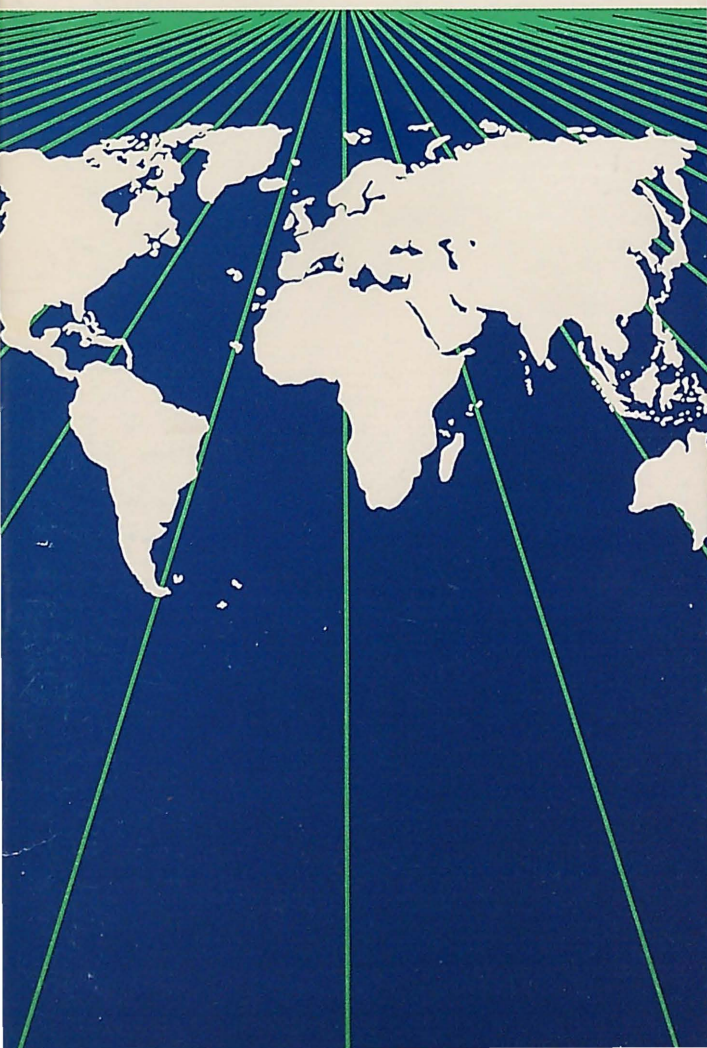


1996-97 Edition

Kiwanis in ACTION



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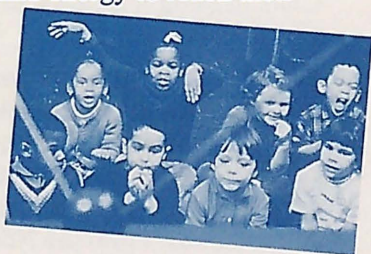
Introduction

Kiwanis ... Creating Our Own Reality.

In life we use a term to express unending possibilities, "Create our own reality." This means that when we, Kiwanians, accomplish our goals, our entire outlook changes. Far-fetched ideas becomes conceivable ones and every goal is possible. Need examples to further illustrate this expression? Take a glimpse into current Kiwanis realities:

Our reality of growth...

In 1915, a group of men sought to build an organization that would help people and communities in need. Sharing a commitment to service, they adopted a name reflecting their desire to improve communities and pledged to give both their time and energy to reach their goals. Eighty-one years later, Kiwanis clubs are found around the globe with more than 324,000 female and male members. Committed to service, Kiwanians are proud to sponsor thousands of service projects for their communities.



Our reality of a Worldwide Service Project...

As Kiwanis entered the final decade of the 20th century, it was time to demonstrate its commitment to service through the establishment of *Young Children: Priority One*. Through its Worldwide Service Project, the K-family will achieve what will rank as one of this century's greatest medical triumphs: the virtual elimination of the world's leading

preventable cause of mental retardation, iodine deficiency disorders (IDD). In doing so, we will improve the lives of more than 1.5 billion people at risk in more than 100 countries on four continents—approximately one of every four persons alive today. Future generations of children will never face the threat of mental retardation, cretinism, and a host of physical disabilities caused by IDD.

Our reality of family and youth...

The K-Family is a strong and functional one. The Sponsored Youth Programs have grown in numbers and depth of service. Circle K clubs are giving 100 percent and then some to the Worldwide Service Project, and in the past five years, Key Club has grown 25 percent, demonstrating teen-agers' enthusiasm for voluntarism. More than 55,000 middle-school students have stepped forward to join Builders Club, causing it to triple in size in the past five years.

Our reality of international opportunities for service...

Kiwanis has shown that service cannot be confined to certain areas of the world. People everywhere can now provide service to their communities. From the North American state of Michigan in 1915 to more than 80 countries today, Kiwanis clubs have spread around the globe, working to help communities. Club growth in Mexico and Asia is unprecedented. Since Eastern and Central Europe have opened up, opportunities for growth in the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, and Romania are boundless.

Our Kiwanis reality...

Be proud of our Kiwanis reality but continue to re-create it. Only by imagining and dreaming up new realities can we look forward to fresh, new outlooks of what the K-family can accomplish and become.

Community Services



Outside the snow falls, carolers croon, and Salvation Army ringers shout words of thanks as shoppers throw change in the till. Among this good cheer, members of the **Council Grove** Kiwanis club in **Kansas** realized that some townspeople didn't have the opportunity to enjoy the holiday season.

More than 100 residents of Meadowbrook Manor, a nursing home in Council Grove,



received an extra dose of holiday cheer when Kiwanians and the Council Grove High School Key Club arranged for a party and tour of the town's holiday lights and decorations. For those residents who couldn't venture out, Kiwanians produced a video high-

lighting the tour. Santa Claus (a Kiwanian) also made an appearance while elves (Key Clubbers) delivered gifts to all of the residents. Everyone enjoyed refreshments and singing favorite carols.



Due to the high rate of drug addiction among teen-agers, schools in Sasabe, **Sonora, Mexico**, experienced discipline problems and low test scores. The Frontera Sasabe Kiwanis club tackled the problem by adopting the philosophy: "Busy hands make happy hands."

Working with school administrators and professionals involved in sports and culture, Kiwanians developed activities to keep students occupied. The club arranged tourneys in basketball, soccer, volleyball, and baseball and invited the youth to take part in campaigns such as reforestation, hygiene, and health. At

get-togethers involving kids and club members, the group openly discussed how drugs cause physical, emotional, and academic problems.

Because of these additional activities, drug addiction and its accompanying problems in school dropped, and the youths' interest in community affairs increased.



The city of **New Plymouth, Idaho**, was to

celebrate its 100th anniversary. But when the Kiwanians took a closer look at their city, they realized it was in need of a clean-up campaign.

The Kiwanis club designated a clean-up committee to find out how much trash would need to be collected throughout the city. Enlisting support from the city and National Guard, Kiwanians had trucks and loaders remove the trash. The club promoted the project through fliers and the newspaper. On four different days, community members picked up trash, cleaned and painted buildings, and spruced up neighborhood yards. Having cleaner neighborhoods and city streets gave the community cause to celebrate!



Kiwanians in **South Lyon, Michigan**, invited just about everyone to their Christmas table. The Kiwanis club brought together more than 400 seniors for the South Lyon Kiwanis Senior Christmas Dinner, a memorable evening of fellowship and entertainment for seniors.

Kiwanians notified area nursing homes and mailed invitations to residents ages 70 and older. School buses transported nursing-home



residents to the high school for a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Seniors received the royal treatment as members of the Girl Scouts and National Honor Society served meals and bussed tables. A local personality emceed the event to the tunes of barbershop quartets and ragtime bands.



A soup kitchen in **Goldsboro, North Carolina**, needed peoplepower and the Golden K club members decided to help out. The church kitchen is located in a section of Goldsboro where many of the needy live. Kiwanians made an ambitious plan to help operate the soup kitchen and assist with daily operations.

In one year, Golden K'ers spent more than 3,600 hours serving food, washing trays, and traveling many miles to collect and deliver food and supplies. They helped serve a whopping 24,244 meals during the year.



In the **Italian regions of Calabria and Pulia**, the "blue telephone" has become a lifesaver for many abused children and adults. The phone with the specific hue is a code name for a toll-free number available to abused children and adults. However, the service was in economic trouble because of the increased number of distress calls from children.



When the blue telephone service's president requested help from the Kiwanis Club of Catanzaro to ensure the program's future, members came to the rescue with financial support. Later, Francesca, a blue telephone user, wrote to the company and the Kiwanis club: "Thank you for your help. Now I am no longer afraid."



Maries Village, Rizal, Philippines, had endured flash floods whenever it rained heavily. Not only was the community's safety at risk, the town's drainage system closed due to silt, sand, and gravel build-up. Flash floods affected some 160 residential units and 1,000 residents over the course of 10 years.

The Kiwanis Club of Antipolo West and the Homeowners' Association met to discuss the problems and find solutions. They agreed that the Association would shoulder costs, labor, and materials. The club would provide free technical assistance in planning and supervising the project's construction. After months of planning and hard work, the two groups successfully finished the project. As designed, it prevents the inflow of flood water and the accompanying sand, soil, dirt, and gravel from the adjacent highway.



Project success is spelled o-r-g-a-n-i-z-a-t-i-o-n, according to the Knute Rockne Memorial Kiwanis club in **Granger, Indiana**. The Kiwanians are included in the group of 3,000 volunteers who assist with a community project called Christmas-in-April. Various groups annually come together on one Saturday in April to help clean, rebuild, and repair 20 to 30 selected neighborhood houses.

This project involves thousands of dollars worth of paint, tools, materials, and equipment, all stored, distributed, and delivered from a well-organized warehouse.



When there's graffiti in your neighborhood, who you gonna call? Graffiti Busters, a.k.a. the Kiwanis Club of **Englewood, Colorado**. To earn this pseudonym, the club spent time painting over letters, symbols, and monikers covering walls, garages, and sheds in the community. The club spent \$350 for a paint sprayer and donated it to the city for future graffiti-busting projects.



Seven out of 10 men will suffer from benign enlargement of the prostate gland, and one of 10 will have prostate cancer. Yet, most men don't know what the prostate gland is, where it is located, or the symptoms associated with prostate problems.

Since 70 percent of Philippine men are susceptible to prostate problems, the Kiwanis Club of **Antipolo West, Philippines**, conducted a prostate alert forum in which club members and village residents attended. The chairperson of the Prostate Health Committee of the Philippine Urological Association lectured on the male prostate gland, its function, and diseases, including prostate cancer.

Following the lecture and the question-and-answer period, participants received informative materials.



For the past eight years, Kiwanians in **Geneve-Lac, Switzerland**, have continued "action-apartment," a service project that gives old apartments a

face-lift. The apartments' inhabitants often are older or have disabilities and lack the financial means to make necessary repairs.

On a Saturday, Kiwanians labor from dawn till dusk. They move the furniture and scrub the walls, ceilings, and floors. Along with repainting the walls, ceilings, and woodwork, club members do minor repairs. At the end of the day, the tenant returns to a clean and improved home.



Fund-raising Events



When it comes to helping youth, Kiwanians know no boundaries. Take the Kiwanis Club of **Woodbridge, Virginia**. The club discovered that with the community's dramatic growth, the Boys and Girls' Club membership had increased rapidly, creating a need for more programs, equipment, and services. To meet those needs meant raising additional funds.

With help from the Boys and Girls' Club and enthusiastic Kiwanis members, the club sponsored the Kiwanis Karnival for the Boys and Girls Club. The nine-day event grossed nearly \$75,000 and netted more than \$19,000 for club projects. The club donated \$11,000 to the Prince William Boys and Girls Club, providing a major and lasting impact on the community and club.



The Kiwanis Club of Riversdale, **Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**, is serious when it says "Take a walk." The RIKI Walkathon is an ongoing club project. The club has raised more than \$543,000 (Canadian dollars) over 28 years, donating most of the funds to the Saskatchewan Abilities Council's programs and services for the disabled. The Abilities Council requested the proceeds from the 1995 RIKI Walkathon be used to purchase a new technical services van. The van enables the council to service equipment of persons with severe physical disabilities in local and outlying areas, allowing them to live more independently.

This year's walkathon was a success with nearly 300 participating in the 15 kilometer walk. Providing new hopes for those with disabilities, more than \$22,500 (Canadian dollars) went to purchasing the new van.



When the National Heart Foundation

approached members of the **Glenelg, South Australia**, Kiwanis club to assist in the coordination of its annual Cyclethon, Kiwanians gave their time and energy to the fund-raising project. Along with other metropolitan Kiwanis clubs, Kiwanians provided personnel for the event, staffing the registration desks, parking areas, and drink stands, providing bike registrations, and cooking and serving the festival food.

The Cyclethon raised \$40,000 (Australian dollars) for the National Heart Foundation, proving that working together produces powerful results.



Kiwanians in **Edinboro, Pennsylvania**, consider raising funds for the Worldwide Service Project a game. The Kiwanis club developed "The Game of Edinboro," highlighting area business and individuals and marketing it as a collectable game in the town and surrounding areas.

Using a comprehensive list of businesses around Edinboro, members divided up the workload and "hit the streets." Businesses were asked to purchase a piece of "property" on the board; individuals were asked to be included in the list of "Edinboro Notables" in the center of the board; and a select group of businesses, including the local university, the borough itself, and the Kiwanis club, were asked to purchase the corner squares on the board. The club sold all the squares on the board within one week, and many more businesses asked to be included. After reexamining the project, the club decided to make it a two-sided game with different advertisers on each side.

The club sold 200 games in advance. The remaining games were available for purchase during town summer activities. The club wasn't playing around as it proudly made its first donation in the amount of \$4,500 to the Worldwide Service Project.

Human and Spiritual Values



Wishing to spread goodwill throughout the city of **Atlanta, Georgia**, the Metropolitan-Marietta Kiwanis club conducted a prayer breakfast for a group of urban homeless persons. Wanting to learn more about the needs of homeless people, the club first contacted a downtown-area church. The minister presented an outline of his congregation's objectives and activities, explaining the program's spiritual and physical goals. As a result, Kiwanians gathered a group of homeless people for a spiritual discussion and provided them with one of their basic needs: food.

Kiwanians brought more than 80 people together for an evening of physical and spiritual nourishment. They busily cooked and served a meal of pancakes and sausages while the church provided the spiritual message.



The clacking sound of a spoon hitting a bowl. The steady hum of conversation. The clasp of hands. The bowing of heads. These sounds and images remind us of the first Object of Kiwanis, "To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life." Members of the **Puyallup, Washington** Kiwanis club believed there was no better way to demonstrate this than by hosting an annual prayer breakfast, bringing together people of all religious denominations, Kiwanians and non-Kiwanians alike, for an organized spiritual gathering.

With an attendance of 128 people, the Good Friday event welcomed nine different Kiwanis clubs and other community leaders. Articles and announcements were included in the local newspaper and fliers were distributed

via inter-clubs, mail, and visits to other service organizations. A local author delivered his testimonial of how community support and prayer saved the life of his son.



Kiwanians think big. Clubs like to broaden the community's view of the world and its needs. For example, the Kiwanis Club of **State College, Pennsylvania**, sponsored the community's first "World Day of Prayer"



breakfast, a new venture in the area of prayer breakfasts. At an inn on the Pennsylvania State University campus, community members joined together for food and fellowship. For \$10 a ticket, participants enjoyed breakfast, spiritual music, and keynote talks from various community leaders,

such as Rene Portland, the women's basketball coach at Penn State. The club received countless compliments from all who attended the event, ensuring that it will become an annual celebration to which the community looks forward.



Rarely do we take the time to thank the women and men who provide us with spiritual leadership. The Kiwanis Club of **Alexandria, Louisiana**, decided to change all that by dedicating a day of appreciation to clergy in their community. An annual event scheduled in September, each Kiwanian invited his or her spiritual leader to a luncheon arranged in their honor. Kiwanians and clergy mingled and discussed problems and issues facing their

community, developing relationships that could prove helpful to the community in the future. A rabbi was the guest speaker at the event. More than 15 clergy members and 85 Kiwanians enjoyed the afternoon and experienced true fellowship.



It was a grand event in the Grand Ballroom of a **Texas** resort when the Kiwanis Club of **Lake Conroe-Montgomery County** conducted its second-annual prayer breakfast. Ticket holders enjoyed a good meal and other bonuses. Recognized for his charitable good works, a TV personality from the Houston area delivered an inspirational message, and the Musical Makers, second- and third-grade students from an elementary school, sang a moving medley.

Profits from the spiritually uplifting event went to purchase more books for the club's Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) program in the Montgomery Schools.



In recognition of Kiwanis International's Prayer Week, Kiwanians of the **Plattsburgh** Breakfast club in **New York** held a Prayer Breakfast with a slightly different twist. Because the Plattsburgh Air Force Base would soon be closed, club members organized a program in honor of the base chaplains who had served the base from 1955 to 1995.

Awards were overflowing, with the present chaplain receiving a human and spiritual values plaque and the club being presented an official city proclamation. Representatives of four other Kiwanis clubs attended the breakfast.

International Understanding



Ciao. Gutentag. ¡Hola! Regardless of how you say it, it's nice to be welcomed to a new place. This being the case, the Northlake Golden K in **Decatur, Georgia**, Kiwanis club helped design a program to welcome international students to Atlanta. Those collegians from outside the U.S. in need of housing and friendship attended the welcome reception on a local university campus. After donating money to the program, club members attended the



event and met scores of students. Kiwanians learned that Atlanta's colleges and universities hoped to serve approximately 5,000 students from 100 countries around the world. The reception pro-

vided these students with new friends and housing and helped cure their homesickness.



It's a tradition for Kiwanians to help others — from a neighbor who lives just down the street to someone living in another country. The Kiwanis Club of **Alcoa, Tennessee**, continued this custom by setting up a relief fund for people in Kobe, Japan, who had experienced an earthquake.

Following a club program in the area, the Kiwanians sent news releases to newspapers and radio stations describing the damaged area

and the relief fund. Individuals in the community and members of the K-family raised \$620 for this effort.



The Kiwanis Club of **Montreal-St. George Inc., Quebec**, strengthened international ties by hosting a meeting commemo-



rating the Canada-U.S. Goodwill Week. Eighty Kiwanians from more than six Canadian and U.S. clubs attended the luncheon and listened to a well-known Canadian TV and radio personality speak about friendship and remembering veterans of past battles. The large group mingled the rest of the afternoon while touring the city's cathedrals and other Montreal sites.



Despite the occasional binge on chips or sweet desserts, most of us follow a sound diet that offers vitamins and essential nutrients. However, many people don't realize — or have money to purchase — the good foods necessary for the body and mind.

As a *Young Children: Priority One* project, Division 2 of the **Ohio** District gave a check for \$250 to a nutrition center in Haiti. The center provides meals several times a week to mothers and their children and trains mothers about the importance of proper diet and vitamins. Since most of the mothers are illiterate, training materials feature pictures of the various food groups. The staff also weighs the babies and checks for any health and development problems. Through a project such as this, Haitian families understand that Kiwanis is truly international.



Seeing is believing and doing is achieving.

That must be the philosophy motivating the Kiwanis Club of **El Reno, Oklahoma**. The Kiwanians recognize the importance of helping those around the globe and collects and disperses used eyeglasses to developing countries, currently benefiting more than 6,000 people. The project has required very little manpower or service hours but has involved all club members.



Everyone needs a good meal, including the Danish gymnastic team that visited the Madison County 4-H club in **North Carolina**. The Kiwanis Club of **Madison County** agreed to provide breakfast for the athletes and their host families.

Using the college dining room and food services staff, the club provided breakfast for 42 people.

The group of 21 young people ranged in age from six to 18 years. Three club members hosted several of the Danish children during their two-day visit. The Kiwanians were happy to provide the Danish and American students with an opportunity to foster international understanding and friendship.



K-Family



Kiwanians of the **Clifton, Cincinnati, Ohio**, club have seen firsthand the benefits of working hard to increase the number of youth in the K-family. As a co-sponsor of a Circle K club, the club wished to form and sponsor another level of the K-family, a Key Club. Despite changes in the high school's administration and faculty, Kiwanians methodically worked with the school and four faculty advisers to develop the Key Club of the Hughes Learning Center. The club committed funds for the Key Club's bell and gavel, banner, member and adviser buttons, and the first two years of International dues. The hard work paid off. The initial membership drive resulted in twenty-nine charter members, all attending the charter party sponsored by Clifton Kiwanis.



Nothing is scary about the Kiwanis Club of **Lansing, Michigan**, taking pride in its Key Club and nurturing the relationship by involving them in service projects.

At this past year's annual Halloween trick or treat event, for example, the Sexton High School Key Club took its first active role. Every year, Kiwanians contact the local pediatric wards of three hospitals to determine the number and ages of youth who will be patients the night of Halloween. Treats are then

purchased: magazines and books for the teens; stuffed toys, coloring books, and crayons for the younger children. Key Clubbers and Kiwanians dressed in Halloween attire and visited the pediatric units to deliver the treats.

This year's event will include even more ghosts and goblins when the newly built Key Club at Eastern High takes part in the night of frightfully good fun.



Lake Tahoe Sunrisers in South **Lake Tahoe, California** recognized that youth needed a venue to funnel their energies. Naturally, forming a Key Club at Whittell High School was the logical solution. The club identified two focused and organized students who gathered enough commitments from their fellow students to qualify for a Key Club. The Sunrisers acted as advisers and assisted them in chartering their club, electing their officers, and conducting their first installation dinner. They also helped establish the students' newsletter and select community-service projects.

The Key Club of Whittell High boasts 42 members with Kiwanians providing approximately 10 hours per month in continued support of the successful club.



While the New England District Kiwanis Foundation supports the Pediatric Trauma Institute to do research and training on the treatment of trauma, Kiwanis clubs work in the area of prevention by coordinating Family Safety Days. For their Family Safety Day event, the Kiwanis Club of **Brewer, Maine**, enlisted the assistance of the Key Club of Brewer High School to tackle the issue of trauma, the number-one killer of children.

Key Clubbers came out strong (37 total) to help Kiwanians with the May event. More than 40 children received bike inspections and helmets and ran the safety course. They also

enjoyed displays put on by the fire department, including a Jaws of Life demonstration to extricate a "victim" (mannequin) from a car crash. Not only was the event beneficial for the children who participated, it also was great to have the K-family side by side working on the project.



The **Cheyenne** Kiwanis club in **Wyoming** believes there is nothing that can match the enthusiasm of youth. That's why the club has built its third Builders Club. The 35 members of the new Builders Club at Johnson Junior High School assisted Kiwanians with the Meals on Wheels program, delivering food to senior citizens and collecting food for the homeless during the Christmas holiday.

The group even has helped its fellow classmates. The club raised \$275 for a student whose family home had burned down in January. In the future, the club plans to raise funds to buy a headstone for a deceased classmate. The school's principal said that the Builders Club has exceeded his expectations: "They're a super bunch of kids who have done a lot for the school and community."



The Kiwanis Club of **Wilton Manors, Florida**, wanted to bring kids and families together and demonstrate club support. Club members also wanted the chance to work with its sponsored Key Club. What's a club to do? Sponsor a Kiwanis Kids' Day, of course!

After contacting both television and newspaper to advertise the event, the club recruited the area's high school Key Club to help teach crafts during this one-day event. More than 3,000 families had a great time watching puppet shows, making art projects, and feasting on some tasty treats.

Young Children: Priority One



The Kiwanis Club of **Shelbyville, Tennessee**, came to the rescue when it discovered that local Head Start buildings were in substandard condition. The Kiwanians are long-time Head Start supporters. The program provides educational opportunities for economically disadvantaged young children and their parents, readying kids for school and strengthening their families.

Kiwanians invested more than \$12,000 in building improvements. The club hired con-

tractors to reroof the buildings, added entrance ramps and safety rails, and paved the parking and playground areas. The buildings now accommodate 53



children and conform with government regulations. But these Kiwanians aren't done. The club anticipates funding another project for Head Start.



By building a healthier community for its young people, Kiwanians in North **Charleston, South Carolina**, are keeping with the motto "We Build." North Charleston reported that it was experiencing problems maintaining accurate childhood immunization records. Kiwanians helped develop a plan to alleviate this problem, allowing staff to identify youngsters in need of immunizations.

Club members and their spouses regularly provide hands-on help by pulling medical

charts for patients born from 1989 to the present. Using clinic computers, Kiwanians transfer immunization data from hard-copy records to a computer database. This ongoing program is improving the immunization statistics for young children.



Like many other communities, **Lacey Township, New Jersey**, has many single, working parents who need additional support and parental education. To help these people, the Lacey Township Kiwanis club established a family resource center at the local library.

The club committee consisted of members who expressed enthusiasm for the project or who had expertise in early childhood education, health care, or special needs children. To raise funds, the club coordinated a "Century Club" among its members to finance the center, raising \$1,000 in the past two years. This money has been used to provide the library with children's and parenting books. More than 433,000 Ocean County residents benefit from the Kiwanis Family Resource Center.



Not everyone knows their ABCs. Statistics in 1994 showed 20 of the 70 fifth-graders enrolled in a **Washington, D.C.** middle school could not read. This worried the Kiwanis Club of Capitol Hill since the elementary schools promote children who do not perform at grade level. In response to this dilemma, the club began a pilot summer program to prepare five-year-olds to be more "reading ready" when they entered first grade.

It began with testing for reading-readiness, incorporated intensive reading activities, and provided orientation and educational materials for the children's families and caregivers. Club members who are educators, including a certified reading specialist, contributed their expertise to the project.

Short-term evaluations were positive. When first tested, no child was ready to learn to read, and only four could recognize their own names. Though the club did not achieve its goal of getting the children able to recognize 100 words by sight, significant progress did occur. By the final summer session, all students but three could recognize their names, several had reached the 50-plus "sight"-word reading level, and most others could read 20-plus words. The children — and their devoted Kiwanians — were on their way!

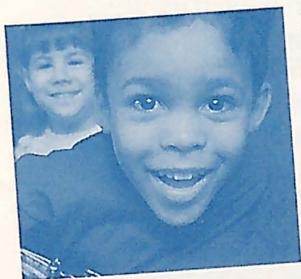


Children begin school with different background experiences, interests, and aptitudes, directly influencing their ability levels and accomplishments. In its second year, the

Preschool Readiness Roundup Project, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of **Starkville, Mississippi**, identified learning difficulties and developed general readiness profiles to help provide quality educa-

tional experiences for young children.

To assess each child's skills, Kiwanians provided a free community-wide screening and evaluation of two- to five-year-old children. Parents were then notified of the results and received resources to help their kids.



The club publicized the project through posters, newspapers, and word-of-mouth communication. Funds raised by concession-stand sales financed the project.



In keeping with the slogan "all their shots while they're tots," Kiwanis members of the



Missoula-Sentinel, Montana, club discovered that many children, prenatal through age two, and even to age five, were not receiving

immunizations because, when administered by a doctor, the series could cost \$100 or more. The Missoula City/County Health Department could only administer such shots at a cost based upon a sliding income scale, prohibiting many families from taking advantage of this opportunity.

With the health department, the club sponsored the community's only free immunization project in a mall. Through public-service announcements on the radio, television, and in the local newspaper, along with incentives donated by area businesses, the club immunized 54 preschool children and administered 107 vaccinations.



Alabama Kiwanians want their state's children to care about reading. So, the southern state's Kiwanians have been long-time supporters of the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) program, which provides books to children and mentors to encourage them.

Alabama's Jean Dean RIF is the largest RIF project serving preschoolers in the United States. It was one of five literacy programs featured in US Secretary of Education Richard Riley's nationally televised Town Meeting.

Working with the RIF program, the club expanded its literacy efforts by adding a project in Spanish for 90 children of migrant workers in St. Clair County. Because of their transient life-style and the language barrier posed by living in an English-speaking country, these children had a difficult time reading. Kiwanians and their friends at RIF are helping to change that.



The Kiwanis Club of **Courtenay, British Columbia**, donated its time and skill to make nearly 25 new pieces of training equipment for kids at the Comox Valley Child Development Center in Cumberland. Resources and finances are tight for the center, so the staff decided to look into what it would cost to buy materials separately and have the equipment built. Enter Kiwanis.

At the request of the center, the club took on the project and went to work immediately. With \$500 (Canadian dollars) in raw materials purchased by the center, Kiwanians made four



sets of children's stools, a tower for climbing, balance beams, two stairway/slide ramps, and much more. After six months of designing and building, the value of the equipment is about \$5,000 (Canadian dollars).



In **Australia**, having a red nose means you either have a cold or are supporting a good cause. National Red Nose Day raises funds for the research and education on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), also called crib death. SIDS is a major cause of death for infants beyond one week of age.

As part of the effort, the Kiwanis Club of **Casuarina, Northern Territory**, sold red noses suitable for wear by people, cars, houses, and buses. The club — and SIDS — won by a nose when Kiwanians raised more than \$500 (Australian dollars) for the *Young Children: Priority One* project.



Youth Services



The Garfield Charter School and its 550 students in kindergarten through the sixth grade needed some attention. The Kiwanis Clubs of **Menlo Park** and **Redwood City, California**, joined forces to make building improvements and address student needs. Not only did Kiwanians encourage businesses to donate more than \$40,000 worth of carpeting, furniture, and artwork to the school, they also coordinated vision screenings for students. Approximately 50 children now have eyeglasses as a result of this screening. More than 50 percent of the clubs' members participated in the project.



Good times at a playground are a large part of a child's growing years. However, a number of disabled children in **Algona, Iowa**, were unable to use any of the city's existing playground equipment because of physical access problems. So, they also were unable to interact with other children.

Along with the city park board, the Algona Kiwanis club financed the purchase of handicapped-accessible playground equipment and paid for its installation. The club used proceeds from its pancake day, fish fry, and radio auction. Not only will disabled children be able to play in the park, they also will develop relationships with other children.



The Kiwanis Club of **Ormond Beach, Florida**, also doesn't play around when it comes to improving playgrounds. Due to a

growing community of young families, the area needed a handicapped-accessible community playground. The city made land available for the project.

The Kiwanis club solicited \$120,000 to finance a professional design and materials. Architects consulted the community's children and used their ideas to create the final design. The club recruited and organized more than 1,500 volunteers to construct the playground. Members from many volunteer organizations assisted with the project while businesses donated money, materials, and food.

The new playground accommodates more than 100 children at a time and also allows for special group events. Its design is being used as a pattern for other similar facilities in Florida.



Teens should think it over before having a baby. Yet, according to the *Kansas Kids Count Data Book*, the rate of births to single teens rose 19 percent between the base study years, 1987-1991, and 1992. The number of reported teen births in Labette County in 1992 was 34, the sixth highest in the state. The **Parsons, Kansas**, Kiwanis club decided to do something about these statistics and help teens with their decision-making processes.

The parenting class instructor helped the club choose the types of babies needed for the classes, including sex, race, healthy and/or drug dependent. The club purchased three "Baby Think It Over" dolls (cost \$650) for the high school's parenting class. "Baby, Think It Over" is a high-technology newborn with a micro-processor in its back. This baby cries at random intervals, day and night, and can be silenced only by being "fed." Feeding this baby demands that the teen-ager insert a key into its back and hold it for twenty to thirty minutes — the average time it takes to feed a

newborn baby. The baby also has the ability to monitor abuse or neglect by storing information in the micro-processor.

The project reaches 20 to 30 students per semester. The club will track the number of teen pregnancies for the next couple of years, hoping to see a decrease.



For one month, members of the **Arezzo, Italy**, club hosted ten children between the ages of 11 and 14 from Belarus. These children were exposed to radiation after the disaster at Chernobyl. Participating Kiwanians became attached to the children and conducted social events and festivities in their honor. Through their personal commitment to the project, club members provided the children with a wonderful experience in a different country, forming friendships and contributing to better health. Club members invested time and energy into the project so that, at the end of the children's visit, the kids took home memories of fun and friendship.



Imagine a miniature downtown with stop-lights, arrows, pedestrian walks, and parking areas.

More than 2,500 students on the island of **New Caledonia** use this area filled with forty road signs to learn traffic rules while on bike, foot, and eventually driving an automobile. The Kiwanis Club of Mont Dore funded and built the track where children come to learn the rules of the road. Law officials use the track to instruct youth about basic rules for pedestrians and drivers.



Thanks to the **West Charleston, West Virginia**, Kiwanis club, underprivileged children in the Charleston area received warm clothes for the winter during the month of goodwill, December. This area contains six elementary schools and 530 low-income rental units, making it the single greatest area of underprivileged children in the Charleston area.

In November, the Christmas Shopping Spree chairperson determined the number of children who could attend the spree. Next, the chairperson notified the schools' principals with a letter containing the criteria for participation and a parental consent form allowing the children to be transported to the activity. The number of children selected from the schools was based on each of the school's population.

On a Saturday in December, 82 children shopped for \$125 worth of warm, durable clothes. They then ventured to the North Charleston Recreation Center for a hot breakfast with Santa Claus and to receive a gift bag overflowing with treats.



The words "summer camp" bring back memories of roasting "s'mores" over a campfire, telling ghost stories before "lights out," and running from one activity to another. Kiwanians in **Fort Frances, Ontario**, wanted to provide these summer-camp experiences for children at a lower cost to families.

The Kiwanis club owns and manages Sunny Cove Camp, located in the Rainy River District of Ontario. The club's project account provides all capital expenditures. The camp's capacity is 104 campers for overnight stays and

is used by various groups, such as youth and church groups, schools, day-care centers, service clubs, and continuing care facilities for the aged. The camp is open from May to the end of September. More than 3,000 people used the camp this past year, making lasting memories for many lucky campers.



Nikes. Air Jordan. K-Swiss. Saucony. Around the world, today's kids sport these popular brand-name shoes. However, in the **Springfield, Missouri**, public school system, 50 percent of all the children born in 1994 were born to families at or below the poverty level. These families were struggling to adequately clothe their children, let alone put fashionable shoes on their feet.

In conjunction with the Springfield Public School System, the Kiwanis Club of the Ozark Empire annually establishes a "shoe bank" for children. The club funds this project with apple sales. Club members sell bushel boxes of apples to their established clientele and new customers for \$30 per box. Customers receive their apples during the last full week of October.

During the school year, Kiwanis club members oversee the shoe bank. Once the school determines who needs shoes, the school counselor provides the children with voucher to exchange at the shoe bank for a new pair of tennis shoes. During the 1994-95 school year, the club spent more than \$11,000 and devoted 632 service hours to fit 698 children with new shoes.



The Kiwanis Club of The Chathams, **New Jersey**, found a way to show teens just how difficult it is to operate a car while under the influence of alcohol. In cooperation with the local police, school administration, and Morris County Highway Traffic Safety Committee, the club helped fund and coordinate a drunken-

driving simulator project at the local high school.

Working with Chrysler Corporation, a 1995 Plymouth Neon was parked at the school for two days. The car was linked to a laptop computer that simulated the danger of driving intoxicated. A trained instructor from the Chrysler Corporation controlled the computer while students took turns driving the automobile. Approximately 470 students and teachers drove and rode in the vehicle, letting students get a “hands-on” feeling of how dangerous it is to drive or ride in a car with an impaired driver.

“Good Morning, America,” a popular morning TV show, aired live coverage of the event, resulting in nationwide exposure.



Kiwanians work hard to educate children about health and safety. Members of the Kiwanis Club of **Oshkosh, Wisconsin**, rolled up their sleeves and got down to business when they conducted a health and safety fair for children. The club first reeled in children and their families by distributing more than 5,000 leaflets to day-care centers and first- and second-graders in the area’s public schools. The publicity paid off with more than 300 children and their parents attending the fair.

By working with other community groups, Kiwanians hosted many activities for the families. Police fingerprinted and made photo IDs of the children; the Oshkosh public health nurses gave free immunizations and information on lead poisoning; and the Oshkosh Fire Department demonstrated ways to escape a smoke-filled house. The fair also offered ambulance tours, bike-safety demonstrations, and resource booths.



During the 1994-95 school year, the Kiwanis Club of **Tyler, Minnesota**, honored second-graders at the local elementary school for being Terrific Kids. Each week, the three second-grade teachers selected one child from each of their classes as the special students for that week. Then on the last Friday of each month, an assembly was conducted in the school gym to honor the Terrific Kids and present them with awards.

Kiwanians are pleased with how this program involves the children, the school, the family, and community members. Steve Carmany, Kiwanis Terrific Kids coordinator, said, "Parents, grandparents, neighbors, and participating businesses came to the assemblies with cameras. The students are so proud of their accomplishment." More than 20 area businesses helped sponsor the program by donating prizes and awards. The real prizes, however, are the pride and self-worth communicated to these students by their teachers, peers, and parents.



As technology grows by leaps and bounds, children should be encouraged in the fields of science. Discovering that the local elementary school didn't sponsor a science fair, the Kiwanis Club of the Rim Country, **Pine-Strawberry, Arizona**, started one so the children could learn about science and how to present it to others. Working with a junior high school science teacher, club members determined the judging criteria, selected prizes, and made the event happen.

Contest entry forms were placed in the school hallways to spark interest and participation. Kiwanians divided into two teams and spent one day judging 48 entries. The children's projects demonstrated versatility and imagination. Club members enjoyed interacting with the children and rewarding them with prizes for their efforts.

Statistics

Though the previous pages represent types of service projects Kiwanis clubs perform, they do not give an overall picture of Kiwanis as a unified service organization. The statistics presented on this page, taken from the 1994-1995 Kiwanis Annual Club Reports, are indicative of Kiwanis International's overall service effort.

Total Service

Funds expended	\$138,573,555
Service hours	5,748,954
Number of projects	133,593

Young Children: Priority One

Funds expended	\$35,148,231
Service hours	1,105,513
Total club participation	4,110

<i>Young Children Projects</i>	Number of Participating Clubs
Immunizations	1,774
Children's Miracle Network	1,653
Child Care	1,228
Reading Is Fundamental	1,117
Head Start	1,050
Parenting Education	1,024
Awareness of Child Abuse	833
Pediatric Trauma	722
Safety Seats	648
Alcohol Awareness	515

Other Service Projects

Sports League Sponsorship	1,940
Special Olympics	1,708
Prayer Breakfast	1,464
Terrific Kids	816

Sponsored Youth Groups

Funds donated	\$10,913,824
Service hours	804,226
Number of projects	14,950

5,893 clubs reporting



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