

May 2026



**Kiwanis**  
OHIO DISTRICT

ohiokiwanis.org

# THE BUCKEYE BULLETIN



**Let's keep planting those seeds of service and leadership!**



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## SUBMIT STORIES VIA:

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



ohiokiwanis.org



# Ohio Kiwanians are superheroes in our communities

By Marcia Copeland Hudson, Ohio Governor

Fellow Kiwanians of the Mighty Ohio District,

Every project, every act of kindness, and every hour of service – it all adds up to something truly powerful. When we look at the collective impact we are making across the Buckeye State, it is clear: We are changing lives, one child and one community at a time.

Today, I want to celebrate YOU – the superheroes of Kiwanis who dedicate your time to our mission.



As we move further into this service year, I am constantly inspired by the energy within our clubs. Whether you are mentoring a Key Clubber, serving at a local food pantry, or organizing a signature fundraiser, your commitment brings hope to our communities.

You don't just talk about change; you create it through being a "Grass Roots Kiwanis" == those small but important projects that plant seeds for future growth.

This month, I especially want to highlight our 2025–26 First Family Project: "One True Wish." Our district has set a goal to raise \$25,000 to grant life-changing wishes for children across Ohio.

**Real HEROES**  
BUILD BRIGHTER Futures

Every project, every act of kindness, every hour of service—it all adds up to something powerful.

Today, we celebrate the superheroes of Kiwanis who are changing lives, one child and one community at a time.

**HAPPY NATIONAL SUPERHERO DAY!** Kids Need Kiwanis

Kiwanis International logo

Beyond financial support, I encourage each club to find hands-on ways to serve at the seven Ronald McDonald House locations serving Ohio families, whether by preparing a meal for guests or stocking the RMH pantries.

When we unite for these families, we truly embody the "magic of membership" -- becoming true superheroes in our communities!

Thank you for your tireless dedication to our mission and for your incredible hearts. Let's keep this momentum going and continue to show the world why the Ohio District is the best in the Kiwanis family!

With admiration and gratitude,

**Marcia Copeland Hudson.**

Ohio District Kiwanis Governor 2025-26





# May Flowers bring promise of spring

**By Larry D. Hudson**, Co-Chairman, First Family Project 2025-2026  
May Flowers and the Promise of Spring

The sun is shining, the trees and flowers are in bloom, and Ohio, so famous for its fickle weather, is finally reaching its short-sleeves-and-shorts season. What a great time to rediscover the great outdoors!

Some will miss out – because they’re spending days and nights in hospitals with their children. The serious illness of a child re-orders priorities for the family – not just for the moms and dads, but also for siblings, grandparents, even aunts and uncles. Everything is on hold during a childhood medical crisis.

Ohio District Kiwanis Governor Marcia Copeland Hudson and I got to know a lot of families who faced this reality. We met them during a long journey with our daughter Lauren, who lost her life following a struggle with childhood cancer.

Our First Family Project, One True Wish, was inspired by those families and by the organizations that helped us during Lauren’s struggle. Make-A-Wish granted Lauren’s wish for a memorable family vacation to Central Florida’s great attractions – a wonderful break from the long battle. The Ronald McDonald House kept us close to the Dayton Children’s Hospital as Lauren’s medical treatment continued.

We’re asking Kiwanians to support our project to make life a little better from the families facing the reality of life-threatening illness in their children. Here’s how:

- 1) Donate to the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation to support Make-A-Wish, which grants wishes to children
- 2) Volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House near you – to prepare meals for guests and help as needed – and also support the House by donating pantry items and other household necessities on the House’s “Wish List”

We hope you’ll enjoy the glorious Ohio springtime. Thanks for supporting the Ohio families affected by life-threatening childhood illness!

**Larry D. Hudson, First Family Project**  
Ohio District Kiwanis First Gentleman

## Here is where to contribute to the First Family project

- Checks payable to: Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation (ODKF)
- Memo line: First Family Project 2025-2026
- Mail Checks to: PO Box 668 Circleville, OH 43113



Scan the QR code to get  
access to the ODKF First  
Family project page and link  
to submit card payments!



# Save the Date!

## 2026 District Convention

**August 14th-16th, 2026**

409 Altair Pkwy, Westerville, OH 43082




Planning for 2026 DCON is well under way, with an exciting weekend of enrichment, inspiration and good old-fashioned Kiwanis fellowship on the agenda, Aug. 14-16 in Westerville.

To help make the event a success, we need sponsors – not just supporters from our Kiwanis family, but support from our corporate friends and those in our communities who would like to align themselves with a service organization such as ours!

If you know of a business who could potentially become one of our sponsors, please let DCON Chairman Craig Wallace know so we can share the sponsorship information with them! He can be reached at [ohioatfan@gmail.com](mailto:ohioatfan@gmail.com).

There are a lot of benefits to being a sponsor of our annual DCON, when hundreds of Kiwanians will descend upon Central Ohio to enjoy enrichment, inspiration and fellowship!



**Kiwanis Family Day**  
at the  
**Great American BALL PARK!**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 14**

**REDS VS. A  
DIAMONDBACKS**

**250th  
Anniversary USA**

**REDS**

**KIWANIS**

**KIWANIS KIDS**

**OHIO • INDIANA • KENTUCKY • TENNESSEE DISTRICTS**

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

**Get Tickets Now!**

<https://www.gofovo.com/event/KiwanisDayattheReds26>



## Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio Kiwanis Golf Outing

July 16, 2026 - Raintree Golf & Event Center, 4350 Mayfair Road, Uniontown, OH. Shotgun start at 9:30am.

Cost \$90.00 per player includes golf, cart, lunch, prizes, and dinner.

Open to entire Kiwanis family and friends.

Sponsorships available.

**Register or become a sponsor online at [ODKF.org](https://odkf.org). Look for the scrolling golf outing sponsorship and registration links to appear.** Questions, please contact Bill Flinta (330-801-6225) or Dave Kuhn (330-730-6254) or e-mail them at [golf@odkf.org](mailto:golf@odkf.org).

**Hope to see you on the course in July!**





## Congratulations to Ohio clubs on Milestone Anniversaries

*By Steve Vrooman, 2025-26 ODKF chairman*

The Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation recognizes Kiwanis clubs across the Ohio Kiwanis District that are celebrating milestone anniversaries of 50, 75, and 100 years of service. During Mid-Year Education Day, these clubs and their members were honored for the outstanding service they have provided to their communities over the years. This marks the fourth year ODKF has recognized club milestone anniversaries.



The clubs listed below have received a certificate and a \$100 check to be used for a service project within their club, or to support one of their SLPs. The only criterion is that clubs are in good standing within the district and Kiwanis International when they reach their celebrated anniversary dates of 50, 75, or 100 years.

### **75th Anniversaries (with Charter Date)**

- Solon February 12, 1951
- East Toledo-Oregon April 23, 1951
- Canfield-Jackson Milton July 24, 1951
- Hudson September 24, 1951
- Portage Lake, Akron October 11, 1951

### **100th Anniversaries (with Charter Date)**

- Oxford March 2, 1926
- Harrison June 23, 1926
- Middletown July 30, 1926
- Bellefontaine November 8, 1926

Congratulations to these clubs on reaching these milestone anniversaries—and thank you for the lasting impact you’ve made in your communities by improving the lives of the children and families you serve.

Reminder: Your club can invite an Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation representative to present a program at an upcoming club meeting and discuss ODKF opportunities. We can provide details on Club Advised Funds, Safe and Healthy Kids Grants, Club and Community Grants, Mini-Grants, Governor’s Project Grants, Disaster Relief Grants, Scholarships, Leadership Program Supports, and ways clubs and members can support the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation.

Please visit [www.odkf.org](http://www.odkf.org) to learn more about the grant and scholarship opportunities available through ODKF.

Our next grant request deadline is June 30, for decisions in August,. Thanks for allowing ODKF to be a part of all the amazing things you are doing within your local community.

Please reach out if you have any questions about grants, scholarships, special programs, or other ODKF resources that may help your club close out the year strong.



# Keep sharing your good news to help Kiwanis grow in your community!

We love seeing Kiwanis service and volunteer activity get the attention it deserves! People need to hear and see what we are doing before they can decide to join us in our fun and work!

Here are a few “public relations wins” we spotted during the past month or so:

Thanks to the WKYC for [coverage](#) of North Ridgeville Club’s donation of its 19<sup>th</sup> Amtryke bike!



[North Ridgeville club donates Amtryke bike”](#)

[Bed Build Earns Wellington Club Award](#)

[Bay Village honors Kiwanis for 75 Years of Bay Days](#)

[Kiwanis Announces News Shoe Initiative](#)

## Reporting of Support Hours

As you are volunteering at your local Ronald McDonald House this year, we ask you to complete the form on the ODKF website to collect how many members have supported the First Family Project in Service



Scan the QR code to get access to the ODKF First Family project page and link to support hours!



# Important Announcement!!

Announcement: Reopening of Nominations for the position of Ohio District Kiwanis Governor-Elect 2026-2027

This is an official reopening of nominations for the position of Ohio District Kiwanis Governor-Elect for the 2026-2027 term as of April 28, 2026.

If you're interested in serving in this vital role, please follow these steps:

1. Request a Nomination Packet by contacting the Ohio District Secretary Robin Gagnow at [secretary@ohiokiwanis.org](mailto:secretary@ohiokiwanis.org).
2. Complete the Nomination Form. Submitted it via email by the deadline of July 15, 2026.
3. The election will be held at the 2026 Ohio District Convention, taking place August 14-16, 2026, at the Renaissance Columbus Westerville Hotel, located at 409 Altair Parkway in Westerville, Ohio, 43082.
4. For more information or to obtain your nomination packet, please reach out to Robin Gagnow at [secretary@ohiokiwanis.org](mailto:secretary@ohiokiwanis.org).

Thank you for your commitment to serving the Ohio District Kiwanis!

Sincerely,  
Robin Gagnow  
Ohio District Kiwanis Secretary



**Kiwanis**<sup>®</sup>

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## HELP WANTED:

The Ohio District Kiwanis is seeking a trained Leadership Development Coordinator starting May 1, for the remainder of the 2025-26 term. The LDC will:

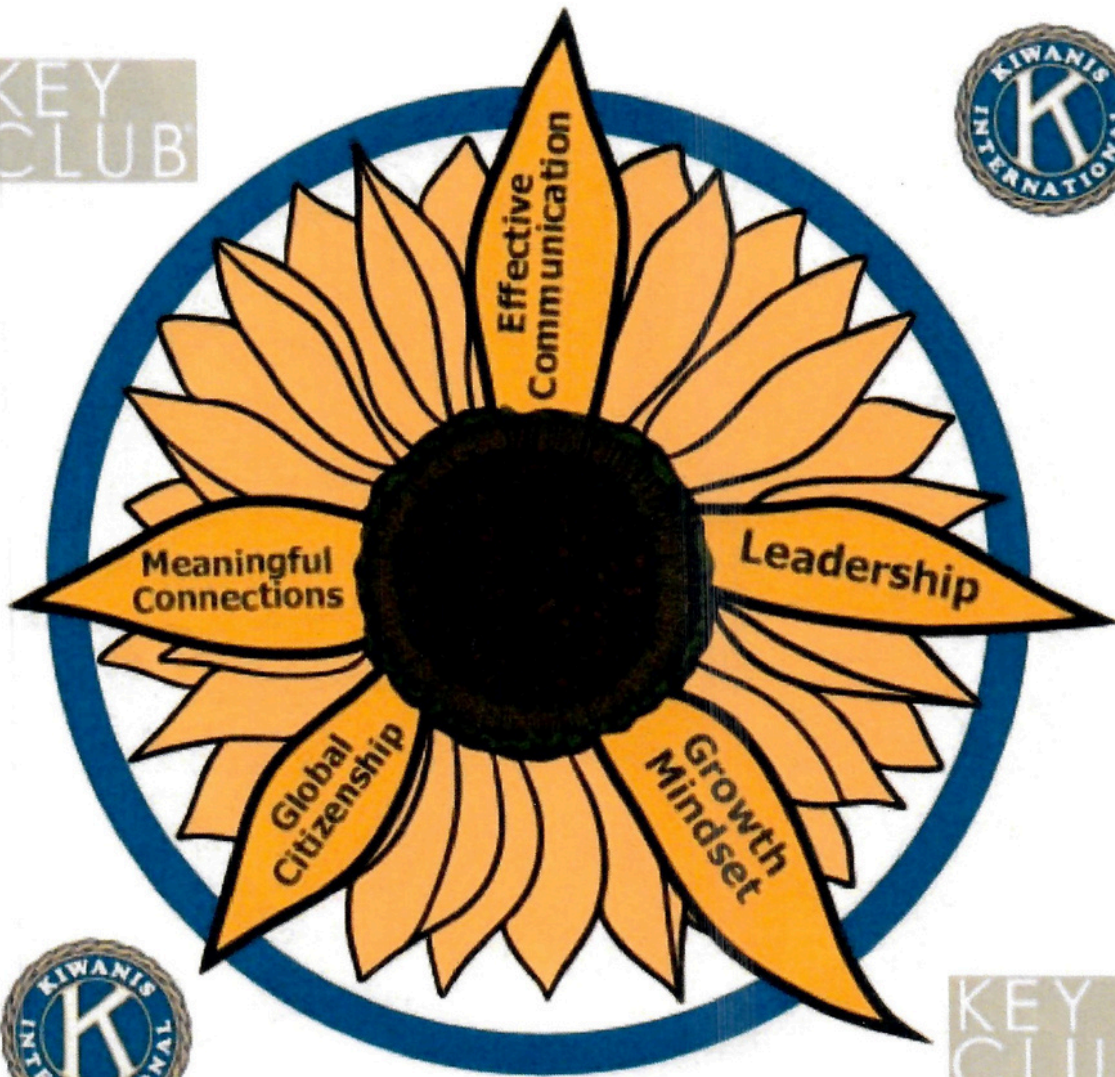
- Ensure club and division leaders are well-trained.
- Organize Club Leadership Education (CLE) and lieutenant governor training.
- Manage certified instructors and align activities with Kiwanis International's mission.

For interest, contact Robin Gagnow at [secretary@ohiokiwanis.org](mailto:secretary@ohiokiwanis.org). More details can be found in the job description here: [Leadership Development Coordinator Job Description](#)



# Coming to Ohio Kiwanis One Day Key Leader

KEY  
CLUB



KEY  
CLUB

**Contact Coordinators Below to Volunteer!**

**Cindy Champer**  
**CindyChamper@aol.com**  
**419-350-0477**

**Tish Keegan**  
**tkeegan@lamar.com**  
**419-545-3418**



## Former governor Hilborn passes away

John C. “Jack” Hilborn, age 77, lifelong resident of Delaware, dedicated community steward, and downtown business owner who championed many Delaware causes, passed away early Friday morning, May 1, 2026, at Willow Brook at Delaware Run following a several-year illness.

He was born in Columbus on April 24, 1949, to the late Wayne and Margaret (Klinzing) Hilborn. Jack graduated from Delaware Hayes High School in 1967, when he was a 4-year member of the varsity tennis team and Key Club. He graduated from Ohio University in 1971 with a degree in Journalism and was a member of Sigma Theta Epsilon fraternity.



While attending Ohio University, he met Mary Helm from Cincinnati. They were married in 1973 and together shared 52 years in partnership through life’s journey. Building a home and business in Delaware, raising a family, and sharing in the joys and trials of life.

Jack joined his father, Wayne Hilborn, in 1974 in the operations of Hilborn Insurance. Beginning a career that would span over 47 years until his retirement in 2021. Hilborn Insurance continues today, following 82 years of Hilborn family ownership in downtown Delaware. Proudly, Hilborn Insurance was named by the readers of *The Delaware Gazette* as the best insurance agent in Delaware in 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2018.

Throughout the years Jack’s involvement and service included serving on numerous boards and committees, among them Grady Memorial Hospital, Strand Theatre, Delaware County Historical Society, Oak Grove Cemetery, Delaware County Cultural Arts Center, People-in-Need, City of Delaware Strategic Planning Committee, Downtown Delaware, Delaware City Schools, Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce, and Scouts.

A 1975 charter member of Delaware County Kiwanis Club, he served as distinguished club president in 1981, and Lt. Governor and Governor of the Ohio District of Kiwanis International, where he’s held countless leadership positions throughout the years.

His community advocacy and services will continue to echo in Delaware for generations to come.

Gracious and kind, he was always thoughtful and ready for the next adventure. He loved his community and family and treasured his grandchildren. Blessed with a charismatic personality, he made everyone feel important and valuable. Simply put, he lived a life that mattered and will be missed by his family and his community. Those left to cherish his memory include his beloved wife Mary, son, John (Christy) Hilborn, daughter, Laura (Ben) Bradford, grandchildren, Ella and Owen Hilborn, Lucas and Griffin Bradford, Kallie, Kiera, and Dayne Lehner, and sister Sharon Edwards.

Contributions can be made to Kiwanis Children’s Fund, P.O. Box 6457 - Dept #286, Indianapolis, IN, 46206, or William Street United Methodist Church, 28 W. William St., Delaware, OH 43015.

Condolences can be shared at [www.snyderfuneralhomes.com](http://www.snyderfuneralhomes.com) or mailed to Mary Hilborn, 20 Park Lane, Delaware, OH. 43015.



**Kiwaniis**  
OHIO DISTRICT

# Meet the Candidate

## Donald Mark Wion, for District Treasurer



My name is Donald “Mark” Wion. I am running for District Treasurer. I have been in Kiwanis since 2013. As a member of the Piqua Club, I have served as its president for four years and treasurer for eight years. I was also president of the Tipp City Area Club for three quarters of the year when their president moved to Toledo. Currently, I am Piqua’s president, treasurer and the advisor to our Key Club and two K Kids Clubs.

I have helped open clubs in Champaign County, Englewood, Tipp City, and Vandalia - Butler. I currently serve as Club Coach for Champaign County and Vandalia Butler. I was Lieutenant Governor of Division Three for three years, was Division Three’s secretary/treasurer for five years, I served four years on the Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation. While serving on the Foundation, I helped establish the Four Seasons Program, helped develop the Mini-Matching Grant, helped rewrite the by-laws and served as Grant Chair.

During my years of membership, I have been honored to be nominated to the Ohio District Hall of Fame, named Kiwanian of the year twice, and Outstanding President twice and Outstanding Lieutenant Governor twice.

In my non-Kiwanis life, I have served thirty years as a Red Cross Volunteer, with twenty of those years as Disaster chair, served on various church boards, including eight years as Finance Chair, was a member of the PTA for twenty five years with six being City Wide Treasurer, was honored as Outstanding Volunteer for the Piqua City School District and received the Order of George for lifetime achievement award for volunteer work for the improvement of life in the City of Piqua.

I take whatever task I am given or whatever office I hold seriously. I believe in doing any job to the best of my ability. If elected as District Treasurer, I will continue that same work ethic. I am looking forward to serving the Great Ohio District as Treasurer.





# Keep up with our Governor on her travels

Governor Marcia and her First Gentleman Larry been on the road , visiting clubs and supporting the Kiwanis family 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!



# Following our Family on Facebook

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.



The Piqua, Ohio Kiwanis Club is a service organization celebrating 90 years of service to the community, with a focus on supporting children in Miami County. They meet weekly at the YWCA, hosting various events and speakers.

Recent activities include free haircuts and bookbags for Piqua students, as well as a discussion on pageantry and aesthetics by former Key Club member Megan Booher.

Some of their community-focused projects include:

- Selling Seel's Candies to support their charitable activities
- Organizing a Bicycle Parade on July 4th
- Hosting pumpkin-painting events and trick-or-treating for local children
- Participating in Arbor Day celebrations, alongside other local organizations like the Troy Kiwanis Club, which donated books to area students

**Happy 90<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY! PIQUA KIWANIS!**

For nine decades, you've been changing lives and building a stronger community. We celebrate you today and all the good still to come! ❤️❤️

**Kiwanis OHIO DISTRICT**

**East Toledo-Oregon Kiwanis Club**  
May 2 at 8:25 PM

**CELEBRATING THE 70th Birthday OF KIWANIS CLUB OF MASON**

**Serving our community for 70 years, one child at a time.**

**Marcia Copeland Hudson, Governor of the Kiwanis Ohio District is with Marcia Copeland Hudson**  
April 23 at 10:35 AM

Attached is a video clip created at Spring Officers Training (SPot). It will be seen in the opening ceremony at ICON '26 in Manila. I dedicate this moment to our Ohio... See more

# **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

## **May 2026**

May 11 - Happy Mothers Day!

May 16 - ODKF Meeting, Columbus (in-person)

May 31 - Deadline for Key Club Officer Election reports

TBD - Official Club Visit Reports

June 1 - Club Election reports are due!

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**Kiwanis**  
**K-Kids**  
Young Leaders Helping Others

**SINGLE**  
**SERVICE PROJECT**  
**AWARD**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Granville Elementary School**  
**Placemats About a Cause**  
**Ohio District**  
**2025-26**

# K-Kids tattoo teachers for fun and funds



During the month of March, the Heir Force K-Kids organized a “Tattoo the Teacher” fundraiser, in which any of the students in grades K-3 were allowed to buy temporary tattoos and place them on the staff of their choice.

Tattoos were 25 cents each or five for \$1. A first-grade teacher had the most, with 89 tattoos. At the end of the month, the Lima-based club hosted a tattoo party.

This was the students favorite project all year and the K-Kids were already talking about it for next year!



## PURSE BINGO FUNDRAISER

Join us for Tea, Desserts, and 10 Rounds of Bingo for Designer Purses!

**MAY 9 | 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**COMMUNITY CABIN | 28114 Lorain Rd, North Olmsted**

*Chinese Raffles & 50/50*

**TICKETS \$45.00** | Available on Eventbrite: <https://NorthOlmstedKiwanisPurseBingo.eventbrite.com>

Questions? Call Amber 440-506-0317

# From the desk of our District Secretary

Here are several updates from Ohio Kiwanis Secretary Robin Gagnow that might help clubs collaborate with your officers and members.

From the Ohio Kiwanis Secretary



- New Kiwanis Members, clubs have the option of adding them to the Ohio Kiwanis *Buckeye Bulletin* email list. As new members they would appreciate getting the monthly newsletter. You can access the site under the Resource tab, on the Ohio District Kiwanis website (Note: we are updating section each week). Website: <https://k20.site.kiwanis.org/>

- Ohio District Kiwanis Foundation Mini-Grants due June 30, December 31 (Grants up to \$3,000). Link: <https://odkf.org/>

·Mark your calendar for 2026 Ohio District Convention, August 14-16, at the Renaissance, Columbus Westerville, Hotel, Westerville.

Many sponsors (and attendees!) will be needed to make this centrally located convention a big success. Watch the district's website for updates soon on how to be a sponsor and also for registration. If you or your company would like to sponsor, please let us know!

I look forward to meeting you at DCON conference in August. As always if I can be of assistance, please contact me at [secretary@ohiokiwanis.org](mailto:secretary@ohiokiwanis.org).

**Robin Gagnow, Ohio District Secretary**

## Save the Date!

### 2026 District Convention

### August 14th-16th, 2026

409 Altair Pkwy, Westerville, OH 43082



# Kiwanis welcomes new Conneaut club

On May 6, we celebrated more than the chartering of a new Kiwanis club; we recognized the beginning of a lasting legacy of service in Conneaut, Ohio.

The Kiwanis Club of Conneaut stands as a beacon of hope, compassion, and community, rooted in the belief that small acts of kindness can create lasting impact for generations to come.

Anchored in service and united in purpose, this new chapter brings together caring hearts dedicated to uplifting children, strengthening families, and building a brighter future.

Thank you to the Ohio District Kiwanis Membership team, under the leadership of Chair Rick Fox, Lieutenant Governor Kathy Talty of the Lake Effect Division, and the sponsoring Kiwanis Club of Ashtabula, Ohio, for building and nurturing this club. We also appreciate Governor Elect Judy Raub, ODKF President Elect Marla Marsh, and Lieutenant Governor Monica Marsh of the Queen City Division for making the trip to support this charter party.

May this club shine as a light along the lakeshore, inspiring connection, leadership, and hope throughout the community for many years ahead.

**--Marcia Copeland Hudson,**  
Ohio Governor



# Welcome to the Kiwanis Family!

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO OUR

# CHARTER

# Party

FOR

## KIWANIS CLUB OF HUBER HEIGHTS



DATE:  
05/20/2026



TIME:  
6-8PM



LOCATION:  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
IN HUBER HEIGHTS



DRESS CODE:  
BUSINESS ATTIRE



LIGHT REFRESHMENTS  
AND SAVORY GRAZING BOARD



THERE WILL BE A  
50/50 RAFFLE AND SILENT AUCTION



RSVP BY 05/13/2026

TO MARGE HESS



937-626-0580



MARGE.HESS@YAHOO.COM

**FREE EVENT!!**



**KIWANIS OF CLINTON COUNTY**

# BIKE RODEO

**SATURDAY JUNE 6TH**

**10AM - 12PM**

**VISIT US!**  
[www.Facebook.com/KiwanisClintonCounty](http://www.Facebook.com/KiwanisClintonCounty)

**CLINTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BACK PARKING LOT**



-  **FREE HELMETS**
-  **SAFETY STATIONS**
-  **BIKE CHECKS**
-  **HEALTHY SNACKS**
-  **BRING YOUR WHEELS!**   
(Bicycle, Scooter, Skateboard, etc.)

**LOTS OF GIVEAWAYS & RAFFLE FOR FREE BIKES!**

**REGISTER NOW :**



Thank you to our sponsors:



Clinton County Health District

