CLEAN HANDS OPEN HEARTS

A TEXAS KEY CLUB CONSTRUCTS A WATER STATION FOR GUATEMALAN SCHOOLCHILDREN

FAMILY AFFAIR: GENEALOGY GOES HIGH-TECH
MAKER SPACE: CLASSROOM PROMOTES INVENTION
MAGIC IN DISNEY: KIWANIS CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS
Play never told me you can’t or don’t or you shouldn’t or you won’t.

Play never said be careful! You’re not strong enough. You’re not big enough. You’re not brave enough.

Play has always been an invitation. A celebration. A joyous manifestation. Of the cans and wills and what ifs and why nots.

Play isn’t one thing. It’s everything. Anything.

Play doesn’t care what a body can or cannot do. Because play lives inside us. All of us.


And as we grow older. As the world comes at us with you can’t or don’t or you shouldn’t or you won’t. We come back to what we know. That imagination will never fail us. That words will never hurt us. That play will always shape us.

To see the new We-Go-Round®, visit playlsi.com/we-go-round.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

POLY LAT • KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Youth are our future

What will the Kiwanis of the future look like? In my vision, we’ll be in good hands if those now involved with our Kiwanis Youth Programs continue on the Kiwanis path and become members as they reach adulthood.

I’m proud of the work our Kiwanis Youth Programs accomplish every day. Our young people are involved around the globe, making an impact in their communities and learning valuable leadership skills.

Our programs that support youth through college-age students are the very foundation on which many young people build a life dedicated to volunteer service and leadership. As we look through pictures of past Key Club International and Circle K International presidents, we see doctors, business and community leaders, attorneys, elected officials, award-winning journalists and more.

As Kiwanians, we should be proud of the legacy of leadership that we help foster.

Former U.S. Senator Bill Nelson from Florida was asked to address a luncheon at our recent Kiwanis International convention. Nelson was Key Club International president in 1959-60 and credits his involvement in Key Club as a driving force behind his lifelong commitment to service.

In 2018, our youth programs had a membership of more than 350,000! While that is impressive, we cannot be satisfied with that number. Knowing the profound impact our programs have on students’ lives and their communities, we cannot rest. We must push our limits and open more clubs around the world.

Every generation has its challenges and obstacles. Today’s kids face pressure from social media and people who use the internet for unscrupulous purposes. Imagine a Key Club and CKI on every high school and university campus. This should be our goal, spreading our programs to every country and community to help kids become aware, self-confident and compassionate. When our students are engaged, they feel more connected to their communities. From there, great things can happen!

Kiwanis programs for young people are truly transformative experiences. Join me in looking into the future and envisioning the positive impact on our world with more Key Club and Circle K alumni!

EXECUTIVE PERSPECTIVE

STAN SODERSTROM • KIWANIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our membership issue

In the past couple of months, I have received some wonderful feedback from Kiwanis members about the June/July issue of the magazine (“Pass This On”). Of course, you never know for sure how people will react when you do something a little different. But I’m pleased to tell you that the response has lived up to our hopes here at Kiwanis International.

To refresh your memory, the issue had two covers: a removable one for Kiwanians and the cover for whomever that member might want to give it to.

And what did that non-Kiwanis reader get? An easy-to-read and beautifully designed overview of an important question: “What if you could change the world?”

Big-picture questions can inspire people to think of ways they can make a larger difference. And that can lead them to think of Kiwanis membership as an opportunity for long-term impact.

Traditionally, one of the challenges our members face is the question of how to invite new members. Most of us know that the future of Kiwanis depends on creating new clubs and bringing in new members. But every year, less than 10 percent of Kiwanis members actually invite someone to join.

For me, that prompts a related question: How can Kiwanis International make it easier for members to attract people to Kiwanis? The June/July issue was one answer. And the response suggests that it was a good answer. In fact, we have received many requests for extra copies.

We were hoping to get those requests. That’s why we printed extra copies at the time of publication. So if you and your club need more copies of “Pass This On,” just ask for them!

And don’t stop there. I want to hear from you. If that issue helped make inviting new members easier, tell us how and why. Let us know whether you’d like more such issues related to Kiwanis? The June/July issue was one answer. And the response suggests that it was a good answer. In fact, we have received many requests for extra copies.

And don’t stop there. I want to hear from you. If that issue helped make inviting new members easier, tell us how and why. Let us know whether you’d like more such issues related to the magazine. Or should we use the publication in other ways that create membership resources for clubs?

After all, Kiwanis is a volunteer organization. When it works, it’s because you make it work. I want to hear what your experience tells you. Tell us how we can help members help this organization grow and make a lasting impact — in your community and around the world.
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VOICES

Letters

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

The power of play

The “Play” issue was quite exceptional. The graphics had me reading all the magazine. Tell your staff that they are the greatest! Thanks.

Diane Johnson
Kiwanis Club of Paso Robles, California

Superb issue. Thank you.

Alan Hackel
Kiwanis Club of Montgomery, Alabama

Creative approach

Good job, children. An excellent initiative for this beautiful service project.

François Barré
Kiwanis Club of Chateaudun, France

Magazine re-purposed

I take my past magazines and place my business card or a Kiwanis club card with all important information on the front covers. I then take them to professional office settings, such as doctors, dentists, Realtors and banks.

They will willingly let you place them on their magazine counter in the waiting room for people to look at while they’re waiting. You now have a captive audience looking for something to think about. Kiwanis magazine will fill the bill!

Ray Kepler
Kiwanis Club of Fort Collins, Colorado

My kimono

Kudos! You make a big difference to Kiwanis kids. You make a big smile on their faces.

Mercy San Diego
Kiwanis Club of Metro Bacoor, the Philippines

Fluff, fold and focus

Our club loves the idea, and we are trying to get things started with this!

Timi Cory
Kiwanis Club of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

End game

What a fantastic idea! I have forwarded this to our local Boys & Girls Clubs.

Paul Vonni
Kiwanis Club of Ontario, Idaho

I congratulate the friends in Wakayama, Japan, for their action that combines culture and work for disadvantaged children.

Horst Baumann
Kiwanis Club of Bruchsal, Germany

In a land of tradition, it is fitting that Kiwanians keep the traditions alive for all children. Bravo.

Peter Zander
Kiwanis Club of Brighton, Australia
Pass this on!

I collect Kiwanis magazines from members. My husband and I receive two magazines, which we use for sponsorship and for the monthly orientation class, which I teach for new members.

Over the printed address label, I put a new label, which reads:

“I am Kiwanis. I serve the kids of Springdale and the world. Please join us for lunch next Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Western Sizzlin (restaurant). Call me. I am happy to pick you up.”

When I have extras, I deliver them to my auto service center, the beauty shop, a classroom, a daycare, our Aktion Club or a new business. The bright cover attracts attention. People are curious. They might become a member or support our projects.

Thanks for your great work!

Dolores Stamps
Kiwanis Club of Springdale, Arkansas

Editor's Note: The Kiwanis Club of Springdale has 109 members.

I have been a proud member of Kiwanis for 30 years, which means I have received 250 Kiwanis magazines. I just wanted to let you know the June/July issue, “Pass This On,” was, in my opinion, the best of the lot. It was straightforward, had tons of useful information and was presented in an easily understood manner.

I would be more than happy to take the magazine’s advice to “pass it on” and will do just that to a prospective member.

Lewis Pollack
Kiwanis Club of San Leandro, California

You did a very nice job of making the June/July Kiwanis magazine readable with loads of pictures. The message on the inside cover offers the idea of using the magazine to help with our recruitment of new members. I’ve suggested that our members hang on to their magazines and decide at a future meeting if we should act individually or as a club with the distribution of these.

As I read through the magazine, I was inspired with short quotes from others about what led them to join Kiwanis — ideas which I might use when asking others to join us.

Jane Sewell Campbell
Kiwanis Club of Spencer After Five, Iowa

I’m meeting a lady today for lunch that I’m trying to get into a club. … I’m going to give this book to her and I know it’s going to inspire her to join our club and join Kiwanis. It almost made me cry, reading through this book and looking at the impact our organization has. It’s just very inspiring. Congratulations!

Sylvester Neal
Past Kiwanis International president
Kiwanis Club of the Valley, Auburn, Washington

Leader books

Although the purpose is not exactly the same, it is worth mentioning that the Kiwanis France-Monaco District has presented its Literary Award every year since 2016. The jury is composed of Kiwanians and non-Kiwanians.

Patrick Maurel
Kiwanis Club of Montpellier, France

Just don’t do it

Good article and I agree with 18 of the 19 just-don’t-do-its. However, I think you’re way off with your take of voicemails vs. texting.

Bill Hilton
Kiwanis Club of Daffodil Valley, Puyallup, Washington

A practical and well received article from Tony Knoderer. A home run, dude.

Rohan Harrison
Kiwanis Club of Toronto Caribbean, Ontario
What’s happening
TRENDS, TIPS, FACTS AND FIGURES FROM KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

Policy changes
At its April 2019 meeting, the Kiwanis International Board adjusted the procedure about clubs in good standing and adopted a new policy on effective practices for clubs. You can see the full content at kiwanis.org/0419policy.

Trustee-elect dies
Teh Cheng Lian died this past June, about four months after the Kiwanis Asia-Pacific convention in Taipei, Taiwan, where she had been elected to serve as a Kiwanis International trustee. Teh was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Changkat Jon Perak, Malaysia, and had served as 2012-13 Malaysia District governor.

Election results are in
Daniel Vigneron of Howald, Luxembourg, will serve as Kiwanis International’s 2019-20 president. His election was confirmed by delegates at the 104th annual convention at Walt Disney World® Resort this past June. Other election results:

President-elect: Arthur N. Riley, Westminster, Maryland.
Vice president: Peter J. Mancuso, North Bellmore, New York.

Trustees (United States and Pacific Canada): Gary “Coop” Cooper, Fayetteville, North Carolina; David W. Hurrelbrink, Kansas City, Kansas; and Cathy Szymanski, Erie, Pennsylvania, were elected to fill these three-year terms.

Trustee (Europe Region): Gunnsteinn Björnsson, Sauðárkróki, Iceland, was elected at the 2019 Kiwanis International-European Federation Convention in Reykjavík, Iceland, in May to fill this three-year term.
Delegates’ decisions

A nondiscrimination clause in the Kiwanis International Bylaws and a family-membership option were two of the issues proposed, discussed and decided at the Kiwanis International convention in June. Results are summarized below. For more details go to kiwanis.org/2019amendments.

Adopted

• An amendment adding a nondiscrimination clause to the Kiwanis International Bylaws.
• A resolution on keeping children safe from violence, abuse and neglect.

Defeated

• An amendment allowing delegates to abstain on votes for Kiwanis International trustees.
• An amendment adding a new requirement for Kiwanis International vice president, president-elect and president.
• An amendment to adopt family membership status, which can be used by clubs if their district first adopts the same status.

Withdrawn

• An amendment adding a new trustee seat to the Kiwanis International Board to be held by a member age 50 or under.

A new playground for Barron

With 20% of its children with special needs and more than half qualifying for free or reduced school lunches, Barron, Wisconsin, is a lot closer to having a playground for everyone. In June, the Kiwanis Club of Barron was declared the winner of the 2019 Legacy of Play Contest. Kiwanis International partner and contest sponsor Landscape Structures will award the club US$25,000 in equipment toward plans to build an inclusive, accessible playground in the city’s Anderson Park.

“Even if we had not won (the contest), it really sparked a lot of interest in our community and gave us a good diving board to really launch this fundraising campaign,” said club President-elect Andrew Sloan when notified of the decision. “This is awesome.”

Thirty-six Kiwanis-family clubs entered the contest this year.
Signature winners

Signature project winners announced

Signature projects show a community — and the world — what Kiwanis is all about: making a meaningful impact in the lives of children. These high-profile projects share four characteristics: They are recurring, enhance the Kiwanis brand, make a meaningful impact on the community and help retain existing members while attracting new ones.

Every year, Kiwanis International recognizes the best of these endeavors through its Signature Project Contest. Each district selects its top signature project for judging, and finalists are showcased at the annual international convention. There, three clubs receive special accolades for projects that create positive change and inspire others to do the same.

At the 2019 Kiwanis International Convention at the Walt Disney World® Resort, these clubs came out on top.

**GOLD**
Alabama District
Kiwanis Club of Montgomery, Alabama • **Alabama National Fair**

Montgomery has a proud tradition of fairs and agricultural exhibits dating back to at least 1854, but troubled times of war and poverty led to their disappearance by 1930. Montgomery Kiwanis Club members brought the beloved custom back to life in 1954. For that first fair, club members borrowed $US500 from their treasury, and many pledged personal funds to ensure its success. Their commitment paid off, with the debut event bringing in more than $20,000. They’ve organized the fair every year since then, contributing more than $7.4 million to children in need along the way. With its collection of exhibits, musical performances, rides and competitions, the fair returns for its 10-day run in October 2019.

**SILVER**
Australia District
Kiwanis Club of Bendigo • **Children’s Book Box Libraries**

When Bendigo Kiwanis Club members learned that a community assessment revealed poor literacy rates among children, they wanted to reverse the trend. So they teamed with Communities for Children and Bendigo Health to create Children’s Book Box Libraries. Members built book stands and placed them in a variety of places where children visit. As the kids read, borrow, swap or keep the books, they develop literacy skills. Today, book boxes can be found in more than 70 locations. They’re in such demand that the Kiwanians can’t keep pace with building them, so the club reached out to the vocational services staff at an area prison for help. Now prisoners learn marketable skills building the boxes, extending the program’s reach to a new population.

**BRONZE**
Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District
Kiwanis Club of Baton Rouge, Louisiana • **Pancake Festival**

All-you-care-to-eat flapjacks are just the start of the Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club’s annual pancake festival. While it begins with what members have called “the largest conveyor line of grilling pancakes” in Louisiana, the festival has evolved into one of the state’s largest and oldest juried talent shows, where children perform and show their artwork. The experiences give them the confidence that comes from letting their talents shine in public. While young guests enjoy face painting, balloons and other free forms of fun, adults take advantage of no-cost health screenings. The club covers administrative costs, so all of the day’s proceeds go back into the community to support children, the elderly and those with special needs.
Introducing the future of personal transportation.

It’s not a Wheelchair...
It’s not a Power Chair...
It’s a Zinger Chair!

More and more Americans are reaching the age where mobility is an everyday concern. Whether from an injury or from the aches and pains that come from getting older—getting around isn’t as easy as it used to be. You may have tried a power chair or a scooter. The Zinger is NOT a power chair or a scooter! The Zinger is quick and nimble, yet it is not prone to tipping like many scooters. Best of all, it weighs only 47.2 pounds and folds and unfolds with ease. You can take it almost anywhere, providing you with independence and freedom.

Years of work by innovative engineers have resulted in a mobility device that’s truly unique. They created a battery that provides powerful energy at a fraction of the weight of most batteries. The Zinger features two steering levers, one on either side of the seat. The user pushes both levers down to go forward, pulls them both up to brake, and pushes one while pulling the other to turn to either side. This enables great mobility, the ability to turn on a dime and to pull right up to tables or desks. The controls are right on the steering lever so it’s simple to operate and its exclusive footrest swings out of the way when you stand up or sit down. With its rugged yet lightweight aluminum frame, the Zinger is sturdy and durable yet convenient and comfortable! What’s more, it easily folds up for storage in a car seat or trunk—you can even gate-check it at the airport like a stroller. Think about it, you can take your Zinger almost anywhere, so you don’t have to let mobility issues rule your life. It folds in seconds without tools and is safe and reliable. It holds up to 275 pounds, and it goes up to 6 mph and operates for up to 8 hours on a single charge.

Why spend another day letting mobility issues hamper your independence and quality of life?

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Just think of the places you can go: • Shopping • Air Travel • Bus Tours
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Hayden Bernard scrunches down in a blue seat at United Airlines gate E16 inside the Houston International Airport, surrounded by four other members of his Key Club from Ross S. Sterling High School in Baytown, Texas. The girls — Hayden is the only boy on the trip, and at the moment is a bit quiet — are chatting excitedly when asked who from the group has traveled out of the country before. Everyone has — except Hayden. Classmate Elizabeth Bagwell remembers when Hayden told her he got his passport for the trip. “He was going to spend his spring break camping,” she says with a laugh.

But Hayden is not going camping. He and his fellow Key Clubbers — along with a chaperone — are on their way to Guatemala as the first
Key Club to take part in a service learning trip with Squads Abroad, Key Club International’s newest partner. While in Guatemala, they have several goals: to build a handwashing station at a school called Escuela Oficial Rural Mixta Aldea Panimacoc, interact with children and families and learn about the Mayan culture.

Club President Priscila Garcia, a senior, is the leader on this trip. She’s the one who learned about the new partnership, asked some of her Key Club friends if they’d be interested and made a plan to make it happen.

“Key Club to me is a club about service,” Priscila says, “and it’s something to be part of if you want to help others and give back. I wanted to do this trip because I wanted to do something memorable that really made an impact on others. Working with Squads Abroad was really easy. I just emailed the program director and he got me all the information.”

She also reached out to her Key Club’s sponsoring club, the Kiwanis Club of Baytown, to tell members about her club’s plans.

ON THE GROUND

Once in Guatemala City, everyone packs into a van, luggage precariously stacked on top, to travel to the city of Tecpan and the home base, operated by Squads Abroad partner Cross-Cultural Solutions. Here, the Key Clubbers settle in to their comfortable rooms, are debriefed by CCS Country Director Juan Carlos Buonafina and enjoy a late dinner before getting some much-needed rest to prepare for the work to come.

Each day’s itinerary is somewhat similar: breakfast at the home base followed by a quick drive to the
school in Panimacoc. At the school, the Key Clubbers tackle everything needed to build a handwashing station. They mix cement by hand, gather water, move dirt and stones and lay bricks. Afterward, they move inside to classrooms to teach the students — most of whom don’t have access to clean water at home — handwashing techniques. At recess, they play with the children. As the school day winds down, it’s back to home base for lunch and a cultural activity. Then it’s dinner and bedtime to rest up for the next day.

“I love doing all the projects with the kids,” says Elizabeth. “They had so much fun and so did we. We sang songs and made up handshakes. They’ll remember this for so long. So will we.”

All of the hard work, the teaching, the play and songs and handshakes has an immediate effect: The Key Clubbers are treated like rock stars at the school. The kids greet them with waves and hugs and screams across the courtyard each day.

“I wanted to do this trip because I wanted to do something memorable that really made an impact on others. Working with Squads Abroad was really easy.”

As the week comes to an end, the Key Clubbers are tired but don’t
They want to leave. They gather to talk about how they feel about what they’ve accomplished.

Jaci Skye West spent much of the week with a hoe in hand, proving quite a talent for mixing cement.

“I think we all learned about building something that we didn’t know before,” says Jaci. “It’s been such a great experience. I’d recommend a Squads Abroad trip to any Key Club.”

Noting that she doesn’t want the Guatemalan children to stop being curious and wanting to learn, Jaci says, “I hope we made an impact on these kids to want to further their studies and education.”

That seems to be the consensus within the group. The Key Clubbers have been introduced to a new culture and new way of life, and they want to do more. They want to help.

“It’s so easy for us to live in our bubble and not realize stuff like this is actually happening — that people live without clean water or roofs above their heads,” says Priscila. “You see stories like this on television or hear it on the radio, but you don’t realize the gravity of the situation until you see it for yourself. At times, I feel guilty for how much we have and how little they have. We can do something about it. We just have to take the initiative.”

Hayden breaks in, noting that before coming to the school, he wasn’t aware stu-
Students had so few options for clean water sources.

“We built a water station,” he says. “We mixed cement and laid bricks and it was hard. But I enjoyed the work. I enjoyed helping a community that needed help.”

The differences in cultures were obvious, but one thing stuck out with all of the Key Clubbers: just how happy everyone seems to be.

“We don’t realize how much we have until we see how other people live,” says Elizabeth.
“It surprised me that they’re all just so happy and have such open hearts. They do everything without complaining and with a smile on their faces.”

A CELEBRATION

On their final day at the school, the Key Clubbers were surprised when the principal, administrators, teachers and students gathered to say goodbye.

The school’s director, Elba Apen, had a message for the Key Clubbers.

“We dreamt about having a new sink, but now it’s a reality,” she says. “Thank you on behalf of the community of Panimacoc, of the children and the teachers. Thank you.”

After the thank-you message, Key Clubber Andrea Pietro spoke to the gathered crowd to give a Key Club message to the community.

“The last day was very emotional for all of us,” Andrea says. “The teachers organized a good-bye ceremony for us, and the kids did little dances. I told the teachers thank you for welcoming us and for letting us have the opportunity to come into their classes and to spend time with their students. Then I told them that we learned more from them than we could’ve taught them, because we did learn a lot this week. We experienced a lot this week. So I just told them thank you for that.”

In the end, Priscila’s wish for a successful trip with Squads Abroad came true.

“I cried like a baby because I didn’t want to leave,” she says. “The kids were so happy, and it made me so happy. I fell in love with them. They were precious. I
“The last day was very emotional for all of us. The teachers organized a goodbye ceremony for us and the kids did little dances.”

Kiwanis members can create life-changing moments like this for Key Club members in their communities. Visit kiwanis.org/squadsabroad to learn more about this exciting new Key Club International partnership.
Family affair

GENEALOGY WEBSITES AND HIGH-TECH DNA TESTS HELP AMATEUR HISTORIANS TRACE THEIR FAMILY ROOTS BACK MULTIPLE GENERATIONS. Story by Andy Austin

ike many kids growing up, I loved to spend time with my grandparents. In addition to major family holidays like Christmas and Easter, I would sometimes spend a week with them during school break, giving me a change of scenery during the long summers.

My paternal grandparents lived in Muncie, Indiana, just off the Ball State University campus in a tidy little house on a corner lot with beautiful roses and flowering trees. My grandfather, Frank Austin, a retired accountant, and my grandmother, Hattie Mae Osbun Austin, a retired secretary and homemaker, renovated the small bungalow to create a tastefully decorated home full of old books, antique furniture, and most intriguing to me, beautifully framed photos of family members going back several generations.

Far from being musty old black and white photos of nameless ancestors, the photos depicted people and scenes that had real stories, stories my grandmother would recount as I studied the photos on their living room walls. She would tell me stories of her childhood, of her four older siblings and their adventures growing up on a farm in Ohio. There were photos of great-grandparents, second and third cousins, family homes and picnic reunions with a huge cast of smartly dressed relatives now long dead.

I became fascinated with the tales of my grandmother’s upbringing, living through wars and the Depression. She would talk about her memories of food prepared for large family gatherings — of traditions that she felt were important to keep alive — and I would take in all these family stories with the earnestness of a student of history, feeling the weight of their meaning for my family. Somehow, even as
a child, I knew that someday it would be my responsibility to help preserve these photos and their accompanying stories.

After my grandparents passed away, most of their photos, letters, birth and death announcements and other documents chronicling our family history were passed on to my father, Robert Austin, a retired commercial photographer and now a spry 91-year-old amateur genealogist. After his retirement, he began to preserve old photos and letters and to research more about our family history, creating a detailed family tree tracing our roots back more than eight generations. What started as an effort to copy and share old photos soon became a passion for discovery, leading him to travel to archives and libraries around the area in search of clues, of names and dates to fill in the missing branches of our family tree.

ONLINE AND IN-PERSON
My father is not alone in his quest to research and document his ancestors. Genealogy is a growing obsession for amateur sleuths and armchair detectives everywhere. Family history research is the second-most popular hobby in the United States, according to articles in Time and USA Today by author and former Los Angeles Times columnist Gregory Rodriguez. In 2018, a survey compiled by AARP found that more than 85 percent of its members — U.S. adults 50 and older — were currently researching their family history. More than 100 million family trees have been created on genealogy research website Ancestry.com, and more than 15 million people worldwide have taken DNA tests through services like 23andMe and the National Geographic DNA project to discover more about their ancestors. There are even television shows like “Who Do You Think You Are?” and “Genealogy Roadshow” that have millions of viewers in the United States.
States and air in several countries.

Interest in genealogy is growing at least in part thanks to the internet and the availability of online historical records. It used to be only historians and professional researchers who had access to the data. But you no longer have to take a trip to a county courthouse or a musty library to find birth and death certificates, marriage licenses or property deeds.

“Prior to Ancestry, most people researched their family history by writing letters to records offices to obtain documents,” says Crista Cohen of Ancestry.com. “Finding an answer to one research question could have taken months, or even years. When Ancestry launched its website in the mid-1990s, many people felt it was a game-changer because suddenly they had immediate access to millions of records online.

“Now, two decades later, with more than 20 billion records available online and more than 100 million family trees created by members, Ancestry has completely enhanced and refined the way that family history research is accomplished.”

Finding the documentation to support genealogical research is only half the battle when trying to trace a family tree. While there are many free sites on the web to research your family history, there are advantages to subscribing to a paid service. Being able to record and share the information is also important.

“The search engine on Ancestry can help you discover even more in the extensive collection of census records, birth, marriage, and death records, immigration records and more,” Ancestry's Cohen explains. “You can quickly locate documents and images that help you fill out your family tree and discover meaningful stories from the lives of the people who came before you. Instead of handwriting charts and making copies for everyone in the family, you can simply share your online Ancestry family tree with any person in your family. They can then access that family tree from any computer or mobile device.”

“You can quickly locate documents and images that help you fill out your family tree and discover meaningful stories from the lives of the people who came before you.” — Crista Cohen, Ancestry.com
My father has used Ancestry to compile and share our family history. For each member of our extended family, he has created personalized binders that contain the parts of the family tree most relevant to each individual, complete with photos, dates and relationships. He has been able to incorporate other genealogists’ research into his own. Branches from other family histories that cross ours provide more information to fill in missing data. As more and more members add their own names, dates and photographs, my father is able to add to his work with more information being added daily.

**DNA TESTING**

Another popular method of tracing your lineage is DNA testing, first brought to the mass market by National Geographic and its Geno DNA Ancestry kit. According to the National Geographic website, the project is a multi-year research initiative that uses cutting-edge genetic technologies to analyze historical patterns in DNA from participants around the world to better understand shared genetic roots. Expanding on National Geographic’s kit, there are several newer services available to test DNA and provide relevant genealogical data.

Companies like 23andMe and AncestryDNA provide at-home testing kits that utilize saliva submitted through a collection tube and returned via mail. Those seeking data related to their family history can obtain a variety of information depending on the services they select. 23andMe offers several testing options that provide information ranging from geographic lineage to tracing relatives. "You can trace your lineage to more than 1,000 regions worldwide through your DNA," says 23andMe’s Scott Hadley. "Our Ancestry Composition report analyzes genetic variants across all chromosomes to provide a breakdown of global ancestry by percentages. The average customer can trace their DNA to at least five different regions from around the world. The service also includes DNA Relatives, an optional tool matching you with close or distant relatives based on shared DNA. Ninety-five percent of 23andMe customers participating in DNA Relatives connect with a third-degree cousin or closer relative."

While DNA testing can provide data to augment genealogical research, it is important to note that there are actually three kinds of DNA tests that can be useful in
tracing family history. The first, autosomal DNA testing, can help reveal our biogeographical origins (ethnicities) and connect us to living cousins.

The second type of test is called Y-DNA and traces the Y chromosome that is passed from father to son. It is useful in tracing paternal lineage. On the other side, a Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) test is used to trace a direct maternal line. Depending on your research goals, you may want to explore all three kinds of tests.

With all the information provided by the DNA found in your saliva, privacy can be an issue. When employing a testing service to process your sample and generate data, the handling of your personal information is important. Investigating how a testing service uses your information is the first step.

“We employ robust authentication methods and restrict access to our systems through policies and protocols,” says 23andMe’s Hadley. “We also employ software, hardware and physical security measures to protect the computers where customer data is handled and stored. In addition, we do not share any customer’s individual information unless they have provided a separate written consent in order to do so.”

My father and sister have both submitted samples for DNA testing, and the resulting information helped my father fill in gaps in his research. While there was nothing shocking in the information that was uncovered by the tests — our family is not related to any famous actors or world leaders that we know of — it is interesting to read the reports and delve further into the migratory route our ancestors followed on their way to the Midwestern United States.

So many of us have a fascination with our own personal history — where we come from and those who preceded us. While we cannot truly define ourselves based solely on our family tree, understanding our connections to the past is a first step in understanding how we fit into the larger picture.

My grandmother would be amazed at all the new ways to collect, store and share family histories, and I think she would be pleased that the photographs and stories of her life are being preserved and passed on to future generations. Those beautifully framed images of smartly dressed men and women will always be available to future genealogists looking to make a connection to their past.

GETTING STARTED

For the majority of beginners, the internet and the library provide the most accessible sources of information about family history. Popular internet websites for records include:

- AmericanAncestors.org
- FamilySearch.org
- Ancestry.com
- Fold3.com (specializing in military records)
- rootsweb.ancestry.com
- archives.com
One of the students at Sassarini Elementary School in Sonoma, California, isn’t happy. In fact, she’s begging her teacher to let her out of her elective. Did she receive a bad grade? Experience teasing from classmates? Get reprimanded for bad behavior? None of the above. “She’s crying and saying, ‘I want to go back to the room. I want to be in the Maker Lab again,’” says Sassarini teacher Lori Edwards.

Maker Lab is a recently created space devoted to hands-on projects teaching principles of science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM), and Edwards is the creative force behind it. A former toy designer for global play and entertainment company Hasbro, Edwards developed the Maker Lab curriculum, ordered supplies and transformed a no-longer-used computer lab into a vibrant creative space — one made possible by a Kiwanis club willing to take a chance on a new endeavor.
Andrew Ryan, Sassarini’s principal, once attended the school himself as a student. Having grown up in California’s wine country, he knows the area’s reputation for incredible wealth. And plenty of that can be found among the rolling vineyards and sprawling estates of Sonoma County.

But while well-heeled tourists compare vintages among wineries, sample cuisine from Michelin-rated restaurants or don “Wimbledon whites” for an afternoon of chardonnay and croquet, 86% of Sassarini students qualify for the free and reduced lunch program. The money their parents earn — often made by providing hospitality services to the area’s tourists — goes toward putting food on the table and meeting the family’s basic needs, not toward school donations.

“Other schools in the area, in the region, can subsidize (student) enrichment opportunities through parent dollars,” Ryan says. “We haven’t had that opportunity.”

Ryan previously served as assistant principal at Sonoma Valley High School, which launched an engineering, design and technology academy during his tenure. One of the school district’s two middle schools features a high-tech Maker Space that serves as a feeder for the high school program. Ryan longed to start the first Maker Lab for a district elementary school at Sassarini.

“A lot of times, students don’t get a rich elective experience until secondary school, and there’s just so much lost there,” he says. “It’s such an opportunity. I felt like Sassarini was the perfect fit to tie that K-12 continuum together. And I just didn’t have the money.”

Meanwhile, members of the Sonoma Plaza Kiwanis Club were in a transition of sorts. For more than 15 years, the club had donated a dictionary to every third-grade student in the Sonoma Unified School District. But a recent teacher survey conducted by members determined that most of the respondents were no longer interested in participating. How could funds formerly devoted to dictionary distribution be better directed, members wondered?

Ryan’s dream and the club’s question were about to collide. Every August, the Sonoma Valley Education Foundation hosts the Red and White Ball as a fundraiser for district schools. Ryan attended, and while there, he chatted with acquaintance Kathy Witkowicki, who is a member of the Sonoma Plaza Kiwanis Club.

Ryan recalls, “As we’re heading to the food line, she says, ‘Hey, we love Sassarini. We’re happy that you’re here, and we want to adopt you guys. Let’s do something cool.’”

That led to a meeting with club president Peter Nova, during which Ryan pitched his idea for the Sassarini Maker Lab. Nova launched an evaluation process that involved member visits to the school, multiple follow-up meetings with Ryan and discussion among club members and the board. Ultimately, the club agreed to provide US$26,000 for the Sassarini Maker Lab.

“This school doesn’t get a lot of love from the community. It has the backward distinction of being behind Safeway (grocery). Anybody in town says, ‘Oh, Sassarini. That’s the one behind Safeway.’”

“This school doesn’t get a lot of love from the community.”
“As a former toy designer, Edwards has an unparalleled passion for and knowledge of creation and design, and is a big kid in the most complimentary of ways.”

Nova says. “It has the backward distinction of being behind Safeway (grocery). Anybody in town says, ‘Oh, Sassarini. That’s the one behind Safeway.’ We thought this was a good opportunity for us to give this school something it has not had. It gives the school something that it can be proud of and the students can be proud of.”

With the grant secured, Ryan turned to Edwards, who already was working at Sassarini, where she runs the Mentor Center, a program established by the Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance.

“As a former toy designer, she has an unparalleled passion for and knowledge of creation and design,” Ryan says, “and she’s a big kid in the most complimentary of ways.”

Ryan gave Edwards free rein to design every inch of the Maker Lab, and she enthusiastically embraced the opportunity. She sketched a design, ordered supplies and, in a whirlwind three-week period, transformed an empty room into a STEAM wonderland.

A slat-wall panel has become a larger-than-life Lite-Brite art display thanks to backlighting and golf tees. With a magnetic wall and PVC pipes, young designers create their own arcade-like marble mazes. A Lego wall adds a new dimension to building structures, while a clothing-design corner complete with mannequins allows budding fashionistas to create couture from common household items.

Edwards coated one wall and all desktops with blackboard paint, allowing ideas and images to be freely captured during brainstorming sessions. Magnetic and kinetic sand stations and water beads offer hands-on science lessons. Bins and closets overflow with materials ranging from LED lights and copper wiring to fabric scraps and coffee filters. A showcase area allows Maker Lab creations to be proudly displayed.

“One of the things that I really believe in is the kids being able to work in all mediums,” Edwards says. “So I bring in every single material that the kids can possibly work in, because you never know what’s going to inspire a child. Because in all these children, there is some gift that they bring to the table. And my job is to discover what that gift is and then add the little pieces that allow them to expand on that gift.”

During each of the Maker Lab’s first two semesters, Edwards led 20 to 30 third- and fourth-grade students through creating circuit creatures, circuit cards, rockets, robots, motors, games and more, all based on the IDEA process. Students first identify what they will create, design it, evaluate the results and then adjust as necessary to make the final product function correctly. As they progress, participants sketch out designs and record observations in “inventor journals,” which are stored in cubbies at the end of every class.

At first, students don’t quite know what to make of their new lab and its wealth of contents.

“They’re almost overwhelmed,” Edwards says. “They say, ‘But what can we use?’ And I say, ‘You can use anything in the room.'
This is your room.’ And their eyeballs bug out of their heads, because they’re so taught to ‘don’t touch this, don’t do that.’ And the kids were like, ‘Wow. Thank you.’ At the end, the kids were hugging me so hard, and one little girl said, ‘This is better than my house. I want to live here.’”

Not surprisingly, under Edwards’ tutelage, students eagerly progressed through their lessons, filling up journals and turning out far-flying rockets and lovable robots. But the benefits of Maker Lab extend beyond learning STEAM skills. Edwards surveyed the first group of participants after they completed the semester. Sure, they loved the lessons and the cool take-home projects that resulted. But it turns out Maker Lab was connected with them on an emotional level as well.

“When we are eccentric or unique in some way,” Edwards says, “that’s actually a beautiful thing. And we don’t see that as kids, because we want to be like everyone else. But in this classroom, it teaches the kids, don’t be like everyone else. Do your own thing. And that really is what we all want, even as adults. We want to be who we are.”

Those results were enough to convince Nova and his fellow Kiwanis club members to commit to an additional donation of $22,500, which will provide for the addition of a second Maker Lab instructor.

That means Sassarini will be able to make the Maker Lab accessible to more students.

Ryan, for his part, is thrilled with Kiwanis’ ongoing support.

“This is truly the Sonoma that I remember from my childhood when I was a student here, when you have an organization step up and see a need at a school. They came to me and really had an open mind, which is something that’s tough to do in education, because there are usually so many strings attached. They just cut through all the red tape. They couldn’t have been more supportive of our kids.”

The Sonoma Plaza Kiwanis Club isn’t stopping with funding, however. Nova says members plan to volunteer in the Maker Lab.

“It’s not just, ‘Here’s our check, and we’re done.’ This was stepping out for us. I’ve been in Kiwanis for 15 years, and I think this is the biggest (single) financial commitment that we have ever made as a club. This was a big commitment for us. So we’re proud of it and intend to keep it going.”
CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS
Making Kiwanis magic

A LOOK BACK AT THE 2019 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA. Photos by Curtis Billue and Kasey Jackson

With the flick of a fairy’s wand, snow floats onto the audience of the 104th Annual Kiwanis International Convention. It doesn’t matter that Florida’s temperatures reached 90 degrees (F). At Walt Disney World® Resort, magical moments happen.

Such as: “Good to Great” author Jim Collins advising clubs to create “stop-doing” lists as well as to-do lists. Alex Sheen, founder of because i said i would, setting off a social media firestorm with remarks about the power of a promise.

The red carpet welcoming a packed house at Planet Hollywood, and leis greeting guests at the Aloha Dinner Show.

Though battling cancer, President Poly Lat announcing his intention to fulfill his commitment to serve as 2019-20 Kiwanis International immediate past president.

Turn the page for more Kiwanis magic!
The sun shines 361 days a year on the Pinellas peninsula, situated between Tampa Bay, Florida, and the Gulf of Mexico. The area draws enough tourists to fill 5 million hotel beds. But the sun that tans those tourists also beats down on the 4,019 area students who are homeless.

Many of these students now attend Carwise Middle School in Palm Harbor, especially after Hurricane Maria drove Puerto Rican families north, many with only the clothes on their backs. For kids having to enter a new school, inadequate clothing can be a real source of stress.

“They just want to be part of the group,” says Carwise Principal Robert Zicari.

That’s one reason he readily agreed to a shopping mall of sorts inside his school. A student sparked the idea by asking teacher’s assistant Penny Kelly if she could give a pair of sneakers to a boy whose shoes didn’t fit. Just two years earlier, this student’s own family had no food.

Kelly began dreaming of a place where kids could get clothing without being embarrassed. She approached Dave Lindeman, longtime liaison between Carwise and the Top of the Bay Kiwanis Club. Lindeman arranged for her to make the case to his fellow Kiwanians, who readily agreed to help. With Kiwanis’ backing, the shop was on its way. Top of the Bay joined with members of its sponsored Carwise Middle School Builders Club to set up the new shopping destination.

Today students can look through racks of clothes and explore neat shelves of shoes, jewelry and belts at Carwise Mall. Club-supplied toiletries, underwear and socks fill baskets and drawers. A mannequin shows off middle-school fashions. The shop even has a dressing room.

What the mall does not have is a crowd. Kelly, Lindeman and Zicari vigorously protect students’ privacy, allowing just one shopper at a time. Their selections are disguised in donated bags from Macy’s, Hollister and other trendy stores.

“It’s a good system,” Zicari
says. “Parents love the idea, and no student has ever said they didn’t want to use it. They know the process is private.”

Lindeman, Kelly and Zicari now are meeting with principals and Builders Clubs at other middle schools to offer guidance on establishing similar shops. Kelly wishes they could better describe “those moments of pureness, that sincere thankfulness.”

For his part, Lindeman puts the club’s commitment into succinct perspective.

“We are part of Carwise Middle School, and Carwise Middle School is part of us.”
Machines that could copy and analyze DNA existed when Amanda Pratt was taking college biology classes, though getting one into the classrooms was unheard of. Determined not to keep such an exciting learning tool from her own students, Pratt — now a high school science teacher — recruited the Downriver West, Michigan, Kiwanis Club to make a dream come true.

Beginning with a new semester this past January, Pratt and her Advanced Placement science students at Woodhaven High School in Brownstown gained access to the kind of gene-sequencing equipment used in medical and forensics labs and even aboard the International Space Station. The journey began when Pratt started searching for ways to fund a machine that definitely was outside her classroom budget.

“I spent last summer researching grants, foundations, wherever I thought we might get funding, and wherever I went, I kept seeing the hashtag #KidsNeedKiwanis,” Pratt says. “I’ve known about Kiwanis since I was little — we had a Kiwanis park near my house and a Key Club in my school. So, I reached out to Preston.”

Preston Abadie is lieutenant governor of Michigan District’s Division 5. As soon as he received Pratt’s request, he invited her to make a presentation at a Downriver West club meeting.

“We had a really good turnout because people were interested,” he says. “It’s a topic that’s at the forefront of people’s minds.”

Addrs Pratt, “With all the stuff about DNA we see on TV and from companies like Ancestry.com, the general population has gotten interested in DNA. I really think people should understand the process behind what these companies do. I’m passionate about it.”

Her passion helped persuade club members to use leftover dictionary project funds to buy Pratt a DNA machine.

The MiniOne® PCR System is two machines in one. The first provides the necessary chemical, temperature and agitation environment to make millions of copies of DNA cells that students swab from their cheeks. The second breaks up the DNA chains so students can analyze them for specific traits.

“For instance, some of us have a taste bud (that allows us to identify a bitter taste), and some of us do not. So we find out which of us does and doesn’t using the DNA, then verify our findings,” Pratt explains.

Students are intrigued by the ability to reproduce their own DNA outside of their bodies. Even those who don’t have an inclination toward science are interested, Pratt says.

Moreover, these activities stretch beyond biology, touching the full range of STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) curriculum through physics, chemistry and math.

“Internationally, Kiwanis is embracing STEM because we recognize that our future depends on more kids getting into those areas of study and excelling,” Abadie says. “Plus, it’s tough for Kiwanis members to say no to someone asking for help. It’s in our DNA.”

Diving into the gene pool

A DNA MACHINE AND A KIWANIS CLUB CULTIVATE A GROWING INTEREST IN STEM.

Story by Cindy Dashnaw
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Kiwanis Warehouse. Discounts on products for service projects.
LegalZoom. Access help with legal forms and professional services.
Office Depot OfficeMax. Offers a Kiwanis Club savings program for club print and service project needs.
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kiwanis.org/marketplace
More than words

SOUTH CAROLINA KIWANIANS DISTRIBUTE DICTIONARIES PACKED WITH FACTS.

Story by John Simmons

“I saw eyes widen, jaws drop, and heard one student gasp and say ‘wow,’” says Amber C. Blakes about gifts delivered to third-grade students at River Ridge Academy by the Kiwanis Club of Bluffton, South Carolina.

What were the objects that garnered such reactions? Electronic gadgets, trendy sneakers or sporting equipment? Try dictionaries.

“One parent who is also a teacher said her son spent the whole weekend reading his dictionary,” says Blakes, the state reading coach for South Carolina.

The Kiwanis club recently began distributing more than 1,000 dictionaries to third-graders at 10 elementary schools. But these dictionaries contain more than just word spellings and definitions.

They’re more like mini-almanacs, filled with interesting and entertaining items, including biographies, maps, a periodic table and measures.

“Research shows that pictorial representations of concepts that students are being taught strongly influence how those concepts are understood,” says Blakes.

Because nearly 40% of third-graders in Bluffton and Hilton Head public schools are Hispanic, the Kiwanians purchased additional Spanish-English dictionaries. Those books were directed primarily to third-graders at Red Cedar Elementary, where club Secretary Jim Jensen tutors as part of the United Way of Low Country’s “Read Indeed” program.

Blakes explains that third grade is a prime time to introduce The Dictionary Project.

“The third-grade school year is very pivotal because students’ reading makes a dramatic shift from how to read to reading more for content,” he says. “Students are expected to become more independent navigating text and reading on their own. Getting their own dictionary just goes hand-in-hand with where they are in their schooling.”

Adds Jensen, “One teacher told me that, even though everything is digital these days, she feels the dictionaries help kids learn new things. When you research something digitally, you have to have a topic in mind. With the dictionaries, kids can simply open them up to a random page and discover something they didn’t even know they didn’t know.”
GIFTS GO FARTHER TOGETHER.

When you give to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund, you amplify your Kiwanis impact. That’s because you’re joining with Kiwanis family members who have done the same. After all, we do more when we do it together. Let’s reach kids who need Kiwanis — all over the world.

kiwanischildrensfund.org
Creative spark

A FAMILY ARTS STUDIO GIVES CHILDREN HANDS-ON INSPIRATION.

Story by Lori Roberts

Visitors to the Customs House Museum & Cultural Center in Clarksville, Tennessee, don’t have to keep their hands off the art. Quite the opposite, in fact. A new Family Arts Studio, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Clarksville, gives children — and the adults in their lives — a chance to get creative while exploring the fun side of art.

The Family Art Studio opened in June on the lower level of the Customs House Museum, the second-largest general interest museum in the state. A former classroom has been transformed into an inviting space, with stations designed to inspire creativity and a passion for visual arts. Museum visitors can play at a 12-foot-long Lego wall or fashion a self-portrait in front of one of the mirrors at the aptly named Watch Me Create Counter. On one gallery wall, they can visit Magical Magnetic Movable Modules to see how various shapes can be placed together. And they can create new shapes and colors using the translucent multi-hued pieces available at a nearby light table.

The studio gives families an additional activity option when they visit the Customs House Museum, says Jim Zimmer, the museum’s executive director. “We weren’t expecting families to come in and spend hours and hours,” he says. “We want them to see the rest of the museum as well.”

The relationship between the museum and the Kiwanis club was a natural one, says President Daniel Black. Several Kiwanis members sit on the museum board and knew about plans for the Family Arts Studio. The museum had the space in the unused classroom, but its leaders needed to make lighting improvements and set up engaging displays. The US$10,000 title sponsorship was supported by one of the club’s primary fundraisers, an annual Kiwanis rodeo.

“We knew that the arts are usually the first thing to take a hit when the budget cuts come,” Black says. “Giving children the opportunity to engage in those types of activities is an excellent method of increasing their learning potential.”

The Family Arts Studio thrives on the belief that families grow by doing things together, Zimmer says. The Kiwanis club sponsorship is a perfect fit, given Kiwanis’ focus on children, he adds. Children’s artwork can be displayed in the gallery, sharing wall space with pieces from the museum. A lighted glass tower in the Family Arts Studio spotlights other Customs House collections and inspires more curiosity from the young minds who visit.

“I’ve been in the museum field for 30 years,” Zimmer says. “Whenever we can do anything that not only encourages children to pursue art but helps parents understand that art is such a vital part of life, that is dynamite thinking in my mind.”
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BIRTHDAYS

These clubs celebrated or will celebrate their 100th, 75th, 50th and 25th anniversaries in July, August and September.

100TH — 1919
Norfolk, Virginia, July 1
Pensacola, Florida, July 10
Gadsden, Alabama, July 14
Huntsville, Alabama, July 14
Franklin, Indiana, July 15
Freeport, Illinois, July 25
Asheville, North Carolina, August 11
Corpus Christi, Texas, August 16
Lima, Ohio, August 20
Huntington, Indiana, August 25
Charlotte, North Carolina, August 27
Edmonton, Alberta, August 27
Long Beach, California, September 16
Greenville, South Carolina, September 20
Thunder Bay, Ontario, September 27

75TH — 1944
Kirkwood, Missouri, July 11
Lafayette, Louisiana, August 8
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, September 12
Spencer Hy-Noon, Iowa, September 27

50TH — 1969
Alma, Quebec, July 9
Goshen, Indiana, July 24
Troy, Michigan, August 5
Foothills (The), Boulder, Colorado, August 7
Greater Napa, California, August 15
Luxembourg, Luxembourg, September 13
Clermont-Ferrand, France, September 16
Martin County, Florida, September 29
Kishwaukee De Kalb, Illinois, September 30
Jackson Northwest, Michigan, September 30

25TH — 1994
Greater Martin County, Kentucky, July 12
Tongeren Bilzen Amicitia, Belgium, July 12
Neusiedl am See, Austria, July 14
Highland, California, July 14
Perugia-Etrusca, Italy, July 20

Rochester Day Makers, Minnesota, July 26
Hsi Hu, Changhua Hsien, Taiwan, August 5
Lufkin Seniors, Texas, August 24
Hypoluxo-Lantana Sunrise, Florida, August 30
Pei Kang, Yuan Lin Hsien, Taiwan, September 10
Geneva, Illinois, August 11
Lake Forest, California, September 14
Lititz Area, Pennsylvania, September 14
Shih Chi, Kee Lung, Taiwan, September 16
Glendale-Kirkwood, Missouri, September 19
Port Maria, Jamaica, September 19
Lindenhurst-The Lakes Area, Illinois, September 20
Le Rouxil Ville Princière, Belgium, September 21
Böblingen-Sindelfingen, Germany, September 27
Cremona, Italy, September 28
Hallandale Beach, Florida, September 29

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Your role

As the sponsor, you should meet with participating teachers and even the principal before starting the program. At this meeting you should discuss how involved you wish to be with the program. You can be as heavily or lightly involved as you choose — just make your intentions clear, so the facilitator knows what to expect.

There are several ways to support the success of Terrific Kids. Sponsors can:

- Explain the program to the classroom. If several classes are involved, this may need to take place in an auditorium. Discuss the date and time for this presentation. Some schools wish to explain it themselves, so be flexible.
- Help kids work on creating their goals. Familiarize yourself with SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time bound) or ask the teacher whether they have some other goal-creating system they prefer. (There is plenty of information online.) If classrooms need your support, create a mentoring schedule for each class involved.
- Meet with kids to review their goals. We have provided teachers with a paper form for goal-reporting, but some prefer to conduct the check-in face to face. If classrooms need your help for this, create a mentoring schedule for each class involved.

Purchase supplies for the class.

Sponsors can work with partners to handle the financial costs of implementing the program in schools. Supplies can be reordered at kiwanis.org/store.

Find them all at kiwanis.org/store. Just type the program name into the search bar.
"We have created the family tree, complementing this work with a family reunion that includes a program of music, dance, song, poetry and memories by delegates from each wing of the family."

**Martha Andrade Posso**
*Kiwanis Club of Atuntaqui, Ecuador*

"I didn't even know my father's name. … A DNA test turned up my estranged half-sister. … We rebuilt our relationship. … One day, my test turned up a second-cousin. My sister followed up and called to tell me that my father was still alive!"

**Lisa Wick**
*Kiwanis Club of Courtenay, British Columbia*

"Through Ancestry DNA testing, I contacted a young lady, who matched me as a possible third cousin. Her dad died in a car accident when she was young. … I checked some family notes and found his name (confirming our relationship). … What she really wanted most of all was to see a photo of her dad. She never knew what he looked like. In the end, she got a picture of her dad, his brother, his grandparents and of me."

**Janice Williams**
*Kiwanis Club of Waycross, Georgia*

"Every person in my tree is a different story."

**Alicia Ballagh**
*Kiwanis Club of Irmo, South Carolina*

"As a young boy, one of my fourth great-grandfathers was playing with a couple boys along the River Shannon in Ireland when they were kidnapped and brought to Philadelphia (Pennsylvania), where they were sold at auction. They were treated harshly, and the government took them away from the owner. My ancestor was bought by a North Carolina planter. … He was taken care of, schooled and fought in the Revolutionary War. He married his benefactor's niece … moved to Tennessee, and his descendants have spread throughout the country and the world."

**John Loggins**
*Kiwanis Club of Third District, New Orleans, Louisiana*
We’ve saved so many lives already. Now, the crucial part: reaching mothers and babies in some of the world’s most dangerous areas. Don’t rest — this is the critical moment. Help eliminate MNT from the face of the Earth.

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