

January 2021

# Kiwanis®

Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District News

## Kiwanis One Day: La.Miss.Tenn. Clubs Work Together



*Improving the world one child and one community at a time.*



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## A Message from the Governor

*By Patrice Cusimano, Governor*

By now, the winter holidays are over and folks are looking ahead to the future. Are you ready for 2021? As anxious as I am to move forward and away from this unprecedented year, I am always cautious thinking that things could be worse. I think about my parents who lived through the Great Depression. My mother, one of seven kids, told me about moving from rented house to rented house seeking lower rent with a little more space. My grandfather moved the family from Avoyelles Parish when he got a job at the Ford Motor plant in Arabi. When the depression hit, he lost his job. Luckily, my “Papa” was a carpenter by trade and was able to find odd jobs to survive. My dad was an Army brat, living in other states, including Hawaii, and in the Philippines. He told us he always knew he would have shelter, food and clothing thanks to Uncle Sam. During those times, scarlet fever, mumps, measles, German measles, chicken pox, and whooping cough were prevalent and often deadly. My dad survived polio. Times were very tough for so many, but people survived by hook or crook. My point of all this doom and gloom is that we have persevered before and we will do it again. With the incredible advances in medical science, as evidenced by the warp speed rollout of a COVID vaccine, I have tremendous hope for our future.

I also have incredible hope for Kiwanis, especially our district. On December 4th and 5th, most of our executive board and ten lieutenant governors met in Jackson, Mississippi, to carry on the business of the district.



We discussed numerous topics focusing on how the lieutenant governors can help clubs stay active and relevant during the pandemic. Club presidents and secretaries should contact their lieutenant governor for help anytime they have questions, but especially now because our questions are unique to the times. Trust me when I tell you that your clubs can flourish despite the current conditions. I am also available to speak to your clubs via Zoom.

Starting January 23, 2021, we will have our first Mid-Winter Regional in Ponchatoula, La. The other six regionals are scheduled just about every weekend thereafter – see pages 9-10 or check [LaMissTenn.org](http://LaMissTenn.org) for the dates and a registration form. Sal and I will be traveling to each one, so I hope to see you there. These regionals will be educational – our certified trainers will discuss the status of your clubs. For example, what does your community need right now, how is your club adjusting, what do you need to continue, what projects no longer work (and ideas for new projects)? They will help clubs prioritize fundraising, member recruitment, and service projects. Believe it or not, now is an excellent time

to look for new members because people want to help their communities recover. You just need to ask!!! Regionals are for all members, not just club officers. We will also have some fun! Past Governor Bruce (or a reasonable facsimile) will present the awards for his year, and we will have basket raffles to benefit the District Foundation.

As I meet with other Kiwanis governors across our country, I realize how lucky we are in LaMissTenn. Oh sure, we’ve been hit just as hard as others with the virus, and on top of that, five hurricanes! Did we quit? No! In fact, we rallied around our communities that needed disaster relief, sending food, clothes, cleaning supplies, and the ever important school supplies. Clubs traveled to southwest Louisiana to deliver supplies and cook hot meals. We persevered, just as our parents and grandparents did. We will figure this out by going out into our communities to see where the needs are – whether it’s helping with a foodbank, school supplies, or sprucing up a playground. We also need to look outside of our own community to see if our neighboring communities need help – we will begin a push to open new clubs in areas of La.Miss.Tenn. that are underserved. Please help with these efforts – ASK!

We are beginning the second quarter of the Kiwanis year. Please help me continue the legacy of our great and historic district by being the best service organization our communities have ever experienced. It’s trite, but true – TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAMWORK! God Bless!

## The Few, The Proud, The Kiwanian

*By R. Bruce Hammatt, Immediate Past Governor*

“The Few. The Proud.” We have all heard this old slogan for the United States Military branch known as the Marines. My father and my two brothers each served in the U.S. military. My father was in the Navy during World War II, my older brother was a Marine during the Vietnam War, and my younger brother, Noel, served in the Army during peace time.

I am not going to comment over which arm of the military is better, stronger, or more competent; although I have been known to tell a story relative to my older brother. I remember it vividly to this day. The letter was written during the war and addressed to my dad. The letter started out with “Dear Dad:” and continued with the words “Damn the Navy, Damn the Navy, Damn the Navy...” The letter was four pages long and never said anything else, except at the very end where he wrote a short footnote explaining his four-page letter rampage. It seems he was in a small patrol of three men behind enemy lines and was hit in the knee by a 50 caliber



shot from a U.S. Naval vessel. (One of his patrol was killed and the other was not hit. My brother survived the war and is doing fine.)

In Kiwanis, I have not heard anyone use a version of the Marine slogan such as “The Few, The Proud, The Kiwanian” even though I think it would be appropriate. I also haven’t heard anyone use a version of the Marine slogan “We are looking for a Few Good Kiwanians.”

I was thinking about the concept of “looking for a few good Kiwanians” after I finished up a Zoom meeting yesterday afternoon with my fellow Kiwanians that were elected to serve on our District Foundation. The meeting was scheduled with two committees of the Board where we were looking

at, and updating, our five-year Strategic Plan.

For those of you that have not had the privilege of learning about our District Foundation, I wanted to give you a little snippet. It is a non-profit, charitable corporation, established in 1980, by the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District of Kiwanis International, under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Service Code 501 (c) (3). The District Foundation is the “fund-raising arm” of the La.Miss.Tenn. Kiwanis District. It is charged with finding financial ways to support scholarships and leadership training in the Service Leadership Programs, and meaningful service projects of the member Kiwanis clubs.

When I finished my year as Governor of this great and historic District at the end of September, I immediately began my term as Immediate Past Governor the next minute. It is now my honor to serve on the Foundation Board in an ad hoc position for this year. I use the term “honor” proudly. I thoroughly

*Continued on page 6 . . .*

# The Few, The Proud, The Kiwanian Continued . . .

*By R. Bruce Hammatt, Immediate Past Governor*

enjoyed my year as Governor as I traveled around the District meeting and working with the other club presidents and members. I especially enjoyed working with the Lieutenant Governors and the elected members of our District Board. Although my travel was obviously interrupted by the Covid-19 Pandemic, the work effort had to continue and we all learned together as we “Zoomed” all over the District and beyond.

Now, as a member of the District Foundation I get to work with many of my friends in another capacity. There is always a learning

curve whenever you start a new job or new task, and our Foundation is certainly no different. We know we have a job that needs to be done, but I am always amazed about how much fun a group of like-minded Kiwanians can have as the task gets accomplished.

The mission of the District Foundation is to provide financial assistance for Kiwanis projects and programs within our District. For the Foundation to be successful to our membership, we all should become involved. If you have not heard about their activities, haven’t gotten involved with it yet, or are a

new member learning about the District Foundation is easy. Just talk to your club president during your next club meeting or just look us up on your computer, tablet or phone. There are many ways to become involved and learn how the Foundation can help your Club. Better yet, talk with your fellow members and write a grant proposal and see how we can help each other. Remember to make sure that volunteer work needs to be fun and productive. You will learn that with your heart, you can become a true Friend of the Foundation. Together, we can improve our community one child at a time.

## *Kiwanis International Convention*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**JUNE  
23-26**

**Kiwanis®  
CONVENTION 2021  
SALT LAKE CITY**



# Updates from the Governor-Elect

By Richard Latiolais, Governor-Elect

For this quarter's newsletter I would like to cover several topics. I will be brief.

**Amplify** – This is a leadership course developed by our current International President Art Riley and the KI staff. If you want more in depth Information go to [Kiwanis.org/Amplify](http://Kiwanis.org/Amplify) (see page 11). For eight weeks prior to the International Convention the learning modules will be made available. Participants can access the interactive modules at their own pace. The program culminates with an in-person or online session during the 2021 Kiwanis International Convention. These professionally prepared modules include:

1. The qualities of a good leader
2. Methods of communication
3. Planning engaging events
4. Promoting diversity, equality and inclusion throughout a team
5. Working with others
6. Sharing a message
7. Planning for the future
8. Staying focused

The fee for the course is \$200 and registration begins February 15<sup>th</sup>.

I think this will be of great value to our Kiwanis members, and something



to take to your professional career or any aspect of life. I highly recommend the course.

**Background checks** - If your club sponsors an SLP then you should have a background check. It is very easy to sign up and only costs \$25 (\$1.04 a month) and covers a two-year period. You never know when you may have to play leader to a class of kids or accompany another Kiwanian to bring students home.

**Suicide prevention** – Tom Tompkins with the Germantown Kiwanis Club shared the following e-mail with me and I think this project has merit. I have not heard Cory Watkins speak, but he is recognized as a very good speaker.

*Germantown Kiwanis Club had its 34th Zoom meeting of the year today and had a speaker that delivered a message that I believe Kiwanis needs to embrace, minimally at a*

*District level. The Jason Foundation presenter Cory Watkins can be reached by email at [corywatkins@jasonfoundation.com](mailto:corywatkins@jasonfoundation.com). His message is teen suicide, the "Silent Epidemic" that is the second leading cause of childhood death in the US.*

*Kiwanis is "A global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child one community at a time." Educating school personnel, police, and more importantly the youth in the signs leading up to child suicide can make a difference in a life.*

*The Jason Foundation is a nationwide organization and I am sure there are local affiliates that our clubs could tap into for support in presentations to groups. With many groups still having Zoom meetings, or the Internet Club relying on conference calls or Zoom, this would be an excellent opportunity to learn more about this organization.*

*How can we as an organization get involved at a district level or a national level? This has all of the makings of a great District project. I believe the statistic is 104 of the 130 monthly child suicides are PREVENTABLE, if we educate people, teachers, parents and youth to recognize the signs.*

**Conclusion** - Mid-Winter Regionals begin week after next. I look forward to the visits. I also look forward to learning the ropes from one of my favorite Kiwanians **Patrice Cusimano**.

# A Big Kiwanis Thank You to Hurricane Relief Volunteers!

*By Past Governor Eva Abate, Southwest Contraband Kiwanis Club*



## LOVE IT LIVE IT SHARE IT

My journey started with many phone calls from fellow Kiwanians from LaMissTenn and Texas-Oklahoma. I had to write them all down so that I wouldn't forget. Here is the rest of the story:

Texas-Oklahoma District donated about 130 backpacks filled with hygiene items and personal items. These backpacks were given to the clean-up volunteers at Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, Families Helping Families, Room at the Inn Lake Charles, and City of Refuge, Vinton, La.

Orange Texas Kiwanis Club gave away hamburger meals in Vinton, La. along with diapers and wipes.

Cortana Kiwanis, Baton Rouge, provided their *World-Famous* Jambalaya in Lake Charles, Sulphur and Jennings. Multiple teams came with all the expertise necessary. Each time they also brought a trailer load of supplies that were distributed.

The Paris Texas Kiwanis Club sent over about 1,800 lbs. of pancake mix and syrup. With the help of Past Governors Bruce Hammatt and Gary Graham, we were able to deliver to Catholic Charities in Lake Charles.

The Marshall from Livingston Parish drove to Welsh, La. to cook two large pots of Pasta-jambalaya. The Welsh Fire Chief had us setup inside the truck bays and it was a blessing. Right around noon the rain came pouring down but we were dry.

Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club cooked hamburgers and hot dogs for the residents of Iowa, La. I recruited local volunteers that did a great job with distribution.

The Town of Lake Arthur, La. was a recipient of Jambalaya provided by the New Iberia Kiwanis Club. We had a beautiful day to hand out the meals, Pine-Sol, and candies.

The Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club, Metairie, La. cooked red beans and rice for the residents of Westlake, La. They also donated to the local food pantry (Items were collected by Key Clubs). They delivered 12 cases of t-shirts to me from "The Crescent City Classic." I spread the wealth by donating the t-shirts to Texas-Oklahoma District, City of Refuge in Vinton, La.; Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, La.; Monsignor Daniel Torres for his mission trip to Puerto Rico, Care Help of Sulphur and CARC Lake Charles.

I was also involved in a North Flori-

da Kiwanis Club Drive to collect items to be delivered to Lake Charles but Hurricane Zeta hit the Mississippi Gulf Coast before they made it to Lake Charles. Dennis Oliver was gracious enough to accept the items to help his community.

I know that several other Clubs came over to help and I want to say Thank You. Also, Thank You to all the volunteers that made every event a success. I know that many of you have experienced disasters but I have to say that there is nothing like the love of our Kiwanis Family.

Even after the unimaginable destruction of Hurricanes Laura and Delta, I still had a great time serving with my fellow Kiwanians. I did my best to help as many residents of Southwest Louisiana as possible. I stayed very busy helping others which helped me get beyond my own destruction. (One new roof before Delta and another new roof after Delta. My motorhome garage was blown away by Hurricane Laura. I had some water damage in my home. It took me two weeks to pick up the debris in my yard in the extreme heat.)

**KIWANIS IS A GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF VOLUNTEERS DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE WORLD ONE CHILD AND ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME.**

**A BIG KIWANIS THANK YOU!**

- Eva Abate, Past Governor 2018-2019





## The 2020-2021 Mid-Year Regional Conferences: 2020! Talk About Being Blindsided!

2019-2020 offered our clubs (and communities) so many challenges from holding regular meetings to providing service to our communities to working with our SLP clubs. As our clubs slowly emerged from the limitations imposed by the governing bodies, 2 horrible hurricanes destroyed communities in southwest and central Louisiana and then southeast Mississippi. Who know what else is headed our way!

The 2021 Mid-Year Conferences will attempt to provide ideas on how clubs can re-establish themselves as the leading service providers in their communities. Obviously there is plenty of questions to be answered...

- ⇒What do you miss the most? What new stuff do you like?
- ⇒What is your community needing the most?
- ⇒Who is stepping up to fill the gap?How is your club adjusting to the situation?
- ⇒What are you still missing? What are your members struggling with?
- ⇒Where do you fit in? What no longer fits?
- ⇒What are the opportunities for my Kiwanis Club to serve and benefit my community?
- ⇒And more!

The 2020-2021 Mid-Year Regional Conference will be...

- **A working meeting**, to help each club plan to flourish as we recover from Covid-19 and hurricane.
- **A one-day event**, starting at 8:00 a.m., and ending around 3:00 p.m.
- **Centrally located**, at a convenient location within your club's Region.
- **Less expensive!** **ADVANCE REGISTRATION** is \$15 per member, or **\$50 for FOUR**; on-site registration is \$20 per member. The registration fee will include refreshment breaks during the day, and lunch.

### TYPICAL 2020-2021 MID-YEAR REGIONAL AGENDA

*NOTE: Times may vary slightly by Region*

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

#### REGISTRATION

Continental Breakfast (*recommended*)  
District Foundation Gift Basket Raffle

8:30 a.m.

Governor Patrice meets with Club Presidents & Lt. Governors

9:00 a.m.

#### OPENING SESSION

9:15 a.m.

#### TALK ABOUT BEING BLINDSIDED!

How to help your club recover from COVID and the hurricane disasters.

#### LUNCH

Governor Patrice Cusimano makes her "official visit" to the Divisions of the Region; presentation of the 2019-2020 Awards, and drawings for the Foundation Raffle

#### FOLLOWING, if needed...

**DIVISION COUNCIL MEETING** to share information and to elect Lt. Governors and Lt. Governors-Elect if necessary

### 2020-2021 MID-YEAR REGIONAL DATE & LOCATIONS

#### January 23rd

Region V - "*Florida Parishes Region*" - Divisions 8A, 8B & 13  
The Mezzanine Event Hall, 308 S. Cate St., Hammond, La.

#### January 30th

Region I - "*WestTenn Region*" - Divisions 1A & 1C  
Lannom Center, 2000 Commerce Ave., Dyersburg, Tenn.

#### February 6th

Region VII - "*Piney Hills Region*" - Divisions 6, 9 & 11  
Alexandria Kiwanis Camp, Kiwanis Camp Road, Tioga, La.

#### February 13th

Region II - "*Natchez Trace North Region*" - Divisions 2, 10A, 10B, 10C  
St. Andrew's Methodist Church, 431 No. 16th St., Oxford, Miss.

#### February 27th

Region VI - "*Southwest Region*" - Divisions 7, 12 & 17  
Lafayette Fire Training Center, 300 Dugas Rd., Lafayette, La.


#### March 6th

Region IV - "*The Bayou Region*" - Divisions 4A & 4B  
Crescent Christian School, 4828 Utica St., Metairie, La.

#### March 13th

Region III - "*Magnolia South Region*" - Divisions 3, 5, 14, & 15  
SMEPA Convention Center, 7037 Hwy. 49 No., Hattiesburg, Miss.

## 2020-2021 MID-YEAR REGIONAL SCHEDULE

<p><b>January 23rd</b>  <i>"Florida Parishes Region"</i>                  Region V - Divisions 8A, 8B &amp; 13                  The Mezzanine Event Hall                  308 S. Cate St., Hammond, La.</p>	<p><b>January 30th</b>  <i>"WestTenn Region"</i>                  Region I - Divisions 1A &amp; 1C                  Lannom Conference Center                  2000 Commerce Ave., Dyersburg, Tenn.</p>	<p><b>February 6th</b>  <i>"Piney Hills Region"</i>                  Region VII - Divisions 6, 9 &amp; 11                  Alexandria Kiwanis Camp,                  Kiwanis Camp Rd. Exd, Tioga, La.</p>
<p><b>February 13th</b>  <i>"Natchez Trace North Region"</i>                  Region II - Divisions 2 &amp; 10                  St. Andrew's Methodist Church,                  431 No. 16th St., Oxford, Miss.</p>	<p><b>February 27th</b>  <i>"Southwest Region"</i>                  Region VI - Divisions 7, 12 &amp; 17                  Lafayette Fire Training Center,                  300 Dugas Rd., Lafayette, La.</p>	<p><b>March 6th</b>  <i>"The Bayou Region"</i>                  Region IV - Divisions 4A &amp; 4B                  Crescent Christian School,                  4828 Utica St., Metairie, La.</p>
 <p>La.-Miss.-W.Tenn.                  District Convention:                  IP Resort, Biloxi, Miss.                  August 5-7, 2021</p>	<p><b>March 13th</b>  <i>"Magnolia South Region"</i>                  Region III - Divisions 3, 5, 14, &amp; 15                  Cooperative Energy Convention Center,                  7037 Hwy. 49 No., Hattiesburg, Miss.</p>	<p><b>Kiwanis<sup>®</sup></b>  <b>CONVENTION 2021</b>  <b>SALT LAKE CITY</b>                  June 23-26, 2021</p>

## 2020-2021 MID-YEAR REGIONAL REGISTRATION

Club: \_\_\_\_\_  
 President: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please print information below-use additional sheet if necessary:  
**NAMES of those attending:** \_\_\_\_\_ **OFFICE HELD (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Registration Fee is \$15 per person ~ \$50 for 1st FOUR**

### Registering for Regional Conference...

- Reg. I: Jan. 30th       Reg. II: Feb. 13th  
 Reg. III: Mar. 13th     Reg. IV: Mar. 6th  
 Reg. V: Jan. 23rd       Reg. VI: Feb. 27th  
 Reg. VII: Feb. 6th

### REGISTRATION FEE MUST BE ENCLOSED:

No. attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: If 4 (four) are attending, a total of \$50.00!  
 (and then \$15 per person for each additional person)**

Total included: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

1.	_____	_____
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20.	_____	_____

Make check payable to:  
**La.-Miss.-W.Tenn. Kiwanis**  
 Mail to:  
**5253-B Dijon Dr.**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4393**  
**Please mail at least 2 weeks  
 before Regional is scheduled!**

# LEARNING & LIVING LEADERSHIP OUT LOUD

**Build your leadership skills. Improve your career, your community and your Kiwanis club.**

Kiwanis Amplify is a program for emerging leaders who want to amplify their ability to lead a team. Participation is encouraged for, but not limited to, young leaders, new members and graduating members of Circle K International.

#### **Participants will:**

- Explore the value of servant leadership.
- Discover their personal strengths so they can lead confidently and successfully.
- Strengthen the ability to lead others in a strategic manner.
- Build and manage a strategic plan that works.
- Learn from experts as well as from peers from across the globe.
- Earn a certification of completion.

#### **Participants will take a deep dive into eight leadership topics:**

1. The qualities of a good leader.
2. Methods of communication.
3. Planning engaging events.
4. Promoting diversity, equality and inclusion throughout a team.
5. Working with others.
6. Sharing a message.
7. Planning for the future.
8. Staying focused.

The participation fee is US\$200. Individuals may nominate themselves for Kiwanis Amplify — or a club, division or district may sponsor participants. The participation fee is considered an educational expense, so clubs have the option of paying it from their service accounts.

To enroll, learn more or recommend someone for the program, visit [kiwanis.org/amplify](https://kiwanis.org/amplify).

**Kiwanis<sup>®</sup>**  
**Amplify**



## Mid-Year Regionals Gift Basket Raffle

*By Catherine Simmons, Foundation Grants Chair*

During the Mid-Year Regionals, taking place from January 23rd through March 13th, your District Foundation is asking clubs to support the Gift Basket Raffle, by donating a basket or 2, from the various clubs within their Region. These are always a big hit with those attending, as well as raising funds for the District Foundation.

Themes of these baskets range from tool boxes, to gardening supplies, to Valentine Baskets to a crisp new \$100 bill. If you think it, you can make it!

### Gift Basket Raffle and Annual Club Gift Campaign Funds support:

- Key Club Scholarships
- Circle K Scholarships
- Community Service Grants
- NEW Club Service Grants
- Disaster Relief Grants
- SLP Leadership Training
- Key Leader Weekend
- AED Grants



## Kiwanis Spirit Flags Available at Mid-Year Regionals



The “Kiwanis Garden Flag” is now flying in gardens all over the USA and our District! Originally planned for our “Convention at Sea,” in lieu of the Foundation Gift Baskets, these flags are being sold by mail-order. Of 1,000 produced, we have just 318 remaining. **The flags will be traveling to the different Regionals**, so you can save the shipping costs! Made of weather-resistant, heavy duty polyester, the flag has a double-sided design that is DYED into the fabric in layers for a long lasting, vibrant work of art!

Size: 12” across by 18” down. Cost: \$20

To save on shipping, preorder your flag by contacting Cathy Simmons at (504) 874-2816. Flags will be delivered to your club at your Regional by Governor Patrice!

[KiwanisGardenFlags@gmail.com](mailto:KiwanisGardenFlags@gmail.com)



# Foundation Disaster Relief

By Catherine Simmons, Foundation Grants Chair

After several disasters hit our District hard this season, the La.Miss.Tenn. District Foundation announced the **“Disaster Relief Grant Program”** as a way for Kiwanis Clubs in our District, to bring immediate relief into communities with-in our District, whenever a disaster\* strikes. (\*Designated a declared disaster by Federal or State Agency.)

Hurricanes Laura and Delta hit southwest Louisiana and traveled into the northern part of our District, wreaking havoc to all in her path, and Zeta’s winds hit the Gulf Coast with bitter blows. Relief is still needed in those areas. If your club would like to assist those communities, please call Kiwanians in those areas. Past Governor Eva has been assisting in Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes. The Gulf Coast is still in need of rebuilding efforts (see District Directory for clubs in Div 14).

These Disaster Grants focus on IMMEDIATE/ESSENTIAL needs for the community; they cannot be for an individual or specific families.

Projects must be completed within



3 weeks of submitting the grant – again, these are for *immediate relief* to the area affected by the disaster. Disaster relief funds will be granted for recovery efforts due to (including but not limited to) hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, etc.

### Grants already funded:

- Hygiene packs/toiletry items to the community
- Essential item give-away accompanied by a hot meal
- Burgers & hotdogs for workers and residents
- Backpacks for kids with essential needs and take out meals
- Supplies for cleaning as well as hot meal of Jambalaya

- Cleaning products, personal items, medical supplies

### What is NOT funded:

- school supplies
- gift cards
- grills to cook meals on/serving tables – these are usually retained by the assisting club

In order to receive **advanced funding up to \$1,500 for this project**, your club agrees to:

- Submit the fillable PDF application ([www.lamisstenn.org/disasterrelief](http://www.lamisstenn.org/disasterrelief)) via email or fax **PRIOR** to project. Completed projects are not eligible.
- Submit a brief report, including receipts and pictures, within 30 days of completion of the project, on the manner in which the grant funds were spent, in accordance with this application and for **no other purpose**.
- Refund to the District Foundation any portion of grant funding not utilized.

## Flying That Kiwanis Spirit

*By Catherine Simmons, Foundation Grants Chair*



Stand not included.

Flags sales have been going GREAT! We've sold just about half of them ... 318 remaining! Since the District Convention was cancelled (due to COVID-19) and we could not sponsor the traditional gift basket raffle, these flag sales have substituted the fundraising for the District Foundation. At only \$20 a piece, these beauties are going fast! Hurry before they are gone!

The flag is made of weather-resistant, heavy duty polyester. The double-sided design is DYED into the fabric in layers for a long lasting, fade resistant, vibrant work of art! Size: 12" across by 18" down. Cost: \$20

Talk it up with your club members, combine orders for savings on shipping! Let's spread Kiwanis Flags all over our District and beyond! So far, we are in 22 states!

**They will be available at the 2021 Regionals in February & March, but if you just can't wait to get yours, send in the form below!**

### Let YOUR Kiwanis Spirit fly and order your flag today!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of flags \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping cost (See chart on the right) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*No shipping if in New Orleans.*

**Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Payment Options:**

- Check - Mail form and check made out to: Kiwanis District Foundation, c/o Cathy Simmons, 1721 Generes Dr., New Orleans, LA 70123
- VISA/MC/AmEx - email a request for a PayPal invoice to: [kiwanisgardenflags@gmail.com](mailto:kiwanisgardenflags@gmail.com)

<u>Shipping via USPS in padded envelopes or flat rate USPS box:</u>	
1 Flag - - - - - \$4.78	<b>Bulk Orders:</b>
2-3 Flags - - - \$5.78	6-10 Flags - - - - - \$11.40
4-5 Flags - - - \$6.78	11-50 (med. flat rate box)- \$14.35
<b>(USA ONLY AT THIS TIME)</b>	51+ (large flat rate box) - - \$19.95



**Kiwanis**  
**LaMissTenn Foundation**



**Kiwanis District Office**  
 5253-B Dijon Dr.  
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 foundation@lamisstenn.org  
[www.lamisstenn.org/foundation](http://www.lamisstenn.org/foundation)

## FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

### Help Strengthen The Foundation's Endowment Fund

We have had founders of the LaMissTenn Kiwanis District Foundation, followed by pioneers forging the dreams of those founders, build the endowment funds bigger and better each year. Your District Kiwanis Foundation has given more funds back to YOU and YOUR CLUBS through grants due to the Endowment Fund. Your continued support CAN and DOES make a difference!

- An annual tax-deductible donation of only \$120 - or make it as easy as a donation of only \$10 per month! Set your "Friends" pledge up on a recurring monthly credit card charge to maintain your status as a **Friend of the Foundation** every year!
- ANYONE, not just Kiwanians, may become a 'Friend of the Foundation.'
- Receive a distinctive **Friend of the Foundation** lapel pin.
- For every \$1,000 donated, you have the choice of River of Life Fellowship, John T. Roberts Fellowship plus other levels thereof.



Sample of lapel pin

### Friend of the Foundation Donor Information Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Kiwanis Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

My total gift/pledge is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *Remember your \$120 Friends of the Foundation donation is tax deductible.*

#### I wish to make my donation by:

- Check (payable to "Kiwanis District Foundation")
- Credit Card
- Cash

#### For Credit Card Payments:

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date (MM/YY) \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on credit card \_\_\_\_\_ Card billing zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my credit card payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ scheduled (choose one):

- Monthly  Quarterly  Semiannually  Annually

Beginning \_\_\_\_\_ and ending \_\_\_\_\_  
 (MM/YY) (MM/YY)

*Thank you for your generous support of the Kiwanis District Foundation!*





# Kiwanis<sup>®</sup> CHILDREN'S FUND

By Donna Osburn, District Chair • Email: [donna@chezosburn.com](mailto:donna@chezosburn.com) • Ph: 601/831-7363

## Kiwanis Children's Fund is Here to Help

Kiwanis Children's Fund is here to help clubs and Kiwanians in many ways:

- Fundraising strategies
- District/club foundation management
- Grant seeking
- Speaking and presentations

For your club's next Kiwanis education program, invite a KCF staff member to speak virtually or in person at an upcoming meeting about one of these topics:

- Kiwanis Children's Fund 101
- The Eliminate Project Update

- Fundraising 101
- Putting the Fun in Fundraising
- Creating a Culture of Philanthropy through Major Gifts
- Getting the grant: Funding your mission
- Kiwanis-family Foundations 101
- What does your community really need?

The Kiwanis Children's Fund makes a clear impact in uncertain times. Ever wonder what a gift to the Kiwanis Children's Fund achieves? In 2020, the answer has never been clearer. This year, members' generos-

ity has helped clubs keep serving kids around the world — even without meetings and in-person projects. From feeding hungry families to providing students with e-learning technology to supplying face masks and sanitizers, Kiwanis clubs have helped children during the COVID-19 pandemic. All because of gifts that resulted in grants. The moment is urgent. Kids need Kiwanis. Will you help Kiwanians reach them?

The Kiwanis Children's Fund helps Kiwanians **reach** the kids who **need** them. When you **give**, you help us reach more kids – in your own backyard and a world away. Please mail your club's check or personal checks to Kiwanis Children's Fund, P.O. Box 6457 – Dept #286, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Or use a debit or credit card to make a club or individual gift online at the KCF giving page.

Also consider designating the giving by your members at one club meeting for your annual club gift, at another meeting for the Eliminate Project, and at another meeting for the KT District Foundation.

For questions or concerns about the Kiwanis Children's Fund or arranging for a club meeting program, contact Donna Osburn 601-831-7363 (phone or text) or email [donna@chezosburn.com](mailto:donna@chezosburn.com).





# I Hereby Resolve to Grow Kiwanis

*By Gary S. Graham, Membership & Engagement Chair and Past Governor*

Considering this is the first issue of the new calendar year, I suppose it is appropriate to wish everyone a Happy New Year. But our new year for Kiwanis began October 1st, so we have just finished our first quarter and are heading into the heart of our new Kiwanis year. Still, it is a time of making resolutions. As I explained to my younger Cub Scouts recently, a resolution means to be determined to do something or not do something. When it comes to growing Kiwanis, which are you? We are still faced with Covid challenges but there are now vaccines. So, there is also the light at the end of the tunnel. As I noted in a previous column, Kiwanis transitioned to a service organization and grew during the last pandemic in 1918-19. A few years later, the Six Objects of Kiwanis we adopted.

So are those objects something you are determined to follow or something you plan to do if convenient to do so? Not doing something as important as these is the same as not doing them. While a challenge, Covid should not be used as an excuse. We CAN and have built new clubs during this pandemic. Clubs CAN and have added new members to their clubs.



In fact, at the end of the first quarter we have growth.

I realize the difficulties in doing this but what about those we help. If we can't meet in person can we not meet on Zoom or some other platform? What about those who cannot meet their family members in person? Do they just say, "Oh well?" I have heard of the complaints that it's not the same as meeting in person, or it's too complicated, or I don't have the time, which is one I find odd. I agree that it can be difficult at first, but you have the capability to do it. What about the child who does not have this ability to access the technology at all to go to school? Politics aside about whether they should be in school or not, the child is still doing without and this is a much bigger obstacle for them than it is to meet with your club or to invite a new

member to join. Keep in mind that to the next generation of Kiwanians, this will be a normal way of communicating and meeting if they have regular meetings at all. It is also an opportunity to learn more about what other Kiwanis clubs are doing around the country and the world and what ideas they have that may be something that would work for you. Keep the goal in view. We are about children and studies show that each Kiwanian on average impacts the lives of 206 children. This is the time children need us the most and failing to grow your club or consider sponsoring a new club lessens our ability to help more children.

We cannot wait for a vaccine to allow us to grow Kiwanis. It may not be easy, but it is imperative that we try. There are resources to help you or your club. Just reach out to me or the District office and they can direct you. Governor Patrice has not let Covid stop her from growing Kiwanis in LaMissTenn and it should not be an issue for you. Make the resolution to grow your club and Kiwanis and keep it.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary".

*Aspire to Inspire:***Alfred Lord Tennyson Predicted  
2020 . . . 170 Years Ago***By James A. "Jeems" White, III, Past Governor*

The New Year 2021 is upon us and who could have predicted a year ago all the unusual events in store for 2020 . . . world-wide coronavirus pandemic, COVID-19 killing people, lockdowns, small-business bankruptcies, rioting/looting/arson in multiple cities, wild fires with massive destruction, political strife and polarization of the nation . . . and lots more it is best to forget.

In 1850 the Poet Laureate of Great Britain published a poem that had an uncanny implication for the events of 2020. Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote some bold verses that perfectly describe the 2020 events that are best left behind us and he proclaimed a course for the future. May we as individuals and as Kiwanians take up Tennyson's bells to have a better 2021 for our families, our communities, the children we serve, our nation and ourselves.

*Ring Out, Wild Bells by Alfred Lord Tennyson - 1809-1892*

*Ring out wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.*

*Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.*

*Ring out the grief that saps the mind,  
For those that here we see no more;  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.  
Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife;*



*Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.  
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,  
The faithless coldness of the times;  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,*

*But ring the fuller minstrel in.*

*Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.*

*Ring out old shapes of foul disease;  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.*

*Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*

# A Call to Bless as You have been Blessed

*By Dan Johnson, Human & Spiritual Values District Chair*

In Genesis Chapter 12 verses 2 and 3, God told Abram “I will bless you and make your name great, and you will be a blessing to many others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you; and the entire world will be blessed because of you.”

During this unforeseen 2020, a year designed to cast perfect vision, we all fell victim to a year that, seemingly, circumvented every vision intended for clarity. Every intent to bring impact and blessing suddenly became blurry and cursed, including every planned Kiwanis project and fundraising project. Since one of our 6 Objects of Kiwanis is to give primacy to the human and spiritual, rather than the material values of life, I am certain that many Kiwanians were wondering where the blessing went.

We most often associate being blessed with positive circumstances, wealth, comfort, and the absence of



problems. Obviously, this is a very short term and shallow view of what it means to be blessed. The definition of the word “blessed” comes from the Greek word *Markarios*. This describes being in an enviable position for receiving or being endowed with God’s divine favor and protection – as being an extension of His grace.

Are we no longer considered blessed because some pandemic stiff-armed our projects and fundraisers this year? Please allow me to answer that question like Virginia asked during that Christmas many years ago...Yes, Virginia, there is a

Santa Claus and YES, oh, my YES, my fellow Kiwanians, you are blessed and highly favored with God’s divine favor and protection. As Abram was blessed to be a blessing, so is our Kiwanis Organization. No one can stop what God has ordained for over a hundred years. Over 100 years of service can still continue despite what it seems in the natural because we walk by faith and not by sight.

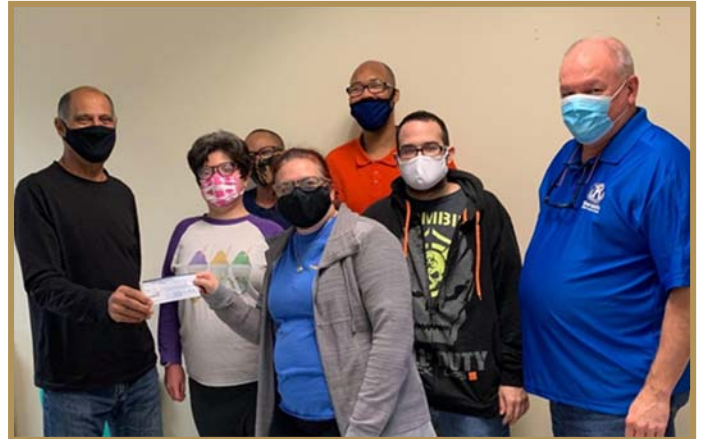
Every community that has children deserves a Kiwanis Club to inspire, impact, and carry our image and our investment of the gifts, talents, and abilities ordered by the LORD. Get with your club leaders and attend the District Regional workshops to strategize how your club can think differently to be the blessed hands and feet that will pour that same blessing on the children of the community where you live. After all, they deserve it.

## ARC of St. Bernard AKtion Club Receives Gift

*By Robert Showalter, St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Club*

The St. Bernard Kiwanis Foundation presented a check to the **ARC of St. Bernard AKtion Club** on December 14, 2020. The Arc of St. Bernard is located at 3700 Jean Lafitte Pkwy, Chalmette and provides for the special needs adults in St. Bernard Parish a place to go and use their talents to create great items and recycle Mardi Gras beads. The Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard mentors an AKtion Club. The Kiwanians work alongside the AKtion Club members to provide community service.

The check will be used to purchase chairs, bulletin boards, shelving, sound system, COVID signs and paint & supplies to refurbish the AKtion Club meeting rooms. The Kiwanians will work alongside the AKtion Club members to construct and install the needed items and paint the meeting rooms. The AKtion Club has been a sponsored program of the **Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard-Arabi** for over 30 years.



*Pictured in no particular order are: Robby Showalter (Kiwanian and Foundation Treasurer), Alex Taisant (Arc of St. Bernard Manager), Jamie Evans (AKtion Club), Eric Smith (AKtion Club), Eric Matlock (AKtion Club), John Rayford (AKtion Club), and Michael Chutz (Kiwanian and Foundation President)*

# CIRCLE K CLUB NEWS

## McNeese CKI Helps with Hurricane Relief Efforts

*Baton Rouge Kiwanis Facebook Page*

The **Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club** had some great help from **McNeese Circle K Club** members with cooking in Iowa, La. for hurricane relief on October 27th. Pictured are Donald Racca, Nikki Savant, Denise Savant, McNeese CKI student Gabriela Quinones, Eva Abate, and Ken Savant. McNeese CKI student, Michael Deselle did a great job holding up a sign to promote our event.



## Greenfield High Provides Service to Community

*By: Past Governor Linda Ramsey, Martin Kiwanis Club*

The Greenfield High School Key Club in Greenfield, Tenn. has been involved in two different service projects. The club has been meeting on Zoom led by President Bryce Holliman. Club members meet twice a month in the evening, and most of the officers have been able to be involved. Key Club members created Christmas Cards for the Greenbrier Assisted Living Residents that were distributed prior to Christmas.



*Pictured Left to Right are Blake Holliman, Paige Doerr, Amelia Crews and Emma Crews working on Christmas Cards for Greenbrier Assisted Living Residents.*



*President of the Greenfield Key Club Bryce Holliman, hands Christmas Cards to Brandy Orr, manager of Greenbrier Assisted Living.*

In December, the club decided to have a Christmas Zoom Party, and played games online, charades, hand jived, and several members won prizes. Blake Holliman won a Key Club Fanny Pack; Amelia Crews won a Key Club T-shirt; and Emma Crews won a Key Club Lanyard Carrier.

In November, the Club also decided to make a Thank You Poster for the First Responders, Fireman, Policemen

and EMTs, who work in Greenfield, Tenn. Club members went to the Greenfield City Hall and presented the poster to the First Responders. Unfortunately, they forgot to take a picture of that event. Even though the club has struggled with the pandemic, members have still found a way to provide service and have a little fun!

## Gulfport High Flips Flap Jacks

*Gulfport Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

On December 2nd, volunteers from the **Gulfport High School Key Club** helped make the **Gulfport Kiwanis Club's** Pancake Day a great success! Club members volunteered from 7a.m. until 7 p.m.!



# Pearl High Works Pancake Drive Thru

*Pearl Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

On November 20th, the **Pearl Kiwanis Club's** Annual Pancake Supper looked a lot different than it has in previous years but it was still a big success. Those who purchased tickets drove through at Pearl High School and the plates were delivered to their vehicle by **Pearl High School Key Club** Members. That very important part of it was organized and run by club members and the Pearl High School Principal. Thanks to Club Secretary and Chair of the Kiwanis Pancake Supper Mitch Childre and President James Bush for their hard work and dedication to the pancake supper. Special thanks to the Pearl High School Key Club members who volunteered and did a fantastic job as always. They are definitely the leaders of future.



## Vicksburg High Helps Salvation Army

*Vicksburg Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

For Kiwanis One Day in October, **Vicksburg Kiwanians** and **Vicksburg High School Key Clubbers** joined forces to clean the local Salvation Army office. And in December, Vicksburg Kiwanians along with Vicksburg High School Key Clubbers 'Rang the Bell' for the Salvation Army at the Kroger grocery store.



## Westview High: Service with a Smile!

*By Past Governor Linda Ramsey, Martin Kiwanis Club*



*Pictured behind the table Left to Right are Grant McGehee, Johnathan Davidson, Jamie Murphy, Zowie Walker, Hannah Shane, Sonnie Greer and Kaylee Hensley.*

Westview High School Key Club in Martin, Tenn. has been meeting on Zoom this fall semester of school, and the President of the Club, Amy Kang, has been running the Zoom meetings.

Members assembled goody bags after school to take to the children who

visit the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse. Children who visit the center range in age from 3 years old to teenagers. The Westview Key Club decided that they would like to donate candy and small toys to the children at the center. They were delivered to the center before Christmas.

The second service project that Westview Key Club decided to do was to write and make Christmas Cards for the Greenbrier Assisted Living Residents.



*Amy Kang, President of Westview Key Club, presents Christmas Cards for the residents from the Westview High School Key Club to Brandy Orr, Manager, Greenbrier Assisted Living Facility, Martin, Tenn.*

## White Station High Cleans Garden

*By Mary J. Wilder, President, Memphis Kiwanis Club*

White Station High School Key Club members help Memphis Kiwanis Club President Mary J. Wilder cleanup a community garden.





## New Ascension Club is off to a Great Start!

*By Kristen Nolen, President of Ascension Kiwanis Club*

The **Kiwanis Club of Ascension** was chartered on September 30, 2020. It is the first club in Ascension Parish, Louisiana in over 12 years. Thirty Charter Members were inducted at Charter Night held on December 2, 2020. At this banquet, the club held a successful Silent Auction Fundraiser, raising over \$1,000 to grow the Service Projects Fund. Also, the club has begun the sponsorship of the **Key Club of St. Amant High School**, with the hopes to sponsor several more Key Clubs in the area.

Kiwanis Club of Ascension has held two drives to support the Children of Cameron Parish, Louisiana - a southwestern area of the state devastated by hurricanes in 2020. Club members, along with many other generous people and organizations, gathered truck loads of toys, educational items, games, clothes, blankets, bikes, candy, and more to give the Kids of Cameron Parish new things and a Happy Christmas.

Kiwanis Club of Ascension also participated in Kiwanis One Day with a



*Thirty Charter Members were inducted to the Ascension Kiwanis Club on December 2nd.*

Park Cleanup Service Project. A big thank you goes out to Red River Bank for donating their Ice Cream Truck to hand out free ice cream to all participants. The local newspaper sent a photographer out to take pictures to show how the new Kiwanis Club was improving the community of Ascension Parish.

With guidance from the sponsoring Kiwanis Club of Red Stick, this new Kiwanis Club of Ascension is poised and ready to enter 2021 with eager hearts and a healthy budget to serve the children of the communities within Ascension Parish, Louisiana.



*The Ascension Kiwanis Club's first service project, Cameron Kids Strong!, was brought to them by members, the Carpenter family and their good friend, Polly Glover. Along with communities nationwide, the club collected truckloads of goods to donate to the children of Cameron Parish, devastated by two hurricanes this season.*



*Members and volunteers at the Jambalaya Park Cleanup project for Kiwanis One Day*



## Baton Rouge Makes Breakfast for Frontline Heroes

*By Joy Hammatt, Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club*

The Kiwanis Club of Baton Rouge held its 71st Annual Pancake Day on Friday, December 4th. We cooked over 1,430 pancake breakfasts including Manda sausage for the staff of the Baton Rouge General Hospital on Bluebonnet. The club wanted to thank the hospital staff for their dedication and tireless work during the pandemic.

Pancake Day Committee meetings were held every Friday for two months before the event to work out all the details. The Red Hat (our designated leader of each year's event), Gary Haindel, planned and organized the event. He was in constant contact with Erin Kruppner, Community Relations & Employee Giving Officer of the Baton Rouge General Foundation. They worked on organizing the pancake cooking schedule, the numbers of staff

they would be feeding on their busiest of days, and scheduling when each department would pick up their pancakes.

The Club usually holds its fundraising breakfast along with an area-wide Talent Contest and the largest statewide middle and high school juried Art Show on the LSU campus in Baton Rouge. However, because of the Covid 19 Pandemic and the associated health restrictions this fall, we were not able to hold our normal all-day event for the public.

At the suggestion of one of our members, the Club's Board of Directors decided to make this year's event strictly a donation event. We also wanted to make sure we included some of our other service partners including Key Clubs.

Our supplies were inventoried and what we didn't have we purchased. Ten members of the **Baton Rouge High Magnet Key Club**, along with some of our members, labeled to-go boxes and poured syrup in the portion cups two weeks before the event.

Twenty members of the club volunteered to set up, cook, pack, stack boxes, and of course clean up when it was all over. The BR General provided vol-



unteers from their staff to work along side us. The cooks made almost 300 pancakes every 15 minutes. The pancakes, sausage, syrup, butter, and napkins and eating utensils were all packaged so that at least 90 meals could be picked up every 15 minutes.

The most rewarding part of our Pancake Day event was being told "thank you" by so many of the Baton Rouge General staff. We hear about how hospital workers have felt like they have been forgotten sometimes with the pandemic lingering on for so long. While some of us get to go Christmas shopping, they are working long shifts caring for the sick. Many said how special it was to feel so appreciated. This is why we are all Kiwanians. We make a difference. We serve others. And we have Fun!



## Germantown Remains Active during Pandemic

*By Susan Olsson, Germantown Kiwanis Club*

As we plod through yet another month of COVID-19, many Kiwanians struggle with social isolation and feel a loss of opportunities to serve our communities in a meaningful way. Our club in Germantown, Tennessee is no different; we were robbed of our K-Kids in person meetings, our pancake breakfasts, golf tournament, Christmas parade and evening get togethers.

We were challenged to continue to be an active and vibrant club that significantly contributes to the well-being of our community. We were inspired by the La.Miss.Tenn. teacher of the year, Linda Atkinson who did not miss a stride and quickly organized her K-Kids to participate in virtual meetings. These meetings reach more than 100 children who attend Zoom meetings regularly.

**The Germantown Kiwanis** met via Zoom until recently and then started offering a hybrid meeting thanks to the ingenuity of Tom Tompkins. Some of the braver members meet in a local church while others Zoom in. Fewer than 10 members are meeting in person, so social distancing is not a problem. One advantage of the Zoom meetings is our older members who cannot make it out to the 7 a.m. breakfast meeting have attended regularly using the remote format. It is likely we will continue to offer hybrid meetings after the pandemic is officially over.

COVID has not stopped K-Bear. His loveable bubble head and mask have been a welcome sight at Madonna Learning Center. His gloves and costume provide protection for K-Bear and the children.

COVID did not stop us from holding a Cop Stop to honor the police and first responders. Cop Stop was founded by Germantown resident, Joanna Young in 2014 and it is a roving spot for the police and first responders to stop for a home cooked meal. The hosts prepare a meal and serve it to the officers on duty. COVID changed the rules for Cop Stop; officers no longer come into people's homes to enjoy their dinner. For safety reasons they pick up their meals and eat at the station. Hosts and the officers observe strict

social distancing and wear masks to protect each other so the event continues.

COVID stopped our Christmas parade, but it did not stop us from hanging wreaths at the Kiwanis Pavilion and sipping Sharon Goldsworthy's now famous wassail. We hung the wreaths while talking and enjoying holiday tunes from *Home Grown Tomatoes*, a masked band lead by Kiwanian Mark van Stolk.

As we enter the home stretch of this battle, let us remain ever vigilant of health recommendations, keep our distance, wear our masks and still find ways to reach out to one another and care for our communities. We are strong! We are Kiwanians.



# Gulfport Hosts Drive Thru Pancake Day

*By Travis B. Moore, Division 14 Lieutenant Governor, Gulfport Kiwanis Club*

On December 2, 2020 the **Gulfport Kiwanis Club** had its 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulfport Kiwanis Pancake Day, cooking and serving pancakes for 12 hours, from 7 a.m. to 7p.m. This year included face masks and social distancing, and the event was drive thru and take-out only. Members of the **Gulfport High School Key Club** volunteered for the event, two TV stations came out for live coverage, and the event was lots of fun.



# Hammond Installs Awning

*By Vic Couvillion, Hammond Kiwanis Club*

Members of the **Hammond Kiwanis Club** recently purchased and installed an awning at the Tangipahoa Council on Aging's Hammond Center. The City of Hammond recently painted the center and the club's donation and installation of the awning adds to the building's beautification as well as providing shelter for center patrons and employees.



Putting the finishing touches on the awning, from left, are Kiwanians Roy Blackwood, Andy Thomas, Bret Schnadelbach, Ricky Silewicz, Club President Patrick Coudrain and Gerard Blanchard.

Hammond Kiwanis members, from left, Vic Couvillion, Ricky Silewicz, Bret Schnadelbach, Gerard Landry, Club President Patrick Coudrain and Roy Blackwood stand under the newly installed awning.

# Hammond Provides Christmas Gifts for Children around the World

*By Vic Couvillion, Hammond Kiwanis Club*

The Hammond Kiwanis Club was among the many groups throughout the nation contributing shoeboxes to Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child, a program that provides Christmas gifts to children in developing nations around the world. The club, which has participated in the shoebox ministry for several years, prepared 150 shoeboxes this year.



The club’s experience is typical of how the shoeboxes are readied for shipment to children who will eventually open the boxes at special holiday observances at remote sites somewhere around the globe. Kiwanis members

gathered at *The Mezzanine*, the club’s regular meeting venue, to fill the shoeboxes. However, the actual filling of the special boxes was only the culmination of months of work collecting the items that would eventually be used to fill the boxes.

Operation Christmas Child has divided the shoebox categories into six groups: girls aged 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14; and boys, ages 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14. Groups who choose to fill shoeboxes are asked to concentrate on including school supplies, hygiene items and toys in each box along with other age appropriate gifts; hence a variety of other things that children might appreciate are also placed in the boxes.

Sid Guedry, a member of the Kiwanis Club, explained, “we made an effort to fill each box to overflowing and our members start months in advance gathering the ‘goodies’ we will put in each box. For example, every box contained a pair of flip-flops, a tooth brush, bar of soap, wash cloth, comb,



coloring books, pencils, pens, a box of crayons, and a small stuffed animal. After that, we tried to include some special things that are appropriate to each age group,” he said.

Kiwanis Club President Patrick Couvillion explained, “for example, for the boys aged 10-14, our club members created basic fishing kits that included lines, weights, swivels, hooks and corks. Some of our members spent a morning making up the little fishing kits that we put into used medicine bottles. The idea is that the recipients of the fishing kits just might use the fishing tackle to help catch fish for their family to eat.”

Each box also contained some basic clothing items including socks and tee shirts and play things such as small pin ball games, balls, little toy cars and trucks for the boys and small dolls for the girls. The club’s participation in Operation Christmas Child is one more way that its members are seeking to fulfill the Kiwanis mission statement that includes the words, “improving the world one child at a time.”



## Hammond Gives Christmas Boxes of Cheer

*By Vic Couvillion, Hammond Kiwanis Club*



In the spirit of Christmas giving the **Hammond Kiwanis Club** once again did its part to help put food on the tables of needy families in the community through its annual food drive that this year netted 95 boxes overflowing with a variety of food items.

For a number of years now the club has used a successful formula for collecting such a large amount of food that can be quickly gathered, sorted and boxed ahead of delivery to local families in need. A week before the drive, which was held on December 19th this year, the club placed notices in the mailboxes of residents in selected subdivisions asking the homeowners, if they chose, to leave a bag or box of non-perishable food items on their doorsteps for pickup on the day of the drive. The notes requesting donations point out that the homeowner will not be disturbed and that no door bells would be rung on the Saturday morning when the food was collected.

Kiwanis members, along with Key Club members from **St. Thomas Aquinas High**, took on the task of putting the notices in the mailboxes and on doors in the targeted subdivi-

sions.

Early on the Saturday morning of the food drive teams spread out across the city gathering the “goodies” left on dozens and dozens of doorsteps. The food was brought to the home of Kiwanians Vic and Judy Couvillion where it was quickly sorted by food types and readied for filling the boxes. An effort was made to assure that each box contained a variety of items. The club purchased boxes from U-Haul in advance to assure uniformity and cleanliness of the boxes.

A small army that included 27 Kiwanis members, the Key Club students and the baseball team from St. Thomas Aquinas High and a few additional volunteers took on the task of sorting the food items by type and then loading the boxes. The phase was quickly completed and the boxes of food were moved into the large workshop at the Couvillion residence. The entire undertaking started at about 8 a.m. and by noon all the food has been boxed and temporarily stored.

On the Monday following the food collection phase of the project, the club purchased frozen chickens and loaves of bread to accompany each box. The club sets aside a number of the boxes of food that members request for needy families and the remainder of the boxes are taken to the local office of the Southeast Louisiana United Way where they are then distributed to families who have put in a request for a box of food.

In addition to the donation of food items, a number of residents, and members of the Hammond Garden Club made cash donations to the club

with those donations going towards the purchase of the chickens and bread.

“Our annual food drive is one of the most rewarding, and fun things that our club does each year. The incredible amount of food that we gather never fails to amaze those of us who work on this project. You hear the same remarks over and over again, ‘just look how much food we have collected in such a short time!’ The food drive is yet another example of the wonderful spirit of generosity that we enjoy in the Hammond community. Throughout the year we do many good things to assist our community, but the food drive is surely one of the best things that we do,” said Patrick Coudrain, the club’s president.

He concluded, “another great thing about our food drive is that it brings together members of the Kiwanis family. The food drive gives our members a sense of accomplishment and it affords our Key Club members the opportunity to participate in a community enhancing project. There are only good things to say about our annual Christmas food drive...something we look forward to every year.”



# Hammond Resumes Happy Pack Program

*By Vic Couvillion, Hammond Kiwanis Club*

For a number of years the **Hammond Kiwanis Club** has conducted its Kiwanis *Happy Pack* program at Woodland Park School that provides food items for young pupils to take home for nourishment on weekends when they do not have access to school-provided meals. With the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic in March, the program was halted when the manner of instructing students was drastically altered. With virus prevention measures still in place, the club has had to change the manner in which it provides the food items. Instead of back packs, the club now fills disposable bags with the food items at an off-campus site and delivers them to the school where custodians bring the bags to the classrooms. This year, club members also made Christmas goodie bags for some of the students.



*Several members of the Hammond Kiwanis Club gathered to make 140 Christmas "goodie bags" for the students at Woodland Park School who are part of the club's Happy Pack program. Pictured from left are: Jay Johnson, John Bergeron, Becca Abel,*

*The program was resumed in late October with Kiwanians, from left, Vic Couvillion, Judy Couvillion, Mayson Foster, Andy Thomas, Angie Kretzer and John Bergeron filling the bags and preparing them for delivery in large plastic tubs.*



## Martin Honors Late Member with Zeller Fellowship

*By Past Governor Linda Ramsey, Martin Kiwanis Club*

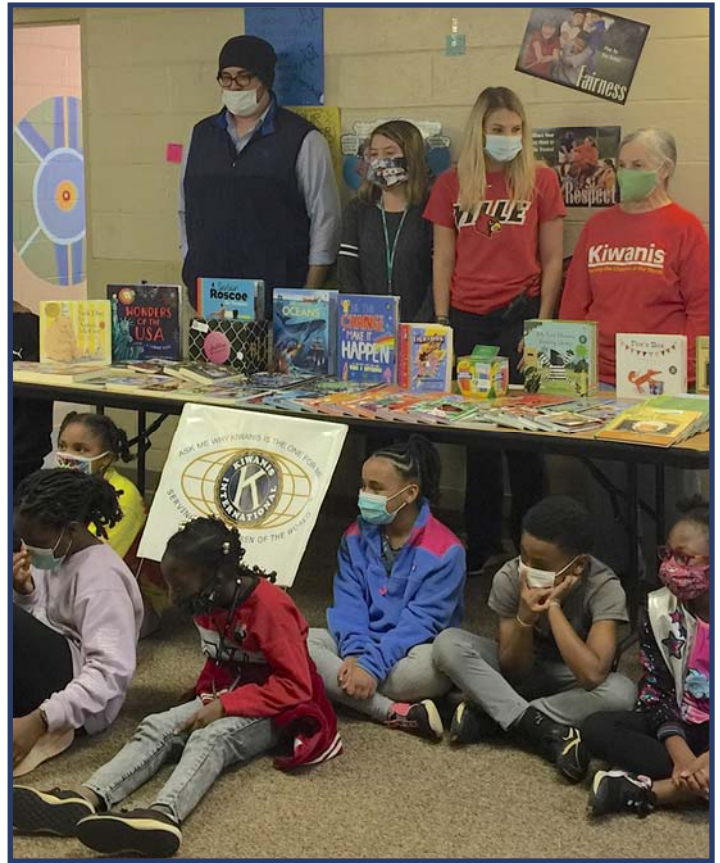
Recently, the **Martin Kiwanis Club** honored Past President, Christie Ricketts, with a Walter Zeller Fellowship. Linda Ramsey is pictured with Christie's mother, Linda DeBoard, who was presented the award to on Christie's behalf. Christie passed away recently from cancer.

## Martin Donates Books to After-School Program

By Anna Clark, Martin Kiwanis Club

Seventy new books from the **Kiwanis Club of Martin** and 10 gently used book from **Martin K-Kids** were donated in November to the Martin Enrichment Academy (MEA), an after-school program that offers various services to more than 40 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Kiwanian Anna Clark made the presentation to Zach Lewis, program director for MEA. Staff members and students enjoyed arranging some of the books on a table and discussing the exciting possibilities. Martin Kiwanis spent \$250 for \$375 worth of books through the promotion Literacy for a Lifetime, a grant from *Usborne Books and More* to support educational funding on the local level.

Some of the titles of the new books are as follows: *Fox's Box*, *My First Phonics Library* (20 books), *Animal Detective Activity Book*, *See Inside Oceans*, *Wonders of the USA*, *Señor Roscoe on Vacation*, *Pocket Books* (about ocean animals, reptiles, predators, mammals, dogs, and cats), biographies, mysteries, and much more. The additional donation from Martin K-Kids included the following: *I am Jane Goodall* (4 copies), *I Am Albert Einstein* (3 copies), *I Am Jackie Robinson* (2 copies), and *I Am Hellen Keller* (1 copy).



## Food Pantry Named after Past International Trustee Dennis Oliver

By Ami Oliver, Eliminate Co-Chair, Gulfport Kiwanis Club

Congratulations to Kiwanis Past International Trustee and LaMissTenn Eliminate Chair Dennis Oliver for receiving the honor of having the de l'Epee Deaf Center Food Pantry named the DENNIS M. OLIVER FOOD PANTRY at the center's 25th celebration. Dennis has worked on this project for 15 years and loves doing so. Dennis considers giving food a privilege and meeting and knowing the people a gift. The dedication was held on December 29, 2020. Dennis is a member of the **Gulfport Kiwanis Club** and the **eLaMissTenn Kiwanis Club**.



## New Orleans Assists Families at Ronald McDonald House

*By Cathy Simmons, New Orleans Kiwanis Club*



The Kiwanis Club of New Orleans received a \$2,500 COVID Grant from the Kiwanis Children’s Fund to assist the Ronald McDonald House of Greater New Orleans in opening their doors, after being shuttered for nearly 6 months, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The club enjoys cooking dinners at the Ronald McDonald House, for their families. However, due to the pandemic, the House was closed, and families had nowhere to turn for assistance with lodging. Kiwanis Club of New Orleans donated \$2,500 to assist

with adding air filters to the AC units as well as disinfecting the entire house. While the House was still closed, a new program was begun, entitled: “Comforts of Home.” Care packs were filled with snacks, fruits, small toys, stuffed animals, activity packs, etc., and were distributed to the families staying in the hospital or their cars (waiting for the house to open!)

In September, the House was finally able to open for a limit of 5 families. They have 15 bedrooms, but only 5 bathrooms. Since families could not

share bathroom facilities, they were limited to one family per bathroom, hence 5 families max. The kitchen area remained closed due to COVID restrictions. How would these families eat while caring for their sick children at the local hospital? Enter the Kiwanis Children’s Fund with a \$2,500 grant! Kiwanis Club of New Orleans now had an additional \$2,000 to supply a continental breakfast that families could eat in their rooms, dinner meals from local restaurants, dining gift cards, as well as fast food gift cards for lunch. Five-hundred of the grant funds went towards continuing the “Comforts of Home” packs to the families at the hospital.

The Kiwanis Club of New Orleans looks forward to our continued partnership with the Ronald McDonald House, and to when the kitchen is opened once again, so we can cook for the families of such precious children!



*Members of the New Orleans Kiwanis Club help fill 100 “Comforts of Home” care packages for kids at Children’s Hospital.*

# Pontchartrain Gives out Bags of Hope

*By Myra Lewis, Pontchartrain Kiwanis Club*

Members of the **Kiwanis Club of Pontchartrain** partnered with High Voltage Youth Camp to assemble bags of much needed toiletries and other small items for evacuees from southwest Louisiana who were being sheltered at the Hyatt Hotel in New Orleans. The evacuees suffered devastation of their homes and communities by hurricanes Laura and Delta this past hurricane season. Photos show club members completing the assembly of the bags at AmeriHealth’s Gentilly facility and then delivering them to the American Red Cross office in the Hyatt Hotel for distribution to evacuees. The club members assembled 62 gallon-sized bags of toiletries in service for Kiwanis One Day, October 24<sup>th</sup>.



# St. Gabriel Participates in a Ghostly Get Together

*By MiLisa York, St. Gabriel Kiwanis Club*



The **St. Gabriel Kiwanis Club** participated in the City of St. Gabriel’s Ghostly Get Together - Trunk or Treat on October 31st. As you can see from the pictures, Secretary MiLisa York, was feeling rather “witchy” and the smiles on the children’s faces were priceless. COVID safety procedures and social distancing were practiced. Everyone had a good ole ghostly time! The club looks forward to community events like this.

## New Kiwanis Club of Scott Club Jumps into Action!

*By Laura Hanes, Scott Kiwanis Club*

### Sweeping Scott for Santa



Members of the **Scott Kiwanis Club** along with volunteers from Junior Beta, 4-H, Boy Scouts of America and Key Clubs had an incredible Saturday morning on December 12<sup>th</sup> giving back to the community! Volunteers met at 8 a.m. at the Scott City Hall for a day of cleaning up the city. Many thanks to the “Sweep Scott for Santa” partners: Parish Proud, Republic Services and City of Scott! Our streets of Scott were definitely ready for Santa!



### First Annual Toys & Coats Drive



Thank you to these great businesses and the people behind them for helping with the **Kiwanis Club of Scott's** first annual Toys & Coats Drive: Mym's and Friends Salon, Fezzo's Seafood, Steakhouse & Oyster Bar of Scott, La., Parish Physical Therapy, City of Scott, Keller Williams Realty, Inc., Pamela Bergeron, Learn & Play Daycare, and SCOTT Pharmacy, LLC. Another HUGE shout out goes to Scott Oak Cleaners for their tremendous support and generosity.

We were blessed to serve 26 families and 68 children from Scott Middle, Westside, Ossun, Acadiana High and Duson Elementary. Club member Laura Haynes said “Considering the Kiwanis Club of Scott coordinated this project in only three days, we had overwhelming success with donations from the community. Several businesses had donation boxes and Scott Oaks Cleaners donated their services for all donated coats. Next year will be huge!”

## Stone County Brings Christmas to Foster Children

*By Vic Latricia E. Mimbs, Danyell Wietbrock, & Arnie T. Williams, Stone County Kiwanis Club*



“Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.” With that, our hearts were set on bringing Christmas to the many children of Stone County that, due to circumstances beyond their control, find themselves in the care of Child Protective Services. Currently there are 65 plus children in the Stone County system. We were happily tasked with providing each child with gifts from their Christmas “Wish List” in order to bring them as many smiles to their precious faces as possible this holiday season! We are thankful that we have so many supporters in our community that feel the same way and helped us



make this project a success.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, our project came to realization and to what we consider a huge success. Santa & Mrs. Clause, with the help of about 35 volunteers, were able to provide the children with their gifts, their foster families with freshly grilled meals to-go and gift certificates donated by Dunn Paper to help provide Christmas Dinner. While we cannot share photos of the chil-

dren, we thought you may enjoy seeing what Kiwanis and our community has been doing to reach our goal of helping our children here in Stone County!

We would like to give a big thank you to all of our financial supporters and volunteers: 7L Farms, Hood Industries, Carpenters Pole and Piling, Desoto Land and Timber, Memorial Hospital, Wal-Mart, Bank of Wiggins, Mississippi Power Company, Stone County Sherriff’s Dept., Wiggins Police Department, Tice & Associates, Dunn Paper, Alexander Hardware, Johnette Dees, Betsy Rowell, and Dr. Thames (apologies to anyone we may have missed).



# Tupelo Kiwanis Cleans the City Streets

*By R. Fred Pitts, Tupelo Kiwanis Club*

Members of the **Tupelo Kiwanis Club** picked up trash on city streets for Kiwanis One Day on October 24th.



# West Jefferson, Harvey Rewards Students for Reading

*By Leroy Ledet, President, West Jefferson, Harvey Kiwanis Club*

The West Jefferson, Harvey Kiwanis Club continues the Rewards for Reading Project in Jefferson Parish during the Covid-19 pandemic by bringing prizes to the participating schools for the students that excel in reading an increased number of books and tests taken on the material that was read.

The purpose of the project is to motivate students to read in hopes of increasing school performance and helping them to become better overall students. The project benefits students in 1st through 5th grade. Twenty-seven schools in Jefferson Parish participate in the project. The Kiwanis Club of West Jefferson sponsors three of those schools. The others are sponsored by service groups and businesses in the community.

Only two of the three schools sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of West Jefferson participated this semester due to Covid-19 restrictions. The prizes are normally given to the qualifying students in the auditorium or cafeteria as a group. This semester in December, because of the pandemic, it was handled through the library.



*Pictured from left to right: Milton Atebara, KCWJ Vice President; Jovonne Matthews, Principal of William Hart Elem.; Lori Page, Librarian; and Leroy Ledet KCWJ President.*



*Pictured from left to right: Milton Atebara, KCWJ Vice President; Hollace Bernard, School Secretary; Myrtle Weber Principal, McDonogh #26 Elem.; Bonnie Cambre, Librarian; and Leroy Ledet KCWJ President.*

# Alexandria Works Hard at Camp Kiwanis

*Alexandria Kiwanis Facebook Page*

Kudos and thanks to these heavy-duty movers and shakers from the **Alexandria Kiwanis Club** who know what a work-day at Camp Kiwanis is. Kiwanians who participated in maintenance at Camp Kiwanis on October 24th are: William Richard Halliburton, Luke Miller, Randy Miller, Lindsey Torbett, and Paul Wallace.



## Acadiana-Lafayette Rings the Bell for Salvation Army

*Acadiana-Lafayette Kiwanis Facebook Page*

On December 5th, several friendly **Kiwanis Club of Acadiana-Lafayette** members rang the bell in support of the Salvation Army outside of Caroline and Company on Kaliste Saloom in Lafayette, Louisiana.

# Algiers Hosts Successful Spaghetti Take Out

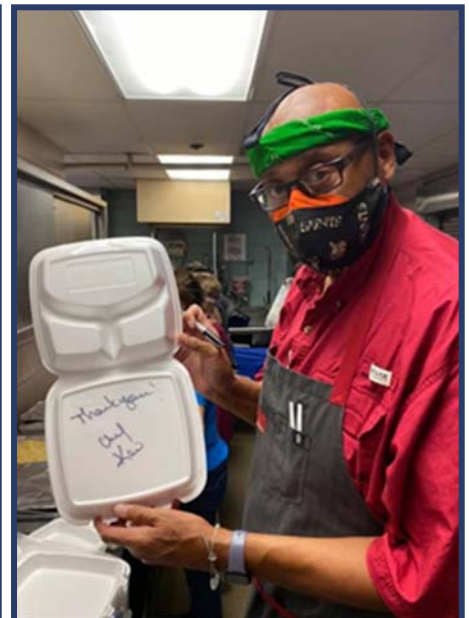
*Algiers Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*



The Algiers Kiwanis Club had an amazing turnout for its Spaghetti Dinner Take Out at Aurora United Methodist Church on October 24th. The club couldn't have done it without the support of Chef Kevin Belton and the amazing teamwork of our Kiwanis, AOL Key Club and Boy Scout Troup 64. Spaghetti dinners were handed out drive thru style and a good time was had by all!

Chef Kevin Belton cooked the spaghetti with assistance from our many volunteers. Not only is Belton a chef, he is also an author and educator who specializes in New Orleans cuisine. He is the chef-host for *Kevin Belton's New Orleans Celebrations* and *Kevin Belton's New Orleans Kitchen* on PBS and serves as the resident morning chef for WWL-TV.

Thanks to everyone who supported the Spaghetti Dinner!



# Baton Rouge Kiwanis: Staying Busy

*Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

## Continuing the 3Rs for 3BR Book Project in Memory of Founder Noel Hammatt

As an outreach of the **Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club's** 3Rs for 3BR book project, created by Noel Hammatt, members delivered 500 books for the Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st and Second Grade students at Grand Coteau Elementary on November 13th in memory of Noel. Noel, a valued club member, recently lost his battle with Glioblastoma. Club member and wife of Noel, Terri Hammatt, along with their daughter Jennie, and members Bruce and Joy Hammatt presented the books to principal, Brandon Bobb. Noel wanted the children in Grand Coteau and Arnaudville to receive books to add to their personal home libraries. Research shows the number of books in the home is one of the greatest predictors of a child's academic success.



Noel was a past president of the Baton Rouge Kiwanis club and he had just ended his year as Division 8W Lieutenant Governor. He volunteered many hours and always loved taking the McMains Children's Development Center children canoeing. Noel had an infinite love for service and lived out the Kiwanis mission to its fullest.



## Providing Disaster Relief

The **Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club** cooked hamburgers and hot dogs for the residents and workers in Iowa, La. on October 27th after southwest Louisiana was ravished by hurricanes Laura and Delta. Thank you to Past Governor Eva Abate for helping organize this project. Club members Bruce Hammatt and Gary Graham (both past governors) cooked and Joy Hammatt helped distribute meals. Thank you LaMissTenn District Foundation for making grants available to help with disaster relief!

## Reuniting with Cub Scouts

After 7 months of Covid restrictions and more recently hurricanes, the **Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club** was finally able to do a hybrid meeting with our sponsored Cub Scout Pack in October. We don't know who was more excited, us or the kids! We had about 10 attend with their parents and 3 other families joining us on Zoom. Also, we had our first young lady join our Pack. It was getting late in the season, but we got in our Fall garden. This was followed by a demonstration on the proper protocol for handling the American flag. They then got a treat before heading home. It was a great day to be reunited with the kids in our Pack!





# Broussard-Youngsville: Making an Impact

*Broussard-Youngsville Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

Official numbers are 1,370 pounds of food donated in November! Thanks so much to the Broussard and Youngsville communities for making the **Broussard-Youngsville Kiwanis Club's** Community Food Drive a huge success. Also, thanks to the community for donating gifts during Christmas. From basketballs to roller skates, to bicycles, and even gaming systems . . . our members were able to check EVERY single item off of 10 Salvation Army Angel's wish lists. We know these children felt extra special this Christmas!



## Camellia City's Pork Butts Sell out!

*Camellia City, Slidell Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The **Kiwanis Club of Camellia City, Slidell** raised \$600 from its Pork Butt sale on November 14th! A big huge thank you goes to Eddie Vauthier, the Pit Master, for cooking the delicious pork butts, Councilman Bill Borchert for his in-kind donation to the Kiwanis Club, Winn-Dixie for helping us get the butts at a great price, Ace Insurance on Pontchartrain for providing a parking lot, and all the club members for pre-selling the pork butts.



# Cortana: Doing Great Things!

*Cortana Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

## Spreading Holiday Cheer

It was a beautiful morning to spread holiday cheer! **Cortana Kiwanis** members delivered complete Christmas dinners to twenty-six local families. We always look forward to delivery day and this year the need was greater than ever.



## Cooking for Our Heroes

On December 4th, **Cortana Kiwanis** cooked over 500 plates of jambalaya for our local hero's at The Baton Rouge General-Mid City! Thank you to all of our emergency heroes.



## Providing Thanksgiving Meals



For over forty years **Cortana Kiwanis** has enjoyed a favorite tradition of providing Thanksgiving meals for families in our community. This year the need is greater than ever. We were thankful to have the opportunity to gather together and deliver meals to twenty-six families on November 24th

# Dawn Busters' Turkey Fry is Largest Ever

*From the Facebook Page of Governor Patrice Cusimano, St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Club*

Governor Patrice Cusimano worked with the **Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club** on November 25th at its annual turkey fry fundraiser. All of the proceeds are used for literacy programs in the community. They fried and sold 1,040 birds - a new record! Great job Dawn Busters!



## Denham Springs Gives Back to the Community

*Denham Springs Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The **Denham Springs Kiwanis Club** is so **THANKFUL** for the **Live Oak High School Key Clubbers**, Denham Springs Kiwanians, several other members of the community, and college students that shopped 'til they dropped for over 60 children in Livingston Parish on December 22nd! It touched our hearts to see these young high school and college students (and even one junior high student) shop with so much joy and enthusiasm!



The **Denham Springs Kiwanis Club** was honored to host the 47th annual Denham Springs Kiwanis Raymond D'Armond 'Peace Officer of the Year' awards banquet on October 1st. This tradition aims to recognize the peace keepers in our community. Congratulations to the men and women honored for going above and beyond in their service to Denham Springs and Livingston.



# Divisions 4A & 4B Join Forces for Kiwanis One Day

*New Orleans Kiwanis Club & St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Club Facebook Pages*

On October 24th, **Kiwanis LaMissTenn Districts 4A and 4B** (comprising over 13 Kiwanis Clubs around the Greater New Orleans Area) chose the Arc's Bead Recycle Centers to volunteer at for their annual One Day of Volunteering. Kiwanis One Day of Volunteering is an effort by all Kiwanis Clubs around the world to participate on the same day as a project in each of the districts. More than 100 Kiwanians showed up to help the Arc at two locations, Sterling Hall in Chalmette and the main Center on Labarre Road. Key Clubbers joined with the Kiwanis Clubs of Division 4A and 4B at the ARCs to sort Mardi Gras beads! Thousands of beads were collected, sorted by size and repackaged to sell to krewes to be thrown again at Mardi Gras parades!



# Divisions 8E & 8W Partner for Kiwanis One Day

*Baton Rouge Kiwanis Club, Cortana Kiwanis Club, & Ascension Kiwanis Club Facebook Pages*

You couldn't have asked for a nicer day for Kiwanis One Day as **Kiwanis Clubs from 8E & 8W** gathered to carry out service projects all over the area. Over 100 Kiwanis and Key Club members served our communities on November 14th with six service projects. The new Ascension club worked at a children's playground in Gonzales cleaning and handing out ice cream to the kids. Cortana sent a group to Jennings, La. to serve 650 people jamba-

laya and to provide hurricane relief supplies. Cortana also served a meal at the St. Vincent DePaul Men's Shelter and worked at the Baton Rouge Food Bank. Red Stick and St. Gabriel joined Cortana members at the Food Bank. Red Stick also wrote cards for the Sherwood Retirement home. Many clubs participated in the cleanup at Sweet Olive Cemetery including Baton Rouge, Cortana, LSU and Red Stick. Partnering with the Kiwanis clubs for

the cemetery cleanup were Keep Baton Rouge Beautiful and The Baton Rouge Magnet High School Key Club. There was a lot of cutting, pulling, trimming, and stacking of vegetation from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. A significant dent was made in the amount of overgrowth in the cemetery. Sweet Olive is the oldest black cemetery in Baton Rouge and has veterans who are buried there which was appropriate to clean their graves so close Veterans Day.



## Dyersburg Cleans Park on Kiwanis One Day

*Dyersburg Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

Dyersburg Kiwanis members helped freshen up Kiwanis Park on a cool fall morning for Kiwanis One Day on October 24.



## East St. Mary Responds to Hurricane Disaster

*East St. Mary Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*



The East St. Mary Kiwanis Club along with the help of the good folks at G&J Land & Marine have partnered to assist the victims of hurricane's Laura and Zeta in Cameron Parish. Our Club received a \$1,500 relief grant from our Kiwanis District relief fund and partnered with G&J to assist us with delivery of groceries and products. We are thankful for our club members as well as our community partners.

## Greater Covington Supports Deck the Rails

*Greater Covington Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

Members of the Greater Covington Kiwanis Club volunteered at the Deck the Rails holiday event at the Covington Trailhead on December 5th. Members helped with Christmas craft activities and handed out holiday treats.



## Kenner-North Hosts First Trunk or Treat

*Kenner-North Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The **Kenner-North Kiwanis Club** hosted its first ever Trunk or Treat on November 6th in Lafreniere Park. Children were encouraged to dress up. Food trucks were onsite with refreshments available for purchase and 64 trunks with proper social distancing were set up for trunk-or-treating. All physical distancing, capacity limitations and mask requirements were enforced. There were no costs involved in setting up a trunk to participate in the event.



## Lafayette Spreads Christmas Cheer

*Lafayette Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

Every year the **Kiwanis Club of Lafayette** hosts Operation Magi - a Christmas present for homeless children. Magi is our favorite service project of the year, bringing a bit of Christmas joy to those less fortunate. We coordinate the event with the Lafayette Parish School System. The School System supplies us with a list of children officially classified as homeless. Normally, school buses pick up the children and bring them to the store where dozens of eager Kiwanians and Key Club members are waiting to take them Christmas shopping. Each child is paired up with a Kiwanis and key Club member to go shopping throughout the store. Each year we are humbled and moved by the enormous need, generosity and gratitude that our young shoppers demonstrate. This year 48 children in Acadiana received Christmas gifts. Because of the pandemic, the children were absent for this year's shopping spree.

The Wheels of Wonder Project is a Christmas present for foster children. Every year, the Kiwanis Club of Lafayette gets a list from the Louisiana Office of Children's Services of foster children in our area. We buy bicycles for all of them and deliver them just before Christmas.



# Martin Donates Children's Books

*Martin Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

A big THANK YOU to the **Martin Kiwanis Club** for their generous donation of children's books to the Martin Enrichment Academy last November.



# New Iberia Distributes Supplies and Meals

*New Iberia Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The **Kiwanis Club of New Iberia** would like to say thank you to the town of Lake Arthur, La. We were excited to be able to help and distribute meals and supplies for hurricane relief. Thank you to Mayor Sherry Crochet and Mayor Pro Tempore Poncho Lejuene for welcoming the club with open arms. We would also like to thank the Southwest Contraband Kiwanis Club of Lake Charles and Past Governor Eva Abate for helping in coordinating the project and distributing supplies. This event was a great success and helped a lot of our neighbors that are in need during this difficult time.

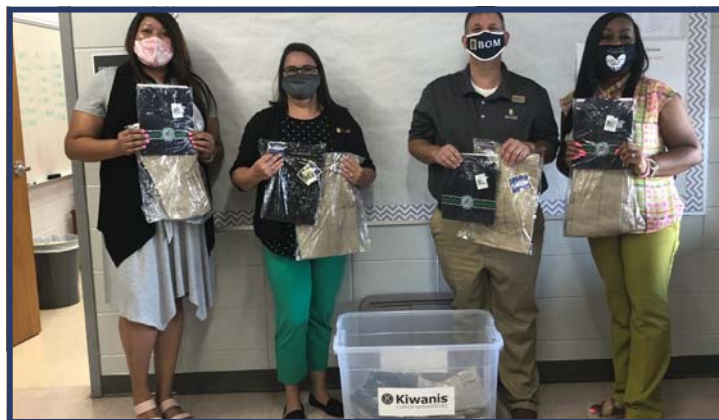




# Natchitoches Cares for the Community

*Natchitoches Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

Members of the **Natchitoches Kiwanis Club** cleared litter from four parks on October 24th for Kiwanis One Day. The club also sponsors a uniform drive for the community's school system each year. The uniform drive is one of the club's most successful service projects. The club purchases new uniforms and collects gently used ones for schools to have on hand as surplus in the event students may need them while at school.



# Northshore Mandeville Hosts Record Breaking Food Drive

*Northshore Mandeville Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The WEIGH IN ... The **Kiwanis Club of Northshore Mandeville** blew the record out the water by over 2,000 pounds! In November, the club collected 7,560 lbs. of canned goods and nonperishable food items for the Northshore Food Bank! Literally a truck load taking care of many families in need.



## New Orleans Spreads the Kiwanis Spirit

*New Orleans Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

### Twisting and Shouting!

The Kiwanis Club of New Orleans sponsored the 6th Annual Fall Dance for St Michael Special School . . . what a blast! Due to COVID restrictions only students and staff could be there; but we attended virtually and danced along with them!



### Hurricane Relief Efforts: Making Kiwanis Kares Activity Packs for Kids



### Kiwanis Elves Wrap Gifts for Magnolia Community Services for Christmas Eve



## Opelousas Kiwanis Cares

*Opelousas Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

### Supporting Cerebral Palsy Clinic

Opelousas Kiwanis was very happy to support the Opelousas Cerebral Palsy Clinic so they may continue offering free physical, occupational, and speech therapy to children and adults with developmental disabilities in our community.



### Rewarding Hard Working Students with Bikes

The Opelousas Kiwanis Club was very happy to gift students with brand new bicycles! Students were recognized for their hard work and academic improvement last year through our Kiwanis Kids program. Keep it up, we're proud of you!



### Kids Need Kiwanis

Pictured to the left are some of the Opelousas Kiwanis members presenting bags to Mayor Alsandor for prepackaging treats for Opelousas' Safe Halloween event!

Pictured to the right are Opelousas Kiwanis members that were happy to help support CASA and their annual children's Christmas party!



## Ponchatoula Kiwanis: Keeping Busy!

*Ponchatoula Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

### Hosting Christmas Lunch

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, the **Ponchatoula Kiwanis Club** partnered with the Extended Foster Care Program to host a Christmas lunch for the young people in the program. A huge thank you to Bry and the guys with United by Barbeque for supplying and cooking all the wonderful food! Thank you also to H2O Ministries for providing games and gifts. A big shout out goes to our Kiwanis members and community partners who donated door prizes, gift cards and gifts for our young people! We hope it was an event that they will all long remember!



### Gifting Books to Second Graders



What a great day it was! **The Kiwanis Club of Ponchatoula** was finally able to give out the books from the Scholastic Reading Grant that our club was awarded earlier this year. Every student in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Tucker Elementary was able to pick out their very own book to keep and take home on December 8<sup>th</sup>. They were so excited!! Keep reading everyone!

### Reaching Out to the Community

**Ponchatoula Kiwanis** was recently asked to assist with building a much needed wheelchair ramp for a gentleman in Ponchatoula.

### Thanksgiving Fruit Baskets

Members of the **Ponchatoula Kiwanis Club** delivered 100 fruit baskets to the Council on Aging in November.



## South Lake Charles Makes a Difference!

*South Lake Charles Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

### The Meaning of Christmas

On December 17th, the **South Lake Charles Kiwanis Club** had its annual Christmas shopping spree for 40 lucky youngsters! And on December 22, members of the club distributed food baskets to some very happy people.



### Helping Manna Ministries Give to the Community

In October, the **South Lake Charles Kiwanis Club** participated in the Manna Ministries food and supply distribution at St. Luke Simpson Methodist Church.



### Thanksgiving Baskets

With some help of the good people at Market Basket, the **South Lake Charles Kiwanis Club** was able to deliver Thanksgiving baskets again this year to deserving families.



# Southwest Lafayette Spreads Christmas Cheer

*Southwest Lafayette Club Facebook Page*

The **Kiwanis Club of Southwest's** Annual Christmas Shopping Spree took place on December 16th! Club members shopped for Christmas presents for J.W. Faulk Elementary students.

Also, the Kiwanis Club of Southwest's Annual Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway was held on November 24th. Given the challenges 2020 has presented, we were even more thankful this year to bless 25 families with items for Thanksgiving to enjoy with their loved ones. Thank you to Mrs. Joyce and the staff at the Domingue Center for allowing us to use the facility again. Thank you to the Kiwanis Southwest members and others who contributed their time, efforts, and donations.



**Southwest Contraband: Living It! Loving It! Sharing It!**  
*Southwest Contraband Club Facebook Page*

The **Kiwanis Club of Southwest Contraband** rang the bell for the Salvation Army of Calcasieu on December 12th.

## St. Bernard-Arabi Loves to Serve

*St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

### Sponsoring Literacy Programs

As part of the **Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard-Arabi's** Literacy & Academics Program, the Kiwanis Club sponsors the W. Smith Elementary Reading Incentive program to provide incentives to help increase reading skills and reading enjoyment. This year third - fifth grade students who show significant growth in their STAR reading assessment and meet their Lexia goal for the month are rewarded with a pizza party and the chance to win a Fire tablet. One student each month is drawn from the winners, and receives an Amazon Fire 7 notepad. The Kiwanis Literacy and Academics Programs are dedicated to reading programs such as Read Around the World, Summer Read to Ride, School Book Fairs, Reading Incentive Programs and other programs in their Ready for Reading fund.



### Reaching out to Hurricane Victims

On October 27th, Sal Cusimano, Robby Showalter, Danny Bourgeois, Mike Gorbaty, Steve Fecke (all members of **St. Bernard-Arabi Kiwanis**), Dave Gorbaty and V. J. Dauterive cooked 1,000 chicken leg quarters and several kettles of jambalaya to feed the people in Sulphur, La., as they rebuild their homes after Hurricane Laura.



## St. Martinville Provides Gifts for Foster Kids

*St. Martinville Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

THANK YOU to our Kiwanis family and friends who donated to the **St. Martinville Kiwanis Club** toy drive this past December. This year we were able to provide gifts for 104 foster kids and 64 kids from St Teresa's. We were also able to provide diapers and wipes to the cause. What a blessing! We are extremely grateful for your generosity during this holiday season.



## Starkville Promotes Early Literacy Initiative with “Pete the Cat”

*Starkville Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*



The **Kiwanis Club of Starkville** has bought 400 “Pete The Cat - I Love My White Shoes” hard-bound books to give away to 4-year-old children in Oktibbeha County, in conjunction with the Oktibbeha County Excel by 5 program in memory of Past La.Miss.Tenn. District of Kiwanis International Governor and Strakville Kiwanis Club Member Bascom Allen.

Reading the book to a class of 4-year-old children at Emerson Pre-school is Mrs. Joy Hammett, wife of Immediate Past Governor of the La.Miss.Tenn. District of Kiwanis International Bruce Hammett. Giving away and reading “Pete The Cat - I Love My White Shoes” books has been Joy’s First-Lady service project since her husband served as Governor of our Kiwanis District.

## Stone County Hosts Outdoor Movie Night

*Sone County Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

The **Stone County Kiwanis Club** had a great time hosting its first family fun *Outdoor Movie Night* on Saturday, October 24th at Reynolds Field in Wiggins, Miss. The night started off with the new short film “Toy Story of Terror” and was followed by the feature film “Trolls World Tour.” Viewers were encouraged to bring picnic blankets and lawn chairs or watch from their cars. Free snacks were provided.





## Twin Cities: Caring for the Community

*Twin Cities Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

### Taking Care of Local High School Students

For several months the **Twin Cities Kiwanis Club** has been working on a project to donate hygiene kits to local high schools. With the assistance of a grant from the La.Miss.Tenn. District of Kiwanis International Foundation and a donation from Dr. Alan Jones, club members were able to pack almost 100 kits during one meeting alone. Kits will be made available to students as needed throughout the school year.



*Twin Cities Kiwanis Club members presented 40 hygiene kits to South Fulton High School Beta Club member Mary Pitts for students in need throughout the school year.*

### Sending Notes of Cheer

Members of the **Twin Cities Kiwanis Club** signed holiday cards for residents at local care facilities at a club meeting ... a quick way to brighten someone's day!



### Staying Connected with the Community



**Twin Cities Kiwanis Club** donated twenty gallons of plastic bottle caps to South Fulton High School Beta Club for making plastic benches to be placed throughout the community.



**Twin Cities Kiwanis** completed phase 2 of the Star in the Park cleanup for Kiwanis One Day on October 24th.



October 3rd was Pumpkin Day for the **Twin Cities Kiwanis Club**. The club's Annual Pumpkin sale was a success. Members sold pumpkins, fried pies and cute fall wreaths.

## Union City: Making a Difference!

*Union City Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

**Union City Kiwanis Club** members enjoyed making cards of encouragement for our Benjamin's Bags project on Kiwanis One Day! We love our community and are grateful for our foster families! Also, members of the Union City Kiwanis Club and friends provided hydration, nourishment, first aid (thankfully none was needed), entertainment and motivation to the participants in the St. Jude Marathon Weekend in Union City. It was a cold morning but it warmed our hearts to see so many come out in support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



## Vancleave Paints School Bus Lane for Kiwanis One Day

*Vancleave Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

**Vancleave Kiwanis Club's** Kiwanis One Day project may have been threatened by rain but they did it! Members cleaned and painted the bus lane at Vancleave Elementary School.



# Vicksburg Helps Students with Virtual Learning

*Vicksburg Kiwanis Club Facebook Page*

In November, the **Kiwanis Club of Vicksburg** supplied Vicksburg High School students with cables to connect their phones to their TVs to allow for internet access enabling them to easily participate in virtual learning classes.



## Vicksburg Participates in Trunk or Treat

In October, members of the **Vicksburg Kiwanis Club** and helpers from **Vicksburg High School Key Club** passed out treats at Trunk or Treat at the Vicksburg Commons Shopping Center. Many excited children in costumes participated in this fun, safe event.



# Share Your Club's News!

By Tiffany Domingue, District Bulletin Editor

## Submit your article or photographs:

EMAIL: [tiffany@lamisstenn.org](mailto:tiffany@lamisstenn.org)

**ARTICLES & PHOTOGRAPHS:** All article submissions must be attached in an email as a Word document and should be approximately 250 words or less. *Please submit original articles written by your club's members. We cannot use pre-published articles due to copyright laws.* Do not include photos within text documents; send as separate attachments in the highest resolution TIFF or JPEG file if possible. Include a description of the photograph.

## DEADLINES:

The deadline for article submissions is always two weeks before the publication's date. Here are the deadlines for the 2020-2021 Kiwanis Year:

**April 2021 = Deadline: March 17, 2021**

**July 2021 Issue = Deadline: June 17, 2021**

**October 2021 Issue = Deadline: September 17, 2021**

### Include this information:

**CLUB:** Club, Division Number, and Author

**EVENT:** Make sure to answer: **what** was done, **why** it was done, **who** benefited, **when** and **where** it occurred, **how** it was accomplished, etc.

**ACCURACY:** Please double check all dates, locations, etc., and be sure that all names are spelled correctly. While we do our best to correct issues if we notice them, we do not have the resources to confirm this type of information.

**PHOTOGRAPHS:** Avoid poses such as check acceptances, podium speakers, and groups standing in line or stacked rows. If you're shooting a service project, look for an action photo of the volunteers in progress or interacting with children. Shoot from the front – we are not likely to use a shot with mostly backs. Use as high a resolution as possible. Captions may not always be published, but it is helpful if you can identify subjects.

**AND REMEMBER . . . THE BEST ACTION SHOT WINS THE COVER!**

**Keep in mind, the cover photograph for the District News Magazine will be selected based on clarity, action and emotion.**

**We want photographs showing how your club impacts the community!**



*"The Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District News" is the official publication of the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee District of Kiwanis International*

### **2020-2021 LA.-MISS.-W. TENN. DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**Governor . . . . .** Patrice Cusimano

**Governor - Elect . . . . .** Richard Latiolais

**Immediate Past Governor . . . . .** R. Bruce Hammatt

**Executive Director . . . . .** Charles H. Ford

### **DISTRICT TRUSTEES:**

#### **Region I**

John A. Fry, *Union City, Tenn.*

#### **Region II**

Dr. Waseem Gul, *Oxford, Miss.*

#### **Region III**

Rogena Woods-Mitchell, *Vancleave, Miss.*

#### **Region IV**

Alfred G. Lotz, Jr., *Third District, New Orleans, La.*

#### **Region V**

Michele Crosby, *Denham Springs, La.*

#### **Region VI**

Kimberly Champagne, *Acadiana-Lafayette, La.*

#### **Region VII**

James Leggett, III, *Alexandria, La.*

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**HOURS:** Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.