Kiwanis

SERVING THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD®

OCTOBER 2011 • WWW.KIWANIS.ORG

PENN’S PASSION
Meet your 2011-12 Kiwanis International President

TO THE RESCUE | FEAST ON THE BAYOU | BLUEFIELD’S REBIRTH
The bond we all deserve.
The connection we need to protect.

Every nine minutes, a newborn baby dies from tetanus. And a mother can only watch. The baby’s sensitivity to light, sound and contact prevents even the comfort of her touch. You can help protect that connection. The worldwide Kiwanis family is joining forces with UNICEF for The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus. It’s time to do your part. Educate others. Make a gift. Plan club projects and activities.

Get started at www.TheEliminateProject.org.

Figures are accurate as of August 2011 and are subject to change.
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www.TheEliminateProject.org
Kiwanis

DEFINING STATEMENT: Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.

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Kiwanis
LET’S GET STARTED

October’s an exciting time for all of us in the Kiwanis world. It’s the start of a new Kiwanis year, a new administrative year. A time to begin a new year of service, fun and fellowship with our club members.

This year will be our best yet as Kiwanis members. We’re not only embarking on a new year of service to our communities, but we have also launched our fundraising campaign for the elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus. For just US$1.80—less than the price of a cup of coffee—we can ensure that a child is born without having to endure the excruciating death from this terrible disease. As a fellow Kiwanian has said, “We are the game changers.”

The Eliminate Project will be a major focal point of our 2011–12 year. It’s the time to begin to raise the US$110 million we need to save and protect the lives of more than 61 million women and their children in 38 countries. What better calling for our organization than to be known for helping put an end to this disease.

During this year of service to children and families in your communities, I am asking each club to give above and beyond their current contributions and consider setting aside an additional 10, 20 or 30 percent of all funds raised over the next 12 months for The Eliminate Project. In addition, each member should consider joining the Walter Zeller Fellowship with a personal gift of US$1,250.

When we do our part, we’ll all know we made a difference in the lives of mothers and children.

The beginning is always an exciting time full of anticipation. I hope each of you is ready for our new year of service.

I know I am.

Alan Penn
Kiwanis International President
We can reconnect alumni. You can help us find them.

Ask Key Club and CKI alumni to raise their hands at your next Kiwanis club meeting. Encourage them to extend their service and fellowship—with Kiwanis International’s alumni associations. Each association helps alumni stay up to date, enrich current youth members’ experience ... and reconnect with other alumni.

Membership is free! Alumni can join today at www.kiwanis.org/reconnect.
WHAT THEY SAY  What is the value of service?

“I believe Jeffrey Wolff, governor of the Capital District, says it best: ‘Service is our investment in the improvement of our communities, but more importantly, in the next generation of humanity.’”

“Kiwanians reap the rewards of friendship and grace when performing deeds of service. The value of these remarkable gifts is eternal and beyond human comprehension.”

“Value of service means to take the time to put our own interests and ambitions aside to serve others—especially children—when need arises.”

Alan Penn  President

Tom DeJulio  President-elect

Gunter Gasser  Vice president

Kiwanis: Ready for the Rescue

As we prepared the October issue of Kiwanis magazine, I was reminded of several recurring themes of Kiwanis clubs.

The first is that the diversity of Kiwanis is in our projects and the communities we serve. As you read this issue’s stories, you’ll see a wide range of club activities from all around the globe.

Second, and more importantly, the test of a Kiwanis club’s ability to serve is when a community is in need. We call it “Kiwanis to the Rescue” (Page 34). Read about four Kiwanis clubs’ ready responses when their communities called for help to: build a new animal shelter in Illinois, keep the doors open at a children’s museum in Tennessee, overhaul a reading program to meet urgent needs at a California school and make a wish come true for an 11-year-old girl in Indiana.

You’ll also meet our new president, Alan Penn from Ohio (Page 16). I’ve had the honor of knowing 34 of the 93 Kiwanis International presidents who preceded Alan, but I can’t think of one who surpasses his drive and passion for Kiwanis.

As your club celebrates a new year of Kiwanis this October, my best wishes and congratulations extend to all Kiwanis leaders everywhere—both those who have just completed a year of leadership for our clubs, divisions and districts and those who have just begun. Your dedication to Kiwanis is appreciated.
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.
Let the good times roll

KIWANIS WILL CAPTURE NEW ORLEANS’ SPIRIT WITH THE HELP OF ENTERTAINERS BRANFORD MARSLIS AND AARON NEVILLE

Under the rips and riffs of Branford Marsalis (above) and Aaron Neville, the Big Easy will come alive for Kiwanians at the 97th Annual International Convention.

With roots in a talent-rich New Orleans family, Marsalis speaks his soul through his saxophone. With a legacy of acclaimed jazz performances, the three-time Grammy winner composes jazz and classical hits and has collaborated with musicians like the Grateful Dead and Sting. Marsalis also dedicates himself to the future of jazz as a music instructor at universities.

Like Marsalis, Aaron Neville also calls New Orleans home. A singer in the soul tradition with four platinum albums, his music evokes his love for the city. He sings of hope for his community and for his world, a message he kept throughout the hurricane that claimed his home in 2005.

“Right after the storm, we’d go places to perform and run into displaced people from New Orleans everywhere,” Neville reflects. “So when we go sing, we’re singing for them and letting them know they’re not by themselves. There’s hope.”


Kiwanis
Recording service

If your club’s looking for its next great service project, check out the Service Project Database.

Located at www.KiwanisOne.org/findaproject, this online resource allows Kiwanis-family members to browse through various projects, find ideas, read helpful tips, view downloadable resources and more.

And if you have a great success story, email details to shareyourstory@kiwanis.org for possible inclusion in the database, Kiwanis magazine and other Kiwanis International publications.

A different day for One Day

Kiwanis One Day is moving down the calendar for 2012.

Rather than its traditional schedule on the first Saturday in April, the 2012 observance of One Day is set for Saturday, April 21. The change is due to the celebration of holidays during the early days of the month.

One Day is a global celebration of Kiwanis, when members everywhere spread the spirit of service worldwide by making a difference in their communities. By starting to plan One Day activities now, clubs can truly make a difference. Plus, by submitting those plans to Kiwanis International by February 15, 2012, a club qualifies for a chance to have its event covered for a future Kiwanis magazine or professional video.

For more details about Kiwanis One Day and the contest, visit www.KiwanisOne.org/oneday.

Look for funding in all the right places

Is a lack of funding stopping your club from sponsoring a Terrific Kids or Bring Up Grades program?

The solution may be just around the corner—literally. Look to local businesses for help. Your club has the volunteers and the time. Businesses have the money and the desire to be associated with a program that supports and encourages the youth of your community. And Kiwanis International has the tools to help bring your club and the businesses together.

Find a sponsorship checklist, letter template and more at www.kiwaniskids.org/sponsors. These resources are designed for BUG and Terrific Kids, but can be applied to other Kiwanis club projects.

Try them.
**Family time**

It’s almost here! As soon as October gives up the ghost, November takes over with Kiwanis Family Month. That means it’s time to celebrate the unity that exists among Kiwanis, its foundation and its Service Leadership Programs. It’s a good time to host social activities, promote The Eliminate Project, charter a new club, welcome new members, organize a Kiwanis-family service project or schedule a joint meeting. Share your Kiwanis Family Month ideas at http://kwn.is/kfamilymonth.

**Distinguish yourself**

This is your year. Your year to make a bigger difference for children, your community and the world—through Kiwanis. This is your year to be a distinguished member. To qualify for this special recognition, a member must:

- Sponsor two new members.
- Attend a midyear conference, a Key Leader event, a regional/zone educational conference or a district, Asia-Pacific, European Federation, Key Club, CKI or Kiwanis international convention.
- Participate in three or more Kiwanis-family service projects.
- Make a personal contribution to the Kiwanis International Foundation or a district foundation.

In addition, the following bonus activities show a commitment to excellence: attending four inter-clubs, contributing to the KIF at the George F. Hixson Fellowship level (US$1,000) or higher, contributing to a district foundation at a level set by the district, attending three of the qualifying events mentioned above and contributing to The Eliminate Project.

Club presidents must verify a member’s qualification and submit names to the district governor. For more details about the distinguished membership program, visit www.KiwanisOne.org/distinguishedclubs.

**Corrections**

From the August 2011 issue of Kiwanis magazine:

- 2011–12 Kiwanis International President Alan Penn is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Medina Breakfast, Ohio—not the Medina Kiwanis Club.
- The Kiwanis International Foundation did not award a US$10,000 honorarium with the 2011 Kiwanis World Service Medal.
Leading the way

The leadership of the Kiwanis Foundation of Canada made an early and pivotal decision to commit as a Lead Gift supporter of The Eliminate Project’s fundraising campaign. The foundation will set aside CAD$250,000 (US$265,000), which it will use to match funds raised by Kiwanis clubs in Canada. For every CAD$3 raised by Canadian Kiwanians, the foundation will add CAD$1 (up to CAD$250,000). That commitment will inspire CAD$1,000,000 (US$1,060,000) to be raised for The Eliminate Project. Once all funds are matched, Canadian Kiwanis clubs will effectively save and protect nearly 600,000 lives from maternal and neonatal tetanus.

“One child and one community at a time—that’s what this is all about.”
— Chuck McIlravey, Kiwanis Foundation of Canada president and The Eliminate Project’s fundraising campaign region coordinator for Canada and Caribbean.

To learn more about this gift and evaluate whether a match or challenge gift opportunity is right for your foundation, contact The Eliminate Project campaign office.

Resource roundup

Looking for new videos, brochures and other resources to inform your club and community about The Eliminate Project? You’re in luck. We’ve redesigned The Eliminate Project website and pumped up its resources section. Now you can download the latest videos, explore one of the helpful toolkits, browse one of the many brochures and review the sample presentations in multiple languages. All materials are offered in an easy-to-access PDF format so you can print them for your club meetings and share with others. The resources site will be updated regularly as new materials become available. To access the latest information and resources, visit www.TheEliminateProject.org/resources.
TOOLBOX

First impressions

First impressions are important, and website first impressions are measured in seconds, not minutes. To safeguard your site’s online first impression, follow these four simple steps:

1. Put the most important information above the fold (the area visible on the typical laptop screen without scrolling).
2. Keep news fresh (nothing older than 30 days).
3. Keep the club meetings list and events calendar current.
4. Don’t overcrowd navigation.

Anelis Coscioni says it best: “I think it’s very important to keep your website updated. If someone is interested in your club, they would like to know what’s happening now. ...” Her South Sioux Falls, South Dakota, club’s website appears at right.


TOOLBOX

Logo-a-go-go

Go to www.KiwanisOne.org/logos for a visual chart of the most popular logos. Simply click the picture in the chart to download the logo. You’ll also get an explanation of the file formats and a quick link to the Kiwanis International graphic standards manual. Don’t see what you need? Check the list below the visual chart or go to the KiwanisOne downloads area and use the keyword search.

SNEAK PEEK

The big easy

Easy and fast online registration for the 2012 Kiwanis International convention will soon open at www.KiwanisOne.org/convention/registration. Check out the event website to plan your trip and get jazzed up about the sights, tastes and sounds of New Orleans.
Now what?

New club leaders need Club Leadership Education. With our online curriculum, it’s not too late to prepare. In fact, the online modules are designed specifically for each Kiwanis leadership position. Learn at your own pace, on your own schedule—in time for the upcoming Kiwanis year.

After all, club leadership is one thing. Knowing what to do with it is another.

Take a trip around the Kiwanis world. Experience the cultural diversity that distinguishes Kiwanis in our 80 nations, and celebrate the mission that unites more than 600,000 Kiwanis-family members: service.

**BAHAMAS**

When the Kiwanis Club of Nassau, the Bahamas, serves tea, guests may arrive toting pistols.

Sampling imported and local brews is just part of the fundraiser’s lure. Patrons purchase tables, think of a theme and decorate them accordingly in order to compete for a number of prizes. Then, they dress the part to accentuate their art. At the cowboy table, for example, the sponsor’s guests wore toy pistols, holsters, Stetson and chaps.

Area jewelers, bakers, clothiers and a photographer—each a home-based entrepreneur—display and sell their necklaces, cakes, toddler togs and landscapes. And the hospitable Kiwanians keep their guests entertained with a fashion show, a children’s dance recital and plenty of fun. The emcee, for instance, requires winners to sing their favorite nursery rhymes before collecting their prizes. — Jack Brockley

**Tea, pardner?**
Pet project

MICHIGAN

When Michigan’s Copper Country Humane Society needs animals transported for surgery, it fetches help from the Kiwanis Club of the Copper Country, Houghton. Betty and Jim Aebli, along with fellow members, jump at the chance to assist in saving the life of an animal.

“Jim and Betty had been working with the humane society for years by the time they joined our club in 2007,” notes Keith Baldwin, 2010-11 club president. “They brought their passion and interest with them. Our club has always supported its members pursuing their own community-service ideas, so we have supported them in theirs.”

Though drivers sometimes travel as far as 200 miles to take an animal to a clinic, Jim Aebli insists the experience is fun and often memorable.

“One time we had to transport a Saint Bernard for eye surgery,” he recalls. “She had to ride in the back with Betty, and the poor baby took up most of the room.” —Dick Isenhour

Stamping out MNT

MALAYSIA

The effort to stamp out maternal and neonatal tetanus has received a major boost in Malaysia where the Kiwanis district is selling commemorative stamps to raise money for The Eliminate Project.

An exclusive run of 15,000 Kiwanis stamps went on sale to collectors following this past March’s Kiwanis Asia-Pacific convention, notes Jennifer Chan, 2010-11 president of the Kiwanis Club of Klang, Malaysia, the moving force behind the fundraiser. If successful, the district is poised for a second printing.

“These are official stamps for Malaysia, where the post office can issue them as corporate branding or for charities,” says Chan. “We hope to not only raise money for The Eliminate Project, but also raise awareness of the importance of eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus around the world.” —Dick Isenhour

Entusiasta!

ITALY

To say the Kiwanis Club of Lentini, Italy, is entusiasta about The Eliminate Project would be an understatement. One day, for example, club members collected more than US$1,500 outside a supermarket.

“We’ve had luck there in the past,” notes Francesco Valenti, club secretary. “So we believed a similar display would encourage people to donate to The Eliminate Project.

“As we explained our project,” Valenti says, “shoppers reacted very positively. The possibility of saving mothers and children from something so bad as tetanus really touched their souls.” —Dick Isenhour

Kiwanis
For Thomas Pafford, trust is the key to giving. A longtime supporter of the Kiwanis International Foundation, the 37-year Kiwanian has served in several leadership roles—including president, secretary and treasurer—for the Kiwanis Club of Huntington, West Virginia. He is also a past lieutenant governor for the West Virginia District.

As a donor, Pafford prefers organizations that use donations responsibly and have track records to prove it. That’s why he gives to the Kiwanis International Foundation. In fact, he is a Sustaining Donor and has made annual gifts for more than a decade.

“Kiwanis’ programs are well identified, and the successes are reported,” he says. “Eliminating iodine deficiency disorders is solid evidence of what Kiwanis can accomplish on the global level. It’s like a worldwide billboard showing what Kiwanis has done.”

The success of Kiwanis’ worldwide service project to virtually eliminate IDD has also boosted Pafford’s confidence in The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus. In fact, Kiwanis International’s global campaign for children has re-energized him and renewed his commitment to the Kiwanis International Foundation.

“It’s the most recent cause that has inspired me to donate,” he says. “We have a lot of organizations to support the needy people in our community, and I think The Eliminate Project goes far, far beyond that. It helps people around the world who don’t have the economy, the government or the resources to improve.”

Pafford was introduced to Kiwanis by members of his church in 1974. The organization’s focus on children keeps him involved. For example, he is active in his Kiwanis club’s sponsorship of a daycare center that has operated in Huntington for 81 years, serving children from low-income families.

He also supports global initiatives that provide children with the basics of a healthy and happy life. “It makes you wonder what a happy day would be like for them,” he says. “Maybe they’ll be able to have that happy day with the help of Kiwanis.”

Read more about Thomas Pafford and how you can make a difference at www.kiwanis.org/foundation.
Your club can make an impact

When it comes to the Kiwanis family’s impact on children’s lives, your Kiwanis club’s gifts to the Kiwanis International Foundation are a big factor. One key giving option for clubs is an Annual Club Gift.

As the Kiwanis year begins in October, so does the Annual Club Gift campaign. From October 1 through September 30, Kiwanis clubs will make their Annual Club Gifts to sustain the work of clubs and districts throughout the world. With an Annual Club Gift, your club helps support:

- Grants for Kiwanis-family service projects in local communities.
- Grants to support Kiwanis membership programs for youth, young adults and adults living with disabilities.
- Scholarship programs that benefit young Kiwanis-family members and other youth.
- The Robert P. Connelly Medal of Heroism for individuals who risk their lives for others. (See story below.)

By strengthening Kiwanis International, you help the organization provide the services that support the activities of each club—including yours. Ultimately, gifts to the Kiwanis International Foundation benefit you and your club.

More information, including a link to our secure online giving form, is available at www.kiwanis.org/foundation/ACG.

In 2011–12, Annual Club Gifts are expected to help make a direct impact on the lives of more than 127,000 children around the world.

Know a hero? Think Connelly

Sometimes people do downright heroic things. To help your Kiwanis club honor them, the Kiwanis International Foundation offers the Robert P. Connelly Medal of Heroism. Named for a Kiwanian who tried to save a woman from a train in 1966, the award is presented to individuals who offer “service beyond the call of duty.”

Over the years, the foundation has honored more than 500 heroes. In 2011, Simone Neri and Steve Zernhelt were honored posthumously. Neri saved eight people from a mudslide in Giampliieri, Italy, and died while trying to rescue a ninth. Zernhelt lost his life while trying to save neighbors from an intruder in Northampton, Pennsylvania.

Learn more at www.kiwanis.org/foundation/connelly.

Simone Neri’s brother and sister accepted his Connelly Medal at the 2011 Kiwanis International convention.

Give online quickly and securely: www.kiwanis.org/foundation/giving.
And see our new page devoted to The Eliminate Project on Page 11.
Penn’s passion

RAISED ON SERVICE, LIVING IN A KIWANIS TOWN: MEET YOUR 2011–12 PRESIDENT | Story and photos by Jack Brockley

Two things you should know about 2011–12 Kiwanis International President Alan Penn: He’s proud of his hometown, and he’s passionate about service.

It’s been a two-day whirlwind of activity in Medina, Ohio. The Jump Park garden has been weeded. Hungry shoppers have been fed. Head Start children have giggled about the alphabetic avalanche during a reading of “Chicka Chicka ABC.” Eight hundred heads of lettuce have been harvested.

Now, it’s Friday evening. The Community Band should be playing Souza from the Victorian-style gazebo. Families should be picnicking on the lawn of the downtown city park. Children, their faces stained with red and blue mustaches, should be eating cherry- and raspberry-flavored ice cones.

Instead, the sky’s dark and ominous. Alan huddles with the band while his wife, Jeri, finds refuge beneath a coffee shop awning. Occasional fat rain drops plop on the tarp. Alan returns with bad news. “There’s a chance the storm’s heading this way,” he says. “The concert’s been called off.”

Concert or no concert, Medina already has proved its charm.

A KIWANIS TOWN
It’s easy to see why Medina calls itself “America’s Hometown.” It’s old-fashioned. Ornate Victorian mansions can be found throughout the city. Fire trucks still make runs from the bell-towered, red-and-white 1878 station in the center of the town’s nine-block historic district.

It’s also a city of recreation and green space. The town square is actually a park: Uptown Park. There are, of course, golf courses. Fishing lakes. Walking trails too. There’s Jump Park—a fortress of ramps,

Double disasters in the 1870s convinced Medina citizens to establish a fire department (right) and ignited a spirit of community service. It’s a tradition that thrives today in the city’s Kiwanis family (left).
It’s a city of progress. All of its schools rated “excellent” in 2011. Medina Creative Housing has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a prime example of how to build and operate a residential facility for persons living with disabilities.

And “America’s Hometown” is most definitely a “Kiwanis town.” There’s evidence of Kiwanis just about everywhere you go.


And that’s just Alan’s Medina Breakfast Kiwanis Club.

The Medina Club puts its mark on the city too, buying clothes for schoolchildren, planting Arbor Day trees. ... Meanwhile, Jeri’s All Ohio-EMedina Kiwanis Club collects school supplies, razors for an Akron homeless shelter. And more.

The three clubs support three K-Kids clubs, one Builders Club, two Key Clubs, and an Aktion Club.

**A LIFE OF SERVICE**

Medina, a service-minded community, seems the right fit for an individual raised in a service-minded family.

“My father was an ag teacher in Warsaw, Ohio,” Alan says. “But all of a sudden, he and Mom decided to go into the mission field.”

Their decision led the Penns to a farm for orphan boys in Cataramas, Honduras.

“There was no running water in our house, no electricity, no indoor plumbing,” Alan remembers. “And it was wonderful.”

For eight years, he says, “my brothers and I lived like natives. We went to school with the local children, played soccer with them. We had a blast.”

What he didn’t realize at the time was his indoctrination into—and an appreciation for—a life of service.

He’d join his mother on trips into the mountains to vaccinate women. His dad modernized the farm, installing plumbing and building a lawn mower so they didn’t have to cut the grass with machetes. One day, Alan witnessed the arrival of cows.

“Dad had contacted some folks in the states to see if they could ship us some livestock to help improve the farm’s dairy herd,” Alan says.

“We were pretty excited when the plane landed. They opened the doors, and these crates came out. And inside these crates were three heifer calves. And on the side of the crates was a sign that said ‘Heifer International’ and a logo with a ‘K’ on it. It said these calves were a gift from a Kiwanis club in Iowa.”

The Penns returned to Ohio in 1960. Alan finished high school and went off to The Ohio State University to follow in his father’s footsteps and study agricultural education.

“That’s where I met the love of my life, Jeri,” he says.

Alan will say he and his wife are from similar backgrounds. Jeri sees it differently.

“I grew up in Willard, Ohio,” she
“There was no running water in our house, no electricity, no indoor plumbing,” Alan remembers. “And it was wonderful.”

says. “I went to school there, took piano lessons, graduated and went to Otterbein College followed by OSU. Nothing out of the ordinary.”

Though they may disagree about their childhood experiences, Alan and Jeri are completely in sync in conversations. Consider this string of overlapping sentences as they described the early years of their marriage:

Alan: “We married our junior year at OSU and planned to join the Peace Corps. I had my assignment to go to Jamaica, but we had to take a physical exam. I passed mine. …

Jeri: “But I failed. …

Alan: “But Jeri failed hers. We had a little surprise package we weren’t prepared for.

Jeri: “I was pregnant.”

Alan: “Pregnant. So here we were. No Peace Corps. …

Jeri: “Ready to graduate.

Alan: “Ready to graduate.


Alan: “Baby on the way and no job.

Jeri: “And no job.”

CHOOSING KIWANIS

Jobs came. First at a new vocational school in Dayton, Ohio, where their children, Jody and Randy, were born. In 1975, Alan accepted a position as assistant principal of the Medina County Career Center, where his new boss, Chuck Hawley, offered a piece of advice.

“He told me,” Alan says, “‘We want you to be active in the community. And one of the ways to be active is to belong to a service club.’”

“I wasn’t foolish,” Alan continues. “Chuck was my boss, and I knew he was a Kiwanian. I visited his club, the Medina Kiwanis Club, but the Medina Breakfast Club worked out better for my schedule. Chuck found Clay Benjamin to sponsor me into the Breakfast club, and the rest is history.”

That history includes a life-changing experience in 1983 when he represented his club at the international convention in Vienna, Austria.

“It was awesome,” Alan recalls. “We met people that week who are still our friends today. It was so formal. People wore tuxedoes!”

“But never did I think I’d be back in 2011 for another international convention in Europe and that—this time in Geneva, Switzerland—I’d be on that stage representing members from around the world as their president-designate.”

Between Vienna and Geneva, Alan went on to serve as club president, lieutenant governor, governor and as a Kiwanis International trustee. And in that time, three events stand out in his mind. The first of these events occurred in 1987; the second, in 2007 and the third, in 2011.

1987

As a teenager, Alan and Jeri’s daughter was an activist. At fast food restaurants, Jody refused to be served sandwiches in environmen-
tally-unfriendly containers. She carried that fervor into her membership as a Medina High School Key Clubber, complaining to Alan about Kiwanis’ then-men-only policy:

“She'd say to me, 'I can be in Key Club, but I can't be a Kiwanian!'”

“It’s one of my proudest moments when she was in Washington, DC, for the 1987 convention, watching me vote in the affirmative allowing women to be members of Kiwanis.

“In 2012, we’ll celebrate the 25th anniversary of that decision,” Alan says.

2007
The scene once again was the House of Delegates at another international convention, this time in San Antonio, Texas. Alan spoke on behalf of the international board in support of a proposal to test alternative memberships.

“I consider myself a traditional Kiwanian,” he says, “and I firmly believe traditional clubs are the foundation of our organization.”

But if he’s a traditionalist, he’s an unconventional traditionalist. He is, for example, a charter member and past distinguished president of the Kiwanis Club of Tombstone, Virginia City, Montana—one of Kiwanis’ first Internet clubs.

“The time has come to truly open our doors to new ideas,” he says. “So, it was a privilege to make

2011
Alan Penn was brought to tears in the village of Chamnak, Cambodia. He was there as part of a Kiwanis fact-finding tour for The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus.

At a vaccination clinic, a mother handed her baby into Alan’s arms.

“I flashed back to 1954,” he remembers. “I was up in the moun-
tains of Honduras. The local women were letting me hold their babies while Mom vaccinated the mothers.

“Then it hit me: In the ’50s, Mom was doing her part to eliminate a cruel disease. And here am I, as president of Kiwanis International, continuing her work to eliminate that same disease, forever.

“I just started to cry. I realized then this is our Kiwanis legacy of service. This is how we’ll change the world. This is what unites us.”

“It's going to take all of us, working together to make this happen, to beat tetanus.”

One other thing you should know about Alan: He has complete confidence in his fellow Kiwanians. KM

At home, Alan volunteers with Builders and Aktion Club members to sell hot-dogs, chips and drinks outside a Medina grocery store (above). Globally, he joined a Kiwanis group on a trip to Cambodia this past April to observe that nation’s efforts to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus (below and right).

Kiwanis

Cambodia photos © U.S. Fund for UNICEF and Kiwanis Intl.
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Merald T. Enstad, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, 1980–81
Raymond W. “Ray” Lansford, Columbia, Missouri, 1984–85
Donald E. “Don” Williams, Berea, Ohio, 1985–86
Frank J. DiNoto, Rosemead, California, 1986–87
Gene R. Overholt, Colonial Plymouth, Michigan, 1988–89
Noris A. Lusche, Golden K-Foothills, Lakewood, Colorado, 1989–90
Wil Blechman, North Miami Beach-Sunny Isles, Florida, 1990–91
Ian Perdriaux, Melbourne, Australia, 1994–95
Eyjólfur “Eddie” Sigurdsson, Reykjavík-Hekla, Iceland, 1995–96
Glen M. Bagnell, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, 1998–99
Nettles Brown, Natchitoches, Louisiana, 1999–00
Alex A. “Bo” Shafer, Knoxville, Tennessee, 2000–01
Brian G. Cunat, McHenry, Illinois, 2001–02
Juan F. “Ito” Torres Jr., Antipolo, the Philippines, 2002–03
Case Van Kleef, Pewaukee, Wisconsin, 2004–05
Stephen K. “Steve” Siemens, Des Moines, Iowa, 2005–06
Nelson Tucker, Northridge, California, 2006–07
David A. “Dave” Curry, Silver Bow, Butte, Montana, 2007–08
Donald R. “Don” Canaday, Meridian Hills, Indianapolis, Indiana, 2008–09
Paul G. Palazzolo, Springfield-Downtown, Illinois, 2009–10
What happens when a Kiwanis club dies?

Well, in fact, nothing happens—at least, nothing more. And that can be a problem.

Take the Kiwanis Club of Bluefield, West Virginia.

On September 6, 2007, the club surrendered its charter, ending a remarkable 87-year run of community service. Membership that once topped 200 had fallen below charter levels. Recruitment drives didn’t work, members were aging, and many believed Kiwanis in Bluefield had run its course.

“I just think it’s time,” a 34-year member told the Bluefield Daily Telegraph. “I think we’ve done about everything we could do.”

A 46-year member blamed society: “We have become a society of takers. You can see it . . . in about every walk of life.”

Perhaps. But for nearly a century, Bluefield Kiwanians were givers of the highest order. What did this small Appalachian mountain town lose when Kiwanis Club #347 went missing? A Key Club. A charter-ready Circle K club. Christmastime thrills and gifts for 80 to 100 kids.

The most significant loss? The imaginative, dedicated leadership Kiwanians provided across generations. Ambitious club undertakings spanned decades:

Bluefield’s rebirth

A CLUB THAT LOST ITS CHARTER AFTER 87 YEARS OF SERVICE FINDS NEW LIFE WITH “A HEART FOR CHILDREN.” CAN OTHER CLUBS DO THE SAME? | Story Scott Pemberton

“Times Square Bluefield” (above) was created by Bluefield native artist Gary S. Bowling. Image courtesy of the artist and the Mercer County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Kiwanis
The Coal Bowl, started in 1954, featured top regional college football teams. It remains an exciting contest—with a different sponsor.

The Kiwanis Horse Show, begun in the 1960s, continues, sponsored by a different organization.

John Nash Day, celebrated after native son John Forbes Nash Jr. shared the Nobel Prize in economics.

Bluefield lost a lot when it lost Kiwanis. But it’s just one club, just one community.

True enough. The loss of one club hurts most in its own community. But does it signal loss for other communities and perhaps Kiwanis itself?

Between 2003 and 2010, Bluefield-like disappearances played out for hundreds of clubs, reducing the worldwide count by 10 percent, from 8,303 to 7,654. Membership also trended downward by 10 percent. North American membership dropped 14 percent.

Together, these trends constitute “the most critical challenge the organization has faced in its 96-year existence,” says Kevin Dean, 2010-11 West Virginia District governor.

“We need to recognize that service is the differentiator,” says Past International President Paul Palazzolo. “Fun plus service equals value.”

But there may be a silver lining.

Successful new club builders in North America find that men and women, say 30 to 45 years old, with families—are willing to join. But they must be persuaded that Kiwanis offers value in their day-to-day lives beyond weekly meetings.

“People need to belong to a club and work together on a project,” explains Dean. “If it’s not personal, they aren’t going to stick.”

In August 2010, a handful of determined Kiwanians decided to launch a new Bluefield club. They were told it wouldn’t work.

Six weeks later, on September 28, the new Kiwanis Club of Bluefield, West Virginia, held its organizational meeting. Just over a month later, Club No. 18059 received its charter with 34 new Kiwanians. Their average age? Less than 45 years old.

What happened?

“People wanted to get together to do good things,” says Phil “Buddy” Fry, a past distinguished lieutenant governor. “That was pervasive in our meetings.”

“Younger people will come to serve,” says the new club’s charter president, Susan Rector. “But not to just another meeting.”

How is the new club beginning to serve? A Key Club and Terrific Kids, to start.

“This club has such a heart for children and service. Plain and simple,” Rector says. “We’re all just very glad to be a part of it.”

Apparently, fun plus service does equal value. KM
Feast on the bayou

GET READY TO SAVOR THE SENSORY OVERLOAD OF YOUR 2012 CONVENTION HOST CITY: NEW ORLEANS

I was going to tell you that New Orleans is unique, but the premise that we’re not like other cities became cliché years ago.

I was going to tell you all my favorite restaurants and music clubs, but you won’t listen because what you will do—what you should do—is follow your nose, follow your ears; pack your Fodor’s and your Frommer’s away and let the city’s collective insouciance—what the guidebooks like to call our “laissez-faire”—wash over you.

You’re lucky. We used to ask—no, demand!—that visitors go witness what the gods and governments hath wrought unto this town in Biblical proportion. But that’s all nevermind now.

Yes, 80 percent of us got whacked by Katrina seven years ago, but we’ve taken care of most of that. It’s comforting to tell you that our “disaster tour” industry is considerably less prosperous than our ghost, vampire and cemetery tours.

Truly, the only things that really ever change around here are the debutantes at each year’s Mardi Gras cotillions and which new restaurant is this week’s must-do. But again, I ain’t tellin’. I don’t want the place to get so crowded no one goes there anymore.

(If you insist on guidance as to where to dine, I’ll leave you with this: If you eat a bad meal in New Orleans, it’s probably your fault.)

Hemingway called Paris “a moveable feast.” New Orleans, on the other hand, is a feast of the senses. The physical world is just an approximate framework for all the things you cannot touch, the things you cannot see, the things you must experience to really know.

Playwright Tennessee Williams understood this when he wrote, in “The Glass Menagerie”: “In memory, everything seems to happen to music.”

He could have said, “In New Orleans, ...” for it is so.

Music falls out of the sky like rain, from street corners and second-floor studios, up and over the slate and terra-cotta rooftops, bouncing off the brick and granite banquettes—you call them sidewalks—smothering you like cigarette smoke in a dusty juke joint.

It stays on your clothes, in your ears, in your memory.

Our rain falls like no other place, bigger, harder, louder. Wetter. Sure, sexier.

Listen to the cracksnap of the electric lines over the streetcar tracks before a storm; it’s not the heat, it’s the humidity. Watch as the sun shines through an afternoon downpour.

I’ve never seen the sun shine quite like that anywhere else, through all that falling water. And then the precipitation stops and their steams off those banquettes like a convection oven underfoot and it’s not the heat, it’s the humidity; you can almost touch the air in New Orleans, right when you step off the airplane and draw your first breath, it feels like warm, wet gauze.

And the rain washes out the stink of all those oyster sacks and crawfish pickins...
piled overnight outside the seafood bistro, and the stink out of all that beads-beer-and-Lucky Dog mash that puddles in the curbside gutters every night—we call it Bourbon Street Gravy—and it's an unholy stew.

But then, after the rain, the city busts open like the night-blooming jasmine that creeps up the walls of mysterious and unseen French Quarter courtyards, protected as they are by tall iron gates, razor wire and the much subtler broken-glass shards cemented—jagged edges out—onto the tops of brick walls. 

Beats the hell out of a Keep Out sign. Besides, we're way too polite to actually say that.

Still the night, it smells like coffee, sweet olive, fish-fry and passion. There's nothing like it in the known world. It hints to the essence of New Orleans, which is this: The possibility you might never be the same once you leave.

Maybe it's something in the food you ate or the music you heard or the way you fell in love. The way you bore witness at the Maple Leaf club on a Tuesday night when the rest of America, even New York, is asleep; bore witness to the sticky, sweat-drenched dancers all mashed up against each other under the pressed tin roof, shadows at play on the walls, and some brass band from the ghetto's wall of horns in your face and close your eyes and you're gone, gone, gone.

This is not minstrelsy, felicity or past-time; this is a way of life. And taking it all in, the seduction from observer to participant, from witness to congregant, from a whisper to a scream … well maybe—just maybe—for the first time in your life you feel comfortable in your own skin.

That's what New Orleans is. It's where you find your mojo, get your groove back, carve out your own personal laissez-faire.

You've gone native when you'd rather dance at a funeral than cry, browse for birthday gifts at the voodoo shop (for true!) and eat a lot of stuff that other folks would pay good money to have removed from their yards.

It sounds fantastic—literally—and it is. Life is super-sized in New Orleans. You know how we were always told that the Eskimos had 30 words for snow? Well, we've got 60 for Happy Hour.

We talk too much, laugh too loud and live too large and, quite frankly, we're suspicious of others who don't.

That can make a lot of folks elsewhere uncomfortable. Until, that is, they come to New Orleans. Then, in the parlance made popular on late night sports television ... they're: All In.

We don't care what god you pray to or who your people are. Around here it's "How 'bout dem Saints!" and the rest is lagniappe—a little extra sum'tin sum'tin.

Ya hear?

It's funny now: Back when everybody had to pack up and leave home and we were allowed only one bag to take on our bus or plane to safety, people always asked just why in the hell did we bring shrimp boots?

The simple answer is that we thought we might need them. The real answer is much—much—more complicated.

That's the thing about New Orleans, about the people, the language, the traditions, the culture, the life aquatic. It's never what it appears.

New Orleans is my mystery, my mistress, my muse.

A friend of mine once said: If there was no New Orleans, America would just be a bunch of free people dying of boredom. Everybody knows what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. But did you know: What happens in New Orleans stays in your heart forever. KM

Chris Rose is a former columnist for The New Orleans Times-Picayune, where he won a Pulitzer Prize for his contributions to the newspaper's coverage of Hurricane Katrina. He is a longtime contributor to (U.S.) National Public Radio's Morning Edition, People magazine and Us Weekly. He is the author of “1 Dead in Attic,” the New York Times Best Seller account of life in New Orleans after Katrina.

Kiwanis
KIWANIS TO THE RESCUE

Who do you call when animals are left without shelter? A school can’t afford a vital curriculum? A museum has to close its doors? Or a child’s home can’t accommodate her illness? These four clubs prove Kiwanis is ready, willing and able to answer the call for help.
Giving shelter

WITH THEIR COUNTY’S ANIMAL SHELTER BEYOND REPAIR, ILLINOIS KIWANIANS RALLY TO BUILD A NEW ONE | Story by Robin Bortner | Photos by Holly Vaughn

SEEING A NEED
It’s the end of a long recession in a town that owes its wealth to an oil-boom 30 years ago. Mount Carmel, Illinois, used to be an industrial center, but now finds itself the bedroom community to other booming towns. Even with the return of high oil prices, the town hasn’t seen much of the profits.

Yet Mount Carmel is not a town that gives up. There are no haunting storefronts or untended hedges on Main Street. A new orthopedic surgeon recently opened his practice, and medical students who return to town still receive tuition reimbursement. On the north edge of town, past the oil rigs that still rhythmically rise and fall, stands a new US$106,000 animal shelter.

Nearby—a dilapidated, ill-equipped building with a rotting ceiling, rusting cages and a pervasive musty smell—the old shelter is scarcely habitable. In late 2008 the Shelter Buddies, a group of animal shelter volunteers, approached the Mount Carmel Kiwanis Club with a list of improvements for their facility.

AIMING HIGH
Kiwanis heard the proposals, saw the old shelter and thought bigger.

“It was a deplorable building that needed to be torn down,” says Kiwanian Tim Raibley. “It wasn’t worth any money at all. We needed to start fresh.”

An architect, Raibley sketched the design. As the vision took shape in numbers and lines, the square footage and budget doubled. Material needs were tallied: $798 for sand and gravel, $505 for sinks, $936 in gutters and many thousands in construction materials.

His fellow Kiwanians compiled a list of the needed supplies and pitched the plan to town businesses over a donated dinner. More than 80 people attended. “We invited every contractor and anybody that owned a hammer,” jokes Raibley.

No one hesitated. When the last plate was cleared, close to $50,000 was promised, half the project cost, and all the labor and expertise volunteered.

BECOMING REALITY
It was a Saturday morning in September 2009, five months after the dinner, when nearly 30 volunteers crowded the finished concrete structure. Nearby, the wafting scent of grilled hamburgers attested to the beginnings of a grill-out. The dream was blooming into a reality.

The old-fashioned barn-raising erected the complete skeleton of the 2,336-square-foot building. Experienced builders delegated tasks, and amateurs took crash-courses in carpentry.

“A lot of the guys didn’t have a clue what
Kiwanis led the project, and the town embraced it. High school art students painted a mural in the cat room. The nearby Toyota plant, on a recessional shutdown, paid employees to lay the foundation. In April 2010, the Daily Republican Register produced an entire newspaper section chronicling the project and advertising the shelter’s community open house.

But the Kiwanis club’s story does not end with the animal shelter.

“I think for a while the club was content to sit back and write a check,” reflects Schonert, “but now we like to be doing something.” A picnic shelter is being raised in a neglected park. Strewn about Schonert’s insurance office is equipment for a 6th annual motocross competition. “I think service is contagious,” adds Raibley. “We found we liked building things,” says Tim Phillips. “I built a deck; I would have never tried that before.”

“Kiwanis came in and saved the day,” Commissioner Sanders says. “When they built the animal shelter, they got the ball rolling.”

Today, modern and energy efficient, the new shelter operates at capacity. The club donated the shelter to the county at no cost, and in its first year, it rescued 354 dogs and 244 cats, most sent for adoption to agencies in larger cities. The older shelter still stands in its shadow, a testament to the difference Kiwanis has made in Mount Carmel. KM

Once Kiwanians heard of the need for a county animal shelter, it didn’t take them long to move the project from wish to reality. Take a look at the remarkable timeline at www.kiwanismagazine.org/rescue. In just one year, fresh, spacious cages were ready for tenants, from feisty felines (Page 34) to handsome canines (below).
Still open ... for kids

| Story by Lisa DeNeal

On December 1, the Kiwanis Cookeville Children’s Museum in Tennessee will celebrate the one-year anniversary of its reopening and the Kiwanis partnership that made it all possible.

According to the agreement, the Putnam County Kiwanis Club gives US$1,200 a month to keep the museum open and operating, and members volunteer at the facility’s annual fundraisers.

But the partnership goes beyond a club and museum; rather, it is a joining of forces between 40 Kiwanis members and a stay-at-home mom.

Susan Capron founded the museum as an outlet for children and families. “My husband, children and I moved here in 2003,” Capron says. “I was trying to set up play dates with other moms, and it was difficult because there was nowhere to go except McDonald’s.”

The quest to start a children’s museum in Cookeville jumped off immediately as other families saw a need for something family-friendly. A steering committee formed. And with two $10,000 grants and community donations, the museum opened in September 2007.

Three years after it opened, however, the recession hit. “Even the banks that loaned us money in the past could not continue to do it,” Capron says.

And just when it seemed the museum would need to close its doors, Kiwanians read an article about the museum’s struggles.

“We didn’t know what they needed to stay open,” remembers 2010-11 club President Charlie Macke. “But the museum fit our three goals: Get our name out, increase membership and make a substantial difference in the community.”

The club approached Capron about helping the museum with the condition of adding “Kiwanis” to its name. Capron admits being apprehensive at first.

“I feared donors would stop giving once they saw Kiwanis was involved and think there wasn’t a need to keep giving,” she says. Both parties, however, came to terms and neither have regrets about the partnership. “The monetary gifts from donors are still coming in along with $1,200 a month from the club,” Capron says.

The museum, which caters to children ages 2 to 10 years old, has 7,500 visitors a year. Activities include science exhibits and a theater where children can wear costumes and put on plays.

While Capron’s now nine-year-old daughter has another year and her 14-year-old son has long outgrown the museum, its founder says it’s set to make families happy, thanks to Kiwanis. 

Kiwanis
Kiwanis

If it weren’t for the Kiwanis Club of Glendora, California, dozens of children would still struggle with reading.

Every week for the past eight years, members voluntarily read one-on-one with young students at Wingham Elementary School. And when the school district downsized and shut down that facility, the Kiwanians moved their Reading Partnership Program to Stanton School. There, they discovered, a different need. Without hesitation, the club refined its focus to meet the new challenge.

Working with retired reading specialist Debi Damron and her Kiwanian husband Terry, the Kiwanis club began tutoring about 20 first- and second-graders with dyslexia. Dyslexia is language-processing disorder that can significantly limit a student’s reading ability. And in many cases, the children are from disadvantaged families.

Kiwanian and school board member Chuck Gomer says the Glendora Unified School District is made up of both high-achieving and Title I schools.

“When I got onto the board of education, I would hear from parents who didn’t want to send their children to a Title I school,” Gomer says. Title I is part of the U.S. Education Act that ensures that disadvantaged children receive an equal and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education.

A shift in service

Story by Lynn and Curt Seeden | Photos by Lynn Seeden
Gomer saw the community as playing an important role in making sure pupils at the Title I schools received all the help they need.

“I wanted to do a partnership where volunteers would go into schools and read, and we did this through the Kiwanis club.”

The Kiwanis club would send members to Wingham School once or twice a week to read to first- and second-graders in what had become the club’s signature project.

“A lot of kids need additional help,” Gomer says. “Many years ago there were funds to do this, but no longer. This is an area where communities need to step up.”

Debi Damron got the OK from Stanton School officials to bring in the Barton Reading System, a one-on-one tutoring program designed to significantly improve children’s spelling, reading and writing skills.

“We already had a number of volunteers going into the classrooms and reading,” Terry Damron says. “Once we got the Barton program, it gave those folks a connection to focus on a single child.” Each Kiwanis volunteer works with the same child for at least a semester, if not a full school year.

Debi Damron spent the summer training Kiwanians how to use the system and how to interact with the children. Of the 14 volunteers she trained, 10 were Kiwanis members, including the city treasurer and the city’s director of community services.

“It’s a nice bridge for the schools to the city, which can be hard to do,” Terry Damron says. “They jumped right in and got involved.”

Each week, a Kiwanis club member will work one-on-one with a student with a teacher also present. Damron says there’s a tremendous need among the students when it comes to learning to read. “Early intervention can make a tremendous difference in a child’s life.”

Gomer adds: “These kids look forward to these sessions. It makes them feel like someone is looking after them.”

The Glendora club is a growing club—in membership and service to its community, Terry Damron says. With more than 60 members, the club co-sponsors the city’s concerts in the park and puts on a popular car show and street fair in the summer.

“We have a good balance of members: men, women, older and younger,” Terry Damron says. “We’re attracting more and more young members.”

“What Kiwanis has been able to do is lead by example,” adds Gomer. “The funds are not there (for the school district) to do this on a paid basis.”

Besides the volunteer hours, the club provides about US$1,000 a year for program supplies.

“I’m really proud of our Kiwanis members,” says Gomer. “They always step up when needed.” 

Kiwanis
Eleven-year-old Destiny Cartwright wanted her own bedroom. Not an uncommon wish for a little girl who’s tired of sharing space with siblings. She wanted a room of her own with purple walls, peace signs, an enormous bed heaped with pillows and a dangling bauble chandelier. Not an uncommon wish for a little girl itching to express her nearly pre-teen personality.

What made Destiny’s wish remarkable was the way a Kiwanis club and the Plymouth, Indiana, community rallied around her and worked together to grant it.

At such a tender age, Destiny suffers from congestive heart failure—a memento of her battle with rheumatic fever. Climbing the stairs to the bedroom she shared with her two brothers was difficult, if not grueling and impossibly painful. Her parents often had to carry her.

“Rheumatic fever affects the joints. The pain is in your joints, and it hurts to move,” says Destiny’s mother, Mewsette Cartwright. “It was hard for her to get around, and it was pretty difficult to carry her upstairs.”

And Destiny is slated for a heart surgery, which left questions about what would happen when it was time for her to recuperate at home.

When the Make-A-Wish Foundation received a referral for Destiny and chose her as a wish recipient, Destiny’s one wish was plain: a room of her own.

“Unfortunately, the Make-A-Wish Foundation cannot offer a building project like Destiny wanted,” says Plymouth Kiwanis Club member Tom Sibal. “That’s where we came in.”

Though Make-A-Wish cannot grant building wishes, if another organization steps in and handles the construction, Make-A-Wish can decorate and furnish the room—to the satisfaction of an 11-year-old’s wildest imagination.

A family friend shared this wish dilemma—and opportunity—with the Plymouth Kiwanis Club, of which Mewsette is a member.

“We had a quick meeting and decided it was something we needed to do—not just because Mewsette is a member, but because this was an incredible story and we knew, if there was a way to do it, we needed to do it,” Sibal says. “Our board members started making some calls, and the project took off!”

Those calls included asking Keith Woods, who works for Plymouth’s Lowes home-improvement store, to serve as the project’s general manager. Woods said yes, and soon he was also on the phone to friends, family and other contacts to find out who else would help Destiny.

Destiny Cartwright wanted a room of her own. A purple bedroom. A place she could go to without climbing stairs. A place close to her mom and dad.
“The response was that everyone just asked ‘when and where?’” Sibal says.

As the plan to construct one bedroom on the home’s first floor grew into two bedrooms and a bathroom (so Destiny’s parents could be near her on the same house level), the club again set the chain of contagious generosity in motion to secure donated drywall, lumber, shingles and other construction supplies.

“A big part of what we did was get the word out,” Sibal explains.

With all but about US$15,000 in needed supplies donated, Lake City Bank, where Cramer works, set up an account to receive monetary donations. Word continued to spread, and the money rolled in. Besides individual donations—often spurred by the club’s regular press release updates on the project’s progress—community groups staged fundraisers. The local LifePlex fitness plaza, where Mewsette works as a personal trainer, hosted a Zumba party. Another Plymouth group put on a bike show and bash to fund the wish and Destiny’s future medical expenses.

“Enthusiasm to help was no less contagious when it was time to swing hammers and get to work. Over several weekends, nearly 80 volunteers worked at the site, usually six or more at a time. Restaurants donated food for lunches and breaks.

“Mewsette’s husband worked on the site during the week when he could; sometimes with his father-in-law,” Sibal notes. “Everyone was involved.

And then, finally, weeks after it all began, it was time to shut the doors and let Make-A-Wish work some secret magic inside.

“They kept Destiny out for about two weeks while they worked,” Mewsette says.

“This was something magical—a dream room for Destiny, truly made for her,” Allison Loper says.

When the doors finally opened and Destiny caught her first glimpse of her wish, her community gathered just outside waiting for her reaction.

“She was in shock!” Mewsette says. “She stood there for several minutes just looking around. It was breathtaking, and she loves it. It’s everything she wanted and everything she chose—from the colors to the furniture to the decorations. And after she has her heart surgery, she’ll be just on the other side of the wall from us. We’ll be able to hear her if she needs us.

“The Kiwanians and others who helped on this project sacrificed their family time to help another family. I call them the dream team.” KM

In the spirit of an old-fashion barn-raising, Kiwanians rallied their northern Indiana community to raise money, contribute equipment, donate supplies and build a dream-come-true bedroom for 11-year-old Destiny Cartwright.
February might be freezing in Wisconsin, but kids still work up a sweat as they work out with members of the Wisconsin Rapids Kiwanis Club. For the past three years, the Kiwanians have sponsored a Winter Outdoors Day to get children moving and excited about wintertime outside sports.

Motivated by increasing rates of obesity and type 2 diabetes in children, the Kiwanians “had to do something to get kids outside,” says Josh Schoenick, the club’s project chairman.

The Kiwanians and the (U.S.) Department of Natural Resources put on the free event at a local park, which attracted about 65 chilly children this past February. Kids could try cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing and more. Equipment was provided by a local outfitter and the school district, allowing participants to try new activities without a major investment in gear.

Wisconsin Rapids Kiwanians teach children—and their families—that winter’s a great time to get outdoors. An equal opportunity exerciser, the club offers a Summer Outdoors Day, as well.

**Kiwanis**

**The thrill of the chill**

**BELOW FREEZING? DON’T HIBERNATE. IN WISCONSIN, EVERY SEASON’S A REASON FOR OUTDOOR PLAY | Story by Karen Pyle Trent**
This October you can help save children’s lives around the world by collecting money for UNICEF. The money your family raises will provide children with lifesaving medicine, clean water, nutrition and more.

All funds raised by the Kiwanis family will support The Eliminate Project.

Get started at: trickortreatforunicef.org
Many kitchens transform into cookie factories in December, especially for the Kiwanis Club of Dinuba, California, where fundraising takes a delicious turn. For $10, residents purchase a Christmas tree constructed of 10 star-shaped sugar cookies. Nancy Aguilar, the baker and 2010-11 club president, shares the recipe:

1 cup sugar
¾ cup butter or margarine, softened
1 egg
1 tsp vanilla
3 cups all-purpose flour
1½ tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt

Combine sugar, butter, eggs, vanilla; beat at medium speed with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add flour, baking powder and salt; beat at low speed until soft dough forms. Cover with plastic wrap, chill 1 to 2 hours or until firm. Roll dough to ¼ inch in thickness; using 6-point star-shaped cookie cutters (from 6-inch to 1-inch sizes) cut 10 cookies. Cut one 6-inch size, two 5-inch, two 4-inch, two 3-inch, two 2-inch and two 1-inch.

Bake at 350 degrees for about 10–15 minutes until golden brown on top. Cool and frost each cookie using butter cream frosting, adding green color to decorate, and top with sprinkles.

On a 6-inch round board spread white butter cream frosting, resembling snow, to anchor the 6-inch cookie. In the center of each cookie, add a drop of frosting to bond the cookies as you stack to create a tree shape. Once the tree is constructed, add drop frosting to create icicles. Aguilar adds package-shaped, decorated cookies around the base of each tree.

—Iced tree treats

Robin Bortner
Stimulate your senses

Indulge in the European flavor of New Orleans. Experience a history as colorful as its architecture. Hear music come to life on the streets of the birthplace of Jazz. Tempt your tastebuds with legendary food. We’re jazzed you’re coming. We’ll see you in New Orleans!
Support the La Grande, Oregon, Kiwanis Club, and you may get your shirt handed to you. Every April, the club stages a tie-dye booth at the Arts for All festival, an event providing a hands-on art experience for children, especially those with special needs.

“This one-day event lets kids experience all forms of art,” notes Beverly Beach, club secretary, “and that includes tie-dying T-shirts. The festival focuses on creating art rather than the end result, but no one has ever forgotten to retrieve their shirt before they go home.”

“The tie-dye booth is probably the most popular booth at the festival,” notes Minnie Tucker, recreation coordinator for the City of La Grande, which, along with the La Grande Arts Commission, sponsors the event. “Children get an opportunity to express their artistic talents, showcase their achievements and gain exposure to new experiences in the arts.

“The Kiwanis booth certainly meets those goals, and children love having a souvenir they can wear to remember all the fun they had.”

The club spends about US$125 a year to purchase dyes, salt, rubber bands and vinegar. The arts commission buys the T-shirts, and children can either pay $2 for a shirt or bring one from home.

On the day of the festival, Kiwanians and members of the La Grande High School Key Club mix up a dozen colors in buckets, which are lined up from light to dark. Volunteers help children dip their T-shirts in vinegar and then twist them and secure them with rubber bands to create a pattern. Shirts are dipped in the dyes and, after removing the rubber bands, uncurled and hung on a chain link fence to dry.

About 250 to 300 shirts—and an occasional handkerchief or pair of socks—are tie-dyed each year. The dyed-in-the-wool Kiwanians who staff the booth get much more from the day than colorful hands and “rubber band burnout,” Beach insists.

“Our club is not wealthy,” she explains, “so we tend to give more of our time to causes than our money—and this one is fun. We all have a blast!” —Dick Isenhour
Kiwanis service finds its rhythm

It’s been said that rhythm is the basis of life. Nowhere is that more true than in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where Kiwanians improve the quality of life for persons with mental disabilities.

Working in concert with Cosmopolitan Industries (Cosmo), the Kiwanis Club of Saskatoon sponsors the Kiwanis-Cosmo Rhythm Band, a 30- to 40-member percussion orchestra that performs throughout the year at school convocations, senior citizen homes, conventions, banquets and church services.

“By sharing their talents, band members have become a very important part of our community,” notes Jerry Helfrich, the club’s assistant secretary. “This helps band members improve their self esteem and learn and develop skills that enhance their quality of life.”

The club underwrites all expenses for the band, including uniforms and transportation to gigs.

When band members miss a practice, says Kiwanian Dan Skaret, they come to the next practice with sincere apologies.

“They’re in the gym waiting for us,” Skaret says, “and after the leaders arrive, they eagerly set up the chairs and hand out the instruments.” —Dick Isenhour

Through the Kiwanis-Cosmos Rhythm Band, members grow into confident participants in their community.
12 ideas: Happy holidays

Do you need some gift ideas for the holidays? Try one of these gifts of service:

1. Pick holiday-themed books for a reading party.—Belize Central, Belize
2. Chaperone children on a Christmas shopping spree and a movie.—Bridgetown, Barbados
3. Erect a life-size Nativity scene.—Caveman, Grants Pass, Oregon
4. Take pictures of children with Sinterklass.—Piscadera, Curaçao
5. Serve Christmas dinner to inmates.—Port Antonio, Jamaica
6. Offer carriage rides through holiday-decorated town.—Cherbourg Marie Ravenel, France
7. Serve Christmas day dinner to people who are alone during the holidays.—Vught de Noordelijke Meierij, the Netherlands
8. Deliver gifts, food and Ang Pow (monetary gifts in red envelopes) for Deepvali and Chinese New Year.—Muar, Johor, Malaysia
9. Combine a holiday party with a baby shower, asking guests to bring diapers, formula, clothes, beds, strollers and other items that could be donated to a pregnancy resource center.—Stone County, Mississippi
10. Run a high school basketball tournament between Christmas and New Year’s Day.—West Middlesex, Pennsylvania
11. Host a community Thanksgiving service at a place of worship.—Tuscumbia, Alabama
12. Sell 4-foot by 8-foot cards so businesses can decorate them with holiday greetings. Display them on “Christmas Card Lane” outside a mall entrance.—Dawson Creek, Western Canada

Go to http://kwn.is/kholiday for more or to share your holiday ideas.

Kiwanis

Fix it

Can we fix it? Yes, we can.
Check out this common challenge and ideas for fixing it.

It’s the beginning of the Kiwanis year. As a past president, how can I best help my club succeed?

At the end of the Kiwanis year, the outgoing president should review all that year’s goals and report on successes and failures. The incoming president should be encouraged to build on the previous goals and to add to those goals. The outgoing president should volunteer to assist the incoming president with the goal-setting process if the new president wishes to have help. Successful Kiwanis clubs have continuity in their goals as they go from one Kiwanis year to the next.”

Dale R. Carlson
Kiwanis Club of Early Risers, Worthington, Minnesota

It’s super important for past club presidents to get others involved and to make sure all new members know how easy it is to help. New members turn into long-term members once they realize the benefits and the warm and fuzzy feeling that comes with giving back. For this reason, as a past president, you must make sure your new members are engaged quickly.”

Kelly Ryan
Meridian, Idaho

Join the discussion at www.KiwanisOne.org/blog.
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According to the U.S. Government, women should take sufficient levels of folic acid (400 micrograms/day) during pregnancy to help prevent neural tube defects and reduce the risk for cleft lip and palate. When folic acid is taken one month before conception and throughout the first trimester, it has been proven to reduce the risk for neural tube defects by 50 to 70 per cent. Be sure to receive proper prenatal care, quit smoking and drinking alcohol and follow your health care provider’s guidelines for foods to avoid during pregnancy. Foods to avoid may include raw or undercooked seafood, beef, pork or poultry; deli meats; fish that contain high levels of mercury; smoked seafood; fish exposed to industrial pollutants; raw shellfish or eggs; soft cheeses; unpasteurized milk; pickled; canteen; and unwashed vegetables. For more information, visit www.SmileTrain.org. Smile Train is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit recognized by the IRS, and all donations to Smile Train are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS regulations. © 2011 Smile Train.
When Glenn Harkness wanted to find a way to help kids warm up to the idea of eating healthier foods and engaging in more physical activity, he couldn’t have chosen a colder way to do it. He entered a fully sanctioned, 26.2-mile marathon race at the North Pole.

“I wanted to do something way out there, something the media would cover well,” explains Harkness, a Hamilton East, Ontario, Kiwanian. “While the event has grown since its inception seven years ago, there were still only 29 people crazy enough to take this on. I was one of them.”

The sole Canadian in the April race, Harkness raised both awareness and funds for the Active Living and Healthy Eating programs at the Boys & Girls Club of Hamilton, where he serves as executive director. Sponsored by the Hamilton East Kiwanis Club, the On Top of the World for Kids campaign landed US$140,000.

“Faced with unpredictable terrain and developing frostbite, I finished the race in eleventh place at six hours and 18 minutes,” Harkness says. “It was -25 degrees Fahrenheit at the beginning of the race, and -40 at the end. It was very difficult. I’m very proud that I finished.”

(Read Glenn Harkness’ North Pole interview at www.kiwanis.org/glennharkness.)
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.
Salmon Creek, Vancouver, Washington, Kiwanians found kindred spirits in the Misty River Band, and seven concerts later, the popular folk band had helped the Kiwanis club raise more than US$86,000 for local projects.

“The key to success for these fundraisers has been getting sponsorships from businesses and the fact that club member and concert Chairman Gregg Herrington is organized and driven,” says Kiwanis club President Don Orange.

It also doesn’t hurt that the Misty River Band boasts quite a following, with between 800 and 1,000 people attending each of the Kiwanis-sponsored performances at a high school auditorium.

“We make each other successful,” Orange says.

Performing together since 1997, the Misty River Band plays folk, Celtic, bluegrass and Irish tunes, often teaming with the Salmon Creek Kiwanis Club to stage fundraising concerts.
Where’s the bear?

Kiwanis bears are everywhere, and Kiwanis magazine is sending you on a mission to find the fuzzy wuzzy wayfaring beasts. Follow the clues to guess the locations of these four bears. Or email a photo or two of your Kiwanis bear to magazine@kiwanis.org. Here are the rules:

• Any toy bear will do, but it must bear the Kiwanis logo or name, such as those available through the Kiwanis Family Store at www.KiwanisOne.org/store.
• Photograph your bear in a setting that gives readers a clue to its location.
• Photos should be taken at your camera’s highest setting.
• Get creative.

There are no prizes; just fun.

Find the answers and more bears at www.kiwanismagazine.org/answers.

1. Kiwanis President Alan Penn and his Kiwanis bear pose near the confluence of four rivers in the capital city of a kingdom with temples, jungles and real sun bears.
2. Arón Benzadón, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Metropolitan, Panamá City, Panama, lunches with a Kiwanis bear at a kindergarten in a capital city once known as the village of Santa Fe of the former New Kingdom of Granada.
3. A Kiwanis bear romps with children around a globe at an address that’s well-known to many Kiwanis members worldwide. The scene’s been seen on magazine covers.
4. A Kiwanis bear cheers for a National Football League team in a stadium named for a company that bottles ketchup.

O Christmas tree!

It’s the most wonderful time of the year when people of Cape Cod and thousands of visitors attend the Spectacle of Trees Fundraiser.

These, however, are not the typical tinselied tannenbaums. The fabulous firs are decorated by 18 philanthropic organizations, including the Kiwanis Club of Mashpee, Massachusetts.

One recent favorite was a tree decorated with various animal ornaments and dog treats tied to it.

“Participating organizations get to shine and sparkle, just like the Christmas lights adorned on the trees,” says member Paula Manzi.

The goal of the event is to create a beautiful tree by picking a theme, collecting donated gifts that fit the theme, use the gifts to decorate the tree and, ultimately, raise money. Interested buyers purchase $10 tickets for a chance to win a tree.

In 2010, one tree raised US$10,000.

“People walk in, and they’re in awe. We get the ugliest tree and turn it into a beauty. It gives our club a chance to shine,” says Tamara Gray, the Kiwanis club’s Spectacle of Trees chairwoman. —Adrian Kendrick

Kiwanis
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Are your Kiwanis club meetings fun?
For guidance and good ideas, go to www.KiwanisOne.org/fun.

Kiwanis International

Word search: First clubs
Can you find the first clubs from the oldest 25 Kiwanis nations? Only club names (shown below in bold) are hidden in this puzzle. Look forward and backward, vertically, horizontally and diagonally. Find the answers at www.kiwanismagazine.org/answers.

1. USA Detroit
2. Canada Hamilton
3. Mexico Tijuana
4. Bahamas Nassau
5. Austria Vienna
6. Switzerland Basel
7. Belgium Bruxelles
8. Germany Frankfurt
9. Norway Oslo
10. Iceland Reykjavik
11. Japan Tokyo
12. Jamaica Kingston
13. Philippines Manila
14. Netherlands Antilles Curaçao
15. Aruba Aruba
16. France Metz Doyen
17. Netherlands Amsterdam
18. Sweden Karlstad
19. New Zealand Auckland
20. Colombia Bucaramanga
21. Australia Melbourne
22. Italy Milano
23. Panama Panamá City
24. Taiwan Taipei
25. South Korea Seoul
Birthdays

THESE CLUBS CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARIES IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2011:

75TH—1936
Cortland, New York, November 12
Elkins, West Virginia, November 17
Lomita–Harbor City, California, December 7
Mishawaka, Indiana, December 9
Stillwater, Oklahoma, December 15

50TH—1961
Vallejo Suburban, California, November 1
Lander, Wyoming, December 6
North Hennepin, Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 9
Columbus, Meridian, Indiana, November 16
Columbus, Magnolia, Mississippi, November 21
Boise, Gem State, Idaho, November 27
Knoxville, Iowa, November 30
Georgetown, Massachusetts, December 7
Thermopolis, Wyoming, December 8

Sylmar, California, December 11
Capital (The), Salem, Oregon, December 11
Highlander (The), La Habra, California, December 18

25TH—1986
La Jacques–Cartier, Quebec, November 8
Copiague, New York, November 13
Tonto Basin, Arizona, November 18
Johnston, Iowa, November 19
Dasmarinas, Cavite, the Philippines, November 21
Sydney, Australia, November 24
Indianapolis–Crossroads, Indiana, November 26
Villavicencio–Centro, Colombia, November 29
Metro Bacolod, the Philippines, December 2
Rochelle Golden K, Illinois, December 4

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

Kiwanis

Member Services
Who you gonna call?

317-875-8755, ext. 411 (worldwide)
800-KIWANIS, ext. 411 (US and Canada)
A “first-class blizzard” struck Detroit, Michigan, on the morning of January 22, 1940, when the “Motor City” was set to host Kiwanis’ 25th anniversary party. Nevertheless, more than 1,100 members and guests were in their seats when a magnificent five-tiered cake entered the grand ballroom of the city’s Masonic Temple.

Walter Zeller (above, left), a prominent Canadian business executive and governor of the then-Ontario-Quebec-Maritime District, rose to explain the symbolism behind the dessert. Each of the 29 districts, he reported, contributed an ingredient. Pecans from Alabama; candles from Capital; apricot jam from Western Canada. ... And an enormous redwood platter from the California-Nevada-Hawaii District.

“This birthday cake, therefore, is not merely to serve as a symbol of the 25th anniversary of the founding of Kiwanis,” Zeller said, “but the very symbol itself manifests in a real way that desire and ability to cooperate in a collective action which are the distinctive and distinguishing features of Kiwanis.”

Perhaps, Kiwanis’ first worldwide project? Zeller, himself, added one very important ingredient: 25 silver dollars—“fresh from the Canadian mint.” The coins, initially used as cake decorations, were given as souvenirs to the first 25 members who donated $25 to the new Kiwanis International Foundation. (To honor his generosity, the foundation recently established the Walter Zeller Fellowship, which recognizes individuals who contribute US$1,250 to The Eliminate Project, Kiwanis’ global campaign to raise US$110 million for the elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus.)

Interestingly, the fabulous cake never was served at the banquet. Instead, in true Kiwanis form, it and the leftover ingredients were sent to four Detroit-area orphanages.

**Let them eat cake**

**AT ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, KIWANIS SERVES UP SWEET SERVICE**

Kiwanis
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YOUR OPINION COUNTS
Kiwanis magazine would like your opinion about this issue. Please take a couple minutes to complete the survey at www.kiwanismagazine.org/survey. Your participation will help us plan future editions.

The fall season is the time for family and friends to gather together and give thanks for the blessings received.

Kiwanis Peanut Day will fill your every need, from helping you plan your fundraiser to helping you incorporate our products into your existing primary or secondary fundraisers. To help make your fundraiser hassle free, payment for our products is due after your fundraiser to help maximize your cash-flow. Why not give Kiwanis Peanut Day a try this fall holiday season?

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