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FUTURE CONVENTIONS
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, June 27–30, 2013
Tokyo-Chiba, Japan, July 17–20, 2014
Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, June 25–28, 2015
Toronto, Ontario, Canada, June 23–26, 2016

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.
I recall my earliest understanding of the difference between contribution and commitment. It is called the “bacon and eggs” theory. The chicken makes a contribution while the pig makes the commitment.

The fourth Object of Kiwanis requires our members to go beyond contributing to a cause or project. We are called upon to make a commitment to develop, by precept and example, a “more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship.”

This year, you will hear the word “growth” used less often than the words “membership development.” Why? Numerical growth goals have not been successful in recent years because they place too much focus on numbers. Membership development, on the other hand, focuses on “impact”—the impact Kiwanians make in their communities and the impact on their own lives when making a difference whenever and wherever they serve.

By active involvement with a Service Leadership club, Kiwanians impact young leaders through mentoring and by creating opportunities for them to become the next generation of serviceable citizens.

The fourth Object drives Kiwanis to be an “activist” organization,

Continued on Page 64
Landscape Structures Inc. is Kiwanis International’s newest Vision Partner. But our commitment to children isn’t new. We have been the world’s leading commercial playground equipment manufacturer since 1971. Landscape Structures is dedicated to designing truly inclusive playgrounds—providing places where children of all abilities can play, learn and grow together. Find your local playground consultant at playlsi.com, or call 888.438.6574 or 763.972.5200.

Executive Perspective

THE WAYS WE SERVE

Kiwanians are well acquainted with the Kiwanis approach to service. What we’re known for first and foremost is our community service. On the surface, our service undertakings seem to fall into three categories. (These are just my opinion and not official Kiwanis guidelines.)

First, there are service activities. These are the simplest, easy-to-plan, easy-to-execute, service efforts usually involving a small number of people and meeting a simple need. Picking up litter, singing at a nursing home or honoring teachers, police or firefighters of the month.

Next are service projects. Most clubs excel at these. They require significant planning and resourcing, and their impact is usually much greater than an activity. Organizing a pancake day, building a playground or renovating a child’s bedroom to accommodate his special needs.

Requiring the greatest level of commitment are service programs. These usually are ongoing and may be daily, weekly or monthly in occurrence. Sometimes, they’re the best opportunity to build a club’s reputation within the community, as well as its brand. We have clubs that run community centers, day-care facilities and senior living apartments. These programs are the Kiwanis most people see. They’re what we’re best known for.

Interestingly, most of us overlook some of the most important community service our clubs perform—things that make a long-term difference to our local, and even our global, communities.

Our advocacy is a service. We advocate for children and mothers. Through The Eliminate Project, we’re stepping forward and asking governments and health organizations to join us as we commit to saving lives of women and their future babies. By publicly stating that we serve the children of the world, we educate ourselves and others about important community needs, and we shine a light on children’s issues.

Our networking is service (yes, Kiwanians do network and it’s alright). By reaching out to others—through business, community, church, school and other relationships—we’re educating our communities and community leaders. The larger our circles of members, friends and supporters, the more people who care about the things we care about.

Our very presence is also service. By being an active, engaged part of any community, we have the opportunity to lead by example. Even if people don’t join us or financially support us, they see us and know we make their community a better place to live.

It’s important that every Kiwanis club understands how it can contribute to its community’s quality of life by being a good club that invites others to join, participate or support. By making its presence known, it makes others feel good about the community. And ultimately everyone, especially children, will benefit.

Thank you for your Kiwanis service—whatever form it may take.

Stan Soderstrom | Kiwanis Executive Director

What they say

What does the second Object say about civility and respect for diverse opinions?

Tom DeJulio | President
“Kiwanians are expected to be sensitive to the opinions of others, even those that are different and do not reflect our own. Respect is the Golden Rule of civility we try to teach our youngest service leaders. The second Object is one of the most important core values of Kiwanis.”

Gunter Gasser | President-elect
“In daily living, we often meet a clashing of opinion. The least we can do is respect them and exchange views with civility as we try to find a solution. Therefore civility, respect and an open mind are key words, the core of the second Object: the Golden Rule.”

Peter Mancuso | President, Kiwanis International Foundation
“The Golden Rule is the first principle upon which every civil society is built. Seeing ourselves in others and treating them as we wish to be treated is at the very core of civility and respect, and leads to greater acts of charity and openness to the ideas of others.”

John R. Button | Vice president
“Kiwanis’ second Object outlines a path of behavior in our relationships with others. It promotes that universal all-encompassing rule of morality: the Golden Rule, the foundation of all the world’s great religions, encouraging respect and tolerance of difference and diversity and integrity in all our relationships.”
Overheard | Quotes from around the Web

“Thank you, Kiwanis, for putting together such a great Key Leader camp ... in Sambro, Nova Scotia, Canada. I had a blast.”

Matthew LeBlanc | Woodlawn-Westphal Builders Club, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia | Facebook

“My wife & I had fun cooking / serving food at the Ronald McDonald House last night w/ Central #Orlando #Kiwanis.”

Craig Meddin | Kiwanis Club of Central Orlando, Florida | Twitpic

“Happy birthday to our very own Kiwanis Advisor Mrs. Barron!! Thank you for your amazing dedication to our club!! ( : ”

San Angelo Central High School Key Club, Texas | Twitter

Knowing that it only takes one incident to seriously harm a child for a lifetime, the Kiwanis International Board is working on changes to ensure the organization is doing what it can to protect and serve all children.

At its January meeting, the board approved revisions to Procedure 432—Guidelines for Adults Working with Kiwanis Sponsored Programs, which is retitled Youth Protection Guidelines.

It also approved new Procedure 433—Kiwanis Youth Protection Week, effective October 1, 2013. This annual observance has a twofold purpose:

- Encouraging clubs to use the club meeting that week (or the next scheduled meeting) to educate all club members on Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines, best practices and individual responsibilities.
- Building public awareness of Kiwanis’ commitment to youth protection.

The first observance will take place during the 2013–14 Kiwanis year. Educational materials will be provided by Kiwanis International for use by participating clubs.
Listen up

If you’re attending the 2013 Kiwanis International convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, this June, don’t miss the chance to hear from two speakers with inspirational messages and philanthropic hearts.

Attendees at the Faith and Humor Breakfast on Saturday, June 29, will benefit from the passion of Nick Katsoris, a practicing attorney and author of an acclaimed children’s book series about Loukoumi, a lamb that aims to make the world a better place. The series sparked an annual Growing Up with Loukoumi Dream Day contest to give children the opportunity to experience their dream career—be it playing soccer with the New York Red Bulls or witnessing the landing of a spaceship on Mars from NASA’s Mission Control. Nick’s national Make a Difference with Loukoumi Day each October was highlighted by USA Today as one of five projects that truly makes a difference.

Keynoting the Leadership Luncheon on Thursday, June 27, is Rick Hansen, who wheeled through 34 countries over the course of 26 months to raise awareness about people with disabilities. When invested, the US$26 million initially raised grew to $245 million, allowing the establishment of the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre, a foundation and a web-based accessibility ratings map. In May 2012, he retraced the Canadian segment of his original 1987 tour—with the participation of 7,000 people who have been inspired by his pursuit of a healthier, more inclusive world.

Both meals are ticketed events that require online registration and payment. Visit www.KiwanisOne.org/convention/tickets to secure your place.

Save now for Vancouver

One month remains to save on your registration for the 98th Annual Kiwanis International Convention, June 27–30.

April 1 is the deadline for early registration to join Kiwanians from around the world in Vancouver. Don’t miss this opportunity to make your voice count by voting on amendment proposals and electing Kiwanis International leaders.

Japan to host 2014


The selection was announced by the Kiwanis International Board during its meeting this past January.

The Tokyo-Chiba metropolis is a cultural crossroads where centuries-old history and tradition meet the cutting edge innovation and pop culture of the 21st century.
Kiwanis revises policy

At its January 2013 meeting, the Kiwanis International Board revised its policy regarding alcohol to read:

Policy C—General
6. Alcohol Guidelines

Alcohol may be served or consumed at Kiwanis events in a legal and responsible manner, provided such serving or consumption is done in accordance with the customs and applicable laws where the club or other Kiwanis entity is located.

Because the presence of alcohol at a function greatly increases the risk of personal injury, Kiwanis clubs and other Kiwanis entities must be conscious of liability exposure whenever alcohol is offered. All Kiwanis entities should adhere to the alcohol guidelines established by Kiwanis International when providing alcohol at an event; see Procedure 173 – Alcohol Guidelines for Kiwanis Clubs and Other Kiwanis Entities.


Correction

In the People article titled “Man on a Mission” (January/February 2013), Kiwanis magazine misspelled the name of John Gillan, member of the Tempe Nuevo, Arizona, Kiwanis Club.
Kiwanis and its youth leadership programs are taking a stand against bullying. And you can help. Look for educational information and posters to help young people fight bullying in their schools and communities at www.Kiwanis.org/bullyprevention.

www.kiwanis.org/bullyprevention
Kiwanis partners with Landscape Structures

The Kiwanis family announces a new partnership with Landscape Structures. As a vision partner, LSI will help bring play and playgrounds to communities, especially as a sponsor of Kiwanis’ signature day of service, Kiwanis One Day.

Landscape Structures has been the leading commercial playground equipment manufacturer in the world since 1971. LSI encourages outdoor play that develops healthy kids and a sustainable world by creating innovative products for park playgrounds and school playgrounds that are environmentally responsible. As a leader in inclusive play, Landscape Structures is committed to designing playgrounds that provide places where children of all abilities can play, learn and grow together.

Learn more about LSI at www.playlsi.com.

ON THE WEB

Webinars

Add some oomph to membership recruitment, ka-ching to your fundraising and wow to your club by participating in Kiwanis International webinars. Coming soon:

March 5: Reveal your club’s growth potential by reaching out to your community, while engaging all members in membership recruitment.

March 12: A panel of seasoned Kiwanians will share what they know that you may not know and will answer questions on a variety of topics.

March 19: From mini to mighty, 25 FUNdraising ideas will put your club on track for raising money and getting its name out in your community. Come prepared to share your fundraising ideas too.

March 26: Doing the same old projects? Hear great ideas to add sizzle to your club’s events.

April 9: May is Membership Month. Plan and conduct a recruitment campaign—30 days from start to finish.

April 16: Learn the basics of developing and delivering a quality new-member orientation.

Find more details and register at www.KiwanisOne.org/webinars.

Toolbox

Distinguished member form is online

Here’s a reminder: There’s plenty of time to qualify as a 2012–13 distinguished Kiwanian.

Here’s a tip: The distinguished member form is online at www.KiwanisOne.org/distinguishedmember.

The award will be granted to a member in good standing who, during this Kiwanis year, completes these three steps:

1. Recruits two new active members.
2. Participates in one Kiwanis-branded Service Leadership project or activity.
3. Participates in one service project involving the health, education or safety of young children in their developing years.

Recipients will receive a letter and gift from Kiwanis International President Tom DeJulio, as well as a lapel pin and certificate.
Buffalo Gold


The U.S. Money Reserve Main Vault Facility today announces what could be the final release of U.S. government-issued 24-karat Gold Buffalo Coins previously held in the West Point Depository/U.S. Mint. Gold Buffalo Coins contain 99.99% pure gold, as well as the iconic Native American chief and buffalo designs from the beloved Buffalo Nickel. For the first time in recent history, U.S. citizens can buy these 2013 government-issued 24-karat Buffalo Gold Coins at an incredible at-cost price of only $1,741.00 each. An amazing price because these U.S. government-issued Gold Buffaloes are completely free of dealer markup. That’s correct — our cost.

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5 - 1 oz. Gold American Buffalo - $8,705.00
(plus insurance, shipping & handling $15.00)

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Calling all One Day stories

With Kiwanis One Day just around the calendar corner on April 6, clubs worldwide are putting the final touches on their plans for their part in this day of service. Don’t forget one important assignment.

Make sure to email a summary of your One Day activities and action photos to shareyourstory@kiwanis.org by April 10. Photos should be taken at a camera’s highest setting in a large, high resolution format. (Visit www.KiwanisOne.org/phototips for dos and don’ts that may help get your club’s story published locally and beyond.)

Kiwanis International has several opportunities to publish One Day stories, including Kiwanis magazine and the Kiwanis International Update newsletter.

Cameroon eliminates MNT

The World Health Organization has announced that Cameroon has eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT).

Since 1999, UNICEF and its partners have helped 29 countries achieve victories over the disease, including recent successes in China, East Timor and Tanzania. However, MNT is still a deadly threat in 30 countries. Kiwanis International’s Eliminate Project is raising US$110 million by 2015 to eliminate MNT in all remaining nations.
IT’S TIME TO GET EVERYONE INVOLVED.

Raise funds. Spread the word. Join other Kiwanians—and the SLP clubs you sponsor—for service projects and fun events in your community. After all, it’s an exciting time to be part of the Kiwanis family. Share the excitement. Join the team. Help protect the connection.

Get inspired and engaged at www.TheEliminateProject.org.
There was food, face painting, games, candy and of course, sailing, during the Kiwanis Sail 4 Children event this past summer in Nieuwpoort, Belgium. Kiwanis members from several clubs in Belgium and one in France came together to make an unforgettable day for about 100 children as they gave them a fun-filled day on the North Sea. See video from the sail at www.youtube.com/kiwanisinternational.
Kiwanis members help with any and every job imaginable, from preparing lunch, cleaning mussels, setting up games, fitting children for life jackets and scooping ice cream. It’s definitely a team effort. With this past summer’s sail being the fifth for the Avelgem Kiwanians, it’s getting easier to pull off such a huge project. A project that is so important to the children. “We reach people who need it,” says Filipe Delanote, member of the Kiwanis Club of Torhout Houtland.

But the squeals of delight from the children brighten a day that is otherwise blustery, gray and cold.

“Some kids here have never seen the sea,” Delanote continues. “Never been on a train. Never been on a bus. Never been on a boat. We give them another view on the world. They see there are possibilities in life. And you know, people from all over town come to see this. People from other clubs are here to see how it’s going.”

Some of those Kiwanis members are from the Mouvaux Kiwanis Club in France, just across the border. Their club is looking at the Sail 4 Children project with hopes to start their own, similar project. And that’s just fine with Manu Van Loven, 2011–12 president of the Avelgem Kiwanis Club and the man who started this project five years ago after he saw a Sail 4 Children event and wanted to get involved.

“I saw an organization that was sailing with children with two catamarans,” he says. “The organization needed money, so Kiwanis Avelgem gave them money, and we were able to charter their two boats. Quickly we had children to take part, but not enough boats. We called a few skippers and asked for help. And then, all of a sudden, people would see me and ask if they could help.”

The project has grown significantly it’s a well-oiled machine.

“This is such a great event, let’s hope the rain stays away,” says Filipe Delanote, member of the Kiwanis Club of Torhout Houtland and vice chairman-Europe for The Eliminate Project campaign. Weather is still obviously on everyone’s mind.

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But the squeals of delight from the children brighten a day that is otherwise blustery, gray and cold.
When the day started out gray and windy and rainy, there was concern of how safe it would be on the water. But the day turned blue, and the sun came out just in time for sailing. Once on the boats, the children could barely contain their excitement. Looking. Pointing. Giggling. Squealing. Seeing the kids’ delight is his favorite part of the day, says Manu Van Loven (right), Avelgem Kiwanian and organizer of the event.

since then. More children, more boats, more sponsors, more donations and more volunteers.

In August 2012, a week or so before school started, several Kiwanis Sail 4 Children events were held. Ghent. Kortrijk. Nieuwpoort. Ostend. Six Kiwanis clubs take part to give more than 200 children a holiday at sea, just in time for the summer’s end.

“When kids go back to school, they can share stories of the boats, the games they played, the great people they met,” says volunteer Isabelle Van de Populiere. “A lot of the kids wouldn’t have had a special holiday, and sometimes they feel they need to make something up for their friends and teachers. These kids don’t have to lie. They have a real story to tell, and that’s so special.”

As she wraps up her story, the children are finishing their lunches. And something brilliant has happened.

The sun is out and the sky is blue. It’s time to sail.

The children are told to watch their steps as they climb from the dock onto the boat. Their eyes widen as they look all around. Two girls, one with her face painted with a rainbow design, are giggling to each other. They sit together, and it’s obvious they’re finding it hard to contain themselves. They point at the mast. They point down the stairs at the living quarters below. They point at me. One asks what I’m holding.

“It’s a video camera. Do you want to see it?” I ask, handing it to her. She doesn’t understand English well, so the skipper explains what I have, and she willingly takes it and captures herself, her friend and all of the rest of the passengers on the boat. The smile on her face could light up a room.

I find a spot out of the way, but within arm’s reach of the ropes. The water is still a bit rough from the earlier wind and rain. But this way, I have a bird’s-eye view of the kids as we hit the first waves.

“Ahhhhhh!” they all seem to scream in unison, followed by high-pitched laughter and looks of disbelief as the front end of our boat lifts up out of the water and slams down, spraying water in on all sides. This goes on for a few minutes. With each wave, a louder squeal.

They are loving it.
Back on dry land, organizer Manu Van Loven watches the children as they arrive from their afternoon sail. His smile matches those on the kids’ faces.

I pull aside a Kiwanian to help interpret the children’s reactions to their day.

“I love the boat,” says a giddy 10-year-old girl. “It was windy on my face!”

“I like the face painting. I look like a star,” says another girl, age 9.

Looking over at the crowd of Kiwanians who have gathered near the children as they take off their life vests, it’s obvious. The day is a success.

“I always say that for me, the biggest decoration is the smile on the children’s faces,” Van Loven says. “And you know, the first time I did this, most people thought it wouldn’t work. Then it worked and everyone wanted to keep this as a project for our club. But I visited other clubs in the area and had inter-clubs, and I explained our system. I told everyone I would help.

“When I’m older, I have a dream that on the last Sunday (in August) anywhere in the world where there’s water, there are children out on it being happy. Tour de France is known all over. I’d like this to be known all over the world as a Kiwanis event.”

Vincent Salembier, who is a member of the Kortrijk Kiwanis Club, smiles as he watches the kids scurry off to play games, get ice cream or a last-minute face painting. He knows the significance of the day on these kids’ lives. It’s something they’ll never forget.

“It’s all for them. It’s all for the children,” he says. “They go back to school, to their friends soon. And they’re going to have a story:

“I’ve been to the sea. . . .” KM
When Kiwanian Manu Van Loven first came upon Sail 4 Children, he discovered the organization needed funding to stay afloat. His club, the Kiwanis Club of Avelgem, Belgium, donated money to charter two boats, and the Kiwanis Sail 4 Children project was born.

**Tips for a successful sailing project**

- Use a guidebook. This will help you keep track of things to do, be more efficient and improve the project each year.
- Develop a good sponsoring strategy.
- Invite a lot of volunteers and assign each a specific job. Have backup team ready.
- Have a few spare boats. Depending on the weather conditions, some boats can’t sail.
- Have a backup plan. Since this type of event is very dependent upon the weather, it’s good to develop techniques that allow the day to be a success regardless of weather.
- Have a safety plan.

— Courtesy of Michel Davidts, president of the Kiwanis Sail 4 Children organizing commission
In the Republic of Guinea, according to UNICEF, the rate of children dying before their fifth birthday is 130 per 1,000 live births (as compared to 8 per 1,000 in the United States). In 2010, just as the country was about to apply for elimination status for maternal and neonatal tetanus, 64 neonatal cases were reported in 15 districts.

Into this environment, John and Debbie Button and four other Kiwanians arrived this past September to assess efforts to give those children a better chance at survival: the elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus. John’s journal from the trip reveals that he observed conditions from two perspectives: as a Ridgetown, Ontario, Kiwanian and as a family doctor.

Follow him and fellow Kiwanians as they travel more than 250 miles to remote villages, where they witnessed the great challenges confronting Guinea’s battle against MNT—and the successes promising ultimate victory.

“We visited a primary school in (the city of) Mali,” John Button writes. “No electricity, no water and three students to a desk. The teacher was overjoyed to receive the pencils, sharpeners, notebooks and French storybooks we brought (left).” This past September, Kiwanis and UNICEF representatives joined Guinea health workers (below, right) on a vaccination campaign through northern Guinea.
In the local hospital’s pediatric ward, we saw three young children: one recovering from a bout of malaria and two admitted that day from the same village with malnutrition. The saddest was a four-month-old baby weighing less than seven pounds. The mother had lost four previous babies presumably from malnutrition. The women had told this young mother that her breast milk was responsible, and so she had stopped nursing, and the downward spiral began. The baby was profoundly dehydrated, listless and poorly responsive and did not interact spontaneously. … I had a bad feeling about this infant, which was subsequently borne out, as the baby died two days later.

After, we visited a private home and met with 15 young mothers. Their knowledge and understanding of MNT was remarkable. They all received their health care and education at the local health center. They insisted on having tetanus vaccinations and access to iodized salt.

The following day, we would see the MNT program in action. Would it live up to our dreams and expectations?
Thrilling! In a word, that describes the opening ceremony for the third stage of the immunization campaign in the prefect of Mali. … Between 250 and 300 attendees, mostly women and children, filled the town square. Today marks the beginning of the Fête de la Pomme de Terre (Holiday of the Potato), but the ceremony was the celebration of the tetanus vaccination campaign.

The prefect’s governor spoke of the benefits of the community health center in the provision of safe obstetrical care and immunization programs. Among his closing remarks, the prefect governor exclaimed, “Vive le Kiwanis International!” As he finished, a line was already forming … of women to get immunized. First in line was a nurse from the hospital whom we had met yesterday as she cared for the gravely ill four-month-old. Approximately 5,000 doses of vaccine will be administered over the next four days in the prefect.

An audience, primarily of women (left), gathers in Mali to receive tetanus vaccinations and hear encouraging messages from government leaders and doctors (above). “Thirty percent of all women between the ages of 12 and 19 have already had their first babies, underscoring the need to target this demographic for the vaccination campaign,” Button writes.
Residents were at prayer, so we waited in a reception hall beside the health center at the crest of a small hill above the village. Suddenly Debbie exclaimed, “Here they come!” From the door, we watched as wave after wave of women, men and children, climbed the hill to the health center.

It was the most thrilling, proudest and happiest moment of my Kiwanis life. My heart soared.

This afternoon, 214 women were immunized, a remarkable number in a district that historically is poorly engaged. They did not come by car, truck or motorcycle. They came on foot, some from miles away.

The vaccination team was highly skilled and the documentation was thorough. Our partner UNICEF, the government of Guinea and its prefects have done their homework well.
I was very impressed with the tangible results of the MNT elimination efforts in Guinea. The UNICEF feet-on-the-ground are very thorough, practical, insightful and they see the greater picture. UNICEF is highly regarded in the country. Hundreds of adults and children alike waved to our vehicles as we roared past on our way to distant operations.

Clearly the education piece of the campaign is working, both in urban and rural Guinea. This has occurred through partnerships with local radio stations as well as labor-intensive door-to-door campaigns.

The logistics of the immunization program are working well. The “cold chain” of vaccine delivery is intact. As the line for vaccinations formed in Fougou, refrigerated vaccines arrived by motorcycle.

“Across the prefect of Mali, 85 percent of those receiving the vaccine (opposite page) were receiving their final shots, a testament to the success of the education program,” Button writes, noting that obstetrical care is another key to the ultimate success of Guinea’s MNT campaign. “Though training midwives is part of the program,” he adds, “UNICEF discourages home deliveries because of the inherent risk of infection. It has made motorcycle ambulances available in Mali to transport laboring women to health centers.”
Six Kiwanians traveled to Guinea this past September on behalf of The Eliminate Project. They found heart-breaking poverty, endured rough traveling conditions and even took cold showers in the dark, because electrical service was not always available. But they also discovered an MNT program that is gathering momentum in the West African nation. Meet the other members of Kiwanis’ Guinea site visit team.

**Dan and Cheryl Connolly**  
*San Jose, California, Kiwanis Club*  
“My personal highlight was being allowed to hold a mother’s one-month-old baby, which was initially tied to her back,” writes Dan. “It was a special moment, and one that truly brought full circle the real impact the Kiwanis partnership with UNICEF is having on reducing infant mortality and on improving lives across the developing world.”

**Robert Allen**  
*Botetourt County, Troutville, Virginia, Kiwanis Club*  
“In the village of Fougou, each woman I spoke with knew more about tetanus than the average person you’ll meet in the United States. So much work needs to be done, yet The Eliminate Project’s efforts are paying off. Vaccines are arriving, women and babies are being protected, and the most important element—education—is having a tremendous impact.”

**Judy Kramer**  
*Palo Alto, California, Kiwanis Club*  
“We saw women lining up and pushing forward to receive their tetanus shots. On that day, I literally got to see lives being protected. That’s not something that happens every day in my life.”

View the full content of these and other Guinea blog posts at www.TheEliminateProject.org/blog. And go to http://kwn.is/kiguinea to read about John Button’s visit to a salt distribution center, where he learned about the nation’s efforts to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders—the aim of Kiwanis International’s first global campaign for children.

**Guinea: At a glance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>% of households consuming iodized salt</td>
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<td>2006–10</td>
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<td>Total under-five population (000)</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Births (000)</td>
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<td>Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)</td>
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<td>Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)</td>
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<td>Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)</td>
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<td>Total under-five deaths (000)</td>
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<td>Immunization, % newborns protected against tetanus</td>
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<td>Maternal mortality ratio, adjusted (per 100,000 live births)</td>
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<td>Lifetime risk of maternal death (1 in N)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total maternal deaths (number)</td>
<td>2,700</td>
<td>2008</td>
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Source: UNICEF
PLAY
SPORT
GAME
It’s an unseasonably warm mid-November morning in Central Indiana and the parking lot at the Lawrence Soccer Complex is a whirlwind of activity. As one line of cars streams out of the west side of the facility, another, equally-long line files in from the north to fill in the empty spaces left behind.

Though it’s not yet noon, 16 matches already have been played at this 21-field complex. Another 14 are underway. Ten more have yet to get started.

For the past three days, the city of Indianapolis and the Indiana Champions League have hosted the Indianapolis College Showcase. Close to 1,600 girls on 80 teams from across the U.S. Midwest and Canada have come here to compete and possibly catch the eye of college coaches.

It’s a scene that plays out every weekend across North America as youth sports participation continues to climb. According to a 2012 Sports & Fitness Industry Association report, more than 28 million U.S. kids aged 6 to 17 are playing team sports.

“A lot of these kids are getting the opportunity to get exposure where they didn’t have it before,” says Sandor Kapasi, who has been coaching youth soccer in Canada for the past 12 years. “I’ve never seen the emphasis on youth sports that I see now.”

Participation levels aren’t the only thing that’s changing. The landscape of youth sports has transformed as well. For many kids, the days of playing a sport in a local league
school for three months a year has been replaced by year-round training, membership in so-called “pay for play” leagues during off-season months, extensive travel and private instruction. For parents, that can mean thousands of dollars per year spent on equipment, team fees and travel expenses such as airline tickets, gas and hotel stays. For sporting goods manufacturers, it adds up to a multi-billion dollar industry. The SFIA reported that in 2011, more than US$3.5 billion was spent on equipment, apparel and footwear for baseball, basketball and football alone.

The benefits for young athletes who are involved in team sports are well documented: Obesity rates among athletes are lower than their peers. They are more likely to stay in school and graduate, and less likely to smoke cigarettes and get involved with illegal drugs. And despite the rising cost to play, the experience can be a rewarding one for athletes and parents who embark on the journey with reasonable expectations.

The cost to participate

At Field No. 9 at the Lawrence Soccer Complex, Laura Bezaire watches her daughter Jenna compete in her team’s final match of the weekend. The Bezaires and other families from the Eastside Kickers have come from Windsor, Ontario, to watch their daughters play in the three-day tournament.

At 17 years old, Jenna Bezaire has already been playing competitive soccer for a dozen years. She has been playing as part of a travel team the past seven. And it comes with a hefty price tag. Laura Bezaire estimates the family spends around US$3,000 annually on membership fees and travel expenses.

“And I’d say for the parents whose kids are on this team all year-round, they’re spending a lot more than that,” she says. “There are some families where I know the money is a factor. I know our club will take that into account when there are families that have certain financial situations. They’ll help sponsor the kid in terms of the costs.”

In addition to the financial commitment, parents must also find the right balance between sports and family. For those with multiple kids in multiple sports, that can sometimes be difficult.

Marc and Michelle Desrochers know firsthand the challenges of handling competing schedules. The Watertown, Connecticut, couple have two kids who are active in

“I think a lot of parents make a tremendous monetary investment that they think is going to double somehow (in terms of college scholarship money).”
sports for most of the year. Their 13-year-old son, James, plays hockey in the fall and winter, followed by lacrosse in the spring. Catherine, their 11-year-old daughter, swims, plays lacrosse and field hockey and tops off the schedule with dance lessons once a week.

The hectic schedule has taught the Desrochers the value of planning and being organized.

“The amount of time spent definitely makes it a little more difficult (to find a balance at home),” says Marc Desrochers, who believes the couple spends US$6,000 to $7,000 a year on sports for their kids. “I work long hours, and my wife takes the brunt of the scheduling and the stress of who is going where and when.

“I wouldn’t say we sacrifice other activities,” he says. “We still try to stay active, go on hikes as a family, go apple picking in the fall, sled- ding in the winter, family movie nights, etc.”

But for some families, it isn’t that simple. Especially when the kids are competing at the highest level.

Holly Kriger’s 14-year-old daughter, Andie, has been playing travel soccer since she was 8. Though the cost and the travel are both minimal, it wasn’t always that way for the Nunica, Michigan, family.

Kriger had two sons “go through the system” with her oldest playing in a local premier league. The cost and time commitment were overwhelming.

“It wasn’t just cost-prohibitive, but the time that was involved just kind of sucked the fun out it,” Kriger says. “When you have three children and you have to dedicate a whole weekend to one, it became a little bit troublesome. We couldn’t find the balance with three children with so much time devoted to one, so we chose to opt out. We needed to even it out a little bit.”

For Kriger, the schedule is now more manageable. Her daughter’s team plays almost exclusively in local matches and travels outside of the state just once or twice per year. And with the lack of a soccer program in the middle school, Kriger feels the travel team is the best way to help develop her daughter’s confidence and self-esteem.

She also knows that’s not the primary motivator for some parents.

“I think a lot of parents make a tremendous monetary investment that they think is going to double somehow (in terms of college scholarship money),” Kriger says. “I’m not sure that really works out for most people in the way they anticipate it will. But I think it’s probably a pretty common theme for parents to fork out the big bucks to get their kids into the right league and to get them visibility for college scouts.”

Chasing a dream
While it may be a misguided reason to spend thousands of dollars a year on travel sports, the lure of financial relief for college can be powerful for some parents. And for those athletes who are not at the top of their sports, travel teams provide the only opportunity for broader exposure to a deeper pool of college coaches. It’s a classic catch-22.

The reality, though, is that only a small fraction of high school athletes will receive a sports-related college scholarship. Just 2 percent, according to the (US) National Collegiate Athletic Association. The NCAA also dictates how many scholarships can be awarded in each sport in Division I and Division II. And only those who are playing football, men’s and wom-
“I always counsel kids that they will have much more scholarship money potential if they put their efforts toward great grades more than athletic training.”
en’s basketball and women’s volleyball can expect a full ride.

It’s a complicated system that many parents don’t understand, says Ted Flogaites, head coach of the women’s soccer team at Western Illinois, a small Division I school in Macomb near the Illinois-Iowa border.

“The notion of a true free ride is fairly non-existent in the sense that the likelihood of it occurring is slim to none,” says Flogaites, who has been a head coach on the collegiate level for the past dozen years.

“Too many times (a coach) might make an offer to a prospective student-athlete, and they’re ‘offended’ because the offer is insulting her as a potential player. But the family might not realize we might be close to out of money.”

For a family hoping to capitalize on their kid’s athletic ability, navigating the world of athletic scholarships and recruiting can be a daunting process. Laurie Richter discovered that firsthand when she began to research basketball scholarship opportunities with her son, Dylan.

What Richter found was a lack of information and unhappy endings for many families. She eventually turned her research into a book, “Put Me In, Coach: A Parent’s Guide to Winning the Game of College Recruiting.”

The book is a blueprint for athletes and parents seeking to parlay on-field success into college financial aid. It covers such topics as marketing the youth athlete, finding the right collegiate fit, understanding the recruiting process from the coaches’ point of view and how to find merit-based aid at schools that don’t give athletic scholarships.

While Richter believes the growing youth sports movement as a whole is a very positive experience, she sees three problems: 1) Some parents are unable to see their child’s athletic ability objectively. 2) Most have no idea how the scholarship system works. 3) The perception of some parents is that if they invest huge sums of money and time into their child’s sports activities, they expect to be “paid back” in the form of a scholarship.

“In many cases, a smart kid can get a merit scholarship that will be more money than a partial athletic scholarship might be,” Richter says. “They might not come with the bragging rights that athletic scholarships come with, but the kid won’t lose the scholarship if they decide to leave the team. And many, many college athletes choose not to play out their full college career for a variety of reasons.

“I always counsel kids that they will have much more scholarship money potential if they put their efforts toward great grades more than athletic training,” she says.

Both Richter and Flogaites also fairly point out that there are many parents who are realistic about their child’s athletic ability and aren’t pumping money into the system just to get a return on the investment.

That was certainly the experience for Dan Dakich, who spent the past four summers coaching his son’s AAU basketball team.

As a former player and coach at Indiana University, and the parent of an athlete who will most likely play in college, Dakich has seen the recruiting process from every angle. He firmly believes that athletes and parents make the financial and time commitments because of their passion for the sport, not for the potential of athletic scholarships.

“Kids who play basketball at a high level are very much aware that they’re playing for scholarships,” says Dakich, who also spent 10 years as the head coach at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. “Scholarships are a big deal, because of the money it saves the family. But I believe the majority of parents have their sons play (AAU basketball) because they know their son loves basketball. They don’t view it as a vehicle to get a scholarship. That’s just an added bonus.

“I never had a problem with a parent or their expectations,” Dakich adds. “It was the most enjoyable four years I’ve ever had coaching.”

The Desrochers, the Connecticut couple with two kids involved in multiple sports, seem to exemplify the spirit and attitude Dakich experienced while coaching his own son.

“We don’t look too far down the road,” Marc Desrochers says. “For the kids, it’s all about the love of the games they play. It’s about the kids getting exercise, hanging out with friends, making new friends, being a part of a team and learning discipline from a different voice other than ours, their coaches.”

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**When sports hurt**

Injuries are a constant worry for parents of young athletes. One study found that one in three children involved in team sports misses practice or games due to injuries. Read more about the risks, as well as one prevention research effort, at http://kwn.is/kisports.
15 things: Vancouver

HEADING TO VANCOUVER FOR THE 2013 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION?
HERE’S WHAT WE THINK YOU SHOULD PACK, PICK UP AND READ.
| Product photos by Tony Frederick

As any seasoned traveler can tell you, preparation and careful packing are key to a successful trip. With that in mind, the editors at Kiwanis magazine decided to brainstorm some items we think you should take on your trip to British Columbia this summer for the Kiwanis International convention. This way, you’re covered no matter what fun you get into.

Five things to pack? Check.

Then we thought you may want suggestions to help with shopping plans so you bring home the perfect Vancouver souvenir.

Five things to take home? Check.

Then it got really fun for us. We decided to offer you, the Kiwanis traveler, some ideas on what books you can check out about Vancouver. But to do this, we needed an expert.

Joseph Stewart is the owner of Vancouver’s Blackberry Books, the store on Granville Island that he and his wife purchased from Joseph’s parents a few years ago.

“I love the incredible diversity of my clientele,” he says. “Granville Island is one of the most visited places in Canada. One moment I can be recommending mysteries to one of my locals and then another, selling a guidebook to a couple from Iceland!”

Five things to read? Check.

Vancouver is the ideal spot to plan your extended vacation before or after convention. Whether you’re into water or woods, city or back hills country, this area will have what you’re looking for. Along with more than a few surprises for sure.
Travel Items

1. Don’t get caught in the rain without one. Travel umbrellas are handy and small enough to tuck away in your bag.

2. You simply can’t go to Vancouver without some sort of camera. We recommend a compact digital.

3. Heading out on the water? Keep your small electronics (phone and camera) safe from the elements in one convenient, waterproof pouch. It floats!

4. Don’t lose your valuables. Keep your boarding pass, photo ID and passport around your neck in this handy travel case.

5. Get a closer look at nature with a set of binoculars. They won’t cost you much, and you’ll be happy when you get a birds-eye view of, well, the birds.
5 Souvenirs

1. Sterling silver tribal art jewelry, such as this pendant with heavy leather cord, are found in many shops in town and at the airport. Good for girls and boys of all ages.
2. Maple flavors abound in this area. Pick up any of the assorted foods, including maple smoked salmon.
3. Marvel at the colors and shapes of art glass, a popular medium in this region. This piece is by Robert Held.
4. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Officer Moose is available at the Mounted Police Post on Cordova Street.
5. It’s Canada. Hockey reigns here. Take home a Vancouver Canucks hockey puck for your favorite kid or sports lover.
Blackberry Books has lived in the Net Loft Building on Granville Island, Vancouver, British Columbia, for more than 30 years. The family-owned bookstore is the perfect spot to find your next favorite book or author.

Here are Blackberry owner Joseph Stewart's 5 favorite “local themed” books:

   “Although a relatively young city, Vancouver has a diverse collection of interesting buildings, both residential and commercial, and this book does an excellent job explaining them. Though well-researched and written, this is by no means only for an architecture buff; anyone wanting to get better acquainted with the city would benefit walking around Vancouver with this guide in tow.”

2. Sammy Squirrel & Rodney Raccoon by Duane Lawrence
   “Local author Duane Lawrence has written a wonderful tale of adventure set in Vancouver’s very own Stanley Park. The story takes Sammy Squirrel and his pal, Rodney Raccoon, from the safety of the park, across the Pacific Ocean to Japan and back again.”

3. Stanley Park by Timothy Taylor
   “In my opinion, this is one of the best novels ever set in Vancouver and paints a vivid picture of the city. The story focuses on a young restaurateur and his newly opened restaurant and his father, a professor of anthropology studying the lives of homeless people in Stanley Park, Vancouver’s largest and most famous park. When the father gets too involved in his studies and starts living as a homeless man himself, the story gets very interesting.”

4. The Golden Spruce by John Vaillant
   “This amazing book is about a unique 300-year-old spruce tree, which was the victim of eco-vandalism. The tree, found in Haida Gwaii (the Queen Charlotte Islands), was sacred to the Haïda people and considered rare due to its golden color in a forest of green. John Vaillant gives a well-documented account of the tree’s fate as well as a wonderfully researched history into British Columbia’s West Coast trade, logging, conflicts and myth.”

5. The New Granville Island Market Cookbook
   Granville Island’s Public Market was established in 1979, in a huge former industrial building. It’s now one of the most visited places in Canada, popular with both tourists and locals for its huge selection of unique and fresh foods. The New Granville Island Cookbook is primarily a cookbook focused on simple but delicious foods with a focus on fresh and healthy ingredients, but it’s also a beautiful coffee table book that shares a little of the history of Granville Island.
Catering to community

BRITISH COLUMBIA’S KIWANIS TEA ROOM IS MORE THAN A RESTAURANT. IT’S A FUNDRAISER, A CLUBHOUSE AND THE HEART OF THE OAK BAY, VICTORIA, KIWANIS CLUB.

The blue Kiwanis Tea Room has overlooked the sweep of Willows Beach outside Victoria, British Columbia, for more than 60 years. Beyond being its major fundraiser, the Willows Tea Room is at the very heart of the Kiwanis Club of Oak Bay, Victoria.

Construction of the Tea Room at Willows Beach was begun in 1949—just two years after the Kiwanis Club of Oak Bay received its charter. Open daily from April to September and staffed by club members, paid summer students and community volunteers, the tea room serves snack food to beach-goers and park users. The menu is simple: sandwiches, soup, French fries, deep-fried chicken or halibut on a bun, soft drinks, sweets and ice cream.

About 30 people can be seated inside, where a surrounding window offers a panorama of Juan de Fuca Strait, Washington State’s San Juan Islands and, on particularly glorious days, the snowy cone of Mount Baker beyond.

A number of area residents are lifelong customers, Kiwanian Brian Beckett says, and coming to the tea room during summer is a ritual, “what they have always done.”

About CAD$100,000 is generated in the six months of operation. After setting aside a small amount for upkeep and student salaries, the club nets approximately $50,000. Much of the remainder helps the club support activities ranging from The Eliminate Project to a community Halloween party, a sports festival for persons with developmental
disabilities, a food bank, air transport for cancer patients, scholarships and autism support dogs.

The club also owns and operates a 122-resident pavilion providing specialized care for elderly with dementia, owns a low-rental housing facility for seniors, and operates Victoria’s oldest independent living residence for seniors. Taking advantage of new, weather-tight windows, the Kiwanis Pavilion Foundation recently began offering Sunday morning breakfasts during the winter months to raise funds to support the facility.

Members are called twice each year to open and close the tea room for its summer season. And everyone pitches in when an annual weekend fair in the adjacent park brings long lines to the tea room’s windows. In December, Kiwanians return to serve—for donations—hot chocolate and cookies during a nearby yacht club’s Christmas sail-past.
Renovation rejoice

One man’s life of service to his community as a shoemaker is being repaid by two Jamaican service clubs.

An interest in helping someone in desperate need led the Kiwanis Club of Moneague St Ann, Jamaica, to Hubert Grier, an 87-year-old man who sustained a physical disability from a motor vehicle accident 10 years ago. Upon visiting his home while researching potential service projects, Kiwanis members found a leaking roof, no kitchen or bathroom facilities and an apartment covered with shrubbery.

With its membership that includes hardware merchants, a contractor, carpenter and interior decorator, the Kiwanis club joined forces and wallets with the Optimist Club of Golden Grove. In 24 hours, the team repaired Grier’s roof, constructed a temporary kitchen with a stove, trimmed the shrubbery around the house and provided him with a new bed. The volunteers also treated him to a makeover, giving him a bath, shaping his nails and cutting his hair.

Although initially reluctant to see strangers enter his home, Grier was overwhelmed upon seeing what they accomplished. “He sat on his new bed looking all around with a smile on his face and saying thanks repeatedly,” says past club President Donna Coombs.

The service groups plan to regularly visit him with food and clothing and maintain the work they completed. They also aim to obtain for Grier a more comfortable home with a bathroom from a Jamaican charity called Food for the Poor. —Courtney Meyer

Swiss have one wild book project

It’s an exciting day at the zoo. Two young children, Rick and Emma, notice something is wrong with one of the tiger cubs. How can they help? They must find a zookeeper and do something—quickly!

The drama of the story unfolds on the pages of a new book called “Excitement at the Zoo,” a project of the Kiwanis Club of Zurich, Switzerland, in partnership with other clubs in Division 13.

“Our idea was to make a book and use the profit for a literacy project,” says Zurich Kiwanian Sinan Odok. “A lot of children have little access to books and watch television a lot. We wanted to give children and families more access to books at home.”

The club worked with a publisher to print 3,000 copies of the book with a plan to promote reading by selling 2,000 of the books and donating the remaining 1,000 books, along with other books from the same publisher, to disadvantaged children in the community.

“We’re contacting teachers to identify which children will benefit most from the books, and then going directly to the children and families for the literacy project,” Odok says. “The Kiwanis book itself is not only a present, but also a way to market Kiwanis. If we can meet with the children and read with them, that will make the project even more of a success.”
Don’t miss Kiwanis One Day

Because Kiwanis One Day would definitely miss you.

On April 6, Kiwanis clubs around the world will make a positive impact. Think your presence won’t make a difference? Think again.

In fact, think of the impact your club can have on your community. And the way your influence could be echoed in communities all over the globe. Join us for Kiwanis One Day. Because that echo will be a little louder with everyone’s time and effort.

Get project ideas, contest details and more at [www.KiwanisOne.org/oneday](http://www.KiwanisOne.org/oneday)

www.KiwanisOne.org
Puppet presents

To most people, a major earthquake that happened in February 2011 seems like old news. But for residents of Christchurch, New Zealand, particularly the children, normalcy has yet to return. Spring in the town of Christchurch used to mean daffodils and families traversing parks, but since the disaster, it takes more than sunshine to brighten the days of preschoolers whose lives were turned upside down.

Patsy Hill, member of the Takapuna, New Zealand, Kiwanis Club, felt like everyone she met was shellshocked by the disaster. Both as a devoted grandmother to young children and someone involved in a program that helps children who are grieving, she broadcasted a message for help.

Twelve clubs answered the call, and with Hill as the district’s project chairwoman, they began sewing and stuffing springtime trauma dolls made from floral fabrics. Three members of the Kiwanis Club of Takapuna drove more than 670 miles to Christchurch to distribute the 1,059 dolls—made by Kiwanians across the North Island, New Caledonia and Tahiti—to children in preschools, kindergartens and other child agencies.

“Some girls had to have matching pink dolls, because they wanted their dolls to be friends,” Hill recalls. “Another little group got names for them in a couple of seconds. It was very moving to see the shine in the eyes of children who had been so reserved when we had first arrived.”

But they didn’t stop there. Keen to ensure the children and their families did not feel as if the world had forgotten them, Hill initiated another project, making tiny teddy bear finger puppets. Five clubs produced nearly 900 puppets, which were distributed following the children’s return from their schools’ summer break, along with clothing and blankets collected and made by other clubs. —Courtney Meyer

Hands-on project
Interested in a finger puppet project? Check out the puppet template online at http://kwn.is/kipuppet.
You have a voice. You have a vote. You have a place in Vancouver.

You have a say in the issues that shape our organization. So lift your voice and add your vote—join us for the 98th Annual Kiwanis International Convention. Experience one of the world’s most beautiful cities. Enjoy the fellowship of people who share your Kiwanis commitment. Energize your club with new information and fresh inspiration.

Shape the future. Share the experience.
Register for the Kiwanis International convention.

www.KiwanisOne.org/convention
Music lessons

A-ONE, A-TWO, A-THREE. AN AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM ORCHESTRATES LESSONS ABOUT SOCIAL BEHAVIOR AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT WITH A LASTING, JOYFUL APPRECIATION FOR MUSIC.

It was more than a year in the making, but the hard work finally paid off for the Lake Norman, North Carolina, Kiwanis Club as its latest service project, MusicalMinds, kicked off at an elementary school.

The MusicalMinds program is modeled after the Venezuelan program El Sistema, which began 37 years ago with the aim of effecting social change through classical music. This year, 30 first- and third-graders at Blythe Elementary in Huntersville, North Carolina, are taking part in the after-school program, which focuses on providing musical instruction and appreciation for at-risk children.

Lake Norman Kiwanis members began talking about El Sistema and the possibility of providing a similar program in their community in January of 2011, but it wasn’t until July of that year when they visited a musical outreach program in Durham, North Carolina, called KidZNotes, that things really took off.

“We went to see a concert and met with the woman who started it in Durham,” says Kiwanis member Robin Noud, who now serves as the board chairman for MusicalMinds. “We knew after that meeting we could start something that would have an impact on children from age 6 though high school graduation.”

Members returned from Durham with plans to pitch their idea to community leaders, including mayors, county commissioners and school officials.

“They told us, ‘If you do this, we’ll help,’” Noud says. “And we haven’t looked back.”
The students spend 10 hours per week learning and practicing in the after-school program, with time built in for homework and other social interactions. This year, they’ll also give 30 to 40 performances. The program is designed to grow exponentially with a new crop of first- and third-graders beginning each year. Program veterans, who can stay in MusicalMinds through high school, will serve as mentors to the younger students.

“The biggest reason we chose it as a project is that this is long-lasting,” Noud says. “We knew this would really make an impact. We want to provide long-term love, joy and approval through music. And the end results are going to help with their school work, including increased attendance, test scores and graduation rates.” —Michael Jackson
Racing for the fun of it

They’re off. Two cars barrel downhill, side-by-side. No engines propel the cars. Only gravity and their owners’ excitement power these hand-size, wooden racers. In a flash, the heat is over, a winner is declared. One owner shouts in jubilation. Her car came in second in a two-car race! In this Aktion Club Pinewood Derby, everyone wins.

When Ken Hauer joined the Peoria Kiwanis Club and became involved with the area’s three Aktion Clubs, he harkened back to his days as an adult leader with the YMCA’s Indian Guides program and its “Fast Car 500,” in which children made and raced wooden cars on a downhill track. “I thought it was something different that the Aktion Club members could have fun doing,” he says.

With kits purchased online, Hauer shapes, sands and paints the cars before the Kiwanis club sells (US$5) or loans them to Aktion Club members, who decorate their models with stickers.

The owners put their vehicles at the top of the ramp—with or without Kiwanians’ assistance—and are given front-row positions to observe their race.

“Reactions range from hollering, ‘I won! I won!’ to others who just step away with little expression,” Hauer says. “Everyone wins. A trophy goes to the winner; ribbons for the runners-up and certificates for everybody.”

Trading days, Texas-sized

It may have had a slow start back in the late 1970s, but Bonham Trade Days has turned into quite a success for the Kiwanis Club of Bonham, Texas.

Walk among the nearly 500 vendors and 7,000 fellow shoppers, and you’re likely to find sleeping pigs, strutting peacocks, lawn ornaments, horse tack, raccoon caps, jewelry, a customized motorbike or a vintage Jeep.

“It’s similar to a flea market,” explains Kiwanian John Burnett.

Vendors pay $20 a weekend to have a space at the popular event, and the city allows the club to use Fort Inglish Park at no expense, as long as the club helps with improvements and electricity. Over the years, with an average annual income of US$64,000, the Kiwanis club has invested in better bathrooms, water, electricity, parking lot improvements and they helped raise funds for a pavilion with a paved floor.

According to Burnett, the Bonham Trade Days also has brought an increase in tourism to the city.

“People come 100 miles for it,” he says. “Vendors come in from Wisconsin, Mississippi, Colorado, you name it. We have everything. Food, entertainment, animals, some old stuff, some new stuff … pretty much any product that’s legal and not offensive, it’s here at Bonham Trade Days.”
In Kiwanis’ Rocky Mountain District, it’s not unusual to see a decommissioned ambulance, painted with a lime green jungle theme, roll into town. It’s the Junglemobile, and it’s part of a program aimed at reducing the number of preventable injuries in children.

In a joint effort between Kiwanis and the Children’s Hospital Colorado, the Junglemobile provides educational materials covering topics such as bicycle helmet and seat belt usage, poison prevention and farm equipment, ATV and water safety. According to the children’s hospital website, as many as 90 percent of unintentional injuries in the U.S. can be prevented, and every day, more than 39,000 children are injured seriously enough to need medical attention. The Junglemobile focuses on those who need it most—children living in rural areas, who are at higher risk of preventable injuries.

Kiwanis clubs in the Rocky Mountain District sign up to have the Junglemobile at community events, coordinating with the hospital and its team of drivers—Kiwanians from the Denver metro area. Tom Ashe, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Columbine, has been a volunteer driver for eight years and has made more than 50 trips behind the wheel of the Junglemobile.

“When I started going around to all the communities, I found myself really enjoying the people and the Kiwanis clubs through the Rocky Mountain District,” he says.

Since the program began in 2000, the Junglemobile has traveled more than 130,000 miles and has reached as many as 75,000 children in rural Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska. —Rachel Rizzuto
Thanks to the Kiwanis International Foundation, you have several ways to make a positive impact on children’s lives. You can provide a one-time gift—or even make regular donations a part of your annual giving.

You can also make a planned gift—and make your generosity a part of your legacy. Your estate doesn’t have to be large to make a difference. In fact, it’s an opportunity to extend your Kiwanis impact beyond your own lifetime.

With club gifts, you combine your individual commitment with your fellow Kiwanians’ generosity. For instance, the Annual Club Gift Campaign helps create a collective expression of kindness. And the Skip-A-Meal program adds a fun challenge to club giving (see next page).

Whether you give as an individual, with your Kiwanis club or both, we value the person behind the gift. And we value the hope inside the person. Learn more at www.kiwanis.org/foundation.
The Skip-A-Meal special

Spring is coming—and for many Kiwanis clubs, that means it’s almost time for Skip-A-Meal. Traditionally, late April is when most clubs forgo a meal during a club meeting or event, or at work. Then participating members donate the money they would have spent to the Kiwanis International Foundation.

Skipping a meal isn’t mandatory. Some participants bring their lunches or eat smaller meals instead. The important thing is to participate and give.

In fact, some clubs make Skip-A-Meal a special part of the Kiwanis year. Read about the New Kingston, Jamaica, Kiwanis Club’s event and get more details about the program at www.kiwanis.org/foundation/skipameal.

Pease gives to give back

Over the years, Francine Pease has made her dedication to children clear—both as a speech and language pathologist and a member of the East Troy, Wisconsin, Kiwanis Club. But her gifts to the Kiwanis International Foundation are also inspired by the adults in her life.

“I’m one of eight children, and six of us have advanced degrees,” Pease says. “The only reason is because people were willing to give to us so we could go to school. I feel like it’s give-back time.”

Locally, Pease has given back to her community and to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. With the Kiwanis International Foundation, she extends her impact. “I realized what I did in East Troy affects everybody in the world—that ‘little me’ makes a big difference.”

Being a Kiwanian since 1999—and a member of the Kiwanis International Foundation—has inspired Pease. “I have really become philanthropic while I’ve been a part of Kiwanis,” she says. “I give money to Kiwanis, but I give a lot of money to the community, usually things that involve children.”

Pease is especially enthusiastic about The Eliminate Project. “One reason I’m so passionate is because it deals with the safety of women and children,” she says. “I can’t believe everyone isn’t standing in line to give to our foundation for all the wonderful things it does, including The Eliminate Project.”

Ultimately, she adds, it’s a matter of seeing the big picture. “That’s something I would even tell my students—it’s not all about you,” she says. “One person can make such a difference.”

Read more about Francine online at www.kiwanis.org/foundation.

Planned giving

A rule change

The Heritage Society has long been the way our foundation recognizes a planned gift from members who extend their Kiwanis impact forever. The current Kiwanis year brought one change: As of October 1, 2012, gifts of US$10,000 or more must be documented.

The new requirement is both a safeguard and an encouragement to give. Documentation helps ensure that your planned gift will fulfill your wishes and serve those whose needs moved you to generosity. In fact, it’s another way by which the Kiwanis International Foundation is working to make your gift go farther.

With that kind of confidence, Heritage Society members know their kindness will get real-world results.

“The inspiration is simple: When I’m gone, I still want to help people,” says Lew Bradley, a member of the Chandler, Arizona, Kiwanis Club. “The foundation does a great job—I can trust them to do right.”

The Kiwanis International Foundation is here to help you explore your options and make the commitment that best fits your circumstances. (For legal and tax advice, however, be sure to consult your tax advisor.)

For more details, go to www.kiwanis.org/foundation/plannedgiving. You can also call Matt Morris at 1-800-KIWANIS, ext. 234. Or email mmorris@kiwanis.org.
Building peace

A LOOK INTO THE PAST INSPIRES A NEW BRUNSWICK KIWANIAN TO RECONNECT WITH OLD FRIENDS, RESULTING IN A NEW SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN HALF A WORLD AWAY.

The YMCA Peace Medallion recognizes people who demonstrate peace-building in their lives. Recent recipient Patricia Ellsworth, a Fredericton, New Brunswick, Kiwanian, embodies that description perfectly.

“I taught in Zambia from 1969 to 1971 as a Cuso volunteer,” she says. (Cuso is an Ontario-based international development organization.) “But I lost touch with my colleagues at our posting, Namwala Secondary School, when my husband and I returned to Canada. Then, in 2004, there was an article about me in the magazine of my teachers’ association. I had received an award, and in the article, I had recognized the mentoring I received from my Zambian headmaster.”

She regained contact with her Zambian colleagues, Headmaster Simon Maonde and his wife, and discovered they had no classroom; so, they taught from home. One thing led to another and soon she again was working with them. This time to build a school.

“I began fundraising here in Fredericton, but I knew I couldn’t do it alone,” she says. “I was able to contact other returned Cuso volunteers, and we formed the Friends for Zambia Society. Since then, many individuals, organizations—including Kiwanis—churches, schools and businesses contributed to the construction of Twitti Basic School.

“My personal motivation was to help the Maondes and to give back to Zambia, the country that had changed my life during the two years I lived there,” she says. “And my daughter was born there, so there is a special attachment that is impossible to ignore.”

Her years of peace-building paid off: The school officially opened on July 13, 2012. —Shanna Mooney
Paul Brenner wasn’t looking to sell his Andrew Clemens sand art piece. During his 40 years in the antiques business, it was just something he’d picked up to add to his personal collection.

“I liked it,” says Brenner, a member of Iowa’s Spencer-Daybreakers Kiwanis Club. “So I kept it and never gave it much particular mind.”

But representatives from the Rich Penn Auction Company noticed the one-of-a-kind piece and several other items in Brenner’s collection.

“They kept referring to it,” he says. “So I figured, if I’m going to sell my personal collection, I’d want to do it for The Eliminate Project.”

As a multi-division coordinator for The Eliminate Project in Iowa, Brenner used the opportunity to educate people about maternal/neonatal tetanus. He insisted that a portion of the proceeds benefit the project and that the auction company make a contribution—both of which will be sizable, since the Clemens piece fetched a world-record US$45,000 at the auction in September.

“It’ll be a nice contribution, of course,” says Brenner. “But my whole reason for doing this was to raise awareness.” —Kimiko Martinez
After moving to the U.S. from Uganda, Brian Turindwamukama met Kiwanian Byron Tabor. A few months later, Byron invited Brian to a Key Leader weekend. Quickly, Brian went from being anxious to being accepted. And he returned the next year as a student facilitator. Key Leader offers teens of all backgrounds that kind of life-changing experience. “And sometimes, in the back of the room,” Byron says, “there’s a 50-year-old man like me thinking about things a certain way for the first time.”

Discover how you can serve and connect. Find dates, locations, registration information and more at www.key-leader.org. And read more about Brian, Byron and others at www.key-leader.org/stories.
Food fight: Japadog vs. poutine

IF YOU’RE HEADING TO VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, FOR THE 2013 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, YOU MAY HAVE A TOUGH TIME CHOOSING WHAT FOODS TO EAT. SO, WHAT’LL IT BE: JAPADOG OR POUTINE?

Japadog came to Vancouver in 2005 when an ambitious Japanese couple moved to Canada with the goal of creating a world-famous street food stand. In spite of its humble beginnings, it has been thrice awarded the title of “Best in Vancouver.” It’s a hotdog (ranging from the more customary beef and pork to even shrimp) with Japanese toppings (like seaweed, rice, edamame, Miso and bonito flakes).

Originating from Québec, poutine (pronounced pu ‘teen) is a dish that consists of crispy French fries topped with thick, rich brown gravy and white cheddar cheese curds. Invented in 1957 in Warwick, the unusual flavors of poutine combine to create what is known in Acadian slang as a (delicious) mushy mess. Try it in its most traditional form, and in other elevated variations including meats, at La Belle Patate on Davie Street.

If these street treats sound too adventurous, Vancouver is well known for sophisticated cuisine. Or work up your courage with a wine from the Okanagan Valley, or sample the area’s popular craft beers. But you must explore the Richmond Night Market—a multi-cultural experience where food, games and fun are served Friday through Sunday during the summer. —Courtney Meyer
The leaning house

There was a crooked house, with walls that went this way and that. And stairs that went up and a slide that went down.

A crazy structure, it was, erected in 1976 by the Kiwanis Club of San Jose, California, at the Happy Hollow Park and Zoo. But as zoos sometimes do, Happy Hollow closed for a major upgrade.

But there was no plan to straighten up the 34-year-old crooked house. So San Jose Kiwanians and University of San Jose State University Circle K members picked up their paint brushes and toolboxes and fixed up the peculiar place.

Now, children and their families once again can be heard laughing and having a good time while they ...

Look out wonky windows …
Tiptoe across tipping floors …
And lean against the leaning walls …
At the crooked house that Kiwanis built.

Famous encounters

Josef Vojtek’s day job is belting out hard-rocking songs for the band Kabát (The Coat). When not recording or on tour, the Czech celebrity has been known to visit hospitalized children.

Vojtek is one of many famous Czech personalities who have accompanied members of the Kiwanis Club of Ostrava on pediatric ward tours to distribute Kiwanis dolls and spread cheer.

“I’m happy that I can enjoy their presence and cheer up the children,” Vojtek says. “I have a sick son myself, with diabetes; so, I know how children feel in the hospital.”

Other Kiwanis-family clubs have shared the spotlight with celebrities too:

• The National Basketball Association’s Houston Rockets see a lot of the Cypress Ranch High School Key Club. Over the past five years, the students have volunteered at a number of team events. One of their favorite activities is the annual Rockets Run, which this past year raised funds for the USO to lift the spirits of American troops and their families in the Houston area.

“We set up fruit and drinks and loaded pizza ovens with hundreds of pizzas,” reports Faculty Advisor Jennifer Hydes. “When the race was complete, we served food and drink to race participants.

• United States Senator Mark Pryor had lunch with the Kiwanis Club of Little Rock, Arkansas, and spoke about his perspective on the nation’s economic future.
Worms advise: shop grey

Some families shop at grocery stores that have the freshest produce. Other shoppers prefer stores with the best coupon deals. Thirteen-year-old Alexandra Page has a new option to consider when picking a food market: Which place has earth-friendly bags.

She shares the credit for this discovery with a few slimy, crawly worms.

Ugh!

Page won the Drury, New Zealand, Kiwanis Club’s science fair by testing the strength and degradability of stores’ plastic bags.

“I investigated the degradability by placing the bags in my compost bin, which is dense with worms,” she says. “I put the bags in for six weeks, and when I took the bags out I found that the bag with most worm population was the Countdown (store’s) bag.”

She believes the worms were more attracted to the bag’s grey coloring, explaining, “It was covered in far more worms than the other three bags.”

Read Page’s report online at http://kwn.is/kiworms.

Sculpting memories

Thanks to Kiwanis, one Swiss community now has a lasting monument to remind them of a day of fun. Nearly 400 students from the Muri-Gumligen community joined the children of the Aarhus, an institution for children and adults with disabilities, to participate in a Plauschparcours (activity course). The Bern-Aare Kiwanis Club’s event—which featured activities including wheelchair balancing, finger painting and darts—raised money for the Bergwald Project, a foundation dedicated to protecting forests; the Aarhus and The Eliminate Project. One of the most popular activities involved competitive sawing, which featured community celebrities and child participants. The wooden discs were assembled into a permanent sculpture titled Lebensfreude (“Zest for life”). —Courtney Meyer
Sponsoring a Service Leadership Program can be a rewarding part of club membership. But to be effective, you have to be efficient. Kiwanis International offers a one-stop online toolkit for SLP advisors. Get tools, tips and information— including an easy 10-step process, with details for each step along the way.

It’s all available at www.KiwanisOne.org/advisor.
Birthdays

These clubs celebrate anniversaries in April 2013. For a more complete list, visit www.kiwanis.org/birthdays.

75TH—1938
Stuart, Florida, April 1
Hazard, Kentucky, April 2
Dyersburg, Tennessee, April 14
Greater Omaha, Nebraska, April 19
Helena-West Helena, Arkansas, April 25

50TH—1963
Basel, Switzerland, April 1
Bruxelles No 1, Belgium, April 9
Delphos, Ohio, April 30

25TH—1988
Chung Mei, Taichung City, Taiwan, April 1
Mu Lan, Chi I City, Taiwan, April 2
St. Thomas Golden K, Ontario, April 5
Ozark Coast, Osage Beach, Missouri, April 14
Murrysville, Pennsylvania, April 26
Gawler, Australia, April 26
Waynesborough-Goldsboro, North Carolina, April 28
Castelvetrano, Italy, April 28
Krefeld, Germany, April 29

Centenarian

Carl E. Tavolacci, a member of the Bensonhurst and Bay Ridge, New York, Kiwanis Club, celebrated his 100th birthday this past November 9.

Quick and easy club websites

- 6 interchangeable designs
- Simple setup. No technical skills needed.
- Affordable. Automatic (no-cost) upgrades.

A public website is part of the full version Club Management System.

Since its inception in 1946, UNICEF, Kiwanis’ partner in The Eliminate Project, has helped save more children’s lives than any other humanitarian organization—by providing health care and immunizations, clean water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief and more. Focusing on proven, low-cost interventions, UNICEF has helped to nearly halve the number of preventable deaths of children under five since 1990 (from 33,000 per day to 19,000 in 2011). Immunization is a key program area. UNICEF helps immunize a third of the world’s children, procuring more than 2.5 billion doses of vaccine for children in 103 countries in 2011. UNICEF’s commitment to immunization against dozens of diseases, including measles, hepatitis and maternal and neonatal tetanus—the focus of The Eliminate Project—has helped reduce child mortality despite an increase in the number of children born each year. Learn more about UNICEF and its work at www.unicef.org.

Donor spotlight
“When I met Francois Gasse (a.k.a. ‘Dr. Tetanus’) at a Kiwanis convention, he asked me, ‘Have you ever had a muscle cramp?’ That’s what happens with MNT. Every major muscle in the baby’s body cramps at the same time. I was imagining that pain. That’s all they know. Until they die. For anyone who has been around a baby, it’s incomprehensible. And totally preventable. That’s inspired me to give.”

—Trent Cowles, Major Gift Donor and a member of the Kiwanis Club of Downtown Indianapolis and the immediate past club foundation president. His club and its foundation became the first 200K Club for The Eliminate Project. Read more at www.TheEliminateProject.org/Indianapolis.

Progress report
As of press time, The Eliminate Project has raised US$22.6 million in cash and pledges. Get the very latest stats at www.TheEliminateProject.org/progress.

$22.6 million
Cash and pledges, in U.S. dollars

Kiwanis goal $110.0 million

Got news?
Kiwanis and UNICEF are working together to eliminate MNT by 2015. Keep up with UNICEF’s progress in the field and Kiwanis’ fundraising at www.TheEliminateProject.org/blog.
President’s message

Continued from Page 4

one whose members are quite vocal and aggressive in displaying their passion for the causes they serve. Kiwanians also display the fourth Object by educating themselves about the needs in their local and global communities. When was the last time your club leaders conducted a “community analysis,” a critical directive that has been reinforced recently by mandatory Kiwanis training?

Kiwanis International spends a considerable amount of time and dollars aggressively inviting new members to join our network. When we do, we are not just looking for more numbers on our rosters or more contributions to our cash accounts. Rather, we seek a personal “commitment” to impact more lives that will create a more serviceable citizenship.

Do a Google search on the words “serviceable citizenship,” and you may be surprised to find that nearly all the initial entries are Kiwanis-related. Kiwanians have owned that description since the fourth Object was adopted in 1924, because they continue to channel their caring energies to perform transformational service in their communities.

Service impact cannot always be easily measured. It is measured better by a qualitative commitment to the defining values described in the fourth Object.
With optional background checks, it’s easier than ever.

For Kiwanis clubs, trust and integrity are a must. Thanks to criminal-history background checks, club leaders have an option for making sure members meet those standards. Kiwanis International’s relationship with Safe Hiring Solutions gives you access to a secure electronic process. There’s no paperwork for you or your club. So it’s easier than ever to protect the children you serve—along with members’ confidence and your club’s reputation.

Learn more and get started at www.KiwanisOne.org/backgroundchecks.
In the early 1960s, Gerda Schmidt left her home in Vienna—a city of 1.6 million people—traveled nearly 6,000 miles and lived as an exchange student among the 16,000-plus residents in San Benito, Texas. She didn’t know it then, but her see-the-world adventure had just begun.

Schmidt’s host family introduced her to life in the Rio Grande Valley, including its cowboys and the local Kiwanis club. By the time she returned to Austria, she was a San Benito High School graduate and would eagerly “talk down” anybody who dared to defame the name of the Lone Star State.

A couple years later when Schmidt was a sophomore at the University of Vienna, she received a letter from Gerald Nichols, her host family’s father and a San Benito Kiwanian. Kiwanis, he explained, had built its first club in Europe—Vienna—which was selling postcards as a fundraising project. Would she, he asked, obtain some of the postcards for his fellow San Benito Kiwanians?

One thing led to another. Schmidt and her mother attended a meeting of the Vienna Kiwanis Club to order the postcards. Then, the club secretary asked Gerda if she’d serve as an interpreter at the club’s charter night reception the following weekend. There, more than 300 Kiwanians and guests had arrived from North America on a “European Mission” to welcome the Viennese Kiwanians, as well as new clubs in Basel, Switzerland, and Brussels, Belgium.

“This certainly was a wonderful evening,” Schmidt wrote to the Nichols family. “All the men wore tail coats, and the ladies very fancy dresses. I wore white shoes, white gloves and purse, and a pink-red-dish dress and a white overcoat.”

Read the complete text of Gerda Schmidt’s letter to the Nichols family at http://kwn.is/kieurope1.

At the charter party in Vienna, Wells Ruby, past president of the Cleveland, Ohio, Kiwanis Club (left) presents the Kiwanis banner to the first Kiwanis club in Europe, then named “Wien” and now named “Vienna-Europe 1.”
Get the blues!

Kiwanis-blue button-downs are available in the Kiwanis Family Store. Order yours today and show your Kiwanis pride!

A. Wrinkle-resistant men’s button-down 15271 $36
B. Men’s white oxford 15280 $30
C. Men’s pinstriped oxford 15390 $38

All prices are U.S. dollars

See what’s new at www.kiwanis.org/store.
**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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