

January 2024



Kiwanis®
OHIO DISTRICT

ohiokiwanis.org

THE BUCKEYE BULLETIN



**"Everybody can be
great... because
anybody can
serve."**

- Martin Luther King Jr.

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SUBMIT STORIES VIA:

<https://k20.site.kiwanis.org/article-content-submission/>



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DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Jason Miller



HELLO Mighty Ohio District!

January 2024. Wow. First of all, where did 2023 go? It seems like only a short time ago that we gearing up for a new Kiwanis year and looking forward to Thanksgiving. Now we find ourselves with three months of the administrative year gone. Hopefully the last three months have been fantastic for you and for your club. Perhaps you have completed meaningful service projects, taken part in memorable fellowship, or for some of you, you may have even chartered a new Service Leadership Program (SLP) in your community. For all of these reasons and more, I thank you for your hard work and commitment to the mission of Kiwanis International to improve the world, one child and one community at a time.

January marks the start of a new calendar year. While many will merely MAKE resolutions to better themselves in hopes of a prosperous year, many others will put ACTION behind those resolutions and truly improve themselves. This is a great time for Kiwanians and clubs to do the same for their Kiwanis involvement. After three months into this administrative year, how is your club doing on its' own goals? Are you on track to meet your membership goal for the year? Have you built that new SLP so that future leaders can experience what the Kiwanis Family has to offer? Are your service projects meaningful and making a true impact in your community? Perhaps you can answer yes to these questions and if so, I would encourage you to stay on that course for maximum impact in your community.

But, maybe, this would be a great time to re-evaluate the goals you have and determine if you are making progress. Perhaps your club and personal goals need a slight modification to ensure your success. Maybe you still do not have club goals and can work toward setting some now. There are nine months left in this administrative year. I can assure that time will go by faster that you realize. Tony Robbins tells us:

"Resolutions require only words. Results take action."

Ohio continued to show a net gain in membership in December. This means that the District has grown for two consecutive months. As we enter the wintery months, we cannot lose sight of bringing more members into our clubs. Now is a great time to ask a friend to join you at an upcoming meeting or service project. As we continue to evaluate our goals and look toward staying on track for the future, we must continue to ensure that our meetings are welcoming and inviting and that potential members will feel included and like they belong to our Kiwanis Family. At the end of the day, many new members will join the "experience" they have with your club and we must make sure that it worth their commitment.

I continue to be thankful for each and every Ohio Kiwanian and their determination to change our world for the better. Here is to an outstanding 2024 and beyond!

2023-24 DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

Governor Jason Miller
jmiller@ohiokiwanis.org

Imm. Past Governor David Kuhn
dmkuhn156@gmail.com

Governor-Elect Kelly Brown
kelly4kiwanis@gmail.com

Treasurer Steve Vrooman
vrooman@mac.com

Interim Secretary Ted Coons
executivedirector@ohiokiwanis.org



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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Jamie Kaufman, District Membership Coordinator

Ring in the New Year Right!

As we start the new calendar year and we each reflect on our personal goals and resolutions for 2024, it is a good time to think about where you are with your 2023-2024 Kiwanis Goals and Resolutions. Congratulations on finishing the first quarter of the year. But know, we have a lot of work yet to do. Chief among them, growing Kiwanis.

Reflect on the membership goals that you set and see how you are doing. Has your club grown in the past 90 days? Have you recruited a new member or two personally? Has your club launched a membership campaign such as Two for Two or completed the Club Analysis to see what your club might need to improve on?

If you haven't answered yes to all of these questions, don't worry. You are not alone and you have time to get started on any you've not completed. If you aren't meeting the goals you set for membership yet, consider the following things:

1. Appoint a Membership Chair (if you don't have one).
2. Reach out to your Lt. Governor for guidance.
3. Reach out to the Regional Membership Chairs
4. Ask for a Club Coach

These are just some of the options available to each of you.

During the second quarter, Bill Flinta, District Membership Vice Chair of Club Strengthening, and the Regional Membership Chairs will be hosting six Zoom meetings targeting clubs that have seen a multi-year decline in membership.

The calls will focus on a discussion on Kiwanis club membership trends and best practices for enhancing your club's membership growth plans including several growth tools the District has available to share with your club. Clubs will be invited to participate based on the club's recent membership figures or trends. We look forward to launching this proactive program in 2024.

Remember, the District Membership team is here to assist you. The goal for 2023-2024 is to end the year with a net positive District Membership. You are the key to getting Ohio Kiwanis on Track for the Future!

Our Regional Membership Team is:

Region 1 -- 1 N, 1 S, 12, 2 -- Steve Steinbruner

Region 3 -- 16, 17, 22, 26 -- Kip Crain

Region 5 -- 3, 4, 5, 6/7, 8 -- Judy Raub/Mark Haake

Region 2 -- 13, 14, 15, 24 -- Terry Mazone

Region 4 -- 11 N, 11 S, 10 E, 10 W, 10 S -- Ted Barrows

Region 6 -- 9, 18 -- Angie Cooper

These Regional leaders stand ready to assist clubs, divisions, and Lt. Governors with their membership and new club opening goals. Please call on your Regional Chairs as a resource. The entire team is ready to assist you with your membership goals. Let's plan for a net gain in every club this year!



WHAT'S THE BUZZ AROUND THE DISTRICT?

Our clubs throughout Ohio were busy in December. Here are just a few activities gleaned from social media posts the past few weeks. Post your good news at the district's official Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ohiokiwanis>

District K-Kids administrator Jennifer Lewis was recently involved with caroling at a local nursing home with some awesome K-Kids members. This is a great reminder to involve our Service Leadership Programs in our activities!



Kiwanis Club of Sandusky
1d · 🌐

Our club wrapped Sandusky Mall shoppers Christmas presents today for donations! It was a fun time... our Kiwanis elves were busy!! (Thank you 📍 Sandusky Mall for this fantastic opportunity!)



Marla Marsh
2d · 🌐



Marla Marsh is with Monica Marsh and 3 others at Woodside Cemetery & Arboretum.
2d · Middletown, OH · 🌐

Today the Kiwanis Club of Middletown participated in the national "Wreaths Across America" Memorial Ceremony.

This took place in over 3,700 cemeteries across the country at 12:00 Noon.

Sam Ashworth did a beautiful job from a historical standpoint. I believe 9 of the veterans were from the 54 Regiment (the Glory movie) and came from Butler County - some from Middletown!

The wreath is an unending circle representing an unending circle of commitment to this country.

There were so many participants and we don't intentionally want to leave anyone out. A special thanks to the [Kiwanis Club of Middletown, Ohio](#) members in attendance: Mary Dobrozsi, Steve Dobrozsi, Daniel Dobrozsi, Jennifer Dobrozsi (along with other family members), Beth Jones and Monica Marsh.

Bath-Richfield Kiwanis
21h · 🌐



Bath-Richfield Kiwanis
December 12 at 11:56 AM · 🌐

Our club adopted a family of four children through Summit County Children's Services for Christmas again this year. We purchased bikes and their wish list gifts. We assembled, wrapped, and delivered them! Once again meeting the Kiwanis' purpose to improve the world one child and one community at a time. This time 4 children!!





ODKF VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Begin your new year with ODKF!

By Mike Rudolph, Vice President, Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation

As we begin a new calendar year, we find ourselves planning for new beginnings, a clean slate of new ideas and possible projects in our communities and with our youth ... and the need to raise the funds to provide for these projects. Hopefully throughout our Kiwanis year we will complete successful fundraisers and raise the funds we need. But almost always we find that the projects and needs of our communities and our youth are greater and greater every year and our funds only go so far. If this is the situation you find your club in, I would suggest that you consider turning to your Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation for some assistance!

With two different grant programs and six unique grant cycles throughout the Kiwanis year, the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation is poised to help! With the Club & Community Grants program, offered with three grant cycles in the Kiwanis year, your club or a local community organization can apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 for programs and projects that satisfy the Kiwanis mission and vision.

With the Mini-grants program, offered with six grant cycles in the Kiwanis year, your club can apply for a matching grant of up to \$500 for programs and projects that satisfy the Kiwanis mission and vision.

Each of these grant programs are explained in more detail under the "Grants and Club Support" tab of the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation website at www.odkf.org along with the applications necessary for consideration of the request.

So far this Kiwanis year there have been three mini-grants approved that allowed for the following programs to continue:

1. North Olmsted – Kiwanis and Key Club Breakfast with Santa
2. Lancaster – help with an inclusive and sensory friendly gym for children
3. Tipp City – support for the Tipp City Schools backpack program



Our ODKF Grants committee has a number of grants ready to consider for our next grant cycle that has just ended and we look forward to announcing those grant recipients in an upcoming Buckeye Bulletin.

With funds to support Safe and Healthy Kids programs such as water safety, bike safety, fire safety, internet safety and mental health initiatives, Disaster Relief, as well as each of our signature Service Leadership Programs, coupled with the incredible and creative new programs your clubs begin, your Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation is here to serve you and your Club. **Support** your Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation, **Invest** in the future of your Club, your community and Kiwanis, and **Receive** funding to support your footprint in your community!





KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL SIGNATURE SERVICE PROJECT CONTEST NOW OPEN

Unveiling Excellence: Kiwanis International's Signature Project Contest

In the heart of every Kiwanis club lies a beacon of community impact, a testament to their unwavering commitment to make a difference – their signature project. From the laughter echoing in newly built playgrounds to the support extended at local festivals, these projects are the endeavors showcasing Kiwanis clubs' dedication to their communities.

In an exciting celebration of these transformative initiatives, Kiwanis International proudly presents the eighth annual Signature Project Recognition Program, which accepts submissions from January 2 to January 25, 2024.

This prestigious recognition program is divided into two categories: Group I for clubs with 27 members or fewer and Group II for clubs boasting 28 members or more. Each group will be assessed separately, with the top 10 finalists selected from each category.

Elevating the essence of accomplishment, the top three selections from each group will receive gold, silver, and bronze distinctions at the 2024 Kiwanis International Convention. Furthermore, these distinguished winners will receive \$2,000, \$1,500, and \$1,000, respectively.

The path to recognition requires clubs to submit their project details on their website. Go to <https://www.kiwanis.org/members/service-projects/signature-contest/>. You can also find the form by going to www.Kiwanis.org, selecting Members, Service Projects, and then 2024 Project Contest.

But what truly defines a signature project? These initiatives are recurring endeavors, encapsulating the essence of Kiwanis commitment. They enhance the club's image, have substantial impact on the community in terms of raised funds or children served, and fortify membership and partnership opportunities.

The contest begins on January 2, welcoming submissions until January 25, setting the stage for recognition of service excellence. The fervor, dedication, and community-centric ethos of Kiwanis clubs are shown in these signature projects. Please make sure to submit your club's project today!

Amanda Flaute

2023-2024 District Service Chair





RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO PROTECT YOUTH AND CLUB MEMBERS

Ronald Hyre,
District Risk Management & Youth Protection Chairman

Hello Kiwanis Friends!

I am your 2023/24 Risk Management and Youth Protection District Chair. If you have questions pertaining to these topics, please do not hesitate to contact me. I do currently have a pretty full schedule with work and family. Email typically will be the easiest way to reach me, or texting. Unfortunately, I am most likely unable to attend your club meetings in person, but will be happy to help as best I can and provide resources and information as needed.

Please remember a couple very important guidelines from Kiwanis...

- **Risk Management (Insurance)**

- KI has a large national group policy that all clubs' dues go toward
 - This is ONLY Liability Insurance, meaning NONE of your club's property (think food trailers, tents, signs, equipment, etc.) is covered for incurring damage. Your club would need to purchase a policy on its own. I typically recommend using one of your members who is an insurance agent. I am an insurance agent and can help answer questions.
 - This policy does NOT cover your cash/assets. For any reason. KI does offer an OPTIONAL Crime Policy
 - This helps cover assets (cash, bank accounts, etc.) from someone stealing, be it a club member, someone with access to checking accounts. It also can help toward Cyber Crime.
 - Clubs have been tricked by scammer emails and lost many thousands of dollars.
 - Link for more information on the optional policies from KI: <https://www.kiwanis.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/optional-insurance-guide-2023-24.pdf>
- What IS or is NOT covered... types of events, activities, etc.
 - VERY Important Information – please read through the guidelines
- Certificates of Insurance
 - Please ensure if you are hiring anyone, they provide you a COI.
 - Typically, you would want your club added to their policy as an Additional Insured
- There is a LOT more to review – but these are a few highlights.
 - See my attached presentation, along with the guide from Kiwanis
 - Online resource guide (also attached here): <https://www.kiwanis.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/club-insurance-resource-guide-2022-23.pdf>

- **Youth Protection Guidelines**

- Every club is required to complete the annual Youth Protection Guidelines training with their club
 - This shouldn't take more than 15 minutes – it's a great topic for a meeting, especially if you need to find a 'speaker'
 - There is no set 'rule' as to how this done... the important part is to ensure ALL your members have a copy of the guidelines, and understand them. (I have attached here.)
 - <https://www.kiwanis.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/YOUTH-PROTECTION-POLICIES-PROCEDURES.pdf>
- Once completed – all you need to do is simply 'check the box' in the Kiwanis Portal on the Secretary Dashboard page (it's below the section where you input your Board members)

- **Background Checks**

- These tie into both Risk Management and Youth Protection... KI has rules for both
- Here is a great resource/website with many FAQs answered
 - <https://www.kiwanis.org/who-we-are/youth-protection/ki-background-checks/>
- KI basically wants anyone that is in charge of SLP clubs, advisors to the Clubs, or on the District Board to have a background check done.
 - Many Clubs make it a standing practice to have their Board members all background checked.
- Your Club can setup an account to have the background checks directly invoice the Club instead of your members needing to pay and then your Club reimburse

I will send out emails every month or two with Club Secretaries who have still not completed the Youth Protection Guidelines or have required folks still needing a current background check. Thank you all for your service and help!



GOVERNOR'S TRAVELS

Pictures from around the District



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NEW CLUB ALERT

Welcome to the
Kiwanis K-Kids Club of
Kenwood Elementary School

Kiwanis Division 4

**Sponsor: Kiwanis
Club of Springfield**

**4th Annual
Berlin Heights
Kiwanis Club
Trivia Contest**

*When: Thurs. Jan. 25, 2024
Where: Berlin Heights Fire Hall—
Community Room
What: 10 rounds of great trivia, pizza,
pop & 30 chances to win door prizes
Cost: \$5 per person. Teams of 4-8
people.
Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Contest at 6pm
Reserve a table by calling 419-588-2600
All proceeds benefit Kiwanis projects in
the Berlin Heights community!*

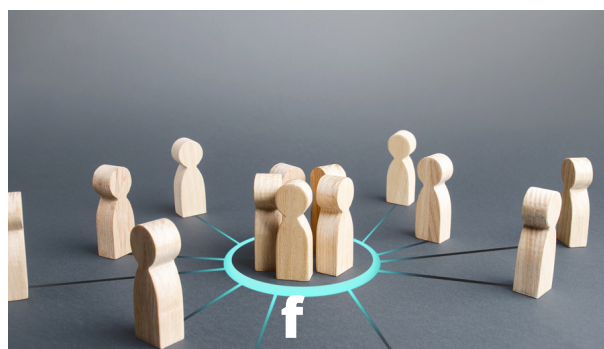




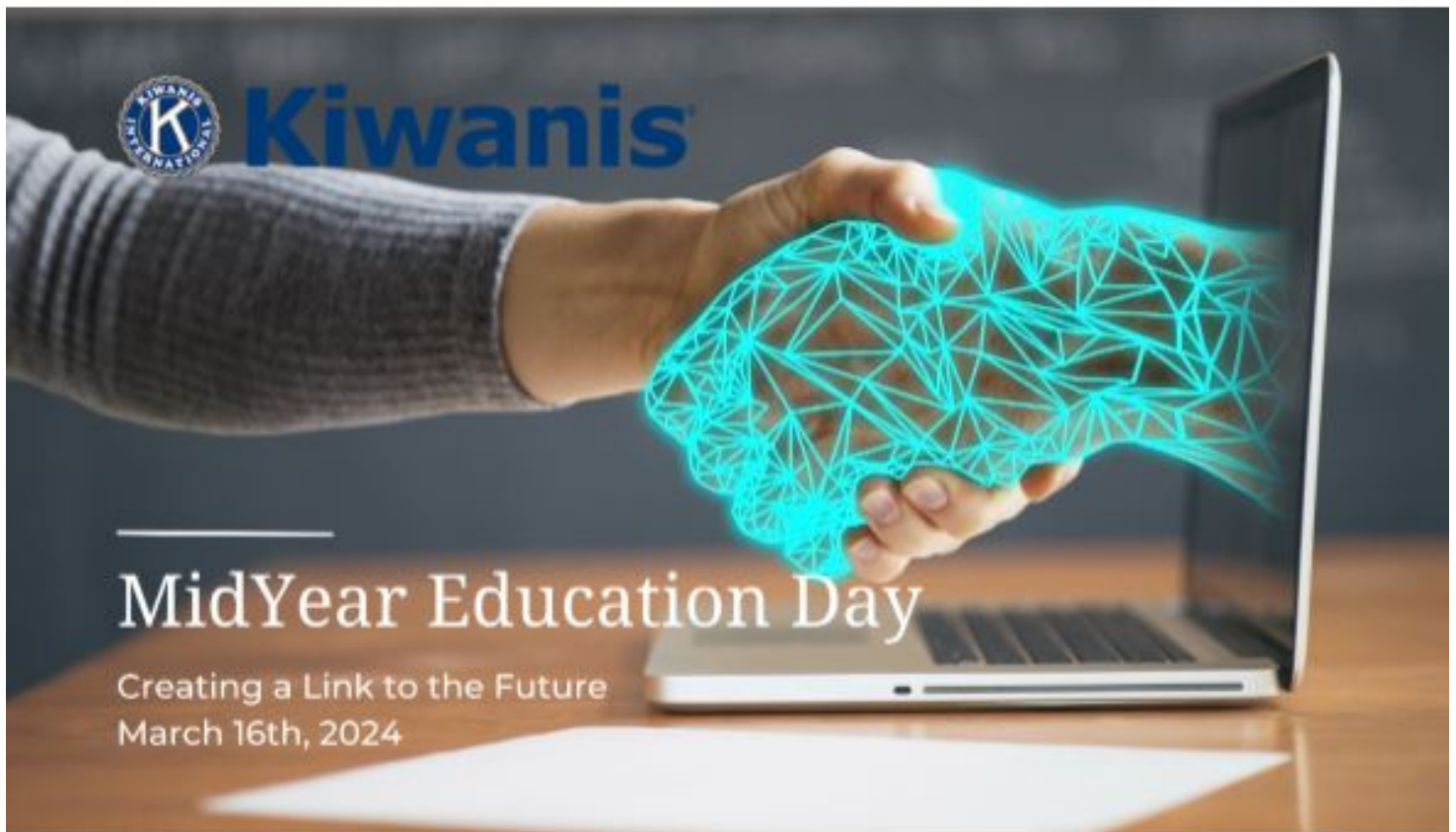
WELCOME TO OHIO KIWANIS!

NEW MEMBERS ADDED IN DECEMBER

New Member	Sponsor	Club Joined
Amy Droege	Anne Droege	Mason
Doug Droege	Joseph Hermann	Mason
Joseph Janosik	James Janosik	Willoughby
Jonathan Fox	James Janosik	Sunbury Big Walnut
	Eugene Linton	Sunbury Big Walnut
Megan Haynes	Denise Gawlik	Brecksville
Rose Drain	John Calderonello	Bowling Green
	Alice Calderonello	Bowling Green
Allison Upham	Robert Moon	Zanesville (Downtown)
Cory Langhals	Devin Ellerbrock	Ottawa
Jeff Schenian	Michael Cohen	Lexington
Bill Frankart	Sharon Rigby	Tiffin
Hannah Halfhill	Joan Miller	Lancaster
Kristina Yako	James Walkup	Cloverleaf Area
Dominic Wilson	James Walkup	Cloverleaf Area
Devin Zeisset	Catherine King	East Toledo-Oregon
Sharon Libby	Stephen Libby	Bowling Green
Charlean Grueter	Bob Luchsinger	Riverview-Delhi Hills, Cincinnati
Raymond Grueter	Bob Luchsinger	Riverview-Delhi Hills, Cincinnati
Donald Jenkins	Bob Luchsinger	Riverview-Delhi Hills, Cincinnati
Donald Jenkins	Albert Duebber	Riverview-Delhi Hills, Cincinnati
William Braman	Kenneth Finegan	Norton



Save the Date for Kiwanis MidYear Held Virtually March 16, 2024



MidYear Education Day

Creating a Link to the Future
March 16th, 2024

Be on the lookout for more information coming soon as Ohio Kiwanis works on creating a link to the future. Keynote speakers, specific workshop tracks facilitated by top-notch presenters from around the country and all from the comfort of your own home. Mark your calendars now for March 16th, 2024.



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PUBLIC RELATIONS MATTERS, FROM CLIFF WILTSHIRE, DISTRICT CHAIRMAN



Greetings, friends!

We Kiwanians are good at many things. Some are great at a few things. But one area most of us struggle with is tooting our own horns, sharing our good news, letting communities know about the fun and impactful service activities we are participating in throughout the year.

My goal as this year's Public Relations chairman is to help Ohio Kiwanians share news and information about their activities and service projects. People in our communities are hungry to make real in-person connections and many want to get involved but just don't know how. They need to hear from our clubs about how easy and fun it can be to make a positive difference in their neighborhoods and towns so they can join us in our mission to improve the world one child and one community at a time.

From traditional media to Facebook, Instagram and other social media channels, we now have many ways to connect with potential members. Regardless of the size of your club, every group should have a person and a plan in place to communicate your information with the public.

If I can support you in any way, please reach out to me by email at cliffwilt@yahoo.com or call or text me at 614-354-8491 and I will try to help you.

In case you're wondering, here's a little background on me. I am publisher and editor of two local publications in Central Ohio, starting them in 2017 after a 26-year career in community newspapers. I have read hundreds (thousands?) of press releases and published a whole lot of them. My newspaper career out of necessity required me to learn a lot about social media, although that continues to evolve quickly!

About 10 years ago, I joined the Kiwanis Club of Northern Columbus -- finally saying "Yes" to a member who had asked me many times throughout the years to attend a meeting. I was Key Club member back in high school in Stamford, CT., so joining Kiwanis felt very natural to me. I just finished two years as Lt. Gov. of Division 10-E and now serve as division treasurer.

I live in the Clintonville area of Columbus with my wife Carla. We have two grown children and three grandchildren all younger than 2. So, my interest in serving the youth of the community is moving into a new generation!

Yours in Service,

--Cliff



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AKTION CLUB MEMBERS & ADVISERS!

Some great news was shared by Aktion Club District Chairman Dick Brulotte as 2023 came to a close:

CONGRATULATIONS!

Here are the Ohio Distinguished and Honorable Aktion Clubs for 2022-23:

HONORABLE:

Allen County
Champaign County
Geauga County
Hiram, Ohio

DISTINGUISHED:

Columbiana County
Greenville, Ohio
Hancock County
Knox County
Licking County
Logan County
Medina County

The Community Aktion Club of Western Cuyahoga County

The Self Advocates (Not sure which club this is -- if you as the advisor identified your club that way, please let me know. Thanks)



Also, here are the Ohio Winners for KI's 2022-23 Aktion Club Awards:

Non-Digital Poster -- 2nd Place -- Kim McClain, Licking County Aktion Club

Speech -- 2nd Place -- Jennifer Dietrich -- Hancock County Aktion Club

Club Video -- 1st Place -- Hancock County Aktion Club

Non-Digital Scrapbook -- 2nd Place -- Licking County Aktion Club

Congratulations Everyone!



NEWS FROM THE KIWANIS CHILDREN'S FUND



Kiwanis Children's Fund Ambassador in Europe, Bernard Altman of Luxembourg, shared that this year 5,000 Christmas bags with smaller sponsored gifts were distributed by volunteer partners to kids in Ukraine, and also to Ukrainian refugee kids living, without parents in Romania. Children that would have had nothing this holiday season got a small treat and parents in desperation received a little bit of hope. The Kiwanis Children's Fund supports Kiwanis projects all over the world.

Be a Friend of Kiwanis Children's Fund and help Kiwanians improve the world one child and one community at a time



“FRIEND” OF KIWANIS CHILDREN'S FUND: SUPPORTING KIWANIS IMPACT & KIWANIS CHILDREN'S FUND MISSION

WE ALL HAVE A PART IN SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN ALL OVER THE WORLD. THE KIWANIS CHILDREN'S FUND HELPS TO AMPLIFY YOUR IMPACT AND TO IDENTIFY AND SUPPORT MEANINGFUL WORK OF KIWANIAN'S ALL OVER THE WORLD. SO I INVITE YOU TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN'S FUND AS A “FRIEND”. ANYONE CAN BE A FRIEND, WHETHER YOU ARE A KIWANIAN, AN SLP, A FORMER SLP, A COMMUNITY MEMBER, A SUPPORTER OF OUR KIWANIS MISSION IN ANY WAY WITH A DONATION OF \$100 OR MORE.

LINK: FRIENDS OF KIWANIS CHILDREN'S FUND



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OHIO KIWANIS JOB POSTINGS

Ohio District Kiwanis Job Posting Announcement

At the most recent meeting of the Ohio District of the Kiwanis board, two new position descriptions were approved for distribution.

Approval came after much discussion about the current role and workload of the district secretary/executive director. As a result of this discourse, and to better meet the needs of the Ohio District of Kiwanis, the board took the following actions:

First, more tasks have been assigned to the district treasurer including the oversight of a third-party bookkeeper who will facilitate basic accounting journal entries and other financial related tasks. Secondly, a new position is being created -- the district events coordinator -- who will facilitate all Ohio Kiwanis family events while partnering with current standing events committees and service leadership programs.

Finally, by removing a lot of the financial- and events-related tasks, the role of district secretary, while still performing some administrative tasks, will be enabled to provide greater support to the clubs of the Ohio Kiwanis family.

Both of these positions are part time and will be employed by the Ohio District of Kiwanis as 1099 contracted employees. Hours for both positions will vary from week to week, with increased hours closer to district events. Both positions will work remotely.

Full position descriptions can be found here:

<https://k20.site.kiwanis.org/ohio-district-kiwanis-job-postings/>

Please submit your resume to ohiokiwanisemployment@gmail.com.

