club needed to raise only $10,000 in cash.

The driveway was expanded to accommodate the sergeant’s special transportation needs. Front steps were replaced with a concrete ramp.

Perhaps best of all, though, was a complete rebuilding of the first-floor bathroom according to Americans with Disabilities Act specifications. As an Army veteran, Luis’ father was especially moved because several of the owners of the companies and volunteers had served in the military. One contractor, a former Marine, worked at the house for two full days and then quietly slipped away. Says Luis’ father: “He didn’t even wait for me to thank him.”

—Scott Pemberton

Build right

If your club is interested in remodeling a home for a person with disabilities, remember to:

1. Consult with the family.
2. Build a network of professional contractors willing to donate time and materials—or reduce costs.
4. Finish the work in a timely manner to minimize the disruption in the family’s life.
Classy chassis

Driving antique cars is great sport, but raising funds is fun too

The rumble of a vintage car is music to some ears, but for the Kiwanis Club of Bilthoven, the Netherlands, slapping pistons, shiny chrome and burbling exhaust notes mean a checkered flag for fundraising.

The club’s annual “Bilthoven Classic,” a vintage-car rally, attracts participants, onlookers and—in 2008—25,000 euros.

From pre-World War I models up to a late-1970s Volkswagen, the parade of automotive history was rich: Bentleys, Fords, Rolls Royces, Alvis, Salsom, Citroen and MG.

How to rally

Interested in a rally for your club? Here are a few helpful tips.

- Create a detailed map. Highways shouldn’t have checkpoints. Pick a relaxing spot for the finish, such as a city park or restaurant.
- Drive the route yourself to mark significant landmarks.
- Go green with an economy rally, where the team with the best gas mileage wins.

Two rally categories attracted both competitive and casual motorists. “Touring rally” teams navigated a course using “dot-and-arrow” (or “tulip”) clues. “Driving tour” entrants proceeded at a more leisurely pace following a clearly marked map.

—Andrew McLaughlin

things to do:

✓ Plant flowers
✓ Buy sunscreen
✓ Remember the children

Around the world, disasters make a difficult life even more challenging for children—including these kids from Myanmar, where a cyclone raged last year.

You can help. Send a contribution directly to the Kiwanis International Foundation Disaster Relief Fund, 3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA 46268 or give us a call at 800-KIWANIS, ext. 155.

Make a difference. Donate today.
Wine is fine

Looking for a new fundraiser, Sparta Kiwanians switch from fairways to vineyards

You might say the Kiwanians of Sparta, New Jersey, had been golfed nearly to death. Golf outings. Golf scrambles. Golf benefits.

So the Kiwanians went looking for new fundraising opportunities. The fruit of their labors is a popular wine-pairing dinner.

The club partners with a local liquor store, which donates all the wines for the event. A restaurant’s catering director pairs the food with wines. A vineyard or distributor representative is on tap to describe the wine, its origins and the pairings.

A recent pairing hosted 50 people, included a silent auction and raised nearly $2,000. —Cathy Usher

For more information about projects involving alcohol, contact the Kiwanis International Office at 317-875-8755. Or visit www.kiwanismagazine.org.

Are you serving?

Clubs planning an event that includes serving alcohol need to keep several key issues in mind:

1. Get a license.
2. Have the venue name the club as an additional insured on their liquor liability coverage.
3. Kiwanis International’s general liability policy does not cover the sale of alcohol. Any charge to recoup costs is “selling.”
One Day
It may just be one 24-hour slice of a year, but Kiwanis One Day proves the breadth of Kiwanis-family service that occurs worldwide 24/7, 365 days a year. Here’s just a sample of April 4, 2009, projects from around the Kiwanis world.

Stay tuned

• View a video of the Griffin, Georgia, Kiwanis Club’s One Day project to revitalize the Thomaston Mill neighborhood, where crime rates are high, dropout and teen pregnancy counts soar and living conditions are dismal.

• Travel around the Kiwanis world to discover other One Day reports.

• Share your club’s One Day story.

• Watch for your August 2009 Kiwanis magazine to read how the Olympia, Washington, Kiwanis Club spent One Day 2009 expanding its produce garden project to feed an increasing number of hungry families.

Find it all at www.KiwanisOne.org/oneday.
One of the first orders of business for the new SK Taman Megah K-Kids Club was to create crafts, which they bestowed on Kiwanis guests as tokens of their historic charter party.

OUR FAMILY’S GROWING The Kiwanis Club of Bukit Bandaraya spent Kiwanis One Day with students at the SK Taman Megah School, chartering their new K-Kids Club. Kiwanians arranged a day of friendly ice-breaking activities, elections, officer and member training and a craft-making project.

FEED THE HUNGRY Joining a Michigan District-wide Kiwanis One Day project, Grand Rapids-area Kiwanis-family clubs assembled 30,000 packets of rice, soy, dried vegetables and chicken flavoring, which their partner, Kids Against Hunger, distributes to area food banks. The ingredients can be used to make a casserole or soup.

Their loads may be heavy, but Millwood Elementary School K-Kids members know the boxes they bear contain meal packets, each capable of feeding as many as six adults or 12 children.

EMILY ZOLADZ, COPYRIGHT 2009. THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. USED WITH PERMISSION.
A Kiwanis One Day bingo session likely is just the beginning of the Osoyoos Kiwanians’ relationship with a new senior-care center. Residents invited the Kiwanians back for more fun, games and companionship.

FUN AND GAMES
When Osoyoos Kiwanians asked how best to entertain residents at a recently opened senior-care facility, the answer was clear: bingo. While members helped the residents fill their cards, President Richard Mayer called the numbers. “I expect we’ll be playing bingo with them again,” says Secretary Donna Kelso, “but we won’t wait for next year’s Kiwanis One Day.”

Heroes among us
The Robert P. Connelly Medal of Heroism honors men and women who risk their lives to help save others. The newest Connelly hero will be recognized this June at the Kiwanis International convention’s closing session. To date, more than 600 men and women have received the medal from the Kiwanis International Foundation. Learn more at kif.kiwanis.org/Connelly.
A storm is stirring in Shkrel. Not the mountainous clouds that charcoal the bolder-strewn heights of the encircling Albanian Alps. There are umbrellas to fend off such wet threats. Rather, as eight Norwegian Kiwanians approach the community center, the atmosphere is turbulent with emotions. People press in along the narrow path. An elderly lady, her head swathed in a black scarf, opens her work-stained palms. A toddler, swarmed by the crowd’s feet, clutches to the pleats of her mother’s faded skirt. Her mother’s eyes express despair. Or is it anger?

The Kiwanians are familiar with scenes like this. For nearly 20 years, they’ve been traveling to Albania to deliver boxes filled with clothing, toys and housewares to some of Europe’s poorest families. During their original visit, their driver was beaten and most of their care packages stolen (see “Perseverance Pays Off,” page 21).

Albanian mothers, fathers and grandparents crowd the back of a van, eager to collect a box of gifts from Norwegian Kiwanians. For many families, the clothes, toys and housewares make the difference between struggling and getting by.
But these people are not thieves. Their needs make them desperate. They’ve dared the threat of stormy weather to pick up a box packed tight with clothes, shoes, toys and a few household items. Their voices carry tones of frustration.

“Originally, the community leaders had requested 100 boxes,” whispers Shkodër, Albania, Kiwanian Yasmin Bushaj, the Albanian-to-English translator. “But there are 112 families here.”

And each family seems fearful it will be one of the unlucky dozen. The number soon swells to 130.

It doesn’t seem to bother Øivind Strømnes. A member of Norway’s Sarpsborg Kiwanis Club, he’s in charge of inventory. He knows how many boxes already have been distributed, how many remain promised elsewhere and how many are held in reserve for such emergencies. He calmly leafs through his spreadsheet, calculates and nods with a smile as quiet as his words: “We’re OK.”

There are enough boxes for everyone.

Outside, the sun has chased away the clouds. While the Kiwanians—their umbrellas at their sides—stand aside, community leaders take over the distribution. Parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts and children form a semicircle around the back of a van. A name is called. A man steps forward and shoulders one of the boxes. There’s no telling what’s inside. He turns, and the crowd opens a generously wide path. A smile underscores his beaming eyes.

“When you consider the population of 250,000 people here, what we’ve done is just a drop in the ocean,” says Horten, Norway, Kiwanian Oddvar Danbolt, who serves...
as the project’s president. “But for the people who receive our boxes, it’s proof someone cares—with no strings attached.”

The drops keep adding up.

**Kiwanians are coming to town**

A day like this comes only once every couple years to the mountainside village of Domen. So the girls wear their black school dresses with white-lace-trimmed collars—and play dodge ball in a dusty field. The boys, wearing collared T-shirts and scuffed pants, show off their soccer moves. The sound of trucks bumping up the mountainside brings their play to a stop. When two vehicles crawl into view, the children wave and cheer.

Kiwanians are coming to Domen, and they’re bringing gifts. It’s like Santa Claus, but Santa rarely visits people this poor, nor this high into the Albanian Alps. Neither do most charity groups.

“A lot of the aid coming into Albania stays in the main cities,” says Kjell Johansen, a member of the Vestby Kiwanis Club. “We go beyond the city limits, up into the mountains, where the families who need help the most get the least.”

Wherever the Kiwanians go, whether in the cities or remote mountain villages, they take their popular “family boxes.”

In the Domen schoolyard, the Kiwanians are invited to take a trek farther up the mountainside to watch a family open its package. While they concentrate on each step up the narrow and rocky trail, their guides fill the visitors’ hands—and appetites—with deep-purple grapes and sweet, meaty figs.

Such bounty.

The home, however, sits like a duplex stable on the edge of a cornfield. Animal pens abut the living quarters. The stifling aroma is an acquired taste, teases Danbolt, but when winter freezes the mountain air, the beasts’ body heat is a welcome, life-preserving relief.

Inside, a family uncle opens the box with a ceremonial swipe of his hand knife.

On top of the tightly packed contents is a pair of men’s pants. The uncle hands them to his sister-in-law. They laugh to each other. The trousers are much too large.

A pair of rugged mountain boots emerge next, and everyone coos, “ooh.” Leaning in the doorway, a teenage girl smotheres her face into the fur of a white stuffed bear. She blushes when she’s handed a pink, ankle-length nightgown.

Her uncle caresses a set of ceramic salt-and-pepper shak-
Kiwanis and lifts them high for everyone’s appraisal.

Twice every year, the Kiwanians bring 600 to 1,200 of these family boxes into Albania. Though the specific contents vary from box to box, they all contain something from the following categories: men’s clothes, women’s clothes, children’s clothes, toys and housewares. Every box is the same size. Experience has taught the Kiwanians that mixing box sizes—even if smaller containers hold more valuable goods—can cause jealousy, even feuds.

The gifts become precious commodities within the families and their communities. The hosts, for example, may keep the boots. Their father will need warm, waterproof shoes when the weather turns wet and cold. They may swap the oversized trousers with a family that has an undersized jacket. The salt-and-pepper shakers may sell for a price that will buy enough food to get the family through winter, when the mountain trades bountiful figs and grapes for the depravation brought on by snow and bitter cold.

“We never know what’s going to happen with this stuff,” says Bernt Berntsen, a member of the Vestby Kiwanis Club. “We don’t care if they sell it, trade it or give it away. If it helps them in any way, that’s all that matters.”

Home sweet home

To get to the Uruci family home, you drive through one-lane streets in a modern suburb of new homes, each with a manicured lawn surrounded by freshly painted concrete walls and locked behind iron gates. On the edges of the neighborhood is a row of Cold War-era domed pillboxes and two piles of rubbish. But they’re not piles of rubbish. They’re shacks. Scrap metal, discarded chunks of wood, plastic and other junk pieced together and standing upright over a dirt floor.
One is the Urucis’ home. The other, their outhouse. Rather, they used to be.

That was before Svein and Sissel Johansen met the Urucis.

Sissel is a member of the Sarpsborg Kiwanis Club, and four years ago, she and Svein volunteered to drive a semi truck through Germany, Austria, Croatia, Bosnia and Montenegro to deliver its Kiwanis cargo to the people of northwestern Albania.

Svein, who is not a Kiwanian, could have unloaded the truck and turned right back for Norway. Instead, he stayed for the week—long enough to be introduced to the Uruci family.

He returned home with a purpose. He earmarked profits from his backyard honey-making beehives for building and furnishing a new home for the Urucis. He convinced his employer, Mills Norge, to help. During renovation of its labs, the food producer set aside a used stove and a refrigerator/freezer for the Urucis, along with skids of waffle mix for schools and boxes of vegetable oil for households and schools throughout the Shkodër District.

Over the years, Johansen has made eight trips to Albania with the Kiwanians, and each time, life gets better for the Uruci family. The two piles of rubbish remain on the property. Uninhabited. Next door is a two-story concrete home with a real floor, a tile roof, a modern kitchen, running water, a restroom and separate bedrooms.

**Players in the band**

The band is getting back together, and its first attempt at *Old MacDonald Had a Farm* is a bit balky.


Trumpet valves stick, and drum skins need tuning. In the corner, a new member of the group clenches white-knuckled-tight to the handle of a maraca while he struggles to catch the nursery rhyme’s rhythm.

B. B. Stop. A. A. Stop. G. Stop.

To guitarist Marcel, the sound is sublime symphony. All that matters is he and his pals are making music again.

The Kiwanis Club of Elverum, Norway, organized *Bande Muzikore* (The Music Band) at Shkodër’s 3 Dhjetori, a school for persons who have disabilities. Their teacher, Violeta Paçrami, explains that the band exists because Norden District Kiwanians supply the school with used instruments. They also cover her salary, supplemented generously by her devoted students’ frequent hugs and kisses.

For Marcel and his band mates, Paçrami and her music give them purpose and have opened up opportunities rare even to the smartest, wealthiest children of Shkodër.

In developing countries such as Albania, a child with special needs can put a heavy burden on the family. With few places to go and virtually nothing to do, such kids often are kept at home, where they have no social interaction and certainly no chances to travel. Bande Muizkore changes all that.

Metal panels and rotting wooden boards make up the Urucis’ former home, left, and their outhouse, right. Go to www.kiwanismagazine.org for a view of the family’s new home.
“It’s a lot of work,” says Marcel’s mother, Marie, about her responsibilities as a band parent. “But it gives him a chance to get out of the house, be with other kids and even go abroad to other cities and countries.”

As ambassadors for their school—and advocates for persons with disabilities—the band has performed throughout Shkodër and in their nations’ capital, Tirana. This year, they will participate in the Festival for Music Bands for Disabled Children in Lillehammer, Norway.

When Norwegian Kiwanians first arrived in Shkodër, most streets were rubble paths, horses and buses were the primary means of transportation and many merchants set up shop along the side of those dusty, gravel streets. Now paved roads carry busy streams of BMWs, buses and bicycles. Storefront windows entice passersby with displays of cameras, toys, dresses, suits and fresh pastry. Foreign investments are mostly responsible for the transformation of infrastructure and commerce.

But in the homes, among individual families, Kiwanis is making the difference.

With every nightgown given to a blushing teenager, each guitar or drum set delivered to the Bande Muzikore and every refrigerator added to the Uruci family’s new home—with every drop in the vast ocean of need—Kiwanis can claim its share of pride in the emergence of a new Albania.
Unwavering love
Kiwanian Sidsel Laurendz makes another friend.

Mountain boy
A Kiwanis box may have a new toy for this Domen youth.

Relentless poverty
Poor herself, an elderly woman supports two orphans.

Local alliances
Skhodër gypsies help move Kiwanis boxes to needy families.

Learning curve
Kiwians also bring toys for a kindergarten classroom.

There are many stories that can be told about the Norden District’s Albanian project. Read them at www.kiwanis.org/centerstage.

Center Stage is a special microsite built to spotlight great Kiwanis stories, photos, videos and more.
Membership retention has been compared to closing the back door. New members are brought through the front door—a grand entrance where Kiwanians welcome them with pomp and ceremony. But your club can’t grow if, after a year or two, they quietly slip out the back way. Though some loss is inevitable, it’s possible to achieve retention rates near 100 percent. It just takes a little intentional effort.

“Meaningful service with authentic fellowship keeps people engaged in Kiwanis,” says Ulrich Märki, chairman, International Committee in Growth-Europe, which helped launch a “Close the Back Door” campaign to increase club size through retention. “If members feel like they’re making a contribution, they’ll stay.”
Adding new Kiwanians is important, but retaining the members you already have is essential to any membership growth plan. Here are eight ideas to keep Kiwanians in Kiwanis.

1. Keep it interesting

“Everyone wants the magic formula for retention, but it’s really about how well your club does,” says Ken Brink, the immediate past president of the Port Townsend, Washington, Kiwanis Club. “You need to have meaningful service projects and hold good meetings. Then you’ll have a contagious club, and you’ll have a greater tendency to keep the back door closed. Our club’s retention rate is about 90 percent.”

Shelli J. Shelton, secretary of the Great Cheyenne, Wyoming, Kiwanis Club, offers the same advice, but she also stresses the importance of staging great meetings with relevant programs. Nearly half of the more than 300 members attend the weekly luncheon meeting because they know they’ll hear from a high-caliber speaker, such as the state governor or coaches from area college teams.

“We even had a mayoral debate during the election,” she says.

2. Keep it fun

The Colonial Plymouth, Michigan, Kiwanis Club has grown from about 70 members to more than 90, and Stella Greene, president, says members enjoy their service projects because they enjoy serving together.

“We’re a strong group because members want to be there with their fellow Kiwanians,” she says. “For example, when we do the packaging for Kids Against Hunger, we’re working across the table from one another, communally. We’re really getting to know other people and see the results of what we do. It’s not just writing a check.”

When members enjoy one another’s company, fun can come from surprising sources. That’s what Diana Boward, president of the Kiwanis Club of Dixon, Golden K, Illinois, discovered when her predominately older, male club took on a project making stuffed dolls for a women’s shelter.

“You should have seen these men cutting out pattern pieces,” she recalls. “We all really enjoyed that project.”

3. Keep it friendly

The more friends a person has in an organization, the more active that person will be. That’s true in religious congregations, according to a United Methodist Church study. The same is true for Kiwanis. Traveling as a club is a great way to get to know other members on a deeper level, away from day-to-day concerns, says Metro Atlanta Secretary John C. Holley. Fourteen to 16 members carpool to district meetings. “Though we don’t all attend the same sessions, we get together and compare notes at the end of each day,” he says.

The group also forms bonds as members plan international service projects. Last year, a group of 26 club members went to Africa, where they made contributions to Senegal schools and saw firsthand how their dollars would be used.

“Being together for eight days really builds connections,” Holley says. This year, the club plans a similar trip to Kenya.

Make it work

- Take a close look at your club’s calendar. For each hour spent in meetings, try spending two in fellowship and three in service.

Make it work

- Look for the Club Excellence Tool at www.KiwanisOne.org. Use the survey template and find out if your members are excited about your club’s meetings. Then use the tools and suggestions to make your meetings move.

- Start small. Organize field trips to learn more about your community. Visit the facilities of local agencies your club supports.
4. Keep the spirit alive

New members can inject clubs with new enthusiasm, new ideas and even more new members. That’s why it’s important to truly welcome them into the club. During the orientation process, the Great Cheyenne, Wyoming, Kiwanis Club has chairmen explain their committees’ activities and encourage the new members to sign up to help. Before the induction ceremonies, the president has already interviewed the members and shares their talents and interests with the entire club.

“Usually, after the induction ceremony, committee chairmen will approach new members and personally invite them to get involved,” says Shelton. “We don’t wait for them to volunteer.”

The sooner people experience Kiwanis service, the sooner they’ll be ready and willing to fill leadership positions.

The Colonial Plymouth club has a three-year rotation program for committee chairmen. In the first year of committee leadership, a member serves as vice chairman, being trained in the chairman’s duties. The next year, the member performs the chairman’s duties, and the third year, he or she serves as immediate past chairman and assists the current chairman when needed.

“This way, no one feels overwhelmed, and we get new ideas too,” Greene says.

5. Keep it flexible

Of course, clubs traditionally keep members involved through weekly meetings. But a growing number of clubs are putting less emphasis on meetings and more on showing up for service projects. “Younger members often would rather just schedule things through Facebook or the Internet and just come for the project,” says Earl Forbes, Kiwanis International area director for North America.

“Of course all clubs are different. That’s why it’s important to truly know what your fellow members want and expect.”

When the Port Townsend club noticed a shift in meeting attendance, club leaders began investigating the idea of a club satellite as a way to keep members involved in club activities. Under the satellite program, some members meet at another time or place under the parent club’s charter. (Learn more about club satellites at www.kiwanismagazine.org.)

The important thing is to find ways to accommodate members’ changing needs.

Make it work

Institute a buddy or mentoring system. It’s great if each member has someone to encourage them and support them. Having a second person is even better.

“We’re really getting to know other people and seeing the results of what we do. It’s not just writing a check.”

—Stella Greene, president, Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth, Michigan

6. Keep showing gratitude

The Port Townsend club gives out a multitude of awards, and Ken Brink believes this recognition keeps members involved.

“The funny thing is, members will say they don’t want recognition, but they really do,” he says.

The club’s awards include the Kiwanian of the Week and Month, Rising Star, two Rookie of the Year awards and Best Past President. The Kiwanian of the Week gets a free lunch, and many awards include a free Kiwanis mug to use at work, reinforcing the connection to the club.

“We also send out thank-you notes for just about everything,” Brink says.

Make it work

The Kiwanis Family Store (www.KiwanisOne.org/store) offers various items to acknowledge your fellow members’ contributions to your club—from thank-you cards to customizable plaques. Most important, be sincere, public and timely with your praise.
7. Keep them coming back

If a member isn’t participating, find out why. Remember, however, that different situations require different approaches.

“If you have someone who goes religiously to every meeting, you’ll check in after they miss one. If someone travels all the time, you may wait a little longer,” says Rhonda Vrell, a Kiwanis International area director from North America. “Unfortunately, some clubs don’t call until the dues are due.”

Vrell says this is where mentor or buddy programs help. This should be part of the new-member-orientation process. Then, if someone misses a meeting or two, her buddy can make sure she stays interested in the club.

“Invite her to lunch, find out what’s going on and talk about ways the club can resolve the situation,” Vrell advises. “Each member is an integral part of your club. You must invest the time to help them re-engage.”

If your club isn’t the right place for that member, refer them to another club in your area that could be a better fit.

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8. Keep members informed

Offer a variety of communication links so members can keep up-to-date with your club. Again, the tools used will vary from club to club, depending on member preferences.

“Just having a Web site isn’t always the best thing for members,” Brink says. “We print out a membership book with photos of all our members and pay for it with advertising.”

The printed directory includes a section on how to use the Web site and a calendar. The club also updates members on Web site functionality during weekly meetings.

Holley’s Metro Atlanta club sends detailed notes to each member after every meeting. For those who don’t use e-mail, a printed copy is mailed to them.

“We have some members who have moved out of state but still keep their membership,” he says. “They still feel part of the club, and they often participate financially.”

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**Make it work**

- However you communicate, the most important thing is to develop a strategy and a schedule and stick to it.

**Excel with Excellence**

The right tool for the right job: the Club Excellence Tool. Find it at www.KiwanisOne.org and put it to work remodeling your club.
Around the world, keeping members happy is key to Kiwanis clubs’ growth and success. Try these retention ideas from the Kiwanis International-European Federation:

**Appoint a committee**
- Oversee your club’s retention efforts.
- Resolve issues that may influence members’ decisions to leave.

**Establish good habits**
- Welcome new members in style. An induction ceremony should be important and memorable.
- Get members involved—in service, leadership and social activities.
- Encourage members to suggest new ideas.

**Be friendly**
- Get to know members’ families; remember birthdays and anniversaries.
- Call or visit missing members.

**Lead well**
- Attend leadership-training sessions.
- Keep communication channels open.
- Show tolerance and respect for others.

**Have great meetings**
- Always emphasize fellowship.
Rob Parker: I understand you’re smarter than a fifth-grader and that you won $1 million?

Kathy Cox: Yes, so far I’m the only person in the United States who can say that. The one real defining moment of the show was when I had to make the decision to stop at $500,000 or go for the million. I felt like if I had stopped, it would be like saying I’m dropping out of school, and I couldn’t do that. As state school superintendent, I encourage the students of Georgia to go for it and not drop out, so I went for it and I won $1 million.

RP I understand that you have special plans for that money.

KC Yes, we made a decision that we wanted to donate all of the earnings to support education here in Georgia. Although we are still working out the details, our hope is that the money will go directly from the producers of the show into a trust fund to support two schools for the deaf and one for students who are blind.

RP That’s awesome. Now, Kathy, I know you are a dedicated Kiwanis member. Why did you join Kiwanis?

KC I learned about Kiwanis and Key Club as a teacher and was impressed with the work they did with young people. Our Kiwanis club in Peachtree City is very visible, sponsoring a well-known airplane show, and they do so much good for the community. The Kiwanis members were just relentless about asking me to join, and eventually I said yes. And I have not regretted it for a moment.

RP I know a lot of your work is with volunteer leaders. How do you approach leadership with people who don’t report to you?

KC The biggest part of my job is to inspire people I don’t have any control over.

RP I’m familiar with that concept (laughing).

KC When you don’t have direct control over how people spend their time every day, then vision casting becomes very important. People need to be inspired to believe in themselves and what we can achieve working together. So my job is really one of having that big vision for Georgia education, setting those sights really high and then encouraging and empowering people to get there.

RP You’ve had to make changes.

KC That’s probably going to be the hallmark of my two terms as superintendent: that people will say a lot changed in eight years. And that’s a good thing. But change can be very difficult. Often people want to stop when things start to get too hard, which is when leaders need to be tenacious in their pursuit of the right kind of change. Change is a constant in our society and in our organizations. Kiwanis has to change to remain relevant, and I’m encouraged about the things I’m seeing and hearing.

RP What would you say to Kiwanis leaders who’re working to make our organization relevant and flexible?

KC One thing I admire about Kiwanians is that they never stop learning. They keep growing as individuals and are always willing to try new things. Kiwanis members know the work isn’t done. The work Kiwanis does with children internationally is so important, as well as the work they do in their own communities. Many young people don’t have an adult in their life they can look up to. I just want to encourage Kiwanians to stay vigilant about the work they do with Key Club and mentoring our young people in the schools. This will make such a huge difference as these young men and women become parents and leaders who will follow in our footsteps.
There are those who do good deeds and take their bows in the spotlight. Then there are those who do good deeds, stepping out of the spotlight and redirecting accolades to those around them. That seems to be Patrick Roemer’s style.

“That’s what makes him such a great leader in our club and in all he does,” says fellow Lewiston, New York, Kiwanian Chuck Stojak. “He gives people credit for what they do—he gives credit where credit is due. When he talks about success, he is the kind of person who says ‘We did it.’”

Roemer gives credit to his brother, Mike, for example, for coming up with the idea for the two of them to join the Lewiston Kiwanis Club in 2003 as a tribute to their late uncle, who was a respected member and past president. Though he heads up many club projects—including an annual holiday food basket project—he credits the volunteers for the impact those projects make on the families they touch.

It should come as no surprise, then, that when Roemer—make that U.S. Air National Guard Lieutenant Colonel Roemer—recounts the community-service efforts he led in Iraq to help children, it is with modesty and with the projects’ success directed at others.

Roemer, who is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, has had a military career rich in awards and decorations. As Commander of the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron stationed in Iraq four months, he led his squadron—during its free time—to make an orphanage school safe and more comfortable for its young students.

“The electrical system was in terrible repair and unsafe,” he says. “We simply didn’t want the kids to get hurt. We tried to make their lives better.
“The teachers and caregivers were very happy to get any assistance.”

The project also benefited the airmen.

“Down time in the Area of Operations can be very detrimental to morale,” Roemer explains. “This mission gave the airmen something to do during their off time, and the kids loved these guys.”

Meanwhile, back home in New York, fellow Kiwanian Chuck Stojak had learned about area efforts to help children in Iraq. His idea was to send 200 white shirts printed with the Kiwanis logo and Lewiston club name along with a bundle of donated clothing. Once the Kiwanians and others in the community had gathered the clothes, Stojak knew just how to get it all to the children. The package included a label with these simple instructions: “Pat: These are for kids. Distribute as you see fit.”

“I knew nothing about the Kiwanis T-shirt project until after the shirts arrived,” Roemer says. “I only helped get those shirts to the kids. Chuck deserves all the credit in the world for making this happen.

“The kids loved the shirts,” he says. “Everyone likes to wear white during the hot months.

“We were coming up on June, July and August, where the temperatures can get into the 130s (Fahrenheit).”

Though the only Kiwanian in his squadron, he made a Kiwanis impact on at least one prospective member.

“I’ve talked to (one of the airmen) about joining,” he says. “He was very involved in the orphanage and is a New York State trooper.”

And, though he says he was just the “facilitator” of a lot of good deeds,

“This mission gave the airmen something to do during their off time, and the kids loved these guys.” —Patrick Roemer

Roemer, along with his squadron, Stojak and the rest of the Lewiston Kiwanians, has made a Kiwanis impact on the lives of children in Baghdad.

“The children suffer more than anyone,” Roemer says. “This was something the airmen wanted to do. We inspired each other to complete the work on the orphanage.” —Amy Wiser
As a Kiwanian, you know what leadership is all about. That it’s more about service than glory. That it starts with young people. And that people who help others—and build others’ leadership skills—are the most valuable leaders of all.

Key Leader weekends—for teens ages 14 to 18—give emerging leaders their first taste of service leadership—and Kiwanis values. Send a teen to Key Leader. Make a difference in a young person’s life.

Take the lead. Do your part.
Get into Key Leader.
When you’re looking to add younger members to your club’s roster, you’d be smart to consult with the experts.

Check out these five tips offered by members of young professional Kiwanis clubs.

1. Offer hands-on service projects.
2. Keep the cost of membership reasonable.
3. Keep meetings casual, quick and to the point.
4. Have a robust and well designed Web site, and keep it updated.
5. Be mentors to your Circle K and Key Club members.

Contributing pros: Nicholas Buchser, Kiwanis Young Professionals of Greater Raleigh, North Carolina; Heather Chin, Kiwanis New York City Young Professionals Club; Armando Velazquez, Los Angeles Young Professionals Club; Elizabeth Bennett, Young Professionals of Washington, D.C.; Kristen Benbazza, Metropolitan Milwaukee Nights Kiwanis Club. —Tamara Stevens

Find the answers at www.kiwanismagazine.org. Take the quiz to a club meeting and start a conversation about Kiwanis in the movies.

Learn from the pros. Young professionals expand on their recruitment suggestions at www.kiwanismagazine.org.

New members inducted into 30 Jamaican Kiwanis clubs in one night
Clubhouse
Movie cues

THE June 2009 issue, KIWANIS magazine asked readers to connect movie titles with script lines that mentioned Kiwanis. The answers:
1. “What am I to say? The Kiwanis club is having fall maneuvers here?” That Darn Cat
2. “He pulled that job to pay for the band’s room service tab from that Kiwanis gig in Coal City.” The Blues Brothers
3. “Kiwanis. What kind of animal is that?” Lilies of the Field
Clubhouse
Young and wise

Get serious about recruiting young adults into Kiwanis. Here’s more advice and insights from young Kiwanians.

1. Offer hands-on service projects.

“Young professionals these days are extremely busy. They’re juggling life and work. They like to get the biggest bang out of their time. Hands-on projects where they see the direct impact they mark are best.” —David Chang, Las Vegas, Young Professionals, Nevada

“Hands-on service appeals to me, where the impact can be seen, something directly helping the children.” —Nicholas Buchser, Kiwanis Young Professionals of Raleigh, North Carolina

“Service projects that get members out into the community—like cleaning a park or delivering meals to the elderly—are great because they’re fun, energetic and allow members to work in teams.” —Heather Chin, New York City Young Professionals

“(What type of service projects appeal to young professionals?) Projects that involve children, such as tutoring at youth centers, playground games and bike rodeos. Also, general hands-on projects like planting trees, Habitat for Humanity and graffiti paint-outs stand out.” —Armando Velazquez, California Young Professionals, Los Angeles

“Hands-on service is essential. The projects must serve a need and must benefit the community. Easy projects that can be completed in the span of several hours and include fellowship with other young professionals are great. Overall, low commitment projects that can easily fit into a young professional’s busy life—in combination with several larger projects where each member can serve in small but useful roles—work well with this demographic. Projects that consist simply of check-writing and donations of goods are not appealing.” —Ali Grotkowski, Edmonton Young Professionals, Alberta
Clubhouse
Young and wise (continued)

2. Keep the cost of membership reasonable.

“Young people do not want to join a club where they volunteer but have to pay a lot of dues. Lunch and dinner meetings are not appealing.” — Kristen Benbazza, Metropolitan Milwaukee Nights, Wisconsin

“Make sure dues are not prohibitively high. Young members do not have a lot of disposable income.” — Elizabeth Bennett, DC Metro Young Professionals

“Kiwanis should simplify fee structures and also reduce fees for younger members. Many young professional clubs find the fees structures at all levels are very cumbersome. Young people like it simple, quick and affordable.” — David Chang, Las Vegas, Young Professionals, Nevada

“Ensure that guest speakers are not at your meetings just to request money, but that they have an interesting topic to communicate that is relevant to the club or at least the club’s membership.” — Ali Grotkowski, Edmonton Young Professionals, Alberta

3. Keep meetings casual, quick and to the point.

“Be on time. Hold shorter meetings. Have fewer formal meetings. Have more spirited and fun speakers that are relevant to young people. Have speakers almost weekly and avoid doing business at regular club meetings.” — Joseph C. Eppolito, Syracuse Young Professionals, New York

“Meetings should have less ceremony and more content. Keep the meetings quick and encourage networking.” — Nicholas Buchser, Kiwanis Young Professionals of Raleigh, North Carolina

“Make meetings less structured and more flexible. Make meals optional, and limit fines. Focus on the meeting’s agenda. Don’t have a one-and-one-half hour meeting when 45 minutes will do. Consider meetings at different places every couple weeks so you don’t have the same setting and food all the time.” — Armando Velazquez, California Young Professionals, Los Angeles
4. Have a good-looking Web site, and keep it updated.

“Have a good Web site, so young adults can check it out after hearing about your club. Stress the impact the club has—not administrative and meeting details.” — Nicholas Buchser, Kiwanis Young Professionals of Raleigh, North Carolina

“Don’t forget about social networks (for recruiting members). Facebook and LinkedIn are useful because they consist of a large pool of mostly young individuals who are eager to be active in causes and communicate and network with others. Idealist.org is almost a great place for Kiwanis clubs to create a club profile, because this is the go-to Web site for anyone who is looking for local, national and international volunteer opportunities.” — Heather Chin, New York City Young Professionals

“A great Web site is more important than having a club publication.” — Armando Velazquez, California Young Professionals, Los Angeles

“Using the Internet, such as Craig’s List’s volunteering section, is a great way to promote your club to younger members.” — Elizabeth Bennett, DC Metro Young Professionals

“Social networking sites, like Facebook, tend to be particularly useful in encouraging young professionals to join and/or attend Kiwanis club events. Having an online presence in the form of a Web site, an e-mail address and social networking contacts is useful.” — Ali Grotkowski, Edmonton Young Professionals, Alberta
Clubhouse
Young and wise (continued)

5. Be mentors to your Circle K and Key Club members.

“Getting involved in Circle K and talking to students about their plans after school is a
good way to get to know young people and possibly inspire them to join a club sooner
after college.” — Nicholas Buchser, Kiwanis Young Professionals of Raleigh, North Carolina

“Nurture your sponsored youth. Be mentors to them and lead by example. Remember,
they are busy with schoolwork and applying to colleges or jobs, or they’re figuring out
what they’re going to do after graduation. But they still need to feel like they are
making a difference in their community. Support them. Invite their officers to your
meetings. Do Kiwanis-family projects more often.” — Heather Chin, New York City Young
Professionals
A team of Philippine Kiwanians and doctors spread the news about the healthy benefits of the micronutrient iodine.

**Top this**

**THAT’S A LOT OF KIDS.** More than 10,000 children are healthier today because the Kiwanis Club of Antipolo, the Philippines, distributed iodine capsules and conducted tests for iodine deficiency throughout the community.

**TWICE AS PERFECT.** Father-and-son Kiwanians Jerry and Barry Kass have recorded a combined 102 years of perfect attendance ... and counting. Jerry, with 62 years, and Barry, with 40 years, are members of the Saint Augustine, Florida, Kiwanis Club.

**HOME OF LEADERS.** The Fort Lauderdale Beach, Florida, club does its part in supplying Kiwanis with a reliable source of leaders. The club has provided a lieutenant governor in each of its six decades of existence.

“Let the world know, ‘Once a Kiwanian, always a Kiwanian.’”

—J.G. Welch, Waukegan, Illinois, November 1921 Kiwanis magazine
Birthdays

These clubs celebrate anniversary dates in July and August 2009.

75—1934
Monroe, Michigan, August 31

50—1959
Riverdale, Georgia, July 2
Ridgecrest, California, July 9
Dunedin, Florida, August 5
Peninsula at Oyster Point, Newport News, Virginia, August 6
Kaneohe, Hawaii, August 29
Capital City, Tallahassee, Florida, August 31

25—1984
Luzern-Rigi, Switzerland, July 5
Duluth, Georgia, July 11
Southwest-Lafayette, Louisiana, July 11
Baraboo Golden K, Wisconsin, July 12
Edina Golden K, Minnesota, July 17
Brugg, Switzerland, July 20
Menton Roquebrune Cap Martin, France, July 30
Scotts Valley, California, August 1
Alexandria Golden K, Minnesota, August 2
Northside Naples, Florida, August 2

Sombrero Calasiao, Pangasinan, Philippines, August 4
Askøy, Norway, August 15
Del Mar, California, August 16
Greater Ashdown, Arkansas, August 16
Diest Mosterdpot, Belgium, August 16
Luzern-Pilatus, Switzerland, August 22
Nogales, Santa Cruz, Arizona, August 31

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A legacy of service

On September 11, 2001, two airplanes slammed into the World Trade Center in New York City. Though many stories have been told about this tragic event, none are more compelling than those told by the family members who received phone calls from people trapped in the towers. These people knew their lives were coming to an end and there was nothing they could do about it. When faced with that reality, many of them spent their last moments on this Earth on their cell phones talking to the people they loved and cared about. At that moment they were not concerned about their house, or car or bank account ... only about making a personal connection with their loved ones.

In his bestselling book Half Time, Bob Buford suggests that most of us have two distinct phases of our lives. The first half of our life is often spent on a Search for Success, with the second half focused more on a Search for Significance. Often this second phase begins in our 40s as we realize that the pursuit of wealth and the gathering of possessions is empty and meaningless. Obviously the earlier in life we reach this understanding, the longer we have to pursue things that really matter. One of the saddest scenarios is the person who reaches the end of life with no one at their side because they never invested in the only thing of value: other people.

A few years ago I was challenged to think about what kind of legacy I wanted to leave on this Earth. A wise mentor asked me to sit down with pen and paper and develop an order of service for my own funeral. Identifying who would welcome the guests, who would speak, who would sing or pray and who would serve as pallbearers was a strange, but revealing, exercise. I was also challenged to think about who would be sitting in those front rows reserved for my closest and dearest family and friends. Finally, I was encouraged to imagine what those people would say about me and whether they would feel like I added value to their lives.

Adding value starts with service—to our families, our friends, our colleagues, our communities.

One thing I love about K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club and CKI is that they introduce the concepts of service and leadership at such a young age. Imagine if we could start more people on the path to significance long before their 30th birthdays.

As Kiwanis members and leaders, each of us has an opportunity to create a legacy of leadership and service to others. It is never too late—or too early—to become a person of passion and caring. But don’t wait too long ... the world needs you.

What legacy will you leave behind? Join the discussion with other leaders at www.kiwanisleader.org.

“Your legacy is proof of your positive attributes.”

—Keith Lynam, Las Vegas Strip, Nevada, Kiwanis Club
It's almost showtime

Stars will shine at this year’s Kiwanis International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. And they’ll keep shining in Las Vegas next year. Plan to be there June 24-27, 2010. If you’re attending this year’s convention, you may be eligible for a special discount.

Find out more at www.KiwanisOne.org/convention.
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