

Nov.-Dec. 2024



**Kiwanis**  
OHIO DISTRICT

ohiokiwanis.org

# THE BUCKEYE BULLETIN



*As we share our gratitude this  
Thanksgiving for our bounty, be sure  
to thank a farmer -- as well as our  
pollinator friends!*

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## SUBMIT STORIES VIA:

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



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# The passing of our good friend Faith

*By Gov. Kelly Brown*

It is surreal for me to write these words and share that Past Governor Faith Levine has passed away. She left this world on Wednesday, Nov. 6, at age 71 when she succumbed to a brief battle with cancer.

Many Kiwanians were blessed to visit with Faith during her final weeks. Governor-Elect Marcia and I visited with her twice. During the first visit, she was her usual happy self. The second visit, just two weeks later, was so heartbreaking as she had quickly declined. We gave her a box of chocolates but sadly realized she would not be able to eat them. We said goodbye, knowing it meant goodbye forever. It was a tough visit, but you do what is tough to comfort a member of the K-family. It's the Kiwanis way.

Faith was an amazing woman and incredible Kiwanian. She was a beacon of light who lit up the room with her smile. She had a great passion for the well-being of children and a heart for service. She battled an array of health issues which would have defeated a lesser person, but not Faith. She maintained her independence and many a time refused my offer to fetch a plate of food or carry her things. That's Faith.

She was a great friend and mentor to me and was influential in my journey to serve as Governor. She gave me a gentle nudge with a jovial wink and a smile as she encouraged me to lead the district. I am eternally grateful for that. I know there are countless others in Ohio Kiwanis who were influenced by her keen guidance and joyful spirit.

In true Faith style, she laid out her final arrangements to Past Governor Craig Smith just a few days before she passed.

In a conversation with Past Governor Craig Wallace after her death, I was expressing my sadness at her loss. Craig reassured me Faith is in a better place and organizing Kiwanis clubs in Heaven. A well-needed laugh followed, and I agreed, "Yes, she is for sure creating Kiwanis Angel clubs!" More to follow on that initiative ...

Faith was a member of the Dublin Club and served as Ohio District Governor in 2018-19. She was Lieutenant Governor of Division 10W in 2009-2010.

Please keep Faith's family in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. She leaves behind her daughter, Lisa, and son-in-law, Chip, who live in California along with her little grandson, Caden, who was the light of her life. She is also survived by her sister Debbie and niece, Kristin.

Her Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. at Amelita Mirolo Barn, 4395 Carriage Hill Lane in Columbus. All are welcome.

Our Kiwanis family will not be the same without her.



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**Kiwanis**  
OHIO DISTRICT

# Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation Report

Your Ohio District Foundation Givings and Grants Opportunities!

Please find below the many opportunities that our Clubs have to both support the Foundation and recognize key members of your Club, as well as acquire grants to help “extend” the reach of your Clubs in your communities!

## Giving

### 1) Annual Birthday Gift

- \$3.00 per Club member
- Discuss with Club to make this an annual part of their Strategic Plan

### 2) Legion of Honor

- Kiwanis award for 25 years of membership, and every 5 years thereafter
- \$5.00 for each year of service as a contribution to ODKF.
- Plaque and pin

### 3) Club Leadership Award

- \$100.00 contribution to ODKF to honor a remarkable Kiwanis Club member
- Plaque and pin

### 4) Past International Presidents Award

- \$500.00 contribution to ODKF to further honor a remarkable Kiwanis Club member
- Plaque, pin and medallion on a ribbon

### 5) Schneider, Williams, Sellers and Penn Awards

- \$1000.00 contribution to ODKF to even further honor a remarkable Kiwanis Club member
- Plaque and medallion on a ribbon

### 6) Governor’s Project – “Bee A Hero” Funding

- Club contributions at The Governor’s Visit to your Divisions
- Club contributions from special fundraisers and projects



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### **Grants**

#### **1) Children and Community Grants**

- Up to a maximum of \$3000.00 for Club and Kiwanis organization projects
- Application process
- 3 grant cycles – see the ODKF website at [www.odkf.org](http://www.odkf.org) for dates and applications

#### **2) Mini-grants**

- Up to \$500.00 for Club and Kiwanis organization projects with a Kiwanis Club match
- Application process
- 6 grants cycles – see the ODKF website at [www.odkf.org](http://www.odkf.org) for dates and applications

#### **3) “Bee A Hero” Grants**

- Up to a \$100.00 grant for Club and Kiwanis organizations to support the Governor’s Project in building pollinator gardens and other wildflower gardens
- Application process
- 6 grant cycles - see the ODKF website at [www.odkf.org](http://www.odkf.org) for dates and applications

Additional opportunities with the ODKF Bike Helmet program, license plate program and Club Advised Fund programs. Please see these opportunities on the ODKF website at [www.odkf.org](http://www.odkf.org).

Please reach out to your local Division LTG, our Ohio District office or utilize our website listed above for any questions you may have. Your ODKF is here to be a resource for you!

Yours in Service!

Mike Rudolph

2024-2025 ODKF Presiden





## News from our CKI family

Hello and Happy November!

It's a busy time of the year for our organization! Early Bird Dues were due Nov. 1, with the final deadline of Dec. 1. With the holiday season starting, our clubs are planning some fantastic projects to give back to their communities.

Now is the time to start building Kiwanis Family Relations by interacting with the other branches of our organization. As your clubs plan events for the year, I want to encourage you to share those opportunities with your Kiwanis Clubs and local Service Leadership Programs like Key Club, Aktion Club, Builder's Club, and more!

By Ohio District Governor Neha Pasupuleti,  
[governor@ohiocki.org](mailto:governor@ohiocki.org)



## Inspiration or Invocation

By Monica Marsh (DEIB Chair) & Marla Marsh (Member of the DEIB committee)

Before each Kiwanis meeting and at the closing of special occasions, it was customary in our club for a designated member to offer an invocation and benediction (where applicable). I became the “go to” person to offer such prayers. While I was comfortable in this role, as a person who grew up in the church, I often felt awkward, conflicted if you will, from a DEIB standpoint.

If I am really trying to always “appreciate the difference that difference makes,” I need to think about others who could possibly be in the room, who didn’t say a prayer in the same manner as me. Perhaps they weren’t comfortable in saying or hearing prayers at all.

I began thinking that if I wanted to make our meetings more inclusive so people could truly feel like they belonged, I needed to change my lens. I needed to make it an opportunity to offer a moment of inspiration vs. an invocation.

I decided that giving an invocation was not the route to take. No matter how religiously inclusive I could make it, it would still be inappropriate. I was no longer comfortable delivering something that might make others uncomfortable at a Kiwanis function.

I immediately took out my laptop and put together some secular moments of inspiration and closings that I continue to use today. I typically ask for people to “Be reverent in a manner which they elect” or, “Let us pause for a moment.” I wanted to write something that would express the same sentiment that would be behind a prayer without it being religious in any way.

Benedictions (now Closings) are viewed more as a “thank you” for attending the meeting, hopefully making people feel welcomed for coming. In this work, I don’t want to intentionally frame situations to be “divisive and unwelcoming.”

I am pleased with the slight but significant changes we’ve made in our daily rituals. We recognize our diversity in beliefs, values and faith traditions (or lack thereof) and honor our unity in gratitude.

If you would like a copy of our secular moments of inspirations and closings, please contact us at [monicamarsh1@aol.co.uk](mailto:monicamarsh1@aol.co.uk) or [marlamarlamarsh@aol.com](mailto:marlamarlamarsh@aol.com).





## GOVERNOR'S TRAVELS

Pictures from throughout the District! Gov. Kelly has been one busy bee as our Kiwanis year begins!



Judy Raub is at The Ohio Union at The Ohio State University.  
a day ago · Columbus, OH · 🌐

Me, Gabby, Key Club Lt. Governor Maddox, Key Club Governor Olufemi, President Haley and Kiwanis Governor [Kelly Kuhlman Brown](#).



Amy Zimmerman is with Kelly Kuhlman Brown and 15 others.  
6 days ago · 🌐

Kiwanis Governor [Kelly Kuhlman Brown](#) visit to Southwest Ohio Kiwanis division/clubs! Thank you for your inspiring words Kelly! For a wonderful evening organized by [Judy Raub](#), [Wayne Stein](#) and [Mark Haake](#)! Great to hear from [Michael A Rudolph](#). #KidsNeedKiwanis #serviceA2Z





# Kiwanians support Hearts for Music

By Tom Bollenbacher

Hearts for Music Inc, is a non-profit based in Mantua, Ohio, which provides under-represented individuals with disabilities and special needs, unique opportunities for ensemble music performance.

The music ensemble features individuals ages 5 all the way to 70, and the widest range of disabilities ever showcased on stage. It aims to demonstrate that music combined with love can truly transform disabilities into abilities.



Hearts for Music is proud to feature one of the largest gatherings of special needs individuals in a performance setting. Its focus is demonstrating “love thy neighbor” to the extreme limit and that the joy of music performance is available to all regardless of age or the severity of their disability.

An invitation has been extended to Hearts for Music from the Vatican to come and perform in St Peter’s Square in Rome April 29, 2025, during the Feast of St Catherine of Sienna.

There it will perform with several other Italians with disabilities thus creating for the first time ever, one of the largest multi-national, multi-ethnic, multi-disability music ensemble groups to perform music on a shared stage.

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Kiwanis has been involved with Hearts for Music since its inception. Hearts For Music's very first donation of \$500.00 came from the Western Reserve Club in Hiram in 2016.

Currently the Newton Falls Kiwanis Club in Northeast Ohio has donated to Hearts for Music and is helping sponsor the group for an Ohio Foundation Grant as well as helping with fundraising for the Rome performance. Hearts For Music together with Newton Falls Kiwanis, desire to galvanize support from both local and international Kiwanis Clubs in assisting Hearts for Music special needs musicians travel to Rome for its historic performance at St Peter's Square."

Recently, Hearts for Music and Kiwanis approached United Airlines, and it is now approved for UA's "Miles on a Mission" program. The campaign and ability to receive donated miles is anticipated to be live on the United "Miles on a Mission" website by mid-November.

A maximum of 5 million miles can be donated, which is the amount needed to send this group to Rome in April 2025. Forty-three people including performers, their caregivers along with medical personnel including nurses, paramedics and EMTs will make this historic journey.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Tom Bollenbacher, Kiwanis of Newton Falls, Ohio at [tbollen@windstream.net](mailto:tbollen@windstream.net). Those wishing to donate United air miles will receive a link to United's "Miles on a Mission" site for Hearts for Music Inc. when it is ready.

For more information, visit the web site <https://www.heartsformusic.org/>.



# WHAT'S THE BUZZ THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT?

We have scoured the posts of **Facebook** to see what Ohio Kiwanis clubs have been up to this past month. Follow the **Ohio District Kiwanis Page**, and join the **Ohio District Kiwanis Group**, to see more and add your activities!



# **All Kiwanians can support newest Kiwanis Club**

**Calling all Kiwanis Members!**

**If you are looking for Kiwanis Apparel for a good deal, and also supports an Ohio Kiwanis club, this is the T-shirt sale for you.**

**Kiwanis Connected Club is a newly chartered E-Kiwanis Club in the Ohio District that is made up of former Servant Leadership Programs (SLP) members.**

**We are selling multiple different designs of shirts, sweatshirts, polos, long-sleeve shirts and quarter zips and a portion of each sale goes directly back to our club so we can have more of an impact on the communities around us! The google form (below) has links and pictures to view all the different apparel for sale.**



**[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMW61nCSp1RM9TnBllpfm3kNNuDXfHZRphhP2\\_1sgcJ12myQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMW61nCSp1RM9TnBllpfm3kNNuDXfHZRphhP2_1sgcJ12myQ/viewform)**

**If you have any questions, please email [kiwanisconnectedclub@gmail.com](mailto:kiwanisconnectedclub@gmail.com). Thank you!**

**Thank you,  
Hannah Riley  
2024-25 Ohio District Service Chair  
2024-25 Kiwanis Connected Club Secretary**





**It's not too early to plan for convention!**

**Registration is now open for the 2025 Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.**

**This year, Kiwanis International is giving you more time to plan for the biggest and most important Kiwanis event of the year. You'll be part of an event that can help you transform your club and its impact on your community. Explore the ways the Kiwanis International convention can help you forge the future — for your club and for our worldwide organization.**

**For more information and to register, visit  
[https://www.kiwanis.org/members/  
kiwanis-international-convention-pittsburgh/](https://www.kiwanis.org/members/kiwanis-international-convention-pittsburgh/)**



## **Club grants are providing possibilities**

**The Possibility Project continues!**

**The new fundraising campaign is the first that solely supports Kiwanis and the children we serve.**

**When you give, you help the Kiwanis Children's Fund reach its \$25 million goal — enough to serve 10 million kids around the world. You also make an impact in children's lives now by funding Children's Fund grants that help Kiwanis clubs serve kids.**

**See some inspiring examples — and how grants have made them possible -- at the web site**

**<https://www.kiwanis.org/category/kiwanis-childrens-fund/>**

# Bucyrus Club makes a big splash!

The Bucyrus Kiwanis Club is proud to highlight the many accomplishments and initiatives we've led over the past three years, showcasing our unwavering commitment to building a stronger, healthier, and more vibrant community. From major local infrastructure projects to unique fundraisers and supporting youth programs, Bucyrus Kiwanis continues to exemplify the spirit of service.

## Splash Pad Success: Paying It Off Early Through Community Fundraisers

One of our most significant achievements has been the completion of the Bucyrus Splash Pad, a project that has transformed our local park into a hub of family-friendly fun. We are especially proud to announce that thanks to the incredible support from our community and our creative fundraising efforts, we were able to pay off the splash pad a full year ahead of schedule.

Our efforts to raise funds for the splash pad have included:

**Meat and Freezer Raffle:** A community favorite that brought together participants for a chance to win valuable prizes while supporting the splash pad.

**Annual Chicken BBQs:** Continuing a longstanding Kiwanis tradition, these events have brought locals together for great food while raising crucial funds.

**Golf Cart Raffle:** An exciting raffle event that offered the chance to win a golf cart, which drove significant interest and support.

**Toilet Fundraiser:** In one of our more humorous and creative fundraising efforts, community members could "gift" a Kiwanis toilet to a friend's yard, encouraging donations to have it removed.

In addition to our successful splash pad initiative, Bucyrus Kiwanis has remained deeply involved in various community-focused efforts. One such initiative was our Bench Fundraiser, where we partnered with community members to add beautiful, custom benches around the splash pad. These benches serve as a lasting symbol of our dedication to improving public spaces while honoring individuals and families who supported this unique project.

Each year, our members also come together to ring the bell for the Salvation Army, continuing our tradition of helping those in need during the holiday season. This initiative allows us to contribute to important causes while connecting with the community and encouraging a spirit of giving.

Bucyrus Kiwanis is proud to have a booth at the local county fair, where we engage with residents, share information about our projects, and recruit new members. The fair is a great opportunity to showcase our work and inspire others to join in making a difference.



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Our efforts have not gone unnoticed. In 2023, Bucyrus Kiwanis was honored to receive the Organization of the Year Award, a testament to our hard work and dedication. Additionally, our very own President, Kate Volk, was named Volunteer of the Year for her tireless efforts in both Kiwanis and the community. These recognitions reflect the passion and commitment that drive our members to continuously serve and uplift Bucyrus.

These fundraising efforts underscore our club's commitment to community involvement and innovation, allowing us to give back to Bucyrus in a meaningful way while bringing a bit of fun to the process.

#### More Than Just Fundraising: Community Engagement

Beyond paying off the splash pad, Bucyrus Kiwanis has continued to play an active role in supporting local initiatives and fostering a spirit of service. During the past three years, our efforts have included:

**Annual Golf Outing:** Our popular event bringing together businesses and residents to support Kiwanis programs and services.

**Youth Scholarships and Education Support:** We have awarded scholarships to local students, helping them further their education and achieve their goals.

**Community Beautification Projects:** Our members have volunteered their time to improve public spaces throughout Bucyrus, adding to the overall pride of our city.

**Collaborative Partnerships:** We've worked alongside schools, nonprofits, and local businesses to ensure that our efforts meet the unique needs of our community.

#### **Looking to the Future**

As we reflect on these accomplishments, Bucyrus Kiwanis is energized to continue our mission of serving the children of the world, starting with our own community. We remain committed to creating lasting positive change and invite new members to join us in making Bucyrus the best it can be.

For more information on how to get involved or support our initiatives, visit our website at [BucyrusKiwanis.org](http://BucyrusKiwanis.org).

Contact: Kate Volk, President, Bucyrus Kiwanis  
[bucyrusohkiwanis@gmail.com](mailto:bucyrusohkiwanis@gmail.com)

## Seasonal tips for our pollinators:

Happy Fall! Now what? We are getting into the dormant growing period here in Ohio, here are some things you can do during this season with the Governor's Pollinator Project...

- It's cold outside so a great time to plan a pollinator project – reach out to a business, community organization, School, library, or Parks and recreation. Start a new garden, a collaboration or expansion of an existing garden.
- Work with your SLP's on a pollinator project. Support a project at one of your schools. There is an array of bee and pollinator curriculum available online – great for viewing during the cold months. Students can sow seeds indoors over the winter then plant the seedlings in the spring; it creates an indoor living lab project. Fits into STEM initiatives.
- Hold a screening of the BEE MOVIE, it can be purchased on disc or streamed for less than \$10. Pop some popcorn and enjoy! There is a fun quiz and a project in the movie extras.
- Give Pollinator kits for holiday gifts. Put together a bag of seeds and tools and gloves in a flowerpot and add some honey and bee-based products such as snacks, candles, soaps, and lotions. Include a note about the importance of bees and offer to help sow the seeds in the spring.
- Purchase bee themed jewelry and Adopt a Queen bee at [Projecthoneybee.com](http://Projecthoneybee.com). 50% of proceeds support their bee initiatives.
- Support local beekeepers by purchasing their bee or honey-based products, including local honey, soaps and candles, and mead.

***Let's BEE planning now!***

### **Whetstone HS Key Club tends to new Pollinator Garden**

Students took advantage of nice fall weather recently to get a good foundation going for a garden outside of their high school in north Columbus.





## GET TO KNOW A KIWANIAN -- WITH GOV. KELLY

Hello Ohio Kiwanis,

I thought I would take some time to tell you a little bit about your new Governor. I often feel in Kiwanis, we assume others throughout the district know who we are, where we live and what we do. I'm guilty of it myself as there are some members I have known for years but couldn't tell you anything about them outside of Kiwanis. So, some sharing is in order.



I grew up in the city of Dayton, attended John H. Patterson Cooperative High School in downtown Dayton and went on to graduate from Wright State University. My degree is in Organizational Communication, which has led me to work in the fields of strategic communication, public affairs, marketing, event planning, fundraising, customer service and non-profit management. My most recent position was executive director of a women's health foundation where my work inspired me to become certified as a coach in holistic health and healing.



**First Fella Larry joins Gov. Kelly at many Kiwanis activities.**

I have been a member of the Kiwanis Club of Dayton for more than 25 years, where my experience as a Kiwanian has enriched my life beyond measure. I find joy in giving joy to children whether it's in the form of shoes, or a bookbag, or a birthday cake. My current service focus is with the Governor's Pollinator Project, Bee A Hero. If you haven't heard, it's a program to encourage all Kiwanians to grow native pollinator gardens at home, in their community, or school to help provide more habitat for the endangered bees who pollinate one-third of our food supply.

My position as executive director of a women's health foundation ended recently, so serving as Governor of Ohio District is my full-time volunteer job. I am excited and blessed to have the time and energy to take this passion to impact children's lives to the next level. It is an honor to lead our nearly 5,700 Kiwanians and approximately 10,000 Student Leaders as well as hundreds of Aktion club members throughout our state.

I am comfortably in the second month of my term and I greatly enjoy my visits throughout the district. Learning about so many amazing service projects is truly inspiring. Kids need Kiwanis; however, communities absolutely need Kiwanians with their caring hearts and collaborative support. Keep up the great work!

I live in the southwest corner of Ohio in Division 4 (Greater Dayton Area) where I served as Lieutenant Governor in 2006-07. I reside in the city of Kettering with First Fella, Larry, and our two Golden girl fur babies, Sunny and Poppy (Yes, they are named after the Sun and a flower). I am a Christ follower and people lover. My faith inspires and strengthens me to help those who cannot help themselves, like children and animals.

I find balance in the practice of yoga, solace in my daily doggie walks and I stay grounded in gardening.

Thank you for learning a little bit about me, I look forward to learning more about you as I make my way around the Mighty Ohio District. Wishing all of you a happy and healthy holiday season!

Yours in Service,

**Kelly Brown**

Governor, Ohio District of Kiwanis



**Gov. Kelly's first pups are Sunny and Poppy.**





## KIWANIS DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

Nov. 19 -- CKI DA Call at 8:00 pm EST

Nov. 20 -- Finance & Structure, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Nov. 28 -- Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 30 -- Deadline for 2023-24 Distinguished Club submission

Nov. 30 --Deadline for club dues to be sent to KI

Nov. 30 -- Ohio Disitric Kiwanis FoundationGrant Deadline for January Approval

### December 2024

Dec. 1 -- Dues becomedelinquent

Dec. 1 -- Ohio Hall of Fame Nominees from Selection Committee

Dec. 1 -- Tomorrow Fund grant application close

Dec. 7 -- Ohio DistrictKiwanis Board Meeting, 9:00 AM via Zoom

Dec. 31 -- ODKF Mini Grant Deadlinefor January Approvals

Dec. 31 -- Deadline to submit Trick or Treat for UNICEF donations

TBD CLUB EDUCATION AND CONTACT VISIT report due

TBD Circle K District Board Meeting

## OHIO DISTRICT KIWANIS

Here's the Buzz!



SAVE THE DATE



**Mid-Year Education Day**  
**Saturday, March 15**  
**9:00-5:00**

**Quest**  
Conference Center

9200 Worthington Road.  
Suite 400  
Westerville, Ohio 43082  
(614) 540-5540



"BEE" part of the HIVE!