



Kiwaniis

Hastings • Nebraska

Astonisher

A newsletter of the Hastings Kiwanis Club

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facebook.com/hastingskiwanis

"A person's age can be determined by the degree of pain he experiences when he comes in contact with a new idea." Quincy Jones

January 2026

If you have items you wish to be included in the Astonisher, you can send them to marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org OR Astonisher@hastingskiwanis.org



Inclement weather policy ~ If HPS is closed on a given Thursday, there is no Kiwanis meeting that day. It will also be displayed on the Channel 10-11 scrolling closing information.



Upcoming Meetings & Events ~ January

YWCA, 2525 W. 2nd St. ~ \$13.00 per meals

Thur. 1 - No Meeting

Thur. 8 - Interim CEO Mary Lanning Healthcare, David Zechman

Wed. 14 - Board Meeting, YWCA Conference Room ~ All members welcome

Thur. 15 - Watch your Email

Thur. 22 - Watch your Email

Thur. 29 - Nebraska Community TV, Tim Jones

YOUR NEW "ASTONISHER" NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER IS GEORGE HOWARD.

I have been pleased to report on the happenings of our Club for the past 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ years - 54 issues.

I am also pleased to now turn it over to George. 😊 Thank you!



SKATEPARK NEWS

Committed to raise \$200,000 total ~ \$50,000 of that from the Club

Total Club Donations to Date: \$39,144.46 (78.29%)

- * Total member donations = \$20,414.64; the rest was raised by members thru outside events or Kiwanis designated budget
- * Member Matching grant pledge \$10,000 (1/2 received)

Total General Public Donations to date: \$11,141.26 (7.43%)

- * Visitors Bureau commitment, \$50,000
- * Matching grant pledge \$50,000
- * Lions Club pledge \$ 5,000
- * Sunrise Rotary pledge \$ 2,500

Total General Public plus Pledges: 118,641.26 (79.09%)

Skatepark Giving Levels

\$10,000 - Big logo on sign
\$7,500 - Small logo on sign
\$5,000 - Name on sign
\$2,500
\$1,000
\$500
\$250
\$125

All donors at \$125 and above:

- Listed in newspaper ad
- Status newsletter at end of project

Kiwanis Skatepark Fellows giving \$1,000 or more -
Name on sign

**WHEN ALL RECEIVED AND PLEDGED DONATIONS ARE CONSIDERED,
WE HAVE REACHED OVER \$160,000 OF OUR \$200,000 COMMITMENT**



**OUR FIRST 5 SKATEPARK FELLOW AWARDS
HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED.
SEE NEWS STORY ON DECEMBER 18.**

***** VOLUNTEER POSITIONS *****

**If you are unable to attend Thursday noon meetings to sign up
for volunteer opportunities, you can do so on the website.**

Ongoing service projects include:

- **Hearts & Hands Against Hunger – dates and times TBA**
- **Meals on Wheels – every Friday, 11:15 a.m. – 2 routes, approx. 30-40 min.**

HEARTS & HANDS AGAINST HUNGER

PEACE Center, 622 N. Lincoln, South side
(former Middle School manual arts bldg)



****Please arrive 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time****

Monday packing has resumed ~ 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Monday, January 26 ~ 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
St. Michael's 4th & 5th Graders
60 students

Tuesday, January 27 ~ 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.
Girl Scout Troop 8006
22 Girls + Adults
(16 / 1st-3rd grade; 6 / Middle School)

Hearts & Hands Against Hunger, P O Box 1293, Hastings NE 68902-1293 * 402-460-8627



MEALS ON WHEELS – This is quick and easy!
We have two (2) routes on Fridays for this service project.
Two volunteers from Kiwanis are needed.
Sign-up sheets are available at Thursday noon meetings
or sign up on the website.

Meals are picked up at 11:15 at the Senior Action office, 212 W. 3rd St.
(east of the Post Office ~ 3rd & Minnesota) and delivery usually takes 30-40 minutes.
They have the routes set up for the most efficient delivery.

January 2 – Kathy Schultz – Dale Musgrave

January 9 – George Howard – *Need 1*

January 16 – *Need 2*

January 23 – *Need 2*

January 30 – *Need 2*

Marge Ormsby is the Club Coordinator. Please notify her by text or call if you cannot make it or will be late. 402-469-3296

ICYMI ~ December 2025

December 4 – Maryland Living Center, Jessica Root (R) and Nicole Kramer (L)

Jessica is youth specialist, and Nicole serves as resident manager.

The Maryland Living Center is intended for 16 to 21-year-olds. The usual stay is 12 to 18 months. However, staff continues to reach out to them as a continuing resource after the program is completed.

They recently started a maternity group home within that organization for pregnant youth and mothers with young children.

The foster system ends at age 18, but they are not legally an adult till age 19. They need a place to transition and learn adulting skills and how to navigate their specific challenges. They need a place that is stable where they feel wanted.

Jessica serves as a mentor to help them make good decisions and then follow them through. She provides feedback and reassurance that they are not alone in the world. There is someone there to help them.

The building is staffed 24 hours, and there is always an adult on site.

There are 12 apartments: eight for transitional youth, and four designated as maternity. The apartments are already furnished when they arrive.

They provide life skills training for the youth, teaching them what to expect when they are out on their own. The Center relies on speakers from the community. For example, they are taught nutrition, and cooking classes are provided by an instructor from CCC. A banker will inform them about banking, savings, CDs etc. They learn about writing a resume.

Each of the youth meets weekly with their case manager where they talk about their goals.

They are provided with help finding a job and are required to have a job within 30 days of moving in. 30% of their annual income goes toward rent at the facility.

Referrals come by word of mouth, protection officers, the courts, group homes, and YRTC among others.

There is an on-site food pantry because many of them rely on SNAP benefits and Medicaid because their job does not cover all those expenses.

On the maternity side, there is a nurse on staff to educate them about medications and child growth. Parenting classes are important because some of the youth come from households where they were not properly cared for. Childcare is available so they can continue their education or while working.

When they're about halfway through the program, they start working on their goals after the program. For example, looking for an apartment within walking distance of their work because many of them do not have a driver's license.

Both programs are funded by government grants, which cover about 2/3 of their expenses. The remaining amount comes from donations.

Items on the MLC needs list include (not comprehensive):

- Food - Ramen, tuna, hamburger/tuna helper, meat, oatmeal
- Household items - can openers, pots and pans, crock pots, mops/brooms, laundry baskets, kitchen trash cans and bags, laundry supplies, paper products, bathroom cleaning items, pillows, sheets (full, twin, crib)
- Hygiene items - toothpaste/brushes, razors, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, soap, feminine products
- Baby items - baby gates, bottles and brushes, baby dishes and utensils, diapers, pull-ups for toddlers, baby wipes
- Gift cards: \$20 gas cards, Russ's, Walmart

The Maryland Living Center is located at 724 W. 7th Street. You can contact them at 402-834-3180 or www.marylandlivingcenter.org.



December 6 – Salvation Army Bell Ringing ~ All slots filled 10 am-7 pm. These were the only photos submitted.



Al & Val Erickson
Linda Stark & Marge Ormsby
Elizabeth Musgrave
(Dale was inside at the time)

December 6 – Salvation Army/Walmart/Hastings Ford/Kiwanis Youth Shopping & Wrapping

There were 15 youth selected by the Salvation Army who were able to shop for gifts for their family. Forty-two helpers were assigned 2 per child. Helpers were: 5 from Mary Lanning IT department, 17 Key Club, 5 from Hastings Ford, 14 Kiwanians, and one former member.

We had budgeted for 20 kids, but since there were only 15, the Board voted to donate the excess \$500 to the Goodfellows.

Another group of helpers met the kids back at the Salvation Army building for wrapping.





December 11 – Check Presentation to HHAH

Jim Krebsbach received a check from Jim Heyen of the Archway Corvette Club for \$200 for Hearts and Hands Against Hunger.



December 11 – The Bright Side, Colleen Williams



You might recognize Colleen from her 20 plus years anchoring the evening news. The station then eliminated all anchor positions, saying coverage was no longer live.

Seeking ways to continue her "good news" storytelling, she

found new freedom by becoming a Digital Content Influencer. She can do live spots on her phone wherever and whenever she likes. She has promotional partners but can choose her own content.

The various media options she uses are:

- Youtube, which transmits to the whole world
- Instagram
- Facebook, where she has had 26 million views since January

She does segments such as "Your Next Favorite Restaurant" and "Nebraska Made? I'll try it." People

send her homemade or homegrown items to try and share.

She also shares interesting places to visit in Nebraska.

This past summer Colleen was contacted by the State Fair organization to do nightly stories.

She offers "Good News Telegrams" and a digital magazine called "The Bright Side." Subscriptions are \$3 per issue or \$18 per year.

You can subscribe by sending an email to: ColleenWilliamsresents@gmail.com. Type SUBSCRIBE in the subject line and she will reply with a sign-up link.



December 18 ~ Skatepark Fellow Awards, Russanne Hoff and Mike Howie



Recipients: Doug Edwards ~ George Howard ~ Chuck Hastings ~ Kathy Schultz ~ Maureen Mohlman
Presenters: Russanne Hoff & Mike Howie

Five Skatepark Fellow awards were presented by Russanne Hoff and Mike Howie. These were the first Kiwanis members to have each contributed at least \$1,000 toward the new Skatepark.

They each received a 4-in engraved skateboard suitable for use as a keychain or Christmas ornament. In lieu of a certificate, and in keeping with this community "fun" project, they also each received a king size candy bar of their choosing. Their names will be inscribed on a special "Skatepark Fellows" sign at the Skatepark.

We appreciate these generous contributions!



~ Silver Lake Packing Event

Jim Krebsbach reported on the large HHAH packing event completed this morning. The 90 students and staff from Silver Lake Schools, plus 15 HHAH volunteers, packed 52,704 meals in 2 hours. This brings us to within 250,000 meals from achieving 10 million in the lifetime of HHAH.

~ Christmas Sing-Along, Dr. Mike Johnson & LaVila VanBoening



The group of 20-something members enjoyed singing Christmas carols for the remainder of the lunch hour.

December 25 – No Meeting

December 27 – Youth Bowling Tournament, Ages 4-10 ~ 50 Bowlers ~ 21 Lanes





Age 4



Age 5



Age 5 Alyssa w/G'pa Mike



Age 6



Age 6 Trophies



Age 7



Age 8



Age 9



Age 10

By my count from the photos, there were 50 bowlers. I believe over 70 had signed up, but there was a conflicting activity at the City Auditorium sponsored by Parks & Rec.

There was a lot of volunteer help by Kiwanians and Key Club members to assist with registration, lane monitoring and scoring, awards, and clean up.

2025-2026 Hastings Kiwanis Leadership

Officers

President ~ Mike E. Johnson (Dr. Mike)
michaelj@hastingskiwanis.org

Immediate Past President ~ Frank Koch
franklink@hastingskiwanis.org

President-Elect ~ Russanne Hoff
russanneh@hastingskiwanis.org

Vice President ~ Marge Ormsby
marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org

Treasurer ~ Jim Krebsbach
jimk@hastingskiwanis.org

Secretary ~ David Kempf
davek@hastingskiwanis.org

Assistant Secretary ~ Susan Price
susanp@hastingskiwanis.org

Board of Directors (# of years)

Heather Bolte (2)
heather.bolte@hastingskiwanis.org

Kathy Hohensee (2)
katherineh@hastingskiwanis.org

Mike Howie (2)
mikeh@hastingskiwanis.org

Greg Schultz (2)
gregs@hastingskiwanis.org

John Boltz (1)
johnb@hastingskiwanis.org

Brandon McDermott (1)
brandon.mcdermott@hastingskiwanisd.org

Casey Mohler (1)
casey.mohler@hastingskiwanis.org

Dale Musgrave (1)
dalem@hastingskiwanis.org

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

7 Kathy Hohensee
14 Kristine Kasperbauer
23 Gary Aadland
25 Darla Bruna
25 Ryan Samuelson
26 Valerie Erickson



It is important to teach kids that other people besides themselves are important, and that the best thing they can do with their life is to use it in the service of other people.

Dolores Huerta, Labor activist
and co-founder of the United Farm Workers Assn