Indianapolis, IN (June 17, 2013)—Vancouver will host the 98th Annual Kiwanis International Convention and the 58th Annual Circle K International Convention, bringing 4,000 people from around the world to the city.

Highlights include CKI members building two playgrounds to benefit two local schools; a walk to benefit The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus; and the presentation of the Kiwanis International World Service Medal to international singer and songwriter Sarah McLachlan.

“Our members are excited to be in Vancouver for the first time in our 98-year history,” said Kiwanis International President Tom DeJulio. “They are looking forward to enjoying this beautiful city and experiencing the fellowship of thousands of their global companions. We have much to celebrate, including raising more than US$33 million to save and protect mothers and their newborns from the ravages of tetanus.”

The Kiwanis convention kicks-off at Noon on Wednesday, June 26, with the opening of the Exhibit Hall. Each year, members from more than 25 countries attend the Kiwanis International convention for education, idea-sharing, keynote speakers, entertainment, workshops and governance. This year’s convention is expected to generate nearly $6.2 million in direct visitor spending for Vancouver.

“We had the pleasure of working with local members of the Kiwanis organization to not only secure the upcoming convention, but also to ensure this meeting would be among their best ever,” said Dave Gazley, vice president, Meeting & Convention Sales for Tourism Vancouver. “Kiwanis is doing amazing things for the international community, and we look forward to sharing our city with members from around the world.”

Playground builds
Partnering with Delano, MN-based commercial playground equipment manufacturer Landscape Structures Inc. and its local consultants, Habitat Systems Inc., more than 150 CKI members—Kiwanis International’s service club for university students—will install new playground equipment at two local schools. The playground installations are part of CKI’s 13th Annual Large Scale Service Project.
from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 24 and 25 at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Elementary, 7350 Laurel St. and Sir Wilfrid Laurier Annex, 590 West 65th Avenue.

**Walk for The Eliminate Project**
About 300 Kiwanis and CKI members will walk to benefit The Eliminate Project at 7 a.m. on Friday, June 28. The walk begins at the convention center near the Olympic Cauldron, which will be lit at the start of the walk, and continues along the harbor. Partnering with UNICEF, Kiwanis International is raising US$110 million by 2015 to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus, a disease that kills one baby every nine minutes in nearly 30 countries around the world.

**World Service Medal presentation**
At 3:15 p.m. on Saturday, June 29 on the Kiwanis International stage, convention center halls A and B, Kiwanis will honor singer and songwriter Sarah McLachlan with the service organization’s highest award—the 2013 World Service Medal—for her dedication to music education.

The Sarah McLachlan School of Music in Vancouver provides music education to underserved and at-risk youth at no cost. The school is dedicated to helping young people build community and find their voice. McLachlan joins actors and humanitarians Sir Roger Moore, Audrey Hepburn and Jamie Lee Curtis; First Ladies Nancy Reagan and Rosalynn Carter; and organizations Heifer International and Sleeping Children Around the World as World Service Medal recipients.

**About Kiwanis International**
Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of members dedicated to serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and its family of clubs, including Circle K International for university students, Key Club for students age 14-18, Builders Club for students age 11-14, Kiwanis Kids for students age 6-12 and Aktion Club for adults living with disabilities, dedicate annually more than 18 million service hours to strengthen communities and serve children and raise more than $100 million. The Kiwanis International family comprises nearly 600,000 adult and youth members in 80 countries and geographic areas. For more information about Kiwanis International, please visit www.kiwanis.org.