LEARNING CURVE

STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS ARE STRUGGLING TO ADAPT TO THE “NEW NORMAL” IN EDUCATION. KIWANIANS CAN HELP.

RISING ABOVE
KIWANIS RESPONDS DURING PANDEMIC

BEST IN SHOW
SIGNATURE PROJECT CONTEST WINNERS

LITERACY POWER
KIWANIANS BECOME STORYTIME HEROES
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 maternal and neonatal tetanus from the face of the Earth.

kiwanis.org/TheEliminateProject
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Mission Statement

The mission of Kiwanis magazine is to empower and inspire Kiwanis members to make lasting differences in the lives of children — and to share their powerful work with the world.
From the executive editor

What a time we live in.
As we were preparing content for the June/July 2020 issue, we were just beginning to understand the severity and significance of COVID-19. We knew Kiwanis family clubs would step up to help. No matter the global stay-at-home orders, Kiwanis members would find a way. We just hadn’t heard much yet, so we couldn’t report to you how things were going in your communities. So we sat back and waited for you to tell us.

And wow, did you all deliver. The Kiwanis family’s response to the pandemic stretches from continent to continent. You’ve donated masks, food, school equipment and more — not to mention your bravery and time to a cause that, let’s be honest, had some danger to it. After all, we’ve all waited for you to tell us.

But there you were, helping children keep up with their school lessons, providing food to families when supplies were limited and donating masks to keep people safe. There were too many projects to share in this issue of the magazine (see page 12), so we have also shared many on social media and on kiwanis.org. Please, go read them. Let them lift you up in this time of uncertainty.

And speaking of uncertainty, with COVID-19 came lots of change, not least of which came in how our children around the world are learning. We are faced with more questions than answers, it seems. Is it safe to go back to schools? How will kids keep up if they are to stay at home for learning? How are our educators dealing with the constantly shifting demands of education during this crisis? Such big topics to think about. As Kiwanians, you know how to find answers to make positive change. And in our cover story this month, we offer some information from experts as well as advice (see page 20).

And one last thing: I challenge you to change your thinking when you read Kiwanis magazine. I invite you — no, I urge you — to read the stories and recognize that these are not stories about what OTHER Kiwanis clubs are doing. These are stories about what you ALL are doing. Kiwanis is a family. One unit. So when the club down the road or on the other side of the world does something to help a child, a family, a community, you are there. You see, these stories are on these pages so that’s you. What will you do today?

Kasey Jackson
Executive Editor
For many people, a lifetime of service begins in Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs. When your Kiwanis club sponsors a Kiwanis Service Leadership Program, you build crucial skills — in the people who will build a better world. Thank you for empowering leaders of all ages and abilities.

Is your club looking for a sponsorship opportunity?
Get started at kiwanis.org/charter.

“EVERYBODY CAN BE GREAT BECAUSE EVERYBODY CAN SERVE.”
— Martin Luther King Jr.

For many people, a lifetime of service begins in Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs. When your Kiwanis club sponsors a Kiwanis Service Leadership Program, you build crucial skills — in the people who will build a better world. Thank you for empowering leaders of all ages and abilities.

Is your club looking for a sponsorship opportunity?
Get started at kiwanis.org/charter.
President’s message

As I write this, we are still very much dealing with COVID-19 and our different way of life. We abide by directives to wear masks and practice social distancing. We have lost a number of our Kiwanis members.

During my time at home, my Kiwanis Club of Vielsalm stayed in touch through online meetings. We kept up our service to our community by distributing masks. I have appreciated the many messages of support sent to me. I have done my best to return that support with my communications and efforts to listen and help clubs through some of their difficulties.

While some clubs face more of a struggle than others, a bright spot from my region is the ingenuity of a club in Belgium. The Kiwanis Club of Welkenraedt Trois Frontières has a big annual fundraising dinner during asparagus season. Gathering for the event was not possible this year because of COVID-19, so members of the club made the feast available for pickup. Asparagus, potatoes and ham were prepared in a restaurant and then picked up by those who had ordered them. The club raised more money than it ever had before!

It is that kind of spirit that keeps us going. I have regretted canceling some scheduled travel, especially after many districts put in so much work to plan and host visits. And this column will be published during district convention and election season. Kiwanians are putting their heads together to figure out a different way of doing things for the latest set of challenges. We will get it done — Res, non verba.

I share and carry forward my predecessor Poly Lat’s belief in continuity. Our current team of officers works closely together to strategize for a productive future. We are friends, and I believe we are open and strong in our collaboration to make Kiwanis the best it can be.

Thank you for your support and dedication. Please continue to be safe.

Executive perspective

I’ve been reflecting in recent months about the way we live now. Who hasn’t? First there was the coronavirus — and then the economic fallout. Then came protest and social unrest in the U.S. and other countries regarding issues of racial justice. All together, this has been a period of controversy upon crisis upon general uncertainty.

In the middle of this mix lies social media. That raises the question: What is the best use of such a powerful but often unpredictable platform for an organization like ours?

Social media is easy, and it’s instantaneous. And that can be an advantage for Kiwanis, which has members around the world with whom we need to communicate.

But it can also be volatile. This is especially true when two things happen simultaneously: more people being cooped up with their screens and a major social issue that demands we state our position and affirm our values.

Now consider Kiwanis members’ diversity — our range of ethnicities, religions, politics, languages and more. That’s a strength, as is our age range, which includes young people and their passion for the issues shaping their future. But this also means that no statement on issues or events will gain universal approval. Each will get “likes” and draw criticism.

So how will Kiwanis continue to navigate the social-media age? We’ll use it to listen. That takes time. For all the speed and instant reaction of today, the answer also lies in our long-held responsibilities. Whether it’s global service or our latest post, we’ll strive to be known by our good works and guided by the values expressed in our Objects.

Will we do it perfectly? Probably not. And as a nonpartisan organization, we won’t always express ourselves in a way that fits every member’s personal outlook. But we’ll still share your commitment to children.

And we’ll work with you to change lives — out in the real world, where kids need us most.
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See if “All in One” Medicare Advantage plans are available in your area

These “all in one” plans bundle your Medicare benefits together and may include extra benefits not covered by Original Medicare.

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Call: 855-917-0119 (TTY 711)

Calls are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week between October 15 and December 7, 2020

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Important dates in August
August 12: International Youth Day
August 19: World Humanitarian Day
August 19: World Photo Day

New member fee waived
The COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on communities worldwide. More than ever, kids and communities need Kiwanis. To encourage existing Kiwanis clubs to continue to invite new members, the Kiwanis International Board approved a new member fee waiver to bolster membership and help Kiwanis clubs perform the service needed in the wake of this pandemic and beyond. The board encourages districts and clubs to comply with this waiver due to the emergency conditions presented by the pandemic. The waiver was approved for any new members who join existing Kiwanis clubs between April 22, 2020, and September 30, 2020. Learn more at kiwanis.org/waiver.

Legacy of Play Contest coming soon
Kiwanis International teams up with Kiwanis partner Landscape Structures to give one Kiwanis club US$25,000 of playground equipment. The Legacy of Play Contest, now in its seventh year, celebrates our shared belief that investing in communities through legacy signature projects are important to a club’s success. With its emphasis on inclusive play, Landscape Structures helps Kiwanis International bring play to all kids.

2020 Legacy of Play Contest dates:
August 10: Contest opens
September 10: Last day for entries
September 14: Voting opens
September 27: Voting ends
October 2: Judges vote
October 7: Winner announced
Get more information online at kiwanis.org/legacyofplay.
Fewer babies dying of tetanus

The number of babies needlessly dying from neonatal tetanus continues to fall, thanks, in part, to the commitment of Kiwanis International. A new report from the World Health Organization found that 25,000 babies died of tetanus in 2018, almost 6,000 fewer than reported in 2017. The world has seen an 85% reduction in newborn deaths from tetanus during the past 18 years, including a 57% drop since Kiwanis joined the fight against MNT in 2010. Kiwanis' efforts have also led to more women receiving prenatal health care and giving birth in sanitary environments with doctors, nurses or midwives.

Key Leader is going virtual

A new, interactive workbook based on the Kiwanis Key Leader program is now available to explore service leadership at home or in the classroom. Virtual Key Leader explores the topics of service leadership, integrity, personal growth, respect, community and excellence. It is written for participants ages 13 and older. Use Virtual Key Leader lessons during digital Kiwanis or Key Club meetings or to promote your district’s in-person Key Leader events. Share Virtual Key Leader with friends and family who may be interested in joining a Kiwanis organization or an in-person Key Leader event. Visit kiwanis.org/virtualkeyleader for more information.

COVID-19 grants awarded

In April, the Kiwanis Children’s Fund launched the COVID-19 Response Program to help clubs meet the urgent needs of children and families facing hardships due to the pandemic. Within weeks of announcing the grant program, nearly 1,500 people made a gift to support Kiwanis projects. More than US$120,000 has been granted to 53 Kiwanis clubs in 11 countries. Clubs are feeding families, providing technology and educational materials to students learning from home and supplying personal protective equipment to people at high risk. However, 100 clubs still need more than $230,000 in funding to serve their communities. You can support the most urgent needs of children by making a gift online today. Go to kiwanischildrensfund.org/covid.
Dr. John ushered in Kiwanis centennial

Dr. John R. Button, 2014–15 Kiwanis International president, died June 15. He was 68.

“Dr. John,” as he was known, loved Kiwanis from an early age, often tagging along as his father attended Kiwanis club meetings. John loved to tell the story of peering through the church windows to watch members make plans to serve the community. In 1978, John joined that club and later served as its president, just as his dad had decades earlier. He remained a member of the Kiwanis Club of Ridge-town, Ontario, Canada until his death.

“Dr. John was a good man. He cared very deeply about Kiwanis and making sure clubs never lost the fun, fellowship and service they were created for,” said 2019-20 Kiwanis International President Daniel Vigneron. “I will miss him and his dedication to making sure Kiwanis would grow stronger so more kids could be helped.”

Dr. John was a family physician until he retired in 2011. He rose through the ranks of Kiwanis, becoming lieutenant governor, governor of the Eastern Canada and the Caribbean District in 2004-05 before being elected to the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees in 2009. He was elected vice president of the board in 2012 and became president of Kiwanis International during the 2014-15 administrative year. He served during the Kiwanis International Centennial Celebration — traveling the world with his wife, Debbie, to help clubs celebrate 100 years of serving the children of the world.

“Dr. John was a contributor to our organization in so many leadership roles. And in every role, he seemed to be the right leader at the right moment,” said Stan Soderstrom, Kiwanis International executive director. “He helped frame the vision for The Eliminate Project. He inspired thousands of donors to give generously to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. He led us as we celebrated our 100th anniversary and built Kiwanis playgrounds around the globe. We will truly miss Dr. John.”

John is survived by his wife, Debbie, a son, daughter and several grandchildren.

DiNoto presided over vote for women

Frank DiNoto is being remembered as a champion of children. The 1986-87 Kiwanis International president died June 1, 2020, from complications from pneumonia.

“Frank cared deeply about children. He cared about Kiwanis. I will always remember him as a man who worked hard to improve the health and safety of children,” said 2019-20 Kiwanis International President Daniel Vigneron.

DiNoto joined the Kiwanis Club of Rosemead, California, in 1955, and had remained a member since. He rose through the leadership ranks serving as club president, lieutenant governor and governor of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District in 1974-75 before being elected to the Kiwanis International Board of Trustees in 1979.

DiNoto presided over Kiwanis International at a pivotal time — the vote to allow women to join the organization — which ended a 72-year tradition of limiting membership to men.

“Many clubs were already allowing women to join. The vote wasn’t close,” said 2015-16 Kiwanis International President Sue Petrisin, the first female president of Kiwanis International. “Once the members voted for change, he celebrated the diversity.”

DiNoto joined Kiwanis to network and be involved in his community after starting a new bank in Rosemead. As the chairman and chief executive officer of Universal Savings Bank, he championed a policy of senior leaders being involved in community service. He told the Los Angeles Times in 1986, “Part of the success of any business depends on community support. I think a businessman has a responsibility to give something back to the community by becoming involved in a service club.”

DiNoto leaves behind his wife, Mary Jane, of more than seven decades and three daughters. He was 95 years old.
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There has never been a year quite like this one. In Kiwanis International’s 105-year history, no other time has been as disruptive to the daily life of so many of our clubs’ communities. Or to the service and fellowship of club members.

But Kiwanis clubs exist to help when their communities need them most. Even in the time of the coronavirus — especially now — members have found ways to transcend the circumstances in which we’re all living.

Kiwanis magazine is pleased to share some of those stories on the following pages. These are just a few of the many inspiring ways that clubs around the world have risen to this extraordinary occasion. We hope your club has a similar story to tell. And we hope you draw inspiration from the ones you read here.

EVEN IN THE MIDST OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, KIWANIS CLUBS FIND WAYS TO HELP.

PANAMA CITY, PANAMA Local connection brings quick reaction

In Panama, the Kiwanis Club of Crucible C3 sprung into action when the coronavirus struck. It helped to have a good combination: its history of serving local organizations and a key connection through club leadership.

The club’s president, Isaac Borbua, is a member of the Panama Canal Authority (ACP). So he was in a position to spearhead a joint effort with the ACP’s engineers to help local organizations that the club had previously served. And he did so, collecting financial donations from the ACP — which could then be used to purchase food and cleaning supplies.

Overall, the ACP’s donation came to 2,600 balboas, a Panamanian currency. On April 30, club members delivered items to five nursing homes and group homes, whose residents range from AIDS patients to children with disabilities.
Erbach/Odenwald, Germany  REACHING FARAWAY KIDS DURING QUARANTINE

When the coronavirus forced the Erbach/Odenwald Kiwanis Club in Germany to cancel its events, members drew on available funds for a different approach: smaller donations for key causes far away. “In Germany, we are lucky,” says Immediate Past President Stefan Uhrig. “Often it is a question of donating toys to a kindergarten or school bags to children in need.”

The club had previous ties to two projects—one in Peru and one in Uganda. With one last fundraiser before the shutdown, the club raised EUR500 for Casa Verde, a children’s shelter in Arequipa, Peru.

In Uganda, an organization called Abaana Afrika has built and operated a school for village children. When it closed and sent students back to their families, one of the kids’ main sources for healthy meals was gone—especially with many parents confined to their homes and unable to work. The club’s donation provided a month of food for seven families.

In the meantime, the club kept working close to home. When a local radio station reported on the needs of women’s shelters, members purchased board games for kids living in a local women’s shelter. An area store even gave them a discount.

Club members also provided Kiwanis-branded fabric masks, which the club had bought from its partner club in Schärding, Austria. In fact, the club also bought some for members. At one point, a store employee asked Uhrig where all these masks had come from. In a single day, she said, she had seen eight people walking around “with Kiwanis written on their faces.”

Virginia Beach, Virginia, US  CLUB DONATES TO FAVORITE SERVER

The coronavirus has been hard on restaurants—and the people who work there. When the IHOP where the Kiwanis Club of Virginia Beach, Virginia, held its meetings closed in March, members did what Kiwanians do: They helped someone.

Their longtime server, Kendra Grimes, lost her job with the closure. Hearing about the misfortune, club members passed the proverbial hat. By the end of the month, they had collected US$1,000. Division 14 Lt. Gov. Joe Flanagan delivered it to her on April 1.

For Grimes, a single mother suddenly without a job or health insurance, it was a source of strength and hope. For the club, it was a small example of the ways Kiwanians reach out to people in need.
Chartered just two years ago, the Kiwanis Club of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, had already found a great way to raise money. Then the coronavirus struck.

“We had to cancel our casino fundraiser that brought in US$7,000 last year,” says member Tricia Knoles. “We want to be able to keep helping without depleting our community service account.”

Thanks to a grant from the Kiwanis Children’s Fund, they’re still helping — at a time when the need is more urgent than ever. Along with the club’s own contribution of $1,000, the grant has allowed them to buy food for Cuyahoga Falls City Schools elementary students and their families.

Local partnerships are useful too. Club members work with the Akron/Canton regional food bank, a locally owned grocery and Panera Bread to fill boxes with fresh food and pantry items. Club members also help community partners package and distribute the food.

Before the pandemic, two elementary schools had taken part in the program, which provided a backpack of food to carry students through the weekend. Now, children at all the city’s elementary schools get seven days of breakfast, lunch and snacks — as well as two family-sized dinners.

Everyone could use some fellowship these days. In April, members of the Kiwanis Club of High Point, North Carolina, lifted the spirits of their sponsored Aktion Club members quarantined in the community, driving past seven group homes with signs expressing support. Most of the Aktion Club members live in group homes. With social distancing restrictions, it was also a chance for the residents to step outside for some interaction.
CLUB SERVICE

Griffin, Georgia, US  CLUB CREATES FIRST RESPONDERS DRIVE-THRU

They say there’s no free lunch. But the Kiwanis Club of Griffin, Georgia, made sure the area’s first responders got one in April.

When the coronavirus made the club’s usual meeting impossible, members set up a lunchtime drive-thru to thank police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and other first responders for their work during the pandemic.

The club made enough food to feed the first 100 arrivals for lunch, which was available to those who came in uniform or showed their badge.

Portmore, Jamaica  KIWANIANS SHOW THEY CARE WITH A PLAN

On Jamaica’s southern coast, the Greater Portmore Kiwanis Club didn’t just respond quickly to the coronavirus. It put together a plan. The club’s #WECARE Plan was a multiphase effort to address the needs of medical and service workers in Jamaica’s 23 West Division — along with others who are especially vulnerable to COVID-19.

During Phase One in March, the club purchased hand sanitizer and cleaning products, which they delivered to the Greater Portmore Police Station, Waterford Fire Station and Greater Portmore Health Centre. The club also joined the Kiwanis Clubs of Sunshine City, Portmore and Central Portmore to make over 1,000 masks for residential care facilities that serve the elderly and people with mental disabilities.

Greater Portmore members also donated 10 100-pound bags of rice to the Portmore City Municipality for care packages to be distributed to senior citizens. In addition, they joined the Kiwanis Club of Portmore to assemble care packages with food and other essentials — then delivered them to city residents who were quarantined with suspected cases of COVID-19.

April brought Phase Two: The club purchased six plastic drums and arranged for them to be transformed into stand-alone handwashing stations for use at hospitals and police stations.

“The Portmore City Municipality promised to fill the drums with water on a daily basis if we are having challenges getting them filled,” says Nordia Campbell, president of the Greater Portmore club.
Cheyenne, Wyoming, US  CLUB RAISES FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY AND FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS

For the Kiwanis Club of Cheyenne, Wyoming, the coronavirus inspired a sense of urgency toward community service. The club’s outreach began with an eye toward food insecurity.

“It was a matter of doing an abbreviated community assessment,” says club member Tim Sheppard.

Continuing its meetings online, the 270-member club then started a committee for its COVID-19 fundraising efforts. Members contacted two local food banks — which suggested the club contact the Food Bank of the Rockies, which supports those pantries. The larger food bank was willing to use club-raised funds to help Cheyenne food banks specifically. By mid-May, the club had raised nearly US$30,000.

Its scope expanded when a member got the virus and lost their job. The fund now serves two needs: 70% for local food banks and 30% for members in need as a result of the pandemic.

In fact, the club has partnered with the United Way of Laramie County — allowing that organization to oversee the latter portion. With the United Way’s request form, members also don’t have to ask other members personally.

“It’s a new environment,” Sheppard says. “And it’s not expensive to do some form of community assessment. Kiwanis can make a difference right now — and in my opinion, we should.”
Brecksville, Ohio, US
CLUB GETS GRANT, FAMILIES GET GROCERIES

In the face of the pandemic, the Kiwanis Club of Brecksville, Ohio, put partnership to use. Thanks to a grant from the Kiwanis Children’s Fund, along with donations from the Brecksville-Broadview Heights School District Parent School Organization, the club helped 33 families in the area buy groceries in May.

With the funds, members purchased gift cards to grocery stores and distributed them to families on the school district’s free and reduced-price lunch program.

The Children’s Fund grant was a key supplement to the club’s fundraising effort, which ultimately topped US$10,000 and included donations from the BBH Parent School Organization and other donors.

Riverton, Illinois, US
KIWANIANS START A PANTRY AS VIRUS HITS

A year ago, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Riverton Area was new to its central Illinois community. But it made an impression: a micro-pantry in front of a local high school. The club bought the food and Key Clubbers stocked it every day.

That experience came in handy this spring. After small local pantries succumbed to the effects of COVID-19, the club’s 15 members quickly figured out how to start and run their own pantry. Community members helped, donating thousands of dollars and a variety of food items.

Each Tuesday, cars lined up for club members to put groceries into backseats and trunks. The rest of the week, Jeb Brown, the club’s charter president, distributed food through the drive-thru window of his business, Riverton Party Store.

“This town has seen a lot of clubs come and go,” he says. “But they haven’t seen anything like this Kiwanis club.”

Stuart, Florida, US
ONE CALL LEADS TO FOOD-PROVIDING PARTNERSHIPS

For Allison Wigley of the Kiwanis Club of Stuart, Florida, one conversation with a friend led to an initiative that fed about 500 people within days. When Wigley noted that at-risk youth were disproportionately affected by the pandemic, her friend offered to donate US$5,000.

“So I started making some phone calls, and it grew and grew,” Wigley says.

H. E. Hill Foundation’s arrangement with six farms helped the club support local businesses while serving people in need. A local food distributor allowed the club to buy food for its hot to-go meals, with discounts that helped pack 500 boxes.

A childcare center provided a distribution point for cars to receive a hot meal for each family member. The club also put groceries in the trunks.

Cher Fisher, the club’s president (and Wigley’s mother), even made sure the kids got something special. “I had collected books for the little library,” she says, “so we put in a book, some crayons, a yo-yo, something kids could use for quiet play.”
COVER STORY

STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS ARE STRUGGLING TO ADAPT TO THE “NEW NORMAL” IN EDUCATION. KIWANIANS CAN HELP.

BY JULIE SAETRE
When Information Technology High School in Long Island City, New York, abruptly closed classroom doors in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, its 1,005 students and 90 teachers, administrators and staff became part of a brave new digital world overnight.

Luna Ramirez, left, who has been a teacher for 23 years, with 13 of those spent in New York public schools, was among them. As a career and technology instructor, she was more prepared than many to meet the challenge. And so were her students — academically, at least. In their high school, they study complex subjects: digital design, computer programming, website development and career and financial management. Many of them are advanced-placement students.

But their day-to-day lives provide as many learning challenges as their studies offer opportunities. Some live in small apartments shared by multiple family members. Laptop computers, if available at all, are old with limited memory, and one is often shared among parents and siblings.

And those are the families fortunate enough to have internet access in the first place.

The “digital divide” — the gap between those who have access to the internet and those who don’t — already presented a formidable obstacle to education equality before the pandemic. The sudden switch to remote learning sent the situation into overdrive.

In Detroit, Michigan, for example, only 10% of public school students had access to both a computer and the internet when schools closed in March, as reported by NBC’s Today Show. The Pew Research Center reports that across the United States, some 15% of homes with school-age children lack internet access. Some families take a harder hit. A 2019 report by the National Center for Education Statistics states that nearly 20% of African American children ages 3-18 — and 21% of families earning less than US$40,000 per year — have no home internet access.

“There’s a saying that in the U.S. we have ‘10,000 democracies,’ since school districts are largely autonomous organizations that...
operate independently,” says Titilayo Tinuba Ali, left, director of research and policy for the Southern Education Foundation, a nonprofit that works to advance equitable education policies and practices for low-income students and students of color in 17 southern states.

“In the South, more students of color attend public schools than do white students, and a higher percentage of students in nearly every southern state qualifies for free or reduced price lunch. Research shows that students in high-poverty schools need additional resources to meet similar grade-level academic outcomes. Despite this fact, Southern states spend, on average, $1,200 less per pupil than the national average. With expected declining tax revenues following the COVID-19 crisis, states will have fewer overall dollars to target resources to low-income districts, widening opportunity and achievement gaps for students. While COVID-19 is impacting all of our students, those who are low-income or need extra supports are suffering the most.”

It’s not just a North American problem. No matter where in the world children live, those on the wrong side of the digital divide are most likely to suffer the consequences from school closures, says Borhene Chakroun, right, director of the division of policies and lifelong learning systems for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The pandemic has forced school closures in 191 countries, affecting a staggering 1.5 billion students. And half of those learners — nearly 830 million — don’t have access to a household computer. Forty-three percent lack home internet access.

UNESCO reports that in Europe, 14% of households do not have access to the internet, and 22% lack a computer. In sub-Saharan Africa, nearly 90% of students have no access to computers, and 82% have no way to get online.

The pandemic has forced school closures in 191 countries, affecting a staggering 1.5 billion students. And half of those learners — nearly 830 million — don’t have access to a household computer. Forty-three percent lack home internet access.

Then there are the students who already had barriers to education — from poverty and geographical remoteness to disabilities, displacement and exposure to child labor, violence and other adverse conditions.

“Education is vital to development, both at the individual and collective level,” Chakroun says. “Yet about 258 million children and youth were already out of school before the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, millions of students, those already in school, may face the immediate risk of dropping out or graduating without the basic skills. This existing learning crisis is exacerbated by...
COVID-19-related school closures, widening learning gaps and feeding wider socioeconomic inequalities.

Remote learning isn’t just a challenge for students. Among teachers who have the technology they need, not all feel equally comfortable using it. **Larry Lieberman**, left, is CEO of Mouse, a New York-based nonprofit that develops online computer science and STEM curriculum for students — and offers professional development on those subjects to teachers. When the pandemic hit, Mouse responded by expanding its teacher offerings to include four levels of instruction about Google Classroom and other online remote learning tools. The organization trained more than 4,000 New York City teachers in just a few weeks.

“Early on, it was obvious that there were students without devices or connectivity in their homes who would not be able to learn without them. That’s a very tangible, easy-to-see gap,” Lieberman says. “Well, the same gap exists when the teacher is not prepared to convert their expertise in the classroom into a remote environment. The most wonderful classroom teachers who have changed lives and inspired young people aren’t always best equipped to convert on a moment’s notice to a whole new media.”

Honing technical skills is only the beginning, adds Ali.

“This may include developing online facilitation skills, learning how to structure teamwork and project-based learning online. In addition to teachers, support staff such as guidance counselors and social workers also need support to learn how to effectively use technology to deliver services to students.”

Parents haven’t escaped transition trauma either. Those fortunate enough to work at home must juggle job responsibilities with the newfound task of being a teaching assistant. **Eric Oldfield**, right, is chief business officer for Brainly, a remote-learning support platform where middle and high school students struggling with a homework question can ask for help from a network of volunteer teachers, parents and peers. Since the pandemic hit, demand for the site has increased 200% in the U.S. alone, just one of the 35 countries Brainly serves. And it’s not just students asking for help.

“When kids are at school, their teachers are there all the time, and if they have a problem, they can ask them,” Oldfield says. “But with remote learning, the surface area of the teacher has been significantly reduced. Even in the best scenarios and school districts, where every student has a Chromebook (laptop), the teacher’s surface area has been reduced by more than 50%. And who’s there to help (the students)? It’s their parents.

“But I think what parents find, once you get past fifth grade, unless you’re a teacher yourself, it’s very hard to help your kids. ‘Cause you’ve forgotten the majority of
what you learned, or, if you remember how to do it, chances are they’re teaching it differently today than you learned it. And so the effect that we’ve seen is just a massive surge in usage.”

And while parents have to learn to use Zoom and other forms of video conferencing, their children need that same support. That means mom or dad takes on the additional role of information technology specialist. It’s something Oldfield, a father of two, knows well.

“This morning, I had a conference call, and in the middle of the conference call, my daughter came in and said, ‘Hey, Zoom doesn’t work.’ There was an update, and we had to update their computers and figure out what the administrator password was. And so I took off my Brainly chief business officer hat and put on my Oldfield family chief technology officer hat. And that’s challenging.”

Parents who can’t work remotely, single parents, parents of children with special needs, non-English-speaking parents and others suddenly find themselves without the resources they’ve had previously.

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It is possible for every student to be in class every day. But we have this opportunity now to help students learn where they are and make sure teachers are trained and prepared to help their students learn, wherever that student is based.

And that’s where Kiwanians come in. Club members’ opportunity is in a concept that Brainly’s Oldfield calls digital citizenship. “Digital citizenship is not just about learning how to use the technology and getting a better education, but using the technology as a platform to give back,” he explains. “Our platform really encourages not just the diligence to be a good student, but to be a good digital citizen and help others. And today, the number of people who need help with their education is bigger than it’s ever been.”

Kiwanians shouldn’t be daunted by the scope of the need. In fact, the numbers show that wherever your club is located, you will find kids, parents and teachers who need your help.

In April 2020, the Southern Education Foundation released a brief, “Distance Learning During COVID-19: 7 Equity Considerations for Schools and Districts,” highlighting initial areas to address: reaching students who don’t have internet access; helping students gain that access and other necessary technology; supporting English-language learners and students with special needs; identifying and providing needed wraparound services; supporting teachers; addressing mental health needs of students and teachers; and supporting parents’ roles in distance learning.

No community is the same, so before you set out to tackle all seven considerations, find out exactly where your club’s commitment is needed.

“For some communities, materials and Wi-Fi access are the main issues,” advises Ali, “and for others, digital literacy is a challenge, where teachers and families may need volunteers to help them navigate tech challenges through a hotline. Consider doing a community survey or assessment to see what’s needed and how you can be supportive.”

Once you know your service goals, use these tips to meet them.

**Reaching those without internet access.** While most Kiwanians can’t commit to wiring residences, they still can bring the internet (and its access to knowledge) within reach.

“We have seen districts implementing some creative partnerships with community organizations and shelters to help meet the needs of these students,” Ali says. “We’ve seen solutions like partnerships with local print shops to provide printed materials to students without internet access and deploying vans or buses equipped with Wi-Fi to get students connected, and community centers themselves can serve as Wi-Fi hubs.”

**Another option: lower-tech formats.** Before the internet existed, for example, children learned via educational television programming.
“UNESCO has been organizing a series of webinars on radio/TV-mediated distance education, which showcased examples and good practices of using the radio and television to reach out to those who did not have access to internet,” says Chakroun.

Check with your school system, your city’s public access television station or the local Public Broadcasting System channel to see if volunteers are needed to support educational programming on- or off-air.

**Helping with hands-on tech.** Kiwanis clubs around the world already have stepped up with donations of tablets and laptops to schools and students in need. Because technology never stands still, even if your district distributed technology a few years ago, it could be outdated for today’s lessons. And what works for younger students might not be functional for older learners. Find out if it’s time for an update. In Ramirez’s school, students received iPads — which only stymied the tech students.

“iPads are great for elementary school, maybe middle school,” Ramirez explains. “But when you get to high school, you cannot type a whole essay on an iPad. There are things that you need to do on a computer. In my case, you need to be able to run FTP servers, you need to be able to have the latest Java support in the browsers, Adobe. So the computer needs to have enough memory to run the program. The school already paid for full licensing for my students to have the software, but they could not run it in the computers, because it was too slow.”

**Supporting special needs.** Helping children with autism, those with special needs and English language learners often comes down to being there for their parents or guardians.

“The first step is acknowledging these different challenges and truly seeing and considering parents and families of all types,” advises Ali. “Then look to support parents and caregivers in your community in the ways they most need. That may look like serving as volunteer tutors where there are work, time or other structural barriers to parents and family members being able to assist with lessons. Additionally, families who do not speak English at home may appreciate support from volunteers who could serve as interpreters or translators.”

**Making wraparound services available.** At least 45% of Ramirez’s students rely on the food they receive at school to feed their families. So those food drives that Kiwanis family members have been holding since the pandemic began will continue to be key. Children and families who needed food, clothing, toiletries and other basics before COVID-19 will still have those needs. And with pandemic-related job losses, those essential items are even more in demand.

**Lending a helping hand to teachers.**

“With the pandemic, there are three front lines,” says Mouse’s Lieberman. “There’s the health crisis. And then the second, of course, is the financial hardship. And those two crises are so severe that the third front line can get lost, and that’s the crisis in education. Kids don’t stop. Kids don’t stand still. And our teachers have committed themselves to carrying on in a climate that no one could have imagined.”

A typical distance-learning day for Ramirez begins at 7 a.m. and sometimes doesn’t end until 10 or 11 p.m. Distance learning requires not only time for learning new tech, but leading virtual group classes, meeting remotely with students for one-on-one problem-solving, coaching kids for exam prep and more.

One student in Ramirez’s class had to deal with every family member contracting...
COVID-19; two senior students each lost a parent to the disease. Ramirez worked with the teens to create a modified learning schedule and special projects that allowed them to continue their education when the pandemic made daily classwork and homework impossible.

“I have my regular assignments, but for the students who have trouble because of the family’s health or a death in the family or they don’t have money to eat, I say, ‘There are too many assignments for you to do right now. But if you are capable of doing this project, then you get full credit.’ And they feel hope.”

You can help ease a teacher’s workload virtually by mentoring, tutoring a student in need or offering to be a guest speaker during a remote class meeting.

“My father was a Kiwanian,” Lieberman says. “There have always been these wonderful opportunities between the organization and schools to provide teachers and students with insight into the working world. That sort of immersion in connectivity is really critical.”

**Addressing emotional needs.** “Students and teachers alike may be dealing with feelings of isolation, increased responsibility of caring for family members, changes in family income, death and other challenges,” says Ali. “Holding virtual wellness days for teachers with activities like yoga, mindfulness and support circles and making virtual guidance counselors or community mentors available are all ways to serve your community. Expanded learning, after-school and summer programs also give a real opportunity to work as allies with schools and provide some continuity with social and emotional support.”

**Being there for parents.** Just as teachers can use virtual volunteers, parents also face overwhelming demands. Kiwanis, CKI and Key Club members can ease the burden by tutoring, shopping for groceries, running errands, doing yard work and other forms of service that allow parents to focus on their family and work responsibilities.

Bridging the digital divide won’t be easy, and it won’t happen overnight. But it will cultivate a new world of unprecedented educational opportunities.

“There are lots of negatives that come from this pandemic,” says Brainly’s Oldfield. “Adopting technology has become a necessity, not an option. As painful as it may be for all three parties — parents, teachers and students — I think that that is going to be a very positive thing.

“We need to get technology into the classroom. We need to get technology into students’ hands. And I feel like one of the silver linings of the pandemic is that it will hopefully accelerate that and improve the quality of education that students get globally.”

Kiwanis, CKI and Key Club members can ease the burden by tutoring, shopping for groceries, running errands, doing yard work and other forms of service that allow parents to focus on their family and work responsibilities.
Signature projects show the impact a Kiwanis club can have on a community. From playgrounds and parks to festivals and fundraisers, signature projects are the hallmarks of what Kiwanis clubs are known for in their communities. This year’s Signature Project Contest was split into two tiers: Clubs with 27 members or fewer were judged in the Tier I category and clubs with 28 members or more were judged in the Tier II category. In order to be considered, signature projects must be recurring (or have intent to continue), enhance the Kiwanis image, demonstrate significant impact on the community in terms of monies raised or children served and strengthen membership and partnership opportunities.

Congratulations to the winners!

Learn more at kiwanis.org/signatureproject.
Kiwanis Club of Ormond Beach
Project: Kiwanis READS! Summer Reading Challenge

Everyone wins with reading! The Kiwanis Club of Ormond Beach in Florida knows this to be true, so members made it their mission to get books to teachers and students at Ormond Beach Elementary School. As part of the Kiwanis READS! Summer Reading Challenge, the club donated 2,319 new books — each teacher at the school received 10 books for the classroom and 400 students got books of their own to take home. The goal: to build a culture of reading in and out of the classroom. The club’s savvy use of social media and correct Kiwanis branding strengthened community awareness, and about 40 new members signed up for the Kiwanis Ormond Beach Volunteers MeetUp group — with many interested in joining the club as well. When a project brings in prospective members, that’s one way to measure success. But there’s even better news for this project. The Ormond Beach Elementary School finished third in the state of Florida in minutes read in the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge.

Kiwanis Club of Oak Lawn Area
Project: Feed 6 Mega Event

The Feed 6 Mega Event involves the funding and packaging of 50,000 meal equivalents for families in need, including those at the poverty level, seniors, disabled individuals and veterans. The Kiwanis Club of Oak Lawn Area in Illinois works with several partners, utilizes multiple social media outlets and involves K-Kids and Builders Club.
Kiwanis Club of The Adelaide Hills  
**Project: Kiwanis Book Shop**

In Mount Barker, South Australia, if you need a book, you go to the Kiwanis Book Shop. And that’s a great thing, because all the money collected from donations and book sales goes to 20 community nonprofits to help children and families in need. The Kiwanis Book Shop has a roster of more than 30 volunteers — about half are members of Kiwanis and the rest are community volunteers. The Kiwanis Book Shop has fulfilled a community need and has had a significant social impact. One customer recently said, “Now that Mount Barker has a book shop, the town has a soul!”

Kiwanis Club of Prescott  
**Project: Live Annual Auction**

The Kiwanis Club of Prescott, Arizona, has staged the Live Annual Auction for more than 70 years. The club auctions thousands of items donated by local businesses during an event that is broadcast by the local community cable channel and live streamed three hours every night for two weeks. The nearly US$175,000 raised each year is used to fund many community programs. One of the first years of the auction, live chickens were sold. Times have changed, but many current Prescott Kiwanians remember years past when their parents — and even grandparents — took part in the auction.

Kiwanis Club of Ames Town and Country  
**Project: Teen Maze**

The choices we make have consequences, both good and bad. That’s the message the Kiwanis Club of Ames Town and Country has for seventh graders served by the Nebraska-Iowa Division 11 Kiwanis clubs. Teen Maze is an experiential learning event with interactive stations where students navigate the realities of life and are given information on how to make intelligent decisions on everything from social media safety and teen pregnancy to self-esteem and substance abuse. Hundreds of volunteers give over 2,500 hours of annual service in planning, setup, leading teens through the maze and evaluation. The club gets help from Aktion Club, K-Kids, Key Club and Builders Club members.

Kiwanis Club of Mansfield  
**Project: Friendly House**

The Kiwanis Club of Mansfield, Ohio, has worked with Friendly House since 1922, so this signature project has some history. Friendly House is a community center that provides an affordable and safe program for youth for both after-school and summer care. To celebrate its 100th anniversary, the Mansfield Kiwanis Club purchased a minibus to help transport children to afterschool programs and camps at Friendly House. The bus has provided 1,919 individual rides to children since its purchase in 2019. In order to meet demand, the club is working on purchasing a second minibus for transportation to Friendly House.
EDUCATION

VOL. 1
LIMITED EDITION

SUPER
COMICS NEW STORY

FREE!
POSTER
WITH EVERY EDITION
On a sunny sidewalk corner, a box of wonder and delight emerges in the heart of a busy neighborhood across from several schools. When you take from this house-shaped box, it refills like magic, and unlike most fairy tales there are no strings attached, no payment to be made. These treasures are free.

A new Kiwanis book box, created by Kiwanians Jean and Doug Chadwick’s foundation The Literacy Club and sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Glendale, was unveiled in front of the Verdugo Hills Council Boy Scouts offices in Glendale, California.

This colorful minibox is one of many that have popped up in several states throughout the U.S., including California and Ohio, thanks to the work of the Chadwicks, the Kiwanis Literacy Club of Southern California, and support of local clubs that fund the book boxes.

The book box is more house than box: lakeblue trim, forest green doors, handles made from stained cross-sections of tree branches, windows cut out in fleur-de-lis shapes, a campfire, and a multicolored shingled roof with metal flashing.

Inside, colorful spines of books “peer” through the windows, waiting to catch the eye of any young passerby. All the child has to do is open the door.

“There are a lot of neighborhood kids, parents who walk in the evening with their kids when I’m working late at night,” says Amy Taylor, district executive of the Verdugo Hills Council Boy Scouts and member of the Kiwanis Club of Glendale.

“It’s just a great opportunity for people who may not go to the library and have time at school to pick out a book, own a book, hold and cherish it,” she says.

“My mother used to take me to the library every week, and for me, that was one of the most memorable memories I have of my
EDUCATION

childhood, “says Taylor. “So I really believe in this literacy book box and the programs. I’m glad we can have it here at our council.”

Looking around at Glendale’s beautiful homes and vibrant streets, it’s easy to wonder about the need for a book box. But the working poor are there too, in the service industries and manual-labor jobs, straining to make a living from minimum-wage salaries.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Glendale has a median household income of US$58,657, with areas as low as $21,000, and a cost of living nearly 2.5 times the national average. Families live below the poverty line: 15.6% of the population or about 30,000 of 198,000 people.

“Many families out there are struggling,” says Mark Kraus, scout executive and chief executive officer for the Verdugo Hills Council Boy Scouts. “They can’t afford the books and maybe they just don’t have the ability to get the kids to the library. If we can have this for the neighborhood kids, for them to take advantage of it, I think it’s a great thing.”

“I hope every child who walks by this box stops and picks up a book, and it becomes a part of their routine,” says Valerie Brown-Klingelhoefer of the Kiwanis Club of Marina, Monterey, and honorary member of Kiwanis Literacy Club of Southern California.

After the book-box installation, one neighborhood child found a book and asked if she could keep it. When Brown-Klingelhoefer said yes, the child’s mother insisted on paying for it.

“Mom kept going, ‘How much do I owe you, how much do I owe you?’” Brown-Klingelhoefer remembers. “And I said, ‘You owe me nothing. I owe you. I owe you the opportunity to come back tomorrow. And there’s going to be more books.’”


A NEW LIFE BEGINS

Jean Chadwick, charter president of the Kiwanis Literacy Club of Southern California co-founder and executive director of the club’s foundation, knows the value of getting books into the hands of children.

As a child, she was abandoned and homeless, living in Los Angeles. Reading was a means to an end, a survival skill for basic necessities. Keeping up grades and staying in school meant a free meal, a shower and productive ways to spend time.

At age 15, Chadwick was adopted by a young family, one that promised not to give her back, as so many families had before them. Her adoptive parents gave her a set of books.

“They handed me ‘The Chronicles of Narnia’ and told me to go read,” she says. “This was the first time in my life that somebody had handed me books and told me to go read for fun.”

After a hundred pages, her nerves about a new school and family disappeared. She only wanted to know two things: “How do I get a lion as a best friend, and where do you find these wardrobes?”

The power of reading had changed her life.

Now Chadwick wants to give books to kids so they can unlock that power and find that same sense of wonder.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH

While a traditional Kiwanis club might focus on many different projects to help the community, a single-emphasis club takes one idea and makes it their priority. Similar to clubs with a strong signature project, a group identity is formed, and the public can see its goals and clarity of purpose.

Beyond literacy, California has LGBTQ (focused on helping LGBTQ children and youth who need support, especially runaways in shelters), Rose Float and Special Games clubs. Each single-emphasis club fills an
UNLOCK YOUR IMAGINATION...

READ MORE BOOKS!
important role in the community to help kids in need. Diane Cripe, Kiwanis Literacy Club of Southern California member, and her husband, Gene, love their club. Gene does his part by sorting through stacks of books and labeling them with Kiwanis stickers. Diane says that their energy is focused in helping kids read, in whatever ways they can.

Chadwick acknowledges that a few Kiwanians have challenged the club: “Well, if you’re single-emphasis, are you really a Kiwanian?” Her response: “Absolutely.” “Let’s be honest,” she says. “If we’re at the core of what a Kiwanian is, it’s being a good human. And caring about the world we are in.”

Jonathan Tiongco, founder and principal at Alliance Marine-Innovation & Technology 6-12 Complex, appreciates the club’s focus on literacy and education. Although there are Kiwanis clubs in his area, he joined the club because it fits his own mission.

“The average sixth-grade student or ninth-grade student enters our school four to six grade levels below in their reading level,” he says. “It’s a population that has been traditionally underserved, and literacy is the key.”

He loves the idea of building the Kiwanis book boxes in the school’s recreation spaces and connecting the kids’ social lives with the love of reading. His Key Clubbers will choose the boxes’ themes and continue keeping them stocked.

There is passion and conviction in Tiongco’s voice. “We really believe that in order to achieve high school, college and life success, literacy is what our kids need.”

“If we’re at the core of what a Kiwanian is, it’s being a good human. And caring about the world we are in.”
EDUCATION

BE A HERO

What was the next project for the Kiwanis Literacy Club? Participation at the Glendale Open Arts and Music Festival, where members hoped to give away more than a thousand free books with the help of their friends from the Glendale Kiwanis Club.

Parents and their children stopped by the booth to explore the free books. The young at heart slipped on colorful, silky capes and superhero masks and posed against a comic-book skyline. Striking dramatic poses, they held up their books, snapped pictures with their phones and shared a joy of reading.

For kids, the link between literacy and a superpower to protect the universe is just fun play. But there is a real power in reading. Studies have shown that reading boosts self-esteem and happiness. For example, reading is associated with positive emotional and social experiences, as well as educational and career success.

According to the National Commission on Reading, “the single most significant factor influencing a child’s early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home prior to beginning school.”

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“Reading develops a bond with your children, and it opens up their imagination,” says Cripe. “It gives you an opportunity to play with your child while you’re reading, because you can become that monster, big giant or whatever.

“I think it gives them an understanding that it’s okay to be a child, even though you’re an adult,” she says.

Toni Beck Espinoza, member of the Glendale and Literacy clubs, was an only child for 10 years. She remembers always having books with her.

“I grew up reading, reading, reading,” she says, “and I knew how important that was to kids. This is a great way Kiwanis could be really involved and help the kids that we’re so focused on.”

Like carnival barker, Doug (Master Builder of the Kiwanis book boxes) and Jean Chadwick mingled with the passing crowd. “Did you get a book?” they called out. “Every child gets a free book!”

Preteen girls walked by the table and twisted up their noses and mouths as if the book event were too young or “uncool” for their taste. But Jean directed them to The Literacy Club’s new Mobile Book Depot, which is a superhero-themed book box on wheels.

Big kids, little kids, kids of all shapes, colors and backgrounds found their book with the help of Jean Chadwick and the Kiwanians. Always focused on the mission, she was adamant that no child leaves her area without a free book.

Chadwick wants books in the hands of children, to empower them to read and, as she emphasizes, “unlock their lives and imagination through literacy.”

Moments later, the young girls emerged from the Mobile Book Depot laughing, delighted at their find. Each clutched a book tightly in her arms, as if to say, “This book is mine.”

Based on their smiles, the girls seemed to have found something they didn’t know they had wanted: a story of adventure and a key to a lifetime of possibilities.
Laura Robinson, educational library media specialist at Wimauma Elementary School in Florida, knows firsthand the wear and tear that library books withstand. Every few years, she replaces titles that have been well-read by countless classrooms of students. But like many schools in underserved areas, the budget didn’t have room for restocking the shelves.

So Robinson wrote to the Kiwanis Club of SouthShore, Sun City Center, Florida, asking if it could donate US$500 toward the cause. Members easily approved her request, but they were so moved by the need that they started thinking: What if they could do more? They decided to harness the power of social media and posted requests asking the community for book donations. Within days, members received more than 300 new and gently used tomes.

“There were books for every age and every reader in an elementary school. From simple picture books to novels and dictionaries,” says Kim Przekop, a board at-large member of the SouthShore club.

The Kiwanians boxed up the donations, then called Robinson. “We told her we had a few books to donate to the school while the requested funds were processing,” Przekop says.

Joined by her son, Przekop drove to Wimauma Elementary to surprise Robinson with six large book-filled boxes. “She couldn’t believe her eyes,” says Przekop. “The club will continue to ask for books from local families to keep the Wimauma Elementary School Library full of books.”
For Kiwanis clubs, time and money are precious assets. Save some of each through Club Resources. Get goods at great prices through Kiwanis Warehouse. Enjoy preferred pricing and more at Office Depot/Office Max. Save time, save money. Then serve more kids.

kiwanis.org/club-resources

THE MORE CLUBS SAVE, THE MORE CLUBS SERVE.
The Duncan Chisholm Trail Kiwanis Club in Oklahoma officially has new wheels — train wheels, to be exact. The train is the newest addition to Kiddieland Park, a club-managed recreational destination that has served the local community with inexpensive fun for over 50 years. A commission of just under US$80,000 allowed the club to replace its former train, a hand-me-down received in 1967.

“The old train was becoming outdated with maintenance, and repair parts were becoming harder to obtain,” says club president Nate Edwards. “In the fall of 2019, the Duncan Chisholm Trail Kiwanis Board approved the club’s request to start fundraising for a new train that would allow for a smoother ride with less maintenance.”

In addition to applying for local grants and reaching out to the community for monetary support, the club sold 400 “Golden Tickets” at $20, which gave ticket holders access to a private party at the park and allowed them to be some of the first to see and ride the new train. Money made from selling the old train — $27,500 — also went toward the purchase of the new one.

In less than a year, the club was able to raise all needed funds, and the new Texas-made train was ordered and delivered. The difference between the two is night and day: The new train boasts hydraulic drive, roomier seating and a much more comfortable ride for those who hop aboard. It sits alongside a tilt-a-whirl, planes and the park’s original carousel, which was installed in 1956.

The train fosters excitement and generates new foot traffic at the park. And new attendees result in funds raised for local scholarships and other community efforts. Club members are confident that it also will help create new and lasting memories for people.

“For over 50 years, Kiddieland has provided a family-friendly, fun experience for our community,” says Edwards. “There is not a night worked where someone does not comment on how they remember riding one of the rides as a child and are now bringing either their kids, grandchildren or even their great grandchildren.”
STYLES TO STACK, WEAR AND SHARE.

From fun to fabulous, find your perfect style in our new line of Kiwanis jewelry. A portion of every purchase helps members improve communities and the lives of children around the world.

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The Pride of Barbados Kiwanis Club takes its name seriously: Members serve the needs of those with disabilities and help K-Kids develop service and leadership skills.

Members of the Eden Lodge Primary School K-Kids Club soon will be seasoned volunteers, thanks to the Kiwanians’ guidance. After a lesson on giving back, the children received an assignment: Find a way to sacrifice for others.

“The idea was for them to give up something that meant a lot to them,” says Nicola Yard, president of the Pride of Barbados club.

The children chose to save their snack money twice a week for six weeks to start the “Skip a Snack, Buy a Towel” project in October 2019. Funds paid for toiletries for residents of the Soroptimist Village and Activity Centre, a senior living facility. Members then purchased towels, soap, shampoo and lotions to stock a group gift basket.

In December, the K-Kids presented the gifts to 50 older adults at the center, then performed dances and sang carols for the grateful audience. The project was so well-received that it will expand to two additional K-Kids clubs, with the goal, Yard says, of helping the young members make sacrifices for the betterment of others.

In February 2020, the Kiwanis club launched a project to benefit another group whose members are no strangers to sacrifice: parents of children with disabilities.

“They don’t necessarily get the amount of self-care that they need,” Yard says, “because they don’t get time for themselves.”

Parents choose from a variety of pampering indulgences, including hairstyling, makeup applications, massage treatments and photo shoots. Club members donate their services or cover the cost of patronizing local businesses. The first mother who participated received a massage, a makeup application and a photo shoot.

“We hope that with a little treat for themselves, some time for themselves, that they’re able to continue providing the best care,” Yard says.

The club also took to the air on a popular radio station in March to share the story of a mother raising a child with a disability.

Next up is an inclusive coloring book, with each page depicting children with and without disabilities playing together.

Explains Yard, “What we’re hoping is that we can develop mutual respect for each other, foster inclusive play.”

The Pride of Barbados Club lives up to its name. By Lydia Johnson
LASTING APPRECIATION

Give your club officers and committee members the recognition they deserve for all their hard work. Order now so you can personalize their plaque and make it as special as they are.

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A while ago, a boy in Georgia named Blake created a T-shirt to show his kindness toward others. To let everyone know that he was open to new friendships and always would be, the T-shirt simply said, “I will be your friend.” And the message spread.

Soon, a committee formed to spread this kindness by making more T-shirts that said, “I will be your friend.” Now the committee has grown, and people have started wearing these T-shirts all over the world. The K-Kids at Mabel Rush Elementary School in Newberg, Oregon, have joined in wearing these T-shirts every Wednesday at school. It represents who we are and who we try to be every day. Every single K-Kid cares about friendless people, and we try to help them out in every way we can.

Every Wednesday, we get together to change the world and our community. Some of the activities that take place in our meetings are making handmade compliment strips that are passed around the school, back and forth from person to person. They are wrinkled by the hands of many people and are kept in linty pockets for kids to pull out on self-doubting days. They cheer kids up, because they know that someone believes in them.

We make posters to encourage people to share kindness with others. We also help spread kindness through the Box of Kindness. The kids at school can write about a person that they have spotted being kind. The slip will ask for the person’s name, their teacher’s name and what they were spotted doing. Every Wednesday, we draw from that box, and the person whose name we draw receives a prize. People who have been mentioned through the box will receive the strip so they are reminded of their good deed and what people have seen in them.

We also write cards to retirement homes for different holidays, including Christmas, Valentine’s Day, Thanksgiving and many others. We hang hand-colored papers about the key to kindness and other kinds of encouragements and positive statements.

Organization is important, so our leader, Mrs. Neiss, makes jobs for us. Some of these jobs include our treasurer, president, vice president, secretary and surgeon (sergeant) of arms. As you can see, all of our friends in K-Kids have an impulse to spread kindness.

We make sure that we are kind. We always try to be gratifying. We are who we are and who we would like to be. We are the kindness of the world. And that’s how we will stay. 🌟
Every kid can be a Terrific Kid.

Terrific Kids is a program that helps students modify their behavior and become the best version of themselves. Encourage kids to shine by purchasing a Terrific Kids kit for a school near you.

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Diversity is key to a successful club

HERE’S HOW TO USE THE ROSTER ANALYSIS WORKSHEET.

There are several ways to make sure your club includes a diverse set of people. One proven method: Consider all the professions in your community. This list isn’t exhaustive, but it can get you started. Use it as a reminder of individual people who would love to be a part of Kiwanis — and whose skills, relationships and experiences could enrich your club’s impact. Then use the attached sheet to create a list of people to invite to your next service project or open house.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

A
Accountant
Apartment manager
Assessor
Architect
Artist
Auditor
Automobile dealer
B
Banker
Barber
Biologist
Boys & Girls Club director
Broker
Building contractor
C
Camp director
Certified public accountant
Chef or caterer
City/town council member
Clergy member or official
Counselor
D
Database administrator
Dentist
Dermatologist
Designer
Dietitian
E
Educator
Electrician
Engineer
F
Factory manager
Farmer
Financial planner
First responder
Funeral director
G
Gardener
Geologist
Graphic designer
Grocer
Guidance counselor
H
Hairdresser
Historian
Hotel manager
I
Illustrator
J
Jeweler
Judge
K
Kennel operator
Kindergarten/preschool director
L
Landscaper
Librarian
M
Media professional
Musician
N
Naturalist
Nurse
Nutritionist
O
Orthodontist
P
Pediatrician
Pharmacist
Physical therapist
Physician
Pilot
Police officer
Postmaster
Public relations executive
Q
Quality control consultant
R
Real estate agent
Recreational director
S
Salesperson
Scientist
Secretary
Social worker
Software developer
T
Tailor
Teacher
Technician
Tourism director
U
Underwriter
Utility manager
V
Veterinarian
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Welder
Window company owner
Writer
X
X-ray technician
Y
Youth center administrator
Z
Zoning consultant
Zoologist
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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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