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A Kiwanis heart

Fulfilling a promise to his beloved wife, 2008-09 International President Don Canaday carries on, building clubs, recruiting members, and touching lives

Story by Amy Wiser

Open Don Canaday’s high school yearbook, and next to his photo, you’ll find a blunt description: “He doesn’t say much.”

Yet on June 27, Don stood in the wings of an Orlando Convention Center stage ready to address an audience of thousands. Raised in a coal mining community where bleak expectations often smothered youthful aspirations, Don already had a string of extraordinary achievements behind him: decorated military officer, successful businessman, passionate volunteer. On that Friday afternoon in Orlando, he would realize another milestone: unanimous confirmation as 2008-09 Kiwanis International President. At his side, holding his hand, was the “love of my life,” his wife, Linda. It was an exultant moment. Ahead, in the coming year, lay challenges, excitement, adventure. They would experience all of it together.

Sadly, this past July 16—less than three weeks after her...
Donald R. “Don” Canaday
2008-09 Kiwanis International President

Born: 1934, in West Frankfort, Illinois

Career: Indiana Guard Reserve and United States Army, executive director of the Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum, Executive Director of the Kiwanis International Foundation, retired

Spouse: Linda was a charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Northeast Indianapolis, member of Kappa Delta sorority

Children: Six

Grandchildren: 17

Activities (current and past): Member of his church fundraising and budget committees, Scoutmaster, president of Veterans Day Council, state and regional president and national trustee of the Association of the US Army, national vice-president of the Association of Retired Americans, and USO Council

Honors: 23 military awards and decorations

Hobbies: Golf, bridge, and US Civil War history

Other: Don is a fantastic cook, most known for creating the family Thanksgiving spread and for his biscuits—so light, it’s claimed, the grandkids must hold their hands over their plates lest the biscuits float to the ceiling.

Years in Kiwanis: 39

Current club: Kiwanis Club of Meridian Hills, Indianapolis, 21 years

Past Kiwanis offices: Distinguished charter president of Meridian Hills club, distinguished lieutenant governor, Indiana District governor, Ambassador for the Worldwide Service Project’s iodine deficiency disorders campaign

Kiwanis honors: Life member status, Hixson Fellow (Diamond-level 11), Tablet of Honor, Heritage Society charter member

Orlando introduction as 2008-09 First Lady—Linda Gale Canaday died of complications from surgery. The assignment ahead now seems difficult, but Don says he'll experience all of it with her in his heart—together.

That's the heart of a Kiwanis leader.

“When people ask me 'why Kiwanis?' I say: 'As an individual, you may become aware of a need or a problem, and as only one person, you feel helpless to do anything about it. But when we gather together under the banner of Kiwanis, we can, and we certainly do, make a huge difference.'”

If he wasn't a talkative teenager, it's likely because Don's focus was on helping his family. His father, a coal miner, held several jobs to keep the family in food, shelter, and clothes. Don, who was the oldest son among six children, likewise kept a number of odd, often labor-intensive jobs. Among them: delivering newspapers, hauling coal, and sacking groceries.

At age 20, Don was drafted into the United States Army, where, he thought, he would complete his required two years and move on with his life. But life and the Army had other plans for the young private. Two years turned into a 25-year career, 23 awards and decorations, and a rise to the impressive rank of Brigadier General.
Life and the Army also had plans for Don in Kiwanis. As a lieutenant colonel at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, Don was summoned one day by his full-colonel boss.

“He told me how proud he was to have (Army personnel) as members of the local Rotary, Lions Club, chamber of commerce, and the like. But there was no representative in Kiwanis,” Don explains. “And did I have any objections to being a member of Kiwanis?”

Which really wasn’t a question so much as a strong suggestion.

“I had no idea what he was talking about, but if he wanted me to be a Kiwanis member, I was going to do it!”

So, in March 1969, Don joined the Kiwanis Club of Chena- Fairbanks, Alaska, and enjoyed it immediately. In fact, as he moved around the United States throughout his military career, Don always sought a club to join, settling the past 22 years in the Meridian Hills, Indianapolis club, which he built and served as its charter president.

“Kiwanis members give of their time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of others. That’s the Kiwanis heart. There literally are millions of people who have the Kiwanis heart but aren’t Kiwanis members—because they haven’t been given the opportunity to become members.”

More than 2,000 members. 101 clubs. Those are Don’s most recent recruitment and club-building stats—and you can bet they’ll continue to climb. In other words: Don knows a thing or two about what it takes to get new clubs off the ground and to find—and keep—new Kiwanis members.

“I’ve made every mistake you can make,” he admits, “But I’ve learned from those mistakes.”

Indeed, more than 30 years of trial and error have led Don to discover tried-and-true recruitment and new-club building tactics and an integral ingredient to success.

“I build clubs around the uniqueness of Kiwanis,” Don says. “And that uniqueness is in what we do to support schools and children through Circle K, Key Club, Builders Club, K-Kids, Bring Up Grades (BUG), and Terrific Kids.”

He’s a fan of the BUG and Terrific Kids programs—which he piloted in his home district as a lieutenant governor and encourages all new clubs to adopt as their first project.

“When I explain BUG, people get excited about helping kids who normally don’t receive positive recognition,” he says. “It’s an inexpensive program, it’s not manpower intensive, and it has an immensely positive impact on many children while, at the same time, promoting Kiwanis in the community.”

It’s also key to signing on school superintendents as charter members during new-club-building efforts—setting in motion a strong system of networking, prospective member referrals, and credibility that results in clubs chartering with high membership totals. High charter numbers, he says, greatly increase the club’s chances at remaining alive, active, and growing.

“People join Kiwanis for many different reasons,” he says, “but they stay for the same reason: They like what their Kiwanis club is doing to make an impact in their world—whether that’s somewhere around the world or in their own community.”

“As Kiwanis members, we just go about our business fulfilling the needs of children. Often, we don’t realize how deeply we’ve touched someone’s life.”

Don recalls an occasion when he and his wife, Linda, were waiting for a table at a
restaurant in northwest Indiana. They struck up a conversation with another couple and invited them to share their table. As the conversation continued, the man noticed Don’s Kiwanis pin.

“I believe Kiwanis saved my life,” he told Don.

He went on to describe what it was like to grow up on the streets of Gary, Indiana, and how most of the people he knew from childhood were either dead or in prison. He talked about how his fate was different, because a Kiwanis club hosted a Little League program in which he had participated. Because Kiwanis members encouraged him to stay in school. Because Kiwanis gave him a scholarship to attend a trade school, which afforded him better job opportunities, which resulted in a better life as an adult.

“The members of that Kiwanis club who raised that little bit of money for a scholarship and who gave that little bit of their time to the community probably never realized how deeply they touched that little boy’s life—and other children as well,” Don says.

“The thing that excites me the most about Kiwanis is when I look at a thriving club that’s been around for 10 to 20 years. I think about the lives the members have touched and the lives they’ll continue to touch. That’s a very gratifying feeling.”

And that’s why Don has invested so much of his own time, talent, treasure, and heart into building Kiwanis clubs, increasing membership, and teaching others to do the same.

“We’re going to build our membership. We’ve got to,” he says. “Too many children are being denied the benefits Kiwanis clubs bring to communities—but we’re going to fix that. We’re boosting our service by building clubs.

“The most important thing you will get out of your membership in Kiwanis is the opportunity to see a smile on the face of a child and realize that without you and your Kiwanis club, that smile would not be there.”

It’s a simple notion that speaks volumes, from a man who didn’t have much to say.
Feature sidebar

Linda's legacy

Friday, July 4, 2008, was Don and Linda Canaday's 27th anniversary. They spent that morning in their quiet suburban home posing for a few of the photos that appear in this issue of Kiwanis magazine.

Linda was baking brownies and cookies, which would be delivered to the Kiwanis International Office where they would be consumed by Key Club members passing through Indianapolis on their way to their 65th Annual International Convention in Denver, Colorado. She and Don talked about their upcoming trips to Alaska, New Zealand, and Australia. But first, Linda was scheduled for surgery Tuesday, July 8.

The surgery went well and travel plans proceeded, but complications developed and Linda passed away July 16.

“Linda was the most incredible woman I have ever known,” Don said of his First Lady. “Her unparalleled commitment to caring and service were an inspiration to everyone who knew her.”

Linda was a teacher and, along with her husband, associated with Kiwanis for many years. In recognition of the couple’s service to the organization, the Kiwanis International Foundation has established a scholarship fund to honor Linda.

“Through this tribute,” Don said, “her love of children, shown through her teaching and her committed and caring compassion for children through Kiwanis, will live on.”

To donate, please send a check or money order to The Linda Canaday Scholarship Fund, care of the Kiwanis International Foundation, 3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, Indiana 46268. For information, call 800-549-2647 (US and Canada) or 317-875-8755 (worldwide).

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Feature sidebar

Club building 101

There's a right way and a wrong way to build a classic Kiwanis club. Don Canaday has done it both ways.

"I've made every mistake you can make building a club," he admits. "But I've learned from my mistakes."

With 101 successful classic club-building experiences under his belt, he pretty much has the right way down pat.

The wrong way:

1. Build the club too small. Charter with the minimum 25 and no prospects in pocket.

2. Don’t have a project ready to attract and keep new members and entice prospective members.

3. Start with an empty bank account.

4. Overlook the importance of quality training.

5. Do a poor job mentoring the new club.

The right way:

1. Build the club big—charter with as many members as possible. Don recommends a minimum of 35. Recent clubs he’s chartered began with 55, 74, 53, and 47 members. "Clubs that charter with higher memberships have a much higher survival rate," Don says.

2. Launch BUG. Implement Kiwanis International’s Bring Up Grades (BUG) program as the club's first--or one of its first--service projects. The low-cost, low person-power, service-in-a-box program is impactful, easy to start, and it easily connects members to children. (See "Recruiting for new club building.")

3. Build funds right away—ideally during the club’s charter night celebrations. Don suggests a silent auction, which brings in the bucks and gets everyone involved and out into the community on the club’s behalf. The worst take he’s had from a charter night silent auction: US$1,970. The best: $5,000-plus. Don also suggests asking each club in the division to help build the new club’s bank account by making a contribution on its charter night.

4. Invest in training. Make sure all new-club officers and board members attend special training, and encourage all charter members to attend Kiwanis training events and conferences.

5. Reach out. Encourage the new club to take advantage of resources such as TAG Team members, club counselors, and members of the sponsoring club.

6. Recruit a mentor. Find an experienced Kiwanian to volunteer to be the club counselor for the first two years.
Great answers for great excuses

If you’ve tried to recruit a new member into Kiwanis, no doubt you’ve come across that one person who has a million reasons not to join. Following are a few ways Don Canaday responds to tricky excuses:

**Excuse:** I’m too busy.

**Answer:** “Great! Busy people make the best Kiwanis members. We all make time for the things we want to do, and we find that while people join Kiwanis for a variety of reasons, they stay because they believe it’s a valuable use of their time and they like what their club is doing.”

**Excuse:** It costs too much.

**Answer:** “If a club costs US$100 a year, that breaks down to a little more than $8 per month, or the equivalent of lunch at McDonald’s. Is it worth it to skip lunch at McDonald’s once a month to make a difference in the life of a child?”

**Excuse:** I already belong to Rotary, Lions, or Optimist.

**Answer:** “Those are great organizations. While you are permitted to join Kiwanis as well, I don’t encourage it. Keep doing what you’re doing—but we’d love it if there’s someone else from your business, social network, or community who could represent your (bank, law firm, business, etc.) in Kiwanis.”
Feature sidebar

The general's recruiting tips

Assemble your special forces: It's time for club building and membership recruitment. If your plan is strategic and well honed, says International President Don Canaday, it will succeed. Take a gander at the plan that has proved successful time and again for Don. Then put it to practice in your community:

1. Conduct a site survey to determine the need for a Kiwanis club in the community.

2. Train the Kiwanis members who will be assisting in the club-building efforts and approaching prospective members. Follow Don’s “New-Club Building Essentials” guidelines.

3. Order and use Kiwanis International materials and your own club brochures. Don prefers the “Changing Tomorrows Today” brochure, which includes information about Kiwanis and a membership application.

4. Make your first recruitment appointment with the superintendent of the local school district. During that meeting:

- Explain what Kiwanis can do for the school and its children. Don uses Bring Up Grades (BUG), Terrific Kids, Key Club, Builders Club, and K-Kids as examples of Kiwanis programs that benefit kids.
- Point out that the children in the community have been denied the benefits of these programs because there has been no Kiwanis club to facilitate the programs, but—and this is key—"We're fixing that. We're organizing a Kiwanis club."
- Ask him/her to become the new club's first member.

5. Make the next appointment with the town mayor or other high-ranking official. Tell him/her that you've recruited the superintendent as the first member, outline what the new Kiwanis club will be doing to benefit the school and town, and invite him/her to become the next charter member.

6. Continue to recruit charter members by networking, and always ask newly recruited members for referrals—friends, co-workers, neighbors—who they believe to be "quality enough to recommend them as charter members in your new club." Allow prospective members to see a list of those who have already signed up for

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7. Give prospective members an instant connection. Approach referred prospective members by saying: "Your friend, Jane Doe, has just joined as a charter member of the Kiwanis Club of X, and I asked her who she believes to be quality enough to be charter members of the new club. And she said (referred person’s name)."

"First, that strategy puts the prospective member on a little ego trip," Don says. "But also, it makes them feel more comfortable in considering membership—because someone they know and respect has already joined and recommended them."

"Ninety percent of these referred prospective members are ‘closers,’” Don says. "They join. The other 10 percent already belong to Rotary, Lions, or another organization."

8. Close the sale. Ask the prospective member to "assist the community" by completing the membership application at the back of the "Changing Tomorrows Today" brochure.

"I ask them to complete the application down to the signature—which should only take two minutes," Don says. "And I ask for a check for US$100 to cover the cost of their first year of membership—you might have to come back for the check, so be sure to make an appointment to do so. I tell them the check won’t be cashed until the club is organized and they have elected a treasurer who will open a club bank account."
Feature sidebar

Born leader

Great leadership relies on an intimate understanding of responsibility and dedication. Kiwanis International should rest assured knowing its 2008-09 President has lived those traits since, well, birth.

Donald R. “Don” Canaday was born during the Great Depression in the small southern Illinois town of West Frankfort. His father was a coal miner who also took additional jobs to provide for his family of eight.

Don was the oldest son. To help his family, he always kept a paper route and, like his father, took odd jobs, including sacking groceries, making bakery deliveries before school, and hauling coal.

"I was unauthorized," Don notes with a twinkle in his eye, "but I drove a semi-trailer before I drove my first car."

Don describes his mother as his best friend and remembers how she played the violin and piano. He also remembers how she fought cancer. He didn’t think twice about cooking for the family and caring for his younger siblings.

She passed away when Don was 22.

"The highlight of her life," he says, “was when I received my commission from the Army—on her birthday. She got to pin on one of my gold bars.”

Don’s decorated 25-year Army career actually happened by accident, beginning when he was drafted at age 20.

“I was a private, and I thought I would do my two years and then go on with my life,” he says. Within six months, he was attending officers’ school, pegged by superiors as “officer material.” From the 85 people who began with him in officers’ school, Don was among only 13 who graduated.

Things didn’t get easier from there. Don’s first assignment was airborne. And after making 89 parachute jumps, he still claimed: “Even then I didn’t plan to make a career out of it.”

But when he got his first orders, and they were for Alaska?
"I love to hunt and fish—so I couldn’t pass that up!” he laughs.

He was promoted to captain and selected as the only Army man to reside on a US Air Force base where, he says, he was treated like royalty and received two Air Force commendation medals.

Like many in his generation, he was sent to Vietnam. Like many, it was a challenging time for Don, who, among other events, was shot down in a helicopter.

It was through the Army that he found two lifelong loves: Kiwanis and Linda.

Linda Gale was from North Carolina and was teaching middle school in Augusta, Georgia.

"The mother of one of Linda's students was married to a friend of mine, and I invited myself over to their home—that’s where I met Linda," Don says.

The two were married July 4, 1981. (This past Fourth of July, Don and Linda quietly celebrated their 27th anniversary at home, preparing for Linda's surgery the following Tuesday and, thereafter, trips to Alaska and Australia. Sadly, through complications following the surgery, Linda died July 16.)

Don achieved the rank of Brigadier General during his military career. By the end of Don's "accidental" military stint, he had received 23 honors and decorations, including two awards of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, two awards of the meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the senior Parachute Wings.

Success and honors followed him into civilian life. In 2004, when Don was awarded Butler University's prestigious John Morton-Finney Award for Public Service in 2004, these words ushered him to the stage:

This year's recipient has clearly walked in the shoes of Dr. Morton-Finney: He was born into abject poverty during the Great Depression and joined the Army seeking both service and opportunity. He dedicated himself to both. ...

... But it was as Kiwanian that this year's recipient was at his best. He served as distinguished president for two Kiwanis clubs, served as district governor, and, as membership growth chairman, oversaw the establishment of 72 new clubs and the induction of 800 members—all sharing his passion for service to the state and to the nation. ...

Feature

Where leaders grow

Circle K and Key Club conventions are great places to see young adults blossom into gifted adults.

Photos by Lynn Seeden and Kasey Jackson

Kiwanians know they have two of the world’s best leadership development programs in Key Club and Circle K. For Kiwanis members who actively take part in guiding and leading local youth through K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, and Circle K, it’s a wonderful gift to see a child’s grow into a confident, impactful leader. Attend a Key Club or Circle K convention, and magnify the wonder of that experience a thousand times over.

In 2008, Key Club and Circle K staged their international conventions in Denver, Colorado —Key Club in July and CKI in August. Through opportunities for fellowship, service, and education, the conventions showcased Kiwanis’ style of leadership development.

Fellowship

Members of Key Club (below) and CKI (left) value friendship--an important value for young leaders.

Citizenship

Through business sessions at CKI
Where leaders grow

(below) and Key Club (right) conventions, members gain the tools and resources to become active citizens.

Inspiration

Motivating speakers and enthusiastic adult advisors inspire young members
to live, learn, and lead.

Recognition

Key Club (top) and CKI (bottom) offer a chance for young leaders to stand up and be recognized for their hard work.

Talent

To some, the Key Club and CKI convention is a stage on which to showcase amazing skills and talents--yet another way these young members prove their strong leadership skills.
Service

Service is near and dear to every member of the Kiwanis family. During their 2008 International conventions, Key Clubbers (left) took part in the March for Babies to benefit partner March of Dimes, and CKI
members (above) helped the Bonfils Blood Center save lives at the CKI Blood Drive.
President's Message

Kiwanis at heart

By Don Canaday, President, Kiwanis International

I truly am honored that you have given me the opportunity to serve our great organization. This past July, my first lady, Kiwanis’ First Lady, Linda, passed away. With this loss, my task as Kiwanis International President became much more difficult. She was the love of my life, my best friend, and my partner. My heart is broken, but she made me promise that if things went wrong with her surgery, I would do everything possible to move Kiwanis forward. I will keep my promise to her.

Kiwanis members are known for having a “Kiwanis heart,” willing to give of their time, talents, and treasures for the good of others. On behalf of the millions of lives you have touched and continue to touch, I thank you for your dedication and service.

As I think about the Kiwanis heart in each of us, I realize there are millions of men and women around the world who also have Kiwanis hearts but, sadly, are not Kiwanis members. Yet they will never experience the joy and rewards of Kiwanis membership unless we share the Kiwanis story and give them the opportunity to join our clubs. The story line “I never joined Kiwanis because no one asked me” is a true one. I have heard it said countless times by people who, when finally asked, have become powerful Kiwanians—or have found other ways to use their Kiwanis hearts.

Past International President Bo Shafer always says, “100 percent of the people we don’t ask to join Kiwanis don’t!” They deserve the chance—through Kiwanis—to make a difference and put smiles on the faces of the children we serve.

As you go about your lives, look around you at work, your place of worship, your neighborhood. Take a look at your family, friends, and business associates. Give them a chance to use their Kiwanis hearts through Kiwanis!

We can greatly increase the impact of our service worldwide merely by increasing Kiwanis membership.
Help Kiwanis and win

By recruiting new members, participating in Kiwanis One Day, or sharing ideas for the next International, you can help improve the Kiwanis experience—and possibly qualify for recognition or prizes. Read on:

Share your convention ideas

Nashville 2009 already is shaping up to be a Kiwanis International convention unlike any other. That’s because you’re helping to plan the annual global gathering. Kiwanis International invites all Kiwanians to submit suggestions for the June 25-28 convention. It doesn’t matter if you’ve never been to a Kiwanis convention or you’ve been to 30, your ideas are needed.

The key to success

The 2008-09 1-2-3 You Hold the Key program once again will recognize Kiwanis members who open the path of service and leadership to new members.

By recruiting one, two, or more members between June 1, 2008, and June 1, 2009, you will qualify to receive a bronze, silver, or gold key-shaped lapel pin, respectively.

Your big break

Is your club ready for its film debut? Kiwanis International invites clubs to submit their plans for Kiwanis One Day, will take place April 4, 2009. The best ideas will win a professional video shoot and coverage in Kiwanis magazine.

Here are some tips to keep in mind when making and submitting your Kiwanis One Day plans:

- Select a hands-on service project, not a fundraiser or donation.
- Select a project that truly will make a difference in your community or the world.
- Consider involving other members of the Kiwanis family, including Aktion Club, Circle K, Key Club, Builders Club, K-Kids, and other Kiwanis clubs.

On Kiwanis One Day 2008, a team of Virginia Kiwanians hoists a wall for a new storage facility that will serve a number of nonprofit agencies in Williamsburg. Your club’s plans for Kiwanis One Day 2009 may qualify for video or magazine coverage.
Submit your plans by December 19, 2008.

Read around the year

One month wasn’t enough to contain Kiwanis members’ enthusiasm for Read Around the World. So Kiwanis International has updated and expanded the literacy program into a year-round activity for clubs.

“One-time reading events are good public relations and literacy advocacy activities,” says Kiwanis International Branded Programs specialist Elizabeth Warren, “but it takes time to truly impact a child’s reading abilities and inspire a love for books.” That’s why Kiwanis International now encourages clubs to institute long-term Read Around the World projects.

Access a handy planning Read Around the World journal.

Global business

The Philippines and Belgium will host two Kiwanis conventions next year, showcasing the organization’s global reach in both membership and service.

The Kiwanis Asia-Pacific Convention will meet in Cebu, the Philippines, March 12-14, 2009, and the Kiwanis International-European Federation will meet in Gent, Belgium, June 4-7, 2009.

Start strong

With the start of the 2008-09 administrative year, now’s the time to position your club for growth, success, and greater service. While finalizing budget plans, consider how the following programs and events can help your club achieve its goals:


Lead new leaders. Sponsor and support Service Leadership Programs (Kiwanis Junior, Key Leader, Aktion Club, Circle K, Key Club, Builders Club, K-Kids, Bring Up Grades, and Terrific Kids.)

Learn and grow. Establish a process for developing Kiwanis members into club, division, district, and International leaders.

Get the word out. Market your club and raise public awareness of Kiwanis—its name and its purpose.

Try new things. Overhaul traditional service and fundraising projects to maximize your club’s abilities to serve the children of your community and the world.

Get analytical. Survey your community to ensure your service is effective. Survey your members to ensure your club is meeting expectations.
A promising partnership

*Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Kiwanis join hands to do more for children*

No sooner had Kiwanis International and Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) inked a partnership agreement during the June Kiwanis International Convention than Kiwanis members began asking, "How can we get involved?"

The first steps to involvement involve getting in touch with your local Boys & Girls Club, talking to the director about the Kiwanis/BGCA partnership, and finding ways to work together to help children. Here are 10 ideas:

1. Serve as a Boys & Girls Club board member.
2. Donate to a Boys & Girls Club.
3. Volunteer at a Boys & Girls Club.
4. Establish a Terrific Kids, Bring Up Grades, or K-Kids program in a Boys & Girls Club.
5. Ask about using Boys & Girls Club facilities as your club’s meeting place.
6. Underwrite or provide volunteers at a Boys & Girls Club Power Hour.
7. Build a playground or sports field at a Boys & Girls Club.
8. Get involved in a Boys & Girls Club camp.
9. Organize a new Kiwanis club in a Boys & Girls Club neighborhood.

**Fresh look**

Circle K and Key Club International’s Web sites have new looks, and you’re invited to take a tour of the two new online experiences.

*CKI*’s bold new design features new components that tell the Circle K story with regularly updated features of club service projects and interactive elements that promote member-to-organization communication.

*Key Club* has adopted a multi-media experience, including a prominently positioned video magazine.

**How important is the Web?**

Response rates among non-North American Kiwanians when asked, “How important to you is the World Wide Web as a method of communication?”
Children have the Drakkar roller coaster all to themselves during a Kiwanis One Day event at Didi’land amusement park near Hagenau, France.

Showcase

First in line

Special kids get special treatment, thanks to 13 French Kiwanis clubs

Mustering his courage, Luc takes a deep breath and climbs into a seat of a swinging Viking ship. He squirms a bit, but that’s just because his coat’s too small. Or so he tells himself. But then he begins to worry. It’s fast.

Too fast. It goes really high. Too high.

And it’s scary. Too scary. He hops from his seat and hurries away, certain he’ll take the next ride.

Though he’s only 7 years old, Luc’s life is far more scary and uncertain than any swinging Viking ship. Yet for one day this past April, he was determined to prove himself brave.

Thirteen Kiwanis clubs in Division 925 Alsace Nord of the France- Monaco District spent Kiwanis One Day with Luc and more than 500 other children at Didi’land, a family fun park near Hagenau. The boys and girls came from families in difficult situations. Some of the children had been separated from their parents because of domestic violence or drug abuse. Some were immigrants, newly arrived in a strange new country.

Others’ parents had lost their jobs when a local textile plant closed. Park owner Arthur Werner realized that, due to their families’ circumstances, many of these children would never visit Didi’land. He suggested to friends in Kiwanis that he would open the park exclusively for these kids if the clubs would pay for meals and bus fares and provide chaperones.

The chosen day—a dreary, drizzly, chilly Saturday—was the day before the park’s grand opening for its 25th season. Crews and entertainers had a chance to practice, and the children had the park all to themselves. There was no waiting at La Pomme, a caterpillar-shaped roller coaster. The kids were already wet from rain, so why not get soaked on Rivière Sauvage, a log flume ride? And there were plenty of seats near the stage at the Spectacle de Cirque show.

There were no lines to stop Luc, either. He had no problems with the carousel, the slow antique cars, or other tame rides. But he usually clung timidly to Suzanne Fischer, wife of Saverne Kiwanian André Fischer.

“He followed me like my own shadow,” Suzanne says.
Repeatedly, he convinced himself to take a seat on something fast or high or dizzying. Each time, he lost his nerve, stepped out ... and returned to Suzanne's side. But once aboard a hilly coaster ride titled Caravelles, his courage held long enough for the ride to begin, and he rode up and down and all around the track again and again.—Fabienne April
Soup for the soul

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Erie, Pennsylvania, don’t mind extra helpings. They’ve been dishing out meals to locals for years now, with no end in sight.

Even Dean Lanier, 82, makes sure he is a part of trips to the Emmaus Soup Kitchen, where members assist two days every month.

"It's a pleasure to see the different people come through the line," Dean says. "It helps us as individuals because we’re there doing something of value."

Dean and about seven other club members serve 120 to 200—some of them children—mostly from Erie, Locke reports. They set up, prepare and serve food, and clean up, sharing multiple duties as needed. One serves the entrée, another the vegetable, another the soup and so on. Some foods, such as the salads, coleslaw and fresh fruits, are offerings the guests don’t normally see. Homegrown garden goods and party leftovers are treats businesses and individuals donate. Diners appreciate the full course.

"That's probably their one good meal a day," says past club president Valerie Balzer.

The appetite is just as hearty for the Kiwanians. Some work a half day to get off early to go to the soup kitchen.

"It really humbles you," member Janice Locke says. "I get a true appreciation of my own life from it." —Barbara Klemt Boxleitner
Beads reward courage

Red, white, and purple—simple colors that have taken on a deeper meaning for children suffering from cancer and other serious illnesses.

Through the Beads of Courage program, hospitalized kids collect colored beads that represent milestones in their medical journey.

“This project gives the kids encouragement and a way to show what they’ve been going through,” says Betty Misch, president of the Kiwanis Club of Tucson-Sunshine, Arizona, which participates in the program.

Children receive a piece of string and beads spelling out their first names. After that, they’re awarded colorful beads that correspond to different types of treatment they receive. A red bead signifies a blood transfusion. A glow-in-the-dark bead represents radiation treatment. Coveted purple beads are given when treatments are completed.

The precious jewels can add up. One 3-year-old girl filled two full strands, which included 100 white beads for 100 days of chemotherapy.

Beads of Courage was founded by Jean Baruch, a pediatric oncology nurse in Tucson who realized that many of the children she treated needed a way to remember the different steps on their treatment path. Pretty soon, she had the support of Key Clubbers, Circle K’ers, and the Tucson-Sunshine Kiwanians. She even joined the Kiwanis club. Jean’s program receives regular support from the Tucson-Sunshine Kiwanis club in the form of rent for a Beads of Courage store.

Jean had beads in her house,” says Betty. “She had beads in her garage.”

“The project is amazing,” says Betty. “It’s heartbreaking to hear about what the children go through. We’re happy to help.” —Karen Pyle Trent
Showcase

Wayland goes way big to celebrate kids

As a wayward balloon wafts toward the white clouds that sail across a clear blue sky, a little girl concentrates hard, pedaling and steering her way through a bicycle rodeo course.

High-pitched giggles of glee erupt when a toddler bumps his nose on his ice cream cone. It's a Norman Rockwell moment. Except this is no make-believe illustration.

It's Kiwanis Kids Day in Wayland, Michigan, a community of less than 4,000 residents.

"You heard children laughing and giggling," **Wayland Kiwanis club** president Jacqueline Straub says. "Everywhere you looked, kids were smiling or holding hands with their parents or the police officers who were guiding them through the bicycle rodeo. It was just one of those perfect days."

More than 500 children, along with parents, grandparents, families, and friends, attended the event—and almost everything was free, including bright green Kiwanis Kids' Day T-shirts.

"We had 250 T-shirts that we made up," Jacqueline says. "The event was scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and all the T-shirts were gone by noon."


The 20-member Wayland club has plenty of experience with small projects, such as reading to schoolchildren, inspecting child car seats, and contributing funds to a therapeutic riding program. But as the only service organization in the town of about 4,000 residents, members wanted to do something big. When looking through Kiwanis International materials, members learned of Kiwanis Kids Day, an observance established in 1949 to celebrate children. Everyone in the club went crazy over the idea, Jackie says.

Members contacted agencies that support and serve children, and one by one, schools, police and fire departments, hospitals, businesses, and others agreed to contribute and participate. **Wayland Union High School Key Club** members dressed as cartoon characters and entertained the crowds. **Wayland Middle School Builders Club** members set up a **lemonade stand** to raise funds for the area's pediatric cancer research.

"At one point during the day, our club members looked at each other and said, "This
Wayland goes way big to celebrate kids

is what we're all about: learning, safety, playing, helping children,” Jacqueline says.

Businesses underwrote the cost of a full-page ad in the local newspaper, and a second ad was printed at no cost. Schools sent students home with informational fliers to spread the word among families.

Wayland Kiwanians originally planned a one-time festival; but now, Jackie reports, the community is looking forward to another perfect day in the park next year—and in years to come.—Tamara Stevens
Building on his talents

Every night, Russian children climb into bed at a Kolomne orphanage, pull their blankets around them, and drift off into a safe, healthful, peaceful slumber—a sleep “built” by a 75-year-old Canadian contractor. Harry Schmidt, a 30-year member of the Abbotsford, British Columbia, Kiwanis club, has two passions: building and building. Through his business, Harwood Industries, he constructs affordable housing for low-income families.

Through the Schmidt Family Foundation, he constructs health clinics, schools, and orphanages in areas where children normally live without clean water, adequate shelter, and medical care. In Russia, for example, Harry and the foundation established the Kolomne orphanage for 230 children disabled by the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

Harry’s mission to improve conditions for children around the world has led him to Ethiopia, Russia, India, Paraguay, and the Philippines. Currently, he is building a 55,000-square-foot school in the Ukraine and a cattle farm in Namibia.

Through the years, Harry has received many requests and suggestions for clinics and schools, but oftentimes, restrictions prevent construction or local commitments cannot adequately support and maintain a facility. Over the years, Harry and his staff have developed a reliable system for selecting sites. A potential location, for example, must have a stable food supply.

At least one person, who has lived in the community for three years, must commit to the project. If all criteria are met, the Schmidt Family Foundation raises money for clean water systems, clothing, and additional food. Companies associated with the foundation pay for materials and construction costs.

A father of four now grown children, Harry says he prefers to work on projects that focus on children. To explain, he recalls meeting a young boy during a visit to India. “He was light as a feather,” Harry says. “I held him close to me, and when I looked at him, he had the most perfect smile. He couldn’t speak, but he had that perfect smile.”—Sarah Moreland, member, Circle K Club of Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana
Clubhouse

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- **Whirlwind work tour** (Wisconsin)
- **Statue back in fine form** (Pennsylvania)
- **And the winner is...** (Oklahoma)
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Back to work

A desk where Kiwanis history was written is back on the job at the International Office in Indianapolis, Indiana. L.A. "Larry" Hapgood used the desk when he served as Associate Secretary at the organization’s headquarters in Chicago, Illinois. Upon his retirement in 1978, Kiwanis presented him with the lifetime title of International Associate Secretary Emeritus and the desk, which he moved with him to Carefree, Arizona.

As the organization’s historian, Larry used the desk in the early 1980s to write *The Men Who Wear the K*, which traced Kiwanis’ history since its founding in 1915. In 1989, he penned a revision, retitled *Dimensions of Service: The Kiwanis Story*.

This past June, Larry’s family and the Southwest District returned the desk to the International Office, where it now sits in the Board Room, once again helping record Kiwanis history.

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Key Club connection

The Cy-Fair Key Club likes to visit the Ronald McDonald House near the Houston Medical Center right before Valentine’s Day. It’s a popular event. A school bus filled with Key Club members from Cy-Fair High School in Cypress, Texas, brings food and cleaning supplies.
Students do crafts with kids and offer “cab care”—ushering families to local stores to buy food, clothing, and other essentials.

This year, while serving lunch, Cy-Fair students met a kindly man in suspenders—Allen Suter, a Kiwanis member from Mandeville, Louisiana, whose grandson was being treated for heart problems at a nearby hospital. The Kiwanian, a former Key Clubber and Circle K member himself, was so impressed by the heart and service of the Cy-Fair Key Club members, he wrote a letter to their school. He called Nicole Pickford, president of the club, a “true leader.”

“"You give and you get."—Amber Moore, 24, describing the service and networking benefits that attracted her to the Kiwanis Club of Florence, Alabama

It’s amazing what you can make with a needle and thread. The Kiwanis Club of Hamilton East in Ontario joined efforts with the city and a city-improvement group to create an award-winning sewing-themed park space to beautify an area devastated by fire. The park, which is wheelchair accessible, features large spools of thread, a thimble and buttons, and colorful stones in the shape of a quilt—in honor of the fabric businesses that have long shaped the landscape.

The club donated $25,000 over four years to the project.

As of September 1, Paul Hickman has been a Kiwanian for 70 years. But in terms of longevity, he can top even that accomplishment. This past June, the Portsmouth,
Ohio, Kiwanian celebrated his 100th birthday. Paul, who was employed as a YMCA director, had served as secretary for two clubs and Division 9 in the Ohio District.

Famous encounters

Celebrities and dignitaries enjoy hanging around with Kiwanis clubs. Perhaps it's because they enjoy the friendly company. Or the noble acts of service. Consider these recent sightings.

Chioma Ohakim

After helping the Kiwanis Club of Owerri, Nigeria, build a kitchen for the Owerri Motherless Babies facility, Ohakim, the first lady of the State of Imo, submitted her application for membership. The project truly was an international venture, involving the Owerri club from Nigeria; North Thurston, Lacey, Washington, from the United States; and Oliver, British, Columbia, from Canada.

Yves Duteil

One of France’s best-loved singers/songwriters, Duteil performed at a concert arranged by the Kiwanis Club of Arras-Citadelle, France, for the benefit of Rétina France, an association that helps children who have vision impairments. A TV crew was there to interview Duteil about the event and its purpose.

Parker Bohn III

A 30-time Professional Bowler Association champion, Bohn helped the Kiwanis Club of Greater Dublin, Ohio, raise money to help pay physical therapy expenses for a 13-yearold boy who has cerebral palsy. The fundraiser? Bowling, of course.

Matthew McQuaid meets United States Bowling Congress Hall of Famer Parker Bohn III. McQuaid was 11 months old when he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

Photo by Rich Sharick

Barack Obama

During a campaign stop in Unity, New Hampshire, the US presidential candidate expressed his appreciation for the Kiwanis Club of Claremont, saying, “I want to thank the Kiwanis club, which is selling, I think, burgers and hot dogs and some stuff for the children here in Unity. And so, if everybody’s hungry, just head on over.”

Phil Niekro

The Kiwanis Club of Gainesville, Georgia, inducted the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher into its own hall of fame. Niekro received the club’s 2008 Youth Service Award in recognition of his work to establish an athletic complex for children with physical disabilities.
Whirlwind work tour

K-Kids from Randolph Elementary School in Wisconsin didn’t let the aftermath of a tornado put a damper on their end-of-the-year party.

At least three tornadoes swept through the Randolph area this past June, damaging homes, flooding roads and streets, and knocking down trees. One of the areas hardest hit: Fox Lake Kiwanians Patti and Craig Brengle’s farm, location of the K-Kids party.

Twenty large trees were twisted and torn on the farm, and another 30 were damaged. Craig was able to cut up most of the felled trees with his chainsaw in the days before the party. The K-Kids took care of the rest of the cleanup.

Afterward, they played games in the newly cleared areas, had a cookout, and then went swimming at the YMCA of Dodge County.

Makin’ good on a loan

When James Swauger realized he had never repaid a loan he had received from the Kiwanis Club of New London, Connecticut, he decided to make good on his debt. But club members couldn’t remember him, the loan, or when the club changed from giving scholarship loans to grants.

So, the club forgave the loan. But Swauger was insistent. He donated $3,000, thanking the club for investing in his education.

“My fantasy as a senior at New London High was to attend Northeastern University (in Massachusetts) and study toxicology,” Swauger wrote. “The $9,000 price tag was way outside the bounds of the resources available to my family. … The simple truth is that your club’s investment really did have a substantial impact on my life, and for that I thank you collectively.”

For the record, Swauger did attend Northeastern University and received a degree in toxicology in 1985. He went on to get a Ph.D. in toxicology from Johns Hopkins University.

Statue back in fine form

When a working model of a veteran’s statue was discovered in storage about a year ago, the timing couldn’t have been better. The actual statue in Kiwanis Memorial Park to Veterans in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, had just been beheaded by vandals.
The **Kiwanis Club of Johnstown East Hills** collected donations to restore the statue and shipped the model to a sculptor who recreated the head. The statue—which depicts a soldier carrying a child—was unveiled and rededicated this past Memorial Day.

And the winner is ...  
Baby wipes wiped out diapers in a firefighter vs. police competition arranged by the **Kiwanis Club of Sand Springs, Oklahoma**. To encourage donations of baby supplies for the Open Heart Pregnancy Resource Center, the Kiwanis club pitted member and police officer Kristi Behar (representing diapers) against member and fire marshal Stan Smith (baby wipes). Whoever's team collected the most items would cream the competitor's face with a pie.

Stan earned the right to fling pie, but the resource center was the big winner, restocking its nearly depleted shelves with more than 150 packages of baby-care items.

Can you top this?  
**Legacy of leaders.** The **Kiwanis Club of Tempe, Arizona**, has been represented on the Tempe City Council for the past 76 years. Though the club organized in 1952, three charter members already had been taking turns as city councilmen since 1932. Five Tempe Kiwanians have been Tempe mayors.

A street named Kiwanis  
From the **Kiwanis Club of Sioux Falls, South Dakota**, where Kiwanis Avenue runs south from the Elmwood Golf Course to 49th Street, Amy DeBerg asks an interesting question on the KiwanisOne.org portal: "Does anyone know of other Kiwanis streets?"

"In fact," answers Ann Arbor Kiwanian Alan Dailey, "the Michigan District office is located on Kiwanis Drive (in Ann Arbor)." Add your Kiwanis boulevard, highway, or lane to the conversation:

Ontario Kiwanian marks 100 years
Alma Williscraft usually helps set up the Seniors Community Center for her Thames Valley-Fanshawe, Ontario, Kiwanis club meetings, but one week this past March, all preparations were dedicated to her. It was her birthday. Her 100th birthday. Alma, who was born March 19, 1908, regularly volunteers at a nursing home, singing, reading, and reciting poetry. Only recently did she retire from singing in her church choir after 63 years.

Kiwanis statistics

10.6% of Kiwanis clubs are involved in Bring Up Grades

Source: 2006-07 Annual Club Reports

Quote

“The Kiwanis festival was one of the first opportunities for us to build up the skills and the confidence to perform in front of people.”—Dylan Bell, a Juno-nominated musician, as quoted in the Orillia Packet and Times newspaper, reflecting on his experiences as an 8-year-old entry into the Orillia, Ontario, Kiwanis club’s music festival

Safety first

Whether serving breakfast to Santa Claus and 380 children or gourmet dishes at their Wine and Moonlight fundraiser, members of the Kiwanis Club of Moorpark, California, hope their food tastes great. But they also want it to be safe. That’s why some members attend a food-safety course. Three primary lessons, says member Mark Van Dam, are:

1. Use refrigeration.
2. Keep work areas clean.
3. Prevent cross contamination. (Do not use the same equipment for different types of meats, fruits, and vegetables.)

Club birthdays

These clubs celebrate anniversary dates during November and December 2008:

90—1918

Fort Worth, Texas, November 2

Wilmington, Delaware, November 19

Niagara Falls, New York, December 12

Evansville, Indiana, December 14
Portland, Oregon, December 28
85—1923
Richmond, Missouri, November 5
Oneonta, New York, November 6
Monmouth, Illinois, November 9
Albany, Oregon, November 14
Perth Amboy, New Jersey, November 14
Troy, Ohio, November 14
Harvey, North Dakota, November 15
Rusk, Texas, November 15
Dover, New Jersey, November 19
Mendota, Illinois, November 19
Sydney, Nova Scotia, November 19
Carbondale, Pennsylvania, November 20
Timmins, Ontario, November 22
Havre, Montana, November 23
Alton-Godfrey, Illinois, November 26
Caldwell-West Essex, New Jersey, November 28
Glasgow, Montana, November 28
Dade City, Florida, December 5
Huntington Park, California, December 6
Eagle Rock, California, December 7
Denison, Iowa, December 10
Lake City, Florida, December 11
South Pasadena, California, December 19
Los Gatos, California, December 20
Sunland-Tujunga, California, December 28
80—1928
Burlington, Wisconsin, November 1
Northern Columbus, Ohio, November 15
Northwest Columbus, Ohio, November 21
Morristown, New Jersey, November 30
Athens, Texas, December 5
Towson-Timonium, Maryland, December 12
75—1933
Roxboro, North Carolina, November 6
70—1938
Marshfield, Massachusetts, November 9
Gainesville, Texas, November 17
Headland, Alabama, November 22
Highline, Burien, Washington, December 8
Montgomery City, Missouri, December 20
65—1943
Pella, Iowa, November 2
Reading, Ohio, November 11
Cobourg, Ontario, November 24
Cape May Court House, New Jersey, November 30
Gardena Valley, California, December 8
Mount Vernon, Ohio, December 13
Brockville, Ontario, December 16
Barron, Wisconsin, December 29
60—1948
Woodstown, New Jersey, November 1
Burlington-Edison, Washington, November 1
Brigham City, Utah, November 4
Springfield, Oregon, November 9
East Evansville, Indiana, November 17
Greensboro, Florida, November 17
Marengo, Iowa, November 17
Dunwoody, Georgia, November 29
Centralia, Missouri, November 30
East Memphis, Tennessee, December 2
Rotterdam, New York, December 7
Battle Ground, Washington, December 7
Boone, Iowa, December 15
55—1953
West Angelo, San Angelo, Texas, November 2
Bath-Richfield, Ohio, November 5
Sterling, Colorado, November 5
Skokie Valley, Illinois, November 5
Pocomoke City, Maryland, November 10
North Richmond, Virginia, November 12
Western Turnpike Guilderland, New York, November 17
Kamloops, British Columbia, November 17
Greater Modesto, California, November 24
Hillsboro, Oregon, November 30
Greater Racine, Wisconsin, December 2
San Clemente, California, December 3
New Town, North Dakota, December 3
South San Francisco, California, December 3
East El Paso, Texas, December 4
Arkadelphia, Arkansas, December 8
Benton, Arkansas, December 10
Lakeshore Sunrise-Sheboygan, Wisconsin, December 10
Sibley, Iowa, December 14
South Padukah, Kentucky, December 17

50—1958
Dearborn Heights, Michigan, November 6
Health Moundbuilders, Ohio, November 19
West Seneca, New York, November 19
Warrensburg, Missouri, November 25
Eldon, Missouri, December 10
Centerville, Ohio, December 16
Welland, Ontario, December 16
Hi-Noon, Emporia, Kansas, December 18
Kirtland, Ohio, December 22
Coney Island, Brooklyn, New York, December 29
Putnam County, Tennessee, December 29

45—1963
Germantown, Tennessee, November 1
Arvada-Jefferson, Colorado, November 1
Windsor East, Ontario, November 5
York, Virginia, November 11
Carmel-Clay, Indiana, November 11
Oak Creek, Wisconsin, November 14
Hacienda Heights, California, November 20
Walnut Valley, California, November 26
Bern, Switzerland, December 2
St. Thomas-Lord Elgin, Ontario, December 5
Silverton, Oregon, December 5
Frankfurt/Main, Germany, December 9
Brunswick, Ohio, December 10
Port Chester/Rye Brook, New York, December 11
Scenic City, Iowa Falls, Iowa, December 16
Luzern, Switzerland, December 17
Lee’s Summit, Missouri, December 19
Whittier-Rio Hondo, California, December 27
40—1968
General Santos, Philippines, November 3
Peninsula, Gig Harbor, Washington, November 6
Byron, New York, November 21
Liestal, Switzerland, November 21
Southeast Summit, Akron, Ohio, November 25
Basel-Klingental, Switzerland, November 28
Hy-Noon, Ottumwa, Iowa, December 2
Abbotsford, British Columbia, December 11
Namur I, Belgium, December 16
North Shore, Long Island, New York, December 31
35—1973
Nordeifel, Germany, November 9
Lake Tahoe Sunrisers, California, November 13
Warrnambool, Australia, November 30
Oostende Noordzee, Belgium, December 11
Lake Havasu City, Arizona, December 13
30—1978

Milledgeville, Old Capital, Georgia, November 1

Oregon, Illinois, November 2

Leimental, Switzerland, November 6

North Fort Myers, Florida, November 7

Amiens Samarobriva, France, November 7

Kootenai, Libby, Montana, November 8

Waterloo Belle Alliance, Belgium, November 8

Olten, Switzerland, November 17

Wil, Switzerland, November 18

Waregem, Belgium, November 24

St. Johann im Pongau, Austria, November 25

Seville, Ohio, November 27

Grand Forks, Sun Risers, North Dakota, November 29

Seminole Breakfast, Florida, November 29

Greater Pine Island, Florida, November 29

Rochester West Central, New York, November 29

Shawnee, Kansas, November 30

Ninove/Geraardsbergen, Belgium, December 9

Anderson, Golden K, South Carolina, December 19

Anacortes, Sunrisers, Washington, December 27

25—1983

Sun Lakes, Arizona, November 9

Gray, France, November 11

Martigny, Switzerland, November 11

Central Chesterfield, Virginia, November 17

Acadiana-Lafayette, Louisiana, November 17

Port Charlotte Sunrise, Florida, November 23

Hickman, Nebraska, December 6

Waukesha, Early Risers, Wisconsin, December 7

Canton, New York, December 8

Torhout Houtland, Belgium, December 30

Damme Uilenspiegel, Belgium, December 30