



**Kiwanis®**  
CLUB OF EASTON

*Happy  
Holidays*



**December Klatter 2025**

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**



Dear Easton Kiwanians,

As 2025 draws to a close, I find myself looking back at the past year. The Kiwanis Club of Easton remains strong because of all of you. Our members are dedicated to “improving our world, child by child and community by community.” We are family where each person is a valued member, an important piece of the mosaic.

We have welcomed new members this year and we look forward to increasing our membership even more in 2026.

Our Student Leadership Programs at St. Jane's and Shawnee Elementary Schools are strong. It has been very exciting to see the students grow in service and in leadership skills in their schools and in the community. We hope to see growth in that area in 2026 with a possible Builders' Club and maybe an additional SLP or two.

We are fortunate to also sponsor the Nazareth Area High School Key Club. They are 87 students strong. They are becoming the leaders of the future.

We are a very involved club and I have just touched on only some of what we do. Our club members have also participated in several service projects and community events with more on the horizon. Our member, Janet Owen, is now also PA Kiwanis Governor Elect. Congratulations, Janet!

There are so many things going on, that it's hard to mention them all in one letter. Our Monday Missile keeps everyone up to date on a weekly basis and our monthly newsletter highlights our speakers and activities. Please be sure to take the opportunity to read both.

At our induction ceremony of new members at our last meeting, we read the *Six Objects of Kiwanis*. These are our guiding principles, not just for Kiwanis but they are for us in our homes, our workplaces and in our community. Looking them over helps us keep our focused as a club and on what our purpose is.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday and a Happy, Healthy New Year!!

*Looking forward to 2026!! Sue Gallagher*



## December 1st – President Sue on ZOOM with Kiwanis...

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President Sue attended a Kiwanis International Leadership Discussion Series for Club Presidents. The zoom presentation with 74 Kiwanians signing on covered questions submitted earlier by Club Presidents. It was an interesting and informative session.

Some topics covered were:

- How to support committees
- Time management
- Increasing Membership
- Fundraising
- Signature Projects
- Amplify

## December 4<sup>th</sup> – St Janes K-Kids meeting...

This afternoon the St. Jane's K-Kids met with 14 members in attendance. Christi Johnstone, Faculty Advisor was assisted by Easton Kiwanians Sue Gallagher, Rosemary Kocher, and Walt Howell. The first assignment for today's meeting was for the members to take home permission forms for the parents to approve them caroling at the Arden Courts on Freemansburg Avenue on this coming Monday afternoon. The parents were being asked to transport the members to that facility as the school doesn't have a means of transportation for those functions.

The remainder of the meeting the members were making Christmas ornaments and cards. At the end of the meeting us Kiwanians gave each member a bag of Christmas goodies that were assembled by the Nazareth Key Club members after they completed filling the Christmas bags that were made up for the IU20 students. The next St. Jane's K-Kids meeting is Scheduled for January 8th, 2026. *Reported by our SLP Advisor Walt Howell*





For the past 45 years the Kiwanis Club of Easton has hosted a holiday party for students from the Northampton Colonial IU 20. This year students were not able to attend in person, but Plan B went into action.

Several Easton Kiwanians, 35 Nazareth Area High School Key Club members and their faculty advisor, Brigette Lubarski, packed party bags for the IU 20 students and staff. These will be delivered to the classrooms.

Key Club students continued their service by making holiday cards for Safe Harbor, Get Well cards for a pediatric center, K-Kids appreciation bags and crafts for Caitlyn Smiles.

Thank you SURV Restaurant and Unity Bank for your generous donations for this event. Thanks also for donations from Crayola, Kiwanis Club of Easton members, Just Born, PetSmart, Keystone Foods, ShopRite and Mike Loquasto at Walgreens for donating items for the bags.

Thanks to Janet Owen, Governor-Elect for PA Kiwanis and Easton Kiwanis Club member, for chairing and organizing this event.









## December 6<sup>th</sup> – Shawnee K-Kids Ringing the Bells...

It is indeed a pleasure to report that the money raised from bell ringing by the K-Kids amounted to \$702.22!! This is almost twice as much as normally received at the Boscov's front entrance during bell ringing season. The proceeds from bell ringing go to buy presents for children in the local Easton community. Some of the children receiving gifts would otherwise not receive any if it were not for Easton Corps of the Salvation Army. Mr. Ellison, you should be very proud of the K-Kids; they were enthusiastic, courteous, and exemplified the spirit of the K-Kids program. Thank you to everyone who stopped by, donated, or shared a smile. Your kindness truly makes a difference!

On behalf of Easton Corps please extend to the K-Kids and Mr. Ellison many thanks for a job very well done. *Sincerely, Chris Paltz*



## December 8<sup>th</sup> – St Janes K-Kids @ Arden Courts...

St. Janes K-Kids today at Arden Courts in Easton singing Christmas Carols and the kids also gave the residents the Christmas decorations they had made the week before.

*Christi Johnstone, St. Janes K-Kids Advisor*





Special Olympics Pennsylvania Volunteer of the Month awarded to Amanda Sechrist of the IU20. She is a Local Program Team Lead for Northampton County IU20. For more than 27 years, Amanda has been a cornerstone of Special Olympics Pennsylvania. What keeps Amanda returning year after year is the privilege of watching her students grow, sometimes from age five all the way into adulthood, and staying connected to them long after they leave her classroom. Whether she is coaching at local competitions or preparing athletes for USA Games, Amanda has become a steady, trusted presence in the lives of so many. Her athletes know she will push them toward independence, cheer for them with everything she has, and occasionally sneak them a soda.

Outside of her work with SOPA, Amanda also runs Northampton County Miracle League and is deeply rooted in her community, something she credits to the relationships built through many years of volunteering. Her coaching peers have become family, and those connections allow her to create even more opportunities for athletes to feel supported, included, and proud. Amanda's impact is undeniable. Her commitment, heart, and humor have shaped countless athletes' lives.

*Best of all she has been the IU20 coordinator of Easton Kiwanis' Annual IU20 Kids Christmas/Holiday Party for all of those years.*





Let it snow!! Sunday, December 14, 2025 ...

Reflecting on past experiences, snow symbolizes numerous opportunities for leisure and family bonding, a tradition that endures as exemplified by the BGCE alumni and residents embracing the winter season through sleigh rides and snowboarding at the Boys & Girls Club of Easton. Currently, the community playground boasts additional attractions, courtesy of the generosity of financial supporters, friends of the Boys & Girls Club of Easton, and the Easton Kiwanis Club, including a hillside, sliding board, playground apparatus, and swings, all contributing to an inviting environment for year-round recreation.

Dean Young, Executive Director Easton Boys & Girls Club and member Easton Kiwanis.





## December 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting inducting new members and hearing from members . . .

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Janet Owen, PA District Governor Elect had the privilege to induct Joan Kicska and Marybeth Okula at the Kiwanis Club of Easton. She also got to welcome, Julie Novick, as the new representative of the River Crossing-YMCA. Thank you Walter Howell and Kathy Presto for sponsoring them.

The presenters were Julie Novick, Director of Forks YMCA Early Learning Center; Kathy Presto, Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Easton Area Community Center; and Jessie Shappell, Executive Director of Equi-librium. Each gave an update on what has been happening in their respective organizations. We are also very fortunate to have these community leaders as members of the Kiwanis Club of Easton. Thanks for all you do for children and for our community.

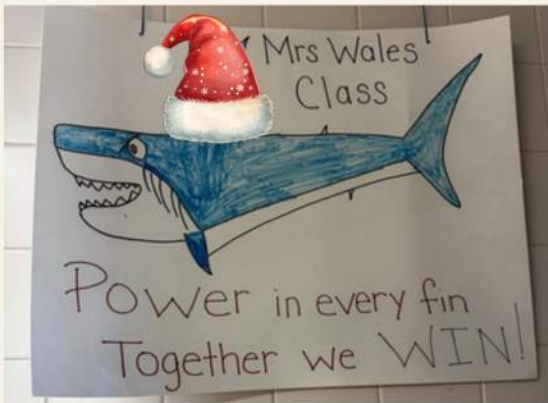
See the video on YouTube [CLICK HERE](#)





## December 18<sup>th</sup> – Delivering IU20 Bags to Shafer School...

Janet Owen, reading and giving out holiday bags to IU20 students at Shafer Elementary School! *What a wonderful time of the year!!!!*



## December 18<sup>th</sup> – Delivering IU20 Bags to March Elementary...

James and Janet Owen delivering holiday bags to March Elementary School. Looking to start the K-KIDS club there after school asap. What a great staff!



## December 19<sup>th</sup> – Delivering IU20 Bags to Marvine Elementary...

Kathy Heller and Chris Paltz went to visit a classroom at Marvine Elementary School in Bethlehem. It was very enjoyable time and Kathy read to the children.





The Easton Police Department, in collaboration with the Kiwanis Club of Easton and the Boys and Girls Club of Easton, hosting a holiday shopping event for select families of club members, chosen by the Boys and Girls Club of Easton. This initiative aims to bring festive cheer to participating families of diverse household sizes. Following an introductory gathering at the Boys and Girls Club Easton, located at 210 Jones Houston Way, participants proceeded to the Easton Walmart store, where parents selected gifts for their children to enjoy during the holiday season. This marks the fourth consecutive year that the Boys and Girls Club has organized 'Shop with a Cop' for parents and kids, led by Sergeant Andy Ocetnik of the Easton Police Department and Lieutenant Daniel N. Bonham of the Office of Auxiliary Services, accompanied by Walter Howell, retired Detective EPD, and Dean Young, executive director of the Boys and Girls Club Easton, both long-time members of the Kiwanis Club of Easton. Merry Christmas! *Reported by Dean Young*





## December 20<sup>th</sup> – Kiwanians Ringing the Bells...

December 20<sup>th</sup> found several members of the Kiwanis Club of Easton participating in the Red Kettle Fund Raiser for the Salvation Army. For several hours at different intervals members rang the bell and greeted customers coming and going from Sam's Club in Easton. There may have even been a song or two.



Those members participating were Jeremy Clark, Scott Fisher, Kathy Heller, Rosemary Kocher, Janet Owen, James Owen, Julie Novick and Chris Paltz. Thanks to Chris Paltz for organizing the bell ringers, to Lieutenant Daniel Mino, Salvation Army Corp Commanding Officer, and Easton Kiwanian, and to our members, who participated in this most important event for the Salvation Army. Hoping to take back the trophy!





## December 23rd – Salvation Army “Santa’s Toy Helpers”...

Thank you, Chris Paltz, for organizing our volunteer efforts at the Salvation Army Toy give away. Thank you to Chris Paltz and Team Owen (AKA, James and Janet Owen) for helping give out toys to families of 400 + children. And 25 special gift bags from Easton Kiwanis were given out.



## December 23rd – Safe Harbor “Treat Bags”...

Kiwanis members, James and Janet Owen delivered 50 holiday treat bags to Safe Harbor. The bags included holiday cards that were done by the Nazareth Key Club. They were grateful!

**Mission of Safe Harbor:** Fostering lifelong success and stability in homeless individuals by addressing the root causes of their homelessness.





President Suzanne Gallagher and First Gentleman Neil created a special gathering for their family at Pittsburgh. Their whole family minus one kid and one grandkid got to enjoy a **SANTA CRUISE** on the Gateway Clipper cruising around the *Point on the Three Rivers*. Three kids, seven grandkids and a son in law. The eighth grandkid had worked a busy 12 hour night shift on the ambulance and a daughter was still home working. Pictures with Santa and plenty of dancing for the kids afterwards. Got kids dancing. Snacks were available. Two other elf's read stories. Some crafts. "Santa Elf Buddy" was there leading the dancing.







Jan 14 – Ken Wildrick

**Anniversary  
Joined Kiwanis**

Roger Conners – 1/1/63

Kathy Presto – 1/3/23

Marybeth Okula – 1/7/20

Priscilla Martinez-Perez – 1/25/23



Chrismahanukwanzakah is a blend, in word and concept, of three holidays: the Christian Christmas, the Jewish Hanukkah, and the African-American Kwanzaa.



### UPCOMING S.L.P. & COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS

Why not plan to attend our “youth club” meetings

SLP Meetings: As long as you have your valid PSP Criminal Background Check and Child Abuse History Clearance, you can join Walt and other members at any youth meeting you are available. You can download the documents [CLICK HERE](#) Make sure Walt has a copy of your documents.

Shawnee K-Kids meetings. Thursdays 7:30AM; Jan 29; Feb 26; Mar 19; Apr 16; May 14.

St. Janes K-Kids meetings. Thursdays 2:15PM-3PM. Jan 8 + Jan 22, Feb 9-13 K-Kids Week, Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 16, May 7 + May 21.

FORKS EDUCATIONAL CENTER – reading for children 2<sup>nd</sup> + 4<sup>th</sup> Thur 11am, contact Cathi White or Janet Owen

### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

2026: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays – speakers, 4th Wed Hybrid Board Meeting

Jan 6 – Foundation Trustees Meeting, 3PM Ken’s apartment

Jan 7 – PA Gov Elect Janet Owen @ SURV

Jan 21 – Imm. Past Pres Scott Fisher, Membership @ SURV

Jan 28 – Board Meeting on ZOOM

Mar 4 – Dawn Fenner of the Essentials Café will talk about a “Pay What You Can” cafe @ SURV

May 13 – Easton Police Officer Award @ Pomfret Club

June 10 -- Super Raffle Fundraiser-*proposed date*

Aug 12 – Easton EMS Award @ Pomfret Club

Oct 14 – Easton Firefighter Award @ Pomfret Club

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Contact Easton Kiwanis

[www.EastonPaKiwanis.org](http://www.EastonPaKiwanis.org)

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Easton Kiwanis normally meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 11:45AM  
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