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Cover photo by W. Garth Dowling, Boy Scouts of America

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UP FRONT  Voices

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
JIM ROCHFORD • KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

IN PURSUIT OF 200,000

Between October 1 and April 18, Kiwanis opened 177 clubs worldwide. By the time you read this article, hopefully we’ll be well over 200. We’re close to 7,000 net membership growth. We need to get over the 200,000-member number. Why is that important? It will attract partners and allow us to adequately mentor our service leadership programs.

This past Kiwanis year was the first year we did not grow in one single area of the Kiwanis family. Declining Kiwanis membership impacts everything we do, especially our service leadership programs. Opening new clubs is not just a thing we do, especially our service leadership programs. It is absolutely pivotal that you finish as strong as possible, our impact by increasing our agreement that we can increase

CRUNCH TIME
It is absolutely pivotal that you finish as strong as possible, and that means individually bringing new members into your club and helping to open a new club, which in turn can sponsor an orphan Key Club or start a brand new SLP club. The 2017-18 class of governors agreed that we can increase our impact by increasing our numbers in a timely fashion. New clubs are opening worldwide, and they’re prospering with support of a sponsoring club and coaches. This concept has proved to increase the longevity of our new clubs.

GOVERNOR HIGHLIGHT
Dan Bennett has been involved in all the new clubs opened both last year and this Kiwanis year in his of the New England and Bermuda District. He and his team should have a huge impact on his district.

In Montana, Barb Monaco has yet to open a club, but she had record attendance at her midyear conference. And the district is over 7 percent in net growth. She has innovatively organized tailgates at football games to invite new members to experience the fun you can have in Kiwanis.

Also, congratulations to Candace Corsaro and the New York District, which has opened four clubs, including one with 75 charter members. Wow!

A 50-year Peoria, Illinois Kiwanis member, who has passed away, had a plaque on his desk in the mayor’s office that said, “Lead, follow, or get the heck out of the way.” Thank you for your willingness to lead by example by increasing our impact through increasing our membership base.

If our membership goes over 200,000, we’ll impact positively our sponsored youth programs and the world!

EXECUTIVE PERSPECTIVE
STAN SODERSTROM • KIWANIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PAINFUL DISCUSSIONS
This past year, Kiwanis hosted a youth-protection symposium for employees of several youth-serving organizations. Experts spoke on topics such as sexual exploitation, youth trafficking, child abductions, the Darknet and other threats to youth and children.

These discussions were painful. Adult predators strategically and patiently prey on unsuspecting children. They look for youth-serving organizations where they might fit in and gain the trust of those around them. Scouting, YMCAs and camps are all susceptible, and so are we.

We also learned that adult predators are not the only threat. Youth-on-youth exploitation ranges from cyberbullying to sexting and extortion. We must be equally aware of identifying and preventing this behavior as well.

For Kiwanis, the bar for youth protection is constantly being raised. We’ve identified and equipped volunteer youth protection managers (each district should have at least one) to help clubs properly protect the youth we support and serve.

Every Kiwanis advisor to a Key Club, Builders Club, K-Kids Club, any adult attending an overnight Key Club or Key Leader event or any Kiwanian who works with minors at club activities must undergo a background check at least every two years. Every club should present a youth-protection program once a year during Youth Protection Week (September 9-15, 2018).

A wide range of resources is available at kiwanis.org/protection. In addition, a youth-protection telephone and email hotline is available for confidential reporting.

We need to set a high standard for youth protection. We want school administrators, parents and community leaders to know we really care about the children and youth in our communities and we’re taking extra steps to ensure they’re protected. At the same time, we’re protecting our own Kiwanis clubs and members.

Please help this effort.
Put some sparkle in your fundraiser!

Choose from a colorful assortment of honey roasted peanuts, gummies, mini-pretzels, trail mix, and our signature item... peanuts!

Visit our booth at the Kiwanis International Convention in Las Vegas

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A non-profit, Kiwanis-sponsored fundraising program exclusively for the Kiwanis Family of Clubs.
I appreciated the article on stress in the March 2008 Kiwanis magazine. While I don’t wish to detract from the emphasis on the adolescent years, I believe it’s important to recognize that stress can have even more serious effects on a child’s brain from birth to age 8, and especially to age 3. This encompasses the period of life during which the basic structure of the brain is created and subsequently enhanced — or not. When children of this age are exposed to serious and ongoing stresses, that foundation may be undermined with life-long developmental, educational, social, emotional and health challenges.

What are some of the types of stresses that can affect babies and young children? Chronic hunger, untreated illnesses, lack of an ongoing loving relationship with one or more adults, environmental chaos (fights between parents, use of drugs with subsequent ignoring of the child) and, of course, if there is direct injury to the child.

I encourage my fellow Kiwanians to go to the website of the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University at developingchild.harvard.edu. Click on Science/Key Concepts and view a couple of the brief videos. I hope you’ll be so fascinated by what is going on inside those tiny heads that you’ll explore the website more thoroughly.

And remember, learning does not start once a kid is in school, nor does brain development end once a child turns five. We begin our journey to brain maturity while still in the womb, and as noted in the article, don’t complete that phase of life until the mid or late 20s. However, preventing problems in the earliest years is best for the child, parents and subsequently society as well.

Wil Blechman, M.D.
Chair, Kiwanis International Committee on Young Children: Priority One
I stumbled on to your magazine at my doctor’s office. The colorful cover jumped out at me from a sea of Golf Digests. My eye went directly to the colorful skateboard. (I’ve become trained to spot skateboards as my sixth- and ninth-grader live for anything skateboard-related.) I confess I don’t know much about Kiwanis. My image has been of retirees pitching horseshoes; so, the fun story about artists creating skateboards for a charity auction was a surprise. (And in France!) It was cool to see not just the boards but the artists who created them. They’re certainly as colorful as their artwork!

I checked out your website so I could show my boys the boards and was again surprised at the cool stories about Kiwanis groups all over the world doing unique things to raise money. The Red Bull airplane story was brilliant and the people featured in the story looked like fun. I actually sat and read through five or six stories on your blog (kiwanismagazine.org) and was really impressed by the variety of projects.

Whoever put your magazine in the doctor’s office was a genius. Your magazine is the perfect recruiting tool. If I can free up some spare time, I may have to look for the Kiwanis club in my city.

Michael Mathis
Cleveland, Ohio

NOT UP TO STANDARDS
I have been a member of the Owosso, Michigan, Kiwanis club since 1977. I write regarding the feature about a charity fundraiser involving decorative skateboards.

The 2008 Kiwanis International convention included a resolution to celebrate inclusiveness of all Kiwanians. However, Kiwanians should know and respect the Kiwanis Objects and ethics.

The article’s pictures do not match the text. They depict excessive tattoos; excessive body piercings; inappropriate clothing; demonic depictions on skin, skateboards and sexually suggestive poses.

In the interest of raising a few dollars for charity, we have violated our code of ethics and five of six of our values.

The participants should have been instructed to prepare artwork consistent with Kiwanis’ high standards. Likewise, the artists should have been informed of Kiwanis standards for pictures. Kiwanis has fallen short.

There has been a coarsening of society and a distancing from the spiritual, especially with our youth. Kiwanis has been a leader in the maintenance of standards. We must continue to follow the Objects of Kiwanis that were laid out in 1924.

John Demis
Kiwanis Club of Owosso, Michigan

ARTISTIC LICENSE
I am proud and happy that my friend Ventura initiated the project, which became the subject of the feature article “Board Games” in the June/July 2018 issue of Kiwanis magazine. Some of these artists are long-time friends. Others just heard about the project. But all responded positively to the invitation, because for them being an artist is a philosophy and if their work can serve a good cause, that’s the main thing. Since this is for children, it became obvious they would get involved, especially for children who are suffering.

Some of the artists were tattooed following an illness or life accident that left scars on their bodies, or they have tattooed others’ damaged bodies. All of them realized how much getting tattooed made them feel alive and allowed them to improve their relationship with themselves, physically and morally.

Thanks to all these artists and their dedication, we will be able to give 160 children the gift of dreams. No matter their illness or their age, they will go on an airplane ride for the first time.

Marie-Laure Levrero
Kiwanis Club of Ciboure-Sud Pays Basque, France
By all rights, 19-year-old Nathaniel Page should be a slavish devotee of video games, social media and cell phones — just like many of his peers. A freshman at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, this computer science specialist is a self-proclaimed gamer who loves shoot-'em-ups such as Overwatch and Battleground. But there’s something unusual about Page — something that doesn’t fit the classic gamer profile.

He’s also a newly minted Eagle Scout.

He earned this highest of all honors via Boy Scout Troop 347, which for years has been sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Newington, Connecticut. According to Page, his days pitching tents and building campfires helped make him a well-rounded person and keep today’s wired world in perspective.

“I spend a lot of time on computers for games or work, so Scouts always offered a really nice break,” he says. “I think it helped me learn that it’s OK to be without screens. Honestly, I think everyone could use a hike in the woods.”

Words SAM STALL
Many of today’s parents would agree. According to a study by the nonprofit organization Common Sense, as of 2017, smartphones had made their way into 95 percent of U.S. homes with children ages 0 to 8. Seventy-eight percent of those homes also owned tablets, and 42 percent of the children in those households possessed tablets of their own. Just since 2013, the time those kids spend daily on mobile devices has tripled, from 15 minutes to 48 minutes.

Fortunately, there’s a group that seems perfectly positioned to blunt the influence of so many screens: the Boy Scouts of America. And Kiwanis clubs, by volunteering to sponsor troops, are uniquely positioned to help.

According to Michael B. Surbaugh, chief Scout executive of the Boy Scouts of America, his organization’s traditional recipe for child development — physical activity, skill-building and fellowship — offers the perfect tonic for today’s screen-besotted kids. And that tonic can be taken early, by signing up for Cub Scouts (for 7- to 10-year-olds).

“Cub Scouts offers many ways for kids to have low-tech fun, such as going on outdoor adventures, creating cars and rockets through derby competitions or helping the community through service projects,” Surbaugh says. “These experiences not only pay off in terms of development, but they also may start habits and hobbies that last a lifetime.”

A recent study conducted by the Boy Scouts of America found that, while parents and kids don’t mention less screen time as a reason for signing up, they did offer motives that seem like natural byproducts of a less device-intensive lifestyle. For instance, parents chose character development, acquiring outdoor skills and having fun as the top three reasons. Among Scouts ages 11 to 17, the reasons were to have fun, learn about nature and outdoor skills and join friends in Scouting.

Robert Nakagawa, deputy Scout executive in the Boy Scouts of America’s Denver Area Council, says this interest in getting outdoors and being with friends plays to the organization’s strengths. The council supervises several large Colorado Scout summer camps, including Tahosa High Adventure Base and Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch.

When it comes to how to deal with devices, he admits that the Scouts, like the rest of society, are still feeling their way.

“I think the Boy Scouts struggle with this issue as well,” he says.

Though each troop has its own policy when it comes to use of electronics, in most cases it’s impractical to simply collect them in a big sack and confiscate them for the duration of a camping trip. For instance, if the kids want to take pictures, using their phone is pretty much the only way.

“It sounds odd, but experts tell us that robbing them of their cell phones actually robs them of their experience,” Nakagawa says. “If they go on a hike and take a picture and share it, they’re better able to enjoy those experiences.”

On the flipside, having Scouts blast pictures of their camping trips and talk about the fun they’re having on social media doesn’t exactly hurt the organization’s recruiting efforts.

“I think it helped me learn that it’s OK to be without screens. Honestly, I think everyone could use a hike in the woods.”

NATHANIEL PAGE, EAGLE SCOUT
Scouting around the world

Scouting is big in North America, but it’s by no means just an American movement. Founded in England in 1908, it has since spread to every corner of the world and encompasses some 40 million active members. If your club would like to find and join forces with a troop in your part of the globe, these regional Scouting centers can help.

Europe
scout.org/europe

Arab
scout.org/arab

Eurasia
scout.org/eurasia

Asia-Pacific
scout.org/asia-pacific

Interamerica
scout.org/interamerica

Africa
scout.org/africa

Canada
scouts.ca

United States
scouting.org
“The kids still utilize their devices, but I think the Boy Scouts have done a good job in allowing the young men and young women to do it in an appropriate way,” Nakagawa says. “And getting out into the country makes them better able to forge meaningful relationships with each other, versus just through their devices and social media.”

Not surprisingly, the Scouts’ emphasis on community service and character creates a great deal of commonality between themselves and Kiwanis.

“Boy Scouts of America’s mission is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices by instilling in them the value of the Scout Oath and Scout Law,” says Lee Shaw, national director of national alliances for the Boy Scouts of America. “That mission is highly compatible with Kiwanis. Both organizations provide service opportunities that teach leadership skills to young people.”

Sponsoring a troop is also an excellent way to both raise a Kiwanis club’s community profile and to catch the attention of just the sort of young people who could one day make energetic new members. It’s an equation that’s not lost on Mike George, immediate past president of the Kiwanis Club of Tierrasanta, San Diego, California.

For years, the club planted miles of flags along the two main entrances to the town on important holidays such as the Fourth of July and Veterans Day. But planting and then collecting all those banners was a daunting task. So a few years ago, George turned for help to Boy Scout Troop 985, which his Kiwanis club sponsors.

“That’s been going on for several years now, and they haven’t missed a beat,” George says. “They’re there rain or shine.”

The club reciprocates by assisting with the troop’s Eagle Scout projects. George thinks working together benefits not just the kids, who learn firsthand about community service, but also Kiwanis, by raising the organization’s profile among a trove of potential future members.

“It’s important to give young people an understanding of why Kiwanis exists, why we do what we do and what community service is all about,” he says. “That synergy has to be created with young people, and we have to be willing to ask for their help.”

Mitch Page, the proud father of Eagle Scout Nathaniel, agrees.

“We’ve been blessed to have Kiwanis involved for at least 15 years,” Mitch Page says of his own troop. “It just seemed like a natural fit to go with Kiwanis, because of the wonderful work they do internationally for youth.”

Page has four sons, the oldest three of whom are all Eagle Scouts. His youngest, at 13, is currently working toward that rank. Page has personally witnessed the benefits of Kiwanis participation in Scouting — and Scouting’s ability to help kids put down their phones and log into the real world.

“All of my boys have been on some level or another involved with computers and video games,” he says. “But even the most diehard video game and cell phone fans, when we go to one of our Scout camps here in Connecticut for the weekend, get totally involved.”
W. Garth Dowling has a lot to smile about. This former newspaper photographer has adventure in his blood — and he’s in just the right position to roll up his pant legs and jump right in. As director of photography for the Boy Scouts of America’s three national magazines, Dowling has captured young Scouts as they rappel mountains and as they ride the waves in a sailboat. He’s spent countless nights under the stars, slept in tents and watched as children and adults have found the courage to try something new.

Dowling shared his thoughts about being a Kiwanian and the unique role he plays with BSA.

As a photographer, you’ve likely seen and captured a lot of interesting situations. Tell us what it’s like to witness a child taking part in something new through a Scout camp or function.

It is absolutely magical to watch a Scout tackle a challenge and succeed, whether it’s with the first try or the sixth. In fact, I think the greater satisfaction is when the Scout doesn’t get that jump, that knot,

Pictures W. GARTH DOWLING, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
“It is absolutely magical to watch a Scout tackle a challenge and succeed, whether it’s with the first try or the sixth.”

W. GARTH DOWLING, PHOTOGRAPHER, BOYS’ LIFE MAGAZINE AND WYOMING KIWANIAN
that fire the first time. Having to dig deep and try again is such a terrific learning experience. Plus, you can see as they start something new that they feel like they’re all alone until they realize all that noise they’re hearing is their friends cheering them on to success. That’s when the big smiles happen! Seeing Scouts learn and grow and take those risks is incredibly rewarding. I’ve seen bravery displayed on the trail when the weather isn’t great and at Scout meetings when that young Scout is delivering a speech for the first time. Personally, it’s inspirational. Hey, challenges certainly don’t stop when you get older. There have been a few times I’ve needed to do something out of my comfort zone and I think: “This is no different than that first-year Scout looking up at that climbing tower … and doing it. I got this!”

A lot of children sit inside playing video games. Why do you think it’s important for children to be outside and taking part in a group activity like Boy Scouts?

Aside from the proven health benefits, the outdoors encourages a sense of wonder as it is a dynamic situation that changes constantly. All the senses are engaged, and I believe learning how the environment works and our place within it gives youth a sense of ownership and responsibility. Taking part in a group activity such as Scouting in the outdoors strengthens those bonds of stewardship and reinforces the idea that we’re all in this together and we all can succeed together. Obviously, the outdoors is at the core of the Scouting experience; however, the BSA does an amazing job of providing programming that can take any interest, even playing video games, and make it enriching. It’s one thing to play video games, but there are activities in Scouting that promote learning to create video games and games of all kinds. That’s building a future. Scouting isn’t all about tying knots and setting up tents and making s’mores by the campfire. Those are fun means to an end of learning life lessons such as how to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. Those attributes sound like a lot of Kiwanians I know!

Why’d you decide to join Kiwanis, and does your club have a relationship with Boy Scouts?

I joined the Kiwanis Club of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, for a lot of reasons. I had been a part of the community for many years by that time, and I wanted to give back. Being in business for myself, I worked long hours alone, so I was attracted to the social aspect. I knew a lot of the members already and saw how much fun they have.

Why do you think the Kiwanis/Boy Scouts partnership works so well?

It works exceedingly well because they’re on the same page about so many things, such as service to the community, honor and duty. And doing good service with cheer! The Scouting movement is about helping youth develop and achieve their full potential as creative, resourceful and supportive members of the community, much like Kiwanis.

Do you have a favorite memory photographing for the Scouts?

I’m often asked “what was your favorite photo

— Continued on page 49

PHOTO BY RUSSELL CARPENTER, ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER TROOP 109 IN PHOENIX

W. GARTh DOWLING

— Continued on page 49

PHOTO BY RUSSELL CARPENTER, ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER TROOP 109 IN PHOENIX

W. GARTh DOWLING
Blood lines
KIWANIANS IN VANUATU RAISE FUNDS AND ORGANIZE VOLUNTEERS TO SUPPORT A SCHOOL AND A LIFE-SAVING BLOOD CENTER. Words and pictures KASEY JACKSON

It’s lunchtime, and the energy at Pikinini Playtime is palpable. Children dart to their classroom doorways to try and catch a glimpse of the visitors who have come to their school. Some offer a shy hello and a giggle.

Pikinini Playtime Early Childhood Care and Education Centre is located in Vanuatu on the island of Efate, situated in the Pacific Ocean. On this day, visitors from the Kiwanis Club of Port Vila (the capital city of Vanuatu) have come to say hello. Several kindergarten students are thrilled to share their news: They’ll be going on a field trip to Shark Bay in a couple of days.

Kiwanians in Port Vila have been helping at the school for a few years now, offering pieces for the school’s playground and sponsoring students by paying their tuition costs. Pikinini Playtime Principal Carol Batten says every bit helps, especially because the school has changed a lot since its earliest days.

“Originally we started with just childcare, and we had six children,” she says. “And we’ve grown from there since 2012. We’ve added a class every year. So some of the children who were with us on day one are still with us, and two teachers who were with us on day one are still with us. We’ve grown together.”

There are now 150 students on each of the two campuses.

Anna Willie (left) is one of the students sponsored by the Port Vila Kiwanians. She sits in her wheelchair and watches as her friends bounce past her, on their way to the playground after finishing lunch. She’s all smiles as she poses for photos with her Kiwanis friends. There are about 35 children with disabilities at Pikinini Playtime, Batten says.

“Anna was burned as a child,” Batten explains. “She was in a
blanket and laid too close to the family’s fire. She was burnt from the waist down. She has the shape of her feet and the shape of her legs, but it’s stunted because her lower limbs are stuck at the level they were when she was burned, around 2 years old.

“For the first year and a half Anna was with us, she didn’t move. She didn’t smile. She sat in the corner and didn’t do anything. Since then, she’s really come alive. She now smiles. She talks now. You can’t get her to stop! She’s had a lot of trauma. She didn’t have a lot of interaction after her accident. So part of coming to school when she was little was really a shock. It was such a big thing. She’d never seen this many kids. It was a white lady’s place. All of those things contributed to her trauma. Thankfully, the teachers have loved her through it. She has come such a long way.”

Kiwanis members often stop by to see the children and to note the progress, but also to discuss the needs of the school.

“In Vanuatu, you have to pay school fees,” Batten says. “It costs AU$1,200 to sponsor a child for a year. Kiwanis pays for Anna (and another student). Kiwanis also helped build the playground.

“We’ve had lots of help and a whole bunch of people who are so appreciative and helpful. It’s a community-based effort.”

MARK STAFFORD, PORT VILA KIWANIS CLUB MEMBER

They paid for some of the timber. We’ve tried to make it so the children with disabilities can actually play. With the double see-saws, we can have a caregiver behind a disabled child. We have a little house, and there’s a sand-pit. So there are elements of the playground that are suitable for disabled children.”

HEAVY LIFTING

Mark Stafford (below, left) is from Melbourne, Australia. He now lives in Vanuatu and has held numerous positions in the Port Vila Kiwanis club, including several years as president. He’s on his way to a school near Mele Bay, where he plans to meet some women to talk about their sewing project. While maneuvering his truck along a bumpy road toward the bay, he shares a little more about what Kiwanis has done over the years for people in this tropical locale. One Kiwanis project directly related to the sewing project is quite hands-on and requires some heavy lifting. He explains that Kiwanis members and other volunteers empty large shipping containers that arrive from New Zealand filled with an assortment of materials — everything from desks and school supplies to the sewing machines needed for this particular project. (Read “Threads Across the Pacific” at kiwanis.org/2017vanuatu.)

“We do all of the clearance of
the containers when they arrive through customs,” Stafford says. “Then we unpack the container and sort the items. We identify where we can distribute things. We make the contact with the community leaders. We’ve had lots of help and a whole bunch of people who are so appreciative and helpful. It’s a community-based effort.”

The club is also known for many other projects and fundraisers, such as the annual Charity Horse Race, a ladies luncheon, roofing schools in rural areas, sanitation facilities at schools and distribution of sports equipment to youth and community groups.

THE FRIENDLY ISLE
Stafford has plans for our visit to the Vila Central Hospital Laboratory Blood Bank. We’ve come here to see firsthand the blood machines that the Kiwanis club donated to the hospital. But Stafford is prepared to donate blood. Ezra Talo, medical technologist in charge at the blood bank, explains how the process works.

“Before the donation, the donor is interviewed,” Talo (at right in lab coat) explains. “We make sure everything is entered correctly and privately. After interviewing here, we collect a blood sample. It’s then screened and processed and if everything is OK, we collect the blood.”

The Kiwanis Club of Port Vila donated two of the T-RAC (Terumo Recording & Automatic Blood Collector) machines to the blood bank. The club has donated several items to the blood bank, including a refrigerator, thermometers, table and chairs and cabinets.

“We are so grateful for the donations that they help us with and for their help with sponsoring (hospital volunteers),” Talo says. “But the biggest thing we need help with is to keep the blood bank filled at all times. Sometimes the Kiwanis members come here to physically donate blood, which is good.”

But the T-RAC machine is the star right now. Talo explains the importance of having the machines in the blood bank.

“The purpose of the T-RAC is to weigh the blood, mix the blood and record the input,” he says. “The machine tells us if the blood is flowing slowly or if the blood is flowing quickly, and we can make adjustments if needed. It’s helpful because it gives us the right amount of blood. But it’s great for the donor because it automatically shuts off. Even if the technician is not here, it will stop on its own. It weighs now, when finished, 450 ml. And it’s significant to have this amount because if it’s anything other than 450 ml, then the fluid inside can have too much or too few of the anticoagulants. If you have too many anticoagulants in the final product, the patient receiving the blood can become hypoglycemic.”

Talo notes that Stafford “will build up the blood he has given over the next few hours.” With the tour of the blood bank over, it’s time to call it a day.

Back in the truck, Stafford says the Port Vila Kiwanis club raises more than AU$40,000 to support its projects. He says the volunteer community is active in Vanuatu, and it’s refreshing to see how many people want to help in any way possible, and how friendly everyone is on the islands.

“I joined Kiwanis because I like to give back to the community I live in,” he says. “Vanuatu is a happy place. It’s one big community. People walk down the street, stop to shake hands, wave and smile. I like to walk in the mornings when I travel, and I’ve noticed that most of the time, you get no eye contact. In Vanuatu, you get nothing but eye contact and smiles. The people here trust you. They want to be friendly. I reckon it’s a good place to live.”
Paradise in suburbia

IN A CORNER OF COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT, KIWANIANS SAVE A PLACE FOR NATURE.

Words JACK BROCKLEY Pictures JOHN E. CANAN

Fred Nugent (below) says it all started back in 1985. That’s when the city of Hagerstown, Maryland, built Eastern Boulevard as a bypass around its downtown area. The new route opened up the adjoining farm fields to development. The area boomed with new offices for doctors, architects, Realtors, and financial institutions, as well as stores and restaurants.

Yet today, at the corner of Imperial and Dynasty Drive, a footbridge carries visitors into a different world. Instead of the vroom of traffic, sparrows chirp. Instead of the beeping warning of delivery trucks backing into loading docks, the meandering Antietam Creek gurgles its way toward the Potomac River. Instead of the hum of air-conditioning units, butterflies quietly flutter among pink milkweed blossoms and purple coneflowers.

Welcome to Kiwanis Park — a park unlike any other in park-friendly Hagerstown.

“Kiwanis Park is the only city park without a playground, without ballfields and no basketball courts,” says Nugent, a Hagerstown Kiwanian.

“It’s a pretty special place.”

The origins of Kiwanis Park go back to 1996, when Nugent and fellow planning commission members worked on a strategic plan and suggested that the city find a way to provide access to Antietam...
Creek for canoes and kayaks. An economic slump postponed such plans, but Nugent and his fellow Kiwanians kept the idea alive.

“In those days, I was thinking of just going simple, with a crushed-rock path down to the water,” Nugent says. “But where we are today, it’s just amazing.”

With an improving economy, Kiwanians asked the landowner to consider donating a plot of land along the Antietam for creek access. City leaders became involved. The soil and water conservation district, the county’s historical society and the watershed alliance also joined the park-planning partnership, along with a group interested in saving the declining monarch population.

Today, the former rock path is a paved launch, supported by a soil-conservation grant and designed to withstand Antietam’s spring floods. Monarch butterflies stop to feed, spin cocoons and please camera-toting shutterbugs. Area workers eat their lunches in the pavilion on a hill and stroll through the beautiful gardens. Volunteer archaeologists assist in exploratory digs at the 18th century Saylor farmhouse. When summer temperatures climb into the 90s (Fahrenheit), paddlers cruise the

“Kiwanis Park is a valuable asset to our community, because it is mostly undeveloped and adjacent to the creek, providing many natural habitats.” SANDY SAGALKIN, PRESIDENT OF THE MONARCH ALLIANCE
creek, where overhanging tree branches provide a cooling relief in the shade. Foxes stalk through the undergrowth, deer munch on the grass and perch, bass and an occasional trout glide the gentle Antietam currents.

“The one thing that surprises me is how much wildlife you’ll see,” says Rodney Tissue, Hagerstown’s city engineer who worked with the Kiwanis club to create this natural oasis within the business park. “This is still a suburban area; it’s not out in the boonies. But I’ve seen river otters, woodpeckers, waterfowl of all kinds, including wood ducks, which are very beautiful. It’s like an interface with nature.”

Sandy Sagalkin is also impressed. As president of the Monarch Alliance, he conducts educational programs at the park’s Monarch Butterfly Waystation.

“Kiwanis Park is a valuable asset to our community, because it is mostly undeveloped and adjacent to the creek, providing — in a very small area — many natural habitats,” says Sagalkin, who also notes that the park is along the monarch butterflies’ eastern flyway.

“We don’t get large numbers of monarchs, but our area provides an important secondary migratory route,” he says. “The city of Hagerstown has shown a great interest in helping the monarchs.”

Barbara Rice coordinates volunteers to tend the gardens. It’s an easy task, she says, because people are eager to work among the milkweed, Joe-Pye weed, coreopsis, ironweed, asters, yarrow and other pollinator-friendly flowers. She recalls a time when she paused in her work to watch a woman and three small children wander around the gardens.

“As they walked down the boat ramp, the middle child — I’d say he was about three years old — he noticed several monarchs at the edge of the water, and he started running toward the water,” Rice says. “The mother somewhat panicked and caught him before he reached the creek.

“She made the children stand back and told them to just watch. They could barely contain themselves, but they were very good and did not disturb the butterflies.”

“Kiwanis Park,” she adds, “is a place of peace and beauty.”
Celebrating FATHERS

KIWANIANS IN SCHWAZ, AUSTRIA, HAVE BEEN PUTTING DADS IN THE SPOTLIGHT FOR DECADES.

Words and pictures KASEY JACKSON

Schwaz, Austria, is a picturesque city in the state of Tyrol, situated in the Lower Inn Valley at the foot of the Kellerjoch mountain. Locals speak proudly of its strong heritage — it's still known today as "silver town" because of its abundance of silver (and copper) back in the 15th and 16th centuries. You might've even seen the iconic and very photogenic Schloss Freundsberg in a photo at some point. It's a stunning castle perched atop a hill overlooking the valley below. The city looks to be straight out of a Hollywood film, but it's very real. And about 15,000 people call it home.

Every second Sunday in June since 1986, the Kiwanis Club of Schwaz has hosted its Vatertagsfest — a Father’s Day Celebration that brings together ... well, practically everyone in Schwaz and the surrounding towns has attended this festival at one point or another. "It’s a very good idea to do this every year, meeting each other and coming together," says Martin Wex, a vice-mayor and member of the Tyrolean State Parliament. “I’m so happy to have a chance to go out and have fun on Father’s Day. And the Kiwanis volunteers help so much in such a direct way. If something happens here, Kiwanis is first to help. They do such a great job.”
And for the festival, everyone involved with the club, as well as spouses and children, has a job to do. There are about 50 volunteers in bright yellow shirts doing everything from taking tickets to supervising bounce houses to frying up a local mountain cheese. Some volunteers are “runners,” delivering food orders to hungry guests. Some are serving delicious desserts, and others are pouring wine and other assorted drinks.

“Everyone comes to this celebration; it’s the place to be today.”

GERHARD GSCHWENTNER, AUSTRIA DISTRICT GOVERNOR

The Project Inntaler band plays as children paint pictures at easels and then dash off to get their own faces painted by adult volunteers. A man pushes his child on a swing. The line grows longer as guests eagerly turn in raffle tickets to see what prize they’ve won. One of the most coveted prizes? An electric bicycle. There’s laughter and chatter and lots of eating and dancing and play. It’s a perfect Sunday to celebrate not only dads, but families and friendships.
“Everyone comes to this celebration; it’s the place to be today,” says 2016-17 Austria District Governor Gerhard Gschwentner.

This annual signature project is also one of the club’s biggest fundraisers, allowing the Schwaz Kiwanians to support many great causes that assist those most in need in the community.

“We donate to the children’s cancer relief fund at the children’s hospital in Innsbruck,” says Helmut Ludwig, past club president. “People know about our club because of this fun day and for our Sacher tortes that we sell at Christmas time. We have fun doing the things we do for the community.”
“People know about our club because of this fun day and for our Sacher tortes that we sell at Christmas time.”

HELMUT LUDWIG, PAST KIWANIS CLUB PRESIDENT
Members of the Kiwanis Club of North Gwinnett, Georgia, wanted to do something out of the ordinary to recognize their BUG program students. After all, the young people had made big progress since Kiwanians re-established the initiative in 2015.

Barry Sanders has firsthand knowledge of those results. He and fellow club member Heidi Pickens joined forces to re-launch the program at Buford Academy, backed with the club’s full support.

“We wanted to recognize those kids who show the most improvement,” Sanders says. “Like a sports analogy, we weren’t looking for the most valuable player; we wanted to recognize the most improved. … It’s just basically adults recognizing the accomplishments of kids. The kids see you do that, and they do more.”

Indeed they did. Buford BUG students have shown gains in reading levels, grade-point averages and classroom engagement, with many earning repeat nominations for “most improved student” at a semester’s end.

That’s why the Kiwanians wanted to make those biannual recognition events so special.

The fun-filled proceedings are held during the school day. Fire and police departments arrange hands-on demonstrations that allow students to ride in fire trucks, try on protective gear and interact with police dogs from the K-9 unit.

Aaron Carlyle, a K-9 officer with the Gwinnett County Police Department, has participated in the recognition events for the past two years.

“I think it’s a great program for kids who are in less-fortunate circumstances, and it gives them something to strive for,” Carlyle says. “It’s something to look forward to when they go to school.”

After the interactive presentations, North Gwinnett Kiwanians and public safety officers work together to distribute certificates of honor system

SAFETY OFFICIALS BRING SPECIAL TOUCH TO BUG RECOGNITION.

Words LYDIA JOHNSON
achievement and snow cone treats to the students.

Since the program began, more than 800 second-through fifth-grade students have been recognized at 10 events, and the program has expanded to Sycamore Hills Elementary School. Looking toward the future, the Kiwanis club plans to expand BUG to the district’s 144 remaining schools.

Sanders says increased demand for the program demonstrates an important lesson.

“Recognize the success of your kids. Recognize their small victories, because the small victories become big victories.”
At the tip of Chicago’s North Shore sits Lake Bluff, a tight-knit, family-friendly community. Its park district operates the bustling Lake Bluff Preschool, known for its passionate teachers. Already successful at preparing children for elementary school, the teachers wanted to up their game by bringing technology to the classroom.

In today’s fast-changing digital age, schools are adding iPads, laptops and SMART boards, interactive whiteboards popular in more than 3 million classrooms worldwide. A step ahead of yesteryear’s overhead projectors, SMART boards allow students to trace letters, watch video presentations and more.

For several years, the preschool earmarked funds from its fall bonfire and spring fair fundraisers for purchasing four SMART boards. Even so, the school was far from the necessary US$10,000.

That’s when the Kiwanis Club of Lake Bluff-Lake Forest and its foundation stepped in.

“This project fit perfectly with our objective of ‘serving the children,’” says David Lee, president of the club’s foundation.

An integral part of the community, the Lake Bluff-Lake Forest club hosts events that not only engage families but raise funds for gifts. In addition to the club’s annual Breakfast with Santa, residents eagerly anticipate the Fourth of July pancake breakfast and hot dog cookout, which bookend a parade attracting more than 20,000 visitors.

Thanks to revenue from those events, club members helped the preschool reach its SMART board goal.

“We are just over the moon with excitement,” says Dana Hansen, Lake Bluff Preschool’s director. “We lead all other park districts and preschools with our huge technology step forward. The teachers and staff are extremely thankful for the donation from Kiwanis.”

Parents chipped in too, raising funds to purchase four laptops required to run the SMART boards. Two plaques at the preschool entrance recognize the Kiwanians’ and parents’ gifts.

Club members, though, are focused on what’s going on inside.

Says Lee, “We are excited to see the children learning with technology.”
As a master mechanic and owner of an automobile repair shop in Texas, longtime Kiwanian John Eanes knows his way around all kinds of motor vehicles. Little did he realize, however, that his expertise would one day be needed and valued in Africa.

This past year, thanks to a grant from the Galveston Kiwanis club, Eanes traveled to Kenya with Ed Sulzberger, executive director of African Childrens Haven. Based in Texas, the haven works to help orphans and young women in Africa.

While in Kenya, Eanes served as technical advisor on a project that brought a John Deere tractor to Mission With A Vision, which provides shelter and educational support to young Masai women. The teens have risked their lives fleeing their villages to avoid genital mutilation and forced marriage, both traditional practices of the Masai people. During the past 15 years, the mission has helped nearly 1,000 girls find better futures.

The mission operates a 10-acre farm to provide food for the residents and staff of its residential safe house and to generate income for operating expenses and scholarships. Until Eanes visited, all farming was done painstakingly by hand with short hoes and machetes.

But that all changed with the tractor’s much-anticipated arrival — once the young women learned how to operate it, that is.

For two weeks, Eanes trained mission residents to become heavy equipment operators, something they eagerly embraced.

“When we first met the girls, they were very shy and very reserved,” recalls Eanes. “By the time they got up on the tractor and they were plowing, it was just amazing to hear how excited they were to be able to become self-sufficient.”

Such independence is rare for these teens.

“It’s very unusual for Masai women and girls to get an education,” says Sulzberger. “There’s still a lot of resistance to it. And for young women like this to be trained as heavy equipment operators is really unique. We’re told that they’re probably the first Masai women ever to be certified.”

Adds Eanes, “It’s like they came alive as soon as they were able to start plowing. They were just so excited that they would be able to go to other farmers’ fields and plow for them and make money and make themselves better every time they do it.”
Surprising results
AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO STUDENT ATTENDANCE SCORES BIG.

Words WENDY ROSE GOULD

When Lindberg Elementary School fifth-graders attended their Missouri school on a routine January day, they had no idea what was in store. To their glee, a fleet of Missouri Western State University basketball players, cheerleaders and the Griffon mascot unexpectedly showed up to hang out with the students and join them for pizza. The surprise event took place as part of the Saint Joseph Kiwanis club’s Kiwanis Attendance Challenge, also known as KATCH.

Shortly after the beginning of the school year, the Kiwanians approached Lindbergh Elementary teacher Kaleb Johnson to brainstorm ways they could work together to foster greater classroom engagement, improve grades and boost attendance.

“There’s a district initiative to improve attendance numbers,” explains Johnson. “Lindbergh’s attendance levels are even lower than some of the other area schools, so it’s especially important for us. We know that attendance affects grades, and we wanted to work on improving both.”

Together, they came up with the idea to hold two “surprise days” per month. These can be as straightforward as Kiwanis members and students playing games or as complex as inviting the university’s athletic squad to hang out. Whatever the surprise, students interact with role models in a way that’s fun and engaging. They’re also more inspired to attend school to ensure they don’t miss out on any excitement.

Since the program’s launch, the majority of students have met the 90 percent attendance goal, and grades are up. The students eagerly await the Kiwanians’ next visit and get excited when members arrive.

To ensure the program’s longevity, the Kiwanis club has worked KATCH into its budget, and members also use the club’s “Happy Dollars” to help.

“Happy Dollars is money given voluntarily by members in honor of an event, family member or just to rib a fellow Kiwanian,” explains club President Cathie Wayman. “We use this money to fund various requests from the community.”

The Kiwanians know, however, that the human component is every bit as crucial as the funding.

“It’s important to be present and to be role models for some of these students who don’t necessarily have those positive role models,” says Kiwanian Colleen Kowich.

Adds Wayman, “We feel the KATCH program gives all the children an achievable goal to strive to attend classes and with that improve their grades. We think we found the sweet spot for all involved.”
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Imagine a child being picked up from school and suddenly discovering that she’s going to a new foster home. As often as not, she won’t have the chance to return to her last home to get her clothes, her books or even her favorite stuffed animal.

Barb Ritter of the Kiwanis Club of Charlottesville, Virginia, empathized with how lonely such a child would feel. So she decided to take action.

“I saw the Sweet Dream in a Bag (bedding) project at a Kiwanis district meeting, and I was determined to bring it to Charlottesville,” explains Ritter. “Establishing the Kiwanis Club of Charlottesville Foundation gave us the perfect vehicle for getting support.”

Through its Kiwanis Cozy Comforts Kits, the Charlottesville club delivers backpacks to children moving into new foster homes. The kits are filled with age-appropriate items to soothe the young transfers: a nightlight, books, a blanket, personal care items and a stuffed animal or journal.

Ritter coordinates the collection of no-sew blankets for every bag. “No sewing skill is required, so it’s a way for our club members to really put their hands on the project,” says Heather Mott, who joined Ritter as co-chair nearly two years ago. “Every member is asked to participate, and members of the community are encouraged to make the blankets too.”

Mott is working to expand the program through partnerships. The club has coordinated deliveries with three foster-care organizations and is poised to make another connection. Soon, children arriving at a domestic-abuse shelter will be greeted with a Cozy Comforts bag too.

To support the program, the club has held a few fundraisers and carefully watches expenses, buying in bulk and accepting clean used books. Its long-term plan is to safeguard the program’s capacity and sustainability.

“These children are coming in and out of foster homes all the time,” Mott says, “and I think it’s valuable to have those bags always on hand when they arrive to show them they’re loved.”
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**Hilton.** Activate the Fast Track to Gold Status program, which helps members earn the prestigious gold status four times faster.

Learn more about each program at [kiwanis.org/marketplace](http://kiwanis.org/marketplace).
When Louisiana architect Jim Firmin traveled to China more than two decades ago, he had no idea he’d embarked on a journey of hope that would touch the lives of countless families.

In 1997, a chance meeting with a Chinese family struggling to pay for their children’s education prompted Firmin to help with those expenses. Over the next four years, he and his wife, Beijing-native Yanming, helped more than two dozen rural families send their sons and daughters to school in Gubeikou, a village in the rugged mountains north of Beijing, in the shadows of the Great Wall of China.

Seeing the need was great, the couple also wanted to provide Gubeikou’s families with support for medical treatment for their children. But how?

Firmin’s colleague, Angela Kraemer, connected him with the East St Mary Parish Kiwanis club in Morgan City, Louisiana, where she was a member.

“Kiwanis,” Firmin says, “has been a godsend.”

In 2016, for example, the club paid the medical costs for a two-year-old girl who overturned a pot of boiling water, scalding her entire body.

“We just received an update on this little girl,” says Firmin.

“She’s making progress but still has a way to go. She’s a cute little girl who hopefully has a big future ahead of her.”

A young teen, Ying Zhang, was born with a leg deformity so severe that she couldn’t walk. A first surgery several years ago left her family financially strapped. So in 2015, the club funded a second surgery, which made it possible for the young girl to walk (albeit slowly) and attend school.

In a heartfelt letter to Kraemer and her fellow Kiwanians, Ying Zhang wrote (as translated by Yanming), “I really am lucky to get help from people like you. For them and for you, thanks from my heart. You give me hope in my life, light and warmth in my life. Best wishes for your life, and dreams come true.”

For Firmin, however, translation is never a necessity.

“I only speak a word or two of Chinese, and the families speak very little English,” he says. “But the thankfulness and joy these families show in their gestures and smiles go far beyond mere words.”
Birthdays

THESE CLUBS CELEBRATE 100TH, 75TH, 50TH AND 25TH ANNIVERSARIES THIS JULY AND AUGUST.

100TH — 1918
Easton, Pennsylvania, July 18

75TH — 1943
Lakewood, Dallas, Texas, July 28

50TH — 1968
Bronx Shore, New York, July 16
Sequoia, Visalia, California, August 7
Rotterdam, Netherlands, August 13
Lu Chou, Taipei Hsien, Taiwan, August 22

25TH — 1993
Tienen Primus Inter Pares, Belgium, July 6
Lake Norman, North Carolina, July 21
Marco Island, Florida, July 21
Steilacoom, Washington, July 22
Bergamo Orobico, Italy, July 26
Oviedo-Winter Springs, Florida, August 5
Canicatti, Italy, August 10
Dillsburg Area, Pennsylvania, August 23
Valkenburg, Netherlands, August 26
Kilcberg-Rüsslikon, Switzerland, August 31

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Calm, cool cold-caller

JUANITA EDWARDS FINDS HER KNACK FOR THE ASK.

Words JACk BROCKLEY

Juanita Edwards was tossed into the fire. As governor of the Georgia District, she joined a team to open a club in Johns Creek, thinking she’d watch and learn recruiting tips. Instead, she was put directly in the spotlight, teamed with Jim Rochford.

“I had this little two-seater car, and here’s me and the president of Kiwanis International driving around Johns Creek,” she recalls.

Cold-calling, she admits, made her uncomfortable, but she quickly adjusted to the art of what President Rochford calls “the ask.”

“When that first person says yes and you go to the next one and get another yes, you get really excited,” she says. “In two days, with help from the people of the Georgia District, we built that club in Johns Creek.”

More recently, Edwards has helped open clubs in the Orlando, Florida, area as well as the Chatham County and Gilmer County Kiwanis clubs in Georgia.

She’s now confident with the “nuts and bolts of selling the organization,” but she also realizes the value of teamwork.

“If at all possible,” she recommends, “find someone who has experience to help you get beyond the fear of cold-calling. When you learn how to say what you want to say, you’ll start seeing results.”

JUANITA EDWARDS
KIWANIS CLUB OF DALTON, GEORGIA

ALL-STARS

MEMBER SPONSOR
EMILIA AYALA
UPPER KEYS, KEY LARGO, FLORIDA

Ayala set records raising money for The Eliminate Project in Florida. Now, she’s a one-person machine inviting new members all over Latin America.

GOVERNOR
MARY JO BRUBAKER
CAROLINAS

The Carolinas District now has opened five clubs, and Brubaker — with support from her husband, Dan — was involved personally in most of them.

Read about all of the all-stars at kiwanis.org/roar.

CLUB OPENER
ROGENA B. WOODS MITCHELL
PASCAGOULA, MISSISSIPPI

Lieutenant Governor Woods Mitchell was the main organizer of an Eye of the Tiger effort, which resulted in three new clubs in three days.

STAFF
RENÉ BOOKER
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

If you have any questions on the administrative side of membership, Booker is your go-to person at 3636 Woodview Trace.
TOP 5 DISTRICTS FOR CLUBS OPENED

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TOP 5 DISTRICTS FOR MEMBERS ADDED

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TOP 5 INDIVIDUAL CLUB OPENERS

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TOP 5 INDIVIDUAL NEW-MEMBER SPONSORS

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THE FORMULA: Corporate memberships

Corporate memberships are a terrific way to connect your club with community leaders. And they’re easy to implement. An organization joins your club just as an individual would — through a representative. That person attends the meetings and gets involved in projects, just as individual members do. If the representative changes jobs, the organization simply appoints a new representative. This creates consistency between your club and the organization, and it establishes long-term partnerships. For more information, visit kiwanis.org/corporatememberships.

KEEPING SCORE

For his tenure as the 2017-18 Kiwanis International president, Jim Rochford is focusing on new-club opening. In support of this year-long initiative, each issue of Kiwanis magazine will list the top club openers by district, individual and sponsor. Keep an eye on future issues for a progress update on new-club openings.

* Numbers current as of April 12, 2018
NEWS  What’s happening

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROJECTS

Back to school is a popular time to conduct much-needed service projects. Here are three ideas to think about:

1. Supplies. Fill backpacks with the classroom supply list. Don’t forget to find out what teachers need too. Visit: kiwanis.org/warehouse.

2. Boost your K-Kids enthusiasm with a kit for Read & Lead, a program sponsored by Penguin Random House. Kits start at US$55 and will help your K-Kid students become better readers and leaders in your community. Learn more: kiwanis.org/read&lead.


HUMAN SCRABBLE

The 2018 Kiwanis International and U.S. Army Speakers Tour continues with local Army representatives meeting with Kiwanis clubs to discuss joint efforts for community-service projects, the Army’s resources for youth as well as the shared values between the organizations.

As part of the speakers tour, the Army participated in Key Club district conventions in Georgia, Pacific Northwest and Texas-Oklahoma. During the conventions, soldiers hosted a leadership and team-building workshop where groups participated in a “human scrabble.” During the activity, students had to quickly determine a collective approach to take on a series of Scrabble-inspired word-construction challenges, complete with a spirit of healthy competition. The exercise highlighted the foundations of teamwork, critical thinking, problem-solving and adapting to a rapidly-changing environment, which are all essential skills for soldiers in the Army. Through continued efforts and collaboration, Kiwanis and the U.S. Army can demystify the career and educational opportunities available to young people through the Army and help determine the right post-secondary opportunity for them. Learn more: kiwanis.org/2018scrabble.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Your Kiwanis membership just keeps giving more. Check out these newest perks:

• Hilton: With Hilton Honors, Kiwanians can reach elite Gold status four times faster with the Fast Track to Gold program. Enjoy instant benefits and more at over 5,300 hotels in 106 countries and territories. Go to: Kiwanis.org/Hilton.

• Office Depot: U.S. members are given online access to office supplies and services for all members of the Kiwanis family. Discounts range from 10 to 50 percent. More information: kiwanis.org/officedepot.
shoot or excursion” and though it sounds like I’m dodging the question, I can’t really answer because they are all so awesome in their very different ways.

Of course, I love it when the magazine comes out, and I hear from the featured Scouts that they liked my work. However, the greatest compliment is when toward the end of a trip, some Scouts have told me they were nervous at the beginning about “having the guy from National” come along, but that I fit in well with the excursion, they like my bad jokes and now they feel like I’m part of their troop or crew. That is the absolute best!

Why did you decide to work with Boy Scouts?

I sort of stumbled into an opportunity to freelance for Boys’ Life magazine shortly after leaving my position as chief photographer for the Jackson Hole News in Wyoming. They would have one or two assignments for me every year for 14 years, mostly involving backpacking, camping, climbing, etc., so it’s no surprise they quickly became my favorite client. When the position of director of photography for the magazine division opened, I jumped on it with both feet and applied. Now I get to do my favorite type of work full-time. Being hired felt like winning the lottery! I enjoy the work and the travel, but I relish all the great people I get to meet, many with whom I’ve stayed in contact and am privileged to call friends. I really do have the greatest job ever.

— Continued from page 17

Paul Fredrick

NEW CLUB PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY?

Get the knowledge you need before you begin—with online education.

Go to Kiwanis.org/CLE.
In this issue of Kiwanis magazine, we celebrate fathers and Boy Scouts. We were inspired by these stories and decided to design a set of imaginary patches that celebrate families learning and growing together. We hope they motivate you to get out there and spend time with your family. Make memories and enjoy the fresh air. What better way can you think of for families to grow in love than to spend valuable time together?

Respectful ear
Listening is an art. Give your undivided attention to children and hear their perspective, without interruption.

Responsible play
Play with dolls or action figures with your kids. Show them how they can take care of one another and help friends in need.

Tree reading
Read a fun book with kids under your favorite tree. Talk about what you see around you. Appreciate nature.

Role model mirrors
Behave in the way you’d like your children and those around you to behave. Remember that they mirror your actions.

Take a hike, family
Turn off your phones and get outside. A walk in nature is good for everyone’s mental and physical health.

Positive laughter
The world isn’t always sunshine and roses. Positive attitudes and laughter help anxiety and general well-being.

Humble bumble
Everyone makes mistakes, so admit yours aloud. Then make sure to thank the people who have helped you along the way.

Healthy habits
Have a sweet tooth? Set a good example. Eating a healthy snack can be more satisfying than eating one with tons of sugar.

Fix together
Brainstorm different ways to fix something. Then try different solutions. If all else fails, consult the Internet.
YOU’RE ALWAYS A WINNER AT A KIWANIS CONVENTION

103rd ANNUAL KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
JUNE 28-JULY 1, 2018
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

KIWANIS.ORG/CONVENTION
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.

READ KIWANIS MAGAZINE ONLINE
Enjoy the inspiring stories you love from Kiwanis magazine plus added content, slide shows and video.

Visit kiwanismagazine.org to read about great Kiwanis projects, and then share those stories and photos via social media buttons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram found right on the page. It's that easy.

When you read something you love, pass it on.
#kidsneedkiwanis #kiwanis