Will the circle be unbroken?

In Katheka Kai within the village of Kitanga, Kenya, poverty often follows a circle of hopelessness: Because her family cannot afford her education, a child moves to a big city to find a job as a housemaid, barmaid, or prostitute. She gets pregnant. She is infected with AIDS. She returns to Katheka Kai briefly, long enough to leave her baby daughter with her parents. The young mother dies. Her child grows up, but the grandparents cannot afford her education, so she, too, moves to the big city to find a job as a housemaid, barmaid, or prostitute.

Now, an international team of Kiwanis clubs hopes a library will be a first step in breaking that cycle.

"It’s hard to meet each and every need," says Jacqueline Musyoka, a member of the Nairobi, Kenya, Kiwanis club, "but we believe a library will be a good start as it will bring a reading culture into the community. Children will have ambition and will look forward to careers. We will use the library to mentor them and teach them resilience and ambition and strength to push through the barriers of poverty."

On the other side of the globe, the Kiwanis Club of Tri-Cities, Industry, Washington, sells Kenyan coffee to raise money to pay for the library’s construction.

"We have international relationships with Kiwanis clubs in Bangladesh and India, and we recently partnered with the Nairobi club to help build this library," says Tri-Cities Kiwanian Norm Olson. "It is our hope that books and, eventually, computers, will get the children interested in their education so they can look forward to a better life."
A natural blend: BGCA and Kiwanis

No sooner had Kiwanis International President Dave Curry and Boys & Girls Clubs of America Director Rick Goings inked a partnership agreement during the June Kiwanis International Convention than Kiwanis members began asking, "How can we get involved?"

It’s a natural partnership between two organizations that specialize in serving children.

The first step to involvement is getting in touch with your local Boys & Girls Club:

Find a Boys & Girls Club near you.

Arrange a meeting with a Boys & Girls Club director or key volunteer and explore how you can work together.

Invite Boys & Girls Club staff and board members to join Kiwanis.

Help kids together. 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 to use 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.
10. Invite Boys & Girls Club members to participate in Kiwanis One Day (April 4, 2009).

Key Club’s peek into the future of service

Kiwanis International CEO Rob Parker was quite impressed by what he saw while attending the 2008 Key Club International Convention in Denver, Colorado, this past July. Here’s what he had to say about the experience in a recent Kiwanis Leader blog:

"Having spent the past couple of days with 1,500 high school students at the Key Club convention, I could not be more encouraged about the future of our world. These amazing young people are passionate about serving others, and they made me very proud to be a Kiwanis member. These young people are raising money and doing hands-on service that rivals the work of our Kiwanis clubs worldwide. For those of you who are investing your time and resources in Key Club, thank you for all you do!"

One of the advantageous features of a blog is the interaction with readers, and one Kiwanian took the opportunity to echo Rob’s excitement.

"For those of you who have not shared a Key Club function—district or International—you are missing a large dose of enthusiasm,” wrote Gulfport, Mississippi, Kiwanian Dennis Oliver. “These young folks are what’s right about teenagers.”
Wear your K comfortably

A new shirt has arrived in the Kiwanis Family Store. It’s wrinkle-resistant, comfortable, and wash-and-wear. It’s available in 16 colors. You can order short or long sleeves. Plus, with a minimum order of 12 shirts, it can be personalized with your Kiwanis club’s name. It just may be the perfect shirt to show off your Kiwanis pride.

Take your place in the spotlight

Is your club ready for its film debut? Kiwanis International invites clubs to submit their plans for Kiwanis One Day, which will take place April 4, 2009. The best ideas will win a professional video shoot or coverage in KIWANIS magazine. An online submission form will be posted online in October. The deadline for submissions is December 19, 2008.

A new year, a strong start

As the 2008-09 Kiwanis year approaches, now is the time to position your club for growth, success, and greater service. As your club finalizes its budget plans, consider how the following programs and events can help your club achieve its goals:

**Get connected.** Attend International and district conventions

**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 Kiwanians 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.

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.