

**Club Officers:**  
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Treasurer Tom Durkin  
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**Directors:**  
2024-2026: Jim Foley, Susan Markley, Rick Sutton  
2025-2027: Shavon Forte, Gary McCombs, Geri Reinhart

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**District Governor** Carol Chiarito  
**Division 5 Lt. Governor** Rick Baldessari  
**Executive Director/Secretary** Kirstin Litz

**Published Weekly** by Kiwanis Club of Columbine. Send your articles to the co-editors, Ken Sweet or Jim Foley, at [news@columbinekiwanis.org](mailto:news@columbinekiwanis.org)

**New Membership Contacts:**  
Ken Sweet [info@columbinekiwanis.org](mailto:info@columbinekiwanis.org)  
19Kiwanis15

## Attendance

At our meeting on December 10

Total attendance – 55

Guests – 13

Anita Albert, Jill McNellis and Mike O'Brian  
- Salvation Army, speaker

Project hours MTD for December is 292.5

## Wednesday Meeting

6:45 Social, 7:00 Meeting

## 4G's Restaurant

5950 S Platte Canyon Road, Littleton, CO 80123

Links for signups and for reporting hours  
Scan QR or click on link



**PROJECTS SIGN UP**

**VOLUNTEER 4HOURS**

Please report hours

# Kiwanis Club of Columbine

Weekly newsletter for December 17, 2025

This Week Presenter is Kerry Urbaniak  
Topic: "Senior Living"

**Greeter /Pledge:** John Marchetti **Invocation:** Don Thompson

**Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.**



Dec 17 Jerry & Jan Clayton

Dec 26 Jim & Judy Feldhake

Dec 28 Steve & Carol Jennison

Dec 30 Denny & Rachel Brehm

Dec 30 Will & Melanie Knoblauch

Jan 01 Jim & Jo Ann Roos

Jan 03 Brian & Sue S. Counterman

Dec 15 Ron Zinter

Dec 18 Charlie Boyer

Dec 20 Lori Conway

Dec 21 Rick Sutton

Dec 23 Mitch Waldman

Dec 30 Sally Kingman

## Upcoming Club Programs

Dec 24 No Meeting

Dec 31 Chelsea Tegtmeyer - South Metro Fire Rescue

Jan 07 Jamie Sorrells, Arapahoe DA - Consumer Fraud

Jan 14 Student of the Month

Jan 21 Kristy Tolan Corn Hole Tournament

Jan 28 City o Littleton

## Future Club Events and Service Projects

Dec 16 Tue Satellite Meeting - Charlie Boyer- Colorado Credit Union

Dec 14-24 Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Dec 29 Mon Project C.U.R.E. - George Kinzer

Jan 06 Tue Satellite Meeting - Charlie Boyer- Colorado Credit Union

Jan 13 Tue Kiwanis After Dark - George Kinzer, 303 Sports Bar 5:00 PM

Jan 20 Tue Satellite Meeting - Charlie Boyer- Colorado Credit Union

Jan 27 Tue Kiwanis After Dark - George Kinzer, 303 Sports Bar 5:00 PM

## Nourish Meals on Wheels (Note – check with master list)

Dec 17 Wed Terri & Cleve McKinney

Dec 18 Thu Denny Brehm family

Dec 19 Fri Don Buck & friend

Dec 22 Mon Will Knoblauch & Mike Greunke

Dec 24 Wed Cleve & Terri McKinney

Dec 26 Fri Nancy Bierman & Janet Woodhull

Dec 29 Mon Jim Johnston & Ferris Forar

Dec 30 Tue Riggs & Bobbi Smith

Dec 31 Wed Terri & Cleve McKinney

Jan 02 Fri Denny Brehm family

Jan 05 Mon Don Buck & Rick Sutton

Club Internet Site: [www.columbinekiwanis.org](http://www.columbinekiwanis.org)  
RMD Internet Site: <https://k24.site.kiwanis.org/>  
columbinekiwanis 2025-12-17.docx Page 1 of 6  
Columbine Kiwanis You Tube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmLiXFeAF2tycnLLwJTfd3w>

Club Email Address [info@ColumbineKiwanis.org](mailto:info@ColumbineKiwanis.org)  
Columbine Kiwanis, PO Box 620243 Littleton, CO 80162  
Club Facebook site <http://www.facebook.com/ColumbineKiwanis>

## Student of the Month

At the Dec. 10th Club Meeting, our guests included 3 Students of the Month (SoM) and family members and school administrators / teachers in a recognition program for students that demonstrate positive influence in their school communities through personal development, service to others and informal leadership. The Club members enjoy getting an insight into the world of these young people that are evolving into contributors and leaders shaping the future.

**Drew Fedak** is an 8th grader from Powell MS. He was accompanied by his parents, Matt and Lisa, and his 6th grade brother. Drew was nominated by his teachers for how his contributions, hard work and focus on class provide an example to the rest of the students. He likes Powell because it feels smaller and welcoming. He has wide ranging interests where his work ethic and focus are applied to competitive level soccer (center defense), chess (recently placed 4th in the district) and social studies where he is fascinated about the US Constitution and supporting laws, and how these were established by the founders. He has traveled as far as Miami for his soccer tourneys and is looking forward to playing for Heritage HS next year. He also likes Math but not so sure about his current Drama elective. Besides a future involving soccer and chess – he would like to end up in some kind of analytic career – such as law or engineering.



**Brogan Yates** was an 8th grade student of the month from KC Middle School who shared a wonderful academic turnaround success. He volunteered that his previous year's grades were awful, but several things helped change that for his final year of middle school. First, he realized that he was letting himself down and was determined to change. He was helped immensely by an exceptional science teacher who took a special interest in him and welcomed the advocates who helped him find new directions. Finally, he joined a nearby wrestling club and benefited through the discipline and focus that sport requires, continuing a family tradition in that sport. The dramatic improvement was recognized by his counselor, Jessica, and various teachers, henceforth his well-deserved nomination for our club award. Brogan also was recognized for his positive interaction with other students exhibiting empathy and pushing the limits of his skills by

doing the hard stuff with positive energy. Math is his best class as he finds it easy to understand. His mom Dena, counselor Jessica Deitchel and assistant Principal Kevin Keena were in attendance to further support Brogan's achievements. It was a pleasure for club members to learn about Brogan and hopefully give him a boost toward his future success.



**Emmy Winters** was the December Student of the Month nominee from Arapahoe HS and was accompanied by her parents, Jed and Charma, as well as her "best" friend, Greta. She is described as a "consistently kind, empathetic, and hardworking" young lady and intends on attending Metro Univ. or Arap. CC next year. In addition to a rigorous academic load, she works part time at Olive Garden as a hostess as well as a lifeguard and swim instructor. Her after-school employment wages allow her to pay (her way) for car insurance and her cell phone as well. She became involved in teaching younger kids during her sophomore year and is attending classes at the Epic campus (future educator) and in Early Childhood Education classes where she is learning about teaching (currently helping in a kindergarten class at Littleton Prep) with ambitions for being an elementary school teacher. Emmy is described as a compassionate and resilient young woman that appears to be committed to supporting and guiding young learners...and... will be greatly missed, according to the counselors and staff at AHS.



## Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Bell Ringing is one of our biggest events that requires a lot of help. Last year we collected about \$18,000. Sign up alone or with a friend. Youth are welcome to join us under supervision.



Singing and playing musical instruments is encouraged. We will be having help from the Key Clubs.

Our Club will be ringing at two King Soopers sites this year; Pierce and Coal Mine and Chatfield and Wadsworth. for 11 days starting Sunday, Dec 14 through the 24th. This is a major project that requires a lot of help. Last year we collected \$20,000 for the Salvation Army. This is 84 2-hour shifts. WOW

Signup on SighUoGenius. Or the spreadsheet at the meetings. It is easier for Tom McEwens logistics if we sign up on SighUoGenius. – Ken



## Blood Drive Report

Thank you for hosting Monday's blood drive with Vitalant. We had an amazing turnout:

21 Registered donors  
20 Collected units (18 whole blood; 1 Power Red donation)

These generous blood donors have help save and improve more than one life. Winter blood donations tend to drop significantly, so we appreciate you hosting the December blood drive and ensuring that lifesaving blood is readily available for patients in need this holiday season.

Thank you for all you do! We look forward to our next blood drive with Kiwanis of Columbine and Riverwalk on Monday, March 16. Happy Holidays

Lori Freerksen  
Vitalant Account Manager

## Project Cure

Our next visit to ProjectCURE is scheduled for Monday, December 29, 2025 from 9:30am to Noon. We will be working with minimal supervision (the warehouse is closed for the holidays) and doing sorting of supplies - either by date or by type. A SighUoGenius page is ready for volunteers

## Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee has been discussing doing a Top Golf Fundraiser in 2026. Representatives have met with Top Golf, looked through proposals and figures and considered different options.

Where we are at at the moment:

Hold the event April 26, 2025--Sunday afternoon.

Scale down from how it was done a few years ago and incorporate "lessons learned." \$125 tickets per person, 3 hours of play, drinks and food included. No silent auction, but a raffle.

Profits will be generated from Sponsorships from local businesses; costs are covered by ticket sales.

Goal would be to raise \$5000 in the first year. Potential for more each year thereafter. \$2500 initial deposit. Need to sell 50 tickets.

Board vote in January. If approved, the committee will present the details to the club on Wednesday morning.

## Kiwanis After Dark

Kiwanis After Dark will not meet on Tuesday, December 23. It will meet on Tuesday, December 9 as usual **and will resume the normal schedule on** Tuesday, January 13, 2026. From then on, we meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:00pm at 303 Sports Grill on W Bowles Ave. All members and friends are welcome to join us. - George

## Sharing with Sheridan

On our first wintery day of the season, our undaunted volunteers gathered to serve the 108 families (350 neighbors) who braved the cold. This is the lowest number of families we've seen in more than a year and a half.

Our pantry continues to overflow with the generosity of donated food we've received over the past month, and we are fortunate to be fully stocked for the coming week. Thank you for your continued commitment to fighting hunger in our community. - Stephanie



## International Woman of Adventure

You're flying from Oregon to Denver in a small seater propeller airplane. You need to land in a small town in Idaho for refueling. All of a sudden, your dad (the pilot and owner of the plane) tells you the landing gear won't come down. You circle the airport 4 times as the ground crews and control tower get ready for your emergency landing. Your dad tells you to "take off your seatbelt and open the door" as soon as the plane touches down, so you can make a quick exit in case the plane catches on fire upon landing (gulp!)

Luckily, your dad lands the plane perfectly...until the nose goes down and starts screeching along the runway. You both ultimately make it out safely, but the plane is severely damaged. You and your dad take a 45-minute cab ride to Twin Falls (the nearest large city) to stay in a hotel you've just booked online. However, when you arrive you discover the hotel has closed down because of Covid. You drive to 3 different hotels before you find one that is open. Finally, you catch a commercial flight back to Denver. It will be another 18 months before your father finally gets all the pieces of the engine returned to him, because the engine had to be disassembled due to the propeller striking the ground upon landing.

Does all this stop International Woman of Adventure, Lori Conway, from pursuing other adventures? Heck no!! It seems Lori has never turned down an opportunity to travel or have an adventure. When she was 27 years old, Lori accompanied her father on a 9-month sailing trip from Ft. Lauderdale to Alaska, through the Panama Canal and up the California coast. She did this on her dad's small sailing vessel along with her father's wife and A 60 POUND LAB/SHEPHERD MIX DOG named Sam. Sam turned out to be a great passenger and was actually on the cover (along with Lori's dad) of a sailing magazine. Luckily, Sam was not a demanding diva during the photo shoot, and the photographer captured Sam's best side for the cover. An inveterate sailor, Lori's father later also spent 8 years sailing around the world.

So, it's easy to see how Lori picked up her love of sailing and travel. She belonged to a sailing club and often sailed on Chatfield and Dillon reservoirs. On several occasions, she joined a group of 6 women friends who rented and crewed a 40-50-foot boat and sailed around the Caribbean (Lori functioned as the First Mate).

On one of these trips in March of 2020, Lori and the 6 friends almost got stuck in Grenada prior to the Covid shutdowns. They were at the airport, waiting to see if there were any seats

available on the last plane back to the United States. After everyone else boarded, Lori and her friends were literally the only travelers left in the terminal. Luckily, there were enough empty seats on the plane, and their names were called. They quickly ran to the plane. It's hard to imagine the anxiety Lori and her friends must have experienced, thinking they'd be stranded away from home for months on end!

in other travels, Lori has been to most of the National Parks in the western United States, including the Tetons, Yellowstone, and visited Jackson Hole, She loved Arches, Bryce and Zion National Parks in Utah, the Grand Canyon, and Banff in Canada. Recently, Lori explored Portugal, Austria, Switzerland, and Germany. Who knows where in the world she will go next year?

When not being a world traveler, Lori enjoys a close relationship with her daughter and son-in-law, and 2 grandchildren. She is a strong contributor to the Kiwanis Club, and for 6 years was responsible for arranging the speakers for our meetings. This was a huge job, and her hard work in this area is much appreciated by all. Besides arranging our weekly speaker, Lori volunteers at the Jefferson Symphony, Project Cure, and the school libraries. As if that wasn't enough, Lori ALSO volunteers at the Foothills Animal Shelter and at her church, the Foothills Bible Church.

Whew! What a busy lady and what an incredible person we have in our midst. - Kathy Athens

# Charitable Contributions from Retirement Accounts

If you are faced with taking Required Minimum Distributions from your IRA, 401(k) or similar account, or you just want to make a charitable donation, please consider the Kiwanis Club of Columbine Foundation. Be sure to talk to your financial advisor or tax advisor to make sure your donation will be tax-free.

As an example of contributions, we make from the Kiwanis Club of Columbine Foundation, here are the donations from October:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44ABAA2EA2F5C43-60608115-salvation>

## ^ Funding support / Money Donated

Please provide amounts raised by your club this month

Amount given	Where was money given?
2000 USD	Ken Caryl Middle School
1000 USD	Normandy Elementary Sschool
1000 USD	Columbine Hills Elementary School
1000 USD	Governor's Ranch Elementary School
1000 USD	Dutch Creek Elementary School
1000 USD	Leawood Elementary School

# South Jeffco Business Association

To sign up use this link [RSVP](#)

The meeting will be on December 16. 9:00AM. It will be a networking session at the Foothill Golf Course. This is a fun and a good place to talk to potential Kiwanis members. For information contact Ken Sweet at 303-910-0084 or [kensweet@kencominerals.com](mailto:kensweet@kencominerals.com)

Join us Tuesday, December 16 at 9 a.m. at [Foothills Golf Course Clubhouse](#) for a networking-only meeting and Holiday donation drive. Bring NEW socks, underwear and warm clothing (gloves, hats, scarves, etc.) to support [The Action Center](#)!

Breakfast graciously provided by Foothills Park & Recreation District. - Ken



# Salvation Army Bell Ringing Instructions

Our Club will be ringing at two King Soopers sites this year for 11 days starting Sunday, Dec 14 through the 24th. This is a major project that requires a lot of help. Last year we collected over \$18,000 for the Salvation Army. This is 84 2-hour shifts. WOW. All of the money stays in the local area.

Our equipment is a red bucket, a bell, a Salvation Army apron, and a **BIG KIWANIS SMILE**. This is a good chance to tell people about Kiwanis, invite them to meetings, and get their name and phone number. There will be brochures to hand out.

In order to fill all the bell ringing time slots, we usually have one person per slot. However, if you have not done this before or just want the company, sign up with someone else. With two people you have someone to visit with and can have a coffee or other breaks as required. With one person you spend more time visiting store customers. Most of us will need to ring more than one shift. It is fun to ring with friends or youth.



**Security:** Please stay close to the bucket. Club members will pick up the money several times a day. We try to limit the money in the bucket to about \$300. Sometimes it can be more depending on the pickup schedule. There will be NO pickups by the Salvation Army or any other groups. Do not give the money to anyone you don't know. If you cannot stay to cover the shift, put the money in a bag and take it home with you.

**Do not leave the money at the store**

If no one comes to relieve you and you can stay a little longer, it would be greatly appreciated. Store the bucket and bells with the customer service desk; leave the stand in front of the store, **take the money home with you**. The daily contact number will be given to you. If you don't have it, call **Ken Sweet, Jim Foley, or Tom McEwen**. If there is more money in the bucket than you are comfortable with, put some of the bills in a bag and put it in a safe place, inner coat pocket. Don't put it where you can't keep track of it.

We will be having help from the Key Club. Let them participate even if it means you need to sit back and watch. The amount of supervision necessary depends on the ages; it is okay to take a break and get a cup of coffee. Perhaps buy them hot chocolate. We will also be having help from family members, friends, and potential Kiwanians. If you don't recognize someone, introduce yourself and visit with them. The bell ringing is open to friends and neighbors. Ask if they want to help. When they visit with you when you are ringing, ask if they would like to help. They can ring with you or call Ken Sweet or Tom McEwen to get on the schedule.

In addition to ringers, we need some runners. They will pick up the money at the stores at about 2 hour intervals, and sort and count the money. We need a courier to take the money each day to the Salvation Army. The runners will bring the courier the money each day, the courier will recount the money and bring it to the Salvation Army.

To make a schedule change, call **Ken Sweet 303 910-0084, Jim Foley 720-220-6415, or Tom McEwen (303) 903-4365**. You can make changes online, but if you are leaving a slot open, call us.