



Mark A. Ott

Mark A. Ott

Mark joined the Kiwanis Club of Plymouth Breakfast in 1997, along with his wife Janet, as they looked to be engaged and give back to their local community. They were approached by some enthusiastic people who were looking for like-minded individuals to make a difference in their community. From that point on, that focus of serving others has been Mark's emphasis.

He started out quickly. Shortly after joining the club, responded to a need of a domestic violence shelter in the form of sweat suits for victims. A victim of domestic violence may have their clothes confiscated for evidence and they could be discharged from the hospital in only a hospital gown. The sweat suit provided by the shelter gives the victim some form of dignity. A collection project was started that continued annually soliciting donated garments. This project collected over 1,000 sweat suits.

From bell ringing for Salvation Army, to selling peanuts, or helium balloons there was always a service project or fund-raiser that Mark actively participated in to ensure the club could make and fulfill promises to their community.

Mark was club President on several occasions. He often served as Club Treasurer due to his accounting background. The club has had successful and meaningful projects that support a cross section of the community. Under his leadership the club began regularly supporting International and Michigan District projects such as sponsored youth, Kiwanis International Foundation, and Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation.

Mark actively participated in Division activities through Division Council meetings. He and Janet often made time to enjoy and participate in Michigan District Conventions and International Conventions. Through this exposure to Kiwanis, Mark became more involved at the District level participating on the Educational Committee. As a certified trainer, Mark traveled throughout the Michigan District facilitating programs from Leadership Training to Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus.

His most rewarding and challenging role was that of Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation Trustee for Division Nine. The Foundation has the role of supporting projects at four Michigan hospitals that are focused on the Child and Family Life Departments. The Foundation has its origins in 1922 with the Ann Arbor Kiwanis Club. Funding comes from the local clubs, as the core revenue source. Mark was instrumental in increasing Division Nine funding to meet and exceed their goal. Mark developed power point presentation programs for trustees from around the District to use in presenting their programs to local Clubs. He served as Vice President, then President. Before completing his term as President of the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation, Mark was once again called upon to use his accounting background. Once again, Mark answered the call to service. Forgoing his term as President, he resigned, to meet the Foundation's overwhelming need for a skilled Treasurer.

Through his Kiwanis activities, Mark found friends, rewarding service and personal satisfaction in service to others. His service to his community and his Kiwanis family at all levels shows a commitment deserving of recognition of the highest honor the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation can bestow on a Kiwanian. It is with great pleasure, we name Mark Ott a **Frank O. Stager Distinguished Kiwanian**.

255