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**Kiwanis Day at the White House
Remarks by Kiwanis International President Tom DeJulio
Focusing on the Six Objects of Kiwanis
September 21, 2012**

Thank you Stan for that kind introduction and special thanks to the White House and the Office of Public Engagement for hosting us today.

We've had an amazing day! For me, it was among the best of my 46 years of Kiwanis Moments.

As I've listened today to our Kiwanis and Kiwanis-family members from around the U.S. talk about their impact in local and global communities, I realized that they are living the six Objects of Kiwanis that were enacted in 1924 in Denver, Colorado.

The six Objects of Kiwanis are the templates to live our organization's dream to be among the world's greatest champion for children. They are the guiding principles that inspire us to be more and do more to deliver impact in our communities and to transform many lives, including our own.

The Champions the White House has honored today are the finest examples of what Kiwanians do to infuse meaning into the inspirational words of the six Objects.

In regard to our first Object, giving primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life, we need only to look to the Spilters, Danny and Pam of Phoenix, Bob Moore of Florida, John Mayfield of Tennessee, and Sue Hennem from Texas: for them the world is their community, because without ever seeing the faces of the children and infants they saved and protected from the devastating effects of the lack of shoes, the lack of education, the lack of iodine in their diet, or the lack of tetanus vaccinations, they know that serving the least and most vulnerable among us on earth, the child, they are fulfilling the heart of their faith;

By "filling the bus" with canned goods for the hungry and homeless, our youngest honoree, 11-year old Emily Lang is telling her peers in elementary

school to live by the Golden Rule in all human relationships, Kiwanis' second Object.

More than 260,000 Key Club and Circle K members like Josie Grant and Sanjuana Zavala know that Kiwanis is counting on them to build a better future by promoting the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards, our third Object.

Many of you know that Rosemary and I hold four degrees from Fordham University and yet, we are humbled by the words of advice from Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't always have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve.... You don't even have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

Aktion Club member Brenda Batschelet and Bradley Blizzard of Ragsdale Key Club in North Carolina understand the meaning of that quote. With hearts full of grace and souls generated by love, they fulfill the fourth Object by developing, by their example, a more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship;

Kiwanis members William Beard from Indiana, Sheena Curley watching us from Knoxville and Sandford Tollette from Little Rock, know all too well our fifth Object, as they know how their Kiwanis clubs provide a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities. They not only have shown us what they accomplished, but they show us how we find value in our Kiwanis membership.

And of all our champions, we look to Jeffrey Woods, who through his many facets of service—in the military, in his community, and in his Kiwanis Club of Ruston, LA—Jeff lives out the sixth Object by inspiring us to increase righteousness, justice, patriotism and goodwill in our nation. Well done, Sgt. Jeffrey, you are the pride of our nation and the pride of Kiwanis.

The lives of all these Champions of Change we honor today are shining examples of all the six Objects, but more than that, they connect us to all that is good in our communities in America; they inspire us to do more and be more for the sake of

others; and they are among Kiwanis' strongest advocates for change; no, not just ordinary change, I mean transformational change.

Transformational change can only occur when we give our time, our talent and our treasure to the most precious asset on this earth, our children, here in the U.S. and around the world.

The 19th century advocate for change Henry Ward Beecher said, "Children are the hands by which we take hold of heaven."

Thank you White House Champions and Kiwanis members around the world for showing us how to reach for heaven by serving the needs of "Our Children and Their Future."

Thomas E. DeJulio
2012-13 Kiwanis International President

"OUR CHILDREN, THEIR FUTURE"