Michael Gyolai   #294

Mike Gyolai
Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation
Frank O. Staiger - Distinguished Kiwanian

October 8, 2020 marks thirty-nine years as a member of the Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven for Kiwanian Mike Gyolai. Mike was attending a pre-school curriculum meeting for his son, "Jimmy", when Assistant Superintend of Schools, John Schultz, approached Mike and twisted his arm to join a relatively new Service Club in the Woodhaven-Brownstown Community. Even today, "Jimmy" is often found at Mike's side at Texas Hold'em or behind the pancake grill.

Mike is no stranger to Club Leadership. He served as Club President in 1987-88 and again in 2001-02. If you look up Human and Spiritual Values Chairperson in the Dictionary, the new edition of the Merriam-Webster has Mike's picture.

Mike was elected by his peers in 2001 and again in 2006 as the Woodhaven Kiwanian of the Year. Our Club also presented Mike with a Hixon Fellowship. The award was named after Kiwanis International's First President George F. Hixon. The Award is described as a way of recognizing people who have contributed significantly to Kiwanis' history of generosity. A contribution of $1,000 was made to the Kiwanis Children's Fund for Kiwanis' world wide goal of eliminating iodine deficiency.
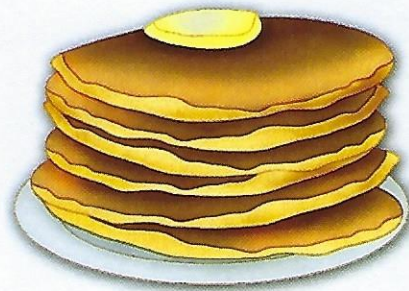
As Human and Spiritual Values Chairperson, Mike, has championed many programs:

- Collecting from Kiwanians at Club Board Meeting to feed the needy,
- Activities at Piquette Square for our veterans
- Church Directories for local hotels.
- Packing Lunches for the Downriver Salvation Army.
- Pizza to promote teen activities at local churches.

Additionally, Mike is one of our biggest Holiday raffle ticket sale persons.

History will, however, best remember Mike Gyolai as Woodhaven's Pancake King. Be it breakfast with the Easter Bunny, brunch for the Woodhaven Senior Citizens, or Veteran's day breakfast at Piquette Square .... The Pancake King was there!

Thank you Mike for your service to the Woodhaven-Brownstown Community.

Paul & Louisa Elsey
Wednesday, October 14, 2020