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Cover photo by Greg Dolan
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
DANIEL VIGNERON • KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Club building vitally important

Clubs and members are the most important links in our chain and the more we have, the more we can accomplish. That is why we must maintain our club-building momentum, to sustain the viability of Kiwanis for future generations.

We talk a lot about growing clubs and inviting new members. When things are new and fresh, you want to make a good impression. There is more attention to detail and enthusiasm comes naturally.

But what happens when the shine of being a new member starts to wear off? Yes, we want and need growth, but we cannot risk losing valuable, longtime members because they no longer feel engaged. We must make our activities and service projects fresh and innovative to keep existing members involved.

We open the front door to welcome new members. At the same time, we must close the back door.

We don’t want veteran members leaving us. They are valued and have invested their time and resources. We want them motivated and fulfilled by their service and sense of belonging.

Teamwork and friendship are among the privileges of belonging to Kiwanis. If you see someone in your club who needs a lift, offer one. If you need a lift, don’t be afraid to ask for support. No one should feel left out. Every now and then we might need a reminder that through our Kiwanis service, we create opportunities, improve lives and revitalize communities. We do it together; no one should feel the need to go out the back door or turn their backs to the impact that we have.

If you need a kick-start, or are interested in Kiwanis fun and education, join us in June at the 2020 Kiwanis International Convention in Indianapolis. This year’s theme is Play with Purpose. The education tracks have been redesigned. Inspiring stories will be shared and there will be plenty of time to socialize.

There are new pricing structures to allow you to customize your convention experience. Get the most for your money by taking advantage of discounted early registration, open through April 10. Your club can pay up to US$299 for each member’s registration fee from its service account. The Kiwanis Education Conference qualifies as an acceptable educational expense of the club.

The more you get involved, the more likely you are to stay involved.

EXECUTIVE PERSPECTIVE
STAN SODERSTROM • KIWANIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fellowship and the future

When we talk about the future of Kiwanis, we talk a lot about retaining members. And we should. But it’s not just a matter of Kiwanis clubs. Consider the younger members of the Kiwanis family — particularly those in Key Club and CKI.

One day soon, they will graduate and begin an unknown future. What then?

Their future in the Kiwanis family depends on how they feel about us today. That’s where you come in. Members of different programs often bond around joint activities — but mentorship matters too.

It’s not just the service you do with them. Kiwanians can play a role in helping Key Club members select a college or university. They can provide scholarship support, including recommendations and referrals. What better testimony than from someone who has seen a young person’s leadership skills up close?

That kind of influence can also be enormously helpful for CKI members looking at internships or post-collegiate work. Specific skills and projects look good on a young adult’s resume. So does the endorsement of someone who saw them in action.

It’s a form of fellowship — a way of telling them they matter to us. Think of the impact of a Kiwanis connection for a college student in a town they aren’t from. Or the life lessons about service you give to a student who chooses the military.

As you assist young adults, remember our youth protection rules. For example, don’t offer counseling or support to a Key Club member without making the club faculty advisor or parents aware.

We have amazing young leaders in this organization. We should do all we can to help them — and keep them. That work starts now.

Speaking of leaders, this is the farewell issue of Kiwanis magazine for Jack Brockley, our longtime editor and publisher. Jack is retiring after 35 years with the organization. Much of what we know about Kiwanis — from the latest news to historical events — is because of his work and talent. I hope you’ll join me in thanking him for the continuing quality of this publication. Kudos and best wishes to the Storyteller of Kiwanis.
Landscape Structures has been a proud Vision Partner of Kiwanis International since 2013.
Letters

READERS OF KIWANIS MAGAZINE AND ITS BLOGS RESPOND TO RECENT FEATURES.
JOIN THE CONVERSATIONS AT KIWANISMAGAZINE.ORG OR EMAIL MAGAZINE@KIWANIS.ORG.

Welcome Nepal
Blessings and congratulations to the Kiwanis Nepal District for reaching this goal and doing so much for the benefit of the children.

Juana Saltos Calderero
Kiwanis Club of Manta, Ecuador

Excellent work, Nepal. Congratulations for making Kiwanis service great.

Luz Marina Jiminez
Kiwanis Club of Granada-Meta, Colombia

Congratulations to the Kiwanis Nepal District. Your fruitful work has led to great achievements that are inspiring for other clubs and society in general!

Ida Diana Alcivar Alcivar
Kiwanis Club of La Concordia, Ecuador

It was a pleasure to be involved with the expansion of Kiwanis Nepal into a full district, and to present the district charter to my dear friend Sujan Shrestha was an absolute honor. Seeing and being involved in some of the projects was humbling as the work being undertaken in Nepal is having a huge benefit for children, youths and families. I am looking forward to my return to Nepal in March to participate in the 2020 Kiwanis Asia-Pacific Convention.

Peter Zander
Kiwanis Club of Brighton, New Zealand

I wish to express my thanks to the members of Kiwanis within the Nepal District. While our committee focus is from birth to age 8, we know that children’s development and learning does not stop at that age. Still, the more emphasis that can be placed on the younger years, the greater the likelihood of student (and adult) success later on.

Congratulations, my fellow Kiwanians, and best wishes as you continue to help your country’s children.

Wil Blechman, MD
Co-chair, Kiwanis International Committee on Young Children

Shaking things up
I just read the Jan/Feb 2020 Kiwanis magazine and want to make an observation. Fundraising ideas: All the articles and club events listed revolved around alcohol.

As a former Boy Scout leader, we were always cognizant to make sure alcohol was not associated with the organization. I always felt this was a good practice for Kiwanis too.

This being said, my current Homestead-South Dade Kiwanis Club has also begun hosting happy hour events. Yes, we have brought in new, younger members, but we’ve also lost some really great older members. How do you balance being children-focused and including alcohol?

Sharon Gold
Kiwanis Club of Homestead-South Dade, Florida
Song and dance

Lanny Langston (who co-founded Placerville, California’s Imagination Theatre featured in the December 2019 magazine) passed away this week after a long battle with cancer. He will be missed by all.

Dee Ann Kraus
Kiwanis Club of Placerville, California

Untold history

Your article about Kiwanis’ unpublished history provides interesting details about distant days of almost 105 years ago. Our organization’s name, “Nunc Kee-wan-nis” can be interpreted to mean: “We enjoy sharing our talents.”

Myriam Yolande Deleu
Kiwanis Club of Ottignies-Coeur de Ville, Belgium

O. Sam Cummings’ unpublished history offers interesting details of those days of almost 105 years ago. I’m proud to be a Kiwanian. The most beautiful thing in life is to serve a child and a needy old man.

Alexis Rodriguez
Kiwanis Club of Puerta de Oro de Colombia, Colombia

Editor’s note: History Untold includes historical insights from an unpublished document written by O. Sam Cummings, Kiwanis International’s first secretary. Read the story at kiwanismagazine.org.

Let’s go build a ger

I thought the rule was for the door of the ger to face east. That is the way all the gers I saw, and lived in, were situated. The one in the present story faces south. I’d sure like to know more about that.

Paul Brenner
Kiwanis Club of Spencer-Daybreakers, Iowa

Editor’s note: According to our research, ger doors face south or southeast, possibly to allow more sunlight into the home.

Proud of my “K”

Congratulations on the December issue of Kiwanis magazine. As a Kiwanian for 30-plus years, I can honestly opine that it has done the best job of setting forth just what Kiwanis does for children — and others — worldwide, day in and day out. It has reinforced my pride in being a member of this wonderful organization.

W. Scott Chadwick Jr.
Kiwanis Club of Marietta, Georgia
What’s happening
TRENDS, TIPS, FACTS AND FIGURES FROM KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

Medieval city to host European convention
Registration for the 53rd Annual Kiwanis International-European Federation Convention is now open.
This year’s convention will be held June 5-7 in Bruges, the capital of West Flanders in northwest Belgium. Bruges is a UNESCO World Heritage City.
Aside from the official program comprised of workshops and the House of Delegates, there are optional visits to medieval Bruges, the Zwin Nature Parc, the Belgian coast and the historic battlefields of Ypres. Learn more at kief.kiwanis.eu/2020-convention.

Visit ShopKiwanis
Now you can ShopKiwanis for an expanded inventory of Kiwanis products, from shirts to bow ties, banners to mugs — it’s all branded and ready to order. These products are produced by authorized licensees who take the guesswork out of designing products with the Kiwanis logo. You can comparison-shop for products and view custom items used by clubs for service projects, fundraisers and events.
Shop now at ShopKiwanis.com.
Assist youth conventions

Kiwanians are encouraged to sponsor members of Key Club and CKI to attend their conventions, where they can learn more about leadership and service. Make youth conventions a topic in your next meeting agenda. Promoting these types of events helps create stronger leaders for the Kiwanis family — and you’re a big part of that!

Important dates

- March 2-6: Aktion Club Week
- March 16-20: Builders Club Week
- April 10: Kiwanis International convention registration fee increases

► Convention news

There will be lots to see, learn and do during the 2020 Kiwanis International Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, June 17-20. Don’t miss out. Here are a few highlights:

• Discount for early registration ends April 10. Commit early and save money!
• Come for a day … or two … or three. Take advantage of the new registration options.
• Education rules the day at the Kiwanis International convention. Download the app and add sessions to your agenda now. They fill up fast!
• You’ll need a room. Book your hotel room in the Kiwanis block and earn a US$10 gift card for use in the Kiwanis Family Store during convention.
• Spots are filling fast for ticketed events. Don’t miss out on the extra fun.

Learn about all of this and more at kiwanis.org/convention.

► March for Babies

It’s that time again! Find your purple shirt and join March for Babies to help give all moms and babies a healthy start in life. Money raised during this event is a lifeline for babies in the neonatal intensive care unit, connecting them with critical treatments and needed care. The community you’re joining helps moms at every stage, from preconception to the annual family walk day. Sign your team up today at marchforbabies.org/kiwanis.
When Jack Brockley neared the end of his impressive job interview for an assistant editor’s position with Kiwanis magazine a few decades ago, he was asked a crucial question: Do you have a favorite baseball team? He responded, the Cincinnati Reds. Despite giving the wrong answer, he was offered the job and an admirable new career launched.

Kiwanians may not be aware of it, but their organization’s international magazine is produced by skilled journalists, many of whom learned their trade at Indiana’s Ball State University, from which Jack graduated. These dedicated, multi-skilled writers/editors/photographers developed well-honed skills at their positions on the magazine staff, which is not unique. What is distinctive, however, is how Jack earned their respect and rose to positions of leadership through the years.

Masterful proficiency, endless energy, level-headed judgment — those are but a few of the ways to describe how Jack performed during his 35 years working for the betterment of Kiwanis. A late-breaking story develops? Give the assignment to Jack and it will be written post haste. Need a sharp set of eyes to edit a Kiwanis history book? Sure, Jack can handle that mammoth task in his spare time. Looking to create a Kiwanis International website from scratch? Nobody’s fingers fly over a keyboard faster or with more originality, so let Jack develop the new communication medium.

A member of the Kiwanis Club of Zionsville, Indiana, Jack, with his thousands of published stories and million-plus words, brought insights to Kiwanis magazine readers. Through nuanced sentences, concise descriptions and informative narratives — which sometimes were complemented by his creative photography — Jack provided an invaluable service to Kiwanians worldwide.

Yet, to this day, he still gives the wrong answer. He should have said the Chicago Cubs. But nobody’s perfect.
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MKT-P0059
“How can people get motivated, so motivated to come out for others and do something so beautiful?”

Home is where the heart is, especially when you put your heart into building that home from scratch. Board by board, wall after wall, the house that Julia and Juan Boria built was constructed with the help of Habitat for Humanity, a global nonprofit housing organization that builds affordable housing, and the kindness of strangers.

But it wasn’t an easy road to find their own piece of paradise in Danvers, Massachusetts.

Julia had journeyed a long way from her origins in Puerto Rico, where as a victim of domestic violence she escaped an abusive husband. With the help of a relative, Julia and her three children left Puerto Rico and found their way to New England.

She eventually met Juan Boria. They got married, moved into an apartment and expanded their family to seven. After a host of transitional shelters and temporary housing, and thanks to Habitat for Humanity of the North Shore, they are now proud homeowners.

“I would have never thought that (would happen),” Julia says. “Despite going through some very difficult moments in my life, I’m very grateful.”

At one point they were living in a host house while transitioning to an apartment. Space was limited with only a few rooms.

“The kids didn’t have their own personal space and environment they could personalize,” she says. “Now they can invite their friends to come over and play cards, eat together and watch movies in the living room.”
COVER STORY

[Images of people working on a Habitat project and a group of family members playing cards at a table]
And then there are the bathrooms. The family used to share a small bathroom. But now there are two large ones.

“The bathrooms are great, a beautiful gift from the Lord,” she says.

With the new location also came new opportunities. Her kids received fresh starts at school. They were engaged and earned better grades, and one played football. One of her daughters says she loves the neighborhood and backyard, but she loves what’s across the street even more: Cherry Farm Creamery, her favorite ice cream store.

Perhaps the “cherry on top” is the backyard, complete with a sound-barrier fence — a high fence that also has no gaps between the boards. This is good news for the Borias, because their 4-year-old son with autism finally has a safe place to play.

For a child with autism, sights and sounds sometimes can feel overwhelming, causing stress and anxiety. A sound-barrier fence blocks road sounds, reduces sensory overload and keeps him from wandering away.

“Thanks to the fence he can run freely in the backyard,” Julia says, “and we’re not concerned that he might get into the street.”

The backyard also offers the perfect place for the family to play with their dog, who seemed depressed before they moved into their new home.

“It might sound absurd, but that was the case,” Julia says. “Our dog was sleeping all day, never moving. Now, as soon as I open the door, she runs free and happy. Her whole life has changed as well.”

400 HOURS
Habitat for Humanity requires that applicants must put in 400 hours of “sweat equity,” meaning the owners invest their own time and work in the building process. According to Habitat’s...
“Thanks to the fence he can run freely in the backyard, and we’re not concerned that he might get into the street.”
website, sweat equity is “not a form of payment, but an opportunity to work alongside volunteers who give their time to bring to life a family’s dream of owning a home.”

When Julia realized they had been chosen to receive the house, she was excited and nervous at the same time. She’s a mother dedicated to her children with no experience in building a house, and 400 hours seemed insurmountable.

“They were saying it takes all those hours of people working on the house, and I was concerned,” she says. And yet she says people told her, “Do not worry. Do not worry. You will see.”

When she thinks about it, her voice begins to tremble.

“When all the volunteers came together and I saw all those people working, I started to cry. I couldn’t believe it.”

The tears of surprise and gratitude ran down her cheek as day after day volunteers came to help.

“How can people get motivated, so motivated to come out for others and do something so beautiful?” asks Julia.

One of those groups over the course of the build was Kiwanis.

READY TO SERVE
When Kiwanis New England and Bermuda District Divisions 9 and 12 held a joint governor’s visit, instead of a traditional sit-down dinner, 45 Kiwanis members from 18 clubs came together to help with the Boria home. They moved piles of dirt, landscaped, painted, cleaned, attached house siding, worked on the shed and built up the indispensable backyard fence.

“For several Kiwanis members, this was their first Habitat experience,” says former lieutenant governor Gayla Bartlett, organizer of the event. “And they walked away ready to build again.”

The Kiwanis Club of Danvers also raised US$1,100 for the local Habitat for Humanity organization.

“Working together and seeing our impact is so important,” says Immediate Past Governor Elyse Denorfia. “A project like this speaks to our Kiwanis mission, how we can impact children and make the world a better place.

“It’s nice to give back to the family working so hard with us. They were so kind, and the hus-
band was very strong doing the heavy lifting."

The whole family helped where they could.

“I had never laid floor in my life,” says Julia. “I worked on anything that had to do with wood, windows and flooring. We learned to do a little bit of everything everywhere.

“When you experience it, it has more value. I learned to be more patient, work in a group and be more appreciative of other people as well as what I received.”

Don Preston, executive director at Habitat for Humanity of the North Shore, Greater Boston Area, speaks glowingly of the Boria family.

“They are hard workers and a great family,” he says. In fact, Juan Boria has expressed interest in continuing to volunteer on other Habitat for Humanity housing builds around the Danvers area.

Preston also puts the Habitat program in perspective.

“It really helps two families,” he explains. “A family becomes new homeowners and frees up a spot for another family in need of transitional or subsidized housing.”

Julia Boria met many volunteers and doesn’t recall which were Kiwanians and which were not. But she has a message to them all.

“I had never seen them before and I don’t remember their names, but I value them as human beings, every single one of them,” she says.

“When you live certain experiences, you really appreciate and understand better. Reminds me of a proverb: strength in unity. Together we can do it, make a big difference when everyone joins.

“My way of showing appreciation for what you did for us, for the effort your hands and time made, knowing what it took, will be taking good care of this house and respecting it.

“This world would fall apart without people like you,” Julia says. “Thank you. Thank you.”
At the 2019 Kiwanis International Convention, delegates overwhelmingly approved an amendment to add a revised nondiscrimination clause to the bylaws, reading in part: “Kiwanis clubs shall not discriminate based upon race, color, creed, national origin, age or sex, including sexual orientation and gender identity, when considering membership or during any of their activities or operations.”

The “age” and “sex” categories were a new and welcome addition to Kiwanians like Donovan Gaylor of Albuquerque, New Mexico, a 23-year-old serving as the 2019-20 president of the Los Altos Kiwanis Club. Or like Miguel Sarasa, who founded the LGBT+ Kiwanis Club, an internet-based club in southern California.

Gaylor leads a club membership with an average age of 70-plus, while Sarasa — lieutenant governor for Division 47 in the California-Nevada-Hawaii District — started a club to focus on the needs of LGBT+ youth. The revised bylaw reinforces what they strongly believe: Serving the children of the world is a goal everyone, no matter their differences, can embrace together.
“When I think of diversity, I think of different types of people coming together as one whole being. You put all the opposites and differences aside, and you emphasize the main goal. And for Kiwanis, the main goal is to serve children and the communities in which we live.”

“When I think of diversity, I think of different types of people coming together as one whole being,” says Gaylor. “You put all the opposites and differences aside, and you emphasize the main goal. And for Kiwanis, the main goal is to serve children and the communities in which we live.”

Adds Sarasa, “It’s important that we’re evolving and understanding that times are changing, and we need to be more understanding. Ultimately, we’re here on this earth, and we need to help make a difference.”

As it turns out, building a diverse membership base and fostering inclusion also make for a more sustainable club, says Kathleen Nalty, a U.S.-based educator and consultant who specializes in creating cultures of inclusion to help organizations retain talent.

“There’s a huge business case for diversity and inclusion,” she says. “All the research shows there are tremendous business benefits to be derived.”

In her report, “The Business Imperative of Diversity & Inclusion (D+I),” Nalty cites multiple studies showing that companies and organizations with a diverse staff or membership and an inclusive environment set themselves up for success:

- A 2015 study of nearly 400 companies worldwide found that those with the highest levels of diversity in both gender and race/ethnicity and a commitment to inclusion were 170% better at innovation and 180% better at adapting to change.
- Research from 2017 revealed a direct connection between diversity and inclusion and better business decisions.
- Several studies report that when an “outsider” — someone with a social identity not shared by other members of a group — is included in the mix, higher group performance takes place. Why? The “groupthink dynamic” has been altered.
- Research by a Cornell University professor showed that when business unit managers focus on being inclusive and developing solid relationships with all staff members, not just those with whom they have the most in common, retention rates rise.

In short, Nalty says, diversity and inclusion aren’t just nice concepts to consider. They’re vital to an organization’s continued relevance and strength.

“A statement (alone) is never going to do anything. Relying just on the statement is not going to make any kind of change happen,” Nalty says. “The future of an organization hinges on its ability to transition into the 21st century. Just relying on 20th century notions around diversity isn’t enough. Because this new paradigm of inclusion requires organizations to do things differently than they have in the past, not just to talk the talk, but actually to walk it.”

Gaylor attended his first Los Altos Kiwanis Club meeting when he was around age 4 or 5, as a guest of his great-grandfather (then the club’s immediate past president and a current member). So when Gaylor stepped into the
presidential role two years after becoming a member himself, he knew the club already fostered an inclusive culture. While members do share a similar age range, they also celebrate personal differences.

“Our club is really diverse,” he says. “I’m African American and white. We have Hispanic, Muslim and Jewish members in our club. And we all have very, very different backgrounds. But every Thursday when we meet, we have one goal and one main focus — which I find really awesome.”

Sarasa, a former Key Club member, originally joined the Hemet Kiwanis Club in southern California and served as its president for two years. As he pondered ways to engage with potential new members, an idea surfaced.

“Especially now, more than ever, there’s a need to support LGBT youth,” he says. “And I was thinking, ‘Why not bridge the two?’ It would open up a whole new demographic of potential new members who want to directly impact their own community.”

A 2019 survey by The Trevor Project, a U.S.-based organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ youth under 25, shows just why that support is needed. Results revealed that 71% of LGBTQ youth reported discrimination due to either their sexual orientation or gender identity, 71% had felt sad or hopeless for at least two weeks in the past year and 39% had seriously considered suicide in the past 12 months.

But support can help reverse those statistics. In June 2019, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released study results showing that LGBTQ youth who have at least one accepting adult in their lives are 40% less likely to report a suicide attempt in the past year.

Enter Sarasa’s new LGBT+ club. The Kiwanis Literacy in Southern California Club became an enthusiastic sponsor, cheered on by 2019-20 President Doug Chadwick and his wife, Jean. Not everyone in the community readily embraced the idea, however.

“The biggest challenge was hesitation that we got from some, even Kiwanians: ‘Why is there a need to create this club separate from a traditional club?’ There were a few individuals who I think had a hard time even accepting the whole concept,” Sarasa says. “The harsh reality is it’s still kind of a touchy subject.”

That’s not unusual, Nalty says, because the “birds of a feather flock together” tendency of humans comes into play. Most of us don’t set out to intentionally discriminate. Rather, we have unintentional bias: learned, deeply ingrained stereotypes that affect our behavior without our conscious knowledge.

“One of the biggest ones is affinity bias, where we gravitate toward people who are more like us, who share similar interests, backgrounds, social identities,” Nalty explains.

The problem is that when we associate primarily with those most like us, we create an environment that’s conducive to attracting more people who fit that mold, continually leaving others outside the circle.

“One day,” Nalty cautions, “The future of an organization hinges on its ability to transition into the 21st century. Just relying on 20th century notions around diversity isn’t enough. Because this new paradigm of inclusion requires organizations to do things differently than they have in the past, not just to talk the talk, but actually to walk it.”
“each club will turn around and say, ‘Oh my gosh, this isn’t sustainable. We don’t have enough members.’”

Overcoming unconscious bias takes mindfulness, commitment and work. It won’t just happen, because good intentions aren’t enough.

“It starts with awareness and going out of your comfort zone to interact with people who are different from yourself, who have different social identities, who have different cultures and customs and preferences,” Nalty says. “The values of what Kiwanis does cross all kinds of boundaries and cultures and backgrounds. But you have to be purposeful about it.”

How to take those first steps?

Re-evaluate when you meet.

When former Key Club member Stacey Simmons and her husband wanted to join a Washington, D.C.-area Kiwanis club, they first looked close to home. But that club held meetings during a weekday lunch hour.

“People in the first few years of their career, we don’t have the opportunity to leave work whenever we want,” Simmons explains. “An hour, an hour-and-a-half meeting becomes two hours away from work. That’s something I wouldn’t be able to do.”

They instead joined the Washington Kiwanis Club, which has a D.C. Young Professionals Committee with members in their 20s and 30s. Because the committee meets and holds projects and social events on evenings and weekends, it’s more accommodating to younger people who want to serve.

Diversify club promotions.

The D.C. Young Professionals Committee publicizes its projects and events through Meetup, a website that allows its members to search and register for opportunities of interest.

“There are people who have never heard of Kiwanis and find us there,” says Simmons. “People find us on Meetup, come to events and end up joining. That’s worked out really well for us.”

Go beyond your usual means of communication and research additional forms that target different audiences.

Shake up your service projects.

When you reach out to a variety of groups in need, you introduce Kiwanis (and your club members) to a more comprehensive mix of individuals. Sarasa’s club works with two southern California youth centers that offer support to LGBTQ+ youth. Some of the young people need transitional housing, so the club provides backpacks with necessities and comfort items.

“A hygiene pack, blankets — anything we can do to show LGBT youth that there are adults who are there for them,” Sarasa says. “Unfortunately, we’re dealing with a population of children who come out, and their families don’t accept them and have a hard time. We just wanted to be that positive light to let kids know that they matter, that we’re here and we see them.”

Make all members feel welcome.

The Vinton, Iowa, Kiwanis Club has two members who are blind. Ray Lough and his wife have hosted 73 foster children since 1995, adopting 11. Carolyn Hibbs taught Braille before retirement. Both are active in the Vinton club; Hibbs has served a term as president. Hibbs’ late husband, who was quadriplegic, also was a past president and involved member.

“We were grateful the club saw our abilities to serve, rather than the limitations society often places on us,” Hibbs says.

“I am not a joiner,” Lough says, “but the club was such a great fit. The members of our club are truly unique. They go out of their way to make sure everyone feels included.”

Becoming a more diverse, inclusive club is worth the time and effort. It creates a new pipeline for members, introduces fresh energy and inspiration and solidifies sustainability. And it makes all Kiwanians stronger servant leaders.

“At the end of the day, we need to understand that we’re all humans, and we need to be here to support each other, regardless of our differences,” says Sarasa. “Ultimately, our mission as Kiwanians is kids and helping them through this crazy thing called life.”

Take the quiz: Just how inclusive is your Kiwanis club? Find out how you’re doing on page 50.
LEADERS IN TRAINING

THE KIWANIS PROGRAM KEY LEADER HELPS TEENS DEVELOP THE SKILLS THEY WILL NEED TO SUCCEED AS ADULTS.

Story and photos by Curtis Billue

It’s probably safe to say that as a Kiwanian, you find yourself often thinking about how to help others, wondering if the work you do is bringing positive change to your community. And with the stresses of growing up in today’s fast-paced, competitive world, it’s also likely safe to say that most teenagers aren’t focused on the same thing.

Key Leader hopes to change that.

GETTING PERSONAL

Most of the youth attending the 15th annual Key Leader camp in Rock Springs, Kansas, have never heard of servant leadership or the Kiwanis family. Some are shy and tentative, scared even to raise a hand or sit with a large group. But the warmth and humor of lead facilitator Tracey Devereaux gets the students laughing and mingling with other students. Soon, a spontaneous “chicken dance” erupts and the awkwardness of meeting new people melts away.

“I didn’t expect to make any friends,” says student Luke Schmidt. “But I made a lot of friendships here. People here are nice and friendly. It was a good experience.”

Over the two-day camp run by the Kiwanis Kansas District, Devereaux urges the participants to share personal stories, taking them through a spectrum of ideas and feelings: empathy; introspection of values; respect of others and self; and the art of listening.
“There are concepts that I’ve never really heard of before, but seem very relevant to the things that I’m going through.”

Students spend time sharing personal stories during a break-out session.

“You made a connection in two minutes by listening,” Devereaux says. “Why don’t we do this every day? Take the time to listen; that’s what leaders do.”

Key Leader’s unique curriculum, community-building and soul-searching messages offer teachings that most other programs don’t. A focus on the well-being and growth of those you serve and their community sets this weekend camp experience apart.

“There are concepts that I’ve never really heard of before, but seem very relevant to the things that I’m going through,” says student facilitator McKenzie Gerber. “I am very touched by all the people I’m meeting and the new things that I had no idea about myself that I’m learning — along with things I can bring back to my community and school.”

Chaperone and Kansas District Governor Jo Schwartz notices an eagerness in the student participants.

“I think they want to do good in the world,” she says. “They want to
“I hope to come back next year and bring more people with me. I think everybody deserves to have some taste of this.”

make changes, and this is showing them that they can go back to their schools and start a Key Club if they don’t have it.”

VALUES ADDED
It’s game time. Call it the Game of Values. Students write down their top eight values on slips of paper, and each round they are asked to give up one. With each round, they anguish over their choices. Which value will they give up?

After collecting the papers, Devereaux reads them aloud. Working hard. Teamwork. Time for myself. Open-mindedness.

He lets them all drop to the floor.

“My heart is pounding, so stressful,” mutters a student.

Devereaux leads a discussion about what values we are willing to give up when we’re put into certain situations, such as when we’re pressured by family, friends — even strangers. He asks: Is there an integrity gap between your values and your behavior?

It’s exercises like these that cut to the heart of Key Leader. Life lessons for today’s youth to think deeper about choices and hopefully build a kinder, more caring world.

“I hope to come back next year and bring more people with me,” Gerber says. “I think everybody deserves to have some taste of this.”
MAKE KEY LEADER YOUR SIGNATURE PROJECT

Even though organizer Cynthia Bender and the Kansas District can proudly brag about their successful Key Leader event, it doesn’t have to be a district-level affair. A Key Leader camp can be organized by any Kiwanis club.

“In many ways, the Kiwanians and Key Club members who organize Key Leader programs are equipping future generations to be values-driven community leaders,” says Nik Koulogeorge, new business development specialist at Kiwanis International.

“The program is unique to Kiwanis,” he says, “and offers great potential as a club’s signature project to recruit new volunteers and Key Clubbers, and to give back to the youth in their area in a meaningful way.”

Learn more at key-leader.org.
In August 2008, I remember standing in front of a bulletin board full of pieces of paper with every club South Carroll High School had to offer. I was a terrified freshman in high school and wanted to find any way I could to fit in. I saw the name “Key Club” on one of those pages. Most importantly, I saw my sister’s name on it, so there was some point of comfort. Plus, they had to make keys or something, so that was kind of cool, right? I wrote “Stephanie Feinberg” down and passed the pen to the person behind me. Little did I know, writing my name on that piece of paper would turn my life around.

You see, the Stephanie I was 11 years ago is nothing like the Stephanie I am today. At that time, I struggled with my sense of identity. My grandmother had passed away a couple years before, and I had a hard time understanding what grief meant and how to allow myself to move on like she would want me to. I was diagnosed with depression and an anxiety disorder. I found myself in a hole.

Starting high school is hard for most kids, but it was harder for me. I remember sitting in the basement one day with my mom, who was genuinely concerned about my mental health. She asked me, “What do you want to do?”

I didn’t want to play sports. I certainly didn’t have a close group of friends – I just didn’t know who I was. Without even thinking — and I’ll never forget this — I looked at my mom and said, “I want to make a difference.”

As I got more and more involved with Key Club, and reflecting upon it 11 years later, Key Club allowed me to make that difference and gave me my sense of identity and purpose.

As I became involved in Key Club, my Kiwanis advisor from the Kiwanis Club of Mount Airy, Maryland, Jim Jacobs, saw something in me. Jim believed I was more than just that “Stephanie” with no sense of identity written on that sign-up sheet. Jim invited me to attend Key Leader. With the way I had been feeling, I took it as a way to escape reality for a few days.

Key Leader is a weekend retreat sponsored by Kiwanis that is filled with workshops, discussions, team-building activities and more. These activities allow youth to learn leadership skills to change their community and their world. But Key Leader changed me and my world. After completing an outdoor ropes course, I texted my mom telling her I got a random boost of confidence.

Sure, in Key Club we had icebreakers and activities like these all the time, so I wasn’t too sure how long this confidence boost would last me. But so far, that Key Leader confidence boost has lasted 11 years... and counting.

Key Leader is a phenomenal program that I could never speak of highly enough. I always encourage every Kiwanis advisor to find at least one Key Clubber in their
sponsored clubs who they believe in, who they see something in. Invite them to attend. Kiwanians never know how much of an impact that simple invitation, sense of belief, and Key Leader weekend will have on that student.

Kiwanians all have that extraordinary power. I think of all Kiwanians as superheroes. Jim may never know how much of an impact he has had on my life. And that’s the thing about Kiwanis. Kiwanians all work with so many children every single day, whether through K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, Aktion Club, CKI or members of their own community. They have the chance to be that superhero, to leave an impact on anyone’s life, day in and day out. They may never hear a thank you, they may never see the results, but they must know and believe the power that each of them has.

As my time in Key Club progressed, I realized community service and Kiwanis could bring negative things into a new light. I was ready to overcome my depression; I was ready to combine the power of the Kiwanis family and honor my grandmother.

After some brainstorming, I approached the Kiwanis Club of Mount Airy with an idea. What if I held a School Walk for Diabetes? The walk would be in honor of my grandmother. This walk could finally give me closure, give me a sense of purpose. Mount Airy Kiwanians told me to go for it. I held the walk for three years, raising US$10,000 total. Who was the biggest support at these walks? Capital District Kiwanians.

As my final year in Key Club approached, it was time to take a leap of faith. I was so different than the “Stephanie” I had written on that board freshman year, and I was ready to take a risk. So I ran for lieutenant governor of Key Clubs in Central and Western Maryland.

As lieutenant governor, I started five new Key Clubs, my division was visited by the Key Club International director and my division project was filmed for a Key TV segment. I won outstanding board member and I got to go to convention and Key Leader.

When my time in Key Club was up, I’ll admit, I cried a lot. But I realized that just because my time
in Key Club was over, the lessons and skills learned never had to be.

I got a chance to intern with Kiwanis, overseeing the general sessions at the Key Club International Convention in D.C. I studied abroad twice, once in Cape Town, South Africa, where I taught at a school still affected by the aftermath of apartheid, and at an orphanage in Zimbabwe. Why did I do all this? Because Kiwanis taught me that I could. Kiwanis taught me that I could do anything, that I could be that change in the world. No one, no diagnosis, could stop me.

In August 2015, I got that diagnosis I thought would stop me. About a week before my 21st birthday, I wasn’t getting ready to celebrate. I was admitted to the emergency room for a month-long migraine. My eye turned in, I couldn’t feel my hands or feet and could barely walk. All I could think was that I had cancer or had had a stroke.

After multiple hospital visits, spinal taps, terrible medicine, side effects and emergency room visits, we visited Johns Hopkins. While there, scared for my first visit, my mom pointed to something next to me: a donor plaque from the Kiwanis Club of Eastern Baltimore. Emotions overcame me. Here was the sign I needed. Just as Kiwanis saved me in high school, it would save me now. I’m happy to say I’ve been in remission for nearly a year.

I graduated college in May 2016. I knew I wanted my Key Club experiences to steer my future. So after college, I worked for Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic. And for the past two years, I’ve worked at The Children’s Inn at The National Institutes of Health, a place that provides a place like home to children and young adults going through clinical trials for rare and undiagnosed conditions. I get to help these amazing, strong children feel like kids again by providing support services and planning fun parties and activities.

I always tell Key Clubbers what I do in the nonprofit sector is parallel to the skills and tasks I did as lieutenant governor. The volunteers I work with every day are inspiring, and just like Kiwanians, have hearts of pure gold.

What’s your story? Send it to shareyourstory@kiwanis.org.
LEAVE A LEGACY
FROM BUILDING PLAYGROUNDS TO PLANTING TREES, CELEBRATE YOUR CLUB’S ANNIVERSARY WITH A HIGH-IMPACT PROJECT.

By Vicki Hermansen

So your Kiwanis club has a big birthday coming up. What are you going to do to celebrate all the ways your club has helped your community over the past 25, 50, 75 and even 100 years?

You could go low-key with a luncheon, dinner or gala, inviting club members and some of the organizations you’ve worked with throughout your club’s history.

Or you could create something big that sparks imagination, learning, play and celebration all year long for your entire community.

This is your moment to go big. To leave a legacy. To put your club out there for everyone to know and see day after day.

PROMOTE PLAY:
Build a playground
Playgrounds. Musical playgrounds. Playground and park revitalizations. Many Kiwanis clubs are leaving a legacy in their community by building a play area, following in the footsteps of the organization’s 2015 celebration of 100 years.

Photos courtesy city of Raleigh
“To celebrate our centennial, we worked with districts around the world that wanted to give the gift of play — a brand new playground — to their communities,” says Pam Norman, senior director of Kiwanis International Corporate Relations. “Kiwanis-branded playgrounds were installed from New York to Fullerton, California, with many stops in between, including Chicago, St. Louis and Redmond, Oregon.”

Norman says playgrounds are one of the most popular legacy projects for Kiwanis clubs, whether building from the ground up or helping a municipality or school revitalize or rebuild aging parks.

“Play shapes us and (Kiwanis partner) Landscape Structures designs play areas that welcome all ages and abilities, becoming signature gathering spaces for communities and offering innovative and inclusive playground experiences,” Norman says.

Here’s what a few Kiwanis clubs are planning for their birthday playground builds.

Raleigh, North Carolina

The Kiwanis Club of Raleigh set its sights on a big project to celebrate its 100th anniversary. The 227-member-strong club wanted to do something special, says Frances Bobbie, the club’s immediate past president.

“We saw the 100th anniversary of Kiwanis in 2015 and knew our club’s would be in 2020,” says John “Nick” Fountain, co-chair of the club’s centennial committee. “We thought we ought to get going.”

A survey showed that club members wanted something hands-on, local and worthy of marking 100 years. The club approached the city to inquire about contributing to a project and landed first on rehabilitating a playground for children of all abilities. The club raised US$100,000 to help refurbish Sassafras All Children’s Playground. But they wanted to do more.

Working with the city, the club
“We had been looking for a signature project and we wanted to do something that would reach a larger group of youth in the community and allow for and provide some inclusivity.”

To celebrate its 100 years of service to the community, the Kiwanis Club of New Orleans donated $40,000 to City Park of New Orleans for the park’s first musical playground. The interactive musical playgrounds feature Boudreaux, the Zydeco gator (below) who plays an accordion; an oversized xylophone with play-along sheet music; echo flowers; tubular gongs and a tubed harp.

Anniversary celebrations began in New Orleans in March 2019, during the club’s Centennial Celebration, when they presented a $40,000 check to Friends of City Park for this musical addition.

“This was for the first musical playground in the park,” says Henrik Pontoppidan, project chair. “Storyland, a beloved iconic playground for the children of New Orleans since the early 1950s, was getting a much-needed renovation, and our club wanted to give something back to the city and its children. It was a win-win.”

When renovations were complete in September 2019, the club threw a Snoball party at Storyland for all seven Kiwanis clubs in Division 4A in New Orleans, inviting members, their children and grandchildren, and giving them the first go at playing on the new musical playground, says President Mark Firmin.

**Fergus Falls, Minnesota**

There’s a lot of excitement about the new NP Park playground, says Sarah Duffy, despite questioning her sanity after she proposed the Noon Kiwanis Club would raise US$500,000 to pay for the all-ability playground in Fergus Falls. Thankfully her club is not shouldering the cost alone. As club president last year, Duffy formed a committee with another club member and four community representatives to raise awareness, support and money.

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**New Orleans, Louisiana**

In New Orleans, it was easy to decide a playground theme. Of course it would be music.
playground, a longtime feature of the city, about 20 years ago. When the city recently announced a new library would be built across the street, Duffy realized this would be a great opportunity to rebuild the playground.

“We had been looking for a signature project, and we wanted to do something that would reach a larger group of youth in the community and allow for and provide some inclusivity,” she says. “We didn’t have any playground for those with disabilities.”

This new playground will have “something for everyone,” Duffy says. She hopes to have financial commitments secured soon so construction can begin this spring. The club has raised $300,000 of $500,000 needed for the project. The first phase will be elevating the foundation of the playground.

Duffy says her Kiwanis club also took advantage of the Kiwanis/Landscape Structures partnership.

“Their philosophy about play is one you can get behind,” Duffy says. “And we’ve had a lot of community support.”

The Noon Kiwanis Club will host a celebratory event sometime in 2020, but the club’s anniversary legacy is the playground.

“We’re all working together, but the project originated with the Noon Kiwanis Club — we got the community engaged,” Duffy says.

**NURTURE NATURE:**
**Plant a tree (or 100)**

The Kiwanis Club of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, will plant 100 trees in celebration of its 100th anniversary over the coming year. The project will gear up this spring, with the club providing the trees. The club estimates it has donated more than US$300,000 to the community over the past 20 years, with projects that include an annual Christmas party for students with developmental disabilities and a bike-safety essay contest for local elementary schools. The club also sponsors the Greater Latrobe High School Key Club along with CKI clubs at Saint Vincent College and the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.

**LOVE LITERACY:**
**Create a library**

The Kiwanis Club of Sandusky, Ohio, celebrated with a dinner-dance and presentations. The celebration was a fundraiser for the club’s signature project, the San-
dusky Imagination Library, which the club supports. The library provides books to children from birth to kindergarten.

COME TOGETHER:
Celebrate family
The Kiwanis Club of Rome, Georgia, held a celebration with district leaders, club members and representatives from Key Clubs and Builders Clubs who shared their service projects. Four Key Clubs received US$100. The Armuchee Key Club received an additional $100 for bringing the most members to the event; the Pepperell Key Club received $100 for creating the best video; and Model Key Club received $100 for bringing the most canned goods for donation. Two Kiwanis members received the Legion of Honor award.

SUPPORT SCIENCE:
Fund research projects
The Kiwanis Club of Mount Roskill, New Zealand, celebrated its 40th anniversary by giving Dr. Siouxsie Wiles, a microbiologist who specializes in infectious diseases and bioluminescence, a NZ$2,000 grant to continue her project of getting science materials into schools.

CELEBRATE YOUR CLUB

What will your club do to leave a legacy for your big birthday? Here’s a list of ideas.

• Playground build.
• Park/sculpture dedication.
• Tree planting.
• Plaque or signage sponsored by club.
• Location-specific cleanup or build at a campground, beach or park; a playground at a city or county park or school; neighborhood restoration, cleanup or beautification.
• Literacy projects such as a reading room, reading to children, helping with homework.
• Sporting events for children with disabilities paired with Aktion Club.
• Blood/book/food drive.
• Safety fair/bicycle rodeo.
• Create a Kiwanis display at a library, historical society or museum about Kiwanis’ local and global projects.
• Antique car/motorcycle show.
• Sponsor an outing for children to a local zoo/opera/theater/movie/sporting event/fair.

Add celebration details
• Offer a giant birthday cake.
• Organize an open house.
• Participate with a float in an existing parade.
• Have a club birthday party, inviting clubs in the division and/or district to attend. Consider incorporating a service project.
• Invite members of other service organizations and representatives of groups you help to an event honoring the local partnership. Don’t forget to invite the media.

For more information about planning your milestone celebration, visit kiwanis.org/clubanniversary.
Cardboard boxes filled by Kiwanians in Toronto, Canada, are saving Syrian refugees from disease, death and hopelessness.

At the end of 2018, more than half of Syria’s population had been forcibly displaced from ongoing civil war. In nearby Lebanon and Jordan alone, nearly 1.7 million Syrian refugees now live in and outside of camps, with 76% below the poverty line, according to The UN Refugee Agency. For many, “below the poverty line” means living in filth, fighting disease, searching for food and drinking contaminated water (when they find water at all).

So when five Kiwanis clubs in Greater Toronto sought an impactful project for Kiwanis One Day, they turned to a local nongovernmental organization, Global Medic, known for its nonsectarian aid. Several times a week, Global Media ships to camps refugee survival kits containing a water purification unit and five drinking cups, a hygiene kit, rehydration tablets and one solar light.

The clubs decided this was the perfect project for Kiwanis One Day.

Contaminated water can transmit diseases including diarrhea and polio; it is estimated to cause 485,000 deaths worldwide from diarrhea alone each year.

“When you’re moving from place to place, you can’t carry all the water you’ll need. These kits allow them to catch and treat rainwater wherever they are,” says Kerry-Ann Watkis, executive administrator for the Toronto Kiwanis Club and chair of Kiwanis Cares. “The water will help people survive for about three months so they can focus on other things.”
Volunteers from the Toronto club, four other Kiwanis clubs (East York, Kingsway Humber, Toronto Caribbean and Casa Loma, Toronto) and Global Medic created 1,200 emergency kits for transport to Syrian families. This success has spurred the group to focus on bigger projects as a collective, and they now plan to do a major project each quarter.

“As we were packing boxes, everyone felt immense gratitude for what we have,” Watkis says. “Then, too, it was one of those projects that you could get everyone involved in. We even had kids helping out, who were asking questions about what it all means — and so we felt like we were living out the values of Kiwanis, instilling those values at a young age and creating future Kiwanis leaders.”
The race is on

K-KIDS IN PENNSYLVANIA RAISE MONEY FOR CANCER RESEARCH.

*Story by Lori Roberts*

For the past 15 years, students at Elk Lake Elementary School in Springville, Pennsylvania, have taken steps to fight cancer. Each year, the school holds a Mini Relay For Life in its gymnasium, where fifth and sixth graders raise money to fight the disease that seems to touch someone in everyone’s life.

“We thought this would be a great way to get the kids involved,” says Louise Hicks, a now-retired kindergarten teacher at the school who helps organize the relay. “Because it’s never too young to make a difference.”

The relay started in 2004 as a senior project for Heather Shaddack, who was then a senior at the school. Shaddack, now Heather Carpenter, started the school’s K-Kids club. Shaddack’s mother, Ginger Shaddack, was teaching kindergarten as well, and she and Hicks both were on a Relay For Life team. Together, the three decided to create a mini relay to give the K-Kids and their classmates a chance to have fun while raising money for cancer patients.

The relay started with about 20 participants, but today the event — still sponsored by the K-Kids — fills the gym. The music teacher serves as the DJ. Participants raise money through donations, T-shirt sales, bake sales and basket raffles. On relay day, community members come to cheer. Cancer patients and survivors play a special role, introducing themselves and forming a ring around the relay runners for a lap around the gym, complete with high fives.

When the relay is finished, each participant gets a glow stick and takes a few moments to reflect on those who are still fighting the disease. Afterward, there are games. The winners are announced, and a few lucky ones throw pies in the faces of brave teacher volunteers. The top two winners get the real prize: They can throw pies in the face of the principal, who takes it like a pro.

The 2019 event, held in November, raised more than US$23,000, bringing the 15-year total to more than $150,000, Hicks says. It’s a fun event, with serious undertones.

“So many kids have been touched by cancer,” she says. “We’ve had a participant who had cancer when she was 3 years old, and now she participates in the relay. We had a survivor whose cancer began when she was 2, and she graduated from high school this year.”

T-shirt sales, bake sales and basket raffles. On relay day, community members come to cheer. Cancer patients and survivors play a special role, introducing themselves and forming a ring around the relay runners for a lap around the gym, complete with high fives.

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*Story by Lori Roberts*
Captain Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger famously crash-landed a plane in a New York City river. Get insights on preparedness at the Kiwanis International convention — straight from the man himself. And hear how Kevin Carroll combines education and play for social change. Also see Ethan Zohn, “Survivor: Africa” winner and cancer crusher. These stars and others are coming. Are you?

Find details. Save money. Register now. kiwanis.org/convention

105TH KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION | JUNE 17-20, 2020
Gathered outside under the overhang of a small building at the Benjamin Harrison YMCA in Lawrence, Indiana, members and friends of the Kiwanis Club of Lawrence chat excitedly as they await the arrival of their very special guest.

Then they hear it. The sirens. Lots and lots of sirens.

“Oh, that must be her,” says Kiwanis member Tom Crouch with a laugh. “She sure is making an entrance.”

You can barely make out the sound at first. But then, it appears. A caravan of nine cars — six of them police vehicles with lights flashing and sirens blaring — creeping down the streets of Lawrence. They curve through the parking lot and stop at the curb. Doors open. The star of the day pops out of the backseat of the second patrol car and marches straight toward the waiting crowd. Not a sign of shyness or fear in her.

This is 7-year-old Mashala Garnett. And she’s here to get her new pink bicycle.

Mashala wastes no time at all. She climbs up onto the seat as Kiwanians gather around to help her buckle into her new matching pink helmet. Kathy Michaud helps Mashala strap her feet onto the pedals. Michaud, a pediatric physical therapist with Riley Hospital for Children at IU Health in Indianapolis, has been working several years with Mashala, who has cerebral palsy. She explains how the bike will work.

“It’s going to be great for her,” Michaud says. “She works on a bike in therapy. It works on her strength, her balance and her coordination to be able to pedal and steer at the same time. And she has fun doing it, so it’s a great activity for her.”

Mashala is ready to get going.

“When Riley Hospital called us and said Mashala needed a bike, we stepped up and said, ‘We
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*Price is per person, land only, double occupancy, and varies by departure date.
SHOWCASE

“Gotta make that happen,” says Tom Crouch. “We went to the Lawrence community and asked businesspeople to step up and help with the purchase. And they did. We raised US$1,500.

“I think we all remember what our first bike was like. Every child deserves a bike. And now Mashala has hers.”

As the Kiwanis members, community friends and donors watch Mashala navigate the parking lot and return to the sidewalk, there’s another fun surprise.

“I have a proclamation from the mayor of the city of Lawrence,” says Tom Crouch. The proclamation reads, in part, that the mayor proclaims August 31, 2019, as Mashala Garnett Day in the city of Lawrence.

“I’m so happy,” says Kendra Garnett, Mashala’s mother. “I’ve been wanting her to get one of these bikes for a long time. She finally has something to ride because she can’t really ride the normal bikes. I’m grateful. And now she has a day dedicated to her. That’s really nice.”

As the family says many thanks and goodbyes, Kiwanis members share how they feel about projects like this one.

“This day was really incredible,” says Lawrence Kiwanis member Marge Crouch. “The smile on her face made it all worthwhile. We were so happy to support her. It made my day too!”

BIRTHDAYS

These clubs will celebrate their 100th, 75th, 50th and 25th anniversaries in April 2020.

100TH — 1920
Jamestown, New York, April 3
Americus, Georgia, April 6
Bessemer, Alabama, April 7
Decatur, Alabama, April 8
Sioux Falls, South Dakota, April 12
Greenwood, South Carolina, April 13
Ardmore, Oklahoma, April 20
Marinette, Wisconsin, April 20
Albany, Georgia, April 22
Burlington, North Carolina, April 23
Pasadena, California, April 29

75TH — 1945
Benson, North Carolina, April 3
Elberfeld, Indiana, April 9
Bennettsville, South Carolina, April 16
Whitehaven, Tennessee, April 20

50TH — 1970
Marshalltown-Matins, Iowa, April 7
Plano, Texas, April 13
Northwest Austin, Texas, April 13

25TH — 1995
Hsin Ying, Hsin Chu, Taiwan, April 2
Nan Kang, Nantou Hsien, Taiwan, April 2
Solymar-Barranquilla, Colombia, April 4
Fontenay Melusine, France, April 20
Chang Pin, Chang Hua Hsien, Taiwan, April 30
We’ve saved so many lives already. Now, the crucial part: reaching mothers and babies in some of the world’s most dangerous areas. Don’t rest — this is the critical moment. Help eliminate MNT from the face of the Earth.

Kiwanis.org/TheEliminateProject
Is your club inclusive?

FOLLOW ALONG WITH THIS CHART TO FIND OUT.

YES

Do you accept people who are different than you?

NO

Are you a self-described racist, sexist, elitist, ageist and/or ableist?

YES

Do you put people in “boxes” and easily dismiss their views?

NO

Will you extend an invitation to someone new with a different life perspective from your community and invite them to the club?

YES

Will you listen to their story and welcome them with open arms and mind?

NO

Will you encourage their participation in discussions, planning and decision making?

YES

Congratulations! You are inclusive and no doubt have a diverse mix of perspectives and abilities in your club.

NO

You are not inclusive and Kiwanis is not the right fit for you.

Are there people in your community of different races, genders, sexual orientation, economic backgrounds, ages and physical and mental abilities?

YES

Do you live under a rock?

NO

You are a lizard.

DO YOU HATE CHANGE AND FEAR OUTSIDERS?

YES

Do you put people in “boxes” and easily dismiss their views?

NO

Are you a self-described racist, sexist, elitist, ageist and/or ableist?

YES

Are you the Dalai Lama?

NO

Well hello, Dalai Lama. You are inclusive.

YES

Let’s look deeper.

NO

You are not inclusive and Kiwanis is not the right fit for you.
Are you a leader, or hoping to be one? Attend the Kiwanis Education Conference during this year’s convention. It’s two days of master classes taught by pros. And it’s part of our promise to offer play with purpose. Join us. Because good leaders never stop learning.

Get details. Save money. Register now. kiwanis.org/convention

105TH KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION | JUNE 17-20, 2020
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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