Kiwanis
MAGAZINE
TELLING THE KIWANIS STORY JAN/FEB 2021

SHOW MUST GO ON
CAR SHOW SUCCESS
AT A SAFE DISTANCE

BACK ON TRACK
RESOLUTIONS FOR
YOU AND YOUR CLUB

IT'S A BABY SHOWER
USE THESE TIPS
TO HOST YOUR OWN

ALL STAR

AL OLIVER IS A BASEBALL LEGEND AND A DEDICATED KIWANIAN. HIS LIFE OF COMMUNITY
SERVICE IS INFLUENCED BY HIS FAITH AND HIS DEVOTION TO THE YOUTH OF OHIO.
A disease that once ravaged families and communities has met its match. In just 10 years, the Kiwanis family has helped eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus from 27 countries and helped reduce the number of babies dying of tetanus by more than half.

We raised money for lifesaving vaccines, health education, safe birth environments and more — all for the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations. Millions of women can now give birth without fear of their babies dying from this horrible disease.

The task was daunting. Changing history always is.

While The Eliminate Project has come to an official end, we remain committed to raising money and funding efforts to save and protect moms and babies in the 12 countries where MNT remains a threat.

Thank you for showing the world that when Kiwanians unite in purpose, there is no stronger force for good.
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Mission Statement
The mission of Kiwanis magazine is to empower and inspire Kiwanis members to make lasting differences in the lives of children — and to share their powerful work with the world.

ON THE COVER
Baseball legend Al Oliver
Photo by Dustin Alton Strupp

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Friend, baseball fan and fellow Kiwanian Jay Hash holds his collection of Al Oliver baseball cards.
From the executive editor

W e all know it’s impossible to predict the future. But in the business of magazine publishing, we do a little of it as we prepare for each issue. We think ahead several months, trying to determine what will be timely, what news to share, what the world will be like. And lately, it’s been a bit tough.

We do the best we can.

This year, we are creating this magazine during a pandemic that shows no signs of easing. That’s reality. And to get through this, we need to look out for one another. We need to mask up. Keep our distance. For many of us, the holiday season has been very different, maybe even very difficult, because of these necessities.

The new year often brings change and resolutions. We think we’ve come up with some helpful hints for kicking off 2021 on the right footing (page 32). Not only how you can tackle the new year, but also how your club can.

Yes, 2020 was rough. But we have a lot ahead to celebrate.

The Eliminate Project campaign has officially come to a close. The women whose babies we have helped protect with our partner UNICEF are grateful. I know this because I’ve seen it and met many of them myself in Madagascar, where I photographed dozens of women and their children who are healthier today because the women received tetanus shots. The work you have done to save and protect moms and babies like them has made an impact for years. Countless kids today, and those yet to be born, are protected because Kiwanis and UNICEF stepped up to do something. What a success story.

And we won’t stop!

As we celebrate another new year and Kiwanis’ birthday on January 21, let’s all remember the great things we do as we stick together through whatever comes our way in 2021. Look out for one another, for the kids and babies, and for your communities. It’s what you do. And nobody does it better.

Thanks for reading. Here’s to a happy and healthy new year.

KASEY JACKSON
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
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President’s message

**ART RILEY**
**KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Happy New Year! As we turn the page from a difficult 2020, we face a question: What will the Kiwanis footprint be in 2021? Clubs, districts and members have countless chances to make a positive impact on their communities. As you contemplate your New Year’s resolutions, I encourage you to consider how you will leave a positive footprint.

It’s essential that every member participate in Kiwanis’ growth efforts. There are distinct ways to contribute. You can help open a new club. You can coach a club that wants to change its focus. You can ask a prospective member to join a service project.

Growth efforts also matter inside your own club. For example, encouraging members to become more active or assume new responsibilities. A club can also build a membership as diverse as the community it serves — and empower new members to contribute ideas and participate in leadership.

In fact, Kiwanis will put an emphasis on leadership in 2021. Kiwanis Amplify is an exciting new initiative that will elevate Kiwanis as a leadership-development organization. This will strengthen Kiwanis leadership and equip Kiwanians to assume community leadership roles.

I hope you make it a point to join in on this initial year of Kiwanis Amplify or sponsor another Kiwanian to participate.

And remember: A positive footprint is not limited to growth and leadership. Your talents are needed in assisting Kiwanis Youth Programs, mentoring youth, building Kiwanis partnerships, promoting the image of Kiwanis, expanding service and helping Kiwanians navigate technology.

In the year ahead, Kiwanis must work to lessen the effects of the pandemic. Let’s plant footprints that will transform our organization as we serve a new generation of children.

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**Executive perspective**

**STAN SODERSTROM**
**KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

We were destined to accomplish great things in 2020. The global economy would keep growing. Global health initiatives would keep reaching people. Kiwanis club membership would keep growing in much of the world.

Instead, we got a global pandemic. An economic crisis. Forest fires and hurricanes. And the loss of so many family members, friends and neighbors.

But in a painful year, we also saw the truth in that adage about dark clouds and silver linings. As we move into 2021, I think that’s a cause for optimism.

For one thing, we’ve found new ways to connect. Online platforms have empowered us. (I know I’ve learned new things about my computer.) And we rethought Kiwanis club events and activities. We discovered new ways to meet, serve and raise money. One-third of clubs even reported increased meeting attendance. Some were able to reach out to new speakers.

Kiwanis International adjusted too. Our conventions and conferences moved online, and we found that we could indeed operate more efficiently and with less cost.

Now consider what can’t be measured with numbers or computers. We appreciate certain people more — especially first responders and healthcare workers. We value friendships and working relationships more highly. And we remember how important service and volunteerism are.

In this issue, you’ll see some of those silver linings. So here’s to our successes and the lessons we learn from them. Here’s to how much Kiwanis means in our communities and our lives. Here’s to a better year ahead!
Safety matters more than ever. Key Clubs are still serving their communities. Help them do it safely. Make sure members strap on a stylish Key Club mask before they step out to serve. Help them look good, feel good and stay safe.

keyclub.org/store
As COVID-19 continues to alter the ways that clubs and programs operate, online resources are becoming increasingly important. That’s true for all parts of the Kiwanis family — including the Service Leadership Programs. For members of our youth programs, the SLP team has developed some additions to help keep service and skills development going.

Virtual Key Leader

The Key Leader program helps high school students (and students graduating from eighth grade) build their leadership skills through team-building activities, group discussions and personal reflection. With the cancellation of in-person sessions in recent months, Virtual Key Leader introduces students to the program and gives them an opportunity to embrace their leadership abilities. Adults are encouraged to participate in the activities with them. Learn more at key-leader.org.

Virtual meeting kits

Each month, the SLP team creates new meeting kits for youth programs’ clubs. The kits include complete agendas with links to materials. Options include online meetings via Zoom, as well as hybrid meetings with some in-person gathering where permitted. If a club’s school provides a virtual meeting platform to which you have access, we encourage you to use that platform.

For more information about each of the virtual meeting kits for K-Kids, Builders Club and Key Club, go to kiwanis.org/slp. Click the program name under “Virtual Meeting Kits.”
Kiwanis celebrates 106th birthday

With the arrival of 2021, Kiwanis International reaches its 106th anniversary of service to the children of the world. It all started with the Detroit No. 1 Club in 1915 — and it continues with the dedication of clubs around the globe.

How is your club celebrating 106 years of the Kiwanis spirit? And how are you keeping that spirit alive as the new year begins?

One way is to reach out to other members of the Kiwanis family — whether it’s a Service Leadership Program you sponsor or a fellow Kiwanis club with whom you can serve or raise funds.

As we meet the challenge of the times, remember: If you need help, ask. If you can provide help, offer.

The Signature Project Contest is around the corner!

It’s almost time for the 5th annual Signature Project Contest. This year’s contest opens on January 10. Get information now to submit your club’s project and represent your district. All entries are due by January 31, 2021. For details, go to kiwanis.org/signatureprojects. Click “Signature Project Contest.”

Key dates

January
New Year’s Day: Kiwanis International Office closed [1]
Kiwanis turns 106 [21]
Kiwanis International Board meeting [20-21]
International Day of Education [24]

February
Kiwanis Youth Programs Board meeting [3]
K-Kids Week [15-19]
Kiwanis Children's Fund Board meeting [17-18]
New partner helps clubs raise funds through gift cards

These days, Kiwanis clubs are looking for safe fundraising opportunities. Thanks to Kiwanis International’s new partner, ShopWithScrip, clubs can use gift cards to raise money.

For every gift card purchased, ShopWithScrip pays your club a rebate. All cards can be ordered online — whether you purchase physical or electronic cards — so it’s both convenient and safe. And the rebates are available year-round because your club gets a check each month for the amount you have earned.

More than 750 retailers and restaurants — including Amazon, Starbucks, Target and Walmart — offer gift cards through the program. (Participants’ rebates range from 2% to 20%.)

For your club, it’s an easy way to raise funds through everyday purchases. In addition to members’ purchases, your club can encourage family and friends to buy cards. You can also ask local nonprofits that your club supports to buy e-cards for retailers from which they buy items for operations.

Learn more and get started at fundraising.shopwithscrip.com/kiwanis.

Amplify your leadership skills

It takes a lot of skill to be a leader at work, in your community or in your Kiwanis club. That’s why Kiwanis International is introducing Kiwanis Amplify — a leadership program for those who want to amplify their ability to build and lead a team. Participants will take a deep dive into eight leadership topics, including communication, strategic planning, hosting events, promoting diversity and other important matters.

Learn more about the topics and see if this eight-week course is for you at kiwanis.org/amplify.

The number of countries where maternal and neonatal tetanus has been eliminated since Kiwanis joined the fight. As we reach the end of The Eliminate Project, thanks to everyone who helped save women and babies around the world.
We are excited to begin our new partnership with Kiwanis International.

Together we launch our unique patriotic fundraising programs that create opportunities for communities to unite as one, raise awareness and instill in our children the values our veterans fought to protect.

Colonial Flag Foundation, an established 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable foundation, has an experienced team providing guidance and tools that makes this all possible.

IT'S EASY TO GET STARTED!
Contact us today at (866) 375-3524 or visit www.healingfield.org/kiwanis
ALL STAR

AL OLIVER IS A BASEBALL LEGEND AND A DEDICATED KIWANIAN. HIS LIFE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE IS INFLUENCED BY HIS FAITH AND HIS DEVOTION TO THE YOUTH OF OHIO.

Story and photos by Dustin Alton Strupp
At 73, Pittsburgh Pirates baseball legend Al Oliver Jr. can still recall the only whooping his father, Albert Oliver Sr., ever gave him.

“I was just a young man, and I decided to steal some marbles from a grocery store,” he remembers. “As I left with them, my conscience was working, and I decided to go back to return them. Still, I knew my father was going to whoop me when I got home.”

He was right. But it also left an impact other than the one on his backside.

“Since that day,” Oliver says, “the only thing I ever stole was a base.”

LIFE, LOSS AND DISCIPLINE

Born in 1946, the oldest of three siblings in Portsmouth, Ohio, Oliver quickly had a penchant for hand-eye coordination.

“I used to throw a ball and bounce it back to me off the stairs when I was young,” Oliver says. “My mother was always amazed by my quick hands.”

Oliver lost his mother at age 11, adding a burden of responsibility to the boy. He had to help his father, a church deacon, look after his siblings and the household.

“I grew up in a very spiritual home,” he says. “Every Sunday, my sister, my brother and I would go to church all day. My dad taught me a lot, and I did everything he told me to do. More than anything he taught me to be positive and confident.

“He said, ‘There are two rules that I’m going to ask of you: Get your rest and stay out of the streets.’ He didn’t want me associating with bad people that might lead me to trouble.”

Dennis Tubbs, a family friend who first met Oliver in the 1950s, remembers a normal young man who looked after his family.

“We didn’t go with the crowd,” Tubbs says. “We were both always working in our off time, and I remember Al couldn’t go play baseball on Sundays — because in his family, Sundays were sacred.”

Oliver Sr. proved to be an
important influence in many ways — including his emphasis on putting in the work rather than coasting on talent.

“He always told me, you have the talent, but do not take that talent for granted,” Oliver says. “It all comes down to discipline.”

That discipline paid off. The young man who missed out on baseball Sundays would go on to be a multisport athlete and an all-state basketball star for Portsmouth High School. He was even offered a basketball scholarship by Kent State University.

But destiny had other plans. Before college, Oliver went to baseball tryouts for the Philadelphia Phillies and then the Pittsburgh Pirates. With his father’s blessing, he signed with the Pirates on a Triple-A contract at 17 years old.

Ralph Cole, a former high school rival who has remained a friend through the years, says Oliver was obviously special. “I had the misfortune of playing against him,” Cole adds. “I had a friend, Larry Christenson, that played for the Phillies, and he’d always say, ‘Al, he’d get up there and hit that thing to left center, and you’d hear the fence rattle.’”

It’s all a little ironic since Oliver had never really thought about playing baseball professionally. “Basketball was my game coming out of high school,” he says. “But I could always hit.”

Oliver spent his first years playing for the Columbus Jets in Columbus, Ohio. It was in his final season of Triple-A that his father became ill.

“It was in the playoffs, and I was thinking about losing my dad, having lost my mom at such an early age,” he says.

He soon got the phone call that his father, who had left such an impact on his life, was gone.

“I came home, and I handled all of the funeral arrangements,” he recalls. “After the funeral, I got in my car and drove alone to Pittsburgh, and I became a major leaguer.”

**LAND OF LEGENDS**

In the early 1900s, Portsmouth was an up-and-coming midsize city home to booming steel, manufacturing and shipping industries. But by the 1950s, foreign competition and the evolution of industrialization had sent the area into decline. Once known for its production of steel, bricks and shoes, southern Ohio would come to be better known for its production of baseball players who
The Sporting News

JULY 31, 1976
Price: 75 Cents

BATTING DEMON
Al Oliver
Pittsburgh Pirates
"I’VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE KIDS SUCCEED. TO HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES THAT I HAD. THEY DO NOT HAVE TO BE ATHLETES — THEY CAN BE DOCTORS, LAWYERS, SOCIAL WORKERS. WHATEVER THEY DECIDE TO BE. MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF YOURSELF SO YOU DON’T END UP STANDING ON A CORNER ONE DAY SAYING, ‘I SHOULD HAVE DONE THAT.’"
I’VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE KIDS SUCCEED. TO HAVE THE SAME
DON’T HAVE TO BE ATHLETES — THEY
L WORKERS. WHATEVER THEY DECIDE
F YOURSELF SO YOU DON’T END UP
SAYING, ‘I SHOULD HAVE DONE THAT.’"
hailed from the rolling hills along the Ohio River.

Today, a river floodwall showcases portraits by artist Robert Dafford of Don Gullett, a Cincinnati Reds pitcher, Pat Borders of the Toronto Blue Jays, Josh Newman of the Colorado Rockies and Branch Rickey, the executive who broke the “color barrier” by signing Jackie Robinson.

Oh, and a young man by the name of Al Oliver, immortalized in his lefty batting stance.

Like those other hometown heroes, Oliver left his mark on the game. In his career, he exceeded 2,700 hits and over 1,000 RBIs. He was a seven-time All-Star, winning the National League batting and RBI championships in 1982 with the Montreal Expos, three Silver Slugger Awards, five National League Eastern Division Titles and a 1971 World Series with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

“He should be in the Hall of Fame,” Cole says. “He’s known across the country. He was one hell of a ballplayer, and he’s just as good an individual.”

Through it all, Oliver remained an ordinary guy.

“That’s what I liked about him,” says childhood friend Tubbs. “He drove this green ’68 Buick Riviera with a beige top. I was 17, and I was the only one he’d let drive that car. They were all mad when they’d see me drive it up.”

Even now, Oliver views his fame in the same humble way.

“I was just glad to be in the major leagues,” he says. “I was very fortunate to have a long and great career. I could have played longer. In the 1970s, I played with some great players, sharing the outfield with Roberto Clemente and Willie Stargell.”

JOINING KIWANIS

“Life’s a hit — don’t strike out,” became Oliver’s personal saying. It’s inspired by his career, of course, but it also reflects his perspective on life off the field.

“I always tell kids, ‘In life, you have to take a swing,’” Oliver says. “You can’t get on base if you don’t swing.”

Early in his major-league career, Oliver took an interest in the communities where he played.
“Everywhere I played — Pittsburgh, Texas, Montreal — I was always involved,” he says. “When I came back to Portsmouth after retiring, Leo Blackburn asked me to go around with him to speak to kids. Then one day he asked me if I’d speak to the Kiwanis club.”

Oliver became a member of the Portsmouth Kiwanis Club in December 1990.

“They had a lot of looseness in that club, and I said, ‘You know what, I like this Kiwanis,’” Oliver says. “One thing I really loved was that for Kiwanis, the children were priority one.”

The club meets once a week and raises funds for organizations, scholarships and local projects to benefit kids. For Oliver, the club also has a personal connection: It donated to the Little Leagues where he played as a child.

His fellow members were aware of him too. In fact, the club’s vice president, Jay Hash, had an Al Oliver baseball card in his youth.

“Before I ever met him, I knew who he was,” Hash says. “I collected baseball cards. I would put the good players on the top. I’d put them in the plastic sleeves to protect them. Al was always in that group at the top of the deck.”

Proud of Portsmouth
Speaking and working with the youth in Portsmouth has been one of Oliver’s greatest joys since returning home.

“I’ve always wanted to see kids succeed,” he says. “They don’t have to be athletes — they can be doctors, lawyers, social workers. Whatever they decide to be. Make something out of yourself so you don’t end up standing on a corner saying, ‘I should have done that.’”

Oliver could have done anything after his baseball career, Hash says, but what he actually did says a lot about him.

“He chose to come home. He came and got to work, held important jobs and was involved in his church. I had the honor of seeing him get ordained as a minister. He’s seen as a spiritual leader — he leads us in prayer and song, and he’s been doing it for 30 years now in Kiwanis.”

For friends and leaders like Ralph Cole, Oliver’s presence is a huge community asset.

“I’ve had him speak at a few of our labor union conferences,” Cole says, “and every time it’s been like, this guy is off the charts.”

That’s something that has never changed, says Dennis Tubbs. “He loved his community, his family and he never forgot about the people.”

Oliver hopes he can use his platform to influence youth far and wide, but he’s proud of the work he’s doing in Portsmouth.

“Most people don’t know where Portsmouth is,” he says. “People from here, they go out of town and someone asks where they’re from and they say, ‘Columbus.’ They’re ashamed to say Portsmouth. But I’m proud to be from Portsmouth.”

That pride, he adds, is common among people who have gone on from the town to do well.

“The reason why we made it, we made a decision to dedicate ourselves,” he says. “We were going to do the positive things we need to do.”
By now, you know how the story begins. It’s common to so many clubs. For the Kiwanis Club of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, the coronavirus was a threat to the annual car show — the club’s biggest annual fundraiser.

Each summer, the Kiwanis Car, Motorcycle & Vintage Camper Show gives automobile enthusiasts a chance to check out classic or unusual vehicles — and the option to show off their own — at Washington Park in Manitowoc. Proceeds come mainly from admission fees for attendees. Those funds then go from the club to programs and organizations in the area.

The show is a major event locally. It also placed in the top 10 in Tier 1 of the 2020 Kiwanis Signature Project Contest.

But this spring also brought the great roadblock that Kiwanians everywhere have come to know too well. When your big event is built around gathering people together and then letting them browse and mingle, a pandemic complicates everything. Perhaps even to the point of calling off the whole thing.

A NEW PLAN

This year’s show, the 38th annual, was scheduled for August. But it was clear by the beginning of summer that COVID-19 would be an enduring issue.

“There was a lot of concern,” says Steve Kanter, club president. “Some of our members are seniors, for one thing, and we also normally plan (the event) over six months or so.”

Since the planning had started, they had reason not to just shrug and give up. But they also knew they couldn’t just forge ahead as if it would be the
same old show. Instead, they made a plan and got to work. Specifically, the club put together a sanitation plan and submitted it to the city at the beginning of July.

Kanter emailed Manitowoc’s mayor, asking him to help expedite a decision so the club could keep their foot on the gas if the local government approved.

“He forwarded it to the committee immediately,” Kanter says. “We had a Zoom meeting, and the fire department representative on the committee, he liked our plan.”

The club’s plan included sanitation stations placed around the park, along with plastic shields in the concessions area. Another new feature: social-distancing “dots” on the ground to help people keep an appropriate amount of spacing.

“We had a food vendor in from A&W, and we gave them some of those dots,” Kanter says. “It worked out real well for them too.”

Even as attendees and participants arrived, the club made sure they got fliers with social-distancing guidelines — so that everyone knew what to expect as they entered the event space. All together, the club’s plans helped maintain the event’s normal atmosphere of relaxed sociability.

“People behaved quite well,” Kanter says. “They distanced, and many of them were wearing masks.”

STEPPING UP
The general reaction from the community pleased the club’s members, who felt appreciated for their extra effort. Some people even returned the favor. For instance, many attendees ignored the US$5 admission fee — in a good way.

“A lot of people gave extra when they pulled up,” Kanter says. “They’d tell us, ‘Thanks for doing this,’ and then give, say, 20 instead of five.”

The sponsorship process also ran on a shorter timeline than usual, but local businesses responded. “We had to run out and get ‘em on short notice,” Kanter adds, “but a lot of people stepped up to the plate.”

One annual sponsorship opportunity lies with the trophies awarded to participants. But in 2020, the number of award categories were cut in part to protect public health.

“Normally we have different classes and categories for the owners to display (their vehicles) and be judged,” Kanter says. “We reduced the trophies to ‘Make of Car’ to reduce the touching-stuff factor. We didn’t want everyone walking up and touching and spreading anything.”

Although the total fundraising amount was unavoidably lower this time, Kanter says, it was also enough to call the event a success. In addition to many attendees’ generosity with the admission fee, the event’s annual calendar came in particularly handy. That’s because participants wanting their cars featured can pay a fee to be included in the calendar, which is printed and distributed the next year.

Overall, attendance and participation were heavy enough to make the whole show feel like old times, even with all the visible health precautions.
FUNDRAISING CHALLENGES

FOR THE MANITOWOC CLUB, HOPE BEGAN WITH A PLAN. AND AS THE MEMBERS LEARNED, PLANNING IS MORE THAN A MATTER OF THE EVENT PLAN ITSELF.

“Usually we have about 180 cars,” Kanter says. “This year it was 130 — enough that you couldn’t really tell.”

And the fundraising made it all worthwhile. “That was our biggest concern going in,” Kanter says. “Our accounts had funds available to dip into, but it was nice not to have to do that.”

A SOURCE OF HOPE
Even in a normal year, of course, planning, sponsorship and media relations are key components to a signature project like the Manitowoc club’s.

Kanter himself is vice president of hometown experience and branding for Shoreline Credit Union, which sponsors the club’s Facebook page. In fact, he writes the club’s news releases and distributes them to local media.

The club’s increased emphasis on marketing, as well as its online presence, have helped fulfill its goal of getting younger members in recent years.

Of course, marketing and social media are also clearly important to the car show’s success, which depends greatly on local coverage. That coverage, in turn, drives brand awareness and community enthusiasm around the club.

They’re all interlocking factors that make each other work. And they may never have had more collective importance than in 2020. The club needed people to know that the show would go on — but also to assure them that its members knew how to handle their circumstances.

For any club facing similar challenges in 2021, the Manitowoc Kiwanians’ success should provide some hope. But as the old saying goes: Hope is not a plan.

For the Manitowoc club, however, hope began with a plan. And as the members learned, planning is more than a matter of the event plan itself. Kanter’s advice: Be ready for the process you face to make the plan happen.

“Submit it to the city, the park, whoever happens to be the powers-that-be,” he says. “Then create materials to hand out, to explain what’s going on — the sanitation available, the social-distancing expectations. All the stuff that helps keep people safe.”
Back on track

21 WAYS TO START 2021 WITH A PLAN TO MOVE AHEAD.
TIPS FOR YOUR CLUB AND YOURSELF.
e’re among friends, so let’s be honest: The past year has been rough. Throughout the Kiwanis family, people have lost loved ones. Jobs. Income. Time with friends and community.

What we haven’t lost is our belief in a better world for kids — and our commitment to the service that makes it happen. So let’s take what we have and use it to get back on track.

Even with so much uncertainty, we can keep ourselves moving forward by setting goals and then working to meet them. After all, that’s what we do even in normal times. But this isn’t a normal time, so we’ve created a couple of lists: one for your Kiwanis club and one for your own well-being.

Take what you need and add your own. Most of all, have some fun this year. And give what you can while taking care of yourself.

Happy 2021.
NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTIONS

Club goals

Invite friends
Make it your goal to invite a specific number of guests to your Kiwanis club meetings in 2021. Think you can invite one a month? Go for it. Even one is better than none. Keep track of who you’ve invited and follow up to see whether they’d like to join you at a service project. Then ask them to join.

Reward people
Recognize club members and leaders for their first-quarter accomplishments — especially those who have brought in at least one new member. Keep track of members who have brought the most guests to club meetings and service projects, sponsored the most new members, logged in the most service hours and donated to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund and club or district foundations.

Remember schools
Reach out to a local school association for parents, such as the Parent Teacher Association in the U.S., or any group that brings parents together. Start talking about collaboration on service projects for the school, the teachers and, most importantly, the students. Invite association members to join your Kiwanis club.

Work together
Reach out to other Kiwanis clubs in your division and district to see whether there are opportunities to collaborate on service and to support one another. More hands make for lighter work.

Communicate soon
Since January is the start of a new year, let people know you’re ready to go. Send your club’s electronic newsletter and video-meeting invitations to all former members, past guest speakers, youth-oriented nonprofit leaders (staff and volunteer), youth ministers, etc. Let them know you haven’t forgotten them!
Review calendars
Look at your community’s calendar for 2021. Are there future events during which your Kiwanis club can assist or volunteer? Can the club set up a membership information booth to promote the experience?

Contact SLPs
The start of the new year is often the start of a new school semester, so check in with the members and faculty advisors of Service Leadership Program clubs you sponsor. Let them know you want to host members from each SLP for a Kiwanis Celebration of Service Leadership panel discussion during an April meeting.

Nudge hibernators
For clubs in colder climates, check in with members you might not have seen at a meeting or service project during “hibernation” season. Let them know fellow members care — and want to see them again.

Follow up
Look at recent prospects who didn’t join after inquiring about your club and/or attending a club meeting or service project. If membership wasn’t quite right, would your club take them on as satellite members and allow them to do their own service projects? Discuss this topic at an upcoming club meeting.

Go virtual
Look at every meeting, service project and fundraiser. Can you offer a virtual option along with in-person attendance?

Get social
Invest some time in updating your club’s social media presence (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) to make sure all information is relevant and timely.
Personal goals

Journal daily
Have you ever kept a diary of your day? Jotted down how you felt, who you talked with or met, what you ate? If not, maybe now is the time. Buy a journal that feels good in your hands, offers a good size for writing or sketching and lays open well for easy use. Jot down goals for the next day as well. Don’t forget to date each entry.

Exercise more
We know, we know: exercise. Ugh. But it turns out that even light-to-moderate activity is great for your heart and circulation. And it’s good for your mental health. So find out what works best for you. Even if you take a slow 30-minute walk, you’re doing your body good.

Eat well
Here’s an easy one to remember: The more color on your plate, the healthier you’re eating. (Unless it’s candies or a sugary breakfast cereal. Sorry.) Go for citrus fruits loaded with Vitamin C, and for greens such as kale. Potatoes and peppers and carrots come in multiple colors too. Walk through the produce section of your market and see how many you can put on your plate.

Pamper yourself
You can’t take care of anyone else if you don’t take care of yourself. Set aside some time alone each day. Read or do a puzzle. Meditate. Listen to music. Soak in a warm bath. If it helps you relax, it helps you be the person other people need.

Spend wisely
Think about what you’re spending money on, how you’re saving and where your money is needed most. Look at your monthly expenses to see where it’s all going and how you can do better. And remember: Experiences leave a more meaningful memory than any material gift.

Stay connected
We don’t mean social media this time — leave that to your
Kiwanis club! Instead, reach out to friends on the phone. Write a letter to grandkids, nieces and nephews. Plan a picnic with your partner. Call ahead, put on a mask and go visit a neighbor.

Spread kindness
Wave at strangers in your neighborhood. Write a thank-you note to a teacher. Drop off canned goods at a shelter. Arrange with your local fire department to thank folks there with homemade cookies. Plant a tree with your kids. There is no end to the ways you can spread kindness.

Welcome change
Life is hard, and with it comes change. It’s inevitable. But it also brings growth. Talk to people about your concerns — including young people, who seem to take change better than most. Read books about accepting new circumstances. After all, how we handle change defines how smoothly we move forward.

Forgive others
We all make mistakes. Reach out to people in your life who have hurt you — or who have hurt people you love. Sometimes just saying you forgive someone lifts a weight you didn’t know you were carrying. Start the conversation — and the chance to start the year with a clean slate.

Love hard
If there’s one thing to do well in your life, love well. And love hard. Love with all your might. Throw love in all directions. Tell your friends as often as your family. Look upon strangers with love. Once you remember that we’re born with love in our hearts, you’ll see it in the smile of a baby — or on the face of a kid whose life you’ve changed. Serve, and send love far and wide.
What do you do when a pandemic forces you to change plans — and then literal showers rain on your outdoor baby shower? That was the challenge for the Kiwanis Club of Northeast Miami-Dade, Florida, and The World’s Greatest Drive Thru Baby Shower 2020.

The solution? They kept working.

The baby shower, which went “drive thru” for safety due to COVID-19, is just one part of the Northeast Miami-Dade Club’s expanded signature project: The World’s Greatest Babies, which was created by the club’s Early Childhood Committee, co-chaired by Diana Ragbeer Murray and 1990-91 Kiwanis International President Wil Blechman.

“Even though it rained for much of the afternoon — a shower in its truest sense — the rain didn’t dampen the spirits of our volunteers or parents,” says Ragbeer Murray. “Besides the long line of cars, we even had a mom pull up with a baby stroller and a dad in an electric wheelchair, giving new meaning to a drive-thru event.”

The event is modeled on a smaller baby shower event in Titusville, Florida, that had lasted about 20 years. The Titusville Club shared its information with Blechman, allowing his club to replicate.

“The program started as The World’s Greatest Baby Shower 2019, and it was attended by more than 500 people,” says Ragbeer Murray. “This single event has since evolved into a full-fledged year-round program that’s still growing, thanks...
in part to support from partners and club members, including Past President Ed Margolis."

After the success of the Northeast Miami-Dade Kiwanis Club, Blechman says, clubs in countries where baby showers are a tradition could stage similar events with similar planning.

“The more parents know about caring for Mom during pregnancy and what is actually happening in that little body and brain after birth, the more likely the child will develop optimally,” Blechman says. “Our program gives Mom and Dad knowledge to help them do the best for their baby.”

What happens at the World’s Greatest Baby Shower?
The event offers information for new and expecting parents in a fun-filled environment, Ragbeer Murray says. Here are just a few of the things you’ll find:

- Appearances by local officials and celebrities.
- Health, parenting, early childhood and prenatal experts.
- Resources from participating organizations such as Healthy Start, United Way and The Early Learning Coalition.
- Workshops on parenting skills, nutrition for pregnant moms, breastfeeding, prenatal health and more.
- Raffles for prizes such as car seats, strollers and high chairs.
- Projects for kids, such as puppet making, storytelling and yoga.

What happens the rest of year?
The baby shower is just one piece of a larger project. Here are a few others:

Newsletters
The World’s Greatest Babies newsletters are produced biweekly and contain articles on topics such as prenatal care, healthy pregnancies, breastfeeding, early childhood development, keeping babies healthy and safe, parenting and fatherhood involvement. The newsletter is sent to all parents who registered for the 2019 and 2020 showers, those in partner networks and parents who subscribe on the website.

Radio/video shows
The World’s Greatest Babies radio/video shows are for new and expecting moms and dads — as well as grandparents, aunts, uncles and caregivers. The shows provide important information on healthy pregnancies, childbirth, breastfeeding, babies’ brain and socio-emotional development, early education and care, father involvement and more.
With approximately 20,000 listeners, the shows feature expert obstetricians, pediatricians and early childhood specialists participating via Zoom or phone call.

**Collaboration**

The Kiwanis club credits the project’s success to partners and sponsors who act as members of the planning committee. In addition, Key Club members help out, and a volunteer from a local academy school assists with website and social media postings, as well as newsletter formatting.

Ready to host a baby shower? Visit wgbabyshower.org and get the club’s manual by emailing wgbabyshower@gmail.com.
Business partnerships are initially romantic … resting largely on hopes and dreams, what might be possible if certain opportunities are pursued,” reported an article in the Harvard Business Review. If that’s the case, Peter Wyeth of the Kiwanis Club of Richmond, Virginia, is quite a matchmaker.

Wyeth saw an opportunity, matched it with teachers’ and Kiwanians’ hopes and dreams and created a partnership that inspires fourth- and fifth-graders to think big.

In his Kiwanis club, Wyeth focuses on schools — members have a long history of supporting the John B. Cary Elementary School — and he knew that Michael Powell, Cary’s principal, had an engineering-related goal. Serendipitously, Wyeth was retired from a career with Virginia Commonwealth University’s College of Engineering.

“I knew Michael was on a mission to get all his students college- and career-ready by emphasizing STEM, and I knew VCU had a great engineering program,” Wyeth says. “So we suggested a meeting.”

It was the beginning of a beautiful relationship.

The partners wanted students to see what STEM could do for their futures. The answer was to bring VCU’s engineering expertise into a Cary classroom.

But how? The college was tech-ready; Cary was not. All relationships are give-and-take, though, and the club gave — by funding Cary’s Distance Learning Lab with videoconferencing technology that allows real-time conversations between students and instructors.

Now, every month, wide-eyed fourth- and fifth-graders watch instructors demonstrate engineering wonders such as how to...
cut metal with water or build a robot to operate machinery.

Wyeth brought fellow Kiwanians John Mahone and Bob Rogers into the partnership, along with Jenilee Stanley-Shanks, VCU’s director of government and community outreach.

Mahone credits Wyeth for the project’s success, telling the VCU News, “Without Peter’s leadership, this partnership would likely never have gotten off the ground.”

Wyeth is not done matchmaking yet. Energized by the students’ interest, he’s now helping the VCU Engineering In Vision program expand into elementary schools across central Virginia and middle schools in Richmond.

“We need all these folks to be engaged to make this work,” he says. “Everyone realizes the U.S. needs to grow way more of our own scientists and engineers.”
On September 27, 2020, the eKiwanis Club of Greater Chicago, Illinois, partnered with the Carol Stream Police Department for the organizations’ third-annual Car Seat Safety Check Day. The event welcomes families to get a child’s car seat checked or installed by certified safety technicians at no charge.

At last year’s event alone, 43% of car seats checked by the police department were not secured or installed correctly per the manufacturer’s instructions. And the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 46-59% of all child restraints are used incorrectly.

“Since 2018, our members have been proud to partner with the Carol Stream Police Department to meet a demonstrated community need, which has undoubtedly increased due to economic constraints related to the COVID-19 pandemic,” says Blaire Sullivan, president of eKiwanis of Greater Chicago. “Because of the generous support of our members and friends of the club, we were excited to provide additional car seats this year that can be given away by the police department as the need arises.”

To adhere to public safety guidelines, appointments (scheduled online) and masks were required. Promotion took place on Facebook and through the Carol Stream Police Social Services Department, which distributed information to clients in need.

Eleven certified safety technicians from the police station performed installations and ensured existing car seats complied with safety regulations. If the family needed a replacement, they received a new, installed car seat at no charge.

In all, 19 car seats were checked in 12 cars. One family received two new seats — to replace a broken one and an expired one.

eKiwanis of Greater Chicago donated 18 car seats to the Carol Stream Police Department — seven more than in 2019 and eight more than in 2018. In 2019, eKiwanis held a Facebook Giving Tuesday fundraiser, bringing in over US$400 for the project.

“Partnerships like the one between the CSPD and eKiwanis of Greater Chicago are so incredibly important to keeping the children of Carol Stream and the surrounding areas safe,” says Sergeant Brian Cleaver with the Carol Stream Police Department. “We appreciate eKiwanis’ continued support of our child passenger safety program and look forward to continuing the partnership.”

This story and accompanying photos were submitted by the eKiwanis Club of Greater Chicago. Tell us what your club is doing at shareyourstory@kiwanis.org.
Look good no matter where you go with our branded hats, t-shirts and more. Kiwanis pride never goes out of style — and a portion of every sale helps members improve their communities and the lives of children around the world.

kiwanis.org/store
Girl power

A KIWANIS FORUM MOTIVATES AND INSPIRES YOUNG WOMEN IN BARBADOS.

BY WENDY ROSE GOULD

Growing up is hard to do — especially when you’re a young girl trying to navigate a complicated world filled with social media, peer pressure, self-doubt and fear. The Pride of Barbados Kiwanis Club held an event dubbed the Princess Diaries Forum to help tackle those issues head-on. The event brought together girls ages 12 to 16, with the goal of empowering, inspiring and motivating them.

“We wanted a forum that would allow girls to hear some of the island’s successful women speak on topics they could relate to,” explains Nicola Ward, the club’s immediate past president. “We wanted to help these young girls learn to love themselves, build their self-confidence and self-esteem and give them access to mentors.”

In total, 35 girls attended the free event, hosted by well-known local radio personality Caroline “Ci Ci” Reid. The roster of guest speakers was diverse in socioeconomics, education, ethnicity and appearance. They included Miss Barbados World Leah Marville, business owner Shelly Williams, Lieutenant Governor of Division 27 Cynthia Blackman and trade policy specialist Dr. Shantal Munro-Knight, among others.

This diverse lineup helped ensure that each girl could relate to and identify with at least one speaker.

“The girls heard that where you go to school does not define or limit your potential,” says Ward. “They heard from former Miss Barbados World that they do not need makeup to be beautiful, and they heard of the importance of being true to yourself and knowing that they are enough.”

In addition to hearing from powerful women and getting the chance to speak with them after the event, the girls received special treats, and some were given opportunities to develop their hobbies and interests. The response was overwhelming and reassured club members that they were meeting the needs of their community, Ward says.

“Parents, teachers and guidance counselors who were not aware of the session beforehand called and emailed asking when we would be hosting the next one, because the event was something that they wanted their daughters, wards and students to participate in.”

Because of the positive response, the club plans to host another event in the future. Members even have a similar forum for boys in the pipeline as well.
How Can Your Kiwanis Discount Program Serve You?

Announcing your new Kiwanis Discount Program! As a Kiwanis member, you now have access to thousands of exclusive discounts that will help you save time and money when you need it most, which we know can be especially important at a time like this.

Whether you’re seeking reduced costs for groceries, products that align with your health and wellness goals, a way to keep children entertained and educated, or something else, make sure to visit your Kiwanis Discount Portal and browse through the tens of thousands of discounts available to you.

A Look at a Few of Our Many Discounts...

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Head to kiwanis.perkspot.com to start saving!
With so many health care workers stressed and exhausted from caring for COVID-19 patients, members of the Kiwanis Club of the Las Vegas Strip in Nevada decided a kind gesture might brighten their day. And what better way than with sweet treats?

Club members Brenda and Rj Greubel own Headstrong Fundraising, a local business that distributes products for group and school fundraisers, including World’s Finest® Chocolate bars.

Starting in the spring of 2020, Nevada schools had been closed due to the pandemic, and both school and charitable groups were unable to host their regular fundraising events. That left the couple with a stash of chocolates that hadn’t been sold.

The couple decided to partner with World’s Finest® Chocolate to donate 35,000 chocolate bars from their respective inventories to the club. The bars could then be given to employees who work in emergency services. The goal was simple: to demonstrate moral support for people who consistently risk their lives to protect, heal and serve communities in the Las Vegas Valley and beyond.

“They turned it into a project where we could give back to our first responders with the chocolate,” says Lynda Spann, a participant and fellow member of the Kiwanis Club of the Las Vegas Strip. “We were trying to lift their spirits and thank them for all they do in our community in particular.”

On the first weekend of June, Spann and 16 club members made deliveries to first responders in the cities of Las Vegas, Boulder City, North Las Vegas and Henderson. Two members from the Green Valley Kiwanis Club in Henderson also joined the effort.

The Kiwanians made surprise visits to police stations, fire stations, hospitals and nursing homes. Each location received two donated boxes of chocolates. The treats were also given to staff at the Three Square Food Bank in Las Vegas.

By the weekend’s end, members had distributed all 35,000 chocolate bars. The candies provided recipients with a moment of lightness amid long, stressful work hours.

“They were just so happy to receive them,” Spann says, “and very appreciative of being thought of at that particular time.”

NEVADA KIWANIANS UPLIFT FIRST RESPONDERS WITH SURPRISE CHOCOLATE DELIVERIES.

BY LYDIA JOHNSON
Kids have to play differently right now — but their spirit is still part of Kiwanis service. And it will be part of the 2021 Kiwanis International Convention as well. Discover new ways to serve your community and develop leadership skills. Save the date for leadership, service project and fundraising training.

Join us in person or online. Details at kiwanis.org/convention.

106TH KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION | JUNE 23-26, 2021
Now make it happen

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN YOUR NEXT CLUB MEETING?
HERE’S A GROUP ACTIVITY THAT COULD GET SOME IDEAS FLOWING.

Now that you have 21 tips for 2021 (see page 32), why not make a list of how you’ll use them? Here’s an idea: Split your Kiwanis club members by first initial during your next online or in-person meeting and make assignments. Names beginning with the letters A-L can tackle the first three items and M-Z can tackle the other three. Teamwork makes the dream work!

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<th>Friends I'd like to invite to our next meeting:</th>
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Other clubs in our division and district to reach out to for collaboration:

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3. 
4. 
5.

Ideas for fun school projects:

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Community events in 2021 we’d like to help with:

1. 
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3.
No dress shirt is complete without a Kiwanis-branded tie. These ties are 100% silk — and 100% perfect when you want to look your best.

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WHAT'S YOUR STORY?
If your club has a success story, simply email a summary and a few photos to shareyourstory@kiwanis.org to be considered for possible future use in Kiwanis International publications.

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