



# Kiwaniis<sup>®</sup>

## GRAND RAPIDS



<http://www.kiwanisgrandrapids.org>

April 2026

### PROGRAMS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

**Brenda Eller**, President  
**Linda Paige**, Secretary  
**Sarah Pastoor**, Treasurer  
**Linda Paige**, Editor

#### Future Programs/Events

<b>May 12</b> Lindsey VanDyke Early On Kent ISD
<b>May 12</b> Board Meeting
<b>May 19</b> Mike Martin "Why I no longer hate poetry"
<b>May 26</b> Weekly Meeting
<b>May 28 &amp; 29</b> Terrific kids



Vickie Finkler and John Kozal with Lily's Frog Pad, Inc located at Howard Christensen Nature Center (HCNC) spoke to the club regarding the sale of HCNC. They are trying to rally support to save the buildings on the property which includes the welcome center the Kiwanis helped to fund.

[https://www.facebook.com/story.php/?story\\_fbid=1349982057176237&id=100064933650124](https://www.facebook.com/story.php/?story_fbid=1349982057176237&id=100064933650124)

Hillary Sawyer with the [Boys & Girls Clubs of Grand Rapids Youth Commonwealth](#) told us about their history. Founded in 1938 by the Grand Rapids Police Department as Grand Rapids Youth Commonwealth. They later rebranded and joined forces with the national Boys and Girls Clubs. They have several locations around GR and own Camp O'Malley that offers day and overnight camp options. They only charge \$5 per year for each student to participate in their activities. With the education issues surrounding inner city schools, the clubs boast that 98% of members graduate high school, 84% maintain A's and B's in coursework.



The club meets every **Tuesday** from 11:30AM to 12:30PM.  
**Shots on the River**  
5760 W River Dr NE,  
Belmont, MI 49306  
616-951-6071  
Always remember—  
**#KidsNeedKiwaniis**



**Club Contact Information**  
KiwaniisGrandRapids@gmail.com

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 MONTLY PROGRAMS



NFL Football player Terry Bradshaw spoke at the 2025 Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3926973370781896>

Our club played his speech in two parts. He gave a humorous look at football and talked about Kiwanis and the vision and importance of helping kids.

## AKTION CLUB POP-CAN TAB DONATION

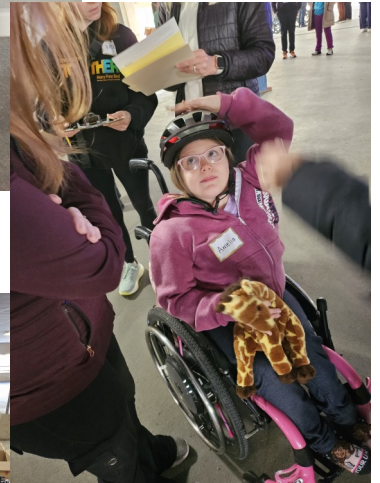
Every year our Kiwanis club assists the [Noorthoek Academy](#) Aktion Club in raising money for the [Ronald McDonald House Charities of West Michigan](#). They spend all year collecting pop-can tabs and donate them to the house.



We are on the web: [kiwanisgrandrapids.org](http://kiwanisgrandrapids.org)  
Facebook:: [Kiwanis Grand Rapids](#)  
Twitter: [kiwanisqr](#)

# Bikes for the Rest of Us

The Kiwanis Club of Grand Rapids worked with [Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital](#) and their [Bikes for the Rest of Us](#) event. We purchased and fit bike helmets for their participants. This is a great program matching adults and children with disabilities to specialized, adaptive bikes. The club fit and handed out 44 helmets and left more with the hospital for them to use during the year. See more about their event here: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/957408351963177>



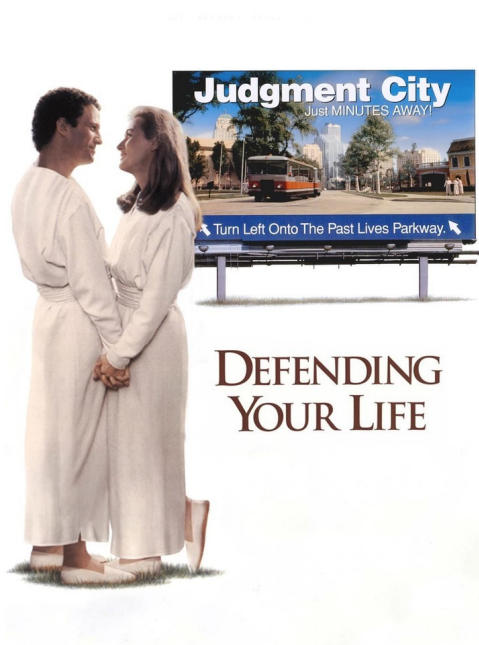
## POPULAR MOVIES AND TV SHOWS THAT HAVE NAME-CHECKED KIWANIS AND KEY CLUB OVER THE YEARS.

Kiwanis International has been serving the children of the world for over a century — and in that time, it has permeated popular culture as well. In movies, TV and written fiction, the presence of a Kiwanis club succinctly tells the audience that the setting is a community that helps out its less fortunate members. Characters might say they are Kiwanians to indicate a dedication to service or a thriving social life. Or they might mention an affiliation with Key Club to indicate that they are high achievers involved in their schools and communities.

Part one of the series is in the [February 2025](#) edition of the newsletter. **There are a total of 16 in the series.** Look for more in the coming months.

### “Defending Your Life” (1991)

Following his death, Daniel Miller (Albert Brooks) finds himself in Judgment City, an afterlife metropolis where the recently deceased reside in hotels while awaiting final judgment. Daniel’s hotel isn’t as fancy as the one where love interest Julia (Meryl Streep) is staying, but he’s in good company: A sign in the lobby reads, **“WELCOME KIWANIS DEAD.”**



In researching the reference I came across one message board stating: “They frequently have conventions and when you are at a hotel it is common to see signs that say, "Welcome Kiwanis". The joke is that even in death these clubs are having there own private convention. “



## CLUB SERVICE RECAP

### Terrific Kids Awards

Hours Total — 10

Members Involved — 10

### Mary Free Bed Bikes for the Rest of Us

Hours Total — 12

Members Involved — 1

Nonmembers— 2

### Key Club Mentorship

Hours Total — 4

Members Involved — 3

### Aktion Club

#### Ronald McDonald House

#### Can Tab donation

Hours Total — 132

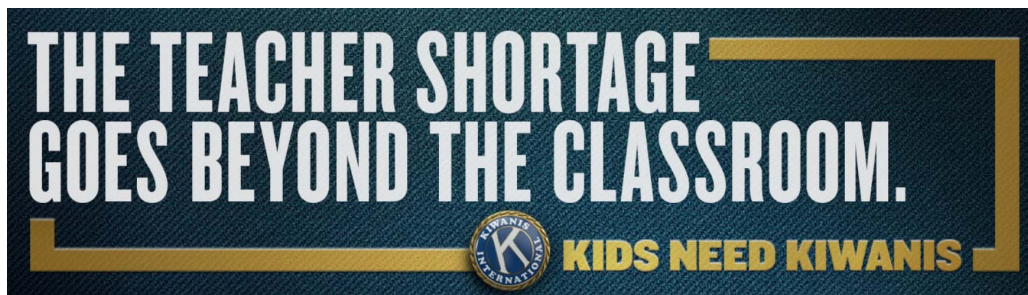
Members Involved — 3

Nonmembers— 8

## “QUOTABLE NOTABLES”

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.” - Muhammad Ali

“I may be dumb but I am not stupid” - Terry Bradshaw



## May



2 Quincy & Mike Kwast

22 Sandi & Jerry Swett

## Kiwanis Trivia

Kiwanis International conventions began when the Kiwanis Club of Cleveland invited representatives of other clubs to meet there in May 1916. At that time, there were 16 clubs with 1,924 members. A Kiwanis International convention has been conducted every year since then, except for limited conferences in 1943–45 due to wartime travel restrictions.