Now what?

New club leaders need Club Leadership Education. Our classroom sessions now feature an all-new curriculum—presented by folks who have been in your shoes. After all, club leadership is one thing. Knowing what to do with it is another.

Go to a Club Leadership Education session in your area. Check your district website for times and locations.
Kiwanis

Kiwanis service:

Going global

SOLES FOR AFRICA | IDD UPDATE | FARMING AFGHANISTAN

Building a school in Cambodia

Kiwanis

June 2011

Serving the Children of the World®

www.kiwanis.org
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WHAT IF YOU COULD SAVE A BABY’S LIFE?

With The Eliminate Project, you can. Maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) kills one baby every nine minutes. But three doses of a 60-cent vaccine can protect mothers and babies. Kiwanis and UNICEF have joined forces to bring this vaccine to 38 countries, eliminating MNT from the face of the Earth. What can you do now? Grow your club, because you’ll need strength to take on the challenges of the campaign. Learn about MNT, and advocate for the cause. Over the next few years, the work you do to will change the world. Find resources at www.TheEliminateProject.org.
Let the sparks fly

Membership and recruiting should be a continuous, major focus of every club. At every meeting, we need to ask our members to bring guests and thank the current members who do.

I challenge you to be the spark that sets off a membership fire in your club. Identify others who, like you, have a burning passion for service; those who give unselfishly of themselves and live the principles of Kiwanis. I challenge you to identify them and invite them to join the world’s greatest service organization. Invite them to join us as we change the world again.

If you find a small group of people who want to join but their time or com-

Inviting them to join us as we change the world again.

mitments make it difficult, consider forming them into a club satellite.

When you combine meaningful service and have a welcoming environment, you’re guaranteed to have a successful membership drive. For help and ideas on running a successful membership drive, check out some of the webinars on related topics and download the membership drive planning guide. You can find the webinar schedule at www.KiwanisOne.org/webinars and the guide at www.KiwanisOne.org/membership.

Remember, service is our fuel for growth. So let’s light the organization on fire!
In this issue of Kiwanis magazine, we’ve focused on the global aspect of Kiwanis.

Being an international organization means more than dealing with clubs in more than 80 nations. It means producing much of our communications into at least eight languages, and it means converting dollars and euros into numerous other currencies—all of which fluctuate on a daily basis. It means realizing that international telephone dialing and Internet calls are everyday necessity, that not all cell phones work in all nations and that 3 p.m. on April 25 in Indianapolis is 4:30 a.m., April 26, in Adelaide, Australia.

It means being sensitive to preferences surrounding food, sports, family, education, religion, language, business practices, holidays and customs. Most of all, it means seeing how many versions of Kiwanis community service our clubs can create.

The exciting thing is, the sun never sets on Kiwanis service. Twenty-four hours a day, a Kiwanis club somewhere is serving.

This month, we share three inspiring stories of Kiwanians who reach beyond their own nation and make a difference to the world community.

Netherlands Kiwanian Lou Cuypers (page 20) is in the middle of one of the world’s hot spots, trying to solve the illegal drug problem at its source. He helps farmers in Afghanistan learn new techniques so they can move away from growing poppies—a major source of heroin in the world. His work has grown into opening a school for girls, planting orchards and creating stability in a fragile, recovering economy.

Arizona Kiwanians Danny and Pam Spitler (page 14) turned a US$300 investment for a water well in Cambodia into an organization that built and operates a school for more than 500 students.

Illinois Kiwanian Rich Rosenberg (page 24) engaged his local Key Club and has collected thousands of shoes for children in Tanzania.

We hope you’re inspired to know what other Kiwanis members are doing in all parts of the globe. I know we who work for you at Kiwanis International are impressed every day by your good works—at home and around the world.
Pioneers in inclusive play, Landscape Structures and Shane’s Inspiration have long collaborated to bring inclusive playgrounds and educational programs to communities throughout the world. Discover how your community can become a part of this mission.

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. Open to legal residents 18 years or older of the 50 United States, DC, and the following Provinces of Canada: AB, MB, NL, NT, ON, PE, SK. Void where prohibited. For Official Rules, Judging Criteria, and to enter, visit www.playsi.com/Together-We-Play. Sponsored by Landscape Structures, Inc., Delano, MN and Shane’s Inspiration, Sherman Oaks, CA.

Do you dream about creating a playground where children of ALL abilities can play together? Tell us about your commitment to social inclusion and your community’s vision for an inclusive playground.

For complete contest details, visit playlsi.com/Together-We-Play.
A woman comforts a baby suffering from diarrhea, malnutrition and pneumonia. The 6-month-old boy’s mother died 15 days after he was born. His aunt has two children of her own. Nonetheless, she’s taken her nephew into her arms and into her care, struggling to keep him alive.

This past April, Randy DeLay (left) observed this scene while visiting Cambodia to observe efforts to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. He and other members of the Kiwanis-family delegation blogged about their experiences, reporting that the Southeast Asian nation is closing in on victory against the painful, deadly disease.

“The time to act here is right now because we need to take advantage of the momentum being built,” wrote one Kiwanis-family representative. “But there’s a shortage of human resources and funding to put the plan into play.”

Read the blogs and add your comments at www.TheEliminateProject.org/blog.
US Army signs sponsorship

Kiwanis International signed a memorandum of understanding this past April, enrolling the U.S. Army as a sponsor of Key Leader.

Key Leader is Kiwanis’ weekend experiential leadership program for young leaders.

As a result of the agreement, teens participating in US Key Leader events will receive information on the U.S. Army’s “March 2 Success” program, which provides free ACT and SAT preparation courses for high school students.

At the signing, Kiwanis Executive Director Stan Soderstrom indicated that the organizations’ shared values and goals makes for a logical relationship: “We all look forward to a better world through these efforts to prepare youth leaders of today for the challenges of tomorrow. Today, we pledge Kiwanis to action to bring this new sponsorship to life.”

Learn more at www.key-leader.org.

Kiwanis Executive Director Stan Soderstrom signs sponsorship papers with U.S. Army Maj. Gens. David Mann and Mark McDonald.

Violins with vigor

Space Violins, a world-famous e-violin duo known for performances powered by energy and talent, is the newest addition to entertainment planned for the 96th Annual Kiwanis International Convention in Geneva, Switzerland, July 7-10. Established in 1997, the German duo presents a variety of music, from folk to country to American swing. They’ve performed at music festivals and concerts, including appearances with the Corrs, Lou Bega and Chris Rea. Learn more about Space Violins and the convention at www.KiwanisOne.org/convention.

Look who’s distinguished

Kiwanians still have time to qualify for distinguished member status.

How?
It’s as easy as one, two, three:
1. Recruit at least two new active members.
2. Participate in two or more Kiwanis service efforts.
3. Attend an international or district convention or another qualifying event, such as a district leadership conference.

In addition to receiving a distinguished status lapel pin, you’ll also receive a Light the US Army signs sponsorship.

Fire pin and letter from President Sylvester Neal for recruiting new members.

Clubs, too, can be identified as distinguished by excelling in service, leadership and growth.

Distinguished clubs will receive a banner patch and lapel pins for the president and secretary.

Find more details about the distinguished club and member programs at www.KiwanisOne.org/distinguishedclubs.

The deadline for submitting the Distinguished Member Form is October 15, 2011.
Amendments

Kiwanis’ annual convention is the subject of two amendments that will be proposed to the House of Delegates at the 2011 convention in Geneva, Switzerland, July 7–10:

• A proposal from the Kiwanis Club of Blue Island, Illinois, would establish real-time online broadcasts of convention activities.

• A proposal, also from the Blue Island club, would establish online voting during convention.

The House of Delegates, which will consider these amendments, consists of representatives from Kiwanis clubs worldwide.

For full versions of the proposals and the International Board’s position on each, visit www.KiwanisOne.org/convention/business.

News from Geneva

Convention week is a critical part of the Kiwanis year, so even if you’re not attending the 2011 event in Geneva next month, you can follow the excitement. Here’s how:

• Follow the discussion on Twitter. Use the hashtag: #ki2011 to connect with Kiwanians in Geneva.

• Become a fan of the Kiwanis Facebook page and get up-to-the-minute information from the official source.

• If email is more your thing, subscribe to the Kiwanis International Update and get a digest of convention activities before your fellow Kiwanians arrive home. Sign up at www.kiwanis.org/email.

Correction

In the Showcase article “T Is for Terrific” (April 2011), Kiwanis magazine reported an incorrect number of children recognized as Terrific Kids by the Kiwanis Club of San Antonio Army Residence Community Golden K, Texas. By the end of the school year, about 200 students have been recognized as Terrific Kids.
Finally, a cell phone that’s… a phone!

“Well, I finally did it. I finally decided to enter the digital age and get a cell phone. My kids have been bugging me, my book group made fun of me, and the last straw was when my car broke down, and I was stuck by the highway for an hour before someone stopped to help. But when I went to the cell phone store, I almost changed my mind. The phones are so small I can’t see the numbers, much less push the right one. They all have cameras, computers and a “global-positioning” something or other that’s supposed to spot me from space. Goodness, all I want to do is to be able to talk to my grandkids! The people at the store weren’t much help. They couldn’t understand why someone wouldn’t want a phone the size of a postage stamp. And the rate plans! They were complicated, confusing, and expensive… and the contract lasted for two years! I’d almost given up when a friend told me about her new Jitterbug phone. Now, I have the convenience and safety of being able to stay in touch… with a phone I can actually use.”

The cell phone that’s right for me. Sometimes I think the people who designed this phone and the rate plans had me in mind. The phone fits easily in my pocket, but it flips open and reaches from my mouth to my ear. The display is large and backlit, so I can actually see who is calling. With a push of a button I can amplify the volume, and if I don’t know a number, I can simply push “0” for a friendly, helpful operator that will look it up and even dial it for me. The Jitterbug also reduces background noise, making the sound loud and clear. There’s even a dial tone, so I know the phone is ready to use.

Affordable plans that I can understand — and no contract to sign! Unlike other cell phones, Jitterbug has plans that make sense. Why should I pay for minutes I’m never going to use? And if I do talk more than I plan, I won’t find myself with no minutes like my friend who has a prepaid phone. Best of all, there is no contract to termination — so I’m not locked in for years at a time or subject to termination fees. The U.S.–based customer service is second to none, and the phone gets service virtually anywhere in the country.

Order now and receive a FREE Car Charger and a FREE Leather Carrying Case for your Jitterbug—a $43.99 value. Call now!
No matter your age, race or income, music can transform and inspire the mind. Members of the Kiwanis Club of Andes San Juan de Los Andes, Colombia, believe in the power of music too. Last year they founded a vocal and instrumental music program that works with their community’s low-income students. “The program worked very well in 2010 with a total of 75 children,” says club Secretary Amado Ramirez Giraldo. “We’re continuing to promote the program as the signature program of the club.”

The Colombian Kiwanians contribute financially, monitor the development of educational activities and provide instruments and other resources.

Providing comfort

Four years ago, the Kiwanis Club of Cape May, New Jersey, built a hut for an elementary school crossing guard. Prior to that, the guard had no protection from the city’s brutal winter weather and falling rain.

Recently, the small hut was due for repairs and Cape May Kiwanians were quick to offer support yet again. The club donated both funds and hands to refurbish the guard’s hut.

Giving music

Six-course fundraiser

Preparing a six-course gourmet meal for 50 guests may sound like an exhausting way to spend your day, but the members of the Duren
In fact, for the past seven years the Kiwanians have prepared an elaborate feast for paying guests. Their most recent charity dinner, in June 2010, raised approximately US$4,200.

This year, all proceeds went to a violence-protection project and toddler care program at a nearby vocational school.

**JAPAN**

**African studies**

In 2008, the Kiwanis Club of Ashiya, Japan, welcomed a Kenyan native to speak to local schoolchildren about Kenyan culture.

Since then, Ashiya Kiwanians have continued teaching the children about Africa.

“We try not to teach them, but to let them be aware of differences or similarities among them and African children,” explains Kiwanian Reiko Tado.

The club uses music, food, pen pal correspondence, games and art to further enlighten the children.

—Wendy Gould
CLICK IT
Watch it!

Downloading, viewing and even embedding video into your own website isn’t hard. Get an overview at www.KiwanisOne.org/videos.

Some videos available to download or view on YouTube are: “From Past to Present,” “President’s Messages,” “One Can Make a Difference” and “The Eliminate Project.”

Plus, when you subscribe to Kiwanis’ official YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/kiwanisinternational, you’ll be notified anytime a new video is posted.

DIGGING FOR DATA
Traffic report

How well is your club’s website working for you? You can find out by using Google Analytics.

By using its data, you can determine how and when visitors are finding your site, how long they’re staying and what content is most popular.

Kiwanis’ Google Analytics how-to guide helps clubs set up a free Google Analytics account, install the application code on your website (a two-click task if you subscribe to the KiwanisOne Club Management System) and use the data collected to engage users more effectively.

Download instructions at www.KiwanisOne.org/clubsitestats and get started today!

TOOLBOX
Website webinar

Calling all Kiwanis webmasters!
Register for the June 14 webinar and continue to learn website best practices. Part one for beginners was hosted in 2010 and can be heard from the webinar archives for a limited time. Part two will air live on June 14 at 8 p.m. EST. Read the full description, register for the June event or watch the 2010 session at www.KiwanisOne.org/webinars.

SNEAK PEEK
Role model

Kiwanis clubs and districts now have an example to follow for their own website. An example of an ideal club website, illustrating good navigation and appropriate content and images, is available online at www.KiwanisOne.org/idealsite. This model makes creating a site faster and easier and serves as an ongoing site management tool for busy webmasters by illustrating proper website format and content. The content will be updated often just like a real website should be.

Feel free to copy—and personalize—the content for your own site. Pick and choose sections your club would like to promote online. That’s what it’s for!
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To find ring size, match a circle with the inside of a ring (a band works best for measuring).
Kiwanis members are doing big service—and not only in their hometowns. The following stories tell of Kiwanis members who were inspired to go above and beyond their back yards—reaching out to children in corners of the world most of us will never even see.

Read their stories and be inspired. Then flip to page 48 and learn how you can use this inspiration to do good of your own.

Leap of Faith

For Kiwanians Danny and Pam Spitler, it was a gut-reaction donation to bring clean water to children in Cambodia that led to the creation of a new school

By Richard D. Walton • Photos by Erica Simone

IN a tiny Cambodian village of dirt roads and ramshackle dwellings sits a brick-and-mortar school founded by an Arizona couple and run by a survivor of the Khmer Rouge.

It is there because Kiwanians Danny and Pam Spitler—visiting Cambodia to take in historic sights—took a leap of faith.

Touring the countryside in 2005, they were informed by their guide that unclean water was making children sick. For US$300, Chea Sarin said he could have a well drilled for the small village.

The Spitlers wanted to help, but had reservations. Would the guide make good on his promise? They gave him the money. “We either did a good thing,” Danny told his wife on the plane heading home, “or we gave this guy a really big tip.”

Three weeks later, the Spitlers opened an email from Sarin and found photos of the finished well. Beside it was a sign that read, “Donated by Daniel & Pam. Arizona USA.” So began a partnership that improved the lives of young and old and produced the only school in impoverished Ang Chagn Chass.

Children (left) work on their studies at the Spitler School in Cambodia, founded by Arizona couple Danny and Pam Spitler (right). The Spitlers fell in love with Cambodia during a trip in 2005. They donated money for a well, which led to larger projects.
The Spitler School opened that July in a two-room thatch hut for first- and second-graders. Today, five brick buildings and nine classrooms serve more than 500 students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

For the Spitlers, it has been a humbling experience. “We thought we were just doing a little thing,” Pam says. “And here it turned into this big thing.”

To Windy Mortensen, past president of the Kiwanis Club of Phoenix, the school is the natural outgrowth of the Spitler’s giving spirit. Both active club members, “you’d never know day-to-day all the things they’re involved in,” she says.

Still, the Spitlers could not have imagined when they donated US$900 to build the original school, the scope of the need that would confront them.

Ang Chagn Chass has no electricity and no water or sewage system. The people live in wood homes with straw roofs built on stilts to protect from frequent flooding. Because there’s no industry, some villagers labor in meager rice fields nearby. Others travel to the city of Siem Reap to work construction jobs for US$2 per day. Health conditions are deplorable. Malaria and dengue fever pose constant threats.

**Hope restored**

Sarin was born in Ang Chagn Chass in 1974, a year before the Khmer Rouge took power. When he was two, his father was killed by the regime. Sarin has made it his life’s work to rebuild a Cambodian educational system decimated by a purge of the country’s educated citizens that left behind widespread poverty and illiteracy.

In an e-mail, Sarin wrote that the Spitler School has inspired the people to believe again.

“It has transformed the hopes and dreams of the entire village,” he says.

Danny Spitler, who owns Oak-Craft Inc., a cabinet manufacturing business in Peoria, Arizona, expected 50 to 60 kids to sign up for the school’s first registration. More than 90 showed. Two weeks later, there were 120. The school couldn’t hold that many students, so the thatch hut was replaced with brick buildings. A library was constructed. A new grade was added each year.

For a boy named Phalla, school has made all the difference. If not for education, the sixth-grader might well have become just another casualty of village life.

Ashley McDonald, a volunteer who taught Phalla, recalls his ever-present smile and eagerness to learn.
From his front row desk, Phalla was quick to ask and answer questions. He studied hard for his weekly English test, competing against his best friend for the best score.

McDonald worked with Phalla to hone his English. She encouraged his love of drawing and accompanied him on outings. “I used to take him and his friends for ice cream, and he’d ask for a balloon to take home to his little sister,” she says.

Where the volunteer left off, a benefactor took over. A Spitler School donor pledged to pay Phalla’s school costs through to a university degree.

Acts of generosity have been many since the school’s founding. What started with donations from the Spitler family evolved into a donor base of more than 100 people.

In 2006, the Spitler School Foundation was created. In addition to supporting the school, it has supplied rice to villagers during shortages, distributed mosquito nets to prevent disease outbreaks and rebuilt a main road that was all but impassable during the rainy season. More recently, the foundation accepted a government request to take over administration of a faltering school three miles outside Ang Chagn Chass.

_The look of confidence_

Meanwhile, the Spitler School has become a destination point for travelers. Visitors come away amazed by the students’ behavior, the Spitlers report. Neatly clad in their blue-and-white uniforms, they are respectful, focused. The teacher talks; they listen.

But it is seriousness of purpose and not fear of discipline that motivates the children. Gone are the wary looks seen in the earliest school photos. These have been replaced by relaxed, confident expressions. Says Danny Spitler: “They just seem to have more of a spirit of optimism about them.”

Danny and Pam have been back to Ang Chagn Chass twice since the school’s founding. They were hailed as heroes. Villagers lined the streets to applaud the couple as they passed.

The reception was gratifying, and humbling, Danny Spitler says. Adds Pam: “The parents and the children they just honor us like we’re so special, and we don’t feel that way about ourselves. We feel so lucky that we found this village that we could do something for.”

It’s precisely this attitude that makes the Spitlers special, says Mortensen, who is now serving as Division 12 lieutenant governor of Kiwanis’ Southwest District. In contrast to people who always find excuses, Mortensen says, Danny and Pam find possibilities.

For years, Pam worked as a hospital volunteer. Now she devotes time to a Phoenix school’s reading program. Dan’s charitable work include “Kid’s Day at the Fair,” an annual event sponsored by the Phoenix Kiwanis Club. The fair opens early to allow children with severe disabilities to experience the animals and rides.

For Pam and Danny, the chance to help the children of Ang Chagn Chass is their “Kiwanis moment”—the point when members can see clearly the positive difference they’re making in others’ lives.

The Spitlers didn’t have a grand plan. They just seized opportunities. “Anyone can make a difference,” Pam Spitler says. KG

_The Spitler School opened in a two-room thatched hut for first- and second-graders. It now serves more than 500 students in kindergarten through sixth grade._

JUNE 2011 Kiwanis 19
A Dutch Kiwanian takes to the fields of Afghanistan to bring hope for the future of hundreds of families

Story by Kasey Jackson • Photos by Niels Bohnen
In a land where poppy fields flourish and the atmosphere is as harsh and unforgiving as the Taliban who rule parts of it, conditions are miserable at best, and they have been for decades. War, natural disasters, poverty, hunger and a lack of basic necessities rule the day.

According to the United Nations, more than 90 percent of the world’s poppy, which makes opium that can then be turned into heroin, is found there. The soil is ripe for poppy production. Farmers can bring in a lot of cash quickly with a harvest—and Taliban forces supporting and sometimes acting as drug traffickers collect tens, if not hundreds of millions in US dollars in taxes on the crop, according to several sources.

This is Afghanistan, and this is where Kiwanian Lou Cuypers focuses his attention to helping farmers take back their land.

Into the fields

Cuypers, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Midden Limburg Roermond in the Netherlands, travels to Afghanistan for about nine months a year to work with the company he founded, Blue Green World, to support and train farmers and communities on the use of new farming technologies and techniques. He has his work cut out for him.

Cuypers and his team are teaching farmers in Afghanistan about alternatives that will move them away from poppy cultivation and toward other crops that will be highly profitable and safer. Farmers there have a good, basic knowledge of agriculture, he explains, but they often have little land. Only about 20 percent of the land in Afghanistan is suitable for farming because of high temperatures and little rainfall.

“Besides these natural conditions, the scarcity of seeds and plants plays a big role,” Cuypers says. “Furthermore, there’s usually no money for fertilizer and pesticides are not available at all. All this means it is very difficult to grow a crop.”

And when farmers find it difficult to grow a crop, they tend to fall back to the predictable, convenient, reliable standby—poppy—even though opium poppy cultivation is illegal under Afghan law.

“Farmers receive an advance from the Taliban in order to buy seed and...
fertilizer and when the product is harvested, they get paid the remainder,” he says. “Most of the time this is the only way to cultivate anything and the only way to stay alive.”

Not every plant can compete with the profits farmers make on poppy, Cuypers explains. So finding alternatives isn’t easy. But not impossible.

Cuypers is bringing change to the farmers of the Uruzgan province of Afghanistan by way of saffron, seeds, fruit trees, vegetables and even chickens. Now, many of them have what they never had before: a choice.

Seeds of success

John Salam is a farmer in Tarin Kowt in the Uruzgan province of Afghanistan. He has lived here his entire life. He’s 51 years old and has a family—including nine children. When staff members from Blue Green World were looking for a small field to use for practical training, Salam offered his bit of land. His decision forged a relationship with Cuypers that eventually led to a working relationship and then to a new job. Salam now manages distribution and equipment fulfillment for an aid organization. His oldest sons now run the family farm, producing saffron and turning a good profit.

“For farmers here, saffron production is a great outcome,” says Salam. “It grows in wintertime, and that’s when there is more water available for the crop. Besides our own food that we grow, we need one or more crops that provide enough cash. It is good to have an alternative to poppy profits that generate sufficient money to pay for everything.”

According to Cuypers, saffron actually generates more profit per acre than any other crop—including poppy.

Salam says the goal now is to “produce enough saffron to create our own brand on the market through our own saffron cooperative. Within this corporation, we want to package and sell the saffron ourselves. Whether this will succeed as fast as we would like is still unclear, but it is our dream. And Blue Green World will help us to do so.”

But Cuypers already has helped Salam and so many other farming families take those first steps to the future by helping them step away from the country’s top crop.

“Some people say we have to keep the poppies and the Taliban to retain the interest of the international community, but my opinion is that this is shortsightedness,” Salam says. “Indeed, both the Taliban and the poppy crop have so many negative aspects in it that you had better immediately get rid of it. Unfortunately, not everyone is in the situation to decide so. If your family has no income, no choice, then you might have to get money through poppy cultivation. The Taliban and poppy means no future and no progress in my eyes. We are waiting for this for a very, very long time now!”

Salam and his family, along with many other farmers, praise the help they’ve gotten from Cuypers and his company. But many of them probably don’t realize this Kiwanian from the Netherlands is touching the lives of so many more Afghan families. And he has a lot of help from his team of friends back home.

Education through farming

The Kiwanis Club of Midden Limburg Roermond is supporting Cuypers and his mission to bring change to Afghanistan. Club members help sell the saffron that’s grown in Afghanistan at markets in the Netherlands. The money they bring in then goes directly back to Afghanistan, to a tiny village called Robert Sanghi.

The Kiwanis club has established a relationship with this village, where efforts are focused on going beyond farming techniques and into education of another kind—primary schools for boys and girls.

“Kiwanis Midden Limburg has made an important contribution to
the construction of a new school for the children of Robert Sanghi,” Cuypers says. “Initially there was only one school for 400 children, consisting of a mud building. Now there’s a wonderful school.”

But a building does not a school make. So a wall was built next to the school, allowing girls ages 10-12 the freedom to move around freely, out of sight of male students and villagers. Toilets and sports facilities were built. School supplies—books, notebooks, pens, pencils—were purchased.

“We feel that in this unstable part of the world, it’s important to invest in education, especially for children,” says Midden Limburg Kiwanis member Cees Grisnigt, who serves as chairman of the club’s Afghanistan committee. “They are, in fact, the future of Afghanistan.”

To help those children, the Kiwanians sell the saffron as part of the fundraiser for the school. But each sale came with a practical bonus.

“We sell small containers of saffron along with recipes for preparing food with saffron,” Grisnigt says.

Because Cuypers and his team regularly visit Afghanistan and the Robert Sanghi village, it’s easy to closely and accurately monitor the expenditure and the progress of all projects.

“We still continue with projects in the area because there are a lot of possibilities, and people welcome us with open arms,” Cuypers says. “Money is currently the biggest limiting factor for us. Because there’s much, much more that can be done.”

Trees and saplings are another form of income for farmers in Afghanistan. Kiwanian Lou Cuypers works with the farmers to find alternatives to poppy, which can be made into heroin.
Why do you focus so heavily on helping farmers?
People are no longer in a position where they can break out of the situation themselves. They lack everything: food, medication, education, building materials, fuel, etc. They can’t start anything because there simply is nothing available. So it is very important that development primarily begins with agriculture. This provides people with food. With a full stomach, things can be up and running again, no matter how difficult the future may look. All other aspects such as education and health care will then also immediately improve. You can then go to school with a full stomach, and more vitamins and minerals, which simply means better health.

Also, Afghanistan is a country where there is a very small proportion of suitable farmland. It has only about 20 percent suitable farmland of the total area of Afghanistan. This results in a lack of farmland for the farmers. The natural conditions under which a farmer must grow in the predominant part of Afghanistan is very difficult.

Why saffron, fruits and vegetables?
It is important that these products (saffron, fruits, vegetables and even chickens) can be sold on the local market, but even better, on the national or international markets. For perishable products such as fruits and vegetables, it is almost impossible because the facilities do not yet exist. There are no cold storages, refrigerated trucks, good packaging, etc., available. So even on that side, production is limited because there are no facilities. That’s why it becomes of great importance to keep in mind all these constraints when choosing products.

Of course, saffron is a crop not directly used for consumption, but it brings a relatively high profit for the people. This gives them the possibility to fulfill their biggest needs, like purchasing fuel for the generator or to pay for a doctor or medicine. We also are working on projects such as pest control in the almond crop, irrigation projects, small pilot projects for alternative crops, solar energy, etc. But the core idea is to use common sense and continue to develop “quick-impact projects” that lead to a good result.

You’ve mentioned projects focused on farming and the school. What other projects are you working on?
We also set up projects to assist women. In particular, we try to organize easy projects for widows. We are setting up a chicken project, and there is a small chicken hatchery in preparation. The little chickens that are hatched go to the widows who then raise them into hens for eggs they can sell on the long term, which eventually gives them a small income. Such projects with women make you not very popular in a pure male society like Afghanistan. We unfortunately have had many threats because of this, but it is these specific groups of women who are so fragile that something needs to be done. That’s why we take the extra risks.

How exactly are families being helped?
About 3,500 fruit trees from the Netherlands will be handed over to the village. Besides the fact that every family receives a number of fruit trees for their own gardens, a central orchard will also be constructed and should start running commercially and provide the village with income for the future.

Also, we recently distributed 15,000 packages of hybrid vegetable seeds, fertilizer and growing instructions to 15,000 families in the province of Uruzgan. With these packages, families can start to eventually stand up for themselves and to avoid a lot of misery. Such a project is relatively inexpensive and often prevents starvation. With an amount of US$20 per family, families of 10 people can often grow vegetables for about six to eight months.

There is unrest in Afghanistan. Is it dangerous work?
We work mainly in southern Afghanistan. That is the most dangerous area in general. It’s unavoidable that we have to face dangerous situations on a regular basis. We just want to do our work and achieve results and leave the threatening experiences behind us as quickly as possible. Some Taliban members have put a price on our heads. We often receive threats, but that doesn’t stop us from doing our job.

At the moment, roadside bombs are our biggest danger. These are placed alongside the roads, dozens at once on a daily basis, by the Taliban, and therefore cause the most deaths and injuries.
How do you manage being away from family so long?

On average, we stay between six and eight weeks in Afghanistan before we return to our families. This is obviously tough for those back home. For our wives and children, these are difficult years. They do not know what is going on at the other side of the world and what we are working on at that moment or what dangers we must overcome. But for ourselves it is easy to deal with as we continue to see results and most programs are very successful. Holidays are of course the times we look forward to. But Afghanistan and its people are worth working for. We feel privileged to do this work.

Our work in Afghanistan has greatly affected our personal lives, though. After considering all the difficulties we have for our programs to be achieved and to stay alive, we no longer really understand two people in the Netherlands fighting over a parking space at the supermarket.

Kiwanis plays a big role in your success in Afghanistan. How do you keep members of your club involved and interested when they are so far away and probably will never see the results firsthand?

When I am home—only a total of a couple months a year—then I visit the Kiwanis meetings as much as possible. But I have regular contact with Kiwanis members on the Internet when I am away. When I am home a little bit longer during my real holidays, then I like to go to the meetings so I can tell everyone about the progress we made in the different programs. KM

Lou Cuypers, above right, talks to a group of Afghan farmers and friends about the saffron crop and farming season. Cuypers, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Midden Limburg Roermond in the Netherlands, works with farmers in Afghanistan for several months of the year to train them on new technologies and techniques.
Without shoes, children living in the arid, rural land of northeastern Tanzania suffer cuts and other injuries from rocks and thorny bushes, or they contract worms. The injuries and illnesses can have long-lasting impacts, including keeping children from attending school.

Kiwanian Rich Rosenberg learned how important shoes are while he was on a safari trip in Africa in 2008 and took a side trip to visit a school. “I noticed a lot of the children were barefoot,” Rosenberg recalls, “and I asked the headmaster if it was because of choice or economics.”

When he learned families couldn’t afford footwear, he decided he needed to step in to help the children who live some 9,000 miles away from his home in Elmhurst, Illinois.

Seeing first-hand the disparity between the material wealth of his own country and those children walking barefoot to school was all that was required to motivate Rosenberg to found the nonprofit organization Soles for Africa, which distributes shoes to schools in Africa.

“In America, we have shoes that we throw away,” he says. “We throw them away because our kids have outgrown them or because they’re out of style, but they’re still in good condition.”

Rosenberg knew he could find an ample supply of shoes, but he need-
ed volunteers to collect them. That’s where his hometown York Community High School Key Club fits in. The teens agreed to gather new or gently-worn summer shoes, including sandals, flats and gym shoes. Club advisor and teacher Brianne Kennedy-Brooks says members have embraced the cause.

“Soles for Africa was one of those projects where the kids took it on and it really just exploded,” Kennedy-Brooks says. “They truly went above and beyond to get the community involved in the drive. Initially we assumed the bins would only be placed in the high school, but they took the initiative to get them out to the elementary and middle schools as well.”

Kids helping kids

Rosenberg likes the idea that Soles for Africa has created a link between American teens and their African counterparts.

“It’s kids helping other kids,” Rosenberg says.

So far, the nonprofit—with the Key Club’s help—has distributed more than 3,000 pairs of shoes.

Rosenberg’s greatest challenge wasn’t finding a supply, but the high tariffs that made it very costly to ship the shoes to such countries as Botswana and Namibia. To overcome this obstacle, he connected via a local church with Kellie O’Brien, a woman from Hinsdale, Illinois, who in 2006 founded the O’Brien School for the Maasai, located near the small village of Sanya Station in Tanzania.

O’Brien agreed that shoes are needed in and around the village, where land is heavily grazed by cows and goats and, as a consequence, is dusty and covered with thorny bushes.

The shoes are shipped, along with other items such as desks and school supplies, in cargo containers that are being sent to the school.

Headmaster Joseph Mjingo of the O’Brien school says the shoes are much appreciated.

“In a dusty and hot environment like Sanya Station, students toes are attacked by worms that are found in the dust,” Mjingo says. “They definitely need shoes to cover their feet.”

His students walk two miles to school, and the harsh environment means shoes wear out quickly.

“The students do everything possible to continue wearing their shoes,” he says. “When their feet grow, many just cut away the toe (of the shoe).”

But the need isn’t too great for members of the York High School Key Club. They are up to the challenge, inspired by Rosenberg’s passion for helping others.

“He makes big ideas seem simple and doable,” Kennedy-Brooks says.

When he first met with Key Club members, he gave each a small stuffed toy animal.

“He told us about how nice it feels to get a gift just because you weren’t expecting it,” Kennedy-Brooks says. “By then, the kids were drawn in.”

Founding Soles for Africa is not Rosenberg’s first foray into nonprofit work. He and his wife, Barbara, started an organization, Special Kids Day, which organizes holiday and birthday parties for children with special needs.

“It was already in our hearts to help children,” Rosenberg says. “This was just another opportunity to fill the needs of a child.”

A group of happy girls holds up their new shoes, sent to them from Key Club students in the United States. Soles for Africa founder Rich Rosenberg likes that the project is “kids helping other kids.”
Life

On Kiwanis One Day 2011, a resurgent CKI club resurrects an unfulfilled Key Club dream to restore a decaying chapel

Story and photos by Jack Brockley

When a late afternoon breeze goes knocking door-to-door at the All Saint’s Camp, residents emerge from their cabins into the waning Bahamas sunlight and, in quiet procession, walk, amble and wheel their way toward the junction of the T-shaped compound.

There’s a chapel there, but it’s in no shape to welcome anyone. Much of the wood around the foundation crumbles with dry rot. Slats have splintered off the front door and have been tossed into an adjoining dump, where weeds hide rusty bike parts, crushed food cans, a crumpled wheelchair, an old water heater and other debris. The crackling, foot-long leaves of a rubber tree pile up in knee-high drifts along the building’s siding. Fig leaves choke a dried-up pond.

An eyesore, the chapel’s no longer the communal, spiritual hub the residents need.

Cast off from society because of their common illness—HIV/AIDS—the men and women of All Saint’s look forward to the cooling hours before nightfall. It’s their chance for a little human contact. But rather than sit among the rubble at the chapel, they huddle at a phone booth on the opposite corner of the intersection.

“Twice every day—in the morning and the afternoon—we get together,” says resident Vincent Wallace. “We talk. We pray. We read Psalms. We study the Bible.

“We’ve been praying that the Lord would send someone to fix up that old chapel to His standards.”

This past April, Kiwanis One Day volunteers showed up at All Saint’s Camp. They were sent there to begin fixing up the chapel and to finish fixing up one their own: the College of the Bahamas (COB) CKI Club.

All Saint’s Camp residents had been hoping someone would fix up their chapel. On Kiwanis One Day this past April, the College of the Bahamas CKI Club organized a Kiwanis-family project to answer those prayers.
Origins of a revival

About two years ago, Kiwanis sponsors were worried about their nation’s only CKI club. Down to four members, the club’s charter was in jeopardy, so Service Leadership Programs Administrator Melford Clarke urged remaining members to rebuild.

Led by freshman president and past Key Club Bahamas District Governor Tarran Simms, the Circle K members steadily added to their number, with the goal of celebrating their success by organizing an ambitious service project. Simms knew just the right project. It was bold enough to officially announce COB CKI’s comeback.

“A friend from my Key Club years, Blair Cambridge, had wanted to fix up All Saint’s chapel,” says Simms, who just concluded his two-term CKI club presidency. “But she moved, and the project didn’t happen.”

The chapel continued in its decline—another casualty at a facility that’s been too often forgotten.

All Saint’s Camp once was a leper colony, placed at the dead end of Lazaretto Road in the bush of south-central New Providence Island.

“They put people with leprosy out there in the middle of nowhere, so they’d be away from everybody … out of sight, out of mind,” says CKI Vice President Lachelle McPhee. “There aren’t lepers anymore, so now it’s used as residences for people with HIV/AIDS. Today’s outcasts.”

Camp Coordinator Dianne Thompson says AIDS remains a widely misunderstood disease. “People will bring us their family members,” Thompson says, “because they’re afraid to sit on the same toilet or take a drink out of the same cup.

“Sometimes, it’s the last time we’ll see their families.”

So it’s important to have a gathering spot where new family connections are formed.

One family to another

Guiding a tour of the All Saint’s campus this past April, Thompson points out its many needs. “These homes were built 20 to 30 years ago, and they’re all wood, which doesn’t last too long in our humidity,” she says, nodding toward the blackened streaks on a home’s tilted window shutters.

The Kiwanis family regularly visits the camp to fix up houses or repair the playground for the facility’s 18 children. The chapel’s overhaul, however, has remained an unmet challenge.

In 2010, the CKI club, grown to 20 members, chose the chapel as its signature, comeback project.

“We knew we couldn’t do it all
ourselves,” Simms says. “We visited other clubs and asked for help. We met with other clubs on campus. We found a carpenter to do the skilled labor jobs at a reduced rate. We had fundraisers and asked for donations.”

It was all scheduled to come together on the weekend of April 1-3. Kiwanis One Day. Final exam time.

“This is a critical time for students,” Simms says, as he drives into the camp on a Friday afternoon. “Everyone’s studying and putting together final projects. It’s a pretty tense time.

“I just hope they show up, even if it’s for an hour or two.”

One Day in two days

They show up. The first shift of Key Club members arrive directly from class, still wearing school uniforms and sandals to clear the dump. Initially, fingertips pinch debris and hold it at arm’s length. But there’s a lot of work to do, and they’re soon using arms, legs and backs to wrestle the junk from the intertwining weeds.

They work well beyond their scheduled quitting time.

Saturday’s no different. Shift after shift of Kiwanis-family members arrive. They rake leaves. They paint fences. The whine of the carpenter’s saw mixes with the chunk, chunk, chunk of a shovel, which punctuates an ongoing banter.

“Man, that sun’s hot.”

“What other kind of sun do you know?”


“We’ll need more rock.”

“There’s a place just down the road that sells it.”

“We’ll need at least 10 more bags.”

Billfolds and purses open, and money’s collected for the rock run.

“While you’re down there, buy some more drinks.”

“Ahhh, you feel that breeze?”

As the day’s end nears, residents walk, amble and wheel into the junction. There’s a lot to talk about today. The pool’s been painted. There are flowers around the chapel. People are still working hard.

“We aren’t finished yet,” Simms says as Kiwanis One Day comes to an end. “We’re coming back to finish painting the chapel, seal the pond and install a pump with a fountain—something the residents can watch and enjoy.”

The camp’s list of needs remains long, but Kiwanis One Day has made a significant difference at All Saint’s Camp. And it’s made a big difference in the Kiwanis family.

The College of the Bahamas CKI Club is back. KM

Almost 200 Kiwanis-family members from all over Division 11 in California joined hands to make a difference for Kiwanis One Day on April 2, 2011.

Leading the project was the Kiwanis Club of Imperial Beach-South Bay, whose members were joined by members of K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, Circle K and many other community organizations who wanted to help clean, paint and renovate Rohr Park in Chula Vista, California.

Rohr Park is enjoyed by thousands of families each month, and the grounds had seen a lot of wear and tear. But by the end of Kiwanis One Day, garbage was cleaned, benches were replaced, paint was applied and many friends were made.

You can see for yourself the amazing work accomplished that day by watching the Kiwanis Club of Imperial Beach-South Bay and friends in action. The club was chosen for the 2011 Kiwanis One Day video contest.

The video will be available for download by the end of June at www.KiwanisOne.org/getvideos.
You can’t miss Edna Greo’s house on the 5800 block of Seventh Street East in Bradenton, Florida’s Pride Park.

It’s a light green three-bedroom, two-bath ranch with a wooden fence, front deck, a hedge and shell driveway. All of it is new—and a testament to the can-do spirit of Manatee High School’s Key Club.

Taking a cue from the US television show “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition,” the teenagers wanted to see if they could make the same idea work in their own community. They called it Extreme Home Keyover.

“It’s amazing to see how that house came out,” MHS senior Blake Wilson says.

“I’d love it if somebody did this for me,” says Matt Walden, a sophomore.

It was a considerable undertaking, even for the 140-member club. The home had been in poor, poor shape.
“I always wanted to fix the place up, but I never had the money,” says Greo, a single mother who works in an assisted-living facility.

How did Extreme Home Keyover come about?

“Each year we project and plan what we want to take on and the discussion led to this idea,” says Faculty Advisor Charlie Mills. “I’ve been with these kids long enough to know what they’re capable of, so I was confident.”

When it came time to plan the Keyover mission, Mills contacted Jerry Parrish, the YMCA’s at-risk youth director, to find a suitable candidate. Parrish suggested the Greo household.

Before the Key Clubbers swung the first hammer, though, they had to figure out how to pay for it all. All US$65,000 of the projected budget.

John Vita, the Kiwanis advisor to the Key Club, was skeptical about the project’s feasibility.

“Being aware of the economic conditions here, I felt it was going to be hard to go to people for donations, especially in the construction industry,” Vita says. “But the kids kept saying, ‘We can do this. We can do this.’

“I was amazed how people continued to give and give and give. Nobody turned us down.”

The demolition began on December 4, and the first industrial-sized trash bin soon was overflowing. “We had to gut the whole house,” says Mills.

The Key Club had less than one month to turn the house around.

“We wanted the family to start off the new year with a new life,” says project manager Mary Elizabeth Woodward.

Key Club members worked after school and on weekends the first two weeks. The framers, plumbers and electricians and other contractors did their thing on a more daily basis.

“We ran into some delays with permits, getting the engineering done,” Vita says. “Then the week before and after Christmas we went from dawn to dusk. Sometimes it was eight or nine at night before we got done grouting, tiling, things like that.”

It was a hands-on education for the Key Clubbers in more ways than one.

“We all learned basic things with tools,” Woodward says. “All the guys learned how to do tile. Everyone benefitted in the long run. We also learned how to appreciate what we have.”

Greo came to appreciate what she and her loved ones were about to get.

“My first idea was they’re not going to do all this in a month,” she says. “But every week I would go look and I’d go, wooo— because I’d see the progress.”

Right up to the very last day.

“We didn’t have carpet down. There was no furniture in the house. There was plumbing to finish, countertops to install,” Vita marvels.

“We had three hours before they moved back in, and we were still painting, still laying tile,” Woodward adds. “Yet they got it done. They gave the house keys to Greo at 5 p.m. December 31, 2010.

“It’s wonderful what they did,” Greo says. “They took time out of their lives—all the workers, everybody—and did a fantastic job. Everybody’s happy.”

Vin Mannix is a Bradenton Herald columnist.
Seventeen years after the launch of the worldwide service project to virtually eliminate iodine deficiency disorders (IDD), communities near and far still see the impact of Kiwanis’ first venture into global service.

The original pledge to fight IDD was an ambitious US$75 million. Along with their committed Kiwanis-family colleagues—Key Club, Builders Club, Circle K, K-Kids and Aktion Club—Kiwanians have, to date, raised more than US$100 million for their expansive IDD initiative.

“Kiwanis not only helped start up iodization programs in many countries around the world, but its support of education and communication in these countries about the importance of eliminating IDD has helped ensure sustainability of these programs,” says Lucie Bohac, coordinator of the Iodine Network (www.iodinenetwork.net), an alliance of organizations Kiwanis helped found to assist countries in sustaining the elimination of IDD.

“In some ways Kiwanians are the stewards of a major public health initiative. The multiplier effect of the benefits in providing iodine nutrition is impossible to reduce to numbers. It is clear Kiwanis provided a foundation of support that has moved the goalposts for the development of children worldwide.”

Kiwanis’ involvement in the global campaign to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders goes beyond iodizing salt. Merchants learn to promote the healthful benefits of iodized salt, and manufacturers learn how proper packaging preserves their enriched products.
As the leading cause of preventable mental disabilities in children worldwide, IDD was seen by Kiwanians in 1994 as a solvable medical challenge that had been allowed to threaten lives for far too long. So at the 79th Annual Kiwanis International Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, the membership approved the global program as an extension of its ongoing Young Children: Priority One campaign.

And they never looked back.

“We looked at a lot of causes to support,” says Robert Moore, 2003-04 Kiwanis International President who’s now a member of the board of directors for the Micronutrient Initiative (www.micronutrient.org). “Yet the prospect of virtually eliminating a known health problem within a given time frame for a known cost was appealing to us as an organization. It took us from a local perspective into something bigger, something global.

“Today our IDD program is considered the most successful public-private initiative in combating a major health problem. We have a lot to be proud of.”

Stan Soderstrom, executive director of Kiwanis International and Kiwanis International Foundation, concurs: “Our greatest impact is that we have raised the intelligence quotient by as much as an estimated 13 points in nations where we brought salt iodization. This IDD effort is a great source of pride for Kiwanis. And it should be. We are lifesavers for millions of children.”

Kiwanis continues to push and take on other pressing challenges. With its new campaign for children, The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus, the goal is to reach millions of mothers of childbearing age in 38 countries. Like with IDD, Kiwanis is calling on its worldwide family of clubs to work together against a solvable disease that has threatened children for far too long. Kiwanis has vowed to raise US$110 million to fight this often-fatal disease. Hand in hand with its IDD project partner, UNICEF, Kiwanis will eliminate MNT and change the world—once again. KM

Kiwanis and its IDD program have protected children in more than 100 nations, including Afghanistan (below).
He wanted to deepen his service to young people. And he knew it was a great way to connect directly. But Paul Meyer didn’t know just how rewarding a Key Leader weekend would be—for students and for him. “You could see the change in the kids as the weekend went on,” he says. “It was amazing.”

Discover how you can serve and connect. Find dates, locations, registration information and more at www.key-leader.org. And read more about Paul’s volunteer experience at www.key-leader.org/stories.

“The blooming of youth just astounds you.”

—Key Leader volunteer Paul Meyer
Most high school students expect to break a sweat in physical education class. But for students living with physical disabilities, many traditional fitness activities can be challenging.

The students in Garden City High School’s Adapted PE classes, however, can often be found doing yoga poses, hula hooping or working their way through an obstacle course, thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Garden City, New York.

The club recently donated a Wii Fit system, which gives students a virtual workout that includes balance, fitness, endurance and stretching.

“Most of the exercises are fun, and all of them increase your heart rate or muscle tone while helping develop core muscle groups that aid balance and posture,” says Ray Chaputian, a Garden City High School physical education and health teacher. “Students with physical disabilities are able to meet challenges that the Wii provides in order to strengthen their bodies for daily challenges.”

Special education students often have unique needs that can’t be anticipated in curriculum or school budgets, says James Burdi, Garden City Kiwanis Club’s past president.

“Sometimes it is easier for a service organization like Kiwanis to fill a gap.” —Kimiko Martinez
When you’re a kid with a toothache, it’s hard to focus on schoolwork. It’s hard to share and play nicely. It’s hard to do much of anything but think about the pain. And when you’re a kid with a toothache and your family has little income and no dental insurance, odds are things aren’t going to get better.

Unless, that is, you live in Payson, Arizona.

That’s where the Kiwanis Young Professionals, a satellite of the Zane Grey Country, Payson, Arizona, Kiwanis Club, set up a program to provide dental care free of charge to underprivileged kids.

Headed by Young Professionals member Kristin Wade, DMD, the club works in partnership with the school district, which taps kids in need and provides transportation to dental appointments.

It works like this: The school refers students who are low-income, without insurance and experiencing tooth pain to Wade. She schedules an initial appointment to assess the situation, take X-rays and, often, provide a cleaning. She either keeps the patient herself or assigns him or her to one of nine dentists she recruited to work with the program pro bono. Patients see their assigned dentists until their dental issues are resolved—just as paying patients do.

Less than one year since its inception, the program dentists have seen 18 patients and provided more than US$57,000 in dental services.

“There’s been such a tremendous response from dental providers,” Wade says. “You just never know what people will do when they’re asked to help like this—and for no pay. (The students) are getting free care—but definitely not substandard.” —Amy Wiser

Kiwanians help buy supplies, which the dentists need to fix students’ aching teeth. The program’s a three-way partnership involving Kiwanis, dentists and the school.
Building libraries

Cancer couldn’t stop Shirley Daniels from her passion: helping disadvantaged children in Central America

As a child, Shirley Daniels dreamed of starting her own orphanage. Instead, her love of literature led to a career as an English teacher. But after she retired, Daniels encountered an opportunity to merge her childhood passion with her chosen profession.

It was at a Kiwanis meeting in Newport News, Virginia, where Daniels learned about a library outreach program run by Orphan Helpers. The organization needed a library coordinator to travel to Central America to build libraries in orphanages.

“I literally ran to volunteer,” Daniels laughs. “I was afraid someone else would get it before I did.”

She won the role and began traveling to Honduras and El Salvador biannually to build libraries in orphanages and detention centers.

In 2009, Daniels was diagnosed with cancer. Undaunted, she returned to library-building shortly after finishing chemotherapy.

“We just finished library number seven,” she says proudly. “It’s just so much fun. I love children, I love travel and I love books. This is perfect.” —Matt Gonzales
Service beyond boundaries

When you look at the scope of global challenges today, it might feel like working toward a world in which all children, families and communities have the promise of healthy futures is just not possible. In my own efforts from Ecuador to Haiti, I’ve seen the myriad of challenges firsthand. And at times, even the most optimistic of us wonder if our collective attempts to expand access to health care are working.

But it doesn’t take more than a beautiful smile of child, a sincere thank you of a relieved mother or a firm embrace from a satisfied patient to make me realize that facing those challenges with determination, grace and hope is not just worth it; it’s the only choice we have. Our ability to serve others as fellow humans is perhaps the simplest and the most profound expression of what it means to truly be human and what it means to truly be a healer.

Since 1997, I have had the privilege of confronting global health care challenges through the work of the Timmy Foundation. I started Timmy with a simple question: Could a small group of dedicated students, medical professionals and volunteers have a meaningful impact on the lives of those who live in underserved communities around the world? Could they turn their idealism and good intentions into tangible improvements in the lives of others?

Fifteen years later, we needn’t look much further than Timmy’s incredible volunteers to know the answer. What started as a backyard dream has grown into a network of supporters that treats thousands of patients each year in Timmy’s medical clinics, builds the capacity of five international partner organizations in four countries and helps ensure that millions of dollars worth of medicines and medical supplies get to people who need them—both at home and abroad. Just as Kiwanians worldwide are uniting to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus through The Eliminate Project, Timmy has committed itself to empowering the next generation of medical professionals to tackle global health challenges head on—and it’s working.

In a world in which we too often dwell on what divides us, Timmy and Kiwanis’ volunteers epitomize what it means to be global citizens. These 21st century humanitarians know that the most important challenges of our time are not confined by boundaries. They are universal issues that need a global voice of passionate, dedicated, creative individuals to address them. And they know service must always be accompanied by a sincere understanding of our individual power to truly change the lives of others—and the responsibility that comes with it.

Success is often hard, and there will be setbacks along the way. But when combined, even small victories—a joyous smile, a firm embrace, hope in a mother’s eyes—do indeed a better world make. The Timmy Foundation is changing its name to Timmy Global Health.

Chuck Dietzen, founder of The Timmy Foundation, www.timmyfoundation.org

Are your Kiwanis club meetings fun?

For guidance and good ideas, go to www.KiwanisOne.org/fun.
Kiwanis is so important to Tom and Boyd Dimmock, they’ve woven it into their family life.

With daughters Julie Anna and Laurie, the Dimmocks have attended numerous Kiwanis conventions. In years past, the family also saw the worldwide service project to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders in action during a visit to China with the UNICEF team.

All four Dimmocks are now Hixson Fellows, each having donated US$1,000 or more to the Kiwanis International Foundation. Thanks to planned giving, Boyd and Tom are also members of the Heritage Society.

“We aren’t rich folks and can’t give gazillions of dollars,” Tom says. “But you don’t have to be rich to make an impact.”

A retired lawyer whose practice included wills and estates, Tom finds that many people don’t realize a bequest to the Kiwanis International Foundation—or naming it as a contingency beneficiary, which receives estate proceeds if the primary beneficiary dies—can benefit those Kiwanis serves.

“If all Kiwanians used contingencies or gave $5,000 in their wills, it would make a tremendous impact on Kiwanis International’s mission,” Tom says.

Tom has been a lieutenant governor, district governor and a Kiwanis International trustee.

A member—and charter president—of the Kiwanis Club of Wake Forest, North Carolina, he’s also a district coordinator for the fundraising campaign of The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus.

An IBM distinguished engineer, Boyd is a past distinguished lieutenant governor. Now she’s president-elect of the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh Highwoods.

Both Tom and Boyd have been named Kiwanians of the Year by their clubs. (Tom has received the honor three times.) In fact, Tom has recruited more than 800 Kiwanians—including Boyd. He has also helped build 59 Kiwanis-family clubs since 1990.

A past district administrator for Builders Club, Boyd focuses on younger members. “Raising children to understand they can make a difference is the greatest thing we can do,” she says.

Read more about the Dimmocks and how to establish your legacy of giving at www.kiwanis.org/foundation.
Estate planning 101

One and done. In sports, it’s a catchphrase for a team’s loss in the first game or match of a tournament. In estate planning, it’s the mind-set of people who think they’re done once they’ve put a will or trust in place.

In truth, estate planning is an ongoing process. Ensure that your plan fulfills your goals—review it periodically, and adjust it if necessary.

Also consider situations that may call for revisions to your will or other estate-planning documents:

- Marriage or divorce
- A major change in your financial status
- Birth or adoption of a child or grandchild
- Death of a spouse or existing beneficiary
- Death of an executor, trustee or other fiduciary
- A move to a new state or province
- A change in tax or estate planning laws

Try to conduct a thorough review of your plan every five years—even if none of the above events have occurred in your life.

Talk with your attorney or financial advisor. Be sure to look over the beneficiary designations for your retirement and investment accounts, along with your life insurance policies, to determine whether the beneficiary designations should be updated.

When you designate the Kiwanis International Foundation as a beneficiary or make a bequest to create your legacy of service, you’re eligible to become a member of the Heritage Society.

To learn more, call Matt Morris at 317-217-6234, or send an email to mmorris@kiwanis.org.

A resource for responsibility

Honesty and transparency are among the Kiwanis International Foundation’s core values. Our new accountability web page helps us embody those values for people who support Kiwanis International’s worldwide mission.

You can find the page at www.kiwanis.org/foundation/accountability. It’s an online resource for information about the international foundation’s finances, governance and donor-privacy policy. For instance, you’ll find links to downloadable documents for particular subjects—from bylaws and policies to our annual report and latest tax forms. It’s easy to download whatever you need.

You’ll also find a link to the web page for our donor privacy policy. You can also go directly to the donor-privacy page at www.kiwanis.org/foundation/privacy.

Give online quickly and securely: www.kiwanis.org/foundation/giving

Two-way tax savings

IRA gifts


As a result, a popular provision regarding Individual Retirement Accounts was extended through the end of 2011. The provision allows U.S. taxpayers over age 70½ to make tax-free withdrawals of up to US$100,000 from IRA assets when those assets are directed to qualified charities.

If you have funds in an IRA or employer-sponsored retirement plan, you can name the Kiwanis International Foundation as a beneficiary. This can have a positive tax-related impact for both you and the foundation. The charitable gift will be deductible for estate-tax purposes, and the foundation will not have to pay income tax on the funds it receives.

This double benefit can save combined taxes that otherwise could deplete a substantial portion of your retirement account.

—Peter J. Gaughan, AIF®, First Vice President, Investment Management Consultant, Morgan Keegan & Co. Inc.

www.kiwanis.org/foundation
Famous encounters
A star athlete and a government leader show their support for children-serving Kiwanis clubs

Kiwanis often shares the spotlight with famous personalities—like these two recent examples:

Chad Pennington
The National Football League quarterback returned to Huntington, West Virginia, where he had attended Marshall University. During his stay, he read books with children at the Huntington Kiwanis Club’s day care center, which his 1st and 10 Foundation supports.

Ida Odinga
Kenya’s first lady attended the presentation of British Airways blankets to the Kisumu Kiwanis Club. The material makes reusable sanitary pads for low-income girls.

“This was a major publicity event for our humble club,” says Kisumu Kiwanian Rachelle Strawther-Okumu. “So much work went into it, but it all paid off.”
New club leaders need Club Leadership Education. Our classroom sessions now feature an all-new curriculum—presented by folks who have been in your shoes. After all, club leadership is one thing. Knowing what to do with it is another.

Go to a Club Leadership Education session in your area. Check your district website for times and locations.
Hotcakes in verse

InForum, a North Dakota online news forum, promoted the annual Fargo Kiwanis Pancake Karnival by inviting readers to submit flapjack-flavored haiku. Taste these samples:

Golden Fluffy Cake
Waiting For Me On My Plate
Three Bites And It’s Gone
—Oswald Thomas

Circular griddle
Sausage bumps the tan stacked cakes
On way to table
—Steve Shark

Fluffy disc of joy
stack’d high atop all its kin
steep in maple pools
—James Olson

Sitting by grandpa
with my Mickey Mouse pancake, each moment tastes sweet
—Danielle

“What Kiwanis Means, Part 2”
by Matt Gaffney

Across
1 React illogically
6 Take a leap
10 Sing using made-up words
14 Swimming (in)
15 Largest continent
16 Ripped
17 What Kiwanis means
19 “I agree with that!”
20 ___ out a living
21 Concocted a story
22 “The Wizard of Oz” role
24 Lives
26 Like most people in India, religiously
27 “___ Doubtfire”
28 Future CEO, perhaps
29 Quick snooze
32 Draw ___ in the sand
35 Makes a mistake
36 Greek bread with a pocket
37 List of important works
38 Speedy punch
39 University of Florida athlete
40 Act as maitre d’
41 Perfect scores, in gymnastics
42 Cairo’s country
43 Spooky claim
45 Not post-
46 Hardy competent

Down
1 Indiana basketball player
2 Stopped sleeping
3 “John” and “Jessica”
4 Suffix with real or ideal
5 What Kiwanis means
6 Author Thurber or Baldwin
7 “Pre-owned,” to car salesmen
8 Opposite of max.
9 Sausage alternative to links
10 Get up
11 What Kiwanis means
12 Length times width, in geometry
13 Nashville’s state: abbr.
14 Octopus’ defense
23 Octopus’ defense
25 “___ kidding!” (“Seriously!”)
26 Sage and thyme
28 What Kiwanis means
30 Perched on
31 Section
34 What Kiwanis means
35 CD player button
36 Calls over the loudspeaker
39 George who composed “Porgy and Bess”
41 Basketball game starts
44 Thieves’ home
45 El ___, Tex.
47 Evenings, on marquees
48 Doesn’t compare
49 “Must ___ die lamenting?”—Epictetus
50 Related to sheep
51 Backs of necks
52 Manufactured
53 Snug as ___ in a rug
54 Gusted, as wind
58 Time of history
59 ___ Lanka (island nation south of India)

For answers visit www.kiwanismagazine.org/answers.
Birthdays

These clubs celebrate anniversaries in July and August 2011:

**75TH—1936**
- Jasper, Indiana, July 16
- Farmer City, Illinois, August 17
- Knox, Indiana, August 18
- Le Roy, Illinois, August 24
- Manistee, Michigan, August 28

**50TH—1961**
- Omaha-West Side, Nebraska, August 16
- Orchard Park, New York, August 16
- Lakeshore, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, August 23
- London, Ohio, August 28
- Hub City, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, August 31

**25TH—1986**
- Zürich-Seefeld, Switzerland, July 1
- Barossa, Australia, July 3
- Geneve Metropole, Switzerland, July 9
- Laren, Netherlands, July 9
- Kronach-Frankenwald, Germany, July 14
- Smyrna-Golden K, Georgia, July 28
- Goes De Bevelanden, Netherlands, July 28
- Capilano, West Vancouver, British Columbia, July 29
- Enschede-Twente, Netherlands, August 1
- Dah Dah, Taiwan, August 2
- Konnerud, Norway, August 4
- Northshore Mandeville, Louisiana, August 12
- Chrysanthemum, San Pedro, Laguna, Philippines, August 16

- Beverly Area Golden K, Chicago, Illinois, August 20
- Greater Lewisville, Texas, August 22
- Kokomo Golden K, Indiana, August 25

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

JUNE
June Kiwanis webinars (www.KiwanisOne.org/webinars)
June 20–22 CKI Large Scale Service Project, Virginia Beach, Virginia
June 22–26 CKI Convention, Virginia Beach, Virginia
June 29–July 3 Key Club International Convention, Phoenix, Arizona

JULY
July Kiwanis webinars (www.KiwanisOne.org/webinars)
July 7–10 Kiwanis International Convention, Geneva, Switzerland

THE ELIMINATE PROJECT:
• Stay informed when The Eliminate Project launches at the Kiwanis convention, July 7–10. Visit www.TheEliminateProject.org, www.Facebook.com/Kiwanis or search for the #elimin8 or #ki2011 hashtags on Twitter.
• Schedule a meeting with CKI, Key Club, Aktion, Builders and/or K-Kids leaders to discuss plans for supporting The Eliminate Project during the 2011-12 Kiwanis-family year.
• Plan your club’s participation in your upcoming district convention, where campaign leaders will answer questions and discuss the district’s role in The Eliminate Project.

What’s the BIG idea?
Now that you’ve read your latest issue of Kiwanis magazine, what are you going to do with all the BIG ideas you have?
Our advice: Don’t jump the gun. It takes a lot of work to make a big idea a reality.
Try these helpful steps to find your next project and make it a success!

1. Talk about this magazine at your next club meeting.
3. Talk to local agencies about needs.
4. Start small—don’t try too much too quickly.
5. Partner with an SLP for more helping hands and energy.
6. Schedule your regular club meeting as a service project for the week.
7. Get exposure for Kiwanis by contacting local media about your project.
Famed artist Norman Rockwell created classic images that celebrate the American spirit as no other artist in history. Now a favorite portrait photo can be transformed into beautiful and timeless artwork in the style of Norman Rockwell.

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Be sure to visit our web site at www.kiwanispeanutday.com

*A non-profit, Kiwanis sponsored fundraising program exclusively for Kiwanis Clubs.