



*Ervin H. Welch*

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Erv is a Charter Member of the Kiwanis Club of Suburban Kalamazoo, Michigan.

In his thirtynine years of continuous service Erv has served on many club committees and held several offices including serving as Club President in 1964. Erv received the Outstanding Club Service Award in 1960. He became a Life Member in 1973.

Erv was a successful businessman owning several stores including the Baxter and Welch Drugstore from 1955 to 1967.

Erv attended many Kiwanis conventions. At one convention he heard about the Michigan Kidney Foundation from the Foundation Executive Director. When Erv returned to Kalamazoo he asked the Suburban Kiwanis Club to make the Kidney Foundation their annual health project.

The club accepted the project and appointed Erv as Fund Raising Chairman. Over the years Erv organized a drug bank in his own store that dispensed free medications to those in need. Donations increased from \$1600/year to upwards of \$10,000 annually.

The Southwestern Michigan Kidney Foundation was then organized with Erv Welch as its first President and his wife Jennie Welch as Secretary-Treasurer. Through their efforts 600,000 Betty Crocker coupons were collected to acquire the first dialysis machine for Kalamazoo. Funds were also raised to train doctors as kidney specialists.

Erv was selected to receive the Volunteer Service Award from the National Kidney Foundation. Both Erv and Jennie were honored by the Michigan Kidney Foundation when a film presentation was dedicated to them.

Erv and Jennie had been married for over 60 years at the time of Jennie's death. Erv has three children, Eleanor, Richard and James, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



*Ken W. Beadling*  
Kenneth W. Beadling  
President  
Kiwanis Club of  
Suburban Kalamazoo  
September, 1992