



**Kiwaniis**  
MISSOURI-ARKANSAS DISTRICT

**A LT. GOVERNOR PROFILE**  
CELEBRATING A LEADER

**A DISTRICT DCON**  
YOUNG LEADERS GATHER AT  
STATEWIDE CONVENTION.



# Kiwanigram

Missouri-Arkansas District

APRIL 2026

MO-ARK

# Kiwanigram

GOVERNOR

**RONALD HILL**

GOVERNOR-ELECT

**JEFF MAXWELL**

IMMEDIATE PAST GOVERNOR

**JIM FRITZ**

DISTRICT SECRETARY

**ANGIE OSHIA**

KIWANIGRAM EDITOR

**REN LUEBBERING**

KEY CLUB GOVERNOR

**DAKOTA MENNING**

CKI (CIRCLE K) GOVERNOR

**RUSSELL HAYNES**

KIWANIGRAM CONTRIBUTORS

**LINDA SCHNEIDER**

Kiwanis Club of Union

**BETH GOULD**

Kiwanis Club of Eureka

**DAVID NIEBUR**

Joplin Kiwanis Club

**CARLA OBRIEN**

Gravios Kiwanis Club

**MARETTA DIESTELKAMP**

Kiwanis Club of St. James

**SUSAN PRENTICE**

Kiwanis Club of Bridgeton

**JEFF ADAMS**

Fort Smith Arkansas Kiwanis

**KATHY SWIFT**

Booneville Kiwanis Club

**MARTHA RADGINSKI**

O'Fallon Kiwanis Club



## ON THE COVER

Not just Good Friday, but great Friday for the kiddos at Gateway180! Over 70 baskets were delivered for the kids courtesy of Gravois Kiwanis led by Ellen Sandweiss and St Peter Episcopal Church led by Jane Gilbert. The Gateway180 crew, Nicky and Adrienne, helped get everything in the facility and displayed for the kids.



**Kiwanis**  
MISSOURI-ARKANSAS DISTRICT

[K14.SITE.KIWANIS.ORG](http://K14.SITE.KIWANIS.ORG)

## FROM THE GOVERNOR



I never know how to start these off, so here goes. I hope all are well, and you're looking forward to a great Summer.

I talk a lot about gardening , because I like it. I could go down the road and buy good vegetables for a 1/20 what I spend. Building you club may look easy if you leave it to others. The more members, you get in your club, the greater the opportunity to meet new people.

In order to provide more service to children and our communities, we need to increase our number of members. It all begins with inviting guests to join you in service projects and attending club meetings. Challenge your fellow club members to bring at least one like-minded friend along to check us out every month.

What's going on in the district is very good. We have built four new clubs, saved one and have a new club build in Saline County.

We are here to help your club if you want, contact us to find out how we can help.

**Stay safe, and enjoy spring!**

HUMBLY,

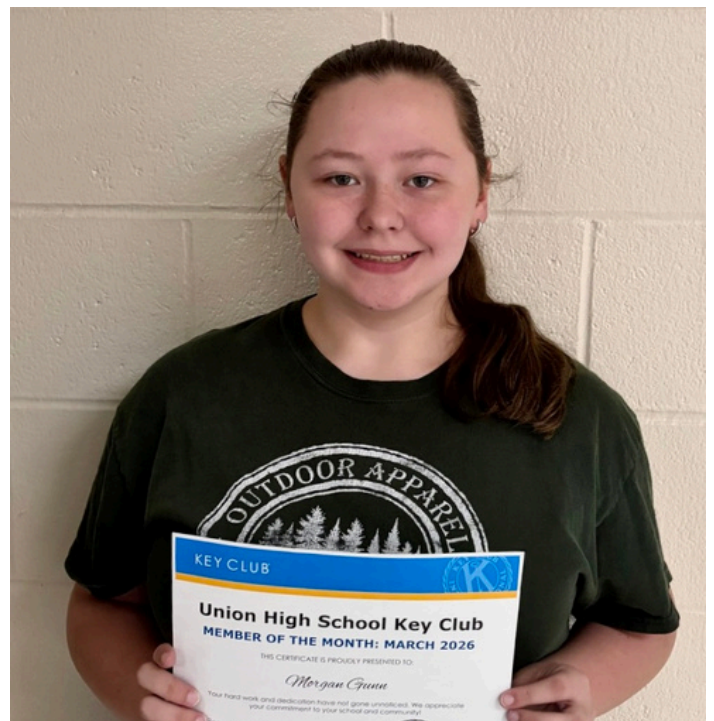
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ron Hill'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'R' and 'H'.

**MO-ARK GOVERNOR**

## FROM THE MO-ARK DISTRICT

# Snapshots of Service

Photos are often shared in the Mo-Ark Facebook group. [Share your own by joining the group.](#)



## FROM THE MO-ARK DISTRICT

# District Calendar

[View the full Mo-Ark district calendar.](#)

### **MAY 2**

Lieutenant Governor Training

### **May 9**

Region 5 Meeting

### **May 30**

Region 7 Meeting

## EARL COLLINS CORNER

The latest from the Earl Collins Foundation.

Don't forget to make your 2025-2026 donation to Earl Collins Foundation of \$5-10 per club member, get that check issued today!

### WHAT HAVE WE DONE FOR YOU LATELY?

49 - \$1,500 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS THIS YEAR

We still have grant monies available for clubs or Service Leadership programs to access UP TO \$1,000 for service projects. Application is on the MO-ARK website, linked below.

[ECF Grant Application](#)

## EARL COLLINS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The 2026 Earl Collins Foundation scholarship winners have been announced. [View the list of 2026 ECF Scholarship Winners.](#)



## MEET THE LT. GOVERNOR

# Rhonda Gibson, Division 21



**Q: “How long have you been a Kiwanian, and what is your home club?”**

I have proudly been a member of the Cabot Kiwanis Club for 22 years, since 2004.

**Q: “What does service mean to you?”**

Service, to me, is an act that requires both sacrifice and passion. It’s difficult to truly serve without caring deeply about the people or cause you’re supporting, and that passion is what drives meaningful impact.

**Q: “Why did you want to join Kiwanis originally?”**

I initially had no interest in joining a civic club like Kiwanis, but a persistent friend convinced me to attend. I quickly connected with the group and its mission. As an advocate for children, I’m proud to support an organization dedicated to making a difference in their lives.

**Q: “Why do you choose to serve the Mo-Ark district as a lieutenant governor?”**

I was approached several years ago about taking on this role, but at the time, it didn’t feel right. When the opportunity came up again, I felt ready to move forward and grow within the organization. Having served in leadership roles at the club level, I wanted to expand my knowledge and involvement in the Kiwanis family. I love my home club, and I’m excited for the opportunity to connect with and serve more of the Kiwanis MoArk family.

## MO-ARK NEEDS MORE LEADERS SERVING MORE COMMUNITIES

The Missouri-Arkansas Kiwanis District is looking for more leaders to serve at the district level. If you’re interested in serving more communities, contact Governor Ron Hill to be considered for lieutenant governor. Email [ronhill@conwaycorp.net](mailto:ronhill@conwaycorp.net).

# CKI DCON Event Returns to Mo-Ark



**BY TAYLOR VON WOLFSECK**

The Missouri–Arkansas District of Circle K International (CKI) proudly hosted its annual District Conference (DCON) this past March, marking the district’s first conference since the COVID-19 pandemic. All active chapters were represented, including Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Missouri, Lindenwood University, and soon-to-be-chartered Missouri State University.

For the first time, the district partnered with Key Club to co-host the event, fostering collaboration between the two organizations. This joint effort strengthened connections across Kiwanis programs and encouraged students to continue their service journeys beyond high school and into CKI.

Service, fellowship, and leadership, the core tenets of Circle K International, were central themes throughout the conference. These values were exemplified through the keynote address by Holly Hoffman, whose inspiring presentation focused on integrating CKI’s mission into both individual and chapter success. Hoffman shared her perspective on the impact of Kiwanis, emphasizing the importance of cultivating global relationships and meaningful, long-term connections. She also offered thoughtful guidance on building enduring, inclusive communities; her thoughts resonate deeply with the district.



By the conclusion of DCON, the district successfully elected a full executive board, with each officer rising from the membership of their respective chapters. The newly elected leaders include Russell Haynes as District Governor, Hailey Bagby as District Secretary, and Taylor von Wolfseck as District Editor.

Overall, the conference was a remarkable success and milestone for the district. With renewed momentum, strong leadership, and inter-organizational collaboration, the district is well on its way to emerging from provisional status and flourishing.

# Mo-Ark Key Club Board Elected



**BY CARLA O'BRIEN**

On April 17-18 the newly elected 2026-27 MO-ARK Key Club board held its first meeting in Springfield Mo at the University Plaza Hotel.

They're already hard at work planning the March 2027 DLC!

The board consists of: Gov Dakota Menning, Secretary Omar Garcia, treasurer Abraham Ireland, Webmaster Rahul Awasthi, Editor Bandu Nair, Div 1 LtG Savana Scruggs, Div 2 LTG Jayden Salzman, Div 3 LTG MaryAnn Gingerich, Div4 LTG Geo Reji, Div5 LTG Makenlei Shafferkoetter, Div6 LTG Ava Long, Div 7 LTG Pritam Avuthu, Div8 LTG Andy Santizo, Div 9 LTG Amara Miles and Div 10 LTG Tanvi Narendrula. Adult staff pictured are Cheryl Anderson, Miranda Young, Carla OBrien and James Sturch.



# Clubs in Action

<b>EASTER BAGS FOR KIDS</b>	<b>10</b>
Union Kiwanis Club	
<b>NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR</b>	<b>11</b>
Kiwanis Club of Eureka	
<b>GRANT DOLLARS IN ACTION</b>	<b>12</b>
Booneville Kiwanis Club	
<b>PANCAKE FUNDRAISER</b>	<b>13</b>
Kiwanis Club of St. James	
<b>PANCAKE FUNDRAISER</b>	<b>14</b>
Kiwanis Club of Bridgeton	
<b>SUPPORTING CHILD SAFETY</b>	<b>15</b>
O'Fallon Kiwanis Club	
<b>PARTNERING WITH HEAD START</b>	<b>16</b>
Kiwanis Club of Cuba	
<b>BUILDING ROOTS</b>	<b>17</b>
Gravios Kiwanis Club	
<b>PACKING SNACKS FOR KIDS</b>	<b>18</b>
Joplin Kiwanis Club	
<b>DONATING BOOKS</b>	<b>19</b>
Fort Smith Arkansas Kiwanis Club	



## ECF Grant Dollars In Action

An Earl Collins SLP Grant provided funds to bring smiles and cheer to students at Immaculate Builders Club.



## UNION KIWANIS CLUB

UNION HIGH SCHOOL KEY CLUB GIVES EASTER TREAT BAGS TO PRESCHOOL CHILDREN.



PICTURED IN THE BACK FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ARE: UHS KEY CLUB VICE PRESIDENT GABBY UNDERWOOD; UNION KIWANIS KEY CLUB ADVISOR GINA PETERS; UHS KEY CLUB SECRETARY NORA SPARKMAN (STANDING); EASTER BUNNY (AKA UHS KEY CLUB PRESIDENT BREANNA VOLLMER); UHS KEY CLUB MEMBER MORGAN GUNN (STANDING).

### BY LINDA SCHNEIDER

As a part of the Reading Is Fundamental program, the Union High School (UHS) Key Club provided Easter bags with treats for the Union Prairie Dell Elementary preschool class pictured below. The book “Read to Your Bunny” by Rosemary Wells was read to the class and each child received a copy of the book from the Union Kiwanis Club.





## KIWANIS CLUB OF EUREKA

BUILDING BEDS FOR KIDS SO THAT  
NO CHILD SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR.



**BY BETH GOULD**

Kiwanis Club of Eureka was honored to partner with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to help build beds for children right here in our community.

Because of efforts like this, we are working toward a powerful mission:

No child in our town sleeps on the floor.

It was incredible to see volunteers come together –rolling up their sleeves, sharing laughter, and putting in the work to create something so meaningful. These aren't just beds... they are comfort, dignity, and a place to dream.

We are proud to be part of a community that shows up, cares deeply, and takes action when it matters most.

If you'd like to get involved or support future projects, we'd love to have you join us. Together, we can continue making a real impact.



**BOONEVILLE KIWANIS CLUB**  
EARL COLLINS FOUNDATION  
GRANT DOLLARS IN ACTION.



**BY KATHY SWIFT**

This is a picture of the truckload of backpack food that the Booneville Kiwanis Club delivered to the Magazine School District today.. The grant we received from the Earl Collins Foundation helped purchase a portion of the food. We greatly appreciate the donation.



## **KIWANIS CLUB OF ST. JAMES**

### **PANCAKE DAY FUNDRAISER**

### **FOR KIDS IN THEIR COMMUNITY.**



#### **BY MARETTA DIESTELKAMP**

The Kiwanis Club of St. James held its annual Pancake Day fundraiser on Saturday, March 7, 2026 at the St. James Middle School. The “Best Pancakes” and sausage were served from 6:30am to Noon. Pancake toppings included chocolate chips, peanut butter, strawberries, blueberries, butter, syrup and whipped topping. Local musicians provided live entertainment from 8am to 11am. Service organizations from St. James schools and Kappa Sigma fraternity from Missouri S&T in Rolla provided volunteer help.

MoArk Governor Ron Hill and Governor Elect Jeff Maxwell were in attendance. All proceeds go to programs for the youth of St. James.



# KIWANIS CLUB OF BRIDGETON PANCAKE DAY FUNDRAISER FOR KIDS IN THEIR COMMUNITY.



OUR PRESIDENT, RON ABERNATHY, PICTURED WITH KEY CLUB MEMBERS FROM PATTONVILLE GETTING SOME COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS.

**BY SUSAN PRENTICE**

Great attendance at Kiwanis club of Bridgeton annual pancake breakfast. We had raffle baskets, golden egg gift cards, and great food.





## O'FALLON KIWANIS CLUB

SUPPORTING CHILD SAFETY AND FIRST RESPONDERS IN THEIR TOWN.



PICTURED ARE ED AND MARTHA RADGINSKI PRESENTING THIS YEAR'S CHECK TO THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER.

### BY MARTHA RADGINSKI

O'Fallon Safety Town is a nationally accredited child accident prevention program put on by the O'Fallon Police Department that introduces safety awareness and preventive procedures to children, ages 4 1/2 through 6 1/2 years old. The program uses a simulated city layout, a classroom facility, and an off-campus field trip. Over 10 years ago the Kiwanis Club of O'Fallon donated a tent that looks like a Police Station to use in their simulated city layout and each year since then have presented a check for scholarships to assist families with the cost so their preschoolers could attend.





## KIWANIS CLUB OF CUBA

KIWANIS PARTNERS WITH HEAD START  
IN CUBA, MISSOURI.



### BY MARETTA DIESTELKAMP

The Kiwanis Club of Cuba spent some time at the Cuba Head Start on Thursday, April 2 reading to the students. Maretta Diestelkamp, Club President, read “Just a Rainy Day” by Mercer Mayer and “Clifford’s Busy Week” by Norman Bridwell. The Kiwanis Club hopes to be able to read to the Head Start students each week. Reading truly is a way to engage with others and in some small way make a big difference in the life of a child.





## GRAVIOS KIWANIS CLUB

A NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN BUILDS ROOTS FOR HOMELESS IN LOCAL COMMUNITY.



PAUL ECKRICH, ROBERT & MANDY HOSNER, CARLA OBRIEN, ELLEN SANDWEISS AND BRUCE HADLEY

### BY CARLA O'BRIEN

On April 4, a rainy Saturday, at Gateway180 Homelessness Reversed, a small but mighty Gravois Kiwanis crew cleaned up the yards, mulched and planted vegetable gardens for the residents. There will now be fresh tomatoes, peppers and herbs.





## **JOPLIN KIWANIS CLUB**

### **PACKING SNACKS FOR KIDS IN NEED.**

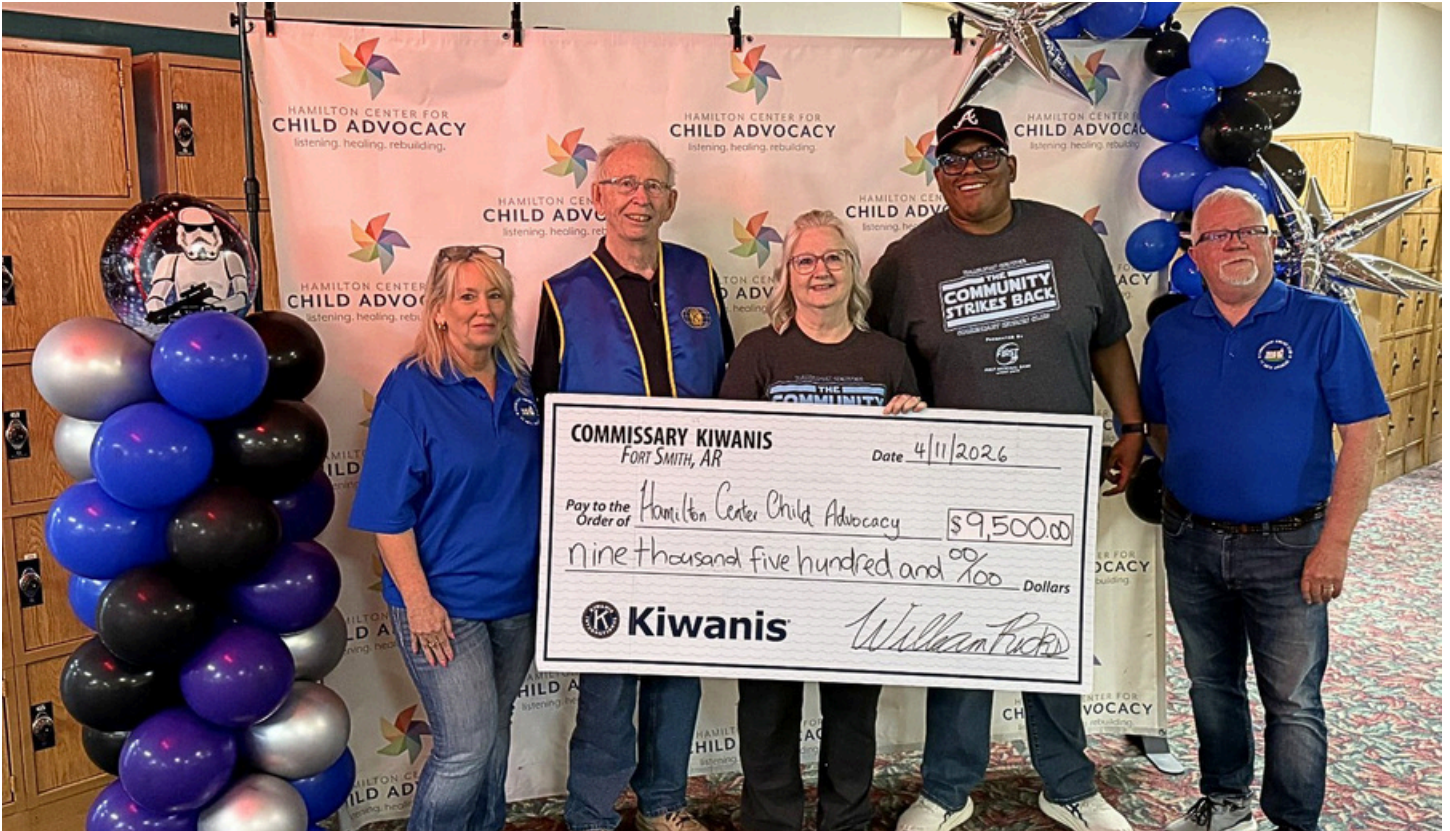


**BY DAVID NIEBUR**

Joplin Kiwanians Doug Lawson, Bill Eichman, David Niebur, and Marda Schroeder assisted Bright Futures of Joplin in packaging 558 snackpacks.



## FORT SMITH ARKANSAS KIWANIS CLUB DONATING BOOKS TO KIDS IN THEIR COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT LITERACY.



PICTURED L-R RHONDA MURPHY, CHUCK JOHNSON, LAURIE BURNETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HCCA, WILLIAM RICKS, JEFF ADAMS

### BY JEFF ADAMS

Commissary Kiwanis club of Fort Smith, Ark held another successful fun bowling event with a Star Wars theme, collecting \$9,500 for the Hamilton Center for Child Advocacy. HCCA is dedicated to the protection and healing of child victims of abuse and their non-offending family members within Sebastian and Crawford counties, Arkansas.

# Kiwanis District Convention Service Project Jared Box Project

<https://thejaredbox.org/>



For more than 20 years Jared Boxes have delivered countless smiles, laughter and hope to children in hospitals across the country.

Jared Boxes are a great way for you, your children, school or organization to bring the gift of play through toys in a box to young patients as they navigate through their hospital experience.

Our hands on project will give the District members an opportunity to create boxes of toys and games to be delivered to area hospitals. Clubs around the district will bring items to the convention to be assembled into Jared Boxes. The MoArk eCentennial club requests each club in each division and region to bring specific items to the convention.

Here's what to bring: All items can be found on Amazon.

Region 1/Divisions 2, 3, 4:

Arrozon 12PcsSmallStuffedAnimals Bulk, 4.5 Inch Mini Stuffed Animals,

Region 2/Divisions 1,5:

Kalysky 20Pack Coloring Books for Kids Ages 4-8 (5.1 x 7 inch),

Region 3/Divisions 11, 12, 13, 26:

TruViare 10Pack6QuartClearPlastic Storage Boxes with Snap-On Lid

Region 4/Divisions 6, 7, 8, 9:

ChildFun24PCSPartyFavorsforKids,3D Animal Pop Toys

Region 5/Divisions 10, 14:

LotFancy Card Games for Kids, 6 Decks, Go Fish, Old Maid, Crazy Eights, Memory Match, Slap Jack, Animal Playing Cards

Region 6/Divisions 18, 19, 24:

HuoHuair Crayons12 Colors of 6 Pack (72 Crayons) Coloring Books Individually Wrapped

Region 7/Divisions 15,20,23:

First Little Readers Parent Pack: Guided Reading Level A: 25 Irresistible Books That Are Just the Right Level for Beginning Readers

Region 8/Divisions 16, 17:

SillyPuttyBulkVarietyPack(24ct), Assorted Soft Sensory Putty

Region 9/Divisions 21, 22, 25:

Kalysky 12Set ReusableStickerBooks for Toddlers 2-4 1-3, Kids 3D Puffy Sticker Activity Books,

We hope you can all join us at the convention. If not, you can still participate. You can either donate funds to help purchase items or purchase yourself and deliver to your Lt. Governor or Trustee to bring to the hotel.

For more information, contact:

Bev Sherman—417-894-3344 or email  
bsherm1607@gmail.com





## MOUNTAIN VIEW CHARTER CELEBRATION



ON MARCH 29TH KIWANIS CLUB OF MOUNTAIN VIEW AREA HAD THEIR OFFICIAL CHARTER CEREMONY. IT WAS THE PERFECT COMBINATION OF CELEBRATION OF THE NEW MEMBERSHIP WITH HORS D'OUVRES AND A GREAT SILENT AUCTION. WELCOME!

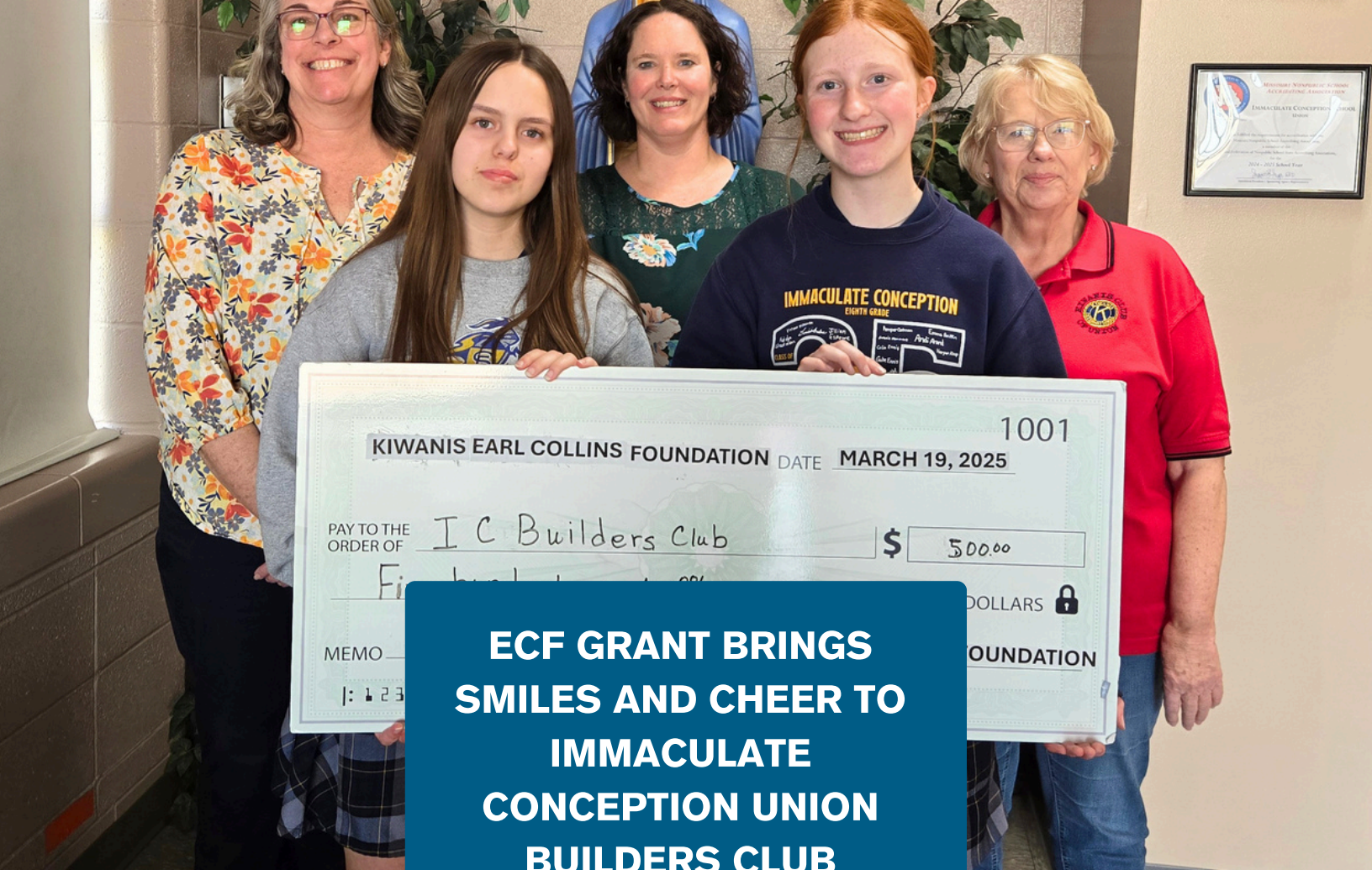


**CUBA KIWANIS CLUB  
PARTICIPATES IN  
COMMUNITY EVENTS**



THE KIWANIS FAMILY OF CUBA HAS SPENT TIME PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY EVENTS. THE CUBA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS DOING A FUNDRAISER CARNIVAL AND ASKED THE BUILDERS CLUB IF THEY COULD HELP. THE ANSWER WAS "YES". REPRESENTATIVES FROM BUILDER'S CLUB AND THE KIWANIS CLUB MANNED THE BOUNCE HOUSE, GOLF GAME AND BOWLING GAME. "ROCKING TO THE ROCKER" IS A RUN BENEFITING THE CUBA COMMUNITY.

THE BUILDER'S CLUB AND KEY CLUB MANNED A MUSIC STATION TO ENCOURAGE RUNNERS ALONG THE ROUTE. STUDENTS MADE POSTERS AND PROVIDED MUSIC TO CHEER ON RUNNERS. THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE STUDENTS WAS GREAT AND THE TIME SPENT TOGETHER WAS MEMORABLE.



A ECF SLP GRANT PROVIDED FUNDS TO DECORATE AND FILL CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS FOR THE 55 PRESCHOOLERS AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED ITS GOALS. THIS TRADITION HAS FOSTERED A MEANINGFUL CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR OLDER AND YOUNGER STUDENTS, PROVIDING THE PRESCHOOLERS WITH FAMILIAR FACES THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING. AS NOTED IN OUR GRANT APPLICATION, SEEING THE PRESCHOOLERS' REACTIONS WHEN THE STOCKINGS WERE DELIVERED WAS THE HIGHLIGHT FOR OUR CLUB MEMBERS.

THE SUPPLIES PURCHASED WITH THIS GRANT WILL ENABLE THE CLUB TO CONTINUE THIS PROJECT IN THE FUTURE, THOUGH THE TOYS FOR EACH STOCKING WILL BE REPLENISHED ANNUALLY.



**Kiwaniis**<sup>®</sup>  
MISSOURI-ARKANSAS DISTRICT

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[\*\*HTTPS://K14.SITE.KIWANIS.ORG/\*\*](https://k14.site.kiwaniis.org/)

## **KIWANIGRAM SUBMISSIONS**

Information to be considered for the Kiwanigram should be submitted by email to [moarkkiwanigram@gmail.com](mailto:moarkkiwanigram@gmail.com). Please include the name and location of your club. The photos should be jpeg format. Please include a brief description of the project along with the names of Kiwanians, or SLP members featured in the photos. Your submission may be featured in the Kiwanigram, District website and/or MO-ARK Kiwanis Facebook group.

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