

KIDS

SERVING THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD® AUGUST 2016

# HOMEWORK

how much is too much?

THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL ISSUE

# Reach out to our partners. And reach more children.



Your club changes children's lives. When you partner with organizations that have similar missions, you make a difference in even *more* lives. So reach out to a Kiwanis partner. Create a new bond. Increase your visibility. And enhance your club's next signature project. Go to [kiwanis.org/SPtoolkit](http://kiwanis.org/SPtoolkit).



Have suggestions for other Kiwanis partners?  
Let us know at [partners@kiwanis.org](mailto:partners@kiwanis.org).



# Kiwanis®



Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.

**2015-16 OFFICERS, KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL**

**PRESIDENT** Susan A. "Sue" Petrisin, *Lansing, Michigan, USA*  
**PRESIDENT-ELECT** Jane M. Erickson, *Bellevue, Nebraska, USA*  
**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT** John R. Button, *Ridgetown, Ontario, Canada*  
**VICE PRESIDENT** James M. Rochford, *Peoria, Illinois, USA*  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** Stan D. Soderstrom, *Indianapolis, Indiana, USA*

**TRUSTEES** Kenneth A. "Ken" Alovera, *Roxas City, the Philippines*; Patricia "Patti" Barsotti, *Concord, California, USA*; Bruce Berven, *Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada*; Kevin Dean, *Morgantown, West Virginia, USA*; John E. DeVilbiss, *West Alexandria, Ohio, USA*; Patrick R. Ewing, *Victoria, British Columbia, Canada*; Lance M. Incitti, *Denville, New Jersey, USA*; Koshiro "Kit" Kitazato, *Tokyo, Japan*; Marcel A. Kreienbühl, *Waldkirch, Switzerland*; Florencio C. "Poly" Lat, *Pasay City, the Philippines*; Arthur N. Riley, *Westminster, Maryland, USA*; Dewey Smith, *Albany, Georgia, USA*; Barbara K. Thompson, *Saint Louis, Missouri, USA*; Daniel Vigneron, *Howald, Luxembourg*; Terry A. White, *Evansville, Indiana, USA*

**MAGAZINE STAFF**

**EDITOR** Stan D. Soderstrom  
**CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER** Amy Wisner  
**PUBLISHER/CIRCULATION MANAGER** Jack Brockley  
**MANAGING EDITOR** Kasey Jackson  
**ASSISTANT EDITORS** Curtis Billue, Ariana Gainer  
**ART DIRECTOR** Andy Austin  
**CONTRIBUTING EDITOR** Tony Knoderer

**ADVERTISING SALES**

3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, IN 46268  
 317-217-6170, Fax: 317-217-6570  
 Email: advertise@kiwanis.org  
**New England and Mid-Atlantic:**  
 RB Advertising Representatives Inc.,  
 195 Cleveland Dr., Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520  
 914-769-0051, Fax: 914-769-0691  
 Email: Info@RBAdvertisingreps.com

**KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, IN 46268-3196  
 800-KIWANIS (in US/Canada), 317-875-8755  
 Fax: 317-879-0204  
 Email: magazine@kiwanis.org  
 Websites: kiwanis.org (public)  
 KiwanisOne.org (members)

**FUTURE CONVENTIONS**

Paris, France, July 13-16, 2017  
 Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, June 28-July 1, 2018  
 Orlando, Florida, USA, June 27-30, 2019

**KIWANIS** (ISSN 0162-5276) is published monthly except February, May, July and November by Kiwanis International.  
**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Kiwanis, 3636 Woodview Tr., Indianapolis, IN 46268-3196. Periodicals postage paid at Indianapolis, IN and additional mailing offices. (CPC Pub Agreement #40030511) Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to Kiwanis, 2835 Kew Drive, Windsor, ON N8T 3B7.

Member's annual subscription is US\$8. Nonmembers may subscribe for US\$12 per year.

The information in this magazine is for illustrative and discussion purposes only. It is intended to provide general information about the subject matter covered and is provided with the understanding that Kiwanis is not rendering legal, accounting or tax advice. You should consult with appropriate counsel or other advisors on all matters pertaining to legal, tax or accounting obligations and requirements.

Copyright © 2016 by Kiwanis International



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

AUGUST 2016 | VOLUME 101, NUMBER 5

### Departments

04

**VOICES**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE; EXECUTIVE PERSPECTIVE

06

**NEWS**

ELECTION RESULTS; DELEGATES VOTE; LET'S GO BLOGGING; POLICY REVISIONS; KIDS NEED KIWANIS; CUBA 2.0; CONTEST WINNERS; SCHOOL SUPPLIES; KIWANIS VISA REWARDS CARD; LOVE OF SERVICE

40

**SHOWCASE**

THRILL RIDE; HELLO, SUMMER; PAST PORTAL; EMPOWERING YOUNG MOTHERS; HOW THEY ROLL; BIRTHDAYS

50

**BACK PAGE**

UPGRADE YOUR PROJECT: INCREASE THE IMPACT OF YOUR CLUB'S LITERACY PROGRAM WITH THESE SUGGESTIONS.

### Features

12

**HOMework:**

**THE GREAT DEBATE**

HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH? EDUCATORS AND PARENTS WEIGH IN ON THE CONTROVERSY.

18

**BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION**

READING, WRITING AND COMPREHENSION ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL AND ALSO IN LIFE.

22

**WITH HONORS**

FACED WITH ADVERSITY, THESE AWARD-WINNING SCHOLARS GET RECOGNITION FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS.

28

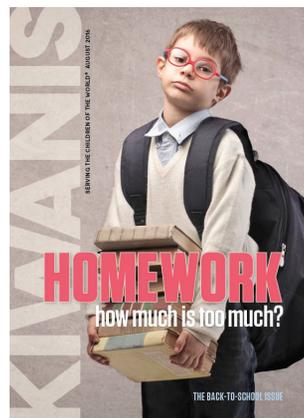
**THE KIWI SCIENCE THEORY**

NEW ZEALAND KIWANIANS PUT THEIR SIGNATURE ON THE NATION'S SCIENCE FAIRS.

34

**OH, CANADA**

TORONTO PLAYS HOST TO KIWANIS-FAMILY CONVENTIONS AND HELPS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF KIWANIS IN CANADA.



**< ON THE COVER**

HOMework  
 HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

# Voices

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SUE PETRISIN • KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

### KIDS NEED US

I am proud of Kiwanis. I get excited to tell people what Kiwanis is, but more importantly, what Kiwanis does for children in communities around the world. I am eager to see the new Kiwanis brand campaign help expand the Kiwanis movement.

The campaign, which was introduced at the Kiwanis International convention in Toronto, has two goals: to make it abundantly clear that Kiwanis helps kids and to make it abundantly clear that we have fun.

We have work to do. When we conducted scientific research, we learned some startling facts about what people think about Kiwanis. It was a reality check. Qualitative research further showed that many perceive Kiwanis as an organization of old men who eat lunch together. What's wrong with that picture?

But there is good news. In our research, we asked what would influence someone to join Kiwanis.

Their top influences were: belief in the organization's mission; a mission that is local and global and impacts

things like disease and poverty; and a mission that helps children reach their full potential. That's Kiwanis! That's what we do.

We designed a branding campaign to help people see the connection between Kiwanis and the work we do to serve children. We created "Kids Need Kiwanis."

The Kids Need Kiwanis campaign includes video, TV and radio commercials and public service announcements, and ads for newspaper, magazines and the Internet. We are making all these elements available to you and your club. You can download them at [kiwanis.org/brand](http://kiwanis.org/brand).

But a newspaper ad or TV commercial isn't why people join Kiwanis. People join Kiwanis because they are invited by a family member, a friend or a colleague. It's up to you to invite someone

to your next meeting or service project. Let them see we aren't a group of old men having lunch. Kids all over the world are waiting for more Kiwanians to join Kiwanis' massive force for positive change. Kids need Kiwanis.



## EXECUTIVE PERSPECTIVE

STAN SODERSTROM • KIWANIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### SERVE AND PROTECT

Working in an organization that is focused on serving the needs of children and empowering youth leaders is incredibly gratifying. Knowing that every day, at every hour, some child, an adolescent or a teen is benefiting from the contributions of Kiwanians in their Kiwanis clubs. From where I sit, I see many Kiwanis projects and programs that truly change lives.

Also, from where I sit, I see the need to protect the young people we serve, as well as our clubs and members from many of the liability-related issues that confront our communities today. It's all too often that we pick up a newspaper and read a horrifying story about a teacher or youth counselor or member of the clergy or even a law enforcement officer who has misused his or her position to abuse a child.

It's important to note that our track record as an organization is pretty good. We haven't had to deal with many of these incidents, and that likely attests to the character of Kiwanians. Our members are good people

who care about kids in their communities. But Kiwanis, like many organizations, has not been immune to a few cases of inappropriate behavior. We've realized that an organization focused on serving children can attract an occasional predator, looking for easy access to minors. And, I'm sad to say, we've had to deal with a few of these over the years.

First and foremost, our goal is to protect the children and youth—and their families—whom we serve. The protections we've put in place as an organization are primarily designed to provide a safe space for these minors.

Additionally, we are working hard to provide the adequate liability risk management for our clubs and members, so they too will be afforded the ability to work with children and youth in their communities. Our reputation has been built over more than a century of service.

In recent years, we introduced youth protection guidelines, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48



**NEW & IMPROVED:**  
**Safety Never Felt  
 So Good.™**

Most advanced  
 air system in the industry-  
**Introducing MicroSoothe!**



Financing available  
 with approved credit



The best walk-in tub just got better with breakthrough technology! **Presenting the all new Safe Step Walk-In Tub featuring MicroSoothe.®** An air system so revolutionary, it oxygenates, softens and exfoliates skin, turning your bath into a spa-like experience. Constructed and built right here in America for safety and durability from the ground up, and with more standard features than any other tub.

- ✓ Heated seat providing warmth from beginning to end
- ✓ Carefully engineered hydro-massage jets strategically placed to target sore muscles and joints
- ✓ The highest quality tub complete with the most comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub
- ✓ Top-of-the-line installation and service, all included at one low, affordable price

You'll agree – there just isn't a better, more affordable walk-in tub on the market.

Call today and receive exclusive savings of

**\$1500 OFF**

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Call Toll-Free 1-888-559-7611



For your **FREE** information kit and DVD, and our Senior Discounts, Call Today Toll-Free

**1-888-559-7611**

# NEWS

TRENDS, TIPS, FACTS AND FIGURES  
FROM KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL



## Cuba 2.0

Take a stroll along the Malecón. Sip the rum. Visit a cigar factory. Take a walking tour of Cienfuegos. Step inside an artist's studio. Meet an architect and learn about the growth challenges facing Cuba. And of course, enjoy the local food, music and friendly people. Back by popular demand: Kiwanis Travel offers Kiwanis members a second chance to visit Cuba.

The trip will allow Kiwanians to interact with locals during daily people-to-people exchanges

and to learn about Cuban culture and history.

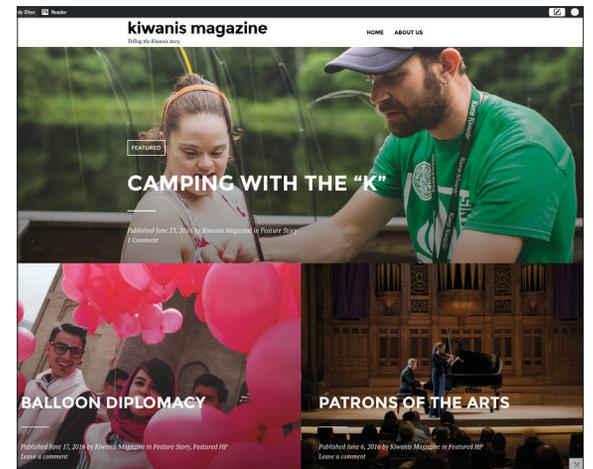
"Kiwanis Travel provides an opportunity to truly experience the culture, history and people of the country," says Kiwanis Club of Gig Harbor, Washington, member Paul Hutchinson, (left, in cap) who traveled to Cuba on the inaugural trip in 2015. "I had high expectations going into this trip, and they delivered every bit—and then some."

Ready for an adventure? The next trip to Cuba is November 20–28. Learn more at [kiwanis.ahitravel.com](http://kiwanis.ahitravel.com).

## Let's go blogging

How do you like to read? Paper? Computer, phone or tablet? Kiwanis magazine, with the introduction of its [kiwanismagazine.org](http://kiwanismagazine.org) blog, has you covered. The blog, which is available at no cost, adapts to your device. Go to [kiwanismagazine.org](http://kiwanismagazine.org) and enjoy. You'll find it's easy to follow the blog and share your favorite stories and beautiful photos with families, friends and others on social media.

Due to increased licensing fees, Kiwanis magazine's tablet app no longer exists, but the [kiwanismagazine.org](http://kiwanismagazine.org) blog fills the void and already is attracting readers worldwide.





## Deals on school supplies

Does your club need school supplies for an upcoming service project? Kiwanis Warehouse offers thousands of items, making it easy to ensure kids in your community have the supplies they need to succeed. By using Kiwanis Warehouse, you have access to more than 300,000 products at wholesale prices, stretching your nonprofit dollars. With the flexibility to purchase a single product, by the case or in bulk (among other benefits), you make the most of your club's money. You even get free shipping by using code KWFREE when you check out at [kiwanis.dollardays.com](http://kiwanis.dollardays.com).

## Legacy of Play winner

Landscape Structures Inc. and Kiwanis International recently awarded US\$25,000 in playground equipment to the Poplar Bluff, Missouri, Kiwanis Club for its inclusive playground project, to be completed for Kiwanis One Day 2017. The Poplar Bluff Kiwanis Club was one of 40 worthy Kiwanis clubs that submitted playground projects to the Legacy of Play Contest on Facebook. The US\$25,000 award, along with collaboration with other local organizations, will help the club complete the city's main recreation space, Kiwanis Bacon Memorial Park. The club will add inclusive playground equipment to accommodate children and families with special needs from five surrounding counties. Learn how you can create a legacy of play in your community by visiting Landscape Structures at [playlsi.com](http://playlsi.com).



## Support the Kiwanis Children's Fund

The Kiwanis Visa Rewards® allows members and clubs to support the Kiwanis Children's Fund and earn rewards by using the card for personal and club-related purchases. Receive a US\$30 gift certificate to the Kiwanis Family Store upon approval. Learn more at [commercebank.com/Kiwanis](http://commercebank.com/Kiwanis).



# News | CONVENTION



## Election results

**President:** Jane M. Erickson, *Bellevue, Nebraska*

**President-elect:** James M. "Jim" Rochford, *Peoria, Illinois*

**Vice president:** Florencio C. "Poly" Lat, *Metro Manila, Philippines*

### **US and Pacific Canada Trustees:**

M.A. "Fred" Dietze, *Hudson, Wisconsin, USA*  
Peter J. Mancuso, *North Bellmore, New York, USA*  
Bert West, *Divide, Colorado, USA*

### **Asia-Pacific Region Trustee:**

Chian Chu-Ching, *Taichung City, Taiwan*

### **Canada and Caribbean Region Trustee:**

Gary Levine, *Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada*

**Europe Region Trustee:** Paul Inge Paulsen, *Askøy, Norway*

## Amendments results:

- Provide that Kiwanis International dues may be adjusted no more than US\$2 annually, with a cap of US\$5 over a five-year period, to keep up with inflation. **FAILED**
- Clarify Kiwanis International authority regarding

the use of the Kiwanis name and marks as it relates to foundations and other affiliated entities, including intellectual properties. **PASSED AS AMENDED**

- Provide for secure electronic voting. **FAILED**
- Revise the term and selection process for district treasurers. **FAILED**

*For more information on these and other voting results at the 2016 convention, go to [kiwanis.org/amendments](http://kiwanis.org/amendments).*

## Policy revisions

At its meeting this past April, the Kiwanis International Board revised the policy on criminal history background checks, effective October 1, 2016, to require:

- a clear check for district risk managers and youth protection managers within North America;
- a clear check for all district chairs and committee members (not just assistants) for all Service Leadership Programs;
- that checks for SLP club advisors are required and must now be conducted and verified by Kiwanis International. Note that this requirement will be delayed until October 1, 2017, for SLP club advisors in Asia-Pacific and Latin America.

*Learn more at [kiwanis.org/backgroundchecks2016](http://kiwanis.org/backgroundchecks2016).*

At its meeting this past June, the Kiwanis International Board:

- Adopted a new policy about compliance with anti-bribery statutes.
- Adjusted the policy on the Kiwanis International Board's code of ethics and conduct regarding compliance with laws.

*Learn more at [kiwanis.org/0616policies](http://kiwanis.org/0616policies).*

## Kids need Kiwanis!

Every Kiwanian knows that children everywhere rely on Kiwanis. Now we're telling the world. And you can help.

At the 2016 Kiwanis International convention in Toronto, Ontario, this past June, the organization kicked off a public relations and marketing campaign titled "Kids Need Kiwanis." Clubs and members are encouraged to promote Kiwanis by using the #KidsNeedKiwanis tags on social media, as well as print, TV and radio spots, signage and videos.

This one message, used by clubs worldwide in unison with Kiwanis International promotions, will boost recognition of the Kiwanis name and our service.

Download materials at [kiwanis.org/brand](http://kiwanis.org/brand). Contact [pr@kiwanis.org](mailto:pr@kiwanis.org) for assistance in maximizing your club's PR and marketing.



# THE BEST

PURE COTTON

# NON-IRON

DRESS SHIRT

# BAR NONE.

UNBEATABLE  
INTRODUCTORY  
OFFER **\$24.95**

REG \$89.50  
YOU SAVE 70%

PLUS,  
FREE MONOGRAMMING  
REG \$10.95

ADD THIS TIE FOR JUST \$19.95  
REG \$72.50

[PAULFREDRICK.COM/BEST](http://PAULFREDRICK.COM/BEST) • 800.309.6000 • PROMO CODE T6FSKW

WHITE 100% COTTON PINPOINT / NEAT WRINKLE-FREE WEAR / EASY NON-IRON CARE  
4 COLLAR STYLES / BUTTON OR FRENCH CUFF / REGULAR, BIG & TALL & TRIM FIT

GUARANTEED PERFECT FIT.  
Free Exchanges. Easy Returns. New customer offer.  
Limit 4 shirts. Imported. Shipping extra. Expires 9/30/16.

## Paul Fredrick

# Portalbuzz

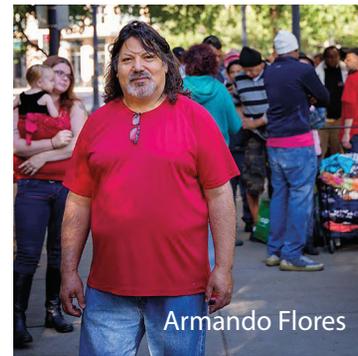
# Kiwanis®

## Planning for fall events?

- Event registrations
- Ticket sales
- Volunteer management
- Event, meeting, committee management

Sign up today and see for yourself what great Kiwanis clubs are buzzing about!

[www.portalbuzz.com/kiwanis](http://www.portalbuzz.com/kiwanis)



## Love of service

April 2015 was a turning point in Armando Flores' life. What was supposed to be a 10-minute presentation to the Kiwanis Club of Greater Sacramento, California, turned into a 30-minute exchange and a lasting impression on the club's membership and its service.

Flores had visited the club to speak about a project called Clothes and Food for Everyone, and his passion, dedication and devotion to the homeless spread quickly through the room.

"A lot of members were excited about it and you could tell he was passionate," says Rita Germain, past president of the Sacramento club.

"I felt comfortable when I spoke to the club," Flores says. "They were interested in hearing what I shared. To me, that meant the involvement they had in their community was pretty serious."

That's when Flores decided to join the club. He saw the membership's interest in his aspiration of feeding and clothing homeless people, and a partnership developed that would ramp up his efforts with Clothes and Food for Everyone.

Not surprisingly, his new friends from Kiwanis were quick to get involved.

"I feed homeless people every

week or twice a week, and the club has committed to help us one Sunday every month," Flores says. "We have several club members who make food and come out and help us distribute it, as well as donate clothing."

Flores couldn't be more grateful for the supplies and the help.

"Since I joined Kiwanis, I feel the people in my club have become really involved," he says. "I really feel that we are changing the community. It really makes a difference for what we do." — *Sam Stall*

***Does your club attract members of other charitable groups? Tell us about it at [loveit@kiwanis.org](mailto:loveit@kiwanis.org).***



# Protect yourself... and those you serve.

Kiwanis Youth Protection Week is September 11–17

**Has your club reviewed the Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines—and completed the annual youth protection training?** Youth Protection Week is the perfect time! Remember to discuss our new policy: On October 1, all Kiwanis advisors to a Service Leadership Program must have a criminal history background check conducted and verified by Kiwanis International.

Get ready. Get informed.

[kiwanis.org/youthprotection](http://kiwanis.org/youthprotection)



**Kiwanis**<sup>®</sup>



# Homework

## The great debate

**HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH? EDUCATORS AND PARENTS WEIGH IN ON THE CONTROVERSY.** STORY BY MARC D. ALLAN

Comedian Gerald Kelly tells a joke about the time he helped his 10-year-old son Joshua with homework because he wanted to give the kid a break.

"The dude came back from school on Monday with two red zeroes on his homework," Kelly said. "He said the teacher asked who helped him with his homework, and he told her that his dad did most of it. I asked why she put two zeroes and he said, 'She said, 'One for me and one for you.'"

The story always gets a laugh, he said in an interview, but it happens to be true. Kelly feels his son gets too much homework, which interferes with family plans and keeps him tethered to his books when he should be out being a kid.

Tension over how much homework is too much is an ongoing debate in homes and schools around the world.

On one side are parents and schools who say that children need to study more to maintain an advantage in an increasingly competitive world. The contention on the other side is that seven or eight hours of school is enough, and kids need time for other activities.

In the United States, the National Education Association endorses the so-called "10-Minute Rule"—10 minutes of homework a night for each grade level. So a second-grader should get 20 minutes, a third-grader 30 minutes and so on. Stephanie Donaldson-Pressman, author of "The Learning Habit" and contributing editor for a homework study by Brown and Brandeis universities, says children in early grades shouldn't have homework.

"The job of children when they're 5, 6, 7 years old is to learn how to interact with the world," she says. "To play. To learn social skills. Homework takes

time away from free play, from the development of motor skills, learning creative thinking. So rather than learning social skills, kids learn stress and performance anxiety.”

Beyond those years, she likes the 10-minute rule—as long as it’s rigidly timed. That means after the child has come home, had a snack and playtime, he sits down at a designated place, and a timer is set. He takes out the homework and does it. If he finishes before the timer goes off, he spends the remaining time reading.

“What happens when kids have this kind of schedule is they learn how to manage their time,” she says. “They know they’re going to be sitting there for 40 minutes, anyway. So they learn to monitor themselves and focus for 40 minutes, because they know after 40 minutes they’re free and can do whatever they want.”

**F**our years ago, Heather Shumaker wrote a letter to her son’s third-grade teacher in which she said, in part, “I don’t believe in homework for children ages 11 or under. ... There is such a short amount of time in every day. School learning takes up most of the day, and when school is out, kids need space and time for other things.”

She posted the letter online and subsequently heard from hundreds of thousands of people with nightmare stories about homework overload.

Shumaker says the teacher appreciated having a supportive family that was actively involved in their child’s life and learning. Some teachers will react that way, she says. Others will reduce homework for the whole class because they hadn’t realized it was a problem. But there will be teachers who disagree so much that it causes a bad relationship. Most commonly, the parents and teacher meet and compromise.

Since that letter, Shumaker did a lot of research on homework for her book “It’s OK to Go Up the Slide” and found that the benefits of homework are highly age-dependent. In high school, there’s some benefit—if it’s not piled on—and in middle school there’s a slight benefit. “But in elementary school,” she says, “what they’re finding—and this is not just one study but a review of 180 peer-reviewed studies on homework—is that there was zero correlation between time spent on homework and academic achievement in elementary school.”

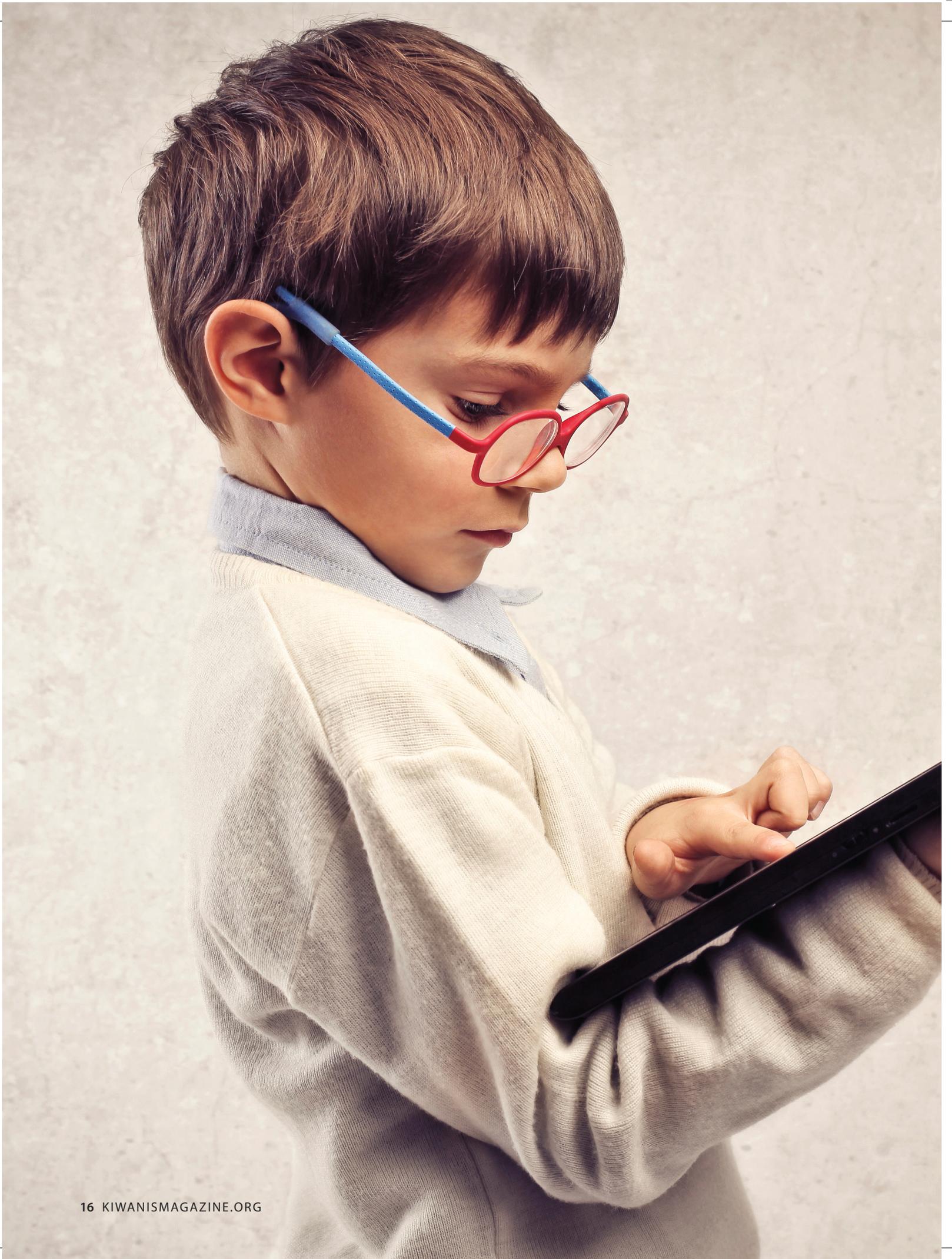
Shumaker’s sons are now 11 and 8. The middle-schooler does homework. For the elementary-schooler, homework is “joyous and optional,” she says. “If he gets the homework and he’s excited about the subject, we’re not going to stand in his way. But if he needs to go outside and whack a tree with a stick, that’s more important.”

That approach wouldn’t cut it in Steve Gold’s school district. Gold



"The job of children when they're 5, 6, 7 years old is to learn how to interact with the world. To play."







teaches seventh-grade pre-algebra in the ultra-competitive West Windsor-Plainsboro, New Jersey, Regional School District, which was profiled in *The New York Times* on Christmas Day 2015 in part because 40 students had been hospitalized the previous school year due to extreme stress. Gold says the district guidelines are generally about 30 minutes a night of homework for each class—three hours in total. He said he gives 10 to 15 minutes of homework nightly to reinforce what he teaches in class.

“Math is something you don’t get good at unless you practice,” he says, “and 15 minutes of math homework every day is not excessive. If you sit and you don’t have an iPad in front of you and you don’t have the TV on, 15 minutes is not a long time. Most schools in America have study halls. We have a 40-minute study hall every day. Every kid does their math homework in study hall.”

The homework debate occurs worldwide. In 2012, French President François Hollande proposed banning homework, saying work should be done at school. Schools in Finland, one of the world’s leaders in education, give little to no homework. In Canada, the Toronto District School Board recommends to teachers and parents that students have no more than 10 minutes multiplied by the grade level.

“I’m OK with that,” says Rose Falvo, who teaches Grade 4 science, social studies, math, English and French

at Toronto’s Jackman Avenue Public School, a French-immersion school. “I don’t assign extra work, extra drill, for homework. For the most part, homework in my classroom is assignments that were not finished in class and need to be finished at home. The only thing I do add on is, I ask students to read 15 minutes a night, alternating in French and English.”

Tomoko Nakatani, who teaches junior and senior high school at Seikyo Gakuen, a private school in Kawachinagano City, Japan, says she gives about an hour of homework a night. She teaches English for communication and English to express ideas, and students are asked to translate, look up meanings and so on. “We believe the homework will help them to understand the lesson,” she says. “We have no rules for the amount of homework. We can give as much as we like, and the parents want more. We want our students to study at least a couple of hours every day.”

Nakatani says parents expect their kids to study harder and go on to “excellent” universities. That refrain—“How will my kid get into an elite college?”—is a concern heard around the globe. So we asked Yale University: Does more homework help applicants? A spokesman directed us to two links on its website, one for advice in selecting high school courses, the other detailing what Yale looks for in prospective students.

The word “homework” does not appear on either page. 



# BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

**READING, WRITING AND COMPREHENSION ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL—AND IN LIFE.**

STORY BY LISA RENZE-RHODES

No matter how many times it happens, and in spite of having spent three decades in the classroom, Beth Swenson never tires of that moment when a student “gets it.” It happened most recently after Swenson, a lead literacy coach in ISD 196, a suburban district just outside Minnesota’s Twin Cities, finished working with a group of students on a collaborative literacy project. The challenge included a group writing exercise, some problem solving and discovery on the topic of sustainability. After much debate among the pupils, consensus on the project was reached.

“I had a little girl who was labeled a selective mute who, all of

the sudden, stood up in front of the class sharing work her team had done,” Swenson says. “Literacy collaboration is not an easy thing, but it’s the best way I think I’ve ever taught. It’s so empowering to kids.”

Regardless of how the instruction occurs, educators agree that literacy skills—reading, writing and comprehension—are the most essential elements a child needs to be successful not only in school, but in life. Despite that understanding, an alarming number of young people and adults are still unable to function on a basic literacy level.

According to UNESCO Institute for Statistics, though the number of illiterate adults worldwide

has decreased, there are still an estimated 757 million people who cannot read or write at a simple-sentence level, according to data published in September 2015. Some experts believe that illiteracy rate equates to an estimated US\$1 trillion lost annually from the global economy. Worse still, the majority of those illiterate adults are women. Correcting that imbalance of ability is an imperative that's drawn the attention of the United Nations. The group in January approved a series of sustainable goals, including ensuring that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy by 2030.

The challenge, however, remains: How to reach that goal?

In Swenson's upper Midwestern school district, literacy collaboration, in very sparse layman's terms, is an intensive, multi-year method of teaching that intertwines language and word/phonics study, with writing and reading, all done in group settings. But it starts with coaching teachers on how to make the classroom adjustments needed for success. The multi-year, coaching components are the rudders that steer the program, Swenson says, and it's working. In 2014, in Swenson's previous school district of Brainerd, Minnesota, all six of the district's elementary schools were named National Blue Ribbon winners by the U.S. Department

of Education, just three years after implementing the literacy collaborative approach to teaching and learning.

Where Swenson's districts have been able to make some

system-wide commitments, those program components can be aspirational—and even unrealistic—for other schools.

Halfway around the world, in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro, in Moshi, Tanzania, where Amina Swai teaches, students are far easier to come by than supplies. The country boasts an impressive 98 percent primary school enrollment, and Swai loves having her classroom full of eager learners.

"But we have (a) problem in reading, because we do not have enough textbooks," Swai says via email. "Also, we are many in one room." That makes small-group exercises—a tactic teachers say is critical to helping all students advance whatever skill set they have—almost impossible. What's more, the crowded room offers students no Internet access, no "free read" books and few other learning resources, she says.

That dearth of supplies isn't limited to schools in Africa. Local



news outlets have reported in detail about book shortages across Nepal and India, and schools in the United States aren't immune to those and other challenges.

At Hartford Sylvia Encinas Elementary in the Chandler, Arizona, Unified School District, teachers offer coaching and tutoring sessions for students

creating special reading-centric programs like the annual "Literacy Under the Stars" event that brings families to school at night for a cookout and storytellers; and the development of the school's literacy room.

Such literacy rooms, similar to ones established through Kiwanis International Promotional Partner Scholastic Books' Reading Oasis, establish a safe and comfortable place for children and families to read together. The kids also can keep their favorite books for their home libraries. (Learn more at [kiwanis.org/partners/oasis](http://kiwanis.org/partners/oasis).)

Book-distribution initiatives are just one approach championed by Kiwanis International partner Scholastic Books. Dillon Kalkhurst, director of community-social-volunteer engagement for Scholastic Book Fairs, says a child who reads for as few as 20 minutes per day is well-positioned for success by the time she reaches high school.

One way to encourage that reading time is to let kids read what they love.

"Kids get excited about reading when they are able to choose their own books," Kalkhurst says, adding that ideally children should have an array of options on topics that are as unique as the students themselves. "Kids also get very excited when adults, parents

and other role models read to and with them."

So having books that students can take home, as well as building teachers' classroom libraries, continues to be a key motivator for Kalkhurst.

"Those classroom libraries are critical in helping teachers instill a love for reading in their young students," he says.

And reading is a skill, he adds. It requires lots of practice.

That zeal for learning continues to motivate teachers like Swenson, who says it's not just a professional imperative, but for her, a personal one too.

"I always want to stay in the classroom, to stay teaching," she says. "I had a teacher who took time with me and did this for me when I was a kid. For me it's about paying him forward ... about helping that next kid just light up." 

"Those classroom libraries are critical in helping teachers instill a love for reading in their young students."

and their parents, on different days before and after school, to help learners of all ages who are non-native English speakers. It was a solution that was created after the school worked with families and community partners to ensure that even more basic needs, like feeding all the children breakfast and lunch, were first met.

"If a child comes to school and their stomach is rumbling, it's hard for them to focus on what they need to do," says Angel Hensley, a reading specialist at the school. "If you are able to feed them, the students can focus on learning to read."

With hunger addressed, the school has been able to branch out into offering the before- and after-school sessions for families;



# WITH HONORS

**FACED WITH ADVERSITY, THESE AWARD-WINNING SCHOLARS  
GET RECOGNITION FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS.**

STORY BY ARIANA GAINER • PHOTOS BY MICHELLE PEMBERTON

**S**ince 1992, the Kiwanis Club of Indianapolis, Indiana, has touched hundreds of lives with its annual Lincoln Fellows Program, a scholarship program recognizing students for their ability not only to overcome adversity but to refuse to be defined by it. Each year, the club identifies high school students who could benefit from a healthy scholarship. Though the nominated students have gone through tremendous hardships at young ages—often including

homelessness, abuse, abandonment and serious illness—they are resilient.

They are determined.

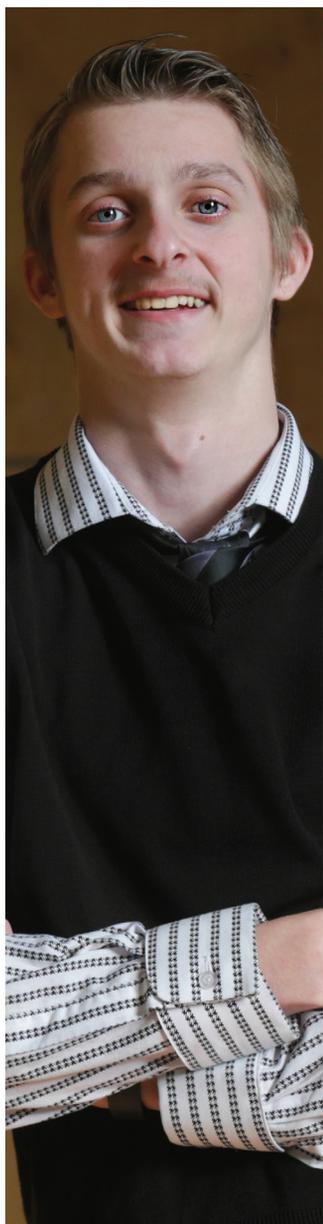
They are intelligent.

They are phenomenal.

But they also need a little help pursuing their dreams.

This year, the Kiwanis club helped bring those dreams into reach by awarding scholarships totaling US\$41,000—to be shared among four deserving students.

These are their stories.





**1ST PLACE: Caitlyn Moore, Perry Meridian High School (US\$16,000)**

April 4, 2009, was a monumental day for Caitlyn Moore—one that motivated her to live feeling light because of forgiveness instead of heavy because of anger.

Growing up, Caitlyn suffered physical and verbal abuse from her mother. Without a father around, she cooked for herself, got on the school bus alone and cleaned the house. Eventually, she was removed from her mother's custody and placed with her grandmother. That day was April 4, 2009.

Soon afterward, Caitlyn was diagnosed with Charcot Marie Tooth, a neurological disease that makes walking, running, even carrying her school books difficult.

Caitlyn could have abandoned her goals to feel sorry for herself. Instead, she vowed to be optimistic and work even harder. In the midst of the chaos at home and her muscular disease, Caitlyn earned all A's in high school—even in six advanced placement courses. She's smart. She speaks deliberately. She plays piano and recently picked up the ukulele. Her favorite book is "The Color Purple."

From her hardships, she's learned that a person determines her own destiny.

"There is no honor in victimizing yourself and blaming other people for the choices you make," Caitlyn says. "There is honor in looking at a situation and choosing to create something better for yourself."

**2ND PLACE: Jacob Springer, Arsenal Technical High School (\$12,000)**

When Jacob Springer was in eighth grade, he woke up one day on the pavement outside of his school, bloodied and bruised. A group of kids had jumped him. He was knocked unconscious and suffered a concussion and a fractured jaw that had to be wired shut for a month.

Jacob never learned the motive for his attack.

Home should have been a place of solace for Jacob, somewhere for him to feel secure and loved. But he wasn't safe there either: His mother was unstable and his stepfather was abusive. So was his alcoholic father. Jacob was charged with caring for his autistic younger brother. The only family member Jacob could confide in, his grandmother, passed away unexpectedly.

How does a young man cope with this seemingly never-ending pain?

Jacob dedicated himself to academic excellence.

This past February, just a few months short of his graduation, he held a 4.31 grade-point average, surpassing the 4.0 scale. He's proud of that accomplishment. His smile widens when he talks about how well he's doing in his physics class. He's also developed a new interest: poetry.

One of his poems reads: "My life is a battle, my life is never okay. My life has hardships that make the pain insane, but what can I do to change this life? All I can do is face the pain and fight."

Jacob has never stopped fighting.





**3RD PLACE: Macy Huff, Ben Davis High School (\$8,000)**

In a split second, Macy Huff went from a popular, energetic high school cheerleader to a quadriplegic who attended school with a blanket over her head because she was embarrassed to be confined to a wheelchair.

When she was 15, Macy had a tumbling accident during cheerleading tryouts and was immediately paralyzed from the neck down. After a year of hospital care and rehab, she still had no use of her limbs. She had to learn how to do many basic skills over again—including breathing. But she was determined. She has gained some control and strength in her arms.

Before the accident, Macy was an average student. Now, she excels in six advanced placement and honors courses with a 3.6 grade-point average. She even finds time to volunteer and is involved in her high school's Key Club.

Still, Macy's first love is cheering. It took her quite some time to summon the courage to return to the gym. But the day she did changed her life. She now works as a tumbling and cheering coach at the same gym where she had her accident.

"I'm determined to fight and cheer my way through life," she told the club's scholarship committee, "even on the days that I do not like being in this battle."



**4TH PLACE: Natalie Cunningham,  
Bishop Chatard High School (\$5,000)**

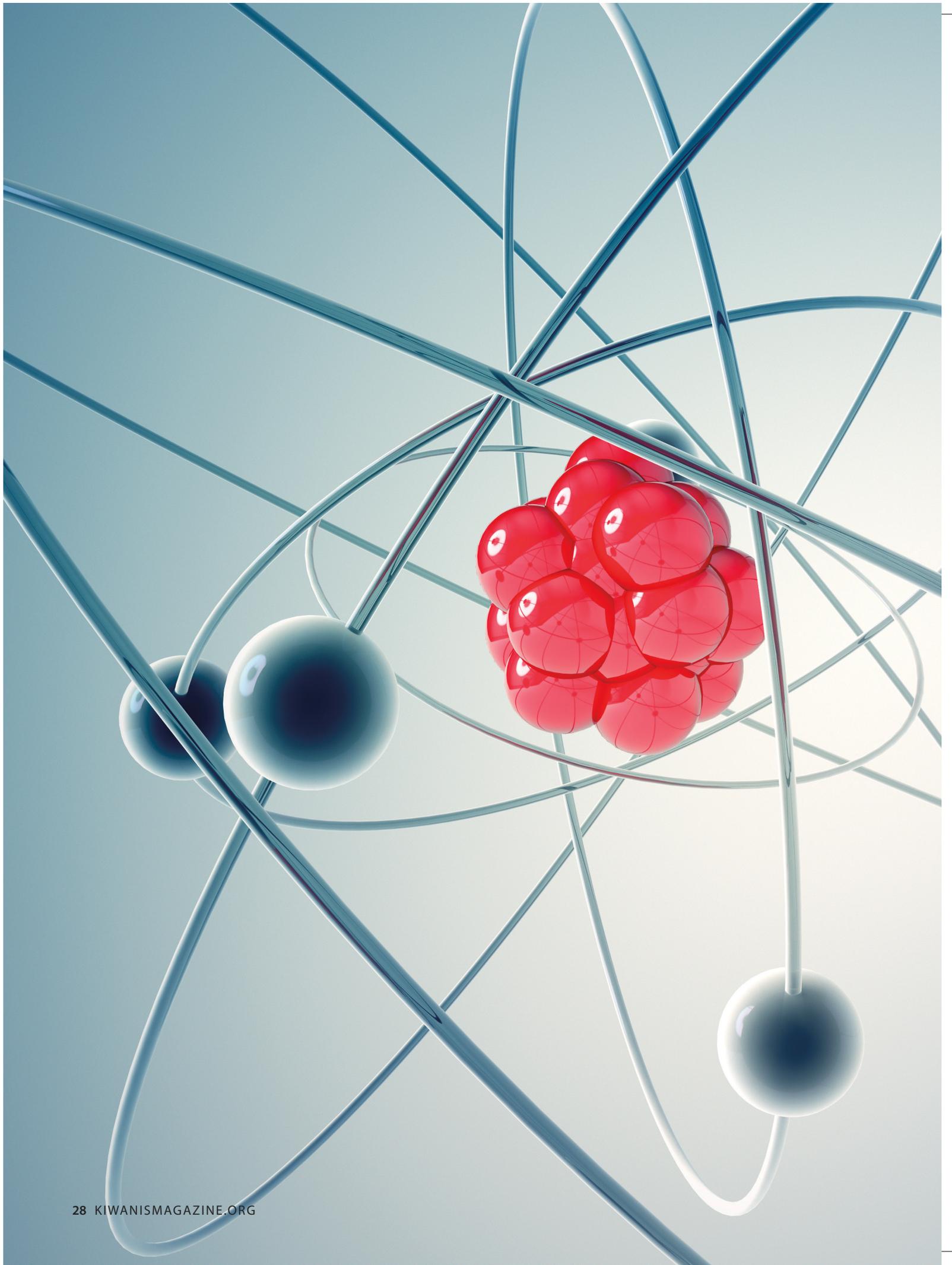
Natalie Cunningham was in eighth grade when she lost her father to a long battle with cancer. Shortly after, she was diagnosed with her own serious illness: Crohn's Disease. The news, compounded by her grief, was more than most young women her age face in a lifetime.

As her disease worsened, Natalie was admitted to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. After several months and two surgeries, she returned to school, determined to maintain a sense of normalcy.

When she was in the hospital, Natalie had no desire to enjoy life. Now she makes an intentional effort to live a positive, appreciative life.

Undiscouraged by her illness and with the support of her rock and best friend—her mom—she could return to her favorite activities: shopping and spending time with friends.

"It is extremely important to keep a strong head on your shoulders," she says. "Without that, it's easy to fall weak or into despair. You've got to try to see the positive in every situation, regardless of how bad it may seem."



# the Kiwi SCIENCE THEORY

## NEW ZEALAND KIWANIS PUT THEIR SIGNATURE ON THE NATION'S SCIENCE FAIRS.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KASEY JACKSON

I've made it this far driving on the "wrong" (left) side of the road and navigating roundabouts backwards. Surely I can find a parking space. But wow, this place is packed. No signs I can see mention anything even remotely close to what I'm looking for. (Though it is very dark outside.) Yet my trusty navigation system tells me I have arrived. I stop the car, roll down the window and ask a friendly looking couple walking along the sidewalk: "Where is the lecture theater?"

"You're here. It's right there." They point across the street. "There's one more parking space back there," the

woman says, pointing behind them. The small driveway is tucked between two university buildings. I smile, wave and thank them and maneuver my rental car into the one final spot.



I've come a long way to see this. Fact is, there are many Kiwanis clubs around the world with signature projects that touch thousands of lives. These are the projects legends are made of—or at least make for great Kiwanis stories. This is one of those stories. After hearing about the New Zealand science fairs for years, I had to come here to see it for myself, and to see what Kiwanis in this country are doing with this

widespread project that—this year alone—will reach more than 20,000 students. This is the first stop on my multi-city tour. I just got off the plane after 26-plus hours of travel and drove directly here, to the University of Waikato, Hamilton, on the North Island. All for science.

I find my way with the rest of the crowd and settle into my seat in the auditorium. Kiwanis members, along with representatives from science fair sponsor the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, are at the front of the room, surrounded by tables of prizes, including certificates, trophies and gifts. As things get underway, one by one, the science fair students are called to the front of the room to receive their prizes. By the end of the night, thousands of dollars of prize money have been awarded and another year of the NIWA Waikato Regional Science and Technology Fair is in the books.

Now that I'm here, I finally get to put a face to the Kiwanian whose name I know only through emails. Murray Price is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Westside Hamilton. He's been right up front, in the thick of things, and he tells me Kiwanis has been active with science fairs in New Zealand since, well, since the beginning. As has his club.

"We've always been involved," he says. "We're here for the setup, and we run it. We provide security



and lunch for the judges. There are 50 judges, you know. That's quite a few. Then of course we dismantle and pack up."

It's tough to make a list of all the ways Kiwanis has worked with science fairs here. And I tried. But as soon as we think the list is final, someone calls out something else from across the room. "Remember that time when we ..." If a Kiwanis nation were known for a signature project, it would be New Zealand and science fairs. It's just what they do.

Price reports there were about 400 entries in this year's Waikato fair, which is down from other years but up from this past year. In its heyday, Price says, there would be about 600 entries. But entries have dropped off quite a bit—especially among seniors. Price says first and foremost, the schools that do well in the science fairs simply must have passionate and dedicated teachers behind the scenes, pushing the students. St. Peter's School is an example. The school has at least one dedicated science teacher at the science fair—and multiple winners.

Some even won multiple prizes.

Sam Frengley is a senior at St. Peter's School. It's the end of the ceremony, and he's having trouble juggling all of the balloons, certificates, gifts and the Best in Fair 2015 trophy he won for his soil-analysis display, The 'Phate of a Gully, as he talks about one of his special honors, a NIWA scholarship.

"I will get to work over the summer with NIWA on a project that I choose, with their help, of course," says Frengley, who has taken part in the science fair for three years. "It's important getting young people involved in the realm of science. It's good for people who want to work in a science-related field, and it's great for the progression of society."

#### ON TO ROTORUA

It's a couple days later, and I've made it to Rotorua, to the NIWA Bay of Plenty Science and Technology Fair. I'm standing in a sea of young scholars, their school uniforms creating a colorful motion blur as they whiz by me in all directions, chatting, laughing,

comparing, discussing. The ones who aren't moving about have taken to the floor—some sitting, some napping—the long hours and hard work showing some signs of wear and tear. I maneuver carefully, so as not to get blown over by or to step on a young Kiwi.

Asty Bosley and Leah Jones take a minute to talk to me about their project, Re-Think Your Drink. The 13-year-old girls chose the project to show how much sugar their classmates from Rotorua Lakes High School consume.

"It was very interesting to find out that heaps of our classmates weren't quite educated on how much sugar is in the typical fizzy drink," Leah tells me matter-of-factly, pointing out that many students didn't realize orange Fanta beats all the competition from their tests—44 grams of sugar compared with Coke's 38 and Sprite's 35.

The girls are well spoken while explaining their project. They are poised and play well off one another's answers. Just going through the steps of the Scientific Method isn't enough—students must be prepared to present what they've learned and answer questions thrown their way. Bosley and Jones handle it like pros. And they even have some advice for any students considering taking part in a future science fair.

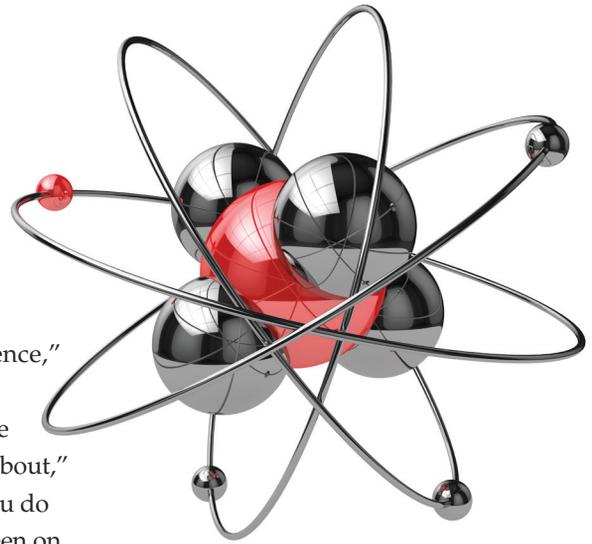
"Just do it because it's really

fun. And it's a great experience," Bosley says.

"But pick something you're interested in learning more about," Jones advises. "Because if you do something you're not that keen on, you probably won't do a good job."

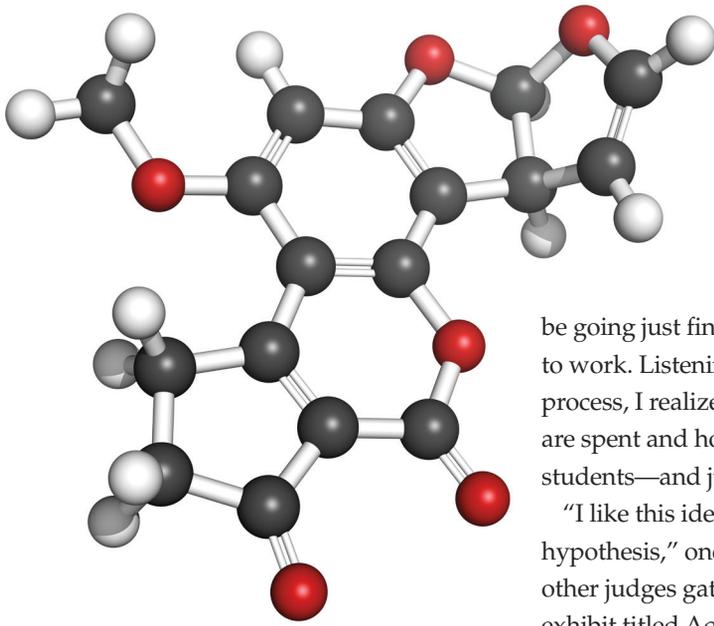
The girls' Re-Think Your Drink exhibit won the Rotorua Lakes Council Mayoral Award.

As students wait to discuss their exhibits with the judges, Kiwanian Mark Franken is playing maestro. He's pointing this way and that, getting students, judges and visitors where they need to be. He's flanked on both sides by other dedicated Kiwanis members doing their own pointing and filling out of paperwork and acting as greeters. It takes many, many hours of hard work to bring this science fair together. And everything seems to



"It's important getting young people involved in the realm of science."





“We are encouraging children into fields of science and technology.”

be going just fine as the judges get to work. Listening in on the judging process, I realize how many hours are spent and how seriously the students—and judges—take this.

“I like this idea; again, an original hypothesis,” one judge says to the other judges gathered around an exhibit titled Aquaponics Ticks all the Boxes. “She shows curiosity, she put a good process together, she had some great results.”

There are lots of nods and “m-hmms” to show agreement.

As they move on to another project: “This one has real commercial potential. He’s considered all angles and scenarios. He also talked about the marketing of it online.”

The project is Speed Whiz, by 11-year-old Cole Anderson. Anderson developed a road safety sign that adjusts the speed limit based

on the amount of water that falls on a sensor on the sign.

“I made this because I thought it was a bit weird when you see that it’s pouring down rain and the sign says 100 kilometers per hour,” he says. “You really shouldn’t go that fast when it’s raining.”

This science fair isn’t new to Anderson’s family. In fact, he sits to talk to me. Beside him is his older brother, Finn, who finished second last year and brought home several awards this year for his ongoing project: a carrier for boogie boards and knee boards. He tells me it’s “for people with short arms, like me.” Finn already has gained the attention of a surf shop that’s interested in selling his product. Once it’s finished, of course. The boys take home quite a bit of prize money, but they aren’t bragging about it.

“We do feel a bit bad since we both won,” Best in Fair award winner Cole says.

When the crowds have thinned, Franken sits down to tell me how things went.

“Some Kiwanis clubs simply put up a prize, but here, we are setting up the whole thing,” says Franken, member of the Kiwanis Club of Roto Whenua, Rotorua. “This year, I’ve seen some wonderfully inventive stuff. When you get an overall winner who is only intermediate age, you wonder what they’re



going to come up with in the future. Certainly some stunning things. So, the standard overall was quite high. We had more seniors this year, which is really good. We had 119 exhibits from 13 schools this year, and we gave out about NZ\$5,000 in prize money.

"We are encouraging children into fields of science and technology," he says. "I love talking to kids. It's great fun doing this."

#### FINAL STOP: WELLINGTON

Kiwanian and NIWA Wellington Science Fair Regional Chairman John Warriner stands at the microphone in front of a crowded auditorium inside Victoria University of Wellington. He and a few speakers take their turns with wise words to the students and thanks to the families, and then the 51st Wellington Science & Technology Fair prize-giving is underway.

This fair runs like clockwork. The students are seated in rows by order of their prize, meaning the process from standing, walking to the front of the auditorium and back to the assigned seat goes perfectly, in a somewhat circular pattern, with students popping up and down and walking around in controlled chaos. Think of a Rube Goldberg machine. Only with people.

Winners at the Wellington science fair have a lot to be proud of—awards range from \$1,000 in



cash to an iPad to a \$4,000 scholarship toward fees in the first year at Victoria University, granted you are planning to study science or engineering. In total: \$15,000 in prizes. There are 37 prizes listed in the program and almost as many sponsors. This is not only a NIWA and Kiwanis event—this is a community event.

"We're pulling it off, but we're not on our own," says Warriner, member of the Kiwanis Club of Wellington. "We work with some really magical people in the community. We work as a team.

"If anybody's ever thinking about starting something like this, you'll find that it self-advertises," he explains. "It will be the same formula, but we can all do it slightly differently."

Jacki Ormsby is 13 and attends

Wadestown School. She took part in the science fair last year and won seven awards this year, including Best Overall Exhibit, for her project titled Would Wood Filter?

"I wanted to make a water filter that could be used in an emergency," she tells me after the prize-giving ceremony. "And I wanted it to be made of natural ingredients."

She said she was surprised to find that white pine trees were being used to filter water in the United States, but when she tried pine in New Zealand, it didn't work at all.

"I wanted to use native trees from New Zealand," she says. "And seeing the difference between the U.S. and New Zealand was interesting."

Jackie also has some advice for anyone thinking about entering a project in a science fair: "Do it." ☐



# Oh, Canada!

**TORONTO PLAYS HOST TO KIWANIS-FAMILY CONVENTIONS AND HELPS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF KIWANIS IN CANADA.**

PHOTOS BY JACK BROCKLEY, ALVIN VU AND MICHELLE GIBSON

**H**ow do you follow a 100th birthday party? You have another party the next year.

Twelve months after celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding, Kiwanis International celebrated another centennial this past July: 100 years of Kiwanis in Canada. And what better place than the 2016 Kiwanis International convention in Toronto, Ontario!

Our guests included Circle K and Aktion Club members, who were in Canada for their own conventions.

Instead of cake, we gobbled up Tim Hortons' donuts. Instead of singing "Happy Birthday," we accompanied Choir!Choir!Choir! (opposite page, bottom left) in a massive singalong of "Sweet Caroline."



We spent time together: President Sue Petrisin (top, left) presided. Donuts and drinks lured passersby to Kiwanis Canada's birthday party in the park. UNICEF reps greeted us in the World Showcase. And we traded clothing that featured our old branding for officially branded "Superpower" T-shirts.





We had fun: We mingled with CKI members (opposite page, top and middle left), and posed as Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers.

We were inspired: Punk rocker Talli Osborne (top row, second from left), who was born without arms and with no bones in her legs, entered the Fellowship Breakfast stage and declared: "I'm unique and happy, and I wouldn't change a thing about me if I could."

At our Opening Session, Canadian astronaut Colonel Chris Hadfield (above) strapped us into the seat of a NASA space shuttle for a ride beyond the sky and dared us to turn impossibilities into possibilities.

We served: CKI members volunteered at a Habitat for Humanity build (left), and club representatives debated proposed amendments during the House of Delegates (opposite page, bottom left).



38





We conducted business: CKI elected Andrew Liguez as its trustee-at-large; Shayna Cole, president; and Steven McCarty, vice president (opposite page, top left). And Kiwanis delegates chose Jane Erickson (in green blazer) and Poly Lat (opposite page, top right) as 2016–17 president and vice president, respectively.

We learned: Aktion Club members (above) shared stories at their Training and Leadership Conference. Kiwanians visited The Formula booth (bottom right) to tell how they're strengthening their clubs. Key Club International President Rip Livingston (left, in jacket and tie) reminded us that there is a lot that adults and teens can teach one another.

We enjoyed: Singer/storyteller Jewel (with guitar) mixed tales of her adventurous life with past and current songs. Your Generation (opposite page, bottom left) brought the audience to the dance floor with a playlist that covered Michael Jackson, Journey and Pharrell Williams. And everyday, Kiwanis Music Festival performers showed off their talents.

# showcase



## THRILL RIDE

DREAM CARS FULFILL CHILDREN'S DREAMS.

STORY BY FABIENNE APRIL • PHOTOS BY ROMUALD GOUDEAU

« Super ! Merveilleux ! Très bien !  
Rapide, ça surprend. J'ai pas eu peur ! »  
("Great! Marvelous! Very good! Fast;  
it was startling. I didn't get scared!")

Such are the comments as people emerge from Porsches, Ferraris and Mercedes after taking laps around the Piste de Fontenay-le-Comte, a raceway in west-central France. A

long line of anxious but excited kids and parents extends around the parking lot. The roar of powerful engines calls them. Those too skittish to ride can stroll through the rows of sporty Aston Martins, luxurious Maseratis, stylish Lotuses and other models new and old.

Or they can listen to music and sip a soft drink or coffee at the Kiwanis booth.

The event, "Voitures de rêve" (Dream Cars) is organized by the Fontenay-le-Comte Kiwanis Club as both a service and a fundraising project. It demands the Kiwanians' finely-tuned organizational skills. In return, as President Daniel Garnier remarks, it rewards members by bringing them closer together.

In the morning, the supercar drivers take laps around the racetrack.

Then they open their car doors to passengers—children with disabilities—for the thrill of their lives. In the afternoon, anyone can pay 15 euros to ride three circuits around the track at speeds reaching a knuckle-whitening 270 kilometers per hour (nearly 168 miles per hour).

Everybody wins: the drivers, children, the general public and the Kiwanis club.

Marie-Josée Turbé, director of two nearby medico-educational institutes, selects the youth who get rides. She chooses carefully, as some with autism may fear the experience.

"They often talk fondly of their drivers, establish a bond with them and learn new words related to racing," Turbé says. "It's satisfying to see how proud the drivers are to have the kids in their cars. They're very gentle with them."

A record 603 people enjoyed a ride on a gorgeous, sunny day at the 5th annual Rêves d'enfants, with more than 2,000 attending.





# showcase



## HELLO, SUMMER

WISCONSIN COMMUNITY WELCOMES SUMMER WITH A LAKESIDE BEACH PARTY.

STORY BY DANIELLE KARSTENS

As live music echoes across the lakefront, the crowds at the annual Pewaukee Kiwanis Beach Party celebrate the beginning of summer with delicious barbecue and ice-cold beverages. For two days, celebrants soak up the sunshine while partaking in family-friendly activities, including water sports, face painting, a pancake breakfast

and, of course, plenty of food, drinks and dancing.

"It's such a fun event and everyone in the community shows up," Kiwanis member Robbin Lyons says. "It's very easygoing and is always a great time!"

The beach party has been an event in Pewaukee since 1994. This past year's schedule included

water-skiing performances, a robotics club demonstration and live entertainment from 7 to 11 p.m. Nearly 40 sponsors signed up to attach their names to what's billed as "the best little beach party in Waukesha County."

"My favorite part is walking around and seeing everyone enjoying themselves after all of our hard work of putting our event together," says Pat Gallagher, Kiwanis member and event chairwoman.

In 2015, the club had record attendance and—even with free admission and parking—raised US\$57,000. Proceeds are donated to several local charities, including a food bank, education fund and library.

"There are many long hours, but when you see a record number of attendees, it makes it all worth it," Gallagher says. "And it's great to see the after-effects. We make many donations in-person with big check presentations, which is a very nice experience!"





# 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 [kiwanisone.org/charter](http://kiwanisone.org/charter).**



**CKI** Circle K  
International

# showcase



## PAST PORTAL

FOSSILS, MINERALS, ARTIFACTS CONNECT COMMUNITY'S HISTORY TO ITS FUTURE.

STORY BY KAREN PYLE TRENT • PHOTOS BY KEVIN BENNETT

Not many Kiwanis clubs have their own building for club meetings and a museum. But members of the Kiwanis Club of Three Rivers, Milo-Brownville, Maine, can proudly say they have both—thanks to the vision and generosity of Kiwanian Thomas Harrigan.

Construction of the Harrigan Learning Center, a museum adjacent to the Kiwanis building, showcases the minerals, fossils and artifacts that Harrigan and his wife, Nancy, who is

also a club member, have gathered during their worldwide travels. The couple's post-retirement archaeological adventures would "intrigue even Indiana Jones," according to Maine's Bangor Daily News.

"We realized we had the makings of a museum in our house," Harrigan says. "We hope that the learning center will help people learn more, will bring them here and will help develop our community by doing so."

Eight artists' murals, various displays, and even a fluorescent mineral room are some of the center's highlights.

Building on the success of the first Kiwanis structure, the museum helps the Three Rivers Kiwanians do what Kiwanis does best: reach out to the community. Future plans for the property include a lake and park.

"If you don't shoot high," Harrigan says, "you just don't get anywhere."





Share your story.  
Strengthen our future.



Think about what you love about Kiwanis. The service. The impact. The fellowship. Then think about people who would love those things too—and the impact they could help us make. That's where you come in. And that's why your story matters.

Share what you love. So you can live what you love.  
Make your story a part of your formula for the future.

# THE FORMULA

[kiwanis.org/theformula](http://kiwanis.org/theformula)

LOVE IT. SHARE IT. LIVE IT.  **Kiwanis**<sup>®</sup>

## EMPOWERING YOUNG MOTHERS

ADOLESCENT MOTHERS IN JAMAICA ARE NOT DEFINED BY THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES.

STORY BY TAMARA STEVENS

Natalie Lue-Fung, an alumna of the Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation, encourages young women to value themselves "through the eyes of God instead of others who don't understand their struggles."

"Use your challenges as nourishment to achieve great things," Lue-Fung told 50 teen mothers at a panel discussion organized by the Kiwanis Club of Young Professionals, Kingston, Jamaica. Lue-Fung commended the WCJF for assisting her through the many challenges she overcame as a teen mother, including homelessness.

Adolescent pregnancy remains a contributing factor to the disruption of teenage girls' education in Jamaica, despite the downward trending rate of teen births, according to statistics from the WCJF. The Kiwanis club organized the panel discussion to empower adolescent mothers and celebrate this year's International Women's Day with the theme "Pledge for Parity."

The panel featured an author university lecturer, an attorney-at-law and even a member of parliament. They shared their personal experiences as young mothers themselves and their journeys to becoming influential trailblazers in their respective fields.

"Education travels wide, renews

with age and keeps on giving," said University of West Indies, Mona, lecturer Donna Hope-Marquis. She told the 50 young audience members that it was her determination to pursue academic excellence that enabled her to overcome poverty. She challenged the young ladies to take advantage of similar opportunities so they can shape the future they desire.

"Having a strong support system in the form of family and friends helped me to overcome being a

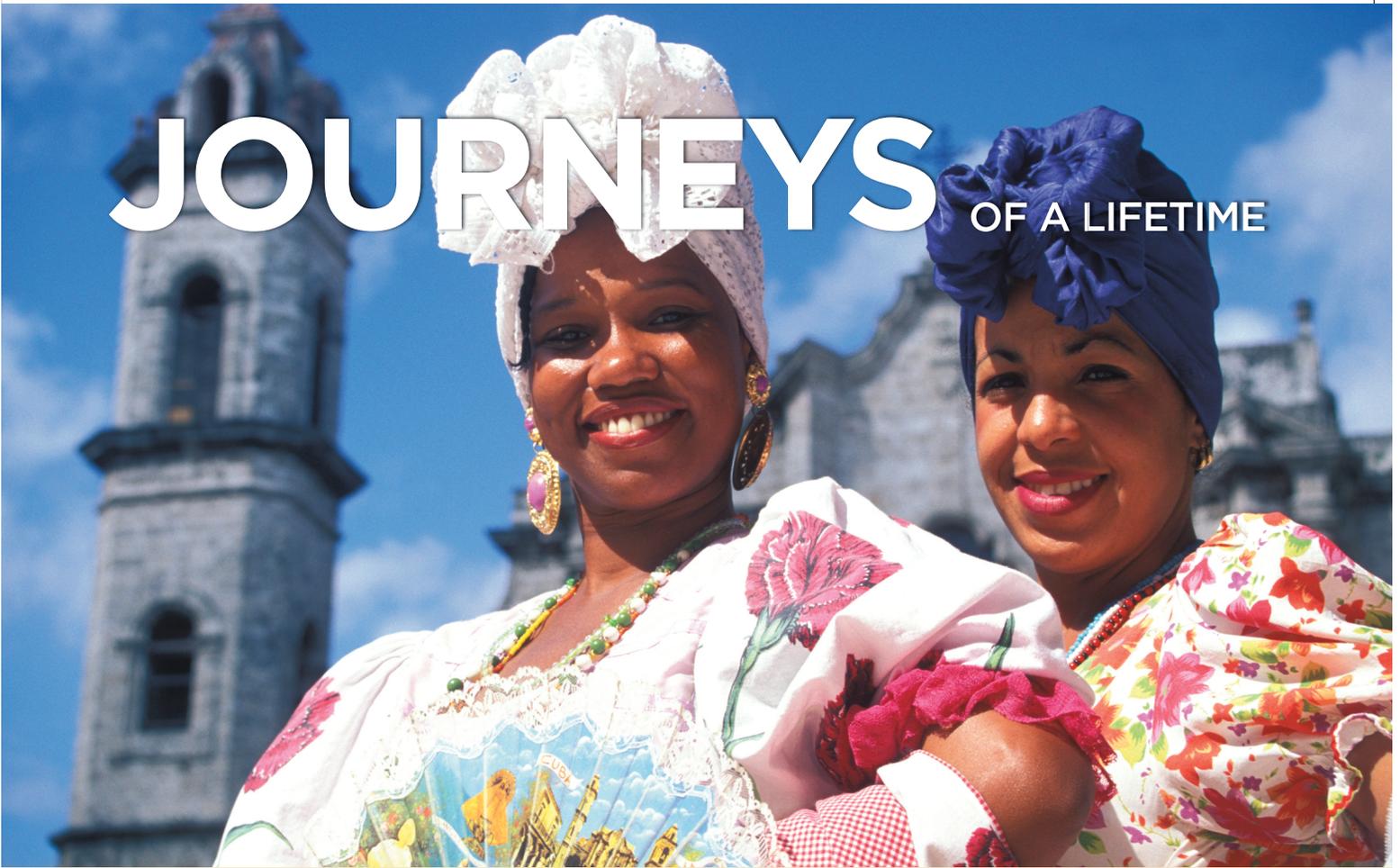
teen mother," says Althea McBean, attorney-at-law. "Do not let others define you by your pregnancy, but instead define yourself and have a plan for your life."

The club was selective about the women chosen for the panel.

"We were fortunate to have found the right individuals who have a passion and shared our vision of empowerment for adolescent mothers," says Patricia Valentine, chairwoman of the Kiwanis club's public relations committee.



# JOURNEYS OF A LIFETIME



Back by popular demand is our exciting program in **Cuba - The People Culture and Art**, on the enigmatic Caribbean island nation from **November 20 - 28, 2016**.

Your exclusive Small-Group experience is limited to no more than 28 travelers:

- Experience urban life in **Cienfuegos, Trinidad** and **Havana**, and get a glimpse of rural Cuba in the western province of **Pinar del Río**.
- Meet members of Cuba's arts community during **visits with artists, dancers and musicians** in their studios and performance spaces.
- Discover the **religions of Cuba** and the role they play in daily life during dialogues with both clergy and congregants.
- Visit the home of **Ernest Hemingway**, world famous author and former island resident.
- Sample **authentic local cuisine** with an **all-inclusive meal plan** at both state-run and privately owned restaurants.
- Interact with locals during **daily people-to-people exchanges** and **informative educational discussions**.

There is nothing more thrilling than embarking on a journey to discover the world's profound landmarks, as well as the secret gems that only locals know about. Kiwanis Travel itineraries offer the best-laid plans, unique opportunities and blissful respites for discovering magical moments. Especially in Cuba.

Call or visit us online to learn about Cuba and our other destinations. Gain insider access to a vast array of savings opportunities and travel benefits.



**Kiwanis**

TRAVEL

[kiwanis.ahitravel.com](http://kiwanis.ahitravel.com) | 877-572-5159

we asked every district to appoint a youth protection coordinator (manager) to help communicate to and educate our clubs. We initiated the requirement that officers of the organization must complete a clear criminal history background check every two years. And, we created a comprehensive criminal history background check process managed by Kiwanis International to ensure this is administered carefully and confidentially.

In October of this year, we will introduce the next layer of protection: All Kiwanis members who serve as advisors to youth clubs should also have a clear criminal history background check every two years. We advise any Kiwanis member working with youth should also get the background check completed.

Of course, this adds some complex-

ity to how we administer our Service Leadership Programs clubs (Key Club,

“First and foremost, our goal is to protect the children and youth—and their families—whom we serve. The protections we’ve put in place as an organization are primarily designed to provide a safe space for these minors.”

Aktion Club, Builders Club, K-Kids and other programs), and we understand

it adds some cost for the background check. The consequences of abuse on a child, a family and a community is incalculable; financially, the average settlement for an abuse claim or lawsuit involving a child is US\$300,000, so spending \$25 for a background check, every two years, seems like a pretty good investment.

The week of September 11–17 is Youth Protection Week, and we hope every Kiwanis club will spend some time at its meeting that week (or any week in September) reviewing these guidelines with its entire membership. For more information, visit [kiwanis.org/youthprotection](http://kiwanis.org/youthprotection).

The children and youth we serve deserve the very highest level of protection we can provide. I ask you to join me in taking the extra steps necessary to protect Kiwanis and our programs for children.

## BIRTHDAYS

These clubs are celebrating their 25th, 50th, 75th and 100th anniversaries in September. For a complete list of birthdays, visit [kiwanis.org/birthdays](http://kiwanis.org/birthdays).

### 100TH—1916

Lafayette, Indiana, September 8  
Aurora, Illinois, September 20  
Utica, New York, September 23

### 75TH—1941

Hastings, Michigan, September 25

### 50TH—1966

Camarillo, California, September 6  
Montego Bay, Jamaica, September 10  
Ocho Rios, Jamaica, September 12  
Brookville, Ohio, September 14

### 25TH—1991

Yuan Chang, Yuan Lin Town, Taiwan, September 1  
St. Martinville, Louisiana, September 4  
Bayreuth, Germany, September 9  
Overijse Druivenland, Belgium, September 9  
Pays de Herve, Belgium, September 9  
Oldenzaal, Netherlands, September 10  
Freiburg-Isis, Germany, September 12  
Ozark Area, Arkansas, September 12  
Münster, Germany, September 16  
Oyonnax-Nantua, France, September 16  
Hwa Hsin, Taiwan, September 21  
Woodridge, Illinois, September 24  
Colon, Michigan, September 25

Yung Ho, Taipei Hsien, Taiwan, September 25

Ts’Ao Tun, Taichung, Taiwan, September 25

Faribault, Minnesota, September 26

Lakeland Area, Minocqua, Wisconsin, September 26

Kuang Ming, Taichung City, Taiwan, September 27

Golden Nuggets (The), Boulder, Colorado, September 30

Mouvoux, France, September 30

Myau Feng, Taiwan, September 30

Rolling Meadows, Illinois, September 30

## FOR NEW CLUB PRESIDENTS



Leaders need knowledge.  
Get it before you begin.

A new club president earns respect by putting knowledge into action. Get it with Kiwanis International's education for club presidents. Be the leader who improves the club experience—and takes members' energy to new heights. Learn to use tools such as member surveys. Find ways to stabilize or increase membership. Increase participation at international and district events.

And there's a lot more. Sign up—so you're ready to hit the ground running.

---

**Check your district website  
for times and locations.**



**Kiwanis**<sup>®</sup>  
UNIVERSITY

## UPGRADE YOUR PROJECT

INCREASE THE IMPACT OF YOUR CLUB'S LITERACY PROGRAM WITH THESE SUGGESTIONS.

If your club already operates a literacy project, here are a few suggestions from Dillon Kalkhurst, director of community-social-volunteer engagement for Scholastic Book Fairs, a Kiwanis International Promotional Partner. Some common projects can be upgraded by adding the ideas below.

**Project: Deliver dictionaries to third-graders.**

**Consider:** Helping parents expose their children to more vocabulary *before* the third grade. Providing parents with a good variety of read-aloud books exposes their children to more vocabulary words, thus helping their comprehension of classroom lessons and activities as they grow through school.

The 30 Million Word Gap reports that by the age of 3, children born into low-income families heard roughly 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers. Providing parents with read-aloud books helps alleviate the word gap and level the playing field.

**Project: Reading to elementary students once a month.**

**Consider:** Adding some consistency. Students who are mentored or read to by an adult perform better when it is the same person on a weekly basis. The students get to know the adult reader or mentor and feel more comfortable. Consistency also helps mentors as well, because over time, they learn their student's specific and unique challenges. A Kiwanis Reading Oasis provides a club with a consistent location in the school where reading and mentoring takes place on a regular, more frequent basis.

**Project: Giving a free book to each "graduating" kindergarten student.**

**Consider:** Providing "life lessons" books they will keep forever. A few good ones: "Oh the Places You'll Go" by Dr. Seuss, "Juni B. Jones is a Graduation Girl" by Barbara Park and "Only One You" by Linda Kranz. The selections should be research-based and aligned with the child's reading levels.

If your school is hosting a Scholastic Book Summer Reading Book Fair, give parents and children a reading certificate so they can select a book to start their home library. You may also think about giving the parent of a graduating kindergartner a read-aloud book that is above their child's reading level. Children's listening levels are about two years ahead of their reading levels up until around the 10th grade. Parents have a wonderful opportunity to expose their children to advanced vocabulary by reading to and with them.



# Music is Joy

**Rhapsody™ Outdoor Musical Instruments invite kids and adults of all ages to join the band.** This superior collection of chimes, metallophones and drums welcome polished musicians and musical newbies alike to explore the power of rhythm, experience subtle shifts in tone, and discover the many ways individual sounds can be creatively combined. They're the perfect addition to playgrounds, community centers, schools, senior centers, and more.

Learn more about adding the joy of music to your Kiwanis community at [playlsi.com/rhapsody](http://playlsi.com/rhapsody).

Landscape Structures is a proud vision partner working with Kiwanis to bring play and playgrounds to communities across the globe.

*LS*  
landscape  
structures®

*Proud Vision Partner*

 **Kiwanis**



763.972.5200 • 888.438.6574 • [playlsi.com](http://playlsi.com)

©2016 Landscape Structures Inc.



### WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

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



# PASS IT ON

### KIWANIS MAGAZINE

is filled with great stories, but only Kiwanis members get to see the magazine. So how about we spread our Kiwanis stories all over social media?

Visit [kiwanismagazine.org](http://kiwanismagazine.org) to read about great Kiwanis projects, then share those stories and photos via social media buttons found right on the page. It's that easy.

When you read something you love, pass it on.

#kidsneedkiwanis #kiwanis

