



**Kiwanis®**

# CHANGING CHILDREN'S LIVES. AND YOUR OWN.

YOUR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

# VISIT THE KIWANIS BLOG!

There's a place where you can learn more and stay up to date: the Kiwanis International blog page. You'll find the latest news, success stories and more.

Whether you're a Kiwanis member, a potential member or simply someone who's interested in what we're doing around the world, the blog is a great resource. Find posts about:

- Service projects.
- Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs for volunteers of all ages and abilities.
- Leadership.
- Literacy.
- The Kiwanis Children's Fund (our fundraising organization).

You'll also find video podcasts featuring Kiwanis members and staff. The blog is frequently updated, so it's a great place to return on a regular basis. Bookmark it now and come back often!

[kiwanis.org/blog](https://kiwanis.org/blog)



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WELCOME

## A great fit for you

### AN INTRODUCTION FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAUL PALAZZOLO

If you're reading this, it may well be because you received it from a Kiwanis club member. If so, I'm pleased to join that person in encouraging you to learn more about Kiwanis International. Here are the basics: We're a volunteer organization that consists of local clubs in 83 nations, with a focus on serving kids — particularly through the causes of health and nutrition, education and literacy, and youth leadership development.

But if I were to boil down all the reasons people join Kiwanis, it's this: They want to make a difference for kids and for the communities around them, and they want to do it in the company of like-minded people.

In fact, fellowship is a big part of Kiwanis' appeal. If you want to change lives in your community and get to know more of the people who live there, a Kiwanis club is a great place for you. I invite you to read on and see the ways that Kiwanis club membership is rewarding for volunteers.

In the Kiwanis family, those rewards are available to members of all ages and abilities. (See page 14.) As a result, Kiwanis club members can mentor younger volunteers — and help shape future generations of servant leaders.

Of course, some of those youth grow up to join Kiwanis clubs themselves. I'm one of them. I joined the Kiwanis family in the early 1980s while attending Sacred Heart-Griffin High School in Springfield, Illinois. That's where I got active in Key Club, our student-led service organization for high school students. For more than 40 years now, I've experienced firsthand the kinds of successes and benefits you'll read about in this publication.

I can tell you this: There's never a bad time in life to join an organization like ours. I encourage you to visit a Kiwanis club meeting or volunteer at a Kiwanis service project. After all, you're reading this now because someone believes you're a good fit for Kiwanis — and Kiwanis is a good fit for you. I'd bet they're right. The next step is yours.



**"Be the change you want to see  
and don't wait for someone else to  
get it done. Serving the children  
starts with you!"**

**Jody Hulsey**  
Kiwanis Club of Owensboro, Kentucky, U.S.

# BY THE NUMBERS

KIWANIS IS A SERVICE ORGANIZATION WITH CLUBS THAT HELP KIDS ALL OVER THE WORLD. HERE'S WHO WE ARE — AND WHERE WE ARE — IN NUMBERS:

# 6,522

Kiwanis clubs around the world.



# 516,000

Service projects conducted annually by Kiwanis clubs worldwide.

# 98

Kids whom the average Kiwanian reaches with service per year.



# 7,824

Clubs worldwide in our service programs for youth, college students and adults with disabilities.



# 83

Nations where Kiwanis has clubs.



## SERVICE AND SCOPE

# 448,509

Members of the Kiwanis family (adult and youth).

# 7,100,000

Hours devoted to service each year by the Kiwanis family of clubs.



# 1.3 billion

U.S. dollars raised by Kiwanis clubs since 2021.

“Ultimately, my involvement with Kiwanis is one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. The happiness we bring to children through our positive actions is a source of inestimable satisfaction.”

Isaya Mushagalusa Namegabe

Kiwanis Club of Bukavu, The Democratic Republic of Congo



## Clean water for a community

**IN PAKISTAN, A KIWANIS CLUB CHANGED LIVES IN ITS FIRST YEAR.**

In some communities, kids live without things that many of us take for granted. For example, the residents of Sindh, Pakistan, had to travel up to 20 kilometers (or 12.43 miles) simply to get access to clean water.

In its first year of existence, the Kiwanis Club of Pakistan changed their lives. “We have been able to provide a sustainable water source within the village,” says Johnson Peter, club president. “This project not only alleviates the daily struggles of the villagers but also brings newfound hope and happiness to their lives.”

Soon after the club was founded in 2024, a service project to install water pumps in Sindh became a key initiative. The club’s members became aware of the need for clean water through their outreach programs and interactions with the community.

“The villagers expressed their struggles and the immense challenge of traveling long distances to access water,” Johnson says.

In some of the best Kiwanis service projects, clubs don’t just identify a need in a community — they talk with people who live with that need and can offer insight on the best ways to address it. That’s what happened in Pakistan.



“We collaborated with the village leaders and residents to understand their specific needs and the best locations for the water pumps,” Johnson says. “This cooperation ensured that the installation process was smooth and that the water sources were accessible to all villagers.”




“We have been able to provide a sustainable water source within the village.”

### Meaningful change

The project in Sindh was exactly the type of service that inspired the Kiwanis members to start their club. They’re driven, Johnson says, by a common vision — which includes a passion for humanitarian work and the belief that collective effort can bring about meaningful change.

For a child, it doesn’t get any more meaningful than the mere existence of clean water. Thanks to the installation of the water pumps, hundreds of residents of Sindh, including its kids, now have access to just that. It’s a change that boosts the odds of survival, in addition to the quality of health and nutrition.

For the Kiwanis Club of Pakistan, this project goes to the heart of why its members joined — and it touches their hearts now that they see the result.

“The joy and gratitude of the villagers is a testament to the power of community and collective effort,” Johnson says. “We believe this can serve as a model for similar initiatives in other parts of the world.” 



## Bringing kids and books together

### HOW ONE MONTANA CLUB TURNED TRASH INTO READING TREASURE.

When Kiwanis club members serve kids, a key area of focus is education and literacy — a cause that makes an impact in a person's life from early childhood into adulthood. Getting books into the hands of children and developing a love for learning are crucial. In Montana, U.S., members of the Silver Bow, Butte, Kiwanis Club found a creative way to bring kids and books together — while helping the environment.

It started when a member of the club purchased a house that came with an unwanted leftover: an old, nonfunctioning refrigerator taking up valuable space in the garage. The Kiwanian didn't need or want it — but also didn't want it to end up in a landfill.

A fellow club member who works at an asbestos abatement business volunteered to remove the refrigerator's freon if a purpose could be found for the appliance. The creative Kiwanis solution: Transform the refrigerator into a freestanding "book box" and put it in the front yard.

After the freon and the refrigerator's seal were removed, club members painted the refrigerator in "Kiwanis blue" — one of the organization's official colors. The club then approached a librarian at a nearby elementary school to see whether any of the students would be willing to help personalize the former fridge. The kids delivered: Four groups of students volunteered to help. Thanks to nontoxic paints purchased by the Kiwanians, the result was a one-of-a-kind book box decorated with brightly colored handprints.



The school also happened to be getting a number of new books for the library and donated the older books for the box. And when another refrigerator became available from a neighbor's estate, a second book box was created for a local affordable-housing apartment complex.

### Partnership power

At the time, the Montana District of Circle K International (the Kiwanis service program for college and university students) was in Butte, holding its annual Fall Rally. The CKI members took on fridge-painting duties as a service project. Now the box is available 24/7 outside the apartment complex office.

Of course, the challenge was then to get books for both boxes. That's where another partnership came in.

Scholastic — a large publishing and education company *and* a partner of Kiwanis International — was awarding one "book desert" grant to each state in the U.S., with a goal of expanding children's access to reading material. The club applied for and received the grant for Montana, gaining access to 1,000 books and an official Little Free Library. That library was placed halfway between a high school and an affordable-housing community.

Meanwhile the original, front-yard book box has expanded its offerings to include fruit snacks and small bubble blowers in the summer and sports drinks when the weather is cool — adding incentives for kids to stop by and grab a book.

Thanks to the creativity of the Kiwanis Club of Silver Bow, Butte, more kids have access to free books, and the environment has been spared two abandoned refrigerators lying in a landfill. All together, it's an example of Kiwanians making a big difference with small but impactful projects. ☐

## Sparking creativity

### A CLUB IN CALIFORNIA INSPIRES STUDENTS TO PURSUE DREAM CAREERS IN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES.

On September 28, 2024, the gymnasium of Diamond Bar High School in California, U.S., was science and technology central. You could find robotics and 3D printing demonstrations, drones, introductions to coding and more. Booths from organizations including Mathnasium, the Society of Women Engineers, the Department of Public Works, and Curtiss-Wright Nuclear stood alongside those from the LA County Library and the Literacy Guild.

It was the second annual STEAM Fair of the Kiwanis Club of Diamond Bar Young Professionals — and it was a true celebration of science, technology, engineering, the arts and math.

“I always stress STEAM,” says club President Roseangeli Ayson. “Because the ‘A,’ the arts, are just as important, and I think a lot of time people lose sight of that. I just think it makes the world better when all of those aspects are embraced.”

Clearly, the community agrees. Hundreds of kids flocked to the book giveaway; the reading/Lego corner; stations for making bookmarks, slime and K-pop photocards; poetry readings; face painting; and sessions on professional development and college applications.

The event, Ayson says, is all about “things that are of interest to (the kids) and spark their creativity.”



### Students step up

The real stars of the event were the high school students from robotics club Team Sprocket and other school clubs — plus members of area Key Clubs (the Kiwanis service program for high school students) and other Kiwanis clubs.

“A lot of times, we can’t hold our events without SLPs [Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs],” Ayson says.

The STEAM Fair offers its student volunteers a wide variety of opportunities to grow as leaders. In the STEAM Fair's second year, Ayson says, the students even joined the Kiwanians as leaders in organizing the project.

Among the new activities was a gallery of art made by local middle school students, a collaboration that highlighted another benefit of having Key Club members volunteer at events. They don’t just develop their own leadership skills — they also inspire younger attendees to follow in their footsteps.


“When the kids come and they see all the high schoolers helping out, it’s more fun,” Ayson says. “They’re a lot more interactive.”

### Inspiration and connection

Ayson made sure to leave time in the teen volunteers’ shifts to enjoy the booths, performances and panels that interested them. While most of the STEAM Fair targets younger children who are still discovering their interests, it also offers career panels for high school students.

For some students, the fair was a chance to find mentors from their own communities who had “made good” in their chosen fields. For others, it was an opportunity for networking. One Key Club member who performed at the fair was scouted by a Friends of the Library board member to sing the national anthem at their annual toy drive.

Another student approached Ayson after a career panel that featured Academy Award-winning documentary director Martin Desmond Roe and an author who had written about how to make money in a creative career. The student said she had been struggling with whether she could pursue her interest in photography professionally, but after the panel she felt more confident.

“Even if it was just that one person, we helped her see that her dream actually could happen,” Ayson says. 





# MEET THE KIWANIS FAMILY

## THE COMMITMENT WE SHARE AMONG ALL AGES AND ABILITIES.

In this publication, you're seeing a lot about Kiwanis clubs. After all, we want you to join one and become part of Kiwanis International. But the organization consists of more than just Kiwanis clubs. It includes service and leadership opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.

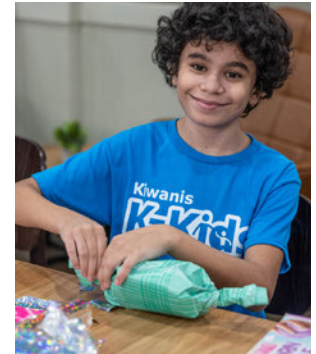
All together, we think of it as the Kiwanis family. And if you're looking for opportunities to be a mentor, it's a great family to be a part of.

We offer five Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs (SLPs). These are leadership and character-building programs hosted in a school or community and often sponsored by a Kiwanis club or another civic organization. Our first SLP, Key Club, was founded in 1925. Since then, millions of SLP members have been inspired to lead lives of service and significance.



### K-Kids

K-Kids is the largest service organization for primary / elementary school students. K-Kids clubs are hosted in primary / elementary schools and organizations around the world. The clubs offer students, typically ages 6-11, opportunities to make friends, build skills, contribute through service and learn how to be leaders. Members' service projects contribute to the community, increasing the visibility of the K-Kids club and the school or organization they represent.



### Builders Club

For middle years / middle school students, Builders Club offers students, typically ages 12-14, a place to belong, make friends, build life skills, develop as leaders and contribute through service. Members' projects contribute to the community, giving them an impact on issues they care about. Club members and officers choose activities that interest them and put their talents to use. They take responsibility for tasks to help the team and meet personal and club goals.



### Key Club

Key Club the oldest and largest service organization for high school students, ages 14-18. Members build character through service and leadership. In doing so, they grow as individuals and as leaders. In partnership with their local Kiwanis club, Key Club members make a positive impact as they serve others. They also make a global impact through partnerships with organizations such as UNICEF USA and Thirst Project. Members find a sense of belonging and learn leadership skills by running meetings, planning projects and holding elected leadership positions.



## OTHER PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Circle K International

Circle K International (CKI) empowers university/college students through service to local and global communities. In CKI, members work with other passionate students to develop leadership skills and make lifelong friendships, all in a supportive environment. CKI members leave college with real-life skills in networking, advocating and service leadership — in areas such as childhood development, environmental justice, mental health and serving those who are food insecure or lack housing.



### Aktion Club

Aktion Club is the only service club for adults with disabilities, with more than 7,000 members worldwide. Club members become capable, caring leaders through service projects that range from fundraising for children's causes to recycling drives and park cleanups. Aktion Club empowers members to be themselves, work together and implement plans through action.



### Alumni networks

Kiwanis International helps former members of Key Club and CKI stay connected. Each SLP has an alumni network that provides opportunities to communicate, stay up to date about what's happening in the organization and build their careers — or serve as a resource for fellow alumni as they seek to build theirs. Learn more at [kiwanis.org/alumni](https://kiwanis.org/alumni).



## Key Club Centennial Celebration

In 2025, Key Club is marking a major milestone: 100 years of service and leadership! That's a century of high school/secondary students making a lasting impact around the world.

The Centennial Celebration reflects not only the organization's rich history but a future full of potential. That's because for 100 years, Key Club not only has demonstrated the power of service but has shaped generations of passionate leaders who have gone on to transform lives and communities.

These empathetic leaders understand the power of volunteerism and the difference one person can make in the world. From improving their own communities to fighting worldwide hunger and much more, Key Club members have been at the forefront of youth-led service projects that improve lives and inspire others. With help from sponsoring Kiwanis clubs, they'll continue to be there through the next 100 years.

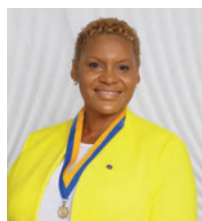


## Build your leadership skills

### KIWANIS AMPLIFY BRINGS PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BENEFITS.



ANGELO CIARDELLA



CYNTHIA BLACKMAN

One of the many advantages of becoming a Kiwanis member is the opportunity to grow as a leader — in Kiwanis, your community and beyond. Kiwanis Amplify is one example. It's an online course for leadership development, with interactive modules led by experts.

The modules include topics such as leadership qualities, event planning, working with others and more. Each participant works through the course at their own pace. The program also encourages peer discussion, so participants can enhance their learning opportunities through others' viewpoints.

When Kiwanis Amplify launched in 2021, two Kiwanians — Angelo Ciardella and Cynthia Blackman — were looking for opportunities to grow as leaders. Each of them was at a crossroads.

Blackman was adjusting to a new leadership position within Kiwanis during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Ciardella was completing his nursing degree. Both found what they were looking for in the inaugural Kiwanis Amplify class.

#### What resonated

Ciardella was impressed with the quality of the training material, but also with the depth and breadth of the topics.

"I absolutely loved that the trainings did not focus on Kiwanis at all," he says, "[but] rather the themes and skills needed to be a successful leader in life, which translate to our service journeys in Kiwanis."

Blackman says the program "forced me to re-evaluate my perspective on being intentional with inclusive leadership and not being afraid to fail as a leader."

The skills that resonated most with Ciardella and Blackman were those they could apply to their personal growth.

"Being given permission to fail was something that I needed to hear so badly at that time in my life,"

Ciardella says. "The rigors of university, moving up in leadership in my club and that little thing called the pandemic were really causing me to be down on myself."

"Self-care as a leader was the big takeaway for me," Blackman adds. "Oftentimes as a leader, we place others before ourselves."

#### Professional impact

Ciardella and Blackman found that Kiwanis Amplify helped their careers. Ciardella partially attributes his job as a nurse at one of North America's leading hospitals to Kiwanis Amplify.

"The program helped me hone my leadership and communication skills, setting me above others in my industry," he says. "Teamwork, communication, DEI, strategic thinking — these themes are so relevant in my work as a registered nurse, and Kiwanis Amplify has helped me excel in these areas."

For Blackman, the program was a guide toward greater effectiveness in giving presentations — and in engaging with large groups of all kinds.

"Kiwanis Amplify gave me the tools to adjust my leadership style at the office to one where I was more inspirational," she says. "The [communication] module enhanced my presentation style and instilled confidence in me that allowed me to engage with various audiences actively and effectively."



Blackman found that her communication style also improved, helping her become more conscious about her choice of words.

Ultimately, she found the program so useful that she participated again in 2024.

After his own success with Kiwanis Amplify, Ciardella got involved with shaping it and helping others. He joined a Kiwanis-led committee to make suggestions for Kiwanis Amplify's second year, and he served as a program mentor in its third year.

"These experiences have been some of the highlights of my Kiwanis journey," he says. ☐



“If there is a time for service organizations, it is now. We need to create community events where we start seeing each other as neighbors and people again.”

Ray Sandoval  
Kiwanis Club of Santa Fe, New Mexico, U.S.

# THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with Kiwanis International enhance the impact of our clubs. In fact, the power of partnership results in perks for members themselves — thanks to our member-discount portal, which makes great deals available on everything from travel to electronics.

Partnerships also are an exciting way to maximize our service. When we combine resources and people power with other organizations, we find new ways of reaching the kids who need us. That’s why we seek out partners whose missions align with ours. We invite you to learn more about our current partners on our website.

**[kiwanis.org/our-partners](https://www.kiwanis.org/our-partners)**

*Kiwanis International partners primarily serve U.S.-based clubs and members.*



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# WHAT'S NEXT

INSPIRED BY WHAT YOU SEE? WANT TO BE A PART OF IT? YOU'RE READY TO JOIN A KIWANIS CLUB! IT'S AS EASY AS...

1

**Find** the club that's right for you. Depending on the size of your community, you may have several options. Start your search at [kiwanis.org/findaclub](https://kiwanis.org/findaclub).

2

**Visit** a club meeting or service project. See what the people are like. Listen for what interests you, from the service to the fellowship. And ask questions — Kiwanians are friendly!

3

**Join!** When you find the club that fits you, get involved. Make friends, participate in projects...and invite a friend to join too!

Learn more about us at [kiwanis.org](https://kiwanis.org).



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