A FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY, KIWANIAN USES HIS BARBERSHOP TO BUILD COMMUNITY AND HELP AREA KIDS.
When you love what you do, it shows. It shines in everything you accomplish. It rings out in everything you say. It’s the kind of passion that people want to share. So make your love for Kiwanis an inspiration to fellow club members and a reason for nonmembers to join. It all starts with what’s in your heart.

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Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

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When my youngest daughter was a sophomore in college, she had to write a marketing paper about one word that described an organization. She asked me about Kiwanis. I thought about it and responded with “connection.”

Kiwanis gives us a great opportunity to connect in three ways. Our first connection is to our most noble cause, serving the children of the world. Whether we’re filling backpacks with school supplies or food, helping with immunization clinics, conducting reading programs or helping with our Service Leadership Programs, we have the opportunity to help children on a daily basis. When we connect with our heart and our mind we have the ultimate connection.

The second connection is to our clubs and members. Yes, this is where we improve our world one child and one community at a time. We connect with each member of our club and form a new Kiwanis family, working side-by-side to improve our communities for our kids. We love, share and live as Kiwanians, looking for ways to help, support and grow our clubs by inviting others to join us, both as members and as partners. And we open new clubs in new communities to grow our connection even stronger.

The third connection is to our global Kiwanis family. We’re so much more than 8,000 adult clubs in more than 80 countries and nations. Connected with hundreds of thousands of youth through our Service Leadership Programs, we are powerful supporters of kids and communities. We’ve battled iodine deficiency disorders and won. Now, we’re defeating maternal and neonatal tetanus. Together, we’re creating a worldwide movement of hope and help.

What connections will you make today to ensure that all children are happy, healthy, safe and loved?

One of the most enjoyable aspects of my job is that I get to see and hear about great Kiwanis service programs and club activities. I like to visit meetings, either as a speaker or as a guest. Either way, I walk away impressed by Kiwanians’ passion for making a difference.

At two recent visits, each club claimed to be the best club in the organization. Obviously, we can’t have two “best” clubs.

The Kiwanis Club of Ross Island Earlyrisers in Portland, Oregon, boasts of being “The Best Club on the Planet!” The meeting had great food (after all, it was a breakfast meeting at an IHOP), an informative program, a long list of activities and an impressive group of active members. I felt very welcome. Guests walking through that club’s door must surely be impressed.

A few weeks later, I spoke at a membership round-up for the 112-member Kiwanis Club of Evansville-Green River, Indiana. Three new members were inducted that morning, and another was recognized for 13 years of service to a rehabilitation center. More than a dozen guests were introduced to Kiwanis and invited to join this club. And, we were told, this was “the best club in Evansville, the best club in Indiana and the best club in Kiwanis International.” The room was full, the spirit among members was readily apparent, and everyone knew this club makes a difference.

If I had a Top Ten Club award to present, these two clubs would make my list.

If you think you have a “Best Kiwanis Club in the World,” I would love to hear from you and why. I’ll share the results of this less-than-scientific poll in some future Kiwanis magazine issue. I hope we get some fun stories. Email me yours at ssoderstrom@kiwanis.org.
And don’t forget to buy peanuts for our servicemen and women!

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Remember, payment is due after your club’s fundraiser.

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WHAT’S HAPPENING
TRENDS, TIPS, FACTS AND FIGURES FROM KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

15 SECONDS TO FAME
Get attention for your club by posting 15-, 30- and 60-second videos on your club or personal website and social media channels. Created for the “Kids Need Kiwanis” brand campaign, the videos show that the Kiwanis family takes its service work seriously but that we also know how to have fun. You’ll find them—and more promotional tools—at kiwanis.org/brand.

STORYTELLING TIPS
There are three things to remember when sharing your club’s achievements for possible use in Kiwanis magazine and other Kiwanis International publications:

1. Great, professional quality photos tell your story best. To ensure your images can be used in print and online, set your camera at its highest settings.

2. Your story’s subject should inspire members worldwide. (You do not need to write the story; details will do.)

3. Encourage members to wear Kiwanis-branded attire. (Visit kiwanis.org/store.)

Submit your service, fundraising or membership success story ideas to shareyourstory@kiwanis.org.
SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOLS
Contact your local schools and find out how you can help make sure their supplies needs are covered. Shop for discounted school supplies through Kiwanis Warehouse at kiwanis.dollardays.com/promo/back_to_school_store.

A WAREHOUSE OF BENEFITS
Kiwanis Marketplace offers exclusive member benefits for members and their spouses, including travel, insurance, a Kiwanis affinity credit card and home protection services. Discounted rates are available. Learn more at kiwanis.org/marketplace.

TRAVEL IN 2018
Kiwanis Travel has added new destinations to its program offerings, including a land journey to Greece, priced at under US$2,000 per person. Learn more at kiwanis.org/travel.

REPORTING FROM PARIS
The 102nd Annual Kiwanis International Convention was held after the press deadline of this August 2017 Kiwanis magazine; so the House of Delegates’ decisions and convention coverage will appear in the September issue. But you can get the news now at facebook.com/kiwanis or online at kiwanis.org/convention/business.
HOST A PLAY DAY

For the past 14 years, Nickelodeon’s Worldwide Day of Play (WWDoP) has devoted an entire day to the celebration of physical fitness and active play. As part of the company’s outreach efforts to make the world a more playful place and commitment to health and wellness, Nickelodeon takes its programming off the air to reinforce one simple message: Get up, get out and go play.

This year’s WWDoP will be celebrated across Nick platforms on September 30. Nickelodeon invites Kiwanis clubs to host a Worldwide Day of Play event in their communities. If you register on day-of-play.com, Nick will acknowledge your club on air when the network resumes its broadcasts.

AWARD FOR PLAY

The Mankato, Minnesota, Kiwanis Club has won the 2017 Legacy of Play Contest, receiving US$25,000 in equipment for an inclusive playground. The contest is sponsored by Kiwanis International and Landscape Structures. “Kids need Kiwanis, and this playground will give children of all abilities the opportunity to play together,” says Kiwanis International President Jane Erickson.

MISSING MAGAZINES

If someone in your club is not receiving their Kiwanis magazine, email their name and address to magazine@kiwanis.org. Generally, every member of English-speaking clubs in North America should receive the magazine.
POLICY UPDATES
The Kiwanis International Board revised policies to:

- Provide that Kiwanis International Board members will not nominate or second any candidate for a contested election at any level of the organization.
- Adjust the background check requirements related to the chartering of Service Leadership Program clubs.

For complete wording of these policy updates, visit kiwanis.org/2017policies.

ROTC SCHOLARSHIPS
If you’re a Key Club advisor or you volunteer with other young people planning for college, you know the quest for scholarships is a high priority. Yet students might overlook opportunities with the U.S. Army. Each year, the Army ROTC invests US$280 million annually in full-tuition scholarships at an average of around $100,000 each, including money for books and supplies and an annual monthly stipend.

Successful applicants will demonstrate academic excellence, physical fitness and leadership and be expected to serve with the Army in some capacity for eight years post-graduation. That doesn’t necessarily mean active duty; some recipients choose to enter the Army Reserve or the National Guard. For more information, visit goarmy.com/rotc/scholarships.html.

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Paul Fredrick
In 2013, Kiwanis decided to focus on strengthening existing Kiwanis communities and to introduce its brand of child- and youth-focused service to new areas. The Formula was born.

The member-led, multi-year initiative focuses on Kiwanis members, investing in the Kiwanis experience and ultimately strengthening membership. It's an opportunity for Kiwanians like you to shape the future of their clubs and the service that impacts their communities.

To coordinate this initiative, The Formula is led by three members as regional leaders: Americas Chair Jim Dooley, Europe Chair Robert Jenefsky and Asia-Pacific Chair Tadao Oda.

Americas Chair, Jim Dooley
Jim Dooley, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Peoria, Illinois, started his Formula service as a club opener. He went on to serve as the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District membership committee's vice chair and chair.

“The Formula benefits Kiwanis greatly by meeting the vital need for membership strengthening and new-club opening, which allows Kiwanis to better serve children,” Dooley says. “More members mean more service, which is a critical element for the children in our communities. Each new Kiwanian brings new talents and fresh ideas.

“The Formula provides a vehicle for making Kiwanis more viable.”

Europe Chair, Robert Jenefsky
A member of the Kiwanis Club of Genève Métropole, Switzerland, Robert Jenefsky accepted the appointment as chair of the European Committee on Growth in 2013-14. A year later, the group's name changed to the “KI-EF Committee on The Formula” to better reflect Europe's participation in Kiwanis' global membership initiative.

“The Formula generates awareness, commitment and action at all levels of Kiwanis worldwide towards strengthening and developing our organization in order to ensure its future,” Jenefsky says. “Since the beginning of The Formula, worldwide membership numbers have been growing again, and I’m confident they will continue to do so as long as we maintain our commitment to The Formula.”

Asia Pacific Chair, Tadao Oda
At the 2013 convention, Kiwanis International launched the Campaign For Growth. At the time, Sendai, Japan Kiwanian Tadao Oda was Kiwanis Asia-Pacific chair-designate and volunteered to serve as chair of the campaign’s ASPAC Region, a position which now is called ASPAC Region Formula chair.

“The Asia-Pacific region had been growing prior to The Formula starting,” Oda says. “Thanks to The Formula, however, it began to grow steadily and rapidly. Each district and nation in ASPAC is motivated to share Kiwanis with new communities and strengthen existing clubs.

“Through my experience on the Kiwanis International and ASPAC boards, I thought I came to know Kiwanis much better, and I could be of service regarding The Formula.

“The Formula campaign in Asia needed to be adapted to the diversity in language and culture,” he adds.

With a great leadership team in place, The Formula looks to strengthening Kiwanis over the next year and a half.

Read more about The Formula chairs at kiwanis.org/theformula/2017chairs.
Introducing the advantages of Club Resources. It’s a convenient place to go for products and services from Kiwanis partners—at discounts exclusive to Kiwanis clubs.

Explore:
• The buying power of Kiwanis Warehouse.
• The website and communications tools of Portalbuzz.
• The patriotic fundraising programs of Atlas Flags.

kiwanis.org/club-resources
A thick Saturday morning fog rolls off the Kentucky River as the sweet smell of fermenting bourbon fills the air. It’s just after 7 a.m. in Frankfort, Kentucky, a stone’s throw from the famed Buffalo Trace Distillery, and the buzz of a barber’s clippers is already running steady.

“For me, a haircut is more than just a haircut,” says master barber and Kiwanis member Moe Shands. “It’s a way of life. If you give someone a good haircut, it makes them feel good about themselves. A man can come in here and be down and out, get a new haircut and change his whole persona.”

Shands, whose small frame is overshadowed by a large grin and boisterous personality, has been a barber in the community for more than 10 years. He has watched from behind his barber chair as boys have grown into young men, looking to be a role model to each that has taken a seat.

Clientele, like Ben Blackburn, 20, have been coming to Moe Shands Barber Shop for haircuts since they were young teens. “He’s like family for real. It’s more than just getting a haircut,” Blackburn says.
Over the years, Blackburn has had his own struggles at times, but Shands’ barbershop has always been a positive environment.

“I’ve been coming since I was 12, and I’ve been getting in a lot of trouble in my life,” Blackburn says. “But he’s always been a positive role model for me. Sometimes I listen, sometimes I don’t, but he’s always right.”

Around the barbershop there’s a common catchphrase: “Come in and get your head right.”

For young men like Blackburn, this phrase often has a double meaning.

“That’s equal. He gets my hair right just as much as he gets my head right,” he says.

Throughout the community, Shands feels there’s a shortage of black male and other male role models for the youth. He was approached in 2015 by Frankfort Kiwanis member Ed Poe, who noticed Shands’ positive influence on the shop’s customers and invited the him to a meeting.

“I went to three Kiwanis meetings, and I could tell they weren’t just talking it. They were doing it,” Shands says. “Dealing with the youth that I cut is such a big part of who I am. I feel like I can inspire them to be more than what they see.”

“Dealing with the youth that I cut is such a big part of who I am. I feel like I can inspire them to be more than what they see.”
Shands grew up one of seven children on a small farm in Nicholasville, Kentucky. His mother and stepfather, as well as his father, instilled discipline, waking Moe and his siblings at 5 a.m. for breakfast before sending them to help neighbors with their hay, cattle and tobacco.

“Sharing is caring. That’s what Kiwanis means,” Shands says. “I can still remember those big breakfasts and lunches that (the neighbors) would make for all of us when we’d help them. It was cool as a kid, knowing you were out working for people, but they were taking care of you at the same time.”

He may have learned the value of hard work from the farm, but he learned the art of cutting hair from his cousin, Gary Overstreet.

“He used to have a line of kids in...
“If you put hard work in, you can be successful at anything you want in life.”

the kitchen,” Shands says. “He was a big role model, not just for me, but the generations ahead of me.”

Overstreet, an active Army serviceman and father of four, was lost to a motorcycle accident when Shands was just 15. The elder cousin’s life left lasting imprints on Moe, who later would spend six years in the U.S. Marines and eventually take up the clippers full-time. Shands still wears a camo barbers bib today in support of servicemen.

“I’m military every day,” Shands says. “It gave me the ethic to know that I can adapt and overcome almost any situation. I really try to put that in kids. Even when you have obstacles in your way, everything can be overcome.”

For Shands, foundation is key. “I got here because I worked hard and my parents put that foundation in me. Foundation is religion and your morals. Your belief in what is right,” Shands says. “If you put hard work in, you can be successful at anything you want in life.”

He often puts in 12-hour work days in his shop, rarely stopping to take a break from a constant stream of customers. He gives thanks to God and his wife of
“I got here because I worked hard and my parents put that foundation in me. Foundation is religion and your morals. Your belief in what is right.”
20 years, Mia Shands, for her support.

“She’s the one that inspired me to go to barber school,” he says. “She’s helped me make my name bigger than I ever thought it would be.”

Much like what Shands saw in his first Kiwanis club meetings, he looks to walk the walk to support the ethics he imparts to his clients—from giving marriage advice to young men like Willie Smither, who sat for a cut the day before his wedding, to instilling work ethic among those who have yet to think that far ahead.

“What can I do for you today, little man?” Shands asks as T.J. Shuck climbs up into the chair. “How are you paying for this? Do you have a job?”

“My mom’s paying for it. I don’t have a job,” the eight-year-old responds with confusion. “Well, I guess you better start doing some chores,” says Shands.
For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear. Then you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you,
Structures were still smoldering this past November, after the most devastating wildfires in Gatlinburg, Tennessee’s history, when David Coulter, president of the nearby Sevierville Kiwanis Club, began receiving calls and emails. Coulter’s club serves Gatlinburg residents, hundreds of whom were now homeless, and Kiwanians from across the country wanted to help. What, members asked, could they do?

Mark Ross, chief professional officer of the Boys & Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains, saw the fire’s impact firsthand. Two of his employees lost everything, as did 21 other families that had children (42 in all) enrolled in Boys & Girls Club programming. They needed help to purchase food, clothes, toiletries—life’s basic necessities. Coulter contacted Ross, and the Kiwanis Wildfire Relief Fund was born.

In the fall of 2016, the Chimney Tops’ 2 wild fires, right, forced some 14,000 residents to evacuate. More than 420 households in Sevier County would be left homeless.

At left, Hannah Dove stands in front of the ruins of her family’s home.

Photo credit: Reuters
It’s not easy to reach the summit of Chimney Tops Trail in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a few miles south of Gatlinburg. Novice hikers, lured by the promise of spectacular views, move with relative ease for the first mile. Over the second half of the journey, however, the trail elevates rapidly—more than 960 feet over a one-mile stretch containing vertical cliffs and narrow rock ledges—and many would-be mountaineers give up before reaching the top.

On Wednesday, November 23, 2016, two teens completed the journey. And somewhere near the top, authorities allege, the boys purposely tossed lit matches onto land parched by a months-long drought. By 5:20 p.m., when firefighters first spotted the blaze, flames had consumed about three acres.

The fire spread slowly, at first. And because Chimney Tops Trail climbs so steeply, the national park’s fire managers decided, for firefighters’ safety, to monitor the burn and contain it through natural barriers. By Saturday, the fire had increased to eight acres, and analysts predicted low growth as flames neared the containment boundaries. On Sunday afternoon, Chinook Type 1 helicopters began dropping water on the fire.

In Gatlinburg, the long Thanksgiving weekend had ended, and on Monday, November 28, residents resumed their workday schedules. People knew about the fire at Chimney Tops—the smoke could be seen easily. But it hadn’t been a pressing concern.

“It really wasn’t communicated, the extent of the fire,” says Melissa Dove, area director for the Boys & Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains and a member of the Sevierville Kiwanis Club.

They did, however, notice the increasing winds. An approaching storm front from the south pushed gusts of up to 32 mph toward Gatlinburg, fueling the Chimney Tops flames and tossing aloft burning ash. Several miles away, just south of Gatlinburg, that ash sparked another fire. And still the winds continued to grow.

On Monday afternoon, Dove, her father, and her daughters, Hannah, 17, and Grace, then 9, were driving home in the family’s SUV along what locals call The Spur, a road between Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg. Wind gusts shook the vehicle, and smoke obscured their vision. Then they saw the approaching flames.

“I called our director of operations,” Dove recalls, “and said, ‘This fire is closer than we realized.’”

Terry Parton, a repair specialist for commercial washers and dryers, was returning from work. Terry Parton, right, stands by the stone foundation that once supported his house. He plans to use the salvaged stone as he rebuilds on the property, which has been in his family for decades. The remains of an SUV, left, show the fire’s destructive power.
from a day trip to Nashville. Driving into Gatlinburg on The Spur, hampered by heavy smoke, he dodged fallen limbs and debris blown into the road from the fierce wind gusts, now reaching up to 49 mph. About 6:45 p.m., he pulled into the drive of the 3,500-square-foot, two-story mountainside home he shared full time with his widowed mother and part-time with his son Layne, then 9. He went into his backyard, where he could see the glow of Gatlinburg’s lights far below.

“I went back inside, and I grabbed a snack, poured my tea, fed the dog. I decided to go into the backyard again. It was starting to get a little more smoky, and a little bit more smoky, that whole progression. By 7 p.m., there were quarter-size embers floating above my head. And that’s when I decided it was time to go.”

What Dove and Parton experienced next seemed more like a harrowing scene from a movie than real life. At the time, Dove wasn’t thinking about the well-being of her property, a two-story, three-bedroom mountain-top home. She was focused on getting her mother safely out of the house and down the mountain. But as flames pushed over the slopes and trees tumbled across the main road leading to her neighborhood, police shut down access.

Determined, she called a friend, Mike Graves, who owned a Jeep with a winch. He rushed to meet Dove and led their two-vehicle procession to a back road. As they began to climb, thick smoke filled the air. Flames licked at the road on either side.

Several times, Graves jumped from the Jeep with a chain saw to cut through fallen trees blocking the road and move them aside. At one point, a tree tumbled onto Dove’s SUV, knocking out the front passenger window. After 30 minutes, Dove’s party had traveled less than a mile.

When they finally reached Dove’s house, they tossed in a few hastily assembled supplies and, with her mother safely aboard, began the equally horrifying drive down. Winds now gusted at nearly 80 mph. More fallen trees, more smoke, more flames surrounded them. In the midst of the horror, Hannah read to Grace, wanting to distract her from the flames and the fear.

Meanwhile, Parton and his mother were making their own rapid escape. His mother left in her own truck. Parton grabbed an overnight bag along with some clothes and toys for his son. Making his way down the mountain, he encountered blazing hot spots on either side. He wasn’t unfamiliar with the scene; for six years, he served as a firefighter in Georgia.

“(Fire) is so unpredictable,” he says, “especially in those high winds. … I knew if it

Terry Parton and his son Layne, left, sift through charred items left behind by the fire. “I’ve got to move forward for my son,” he says, “and show him that we’re going to make it, no matter what.”
was over here, in a hundred yards it could be opposite you in just the blink of an eye. And there’s nothing you can do about it.”

Near the bottom of the mountain, Parton passed a small wedding chapel.

“It was fully engulfed. It didn’t have a roof left. And the propane tank beside it was shooting flames about 20 feet in the air. You could feel the heat through the windows in the truck.”

Dove, Parton and their loved ones made it safely off the mountain. Ross of the Boys & Girls Club arranged for Dove’s family to stay at a hotel. Parton and his mother headed for the Pigeon Forge motel where his girlfriend works as general manager.

Late Monday night, rain began to fall in Gatlinburg, and winds died down. Rain returned on Wednesday, a drenching that soaked the area. But the damage was done.

What would be known as the Chimney Tops 2 fire had destroyed 17,140 acres while devouring more than 2,400 structures, killing 14 people and injuring more than 170.

“The Sevierville area is no stranger to wildfires,” says Michele Steinberg, wildfire division manager for the (US) National Fire Protection Association, “(but) the building destruction and loss of life is unprecedented in Tennessee for a wildfire.”

Dove’s description: “It was literally like a bomb went off in the city.”

On Tuesday, Graves drove Dove back up the mountain, again taking a back road to avoid official blockades. At one point, the road became impassable, so they hiked the rest of the way. Dove held out hope that her neighborhood, her home, had been spared. Until they arrived on her street.

“The entire road was destroyed,” she says. “There was nothing left of my house but the foundation and chimney.”

Authorities didn’t permit Parton to return to his home for four days, although his step-brother, who worked a half mile from the property, had warned him it hadn’t survived. That didn’t lessen the impact of seeing it for himself.

“You start trying to figure out what your plan is and the direction you’ve got to go,” he says. “But you’re standing in the middle of your house, and there’s nothing. Absolutely nothing but ashes, and the brick, and the steel. That’s it.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

Gatlinburg, left, has resumed its daily buzz against a backdrop of scorched hillside. Melissa Dove, right, stands on what remains of her land. “I’m still processing it,” she says. “You just focus on one thing at a time.”
A wave of hope

AFTER SUFFERING THREE DISASTERS IN ONE, KIWANIS JAPAN TARGETS ONE KEY AREA OF NEED: EDUCATION.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JACK BROCKLEY

At 15 years old, Souta Sasaki was moving on. Tomorrow, March 12, 2011, he’d graduate from Shizugawa Middle School. He would attend Kesennuma High School and then, university. But that’s about as far as his plans went.

“I was in middle school,” he says. “I wasn’t thinking that far ahead. I just knew I wanted to come back home. Why?

“Because I love my town.”

At 2:46 in the afternoon on March 11, 2011, Sasaki sat at his desk inside the hilltop school. With commencement scheduled the next day, he and his classmates were sorting papers, which
“I thought my mother probably had died. She was a kindergarten teacher at a nearby school that was close to the shore. I thought my father would be safe, because his school was farther away.”

their teacher had just handed out. About 50 miles to the east, 18 miles beneath the surface of the Pacific Ocean, a massive tectonic plate slipped. The land surface on sections of Honshu island fell. Earth’s axis shifted. NASA calculated that the shift may have shortened the length of each day by about 1.8 microsecond.

The Great East Japan Earthquake is one of the most powerful to hit Japan. It spawned waves, some of which reached nearly 100 feet, which caused a nuclear meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. Collectively, the three-part disaster is commonly called 3.11. According to the Japan National Police Agency, more than 15,000 people died. More than 2,500 remain missing. 3.11 changed the way Japan looks at and prepares for earthquakes and tsunamis.

It also disrupted the educational routine for area students. And that is why and how Souta Sasaki and Kiwanis met.

Within minutes of the quake, sirens swept back and forth across the port, and Miki Endo’s calm, strong voice echoed off the hillside, calling, “Warning! A tsunami is approaching. Move to higher ground.” (Endo died at her station when waters overwhelmed the town’s three-story Crisis Management Department building.)

Videos, shot from the middle school’s vantage point, show traffic speeding away from the coast and lines of people climbing concrete steps toward the highly-placed school. The sea easily rushes over two-story-tall harbor walls and floods the town. Houses disintegrate as they crash into one another. Cars and trucks bob among the raging river of wreckage. In one scene, water catches the rear wheels of a bus as it moves up the switchback road toward the school. The vehicle sways, but the tires find traction and the bus escapes.

Sasaki saw none of it. Students were kept inside until the water receded.

“Initially, the children were living in temporary shelters, where their teachers were staying,” says Yoshiaki Sato of the Sendai Kiwanis Club. “When they moved..."
About 90 students were rescued from the roof of the flooded Nakahama Elementary School (top, left). The school, Shizugawa’s Crisis Management Department building (top, right) and a shrine at Okawa Elementary School (bottom, right) stand today as memorials of March 11, 2011. Souta Sasaki (left middle) has devoted his life to disaster education.
Eight of the area’s 14 elementary and middle schools were flooded in the disaster, leading Kiwanis to focus on children’s educational needs by supporting tutoring programs and donating equipment to affected schools. One recipient is the new Miyano Mori Elementary School (left, middle), which opened this past February—almost six years to the date after 3.11.
into temporary housing, they were so spread apart and there was no one to help them. The tsunami disrupted their lives, and they fell out of the habit of studying, not just in Shizugawa but in other affected areas as well."

To address this problem, Ogusu established TERACO, a learning center where students could study and prepare themselves to compete for acceptance into high school, college or jobs. Initially, children lived in shelters; so, that’s where TERACO set up. When families relocated into temporary homes, the Hotel Kanyo opened rooms for TERACO students. As living situations continued to shift, a Kiwanis donation allowed TERACO to build a temporary library near Shizugawa’s schools.

"Through generous support from all over the world, Kiwanis Japan and the Sendai Kiwanis Club directly received more than a half-million US dollars, including a grant from the Kiwanis Children’s Fund," says Sato. (This generosity so inspired the district that 100 percent of its clubs have supported The Eliminate Project.) "The Japan District and Kiwanis Japan Foundation established the Kiwanis Clubs Joint Fund to be administered by Kiwanis clubs in the affected areas: Sapporo, Sendai, Fukushima and Chiba." (The Sendai club also established its own fund and maintains web pages at sendaikiwanis.jp/eng to report on the distribution of monies from both funds. Many schools, for example, no longer could afford extracurricular activities. Kiwanis filled the gap, replacing athletic equipment, arranging for musical and theatrical performances and supporting after-school study programs.)

Sasaki regularly studied at TERACO, where he met volunteer college students who talked to him about his future and influenced his decision to attend Miyagi University of Education. Today, he returns home frequently—nearly 60 miles from his Sendai campus—to tutor children.

He also earned a certificate as a disaster-prevention spokesman. He leads tours of disaster sites and speaks to groups about 3.11. Through social media, he connects with members of other families who lost a child or parent at Okawa Elementary School.

"They all try very hard to accept what has happened to them," he says. "They lost their homes, as well as family members, but they themselves are still alive. They’re determined to do whatever they can to cope with their loss and to remember.”

Sasaki remembers too. His father, he says, was respected by his students and peers alike. As Takayoshi’s son, Souta’s favorite memories include their trips to the area’s hot springs. But he had never visited his father’s school. Now, he returns there often.

This past February on a cold, windy afternoon, he led a small group of Kiwanis members and media crews to the site along the Kitakami River. There, he would show them his father’s classroom, where a line of vertical, twisted and broken rebar is the only remaining evidence of what was once the exterior wall. They would talk about the nearby access road, where the children and their teachers had sought in vain for refuge from the fast-advancing water.

Before the tour, Sasaki stopped at a shrine. Other visitors had left behind Buddha statuettes, plants, incense sticks and more. In silence with bowed head, Sasaki paid his respects to the children and adults who died there. It’s a ritual he practices at every disaster-struck community he visits.

"We can’t forget," he says. “Every generation needs to remember what happened that day so we can be prepared and prevent this from happening again.”

"Through generous support from all over the world, Kiwanis Japan received more than a half-million US dollars, including a grant from the Kiwanis Children’s Fund.”
THE DECISION TO BECOME A LIVE ORGAN DONOR IS A DIFFICULT ONE, BUT YOUR GENEROSITY CAN RESCUE SOMEONE FROM A LIFE OF PAIN AND SUFFERING.

STORY BY JULIE SAETRE
For Kevin Mott, a Kiwanian in Evanston, Illinois, it started with a migraine. Followed by another. And another. His primary care doctor began treating him for high blood pressure, but when the symptoms didn’t dissipate, the physician directed him to a nephrologist, a doctor specializing in kidney care. After more tests, including a biopsy, the medical team still couldn’t put a specific name to his condition. “They really don’t know what I have,” Mott explains. They just know I have (it). We just call it chronic kidney disorder.”

The term didn’t really matter; the bottom line was still the same: Mott’s kidneys were going to fail, and he was going to need a transplant. That was in 2012. “My doctor told me that typically, within two years of being diagnosed, most people need a transplant or are on dialysis, or unfortunately, some people pass away,” Mott says. “Things have gone a lot better for me, because I hadn’t gotten to the point where I needed to start looking for a donor until last year.”

Marc Litwack, a Chathams, New Jersey, Kiwanian, hasn’t been as fortunate. He’s been on dialysis for almost four and a half years, undergoing four-hour sessions three times a week. The former 2010-11 New Jersey District governor, who joined the Kiwanis family as a Key Club member in 1970, had to forgo a run for the Kiwanis International board due to the dialysis. “With dialysis,” Litwack says, “you get to live, but you don’t have a life.”

The American Kidney Foundation reports that the average life expectancy on dialysis is five to 10 years, but those statistics vary greatly depending upon a person’s age, other medical conditions and a host of other factors. Receiving a transplant is the only way a patient can successfully get off dialysis. But in the United States, Mott and Litwack are two of more than 106,000 people on the kidney transplant waiting list. Only about 16,000 such transplants take place in the country each year, leaving more than 80 percent of the list behind.

Other countries face the same issue. More than 50,000 await kidneys in the European Union. In Canada—with an overall population of about one-tenth of the U.S.—some 3,400 people are waiting for kidneys; in Australia, about 1,600. And then there’s Iran, where there is no waiting list—not because there is no need, but because the country made the controversial decision to compensate living donors with cash.

Someone willing to give up a kidney for transplantation receives about 135 million rials, the equivalent of US$4,505. Consider that Iran’s average annual gross household income is just more than 352 million rials, and it’s easy to see why waiting lists are a thing of the past.

Sigfrid Fry-Revere, a bioethicist and living donor advocate, traveled to Iran in 2015 to study the compensation system. The country’s policy, she says, while raising serious concerns about organ trafficking, at least recognizes the very real challenges faced by some living donors post-surgery, regardless of where the transplant takes place. It can take one to three months for the donor to recover, Fry-Revere says, depending upon any complications that might arise. In the meantime, the donor may be facing lost wages, child-care expenses and other financial strains.

In the United States, for example, the organ recipient’s private insurance generally
covers the operation and immediate post-surgical care for both participants, but ends after about 30 days for the donor. And while that’s sufficient for the vast majority, some five to 10 percent of donors develop complications that extend past that time frame.

“Paying donors outright creates an atmosphere where you have boon and bust,” Fry-Revere says. “You have a boon to donors if they are the ideal donor. They are back at work within 30 days, they have a desk job, they have no complications. For those people, it’s a boon—particularly if they have paid time off. They leave with (money) in their pocket. But for anyone who has to take lost wages, has unpaid leave, loses their job or has any complications, (a single cash payout) doesn’t even begin to cover their losses. And so for them, it’s a total disaster.”

Marc Litwack

In 2014, Fry-Revere co-founded the nonprofit American Living Organ Donor Fund (she’s also its president) to focus directly on support for living donors. The group provides grants to assist with nonmedical costs, organizes fundraisers and advocates for changes in the law to allow for expanded compensation opportunities.

Four years ago, in conjunction with The Center for Ethical Solutions, the Donor Fund compiled a proposal for a program called Save Lives, Save Money Now. In addition to facilitating transplants within a donor’s region to greatly reduce travel-related expenses, the program would provide donors with a preloaded debit card—up to $10,000—to use for allowable post-donation expenses. That won’t cover unexpected extra medical costs or a job loss, Fry-Revere says, but it at least would help with immediate outlays.

To become law, the proposal needs to be enacted as a bill through the U.S. Congress or as a regulation enacted by the Health and Human Services Department. Neither has happened.

Outside the U.S., other countries already are focusing on financially neutral policies, meaning the living donor does not incur any expenses but doesn’t gain monetarily either. In Canada, the province of British Columbia launched the Living Organ Donor Expense Reimbursement (LODER) program in 2006. LDER reimburses donors for eligible travel, accommodations, meals, parking and child and/or pet care expenses, as well as assists with lost wages for up to eight weeks post-surgery.

“We did it as a pilot project, and it was of course very effective,” says Heather Johnson, director of programs, patient services for the Kidney Foundation of Canada’s BC & Yukon Branch. “And so every single province, every branch of the Kidney Foundation of Canada, has a similar program and reimburses living donors. We have (seen an increase in living donors), but you can’t exactly say that’s the reason why. But we’ve directly spoken to people who said, ‘I couldn’t have done this without the LODER program.’”

This past summer, Johnson’s branch launched a living donor mentor project, pairing individuals who are considering becoming donors with those who already have been through the procedure. She worked with existing donors from a variety of backgrounds so matches could be made based on commonalities in language, family situations and more.

“I have enough of a cross-section of people to be able
to match them for some peer support.” Johnson says. “And I really do think … it’ll increase living donations.”

In 2013, Australia launched the Supporting Leave for Living Organ Donors Program, which reimburses employers for payment or leave credits given to employees who take time off for a living donation surgery and recovery. The original program was a two-year pilot; the government extended it in 2015. This past spring, it was renewed for four years, extending reimbursement wages up to nine weeks and adding coverage for certain out-of-pocket expenses.

Transplant Australia, a national nonprofit that represents both transplant recipients and living donors, reports that in 2016 alone, living organ donations increased by 9 percent, with the vast majority of those being kidneys.

In the opinion of many living donor advocates, however, the Netherlands offers the gold standard of donor support. The recipient’s insurance covers costs for the donor’s screening, surgery and necessary recovery procedures, while the Ministry of Health reimburses additional hospital and/or home-care costs, travel expenses and lost income. The results, says Fry-Revere, reflect why a reimbursement standard is superior to that of a cash incentive.

“In Iran, 90 percent-plus donors are strangers. In the Netherlands, 90 percent-plus are relatives and friends. If you make it easier to donate, the right people step forward. The incentive of saving a loved one is enough. Those people are the appropriate people to donate, the ones who have an emotional investment. And they are encouraged by the systems in the Netherlands.”

In Taiwan, husband and wife Kiwanians Chien-Shan Hsu and Li-Mei Chen became a recipient/donor team several years ago. Hsu learned in January 2013 that he needed a liver transplant; by November of that year, he experienced a major bleeding episode and was hospitalized in critical condition.

Chen already had been tested as a potential donor and was found to be compatible, although her husband resisted. But when Hsu’s health became severely compromised, plans for the transplant began moving forward. Chen donated part of her liver in January 2014. She was discharged after seven days; her husband followed two weeks later. After six months, Hsu’s liver had almost recovered, and Chen’s liver had grown back by 70 percent. (For interesting facts about liver and other organ transplants, turn to the “Back Page,” page 50.)

“In Taiwan, we say ‘Better save a life than build a seven-story pagoda,’” Chen says. “Maybe I should say ‘We gain when we give.’”

Taiwan’s national health insurance paid for Hsu’s medical costs, but not for Chen’s. Neither did her supplemental private policy. Fortunately, the couple could afford the expense. But unless the issue of finances is addressed globally, experts say, many potential donors will continue having to choose between saving a life or their life’s savings.

“The (U.S.) federal government and the Society for Transplant Surgeons is studying whether helping with lost wages will increase donations. … And first I say, of course it will,” says advocate Fry-Revere. “And second, that shouldn’t be the criteria for doing it. The criteria should be these are good people. … It’s just not right to tempt people to donate, to pay their way to the transplant center and then abandon them post donation.”
SHOWCASE

“We were looking for something that was a little more youthful and a little more active than just going to dinner and a show.”

RISK FACTOR
TAKING A CHANCE ON A NEW FUNDRAISER PAYS OFF FOR THIS WISCONSIN CLUB.
STORY BY JULIE SAETRE • PHOTOS BY DEBRA LAKE

The Mid-Morning Kiwanis Club of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, could have played it safe. Past fundraisers—a talent show, a dinner-and-a-movie combo—had done well. But members of this active club represent a wide range of ages, and they wanted an event that would appeal to a similarly broad demographic.

“We were looking for something that was a little more youthful and a little more active than just going to dinner and a show,” says nine-year club member Jon Rucinsky.

He and his wife are fans of the popular American reality television program “The Amazing Race,” in which teams travel the globe, trying to be first to complete a series of challenges. Wouldn’t it be fun, they thought, to bring a similar competition to Oshkosh?

Other members enthusiastically embraced the idea. Two major sponsors signed on with seed-money donations of US$5,000 each. Soon-to-be-competitors paid $25 to register and, through a newly created event website, developed personal fundraising pages. For every US$200 a team raised, it received a three-minute head start on the pack, up to 15 minutes.

Nine months later, The Amazing Oshkosh made its debut. Twenty-five teams of four crisscrossed the city, stopping at each of 21 local businesses to face a mental or physical challenge. Each sponsoring business donated $100 for holding a mental challenge or $500 for a physical one. Most created a challenge based on their day-to-day activities.

At the Oshkosh Police Department, teams donned gear used by the Strategic Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team and learned how to rescue an injured person during a simulated active-shooter situation. Outside Richard’s School of the Dance, they performed a choreographed routine to a popular song. A family restaurant known for its root beer floats had competitors re-create the icy treat in a pitcher and then drink it; if any spilling or dripping occurred, the team received a time penalty.

“We pitched this as an opportunity for (sponsors) to be active in the community and to invite people into their place of business,” Rucinsky says. “It was great to see how the businesses made these unique challenges that reflected a bit of what they do.”

By the time the last team crossed the finish line, the club had raised about $17,000 for its many service projects—and before long, both competitors and sponsors were inquiring about the date for next year’s race.

“It was a big undertaking for us, giving up our already proven format of a fundraiser,” Rucinsky says. “But it was great. I couldn’t be happier with the way everything worked out.”
SHOWCASE

LITERACY GEMS
STRUGGLING STUDENTS KEEP PACE WITH THEIR PEERS. AND THAT’S AKAY!
STORY BY JULIE SAETRE

Among the second- and third-grade children enrolled at Chrysanthemum Village Elementary School in San Pedro, Laguna, Philippines, 33 have some sort of reading deficiency. For some, it’s difficult to read syllables. Others don’t even recognize the alphabet. Members of the Kiwanis Club of Laguna Gems, San Pedro, Laguna wanted to change that statistic. After consulting with school staff, they launched the A Kiwanian and You (AKAY) program. The name is appropriate, says Nicasia “Nikki” Canchela, past president and current club member, because in local parlance, “akay” means to guide or lend a helping hand.

The initiative is pressing, she says. The country’s department of education has adopted a policy of advancing all students to the next grade level, regardless of knowledge attained. And many children’s parents struggle to make ends meet at home.

“Some (children) go to school with no food or very little food in their stomachs,” Canchela says, “and are thus malnourished, resulting in poor comprehension or absenteeism.”

The Kiwanians address both academic and physical issues. They use flash cards, an alphabet chart, pictures and other tools to teach reading skills, and after the lessons, members of the school’s K-Kids Club distribute healthy snacks.

The results are inspiring. All participants showed some level of improvement. Some were reading sentences—in English, no less—by the school year’s end, and even the ones starting at the biggest disadvantage made progress.

“One day one, there were grade-three pupils who couldn’t recognize a vowel or consonant, but in the succeeding sessions they could at least read a letter or a vowel, which encouraged us to attend to them and to slow learners on a one-on-one basis,” Canchela says.

When classes begin again after school break, Kiwanians will be back in the classrooms as well.

“The members feel there is an urgent need to attend to these pupils in reading literacy,” Canchela explains. “And this legacy of the present leadership will always be in the history of this hard-working club.”
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Kids point out craters on the moon. A few of them ask why some stars look red and others seem blue. Some of the kids don’t want to leave the mobile observatory when their turn ends. The scene makes Stephanie Tanton smile, knowing her club is helping children learn.

“The mayor called us a shining example of a community organization making an impact in the community,” Tanton says.

Tanton and other members of the Kiwanis Club of Mission Viejo, California, helped cut the ribbon this past April on a new mobile observatory, a 12-foot trailer that travels to elementary and intermediate schools throughout Orange County. It’s operated by Science Heads, a local organization supported by the 28-member Kiwanis club.

The US$15,000 mobile observatory is proving to be quite a star itself. After budget cuts left many community schools without equipment or resources, the observatory supplements classroom work with hands-on astronomy activities.

“For many students, this is the first time looking through a telescope,” says Richard Stember, Science Heads’ executive director. “We’re here to emphasize hands-on, more interactive learning. ... Schools just don’t have these tools available to them.”

Through the 11-inch telescope, students can see all the planets in our galaxy, stars in others, the Orion Nebula and the cloud of gas where new stars are forming today.

The trailer also features software used by NASA to track the objects in space. Plus, there’s a 3D display where kids interact with the stars.

“We do this for the love of sharing STEM,” Stember says. “STEM is a curriculum based on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The club’s support and participation is a godsend. They played a key role in getting this project done.”

The Mission Viejo club benefits from this partnership too, with a renewed energy among members.

“We hadn’t had a new member in almost two years,” Tanton says. “In January, we changed what we were doing. We increased our activities to support STEM and arts programs. It’s working. We just got a new member.”

The club celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, and members think they’ve hit on the key to remaining relevant.

“People want to be involved,” says Michael Brown, club president. “Some people don’t want to come to a meeting. They want to do events. This is another way to adapt to changing times.”

Back at the mobile observatory, a 7-year-old tells Tanton and other club members that “being able to see into outer space was really worth the wait in the long line.”

The Kiwanis members smile. The project is a success.
TWO BY TWO
THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT STEPS UP TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE ELIMINATE PROJECT.
STORY BY JULIE SAETRE

Among Michigan District Kiwanis clubs, Linda-Ann Heldt is known as the Shoe Lady. That’s because, since January 2016, she’s been leading the district’s efforts in collecting shoes—more than 38,000 pairs so far—to be recycled. The resulting funds go to The Eliminate Project.

“I’ve got 2,000 pairs in my garage right now, waiting for the truck,” Heldt says, laughing.

Heldt, who is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Utica-Shelby Township, got the idea after hearing about a similar project while attending an Ohio District convention. She mentioned it to Greg Smith, executive director for Kiwanis’ Michigan District, and soon after, Shoes Across Michigan debuted.

Clubs have gotten creative at encouraging donations. The Collecting Shoes for Charity website contains information on drop-off opportunities. Heldt has set up drives at a wide range of events, including a 5K race, a pancake brunch, Kids Day at the Farm—even a Tummy to Toddler Expo. The Eisenhower High School Key Club in Shelby, Michigan, and the Oakland University CKI Club have pitched in. And then there are the mud runs—foot races where participants slog through muddy fields and other obstacles on the way to the finish line.

“At the end, a lot of people don’t want to take their muddy shoes home with them,” Heldt notes, “so they drop them off at a booth, and we stand there and collect shoes. It’s a great way to put Kiwanis’ branding out there in the community. We get paid 50 cents for every pair of shoes, so it’s a great fundraiser.”

And if the shoes don’t come to Heldt, she goes to the shoes. At a recent vendor show, a woman from a town 45 minutes away offered to collect in her county. “I said, ‘Well, you collect, I’ll pick up,’” Heldt says. “An hour’s (drive) is no big deal to me. That was a win, just getting a contact.”

Her shoe team also created a simple message to generate more donations: “Five pairs of shoes save one baby’s life.”

“We started out with a big, long PR piece. Not a lot of people would read all of that,” Heldt says. “Everybody’s getting this.”
Anyone who has ever walked a dog knows that kids are drawn to canines. So when Lisa Hurley, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Largo-Mid-Pinellas, Florida, began researching fundraiser ideas, it wasn’t surprising when she discovered that events featuring dogs pay off. Pawfest made its debut in 2007 and since has become the club’s main fundraiser, attracting 2,000 to 3,000 guests each year.

“We advertise that it is a ‘Carnival for Kids and Dogs,’” says Bruce Blazej, the club’s president, “and a fun day for the family.”

Dogs are the stars, so they are far more than mere spectators. On the Activity Midway, a canine officer (purchased by the club for the Largo Police Department) demonstrates working skills, while a dog-training club leads four-pawed participants through agility and obedience demonstrations. A “lure chase” allows dogs to dash across a specially designed course in pursuit of a target.

Children get into the act too, interacting with new furry friends by playing T-ball with border collies. (The kids bat a whiffle ball off a traffic cone; the collies retrieve).

In the Play House, the family pooch can take home a prize for doing tricks, wearing the best costume or being the largest/smallest dog in attendance. Not to be left out, children compete in musical chairs, sack races and hula hoop contests and work off more energy jumping in bounce houses supervised by members of the Largo High School Key Club.

Kids get crafty at the Art House, while dog owners browse for supplies in the Doggy Mall or visit the Bark Cafe for a bite.

The City of Largo co-sponsors Pawfest, cutting down on the club’s expenditures and maximizing the money raised for service projects, animal rescue organizations and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Funds come from sponsorships, donations, vendor fees, prize drawings and bounce house admissions, allowing the club to collect around US$8,000.

It’s no wonder, then, that the event has become a publicity hound: The New Barker, a lifestyle magazine devoted to Sunshine State residents who love and live with dogs, called Pawfest “one of the best dog-friendly events of the year in Florida.”
BIRTHDAYS
THESE CLUBS CELEBRATE 25TH, 50TH AND 75TH ANNIVERSARIES IN SEPTEMBER 2017.

75TH—1942
Abingdon, Virginia, September 17
Killeen, Texas, September 23

50TH—1967
Jefferson, Iowa, September 6
Mitchell-Grissom, Indiana, September 12
Deabigh, Newport News, Virginia, September 19
St. James, Missouri, September 19
Inland Center, San Bernardino, California, September 20
Roeselare I, Belgium, September 22
Vestmannaeyjar-Helgafell, Iceland, September 28

25TH—1992
Mariposa, California, September 1
Bastrop, Texas, September 3
Nancy-Opalinska, France, September 4
Orbe, Switzerland, September 4
Oklahoma City West, Oklahoma, September 16
Tessenendo Alchemia, Belgium, September 16
Louiviers, France, September 16
Larvik Boken, Norway, September 17
Walker, Louisiana, September 17
Powell County, Kentucky, September 17
Bruxelles Iris, Belgium, September 18
Columbia, Illinois, September 22
Letzebuerg International, Luxembourg, September 22
Knoxville Noon, Iowa, September 24
Shan Feng, Pa Te Town, Taiwan, September 27
Louhans Bresse, France, September 28
Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York, September 28
Wild Rose, Wisconsin, September 29
Historic Kokomo, Indiana, September 30
Siena, Italy, September 30
Huan Ts’Ui, Pu Li Town, Taiwan, September 30

BURN NOTICE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

By the time spring arrived, both Gatlinburg and its residents were focused firmly on recovery. While the tourism-centric city spread the word that it was still standing and open for much-needed business, Dove and Parton worked to rebuild their lives.

Dove and her daughters first lived in a house loaned at no charge by a Kiwanian, then moved into a rented home. Parton and his son remained at the motel, with his mother living nearby in a recreational vehicle.

Both families were among the 23 households helped by the Wildfire Relief Fund.

For Parton, it was back to basics.

“The biggest thing was clothes for Layne. And he’s at that ornery age where he’s sprouting every direction except for the direction you want him to go. … (The fund) helped literally put clothes back on our backs.”

Thanks to community donations of clothing and furniture, Dove was able to tuck her relief funds into a savings account while she calculated—both figuratively and literally—her next move.

“I’ve decided to not move back to Gatlinburg or rebuild on the lot, because of the painful memories we are still dealing with daily,” she says. “I don’t want to make a rushed decision with the money so generously given to us.”

Beyond that, she focuses on what the fire didn’t take.

“We are safe. My parents got out. We are very blessed. Home is where the heart is.”

Parton does plan to rebuild, using stonework salvaged from the wreckage of his former home.

“Granted, it’s not much of the house, being just rocks,” he says.

“But it was part of the house, and it survived. So we survive.”
We’ve come to the most important part of The Eliminate Project: fulfillment. If you made a pledge, it’s time to make your gift ... and your impact. Help protect 55 million lives from maternal and neonatal tetanus.

Finish the fight.
Fulfill your pledge.

TheEliminateProject.org/give
Skin

Donating human tissue saves patients facing life-threatening burns.

1,400 adults and children in U.S. are waiting for new lungs.

Heart

Heart failure may include congenital heart defects and cardiomyopathy.

Corneas

Everyone is a universal donor for corneal tissue to restore sight.

Liver

A liver transplant can come from a living donor because the liver is the only human organ that can regenerate.

Lungs

1 organ donor saves 8 lives.

Every 10 minutes another person is added to the national waiting list.

KIDNEYS

82% on organ waiting list need a kidney.

Over 100,000 people on the waiting list in U.S.

Intestines

22 people die every day while waiting for an organ transplant.

Ligaments and Tendons

Allow people with torn ligaments and tendons to heal, restoring mobility.

Heart Valves

1 tissue donor saves 75 people.

Pancreas

Re-establish circulation and blood flow.

Source: Donate Life America.
Around the world, kids need Kiwanis. When you give to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund, you help other Kiwanians reach them. You support the projects that Kiwanis clubs and districts can’t afford on their own, and you help fund Kiwanis family programs for all ages and abilities. You extend your impact... and change the lives of children near and far.

kiwanis.org/childrensfund
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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#kidsneedkiwanis #kiwanis