



Kiwaniis®

GRAND RAPIDS



<http://www.kiwanisgrandrapids.org>

February 2022

PROGRAMS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

Tim Breadon, President
John Bigari, Secretary
Sarah Pastoor, Treasurer
Linda Paige, Editor

Future Programs/Events

March 8 Sara Reid Kid's Food Basket
March 15 Gregg Dimkoff Avoiding Financial Scams
March 22 Tyler Smies First Tee Golf
March 25 & 31 Terrific Kids
April 5 Dondrea Brown Young Money Finances
April 12 John Ruther Fraud
April 19 Bikes for the Rest of Us Mary Free Bed

The club meets every Tuesday from 11:30AM to 12:30PM.
Kent Country Club
1600 College Ave NE,
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
616 363 6811

Always remember—
#KidsNeedKiwaniis



Tina Hudson and Nancy Ditta spoke about The [Santa Claus Girls Grand Rapids](#), founded in 1908. This is an organization that provides Christmas gifts to children in Kent County from newborn to age 12. Each child receives a pair of pajamas, a book, and a hat and gloves. They recently helped out 13,000 kids from 6,500 families. They were featured on the Today show - <https://www.today.com/.../-santa-claus-girls-spread....>

To honor Black History Month Bill Weitzel provided the members a video presentation on the [Tuskegee Airman](#). This was a group of primarily African American military pilots (fighter and bomber) and airmen who fought in World War II. The Allies called these airmen "Red Tails" or "Red-Tail Angels," because of the distinctive crimson unit identification marking predominantly applied on the tail section of the unit's aircraft.



Syrina Dawson from the Boyne City Kiwanis Club is the Michigan representative to the Kiwanis [Children's Fund](#). She spoke about the fund and the three main missions, health and nutrition, education and literacy, and youth leadership development. The fund provides grants to clubs and districts. In Michigan they provided money to Midland schools after the dam break and flooding.

Club Contact Information

Tim Breadon - President: @kiwanisgrandrapids.org
John Bigari - Secretary: kiwanisgrandrapids.org

The primary purpose of this club is to improve the quality of life for children and families worldwide by adhering to the Objects of Kiwanis International. The objectives were approved in 1924 and through the decades, they have remained unchanged.

- To give primacy to the human and spiritual, rather than to the material values of life.
- To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.
- To promote the adoption and application of higher social, business, and professional standards.
- To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship.
- To provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service and to build better communities.
- To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and goodwill.

MORE PROGRAMS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED



Every child deserves a chance to play baseball and Tony Comden with the [West Michigan Miracle League](#) makes that happen. The league provides opportunities to kids with physical and mental disabilities to experience the love of baseball.

Hero who rescued woman honored with international bravery

A hero who rescued a woman from a sunken car has become the first Bermudian to win an international bravery award from a global service organization.

Larry Simmons Jr, 25, was awarded the Robert P Connelly Medal of Heroism by Kiwanis International.



He is one of only 600 people who have won the honor since it was created more than 50 years ago.

Mr. Simmons, an engineer, said: "I'm just very thankful and honored to get the award from the committee.

"It's a small number of people who get this award and I'm pleased to be the first Bermudian to get it."

Mr. Simmons said his actions in the rescue of friend Jessica Acheson were a product of his nature and upbringing. He added:

"It was more of an instinct. It's something I was born with.

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We are on the web: kiwanisgrandrapids.org
Facebook:: [Kiwanis Grand Rapids North](#)
Twitter: [kiwanisgr](#)

CLUB SERVICE RECAP

Mentor at Northview High School

Hours Total — 2

Members Involved — 1

Children served—1

Terrific Kids Awards

Hours Total — 10

Members Involved — 3

Children served—50

5th grade committee and Embracing Imperfections

Members Involved — 1

Hours Total — 6

Non-members hours—13

Children served—90

Michigan District of Key Club

Hours Total — 8

Members Involved — 1

Est Youth served —150

St Alphonsus Super

House: Serving the needy a dinner

Hours Total — 12

Members Involved — 3

Est. Youth Served—30

Hero who rescued woman ... continued

“At the time I was surprised, but I was raised up and taught to be a helpful person and it was just a situation that I found myself in where I was able to help somebody.

“I would definitely do it again if I had to. It’s what I love to do, to help people. It doesn’t matter what it is, even if it’s something small like helping someone across the street.

“I’m basically just a helpful person.”

Mr. Simmons helped to pull Ms. Atcheson, 29, from her vehicle after it landed upside down in the water near the West End Sailboat Club in Sandys in December 2020.

Mr. Simmons, from Somerset, was honored by the St George’s branch of the Kiwanis organization, who made him Hero of the Year.

Details of the award were passed on to the New England area division of Kiwanis, of which Bermuda is an affiliate, and the nomination went “up the chain” to the organization's international board.

The board ruled that Mr. Simmons was a worthy winner of the heroism medal.

The award is named after Robert P Connelly, a Kiwanian who tried to save a woman who was walking across a railroad track as a train approached.

Mr. Connelly and the woman were killed in the 1966 incident and the organization named a medal after him to honor his heroism and sacrifice.

Mr. Simmons said in an earlier interview that he knew instinctively that he had to take action to save Ms. Atcheson’s life.

He added: “Everything was going through my mind at the time, but I couldn’t really think at that moment — it was more just taking action.

“I just took it upon myself to just go ahead and jump right in. I had no time wasted. I just knew from my first instinct that I had to go and just get this girl out of this car.

“I just really had to do what I could to get her out of the car because there was so much on the line.

“She has a daughter and I can’t just let her mother go and have her out of her daughter’s life at such a young age.

“So I did it for her, I did it for the family, I did it for me. I was just making sure that she was out of the car alive.”

Ms. Atcheson suffered a broken leg and internal injuries, including cracked ribs and swelling in her lungs, but made a full recovery from her ordeal.

There are Kiwanis clubs in more than 80 countries and the organization promotes volunteer work and self-sacrifice.

Kiwanis Trivia

Until 1962, Kiwanis clubs were limited to the United States and Canada. But club delegates to the 1961 convention in Toronto approved the extension of Kiwanis to the rest of the world. In April 1962, the Kiwanis Club of Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico, became the first club to be organized outside the two founding nations. Today, Kiwanis clubs are active in more than 85 nations and geographic areas.

“QUOTABLE NOTABLES”

“The sole meaning of life is to serve humanity.”—Leo Tolstoy

“We enjoy the comfort of opinion, without the discomfort of thought.” – John. F. Kennedy

“Perfection is attained by slow degrees; it requires the hand of time.” — Voltaire



March



17 Pat Newcombe

5 Kristen and John Ruther

21 Linda Paige

26 Cheryl and Bill Weitzel

