KIWANIS

SERVING THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD® JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

TELLING THE KIWANIS STORY

Family AFFAIR

Kiwanians in Ontario host a free farm festival

+

SUMO WRESTLERS VS. KIDS

AN AUTISM STORYBOOK

TUGBOAT RACES

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AKTION CLUB WEEK!

MARCH 5–9

GET YOUR COMMUNITY INTO AKTION

March will bring Aktion Club Week—an annual opportunity to promote the Kiwanis family's program for adults with disabilities. Get involved! Support the program in your area by serving alongside members. Start planning with the Aktion Club you sponsor. Or contact one in your area. Spring into Aktion this March!

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Kiwanis AKTION CLUB

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Walt Disney World, Florida, USA, June 27–30, 2019
Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, June 18–21, 2020
Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, June 24–27, 2021

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COVER PHOTO BY ELAINE CROMIE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JIM ROCHFORD • KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEADERSHIP

Recently I had the privilege of introducing a former U.S. Marine as our Veterans Day program at my Kiwanis club meeting. I first met him when I was in high school, and he was just out of Bradley University after serving in Vietnam. He was campaigning door-to-door for Peoria , Illinois, City Council. At age 25, he was the second youngest person ever elected to the position. After a night of celebrating, his mother came to his house, which was covered with signs of the celebration from the previous night.

She told him that his dad and she had listened to the radio and TV about his major victory over seven opponents, including the incumbent. She said to him, "You need to remember, this is not about you but about what you can do for the people you serve."

As we start a new calendar year, I'd like all leaders to remember we are leading by example to help those we serve. It is not about us.

Congratulations to the entire Eye of the Tiger team for opening 35 new clubs in October.

I will be proud to work with my Tiger leadership team, shoulder-to-shoulder with half of my 2017–18 class of governors in the Americas in Orlando, Florida, and the other half in Las Vegas, Nevada. We will go out in the field and open a minimum of three clubs in each geographic area. This will help better prepare the class of governors to go home and lead by example with dedicated Kiwanians to spread our service and programs to new communities. Hopefully, we will mentor some orphan Key Clubs!

We have completed one quarter of our Kiwanis year. Are you on track to achieve your goals? January is a good month to reflect on the past year and prepare for the challenge ahead of us. On page 43, we recognize the top five individuals and districts for opening new clubs and recruiting new members.

On page 42, we recognize four all-stars: a recruiter, new-club opener, governor and a Kiwanis International employee.

Life is like the game of tennis, he or she who serves best, seldom loses. If we can continue to grow our membership and open new clubs, we'll have a much greater impact with our service. Thank you for all you do.

EXECUTIVE PERSPECTIVE

STAN SODERSTROM • KIWANIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE VALUE OF KIWANIS

Since our 100th anniversary celebration just three years ago, I've spent quite a bit of time reading of our early history, and more importantly, I've tried to put myself in the place of a Kiwanis member in 1915 through the 1920s.

In a quick recap of our history, club number one was formed in Detroit, Michigan, in January 1915. The next four clubs were built in Cleveland, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Rochester, New York and Columbus, Ohio. The first club in Canada was the 26th in Hamilton, Ontario, in January 1916. The first club outside of the Great Lakes/northeastern US was in Dallas, Texas, in February 1917 (club number 40). 150 Kiwanis clubs had been opened by the end of June 1919.

To qualify as a site for a Kiwanis club, the following provisions had to be met.

- The site had to be a U.S. or Canadian city with a population of 17,000 or more.
- The new club had to have at least 50 charter members being men of good moral character and older than the age of 21. Not more than four members could be in competing lines of business.
- The membership fee would be $10 plus an additional $5 in annual dues.

Converting from 1917 dollars to the equivalent 100 years later, the comparable new-member charter fee would have been US$190 (today it's only $50), and the combined dues and fees would be about US$95. Today's Kiwanis International dues for a US member are US$52; for a Canadian member, they are CAN$65. Today we also offer a magazine subscription and general liability insurance coverage that adds another $21.

Today, we're opening clubs at a faster pace and providing much greater community impact than we were a century ago. We still ask our members to fund our organization through their dues and fees. The Kiwanis work continues beyond what the first members ever dreamed. And the value of Kiwanis service has clearly increased. When we assess the increase in value for our organization over time, we call that *appreciation*. Similarly, we will continue to *appreciate* everything our clubs and members do for their communities. Thank you for serving.

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KIWANIS MEMBERSHIP.
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Kiwanis Marketplace gives your membership more value. And thanks to our partnerships, you'll find more benefits than ever:

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Learn more about each program at **kiwanis.org/marketplace**.

Kiwanis® MARKETPLACE

Down on the FARM

A GOLDEN CELEBRATION GIVES THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN A FREE DAY OF LEARNING AND FUN.

The farm's signature red barn was the result of a 1985 donation by The Seaway, Sarnia Kiwanis Club, which partnered with the City of Sarnia to open the farm in the 1960s.

Words **KIMIKO MARTINEZ**
Pictures **ELAINE CROMIE**

As one of the most-visited attractions in the city, the Children's Animal Farm of Sarnia, Ontario—founded and partially supported by The Seaway, Sarnia Kiwanis Club—is accustomed to hosting busloads of children. Schools and families bring kids of all ages to learn about the farm and a menagerie of animals from goats to geese to guinea pigs. But July 8 was a different beast.

That Saturday belatedly celebrated Canada's 150th anniversary, along with the farm's 50th. Three shuttles brought in families from all over the city. And the kids—from toddlers to teens—were everywhere, along with a bevy of parents. Thousands spread out on the property, climbing inflatable walls, jumping in bounce houses, riding the mini-train, checking out the flying drones—oh, and of course, visiting the animals.

"I was standing in the middle of the parking lots looking both ways,

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"It was a good thing for the public, for the community and for our own club as well." **DONNA KELSO, SEAWAY KIWANIS CLUB PRESIDENT**

and there were piles of kids to the left and piles of kids to the right," says Ken Stothers, Seaway Kiwanis Club member and the event chair. "It was just fantastic."

All told, the club estimates that between 4,000 and 5,000 people attended.

"It was just a constant stream of people," says Donna Kelso, Seaway Kiwanis Club president. "There was so much going on and so many activities organized throughout the park."

The festivities included free hot dogs, ice cream and beverages for visitors, a Best Buy tent with electronic games, a Play It Again Sports tent, a full day of activities at the Kiwanis BMX Track, safety displays from local police and firefighters, musical performances, face painting and more.

"It was a good thing for the public, for the community and for our own club as well," Kelso says. "We've had a lot of new members in the past two years, so this was a bonding experience for them. It was a full day of working side by side and getting to know each other." K

"We had a tremendous turnout," says Ken Stothers, the Seaway Kiwanian who chaired the Kids Free Day at the Farm event. "We made a bunch of kids pretty happy."

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"I was standing in the middle of the parking lots looking both ways, and there were piles of kids to the left and piles of kids to the right." **KEN STOTHERS, EVENT CHAIR**

Each of the Seaway Sarnia Kiwanis Club's 38 members volunteered for the day-long event. The club also provided free bus transportation, and members of the Sarnia-Lambton Golden K made sure all families arrived and departed safely.

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SUPERGIRL

VERY SPECIAL *Education*

CHILDREN IN ITALY AND SWITZERLAND KNOW MARTIN ISN'T LIKE OTHER WOLVES. THEY ALSO KNOW THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT MAKES HIM SO SPECIAL.

Martin hasn't quite figured out how to howl at the moon just yet. This wouldn't be an issue if he weren't a wolf—howling at the moon being sort of a prerequisite to being a wolf and all. In fact, he doesn't even seem the least bit interested in the moon. Instead, he can't seem to stop staring at the bright red cherries that dangle from the branches of a woodland cherry tree. His mom comforts him, all the while the wolf pack leader's words stuck in her head: "He will never be a real wolf."

This is how we come to know Martin, the little wolf. He's the star of the children's book, "Martino Piccolo Lupo," and he's become a familiar character for tens of thousands of children across Italy and in parts of Switzerland. And he's teaching them something without having to try all that hard.

Words **KASEY JACKSON**
Book Illustrations **SIMONA MULAZZANI**

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Martin was born on a very foggy night. The little wolf raised his head, without knowing where his little snout ended and the sky began.

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"This particular story is bound with a social, positive message."

ROSY POZZI, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER FOR FOUNDATION ARES

There came the evening, and with darkness there came the real fox. The goose could run away, as she always used to. Or she could hide herself, because she was feeling good under the cherry tree.

"I will dress up like a wolf!" decided the goose, sure that it was a brilliant idea. Without a second thought, she put some tiny pebbles in her mouth, to reproduce Martin's teeth. Then she placed two cherries on her beak, to look like a real wolf.

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The book was conceived and realized by publisher Carthusia Edizioni, together with the authors Gionata Bernasconi and Simona Mulazzani, with supervision from the ARES Foundation (which specializes in autism resources and development).

"This particular story is bound with a social, positive message," says Rosy Pozzi, communications officer for Foundation ARES. "Patrizia Zerbi, publisher of Carthusia, asked for our availability to participate in a focus group to collect on the theme of autism, voices and experiences of educators and parents. Her goal was to create an illustrated book where autism could be dealt with through metaphors. They wanted to tell a nice story about autism and try to explain what it is without being too heavy or too scary or too sad. We started to work together and immediately asked the Kiwanis foundation in Lugano for support, and they believed in our project. Everyone believed in this beautiful story."

Pozzi says it took a strong team of passionate people to pull this together—an international team.

"ARES is a Swiss foundation," Pozzi explains. "The editor is Italian. And Kiwanis is international. But what happened is that Kiwanis Italy-San Marino District Chair for Autism Guiseppe Bertini carried this on—almost by himself—in the beginning. He was the champion. He pushed hard for this project. We started with Kiwanis in Varese and after a while, other Kiwanis clubs came together. Giuseppe has such great communication between Kiwanis in Switzerland and Italy. It's been such a great success."

Giuseppe says the goal is to get the book into as many schools as possible. Right now, he says, the book has reached 6,500 teachers (meaning more than 150,000 children) thanks to support from the Kiwanis Foundation of Lugano, Switzerland, and the Kiwanis clubs of Varese, Como, Pavia, Pavia Ticinum and Pavia Visconteo in Italy. With this much Kiwanis support across the Italy-San Marino District, the book has been distributed for free to first-grade teachers in all primary schools in the districts and provinces covered.

POWERFUL TOOL

Maura Magni, president of the Kiwanis Club of Varese, explains the importance not only of the story itself, but also the additional materials created to help teachers with the lesson.

"Instead of going personally to every teacher to explain the project, as we did in the beginning," she says, "we cre-

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ated a tutorial that includes a video with an actor who reads the story and an interview with a school headmaster, an interview with a teacher, an interview with Giuseppe to explain how and why Kiwanis is involved, an interview with the editor, an interview with the education secretary, an interview with the mom of a boy with autism and an interview with the author. We shared all of this with Kiwanis clubs so they can then go out and share with the teachers."

There's additional material for discussion in the back of the book as well as thoughtful messages from those involved in the project.

"At the end of the story, we include special content for the teachers," says Pozzi. "We put some suggestions for the teachers on how to use the book and what can be done inside the classrooms to work on the story. There are many levels. You can decide how deep you want to go. If you want to just read the story, that's OK. But if you want to go deeper, you can."

It's a simple message on the surface, but there's a lot to this sweet story.

"This is a poetic story, a very powerful story for young children," says Patrizia Zerbi, Carthusia's editorial director. "Martino is a therapeutic, engaging and delicate book that faces autism in its peculiar character and, above all, in relation to others. Through metaphors, the aim is to go beyond fears and appearances."

Author Gionata Bernasconi agrees. He uses these metaphors to highlight the value of differences.

"When a story is universal, everyone reflects his own experience," he says. "Very young children feel empathy for Martin. Older students find there is an important theme of inclusion." K

From left: Kiwanis Club of Varese, Italy, President Maura Magni, Kiwanis Italy-San Marino District Chair for Autism Giuseppe Bertini, author and autism educator Gionata Bernasconi, Carthusia Editorial Director Patrizia Zerbi, Foundation ARES Communications Officer Rosy Pozzi.

More Martin: Download an English PDF at carthusiaedizioni.it. For more information about the book, including an English translation, email redazione@carthusiaedizioni.it.

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"This is a poetic story, a very powerful story for young children."

PATRIZIA ZERBI, PUBLISHER AND EDITORIAL DIRECTOR FOR BOOK PUBLISHER CARTHUSIA EDIZIONI

"Beware. ... I'm a wolf!" said the goose showing the cherries on her beak. The fox rolled on the ground, laughing out loud. She was a real goose, in word and deed.

Then she saw two more cherries coming forward to her. But the fox's gaze didn't go past the little fruits. "And here is another goose," giggled the mouth-watering fox.

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In their own words:

GIONATA BERNASCONI
Author, Martino Piccolo Lupo

A story is like a voyage. It has a departure, an arrival and a world to discover between them. Moreover, so many travelers: teachers telling and children listening, captured by the same adventure. Each one with his own background which finally will be enriched by a new experience: the enlargement of our intimate and personal horizons and the sharing of this experience with people.

The main character of this story is Martin, a wolf pup who can't howl at the moon and is fond of eating cherries. At the very beginning, the pack leader believes that Martin will never be a real wolf. Only when Martin meets a scared goose and a hungry fox, everyone in the pack will find out who the wolf pup really is. Because you have to see past appearances to really know Martin. You have to see through the fog in order to say, "Welcome to the pack, little wolf!"

Using a metaphoric language and giving animals the role of characters, the book faces autism's characteristics and relational features, with the aim of encouraging a positive relationship with autistic children, overcoming stereotypes and fear. The story is built up with metaphors and implied references to autism, which draw a symbolic path very immersive for young children.

Metaphors are fundamental to preserve the poetry of the story, but for a better and proper use of the book in classrooms, it's important to understand how the metaphors are connected to autism.

Here are the main metaphors:

- The wolf: an animal which is often stuck in stereotypes, like autistic people.
- The fog: confusion and ignorance of people who are unable to see past appearances.
- The howl: the different communicative development of autistic people.
- The pack: mates, brothers and society, connected to exclusion/inclusion of autistic people.
- Cherries: limited interests and sensorial aspects connected to taste of autistic people.
- The butterfly: sensorial aspects connected to physical contact of autistic people.
- The fox: shallow people, unable to overcome fear and prejudices.
- The goose: the role of the experts, who can overcome fear and prejudices.

ROSY POZZI
Communications officer for Foundation ARES

In "Martino," we never mention autism. But we are lucky because Gionata is an author, yes, but he's also an educator specializing in

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Even the fog had run away. And everybody could see clearly now. The puppies came closer, lighter than butterflies. The leader of the pack spoke too, but this time he did it after tasting a bit of a cherry.

It had a strange taste, but this didn't stop him from saying: "Welcome to the pack, little wolf!"

autism. Inside the ARES Foundation, we have some pedagogists, creative people as well, who participate in focus groups. So it was quite easy to put together something that really makes sense from a scientific point of view. And this is something we are very firm on. ... We want the information about autism to be carried on with scientific meaning, not just because it's nice to be heard as a story, but because it has to have many contents that the teachers can actually use with the children, informing them properly about autism. At the ARES Foundation, we work every day to spread correct information and a positive culture about autism. Unfortunately, you can easily hear lots of silly things about autism. It could be dangerous for people to be misinformed.

It's also important that at the end of the story, Gionata really wanted to give this message that Martin doesn't recover from autism and that instead he's accepted. But he's also told to behave in order to be accepted. We can teach the child all the things he needs to stay within social life. We can teach children how to cope within the classroom and with their friends and family. And the metaphors Gionata uses are so important to explain this and to explain the characteristics of autism.

Images from "Martino Piccolo Lupo", © Carthusia Edizioni 2015/2016 Milan Italy, tale by Gionata Bernasconi, illustrations by Simona Mulazzani

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HARBOR HAPPENING

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, KIWANIANS REVIVE AND EXPAND A COMMUNITY TRADITION WHILE RAISING NEEDED FUNDS.

For Olympia, Washington, it's a Labor Day weekend tradition that started nearly 45 years ago. In 1973, tugboat crews that had been plying the waters of Washington state's Puget Sound during the busy summer months returned to their home port for a celebration of the season's end. Little did they know they were launching what would become a mainstay of the Olympia community.

Today, tugboat tours and races are at the heart of Olympia Harbor Days, a three-day event that draws some 55,000 to the waterfront each year—but before the Olympia Kiwanis Club took on its sponsorship a few years ago, the festival's future was uncertain.

Throughout its history, Harbor Days was run by the South Sound Maritime Heritage Association, a nonprofit group founded in 1974 to celebrate and preserve the South Puget Sound's nautical history. For the first few years, the event cen-

Words **JULIE SAETRE** • *Pictures* **LINDSEY WASSON**

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VIRGINIA V
VIRGINIA V

tered solely around vintage tugboat races, eventually adding food booths, arts and crafts and live music. As the decades passed, however, the association's membership dwindled, slipping into the single digits, and those who remained struggled with handling what had evolved into a large-scale event. That's when the Olympia Kiwanis Club stepped in.

"Almost all of the (SSMHA) members were members of the Kiwanis club," explains Dan Seachord, an Olympia Kiwanian and club secretary. "So we negotiated a transfer of the event from them to Olympia Kiwanis. … We pay them a franchise fee for it. It's mutually beneficial."

The SSMHA receives needed funds that allow it to stay viable and work toward its goal of creating a virtual maritime museum. And the Olympia Kiwanis Club—the city's largest—gained an event that now serves as a fundraiser and an important tool for raising awareness about its work.

Carol Riley and Mary Hall, both members of the Olympia club, play key roles in breathing fresh life into the festival. Riley became the Harbor Days executive director in the fall of 2015. About the same time, Hall stepped up as chair of the Harbor Days planning committee. Since then, they have reworked the event's budget and expanded its offerings.

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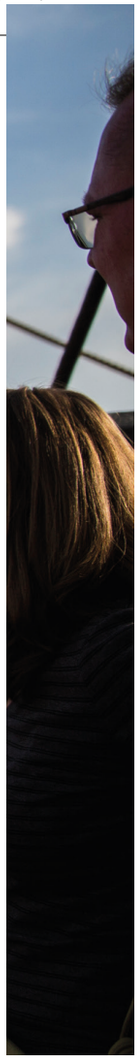

"The club saw that Harbor Days could become a really big thing for us as a children's event." **DAN SEACHORD, OLYMPIA KIWANIAN**

"The club saw that (Harbor Days) could become a really big thing for us as a children's event," says Seachord. "There weren't a lot of kids' things at the time that we brought it in. … The last few years, it has become more and more focused on children—children, the Kiwanis goal."

As one of her first priorities, Riley worked with the city's award-winning Hands-On Children's Museum, which debuted at the 2016 festival and returned in 2017 for a two-day run. Staff members helped young guests build cork boats, and Riley made sure there were mini-pools available for the newly crafted vessels. Additional child-friendly activities came courtesy of the Puget Sound Estuarium, which offered nine marine-themed options, from observing plankton to dressing like a shrimp to making a shark hat.

Riley also increased the number of musical acts to keep the stage lively throughout the event. In 2017, she added a troupe of trapeze artists to entertain between performances. To further enhance the atmosphere, she introduced buskers to the mix; clad in maritime-themed clothing, they juggled, spun fire and hula-hooped, to the fascination of event attendees.

"I brought in some things that would really create discussion and memories," Riley explains.

One of her biggest coups was gaining the Squaxin Island Tribe as a 2017 title sponsor. The Squaxin were among the first Native American inhabitants of the land that is now Olympia.

"We talked about what they could bring,

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"It's good exposure for Kiwanis, to be out there in the community sharing what the club does."

CAROL RILEY, OLYMPIA KIWANIAN

not just to the festival, but to the community," Riley says. "They had wood carvers, entertainment, drumming, tribal dancing and story-time readers. And they brought their traditional salmon bake."

Adds Seachord, "They didn't just say, 'Yes, we'll be a sponsor.' They came in at 100 percent."

Admission to Harbor Days is free; the Kiwanians raise money for their club's service projects and scholarships through sponsorships, booth rental fees and raffle-ticket sales.

"It's a really great fundraiser for the Kiwanis club," Hall says. "It allows us to do a lot with the Olympia Kiwanis Foundation and help kids."

Equally important is the light shone on Kiwanis and its important work done year-round.

"It's good exposure for Kiwanis, to be out there in the community sharing what the club does," Riley says. "The Kiwanians can really use it to their advantage as a recruitment tool." K

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SMOOTH SAILING

WHETHER YOUR CLUB IS REIMAGINING A LONG-STANDING EVENT OR CREATING A NEW ONE, TAKE SOME CUES FROM THE OLYMPIA KIWANIANS.

- Seek out untapped funding sources. The City of Olympia collects a lodging tax from motel/hotel stays and distributes the resulting funds as grants to nonprofits that provide tourism services. When Olympia Kiwanis Club member Carol Riley became the Harbor Days executive director, she applied for a grant and received US$20,000 to invest in marketing the event. "Nobody from Harbor Days or Kiwanis had ever applied for money from that agency before," she says.
- Remove past barriers. For years, race participation by tugboat crews had been dropping. Riley called each skipper who had formerly attended and asked why they had stopped. One reason: "They have to pay for their own gas," she says. "This year, our Port of Olympia put in a fueling station, which we never had before, and they gave a discount on fuel (to tugboat participants)."
- Be persistent. In 2017, Riley was able to add tall ships to the Harbor Days lineup for the first time in seven years. "It's taken me two years to get them here. Two years of every couple of months giving them a call and saying, 'Are you sure you don't want to come to Harbor Days?'"
- Team up with Key Clubs. "We have two Key Clubs that we sponsor," says Olympia Kiwanis Club member Dan Seachord. "They handle trash pickup. That's a lot of work, and it's hard to get people to pick up trash. They also do greetings and help with the information center. They're really great workers, and we love them."

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Battle of the bulk

OH, HOW THE MIGHTY FALL WHEN KIDS AND GIANTS CLASH.

IT'S A SIMPLE EQUATION.

Mass times acceleration equals force.

But oppose thundering acceleration with tickling tiny fingers, and mass loses every time. That's what happened when 348-pound, 5½ feet-tall Miyazaki (left) collided with the force of gleeful schoolchildren at a sumo demonstration hosted by Division 7 Kiwanis clubs in the Japan District.

"Since sumo is on a bit of a boom in Japan right now, we thought it would be nice if we could provide an opportunity for children to interact with sumo wrestlers," says division Lieutenant Governor Yoshinobu Aihara. "Usually, children only see sumo wrestlers on TV."

More than 1,000 children and parents enjoyed the full pageantry of the ritual-rich sport. Musicians drummed the traditional call to the tournament. TV reporter and sumo

Words **JACK BROCKLEY**
Pictures **IRWIN WONG**

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"I was a bit nervous at the beginning, but was delighted to see the children having fun." **TATSUO HORI, FIRST-TIME SUMO REFEREE**

specialist Reiko Yokono provided play-by-play announcements. Yokohama Kiwanian Tatsuo Hori donned the ornate robes of the *gyöji* for his first experience as a sumo referee.

"I was a bit nervous at the beginning," Hori admits, "but was delighted to see the children having fun."

Kiwanis members planned an exhibition that went beyond the usual tournament experience. After challenging the children to a battle of tug-of-war, Miyazaki and his 14 Tokitsukaze stablemates treated their guests with a taste of authentic sumo life by preparing and serving *chanko-nabe*—a stew of meat, potatoes, carrots, and other ingredients that fuel the wrestlers' mass and strength.

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The children, Aihara reports, were delighted, smiling and full of questions.

"How can you be so strong?" one child asked.

Another expressed a different perspective, saying, "Your skin is so soft, like a marshmallow."

The highlight of the day were the *rishiki* vs. children match-ups. Division 7 Kiwanis clubs supplied 30 belts for children who volunteered to oppose a Tokitsukaze professional. But when the pushing commenced, many other children rushed into the ring.

Thus was exposed a flaw in the laws of physics: the powerful effect of children having fun. K

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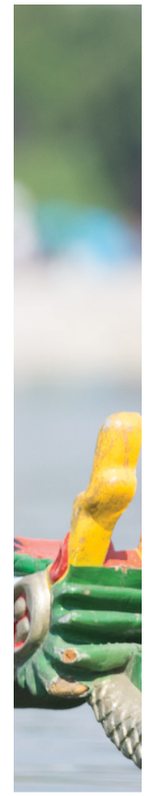

Enter the dragons

KIWANIANS HELP KIDS AND COPS BOND THROUGH AN ANCIENT CHINESE SPORT.

Words **JULIE SAETRE** • *Pictures* **DAVID CALVERT**

The teamwork needed to propel a dragon boat inspired Andrea Eliscu. "I thought, 'I wonder what would happen if I put inner-city kids and police officers in a boat?'"

Andrea Eliscu calls them the "invisible kids": inner-city youth who strive academically but receive neither praise (which is reserved for athletic prowess) nor intervention (which is directed toward troubled behavior). "They tend to get overlooked," says Eliscu, who is based in Orlando, Florida. "And the gangs and the drug dealers recognize that this kid is a little bit lost."

Thanks to Eliscu and the Kiwanis Club of Orlando, dozens of these youth now flourish through Dueling Dragons, a dragon boat program that builds trust and teamwork. In the sport of dragon boating, which originated in China some 2,700 years ago, participants climb into long, narrow vessels. A steersman and a drummer lead 20 paddlers, who must work together to swiftly race across a body of water.

"The paddlers give up of themselves," Eliscu summarizes, "to become one in the boat."

When Eliscu launched the effort in 2011, she was concerned about the increasing tensions and conflicts occurring between law enforcement officers and inner-city residents across the United States. Dragon boating, she believed, could help these diverse groups bond. The Orlando Police Department agreed, and the first team of 10 officers and 10 youths was formed.

Not only did the team take to the sport, it won a gold medal in the first competition it entered. When Orlando Kiwanians learned about the program, they wanted to be involved.

"What they're doing for those kids, it truly transforms their lives,"

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"When we tell them all the possibilities that they can have, they're really enthused about their own future," says Marty McCain, a retired police officer and Dueling Dragons member.

"One student said, 'Without Dueling Dragons and the support of Kiwanis, I could not have realized my dreams,'" recalls Tom Porter, secretary of the Orlando Kiwanis Club.

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The Dragons team urges all Kiwanis clubs to consider a similar program. "You've got inner-city kids everywhere," says Eliscu, "and you've got dragon boats everywhere."

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says Tom Porter, the club's secretary.

The Kiwanians donated a 10-person practice boat, provide cookouts for team members and offer scholarships to students. In 2017, the club gave all proceeds from its annual corn-hole fundraiser—nearly US$12,000—to Dueling Dragons in honor of a fallen OPD officer who had been a team member.

Today, the program has been taken into the fold of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida, which is adding two new teams and including members of the Orlando Fire Department in the mix. Marty McCain, a Dueling Dragons participant and retired OPD officer, is the director of dragon boat programming.

"All these kids see is police coming in (to their neighborhoods) and arresting people," he says. "Over the years, these kids who have been in our program realize, 'OK, these aren't bad people.' Before that, they were afraid to talk to them. … And the police have learned that not all the kids in the hood are criminals. It's worked both ways."

Adds OPD Chief John Mina, "Dragon boating requires teamwork, trust, leadership, perseverance and dedication to succeed. In the dragon boat, officers and kids are equals and learn to rely on each other. The relationships built as a result transcend dragon boating and have a positive influence on all involved. We are grateful for the generosity Kiwanis has shown to this very important and life-changing program."

Eliscu has her own words for the Kiwanians.

"I call them the earth angels. They are absolutely the most giving, whether it's in person or financially. They have brought the word 'Kiwanis' to life."

MAKE A SPLASH

WHEN YOUR MEMBERS FORGE STRONGER BONDS BETWEEN YOUTH AND ADULTS, THEY CAN ALSO BUILD A STRONGER CLUB. HERE'S HOW:

- **You create loyal advocates.** Andrea Eliscu, founder of Dueling Dragons in Orlando, Florida, rewards the Orlando Kiwanis Club's generosity by increasing its visibility. "We position them every way we can," she says, "as donors who just keep giving."
- **You are seen as leaders.** The foundation arm of the Orlando club sponsored the Dueling Dragons documentary, used to inspire cities throughout the United States to replicate the program. That exposure spotlights the club's forerunner role.
- **You spread the word about your club.** Tom Porter, Orlando Kiwanis Club secretary, heard a surprising comment when discussing Dueling Dragons with longtime Kiwanians. "They said we've gotten more publicity from that than they had seen in the 30 or 40 years they've been in the club."
- **You attract potential new members.** At the 2017 Dueling Dragons corn-hole tournament fundraiser, Orlando Kiwanians passed out cards with meeting information and invited guests to attend. "We had several people say they were interested in coming to check us out," Porter says.

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Road trip

PEN PALS TRAVEL TO SEE THEIR MENTOR PLAY COLLEGE FOOTBALL, THANKS TO WESTERN USA AREA KIWANIANS.

Words **JULIE SAETRE**

One day this past October 19, fourth- and fifth-grade students from Gerber, California, scrambled excitedly onto a bus, followed by nine adult chaperones, ready for an excursion. But this journey was no everyday field trip.

These youth were traveling 460 miles via luxury motor coach to Portland State University in Oregon to attend a football game between the home team Vikings and the University of Montana Grizzlies. Why? To watch Cooper Sprunk—their pen pal and mentor—play. And Kiwanians in Montana and California made it possible.

Sprunk, a University of Montana senior and offensive lineman for the Grizzlies, connected with the students through Gerber Elementary School's affiliation with the No Excuses University Network of Schools. As part of the program, a university assigns a representative to "adopt" an elementary, middle or high school class and encourage its students to achieve academically and plan for a college education.

"Our kids come from a rough area, and a lot them have home lives that aren't that great," says Keri Stengel, a third-grade teacher. "Some of them don't have dads around or don't have the greatest role models."

As a sophomore, Sprunk began exchanging letters with Stengel's students. Before long, Skype sessions were added.

When those students moved on to fourth grade, Sprunk worked with Stengel's next third-grade class.

A year ago, he traveled to Gerber on his winter break to meet both groups of youth.

In January 2017, Michelle Wheeler, a member of the Sentinel Kiwanis Club in Missoula, Montana, read an article detailing Sprunk's devotion to the students.

"It's a really beautiful relationship that he's formed," she says. "And so my thought as I was reading was, 'He's got a Kiwanis heart.'"

She decided to raise funds to allow "Cooper's Kids" to attend a University of Montana football game, and the one closest to Gerber was in Portland. So Wheeler contacted three additional Kiwanis clubs—Missoula in Montana and Red Bluff and Central Tehama County, Los Molinos in California—and formed a fundraising quartet. The University of Montana pitched in with its own campaign, and Montana businesses and residents joined the effort.

"It takes a village," says Wheeler, "and the village definitely stepped up on this project."

In September, Cooper's Kids—many of whom had never been out of Gerber—made the eight-and-a-half-hour trip to Portland.

"There were so many wonderful parts (to the experience)," says chaperone Stengel. "But when Cooper was done with the game, came out on the field, raised his arms and (the students) all hugged him, that is probably the biggest one that sticks with me. The look on Cooper's face—you can tell he loves them as much as they love him."

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Preserving history

NEW JERSEY BUILDERS CLUB HONORS AFRICAN-AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS.

Words **LYDIA JOHNSON**

Inside Union Bethel Civil War Veterans Cemetery in Erma, New Jersey, the unmistakable notes of "Taps" fill the air. Flags wave on the graves of fallen soldiers. A rededication ceremony is underway, one that would not be possible without the members of the Builders Club at R. M. Teitelman Middle School in Cape May.

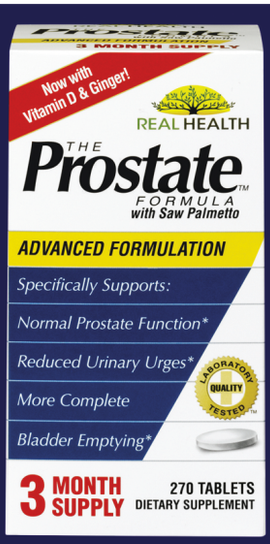
Five months earlier, the historic cemetery for African-American veterans and early settlers was forgotten and overgrown. Leaves and fallen branches covered the grounds. Some headstones had been toppled.

Paul Schulte, the Builders Club advisor, decided to take action. He had a vision to clear and restore the cemetery, but he'd need help. After a proposal to the Builders Club members and a unanimous vote, the students committed to clearing the site.

"The kids thought it was important because it's a local piece of history. They understood … they were veterans, and they deserved a place to rest in peace," says Schulte.

In February, students and adult volunteers from the Lower Township and Cape May communities worked together, spending hours clearing branches, leaves and debris. Local businesses and clubs pitched in, including the Builders Club sponsor, the Kiwanis Club of Cape May.

"No one knew about this cemetery, and now it's all in the forefront," says Cape May President Kim Ford."The Builders Club made it happen."



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Home school

A KANSAS KIWANIAN HEADS AN EFFORT TO HELP YOUNG STUDENTS 9,000 MILES AWAY.

Words **DANIELLE CASTONZO**

When Raja Reddy attended Mandal Parishad Primary School in the 1960s, there was no dedicated building for lessons.

"We had our classes mostly underneath some trees, occasionally in a building generously given for free," Reddy says of his school days in Andhra Pradesh, India.

Today, he's a research professor at the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at Mississippi State University and a member of the Starkville, Mississippi, Kiwanis Club, nearly 9,000 miles away from his homeland. He led the club's recent fundraising efforts to provide resources for three schools in the Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh, including his former primary school. The club partnered with the Mississippi State University Indian Students Association and Indian families living in Starkville.

Because these schools still lack basic facilities, the Starkville Kiwanis Club's provided printers, backpacks, notebooks, a water tank for lavatories and drinking water and plates for lunches at Reddy's former primary school. The funds also went toward desks for two high schools, one of which his wife, Anu, attended.

When Reddy and his wife return to India to see their families, they visited the schools to share the experience of achieving their academic and career goals abroad.

"I've been visiting these schools and colleges and telling them I was like one of them," Reddy says. "If I could go and be successful, they could do it too. I ask them to dream big and work hard to achieve those big dreams."

BIRTHDAYS

These clubs celebrate 25th, 50th, 75th and 100th anniversaries in February and March.

100TH—1918

Denver, Colorado, February 2
Seattle, Washington, February 4
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, February 16
Baltimore City, Maryland, March 5
Chattanooga, Tennessee, March 9
Allentown, Pennsylvania, March 14

75TH—1943

East York, Ontario, March 2
Sudbury, Ontario, March 8
Canandaigua, New York, March 23

50TH—1968

Molalla, Oregon, February 2
Hilldale, Clarksville, Tennessee, February 8
Halden, Norway, February 12
Sarpsborg, Norway, February 12
Cable Beach, Nassau, Bahamas, February 14
Risør, Norway, February 16
Oak Harbor, Washington, February 27
St. Heliers, Auckland, New Zealand, March 1
Zürich-Manesse, Switzerland, March 8
Banner Elk, North Carolina, March 19
Alpine, Rockford, Illinois, March 20
Colmar Doyen, France, March 23

25TH—1993

Grand Valley-Parachute, Colorado, February 2
Tri Community-Phelan-Pinon Hills-Wrightwood, California, February 6
Bartlett, Tennessee, February 16
Secured Valley, Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines, February 19
Vernon, Louisiana, March 2
Modica, Italy, March 2
Kalamazoo Sunrise, Michigan, March 5
Pavia Visconteo, Italy, March 10
Bloomfield, New Mexico, March 16
Adel, Georgia, March 24
Easton, Maine, March 24

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Las Vegas means color and light and all that pizzazz. But there's beauty beyond. The manmade majesty of Hoover Dam. The ancient splendor of Red Rock Canyon. The cool-blue fun of Lake Mead. And much more—right outside the city.

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Kiwanis®

Leverage relationships

CLUB OPENERS, CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT TEAM

Words **JACK BROCKLEY**

Back in 2014–15, then-Governor Alan D. Guire used Kiwanis' 100th anniversary as an opportunity to strengthen Kiwanis membership in the California-Nevada-Hawaii District.

Three leaders emerged to help Guire: Mahmood Bashir and Valarie Brown-Klingelhoefer, lieutenant governors of Division 35 and 43, respectively, along with Anna Wu, a member of Division 35's Eliminate Project team.

"Of the 12 new clubs that were opened in our district that year, two opened in Division 35 and another in Division 43," Guire says.

Their success continues. This past October, they opened five clubs in the district and another three in other districts.

"We have helped introduce close to 135 members into our Kiwanis family," Guire says.

Together, the four volunteers contribute organizational management, strategic planning, group facilitation and life-coaching skills to the new-club-opening process. But their success is fueled by a passion, love and enthusiasm for Kiwanis.

"Opening new clubs should be about serving the community," says Guire, who also offers these tips for opening clubs:

- Do your homework on the community before you start the process.
- Speak in positive terms.
- Set up a social-media identity from the start.
- Remember that life is about relationships; leverage them.

Visit kiwanis.org/roar to learn more from Guire and his team.

ALAN D. GUIRE
KIWANIS CLUB OF ROSEFLOAT OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

ALL-STARS

MEMBER SPONSOR
ANNA WU
HACIENDA HEIGHTS, CALIFORNIA

Wu opened her first club in 2017-18 with 25 members and another on Halloween with 40 members, most of whom she recruited.

CLUB OPENER
TERRY CUNEFARE
EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Cunefare was new-club chair in 2001-02, leading the world with 20 new clubs. He hasn't let up. By the time this article appears, he'll be well into double figures for this 2017-18 year.

GOVERNOR
CHANG-CHING HSU
TAIWAN

Chang-Ching was the first governor to reach double-digit new club openings, aiming for 50—or higher—this year.

STAFF
BRAD BOYD
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Boyd helped the Kiwanis International Board open three clubs this past October, signing more than 70 people.

Read more about these all-stars at kiwanis.org/roar.

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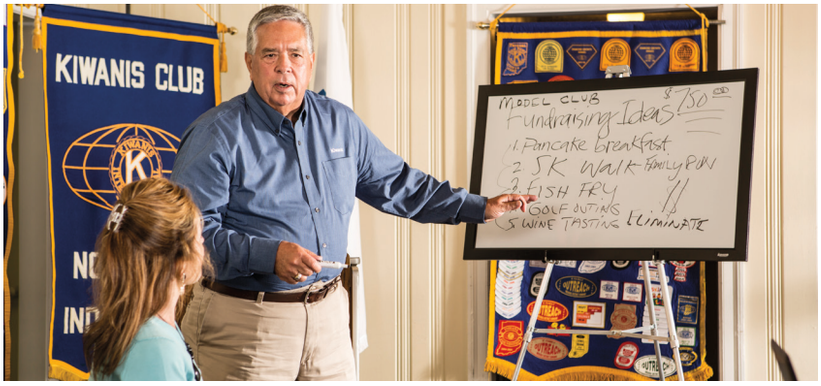

THE FORMULA:
Key resources for your club

The Formula has developed a set of resources to help your club succeed. Chosen as our top resources by those in the field, they are broken down into three categories: resources for club opening, resources for strengthening your club and The Formula videos. All are proven tools for spreading the benefits of Kiwanis. Visit kiwanis.org/keyresources to start using them today.

KEEPING SCORE

For his tenure as the 2017-18 Kiwanis International president, Jim Rochford is focusing on new-club opening. In support of this year-long initiative, each issue of Kiwanis magazine will list the top club openers by district, individual and sponsor. Keep an eye on future issues for a progress update on new-club openings.

TOP 5 DISTRICTS FOR CLUBS OPENED

Rank	District	Clubs opened*
1	Taiwan	10
2	Philippine Luzon	6
3 (Tied)	California-Nevada-Hawaii Illinois-Eastern Iowa	5
5 (Tied)	Indiana Italy-San Marino Malaysia Texas-Oklahoma	2

TOP 5 DISTRICTS FOR MEMBERS ADDED

Rank	District	Members*
1	California-Nevada-Hawaii	318
2	Pacific Northwest	285
3	Florida	230
4	Indiana	192
5	New York	190

TOP 5 INDIVIDUAL CLUB OPENERS

Rank	Club opener	Clubs opened*
1	Alan D. Guire	8
2	Anna Wu	7
3 (Tied)	Mahmood Bashir Valarie Brown-Klingelhoefer	6
5	Terry Cunefare James Rochford	3

TOP 5 INDIVIDUAL NEW-MEMBER SPONSORS

Rank	Sponsor	New members*
1	Anna Wu	23
3	Suzanne House	11
4 (Tied)	Lizalynn Mambiar David Schmitt	8
5	James Garcia	7

Numbers current as of November 8, 2017

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BECOME A VIP
An early-bird annual club gift will qualify your Kiwanis club to receive an invitation to a special Kiwanis Children's Fund VIP area at the 2018 convention in Las Vegas. Learn more at kiwanis.org/clubgift.

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Book your accommodations at either of the official convention hotels, Bally's or Paris, and get free parking, free Wi-Fi access, reduced rates and easy indoor access to all convention venues. More info: kiwanis.org/convention/hotels.

KEY CLUB LEADER DIES
Malcolm K. Lewis, the first president of the International Association of Key Clubs, died November 17. Lewis was a 16-year-old Palm Beach High School junior in 1943 when he was elected to lead the association, which preceded the formation of Key Club International in 1946.

CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED
Kiwanis International has released the list of announced candidates for election to the Kiwanis International Board at the 2018 convention in Las Vegas. Find out who's running at kiwanis.org/convention/elections.

ELECTION PROCESS
The Kiwanis International Board of Trustees adopted a new policy clarifying the process for endorsement of candidates for Kiwanis International Board offices. Visit kiwanis.org/Oct17policies for more information.

KIWANIS CHILDREN'S FUND LEADERSHIP CHANGE
With the death of 2017-18 Kiwanis Children's Fund President John Mayfield, the Children's Fund board has approved the appointment of Immediate Past President Chia Sing Hwang as president. Past President Mark Rabaut will continue to serve as immediate past president.

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Kiwanis

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NEWS

SIGNATURE PROJECT

Kiwanis International will again sponsor the Club Signature Project Contest. Check with your district for its contest deadline. Find the submission form at kiwanis.org/signatureprojectcontest.

District selections will be forwarded to Kiwanis International by March 2, and winners will be acknowledged during the 2018 convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

UN IMMUNIZATIONS

Kiwanis will partner with UNICEF USA, Rotary International, LDS Charities and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation during the United Nations' World Immunization Week, April 24-30, 2018, to promote the importance of immunization. Kiwanis members know that #VaccinesWork. Through The Eliminate Project, Kiwanis members provide funds for vaccinations that save countless mothers and babies from deadly maternal and neonatal tetanus. Watch Kiwanis social media, websites and emails to find out how your club can participate in World Immunization Week, and visit TheEliminateProject.org to learn more about The Eliminate Project.

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Finish the fight. Fulfill your pledge.

We've reached the most important part of The Eliminate Project: fulfillment. If you made a pledge, it's time to give your gift. Help save more than 53 million lives from maternal and neonatal tetanus.

TheEliminateProject.org/give

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MEMBER BENEFITS
Kiwanis International partners with several organizations that offer products and services that can help your club. Learn more at kiwanis.org/marketplace.

LEGACY OF PLAY CONTEST
The annual contest, sponsored by Kiwanis partner Landscape Structures, is coming soon! Discuss with your club how you can create a Legacy of Play by entering to win US$25,000 in playground equipment. The contest will kick off in early April. Watch the Kiwanis Facebook page for more information.

SAVE THE DATE!
Kiwanis International will partner with IHOP® to support National Pancake Day on February 27. Every dollar raised will go to local Children's Miracle Network Hospitals—a Kiwanis preferred charity. Your club members can serve as ambassadors and share this message with restaurant diners. It's a great service project for a great cause! Recruit your members and invite interested new members to see the impact Kiwanis makes in your local communities. Get updates at kiwanis.org/npd.

ARMY SPEAKERS BUREAU CONTINUES
For the fourth consecutive year, 30 more stops will be made on the U.S. Army Speakers Bureau. At club meetings, representatives from the Army explain how our shared values of education and leadership help shape tomorrow's leaders.

NEW PARTNER
A new partnership with United Medicare Advisors is helping Kiwanians in the United States get information about Medicare options and rates. Work with UMA to better understand Medicare and secure a top-rated Medigap plan with its complimentary quotes and consultations. For more, visit kiwanis.org/uma.

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Warning: They're contagious.

You'll be moved by their energy, inspired by their enthusiasm and awed by all they do. Sponsor a Circle K International club, and you'll not only change the lives of its members and the people they serve, you'll change your own life too. These members are passionate about service and perform over 400,000 hours of it each year. Catch their fervor for improving the world.

Sponsor a CKI club today. Learn more at kiwanis.org/charter.

Book report

DON'T JUST SIT THERE.
ENGAGE WITH YOUR YOUNG AUDIENCE IN NEW WAYS.

Book publisher **Carthusia Edizioni** knows a thing or two about working with children. The book, "Martino Piccolo Lupo," has found success across Italy and in parts of Switzerland on its own and as part of a Kiwanis Italy-San Marino District project. Edizioni offers the following suggestions for working with children when sharing Martino's story, but we think these tips are universal for whatever book you've chosen from your library shelf to share with children.

- Create the right atmosphere to read aloud: Sit in a circle, maybe on a carpet or on pillows.
- Read slowly but in an enthralling way. When necessary, go back to re-read and explain unusual and difficult words, but only after you're finished reading.
- Comment on the images together.
- Re-read and discuss the most-loved scenes, or the less-clear ones.
- After reading, listen to children's doubts or questions. Reflect on the story together.
- You can ask every child which part of the story she liked the most or the least, and why. Maybe she could make a drawing of this part of the story.
- Children could reproduce the narrative path of the story through images on a big poster, or they could make up and write a new ending, or make a small theater show inspired by the story.

KIWANIS MAGAZINE'S TIP:
Choose a book with a strong, positive message similar to the one in "Martino Piccolo Lupo." Be smart in your book choice. Read it beforehand, several times, and come up with a few of your own questions to ask the children to engage them.

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K-Kids Week

February 19–23

Help make their big week work.

February will bring K-Kids Week—an annual opportunity to promote the program with service. Get involved! Help support the program in your area, and serve alongside its members. Start planning with the K-Kids club you sponsor. Or contact one in your area. Help show off K-Kids next month!

Looking to sponsor a K-Kids club?

kiwanis.org/slp

Kiwanis Intl. 3636 Woodview Tr. Indianapolis, IN 46268-3196 USA

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

If your club has a success story, simply email a summary and a few photos to shareyourstory@kiwanis.org to be considered for possible future use in Kiwanis International publications.