



*Paul J. Elsey*





October 4, 2015

Paul Elsey has always loved kids. He grew up helping with the chores that go with having nine brothers and sisters. Paul decided early on that he would go into the teaching field. During his college years, he worked his way through college and made time to help kids at the Downriver YMCA. He began his career as a teacher in the Woodhaven (Brownstown) School District in 1972.

Paul has dedicated his life to helping kids, through his various positions in the Woodhaven School District as teacher, coach, assistant principal, athletic director and finally, as principal of Bates Elementary School for the last ten years of his 46 year career. Even after retiring from the District, he returned to serve as a school bus driver.

Paul started his Kiwanis life when a friend asked him to come to a Woodhaven Kiwanis meeting. Ever since, he has been hooked on Kiwanis and the work they do for children in his community and around the world. He has served as Lt. Governor for Division 5, and in his home Club, he has served as President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Paul joined the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation as the Trustee from Division 5, and was immediately involved and a key contributor to the oversight and direction of the Foundation. He was actively engaged through participation in the Administrative committee meetings, and when needed he stepped up and managed the silent auction at the District Convention, bringing organization and success to a key fundraiser. Paul was elected Vice President, and was prepared to further make an impact.

Due to the illness and sudden departure of the Treasurer, there was an immediate restructuring of the officers and Paul stepped forward and assumed the role of President earlier than expected. This unselfish act allowed a smooth transition and provided stability in what could have been very disruptive to the Foundation.

Paul has demonstrated true leadership by example, by going the extra mile and putting forth 110% effort in this new role. He encouraged Trustees to recommit and redouble their efforts to ensure the success of the Foundation. Paul is actively engaged with the Trustees, as well as the District Officers. He revived the Thomas Oliver Greeting Program from a minor fundraiser to one of significance and relevance for the future.

It is clear that Paul believes that we are here for "Serving the Children of the World", and he has done so in his life actions and in his dedication to Kiwanis. It is due to this diligence and commitment to the Objects of Kiwanis, in word and action, that we are pleased and honored to support the presentation of the Frank O. Staiger Distinguished Kiwanian Award to Paul Elsey.

Sincerely,

Trustees of the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation (Past and Present)

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