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Revive, rejuvenate and refresh.

One Kiwanis club takes the challenge.
The Eye of the Tiger is a group of laser-focused new-club-opening specialists who have been trained to go out in the field to teach others how to open clubs in two or three days. For each build, it’s imperative to plan ahead with a goal of scheduling appointments for the team so the tigers can come in and show others how to build rapport, close the sale and open the club in two days.

Sales is not a dirty word. It is at the basis of most successful businesses. It takes discipline, hard work, dedication and, if you will, the “Eye of the Tiger” to be a successful salesperson.

I learned long ago that the best product doesn’t get the most sales. The best salespeople get the most sales. As I write this article, we’re in excess of 230 new clubs. We’re on track to reach our “Formula #409” goal. If we open 409 clubs, it will be the most new clubs organized in one year during the modern era of Kiwanis. We may even make our stretch goal, which would be的伟大 exceeds what any of us could do individually. If we maintain the Eye of the Tiger through September 30, 2018, we may be able to achieve a level of excellence never before seen in our rich 103-year history. It can only happen by bringing together many good people and working very hard. In essence, utilizing the Eye of the Tiger to achieve a level of excellence in which we can all be proud.

Thank you for all you are doing! Thank you for leading by example!

---

Those of you who know me likely know I am an avid baseball fan. I will watch a baseball game anytime, anywhere. While I have my favorite teams, I’ll watch and cheer for almost any team. This is especially true for high school and college baseball.

Some of my fondest Kiwanis-family memories center around the ball diamond. I remember my Key Club having an annual game against our sponsoring Kiwanis club in Amarillo, Texas, and I recall having an annual Kiwanis night at the Double-A baseball games in that same city.

Our 2014 Kiwanis International convention in Japan included an outing to watch the Chiba Lotte Marines. A year later, our 100th anniversary celebration included taking the entire convention (more than 5,000 of us) to a baseball game in Indianapolis. And in 2016, our convention was held at a time and place that coincided with attendees’ ability to enjoy the Toronto Blue Jays.

Every year in my city, the annual Kiwanis-Rotary softball game precedes one of the Triple-A Indianapolis Indians games in June. Luckily, our ability to deliver community service is better than our ability to play ball. But at the end of the annual event, the Kiwanis-Rotary interaction delivers some humor and fun along with some shaming in the presentation of a traveling trophy.

When our magazine staff pitched the idea for a story that traced the history of Kiwanis and baseball, I was enthusiastic. I enjoyed watching the writer conduct research and uncover lots of baseball snippets and vignettes.

The article, which starts on page 8, only scratches the surface of our Kiwanis love affair with baseball and softball. Hundreds of Kiwanis clubs sponsor youth teams or entire leagues, provide members as coaches or host annual tournaments. Every year, dozens of communities have a Kiwanis night at the ballpark, usually combining fun and fundraising in nine innings.

If there’s one main message here, it’s this: The legacy of Kiwanis service in any community usually involves fun. And if your community work does not involve fun as you personalize the positive impact for youth and children, you’re not doing it right. Kiwanians love to have fun and love to make a difference for youth. Thank you for making a difference.
Do you get discouraged when you hear your telephone ring? Do you avoid using your phone because hearing difficulties make it hard to understand the person on the other end of the line? For many Americans the telephone conversation – once an important part of everyday life – has become a thing of the past. Because they can’t understand what is said to them on the phone, they’re often cut off from friends, family, doctors and caregivers. Now, thanks to innovative technology there is finally a better way.

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Letters

Readers of Kiwanis magazine’s print version and blog respond to features from the April/May and June/July 2018 issues. Join the conversations at kiwanismagazine.org or email magazine@kiwanis.org.

PRESSURE POINTS

Great article, insightful and helpful. Thanks, Kiwanis.

Robyn Arnold
Kiwanis Club of Pacific Pines, Australia

I manage a Kiwanis program called Listening Post in one of our middle schools. I, along with our Listening Post volunteers, see and hear a lot. Kids will open up to us sometimes before they do to a parent or caregiver. It’s good to read articles like this because it gives us a heads-up on what might be going through a kid’s mind. We are not rocket scientists. We’re just ordinary people listening to ordinary kids.

Richard G. “Dick” Hart
Kiwanis Club of Southport-Oak Island, North Carolina

There is a great class given by past Southwest District Governor Jim Lee about stress, suicide, signs and prevention. Also, a number of Kiwanis clubs in southern Arizona are supporting an anti-cyberbullying program. One of my faculty advisers told me that kids listen more to us than their parents or teachers. More articles are needed on this subject.

Joe DeBlasi
Kiwanis Club of Sun City West, Arizona

FOLLOW THE LEADER

I read your Follow the Leader article and thought, “What about the Girl Scouts?” Perhaps the link may not seem quite so clear because Girl Scouts are expected to create financially self-sufficient troops rather than rely on sponsorship from other organizations (thus the ever-overshadowing cookies and lack of direct Kiwanis affiliation), but Girl Scouts match each and every point that was made in your article, and yet, went unmentioned. Allow me a moment to tell you about our unsung heroes.

I live in a small town, but our local Girl Scout troops participate in hundreds of hours of community service each year. They don’t have a single highest award like the Boy Scout’s Eagle. They have three: Bronze, Silver and Gold. For my daughter’s Bronze award, her 5th-grade troop created an event that drew enough support to a large animal rescue to build two new horse shelters. For her Silver, she and three of her 8th-grade buddies have launched a new website to match local volunteers with organizations that need help in our community. For her Gold award, my daughter once again will have to find a way to contribute to the community in a way that will have long-term effects, but to earn that award, she’ll work on her own. She is currently interviewing community groups to try to find a project that she will dedicate dozens of hours to over the next year. These awards, while perhaps not so well known as the Eagle, are no small feat, requiring leadership, perseverance, organization and a great deal of confidence and commitment to our community.

When our girls are not working to “Make the World a Better Place” as...
taught by the Girl Scout Law, my daughter's troop is generally on an adventure. We've been on a 50-mile paddle down the Au Sable River, whitewater rafting, caving and camping all over the U.S. Midwest (and soon Alaska and Italy as well). Our girls compete in local rescue and outdoor skills competitions as well as shooting competitions and place regularly. I would entrust any of them to be my first-aid in an emergency, and there is nothing I love more than exploring a new skill with them, both indoors and outdoors.

Recently, my Kiwanis club wanted to start a flag program but were daunted by the energy and hours that it would require. Our Girl Scouts once again sprang to action, asking only that we help support the local, historic scout cabin, used by both Girl and Boy Scouts, as well as the community as a whole, ensuring that it would be around for generations to come. We were thrilled to partner with them in this great win-win situation for our club and our community.

No matter how great a trait it may be, perhaps there is such a thing as being too humble in service if it causes such a great leader-building organization to be overlooked. So please, fellow Kiwanians, when you are looking for the community builders of tomorrow, remember to look around for a Girl Scout. She's probably the one already making your community a better place and would be happy to meet some more friends to help in the endeavor.

P.S. Girl Scouts, like many organizations, are currently struggling to find enough adult leaders for the girls waiting to find Girl Scout troops. These are some of the kids who need Kiwanis. If you have time and skills to share, please consider volunteering with your local Girl Scout Council.

**Chris Holbert**
*President, Kiwanis Club of Brooklyn, Michigan*

---

**PARADISE IN SUBURBIA**

A most beautiful place to relax and enjoy nature. I will certainly visit it when I visit my relatives in Maryland. Congratulations Kiwanis Club of Hagerstown.

**Keith Atkinson**
*Kiwanis Club of Central Portmore, Jamaica*

What a wonderful nature park that has been created and preserved by Kiwanis and a group of nature lovers and citizen volunteers. This should stand as an example of what dedicated people in any community can accomplish if they all work together.

**Thomas Dale Neuendorf**
*Kiwanis Club of Chelsea, Alabama*

Your article shows a picture of persons in kayaks, but with something missing. Neither of the persons are wearing life jackets which, as a longtime kayaker, is a requirement when I go with groups, especially young persons.

**Margaret Pagnucco**
*Kiwanis Club of Allen Park, Michigan*

What a beautiful place. I would love to visit Hagerstown just to experience the Kiwanis Park. Our community is currently creating a new all accessible park in our town of Cheboygan, Michigan. Kiwanis is such a blessing to every community.

**Connie Newlin**
*Kiwanis Club of Cheboygan, Michigan*

---

**CELEBRATING FATHERS**

Great enterprise! I love this: fathers, fun, friends and finance! Hooray to the fathers of Schwaz! Very creative, Kiwanis Club of Schwaz. May this year’s celebration be crowned with maximum success.

**Lloyd Fraser**
*Kiwanis Club of Ramble Hanover, Jamaica*
It’s the seventh-inning stretch, and the fans with their hot dogs, beer and popcorn rise to sing, “Take Me Out to the Ball Game.” Grown men and women, acting like excited little kids, sway to the organ music and sing together — a little off-key — baseball’s hallowed song.

Such are the simple pleasures of life. A day spent with friends, family and strangers who love the game and the team. Everyone hoping to escape worry and responsibility, even if only for a few hours.

It’s summer, the season of baseball and statistical dramas. Fans watch their newest sports heroes as their journeys unfold, while at the same time hearkening back to legends of the past.

But often lost within great baseball stories are many forgotten threads, including one where Kiwanis is almost as famous as Babe Ruth. Almost.

Kiwanis intersects with countless historical baseball characters and moments, including The Babe. Some of your favorite players likely have come up through the leagues and been touched by Kiwanis in one way or another. We’ve chosen just a few to share with you.

So let’s grab some Cracker Jacks and weave our way back, way back to the “old ball game.”
EARLY KIWANIS TEAMS

Kiwanis in the early years shared the same roots as baseball did in the mid 1800s. Both were “clubs,” fraternal organizations of middle class and wealthy business owners who paid membership dues, voted on rules and bylaws and came together over lavish celebrations. And both played ball.

While professional baseball games in the early 20th century were rough and tumble games of sharpened shoe spikes, foul language and fighting fans, Kiwanis ball clubs of the 1920s hark back to the origins: a gentlemen’s game. Kiwanians who formed their own teams often played other service organizations such as Rotary, Elks and Optimist. After a friendly game, the host club would serve dinner for all members to socialize, give speeches and present each other awards.

In the 1931 magazine article “Kiwanis vs. Rotary in Blood Battle,” the description resembled a Buster Keaton film.

“Kiwanis took the first bat. The swelling volume of tumultuous thousands, the cataclysm of volcanic upheavals greeted Major McEvans as he stepped from the ‘Kiwanis dog-house’ with four bats swinging over his shoulder. … With such fervor did the Major swing – and miss – that the breeze engendered therefrom blew the straw hats from the heads of the rooters in the grandstand.”

Later a Kiwanian “drove the pill up in the air,” and it rose perpendicular, “cutting a hole in the air.” After the player fell running to first, another player finished the run, knocking into a Rotarian fielder, who “flew up like an aeroplane and landed into the James River.”

Before the ball fell, the substitute runner ran so fast he left a “foot deep path around the diamond.”

“Reynolds was called to fill the ditch with stone and gravel,” says the reporter, “and the game was postponed for twenty minutes to give the ladies a chance to use their powder puffs and the men to get a drink and a smoke.”

It must’ve been a great game. While not all clubs boasted caricatured games, many would host professional teams that came to town; exhibition games with locals were often a big draw among members.

And there was no bigger draw than the Sultan of Swat himself: George Herman “Babe” Ruth Jr.

THE BAMBINO

The “dead-ball era” was ending, where hit-and-runs and stolen bases, as well as using dirty, worn and oft-altered balls led way to a new kind of baseball strategy: power hitting. And the star that burned the brightest was Babe Ruth.

Although Ruth was a celebrity due to his home-run-hitting prowess, he never forgot his roots of growing up poor and, at age 7, being sent to a reformatory and orphanage.

Babe Ruth, being a big kid at heart, identified with impoverished kids, orphans and the sick or disabled. Kiwanis and Ruth crossed paths many times to help disadvantaged children. He fed them, lifted their spirits and raised money for their projects.

Ford Frick, sportswriter and eventual National League Baseball president and commissioner of baseball, wrote about “Babe” at a Kiwanis club luncheon:

“The room was packed with school kids of all ages. No more could get in. Babe, looking about him, happened to glance out at the window. There outside, perched on a barrel, was a dirty-faced urchin who waved and grinned delightfully as he caught sight of the Babe, waving a crutch in greeting. Without a word Ruth arose from the table, pushed his way through the crowd and disappeared out the door.”

“A few minutes later he returned, and on his shoulder was perched the little cripple who had waved a few minutes before from outside the window. Babe carried the lad tenderly and easily to the
Babe Ruth (center) with Junior Kiwanis Baseball League of East Chicago

Early Kiwanis baseball club

Photo courtesy of East Chicago Public Library
speakers’ table, drew up a chair alongside his own and put the youngster down."

Frick described the boy as the happiest lad in all Birmingham, how he “had sat next to Babe Ruth, had talked to him and had carried away a baseball signed by the Babe himself.”

**KNOTHOLE GANGS AND SANDLOT LEAGUES**

In the early years, ballpark owners built wooden fences around the field so fans would have to pay to watch a game. What’s a broke kid to do if he wanted to catch a glimpse of the action? Knock out the knotholes from the planks, of course.

Branch Rickey, executive and manager of the 1919 St. Louis Cardinals, developed the “knot-hole gang” system, where a boy could watch a game for free in a reserved section of the stands, as long as the child upheld a code of conduct: no skipping school; clean speech, sports, habits, language; and no cigarettes.

For Kiwanis, the earliest record of a sponsored knothole gang was in Iola, Kansas, in 1923 and Houston in 1924 with 2,000 kids. The Houston program grew to 16,000 kids in 1930, culminating in a cooked meal and a visit from Babe Ruth.

Another way Kiwanis supported baseball among kids was by sponsoring sandlot and junior leagues as early as 1923 in East Chicago, Indiana, and in the boroughs of New York City.

The early Kiwanis sandlot leagues thrived and served as precursors to Little League and Babe Ruth League baseball that would eventually replace them.

At one point in 1947, the Kiwanis Boys Baseball Federation of the New York District spread across 147 different cities and towns within the state and had more than 25,000 boys, boasting one of the largest sandlot leagues in the country. The federation claimed “juvenile delinquency dropping to near zero” because of Kiwanis’ baseball programs.

Arguably one of the most successful known Kiwanis Boys League players to make it into the big leagues was Ed “Whitey” Ford. In a 1953 Kiwanis magazine article, the image of a young Ford loomed above the ballpark, promoting “Kiwanis Nite” for convention attendees.

Kiwanis fans could reserve seats in Yankee Stadium to see him pitch at a cost of US$1.75 for grandstands or $2.50 for box seats. Lucky Kiwanians saw future Hall of Famer Ford play with teammates Yogi Berra, Billy Martin, Phil Rizzuto and Mickey Mantle. That year, Ford went 18-6 with 110 strikeouts, and helped win the Yankees their fifth-straight World Series title.

“Red” Samuel Solomon was another prospect coming out of a Kiwanis sandlot league. The promising third baseman played on the 1928 Bronx Kiwanis club team, before he signed to play for the Chicago Cubs. He was 13.

**EDISON LIGHTS UP A COBB LOB**

Before the Philadelphia A’s dominance in the late 1920s and early 1930s, they were a struggling team with 10-straight losing seasons. The team needed a change to turn their fortunes.

Enter R.Q. Richards, president of the Kiwanis Club of Fort Myers, Florida, and chairman of the Fort Myers Kiwanis baseball committee. He was seeking a professional baseball team to train in town.

The federation claimed “juvenile delinquency dropping to near zero” because of Kiwanis’ baseball programs.

Being the youngest to ever sign a major league contract, Red received hitting tips from teammate and future Hall of Fame member Rogers Hornsby and rooted for his team as they won the 1929 National League pennant. Always the optimist, he was hopeful of the Cubs’ chances for a World Series win against Connie Mack’s Philadelphia Athletics. It wasn’t meant to be. The Cubs lost the series 4-1. Red went home dejected, never to play in the major leagues, primarily used as a publicity stunt for the team.
Richards promised Connie Mack, manager of the Philadelphia Athletics, that sun and warm weather would do his players good. Mack agreed and held spring training in Fort Myers in 1925.

The partnership agreed with both the town and the ball club. The town grew to more than 9,000 people, nearly triple the number from 1920. The club went from last place in the American League at the start of the decade to fifth place in 1924, to winning the 1929 pennant over the Yankees and its famous hard-hitting “Murderers’ Row.” The A’s collected three consecutive American League pennants (1929, 1930 and 1931) and won two consecutive World Series (1929 and 1930).

Fort Myers resident and inventor Thomas Edison was a big fan of baseball. He owned ball teams during the 1920s and would gather at events with Mack, the A’s and Kiwanians.

During one spring training session, Edison was asked to take a swing. At age 79, Edison hit a single off Kid Gleason with Connie Mack catching. The following year, he hit a lob pitch from Ty Cobb, knocking him to the dirt.

“Thomas Edison Knocks Cobb to Earth in Tilt” was the Associated Press headline.

“In his first time at bat, Edison, a local boy, who has won some fame in the invention league, yesterday whaled the ball back at the pitcher at such vigor as to knock $75,000 worth of baseball talent flatter than the joke about youth being served.”

According to the reporter, fans yelled lustily, “Sign him up! … If Mr. Edison had gone in for baseball instead of electric lights, phonographs, rubber and such folderols, he would have been a great free hitter.”

Thomas Edison, inventor and Fort Myers resident, was a big fan of baseball. He owned ball teams during the 1920s and would gather at events with Kiwanians.

A PHOTO SPARKS A MARRIAGE
Many baseball players appeared in Kiwanis benefit games during the 1940s, including none other than “the Yankee Clipper” Joe DiMaggio. In 1943, he played at Gilmore Field in Hollywood, California, at the “Kiwanis Crippled Children’s baseball game” benefit.

However, the most interesting intersection of Kiwanis and “Joltin’ Joe” may have been eight years later at a publicity shoot with actress Marilyn Monroe.

In March of 1951, a few days before Kiwanis’ 12th Annual Benefit for Crippled Children, Monroe’s publicist, David March, arranged a photo shoot at the Chicago White Sox training camp in Pasadena, California.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Monroe was the “mascot” (in those days mascot meant good luck charm and representative of the team) for the Major League All-Stars, featuring professional players like Gus Zernial and Yogi Berra, versus the Hollywood Stars, the minor league team of Los Angeles.

To promote the game, Monroe was photographed walking arm-in-arm with Zernial, Hank Majeski and Joe Dobson around Brookside Park.

However, it’s another photo from the same shoot that caught the attention of DiMaggio. In this one, Monroe is seen batting with Zernial and Dobson. DiMaggio saw the photo and asked Zernial how he could be so lucky to meet Monroe. He contacted her publicist to arrange a dinner.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

INTEGRATION OF BASEBALL
Many Americans know April 15 as the day to file income taxes. But baseball fans know it as Jackie Robinson Day. Robinson broke the color barrier and became the first African American to play professional baseball when he joined the 1947 Brooklyn Dodgers.

“The idea of bringing integration to society was just too big, but
Gus Zernial, Marilyn Monroe and Joe Dobson

AUGUST 2018

Gus Zernial, Marilyn Monroe and Joe Dobson

FISH ‘N’ GAME
Angels Obtain West in Trade With Dukas
1947

Kiwanis Miracle League in Iowa

Kiwanis-supported BASE Play in Texas

1954 First integrated Little League in Kentucky

Kiwanis Miracle League in Iowa
you can get your hands around baseball. We can integrate baseball,” says Chris Lamb, professor of journalism at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. “Baseball was so important to the American psyche, and Jackie Robinson was the most important black figure in America before the Civil Rights movement had a name.”

In the world of youth baseball, communities were torn apart by the racial unease and segregation of society.

When the all-black Cannon Street YMCA All-Stars team showed up to play in Little League tournaments, white teams withdrew. So the Cannon Street YMCA All-Stars won by forfeit, advancing to the state tournament.

Rather than play against black athletes, teams from southern states left Little League and started the Dixie Youth League, which prohibited black players.

Kiwanis clubs, having been a longtime sponsor of boys’ baseball programs, had come to a crossroads due to segregation.

In 1953, Kentucky Kiwanians Roscoe J. Lankford and Harry Hoe helped form the Little League in Middlesboro, one of the first integrated teams in the U.S. South.

“They made sure to interpret the Little League manual of ‘all boys’ meant boys of any nationality or race,” says Ron Schmidt, producer for “This Field Looks Green to Me,” a film being developed based on the Middlesboro league.

Hoe said he just wanted kids to play ball.

“You know what I see when I look over there? Kids who want to play baseball,” he said. “Not black kids. Not white kids. Just kids.”

And in Florida in 1955, the first integrated Little League game in the South occurred between a Kiwanis Orlando team and a Jaycees Pensacola team.

“The parents, players and coaches, everybody took a risk in this,” says Ted Haddock,

For the Orlando families, there was a fear of getting fired, losing business and friends, and violence, if they allowed their kids to play.

“For both teams, it showed a lot of courage from the coaches, the players and the parents,” says Haddock. “That’s the kind of inspiration we need today.”

WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Kiwanis clubs continue to support baseball projects, such as Miracle League and BASE Play RBI. Many sponsor youth leagues as well. Kiwanis Park in Moncton, New Brunswick, which is touted as Canada’s largest baseball field east of Quebec City, has hosted the 1997 World Junior Baseball Championship and the 2004 Baseball Canada Senior Championship. Every year since 1950, the Kiwanis Club of Omaha, Nebraska, serves as a team sponsor for the NCAA Division 1 World Series. The Kiwanis Club of Paducah, Kentucky, annually invites Terrific Kids and Boys & Girls Club children to a Paducah Chiefs game. Kiwanians still volunteer countless hours a year as coaches and support staff for various baseball programs for young and old.

And of course, many Kiwanis members still enjoy hitting a ball or two, playing catch or attending a game at their favorite ballpark.

Kiwanis’ past has had great moments of baseball stardom and virtue. But changing the lives of kids through baseball, in big and small ways, is one of its greatest untold achievements.
As a pediatrician, Dr. Perri Klass has long been attuned to the medical needs of children. So it’s not surprising that when she learned about the important role reading aloud to children plays in their brain development, she found a way to use her area of expertise to help kids develop strong minds as well as healthy bodies.

Klass is national medical director for Reach Out and Read, a nonprofit launched by Boston Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts, nearly three decades ago. Reach Out and Read uses pediatric well-visit appointments as a means to ensure that children have access to books and that parents know how to help those books make the most impact.

“One very important part of that,” Klass says, “is to send (children) into preschool and the early grades of school as children who know books, who’ve been read to, who’ve read with adults.”

That’s because reading to a child does far more than provide a way for a busy parent to find a moment of seated peace in the midst of a chaotic day of play. It turns out that reading sessions done early and often give that child a big boost in the skills needed to succeed in school and at life.

“Reading aloud from birth is a critical factor in brain development, helping all children absorb new information, learn new words and hone skills,” says Michael Hagen, chief academic officer for Scholastic Education.

Kids who fall behind often struggle to catch up. According to research organization Child Trends, how a child uses vocabulary at age 3 strongly predicts language skill and reading comprehension at ages 9 and 10. The Children’s Literacy Foundation, a nonprofit working to encourage reading and writing among children in New Hampshire and Vermont, reports that one out of six children who can’t read at age level by the end of third grade won’t graduate from high school.

It’s not just a North American
issue. For example, statistics from Better Beginnings, a family literacy project developed by the State Library of Western Australia, show that 44 percent of Australian adults don’t have the literacy skills needed to deal with everyday work and life demands. And the Australian Industry Group found that 75 percent of employers say their business is affected by low levels of literacy and numeracy.

In 2014, the American Academy of Pediatrics officially advised parents to start reading aloud to their children from birth.

“It enhances, enriches, changes the language environment in which children are growing up,” explains Klass. “It’s one of the ways babies and young children are learning and understanding what language is and its power and how to use it, picking up words and sentences and sentence structures.”

Nicole McDermott is head of school at Pinecrest School in Annandale, Virginia. Her K-Kids club was the first to participate in Kiwanis International’s new Read & Lead program, a partnership with Penguin Random House that combines literacy with service. (See Follow the Reader on page 23).

“Reading does a lot of things,” she says. “It increases creativity, it increases capability for imagination. It certainly increases vocabulary and exposure to good writing. And it starts with the people you love early on, when you’re really little.”

But if reading aloud is good – and clearly it is – how you read aloud can make its power even greater. In 1988, Grover “Russ” Whitehurst, a leader in education research and policy in the U.S. and internationally, introduced the concept of dialogic reading. Simply put, when using this technique, an adult doesn’t read to a child who passively listens. Rather, the adult encourages the child to engage in the story, making the experience an interactive one.

Whitehurst and some fellow researchers tested dialogic reading with children between the ages of 21 and 35 months and found that those whose families used the technique scored six to 8.5 months ahead on reading development than did kids in a control group.

“It’s incredibly powerful for children as they’re learning to read to be able to participate,” Klass says. “That back and forth can evolve into a child who can actually ask and answer complicated questions or even help you read the story.”

Whitehurst summarized the technique as a PEER sequence:

- Prompt the child to say something about the book. (“What is this?” while pointing at a picture of a fire truck.)
- Evaluate the child’s response.
(If the child says “truck,” the adult responds “Yes, that’s right.”)

• Expand the child’s response by rephrasing and adding information. (“That’s a red fire truck.”)
• Repeat the prompt to make sure the child has learned the expanded information. (“Can you say ‘fire truck?’”)

Whitehurst advised reading a new book more traditionally the first time, then using the PEER technique in subsequent sessions. It works best, he wrote, when those reading alternate between dialogic and traditional approaches, use a variety of prompts and keep the child’s interests in mind.

Engaging children in a story also involves enthusiasm on the part of the reader, experts say.

“Go ahead – use your silly voice,” advises Klass. “Use your squeaky voice for the mouse and use your very deep voice for the monster. You don’t want it to be serious. You want the kid to be laughing or telling you what’s going to happen or reciting the rhymes along with you. Developmentally, by 18 months, two years, a child who’s been read to will start completing the rhymes.”

Offering a selection of age-appropriate books and letting a child choose which ones to read furthers the impact of the experience. It gives the child a sense of control, ensures the story will be engaging and opens a window on new worlds, something young readers increasingly request.

“Thirty-one percent of children ages six to 17 want books that explore places and worlds they’ve never been,” reports Scholastic’s Hagen, “and 22 percent want books that help them imagine and understand other people’s lives. Kids are seeking opportunities to branch out.”

Providing a diverse selection of books also fosters a sense of inclusion and belonging in children, he says.

“It’s important that all kids, no matter their cultural background, interests or postal code, see themselves in books.”

Unfortunately, not all children have access to books of any kind. According to Scholastic, 46 percent of teachers and principals say that access to fiction and/or nonfiction books at home is not adequately available to their students. For children in high poverty areas, that number increases to 69 percent. And Reach Out and Read reports that families living in poverty are significantly less likely to read aloud to their infants and toddlers.

**One out of six children who can’t read at age level by the end of third grade won’t graduate from high school.**

That translates into lower academic achievement, warns First Book, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that works to create equal access to quality education. The group reports that 79 percent of fourth-graders from low-income households do not read proficiently.

“One of the best things that any caring adult – whether it’s a parent, caregiver or Kiwanian – can do is to help ensure all children have access to books,” says Hagen. “Can you arrange a group trip to a public library, organize free pop-up libraries at barber shops or places of worship, raise funds to provide at least one book to every child to read over the summer? The more opportunities children have to interact with a variety of high-interest, high-quality, authentic texts, the better.”
And while it’s tempting to think technology holds the key to expanded book access – one device, limitless reading options – timeless print picture books hold one key advantage over their modern competition.

“The great power with small children of a traditional board book,” Klass says, “is that in order to make it talk to you, you have to activate a parent. It’s an interaction that’s about stories and language and information, and ideally it’s also about back and forth and an adult showing the way to how big and wide and interesting the world is.”

Such a collaborative relationship shouldn’t cease once a child can read on her own, although that happens far too often. Scholastic reports that reading aloud to children drops after age five, and then again after age eight. Fifty-nine percent of children between birth and age five hear books read to them at home; that drops to 38 percent of kids ages six to eight. Only 17 percent of children ages 9 to 11 hear parents read books to them.

“The reward for learning to read should not be that adults stop reading to you,” cautions Klass. “It’s the closeness of having an adult you trust take you a little further than you could go yourself in story and narrative and information.”

Parents and caregivers who continue to read with children also help set them up for a lifelong love of books. As kids get older, they have a lot of options competing for their free time. Computers, smart phones, sports, clubs, specialized lessons and social activities vie for their attention. It’s up to adults to make sure reading remains a cherished pastime.

“Parents are kids’ number-one source of encouragement to read books for fun,” says Hagen. Adults should be role models by reading books for both pleasure and information. Klass suggests setting aside regular screen-free times, when everyone in the family or group puts aside phones, computers and televisions and instead reads, either individually or together. If kids need help finding books they like, turn to the pros. Hagen says 51 percent of kids get their best book ideas from teachers and librarians.

“The best way to make sure that children keep reading,” Klass stresses, “the best way that’s ever been discovered, is to find – or for them to find – something that they will want to know so badly that they stay up all night and read under the covers with a flashlight.”
It’s a big day at Pinecrest School in Annandale, Virginia. Nestled into a serene setting surrounded by mature trees and augmented with birdsong, the school serves 80 students, from preschoolers to sixth-graders. Today, 20 of those students, the members of Pinecrest’s K-Kids club, are on a mission: create food packs for hungry children in their area.

“This is my favorite kind of service project,” says Nicole McDermott, head of Pinecrest School and the K-Kids advisor, “kids helping kids.”

Food drives are nothing new for the K-Kids. They hold one each spring to help stock a food bank in need of supplies during a season when donations dwindle. But this one is special: It’s larger in scope and was inspired by the club’s participation in Read & Lead, a new program offered by Kiwanis International and Penguin Random House.

Read & Lead combines literacy and service by exploring one of five themes: bullying prevention, the environment, hunger, literacy and “Ordinary People Change the World.” Each Read & Lead kit contains a set of curated books relating to the theme, along with an introductory letter, a discussion and activity guide and a guide for creating related service projects.
“This is my favorite kind of service project. Kids helping kids.”

NICOLE McDERMOTT
HEAD OF PINECREST SCHOOL
AND THE K-KIDS ADVISOR

The Pinecrest K-Kids are piloting the program and have chosen the “Ordinary People Change the World” kit. For the past few weeks, they’ve been working in four groups, with each group reading about a different inspiring person: Albert Einstein, Jane Goodall, Helen Keller or Jackie Robinson.

McDermott asked each group to answer four questions:

• Who is this book about?
• What are three important things about this person?
• Why should we care about this person?
• How does this person make you want to help others?

Club members discussed their findings with one another, sharing insights ranging from perseverance to compassion. For Albert Einstein: “He is a good role model for showing us to never give up on what we like.” For Jane Goodall: “She makes us want to help others by being nice and making friends.” For Jackie Robinson: “His story inspired other people to be brave.” And for Helen Keller: “For a while, she had no connection to her family, and there might be other kids out there who are like her and need help.”

Taking that inspiration to heart, the K-Kids descend upon Pinecrest’s art room after school like a constructive tornado, voices rising and swirling in excitement. They have a goal to reach: 75 “power packs” for hungry kids to take home on an evening or weekend. Each pack must contain two breakfast items, two lunch or dinner items, two snacks and two...
beverages. Thanks to club members’ persistence, boxes and bags of donated food are stacked in the art room.

The K-Kids dive in, unpacking the food into piles on one of four tables, then sorting those piles into categories. Soon, two kids control each table, and the rest form an efficient assembly line, grabbing a sealable plastic bag, traveling counter-clockwise around the tables to gather the necessary items, dropping off the finished pack and starting the cycle again.

In less than an hour, the final pack is completed, and the K-Kids count their collection: 123 bags of food, far surpassing their goal.

“I think Read & Lead was inspiring to them,” McDermott says. “The kids who read the Jackie Robinson book said, ‘He’s reminding us to be brave.’ And I said, ‘Well, you have to be brave to help people, because sometimes you have to do things that are hard for you.’”

Lesson learned.

For more information, visit kiwanis.org/clubs/programs/read-and-lead.
What happened in

VEGAS

WITH A FOCUS ON CLUB BUILDING, THE 2018 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION HARNESSED THE ENERGY OF THE VEGAS STRIP TO MOTIVATE AND INSPIRE ATTENDEES.

It is just not true. “What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.” That’s just not true. More than 3,600 registered attendees and guests left the 2018 Kiwanis International convention — and its famed secretive host city — with plenty of experiences to share with their clubs. The world will never be the same.

Lessons learned in Vegas workshops are being re-taught in clubs, addressing topics about membership, children, Service Leadership Programs and more.

Attendees are returning home inspired to a relentless pursuit of their passion to serve children. That was the message presented by keynote speaker — and former Notre Dame University football underdog hero — Rudy Ruettiger. For further motivation, The Penguin Project — a Peoria, Illinois-based theatrical troupe of entertainers with disabilities, accompanied by peer mentors — earned a standing ovation through song, dance and a down-on-the-knees air-guitar solo.

Kiwanis generosity, exhibited in Vegas, will be delivered to mothers and babies worldwide. Challenged by UNICEF supporters and fellow members to match their combined US$100,000 gift to The Eliminate Project, Kiwanians blew past the goal with more than $170,000 in contributions and pledges. This success inspired another $100,000 challenge, which will be carried forward to district conventions.

“That means,” said Kiwanis International Executive Director Stan Soderstrom, “$400,000 will be raised for The Eliminate Project!”
By nearly every standard of excellence, Utica-Shelby Township, Michigan, is a healthy Kiwanis club.

Service? Over the past 30 years, thousands of kids have learned the rules of safety at the club’s bicycle rodeo. The club sponsors four Builders Clubs, four Key Clubs and a CKI club. Members read to school children, pick up trash, organize a farm day for kids, give students backpacks filled with school supplies, package meals for hungry families and host a community baby shower.

Fundraising? Golf tournaments, auctions, a 5K run and other money-makers help the club support numerous local causes while it also saves and protects the world’s babies and women with a US$200,000 pledge to The Eliminate Project.

Membership? As of this past May, the club has 72 members. In recent years, it has helped organize two other Michigan District Kiwanis clubs.

Leadership? Utica-Shelby Township members have served on district and international committees and boards. Member Mark B. Rabaut served as 2015-16 Kiwanis Children’s Fund president.

Yet.

Members’ participation in service projects is declining. As a result, this year’s auction and a raffle fell way short of expectations. Of membership, Secretary Amanda Krieg says, “We have no problem getting
young people to join, but we just can’t keep them.”

With a goal to remain healthy and relevant in this Detroit-suburban community, the club agreed it’s time for change and invited Kiwanis magazine to follow the process, through difficult decisions and, hopefully, the celebration of a better, stronger Kiwanis club.

“It is our hope that other clubs will learn from our mistakes and our success,” says club President Jerry Webb.

THE PROBLEMS

It’s a chilly January evening in nearby Troy, Michigan, and Andre Laubach arrives at the Kona Grill restaurant and finds a seat at the end of a line of tables. He knows most of the other diners, including President Webb and Secretary Krieg and Michigan District Secretary Gregory P. Smith. Webb introduces the other guests, including Preston Abadie, a nine-year member of the Kiwanis Club of Downriver West, Michigan.

Abadie is a trained club coach, assigned by Kiwanis International to assist the Utica-Shelby Township club through its makeover. Through his involvement in the Michigan District, he already is well aware of the club’s state-wide reputation as a successful club, so he moves the discussion toward members’ concerns, to issues that aren’t readily visible outside the club’s membership.

Laubach, a six-year member with a passion for introducing Kiwanis to new generations, is among the first to speak.

“Dues and meeting time,” he says. “These are two issues that must be addressed if we are to attract and keep young people. Our dues are $600 a year, and we meet at noon on Thursdays. Both are barriers for young adults who have limited financial resources and limited time availability during the work day.”

He continues with a story about his attempt to open a satellite of young professionals.

“I took the idea to the club, and they were all for it,” he says. “But the dues would still be $600. I knew young professionals couldn’t pay that; so, I went out and formed a service group outside the club.

“We had about 15 members, and I went back to the club and said, ‘I have all these potential members. Do we want to form a satellite?’”

“It is our hope that other clubs will learn from our mistakes and our success.”

JERRY WEBB

CLUB PRESIDENT
Again, the dues issue was raised, and the club agreed to set the satellite dues at $250.

“I thought I could get them to pay $150, but $250 was a little high,” he says. “But I said I would try.”

Within a few months, satellite membership had dwindled to two.

As the January meeting continues, other issues are raised. Abadie keeps notes of the comments, the positives and the negatives:

- Interesting speakers
- Infrequent new-member orientation
- Fun
- Stuck in our ways
- Positive reputation
- Not a lot of hands-on service
- Strong partnerships
- Not enough social events
- Disengaged members
- Need to acknowledge people who do the work
- Only a few invite guests

The next morning, Abadie emails a note of encouragement to the club’s leaders.

“I am confident that we will be able to collaborate and identify some goals and actions … that will reinvigorate the Utica-Shelby club,” he writes. “I saw in each of you a passion for making a difference in your community and in the lives of children, which is what we strive to do as Kiwanians. … I know you all will accomplish anything you set out to do, and you’ll have fun doing it.”

THE PROMISING
President Webb has called a special meeting on a rainy Saturday morning in May. This time, 15 members gather for breakfast at Dave & Bust-
“So far, we’ve been looking at our current state, and I want to turn to look into the future,” he tells his fellow Kiwanis members. “I want you to describe the club as it will exist 10 to 20 years from now.”

Member Mary Novak has an idea.

“We need a focus, like child literacy, hunger and socialization,” she says. “These are just examples, though they are my passions. But if we focus all our efforts on three major things, I think we’ll make a larger presence in the community.
and I think we’ll engage more people in the community.”

Denice Vitale adds a measurable goal to Novak’s vision. “If we improve literacy by 10 percent in four Title 1 Shelby-Utica schools, people in our community will say, ‘Hey, I want to be involved in that. I want to be a part of that.’

Discussions snowball. Each comment feeds the next.

On member participation:
“We will have over 75 percent participation from members in all our service and fundraising.”
“The reason we’re getting 75 percent participation is because it’s not being done in a lunch setting.”
“We don’t want our meetings to be the most important thing we do. … The service that we do will be the most important thing.”

On young members:
“In 10 years, our club members will be the Utica-Shelby kids we have impacted today. They’ll get involved in Key Club and Circle K and then Kiwanis.”
“And we’ll stay with them every step of the way to make sure they stay engaged and involved and participating.”

“We’ll have ways to get involved that don’t require paying money, and we’ll set dues and schedule meetings at times that work for young people.”

On social activities:
“I kind of like the idea of a picnic. … It’s a social thing to show that we are a family that likes to have fun.”

“An annual picnic would be fantastic. The focus is the whole family. … Our families aren’t separated by something we’re doing in Kiwanis. I like that.”

Next steps
President Webb compliments his fellow Kiwanians and asks for volunteers to join a committee that will compile the day’s conversations and write a story describing their 2028 club. Hands pop up throughout the room.

“From this story,” he says, “we’ll create the action items to make this story come true.”

Kiwanis magazine will continue to follow the Kiwanis Club of Utica-Shelby Township as its story unfolds.

RESOURCES
Club Coach Preston Abadie recommended three documents to help the Utica-Shelby Township club through its revitalization process:
- A scorecard for compiling survey results.
- The Club Action Planning chart, which guides clubs through setting goals, listing actions for achieving goals, setting target completion dates and identifying responsible member(s).
- Creating the Purpose, which helps clubs define their purpose, determine how to measure success and renew members’ passion for Kiwanis.

To access these and other helpful documents from The Formula, visit kiwanis.org/CLEresources.
The students in Memorial School’s Honors Accelerated Placement classroom were concerned. This group of 60 first- and second-graders – all of whom scored above grade level in reading and math – had heard a lot about the Zika virus through news reports. During one of their weekly meetings at their Garden City, Michigan, school, they began discussing the issue and the cause behind it: mosquito bites.

“We began wondering what we could do to get rid of mosquitoes,” says Kelly Depriest, a teacher at Memorial and one of two staff to oversee the HAP.

That’s when the Kiwanis Club of Garden City, Michigan, stepped in. After receiving a letter from the students asking for assistance, they readily answered the bat signal. At the students’ request, Home Depot had agreed to donate all necessary materials and tools. Five Kiwanis members and a guest visited Memorial to precut the items, assemble a prototype and then supervise the construction.

“One student acted as a project manager and kept the students rotating through the assembly line process, which the Kiwanis members created for ease of completion,” Depriest says. “All of the students participated throughout the day.”

Their hard work yielded 22 bat houses. The students already had written to the city’s mayor and the school district’s superintendent...
and received permission to install the houses in community parks and on school properties. Several Kiwanians purchased houses for themselves. The students donated those funds back to the Garden City club to support future community projects.

“Most of the children had never handled tools before and were thrilled to have that opportunity and to build something useful at the same time,” says Tom Jankowski, immediate past president of Kiwanis Club of Garden City. “As for the Kiwanis members, we had as much fun or more than the children involved.”
When members of the Kiwanis Club of Pella, Iowa, first heard that hundreds of children in Uganda desperately wanted an education but didn’t have the resources to participate, they knew they had to act. Education is key to breaking the cycle of poverty in many villages. Those who aren’t able to continue school often marry early and are relegated to trying to survive on subsistence farming.

“My heart was broken with compassion imagining all of those children sitting on the perimeter of the school wishing they were able to attend,” says Matthew Burch, the club’s secretary. “I knew we had to do something.”

The board approved US$500 in initial financial support — which the club hopes to expand and continue annually — to Mission Uganda, which spent three weeks this past June visiting schools in Uganda to distribute uniforms and math sets, as well as funding for school meals.

Uniforms are required to attend school, and often, families can’t afford them. Math kits are critical for students to progress to high school. Many students fail the math portion of the state-required test because they don’t know how to use basic geometry tools like a ruler, protractor, compass and triangle, all of which Mission Uganda provides.

Many students don’t have food to eat during the school day either, so Mission Uganda helps fund porridge as well.

“It doesn’t take government agencies or large NGOs to make a difference,” says Mike Morgan, a past club president.

In addition to the club’s donation, middle school students in Pella raised money for the porridge by selling T-shirts and donating tips, and uniforms were fully funded by private donations.

“What a fantastic opportunity to gift and give others the support needed, whether financial, relational or circumstantial, when there is a need,” Burch says. “It is what we are called to do. The true gift of giving became our moment of joy.”
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Learn more about each program at [kiwanis.org/marketplace](http://kiwanis.org/marketplace).
You could say it was a family affair.

On May 2, Kiwanis, Key Club and K-Kids members in Palmer, Alaska, gathered around tables covered in colorful, patterned fleece, chatting and tying knots. The annual Fleece Fandango fundraiser is the only project in the region that involves all local branches of the Kiwanis family. Members of all ages come together to create soft, no-sew blankets for children in crisis.

This year, the clubs created 30 blankets for the Children’s Place, an advocacy center where children receive support, crisis intervention and referrals for mental health and medical treatment.

“This is a critical group for children who’ve been traumatized and need to go from their original home to a foster home,” says Kiwanian Eva Cohnen-Brown. “They often aren’t able to take anything with them during this transition, and these blankets are theirs to keep. It’s one way for them to receive a sense of comfort and security during a very difficult time in their lives.”

Fleece Fandango started in April 2013, the brainchild of Marian Lear, another Palmer Kiwanis member. So far, more than 100 blankets have been donated.

“Building a sense of continuity in the service community helps ensure membership will stay relevant and strong over the years,” Cohnen-Brown says.

Fleece Fandango has become the service focal point at the school year’s end for K-Kids and Key Club members. This year, the Palmer High School Key Club purchased some of the fleece and prepared materials; members then measured the fabric, trimmed the excess and cut the fleece into strips that could be tied on event day.

“Members of K-Kids and Key Club get a sense of helping others who may be their same age, but in very needy situations,” Cohnen-Brown says. “It also helps the younger members of K-Kids see that they can continue to serve as they get older in Key Club. Key Clubbers, in turn, offer service as role models to the younger members.”

The Kiwanians also enjoy helping and serving as role models for the students, who can see the community of service that Kiwanis offers in adulthood.

“It’s a wonderful way for all Kiwanis branches in the area to collaborate for a worthy goal,” Cohnen-Brown says.
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When the Kiwanis Club of Tulsa, Oklahoma, began planning its centennial celebration, members considered building a monument. Instead, they chose to invest in the future. With the US$84,000 earmarked for a monument, the group instead funded student scholarships and teacher grants in the cash-strapped Tulsa school system.

“We talked about building monuments,” says First Vice President Steve Collins. “I thought, ‘Why don’t we plant some seeds and increase our scholarship offerings?’”

The club presented its awards at a sit-down dinner, followed by an after-party of fellowship and dancing. The group already has a rich history of awarding scholarships, but it opened its Student of the Year award to anyone who wanted to submit an application and essay. The winner, Marisol Jaramillo, received $5,000 for books, a laptop or other school expenses when she attends Tulsa Community College next year.

High school principals nominated candidates for Teacher of the Year, which carried a $2,500 grant. Two finalists received $1,000 grants, while the other nominees each were awarded $500. The club also donated matching grants to each high school.

Top winner Julie Skrzypczak, a Tulsa Webster High School math teacher, has a list of needs for her students. Her high school student body has a high poverty rate, and many have experienced traumatic childhoods, including homelessness or the loss of one or both parents.

Skrzypczak is playing with the idea of purchasing a classroom set of Lénárt Spheres, hands-on tools that help students explore geometry and expand critical thinking skills. She’s also considering a Google Home, an interactive tool that allows students to ask questions that might fall outside the teacher’s realm of expertise.

Other items on her wish list carry small price tags but have the potential for a big impact. Dry erase markers, for example, may be something families take for granted, but these seeds can be life-changing for Tulsa students. And that’s the point, Collins says.

“If we’re going to solve problems, we’re not going to solve them overnight. We’re going to solve them by investing in the future, and that’s our kids and that’s our schools.”

The seed analogy doesn’t stop with the grant. The club decided to commemorate its 100th anniversary by sponsoring a Tulsa intersection in the city’s “Up With Trees” program. Trees will be planted as a lasting testimony to the club’s century of working with the city.

“We’ll still have that monument,” Collins says, “in a kind of way.”
Birthdays

THESE CLUBS CELEBRATE THEIR 100TH, 75TH, 50TH AND 25TH ANNIVERSARIES IN SEPTEMBER.

100TH — 1918
Newark, Ohio, September 4
Wheeling, West Virginia, September 24

75TH — 1943
Transfer, Pennsylvania, September 23

50TH — 1968
Drummondville, Quebec, September 4
Rampart Range (The), Colorado Springs, Colorado, September 10
Akureyri Kaldbakur, Iceland, September 14
St. Eustache, Quebec, September 22
Houma, Louisiana, September 24
Cebu, Philippines, September 24
Basel Birseck, Switzerland, September 30

25TH — 1993
Le Vesinet Boucle de Seine, France, September 9
Pompano Beach Westside, Florida, September 14
Southport Oak Island, North Carolina, September 21
Greenville Eastside, South Carolina, September 22
Chang Cheng, Tou Liu City, Taiwan, September 29
Fu Lu, Lu Kang Chen, Taiwan, September 29
Heart of Oklahoma Purcell, Oklahoma, September 29
Leeuwarden, Netherlands, September 30

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Go to Kiwanis.org/CLE.
Signature move

WIFE-HUSBAND TEAM PUT SERVICE AT FOREFRONT OF OPENING CLUBS.
Words JACK BROCKLEY

When the Gugliuzzas open a Kiwanis club, they prefer the new group make an immediate service statement. “To start a signature project at the very forefront of opening a new club gives the new members a purpose, a direction, a buy-in,” says Chuck. “So they can say, ‘We are Kiwanis because we...’”

As of this past June, he and Emilia have opened nine clubs in Colombia and two in Ecuador. Emelia travels frequently from her home in Florida to her native country, Colombia, where she joined a Kiwanis club in 2015. With membership declining, she and the only other member changed the club’s name and built the roster to charter strength.

Now, she’s the Eye of the Tiger chair in Latin America, pairing her passion for teaching kids with Chuck’s eagerness for “get-your-hands-dirty” service. Together, he says, they’re motivated to grow “an organization we have truly come to love and cherish.”

The key to membership success, he says, can be summarized in three words.

“Passion and vision are a must. And belief, believing not only in the cause, the signature project and Kiwanis, but believing in oneself to make a difference.”

EMILIA AND CHUCK GUGLIUZZA
KIWANIS CLUBS IN FLORIDA AND COLOMBIA

ALL-STARS

MEMBER SPONSOR
KATRINA BARANKO
ALBANY, GEORGIA

Baranko has become a leader on the Eye of the Tiger team, recruiting members in more than 10 districts. She does it with a positive, upbeat attitude at all times.

CLUB OPENER
LYNDALE “BING” CAUSING
BUD BONGAO, THE PHILIPPINES

As lieutenant governor-elect, Causing has led by example, opening six clubs. She's constantly on the lookout for new sites to spread the Kiwanis message of service.

GOVERNOR
DAN LITZINGER
OHIO

Litzinger oversaw a mega-club opening blitz, with the help of the Eye of the Tiger team, resulting in five new Ohio clubs — giving the districts eight new clubs this year.

STAFF
DENISE PARKER
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Parker is the Kiwanis International Office liaison to the Kiwanis International and Kiwanis Children's Fund boards. A tireless worker, her attention to detail is second to none.

Read about all of the all-stars at kiwanis.org/roar.
TOP 5 DISTRICTS FOR CLUBS OPENED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Clubs opened*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Philippine Luzon</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Philippine South</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>California-Nevada-Hawaii</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Illinois-Eastern Iowa</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOP 5 DISTRICTS FOR MEMBERS ADDED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Members*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>2,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>California-Nevada-Hawaii</td>
<td>1,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Philippine Luzon</td>
<td>1,115</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pacific Northwest</td>
<td>858</td>
</tr>
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</table>

TOP 5 INDIVIDUAL CLUB OPENERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Club opener</th>
<th>Clubs opened*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jim Rochford</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Alan Guire, Kendra Skidmore</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Valarie Brown-Klingelhoefer</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Brad Boyd, Anna Wu</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOP 5 INDIVIDUAL NEW-MEMBER SPONSORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>New members*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Anna Wu</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kendra Skidmore</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jim Rochford</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Emilia Gugliuzzo</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Barbara Thompson</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE FORMULA: Club opening

The Missouri-Arkansas District has two new Kiwanis clubs after a club-opening blitz in Arkansas this past April: the Bentonville Razorbacks and the Downtown Rogers. To make this happen, the Missouri-Arkansas District formed a planning committee including the governor, governor-elect, Formula chair, Eye of the Tiger chair, area director and club coaches. Blitzes are happening in new Kiwanis communities across the United States and other parts of the world. Spreading Kiwanis to new areas means helping more kids, and that’s what Kiwanis is all about.

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 June 8, 2018
**ELECTION RESULTS**

Florencio C. “Poly” Lat will be the second Philippine member to lead Kiwanis International, as the Metro Manila Kiwanian was confirmed as 2018-19 president by delegates at the 103rd Annual Kiwanis International Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, this past June. Arthur N. Riley of Westminster, Maryland, was elected vice president. Other election results are:

**President-elect:** Daniel Vigneron, Howald, Luxembourg

**US and Pacific Canada Region trustees:** Katrina J. Baranko, Albany, Georgia; George R. Delisle, Westfield, Massachusetts; Ronald E. Smith, Fountain Hills, Arizona

**Asia-Pacific Region trustee:** Tony Gunn of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, was elected to a two-year term at the Kiwanis Asia-Pacific convention in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this past March.

**Canada and Caribbean Region trustee:** Kulwant “Sam” Sekhon of Sandy Hook, Manitoba, was elected to a three-year term by delegates at the August 2017 Western Canada District convention in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**Europe Region trustee:** Elio Garozzo of Catania, Italy, was elected to a three-year term during the Kiwanis International-European Federation convention in Baveno, Italy, this past May.

**THE PENGUIN PROJECT HONORED**

Andrew Morgan, founder of The Penguin Project, was presented Kiwanis International’s highest honor, the World Service Medal. The Penguin Project stages Broadway musicals by pairing “peer mentors” with actors who have disabilities. Learn more about The Penguin Project at penguinproject.org. Learn more about the World Service Medal at kiwanis.org/wsm.

**OHIO CLUB’S PLAY PLANS WINS**

Landscape Structures and Kiwanis International have announced the winner of their 5th annual Legacy of Play contest: the Kiwanis Club of Marietta. The Ohio community will receive equipment valued at US$25,000 for its planned inclusive playground. Visit kiwanis.org/2018legacy for more details.
TWO AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

Delegates at the 2018 convention in Las Vegas, adopted two amendments to Kiwanis International Bylaws (effective October 1):

• To clarify that district board endorsement of candidates for Kiwanis International board requires pre-approval by the Kiwanis International Board.

• To require that Kiwanis International trustee candidates must have served as immediate past governor prior to formally announcing candidacy to Kiwanis International.

One proposal to adopt a family-membership status that would allow a 50 percent dues discount for qualifying members failed.

Review the decisions at kiwanis.org/2018amendments.

POLICY UPDATES

The Kiwanis International Board revised policies to:

• Prohibit the use of membership dues or fees to purchase alcoholic beverages for or by the Kiwanis International Board or staff.

• Add Kiwanis subsidiaries and affiliates to the list of entities that are permitted and licensed to use the name of Kiwanis and its official marks.

For complete details, check kiwanis.org/2018policy.

UNDERSTANDING MEDIGAP ENROLLMENT

Kiwanis International has partnered with United Medicare Advisors to provide education and resources for U.S. members shopping for Medicare. During your six-month enrollment period, United Medicare Advisors can help take the headache out of Medicare and find you the perfect supplement policy for your healthcare needs and budget. Learn more at kiwanis.org/medigapenrollment.

GOVERNOR NEMENZO MOURNED

Kiwanis mourns the loss of Philippine South Governor Ivan Garcia “Van” Nemenzo, who died this past June. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Metro Bacolod, the Philippines. Under his leadership, the district has regularly been at the top of new-club building success this year (Page 45).

He is survived by his wife, Nelia, and children, Vanessa, Ivana, Victoria and Al.

PLAN YOUR PLAY DAY

This September 29, Nickelodeon invites Kiwanis clubs to host a Worldwide Day of Play event in their communities. With its commitment to health and wellness, Nickelodeon takes its programming off the air to reinforce a simple message: Get up, get out and go play. Register your plans on day-of-play.com, and Nick will acknowledge your club on air when the network resumes its broadcasts.
And the winners are

THREE KIWANIS CLUBS ARE HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE PROJECTS.

Each year, Kiwanis clubs sponsor nearly 150,000 service projects worldwide. From this long list of service excellence, Kiwanis International honored three Kiwanis clubs as winners of the 2018 Signature Project Contest. Revealed at the 2018 convention in Las Vegas this past June, they are:

GOLD

Kiwanis Club of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Project: Down Syndrome Foundation-National Centre

It’s a scene that occurs nearly 120 times every year in Greater Kuala Lumpur. A doctor tells new parents that their baby has Down syndrome. It can be startling, worrying news for a young family, but in the nation’s capital city, doctors ease parents’ concerns with a piece of advice: “Register with Kiwanis.”

For the past 30 years, the Kuala Lumpur Kiwanis club’s center has provided an early intervention program, which guides Down syndrome children and their parents through a curriculum that – step by step – develops gross- and fine-motor skills, improves speech and language and teaches reading, writing and social skills.

The center’s impact on the nation’s Down syndrome community is notable. It has inspired several other Malaysia District clubs to open similar Down syndrome centers in their communities. University students seek internships at the national center. And teachers from other nations, such as Pakistan and Mongolia, attend annual workshops there.

“We know (the project) has made a great impact in the community,” the club’s contest entry states, “when parents, initially feeling helpless at the birth of the child diagnosed with Down syndrome, feel joy and pride at the progress of development of the child within six months of enrolling at the KDSF-NC.”
AUGUST 2018
49

For one day in May, hundreds of Santa Clara and San Mateo County, California, children hear the roar of the crowd, slap high-fives with teammates and competitors and receive validation for their athletic abilities, rather than being excused because of severe physical challenges.

“We are repeatedly told that the games is the most important day in the lives of many of our brave athletes,” wrote the Los Altos, Kiwanis club in its Signature Project Contest entry.

Set up at a community college field, the Kiwanis Special Games has 18 events, which are tailored to fit the abilities of all athletes, including beach ball soccer; 10-, 25-, 50- and 100-yard dashes; a bean bag throw and a bean bag drop, skittle bowl, steeplechase and Nerf archery. Nearly 1,000 athletes participate, ranging in ages from six to 18 and coming from more than 60 area schools that offer adaptive physical education programs.

This past year, more than 500 Kiwanis members were assisted by Key Club and Circle K members, as well as volunteers from law enforcement agencies, corporations and U.S. Army National Guard. Dozens of other businesses, agencies and groups participate through financial and in-kind donations.

BRONZE
Kiwanis Club of Varese, Italy
Project: Martino Piccolo Lupo book

Martin is just a pup, a soft-gray wolf pup who doesn’t howl at the moon like the rest of his pack. But over the past two years, his story – Martino Piccolo Lupo – has taught thousands of school children about autism, and Martin has become a popular ambassador of Kiwanis in Italy and Switzerland.

Through a collaboration with the publisher, Carthusia Edizioni, and the writers, Gionata Bernasconi and Simona Mulazzani and the ARES Swiss Foundation, the Kiwanis Club of Varese began coordinating the delivery of the book into area schools. Other Italy-San Marino District Kiwanis clubs became involved, and the project spread to the Switzerland-Liechtenstein District. In its Signature Project Contest entry, the Varese Kiwanis club estimated that more than 20,000 children have heard Martin’s story.

“Teachers are enthusiastic about the story that allows them to talk in an easy way to children about a behavioral difficulty that could affect one of their school friends,” the contest entry reads. “Martino Piccolo Lupo represents our ambassador for promoting inclusion within children who can then grow as sensitive citizens.”

SILVER
Kiwanis Club of Los Altos, California
Project: Kiwanis Special Games

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**Word search**

Batter up! Two outs in the bottom of the ninth with the bases loaded, and you’re at the plate. Baseball and Kiwanis go way back in their intertwined histories (see “Play Ball,” Page 8); so, a lot’s at stake in this word search challenge. Swing for the fences. Go yard. Jack one outta here. Touch ‘em all and win one for the “K.”

```
P O V U C L O X C L I S A B U
A F P H M J T M O N R O E J Y
C L D T Q V I B T A A L N V S
D V I F F Z X E K O C B O D N
M A M Z T E G L L A B E S A B
S N A H P R O K R O U W N B Y
J G G L A N C I C G H K I A Z
G K G T B I M P A A O T B B F
C Y I Z O A N E C Y M P O E I
D O O W Y L L O H E E W R N P
N M Q C A L D U S N R K K E K
Y L L Y F N N N Q I G D C F C
A K B U K R I Q A C D H W I I
S A N A W I K S Z S C E G T R
B C W X O E Q R Z P L K P U F
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**Clues:**
- BABE
- BASEBALL
- BENEFIT
- COBB
- DIMAGGIO
- EDISON
- FRICK
- HOLLYWOOD
- HOMER
- INTEGRATION
- KIWANIS
- KNOTHOLE
- LEAGUE
- MACK
- MIRACLE
- MONROE
- ORPHANS
- RICKEY
- ROBINSON
- SANDLOT
- ZERNIAL
BEING A PART OF THIS TEAM MEANS BEING A PART OF A COMMUNITY.

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

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