

*The Capital*

December/January 2025

# KIWANIAN

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**Kiwaniis**

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*COVER:* Elisabeth Copp of the Waynesboro Kiwanis Club, along with other members, are out ringing the bell for The Salvation Army - Waynesboro, VA.



The Kiwanis Polar Dip Bear has been out and about this holiday season, spreading the news of the upcoming Kiwanis Polar Dip on February 1, 2025! He marched with the Kiwanis Club of Tysons in the Reston Holiday Parade on November 29th, and welcomed Santa during the "Jingle on the Lake" event in Reston on December 7th. Kiwanis Family members who would like to jump in Lake Anne on February 1st can visit [kiwanispolardip.org](http://kiwanispolardip.org)



## 2024-25 LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

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Ellicott City, MD

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Tysons, VA

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### TRUSTEE - DELMARVA

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### TRUSTEE - HEART OF VIRGINIA

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The information in this magazine is for illustrative and discussion purposes only. It is intended to provide general information about the subject matter covered.

# Governor's Message

JOSH HISCOCK, 2024-25 GOVERNOR



## Resolve to Do More in the New Year

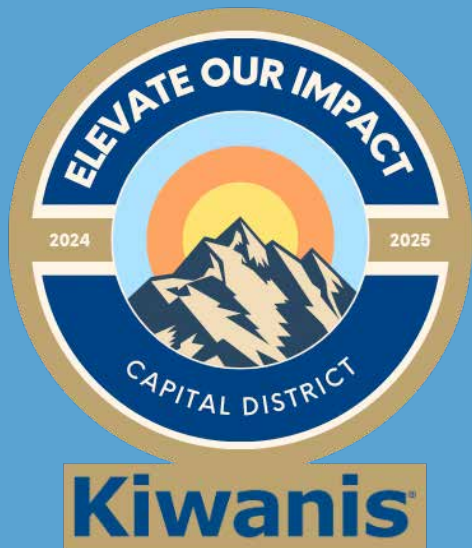
We are reaching the point in the calendar year where there are fewer hours of sunlight, increasing demands on our time, growing “to-do” lists, frequent holiday shopping excursions, tiring holiday travel to see family and friends, baking and cooking – followed by more baking and cooking, and an endless stream of deliveries to our doorstep that we need to open and wrap. Feeling overwhelmed? I know I am.

It is easy to think of all of the things we have to do, the long list of obligations that fill our days, evenings, and weekends. It can be hard to find a way to add your Kiwanis obligations to that list. Our desire to engage and be involved in our club's work may diminish tremendously when work, family, friends, and other commitments are in the mix.

Instead, let's reframe that thought.

As we enter the months of December and January, we are faced with many incredible opportunities. These opportunities all have a way to include Kiwanis! We just need to view them in that way.

While the hours of daylight may be shorter, we will make the most of them by doing all of the good that we can. We will fill our “to-do” lists with important work that will make our clubs and communities better. We won't pass up the opportunity to attend a service project. In fact, we may bring our family or friends with us to experience the thrill of making a difference! Giving our loved ones the gift of Kiwanis may be one of the best presents we can offer as we enter 2025.



# MEMBERSHIP WEBINAR SCHEDULE

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We will take advantage of those holiday shopping trips to donate toys and money to charities in need. In fact, we may even take a break from the shopping trips to ring a bell for The Salvation Army or staff a Toys For Tots drop-off location. We will bake and cook for our families and friends, but also for those individuals of all ages who are shut in, perhaps because of their health, and need additional holiday cheer. As we complete our holiday shopping online, we will look for the wish lists of local children and families looking for someone to make their holiday season a little brighter.

As the calendar page turns from December to January and we enter a new year, I ask you and your fellow Kiwanians to resolve to do more for Kiwanis in 2025. Our theme for the year calls for each of us to elevate our impact in some way. Consider what one new task you could do for your club. Perhaps it is coming up with a new service project idea or stepping forward to serve as a Kiwanis Advisor to a service leadership program club. Maybe it is volunteering to serve on your club's board of directors or inviting someone you know to join Kiwanis to expand the number of hands we have serving the children in our communities. Every action makes a difference, no matter what your "more" is.

Get ready to Elevate Our Impact at the 2025 Mid-Year Conference at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort in Cambridge, Maryland, from Feb. 28 – March 2, 2025. The conference will have some traditional elements you might expect to see at a Kiwanis event, such as engaging speakers and exemplary educational sessions. But be prepared – the conference has a Disney theme and will be filled with fun, inclusive activities for Kiwanians and guests of all ages. Registration opens in December, so please make plans to attend.

I wish you all the healthiest of holidays and the happiest of New Years!

Yours in Kiwanis Service,

Josh Hiscock

## IMPACT CLUB

NEW

The Possibility Project is our campaign to build a brighter future for 10 million children by raising US\$25 million for the Kiwanis Children's Fund by the end of the 2027-28 Kiwanis year. **It's the first fundraising campaign created solely to support the Kiwanis family and the children we serve.** With a commitment to give a per-member average of US\$500 or more over five years, your club becomes an Impact Club. It's recognition for an extraordinary commitment and for the inspiration it provides to fellow clubs and Kiwanians.



## NEW CLUBS COMING!

We are looking for volunteers to help in remote and in-person positions!

Please contact Jen Wolff for more information:  
[jen.wolff@capitalkiwanis.org](mailto:jen.wolff@capitalkiwanis.org)

Laurel, MD	January 13-16
Cambridge, MD	February 24-27
Moundsville, WV	April 7-10
Bel Air, MD	April 7-10
East End, VA (Richmond)	May 12-15
Southwest, VA - TBD	Summer



# Notes from the Executive Director

BY PG JEFFREY WOLFF

## HOW TO THANK YOUR MEMBERS FOR THEIR SERVICE

**It's time to give thanks! I wrote this article days before Thanksgiving, and while we do use the holiday for giving thanks, I wanted to spend this month's column on how we can thank our Kiwanis members.**

They invest their time, their energy and their skills to make a difference in their communities. Recognizing a person's value and investment is key to retaining members – and motivating them to stay invested in your club. You can recognize exceptional members with any of the following awards.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Thank a member who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to The Objects of Kiwanis and the mission of Kiwanis International with life member status. A gold-tone membership card, desktop award, distinctive lapel pin and lifelong exemption from Kiwanis International dues are some of the ways life members are honored. Life member status in Kiwanis International costs 15 times the current dues amount which is \$77, or \$1,155. You can download the application here: <https://www.kiwanis.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Lifetime-member-application.pdf>

### LEGION OF HONOR

Honor members who have served in Kiwanis for 25 years or more with the Legion of Honor award. They deserve recognition for helping to make Kiwanis the great organization it is today. Certificates signed by the Kiwanis International president and executive director, as well as lapel pins that reflect the highest office held by the honoree, are available for presentation. [Purchase Legion of Honor award material from the Kiwanis Family Store](#). Please provide the recipient's name, the number of years he or she has been a Kiwanian and the highest club office he or she has held.

### RUBY K AWARD

Honor Kiwanians who invite five or more new members during their Kiwanis career with a Ruby K Award, free of charge. Ruby K pins recognize members for inviting new members — from five to 100 people. (Further Ruby K awards are given for multiples of 25 over 100.) The award is cumulative, so previous recipients are eligible for a new Ruby K when they invite additional members. [Visit this site to apply for a Ruby K for your members who are recruiting.](#)

### DISTINGUISHED MEMBER

Any member of your club that sponsors at least two (2) new members during the 2024-25 administrative year, participates in at least two (2) projects of your home club and attends the Capital District or Kiwanis International convention is eligible to be recognized as a Distinguished Member. They will receive a member recognition pin and certificate at the 2026 Capital District Midyear Conference. Applications for this recognition will be available during the month of October 2025 once the current administrative year is completed. Encourage your members to strive for Distinguished Member status by promoting it regularly at club meetings.

### DISTINGUISHED CLUB

Kiwanis also wants to acknowledge the work of your club and has developed a recognition program to do just that. There is a variety of criteria in five key areas important to the functioning of any successful club: Membership & Engagement, Leadership & Education, Community Impact, Financial Viability, and Branding & Image. Visit <https://www.kiwanis.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/GIGR-424-105-Distinguished-Criteria-Info-2024-25.pdf> to see the full list of required activities. Applications for this recognition will be available during the month of October 2025 once the current administrative year is completed.

*(Past Governor Jeffrey Wolff, from Tysons, is the Capital District Executive Director.)*

# From the Governor-Elect

BY TIM GILLETTE

## DIFFERENT ROUTES, SAME DESTINATION

**As a child, I would spend a lot of time in the car with my grandmother. Every time I buckled in, I assumed the role of her little navigator, even though she didn't want or need one. We would drive around the streets of Jersey City, and I would yell from the back seat, "Nan, if you go this way, it'll be quicker."**

Her response was always the same: "This is the way I know, and I'm going to go my way." My "Nan" and I had the same objectives, getting from point A to point B, but we both had different ways to get there.

From Nov. 6-10, I was invited to attend the Governors-elect Training Conference in Indianapolis. Almost 50 Governors-elect from across the world descended on Indy for training on membership recruitment and retainment, new club opening, team building, and communication. The training was conducted by Kiwanis International staff, Past Governors, and Past Kiwanis International Presidents.

Governors-elect had time to attend breakout sessions with their Area Director, and the Governors-elect from their respective areas (our area is primarily the Southeastern United States). Each Governor-elect also had one-on-one time to meet with Kiwanis President-elect, Michael Mulhaul, to talk about their ideas and visions for the organization.

While the training was worthwhile and needed, it wasn't my favorite part of the experience. The best part of the experience was meeting the Governors-elect from around the world and hearing about the great things they're doing in their clubs, divisions, and districts.

I was happy to share a drink one night with my colleague from Iceland and hear how in that part of the world each club has their own clubhouse to have meetings. I had

breakfast one morning with my new friend Marcel from Louisiana, who bragged about hosting the World's Largest Turkey Fry in their club outside of New Orleans, and how they were able to raise money for their reading program. During a break, I chatted with Blair, my passionate counterpart from Utah. He told me that he joined Kiwanis because an organization like Kiwanis literally saved his life, and he wanted to be there to give back to his community and now his district.



While we need to know the nuts and bolts of our roles and positions to get things done, it's really the stories that come from our members that bring out the true reason why we do what we do every day. These "Voices of Service," as they're sometimes called, motivate us to do more for our communities. When we meet people, and tell them about Kiwanis, it's important to share these stories. Why? Because Progress Isn't Quiet!

On the flight back from Indianapolis, I reflected on my time there. After hearing all the stories and meeting the people from all over the world, I thought of my rides with Nan. Kiwanians, whether you're in Basel, Switzerland, Tokyo, Japan, Bogota, Colombia, or Columbia, South Carolina, all have the same objective – "Serving the Children of the World" – we all just have a different way of getting there.

In Service,  
TRG

*(Tim Gillette, from Tysons, is the Capital District Governor-Elect for 2024-2025.)*

# From the Vice Governor

BY DAVID LURIE

## THE GIVING SEASON – KIWANIS, SERVICE AND YOU!

**As I write this article, I am in the midst (as are many of you) of the holiday season and all it represents – the lights, the gifts, the parties, the family and friends, the stress, and of course - the food! Did you know there are 29 holidays from November to January that are celebrated all around the world? No matter what holiday you celebrate, this is a time to reflect and to appreciate those you love and all we have to be grateful for. No wonder we are so tired and exhausted after Lunar New Year!**

Of course, this is also one of the busiest times of the year for many Kiwanis clubs and their members. Whether it is ringing bells for the Salvation Army, putting on a community breakfast for Christmas, selling Christmas trees, or gathering for some club fellowship, this is a time when we truly shine as an organization. Many Kiwanians note that the projects and service we do this time of year are some of their favorite activities in the club.

You know what this is also a good time to do? Invite new members into Kiwanis! What better way to introduce Kiwanis than when you are doing some of the activities that you enjoy doing the most. I have been at a few events this season where clubs are doing just that – inviting prospective members to join them and help make their projects even more successful. Just make sure you ask them to join – getting more members is a great gift for any Kiwanis club.

On the administrative side, this has been a busy time for Capital District. Both CKI and Key Club have been deeply involved in preparing for their district conventions in the spring and getting ready to roll out information to their clubs. The Mid-Year Conference committee is planning a

magical time for Kiwanians and their guests to join us in Cambridge, Maryland Feb. 28-March 2. I am also chairing the Bylaws and Policy committee this year and the committee has recently submitted changes to our election policies and is reviewing our policies on how we organize and plan our district conventions and conferences.



I am also happy to report that Capital District Kiwanis Foundation has collected more than \$18,000 to date for Hurricane Helene relief. The Disaster Assistance Committee, a joint Capital District and Foundation committee, is currently soliciting for projects to support in the areas of Southwest Virginia. While we did not suffer as much damage as areas in North Carolina and Florida, we still have areas that are recovering, and we are hoping Kiwanis clubs in or near the affected areas will request funds for projects to assist in the recovery. Many may remember how we helped the Hurley community a few years ago when they suffered severe flooding in their area, and we are hoping to have the same impact again.

Finally, I do want to wish all of you and your families a most wonderful and joyous holiday season. Enjoy the time and then let's get ready to start 2025 strong and have a great year.

Yours in Kiwanis Service and Fellowship,

Dave

*(David Lurie is on schedule to serve as Capital District Governor in 2026-27. He is an active Kiwanian in Tysons.)*





# ELEVATE OUR IMPACT

2025 Capital District Mid-Year Conference

**REGISTER TODAY!**

The Capital District Kiwanis Midyear Conference will be held from February 28 to March 2, 2025 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort in Cambridge, MD, a gorgeous 342-acre waterfront resort and spa near Chesapeake Bay. This is our first Capital District Kiwanis event to be set in Cambridge and we couldn't be more excited to have you join us there!



**Kiwanis**  
CAPITAL DISTRICT

# Education News

## THE IMPORTANCE OF CLUB MEMBER ORIENTATION AND ONBOARDING

BY SAMANTHA BOSSERMAN

**When was the last time your club hosted a new member orientation? Once a year? Once a quarter? Never? What does your onboarding process look like for new members? Do you give them a pin and say good luck? Or do you have an intentional process for ensuring their success in Kiwanis?**

As club leaders, part of your role is to ensure that club members are set up for success in their Kiwanis journey. Sometimes this duty falls on the membership committee if you have one; other times it is the Board that needs to take this on. Either way, you should ensure that an orientation and onboarding procedure is held at least a few times a year – even when you have just one new member.

A strong new member orientation is not a one-and-done event; it is an onboarding process that lasts for a few months, or even longer. The first step is to ensure your new member feels welcome to the club. Host a formal member induction ceremony at a club meeting or special event – allow the club member to introduce themselves to the club, or better yet, have someone introduce them to the club.

There is a time to be informal and relaxed, and there are times to be formal. Member inductions should be a formal event – it is an important step to let the new member know they are valued, and that joining Kiwanis is a big deal, because it is!

Clubs should also prepare a packet of information to give the new member once they join. This packet can include club brochures, a calendar of events, and a schedule of meetings. Make sure that you don't just hand this information to them in passing; this is another opportunity to genuinely thank the new member for becoming a Kiwanian.

The next step is to hold an orientation session. This could be a one-on-one lunch with a seasoned member or an evening session with a few members of the Board and your new member(s). A group session works great if you have more than one new member join in a short period. The orientation presentation should give a complete overview of the club. Make sure to share information about the structure of Kiwanis (International, Districts, Regions, Divisions), the leadership structure, the SLPs that you sponsor (and spell out SLPs, acronyms are no fun for new members), any signature projects that you have, and a tentative calendar of regular events.

This session is not meant to overwhelm the new member, but it should provide information that they can refer back to when needed. If conducting a one-on-one session, provide the same information in a nice folder or binder and make sure the person hosting the one-on-one session is able to answer other questions that may come up. Ensure that there is plenty of time for questions in both the group setting or the one-on-one meeting. New members need to feel comfortable to ask questions and to share ideas. One of the quickest ways to lose a new member is to not be open to at least listening to their ideas.

Another step that many clubs forget or skip, is to assign the new member a mentor. This could be a formal mentoring process that the club has in place, or more of an informal mentor situation to periodically check-in with the new member. This mentor should sit with the new member at club meetings, check in once a month or so to see how they are doing, and be available to answer any questions





# Membership Momentum

## WHICH RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES WORK BEST FOR YOUR CLUB?

BY ALISA DICK

### Build. Nurture. Retain.

This is our shared commitment to Kiwanis as we work together to strengthen our existing clubs and create new ones.

It's no secret that our membership numbers have been challenging in recent times, but there's good news! Membership inquiries from Kiwanis International are steadily coming in, and I'm committed to quickly connecting these potential members with the appropriate Division LTG. Every inquiry is an opportunity to grow, and we don't want to miss a single one.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has submitted their club's Membership Plan. The Nov. 30 deadline has now passed, but if your plan isn't complete yet, it's not too late. Fitzhugh Dodson once said, "Goals that are not written down are just wishes." Let's move beyond wishes—let's make our goals a reality.

*(Alisa Dick, from the Kiwanis Club of Midlothian-Chesterfield, is currently the membership coordinator for the Capital District.)*

Remember, your LTG and the Membership Team are here to support you every step of the way. Be sure to utilize the Club Toolbox; it's packed with resources to help you succeed.

As you plan your next steps, consider which recruitment strategies developed by KI work best for your club:

- [Two for Two](#)
- [Club Boost](#)
- [Open House](#)
- [Guest Days](#)
- [reMember Campaign](#)

Or maybe all of them? Why not give it a try?

On behalf of the Membership Team, we wish you a joyous holiday season and continued success as we work together to grow Kiwanis.

that pop up. The mentor should be welcoming and knowledgeable and willing to take the time with the new member. This mentor should not be the Club President and does not even have to be a member of the Board.

It is important for new members to hear from others in the club to provide a different perspective and also to be available during meetings – since many times the President and Board members are buzzing around on meeting dates. The mentor should invite the new member to service projects and introduce them to other members of the club. A strong mentor can truly be the difference between the retention of a new member or the quick departure of said member.

Overall, your member onboarding process should be intentional and long lasting – at least throughout the first year of the new member joining the club. The responsibility does not fall only on the membership chair or the Club President; many club members should have a hand in a successful onboarding process.

Remember, we have all been new Kiwanians at least once in our lives! Be patient with your new club member and ensure that they feel valued as a member of the Kiwanis family. Who knows, this new member may end up serving as Club President, LTG, or even Governor! Just make sure you don't push them into those roles too soon. But that is a topic for another day.

*(Samantha Bosserman, from the Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro, continues as the 2024-25 Leadership Development & Education Coordinator for the Capital District.)*

# Around the CD

What follows is a compendium of news briefs regarding recent or upcoming happenings throughout the Capital District. Should you have an item you would like to share in a future issue of *The Capital Kiwanian*, please email it to: [editor@capitalkiwanis.org](mailto:editor@capitalkiwanis.org)

## Kiwanis celebrates centenarian's birthday

Winchester Kiwanian Doug Butler, who joined his club in 1949, turned 100 on Dec. 19. His club threw him a party the day before at its regular meeting. Doug has been featured in the *Kiwanis International* magazine and he also was highlighted in the *Capital Kiwanian* over this past summer.



## Speaking of 100...

### Cheri Hartman, UW Centennial Legacy of Impact Award

As part of United Way of Roanoke Valley's Centennial Gala Oct. 12, individuals and organizations whose exceptional contributions have shaped the future of the Roanoke, Virginia, community were recognized. A special award went to Kiwanis Club of Roanoke Past President Cheri Hartman.

The Centennial Legacy Awards celebrate trailblazing efforts, visionary leadership, and enduring generosity that have left a lasting impact on United Way and the Roanoke Valley.

The Centennial Legacy of Impact Award recognizes individuals whose pioneering spirit and transformative initiatives have redefined community impact. This award honors bold, innovative efforts that have left an enduring legacy of change.



Cheri has profoundly influenced youth programs and community health in the Roanoke Valley. As the founder of the Community Youth Program at St. John's Episcopal Church, and a

pioneer with Family Service's Teen Outreach Program, Cheri created a nurturing environment that has empowered countless children, providing a safe space for growth and development. Cheri's visionary leadership also played a key role in the creation of the Kiwanis Centennial Playground in 2020, an inclusive space that will benefit children and families for generations.

Cheri's influence extends beyond youth services—her groundbreaking work in establishing Carilion's office-based opioid treatment program has been pivotal in combating the opioid crisis, providing critical care and support to those in need. Moreover, Cheri's commitment to data-driven solutions, exemplified by her leadership in the 2024 Virginia ALICE Report, underscores her dedication to addressing the needs of vulnerable populations through informed, impactful strategies.

Cheri's innovative approach, tireless advocacy, and passion for transforming lives made her a truly deserving recipient of this award.

-- Submitted by Roanoke Kiwanian Chris Rouse

## Builders Begin New Year



The Stephen Decatur Middle School Builders Club (Maryland) began its new year with the installation of its new officers Nov. 7. Pictured are the Builders Club members, officers, teacher leaders and sponsoring Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City president and liaison.

The teachers who volunteer to assist the club are Mindy Ouelette and Kathy McDaniel. The Kiwanis Club members who did the installation of officers are President Bob Wolfing and Liaison to the Builders Club Sarah Walker. Also in attendance was A.J. Patton, the Stephen Decatur Kiwanis Key Club liaison to the Builders Club.

These young students are building character, learning how to become leaders, and how to give service to their school and community -- lots of work designed for a good outcome.

--Submitted by David Landes

## Pollinator Garden

It was a brilliant Saturday morning Oct. 26 when a hard-working crew of Kiwanis Club of Roanoke and Aktion Club volunteers showed up, rolled up their sleeves, and spruced up the Wildflower Pollinator Garden at the Kiwanis Nature Park.

The goal is to give the native plants the edge over the invasives, especially wire grass, so the natives can be dominant. Methods are natural interventions, removal, suppression, and planting more natives.

Neighborhood strengthening is one of the anticipated outcomes; we love seeing the area youth here as we did on Oct 14. An elderly couple was using our trail while my husband Dave and I watered plants one morning. My heart glowed. On Oct. 26 we saw some "critters" enjoying the garden. All of this underscores the guiding principle for this environmental sustainability work: interdependence. We all depend on and are affected by one another, critters great and small! I am grateful for our volunteers and am thankful our club adopted this signature project.

-- Submitted by Cheri Hartman

## Run for Veterans



The Kiwanis of Churchland (VA) was honored to participate in the Salute to Service 5K Run, a special event in recognition of Veterans Day dedicated to celebrating those who have served our great country. Churchland Kiwanis contributed by providing water to the participants during the race. The club was proud to collaborate with the Manor High School Key Club in this meaningful effort.

-- Submitted by Sonja Collier Owens

## Bethesda Veterans

A group of Bethesda (Maryland) Kiwanians honored "those who served" at Bethesda's 63rd annual Veterans Day Observance Nov. 11 at Veterans Park in the Woodmont Triangle. The ceremony was again hosted by the AR local chapter, alongside the Bethesda Urban Partnership and Kiwanis.

--From the Bethesda "Monday Morning Mini"

## Kiwanis Toy Drive "Thank You"

Every year in November, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ocean Pines-Ocean City (Maryland) holds a Toy & Coat Drive, collecting donations from club members, club funding and those residents of the most supportive and generous community.



Pictured are toy donations collected Nov. 20 which filled a large SUV to the brim and was delivered to Worcester GOLD. Two kids bikes were donated by a part-time Ocean Pines couple from Hagerstown, MD and a large delivery from an Ocean Pines couple filled about a third of the load. There were three, filled-to-the brim, carloads of coats collected and delivered to local organizations for distribution.

-- Submitted by David Landes

## Chester Kiwanis goes the extra mile

No one could have imagined the disastrous flooding that would come from Hurricane Helene to Southwest Virginia and the small town of Damascus on Sept. 28. Sitting at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, this picturesque area is known for its many hiking and biking trails. The Virginia Creeper Trail, Appalachian Trail and Mountain Trail are popular biking trails and each was decimated by the massive flooding and eliminated much of the income they brought to the area through tourism.

Although the Damascus population is small, about 800 people, the impact of the hurricane on residents' lives has been tremendous.

One of the Chester club's members was raised in that area and still has family members there. The stock market has been good to us and our club voted unanimously to send \$10,000 from the Kiwanis Club of Chester Foundation to provide needed assistance.

We are grateful that other clubs in our district have also agreed to provide needed assistance.

-- Submitted by the Kiwanis Club of Chester

# From the Kiwanis Children’s Fund

## INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT RETURNS TO OUR BACKYARD

BY PG JOHN TYNER

**This article details how the funds you and I donate to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund are being awarded to our Kiwanis clubs – and four Capital District clubs received awards this cycle!**

Kiwanis International staffer Erin Chandler reports to us that this August, the Kiwanis Children’s Fund awarded club grants to a remarkable 32 clubs serving communities around the world. Out of those projects, some of the most distinctive focused on the Kiwanis cause of youth leadership development by fostering young people’s creative independence. The following four projects exemplify different ways Kiwanis projects can guide the next generation on the path to becoming future leaders.

### **“CleanUP Community” by the Kiwanis Club of Craiova, Romania**

The Kiwanis Club of Craiova is addressing Romania’s struggles with waste management, especially recycling, by getting the next generation involved. A Kiwanis Children’s Fund grant will help purchase materials for seminars and workshops to educate kids from age six through 18 on environmental issues.

The grant also will go toward supplies for conservation activities in which local children can participate with other members of their community, such as recycling drives, cleanups and community gardens. The ultimate goal of the CleanUP Community project, though, is to give young people the means to become advocates and leaders, developing their own plans and strategies to improve waste management in their community.

Within a year, the club hopes its community youth teams will develop at least one implementable plan and be ready to promote sustainable development goals.

### **“Creativ in die Lehre mit Kunst (Creative Teaching with Art)” by the Kiwanis Club of Lavanttal, Austria**

A Kiwanis Children’s Fund grant will help the Kiwanis Club of Lavanttal purchase paints, brushes, canvas, ceramics and more to turn its community’s young people into artists.

The Kiwanians are collaborating with a vocational school and a local artist to provide art classes for teens, including those with disabilities. Culminating in a public art exhibit to show off the students’ creations, these classes will allow the students to explore their artistic sides — with club members helping the students place their sculptures and other artworks in parks, gardens and other public places.

### **“Let’s Play! Leadership Training Program” by the Kiwanis Club of Melbourne, Florida**

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Melbourne noticed a lack of local accessible and affordable child development programs that focused on mental health for kids and families alike — and they decided to change

that. Through the “Let’s Play!” program, the club will provide free programs at local libraries for kids ages 18 and younger and their caregivers.

The programs will promote creativity, innovation and collaboration through activities like open-ended play, art projects and storytelling sessions. After working together to complete their projects, participants will reflect on their experiences through dialogue, drawing and writing. A grant from the Kiwanis Children’s Fund will help the Melbourne Kiwanians produce “how-to” videos, presentations and manuals to help other Kiwanis clubs and communities replicate “Let’s Play!” The club hopes to guide young people and families, regardless of income, to value play as a way of reducing anxiety and increasing understanding of their own and others’ creative abilities.

### **“Lifewise Program” by the Kiwanis Club of Wapakoneta, Ohio**

The Kiwanis Club of Wapakoneta’s Lifewise Program is geared toward at-risk adolescents between the ages of 16 and 18 who may be aging out of the foster system, not attending traditional schools or involved in the judicial system. Through a weekly series of six three-hour courses, club members hope to help these vulnerable young people graduate high school and prepare for the next steps in their lives.

The courses will focus on basic cooking and cleaning skills, identifying risky situations, finding a job and achieving financial independence, basic auto knowledge, and dressing for success — with the sixth course serving as a

culmination of the program. A Kiwanis Children’s Fund grant will go toward meals for instructors and participants at each course, as well as supplies the students can use during the courses and then take home with them. The entire Lifewise Program wraps up with a graduation ceremony to celebrate the participants’ achievements.

## More health and education projects

Other projects that received club grants in August include:

- A weekend food program from the Kiwanis Club of Hilliard, Ohio, U.S.
- Mental health care kits from the Kiwanis Club of Park Ridge, Illinois, U.S.
- A program to honor most-improved third-grade students from the Kiwanis Club of Opelousas, Louisiana, U.S.
- After-school tutoring from the Kiwanis Club of Shan Hsin, Taiwan.
- An inclusive playground from the Kiwanis Club of Lapeer, Michigan, U.S., and a musical instrument playground from the Kiwanis Club of Sycamore, Illinois, U.S.
- A recreation hour for children in the hospital from the Kiwanis Club of Granada-Meta, Colombia.
- A high school herbal garden from the Kiwanis Club of Greater Portmore, St. Catherine, Jamaica.
- Renovation and repairs at Shady Grove Basic School from the Kiwanis Club of 23 Central Surrey Online, Jamaica.
- Children’s swimming lessons from the Kiwanis Club of Rockaways, New York, U.S.
- Miracle League of Montgomery County inclusive baseball training and recruitment from the Kiwanis Club of Bethesda, Maryland, U.S. (Capital District)

- 2024 Signature Project Contest Group II Bronze-winning project “Kiwanis Cares for Kids,” providing supplies and experiences to local school children from the Kiwanis Club of Gig Harbor, Washington, U.S.
- Clothing, school and essential supply projects from the Kiwanis Clubs of Brigham City, Utah, U.S.; Fostoria, Ohio, U.S.; Hagerstown, Maryland, U.S. (Capital District); Lenape Valley, New Jersey, U.S.; and North Shore, Long Island, New York, U.S.
- Holiday events from the Kiwanis Clubs of Bald Eagle and Nittany Valleys, Pennsylvania, U.S.; Petersburg, Virginia, U.S. (Capital District); Providenciales, Florida, U.S.; and Sierra Vista-San Pedro, Arizona, U.S.
- Literacy projects from the Kiwanis Clubs of East Lansing, Michigan, U.S.; Hickory, North Carolina, U.S.; Lauderdale Lakes, Florida, U.S.; Richmond, Virginia, U.S. (Capital District); The Rising Sun, Bahamas; and Siesta Key, Florida, U.S.

## How you can help

The Kiwanis Children’s Fund makes grants that improve the lives of children around the world by identifying projects that create a

continuum of impact in a child’s life — one that spans their entire childhood and sets them up for a bright future. Through The Possibility Project, the Children’s Fund ensures that its grantmaking has the greatest possible impact, supporting projects that target the Kiwanis causes — health and nutrition, education and literacy, and youth leadership development — whether through a Kiwanis club’s local service project or a club’s partner.

Learn how your club can [apply for a grant](#) to help kids in your community. If you are interested in extending your and your club’s impact beyond your community, [make a gift in support of The Possibility Project](#).

Here in the Capital District, please remember that your club’s annual gift, Project 365, Hixson Fellows and Diamonds, targeted fundraisers and charitable donations for end-of-year tax purposes go a long way to helping the world’s children. We must remind ourselves that our successful local health, nutrition and leadership development projects are carried out throughout the Kiwanis Family where clubs carefully utilize the grant funds awarded to them.

See you all at our Mid-year Conference in Cambridge, Maryland, Feb. 28 through March 2. In the meantime, comments and suggestions are welcome to me at [tyner@taliesan.com](mailto:tyner@taliesan.com).

*(Past Capital District Governor John Tyner currently serves as district chair for the Kiwanis Children’s Fund.)*



# Self Care

## DON'T FORGET TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

BY JENN HISCOCK

### Following a Season Where We Give So Much to Others, It is Important to Practice Our Own Self-care as Volunteers

October, November and December are often the busiest three months of our entire Kiwanis service year. On October 1, we hit the ground running all excited to ring in a new Kiwanis year, while starting to put all our new service and signature projects into motion.

November 1, we switch our efforts automatically to the Thanksgiving season when many clubs cook and/or serve dinners for those in their community or hold large donation drives for dinner supplies. Then we shift our efforts on December 1 to Salvation Army bell ringing, Toys for Tots drives, winter break food insecurity backpack packing, adopt a family, etc. Kiwanis members all seem to have a heart of gold! For three months that heart shines bright while members kick-off our year and take care of others, but during the October through December stretch, how much effort are you putting into taking care of yourself?

While it may be hard for many who are so strongly dedicated to volunteering to step back, until we do, many of us do not realize the toll that jam-packed schedules, late nights, early mornings, strong emotions associated with the holiday season, and the stress of planning each project have taken on us. There are probably many members who are already burnt out for this Kiwanis year, members who are exhausted from the marathon three months we just had, and members who are overwhelmed even thinking of the next nine months we still have to go.

Setting aside time for ourselves to practice self-care is essential to our well-being. As Kiwanians, we cannot sustain the pace we have all had during our first quarter of the 2024-2025

administrative year without a reset. While this does not mean that our work stops for a month for everyone to rest, it does mean that we must try to balance our needs with those of our community so that we can freshen our stamina, emotions, and outlook.

Here are three tips to help Kiwanis members practice self-care as we head into the new year:

- **Express Gratitude:** During the holiday season, many of us are too busy going from one service project to another to acknowledge all that we have in our lives to be grateful for. In January, a great way to start the new year is to write down one way you are grateful each day. If it is a person whom you are grateful for, reach out and let them know. While it feels good to be acknowledged, your body also creates dopamine when you engage in activities that make you feel good such as recognizing others. We all have so much to be grateful for and there is never a wrong time of the year to count our blessings.
- **Re-establish Routines:** In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, many forewent having a consistent bedtime to get an adequate amount of sleep; meals were often on the go; exercise was not prioritized over holiday service project planning needs; etc. Consistent routines allow us to have less stress which reduces cortisol levels in the brain, as well as tension within our muscles.

- **Implement the 3-2-1 Challenge:** This allows us all to make sure we are doing something for ourselves every day, no matter how big or small. Each day, this challenge encourages you to do three things for others such as engaging in Kiwanis or other volunteer-based efforts; two things for your family; and one thing for you daily. Too often, those who volunteer on a very consistent basis forget to take care of themselves as they just go, go, go, but even our batteries need to be recharged. No one is the Energizer Bunny as much as we all strive to be through our deeply dedicated volunteer efforts!

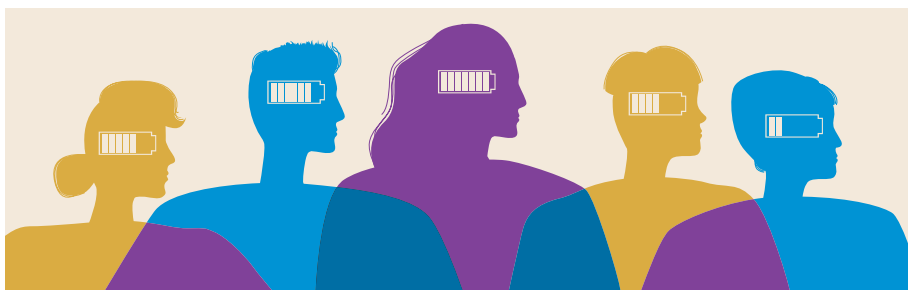
Other helpful tips to keep in mind to practice and sustain self-care include:

- Moving your body through exercise, a wonderful way to reduce stress tension;
- Getting out into nature as much as our cool temps allow to gain a fresh perspective;
- Planning ahead in order to eat healthier, as well as to intentionally taking meal breaks throughout the day, instead of always "eating on the go";
- Journaling, meditating, or taking time to practice mindfulness through an activity of your choice.

The difference we make within our communities as Kiwanians through our club's service efforts is immeasurable! We are the individuals who all come together during each service project to make our communities a better place for those in need; therefore, without us at our best, how would our communities be impacted?

Let these thoughts be what propels you to engage in self-care this new year.

*(Jenn Hiscock is the Capital District Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee Chair for 2024-25.)*





# Join Us for a New Club Opening!



Planning is underway for 2024-25 New Club Openings.  
We need dedicated Kiwanians like YOU!

- Bring Kiwanis to a community that needs it!
- No experience required, training will be provided.
- Learn recruitment skills to bring back to your home club.
- Help complete tasks from home, or join us for 1 to 3 days of recruitment and fellowship!
- Hotel will be provided for volunteers that are not local to the site.

Contact Jen Wolff to help us with an opening!  
[jen.wolff@capitalkiwanis.org](mailto:jen.wolff@capitalkiwanis.org)

# Service Showcase

## Starting a Signature Project: Building a Legacy of Service

BY CARRIE WAGNER

Every Kiwanis club has a unique opportunity to leave a lasting impact on their community by creating a Signature Project. These projects are not just another service activity—they are a reflection of your club's dedication and values, becoming something upon which your community can rely and celebrate.

With the **Capital District Signature Project Contest** coming in January, now is the time to start thinking about your club's potential signature project. Whether you're part of a new club or an established one, having a signature project offers incredible benefits and is easier to achieve than you might think.

### What is a Signature Project?

A Signature Project is a recurring service initiative that:

1. **Addresses a community need** in a unique or impactful way;
2. **Is identified with your Kiwanis club**, making it recognizable and associated with your club's name;
3. **Engages members and the community**, strengthening relationships and visibility.

Examples of signature projects include:

- **Playground Builds:** Creating spaces for children to play, like all-natural or accessible playgrounds.
- **Little Libraries:** Installing and maintaining small community libraries.
- **Annual Literacy Events:** Hosting book giveaways or reading events for local schools.
- **Community Festivals or Parades:** Organizing events that bring people together and showcase your club's involvement.
- **Youth Leadership Programs:** Partnering with schools to support leadership initiatives like Key Clubs or scholarships.

When planning a project, remember that Kids Need Kiwanis.

Creating projects that directly impact and change children's lives is at the heart of our mission.

### Benefits of a Signature Project

1. **Strengthened Community Presence:** A well-executed signature project positions your club as a leader in addressing key community needs;
2. **Increased Member Engagement:** Members take pride in recurring projects, fostering stronger bonds and a sense of accomplishment;
3. **Deeper Friendships and Connections:** Service creates a unique bond among members, fostering teamwork and stronger friendships as you work together to elevate service and impact. These connections extend into the community, building trust and collaboration;
4. **Attracting New Members and Partnerships:** A strong project showcases your club's impact, drawing interest from potential members and community partners;
5. **Opportunities for Grants and Sponsorships:** Signature projects often qualify for additional funding from organizations and businesses;
6. **Building Youth Leadership:** Collaborating with your sponsored Key Clubs not only enhances your project but also strengthens relationships and provides young leaders with a front-row seat to service in action;

### Preparing for the Contest

The **Capital District Signature Project Contest** in January is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your club's work. To ensure fairness, clubs will compete in one of two tiers based on membership size:

- **Tier 1:** Clubs with 27 or fewer members
- **Tier 2:** Clubs with 28 or more members

This structure ensures that smaller clubs have an equal chance to shine without competing against larger, more established clubs.



I encourage every club to enter the contest in January. Let's make this year a standout moment for the Capital District! It would be amazing to see double the entries, showcasing the strength and creativity of our clubs. Together, we can grow the contest and make a lasting impact across our communities.

When preparing for the contest, be ready to:

- Highlight your project's **impact on the community, especially on children's lives;**
- Share how it has **strengthened your club** and attracted support;
- Explain **what makes your project unique** and sustainable.

## How to Start Your Signature Project

1. **Identify a Community Need:** Engage with local schools, nonprofits, or city leaders to understand where your efforts can make the biggest difference;
2. **Involve Your Key Clubs:** Collaborate with the youth leaders your club sponsors. Not only can they assist with your project, but it also builds stronger relationships and allows them to learn leadership skills by watching your example;
3. **Start Small, Think Big:** Your project doesn't need to be elaborate from the start. Begin with manageable goals and expand over time;

4. **Plan for Sustainability:** Choose something your club can maintain or grow for years to come;
5. **Celebrate and Promote:** Share your success through social media, local news, and district communications. This builds excitement and community support.

## For Newer Clubs

If you're a newer club, don't feel overwhelmed. Start with a project that aligns with your enthusiasm and build from there. Utilize district resources, and don't hesitate to reach out to seasoned clubs for guidance.

Let's make this year's contest the best yet. Whether you're creating a new project or enhancing an existing one, this is your chance to showcase your club's commitment to service. Remember, **Kids Need Kiwanis**, and every project we create should strive to impact and change children's lives for the better.

As we work together, service in the community not only builds trust and impact but also deepens bonds among members. Let's strengthen our clubs and inspire those around us to join in elevating service in our communities.

If you have questions or need assistance, I'm here to help. Let's work together to inspire and uplift our communities and empower the next generation of leaders.

*(Carrie Wagner serves as president of the Kiwanis Club of Waynesboro.)*

# Risk Management

## Using Certificates of Insurance to Protect Your Club

BY APRIL GASSLER

Certificates of Insurance (COIs) can play an important role in protecting your Kiwanis Club and minimizing claims under the Kiwanis insurance program, which is funded by a portion of each Kiwanian's annual dues to Kiwanis International.

### What is a Certificate of Insurance? And why do you need one?

Simply put, it is proof of insurance. It is similar to your car insurance card, but for different types of insurance. It provides your Club and Kiwanis International with assurance that any outside person or company that your Club does business with has their own insurance to cover any injuries or damages they might cause while working with your Kiwanis Club.

For example, if a guest at a Kiwanis service project is injured when their foot is run over by an electric train ride operated by an outside vendor that was hired by the Kiwanis Club, that vendor should be responsible for any resulting injuries/damages. Similarly, if the Kiwanis Club rented an event space for a reception, and someone slipped and fell on a puddle of water from a leaking pipe, the owner of the event space should be responsible for any resulting injuries.

### When do you need a COI?

A local sponsoring Kiwanis Club should obtain a certificate of insurance from any contractor, promoter, or service provider (vendor) that is providing equipment or services to the Kiwanis

Club in connection with a Club event if that is something from which the vendor would ordinarily derive income as part of its normal business (even if the vendor is not charging the Kiwanis Club in connection with the event). Examples of a vendor might include:

- food preparation/catering
- rental of carnival games/rides
- rental of event space
- face painter/entertainer

These are just some examples. A good rule of thumb is that if there is a written or oral agreement between the Kiwanis Club and the vendor to provide any equipment or services in connection with a Club project or event, you need a certificate of insurance from that vendor.

### How do you obtain a COI?

Just ask for it in advance of your event. Most reputable vendors are accustomed to customers asking them for a COI in connection with their business activities. If you have a written contract with the vendor, you can add a requirement in the contract that the vendor provide a COI before the event date. If you are unsure of what to ask for, the **Kiwanis Club Insurance Resource Guide** has a form your Club can use to request a certificate of insurance from any outside vendor.

At a minimum, you should request that the COI name your Kiwanis Club and Kiwanis International as

the "Certificate Holder" and that your Kiwanis Club's event be listed in the "Description of Operations," including the date and location of your event and the equipment or services the vendor is providing.

### What should you do when you receive a COI?

When you receive the COI, you should review it to make sure that:

- The person or company you are doing business with is listed as an "Insured"
- They have "general liability" insurance with limits of at least \$1 million
- They have workers' compensation insurance covering the vendor's employees
- Your event falls within the effective dates of the insurance policies listed. (If a listed policy is due to expire before the date of your event, request an updated COI from the vendor showing that coverage is in effect on your event date.)
- Your Kiwanis Club's event is accurately noted in the "Description of Operations" and that your Kiwanis Club and Kiwanis International are both listed as the "Certificate Holder."

Once you have confirmed that the COI includes all of the necessary information, forward a copy of it to Kiwanis International at [riskmgmt@kiwanis.org](mailto:riskmgmt@kiwanis.org).

### Conclusion

Certificates of insurance give your Kiwanis Club and Kiwanis International the peace of mind that any outside

vendors your Club might work with have insurance coverage to pay for any damages the vendor might cause. Not only does this help ensure that Kiwanis is only doing business with reputable, insured vendors, but it also helps to minimize the risk that the Kiwanis insurance program might be called upon to pay for damages that were caused by an outside party. That helps to minimize any increases in the

premiums on the Kiwanis insurance program, and in turn, your Kiwanis International dues.

*(If you have any questions about certificates of insurance, do not hesitate to contact your District Risk Manager, April Gassler. She can be reached at 202-258-3730 or [agassler@stglawdc.com](mailto:agassler@stglawdc.com) April is a member of the Washington D.C. club.)*



## Teenager of the Year

### ISO: an outstanding young person who exemplifies service, spirit and courage

BY MARY ANTON

**This year's Teenager of the Year (ToY) competition kicked off Nov. 1 and will run through Jan. 31, 2025. There's plenty of time for applications to come in, but that won't happen without everyone's help.**

ToY is open to any students between the ages of 13 and 19 who currently reside in our five-state area -- DC, DE, MD, WV or VA. They do not need to be members of Builders Club or Key Club, but, of course, we want to encourage our SLPs to participate.

Also, you can spread the word through public and private schools in your area, with your neighbors, churches, home-school groups – anywhere that outstanding teens can be found.

The following criteria will be used in choosing a person who has:

- demonstrated a consistent and dedicated commitment to community service;
- demonstrated positive spirit, courage, academic achievement, generosity and high moral purpose;

- shown initiative, tenacity and unselfishness in pursuit of their community service efforts;
- accomplished something that inspired others to make a positive difference in their community; and
- made an impact beyond themselves that improved their community or the volunteer organization they support.

The Teenager of the Year for the Capital District will receive \$2,500, a trip to the Kiwanis Capital District Convention in Arlington next summer, an article in the *Capital Kiwanian*, and more!

All of us likely know some amazing young people. We're asking that each club in every division find at least one worthy teen for consideration, and encourage them to submit their applications by 5 p.m. on Jan. 31. More information and the submission link can be found at <https://k03.site.kiwanis.org/teenager-of-the-year>. Earlier is better, so those applications could start coming in immediately.

Please don't let this opportunity slip past teens in your area who deserve recognition for the impact they're having in their communities.

*(Mary Anton has served multiple terms as Division 8 Lt. Governor.)*

# Capital Record



## IN MEMORIAM

### Richard “Pip” Pippin 1945-2024

We were deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of longtime Chesapeake and Capital District Kiwanian Richard Alton “Pip” Pippin, Jr., 79. Pip was a beloved member of the Kiwanis Family, a proud Kiwanian for nearly half his life.

Pip passed away unexpectedly at his Southeast Virginia home during the early hours of Thursday, December 5, in the presence of his wife of nearly 40 years, Toni. Pip served Kiwanis faithfully for more than 37 years, as President of the Kiwanis Club of Chesapeake and also in many other significant Capital District roles – including Lt. Governor, Key Club Administrator, 2019 Capital District Convention Chairman and most recently Capital District Trustee of the Southeast Region.



In a Facebook tribute, Past Capital District Governor Jen Wolff referenced Pip’s aura: “It was an honor and a privilege to know Richard Pippin.... I will always remember with great fondness his quiet, gentle leadership – with a dash of dry, quick humor. As Governor, I could always count on Pip to help with whatever our team needed to support clubs.... He was very proud of his club and what they accomplished, and he was even more proud of his family!... Heaven has one more angel.”

Pip was a veteran of the United States Navy and had a distinguished career in banking, retiring from BB&T as a vice president with 35 years of service. Survivors include Toni, his son Christopher (wife Michelle), two step-daughters (Angela and Christal), 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. A public visitation was held Dec. 11 and funeral services were held Dec. 12. His graveside burial service will be at 1 p.m. Dec. 30 at the Abert G. Horton Jr. Memorial State Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk.

May all Kiwanians strive to impact others the way Pip did: with an enthusiastic, cheerful attitude of helping those in need, retaining humility every step of the way.

## Happy Anniversary

Organization dates

### December

Marion, VA .....	1922
Towson-Timonium, MD .....	1928
Westminster, MD.....	1931
Clintwood, VA .....	1937
Chincoteague, VA .....	1946
Loch Raven, MD.....	1950
Hampden-Midtown, Baltimore, MD ...	1952
Virginia Beach, VA.....	1954
Haymarket-Gainesville, VA .....	2022

### January

Huntington, WV .....	1919
Portsmouth, VA.....	1920
Lynchburg, VA.....	1920
Norton, VA .....	1921
Radford, VA.....	1923
Bridgeville, DE .....	1939
Bethesda, MD .....	1945
Blue Ridge, Winchester, VA .....	1990
Grafton, VA .....	1991
Downtown Hampton, VA.....	2009
Mathews, VA .....	2023

# CHRISTIANSBURG KIWANIS CELEBRATES ITS DIAMOND JUBILEE

BY ERNIE WADE

This past year, the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg celebrated its 75th anniversary of service to the local community and support of area children. As of early October, the Club had a net growth in membership of five members. The club currently has 83 members and is the largest club in Division 16 of the Capital District.

In addition to the financial support, the club members provided 3,405 hours of volunteer service to the local community, supporting many activities. The club continued to support the Key Club at Christiansburg High School, which had been inactive for several years. Thirty Kiwanis members had perfect meeting attendance for the year. One of our club members, Steve Simmons, currently serves as Lt. Governor of Division 16. Another, Bob Lewit, just completed his three-year term as Southwest Trustee. Our club selected Monty Thompson as the Kiwanian of the year. Most of the club's recurring programs are geared to support children in the community. Some of these programs include:

- The Head Start Backpack Program. Each Thursday, just before the club's weekly meeting, Kiwanis members meet at the Head Start building and pack up to 54 backpacks for the Head Start children. The school's meals program provides food for the children on weekdays, and the Kiwanis Backpack Program provides weekend food. Members procure, inventory, store food, and pack the bags to support this program.
- Two Walmart gift cards, each worth \$550 (\$500 from the Kiwanis Club and \$50 from Walmart), were provided to the seven schools in Christiansburg. These cards are used to buy needed clothing and school supplies for children who cannot afford to buy their own. Once the cards approach a low balance, the club replaces them upon request from the schools. Before this program was introduced, teachers and other staff members would often personally pay for needed items.
- Three \$1,500 college scholarships were awarded to Christiansburg High School students in support of their continuing education.
- A Christmas party for approximately 60 children is held annually. Normally the club and its members provide toys and clothing with Santa distributing both at the party. Food and drinks are provided for the children and their chaperones. Children who attend the party are selected by the Christiansburg teachers based upon need. With input from the children's parents, as to the needs and appropriate sizes, each club member takes a child's name and buys clothing. The club also funds toys from a want list supplied by the children's parents. This past year the total contributions from members and the club exceeded \$15,000.
- For children who cannot afford the fees to participate in sports at the Christiansburg Recreation Center and the Aquatic Center, Kiwanis covers the expense.



- The club provides annual support in the form of financing and volunteer assistance to Kiwanis Park where a five-acre expansion is underway.
- Other cash contributions, not mentioned above, were made to: Christiansburg Band Boosters (\$3,000); Agency on Aging (\$2,000); Intellectual Disabilities Agency of NRV (\$2,000); Sleep in Heavenly Peace (\$1,000); CHS Cheerleaders (\$2,000); MJAM (\$1,000); and other smaller donations.
- As a part of the club's outreach program to support local youth, a partnership exists with the Montgomery County Social Services to provide needed supplies to support those served by the agency.
- The club provided football programs for CHS and financial support to the CHS cheerleading squad.
- The club supplied labor and purchased prizes for the Town of Christiansburg's Annual Easter Egg Hunt.
- The club provided labor to the Montgomery Museum's Heritage Day event, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Town events, and others.
- This year the club donated \$1,000 to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and budgeted an additional \$4,000 for next year.
- The club provided hundreds of hours working with the volunteer-run Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program.
- With a donation of \$33,000 from one of the members, the Club set up an Endowment Fund which will grow and ensure the club's long-term survival.

Kiwanis is the promoter of the Wilderness Trail Festival, which is not only the Club's largest fund-raising project but the largest downtown event in Christiansburg. This event drew an estimated crowd of 8,000-10,000 attendees. This year's event had the largest number of vendors and the largest attendance of all time. Other sources of club income are derived from community fundraisers, donations, and grants. All such income goes into the service account and 100 percent is funneled back into the local community, with most going to support youth activities. All administrative costs, including meeting meals, are paid with members' dues.

*(Ernie Wade is a longtime member and leader of the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg.)*

# Eye on KI

Here is a summary of recent news and advice from Kiwanis International that can inform your members and help your club run more effectively and efficiently.

BY SARAH MORELAND

Let's take a look back at some of the Kiwanis family's biggest events and highlights this year.

Can you believe that 2024 is almost over? Before we pull out the party hats and noisemakers to usher in 2025, a quick review:

## More service and support

We wouldn't be Kiwanis without service to kids, and this year, clubs around the world continued to make communities near and far a better place. Just a few examples:

- The Kiwanis Club of Pakistan built a sustainable water source in a village in Sindh, where villagers previously traveled up to 12 miles for access to clean water.
- Members of the Kiwanis Club of Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo established psychological support programs for children traumatized by violence and natural disasters.
- The Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe, New Mexico, celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Burning of Zozobra with 65,000 people in attendance – and more than 1.5 million virtually – to raise money for several youth organizations.
- When students at McMillan Middle School in Florida qualified to compete at the World Robotics Championships, the Kiwanis Club of Miami sponsored 20 students to attend.
- Several clubs turned milestone anniversaries into opportunities for philanthropy, including the Kiwanis Club of Roseville, which commemorated 75 years with a combined donation of \$75,000 to 15 organizations in its California community.

## More collaboration

We achieve more together. That's why Kiwanis members once again teamed up for a week with Lions Clubs International, Optimist International and Rotary International for the fourth annual **Celebration Community**. Kiwanians around the world – from India and Mexico to the Philippines and the United States – participated, continuing a tradition for global service and unity.

## More possibilities

The Kiwanis Children's Fund launched The Possibility Project, the first fundraising campaign that solely supports Kiwanis and the children we serve. More than \$6 million has been raised so far – but there's still so much work to do to ensure kids everywhere are healthy, happy and successful. Past Capital District Governor John Tyner details our involvement in the Possibility Project on page 13 in this issue of the *Capital Kiwanian*.

Other highlights from the Children's Fund in 2024:

- Seven outstanding Key Club and CKI leaders received scholarships to continue their education. Students can apply through Feb. 1, 2025 for the next round of scholarships – including the new \$4,500 Wagner Family Scholarship for Key Club members.
- The second annual Kiwanis Day of Giving nearly doubled its initial goal, resulting in more than \$130,000 raised for the Children's Fund. That's enough to reach more than 57,000 children. Mark your calendars now: Kiwanis Day of Giving returns Feb. 25.
- UNICEF announced that Mali and Guinea are the latest countries to have achieved maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) elimination. The Children's Fund continued the Kiwanis family's support for the fight against MNT with a \$275,000 grant to UNICEF in July.

## More learning and leadership

Each year, Kiwanis members step up to lead their clubs, districts and the organization as a whole:

- At the 2024 Kiwanis International Convention in Denver, delegates elected Lee Kuan Yong of the Malaysia District as 2024-25 Kiwanis International president. Michael Mulhaul of the New Jersey District was elected to serve as president-elect, and Hope Markes of the Eastern Canada and Caribbean District was elected as vice president. Dawn Puderbaugh Hodges of the Carolinas District, Jo Schwartz of the Kansas District and Scott Sims of the Alabama District were also elected trustees for the United States and Pacific Canada Region.

Start planning for the 2025 Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh June 25-28, 2025.



- This year, nearly 600 Kiwanians representing 30 countries completed **Kiwanis Amplify**, our robust online leadership program featuring interactive modules on topics like communications, diversity and event planning. Registration for 2025 opens Jan. 6 at [kiwanis.org/amplify](https://kiwanis.org/amplify).
- Paul Palazzolo became the executive director of Kiwanis International after the retirement of Stan Soderstrom on Jan. 29, 2024. Palazzolo served as the 2009-10 Kiwanis International president and has visited the Capital District numerous times over the years. He first joined the Kiwanis family in the early 1980s when he joined the Key Club of Sacred Heart-Griffin High Schol in Springfield, Illinois.

## More student leadership development

The Kiwanis family consists of volunteers of all ages. Our Service Leadership Programs (SLPs) span elementary school through university and include a club of adults with disabilities (our Aktion clubs). Here are a few SLP highlights for 2024:

- Key Club International, our program for high school students, continues to grow – now exceeding 225,000 members worldwide. Key Club members continue to raise money for Start Strong: Zambia, a

fundraising campaign with UNICEF to support early childhood education in the southeastern African nation. As of November, members have raised almost \$200,000 for the campaign. At the 2024 Key Club International Convention in Atlanta, attendees developed their skills at leadership workshops and weaved mats out of recycled plastic bags for the host city’s unhoused population. During the convention, delegates elected David Robaina of the Southwest District as 2024-25 Key Club International president.

Key Club turns 100 on March 25.

- Circle K International, our program for university students, held its 2024 convention in Denver in tandem with the Kiwanis International convention. Delegates elected Taylor DiCicco of the Alabama District to serve as 2024-25 Circle K International president. Attendees participated in workshops about CKI projects and initiatives, including Brick x Brick, in partnership with UNICEF USA. CKI has, to date, raised more than \$130,000 for Brick x Brick, which supports sustainability, education and empowerment for families in the African nation of Cote d’Ivoire by building classrooms with recycled materials. CKI has raised enough money to build two classrooms.

CKI will again join Kiwanis in June 2025 for their concurrent conventions.



## HE MADE THE WORLD BETTER, SAFER FOR EVERYONE

BY BRIAN BELL AND JAN SWICORD



Colonel Herb Tiede, USMC (Ret.), passed away Sept. 5 in Woodbridge, VA. He was 94 years old. Herb was born in New Britain, CT. In high school, he excelled in math and sports. Herb enlisted in the Navy and attended Naval Academy Prep School for a year. At the Naval Academy, he was a good football player and a student with some proficiency in math and Russian. His notoriety, however, was more about his room's weight set and the local deli food section than academics.

Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a Marine Corps second lieutenant. With the Corps, Herb's first duty station was Korea where he patrolled the DMZ. Herb met his wife, Hazel, while both were working in Washington, D.C. They were married for 62 years. Herb excelled as a Marine, using his curiosity, enthusiasm, and persistence to solve problems and make the world better and safer for everyone.

Over his 30-year career, Herb learned Russian and French, and traveled to Garmisch, Germany; Headquarters, USMC; Baltimore; Okinawa; Quantico; Vietnam; Moscow (then part of the Soviet Union); Camp Lejeune; and Beirut.

As an intelligence officer, his work supported national defense and relationship building at strategic levels. He led a battalion of motor transport Marines and ignited his passion for having quality preventive maintenance and logistic products. In life, his goal was to prevent problems, fix what was broken, and keep learning, repeating the cycle as often as needed.

After the Marine Corps, Herb worked as a preventative maintenance specialist for a company that served factories and transportation systems around the U.S. He and Hazel continued touring the world, meeting new people, and making friends everywhere. Herb also remained active in community volunteer work, specifically with the Woodbridge Kiwanis.

Herb was very active in the club and served as club president in 1999-2000 and again in 2005-2006. He was extremely patriotic and dedicated to giving back to the community. He once made a personal donation of \$5,000 to Woodbridge Kiwanis club's foundation. Herb led the club's bell ringing efforts in support of the Salvation Army for many years. He also participated in the Peanut Day annual fundraiser covering several shifts at a local grocery store.

Herb chaired the club's Literacy Volunteers of America committee and personally taught English to the (husband and wife) owners of the Hunan D'Lite Restaurant. He started an Adopt-A-Highway project on the road to his local development, and he supplied the bags and litter grabbers for Kiwanians to use. At the end of the designated road section there was a Dunkin Donuts where Herb would buy everyone donuts for helping.

Herb always volunteered to lead the pledge of allegiance at club meetings, especially for Charter

Night Anniversary celebrations. Herb held strong views on many subjects and was willing to share them. He was a voracious reader, and he often brought articles to club meetings and provided impromptu programs on them. Herb and Hazel Tiede were quite a pair and fun to be around.

On his 80th birthday, Herb and Hazel hosted a party at the Montclair Country Club, where the club meets, complete with a balloon character maker. Herb proudly wore his balloon hat throughout the event.

During her year as Capital District Governor, Jen Wolff attended the club's annual Charter Night Anniversary celebration and sat next to Herb. Jen recalls, "Herb was a delight to sit with. I will never forget when he told me to take my vitamin C!" Herb will be greatly missed by those of us who knew and admired him, and especially for all that he contributed to the Woodbridge Kiwanis Club and the community.

Following services on Nov. 1, Herb was buried at Quantico National Cemetery. His family asked that memorial donations be directed to the Woodbridge Kiwanis Club Foundation, ATTN: Brian Bell, 4691 Fisherman's Cove, Montclair, VA 22025.

### ***Semper Fi, Herb!***

*(Brian Bell is a past governor of the Capital District. Jan Swicord is Herb Tiede's daughter.)*





# Kiwaniis

Announcing a new webinar series – Week of January 13 – Everyday at 1 p.m. Eastern

## HOSTING A MEMBERSHIP PARTY – FROM PLANNING TO CLEAN-UP

Hosting a membership event is like planning a party that requires meticulous organization, attention to detail, managing multiple tasks, marketing to guests, and ensuring a successful outcome within a set timeframe—all while considering the needs and preferences of your party attendees.

Whether you are conducting a club boost, hosting a guest day or open house, using Two For Two or implementing a reMember campaign, there are five vital components – planning, inviting, closing, following-up and analyzing.

Join us each day at 1 p.m. Eastern, January 13-17, for a 30-minute webinar that explores one of the five elements. The five sessions will be recorded and posted on the [Membership Leaders Facebook page](#). Not a member? Join now!

Each webinar has the same registration link – once you register, you can attend any or all the daily webinars.

**REGISTER**



### **Planning membership events**

Monday, January 13 – 1 p.m.

### **Inviting prospective members to belong to Kiwanis**

Tuesday, January 14 – 1 p.m.

### **From prospect to member – closing the deal**

Wednesday, January 15 – 1 p.m.

### **Follow-up is as important as pre-event planning**

Thursday, January 16 – 1 p.m.

### **Return on investment in recruiting**

Friday, January 17 – 1 p.m.

# the POSSIBILITY PROJECT



Every day, around the world, children are going hungry. Students are struggling to read. Potential leaders are lacking mentors. And even as Kiwanians serve them, the need continues to grow.

The good news: Through the Kiwanis Children's Fund, just US\$2.25 is enough to address the needs of one child. It's time to put our sense of what's possible into action — and help make the future better for 10 million children around the world.

## INTRODUCING THE POSSIBILITY PROJECT.

The \$25 million we raise together will support the mission of the Kiwanis Children's Fund, serving the kids, projects and programs of greatest need.

Three colored banners arranged horizontally. The first is yellow and features two smiling faces and the text "10 MILLION KIDS". The second is teal and features a stack of money and the text "US\$25 MILLION". The third is orange and features the Kiwanis International logo, the text "5 YEARS", and "October 2022-September 2028".

You're part of a global network — nearly 180,000 Kiwanis club members in 85 nations. Imagine the possibilities if we all come together to make a difference. That's what The Possibility Project is about. **It's the first fundraising campaign that solely supports Kiwanis clubs and the children we serve.** Kids need our help — every day, all around the world. Let's answer the call.

Three categories of support presented in a row, each with a title and an icon. "HEALTH &amp; NUTRITION" with a fruit basket icon. "EDUCATION &amp; LITERACY" with a stack of books icon. "YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT" with three Kiwanis logos (Builders Club, Key Club, K-Kids) icon.



Stay up to date online. And encourage members to do the same.  
[kiwanischildrensfund.org](http://kiwanischildrensfund.org)



**Kiwanis**  
CHILDREN'S FUND