



Kiwanis®

GRAND RAPIDS



<http://www.kiwanisgrandrapids.org>

July 2026

PROGRAMS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

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

Future Programs/Events

August 5 Discussion and prep for Mill Creek Days
August 8 Mill Creek Days Kids Games
August 11 Weekly Meeting
August 11 Board Meeting
August 18 NO WEEKLY MEETING
August 20 Shots Evening Meeting Awards Event
August 25 Weekly Meeting
August 25 NECM Supper House

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—
#KidsNeedKiwanis



Kyle Wartella and his son Bryce spoke about Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The [Michigan FCA](#) summer camp has grown tremendously over the years. This year they had 566 campers and are the second largest camp in the country. They are expanding to

include athletes of all abilities and may need to add a second week to accommodate their growth.

For the meeting we listened to an interesting talk “Volunteering: The Freedom To Do Something Important” by Brian Tenclinger.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyUdqRstdOc>



Ian MacNeil from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) <https://www.aquinas.edu/offices/olli-aquinas/index.html> spoke about the program at [Aquinas College](#). This is a membership-based, lifelong learning program that offers a wide variety of 90 minute lectures, short courses, and special events for intellectually curious adults over 50. It costs \$75 to join and each course is only \$10

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 MONTHLY PROGRAMS



Our Kiwanis member John LaPorte gave a presentation on one of his hobbies. He uses epoxy resin in woodcraft to create beautiful pieces of art. He showed pictures of the process from start to finish.

JORDAN DE LA CRUZ RECEIVES MARC H. LITWACK LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP AWARD

The district administrator was honored as a Key Club alum and exemplary leader.

By Destiny Cherry

Jordan De La Cruz, district administrator of the **Key Club Michigan District**, received the Marc H. Litwack Legacy of Leadership Award in July during the 2026 Key Club International Convention in Dallas, Texas, U.S.

The Litwack Award recognizes a former Key Club member who exemplifies extraordinary leadership qualities and has made significant contributions to their profession and community.

De La Cruz is no stranger to leadership. She currently serves as an emergency-dispatch operator and a coordinator of the Critical Stress Management Team for the **Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office**. She joined Key Club in high school and served as her club's president and a lieutenant governor before chartering a Circle K International club at Concordia University in Canada.

After returning to Michigan, De La Cruz briefly served as a zone advisor before starting her current role as the Michigan District administrator.

"Jordan's approach to leadership shines bright with the core values of Key Club," says Juhi Bhatt, a Michigan District secretary. "Rather than defaulting to rigid policy, she evaluates individual circumstances, ensuring that our district's processes reflected Key Club's commitment to compassion and inclusivity. She's able to balance organizational needs with genuine care for individual members, which sets her apart as an administrator."

Outside of her work with the Kiwanis family, De La Cruz has a passion for mental health, which led to her accepting the role as a critical stress coordinator. The goal of her position: creating environments where seeking support is viewed as a strength rather than a weakness.

As an emergency-dispatch operator, De La Cruz has experience in calm communication and quick decision-making. Her nurturing, empathetic temperament has made her a beloved member of both her community and the Key Club Michigan District.

De La Cruz's continuous dedication to choose others, personify Key Club ideals and show up for her community members during the hardest moments of their lives is exactly makes her a worthy recipient of the 2026 Marc H. Litwack Legacy of Leadership award.



We are on the web: kiwanisgrandrapids.org
Facebook:: [Kiwanis Grand Rapids North](https://www.facebook.com/KiwanisGrandRapidsNorth)
Twitter: [kiwanisgr](https://twitter.com/kiwanisgr)

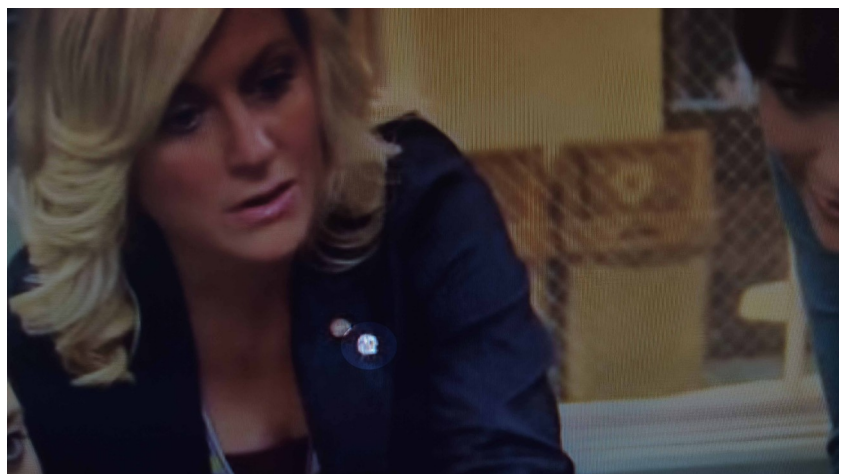
POPULAR MOVIES AND TV SHOWS THAT HAVE NAME-CHECKED KIWANIS AND KEY CLUB OVER THE YEARS.

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.

“Parks and Recreation” (2009-2015)

Leslie Knope (Amy Poehler) is a dedicated, enthusiastic public servant in her fictional town of Pawnee, Indiana, U.S. — so it’s no surprise that she is also a member of her local Kiwanis club. Leslie can be seen wearing a **Kiwanis pin** (*highlighted it in the image below*) while infiltrating the city hall “boys’ club” in season one, episode four. Maybe the Kiwanis Club of Pawnee helped build some of the playgrounds Leslie oversees as a member of the parks and recreation department.



“QUOTABLE NOTABLES”

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart” Elizabeth Andrew

“Woodworking is not just about creating objects; it’s about creating stories ad memories.” Unknown



August



6 Julia & John La Porte
14 Sandy & Larry Goodlander
26 Sarah & Scott Pastoor

Kiwanis Trivia

The Kiwanis administrative year begins on October 1. Originally, clubs and districts operated on the calendar year. However, Kiwanis International officers were elected at the annual conventions in early summer and, until 1950, assumed office immediately.

(In 1950, officers began taking office on August 1.) This led to many problems of budgeting, programming and leadership. For example, each international president worked with two sets of district governors and club presidents, and vice versa. In 1969, an administrative year that begins on October 1 was adopted for all levels of Kiwanis.