November 2012

My Fellow Kiwanians:

The past two weeks have been challenging for Kiwanis communities in the New Jersey, New York, New England, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Capital and Carolinas Districts. In addition to the massive floods and power outages, Hurricane Sandy is also credited with dumping three to five feet of snow on West Virginia.

This devastating storm frayed nerves, created gas station lines longer than a mile and added thousands to the homeless population. Our hearts break for those families still without power seeking shelter and warmth, and for the children whose health and safety have clearly been placed at risk.

Kiwanis International will vigorously pursue the following actions to assist.

To help rebuild and demonstrate our solidarity with members of our Kiwanis network of clubs, we are designating November 27 as “Kiwanis Giving Tuesday.” In the United States, this day follows what is called Black Friday and Cyber Monday, among the busiest shopping days all year.

Let’s participate in Kiwanis Giving Tuesday in one or more of the following ways:

- Consider purchasing one extra gift card on your next shopping trip to a major home improvement, department or drug store selling household goods, toys or clothing, and send it to the address below. These cards will be personally acknowledged and will be provided to Kiwanis-family members during the gift-giving holiday season who have lost their homes and property and need financial assistance to acquire bare necessities.

  Kiwanis Giving Tuesday  
  c/o Fordham University  
  Administration Bldg. 111  
  441 East Fordham Road  
  Bronx, NY 10458, USA
Go to the Kiwanis International Foundation website and make a donation of any amount
or send a check designated for “Kiwanis Giving Tuesday/Disaster Relief” to the Kiwanis International Foundation, 3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, IN 46268, USA.

District governors and their district’s leaders in the affected areas will help Kiwanis International identify the needs of Kiwanis family members who have suffered severe losses. The Kiwanis International Foundation offers up to US$5000 in grants for urgent needs in their communities. For further information about these grants, please contact the foundation’s Chief Operating Officer Ann Updegraff Spleth.

Finally, let’s not forget to honor at the appropriate time all the heroes and first responders, especially individual Kiwanians who put themselves at risk to rescue children, provide temporary housing and responded so rapidly to the emergency needs of their community with their equipment, supplies and boots on the ground.

There are few precedents in Kiwanis for dealing with the myriad of issues following a disaster of this magnitude crossing so many district boundaries. I ask for your patience and understanding as we identify short and long term needs, with priority given to our Kiwanis-family members directly affected by this natural disaster.

I ask for your continued prayers for the victims and for your strong support of Kiwanis Giving Day on November 27. Thank you for living the first and second Objects of Kiwanis.

Sincerely,

Thomas "Tom" DeJulio
2012-13 President
Kiwanis International