Journey for a cure

Hearing stories of Rashale Arana's home in Belize conjures up brilliant images of paradise. After all, her town—a village, really—is called Silk Grass, and part of the drive here from Belize City is along the Hummingbird Highway. Traditional board houses dot the lush landscape like a sampling of the most colorful crayons plucked from the box.

Can't get much more perfect than that, right?

The fact of the matter is it isn't all perfect. Belize can be harsh. Tourism brings in money for a select few. But the average annual income in Belize is $8,000. And it's hot. Very hot. The wet season can bring intense and dangerous flooding.

Lack of access to “modern medicine” causes hardships too, especially for Rashale, a 9-year-old girl who recently discovered she has bone cancer in her left leg. At home in Belize, Rashale was given a couple
options: aspirin to help ease the pain until she dies, or an 18-hour drive to meet with doctors in Mexico for a second but still uncertain chance for a cure.

But Rashale unexpectedly got a third option thanks to caring Kiwanians in the Carolinas District and the International Hospital for Children (IHC).

Find out how Kiwanis and the IHC are helping Rashale in upcoming International Updates and the February edition of KIWANIS magazine.

Making dolls

A hospital experience can be overwhelming for an adult. Imagine what it must be like for a child. Kiwanis dolls help children through the hospital experience in many ways:

**Comfort**: Children can hug the pillow-soft doll.

**Activity**: Children can draw on the doll’s plain material, distracting them from their discomfort and boredom and allowing them to illustrate their fears, discomfort, and questions. This allows adults to discuss concerns and pains more objectively with the child.

**Healing**: Nurses and doctors can use the dolls to demonstrate the procedure a child must undergo. The child can even help with the process on the doll. This converts the experience into something the child can understand.

The dolls are relatively easy to make. Here’s how:

1. Discuss the project with hospital administrators, emergency responders, or other representatives of medical facilities. Explain that there is no cost to the hospital. Determine how many dolls will be needed on a monthly basis, how the hospital will identify which children will receive the dolls, and how the hospital will recognize Kiwanis.

2. Organize a group of people who will make the dolls (club members and spouses, church or retirement groups, disabled persons, school classes).

3. Download the pattern onto 11-inch-by 17-inch paper.

4. Find a source for plain material, thread, and stuffing. (Some businesses will provide the items at no cost when they understand how it is to be used or at a reduced price with the promise of regular business.)

5. Sew and stuff the dolls.

6. Prepare a letter to be given to parents. Explain the doll’s purpose and provide information about your Kiwanis club.

7. Visit the hospital and deliver the dolls (and letter) to the children.
Sewing instructions

The pattern and instructions are provided by the Kiwanis Club of Burnside, South Australia.

1. Allow ¼ inch or .64 cm as the width for the seam.

2. Leave a gap of about 6.5 centimeters or 2.5 inches in one leg for stuffing.

3. Sew the label in the seam of the leg opposite from the stuffing gap. (Labels can be purchased through the Kiwanis Family Store.)

4. Snip into the corners, where indicated on the pattern.

5. Once sewn (except the gap), turn the doll inside out and stuff. After stuffing, hand-sew the stuffing gap in the leg.

Stuffing instructions

- Stuff dolls through the gap in the leg.
- Use chopsticks to push stuffing into the dolls body.
- Start with the head, then the arms, then the legs and chest.
- The dolls should be firm, but not too firm. If legs or arms flop, more stuffing is needed.

Grab your keys and grow

The 2008-09 1-2-3 You Hold the Key program has begun and again acknowledges members who, between June 1, 2008, and June 1, 2009, successfully introduce new members to Kiwanis service and fellowship. Recruit one member and receive a bronze key lapel pin. Recruit a second member and receive a silver pin. Recruit three or more new members and you'll receive a gold pin.

Brr! It’s chilly

The Kiwanis Family Store has just what you need to keep you warm. These midweight sweatshirts have “Kiwanis, Serving the Children of the World” printed across the chest. Pick the navy blue sweatshirt. Or for extra warmth, choose the dark grey style with a drawstring hood and muff pocket.

Calling for nominations

Since 1985, the Kiwanis International Foundation has annually sought to honor an individual, organization, or agency that contributes to or enhances the quality of life for a significant number of people in a significant way. In the past, honorees of the Kiwanis World Service Medal have included Mother Teresa, who ministered to the sick, the orphaned, and the dying, Nancy Reagan, who battled drug abuse, and Rosalynn Carter for her work with immunizations.
Kiwanis clubs, past medal recipients, and service organizations and agencies with the endorsement of Kiwanis clubs are eligible to nominate candidates. The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2009.

**Procedures and criteria governing the Kiwanis World Service Medal**

Around the world, there are many individuals, organizations and agencies doing wonderful work that warrants recognition, so it is time again to ask your help to identify those whose dedication to serving the needs of children is deserving of the prestigious international award: the [Kiwanis World Service Medal](http://66.29.197.80/magazine/1108updateen.asp).

The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2009, so, please, act quickly.

The submission should be as complete and comprehensive as possible, providing specific details about your planned project and its impact upon and benefit to the community, including its primary beneficiary audience(s). If Service Leadership Programs (K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, Circle K, Aktion Club, Kiwanis Junior) will be involved, explain how, and whether or not your club needs additional financial assistance. If financial assistance is needed, please explain the need and how the funds will be utilized.

Include information on prior Kiwanis One Day projects, including details about the work and the benefit, and provide, by mail, any photographs and/or videos of or for the project. Also include samples of media coverage from the past year and examples of how your project helped raise awareness of Kiwanis and children’s needs in your community.

Submissions for the Kiwanis One Day video contest must be received at the Kiwanis International Office no later than December 19, 2008.

An announcement of the winners is expected by January 30, 2009. One winning club will have its project professionally videotaped and the second winning project will be included in KIWANIS magazine.

Kiwanis reserves the right to discontinue the contest if Kiwanis, in its sole discretion, determines that the projects submitted for consideration do not meet the selection criteria. In the event of such determination, contestants will be notified on or before January 30, 2009.

**Open the Junk Drawer**

The Junk Drawer—a Kiwanis International staff blog—is exactly what you’d expect from the name. Helpful gadgets, that missing “thing” you didn’t know you needed, and some long-lost treasures that may surprise you.

The blog will feature insight from staffers telling the Kiwanis story from an insider’s perspective. Curious? Take a peek today. After all, a junk drawer can tell you a lot about the owner of its contents. You’ll be treated to tech tips, event and campaign scoops, and behind-the-scenes observations. In other words—everything but the kitchen sink.

**One month left**

If your club has plans for April 2009’s [Kiwanis One Day](http://66.29.197.80/magazine/1108updateen.asp), you have until December
19 to register your plans with Kiwanis International. Your One Day project could be the subject of a professionally shot video or specialized coverage in KIWANIS magazine.

**You have two options to enter:**

- **Log on** and enter the pass code that appears on the page to use the electronic form.

  **OR**

- Describe your project in a letter and send it to:

  Kiwanis One Day Contest  
  Attn: Elizabeth Warren  
  3636 Woodview Trace  
  Indianapolis, IN 46268-3196  
  USA

**Annual, monthly report clarification**

In the October issue, Kiwanis International Update announced the availability of online club reporting services. To clarify that report:

Clubs that use the online service to submit all 12 monthly reports do not need to file an Annual Club Report, because the online system automatically compiles this information.

**Meet me @ the forum**

Attention club leaders: Have you ever wished you could talk to someone else who held your position—someone, say, in another town who could share some fresh perspective?

Wish no more! The Kiwanis community is live and ready to connect Kiwanians from all over the world so they can share best practices and ideas. “Instead of operating in a vacuum, clubs can use the forum to communicate and support one another,” says Kiwanis International Chief Technical Officer Scott Smith. Your participation is important; so take a look (go to "Kiwanis Leader" link at the bottom of the page). You’ll find:

- Groups for every leadership position in a club—from club presidents to secretaries, treasurers, and more.
- A place to post questions. What’s the best way to collect money at a fundraiser? Just ask—and tap into the collective knowledge of the community.
- A forum for ideas. Share ideas about service projects, fundraising, membership growth, and more. Skim ideas others have shared or contact them about their solutions.

**Make plans for Nashville**

Put June 25-28 on your calendar. Those are the dates of the 94th Annual Kiwanis International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Here’s some helpful info to get you started on your convention
plans.

**Registration pricing:**

- Before May 1, 2009—$195 for Kiwanis members, $95 for guests, and $0 for Service Leadership Program members.
- May 1 and after (including on-site)—$250 for members, $125 for guests, and $0 for Service Leadership Program members.

**Tentative schedule:**

- Wednesday, June 24—Early registration
- Thursday, June 25—Registration, educational seminar, opening session, district dinners
- Friday, June 26—Meet the Candidates, workshops, business session, entertainment
- Saturday, June 27—Breakfast, seminar, workshops, closing session, Nashville party

**District hotel assignments**

- **Courtyard by Marriott Nashville Downtown**—Minnesota-Dakotas, overflow; $137
- **Doubletree Hotel Nashville**—Carolinas, Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee; $139
- **Embassy Suites Nashville at Vanderbilt**—Rocky Mountain, Southwest; $149
- **Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center**—Alabama, Nebraska-Iowa, New York, Texas-Oklahoma, Wisconsin-Upper Michigan; $149 if reservations made prior to April 25, 2009, $166 thereafter.
- **Hilton Nashville Downtown**—Florida, Utah-Idaho, West Virginia, Western Canada; $154
- **Holiday Inn Express Nashville Downtown**—Andean and Central America, Eastern Canada and the Caribbean, overflow; $129
- **Holiday Inn Select at Vanderbilt**—Michigan, Missouri-Arkansas; $124
- **Loews Vanderbilt Hotel**—Capital, New England; $162
- **Millennium Maxwell House Hotel**—Kansas, Kentucky-Tennessee, $119
- **Nashville Marriott at Vanderbilt University**—California-Nevada-Hawaii, $139
- **Renaissance Nashville Hotel (VIP)**—Illinois-Eastern Iowa, Indiana, Montana, New Jersey, Pacific Northwest, Asia-Pacific and Europe districts, Official Family; $162
- **Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel**—Georgia, Ohio, Pennsylvania; $132

Rates do not include applicable taxes (currently 15.25 percent plus $2 per room night city tax). Additional charges apply for more than two adults occupying a room. Suites are available at an additional cost. All rates include a 10 percent commission.