Features

The leader in YOU


Who is a leader? You are, because you chose to do something. You joined Kiwanis, and in that very act, self-selected as a leader, poised to inspire and influence change.

Beginning this month, KIWANIS magazine introduces a series that picks the brains of premier thought leaders, exploring the latest ideas on what it takes to be a leader today, insight on how people lead—and those who follow, and how effective leadership expands beyond title or office and into everyday lives.

It’s Just Our Turn To Help The World

Forward to Living System: Making Sense of Globalization by Bruce Nixon
By Margaret J. Wheatley, Ed.D. ©2006

In my own work with local communities around the planet, I’ve learned to define leadership quite differently than the norm. A leader is anyone willing to help, anyone who sees something that needs to change and takes the first steps to influence that situation. It might be a parent who intervenes in her child’s school; or a group in a rural village in Africa who decides to put in a well for fresh water; or a worker who refuses to allow mistreatment of others in his workplace; or an individual who rallies his or her neighbors to stop local polluters. Everywhere in the world, no matter the economic or social circumstances, I see people stepping forward to make a small
difference. They are impelled to act in spite of themselves; they often describe their actions as “I couldn’t not do it.” Others see what they do and label them as courageous, but those who step forward never feel courageous. They just did what felt like the right thing to do.

Because a leader is anyone willing to help, we can celebrate the fact that the world has an abundance of leaders. Some people ask, “where have all the good leaders gone?” But when we worry that there’s a deficit of leaders, we’re just looking in the wrong place. We need to look locally. And we need to look at ourselves. Where have we been willing to step forward for the issues that we care about?

Every great change initiative in the world begins with the actions of just a few people. Even those who win the Nobel Peace Prize. I’ve looked at the history of several of these prize-winning efforts, and one phrase always pops up as the founders describe how they began. Their laudable efforts began not with plans and official permission, but when “some friends and I started talking.” I recently listened to Wangari Matai, winner of the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize for her work in planting over 30 million trees in Kenya and east Africa. Her first efforts were with a few local women, and they planted seven trees, five of which died. But they learned from that experience, spread the learning to their villages, then to other networks, and ten years later, 30 million trees flourish. Villages now have clean water and local firewood, creating improved health and community vitality. And it all began “when some friends and I started talking.”

This is how the world changes. Individuals have an idea, or experience a tragedy, or want to resolve an injustice, and they step forward to help. Instead of being overwhelmed and withdrawing, as many of us do these days, here are people who decided to act locally. They didn’t know at the beginning where it would end up. They didn’t spend a great deal of time planning and getting official support. They began, they learned from their mistakes, they kept going. They followed the energy of yes rather than accepting defeat. This is how the world always changes. And this is how we must act now to respond to the frightening issues of these times, to reverse our direction, to restore hope to the future.

I carry with me a vision of what would be possible if more and more of us were willing to help, if we simply said “no” to what disturbs us, if we took a stand, if we refused to be cowed or silenced. My heroes are the Ukrainians. They set a standard in their ‘Orange Revolution’ in late 2004 that has now inspired citizens to protest for what they need in many different countries as dispersed as Ecuador and Nepal. They refused to give in or to stop protesting until they got what they needed. Why couldn’t we do the same?
What will be our response to the destructive behaviors, the injustices and the suicidal decisions that characterize this time? Are we willing to help?

I Want to Be a Ukrainian
Meg Wheatley ©2005

When I come of age,
When I get over being a teen-ager
When I take my life seriously
When I grow up
I want to be a Ukrainian.
When I come of age
I want to stand happily in the cold
for days beyond number,
no longer numb to what I need.
I want to hear my voice
rise loud and clear above
the icy fog, claiming myself.

It was day fifteen of the protest, and a woman standing next to her car was being interviewed. Her car had a rooster sitting on top of it. She said “We’ve woken up and we’re not leaving till this rotten government is out.” It is not recorded if the rooster crowed.

When I get over being a teen-ager
when I no longer complain or accuse
when I stop blaming everybody else
when I take responsibility
I will have become a Ukrainian
The Yushchenko supporters carried bright orange banners which they waved vigorously on slim poles. Soon after the protests began, the government sent in thugs hoping to create violence. They also carried banners, but theirs were hung on heavy clubs that could double as weapons.

When I take my life seriously

when I look directly at what’s going on

when I know that the future doesn’t change itself

that I must act

I will be a Ukrainian.

“Protest that endures,” Wendell Berry said, “is moved by a hope far more modest than that of public success: namely, the hope of preserving qualities in one’s own heart and spirit that would be destroyed by acquiescence.

When I grow up and am known as a Ukrainian

I will move easily onto the streets

confident, insistent, happy to preserve the qualities

of my own heart and spirit.

In my maturity, I will be glad to teach you

the cost of acquiescence

the price of silence

the peril of retreat.

“Hope,” said Václav Havel, “is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense regardless of how it turns out.”

I will teach you all that I have learned

the strength of fearlessness
the peace of conviction

the strange source of hope

and I will die well, having been a Ukrainian.

Margaret Wheatley is president emeritus of The Berkana Institute, and an internationally acclaimed speaker and writer. She has been an organizational consultant and researcher since 1973 and a dedicated global citizen since her youth. Her first work was as a public school teacher and urban education administrator in New York, and a Peace Corps volunteer in Korea. She also has been Associate Professor of Management at the Marriott School of Management, Brigham Young University, and Cambridge College, Massachusetts.

Margaret’s path-breaking book, Leadership and the New Science was first published in 1992, and has been translated into 20 languages. This book is credited with establishing a fundamentally new approach to how we think about organizations. It is a standard text in many leadership programs, and has won notable awards, including “Best Management book of 1992” in Industry Week, Top Ten Business Books of the 1990s in CIO Magazine, and Top Ten Business Books of all time by Xerox Corporation. A new edition was published in 1999, significantly revised, updated and expanded. The video of Leadership and the New Science, produced by CRM films, has also won several film awards.

Help wanted: change agents

Kiwanis is looking for a few good great men and women who want to help change the world. Must be open to new ideas and innovative ways of solving problems. Must have personal courage and a willingness to challenge those in authority. Should be willing to ask important questions like: Why? So what? Who care? Positions available in 8,000 locations worldwide, with opportunities for advancement into positions of leadership at a district and international level. Salary is not negotiable ($0), but the benefits are awesome. Answer the call!
A storyteller’s tale

As 2007-08 International President Dave Curry’s life unfolds, an underlying message emerges: It’s all about the children

By Dick Isenhour

Ask Dave Curry to talk about his childhood and, with a dry, deadpan delivery generally reserved for your favorite, storytelling uncle, he says, “I was born in Boise, Idaho, at a very early age. In fact, I was practically a baby when I was born.”

But seriously folks, Kiwanis’ 2007-08 International President was born in 1954, the first of nine children of Jim and Luanna Curry. He says he neither liked nor disliked being the oldest child in the family; it was only life as he knew it. “The oldest children,” he notes, “absorb some responsibilities for how life goes for their siblings, and that’s how it was with me. With that many younger brothers and sisters, I had to be their caretaker sometimes. I learned about ‘serving the children of the world’ in my own household.”

President Dave believes his rise to the position of caretaker of Kiwanis—a role affirmed by his election as International President during this past summer’s International convention in San Antonio—is all part of a lifelong journey of service that took root during childhood, sprouted during parochial school and college, bloomed during stints as a community and corporate leader, and has been bearing fruit during 18 years as a Kiwanian. He shared details of that journey with Kiwanis magazine during an interview peppered—like his formal speeches and presentations—with anecdotes, inspirational quotes, and an occasional one-liner. Here are excerpts:

Kiwanis magazine: Raising nine children must have been a challenge for your parents. How would you describe them?

Dave Curry: My parents were the traditional couple raising a young family during the 1950s, ’60s, and ’70s. This was an era in which the father usually worked outside the home and the mother stayed home to raise the family.
My parents definitely fell into that mode.

My father owned a business college for a number of years, but sometime along the way, the (US) government began subsidizing vocational technical schools and that crushed business schools. He had to totally abandon that passion and go into other things. He eventually ended up working as a permanent deacon in the Catholic church. He actually was a paid deacon, so that became his ministry.

**KM:** Was all this in Boise?

**DC:** No. This was all in Butte, Montana. When I was four years old, my parents moved to Butte so my dad could manage the business college. I was raised in Butte, and we still call Butte home today.

**KM:** Can you recall any event or time from your youth—a defining moment, if you will—that helped shape the person you are today?

**DC:** Well, yes, and this may sound strange, but at parochial school there was a teacher—I think her name was Sister Charles Marie—who was very much into discipline. She could have pitched for the New York Yankees because she could turn around, eraser in hand, and nail anybody in the room who was talking.

She was tough, and a lot of kids hated her. I absolutely loved her, though, because she also was very much into rewarding effort. At the end of the week, for example, she gave a candy bar to the person who did best in math. She taught me there are rewards for those who apply themselves and work hard to accomplish goals. It’s a lesson I still apply today.
Most of my early influences are associated with religious activities, like my early involvement in the Catholic Cursillo movement, a charismatic program that helped me get in touch with myself so I could relate to God and others. We used to get together once a year for encounter weekends. A diocesan coordinator gave me a shot once at coordinating one of the weekends, and I suggested that instead of doing them once a year, we’d be better off doing a couple of them a year so we could get more people interested. Only one leader thought the suggestion was a good idea, with the rest of the leadership team telling me I’d never be able to get enough folks for two weekends a year. I talked to the diocesan coordinator, though, and he at least was willing to let me give it a try. From him I learned that even though some embrace the status quo, you should never be afraid to try new things. I see many applications for that lesson in Kiwanis.

KM: Wasn’t it through the Cursillo movement that you met your wife, Eva?

DC: Yes. After you went to an initial Cursillo weekend, you attended get-togethers about once a month. Eva was going to get-togethers in Missoula (Montana), while I was going to Butte. Once there was a get-together in Deer Lodge, Montana, where we actually met. And then later, she took a job in Butte, not knowing that she would never leave.

KM: Would you describe it as love at first sight?

DC: There were traits that attracted both of us to each other immediately, but we dated for a couple of years before we decided to get married. We got married in 1985 and have been married for 22 years now. We have five children and a ton of grandchildren.
KM: What is the best part of being a grandparent?

DC: A lack of “ownership” of a child creates a freedom to embrace them as they are. I’m going to give you a good example. We took all the grandkids down to Yellowstone Park and one of them was acting up. We never got angry or intense with him or had a talk with him. We just let him be him and enjoyed the experience and laughed at it.

KM: You mentioned your mom was a stay-at-home mom. Is Eva a stay-at-home mom?

DC: She stayed at home until the kids were out of school. Then she went back to her career as a nurse and also completed her master’s degree. Her going back to get her master’s degree inspired me to go back and get a master’s degree. Now she’s an oncology nurse, a profession suited to her because she is empathetic and able to present the prescribed medications and treatments. It’s a tough profession, and she’s really good at it.

KM: Why did you decide to get your master’s degree in philanthropy and fundraising?

DC: Well, I believe there are lots of areas in our organization where people seem to have desire and expertise. Some people are really good at growth and sponsoring others into Kiwanis clubs. Some people are good at fundraising. Some people are good at hands-on service and coordinating projects. I’ve always felt a lot of personal satisfaction on fundraising side of Kiwanis. And because of some efforts that were associated with raising money for IDD and raising money for an orphanage, it became apparent to me that what my skill set was and that there’s actually a profession associated with that: philanthropy. So that’s why I was interested in getting additional information. Fundraising and philanthropy is something I can do both as a Kiwanian and as a citizen of my community.

KM: Isn’t your favorite Kiwanis story about those kids at the orphanage?

DC: Yes. Because of Kiwanians in the Montana District and the Kiwanis International Foundation, we were able to sponsor an orphanage in Nha-Trang, Vietnam. For Christmas, each of these little kids got a stipend and they were supposed to go this village and use it to buy new clothes and a new set of shoes. Instead, they each came back with an older set of clothes and sandals instead of shoes. They also came back with dry beans and rice to take care of the mountain people nearby who had had a really tough winter and didn’t have enough to eat. They wanted to help. I took great
pride in knowing Kiwanis helped them experience what it is like to be caregivers themselves.

I think basically down deep, we all have this desire to be significant in the lives of others. And that’s all Kiwanis is—a vehicle to be able to do that. If we feel appreciative and the other people involved have that same spirit, we can command a tremendous amount of energy toward helping people. We should be proud that this is the nature of our organization.

KM: Eva also is a Kiwanian. Did you both join Kiwanis at the same time?

DC: No. I’ve been in Kiwanis since 1989 and am a member of the Silver Bow, Butte club. She joined several years ago and belongs to the Sunrise Butte Club. She can’t make our noon meetings because of her job. We still do many Kiwanis-related things together, though.

KM: You once said you joined Kiwanis for the wrong reasons. What did you mean?

DC: I was a city-county commissioner in the mid-1980s and spent a lot of time going around talking to all the service clubs—one of the traditions all the politicians do. At the Kiwanis Club of Silver Bow, the members were having fun, interrupting me while I was talking, and cracking jokes. I guess you could say they were extremely rude. When I got out of there, though, I knew I had to be involved in the community somehow and that it was this particular club I wanted to join. It wasn’t Kiwanis’ mission that attracted me; It was the fun-spirited nature of that Kiwanis club. So I joined for all the wrong reasons.

KM: Since then, what have you found most rewarding about being a Kiwanian?

DC: When I was incoming club president in 1995, our club sent me to the International convention. I was in the audience, listening to somebody talking about the Worldwide Service Project and Kiwanis’ efforts to rid the world of iodine deficiency disorders (IDD). I experienced a humanitarian awakening. I suddenly realized the impact Kiwanis was having throughout the world. It changed my image of Kiwanis and its potential.
I left from that convention inspired. This was surprising to my fellow club members, because at a club board meeting the year before, I had been the only one who voted against bringing in a theater group to raise money for the IDD initiative. I thought we should save money for the local community and the projects we were doing. I lost that one. Our club held this fundraiser, but lost $1,200.

Well, I came back from convention all inspired about IDD and found myself at a board meeting suggesting we try this thing again, but do some different things, like seeking corporate sponsorships, to make it successful. We tried it again, and raised more than $2,000. Like they say, once a man’s mind is expanded, it never regains its original shape. That convention gave me a global perspective.

KM: Is this what prompted you to serve Kiwanis, first on a division and district level, and then on an International level?

DC: That, and a lot of encouragement from others. When I was club president, our club had such a good year I was asked to run for lieutenant governor. We had had growth, and we had doubled the money we were investing in our community. So I consented to be a lieutenant governor and really took it seriously and, subsequently, was encouraged to consider running for governor someday. Well, I decided to run early, because the Board counselor to our district was (1999-2000 International President) Nettles Brown and I wanted to serve with him. So that’s how, in 1999, I ended up being a governor.

Then, a couple years later, there were four openings for International Trustee but only three candidates. Nettles thought I did a pretty good job as governor and encouraged me to run, which I did. I won the seat, but finished fourth out of four candidates.

The first night after the election, I couldn’t stop wondering how someone could campaign as hard as I did and still finish fourth out of four. The second night, though, I stayed up all night thinking about Kiwanis. I envisioned what a force Kiwanis could be, based on our success with IDD. I began to see clearly the potential Kiwanis has at both the club and International levels; what a force—a humanitarian force—we could be.

At 6:30 the following morning, Eva woke up, saw me sitting at the table writing, and asked if I had been to bed. I told her no, and that I had decided I would run for International Vice-President/Treasurer. I felt led based on the visions I was having.
KM: Once you decided to run for International office, it took you three tries before you were successful. Was there ever a point when you started second guessing yourself and wondering if this was what you were meant to do?

DC: Absolutely, but I believe that if you believe something can happen, you can make it happen. Without getting into the nitty-gritty, there’s a lot of praying and believing involved. When you know there’s a spiritual process of belief, it’s hard to give up on that. I also had a spiritual advisor—I believe everybody should have one. I talked with him after my second loss, and he told me I had to trust and persevere. Part of the whole process in believing something is going to happen is persevering. So though it was tough to well it up, I started believing it was still going to happen.

KM: When you stood up to accept your nomination for International Vice-President/Treasurer, there was a teleprompter malfunction and you had to deliver your speech away from the podium. Is this an example of your journey being “blessed”?

DC: I believe it was, but I had already decided I was going to give my speech without the podium and without notes. It’s funny, because I practiced my speech the day before and stunk up the place. It was awful. My practice was horrible. And (International staff member) Diana O’Brien, who’s the most soft-spoken person on the planet, came up to me in the evening and said, “You know, Dave, you might consider doing it from the podium.”

I laughed at her and said, “You know, if I’m going to be president of this organization, I absolutely have to be able to stand in front of a crowd without a prepared speech. I have to do this.”

Well, during the business session, I just picked up the microphone and all of a sudden the computer feeding the teleprompter just went down, which meant the podium would’ve been shut off anyway. I was told I would have to stop everything because it would take a good 10 minutes to get everything back up and running. I told them not to worry about it. When I grabbed the microphone and walked out there, I delivered it just absolutely fine—not like I had the day before—and there was this sense of calmness like this was the right thing for me to do.

KM: As you take the helm of Kiwanis International, what do you see as the organization’s strengths?

DC: One of the biggest strengths we have is that we are an organization of good-hearted, passionate people who should be very proud of what they
bring to the organization, not just in terms of the service they provide but the example they set for others to follow.

If you go down to Ecuador, you see people who are just absolutely passionate about medical and dental missions. If you go over to Europe, you see clubs and districts that are very passionate about Special Olympics and helping handicapped children. From all of the regions, there are people getting a sense of satisfaction from being involved with Kiwanis and truly having an impact in their communities.

**KM:** What do you see as the challenges that are facing the organization?

**DC:** We have to break free of our perceived limitations. Organizationally, we have to envision ourselves as a million-member organization doing something significant, having a significant impact on the world.

We also have to have that same vision of breaking free in our existing clubs. Sometimes there are those who are not interested in helping their club grow, taking it to the next level, if you will. But all it takes is one leader, one Kiwanian whose excitement about Kiwanis and his or her Kiwanis club gets others excited and attracts new people to the club. We need to break free of visualizing that we cannot be significant or that it might take too much to be significant. It takes nothing more than enthusiasm.

**Webucation**

*The Internet offers kids invaluable educational tools, interactive entertainment, and connection to the world*

**By Karen Trent**

Bizarre creatures slip fluidly through the murky ocean water thousands of feet below sea level as 15-year-old Sarah joins famed explorer Bob Ballard on a deep-sea expedition. The pair is exploring the Atlantic Ocean’s “Lost City,” an underwater mountain range that is the largest physical feature on this planet.

What’s wonderful about the voyagers’ plunge is that Ballard physically has made the miraculous trip. Sarah is exploring the ocean’s depths from her family room via [National Geographic](https://www.nationalgeographic.com) video on the Internet.

Sarah and the scores of other children and teens who navigate the Internet
are safe from the dangers of the deep. But unrelenting publicity surrounding the dangers of Internet usage by children has overshadowed the fact that the Internet isn’t all bad. As with many other aspects of life, what can be viewed as risky about the Internet—unfiltered information, easy access, an instant global connection—also makes it a valuable resource for children and adults alike. That’s the nature of the beast.

“Steps can be taken to minimize these risks,” says Caroline Donald, research and information officer for Young Media Australia in Adelaide, South Australia, “with education of the children themselves, parents, and teachers all being important. It is very important that adults do not use their lack of knowledge as an excuse for not being involved in what children are doing on the Internet, because there are many benefits to be shared as well as risks to be countered.”

Once they overcome their fears, many parents recognize that the Internet can unwrap a global package of knowledge for children who use it. In fact, 77 percent of parents in the United States agree that the Internet is one of the most valuable educational tools available to their children,

**Tips to keep kids safe online**

For every child-friendly site available on the Internet, there’s another that features inappropriate or even dangerous material.

“There are certainly many risks,” says Caroline Donald, research and information officer for Young Media Australia in Adelaide, South Australia. “There are no regulations or controls on the material that is placed on the Internet, so children potentially have access to large amounts of unsuitable material.”

Risks to children can include exposure to violent or pornographic content, interaction with unsuitable strangers, cyberbullying, and even invasive advertising.

Resources such as the NetSmartz Workshop (netsmartzkids.org) provide valuable information for adults as well as children on how to keep kids safe during Internet “travel.” Here are some suggestions:

- Educate children and teens about the potential dangers in Internet use.
- Encourage kids to tell an adult about any questionable or improper material they find on the Internet.
- Remind children and teens to keep all personal information private.
- Tell them not to talk to strangers while on the Internet.
- Supervise a child’s time while using the Internet.
- Install Internet security software on your computer.
according to a 2006 survey conducted by Common Sense Media, a California-based not-for-profit organization led by parents and individuals with experience in child advocacy, public policy, education, media, and entertainment. The same study showed that 74 percent of parents thought the Internet offered their children the best opportunities to learn and grow.

It should come as no surprise that children worldwide are taking advantage of the opportunity to play and learn using the Internet. In Canada, for example, 82 percent of parents reported that their school-aged children used the Internet, according to a 2001 Canadian Social Trend survey. And 21 percent of Canadian children between the ages of 5 and 9 and 58 percent of teens ages 15 to 18 were using the Internet from home.

The wealth of material available on the Internet is endless, which makes it virtually irreplaceable as a learning device. And equally limitless is how the Internet’s information can be experienced, especially by youth. Children with computer and Internet access, for example, can participate in interactive games, flip through virtual flashcards, work puzzles, listen to interviews, and watch cartoons and videos. A quick click can help kids learn how to better manage their health by linking them to sites offering everything from a virtual tour of the human face to interactive activities addressing girls’ health, infectious diseases, mental illness, and more.

“The Internet uses multimedia and interactivity extensively,” Donald says. “Using multimedia means you can access not only written words but also pictures, music, and sound effects. Interactivity means that the user can choose what they want to see just by the click of a mouse.”

The value of the Internet as an educational tool has not been overlooked by many Kiwanis clubs. The **Kiwanis Club of Taman Tun Dr. Ismail in Selangor, Malaysia**, for example, sponsors the Kiwanis Centre for Learning Disabilities, a facility that educates children who have learning disabilities and prepares them to continue their education in mainstream schools. Students range in age from 4 to 18 and suffer from Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, or mental retardation. They can enroll in a variety of classes, including computer.

Members of the **Kiwanis Club of Weston, Connecticut**, also have recognized the value computers and Internet access can have for children. The Weston Kiwanians contributed $15,000 to expand a computer learning facility at the nearby South End Community Center.

“With help from the Kiwanis club, we were able to upgrade to DSL and add wiring, computers, monitors, and desks for 19 computer stations,” says
Timothy Bartlett, executive director for the Bridgeport YMCA, which oversees the Community Center.

Each year, hundreds of children benefit from the South End’s computer learning center. Many kids without home access to the Internet use the center’s computers to research homework projects, communicate via e-mail, and play educational games on kid-friendly Web sites. Preschool software featuring larger cursors enables young children with little fingers to learn computer skills, and teens use the equipment to type resumes and search for summer or part-time jobs.

The Weston Kiwanians mixed an awareness of technology’s importance for today’s kids with a desire to support an organization beyond the borders of their own community.

“This has given a whole new lease on life to kids who wouldn’t otherwise get a chance to work on computers,” says Reg Bowden, a past president of the Weston Kiwanis club. “It’s doing all the things we hoped it would.”

And more. By logging on to the Internet, children and teens from Bridgeport, Connecticut, to Bridgewater, England, and beyond are only a mouse-click away from experiencing lands, languages, and lives that are far removed and perhaps inaccessible from their own. They can, for example, learn the word “love” in a dozen different languages. They can soak in an Ecuadorian rainforest. They can “meet” children orphaned by the tsunami on Sri Lanka’s east coast.

Kids on the Internet also can correspond instantly with a “pen-pal” thousands of miles away—or with a neighbor next door. The passionate popularity of social-networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook shows just how much children and teens have tapped in to this trendy communication technique. In fact, 61 percent of 13- to 17-year-olds in the US have a personal profile on a social-networking site, according to a 2006 study conducted by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Cox Communications.

Kids have access to social-networking sites at the Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys’ & Girls’ Club in Hamilton, Ontario, and the staff has taken precautions—through strict supervision and filtering software—to ensure young computer-users stay safe while accessing social-networking or other sites. The Boys’ & Girls’ Club even is working on putting a positive spin on the oft-maligned popular sites.
“We want to turn a negative into a positive,” says Glenn Harkness, executive director of the Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys’ & Girls’ Club. “We are looking into ways to advertise our activities on sites such as MySpace and Facebook. That’s where the kids will see it.”

Internet users, including children and teens, often enjoy hooking up—virtually speaking—with other individuals who share a common interest. Members of the Kiwanis family, for example, can log on to their Kiwanis-sponsored organizations’ Web sites and connect with other members around the globe.

Kids with a heart for activism can find many ideas and avenues for action on the Internet. UNICEF’s Web site, for example, features digital diaries and the “What Young People are Saying” newsletter. Recently, a 16-year-old girl from South Africa shared the following thought with UNICEF: “Child abuse is an important issue in our society, but what we must learn is that if our own governments are not doing enough about it the youth should take means to help the victims and the possible victims. Community projects should be formulated in which confidence is built up in children, and when these projects work in more and more communities then government can be approached.”

Organizations with Web sites and a social conscience also champion children’s rights, social justice, bullying, the environment, politics, and service, to name only a few. Kids can save trees, write government leaders, lobby for legislation, and learn how to stand up to bullies. Kiwanis family members can find action opportunities on the sites of some of Kiwanis’ partners, including the Children’s Miracle Network and the March of Dimes.

No matter how many virtual miles children and teens log while traveling the Internet, they’ll never come close to touching the vast wealth of information and experiences available on this never-ending resource. And maybe that’s one reason surfing the Internet is so attractive to kids and teens who are hungry for knowledge and adventure. So, when children dive in to explore the vast unknown of the World Wide Web, parents and adults should remember that there’s treasure to be found. But it’s up to them to provide the safety net.
Editor's message

Our world needs leaders: You

For the past 90 years Kiwanis has been building adult and youth leaders who serve the communities in which they live. Kiwanis-trained leaders are serving in education, government, nonprofit organizations, small and large businesses, arts and sciences, in the media, in churches, and just about every sector of society. Kiwanis leaders are woven into the fabric of a community, and in many cases they are the common thread that binds people together in service to children. Because of this desire to serve others, many Kiwanis members do not wear the title of leader comfortably, and in fact, most would say they are much more of a “servant” than a “leader.” It is this humble approach to leadership that makes Kiwanis so magnetic and attractive to people who want to make a difference.

As Kiwanis accelerates toward its goal of 1 million members by our 100th birthday in 2015, we know we will need to build and empower many more leaders to serve both Kiwanis and their local communities. Over the coming months, you will begin to see a much stronger emphasis in this magazine and in our other communications, on the need to build leaders at all levels of Kiwanis. You will hear about our commitment to help restore trust and belief in our leaders by calling them to a new level of character and integrity. You will hear about the need for each of us to increase our own personal leadership skills and knowledge, and you will hear that you are never too old or too young to lead. Our world needs leaders who are committed to serving others, and we believe Kiwanis is uniquely positioned to help meet this critical need.

Though this issue of the Kiwanis magazine is full of great examples of Kiwanis leaders serving their communities, don’t miss the article written by leadership speaker and author Margaret Wheatley on page 12. As author of Leadership and the New Science, Wheatley is credited with establishing a fundamentally new approach to how we think about organizations. She defines a leader as “anyone willing to help.” That’s each and every Kiwanian, right? Please join us on this journey to discover our own personal strengths and then put them to work to serve the children of the world.
Letters to the editor

Join the conversation

There are one-sided messages. And there are two-way discussions. But KiwanisLeader.org ventures into a new dimension of communication. Leadership Matters is a virtual conversation.

Hosted by International CEO Rob Parker, Leadership Matters is a blog, which opens a channel of discussion among Kiwanians worldwide. Bloggers ask and answer questions and discuss a variety of subjects. One recent hot topic, for example, requested “new ideas for Kiwanis growth.” Current and future conversations include:

- What makes a club great?
- How do you make people feel welcome in your club?
- Describe your most enjoyable club meeting.
- What are the signs of a dying club, and what can be done about it?

But what’s a conversation without you? Let’s talk.

Newsroom

Building leaders boosts service

“Are you the one?” asks a well-known refrain in Kiwanis circles. You are—if you’re a Kiwanian. That’s the gist of a new attitude sweeping through the organization as Kiwanians embrace the challenge to help others—and themselves—develop leadership skills, making Kiwanis-family service greater and more far-reaching.

“Each of us, by joining Kiwanis, is a self-selected leader,” says Stan Soderstrom, Assistant Executive Director of Marketing, Communications, and Conventions. “Leaders in Kiwanis aren’t just the people who hold offices. Kiwanians are role models, leading by example and influencing others to follow their lead.”

Of course, club officers—and those at district and International levels—play crucial roles in leadership. To that end, leadership guides for club presidents, lieutenant governors, governors, and governors-elect are being updated to reflect their emerging roles.
“Traditionally,” Stan says, “these materials have been task-oriented—planning a budget, running a meeting, or recruiting members. Leadership is more than that, and these materials will elevate the roles of officers to include motivating and inspiring volunteers, managing time, building relationships with community leaders, and, of course, leading by example.

“Being a Kiwanis leader is a lifestyle not just a position.”

### 1-2-3 program ‘unlocks’ growth

Kiwanians who recruit new members hold the key to growth. With the “1-2-3, You Hold the Key!” program, members who recruit new members receive a key lapel pin—a gold pin for recruiting three members, silver for two, bronze for one. Those who recruit new members also will be entered into a random drawing for prizes to be awarded during the 2008 International Convention in Orlando, Florida. The list of prizes includes:

- Second place (1): a day at the International Office in Indianapolis.
- Fourth place (40): a club banner.
- Fifth place (25): US$100 gift card to the Kiwanis Family Store.
- Sixth place (50): US$25 gift card to the Kiwanis Family Store.

Since the program’s inception in 2005, 3,960 Kiwanians have recruited 7,169 new members. The current campaign began July 1 and runs through June 1, 2008.

### Jakarta to greet ASPAC conventioners

Kiwanians will gather in Indonesia’s “gateway” and capital city, **Jakarta**, for the 33rd Annual Kiwanis Asia-Pacific Convention, which takes place March 20-22, 2008, at the Mulia Hotel Senayan.

Located on the island of Java, Jakarta is an alluring, big-city melting pot, with diverse options for parks, shopping, dining, and sightseeing. Besides its own rich collection of culture and attractions, the city is known as the main gateway to other Indonesian tourist destinations.
First Eagle

In a ceremony at the 2007 International Convention, 2006-07 Kiwanis International Foundation President Ed Callis presents the foundation’s first Elite Eagle sculpture to Elmer and Bernyce Austermann. The foundation initiated the Elite Eagle program this past year as a recognition society honoring donors of $1 million or more. Also presented with Elite Eagle recognition in San Antonio were Past International President Brian Cunat and his wife, Miki.

Fund helps Kiwanis help children

With its motto of “Every Kiwanian, Every Year,” the newly created Sustaining Donor program recognizes members who support the Kiwanis Children’s Fund on an annual basis. Its purpose is to boost the impact of the Children’s Fund, heightening the impact of the Kiwanis family throughout the world.

“The Children’s Fund is our main, unrestricted fund that provides grants and scholarships and supports our Service Leadership Programs,” notes Gregg Puls, Kiwanis International Foundation manager of giving. “Kiwanis has provided more than US$182 million in grants over the years to meet the needs of the world’s children. Those needs are growing, so we need to bolster the Children’s Fund by encouraging people to become regular givers, and to consider increasing what they give.”

Though the Sustaining Donor program encourages all Kiwanians to give at least $100 a year, a gift of any size is appreciated. Check out kiwanis.org/magazine for more information on the foundation and the Sustaining Donor program.

Goal: More clubs celebrating Kiwanis One Day

Kiwanis One Day debuted this past year with great success. But Kiwanians can do better.

The second annual Kiwanis One Day will be celebrated April 5, 2008. On Kiwanis One Day, every Kiwanis club is urged to join with the rest of the
Kiwanis family—K-Kids, Builders, Key Club, Circle K, and Aktion Club—for a day of united service.

More than 600 Kiwanis-family clubs participated in 2007, but Kiwanis International would like to double that number in 2008.

“More clubs participating means more communities and children being served,” says Service Programs manager Elizabeth Warren.

**Austria set for European convention**

The 2008 Kiwanis International-European Federation convention takes place in **Linz, Austria**, from Friday, June 6 through Sunday, June 8.

Linz is the third largest city in Austria with a population of 18,000 and is the capital of the Upper Austria district. Convention attendees will have a chance to see many historic sights such as St. Mary’s Cathedral and the “Pestsaule,” a memorial for those who died from the black plague.

**Prepare for Kiwanis Family Month**

Throughout November, Kiwanis-family clubs and the Service Leadership Programs clubs they sponsor are encouraged to celebrate Kiwanis Family Month.

The month-long observance is the ideal time for Kiwanis clubs to step up their service activities and work with other clubs within the Kiwanis family. Partnering with other Kiwanis clubs and area Service Leadership Programs clubs in joint service, fundraising, social, and publicity events are just a few ways to get involved.

Kiwanis Family Month also includes:

- **Key Club** Week, November 5-11. During this time, Key Clubbers are challenged to participate in theme days that draw attention to Key Club and International-scale projects, such as “Free the Children,” which builds schools and combats child labor.
- **Kiwanis International Foundation** Week, November 4-11. During this time clubs are encouraged to share the story behind the
Kiwanis International Foundation and raise awareness of the Kiwanis Children’s Fund.

**Key Club trick or treats for Swaziland**

Key Club International will continue to support the Trick or Treat for UNICEF campaign this October, but with two new goals: This year, Key Clubbers aim to improve on 2006’s US$764,443.78 UNICEF contribution, and the funds will go to The Swazi Children Care Project.

The Swazi Children Care Project establishes “Neighborhood Care Points” and trains community volunteers to provide health services, nutritious meals, educational lessons, and care to Swaziland’s youngest and most vulnerable children—those orphaned or otherwise affected by HIV/AIDS.

Trick or Treat for UNICEF has been a popular fundraiser for Key Clubs. Instead of asking for candy, participants collect monetary donations in the famous orange boxes on Halloween night or during other fundraising activities throughout October. The collections are sent in to the Kiwanis International Foundation, which Kiwanis and Key Club International service partner UNICEF.

**Showcase**

‘Everyone’s a winner’

For the Moses family of Nassau Bay, Texas, competing in the Kiwanis Kids Triathlon Series has become a way of life. And, it’s been quite a ride.

“I have six kids,” says father Rex Moses. “Five have raced in Kiwanis Kids since the beginning, and four have graduated out of the series. My kids want to do the races, and I require that if they want me to take them to the race, they have to train for it.”

That’s fine with 10-year-old Brendan Moses, who just finished his competition in Race 2, sponsored by the Houston Sunrise Breakfast and Greater North.
**Houston Kiwanis clubs.**

“The races are fun!” he says. “I like competing. Swimming is my strongest part. I want to do the next three races!”

Kiwanis clubs in the greater Houston area have been staging the triathlons for the past 11 years. The series is open to boys and girls ages 7-12 and includes swimming, cycling, and running. Each summer, more than 500 young athletes take part. This year, there were six different races, run May through September. Five Kiwanis clubs organize the events, with much-needed help from Key Clubbers.

“This is also a great Key Club event,” says Tammy Heinrich, Division 3 coordinator of the triathlon series. “It’s a great project for them to partner with their sponsoring Kiwanis club.”

Each athlete receives a medal, water bottle, and T-shirt. The top three boys and girls in each age group also receive a trophy.

“We are seeing kids growing up in the Kiwanis Kids Triathlon,” Tammy says. “We see many of the same families returning year after year. Now they ask me, ‘When will you raise the age limits so my kids can keep racing?’

“These races are a lot of hard work, but when you see those kids crossing the finish line, it’s worth it. It’s a great feeling watching the parents cheer for their kids and encourage them. It’s just a feel-good event. Everyone’s a winner at Kiwanis Kids; that’s what we always say.”

**Brazilian club blazes national service trail**

Brazil is a big country. One of the world’s behemoths, it ranks fifth both in land area and population. Despite its size, however, the South American nation has only one Kiwanis club—but that club, the Kiwanis Club of Osvaldo Cruz, is proving the mighty power of “one.”
Brazilian Kiwanian Regina Pontelli began building the club after visiting a friend who belongs to the Kiwanis Club of Colville, Washington. The friend invited her to his club’s meeting, and Regina liked what she saw.

“We started the club with 20 women who believed we could make a difference in our community,” she says. Brazil’s first Kiwanis club became official in 2005.

For its inaugural service project, the club created a dance group for children who can’t afford private dance classes.

“We decided to start with this because we thought it would be a pleasurable way to (begin instilling) our purpose: teaching children notions of citizenship, ethics, and morals,” Regina says. “We believe that by helping these children, we are increasing their chances to have a better future, and we hope we’ll have better citizens in the future generations.”

The Osvaldo Cruz Kiwanians, with financial assistance from the Colville Kiwanians, purchase dance costumes and shoes, pay the dance teacher, and pay expenses when the dance troupe travels to other cities.

It’s been a good experience for the young dancers, for sure. But it’s also been good for the young club.

“After several dance presentations by the children, the Kiwanis club has become well known; not only in our town, but also throughout São Paulo (because they participated in an event in the state capital),” Regina says. “Our goal is to help other cities to found their own Kiwanis clubs.”

She notes that when she set out to build her club, she didn’t realize there were no other Kiwanis clubs in Brazil—and blazing the trail wasn’t easy. She credits the Colville club for its support and encouragement.

“I almost gave up,” she admits. “But today, when I watch the children dancing, I realize how important (Kiwanis) is.”
Chalk animates sidewalks with happily-ever-after scenes

Once upon a time, there was a neighborhood in Iasi, Romania. And in this neighborhood was a street lined with castles topped with pink and yellow turrets. Red and blue birds flew among white, fluffy clouds. And a little girl’s face was smudged like a palette of pastel-colored chalk.

It was an unusual day in the neighborhood, for there usually are no castles. Rather, the buildings are homes for low-income families. But for one day, the Kiwanis Club of Iasi, in cooperation with police and fire departments and St. Nicolas church, colored the scene with a fairy tale landscape by sponsoring a sidewalk chalk-drawing contest.

Squatting in front of horizontal, square “frames,” the children created imaginative scenes that fit the competition’s vacation theme. Kiwanis, fire and police department, and church representatives knelt and crouched too, offering advice and occasionally applying extra color to the concrete canvases.

“The children felt stimulated by the involvement, the creative aspect, and the competition,” says club president Ovidiu Toma. “The impact on the parents … but also on the neighborhood was fruitful, as the event received good media coverage.”

The day concluded with a distribution of gifts, food, diplomas, and prizes.
Picnic makes special day for special people

Sometimes, meaningful service can be as simple as a picnic in the park.

The **Kiwanis Club of Wausau, Golden K, Wisconsin**, confirms this year after year when it hosts the “Special Day for Special People” picnic. Now nearing its 25th year, this event for physically and mentally challenged citizens of Central Wisconsin boasts attendance of more than 160.

The four-hour event kicks off at 9:30 a.m. at the county fairgrounds. Guests, ranging from teenagers to adults well into their 50s, arrive on buses from several health facilities, with parents, or with staff members from group homes. Medical personnel accompany many of the participants to ensure medications are not missed.

The picnic activities include dancing and games like bingo, with lots of prizes donated by businesses or purchased by the Kiwanians.

The picnic lunch itself is traditional: hot dogs and chips with cake and ice cream to follow. Plus one of the most popular components of the event: the popcorn wagon. The **Kiwanis Club of Wausau** loans the wagon and donates popping corn, oil, and condiments, says Wausau Golden K member Roger Drayna.

“We have to have a lot of popcorn ready by the time the guests start arriving, because we are their first stop,” he says. “(The Wausau club) also has a member who serves as the ‘guardian angel’ should any difficulty arise.”

The event is near and dear to the members of the club, especially charter member Bill Manuel. Bill’s son, now in middle age, is one of the picnic guests.

Because Bill had firsthand knowledge of the need families of special people have for activities, Roger notes, he was a key component of launching the picnic in the 1980s.

Having been in operation for more than two decades, the Special Day for Special People has become a fixture for many residents of Wausau.

“We’re a small enough community that we run into some of these folks downtown or at other events,” Roger says. “Their first comment is, ‘Are you going to hold that picnic again?’”
People

Principal leads students, staff, to serve

Life lessons are tops in the curriculum he teaches students and staff

Barry Flicker is the kind of guy who doesn’t think twice about dying his hair purple to motivate his students. The kind of guy who, when floodwaters rise in a student’s home, rolls up his pant legs, and wades in to rescue belongings. The kind of guy who dips into his own pocket when kids don’t have money for lunch or a school field trip.

The North Coventry Elementary School principal’s reputation for going far above his job description to help his students and their families in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, earned him recognition as a 2007 Philadelphia Phillies Teacher All-Star. It also has earned him a place in the community’s collective heart as a mentor and service-minded leader.

“When I was in the army—drafted to serve in the Vietnam War in Korea—I realized I was always a leader,” says Barry, who is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Pottstown. “I realized I had the traits of a leader, and people responded to me. I always wanted to work with people, and I love seeing people grow—especially children.”

So, after his honorable discharge from military service, Barry went back to school to get his teaching degree, his master’s degree, and eventually his doctorate. He worked as a high school social studies

Principal Barry Flicker honors a promise. His “Dr. Flicker’s Purple Hair Dare” challenged student’s to each raise US$1 for Relay for Life. The students surpassed the goal, and Flicker followed through with his clown-like coiffure.

"Dr. Flicker" dons a Dr. Seuss topper to teach.
teacher before becoming North Coventry’s principal. Throughout his career he’s instilled in his students, his staff, and others the importance of kindness and service.

“The most important thing I hope students learn is to always choose being kind over being right,” Barry says. “And I hope I’ve taught the staff that we all need to care for each other.”

Lessons he lives as an example. This past year when floodwaters began rising in the community, a parent called Barry asking for help. He immediately rolled up his pant legs, went to the family, and began tying down and saving belongings. He also opened the school and invited families use it to store their refrigerators, freezers, clothes, scrapbooks, and anything else they needed to keep from floodwaters.

For Barry, the decision to act is simple: “We help each other. If one’s in need, we’re all in need.”

“Barry brings out the best in people,” North Coventry maintenance director Randy Snyder told The Mercury newspaper. “I remember he approached people who were gawking (at the floods) and Barry went right up to them, shook their hands, introduced himself, and recruited them to help.”

Though Barry announced his retirement this past year, he’s already “paid forward” his legacy of kindness and service: During his career in education he started four Key Clubs, two Builders Clubs, and, most recently four K-Kids clubs.

“He has made us so service-minded,” teacher Elaine Kindl told The Mercury. “So we look outside of ourselves to see what we can do to help other people.”

**Traveling Zoo Teaches Kids Compassion**

Six children stand shoulder to shoulder, while an 11-foot, 60-pound python is gently lowered into their arms. The children don’t panic. Instead, they respond with dropped jaws and wide eyes as the python settles into their hold. Though these children come from different backgrounds, and may not like one another, they must work together to control the enormous beast.

This is just one of many ways Melissa Caughey uses exotic animals to break down barriers among children.
“You should see their faces,” she says. “(The children are) in complete awe of the python. Every once-in-a-while someone will run back to their seat, but usually they are up to the challenge.”

Melissa, who is a member of the **Kiwanis Club of Yucaipa Valley, California**, established Animal Ambassadors, a traveling exhibition of exotic animals, which seeks to teach children compassion for all living things.

Melissa travels throughout San Bernardino County, an area that has one of California’s largest gang populations, to show off her collection of snakes, porcupines, and other exotic pets.

Animals have proven successful teachers, she says, because of their tendency to love unconditionally. In addition to being exotic, these creatures are able to transport kids out of their daily environments, where gang violence and drug dealing runs rampant, and into a place filled with curiosity and hope.

“If you look around, compassion is missing in at-risk youths, animals are the first step,” she says.

Melissa points to the tendency of those who abuse animals to also abuse other people. Animals, she teaches, are sentient beings and can feel emotions just as we can.

Animal Ambassadors travels to day care facilities, elementary schools, and community centers. To do this, she relies on fellow Kiwanians, several of whom happen to be current and former educators.

“I’m fortunate to do what I love everyday,” Melissa says. “It is my responsibility and gift to share the animals in my care.”
Clubhouse

Sausage sales sizzle
It was a sad day when Luxembourg butchers were ordered to stop selling their most popular sausage. Luxembourgers long favored a pork product they called thuringer. But in August 2006, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg received legal notice that only sausage from Thüringen, Germany, could be called thuringer.

In response, Luxembourg dubbed its sausage “Letzebuerger grillwurscht.” And among the first to grill up the newly named sausage was the Kiwanis Club of Letzebuerg International, which reported “un grand succés” with a sausage-grilling fundraiser.

“The Letzebuerger grillwurscht,” says Brussels Link, Belgium, Kiwanian Eddy Goldenberg, “are good, full of energy, and traditional.” Sausage sales were hot, Eddy notes, adding, “The name change gives us something to laugh about!”

Fargo pancake fame goes far

National Geographic and Top 1,000 Places make note of annual event

It’s no secret that Fargo, North Dakota, residents flip for flapjacks during the Kiwanis Club of Fargo’s annual Pancake Karnival. And if it ever was a secret, it isn’t anymore: The popular fundraiser was featured in a 2003 National Geographic magazine (photo / full article). And again this year in the recently published Top 1,000 Places to See Before You Die: In the USA
and Canada by Patricia Schultz.

Fargo Kiwanian Matt Sullivan says that while the national media attention is an honor, it doesn’t seem to have boosted attendance—in part because the Pancake Karnival caters to local people. Many Fargoans already attend. The fact that it’s set in February—when Fargo temperatures can reach well below zero-Fahrenheit—might also be a factor.

Still, the average Karnival sees about 10,000 patrons, serves 30,000 pancakes, and nets $35,000 each year.

Author Schultz told The Forum newspaper she selected the Kiwanis event for her book because it was “so wonderfully, quintessentially Midwest/Great Plains.”

A few other North American must-sees keeping company with Fargo Kiwanians in Schultz’s book:

- The Grand Tetons
- Gettysburg
- The Talladega Superspeedway
- Alaska’s Denali wilderness
- The Ice Hotel in Québec

Top 10 rules for youth-club advisors

10. Plan and carry out regularly scheduled activities and projects that enhance self-esteem and self-worth.

9. Give members ownership by providing opportunities for making decisions and selecting activities.
8. Remove barriers between you and the members; honor members and respect their individuality.

7. Hold all confidences sacred and secret.

6. Don’t be judgmental.

5. Be quick to listen and slow to criticize; don’t tolerate member putdowns.

4. Maintain good channels of communication with parents.

3. Don’t shirk tasks, evade responsibility, or lose faith in the program.

2. Be a positive role model.

1. Have a sense of humor.

Source: Building Blocks newsletter for advisors

Kiwanis in the news

Young sailors learn ropes. A grant from the Powell River, British Columbia, Kiwanis club, made admission to a five-day sailing course for 22 6- to 15-year-old youth more affordable. The BC Sailing Association, which sponsors the school, says in addition to learning teamwork, participants increased their awareness of water safety, boating skills, and their environment, and left the course with greater confidence in the water.

Because of the Powell River club’s grant, the five-day course cost each youth CAD$174.90 instead of $235.

Supporting the arts. Youth Art Month, celebrated each March at the Quinlan Visual Arts Center, featured a youth art competition sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Gainesville (Georgia) and the Charles J. Thurmond Youth Scholarship Fund. In addition to this contest, all first-place winners from grades 6 through 12 and a Director’s Choice winner went on to compete in the Kiwanis International Georgia District Art and Talent Showcase, April 28 at the Carrolton Cultural Art Center.”—The Gainesville Times
Club gives out dictionaries. More than 500 third-graders at four Macomb Township elementary schools each have a new dictionary, thanks to a project conducted by the Shelby-Macomb (Michigan) Kiwanis Daybreakers. Each year, Kiwanis’ Michigan District governor selects a program or organization for all branches to support. This year, Michigan Kiwanis (clubs) are assisting the Dictionary Project, a nonprofit organization that aims to help third-graders complete the school year as good writers, active readers, and creative thinkers.

“It was good to see what students have today,” said Don Hook, immediate past president of the Shelby-Macomb Daybreakers, about the visit to the schools. “It was an eye-opener.”—The Detroit Free Press

Kiwanis friendships span continents

When the Kiwanis Club of Lafayette, Louisiana, received an e-mail greeting and request from France, the idea sounded too good to pass up.

The message, sent by the Kiwanis Club of Oyonnax-Nantua, France, expressed interest in twinning with another club to learn about other cultures, share activities and ideas, and have fun while making new friends. The French Kiwanians found what they were looking for in the Lafayette club.

Lafayette president-elect Kevin Domingue says the clubs got to know each other via e-mail for about 18 months before meeting in April 2006, when several Oyonnax-Nantua club members and spouses visited Louisiana for a week. The group toured New Orleans, Natchez, Avery Island, and Baton Rouge and spent some time at Lafayette’s Festival International, the largest free outdoor francophone music festival in the United States.

“This experience blessed us with many new
and dear friends,” Kevin says.

Kevin and his wife have since visited France to meet the rest of the Oyonnax-Nantua club. While there, they helped with the club’s annual British Car Show fundraiser, visited Mont Blanc in the French Alps, and attended an air show. The two clubs also twinned with members from a club in Tunisia.

“Hopefully, as the years go on, we can continue sharing among our clubs and possibly even work together on a joint project,” Kevin says.

Club Clinic

Q **We have a member in our club who, because of schedule conflicts, took a leave of absence. He recently was reinstated. Does he retain any perfect attendance records set during his first tenure of membership?**

Yes. Attendance tabs denote years of perfect attendance rather than consecutive years of perfect attendance. The club should present an appropriate tab to its member upon completion of any 12 consecutive months of perfect attendance. Perfect attendance tabulations resume at the end of a leave of absence without loss of weeks already accumulated.

Q **My spouse and I both are Kiwanis members. Do we both have to subscribe to Kiwanis magazine?**

No. According to Article XXI, Section 4, of the Kiwanis International Bylaws, if spouses are both members of a club, one spouse may choose not to subscribe to the official publication. Such arrangements can be made through your club secretary. Kiwanis International must receive the notice in writing or by e-mail.

Kiwanis Impact

A better view

As Canoga Park, California’s main thoroughfare, Sherman Way is the first impression visitors get upon arrival in the shopping and art haven. When the city’s streets began to look a bit colorless and tired, Kiwanis-family members
went into reputation-saving mode and freshened planters that line the city’s 12 streets.

The volunteers replenished 17 planters with new soil and planted dwarf Japanese mock orange shrubs, surrounding them with flowering lobelia and adding a handful of plant food to each pot. The group also weeded and cleaned several parking lots.

Photographer: Cheryl Kobashigawa, Kiwanis Club of Canoga Park, California

Strengths:

- **Up close.** The photographer moved in, getting down on the ground. Many people tend to take pictures from too far away.
- **Faces.** Cheryl photographed the students’ faces, not their backs.
- **Less is more.** Cheryl filled the frames with faces, arms, hands, and the plant. There was no need to include legs, feet, ground, parking lot, Kiwanis banners, or other unnecessary items, because they would have detracted from telling the story.
- **Action.** Cheryl did not line the volunteers up and stand them next to a bush.

What could make it better:

- **Lighting.** The faces are in a shadow. Have a helper hold a piece of white cardboard or commercial reflector to bounce light back into the faces. Don’t use flash when you’re this close.
• Come out of hiding. The face of the Key Clubber in the middle is somewhat hidden. Cheryl could have moved an inch to the left to catch his face.

Post your Kiwanis-family **photos** and **stories** online, but first, **maximize your publicity potential** with a few helpful photo tips.