Thank you to Governor [XXXXX], Governor-Elect [XXXXX], and every Kiwanian in the [XXXXX] District for giving me the opportunity to share an update about the Kiwanis Children’s Fund. I am honored to serve as your District Chair for the Children’s Fund.

When we say, *“Kids need Kiwanis,”* it’s not just a motto — it’s the truth we live by. As Kiwanians, you understand better than anyone the needs of children in your community. You see the students struggling in school without the support they need. You see the child with an empty stomach and no food at home. You see the child with a disability who sits alone on the playground.

Now imagine if every Kiwanis club around the world had more resources to help these kids. Imagine new service projects springing up everywhere to reach the children who need us most. That’s exactly why the Children’s Fund launched its first major global fundraising effort — The Possibility Project - a campaign to impact more than 10 million children by raising over $25 million in the next five years. This campaign is focused on raising money specifically to help kids through local Kiwanis club projects that address their most critical and urgent needs. This includes funding local service projects, providing more grants and scholarships for our Service Leadership Programs, and expanding our ability to reach more kids in more communities.

I’m proud to share that we have already raised over $8 million toward that goal — thanks to the generosity of our members, many of whom are in this room, and clubs who believe in the power of Kiwanis.

The reality is millions of children around the world are still desperate for help. In the United States alone, over 14 million children live in food-insecure households. Two out of five fourth graders cannot read at a basic level. And, two out of five high school students report feeling lonely, sad, or hopeless.

That is why the Kiwanis Club of XXXXXXXXXXXX requested a grant from the Children’s Fund. - [GRANT IMPACT STORY GOES HERE]
(EXAMPLE GRANT STORY: The Kiwanis Club of Bassett, Virginia supports three local elementary schools by providing books and field trips. As a Reading Literacy Partner with Scholastic, the club buys two books for every kindergartener and first grader, and members visit classrooms to read and distribute them. They also work with principals to fund a field trip so every child can participate, no matter their family’s income. This year, with help from our donors, the Children’s Fund will help the club expand to a fourth school — providing 700 books and another field trip that makes learning come alive. Together, we make this possible.)

The need is growing — and so is the call to action. Grant requests to the Children’s Fund have increased tenfold in recent years. Yet, for every $2 requested, we’ve only been able to fund $1. Clubs show up every day for kids, and the Children’s Fund wants to show up for clubs, making a better life possible for children in our communities.

It takes just **$2.25** to reach one child through our programs. Think about that — $2.25. Imagine the possibilities if every one of you in this room made a personally meaningful gift to the Children’s Fund. Together, those small gifts can do extraordinary things.

I’d like to thank and acknowledge all of you who have already committed to supporting the Children’s Fund:

* If you are a **Cornerstone Society member**, please stand and be recognized. Thank you! Please remain standing.
* If you are a **Blechman Fellow**, please stand and be recognized. Thank you! Please remain standing.
* If you are a **Hixson Fellow**, please stand and be recognized. Thank you! Please remain standing.
* And if your club is an **Impact Club** — committing $100 per member each year for five years — please stand and be recognized! Thank you! Please remain standing.

Finally, if you or your club donated to the Children’s Fund this year or last year, please stand. Thank you. The Children’s Fund, the clubs that receive grants, and — most importantly — the children whose lives are changed because of your generosity all thank you.

You may be seated.

Kiwanians everywhere provide children with the tools, resources, and experiences they need to thrive. But you can’t do it alone. By combining the generosity of people just like you, we can reach more children in more corners of the world. Partnering with the Kiwanis Children’s Fund extends and amplifies your impact — from Africa to California to right here in [XXXXX District].

As I said, just $2.25 can impact one child. A monthly individual gift of $10 means you’re changing the lives of 4–5 more kids every single month.

Through our grant programs, we are investing in the next generation — supporting children’s education, health, and leadership development. We’re also investing in Kiwanis clubs and their communities. Our grants help ensure that together, the Children’s Fund and clubs in [XXXXX District] and beyond can fulfill unique service projects that meet real, local needs.

The need is there — and Kiwanians do what they do best: we step up and meet it.

For 86 years, the Children’s Fund has supported clubs and the vital work they do. But we can’t do this alone.

Part of the beauty of Kiwanis is our international network of like-minded individuals, united by one purpose — to serve the children of the world. In every Kiwanis community, we work to make it safer, stronger, and more vibrant. Our resources, when pooled together, become something greater than any one of us alone could imagine.

Thank you for your service, your generosity, and your commitment to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund. Together, we can make the possibilities real for children everywhere.