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## KIWANIS IN ACTION

This is the story of Kiwanians at work. It is an immense, impressive, and intensely heartwarming story. KIWANIS IN ACTION summarizes a cross section of activities carried out by clubs in more than 4100 communities. It involves eight areas of work, each one of which is highlighted in the pages to follow. Over the years, cooperative action has led to the continuous broadening of the Kiwanis concept of service to the community and to youth. Intelligent, aggressive, serviceable citizenship is being promoted. Enduring friendships, sound public opinion and high idealism are constant goals. Kiwanis is truly a spirit that men have taken into the business world, into their professional lives and into their homes. KIWANIS IN ACTION demonstrates that results are possible. Men of every walk of life have given of themselves that their fellow men might live together in greater harmony and under better conditions.

This, then, is their story.

#### KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

520 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois





## AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION

Since 1924, Kiwanis clubs have increasingly recognized the importance of agriculture as a fundamental phase of our economy. It was in that year that the International Committee on Agriculture was formed. In 1948, all aspects of conservation were also added as functions of the Committee. During 1955, the program had as its theme — "Agriculture and Conservation is Everybody's Business."

The following areas of service were involved:

#### 1. ASSISTANCE BY LOCAL CLUBS TO FARMERS NEAR THEIR COMMUNITIES.

69,516 workers secured for growing and harvesting crops

4,314 soil conservation and drainage projects sponsored

2,847,228 trees planted

4,342 crop and animal projects

2,072 safety activities

In cooperation with the state and federal marketing services, members in one club obtained information on numbers of livestock raised in the county and state, and passed this information along to farmers to encour-



age them to produce more and better grades for markets . . . A club distributed brochures and pamphlets on Farm Safety Week to rural centers for distribution to each farm in the area . . . Several thousand pine seedlings were secured by the committee of one club, and given to farmers to plant . . . One club held a training meeting to teach farm people record keeping procedures that would help them.

#### 2. RURAL-URBAN COOPERATION.

310,053 farmers entertained

5,048 local farm festivals

2,340 clubs spearheaded local Farm-City Week Activities

Farmers in one county cooperated with the local Kiwanis club in exhibiting their farms and farming operations to a large group from a nearby metropolitan area. This was the 11th annual tour . . . The club worked with local officials and farmers to arrange a "farm-to-market" road network convenient for all . . . Hundreds of clubs held their annual "Farmers' Day" programs, to which each member invited a farmer guest . . . Cooperation with local Cattlemen's Association resulted in more cattle being sold through the local auction barn . . . One club arranged booth space, advertising and publicity for the county fair. Many other clubs sponsored, or assisted in planning and carrying out county fairs, local festivals and harvest pageants . . . Farm-City Week saw hundreds of local events, each directed to providing better understanding of the problems of the farmer and the city man, so that the other would have increased appreciation for each others point of view.





#### 3. WORK WITH RURAL YOUTH.

4,066 4-H projects sponsored

5,837 activities developed for Future Farmers and Junior Farmers 205,594 other farm youth aided

One club assisted the county agent in organizing and publicizing the annual Project Show with 225 FFA and 4-H entries . . . Arrangements were made for monthly tours of farms and farm implement dealers, so FFA chapter could keep up-to-date on new products and practices . . . A contribution from the local Kiwanis Club helped to send local young people to foreign countries as part of the International Farm Youth Exchange program . . . Many clubs gave various awards, prizes and some scholarships to young people outstanding in their farm projects . . . Individual farm youth were presented with calves or pigs to raise, with the understanding that some of the offspring would be returned to the clubs to be given to other young people.

#### Percentage of Club Participation: 1951-1955



## PUBLIC AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS

THE YEAR 1948 saw the merger of two committees of over thirty years standing into the International Committee on Public and Business Affairs. "I Stand to be Counted" was the challenging theme for 1955.

Fields of endeavor included the following:

#### 1. COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT.

8,912 activities on behalf of better schools and teachers' salaries

8,066 Safety and courtesy campaigns conducted

9,056 industrial surveys made

11,736 new industries and businesses secured

5,026 projects to improve labor-management relations

7,298 activities leading toward economy in local or state government

3,413 activities on employment of the physically handicapped

Kiwanis clubs used a variety of projects to focus attention on safety in their communities. Some made parking studies with the help of experts; others placed road signs and traffic lights at dangerous intersections; clubs helped to sponsor driver-training courses in high schools; auto safety checks were conducted; and many clubs cooperated in national campaigns like "Slow Down and Live" . . . To assist local governments, clubs actively supported plans for street improvements, use of modern landfill methods, and consolidation of tax units . . . School bond elections, as well as participation in studies of local school needs drew the attention of many clubs . . . In some communities, clubs assisted the Chamber of Commerce in preparing brochures on the city to attract new industry; a tourist association was formed; sites were found for plants; and money was raised to help finance new businesses.



#### 2. ACCEPTANCE OF CITIZENSHIP RESPONSIBILITY.

74,154 members served on school and other local boards

19,966 Kiwanians held public office

240,026 members and other citizens engaged in get-out-the-vote drives

5,532 activities for immigrants, new citizens, and displaced persons

19,530 members active in Civil Defense

A large number of clubs and their members participated in local civil defense activities by manning observation posts, working with officials on disaster plans and alerting all citizens to the needs and problems of civil defense . . . New citizens in one community received a "welcome letter" from the Kiwanis club, while in another town, war brides attended a Kiwanis sponsored citizenship class . . . Efforts to encourage all citizens to exercise their precious right to vote were widespread. Use was made of radio and television spot announcements, car pools on election days, handbills and "I Voted Today" tags in elections, referendums and bond issue voting . . . Some clubs entered a new field of service through active sponsorship of "senior citizen" groups, and several provided low rental homes for elderly couples . . . Other activities included assistance in giving Salk polio shots, aid to flood-stricken areas, blood donor drives, publication of a community newspaper with over 7000 circulation, and recognition of public service by individuals within Kiwanis communities.

#### 3. FINANCIAL INVESTMENT FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

\$10,513,420 collected for Community Chests

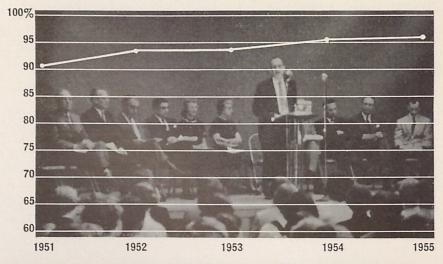
6,866,264 raised for national campaigns

4,296,300 contributed and/or collected for local causes, including hospital facilities

4,067,871 worth of Savings Bonds sold

Fund-raising activities for the March of Dimes took such forms as "Porch-Light Marches," a block of dimes and a March of Dimes "Bucket Brigade". . . . In many communities Kiwanis clubs assumed responsibility for annual Red Cross drives, Cancer Drives, and the local Community Chest or United Fund campaigns . . . A lawn party in one Kiwanis community netted funds to build a library, while other similar events were sponsored for hospital buildings, auditoriums and recreation centers. For there-four years international good will have been a major concern of this committee. Nine thousand nine hundred and twenty-six projects were carried out under this category in 1955.

#### Percentage of Club Participation: 1951-1955



# SUPPORT OF CHURCHES IN THEIR SPIRITUAL AIMS

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL is proud to be the only civic group having a committee especially directed to supporting the efforts of local churches regardless of denomination. Created as a special committee in 1936, it became a regular standing committee in 1942. "Serving Others Brings Spiritual Blessings" was the theme in 1955.

The scope of this committee's functioning is indicated by the following:

#### 1. SERVICE BY INDIVIDUALS FOR CHURCHES.

13,712 lay preachers secured

24,720 Kiwanians taught Sunday School classes

7,709 members assisted in week day religious education

One club reported maintaining a church speaker's bureau to provide laymen for church affairs or to fill pulpits of temporarily absent ministers . . . Nearly all clubs indicated that members were actively serving in some capacity in their own churches . . . A school for church ushers was sponsored to provide trained men to assist at local services . . . Members of several clubs led morning devotionals on local radio stations and at public institutions such as hospitals, jails and sanatoriums . . . Many clubs provided materials and teachers for vacation Bible schools.

#### 2. PROJECTS TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CHURCH ACTION.

19,210 special meetings held

14.240 "Go-to-Church" campaigns held

121,946 newspaper ads, church calendars, and directories sponsored

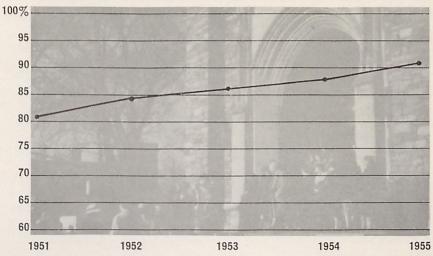
73,700 children sent to camps sponsored by religious groups

\$1,508,121 raised and/or contributed to churches

Stimulating church attendance throughout the community was a project carried out by a large number of clubs. They used ads in local newspapers (one club had an ad in every edition for the whole year), transportation was furnished to the old and infirm, as well as youngsters without other means of getting to church, and wide distribution was given to church directories which listed all services, locations and ministers . . . Special emphasis was placed on attending church on major religious holidays, with many clubs sponsoring Easter sunrise services and community-wide Good Friday services . . . Hundreds of clubs provided prayer cards for tables of all restaurants in their communities . . . Aid was provided to ministerial associations in taking a church census for their information . . . Various religious pamphlets were secured and distributed to hospitals and other public institutions.

Major emphasis has been given by the committee to radio spot announcements urging church attendance and individual spiritual activity. By the end of 1955, there were 2,065 records given by clubs to radio stations for use on public service time.

Percentage of Club Participation: 1951-1955



## BOYS AND GIRLS WORK

Although interest in youth work dates from the early days of Kiwanis, the Boys and Girls Work Committee had its inception in 1933. "Work with Boys and Girls — Our Greatest Resource" was the stimulating theme for 1955.

Activities included:

#### 1. ADULT LEADERSHIP AND GUIDANCE.

1,875 Boy Scout Troops

1,600 Cub Packs

1,433 Girl Scout Troops

1,224 Camp Fire Girl units

429 Sea Scout Ships

276 Air Cadet groups

In addition to sponsoring various types of Scout units, Kiwanis clubs ran Boy Scout fund-raising drives, organized Courts of Honor, built and maintained Scout camping facilities, and assisted in putting on large-scale Scoutoramas and Jamborees. Club sponsorship of Scout groups usually included supplying the Scoutmaster and other adult leaders from the club's membership, as well as helping to provide uniforms and other necessary troop equipment . . . Several Kiwanis clubs sponsored troops for physically handicapped boys, requiring additional manpower . . . Clubs sponsoring Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls secured leadership for these groups and supplied other needs . . . Adult leadership was furnished to other organized youth groups not listed above. Two of these were Junior Achievement companies and Gra-Y clubs.









#### 2. COOPERATION WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS.

13,406 Safety Patrols

2,650 boys sent to Boys' State

1,244 girls sent to Girls' State

1,778 activities on behalf of bands, orchestars and choirs 7,170 students aided through scholarships and loan funds

\$243,046 distributed through scholarships and loans

4,648 youth safety programs sponsored

6.449 citizenship training projects and/or awards made.

One club installed Junior Police patrols in ten schools in the community . . . Many clubs sponsored bicycle safety projects, helping police to inspect and tag bicycles, putting on reflectorized tape and giving certificates for careful bicycle riding. Other clubs emphasized safety through poster contests . . . An activity increasing in popularity is the presentation of scholarships to needy students or the granting of loans for higher education. Clubs provided funds for foreign exchange students, to help young people remain in high school, to those desiring to take teacher's or nurse's training, to boys and girls with special musical talent, and even to qualified teachers desiring special training . . . One club raised over \$4000 to provide uniforms for the high school band, while other Kiwanis groups sponsored youth symphony orchestras and bands . . . Local science fairs were promoted to give youth an opportunity to display their talent in various scientific fields.

#### 3. SUPERVISION OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS.

14,494 baseball and other teams sponsored

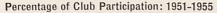
9,380 youth centers maintained and/or assisted

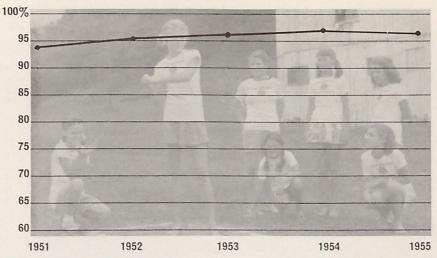
1,673 playgrounds provided

790,762 boys and girls used club recreational facilities

Kiwanis clubs provided team managers and coaches, equipment and playing fields for Little Leagues, Pony and Babe Ruth league teams.

Clubs in one district have their own organized league and schedule of play. Basketball and football teams for "small fry" were helped in the same manner . . . Hundreds of clubs provided equipment for play-grounds, built swimming pools and secured supervision for summer recreational activities . . . Teen canteens or community centers with their sponsored dances were popular spots, as clubs provided needed facilities, advised the young people, and chaperoned their parties . . . Special events in many Kiwanis communities were all-night "after-the-prom" parties, Hallowe'en parades and costume contests and youth talent shows open to all young people . . . The variety of Kiwanis recreational programs for youth can be seen in their sponsorship of bowling leagues, ice skating rinks, hobby shows, craft classes, roller skating parties, kite flying contests, Easter egg hunts, rifle teams and fish and game clubs.





## GIRGLE K GLUBS

For the Newest of Kiwanis sponsored youth organizations, 1955 was a momentuous year. The membership at their organization convention approved an International Constitution of Bylaws and requested recognition for it by the Kiwanis Board of Trustees. That approval was given and at the end of the year, many of the 157 Circle K clubs in existence had affiliated with the new International organization.

Circle K clubs are organized on college campuses as a service organization, carrying out work projects similar to Kiwanis clubs in their communities. The idea originated in Pullman, Washington in 1936. This first group later became a Greek letter society, but the idea of a college men's service club remained.

In 1947, a Circle K club was formed at Carthage College, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Carthage, Illinois. From this beginning eight years ago, 157 clubs have been organized in thirty-four states, Canada and Hawaii.

A variety of service projects are carried out by Circle K men on their respective campuses. These include hospitality booths and tours for entering students, raising money for scholarships to be administered by the college, campus "clean-up" campaigns, decoration and improvement of student facilities and sponsorship of national fund-raising campaigns in the campus community.

Circle K clubs also assist their Kiwanis sponsoring groups in many of their community projects. These are often activities that benefit the college as well as the community at large. This cooperation aids the college men in learning the value of personal participation in community life.

## KEY GLUBS

MARKING its thirtieth anniversary in 1955, Key Clubs International continued to expand through the efforts of local Kiwanis action. From the sponsoring of the first Key Club in Sacramento, California in 1925, Kiwanians have increasingly recognized the value of giving teen-agers guidance in serving others.

When the Key Club is a going concern, the Kiwanis sponsor and other members of the parent club attend all Key Club meetings to provide suggestions and guidance. Members of the Key Club attend Kiwanis meetings with the sponsor, and Kiwanians go to Key Club conventions with the boys. In these various activities, Kiwanians were active in 1955, as indicated by the figures below.

21,441 meetings with school administrators arranged for and held 17,044 Kiwanians attended Key Club meetings

6,836 Kiwanians went to Key Club conventions

Kiwanians were active in other phases of Key Club work. Guidance was given in the selection and operation of the service activities of Key



Clubs. A total of 22,224 projects were jointly sponsored by local Kiwanis and Key Club groups. These included "get-out-the-vote" drives where Key Clubbers assisted by handing out literature, operating carpools or acting as baby-sitters for voters; service as managers and coaches for Kiwanis sponsored Little League and other athletic teams; work at Kiwanis concerts, minstrels or other community entertainments; and aid to national fund-raising campaigns sponsored locally by Kiwanis.

In one large city, a group of Key Clubs secured assistance from local Kiwanis clubs and one of the daily newspapers to plan and carry out a giant Youth Rally. It was designed to focus community attention on the vast majority of good teen-agers and offset the publicity constantly received by teen-age vandals and delinquents. More than 30,000 young people accepted and made a pledge of good citizenship.

Key clubs undertake their own projects for their respective "school communities." The boys seek advice from their Kiwanis sponsor and secure approval of school authorities for such activities. The variety is endless, as can be seen from the following brief description of what Key Clubbers have accomplished.

Many clubs hold school assembly programs to emphasize safety or church attendance . . . Members serve as ushers for school events . . . Schools are assisted as Key Clubs purchase new scoreboards for athletic fields, movie projectors, drinking fountains or furnish teachers' lounges . . . To raise funds for band uniforms or their other projects. Key Clubs sell programs and operate concessions at school sports events . . . Antivandalism campaigns are conducted within the school or in the entire community . . . Activities are sponsored to increase school spirit and sportsmanship.

Kiwanis work with Key Clubs has trained thousands of boys to accept their responsibilities as youthful citizens. The ideals of service, instilled through their Key Club activity, will make better citizens of the boys who have had the experience and continuous association with local Kiwanis clubs.

### UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILD

THE FIRST PROJECT of the first club in Kiwanis dealt with the underprivileged. This field of service is and always has been close to the heart of Kiwanis. In 1955, the theme of the International Committee was "Help the Handicapped."

Areas of service included aid to:

#### 1. PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.

231,122 children treated in dental and other club-sponsored clinics

299,802 lunches and 653,201 quarts of milk provided

74,568 children aided in their hearing problems

42,962 children given corrective eye treatment

11,384 cerebral palsy cases assisted

7,314 orthopedic cases aided

17,365 mentally retarded youth assisted

Crippled children's centers, clinics and hopsitals in many Kiwanis communities received continuous help from clubs. Operating expenses were paid, special equipment was furnished, children living at home but needing treatment were provided transportation, and club members took children to special summer camps and provided other entertainment for them . . . Home-to-school telephone hookups were arranged for by several clubs so that bed-ridden youngsters could have the benefit of the regular classroom discussion . . . In several communities, the Kiwanis club initiated drives to raise money for special operations needed by youngsters whose families could not afford them . . . Kiwanis clubs took a variety of approaches to the problems of the mentally retarded in their communities. Some organized or worked with local Mentally Retarded Childrens' Associations; others secured space for classrooms and hired teachers; still others provided transportation and tuition for







children in existing schools . . . One club bought braille typewriters for classes for the blind, and other clubs provided eye examinations, treatment and new glasses for needy children . . . Additional Kiwanis help in clubs' local communities included purchase of wheel chairs, special hospital beds and crutches; assistance to speech therapy clinics; and provision of Salk vaccine to youngsters unable to pay for the shots.

#### 2. SOCIALLY HANDICAPPED.

2,094 Boys and Girls Clubs sponsored or aided

21,704 children assisted through day nurseries

65,797 children sent to camps

20,408 surveys of family conditions resulted in 54,229 people being assisted

104,192 children given clothing or other help needed to keep them in school

2,548 projects on delinquency brought aid to 14,229 delinquents

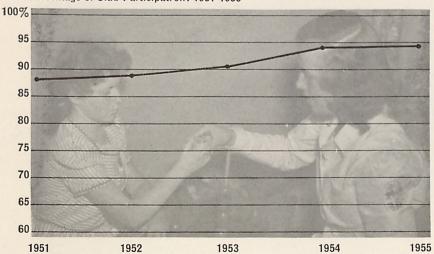
Many Kiwanis clubs own and operate summer camps for the underprivileged children of their communities. Some of these camps have been in existence for as long as thirty years. In those areas where clubs do not have their own camps, they assist and support those sponsored by other groups . . . One club ran a spaghetti dinner to raise funds for the local Boys' Club, while another provides a weekly movie for these youngsters.

In cooperation with the schools and various community social agencies, Kiwanis clubs give a variety of assistance to families whose wage earner is sick or where disaster has taken all savings. Clothes,

shoes and books are provided so that the children can attend school; groceries are purchased; part-time work is secured for older boys and girls so they can help support the family and continue their education . . . In one Kiwanis community, a day nursery is maintained for the children of working mothers . . . Clubs have found a number of ways to help solve local juvenile delinquency problems. One of the most effective, being used by many clubs, is having members counsel young men in trouble individually and take a personal interest in their progress. Clubs work with the courts and other community organizations. Keeping the membership and the entire community aware of local problems has been the contribution of a number of clubs. One club showed movies to the high school student bodies to inform them of pitfalls and results of delinquent actions.

For Seven Years, Kids' Day has been a major project of this committee. In 1955, 1,366,192 children were provided entertainment and \$819,547 was raised by clubs for local underprivileged child work.

Percentage of Club Participation: 1951-1955



## VOCATIONAL GUIDANGE

EXCEPT for a short period when this phase of Kiwanis activity was combined with Boys and Girls Work, an International Committee on Vocational Guidance has been in existence since 1926. In 1955 the theme was "Voctaional Guidance — A Helping Hand to Successful Living."

The direction activities took is indicated by the following:

#### 1. HELPING YOUTH TO HELP THEMSELVES.

29,370 Kiwanians engaged in vocational counseling

38,954 veterans advised

35,614 boys and girls aided through work-experience programs

21,062 young people placed in summer jobs

A number of clubs maintain an employment bureau, not only to part time or summer jobs for young people, but to assist high school grad-



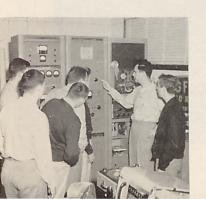
uates get into jobs that will be right for them . . . Hundreds of boys and girls have secured summer jobs with Kiwanis help. These jobs may be in the community or in summer resort areas . . . Kiwanians in many communities hire boys or girls who may be interested in his business or profession. Arrangements are also made with other local businessmen to accept young people to give them proper experience . . . One club has a Kiwanis Vocational Interview Program in which high school seniors are directed to a Kiwanian in the field of interest to the senior . . . Many clubs offer services of their members to speak to vocational classes or see young people individually on appointment . . . A television show called "I Pick a Career" is sponsored every Saturday by one Kiwanis club . . . Kiwanians assist veterans returning from military service by giving tests, counseling, and helping to fill out VA forms that are needed to apply for specific training.

#### 2. COOPERATING WITH SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE NEEDED GUIDANCE SERVICES.

4,555 Career Days held

485,136 boys and girls participated in guidance programs

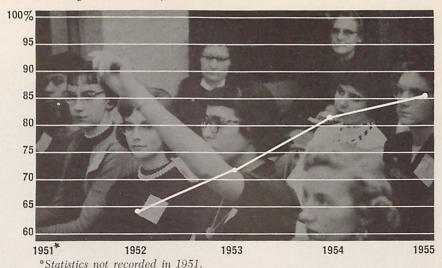
70,113 vocational aids furnished (booklets, films, books and tours)





One club maintains a bulletin on vocational information available, and includes data on colleges where courses of training can be secured . . . Career days or vocational clinics are popular projects with a large number of clubs. Usually, students indicate their vocational preferences, and then small groups met with Kiwanians or people secured by the club to advise these groups . . . Many clubs arrange to have groups of high school students visit their own and other local businesses and industries to see jobs at first hand. Generally these tours are conducted by Kiwanians . . . Seeing that the high school and public libraries have upto-date vocational information is a project in many Kiwanis communities. These aids may be booklets on specific vocations, magazines of professional groups, or general guidance and adjustment brochures . . . Clubs also secure films on various vocations for showing to groups or purchase a series of vocational films that can be used over several years in a number of different schools.

#### Percentage of Club Participation: 1951-1955



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KIWANIS

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

farmers entertained at Kiwanis-Farmer meetings 310,053 Workers secured for cultivating and harvesting crops 69,516 Farm projects (soil conservation, drainage, animal crop) sponsored 8,656 Trees planted 2,847,228

Kiwanians serving on local boards, such as schools, hospital, etc. 74.154 Industrial surveys conducted and new businesses or industries secured 20,792 Activities on behalf of better schools, teachers' salaries, etc. 8,912 Physically handicapped persons employed 3,176 "Go-To-Church" campaigns conducted 14,240

Kiwanians teaching Sunday School classes 32,429 Financial aid to needy churches \$1,508,121,20

#### NATIONAL SERVICE

Safety, courtesy, farm safety and safety patrol campaigns conducted 28,192 Kiwanians holding public office 19,966

Funds raised for campaigns such as Community Chest, Heart, Cancer and Infantile Paralysis, etc. \$17,399,684.98

Activities promoting economy in government 7,298

Labor-management relations activities 5,026

Government savings bonds sold \$4,067,871.61

Number of service men counseled 38,954

Kiwanians engaged in Civil Defense and other similar citizenship service activities 82,075

#### YOUTH SERVICE

Boys and girls visited Kiwanis youth centers 926,008

Young people provided religious education in day camps, etc. 73,700

Children provided entertainment on Kids' Day 1,366,192

Funds raised on Kids' Day \$819,547

Lunches and bottles of milk provided needy children 953,003

Baseball and other athletic teams sponsored 14,494

Youth Groups Boys' and Girls' Clubs, Boy Scout, Girl Scout, Cub Scout, Sea Scout, Air Cadet, Camp Fire Girl Troops, 4-H, Future Farmers of America.

Junior Farmers sponsored 19.034

Boys and girls provided vocational counseling 485,136

Young people examined and treated in clinics and helped through sight saving and conservation of hearing activities 348,652

Juvenile delinquents assisted 14,229

Vocational aids - guidance libraries, films, tours - furnished 70.113

Cerebral palsy and orthopedic cases aided 18,698

Scholarships, scholastic loans, awards given and education assistance 38,597

Key Clubs sponsored 1,349

Key Club members 30,125