



THE BUCKEYE BULLETIN



*Service and fellowship
are motivators
for many Kiwanians,
but this is also the
time to share our
gratitude that we have
the resources, energy
and opportunity to
make a positive
difference in the world.*



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SUBMIT STORIES VIA:

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





This is perfect time to count blessings

By Governor Marcia Copeland Hudson

Greetings Friends!

It's November, time to count your blessings once again. After all, we have a great holiday devoted to giving thanks for the blessings in our lives.

When you gather around the Thanksgiving table this month, think of the many good things we all tend to take for granted. Are you able to eat, breathe and walk? Those are gifts we rarely celebrate. But these key abilities make the difference between a life lived independently and a life that requires daily support.

So, ask yourself: Is this true for the families of our communities? Is there a roof over their heads? A warm bed where they can sleep? Is there enough food when they are hungry? Not everyone can count on these necessities of life.

Here's an important question: what would make you happier – devoting all your worry and effort to solving your own problems – or taking the spotlight off yourself long enough to help someone else with his or her problems?

Our Ohio Kiwanis District has an answer -- especially for the children of our village, town or city. If you haven't discovered this truism for yourself, I invite you to become more involved in the service projects in your own Kiwanis Club.

I think you'll find that we Kiwanians have found a way to help ourselves live happy, meaningful lives by helping the children and families in our communities.

I hope you'll enjoy a great Thanksgiving this year, and I hope you'll give some thought to the many good things that are part of your life in this year of our Lord 2025. Be thankful, be joyful, and join your fellow Kiwanians this holiday season as we make life better – one child and one community at a time!

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

Marcia Copeland Hudson

ODK Governor, 2025-26





Holidays amplify need for our support

by Larry D. Hudson, First Gentleman and Co-chair of the First Family Project

Each year, November brings great things to Ohio – from the spectacular show of color as the leaves turn to football, tailgates and bonfires. But the biggest event of the month has to be the great Thanksgiving feast – featuring roast turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes, candied sweet potatoes, cranberry relish and pumpkin pie.

It's a shame when you have to miss it, but circumstances can sometimes get in the way. Just ask the parents and siblings of the children spending the Thanksgiving holiday at the hospital. Even when turkey and dressing find its way onto the hospital menu, it's not quite the same.



And yet Thanksgiving in the hospital is still an occasion. Families manage to bring a little of the Thanksgiving holiday feast into hospital rooms, in an effort to bring a touch of home to an ailing child and the family.

The First Family Project 2025-2026 is aimed at making life a little better for families of hospitalized children. Ohio District Kiwanis Governor Marcia Copeland Hudson and I have been there and know about the important work of Make-A-Wish and the Ronald McDonald House. These organizations were very helpful to us during the time our daughter Lauren spent in Dayton Children's Hospital.

Make-A-Wish makes dreams come true for "Wish Kids" and their families. When the burdens of dealing with the illness of a child become overwhelming, Make-A-Wish helps the child and her family escape care and concern – at least for a little while. Lauren's wish trip took our family to Orlando for a visit with Minnie Mouse. Other children have visited LegoLand, met famous celebrities and athletes and more. The Wish Kids get to choose their own adventures, and the whole family gets to ride along.

The Ronald McDonald House provides clean, comfortable guest rooms, hot meals, daily necessities and the opportunity to meet other families dealing with doctors and hospitals on a daily basis. The Ronald McDonald House makes life manageable for families during times of crisis.

This year, Kiwanians have the opportunity to lend a hand to the families gathered around their children in pediatric hospitals across Ohio. Our effort is to raise money to donate to Make-A-Wish and to encourage more volunteer support for the Ronald McDonald Houses serving our state. We hope you'll join us in this effort.

We hope you'll enjoy a great Thanksgiving gathering and feast this year. On that day, spare a thought for the families who are celebrating the day under less-than-ideal circumstances at children's hospitals across Ohio. These are the families Ohio Kiwanians can help by supporting the First Family Project this year. Thanks, everyone!

Larry D. Hudson, First Gentleman & Co-Chair, ODK First Family Project 2025-2026



WHAT IS K-KIDS?

Kiwanis Kids (K-Kids) is a service club for Elementary School Grades 1-5

K-Kids is a leadership and service club run by student officers and board members. It undertakes numerous service projects during the year that are defined and organized by the students. Kiwanis and teacher sponsors maintain a low profile to let students take responsibility and develop leadership skills.

Club members raise money to support their endeavors. Students interested in improving their school and their community while developing leadership skills should check out K-Kids, where kids have fun while making the world a better place.



KEY CLUB CAN SUPPORT K-KIDS IN MANY WAYS

- Start a new K-Kids Club (co-sponsor with your Kiwanis Club)
- Volunteer to help a K-Kids club at meetings and service projects
- Support K-Kids projects by increasing their collections for donations, helping them plan or complete a project, help them bring in interesting speakers, advertise and promote their achievements
- Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF
- Offer an award, such as K-Kid or Elem. Student of the Month
- Be a "K-Big" Help a K-Kids as mentor or tutor at the elementary school. Reading and helping however the school needs.

Learn More About K-Kids and Resources at KiwaniisKids.org or Contact Kiwanis K-Kids Administrator Jennifer Lewis ohiokkids@gmail.com or 740-485-2040

Membership team pursues growth districtwide

District membership has started strongly in the new Kiwanis year. On Oct. 16, we celebrated the charter of the new Fairport Harbor Club with more than 50 guests in attendance, over 20 of those guests were members of the home Lake Effect Division. I was very proud to see such great support. Kirtland is their host club.

We are presently working in the Conneaut area, as that is our next club site to open. Two teams met community members Oct. 21-23 and then an informational meeting was held. We are back there on Nov. 5 for another meeting at which time we hope to gather the required support. I am excited about hopefully adding another club to my home division. Ashtabula will be the sponsoring club.

Next up is Huber Heights. The team has secured the support of the key players in that community and now we have the data that KI helped us gather, and calls will begin shortly. I believe the goal is to get this one done by end of January. I will advise as we progress through this.

Research is also in the works on Wyoming City. Our team has met with positive support there already so the process will move forward to getting a club together in that community.

Club strengthening will be taking place soon with the South Metro Club, and I am hopeful I can get the Chardon Club and the Dublin Club to agree to our help so we can grow their rosters as well. There are many clubs under charter strength, and I hope to be able to assist as many as possible this year in their boost efforts.

I will be in touch with our Columbus area team shortly to identify a site there, I believe we will be looking first at the Delaware County area. In conjunction with this I am looking to identify a location in the Cleveland area with our regional contact there and those Lieutenant Governors.

The District Membership Committee will meet the third Monday each month via Zoom, at 7 p.m. to monitor the progress in each area. Included with our District team, the KI chairs, Angie Dudoit, Linda Lawther, Jason Miller, Emily Saalfrank and International Trustee Scott Sims are invited to the call.

All Lieutenant Governors are invited to this call as well, so they have an understanding of where we are working and what we are trying to accomplish. They know their divisions best and I need their valuable input as how to proceed with their clubs. They have all been copied on training for club opening, club coaching and also appointment setting, and I have invited them all to take part in these as their schedules allow.

The plan is to stay in constant communication with them as to the needs of the clubs in their respective divisions so we can offer the proper help. The end of year numbers are now available for each club so I will be identifying the next strengthening locations soon.



ODKF exists to support clubs' projects

By Steve Vrooman, 2025-26 ODKF president

Your Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation's mission is to raise, manage, and distribute funds to support programs of Ohio District Kiwanis family organizations for the improvement of the lives of children and families.

Your ODKF Board, volunteer staff, and enthusiastic volunteers work hard to achieve this mission. What does the ODKF mission statement mean?

To Raise Funds – Dollars that are raised through donations; fundraisers; recognitions, memorials and honor presentations; and the planned giving program, are invested and support the many programs of the Foundation.

To Manage Funds – Whether through investing raised funds, supporting Club Advised Funds, or processing grant requests, the ODKF team carefully manages the funds entrusted to them.

To Distribute Funds – The foundation accomplishes this through Safe and Healthy Kids Grants, Club and Community Grants, Mini-Grants, First Family Project Grants, Disaster Relief Grants, Scholarships, Leadership Program Supports, and Milestone Anniversaries.

The ODKF is all about support for Ohio Kiwanis clubs, kids, families, and communities. During the 2024-25 year, 365,250 children and families were helped by projects funded by you and your ODKF. With your help, we can reach even more children and families. A member of the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation board will be accompanying Governor Marcia when she visits your divisions.

We'll have additional information about how the ODKF can support your clubs and communities. Take some time and explore our website at odkf.org to see all that your Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation offers.



Continued from Previous Page

Throughout this entire process I will work within our volunteer means and continue to recruit more experienced assistance. I will not overload any one area with too much to do at once, but will keep the pipeline loaded so that when one project nears completion we can start another and have continuous movement in our efforts.

Presently there are 38 potential club sites in our pipeline to explore, so there is no shortage of opportunities to grow. I hope to add more sites to that pipeline as we progress through the year. KI has set a goal for our district of six new clubs; I have set my goal at eight or more. It is a tall order but if I stay on this and "don't take my foot off the gas pedal" I think it can be a reality.

Rick Fox, District Membership Chairman. 2025-'26, kirtlandpc@aol.com



Save the date!

June 24-26, 2026

With November creeping up on us, it is time to start making plans for the next Kiwanis International Convention.

June 24 through June 27 will take Ohioans to Manila, Philippines for an adventure never to be forgotten. Prepare now for the vacation of a lifetime! With various modern visitor attractions, one need only “pick and choose” the events to attend or visit.



Look for more information on the Travel Agency discounts in the months to follow. But be sure to save the dates for the upcoming Convention in June of 2026. To enjoy is to experience: modern skyscrapers with Far Eastern charm.

Manila is the place to be in June of 2026.



2026-27 District Officer Elections

If you are interested in serving the Ohio Kiwanis District, please consider serving as the 2026-27 Kiwanis District Governor Elect, District Treasurer, or in one of the two available positions on District Finance and Structure Committee.

Completed and signed nomination forms must be turned into the Ohio District Secretary no later than March 1, 2026.

Elections for these positions will take place at 2026 District Convention Aug. 14-16 at the Renaissance, Columbus Westerville Hotel, 409 Altair Parkway.

To obtain a copy of the nomination forms, contact Robin Gagnow at secretary@ohiokiwanis.org.

If you are interested in serving as Lieutenant Governor for your division, please contact your current Lieutenant Governor.

Robin Gagnow,
Ohio Kiwanis Secretary

Ohio District Kiwanis Division Map





the POSSIBILITY PROJECT



Kiwanis
CHILDREN'S FUND

Possibility Project surpasses \$9 million

The Kiwanis Children's Fund's Possibility Project, a multi-year campaign to raise at least \$25 million over five years, has pushed beyond \$9 million either pledged or donated.

Michael Malik, director of development for the Kiwanis Children's Fund, said momentum has been building especially around the Impact Clubs who have stepped forward to make a special commitment to the campaign.

The campaign's aim is to bring in enough funds to make a positive impact on at least 10 million children worldwide. The focus is on feeding children, supporting literacy programs for youth and developing leaders among young people.

Impact Clubs are those which have committed to donating at least \$500 per member during the five-year campaign, which runs through 2028.

In Ohio, Impact Clubs at this time are from Beaver Creek, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, I-Next, Lakewood, Parma Area and Seneca County.

If your club would like to learn more about the Possibility Project, or have someone speak to you about becoming an Impact Club, contact the Ohio District staff.

For more information, click [here](#).



ohiokiwanis.org



Kiwanis
OHIO DISTRICT

Oakwood Key Club off to busy start

Oakwood High School's first Key Club was chartered in September 2025.

During its first month, members participated in the Kettering-Centerville Kiwanis One project called "Make a Difference Day" and attended the Key Club Fall Rally in late October.

It was a busy start to the schoold year for the fledgling club.



In other Key Club news, Ohio District Key Club Governor Parth Rajput reports that there are several new Key Clubs in various stages of development throughout Ohio at this time.

These include:

Chartered Clubs:

- Notre Dame Academy
- Upper Valley Career Center
- Oakwood High School

Rechartered Clubs

- Pickerington North High School
- Watkins Memorial High School
- Euclid High School

Clubs-in-formation

- Walnut Hills High School
- Olentangy High School





Welcome to the Kiwanis Family!

Efforts continue to launch Conneaut club.

Are you making plans to attend the next Informational Meeting on Wednesday, November 5? Do you have friends or other connections to the community of Conneaut?

Let organizers know by emailing Rick at kirtlandpc@aol.com. They have much to share with you on how Kiwanis can benefit the children and community of Conneaut, and how meaningful a membership in the club can be for you.

Spread the word to your friends, neighbors and co-workers that we are coming to make a real difference!

We look forward to building another club that can make a huge difference in the lives of young people!

AKTION GROUP
A FUN AND EMPOWERING CLUB FOR ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
NOVEMBER 4, 2025
6-7 PM
GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
245 VALLEY ROAD, XENIA, OHIO

A SERVICE ORGANIZATION SPONSORED BY KIWANIS

COME, CONNECT, LAUGH, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE
BRING YOUR IDEAS, ENERGY, AND SMILE

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO LET US KNOW YOU'RE COMING EMAIL JOSHUA CARSON AT JCARSON@GREENEDD.ORG
WWW.AKTIONCLUB.ORG



Charter party for the new Kiwanis Club of Fairport Harbor was a huge success.

It raised more than \$4,000 to use for service projects for the community.

Thank you to our guests from the community and our fellow Kiwanians from the Lake Effect Division who made contributions to our club! Thank you to everyone who donated gift cards and baskets for our raffle because this is where we were able to raise the most funds, and to Hungarian Culture Club for its hospitality

New groups added in Lancaster, Westerville

Ohio District K-Kids Chairwoman Jennifer Lewis reports that new K-Kids clubs have been chartered in Tallmadge Elementary school in Lancaster and Emerson Elementary school in Westerville.



Let's celebrate Kiwanis Family Month

The Kiwanis Club of Middletown, Ohio, is proud to join in with Kiwanis International in recognizing November as Kiwanis Family Month.

It is a month dedicated to appreciating the various organizations within the Kiwanis family which include K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club, Aktion Club, Circle K, and Kiwanis Clubs.

Kiwanis Clubs are encouraged to celebrate the relationships between the different branches of the Kiwanis family through joint service, social events, and other activities. Clubs of the Ohio District Kiwanis are encouraged to remember that grants (including mini grants) are available through the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation to support joint activities.

We highlight this opportunity during the month of November but, it is of course important each and every day of the year. A special thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Noblesville for providing the graphics within this post.

Help Wanted!

The Ohio Kiwanis District Seeks Board Chair for 2025-2026. The Ohio District Board needs a Risk Management and Youth Protection Chair. This is an important volunteer position.

Best practices are:

1. The Chair provides clubs and members advice on how to mitigate risk and promotes awareness of potential liabilities to clubs, officers and members.
2. The Chair must follow the bylaws of Kiwanis International on Youth Protection policies and membership youth protection training.
3. The Chair must have a current background check as given by Kiwanis International. Proof of clearance is required. It cannot expire before October 1, 2026.

Send your recommendation for this position to District Secretary Robin Gagnow: executivedirector@ohiokiwaniis.org



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OHIO DISTRICT



Volunteer Spotlight: Dick Brulotte

Editor's Note: The following article was published in the November edition of Positive Connections, an e-newsletter produced by the Connections Volunteer Center of Delaware County.

Dick Brulotte has been volunteering with the Delaware Evening Kiwanis Club for 29 years. During his tenure, he has served as club president, board member, treasurer, secretary, and committee chair.

Dick first joined the group after being invited by a friend. The local club was chartered over 100 years ago and is active in serving the Delaware community, including the Delaware Hayes High School Key Club.

Shortly after becoming involved with Kiwanis, Dick learned the group wanted to rebuild the high school's group. Key Club is an international student-led organization and part of the Kiwanis family. Dick jumped in and brought his experience as a teacher at Hayes, helped the group re-charter, and served as the advisor for six years. The Hayes Key Club is still going strong thanks to his dedication.

Dick said the gift of being part of Kiwanis far outweighs the hours served.

"The reward we get for working to make our community a better place and making a child's life better is immeasurable," he shared. "Volunteering keeps you active and challenges you to stay interested in people and the world around you."

This year marks the 22nd annual Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast supporting Veterans. Dick has helped organize the event since its inception, and he said the purpose is to thank and honor veterans and active armed forces members with a complimentary breakfast.

The Aktion Club members (Kiwanis for adults with disabilities) greet the veterans in attendance and present them with handmade thank-you cards. Dick and his fellow Kiwanians organize local student and community performing arts groups to take part in the day by sharing their talents with attendees. All proceeds from the event go to support Kiwanis initiatives, including the purchase of bike helmets for Delaware County residents.

For the rare moments when Dick is not volunteering, he can be found reading, listening to classical music, traveling, and enjoying time with his six grandchildren, whom he shares with his lovely wife, Carol.



Follow our Governor's Travels

Governor Marcia and her First Gentleman Larry been on the road conducting installations and visiting clubs throughout the Mighty Ohio District!

Click here at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61579035076996> and follow her to keep tabs on where she visits!

Marcia Copeland Hudson, Governor of the Kiwanis Ohio District
October 21 at 1:12 AM · 🌐

It was a special privilege to recently install the Officers and Board of Directors for the Kiwanis Club of Xenia, Ohio. The Xenia Club is the home of Past Kiwanis International President, Walter Sellers. He was the first African American to serve in this capacity, 1997 - 1998.



Marcia Copeland Hudson, Governor of the Kiwanis Ohio District is with Granville Kiwanis.
October 21 at 1:27 AM · 🌐

The Granville Kiwanis Club's Open House, which Larry and I attended on October 12. Granville is a great place to visit in the Fall. The club is committed to organizing various activities for the local community. Thank you for having us.



Marcia Copeland Hudson, Governor of the Kiwanis Ohio District is in Fairport Harbor, OH.
October 21 at 1:45 AM · 🌐

Was fun and exciting to be in attendance for the Fairport Harbor Kiwanis Club Charter Party on 10/26/25. The members are full of positive energy and ready to improve their community.



Marcia Copeland Hudson, Governor of the Kiwanis Ohio District
October 20 at 6:44 PM · 🌐

Thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Portsmouth, Ohio, for hosting First Gentleman, Larry and myself. We visited with Past President Dan DeLotell and Judge Howard Harcha at the courthouse. We ran into Muralist Robert Dafford while visiting the Portsmouth Murals. It was a special trip for us. Larry's family hails from the Portsmouth area.



Marcia Copeland Hudson, Governor of the Kiwanis Ohio District is with Merri Bame at The Athletic Club of Columbus.
October 12 at 10:19 AM · Columbus, OH · 🌐

Thank you to the Kiwanis Club (Downtown) of Columbus for allowing me the honor of installing the Officers and Board of Directors for 2025-2026. Merri Bame completed a great year as President. Congratulations to Chad Gardener as he has received the gavel for 2025 - 2026. This was an exciting event. Thank you for being so welcoming to Larry and me.





FALL ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW



LOTS OF VENDORS | FOOD | RAFFLES

NOVEMBER 15TH 10AM-4PM

SHARONVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

10990 THORNVIEW DRIVE
SHARONVILLE, OHIO 45241



**SPONSORED BY: PRINCETON
SHARONVILLE KIWANIS**



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 posts and add your club's activities! We can learn from each other and better serve the youth in our communities.



Wellington Kiwanis
October 25 at 4:46 PM · Explorations · Christie Lenée ·

0:01 / 0:42

[View insights](#) 29 post reach >

Bay Village Kiwanis and 2 others 1 comment

Like Comment Send

Brian D Burke
105 beds were built by over 125 volunteers from the community in a Bed Build co-sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Wellington, the Wellington Eagles #2051, and the Masonic Lodge #127. It is amazing what can happen when a community comes together for a co... See more



Fremont, Ohio Kiwanis
October 30 at 2:09 PM ·

Fremont Mayor Danny Sanchez presented a State of the City address at the October 30th Fremont Kiwanis luncheon. Now in his 10th year as mayor, Sanchez opened with a few jokes and thanked Fremont Kiwanis for allowing him to speak and for all that our club does for the community. Regarding the State of the City, he said "things have been good." Sanchez credited the MARCS (Multi-Agency Radio Communication System) for enabling continued collaboration among the county's first responder agencies "so all first responders can talk to each other." He provided several examples of how the FLOCK safety cameras (license plate

Kiwanis Club of Findlay
October 30 at 2:39 PM ·

The Kiwanis Club of Findlay was honored to participate in the recent installation ceremony for the 2025-26 Hancock County Aktion Club officers and the induction of new members.... See more

East Toledo-Oregon Kiwanis Club
October 30 at 8:39 PM ·

We ❤️ that the kiddos at Starr Elementary love to read!

Adam Miller
October 31 at 9:01 AM
Starr And Shipes Forever Instrumental: John Williams, Boston Pops Orchestra ·

Join us at 2pm SUNDAY NOV. 2nd
The Hilliard Veterans Parade is back!
Details below: Veterans Ceremony at Reynolds Park, end of parade route.

HILLIARD VETERANS DAY PARADE

SUNDAY, NOV. 2

2:00 p.m.

Fairgrounds - Main St. -
Scioto Darby -
Roger A. Reynolds Park

COME OUT AND HONOR OUR VETERANS

Oregon Schools Foundation is with East Toledo-Oregon Kiwanis Club and Starr Elementary School.
October 30 at 8:25 PM ·

Thank you to our community partner East Toledo-Oregon Kiwanis Club for their generous donation to help fill the book vending machine with books at Starr Elementary School.



KIWANIS DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

Standing dates:

5th of the month - Circle K and Key Club Monthly reports due

10th of the month - Kiwanis Monthly reports due

20th of the month - Buckeye Bulletin deadline for submissions

November 2025

Celebrate Kiwanis Family Month!

- Nov. 1 Kiwanis Hall of Fame Nominations Due**
- Nov. 1 CKI and Key Club Early Bird Dues Deadline**
- Nov. 1 Kiwanis Children’s Fund Scholarship Applications Due**
- Nov. 3-7 Key Club Week**
- Nov. 8 CKI Fall Rally at Baldwin-Wallace University**
- Nov. 8-10 District Secretaries Gathering, Indianapolis**
- Nov. 11 Veterans Day**
- Nov. 20 *Buckeye Bulletin* deadline**
- Nov. 27 Happy Thanksgiving!**
- Nov. 30 Kiwanis International Dues are Due**
- Nov. 30 Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation grant applications
are due for January**

Kiwanis Voices welcomes young adults

Our new pilot program, [Kiwanis Voices](#), is under way! It’s an opportunity to create Kiwanis clubs specifically for young adults ages 18-26 – and to help bridge the gap between Kiwanis youth programs and traditional Kiwanis clubs.

In fact, traditional clubs are crucial: A sponsoring Kiwanis club is required for the launch of a Kiwanis Voices club. See how you can help bring the energy and passion of young adults into our organization!

Find details and resources on the [program’s webpage](#) – including links to a fact sheet, applications and a five-step guide to organizing a Kiwanis Voices club.