



*Serving the Children of the World*

## ***The Nugget***

Golden K Kiwanis Club  
Decatur, Illinois

### **Club Officers 2025-2026**

**President:** Tom McQuiston **President Elect:** Dick Virgin **Vice President:** None

**Secretary:** Lynda Durnil *Asst. Secretary: Roberta Williams*

**Treasurer:** John Baird *Asst. Treasurer: Karen Sivils*

### **Directors:**

Cheryl Boss, Joel Hawkinson, Pat Riley, Cathy Sebok, Kathy Thompson, Sally Williams

*Past President: Harold Wilkinson*

Regular Meeting each Wednesday at 9:30 A.M. at Salvation Army Reception Hall

## **January 7, 2026**

**God Bless America / Pledge of Allegiance / Kiwanis Pledge:** Ron Black

**Invocation:** Cheryl Boss

**Piano:** Larry Wade

**Mike Runners:** Harold Dausman, Kyle Anderson

**Photographer:** Joel Hawkinson

**Program:** John Baird introduced Tanya Melendez, Executive Director of Good Samaritan Inn

### **Good Samaritan Inn: mission & programs**

- **Tanya** stated primary objective: define who the Good Samaritan Inn is, what it does, why, and future direction.
- Organization works to reduce food insecurity by identifying and eliminating barriers to food access.
- Reliable access to **adequate, safe, and culturally acceptable food** enables focus on education, employment, and community resilience and yields better health, stability, and opportunities.
- Operates **three primary programs** that work in tandem.

## Meals, metrics & budget projection

- Operates noon meal, Mercy Gardens, and Mercy Market; accepts SNAP and WIC and offers a **2× match** on benefits.
- Serves noon meals **365 days/year**; since **1982** served **>2 million** meals; served **>77,000** meals last year, a **29%** increase (2023→2024); baseline rose from **~50–55k** to **~75–77k** meals/year.
- Harvested **>84,000** servings of produce last year; donated **>8,000** servings; city donated **5 acres** (harvested **84k** on **~2 acres**); **~3 acres** remain undeveloped; full **5 acres** projected to yield **>200,000** servings.
- Funding mix: **~49%** corporate/foundations/grants, **~32%** individual donations, **~10%** drawn from savings annually, **~3%** fundraising/sponsorships/interest, **~1%** market sales; organization reported a current funding shortfall and operates on a **\$164,000** budget.
- Four-year plan projects an annual operating budget of **\$1.2M** to support **>100,000** meals/year and full garden operations; expansion requires additional personnel and increased revenue; anticipated SNAP cuts and added requirements are expected to raise demand.

## Gardens, harvest & USDA infrastructure

- Mercy Gardens harvested **84,000 servings** last year on **~2 acres**; full **5 acres** is expected to yield **>200,000 servings**.
- Funding mix: **49%** corporate/foundation/grants; **32%** individual donations; **10%** savings draws; **3%** fundraising/sponsorships/interest; **1%** market sales; community raised **\$130,000** toward a **\$410,000** goal.
- Projected growth: target annual operating budget **\$1.2M** in 4 years to support **>100,000 meals** annually; current operating budget **\$164,000**; demand rose **29%** in 2023 after SNAP cuts.
- Operational needs: hire additional personnel to farm full **5 acres**, add a garden-site market and winter market; received **\$350,000** USDA grant for infrastructure including a wash-and-pack station.
- Data and staffing constraints limit funder competitiveness: need an externally managed electronic reporting system and stakeholder metrics; volunteer labor was unreliable (heat, ethical concerns) and theft reduced trackable harvests.



Note: Tanya stated that they've currently had \$130,000 in donations towards the \$410,000 needed to stay open.

**A tribute was read honoring Dave McGlade who passed away December 16, 2025.**

**Health Report:** Cathy Sebok – no updates

**Attendance:** Lynda Durnil

46 members    2 guests            1 speaker            49 Total

**Dick Virgin** – word of the week – steatopygous – an excessive accumulation of fat in the buttocks. No one guessed the meaning!

**Dick Virgin** – “**Guess the Kiwanian**”: Linda Rowden correctly guessed Norm Jensen.

**Announcements:**

**Cathy Sebok** – The meal for Careage House is this Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Susan Rayhill** – Good Samaritan Inn is Jan. 27, 11-1. Sign up

- She has material to take home to work on trauma dolls

**Harold Wilkinson** – Decatur Chorale singing at 2pm Saturday & Sunday at John's Hill.

**Dick Virgin** – we're going to ask all members to take part in an anonymous survey next week. This is to get information about how you feel about the club. You will be able to click on a link to complete it. Help sessions will be held after a meeting with laptops for those who need assistance. This is a local survey, not from International. It only has 24 questions & you can go back while taking it to correct any answer (before you hit “submit”). **See more information below.**

**Tom McQuiston** - January 12, Monday, is the next board meeting at Central Christian Church at 1pm. Will be discussing signature projects, club advisor, & bylaws update.

**Key Club Updates:**

**St. Teresa Key Club:** Planning a Winter Formal on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Dates to Remember:**

1/12/26 Board meeting, Central Christian Church, 1pm

**Birthdays & Anniversaries:** Kevin Cleary

Birthdays: Linda Thomas, Roberta Williams, Kyle Anderson, Frank Ciastko, Joel Hawkinson, Grant Bullock

Anniversaries: Rich Wessel

\*\* Due to a directive from International we are not to publish personal information.

**Bob Hope Quotes:** I don't feel old, I don't feel anything until noon when it is time for my nap!

**50-50 Drawing:** Joel Hawkinson did not draw the Queen of Hearts. The \$53 rolls over. Get your tickets!

### **Up Coming Programs:**

1/14/26 Josh Chamblin, Financial Advisor, Chamblin Wealth Management, topic: "Smart Charitable Giving...and Other Retirement Topics"

1/21/26 Chris Ellis, Devon Joyner, Executive Director, Old King's Orchard Community Center

1/28/26 Leslie Risby & Ashley Grayned, Innovative Programs, Decatur School District

2/4/26 Lacie Elzy, City of Decatur

### **Ongoing Projects**

- Collecting Food Coupons for the military - Cheryl Boss
- Collecting clean plastic caps & lids for school benches & tables - Paula Luckenbill
- Collecting pop tops for Ronald McDonald House, Springfield - Paula Luckenbill
- Turn in hours to Karen Sivils - [itcpa96@gmail.com](mailto:itcpa96@gmail.com), estimate #children helped
- Kiwanis clothing - Roberta Williams
- Golden K board meetings - 2nd Monday each month, 1:00 pm, Central Christian Church
- Decatur Lakeside 9/11 Memorial Flagpole and Flowers

### **Wednesday Donations**

1<sup>st</sup> – Food Bank

2<sup>nd</sup> – K.N.R.F.

3<sup>rd</sup> – School Support

4<sup>th</sup> - Trauma Dolls

5<sup>th</sup> – Scholarship Fund

**Speaker ideas...if you have an idea for a Golden K speaker, please let John Baird or Mark Avery know.**

**Members of Golden K, the link to the member survey is included with this communication. Keep in mind the survey will become active on Wednesday Jan.14. All information is anonymous and results will be shared with the Board and the club. If you would like assistance in completing the survey, please communicate with Mark Avery at : [illinxctf1978@gmail.com](mailto:illinxctf1978@gmail.com) or text to 217-520-3752. If you send him a message make sure you include your name and the best way to get back to you.**

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Preview/?sm=an\\_2FskzZ9fLQd9eiG\\_2FU9STsoa11DehIOu\\_2FXq1rWe457hj7IeyVC55OFz9DswMKec](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Preview/?sm=an_2FskzZ9fLQd9eiG_2FU9STsoa11DehIOu_2FXq1rWe457hj7IeyVC55OFz9DswMKec)

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**Story for today:** Jerry Pelz

Editor: Linda Thomas, lthomasxq@aol.com, 217-454-2605  
Substitute Editors: Lynda Durnil & Roberta Williams

Click to view meeting

<https://www.youtube.com/@GoldenKKiwanisofDecatur>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071723247020>