



## MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF KIWANIS

Serving the Children of the World

**GET  
READY**

**FOR THE BIGGEST  
EVENT OF THE YEAR!**



**Get ready:** The 2025 Kiwanis International Convention is on the horizon! We'll gather in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 25-28.

[Register now](#) to join your fellow Kiwanians for the biggest event of the year — and to help forge the future.

### **HERE'S WHY YOU'LL WANT TO BE THERE:**

#### **Dynamic educational workshops and classes.**

- Explore the ways Kiwanians are building new clubs and gain insight into expanding and nurturing your club's membership.
- Learn how to make your club attractive, meaningful and enjoyable for all generations.
- Dive into master classes that go deeper into leadership training and community service, with subject-matter experts as your guides.
- Our workshops will get you ready to tackle a to-do list designed to take your club — and Kiwanis — to the next level.

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# CALENDAR

## April

- 1 2025-26 Lt. Governor-Elects Due
- 3-5 **Circle K GATC**
- 12 KiwanisONE Divs 19, 20, 21
- 12 U.S. Canada Goodwill Banquet - Windsor, ON
- 18 **GOOD FRIDAY** - District Office Closed
- 26 KiwanisONE Divisions 5 & 6
- 30 Club Delegate forms for Kiwanis International Convention Due

## May

- 1 **Key Club GATC**
- 3 KiwanisONE Divisions 11 & 12
- 5 **Club Boards elect delegates to GLC - Kalamazoo**
- 9 **2025-26 Lt. Governor-Elects Due to district office**
- 10 Third District Board Meeting - 9:30am, Mason
- 16- Lt. Governor Training
- 18
- 17 KMF Board Meeting - Mason
- 18 KMF Earl O'Brien Fishing Tournament
- TBD GLC Planning Meeting
- 23- **MEMORIAL DAY - District Office Closed**
- 26

## MICHIGAN BUILDER

MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF KIWANIS  
INTERNATIONAL

VOL. LXXXI  
APR/MAY25 NO. 1

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**GOVERNOR-ELECT**  
CINDY GREENING  
**IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR**  
RENEA CALLERY  
**INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
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PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY  
MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF KIWANIS

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**THE MICHIGAN BUILDER** is published  
Bi-monthly for \$20 per year, by  
The Michigan District of Kiwanis,  
P.O. Box 231, Mason, MI 48854.

Articles are due to the editor by the 5th  
of the month prior to the month of  
publication.

### Builder Publication Schedule

Issue	Deadline
Feb/Mar	Jan. 5
Aug/Sept.	July 5
Apr/May	Mar. 5
Oct/Nov.	Sept. 5
June/July	May 5
Dec/Jan	Nov. 5

Attention: Club Presidents, Secretaries &  
Bulletin Editors; Lt. Governors and  
District Chairpersons. Submit all  
articles, photos and video to  
[districtoffice@mikiwanis.org](mailto:districtoffice@mikiwanis.org). All photo  
and artwork must be sent as either jpg  
or bmp files. Video must be sent as  
mpeg files.



## *Reflections by the Governor*

STAN NELSON, GOVERNOR 2024-25

### **Spring Into Service: A Season of Purpose and Heart**

As the warmth of spring awakens the world around us, it also presents a golden opportunity for Kiwanians to renew our dedication to service, deepen our impact, and welcome new members into our mission. With fresh energy and a spirit of renewal, let us embrace the season by revitalizing both our longstanding community projects and launching innovative new initiatives that meet the ever-changing needs of those we serve.

At the heart of our Kiwanis mission lies our guiding motto: **"Listening with Purpose, Serving with Heart."** This simple yet profound statement reminds us that true service begins with listening—attentively and compassionately—to the voices of our communities. Whether it's families in need, children seeking mentorship, or neighborhoods longing for revitalization, we must tune in to understand where our efforts will make the greatest difference.



### **Listening with Purpose**

Spring is a time of renewal, making it the perfect moment to reconnect with our communities. Let's take this season as an opportunity to actively listen—to attend town meetings, engage with local schools, and collaborate with other service organizations. By doing so, we can uncover pressing needs that may have changed over time. Perhaps a local playground needs repair, a food bank requires extra support, or a new literacy program could transform young lives. When we listen with purpose, we gain the insight necessary to create meaningful and lasting change.

### **Serving with Heart**

Once we have identified the needs of our communities, let's serve with as much heart as we can. This is the season to roll up our sleeves and breathe new life into our traditional service projects while also embracing fresh initiatives. Organizing Park clean-ups, hosting food and clothing drives, supporting youth leadership programs, and sponsoring scholarships are just a few ways we can put our compassion into action.

Spring is also an excellent time for outdoor, hands-on projects that bring people together, whether it's planting community gardens, hosting Easter egg hunts for children, or partnering with local shelters to provide essential supplies. Every act of service, no matter how small, ripples through the community and strengthens the bonds that unite us.



## *Reflections by the Governor, cont.*

STAN NELSON, GOVERNOR 2024-25

### **Inviting New Members to Join Our Cause**

As we step into this season of growth and service, let's also extend an invitation to others who share our passion. Spring represents new beginnings, and what better way to celebrate than by welcoming potential new members into our Kiwanis family? By sharing our mission and demonstrating the joy that comes from giving back, we can inspire others to join us in making a lasting impact.

Encourage friends, colleagues, and community members to attend a meeting, participate in a service project, or experience firsthand the fulfillment of serving with heart. The more hands and hearts we have, the greater difference we can make.

### **Spring Forward Together**

Kiwanians, this is our season to shine! Let's listen, serve, and grow together. By embracing the opportunities that spring presents, we can make an incredible impact—one act of service at a time. Now is the time to listen with purpose and serve with heart. Let's make this spring a season of renewed commitment, meaningful action, and expanded fellowship. The communities we serve are counting on us, and together, we will rise to the occasion.

***Are you ready? Let's spring into service!***





# IMPACTFUL GATHERINGS

CYNTHIA GREENING, GOVERNOR-ELECT 2024-25

When this issue of *The Builder* is published, we'll be about halfway through the 2025 KiwanisONE events. I hope you agree that this year's KiwanisONEs were fresh, innovative, and impactful.

Of the many notes I took, something our facilitator, Marc Alexander, said in particular keeps coming to mind over and over again ... **Instead of having "meetings", have "Impact Gatherings"**. No one wants to have another meeting on their busy calendar. But how much more meaningful would it be if we invited our members and guests to an Impact Gathering? Isn't that what we're doing, anyway? Striving to make big and small impacts in our communities?

*People have 250% more meetings now than before the pandemic.*

**Impactful Gatherings have goals and a clear purpose.** Be prepared. What do you want to accomplish? Put it on an agenda to help keep discussion on track so you accomplish your goals. People are much more engaged when they have input, so ask for agenda topics from the club and make sure that everyone has a voice, especially those who might not speak up unless asked. Publish your agenda in advance so people know what will be discussed and are prepared to participate.

*Meetings are vital for collaborating and building relationships.*

In our hi-tech, fast-moving world, a meeting must be an experience – something people will consider a worthwhile use of their time and talent, where issues are resolved and decisions made to move the club forward.

**Impactful Gatherings** will motivate, energize, and inspire your members and encourage guests to return, and will maximize your time together in service to the children.



# THANK YOU!

**BEN PROBERT, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## **The Power of a Simple Thank You**

In the world of service and leadership, we often focus on big ideas—grand initiatives, major events, and ambitious projects. While these are important, one of the most powerful tools we have in inspiring and retaining volunteers is also one of the simplest: saying "thank you."

## **The Impact of Recognition**

A heartfelt expression of gratitude can do more than just brighten someone's day—it can energize, motivate, and reinforce a sense of purpose. Volunteers give their time, energy, and passion to serve their communities, often without expecting anything in return. However, recognizing their contributions not only makes them feel valued but also strengthens their commitment to the organization and its mission.

Research shows that people who feel appreciated are more engaged and more likely to continue their volunteer efforts. A simple thank-you validates their hard work and reminds them that their efforts matter. When leaders take the time to acknowledge contributions—whether through a handwritten note, public recognition, or a personal conversation—it fosters a culture of appreciation that encourages long-term dedication.

## **Leadership Through Gratitude**

True leadership is not just about guiding others; it's about uplifting them. Expressing gratitude is one of the most effective ways to build strong, inspired teams. When leaders consistently recognize the efforts of their members, it cultivates a positive environment where people feel seen and valued.

Thanking someone isn't just about words—it's about sincerity. A genuine, specific expression of appreciation carries more weight than a generic acknowledgment. Instead of saying, "Great job," try, "Your dedication to organizing last week's fundraiser made a huge impact, and we couldn't have done it without you."





# THANK YOU!

**BEN PROBERT, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## Ways to Show Appreciation

There are many ways to incorporate gratitude into your leadership style. Here are a few simple yet meaningful ways to say thank you:

- **Personal Notes** – A handwritten thank-you card can make a lasting impression.
- **Public Recognition** – Highlight a volunteer's efforts at a meeting, in a newsletter, or on social media.
- **Small Tokens of Appreciation** – A certificate, a small gift, or a simple coffee outing can go a long way.
- **One-on-One Conversations** – Taking a moment to personally thank someone can make them feel truly valued.
- **Celebrating Milestones** – Acknowledge years of service, achievements, and major contributions to reinforce commitment.

## The Ripple Effect

When appreciation becomes a habit, it creates a ripple effect. Volunteers who feel valued are more likely to extend that gratitude to others, fostering a culture of kindness and recognition. This strengthens the organization as a whole, making it a place where people want to contribute their time and talents. As we continue to lead and serve, let's remember that the simplest gestures often have the greatest impact. A sincere thank-you can inspire, uplift, and fuel the passion that drives our mission forward. Who can you thank today?



## A Season of Recognition and Celebration

During the months of March, April, and May, the District Leadership gathers with Kiwanians throughout our District to recognize leadership and accomplishments, educate our membership, and celebrate service in our communities through KiwanisONE visits. Try to incorporate these same values and initiatives within your own clubs and communities. A culture of gratitude strengthens our mission and deepens our collective impact.



Aktion Club is the Kiwanis Service Leadership Program (SLP) created for adults with disabilities. With over 12,000 members worldwide, members come from organizations that support individuals with disabilities and other community programs. A local Kiwanis club serves as the Aktion Club's sponsor.

Aktion Club Week was celebrated March 3 - 7 this year with clubs being encouraged to wear Kiwanis Aktion Club gear, express appreciation to Aktion Club advisors, perform acts of kindness, and connect with a local Aktion or other SLP club. Aktion Club offers their members the chance to serve in leadership roles and to enjoy companionship while working together to serve the community.

There are currently 15 active clubs in Michigan. If you would like to learn more about an Aktion Club near you that your club can support, or how to start an Aktion Club in your community, contact Amy Urick at [amy.urick@gmail.com](mailto:amy.urick@gmail.com).

The following article is excerpted from their winter newsletter, authored by Aktion Club Governor, Heather Phillips. It is entitled, **"Never Give Up"**.

*I wasn't supposed to live to be 3 years old, but I'm almost 50. When I was born my mom couldn't take me home for three months because I was too small. I used to be able to walk with some assistance, but now all I have is my arms, so if my arms stop, I won't be able to do the things I do now, or stay in my current home. But even if that happens, I will find a way to keep going.*

*When I was little, I had to have casts on my legs, and my family found me crawling across the floor on my own. I just had to move, so I found a way! I have had a lot of surgeries [that have affected my vision] and make it hard to navigate in my power chair. I can miss where the curb is, and fall. I went to good schools, graduated from a community-based instruction program for young adults, and have family that is supportive so I can be independent.*

*Aktion Club lets me give back. I'm here to remind everyone to have confidence in themselves, to find a way, and to never give up. I wish I could see those doctors now [who said I'd only live to be 3], so I could say, "What did you say?" I encourage all Aktion Clubbers to remind each other not to give up.*

**Discover more about Aktion Club at [Discover | Aktion Club](#)**

**"Where development has no disability."**



# *Seeking Presentations That Ignite Big Ideas & Bright Futures for Kiwanis*

Are you ready to spark inspiration and shape the future of Kiwanis?

We are seeking dynamic, thought-provoking presentations that ignite big ideas and bright futures for our clubs, communities, and the kids we serve!

Join us at the Kiwanis of Michigan Great Lakes Conference, August 14-17, 2025, at the Radisson Hotel & Plaza in Kalamazoo, MI, where Kiwanis leaders and changemakers will gather to explore fresh perspectives, bold innovations, and actionable strategies.

Whether you're a visionary speaker, an expert in leadership and service, or someone with a game-changing idea, we want to hear from you! Don't miss this opportunity to inspire, challenge, and empower fellow Kiwanians—submit your proposal today!

Kiwanis topic requests will receive priority placement.

Submit your proposal here!: <https://tinyurl.com/KIWM125>

**Proposals are due by May 1, 2025 at midnight ET.**

## Kiwanis of Michigan GREAT LAKES Conference



# ***Council of Past Governors Calls for Distinguished District Leadership Recognition Award Applications***

The Council of Past Governors for the Michigan District of Kiwanis established an annual process to recognize a past (or present) district leader who has positively impacted, through leadership and personal commitment, the enhancement of the principals of the Michigan District of Kiwanis and the people whom it serves. The winner will be recognized with a certificate of appreciation at the Great Lakes Conference, and the Council of Past Governors will donate a maximum of \$250 to the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation in the name of the recipient.

Candidates for this award shall be limited to past (or present) District Governors, District Committee Chairs, or Lieutenant Governors. Persons submitting candidate nominations shall also be past (or present) district governors, district committee chairs, or lieutenant governors. An attached letter should accompany the nomination form stating the rational of why their candidate should be presented with this award.

Three members of the Past Governors Council will be named as the selection committee and shall determine who will receive the award.

Nominations should be emailed to [districtoffice@mikiwanis.org](mailto:districtoffice@mikiwanis.org) and are due July 1, 2025.

Questions may be emailed to Linda Lawther, 2024-25 Chair, Past Governors Council

[lindalawther@comcast.net](mailto:lindalawther@comcast.net)



## Council of Past Governors



### Distinguished District Leadership Recognition Award

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#### CRITERIA AND NOMINATION FORM

The Council of Past Governors for the Michigan District of Kiwanis will annually recognize a past (or present) District leader who has positively impacted, through leadership and personal commitment, the enhancement of the principals of our District and the people whom it serves. The winner will be recognized with a certificate of appreciation at the Michigan District Convention, and the Council of Past Governors will donate a maximum of \$250 to the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation in the name of the recipient.

Candidates for this award shall be limited to past (or present) District Governors, District Committee Chairs, or Lieutenant Governors. Persons submitting candidate nominations shall also be limited to the same above leadership positions. An attached letter should accompany this nomination form stating the rational of why their candidate should be presented with this award.

From the nominations submitted, a three-member selection committee shall determine who will receive the award. The selection committee shall be elected by the membership of the Council of Past Governors, where they will serve no more than a year term. The committee will select their own chairperson.

Nominations can be emailed to [districtoffice@mikiwanis.org](mailto:districtoffice@mikiwanis.org) and are due **July 1, 2025**.

#### DISTRICT LEADERSHIP APPRECIATION CANDIDATE:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

District Position(s) Held: \_\_\_\_\_ Service Years: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Service Years: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Service Years: \_\_\_\_\_

#### PERSON (OR PERSONS) NOMINATING CANDIDATE:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Most Senior Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_ Service Years: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Most Senior Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_ Service Years: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Most Senior Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_ Service Years: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the following area stating the rational for nominating the above candidate.

# EXTRA MILE AWARD

PRESENTED BY THE PAST LT GOVERNORS COUNCIL  
AKA THE ROADRUNNERS

## ABOUT

There are many Kiwanis members who put in many hours helping out their community without any or much recognition. The Past Lt. Governors Council would like to recognize one of these hardworking individuals who goes the extra mile to enhance the principals of SERVICE here in the Michigan District.

## AWARD

Framed Certificate to the winner  
PLGC will make a donation in their name  
to the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation

## CRITERIA

- Goes the extra mile in Service
- **Has never been a district leader (Governor, Lt. Governor, District Chair)**
- Member in good standing with full dues paid

## INSTRUCTIONS

A Kiwanian may nominate any Kiwanian across the district for the Extra Mile Award. The nomination must be signed by either the Club President or Current/Past Lt Gov. Fill out the bottom of this form and Page 2 stating the rationale for why you are nominating this person. It should include the extra service provided in the club or community plus a brief description of all the service projects the nominee has worked on between April 2023-March 2024. One nomination per club. Nominations should be sent to: Judy Unrath Tiggju@yahoo.com or 4130 N Coldwater Rd., Wiedman, MI 48893

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE June 16, 2025**

Nominee Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Kiwanis Club of : \_\_\_\_\_ Division# \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Club President or Current/Past Lt Governor)



# EXTRA MILE AWARD

PRESENTED BY THE PAST LT GOVERNORS COUNCIL  
AKA THE ROADRUNNERS

## INSTRUCTIONS

State the rationale for why you are nominating this person. It should include the extra service provided in

club or community plus a brief description of all the service projects the nominee has worked on between

**April 2024-March 2025**



# Kiwanis International Convention 2025

## Convention Speakers



### Henry Winkler

Henry Winkler is instantly recognizable from his role as "The Fonz" on the long-running 1970s TV series "Happy Days," but he is also an award-winning producer and director of family and children's programming. Join us at the 2025 Kiwanis International Convention to be inspired by Winkler's story and his commitment to helping children reach their full potential!

## Delegate Registration

Kiwanis clubs in good standing are allowed two representatives in the House of Delegates, along with two alternates who may serve if one or both delegates cannot attend. Download the certificate of election of club delegates and alternates, and have your secretary submit it by April 30 to become certified.

## Hotel Information



**HAMPTON INN & SUITES**  
**247 Smallman St.,**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15222**

US\$189 plus tax per night

*The Michigan District Hotel is less than a 5-minute walk from the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.*

Off I-578, we're adjacent to the Heinz History Center and David L. Lawrence Convention Center. PNC Park and other downtown attractions are in walking distance, and Pittsburgh International Airport is 18 miles away. Enjoy our indoor pool, fitness center, and views of the Allegheny River. Free parking, WiFi, and daily hot breakfast



**Registration is open on KI website**  
**Make plans to attend!**

<https://schedule.kiwanisone.org/KI2025>

## 2025 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL



## Convention schedule\*

## Wednesday, June 25

10 a.m.-6 p.m.	Kiwanis Family Store
3-4 p.m.	First Timer's Reception
3-6 p.m.	Membership Fair and Welcome Reception in Kiwanis Marketplace

## Thursday, June 26

7:30-9 a.m.	Signature Project Breakfast ( <i>Ticketed event</i> )
9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Kiwanis Marketplace and Kiwanis Family Store
9:30-11:30 a.m.	Convention Kickoff with Henry Winkler
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Lunch
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Kiwanis Children's Fund Luncheon — The Generosity Challenge ( <i>Ticketed event</i> )
1-1:45 p.m.	Education Block 1
2-3:45 p.m.	Education Block 2
4-4:45 p.m.	Kiwanis Launchpad: Building Bridges
7-10 p.m.	Kiwanis Sunset Social

## Friday, June 27

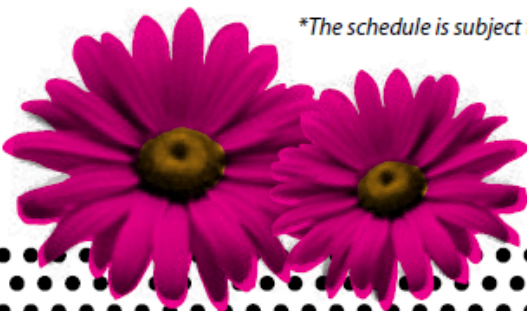
9 a.m.-5 p.m.	Kiwanis Marketplace and Kiwanis Family Store
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Kiwanis Launchpad: Forging the Future
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Lunch
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	Kiwanis SLP Showcase of Service Luncheon ( <i>Ticketed event</i> )
1-1:45 p.m.	Education Block 3
2-2:45 p.m.	Education Block 4
3-3:45 p.m.	Education Block 5

## Saturday, June 28

9 a.m.	Annual Meeting ( <i>Doors open at 8:30 a.m.</i> )
7-10 p.m.	Kiwanis Roaring 20s Gala ( <i>Ticketed event, includes dinner</i> )

\*The schedule is subject to change. All times are local, Eastern Time.

**Kiwanis**  
CONVENTION 2025  
PITTSBURGH



# **ATTENTION**

## **MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF KIWANIS MEMBERS**

### **MULTIPLE DISTRICT OUTING**

### **AT PNC PARK!**




**ONLY 60 TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME!**  
**THIS EVENT WILL SELL OUT.**  
**DO NOT WAIT!**

**LIMITED TIME  
OFFER**

**ONLY 60  
TICKETS  
AVAILABLE**

**ALL YOU CAN EAT TICKET  
FOR ONLY \$60!**

**Tickets Include:**

- **All You Can Eat**
  - Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Salads, Nachos, Popcorn, Peanuts, Soft Drinks, Ice Cream Sandwiches
- **Access to Pirates Cove**
- **Paper Tickets - see Ben Probert at the Convention for pick up**
- **Seating in Sections 201-205**
- **Postgame Drone Show!!** 

**WAYS TO PAY:**

- Credit Card via online order form (Preferred)
- Check made payable to "Michigan District of Kiwanis" and sent to PO Box 231, Mason, MI 48854

**Due to demand, tickets WILL NOT be reserved until payment is received!**

**REGISTRATION  
FORM** 



**Kiwanis**  
CONVENTION 2025  
**PITTSBURGH**  
JUNE 25-28

For more information, email Interim-Executive Director, Ben Probert at [executivedirector@mikiwanis.org](mailto:executivedirector@mikiwanis.org)

## Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation Raffle Tickets

### The Importance of Supporting the Kiwanis MI Foundation Raffle:

#### Helping Children Around the World and Michigan's Hospitals

In a world where the needs of children are ever-growing, there are organizations dedicated to making a meaningful difference. One such initiative is the MI Foundation Kiwanis Raffle, an important fundraising event that brings together individuals and communities to support children in need. By participating in this raffle, whether through buying tickets or donating prizes, supporters contribute to a cause that helps children not only in Michigan but around the globe.

#### The Power of Giving Back: Why Selling and Donating Matters

Selling or donating to the Kiwanis Raffle is not just about raising money—it's about investing in the future of our children. Kiwanis International has a rich legacy of focusing on children's welfare, and the Kiwanis MI Foundation Kiwanis Raffle serves as a vehicle to fuel those efforts. Every ticket purchased and every donation made directly impacts children's lives, offering critical support for various programs designed to address their medical, educational, and developmental needs.

#### Community Effort: The Role of Volunteers and Local Businesses

The Kiwanis Raffle would not be possible without the tireless efforts of volunteers, local businesses, and individuals who contribute their time, resources, and energy. When community members sell raffle tickets, they're doing more than just promoting a fundraiser—they're spreading awareness about the cause and encouraging others to get involved.

The MI Foundation team has been on the road delivering the "Yellow" envelope to all the LTG's and our members at each of our KiwanisONE events. If you haven't received yours yet, reach out to our MI Foundation District Chair, Peggy McNichol at: p.mcnichol@comcast.net

This collective effort creates a ripple effect that enhances the overall success of the raffle. Not only does this raise vital funds, but it also fosters a strong sense of community, where people come together to support children in need and strengthen their local and global communities.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Seller's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Seller's Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### KIWANIS OF MICHIGAN FOUNDATION "Supporting Hospitalized Children in the Form of Child & Family Life Services" and MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF KIWANIS

*Do not  
 need to be  
 present  
 to win!*

#### Cash Raffle

Grand Prize: **\$5,000 Cash**

Second Place Prize: **\$500 Cash**

5 Third Place Prizes: **\$100 Cash**

Drawing will be held at Radisson Plaza Hotel

100 W Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Saturday, August 16, 2025 – 8:00 PM

SUGGESTED DONATION: **\$5.00** per ticket

*If not enough tickets are sold, this may become 50/50 raffle.*

License Number: #R78489

*Winner is responsible for withholding taxes.*



## West Branch Kiwanis *Celebrates 90 years*

The club was started in 1935 in West Branch. Kiwanis was started in 1915 in Detroit and has grown to be world wide today. The organization helps children around the world, starting right from the local community.

We had about 35 past and present members at the luncheon on Tuesday, February 11, at the China Inn. In attendance, a member with over 50 years to one that just joined this year. There were slide shows showing our dearly departed Kiwanians as well as members today. Certificates of Appreciation were given to the members that have served five years or more.

We are looking for people with energy to come join our cause. We meet on the second and forth Tuesday at noon. We enjoy lunch at China Inn as we talk about our need fund raiser or happening in the Great City of West Branch.



## Eastpointe Kiwanis *Celebrates 100 years*



The Kiwanis Club of Eastpointe is celebrating our 100th year of Service to Children and Families and the Eastpointe Memorial Library is helping us mark this special occasion.

**When:** Wednesday, May 14 at 6:00pm

**Where:** Eastpointe Memorial Library Community Room 15875 Oak

We will have refreshments and a free raffle for all ages

**Prizes:** Local Gift Cards Hoverboard for youth

Please bring cans/boxes of nonperishable food to be distributed to local food banks to receive an extra raffle ticket

Drawing will be held at 7:15pm

HAPPY  
*Anniversary*

# Michigan Kiwanis 110th Birthday

In the past, the Detroit #1 Kiwanis club celebrated the birthday of Kiwanis every year. After the 105th year celebration the decision was made to celebrate this anniversary every five years. This meant that with the celebration every five years the 110th anniversary celebration needed to be special and memorable. With that in mind, the anniversary committee of Marcia Ford, Linda-Ann Heldt, Marion O'Higgins and Greg Smith talked about trying some new ideas for the celebration.

We decided to have the event during the day rather than the evening. We picked an historical location (Piquette Museum) for the event instead of an hotel or banquet hall. We raised money to donate to Detroit Children's Hospital through Happy Dollars instead of a 50/50 raffle. We invited a speaker from outside of Kiwanis (H.H. Leonards from the O Museum) in addition to our Kiwanis International President-Elect Michael Mulhaul and Kiwanis International Executive Director Paul Palazzolo.

We arranged for attendees to participate in service projects during the event.

THE RESULT: A great success! Over 90 people attended including Kiwanians from Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania. We cleared enough money from Happy Dollars and net proceeds from the event to donate \$1000 to Detroit Children's Hospital. The feedback we received was very positive. They enjoyed the food, loved the venue including a tour of the museum, commented on the diversity of the attendees, liked the speakers and each person's message and were happy we ended on time.

We now have 5 years to plan for the 115th anniversary celebration. Who knows who will be on the committee for 2030 but we would love to hear any of your ideas or suggestions



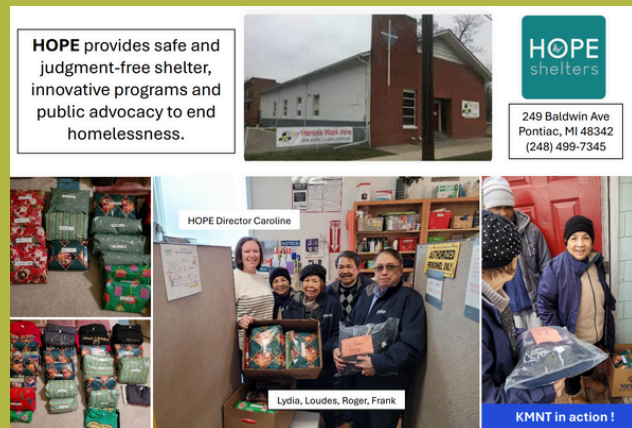
# The Kiwanis Club of Metropolitan North – Troy (KMNT) Makes An Impact

**The Kiwanis Club of Metropolitan North – Troy (KMNT)**, with its Annual Drive of Diapers led by Dr. Ann Marie Palaganas as the club's Young Priority One Chair, delivered 17 packages of diapers (total 1,019 diapers of various sizes) to the CARE House of Oakland County, Michigan on Friday January 10, 2025. In addition, about 15 toddler T-shirts from FILAMCCO (Filipino American Community Council) were also donated. The entire KMNT membership is proud to support the Home Visiting Program of CARE House of Oakland County, especially to families with young kids.



17 Packages  
(total 1,019 diapers  
of various sizes)

<b>Roger Palaganas</b> Secretary	<b>Lourdes Gungab</b> Vice President	<b>Lydia Palaganas</b> KMNT Immediate Past President	<b>Bernice CARE</b> House of Oakland County	<b>DeSiree CARE</b> House of Oakland County	<b>Tyler with Mom Dr. Ann Marie Palaganas</b> Young Priority One Chair	<b>Marisa and Frank Balagtas</b> KMNT President 2024-2025
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Troy (KMNT), with four of its 2024-2025 officers (Frank Balagtas – President, Lourdes Gungab – Vice President, Roger Palaganas – Secretary and Lydia Palaganas – Immediate Past President) delivered free clothing (total 80 Sweatshirts and T-shirts) to the HOPE Shelters in Pontiac, Michigan on Monday December 23, 2024. Some were Christmas-wrapped by KMNT members prior to delivery. A big shoutout to the 168 Group who graciously provided the much needed clothing items just in time for the Christmas season and FILAMCCO (Filipino American Community Council) President Ryan Rosario who entrusted KMNT with the clothing distribution to the needy.

The Kiwanis Club of Metropolitan North – Troy (KMNT), represented by Roger Palaganas (KMNT Secretary 2024- 2025) and his son-in-law Paul Carlstrom, participated in the Medical Mission of the Kiwanis Club of Princess Urduja (KMNT's sister Club) in Calasiao, Pangasinan, Philippines on December 13, 2024. Roger and Paul assisted in welcoming the parents and children relying on free pediatric consultation, helped in the registration and entertained the children while waiting to be seen by a pediatrician. Roger and Paul also commended its sister club's officers, members, and volunteers for their compassionate hearts that bring joy, care and hope to young children. KMNT is very proud of its sister club's commitment to making a positive impact especially to the children of Calasiao community.



## Woodhaven Kiwanis Kids Coalition Against Hunger



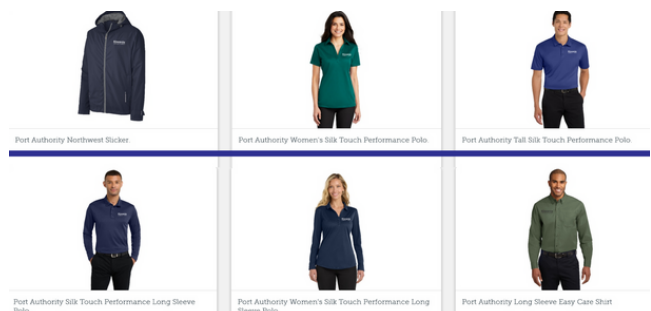
They say, "it takes a village" and the village met at Woodhaven Upper Elementary School on Saturday, February 8th. 308 third through eighth graders from the Woodhaven-Brownstown and Trenton Schools, under the leadership of the Woodhaven High School Varsity Hockey Team and the Woodhaven High School Robotics Squad packed meals at the Woodhaven Kiwanis Sponsored packing. Together, we packed 24,540 meals. Over 400 students and adults joined in the packing. Co-Chairperson, Kiwanian Brenden Hoy, explained a third of the meals are used here in our Downriver Community, fighting off food insecurity. A third of the meals are sent international wherever our U. S. Military flies humanitarian aide. Meals are served in schools in Haiti and to refugees from the Ukraine crossing into Poland just to name a few locations benefiting from events like ours. The final third are set aside for international disasters such as flood or hurricanes.

Student and adults worked together in an assembly-line setting to produce packets of highly nutritious rice-soy casserole, each weighing 390 grams. These packets have a shelf life of over three years and are then boxed and distributed. When mixed with six cups of boiling water, each packet provides enough nutrition for six adults or twelve children for a day.

### Kiwanis MI District Apparel Shop

Exciting news! We're thrilled to announce the new direction we are taking to help you order Kiwanis merchandise online. We are show casing some of the items that will be available at our KiwanisONE's, and by the end of April, we will launch our new Kiwanis Online Store, where you can proudly show your support with exclusive Kiwanis-branded merchandise. From apparel and accessories to gifts and gear, you'll find everything you need to represent Kiwanis in style. Every purchase helps support our mission of serving the children of the world.

Watch for the upcoming launch date in late April, to visit Kiwanis MI District Apparel Shop to and start shopping!



# ***Troy Kiwanis Foundation Supports Youth Mental Health Initiatives Check presentation for Kiwanis Inspired Teen (KIT) Fund***

Troy Kiwanis Foundation is proud to announce the launch of its highly anticipated **KIT (Kiwanis Inspired Teens) Fund**, aimed at providing essential financial assistance for youth mental health counseling.

Troy Kiwanis members – President – Vicki Cerven-Astell and VP – Lori Sisk along with Troy School District Superintendent –Dr. Richard Machesky presented a \$10,000 check to ARISE Counseling Center and Training Institute –Colleen Reveley (Co-Owner). ARISE Counseling Center & Training Institute will provide mental health counseling sessions funded by the **KIT Fund** for community youth going through depression, anxiety or mental health crisis.

Mental health is an issue that affects millions of individuals, yet it remains a topic that many people still struggle to openly discuss. With this financial assistance fund, Troy Kiwanis Foundation hopes to provide families (with no financial means or insurance) obtain mental health counseling for their youth's mental wellness.

This mental health assistance donation will support:

- **Youth mental health and well-being**
- **Strategies for managing stress, anxiety, and depression**

"We believe that mental health should be treated with the same importance as physical health," said Vicki Cerven-Astell, President of Kiwanis Club of Troy. "Our goal is to provide funds to help individuals understand that it's "okay to not be okay", to start conversations, and to ensure that no one feels alone in their journey."

For more information about the Troy Kiwanis Foundation **KIT Fund**, please contact Kiwanis Club of Troy at [kiwanisclubtroy@gmail.com](mailto:kiwanisclubtroy@gmail.com).





# Kiwanis®

## CHILDREN'S FUND

### MICROGRANT PROGRAM

Small grants can make a big difference! The Kiwanis Children's Fund has a long history of collaborating with Kiwanis clubs to fill gaps in their project funding via club grants. But what about smaller clubs with limited service budgets? The Children's Fund knows that small projects can have a huge impact on the lives of children, and so we are excited to launch our Microgrant Program!

If your club has **35 members or fewer** and is **in good standing** with Kiwanis International and the Kiwanis Children's Fund, you may qualify to apply for a microgrant of US\$250-1,000!

#### Your project must:

- **Be a service project enhancing** the lives of young children and youth in your community.
- **Support at least one of the three Kiwanis causes:** health and nutrition, education and literacy, and youth leadership development.
- **Be upcoming or in process** (not yet completed) when grant payment is received.

#### Advantages of the Microgrant Program:

- **Shorter application** than the traditional club grant program.
- **Less funding required from other sources.** Matching funds will not be required.
- **Shorter decision period.** Applications received by the 1st of each month will receive a decision via email by the 15th of the same month.
- **Faster distribution of funds.** Distribution of the funds will begin in December of each year. After that, grant recipients will receive funds within two-three weeks of the application's acceptance.

#### Other requirements:

- Grants cannot be used for donations to organizations, salaries, scholarships/fellowships, sponsorships, training expenses, travel, lodging, capital construction projects or purchase of land/buildings.
- A report must be submitted at the end of the 12-month grant period.
- Once issued a grant, a club will be eligible to apply for another grant two years after submitting the final report.

Each year, the application period for the Microgrant Program is **October 1 – July 1**. Grant applications will be considered in the order received until funds are depleted. Applications are accepted through Foundant, the Kiwanis Children's Fund grant processing system.

#### Contact us

Please contact us with questions at [grants@kiwanis.org](mailto:grants@kiwanis.org). You can also call 1-800-KIWANIS, ext. 225



## Downriver West Kiwanis Club

on receiving a \$500 microgrant from the Kiwanis Children's Fund

# Cool Rides

## with Jackson Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis Bike program in Jackson, Michigan, started with long-time Kiwanian, Robert Frank. Mr. Frank attended a National Bowling tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada, and a Kiwanis meeting. At the meeting, he learned the Kiwanis Club in Las Vegas had purchased bikes and used them to encourage kids to read during March Reading Month and to have a chance to win a donated bike. Bob Frank brought this concept back to the Jackson Northwest Kiwanis Club and gave an overview on how the program worked. The Kiwanis Club started with just a few schools based on the sponsorships obtained by the members and continued growing the program every year little by little.

In brief, bikes are purchased by local sponsors and placed at elementary schools in plain view for students, parents, and staff to see the last week of February. The administration then informs students that for every book read during the month of March their name will be placed in a drawing to win the bike and helmet combo, all happening prior to spring break.

Three years ago, the bike program was turned over to a younger Kiwanis member who wanted to work with Bob in an effort to grow the program to as many elementary schools as possible. They realized the impact the program created relative to encouraging young children to read. A committee was formed to share the workload of contacting schools, ide

All bikes were purchased and assembled at Walmart in Jackson, Michigan. The Kiwanian in contact with Walmart selected two days (3-hour time blocks) the last week of February for the Kiwanis member to come to the rear of Walmart, pick up bikes and then drop them off at the Elementary school they signed up for.

As of 2025, the Jackson Kiwanis Club has grown the program to 26 schools and 94 bike / helmet combinations. The cost is \$125 and the club solicits local businesses to sponsor the program. We have sponsors giving as much as \$3,000 with a minimum sponsorship of \$125.00. Every bike sponsor gets a 8 1/2 x 11- inch laminated sign zip tied to the bike so everyone walking by can see who sponsored the bike.





The number of bikes placed at elementary schools is based on student population. At a minimum each school is given one boy's bike / one girl's bike and up to 8 bikes for larger schools. Prior to winners being drawn all schools are asked to contact the Kiwanian assigned (by a signup sheet) to their respective school. The Kiwanian attends the event, says a few words relative to the benefits of reading, and actually draws the winner's name. Following the drawing, the Kiwanian is then responsible to take a photo of the winners, email respective sponsors thanking them for their donation and lastly emailing the photos to the local press.

In conclusion, this program cost the Kiwanis Club \$0.00 as long as sponsors are obtained. As the coordinator, I can easily say asking sponsors year after year is easy. They, without hesitation, quickly indicate they are in for next year. I personally feel this is because we send a photo of the winner on the bike along with a message on how March Reading month encourages many students to read books. Although every student obviously can't win a bike, the program undoubtedly encourages reading which makes everyone a winner in our eyes.

Best regards,

Jeffrey Mazur  
Kiwanis Bike Program Coordinator



# WELCOME

## THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF KIWANIS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO THE KIWANIS FAMILY:

### Ann Arbor

Jacob 'Jake' Phillips  
Melissa 'Mel' Glaze  
Jeffrey 'Jeff' Neese

### Blue Water/Port Huron

Lorrie Mac Gilray  
Teresa Jex

### Chelsea

Richard 'Rick' Visel, Jr.

### Coldwater

Chloe Garr

### Cosmopolitan Detroit

Ronie Ane 'Sunshine'  
Calamayan

### Delta Twp

Kathleen Davis

### Dundee

Ann Campbell  
Lisa Smith

### East Lansing

Kathryn 'Katie' Jackson

### Greater Gibraltar

Karen Ihlenfeldt

### Greater Grass Lake

Cara Arendt

### Haslett-Okemos

Julie Seymour  
Kim Gorshe

### Holly

Tyler Gibson

### Holt

John Brauer

### Kalamazoo

Renee Fahs

### Kalamazoo Sunrise

Patricia 'Pat' Mason

### Macomb

Maria Mangiapane

### Midland

Marabeth Holsinger  
David 'Dave' McDonald

### Muskegon

Stacey Kennedy

### Owosso

Terry Beard

### Rogers City

Michelle Regelbrugge

### Saginaw

Elizabeth 'Liz' Gohm

### Shorewood

Joann Tabbi  
Erika DeLange

### St. Johns 707

Susan 'Sue' Parker

### Tecumseh

Cameron Kulhanek  
Lloyd Miller  
Jordan Wright

### Traverse City

Melissa Mc  
Jonathon 'Jon' Lamb

### Tri Cities, GH-SL

Jacob Heyza

### Utica-Shelby Twp

Giacomo Garrisi  
Anthony Cucchetti

### Woodhaven

Amy Woida Vasquez



# SLP members

	Clubs	Paid Members
K Kids	7	--
Builders Club	23	--
Key Club	100	6020
Circle K	6	98
Aktion Club	18	231



## In Memoriam

<b>William (Bill) Wyman</b> <i>Little Traverse Bay Secretary</i>	<b>James Hoffman</b> <i>Lakeview-Urbandale, Battle Creek</i>
<b>Pam Johnson</b> <i>Battle Creek</i>	<b>Clayton L. Herrst</b> <i>Dearborn</i>
<b>John H. Pylman</b> <i>Golden K of Grand Rapids</i>	<b>Roger W. Bohl</b> <i>Midland</i>
<b>Richard K. Post</b> <i>Golden K of Grand Rapids</i>	<b>Steven G. Goble</b> <i>Lansing</i>
<b>James Lindsley</b> <i>Sturgis Eastside</i>	



## 2024-2025 Governor's Membership Trophy



Shorewood.....	+10
Detroit #1.....	+7
Tri Cities, GH-SL.....	+7
Indian River .....	+5
Blue Water/Port Huron .....	+5

Net gain is from 10-1-24 to 9-30-25 and includes clubs only with a least a net gain of +5 based on official membership numbers supplied by Kiwanis International.

### AS WE GO TO PRESS

**Active Clubs:** 130  
**Beginning Membership:** 3128  
**Reporting Members:** 3227  
**Net Gain:** +99