A CONVERGENCE OF CULTURES IN JAPAN
The Kiwanis family is working together to raise US$110 million by 2015—and helping to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. This is the moment when we make it all happen. Inspire your club. Organize a fundraiser. Spread the word.

We are the Kiwanis family. Let’s go change the world.

Find out how at www.TheEliminateProject.org.
Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2014 03

INSIDE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2014 | VOLUME 99, NUMBER 1

DEPARTMENTS

04 VOICES
President’s message; executive perspective

06 NEWS
Celebrate 99 years; disaster relief; vive Paris; statement ‘improving’; old recordings wanted; One Day contest

40 SHOWCASE
Senior olympics; happy ending; spreading the Kiwanis mission; a little art; let’s roll

50 RETROSPECTIVE
Oh, those Kiwanians of derring-do

FEATURES

12 STARRY NIGHT
A convergence of cultures brings together youths for a night under the heavens.

18 A TEXAS HOME RUN
Kiwanians in McKinney, Texas, give back to their community in big ways.

24 BIG STRIDES AGAINST TETANUS
The disease has been eliminated in more than half of high-risk countries.

26 FIRST FLIGHT
A young club takes on a high-flying project and soars to success.

32 THE GEM OF THE EAST
Tokyo-Chiba offers global glamour as our 2014 convention host.

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Cover photo by Tetsuya Miura

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2014 03
President’s Message

Gunter Gasser | Kiwanis International President

Connecting Local to Global

From Cabo Marecos in Paraguay to Sendai in Japan, and thousands of places in between there are Kiwanians making a difference. We are stretched out around the world and on every inhabitable continent. The one tie that bonds us together is our love of helping others.

Our family includes adult Kiwanis clubs, Aktion Clubs for adults with disabilities, Circle K clubs for university students, Key Clubs for high school students, Builders Clubs for junior and middle school students and K-Kids for primary schoolchildren. We’re connected through our regional and district associations. But the most important connection is among club members. Everything Kiwanis does starts at the club level. I call it the grassroots level.

However, as your representatives, the Kiwanis International Board is working to make sure all levels are interconnected and work to support the Kiwanis global network. Our network is more than just members. It includes individual supporters, alumni, donors, partners that are nongovernmental organizations and corporate sponsors. Our global network is dedicated to building community and improving lives by providing opportunities for service, fellowship, leadership and philanthropy according to local needs, cultures and member interests.

As you make plans for the new year, make use of the Kiwanis global network to make a bigger impact in your community. Those of us in international leadership are working to make it easier for you to tap into those resources and achieve the goals I set out in October.

It is important to me and the future of Kiwanis that each club have a net growth of one new member to extend our worldwide impact. We also must make strides towards our US$110 million commitment to end maternal and neonatal tetanus. As you know, The Eliminate Project ends in 2015.

My fellow Kiwanians, I congratulate you on all your work improving your community and our world. Your dedication to the six Objects of Kiwanis is paying dividends in many lives.

Executive Perspective

Stan Soderstrom | Kiwanis Executive Director

History Worth Repeating

Twenty years ago, Kiwanians began a decade-long effort to change the world and make Kiwanis history. We accepted the challenge to address what was labeled as the largest preventable cause of mental disabilities, iodine deficiency disorders (or IDD). The solution was very simple: adding the micronutrient iodine to household table salt.

The entire Kiwanis family went to work in partnership with UNICEF. We raised and leveraged over US$100 million to fund salt iodization programs in some of the most remote parts of the world. We educated our members, as well as government officials everywhere. We influenced legislation requiring salt iodization. We supported testing, monitoring and reporting. We rallied corporate sponsors. Our mobilizing clubs, members, donors, governments and corporations to finish the job of eliminating another devastating global health issue, maternal and neonatal tetanus.

The Eliminate Project is making Kiwanis history— and global health history—again. Between 1995 and 2005, approximately half of all Kiwanis clubs supported the fight against IDD. Since 2011, 70 percent of our clubs have already stepped forward to battle MNT.

This is not just a fundraiser. We’re saving and protecting lives. For some communities in the most remote parts of the world, this is an opportunity to guarantee future generations.

As we begin 2014, I hope your resolution list contains a commitment to support The Eliminate Project.

Saving children. Saving mothers. Building communities. Kiwanis doesn’t get any better than that.
On April 5, the worldwide Kiwanis family will join in a day of service. Think of the impact you can have on your community. Then think of that impact happening in communities all over the world—all on the same day. Be part of the Kiwanis family’s worldwide impact. Be part of Kiwanis One Day.

Get project ideas, contest details and more at www.KiwanisOne.org/oneday.
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
TRENDS, TIPS, FACTS AND FIGURES FROM KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

PHILIPPINE DISASTER RELIEF

In the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan, which affected more than 13 million people, the Kiwanis International Foundation board has approved grants totaling US$75,000 to support Kiwanis clubs in the Philippines with their relief efforts.

Support the Kiwanis International Foundation Disaster Relief Fund by visiting www.kiwanis.org/give.

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Rhonda Damron Romine on Facebook

I just joined the Circleville (OHIO) Kiwanis and am very excited for the upcoming events. I can’t wait to be more involved with this great organization!!!

CELEBRATE!

Happy 99th birthday, Kiwanis International!

How will your club celebrate? Will you honor the date during a special club meeting? Will you hold a service project in your community to spread the word about all your club does? Will you recruit new members to strengthen your club as Kiwanis moves toward its centennial year?

Celebrate your club.
Celebrate Kiwanis.

AN INVITATION TO NASHVILLE

“As the Circle K International Board makes its official site visit, I want to cordially invite all Kiwanians to join us in Nashville, Tennessee, for our 2014 CKI convention June 17–22.”

Daniel Tsang Circle K International President

Proud and Honored

“Over the past few years, we’ve seen hurricanes, typhoons, tsunamis and earthquakes in areas where we have members. It is heartwarming to see our Kiwanis family rushing to aid those in need. Kiwanians indeed know the meaning of service to others. I’m proud and honored to be a member of this great organization.”

Lance M. Incitti Kiwanis International Foundation President
DON’T FORGET

All United States Kiwanis clubs are required to file a Form 990 with the Internal Revenue Service. Learn more at www.KiwanisOne.org/form990.

KIWANIS ONE DAY CONTEST

Kiwanis One Day is April 5, 2014. What will your club do?

Each year, Kiwanis clubs have the chance to win a professional video or Kiwanis magazine coverage of their One Day project. Entries are due March 15.

Learn more at www.KiwanisOne.org/oneday.

VIVE PARIS!

How will you spend the summer of 2017? A taste of cuisine français, perhaps? Amour, non? Or a season of enlightenment?

Journey to "La Ville-Lumière" for the 2017 Kiwanis International convention at the Palais de congrès in Paris, July 14–17!

CHIBA

Chiba can be translated to “1,000 leaves.”


Will you be there?
STATEMENT ‘IMPROVING’

The Kiwanis International Board has approved an updated version of our defining statement. The statement now reads:

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

PILOT KEY LEADER PROGRAM

This past November was an exciting time for Kiwanis Key Leader as it presented two student community forums—one in Danbury, Connecticut, and one in Westfield, Massachusetts. These one-day sessions were convened by Kiwanis clubs and involved student leaders from six to 12 high schools. Using the Key Leader curriculum as a foundation, the forums challenged students to explore their own schools and develop plans to make their schools’ communities “healthier, kinder and more civil environments.”

These pilot programs may suggest a new form of Key Leader program that will be offered for schools throughout North America.

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Laura Kay on Twitter

“Our Kiwanis advisor (Constance Baker) had her last day with us. It has been an honor serving alongside such an amazing person.”

OLD KIWANIS RECORDINGS WANTED

Your club’s old videos, films and recordings can help Kiwanis International tell the world about its 100-year history. Kiwanis International is asking clubs to send videos, films and recordings of Kiwanis-family service, fundraising and social activities, as well as conventions, produced before 1965. Please email a description of your recordings to 2015@kiwanis.org by January 15, 2014.
JULY 17–20

Discover the spirit of Japan

Experience the wonder of a modern culture steeped in ancient tradition. Come to Japan for the 99th Annual Kiwanis International Convention. Enjoy the warm welcome of our host country’s Kiwanians—and the fellowship of members from around the world. It’s a perfect way to celebrate 50 years of Kiwanis in Asia-Pacific. Join us for the Tokyo-Chiba convention in 2014.

Learn more—including tour information! Go to www.kiwanis.org/convention.
Kiwanis turns 99 this month. And the impact we have—whether through empowering young leaders or fostering smiles on the faces of those in need—keeps us young.

As we inch closer to 100 years, let’s make sure our clubs are positioned to generously give and actively serve our communities with a healthy and strong membership base. Because, whether it is fundraising, service or leadership and presence in your community, members make it all possible for our clubs.

Give the gift of meaningful and impactful service to your community this year and always by strengthening your club. Check out these tips and let us hear your tips too. Send them to growth@kiwanis.org.

WHAT THEY SAY

“My dream for my club is a lasting legacy in our community.”

Jennifer York
Kiwanis Club of Kent-AM, Washington Pacific Northwest District

GROW YOUR LOCAL ROOTS

Successful and thriving clubs are part of the community. Rooting your service and fundraising activities in the community enables you to develop a niche and respond to needs effectively.

Think about what role your club can fill, what your members are interested in and what community leaders have mentioned the community is missing.

CONNECT WITH OTHERS

People join Kiwanis because of the personal connections, and choose to stay because of their club’s service impact and fellowship. A 2012 survey indicated that three out of four respondents joined because someone invited them, and most of these were asked by a friend or relative. Don’t be shy to introduce Kiwanis to the valuable members of the community. They could become supporters, sponsors, partners or members!
What would you do to save a child’s life? At nine days old, baby Ponleu was taken to a hospital in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, suffering from stiffness and contracted limbs. His mother, Sarin, had received only two tetanus toxoid vaccinations before she delivered him at a health center in Kandal province. Soon after they returned home, an aunt had put powder from a tablet on Ponleu’s umbilical cord. Such traditional practices, along with insufficient doses of vaccine, are primary causes of neonatal tetanus. Knowledge of healthy birthing practices and postnatal care—including a series of three doses of vaccine—protect the lives of mothers and their babies. Those are the very things you and your club help provide when you give to The Eliminate Project. After 15 days, Ponleu went home from the hospital. Your generosity can help make sure little boys like Ponleu never contract tetanus in the first place.

Stay up to date with the campaign at www.TheEliminateProject.org/progress.

“I found out that a child dies every nine minutes. You can’t even hold them. I couldn’t imagine the feeling a mother gets carrying a child for nine months and then losing them to tetanus. That’s why I give. I do it because there’s a child in need.”

—Gus Lamond, Lead Gift Donor and a member of the Kiwanis Club of Fort Lee, Virginia.

The number of reproductive-age women for whom immunization drives were created in 10 countries from last July through February 2014. It’s the kind of initiative that your gifts to The Eliminate Project make possible.

+1-317-217-6213  +1-317-471-8323 (fax)  campaign@TheEliminateProject.org  www.TheEliminateProject.org

Lose weight, save lives. Cut back on lattes or cheeseburgers, and donate what you would have spent to The Eliminate Project. (For US$1.80—the cost of a latte—you can protect a woman and her future babies.) Keep track of the weight you’re losing and the lives you’re saving.

Get moving. Plan a run or walk for The Eliminate Project as a way to kick off your own exercise plan. Get your whole club involved!

Think spring. Start the new year with something big. Plan a spring fundraiser for your club. One idea: Focus on Mother’s Day. If you sponsor youth clubs or an Aktion club, put together a fundraiser for Eliminate Week. (Learn more at www.TheEliminateProject.org/eliminateweek.)

Join CKI in a life-giving and love-giving mission this Valentine’s Day season. Learn more at www.TheEliminateProject.org/showyourlove.

The Eliminate Project can be a powerful motivator. Make a New Year’s resolution that doesn’t just improve your life. Set a goal to raise funds for The Eliminate Project—and save women’s and babies’ lives too.
The heavens, as they always do, put on a show for Saitama, Japan, on August 12, 2013. There, in the firmament above, the moon presented a waxing crescent as it neared its first quarter. Nearby, Saturn, a prominent fixture in the sky since early spring, had increased its tilt for a majestic display of its rings. The annual Perseid meteor shower cast scores of shooting stars across the Northern Hemisphere.

Down to Earth, 33 teens gathered near the mountains of Chichibu, Japan. They came from China and Vietnam—students at Tokyo’s Nichigo Gakuin language school—to mix and test their Japanese with youth from Jyakkoen, a local orphanage.

For two days and one night, they cooked together, camped together and studied the universe together, compliments of the Kiwanis Club of Saitama. Their cultural differences became evident from the beginning.

As coals glowed in the grill, the Chinese youths surprised their hosts by rinsing the pork in water. “Why are you washing the food?” they were asked. “We normally fry meat,” one visitor answered. “Since we aren’t frying it today, we thought we should wash it.”

The three cultures collaborated in fixing a meal of pan-fried noodles with pork and bean sprouts, accompanied by grilled onion, carrots, green peppers, potatoes and sausages.

Next on the agenda: stars.

Japanese, Chinese and one Vietnamese teen work together to prepare their meal at Ohtaki Genki Plaza in Chichibu, Japan. The secluded retreat offers permanent tents, a gymnasium, baths, lecture rooms and an observatory.

STARRY NIGHT

A CONVERGENCE OF CULTURES BRINGS TOGETHER TEENS FROM THREE NATIONS FOR TWO DAYS OF COOKING, STARGAZING, CAMPING AND RIVER RAFTING.
“It was a cool day,” reports Saitama Kiwanis Club President Akira Maruyama, who accompanied the teens on their retreat. “But it was cloudy.”

Undaunted, as the sun began its descent behind the clouds, a local science teacher prepared the young men and women for their sky-gazing adventure with a lecture on astronomy. With his sleeves rolled up for the task, the instructor animated his lesson with broad sweeps of a pointer across projected views of galaxies, planets and stars.

Outside, nature drew back its cloudy curtain and prepared for the show.

“How, Maruyama says, “the sky cleared in time for the observation.”

Huddled inside the facility’s observatory, the students took their turns squinting through the massive telescopes. With the excitement of seeing the moon’s craters and Saturn’s ring, time passed quickly. When they finally were ready to leave, it was too late to light and enjoy a campfire.

It was time, instead, to retire to their tents. But not to sleep.

“The children were so excited to be in the same tents with foreign students,” says Jyakkoen Director and Kiwanian Hiroko Araki. “They were chatting until 2 a.m. or so.”
Eight o’clock the next morning, the group was up and ready for breakfast and a grape-picking tour at the Ichoen gardens in Nagatoro.

Then it was time to say goodbye, as the Japanese children returned home. But the Kiwanians had one more adventure planned for the exchange students: a ride down the Arakawa River.

One of the principal rivers that flows through Tokyo, the Arakawa has its origin on Mount Kobushi in the Saitama Prefecture.

Boarding traditional Japanese long-boats, the students enjoyed a quiet ride on the placid, azure water. Soon, the flat shoreline changed, as layers of overlapping rock built higher and higher, forming the “Iwadatami Wall.” The towering cliffs—named for their resemblance to tatami floor mats—shaped the river’s course, cluttered it with boulders and suddenly turned the peaceful cruise into a turbulent thrill.

Nature, as it always does, put on a show in the picturesque Saitama Prefecture on August 13, 2013.

Language exchange students board a fune (boat) for a six-kilometer journey down the Arakawa River. For more photos of the Kiwanis-organized adventure, visit http://kwn.is/kistarrynight.
On a warm September night at Towne Lake Recreation Area in McKinney, Texas, bright lights illuminate the baseball field next to a small lake. A boy named Josh steps up to home plate, picks up a bat and waits for the pitch. It’s on the mark. The young batter gets a hit.

“You got it, Josh!” yells Brian Hazelwood, one of the McKinney Kiwanis Club “buddies” who are part coaches and part cheerleaders for 27 special needs children who play for the club’s Halos Angel League T-ball team.

“All the way around,” Hazelwood calls out as the player runs the bases. “Keep going, Josh.”

One by one, other Halos get their turn at bat. The Kiwanis buddies shout encouraging words.

“Go, go, go! He’s done. He’s safe.” “Way to go. You hit it!”

“Good job, Maria!”

After Maria hits the ball and runs around the bases, she gets a high-five from a member of the one of the four area Key Clubs sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of McKinney.

When the game is over, the buddies and parents form two lines facing each other, raise their arms and touch their hands, forming a tunnel. The players trot through, smiling. They’re all winners.

The Halos Angel League T-ball games bring young athletes with special needs together with family members (who often run the bases alongside the players) and community members. At the end of each game, families and volunteers create a human tunnel for the athletes to run through.
The Kiwanis Club and Key Club members are smiling too. It’s hard to tell who gets more out of being a part of the Halos, the kids or the volunteers. The back of the Key Clubbers’ T-shirts reads: “To do more for the world than the world does for you. That is success.”

That also is the mantra of the Kiwanis Club in McKinney, a picturesque town of about 141,000 residents 32 miles north of Dallas. Its lively historic downtown district and lovely restored Victorian-era neighborhoods draw visitors from Dallas, Fort Worth and beyond.

New residents have come too, making McKinney one of the state’s fastest growing cities. But the Collin County seat hasn’t lost its small-town soul or quality of life. In 2012, CNN’s Money magazine ranked McKinney No. 2 on its annual list of America’s best small cities. It’s an attractive place to raise children and retire, which combines to make McKinney the kind of town where a strong Kiwanis Club flourishes, says Mayor Brian Loughmiller.

“McKinney is a community of citizens that knows the value of giving back—and Kiwanis is a shining example of that attitude of philanthropy and volunteerism,” Loughmiller says. “I have personally attended a Halos T-ball game and the joy expressed on the faces of children who are living with disabilities is inspiring.”

The club has been serving McKinney since 1949. Hazelwood, the 2012–13 president who recently turned the job over to Robert Nelson, said he joined because he wanted to do something to give back to children less fortunate.

“There are children in our community who need help every day, and the number grows larger when we look at it on a global scale,” Hazelwood says.

Longtime member Dennis Williams recalls a time years ago when the club had mostly older members, held lunch meetings and didn’t do a lot in the community. At the time, the club was languishing. Today, the McKinney Kiwanis Club is vibrant, with 95 members ranging in age from 20s to 90s.

“You have to have enough for people to do,” Williams says. “Some service clubs have died because they didn’t.”

Indeed, McKinney Kiwanis members have plenty of service projects and events to keep them busy. Each month, members gather to build wheelchair ramps for those who need but cannot afford them. They deliver Meals on Wheels twice a week and call bingo numbers at an area nursing home each month. The club stages several annual fundraisers, including their BBQ Dinner and Silent Auction and a triathlon.

“McKinney is a community of citizens that knows the value of giving back—and Kiwanis is a shining example of that.”
“The Kiwanis Historic Triathlon has become a signature event for McKinney, bringing a focus on health and fitness to our residents and raising money for the many programs they help support,” Mayor Loughmiller says.

Many members say they particularly get a lot of satisfaction from working with the Halos—whose team members are ages 4 to 12—and from another Kiwanis program: Terrific Kids.

Each week, as part of their work with Terrific Kids, club members read to students at several elementary schools, including J.W. Webb Elementary School, a Title I school with a high percentage of economically disadvantaged children. Their 30-minute reading sessions help Webb meet its reading goals, Principal Kyle Luthi says.

“Not only does it provide students with great reading models, but it also provides a model for people in the community providing service,” Luthi says. “It demonstrates to the students there are people outside school who care about them and their education.”

On many September mornings, you can find Nelson and Jim Smith, who came up with the idea for the program, reading to fifth-graders.

“It’s an easy way to go out and be with kids and feel young,” Nelson says.

Students in Leanne Vargas’ class gather round Nelson and sit on the floor as he begins reading them a book about a young mouse named Chrysanthemum, who loves her name until her classmates make fun of her. Then, their teacher, also named after a flower, teaches them all a valuable lesson.

“So what was the theme of the story?” Nelson asks the class.

“Don’t judge a book by its cover,” one student says.

“Right,” Nelson says, nodding. “Very good. It’s important to accept and celebrate who you are.”

Vargas tells the class that Nelson is with the Kiwanis club.

“They’re called volunteers,” she says. “They’re volunteering because they enjoy helping you out in school.”

As Nelson and Smith leave the classrooms and walk down the halls, the children line up for lunch.

“You’re coming back, aren’t you?” several ask.

“We sure will,” the men answer.

“What’s so cool is we see these kids out in the community and they know us,” Smith says. “It’s encouraging to them that they can succeed in life.”

And to know that to do more for the world than the world does for you is the true meaning of success—the Kiwanis way. ☺

About 50-55 members show up for the McKinney Kiwanis Club lunchtime meetings. They represent a cross-section of the business community—real estate, banking, transportation, finance, health care, education, local government, construction, communications and the military.
Disease eliminated in more than half of high-risk countries

Tetanus was killing 200,000 newborns each year when UNICEF made a commitment in 1999 to eliminate the disease among mothers and their babies. UNICEF convened a powerful international partnership to fight the disease in the countries where the risk was highest. In 2013, UNICEF reported an important milestone: More than half of 59 high-risk countries have successfully eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT).

MNT is typically contracted through unhygienic childbirth practices. The key to its elimination is a three-step series of immunizations for women of childbearing age. The vaccination program, which includes health education and worker training, costs just US$1.80 per woman, but when UNICEF and its partners launched the initiative, most global vaccination funding was directed toward polio and other diseases. By focusing attention on tetanus, UNICEF and its partners have helped protect 118 million women from contracting this easily preventable disease—as well as the newborns these women will have. Tetanus deaths among newborns have been reduced by more than 70 percent in just a decade. In all, 33 high-risk countries have been designated MNT-free since 1999, with five of these successes occurring in 2013 alone: Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Iraq, and Sierra Leone. In addition, three states of India eliminated MNT in 2013.

The drive to defeat tetanus is central to UNICEF’s mission of “reaching the world’s poorest, most difficult to reach women and children,” says Caryl M. Stern, president and CEO of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF.

With 26 countries still at high risk from MNT, UNICEF is grateful to its partners who continue their commitment to fighting this disease. Kiwanis International, the medical technology company BD and the consumer products firm Procter & Gamble are among the biggest supporters. U.S. Fund donors throughout the country are also joining the fight against tetanus, and the US Fund’s Midwest Regional Office has launched a two-year campaign to raise $3 million for The Eliminate Project, the U.S. Fund’s partnership with Kiwanis International. This fundraising campaign is moving UNICEF significantly closer to the ambitious but achievable goal of eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus worldwide. The Eliminate Project was started in 2011 and has raised more than $41 million in gifts and pledges through a network of more than 600,000 members. In June, Tom DeJulio, 2012–13 Kiwanis International president, called The Eliminate Project the “most awesome and audacious” program Kiwanis has ever undertaken.
India is one of 26 high-risk countries where tetanus remains a threat. MNT has been eliminated in 18 of India’s states, including three this year.

A health worker administers a tetanus vaccination at the Bome Health Center in Cameroon.
A YOUNG CLUB TAKES ON A HIGH-FLYING PROJECT AND SOARS TO SUCCESS.
STORY AND PHOTOS BY JACK BROCKLEY

Southeast of the Monroe County Airport, on the west side of Bloomington, Indiana, is a rectangular field of freshly mowed grass. There, a couple spreads a blanket. Stretching her legs out before her, she leans toward him, and he, reclining on his side, leans against her. Before them, their view is eclipsed by the rise of a hot air balloon, adding olive green, navy, red and white patterns to a powder blue sky.

The couple are in a world of their own, surrounded by thousands and thousands of other aerostat enthusiasts at the inaugural Kiwanis Club of South Central Indiana Hot Air Balloon Festival.

“We live in an area of rolling hills and forests, so it’s not uncommon to see a balloon flying by,” says project Chairwoman Vanessa McClary. “People rush out of their homes and stand in their yards to watch. So, we thought a balloon festival would work well here. We’d have the balloons set up on the ground so people could see them up close, and we’d offer tethered rides.”

It took the area’s entire Kiwanis family to stage a successful balloon festival, with Kiwanis, Aktion Club, Circle K, Key Club, Builders Club and K-Kids members volunteering at the festival’s many attractions.
McClary and her fellow Kiwanians were right. The festival was so successful that it exceeded just about all expectations.

More than 8,000 people followed bumper-to-bumper traffic into the fairgrounds venue for the two-day party. It’s unknown how many actually attended because the club only ordered 8,000 attendee bracelets—and ran out.

The Oolitic, Indiana, Kiwanis Club arrived with what they thought would be enough fish, chips and sodas to feed customers both days. They sold out of all products in five hours the first evening. So did the neighboring barbecue trailer. And the frozen lemonade vendor raided area grocery stores the second morning, buying every fresh lemon in stock.

The next day, the Oolitic Kiwanians returned with more fish, as well as tenderloins and chicken, confident that unused products could be sold at their twice monthly community fish fry. Within four hours, only a few sodas remained.

“We have a fish fry every month,” says member Karen Phipps. “This is the best we’ve ever done.”

In the end, the festival netted about US$15,000 to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington, Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis and other South Central Indiana club projects.

A family of three walks up from the parking lot. A young girl—her stuffed poodle toy clutched snug against her side, rides her father’s shoulders. They pass the Oolitic Kiwanians’ trailer. They walk through the enticing aromas wafting from the chili cook-off barn. As they approach the open field, they stop. They look up. And smile. They just stand there, enjoying the view of a dozen or more balloons crowded across the grass.

Most of the balloons are shaped in the traditional inverted teardrop, but three add a huge dose of animation to the scene: a broad-shouldered rocketman, a scarecrow (with a friendly blackbird on his shoulder) and a giant green dragon.

“Shapes” (the rocketman, scarecrow and dragon), McClary says, were one of the highlights of the festival. Though they never took flight, they were obvious crowd-pleasers. As children and adults ahhed with each figure’s inflation, rumors began to spread about next year’s possible attractions: “I heard they’re making a Cinderella balloon,” one boy exclaimed.

That’s the type of excitement the Kiwanis club was aiming for, but members knew months in advance that staging a first-class event would be expensive. Finding sponsors was at the top of their to-do list.

Balloons inflate and fly best in cooler temperatures. To entertain and occupy attendees between morning and evening, the Kiwanis club offers other activities, including face-painting, a pancake breakfast and a chili cook-off. A tethered ride (opposite page) fulfills a “bucket list” dream.
“I sat down with Oliver Winery and shared the vision for our first-year event,” McClary says. “They have two balloons of their own, and they’re very community-minded. They saw that the festival would be a great way to support the community they love; so, they were excited to sign on as our first sponsor.”

By the time the club sent the event’s program booklet to the printer, it listed nearly 30 sponsors and advertisers.

Jenn Cristy can’t sit still. A versatile musician who’s performed with Hoosier John Mellencamp, she’s pounding out keyboard chords to “Pinball Wizard” as she sits, stands, kneels, sits again. From the stage, she sees the rocketman, scarecrow and dragon lined up a few rows deep into the audience, swaying with the beat—or breeze—and giving her a standing ovation.

“We figured if you have an event like this, you need several hot buttons to attract attendees,” McClary says. “For six years, our club has put on the Children’s Health and Safety Family FUN! Fair, so we merged the two events.”

Other hot buttons included a “Kiwanis Idol” singing contest, a Key Club pancake breakfast, battle of the bands competition, chili cook-off, cornhole tournament and entertainment.

The top attractions, of course, were the balloons. Both evenings guests waited in long lines for tethered rides 30 to 40 feet into the sky. “It’s one of the things on my bucket list,” said a student from the nearby Indiana University campus. “I think this qualifies; so, I can mark it off my list.”

As evening’s darkness spreads across the field, pilots aim flares of flames into their balloons. Not enough to rise and fly off across the Hoosier hills, but enough to illuminate the towering forms with a warm, colorful glow.

Kiwanis International’s insurance policy does not cover accidents arising from the operation, maintenance or use of any aircraft.
One measure of success ranked highest for South Central Kiwanians as they planned their festival: families outdoors... having fun... together. Jenn Cristy (far left) plays to a packed audience of families and "shapes."
Travel. Unforgettable memories.
Whatever your reason for attending the 2014 Kiwanis International Convention, you won’t be let down.

But this isn’t your typical Kiwanis International convention. There are a few changes you should know about. First, with this being a joint Kiwanis International and Asia-Pacific convention, the schedule this year has changed a bit. Of course, there’s time in the schedule to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Kiwanis in Asia-Pacific. As the fastest-growing region in Kiwanis, members of ASPAC have a lot to celebrate. Let’s join them in saying congratulations! Also, there will be fewer workshops and less time in general sessions, which should allow you time to explore all that Japan and the Asia-Pacific region have to offer.

Read on to the following pages to learn more about what you can expect, and be sure to log on to the convention website at www.KiwanisOne.org/convention to register.

See you in Chiba!

Visitors to Japan will quickly learn how valuable traditions are to the Japanese people. Be sure to see as much and do as much as possible during your trip. Experience the culture. Take in a shrine or a castle. Indulge in Japan’s signature food dishes or stop by a local theater. Learn about the art of origami. Visit a hot spring. There’s so much to do in Japan!
TOURS
Explore the world-famous neighborhoods of Tokyo. Or absorb the breathtaking scenery while cruising through Vietnam’s Ha Long Bay. How about Hawaii, Cambodia or China? Check out the complete lineup of tours that are available before, during and after the convention. The wonders of Asia and the Pacific await you.

CONVENTION PACKAGES
Make it easy on yourself: Book a convention package. Included: roundtrip flights from major North American gateways, transfers between Tokyo’s airport and your hotel, four nights at an official Kiwanis International hotel (breakfast included), a sightseeing program in Tokyo and a special Kiwanis event.

JAPAN CULTURE FAIR
Japan is always tuned in to the future. But Japan also values its traditions. Have you ever been intrigued by the many aspects of Japanese culture? Origami, dances, culinary creations, calligraphy and more will all take meaning once you attend the Japan culture fair, organized by the Japan District Kiwanians.

JOINT KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL AND ASPAC CONVENTION
For the first time in Kiwanis history, Kiwanis International is holding its annual convention in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific region’s convention. The opening and closing sessions will be joint, while the two delegate sessions will be separate and at different times.
Delegates to the ASPAC convention delegate session will most notably hear reports by all ASPAC districts, and proceed to the election of ASPAC officers and Kiwanis International trustee(s) for the region. ASPAC district members will set up exhibits and are excited to talk to you about their projects and countries.

50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF KIWANIS PRESENCE IN ASIA-PACIFIC

Celebrate 50 years of Kiwanis in Asia-Pacific. The first Kiwanis club in the Asia-Pacific region was founded on January 24, 1964, in Tokyo, Japan. Today, this Kiwanis region numbers about 23,000 members across eight districts and has been experiencing constant growth.

OFFICIAL HOTELS

Book your hotel at preferred rates and enjoy the company of fellow Kiwanians (www.kiwanis.org/convention/hotels). There are district assignments; so, you may book your room at any of the six official Kiwanis hotels. Due to the proximity of all the hotels to the convention center, shuttles will not be available.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

This year, the Kiwanis International convention will follow a different format, so be sure to consult the schedule posted on the convention website at www.kiwanis.org/convention. Workshops will be held in subject-specific exhibition rooms, at specific times during the convention.
CONTEST
Dinner for two at Hotel New Otani? Or at the magnificent Hôtel Francs? Or is it a tea ceremony in the Japanese gardens near the convention center? Register for the convention by April 1 to be entered to win these and other great prizes.

ELECTIONS
Consult the elections page on the convention website (www.kiwanis.org/convention/candidates) to review the names of declared candidates. Candidate bios will be posted as official candidates send in their information. Each bio will feature the candidate’s own words about his or her qualifications, as well as a vision for Kiwanis International. Links to their websites and social media pages are included.

AMENDMENT PROPOSALS
This year, Kiwanians will be able to consider amendment proposals 90 days in advance and still have time to register for the convention at advance discount rates. Watch for amendment proposals to be posted on the convention website (www.kiwanis.org/convention/business) in early March.

LUNCHEON WITH A PURPOSE
Join Kiwanis members from around the world at The Eliminate Project luncheon. Attendees will hear unique perspectives about Kiwanis and UNICEF’s efforts to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT). We also will honor donors who have contributed to The Eliminate Project campaign, and we’ll celebrate our great success so far, working toward our goal of raising US$110 million to eliminate MNT.

DINNER WITH FRIENDS
Experience Kiwanis fellowship during a fun dinner with Kiwanis friends. International flair guaranteed!
REGISTRATION OPENING SOON
THANKS TO THE CONVENTION WEBSITE, IT’S EASY TO GET STARTED.
You’ll pay less by registering before you arrive. You’ll be able to sign up for ticketed events online. And delegates will be able to download their certificates of election.
The form will be available at www.kiwanis.org/convention/registration.

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- 6 Night Beijing
- 6 Night Vietnam
- 3 Night Tokyo

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- 7 Night Japan
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*$1599 Four Night Convention Package Price from Los Angeles and does not include Airline Taxes and fees, approximately $600
The joy and freedom of being a kid—and riding your first bike—is an experience few children in the impoverished Kingdom of Lesotho have had.

Lombard, Illinois, Kiwanian Dave Gorman is changing that through Bikes for Lesotho, which he founded. The organization raised US$20,000 to fund and deliver a shipment of 500 bikes to the south African country.

Gorman, along with a friend, cycled 200 miles through the mountains to spread the word about how the two-wheeled vehicles can change children’s lives.

“I wanted to cause a sensation around cycling,” says Gorman. “People saw two Americans riding their bikes in rural villages and through the mountains. That’s unusual.”

The story of Gorman’s journey, which he paid for out of his own pocket, was carried on local TV and radio stations. His connection to the tiny, rugged country began 22 years ago when he served in the Peace Corps there.

His work then focused on helping to build bridges and other civil engineering efforts. Today, his emphasis is on introducing children to the joy of cycling, which he hopes will help them cope with the sadness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic that has devastated the country.

The number of children orphaned by the epidemic is estimated at about 100,000, he says.

The Lombard Kiwanis Club received an US$8,000 grant from the Kiwanis International Foundation to help ship the bikes. Gorman worked with a California nonprofit, Mike’s Bikes Africa Foundation, which fixes up donated bikes for shipment overseas. He also partnered with a Lesotho group that sponsors cycling events and teaches children how to maintain and fix their bikes.

Tumisang Tabbe, of the Lesotho Cycling Association, says the children were overjoyed at receiving the bikes.

“Most of these kids never even dreamed of possessing a bicycle,” he says. “They broke into tears in the receiving of these bicycles. It came as a big surprise to all of them.”
At left: Children in the village of Likotsi gather to witness a championship hosted by the Lesotho Cycling Association headed by Tumisang Taobe (below). Lombard, Illinois, Kiwanian Dave Gorman (right, in yellow) and partner Jeff Teppema pose briefly before pedaling to the district of Qacha’s Nek, which is about 147 kilometers from the capital of Maseru.
Lois Meadows, president of the North Parkersburg, West Virginia, Kiwanis Club is an optimist who advocates thinking outside the box when approaching challenges. Her latest challenge: opening a Kiwanis family of clubs.

When she saw that the Williamstown High School Key Club—sponsored by her club—was struggling, Meadows took that as a sign to act.

“I started feeling almost selfish that North Parkersburg was doing so much for so many folks in our town. We work with so many groups in our town, and I looked at Williamstown and thought, ‘those children need that.’”

Establishing a family of clubs certainly isn’t the traditional approach for introducing Kiwanis to a community. But Meadows thinks it should be. A former educator, she recalls the West Virginia Department of Education asking how they were teaching character education. When another teacher told everyone about K-Kids, Meadows was sold.

“I believe that when you show children the reason for service early on, it carries on. I just felt that if a Kiwanis club in Williamstown was going to be sustained, having responsibilities for Service Leadership clubs would give them a reason to keep going.”

Though her club traditionally focuses its activities within Parkersburg, Meadows forged ahead, securing the support of the mayor of Williamstown, the city council and school principals.

Now Williamstown has 30 Kiwanians, 23 Builders Club members, 44 Key Clubbers and a classroom of K-Kids ready to serve.

Drawing on the example of her classroom’s K-Kids club, which raised thousands of dollars for its community, Meadows says, “I told the city council that these clubs could create a legacy for the town.”

Only time will tell what this legacy looks like.
The Kiwanis International Foundation belongs to every member of every Kiwanis club. It’s where we extend our impact to children around the world.

Annual gifts change children’s lives today through grants that fund Kiwanis youth programs and projects close to clubs’ hearts. Gifts to The Eliminate Project will change the world tomorrow—by helping to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus from the face of the Earth. And planned gifts make your impact last forever.

However you give, whatever the amount, every gift matters. That’s what makes our foundation special. Your generosity reaches children a world away, and it improves lives close to home—perhaps even in your own hometown.

Learn more at www.kiwanis.org/foundation.
Leadership knows no borders, no language barriers, no boundaries between friends. Key Leader, a weekend experiential leadership program, has been an international draw for German high school students for the past few years due to Kiwanis members on both sides of the Atlantic.

Winfrid Mirau, a member of the Kiwanis Club Baden-Baden, Germany, joined efforts with Mary Villalba, a South Denver, Colorado, Kiwanian, following the 2011 Kiwanis International convention in Geneva, Switzerland. Their goal was to introduce Key Club and the Key Leader program to European Kiwanians.

“We decided a good start would be to bring three students and their teacher to the Key Leader event in Aspen (Colorado),” Villalba says. “Winfrid worked with the students and their teacher to raise money and take care of the flights to and from Denver. For my part, I made the transportation arrangements and accommodations with Kiwanis families here in Denver and Glenwood Springs.”

While at Key Leader, the German students are put into small groups—or “neighborhoods”—with the U.S. students, according to Barb Fuller, Rocky Mountain District Key Leader chairwoman.

“Each of these neighborhoods has around eight students, so the (visiting) girls had lots of interactions with the other students. These groups learn to function as a team, and they were an important part of the Key Leader program.”

Overseas participants add their unique world perspective to the Key Leader weekend as well.

“We have other students who attended Key Leader in Aspen who were foreign exchange students from Sweden and Germany,” Fuller says. “Each year we encourage schools to bring exchange students. We’ve had students from India, China and Spain in past years. Having foreign exchange students adds another dimension to our program.”

Returning to their home country, the visiting students report a true growth experience.

“We learned a lot about being a leader, integrity, growth, respect and being a community,” the students wrote as part of a presentation to their sponsoring Kiwanis clubs. “That was interesting because we could do some tasks with other people, and that’s important to be a good leader.”

Three German students and their teacher, selected by their high school principal and teachers, participated in a Key Leader event in Colorado. Before and after the weekend, they toured the Denver and Aspen areas with Key Club members.
Average time spent at the Louvre in Paris: 8 hours.
Average time spent at the Tate in London: 7 hours.
Average time spent at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City: 4 hours.
Average times spent at the Looi Museum of Contemporary Art in Tessenderlo, Belgium: 2 to 15 minutes, depending on the line.

Often called “the smallest museum for contemporary art in the world,” the Looi museum, or “LOMAK,” as it’s called by locals, was created by the Kiwanis Club of Tessenderlo Alchemia, Belgium, as a novel way enrich the culture of its community.

The museum also may be the world’s most unique: With exhibit space of only 50 by 50 by 100 centimeters (that’s 19.685 by 19.685 by 39.3701 inches), only one work of art is displayed at a time, visible by telescope to but one person at a time.

The club’s Bernard Flamant says members came up with the idea while brainstorming for ways to celebrate their club’s 20th anniversary.

“The idea was to give something valuable, sustainable and permanent to local citizens,” Flamant explains. “We don’t have any more art lovers here than anywhere else, but we are very curious and enthusiastic.”

Located between the Tessenderlo Market Square and the wall—high up on the wall, to be exact (below)—of the town hall, the LOMAK presents art work visible from the outside, so passersby, many of them culture hounds, have access to its “collection” 24/7. Flamant says the club benefits too.

“We would like people to be interested in art and culture, creativity and to be surprised by the unexpectedness of our museum,” Flamant says. “At the same time, we’re letting people know who we are, what we do and how we make Tessenderlo better.”

The club hopes many different art forms will occupy the space at the museum, including visual art, literature, video, photography and any other form of expression that falls within the notion of contemporary art. The museum opened this past May, for example, with a work by Koen Vanmechelen, a Belgian conceptual artist renowned for his Cosmopolitan Chicken Project, a “worldwide artistic breeding” initiative.

The artist describes the piece as a photo print of one of his cosmopolitan chickens (he uses images of chickens from around the world in his art) and a nest of a three-dimensional prints of chicken feet surrounding a glass egg.

“This work speaks about the relationship between human and nature and how we try to manipulate and control our environment,” Vanmechelen notes.

As in all works of art to be exhibited at the museum, though, the Kiwanis club leaves interpretation up to the eye of the beholder.
SHOWCASE

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

THE CAMARADERIE OF COMPETITION BRINGS SENIORS TOGETHER FOR SERIOUSLY FUN OLYMPIC GAMES.

STORY BY JACK BROCKLEY | PHOTOS BY SARA STATHAS

There may not be an around-the-world torch relay or an uber-pyrotechnic-powered opening ceremony, but Wisconsin’s Tri County Olympics has all the pomp, enthusiasm and competitive vibe of the global winter and summer Olympic Games. With just a few differences.

The more famous, televised games, for example, are organized by an international committee, but the Wisconsin competition is the result of a partnership between the West, Racine, Wisconsin, Kiwanis Club, Tri-County Activity Professionals (TCAP) and nursing homes in the state’s Racine, Kenosha and Walworth counties.

And, instead of a parade of nations, a parade of nursing homes kicks off events for the Tri-County games, with 200 to 300 athletes. Senior athletes.

“As they arrive by bus, our seniors are greeted by various youth groups and cheerleaders,” says event Chairman Jim Michel. “Each home parades in with its banner while Olympic theme music plays.”

Then, the games begin: bowling, bean bag toss, golf putting, soccer kick, shuffleboard, basketball dunk, horseshoe toss, ball darts and ladder golf.

Each event is set up so competitors who use wheelchairs and walkers can participate. The competition is intense.

“We see seniors practicing all year in anticipation of the event,” reports TCAP President Susan McLoughlin. “We see them wearing the T-shirts and medals and ribbons proudly all year, and we see the families displaying the ribbons and medals at memorial services. So, we know how much this means to our seniors.”

The Kiwanis club provides financial support for the games, purchases T-shirts, rents the hall and buys the coveted gold, silver and bronze medals. Members serve popcorn and sodas, keep score and tabulate the eagerly awaited results.

When the last bean bag has been tossed and golf clubs have been put away, Kiwanians check and double-check the scores. While they add up the numbers, a band plays “old-time” favorites. Volunteers and athletes dance. Everyone waits.

Waits for the announcement.

“And the gold medal goes to…”

Bowling is just one of the sports at the senior Olympics, where hundreds of elderly athletes compete for ribbons, medals and year-round bragging rights. One family displays their patriarch’s awards in framed shadow boxes.
Happy ending

By Shanna Mooney

Unless you’ve experienced it, it’s difficult to fathom the despair a family feels after a tragedy such as losing one’s home to fire. A lifetime of memories … gone. Your haven of security and warmth … no longer there for you.

While members of the Kiwanis Club of Barbados-Central realize they can’t bring back family heirlooms and possessions, they are able to help one family begin collecting new memories and restore their sense of security by building them a new home.

In 2011, Gail Browne, a single mother raising six children, was left homeless after her house was ravaged by fire. In the following years, she held her family together, moving house to house as they were able.

“After struggling to access local social services, which proved meaningless and most of the time disappointing for the family because they failed to maintain their promises, the Kiwanis club provided reassurance and presented some hope for my kids and me—from the very first time I was interviewed by their member, Nigel Lucas,” Browne says.

The club sponsored the family and worked with members of their business community to glean materials and assistance to build the house.

A year and a couple months later, club President Marilyn Patrick joyfully handed over the keys to the Browne family’s new home.

When Browne was asked what advice she can give on how to help persons in a similar position, she smiled and shared that the main thing is to stay focused and never lose hope.

At times, she recalled, it felt like she would never be able to get her family back to their previous living conditions, but by being cooperative with the club that is providing assistance, all seemed to work out in the end.

Gail Browne (left) and two of her six children pose outside their new home with 2012-13 Barbados Central Kiwanis Club President Marilyn Patrick. Read more about Browne’s ordeal at http://kwn.is/kibrowne.
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SHOWCASE

BIRTHDAYS

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

75TH—1939
Highland Park-Highwood, Illinois, February 13
Penn Yan, New York, February 13
Manhasset-Port Washington, New York, February 24
Paragould, Arkansas, March 2
Castleton-on-Hudson, New York, March 9
Rockmart, Georgia, March 13
Montpelier, Vermont, March 14
Newton, Kansas, March 14
Hardin, Montana, March 22

50TH—1964
Pacific (The), Vancouver, British Columbia, February 4
Fort Montagu, Nassau, Bahamas, February 11
Middleton, Wisconsin, March 2
Creve Coeur, Missouri, March 5
West Plains, Missouri, March 6
Rolla, North Dakota, March 16
St. Charles, Illinois, March 19
Kingston, Jamaica, March 24

25TH—1988
Eferding, Austria, February 2
Ried im Innkreis, Austria, February 2
Braine-le-Comte/Soignies, Belgium, February 6
Saint-Ghislain en Borinage, Belgium, February 13
Wohlensee/Bern, Switzerland, February 14
Hickory Hills, Illinois, February 15
Greenacres & Western Communities, Florida, February 27
Horizontes, Bucaramanga, Colombia, March 1
Pau Jeanne d’Albret, France, March 2
New Ulm, Minnesota, March 7
Keyser-Breakfast, West Virginia, March 16
Ping Chen, Taoyuan, Taiwan, March 17
Arezzo, Italy, March 20
Marsala, Italy, March 20
Novara Monte Rosa, Italy, March 20
Corona-East Elmhurst, New York, March 25
Kids’ safety is in your hands.

Our guidelines should be too.

Working with young people is a rewarding experience. It also brings important responsibilities. Kiwanis can help you meet them—with youth protection guidelines for all Kiwanians. Get to know the updated guidelines. And make sure your club uses them to train members each year. It’s a key way to protect young people…and the reputations of the adults who serve them.

Download the Kiwanis youth protection guidelines today at www.kiwanis.org/youthprotection.

www.kiwanis.org/youthprotection
OH, THOSE KIWANIANS OF DERRING-DO
IT’S FUN BEING A KIWANIAN, BUT SOME MEMBERS—PAST AND PRESENT—ARE A LITTLE MORE FEARLESS WITH THEIR AMUSEMENT.

Way, way back in 1930, Kiwanians were in Atlantic City, New Jersey, for the 15th annual Kiwanis International convention. On the agenda was the serious business of a fifty-cent dues increase to US$2.50 annually. But away from the debates, the delegates and guests could often be found on the city’s famous Boardwalk.

“Many Kiwanians and their ladies were kids again on the great show place, the Steel Pier at Atlantic City,” the August 1930 Kiwanis Magazine reported, “where you get more entertainment for your money than any place we have ever heard about. The old-fashioned Ferris wheel and whirlabouts (left) still attract them.”

Sixty-nine years later in 1998, Williamsburg, Virginia, Kiwanians and Busch Gardens planned a fundraiser to celebrate the club’s 40th birthday and the 20th anniversary of the park’s popular Loch Ness Monster roller coaster. Proceeds would treat underprivileged children to a day at the park. To kick off the campaign, the twisting, looping coaster made a publicity run packed with Kiwanians, including Wally Riley and Wood Siroys (right).

“Some loved it so much, they rode it three times,” Kiwanian Wilbur Davis told Kiwanis magazine.

For that same January 1999 issue, the publication reported on the Northmount, Calgary, Alberta, Kiwanis Club’s “Project Shut Up and Jump.” Learn more about how and why the Canadians fell 3,500 feet for children at http://kwn.is/kijump.
What do you value most about your Kiwanis club? Whatever it is, members make it happen. So make membership growth a priority. For your club. For your community. For the future of what you love.
WHAT'S YOUR STORY

If your club has a success story, simply email a summary and a few photos to shareyourstory@kiwanis.org to be considered for possible future use in Kiwanis International publications.

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