WHEN IT COMES TO NEW-CLUB OPENING, KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL 2017-18 PRESIDENT JIM ROCHFORD WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER.
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FUTURE CONVENTIONS
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, June 28–July 1, 2018
Walt Disney World, Florida, USA, June 27–30, 2019
Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, June 18–21, 2020
Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, June 24–27, 2021

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President Jim Rochford is the ultimate Kiwanis salesman.

Photo by John Bragg
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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE  LEAD BY EXAMPLE, DOERS

JIM ROCHFORD  •  KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

The world is divided into three kinds of people: booers, chewers and doers. Booers have something to say about everything, and it’s usually bad. Chewers sit on the fence and don’t do much of anything. Then, there are the doers. Fellow doers, thank you for all you do to make the world a better place.

Lead by Example: During the 2017–18 Kiwanis year, I am asking all leaders to lead by example. Kiwanis International board members are asked to work with the governors to open new clubs. The governors are committed to concentrating on membership.

Formula 409: As a team, we are trying to open 409 new Kiwanis clubs and start strong with 50 in October.

Our Service Leadership Programs are the best thing we do. If we want to continue to properly mentor these great programs, we must increase our membership.

1+1=3: When Kiwanians work together, what we can achieve greatly exceeds what we can do individually.

Eye of the Tiger: The Eye of the Tiger—our team of club openers—will be in Chicago during the week of October 8. Our priority will be to organize Kiwanis clubs to support Key Clubs that don’t have sponsors.

Conceive, Believe, Achieve: Within months after Roger Bannister became the first person to run a mile in less than four minutes, that unbreakable record was broken numerous times. Bannister’s success shows us that what we can conceive and what we believe, we can achieve. If we can conceive that we can strengthen existing clubs by adding new members, and if we believe we can open new clubs in new communities, then we can achieve a net growth in membership and, therefore, increase the impact of our service. Thank you for all you do. I’m humbled to lead this great organization by example.

EXECUTIVE PERSPECTIVE  ADVICE FOR OUR NEW LEADERS

STAN SODERSTROM  •  KIWANIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It’s October, and that means a transition for Kiwanis leadership. I devote this column to all incoming club officers by sharing advice I wish I’d had the first time I went through the club leadership chain.

To the new president, we’re glad you’re here. The club will support you as long as you support them. Don’t try to run any faster than the members can follow. Listen to the ideas and concerns of others, and correct your course as you go. When members miss more than one meeting in a row, let them know they were missed. Say “thank you” a lot. Share the credit for the club’s success.

To the new president-elect, start planning now. Where momentum is building, keep it going. If something isn’t working, make changes. Ask a couple of past presidents to be your advisors. Sponsor a new member in October. Most importantly, be the president’s most enthusiastic cheerleader.

To the new vice-president, make sure your club’s membership, service and fundraising is strong. Inspire other members by sponsoring a new Kiwanian in October. Encourage the right someone to follow you as the next vice-president.

To the immediate past president, thank you for your service. Complete an end-of-the-year report and consider seeking a higher Kiwanis office.

To the secretary and treasurer, you are the unsung heroes of your club. Your jobs are crucial to the health of your club. Thank you for what you do.

To every leader, take time to celebrate your successes.

My last piece of advice is to attend the 2018 Kiwanis International convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, June 28–July 1. If you’ve never been to one, make this the one you experience.

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Readers of Kiwanis magazine’s print version and blog respond to features from the August 2017 issue. Join the conversations at kiwanismagazine.org.

ONE UNTOLD STORY HAS BEEN TOLD

I offer my deepest appreciation to Kiwanis for seeking out Moe Shands, learning about what he does, gaining an understanding of his impact in the community and bringing to the forefront the accomplishment of an African-American man. (See “A Cut Above,” August 2017.)

Too often the press focuses on negative images of the black male. High rates of unemployment, single-parent households, high rates of incarceration, more blacks in prison than in college, gang violence and high school dropout rates are off the chart. The list goes on. And while the stories about these issues are true, there are many untold stories of successes being made by African-American men. Your story about Moe Shands is such a success story: one man single-handedly making a difference. I choose to pass up my local barbershop, which is six miles away, and drive 23 miles to Moe’s Barbershop, and it is not just for the haircut. I can only echo the title of your masterfully presented article. Moe Shands is a “cut above,” not just as a barber but also as a humanitarian.

Don I. Tharpe
Nicholasville, Kentucky

GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE

Donating Life (August 2017). Due to a chronic kidney disease, I have been on a kidney transplant list since November 2016. Requirements for donors are so stringent that I guess I will have to live on peritoneal dialysis for a long time. I am 74 years old, and my insurance approval is good until November 2017. After that, I guess I need to go through the process again.

I hope some Kiwanians would come through for those of us who wait for donors.

Estrella B. Davenport-Fehrenbacher
Kiwanis Club of Bridgeton, Missouri

I am a kidney donor. Fifteen years ago in 2002! He was a church friend … my son’s softball coach and my daughter’s babysitting employer. It was the easiest decision I ever made in my life … and was life-changing for me and his family!

Kathleen Roberts
Via kiwanismagazine.org

Your article “Donating Life” provides in-depth insights into organ donation around the world. To me, it has great personal impact, as I am a dialysis patient. Hopefully this article will motivate Kiwanis members around the world to consider giving the gift of life to another human being.

Organ donation exemplifies Kiwanis service at its best.

Marc H. Litwack
Kiwanis Club of The Chathams, New Jersey
YOU’RE ALWAYS A WINNER AT A KIWANIS CONVENTION

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

KIWANIS.ORG/CONVENTION
WHAT’S HAPPENING
TRENDS, TIPS, FACTS AND FIGURES FROM KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

GIVE THE GIFT OF READING
All too often, children are forced to stand in the reading line instead of the purchasing line at Scholastic Book Fairs. Why? Because they can’t afford new books.

Help build a child’s home library by purchasing reading certificates. These can be purchased in any amount or quantity. Talk with your school’s counselor to find out how you can help.

Learn more at kiwanis.org/readingcerts.

REPLENISH SCHOOL SUPPLIES
A new school year already has begun for many children, but teachers will tell you that supplies are needed all year. Talk with teachers at your community schools and find out how you can support their classroom needs.

For more information, visit kiwanis.dollardays.com/landing/back_to_school_store.
MNT UPDATE
Haiti has eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus. Only 16 countries remain affected by MNT. Get your pledges in to the Children’s Fund today. We’re close. But the fight isn’t over.
For more information, visit theeliminateproject.org/give.

HOLIDAY PLANS
Kiwanis magazine is always looking for great stories to share. Let us know what your club is doing for the holiday season.
Email details to shareyourstory@kiwanis.org.

HONOR VETERANS
The United States celebrates Veterans Day in November. Be sure to plan events that honor veterans in your club and community. Supplies, such as stick flags, can be purchased through our partner, Atlas Flags.
More at kiwanis.atlasflags.com.

NEW CLUB GRANT PROGRAM
The Kiwanis Children’s Fund has a new Club Grant program that will help guide clubs throughout the application process—and will award funds more often.
For important updates about the Club Grant program, visit kiwanis.org/childrensfund/clubgrants.
NEWS THE FORMULA

SPOTLIGHT ON KIWANIS
The more Kiwanians there are, the greater their reach is to kids in our communities.
Make sure children have a bright future. Invite friends to join your club. Watch the video at kiwanis.org/spotlight.
Who will you invite to join Kiwanis?

GET TO KNOW YOUR AREA DIRECTORS
Area directors are an invaluable resource for your district. They offer insights into other clubs’ success with club strengthening, SLP sponsorship, club opening and more. They also have field experience that empowers them to pass along information regarding club operations, navigating membership struggles and other issues.
Kiwanis recently realigned districts and added a sixth area director. This reduces the number of districts that each area director manages, allowing them to be in the field more often—concentrating on their districts and supporting Kiwanians as they share Kiwanis with others.
Get to know your area directors at kiwanis.org/areadirectors.

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Get to know your area directors at kiwanis.org/areadirectors.

EARN YOUR STRIPES
Kiwanis members and clubs can earn distinguished recognition during this 2017–18 year.
Members, for example, need to sign up five new members to qualify. Clubs need to increase membership; sponsor a new club; support the Kiwanis Children’s Fund; be represented at the Kiwanis International convention and enter the signature project contest.
Visit kiwanis.org/distinguished.

MIDWEST USA AREA
Brian Tenclinger, area director manager
Illinois-Eastern Iowa, Missouri-Arkansas and Wisconsin-Upper Michigan

WESTERN USA AREA
California-Nevada-Hawaii, Montana, Pacific Northwest, Southwest and Utah-Idaho

NORTHEAST USA AREA
Chris Martz
Capital, New England and Bermuda, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania

SOUTHEAST USA AREA
Rhonda Vrell
Alabama, Carolinas, Florida, Georgia and Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee

MID-CENTRAL USA AREA
Lanton Lee
Indiana, Kentucky-Tennessee, Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia

CENTRAL USA AREA
Brad Boyd
Kansas, Minnesota-Dakotas, Nebraska-Iowa, Rocky Mountain and Texas-Oklahoma

CANADA & CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA AREAS
Juanita Galvis
Eastern Canada and the Caribbean and Western Canada; Latin America
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Learn more at playlsi.com/smart-play.
K Corps is a newly-minted program for Kiwanis-family teens to foster global connections and cultural literacy through travel abroad, which includes homestays with Kiwanis families. The pilot occurred this past June and July in Japan.

Two U.S. Key Club members—Samantha DuBois of Noblesville, Indiana, and Shelby Bursott of Robinson, Illinois—were among the K Corps group. This was the first trip outside the U.S. for both of them. Needless to say, they experienced a lot of “firsts”:

- Udon and other Japanese dishes
- The high-speed Shinkansen train
- Tokyo’s subway
- Japan’s elaborate toilets
- Communal baths
- Temples and shrines
- The Japanese language
- Meeting other Key Clubbers

Above all, the full immersion into a new culture was the highlight of their trip.

“This trip has changed the way I see the things around me and perceive other cultures,” says DuBois. “I want to learn more about every culture I can. I have now realized how much I love traveling and can’t wait to fly somewhere new and learn more.”

Bursott, too, says she now has the utmost respect for Asian cultures and plans to return to Japan next summer.

During their stay in the Tokyo area, the students participated in a K Corps service project, joining local middle and high school students to paint a Kids’ Guernica mural at the Osanbashi Yokohama International Passenger Terminal. Kids’ Guernica is an international children’s art project that focuses on creating a 3.5-meter by 7.8-meter peace mural based on Picasso’s “Guernica” painting.

As a result of the pilot’s success, K Corps will expand in 2018, when Japanese students will be hosted by Kiwanians in the United States and Canada. Visit kiwanis.org/kcorps for more details.
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Kiwanis Travel. A partnership for premium global adventures.
Kiwanis Visa® Rewards. A branded rewards credit card that supports the Kiwanis Children’s Fund.

Coverage. Travel. Rewards. They’re all available at Kiwanis Marketplace.

Learn more about each program at kiwanis.org/marketplace.
Jim Rochford is a sports fan. One room in his home’s basement is a veritable vault of player cards. On one wall in his Peoria, Illinois, law office are shelves packed with autographed baseballs, basketballs, footballs, helmets and jerseys. In the hallway is a pair of red boxing gloves signed by Muhammad Ali. Some of his friends are world-class athletes. He also has coached them, represented them in court and hired them. He married one.

This fanaticism carries over into another passion of his life: Kiwanis. And it fuels his Kiwanis mission: membership. Sports have penalty-period drama, the desperation heave from half-court and the Hail Mary pass. Kiwanis, for Jim Rochford, has a similar thrill: the ask.

“The why is easy,” says Rochford, whose term as 2017–18 Kiwanis International president begins October 1.
Who wouldn’t want to be part of that? Plus, we have our Service Leadership Programs, which sets us apart from all other service organizations. It’s easy to explain why people should join Kiwanis. But we don’t know how to seal the deal. We don’t know how to ask.”

This past June, Rochford and a team of Illinois-Eastern Iowa District lieutenant governors-elect took to the streets to practice asking. Their assignment was a community that once was a Kiwanis stronghold.

Washington, Illinois, is a picturesque village of lovingly restored 19th century homes. A jewelry store, restaurant, children’s clothing store and caramel corn emporium circle the town square. A short block west is City Hall, where Mayor Gary Manier greets Rochford with a hospitable, “Care for a cup of coffee?”

Rochford accepts a mug and takes a seat at a conference room table. Across from him, Mayor Manier leans back in his chair, and the two start trading stories about local sports legends. The conversation shifts from basketball to wrestling and eventually to another topic: the 2013 tornado that damaged or destroyed about 1,000 homes in this city of nearly 16,000 residents.

“The tornado revealed a lot about the character of this city,” the mayor says. “It has been the spirit of neighbor-helping-neighbor that has led us back.” Rochford knows the story of Washington’s comeback.

“I was there that day in 2015 when you dedicated the statue in tribute to the recovery effort,” he says. “Kiwanis was there to deliver a check. Area clubs had taken up a collection of more than US$20,000 to support our neighboring community in its time of need.”

**THE ASK**

“Basically,” Rochford continues, as he hands a petition across the table, “we asked to meet with you today for two reasons. We’re looking to open a new Kiwanis club in Washington, and as mayor, your endorsement will help open doors so we can meet and talk with other people.”

“And second,” he says as he offers an application form, “we’d like to ask you to sign up as a charter member, which will show your commitment to helping get this new club started.”

“Of course,” says Manier, as he signs both documents.

Rochford meets with five other individuals, following the same formula:

- Listen. Build rapport. Get to know the individual.
- Address potential objections before they are brought up.

**THE WHY**

At the time of the dedication ceremony, a once healthy Kiwanis no longer existed in Washington. The club had sponsored the largest Key Club in the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District.

“With the loss of Kiwanis support, the Key Club closed too,” Rochford says. “Key Club is unique, because in addition to local service, it offers its members leadership and service opportunities beyond the school, even to the international level.”
• Connect. Bridge the prospect’s interest with Kiwanis’ strengths.
• Ask them to join.
• Ask them to recommend other potential members.

At the end of the day, Rochford’s satchel carries documents with five sets of signatures. One of his six contacts asked for time to decide. Every individual suggested other Washington community leaders as prospects.

“You can’t be afraid of the word no,” says Rochford, who has introduced more than 1,500 members to Kiwanis with an estimated success rate that nears 90 percent. “More often than you expect, the answer will be yes.”

GRIT
At the age of 5, Rochford discovered that his dot-to-dot book was in a backyard incinerator, where his father had been burning trash. The young boy tugged on the book to remove it, the embers reignited, his sweater snagged on a wire, and the burning container tipped onto him.

“At the hospital, they called a priest to perform the last sacrament,” he remembers. “When they realized I was going to live, the doctors said I would lose my left leg. But after 35 surgeries and eight months in the hospital, I still had my leg.”

The experience he says taught him a valuable lesson.

“Save your worries for the big things,” he says. “Don’t worry about the little things.”

There were plenty of “big things” yet to come.

On his first day of school as a
fourth-grader, his father died. Widowed with four children under the age of 17, his mother did not have a paying job or a driver’s license. “We were poor, but I didn’t know we were poor,” Rochford says. “All in all, I had a pretty good childhood.”

As a teen, he was a popular and capable student, a Key Club member and a promising three-sport athlete in high school. Yet, he knew if he were to pursue his dream of becoming an attorney, he’d need to pay his own way.

Loras College accepted his enrollment application, and during his sophomore year, he was elected student body president, a position that came with free tuition. But summer jobs came with lots of hours and little pay. His junior year at Loras, Rochford noticed an advertisement for a job as a door-to-door salesman of waterless cookware.

“I didn’t know cookware, but I know people,” he says. “Within 24 hours after getting my sample kit, I sold six sets, five to people I had never met before in my life.”

By the end of that first year, he made more than $3,000; his second summer, $10,000. The company asked him to manage its regional office in Kansas. He continued to sell the cookware for nine years, eventually opening his own franchise and hiring staff.

“Sales were always a means to get to law school,” he says. “But I loved selling cookware, and I was making more money than some lawyers.”

Eventually, he and his wife, Deb, had to face the decision: Continue selling cookware and making a safe, comfortable
living, or pursue an expensive education to chase his dream. They decided to chase the dream. At the age of 24, he enrolled at the University of Illinois at Springfield, pursuing a master’s degree in public administration. The same year, he joined Jaycees and Kiwanis.

“I was more active in Jaycees than Kiwanis at that time,” he says. “When I joined Jaycees, we had 100 members in the club, and we had more than 300 by the time I became president three years later.”

By his 40th birthday—Jaycees’ retirement age—he had begun turning his attention to Kiwanis, rising through club, division and district leadership ranks. At the 2012 Kiwanis International convention, he was elected to the Kiwanis International Board. Three years later, at the 2015 convention, delegates elected him as the 2015–16 Kiwanis International vice president, which put him on the track to the presidency in 2017–18.

MORE GRIT

Genetics dealt him another setback during his 30s. Through his father, he inherited retinitis pigmentosa, a disease that is gradually stealing his sight. It hadn’t been much of a problem until the past 10 years.

“It’s like looking through a tunnel,” he explains. “I need pretty bright lights to see. I don’t even drive in daylight now, because I can’t risk passing through shaded areas.”

Not for the first time, he turned to his wife for help. Deb became his designated driver.

“We met in college,” Jim says. “She was the starting point guard on the school’s basketball team and centerfielder for the softball team. Our mutual love of sports is one of the things that brought us together.

“She’s been by my side ever since. I hired her to work in my office when I was selling cookware. When I set up my own practice in 1986, she joined the staff. She’s now a paralegal and office manager at Rochford and Associates. Together, we’ve raised a son and two daughters.”

EYE OF THE TIGER

To promote his 2015 candidacy for Kiwanis International vice president, Rochford made up his own deck of trading cards, which list his Kiwanis statistics. At the top of the “Rochford File” are two impressive achievements:

- He personally signed over 1,042 new members into Kiwanis.
- He opened 67 new Kiwanis clubs—the majority, as the new-club opener.

Updating those figures to June 2017, he has signed up more than 1,500 members and opened 101 clubs.

“I am not a magician,” Rochford confesses. “I truly believe anyone can do this.”

Over the past couple years, he has applied his energies to teaching Kiwanians how to recruit new members—how, not so much why. He calls them the “Eye of the Tiger” team in the spirit of the theme song from a favorite sports movie. “Rocky III” tells the story of a world-champion boxer who, distracted by fame and wealth, loses a fight but returns with a new focus and strategy to regain the title.

For 2017–18, President Rochford has set a goal for the Eye of the Tiger team and Kiwanis members worldwide: 409 new clubs.

“That will be the most club openings we’ve had in a long, long time,” he says. “But I firmly believe that we can do it.

“We just need to ask.”
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“Please come to our store.” The barkers’ cries rise from Fouquet’s Bakery, lifting to the train platform above. “Fresh bread, made by children.”

Customers come. They line up even before the doors open. Several arrive with babes in arms or riding in strollers or clutching grandpa’s hand. Perhaps they’re lured by the sweet, yeasty aroma that bursts into the street whenever the automatic door whooshes open. Maybe they can’t resist the price: only 100 yen per item! (That’s less than a U.S. dollar.) Or maybe they heed the calls of the barkers, a trio of determined 10- to 12-year-old salesgirls from the Yokohama Children’s Home.

In 1991, Fouquet’s owner, Seichi Matsushita (left), was looking for a way to donate the day’s leftovers. Someone suggested the children’s home.

“I talked with the headmaster, and I had another idea, that there was something I could do for the children on Sundays, my days off,” Matsushita says. “Nothing special. Just teach them to make bread, sell bread and enjoy their time together making bread.”

The idea was special enough that, in 2009, the Kiwanis Club of Yokohama recognized Matsushita with the presentation of its annual social welfare award.

Bread for sale

WITH FLOUR-DUSTED HANDS, A GROUP OF CHILDREN TAKES OVER A YOKOHAMA BAKERY.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JACK BROCKLEY
And special enough that they wanted to help.

Yokohama Kiwanian Masumi Ohara gently rubs a wad of dough into a ball, a demonstration for the young boy at her side who pinches, pinches, pinches the dough. “Too much pinching,” Ohara warns.

Kanami Tsukimura is new to the club. Her husband recently joined Kiwanis and this is her first project. She clearly enjoys the experience. She laughs as children carefully weigh cheese fillings, and she laughs as they sprinkle seeds onto a sheet of rolls.

“I used to bake bread myself,” Tsukimura explains. “This makes me remember those days with happiness.”

Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi is happy too. It’s evident in his calm smile as he observes the chaos in the kitchen.

“This gives the children an opportunity to participate in social work,” says Yamaguchi, who is a member of the children’s home staff. “They don’t get opportunities to make bread. Here, they make it, then sell it and interact with the customers. It’s a very educational experience.”

In less than three hours, the shelves are bare. The croissants? Gone. The sweet bean paste rolls with chili sprigs sprouting from their dimpled tops? Gone. The pizzas, madeleines and crisp sweet raisin donuts?

Gone. Gone. Gone.
Martin Jaggi sits in his office inside the Energy Park Event Museum in Laupersdorf, Switzerland, with a smile on his face. Someone just mentioned the gorgeous view he has outside of his window—a sweeping stretch of grass, perfectly groomed, all but disappears as it slowly draws itself upward toward the Jura Mountains, located north of the Western Alps. Needless to say: it’s very green. All of this is set against the no-cloud-to-be-seen blue sky.

“It’s quite perfect,” Jaggi says. But visitors to the Energy Park Event Museum aren’t only coming to Laupersdorf for the scenery outside. They’re interested in what sits inside this building, on the floors below Jaggi’s office.

“I collect gas pumps,” he says. “I have a lot. Cars, too.” That’s quite an understatement, immediately obvious upon entering the two-floor showroom that takes up most of the massive building’s space. The building is Jaggi’s home base for his multiple

Martin Jaggi is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Oensingen-Bechburg.
businesses—the car museum, event planning and advertising. All these professions come in handy when Kiwanians in nearby Zofingen need help planning their annual jazz festival (see “All That Jazz,” September 2017). Jaggi helps with logistics for the bands and handles advertising and promotion for the event. But if you’re here, in this space owned and operated by Jaggi, you’re likely here for the car stuff.

So how and where did he get all of it?

“At 15 years old, I started collecting gas pumps because nobody else was interested in gas pumps,” he says with a laugh. “I saw a pump from the United States, which was art deco, and it was so fantastic. So, I started to collect them.”

According to Jaggi, not many people in Europe were or are collecting gas pumps. And not many people have a collection that could rival his.

“I have more than 600 gas pumps,” he says. “I think it’s one of the largest collections in the world. I have gas pumps from every decade. There are some people who only collect from the 30s, 40s, or 50s, but I collect from every decade.”

For about eight years, Jaggi owned a smaller museum in a nearby village, but it didn’t take long for his collection to outgrow that space.

“I received a collection of 150 gas pumps from a collector,” he says. “He was over 80 years old when he gave me his whole collection for free because nobody else was interested in gas pumps.”

Over the years, people have given Jaggi many free gas pumps. And free cars.

People want others to enjoy their collections, he says, so they ask if they can donate to Jaggi’s Energy Park. It’s hard to say no to free works of art.

“I’m a collector, not a car dealer,” he says. “Last year, I got nine restored cars from a man who had to go to a retirement home. Nine cars! He said to me, ‘What am I going to do with my cars? I want people to be able to see them.’

“So, about my cars,” he says, moving around the showroom. “Some of my first were Studebakers. They’re not common here in Switzerland. For me, they make the best cars—the best design. I was 17 years old when I had my first Studebaker from the United States. Then I worked on it and it was restored. So now we have a museum that is open for everyone to see them.”

With so many to choose from, you think it might be difficult to pick favorites. Jaggi doesn’t bat an eyelash at that question. There’s no hesitation.

“Favorite car,” he says. “I have two. The Mercedes 300 SL and the Facel Vega, which is very rare. They only built 182 of this car. It was the fastest car in the world in 1964. And the Mercedes 300 SL has two versions: the Gullwing and the convertible. I have two. The other one is at home.”

Jaggi owns about 50 cars. A few others in the collection include a 1950 Panhard Dyna X-86, 1932 Packard Viktoria Gruber Cabriolet, 1951 Studebaker Champion and a 1950 Citroën 15 Six.

But no matter how many questions are thrown his way about the cars, he keeps switching the conversation back to the gas pumps.

“I just like the design of them so much,” he says, pointing out a Polly gas pump that came all the way from Indiana. “It’s an object of design. After the ’70s, the pumps look all the same. The old gas pumps are pretty.”

Know a Kiwanian doing interesting things? Email us at magazine@kiwanis.org.
It’s a beautiful summer day, and sunlight streams through the windows at the Shriner’s Hospital for Children in Chicago. Inside, 12 young children gather with their families, eager with anticipation. Puppeteers stroll among the crowds, prompting its youngest members to reach out a hand as they respond to the Muppet-like creatures.

But the real action is taking place at tables scattered throughout the room, surrounded by teams of teens and adults focused on the job at hand: building child-sized motorized cars. At first glance, the compact vehicles appear identical to those seen in many family driveways. These, however, soon will bring a new sense of freedom to the young guests, all of whom have been born with spina bifida.

Spina bifida occurs when the bones of the spine don’t form correctly around part of an infant’s spinal cord. As these babies grow, some experience difficulties with mobility, and for them, navigating the world is not always an easy task. To get around, some require a brace; others must rely on a wheelchair or an adult to carry them. This past June, 12 of those children received a trendy new mode of transportation at the Go Baby Go event, thanks to dedicated Kiwanians.

Go Baby Go
THANKS TO ILLINOIS KIWANIANS, KIDS WITH SPINA BIFIDA GAIN THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT.
STORY BY DANIELLE CASTONZO • PHOTOS BY RON ORZEL/FOTO OPS
The University of Delaware launched the Go Baby Go movement in 2012, and since then it has spread internationally. Two years ago, the River Forest/Oak Park Kiwanis Club began its own effort. In 2017, the club partnered with the Illinois Spina Bifida Association, the Shirley Ryan Ability-Lab of Northwestern University, the Ann & Robert Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago, Shriner’s Hospital for Children and other Kiwanis clubs and Key Clubs to keep the project moving.

Bill Piper is a River Forest/Oak Park Kiwanis Club member and former executive director of the Spastic Paralysis Research Foundation, which has been the focus of the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District’s project for 60 years. Participants, he explains, strive to improve the children’s mobility and quality of life by ensuring that each car fits its owner’s unique health needs.

To begin the project, members gather information on the specific disabilities and weaknesses of each child. For example, one 2017 recipient uses a feeding tube 12 hours a day, limiting freedom of movement.

“We had the engineers design a pipe that goes up while the child is using the car, driving around and playing,” Piper says. “The parents said it completely changed the routine during the day. The child loved to sit in the car and play.”

Rather than rely on a foot pedal to propel the vehicles, builders install a go button on a location recommended by each child’s therapist. A harness and an emergency off switch guard the driver’s safety. As volunteers built the cars,
engineering students from Northwestern University helped ensure that electrical conversions were done properly.

Arun Jayaraman, a River Forest/Oak Park Kiwanis Club member and director of the Max Näder Lab at the AbilityLab, says the cars allow children with disabilities to engage on the same level as other kids, improving their socialization. When they drive on the playground in their cars, they become the “cool kids on the block,” he says.

“These children are often carried by their parents or use a wheelchair for mobility,” Jayaraman explains. “To be in a car of their own and experience new movement is liberating.”

Assisting with car construction were volunteers from the Kiwanis Clubs of Algonquin-Lake in the Hills, Bensenville/Wood Dale/Franklin Park, Forest Park, Lombard, Montclare-Elmwood Park, Northlake, St. Charles and Woodstock. Also participating were Key Club members from Byron High School, Dixon High School, Guerin Prep and Marian Central Catholic High School.

This past summer, the Illinois Spina Bifida Association held training sessions to help other organizations in the state implement Go Baby Go workshops in their communities.

“The commitment of the Kiwanis Club of River Forest/Oak Park and all other participating clubs has been a great service to children and families living with spina bifida,” says Matt Larsen, the association’s executive director. “We are so grateful for the Kiwanis mission of improving the world, one child and one community at a time.”
“We knew that we couldn’t tackle this kind of money without the full support of the community and the businesses.”

SPASH LANDING
KIWANIANS OVERCOME TORRENTIAL RAINS, CHALLENGING BUDGET TO OPEN A FUN-FILLED WATER PLAYGROUND IN OHIO. STORY BY JULIE SAETRE • PHOTOS BY TOM MORRIS

No one in the Kiwanis Club of Delphos, Ohio, was surprised when the forecast called for rain the July evening of their latest project’s grand opening. After all, Mother Nature seemed to take the intent of the club’s community Splash Pad literally throughout the weeks of its construction, repeatedly dumping downpours on the city.

“We had too many obstacles to lift that came out of Mother Nature that caused issues of tanks floating and pipes floating,” says Kiwanian Jamey Wisher, the Splash Pad project manager. “Anything that could go wrong pretty much went wrong.”

But club members persevered, and today the nearly 4,000-square-foot Splash Pad cools off guests of all ages, thanks to 25 interactive water features. The highlight: a Kiwanis-logo-adorned, 55-gallon splash bucket. The Splash Pad allows no standing water and offers zero-barrier access, so those living with disabilities can join in the fun.

When the club began fundraising efforts in September 2015, members hoped to raise US$350,000. The club covered part of the costs through proceeds from annual projects. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources provided a grant, while local businesses and individuals stepped up as well.

“We knew that we couldn’t tackle this kind of money without the full support of the community and the businesses,” says club President Mark Miller.

By the Splash Pad’s debut, when funds raised were combined with donated labor from Kiwanians and contractors, the park’s total worth had soared to more than $500,000.

The generosity enabled club members to include a key environmental component: a 3,000-gallon water recycling system that will save hundreds of gallons of water each day.

The Kiwanians did more than raise funds, however. They devoted thousands of service hours to building the play area.

“We can all add things to our résumés now,” Wisher says.

Adds Miller, laughing, “And everybody kept their fingers.”
The Carefree Kiwanis Club in Arizona is doubling its efforts to help local needy children attend preschool. For the past couple years, the Carefree club has donated US$10,000 annually to support preschool scholarships in Arizona’s Cave Creek Unified School District. When other donor money for the program dried up, Carefree Kiwanians increased the annual donation to $20,000, effectively keeping the scholarships in business.

“I spoke very passionately for this project, because Kiwanis is all about students,” says Debbi Burdick, superintendent of Cave Creek Unified School District 93 and a Kiwanis club board member. “These are some of the students who are some of the neediest in our community. They’re typically in a one-parent family with a mom and no other support. If these moms didn’t have someone to take care of their children during the day, they would not be able to work and keep a roof over their heads.”

The Cave Creek school district, located north of Phoenix near Scottsdale, has only a handful of students on free and reduced lunch programs. The overall wealthier profile means those children don’t qualify for state-supported programs to cover preschool costs. But they’re the very ones who stand to benefit most from a preschool education, says Jenny Stahl, an early childhood coordinator with Cave Creek.

The Kiwanis scholarships come from the club’s aptly named and child-focused Brilliant Futures program. Administered on an income-based sliding scale, the funds give parents ownership of their children’s education without bankrupting them.

“When (children) have a year or two in preschool, they are building those social and emotional skills, which are so important,” Stahl says.

Preschool tuition can run from $311 to $604 monthly, depending on how many days the child attends during the week. This past year, the preschool offered scholarships to four children. This year, club members hope to double the number, providing parents with breathing room to work during the day and enjoy family bonding in the evenings.

“We want them to spend some quality time with their children when they come home,” Burdick says, explaining why they don’t require parents to work off their scholarships at school. “We’d rather they sit and read to their child.”
Help make their big week work.

November will bring Key Club Week—an annual opportunity to promote the program with service. Get involved! Help support the program in your area, and serve alongside its members. Start planning with the Key Club you sponsor. Or contact one in your area. Help show off Key Club next month!

Looking to sponsor a Key Club?

kiwanis.org/slp
A healthy smile is more than a wellness issue. It can be life-changing. That’s why the North Carolina Missions of Mercy (NC-MOM) holds free dental clinics for patients who otherwise couldn’t afford care. And with assistance from an ambitious Kiwanis club, the dentists, dental hygienists, nurses and students who volunteer for a two-day clinic in Fayetteville, North Carolina, receive free hot meals cooked on-site.

Cape Fear, Fayetteville Kiwanis Club members have catered four such clinics. During the most recent one, the Kiwanians logged 422 service hours planning menus and shopping for, preparing, cooking and serving between 1,600 and 1,700 meals.

Each day, club members arrived at the Crown Complex arena at 4 a.m. to set up large grills hauled to the event site via trailers. Next, they began cooking breakfast for the 150 volunteers set to arrive. By 6 a.m., dental professionals were fueling up with sausages, eggs, grits and biscuits. Lunch on day one featured hamburgers and hot dogs; day two brought North Carolina-style barbecue pulled-pork sandwiches and beef brisket.

Joey Bales, a club past president and current board member, estimates that the club used 60 to 80 dozen eggs, 200 pounds of sausage, 20 pounds of grits, 200 hot dogs and 600 pounds of Boston butt. And the hearty fare didn’t just benefit volunteers.

“Serving meals on site allowed the dental professionals an efficient way to eat and minimize time away from serving dental patients,” explains club Secretary Lynne Grates.

During the four clinics that the club has catered, more than 3,200 patients received everything from X-rays and fillings to custom-fit removable partial dentures.

“One young lady had been going to job interviews, and she felt like her (missing teeth) were the reason she wasn’t getting hired,” Bales recalls. “She was really excited about getting a job, because now she looked professional.”

Club members already are busy fundraising the US$40,000 required to cater another clinic in 2018.

“It’s a little thing we can do,” Bales says, “to give a lot of people a pretty smile.”
When you love what you do, it shows. It shines in everything you accomplish. It rings out in everything you say. It’s the kind of passion that people want to share. So make your love for Kiwanis an inspiration to fellow club members and a reason for nonmembers to join. It all starts with what’s in your heart.

Kiwanis love shines.
Make it your club’s beacon.

kiwanis.org/theformula
“Seeing Matthew in his first attempt at public speaking, then again two years later, gave me an understanding of the obstacles people with autism face.”

NEW SENSATION
A HEARTFELT SPEECH INSPIRES KIWANIANS TO CREATE A QUIET HAVEN FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM.
STORY BY CINDY DASHNAW

A Florida elementary school can offer a safe learning environment to children diagnosed with autism, thanks to one young man and the Kiwanis club that he inspired.

Matthew Parsons was diagnosed with Asperger’s syndrome at age 13. Now in high school, he told his grandmother, Pat Walton, that he wanted to begin speaking publicly about autism and the people who have it.

When Walton asked if he would deliver his first speech to members of her Kiwanis Club of Fort Myers Metro-McGregor, she heard a resounding “yes.” And the club heard a heartfelt message that inspired them to action.

“We were so impressed by his presentation that we asked his school specialist what we could do to help. She mentioned the need for a sensory room, so that became our goal,” says Harris Segel, club president.

The Autism Society estimates that 1 percent of the world’s population has a disorder on the autism spectrum. In the U.S., that’s one in every 68 children. Children with autism have difficulty regulating their reactions to what goes on around them. The smallest sounds and movements can combine to overwhelm them and make learning impossible. A sensory room is specially designed to help them feel safe and gradually adapt.

While Lee County School District Program Specialist-Autism/Behavior Terri Myles searched for a school with an unused room, members of the Kiwanis Club of Fort Myers Metro-McGregor raised funds. They needed US$1,500 to fully outfit the room.

Segel suggested the club apply for a mini-grant from the Florida Kiwanis Foundation, which subsequently offered a matching grant of $750. Club members raised the needed match through a Mother’s Day raffle and their annual signature 5K Race, the BUG (Bring Up Grades) Chase. These events also support the Fort Myers Metro-McGregor Service Leadership Programs.

After two years of the Kiwanians’ hard work, the Blue Room opened inside Tropic Isles Elementary School in North Fort Myers. Segel says that despite the long process, the effort was well worth it.

“Seeing Matthew in his first attempt at public speaking, then again two years later at the Blue Room opening, gave me a personal understanding of the obstacles people with autism face,” Segel says. “More importantly, it gave me a clearer understanding of the potential they have.”
BIRTHDAYS
The following Kiwanis clubs celebrate their 100th, 50th and 25th anniversaries in November and December.

100TH—1917
Oshkosh, Wisconsin, November 1
Ottawa, Ontario, December 22

50TH—1967
Bremen, Germany, November 1
Taipei, Taiwan, November 3
Emmetsburg, Iowa, November 6
Horten, Norway, November 15
Fountain Valley, California, November 16
Milford, Iowa, November 20
Lausanne, Switzerland, December 4
Western Catawba County, Hickory, North Carolina, December 5
Stanwood Camano, Washington, December 12
Mission Viejo, California, December 19

25TH—1992
Jackson, Alabama, November 10
Cheng Pei, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan, November 23
Ying Ko, Ying Ko Chen, Taiwan, November 29
Camdenton, Missouri, December 8
Newton Golden K, Iowa, December 15
Hsin Wu, Taoyuan Hsien, Taiwan, December 21
Rosedale, Bakersfield, California, December 22

CIRCLE K WEEK
October 23–28
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DELAWARE KIWANIANS HONOR FIRST RESPONDERS. STORY BY LORI ROBERTS

For more than 50 of its 99 years, the Kiwanis Club of Wilmington, Delaware, has honored civil servants. Each quarter, the group recognizes a police officer, firefighter and Emergency Medical Services technician. Once a year, the top honorees in each category are again recognized.

“How often do they get told thank you?” says Past President Van D. Olmstead Jr. “Here’s an opportunity for us to express our appreciation and let them know that someone notices.”

The ceremony took a bittersweet turn this year, as the chapter posthumously honored three firefighters who lost their lives searching for survivors in a burning home. The families of Captain Christopher Leach, Lieutenant Jerry Fickes and Lieutenant Ardythe Hope attended the ceremony.

Local media picked up the story. The Kiwanis club, Olmstead says, wanted to make sure the community knew these three firefighters died heroes.

Wilmington Fire Department Fire Chief Michael Donohue, a Kiwanian himself, spoke at the ceremony. He is close to a couple of the survivors’ families and can recount some happier memories of working with the firefighters throughout the years.

“It shows how much people care,” Donohue says. “I spoke about all the stuff we did, all of the fun, all of the closeness. It means a lot to the family to hear how much we loved them, how much they are a part of the firefighter family they have both on and off the job.”

Honoring civil servants will remain a high club priority.

“I don’t care what any firefighter says. They may say they don’t want any recognition, but when a firefighter is recognized for something, it means a lot to them,” Donohue says. “People don’t really see what they do all the time or know what they do. There are acts of heroism all the time that go unnoticed.”

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kiwanis.org/childrensfund
SHARING BREAD
THE FOUQUET BAKERY IN JAPAN SHARES ITS KID-FRIENDLY RECIPE FOR GLUTEN-FREE STEAMED BREAD.

Seichi Matsushita laughs when he recalls that he didn’t qualify for law school, so he opened a bakery instead. In Japan, bread-making is a highly-respected job, but the Yokohama baker lifts the career to an even higher level by using his talents to help children (see “Bread for Sale” on page 24). Kiwanis magazine asked him to share a recipe he enjoys teaching children. Here’s one of his favorites.

Gluten-Free Steamed Bread

Ingredients

- Ground Rice* 250g
- Cane Sugar 13g
- Olive Oil 12g
- Salt 3g
- Instant Yeast** 6g
- Water 200cc

If you want to try other flavors:
- Cocoa Powder 8g
- Tomato 20-30g

Directions

1. Put all the ingredients in a bowl and mix with a spatula.
2. Check the consistency (amount of water). It should slowly fall back into the bowl when you pull it up with a spatula. It shouldn’t be too dry. Photo 1
3. Put the dough in muffin cups or a muffin pan. (If you are using foil liners, use heavy-duty ones.) Photo 2
4. Cover with plastic wrap and let them rise for 20-30 minutes. Photo 3
5. Remove the plastic wrap and place the muffin pan into a larger pan (like a roasting pan). Pour hot water in the pan (to the 1/3 level of cups). Photo 4
6. Put the roasting pan on a sheet pan, and steam it for 20 minutes at 200 degrees C (390 degrees F).
7. Remove the pan from the oven and let it cool. Photo 5

Notes:

*Ground rice is more coarse than rice flour and can be purchased at well-stocked markets. A popular brand is Bob’s Red Mill.

**Quick-rise or fast-acting yeast
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