KIWANIS

WHO WOULD SERVE THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD? MARCH 2017

What if Kiwanis didn't exist?

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Kiwanis

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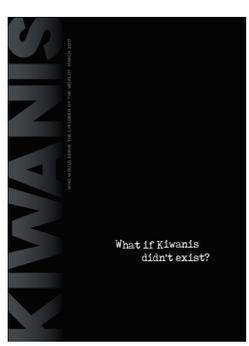

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE PART OF THE 'IN' GROUP

JANE ERICKSON • KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

I was hooked on Kiwanis the first time I saw a child smile and a mom cry because of the service our club provided. Hooked on providing service and hooked on inviting others to join us so that service can be sustained.

During my time as district membership chair, we brought our numbers from a negative 385 to an overall two-member gain. And what fun we had.

One example is our "Bring 'em Back" project to remind us that each member is part of the Kiwanis "IN" group: important and needed. We'd find group photos from service projects, and when anyone missed more than a couple of club meetings, we'd digitally remove the person, leaving a white spot on the photo. And we'd write, "You leave a hole in our club when you're not here." We'd follow up with a call or visit. We also suggested they bring a friend when they returned. Our numbers started to climb, along with the return of missing members.

As I became busy with Kiwanis International business, I missed a number of club meetings and projects. Imagine my delight when I opened a card from my club and it was a group picture of one of my favorite service projects. Someone had added a bright aura around me. The card said, "Come back and brighten us up." I was excited to return. That card reminded me how much I love the group atmosphere of helping kids through Kiwanis.

Kiwanis is important and needed now more than ever before. Kids need Kiwanis!

How will you make each Kiwanian feel important and needed today? Who will you offer the opportunity to be in the Kiwanis IN group today? Which new community will you make feel important and needed with a new Kiwanis club?

Be part of the Kiwanis IN group today!

EXECUTIVE PERSPECTIVE IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

STAN SODERSTROM • KIWANIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Frank Capra's 1946 film "It's a Wonderful Life" is the story of George Bailey, who gives his all to the fictional town of Bedford Falls. Ultimately, he becomes disillusioned to the point of contemplating suicide. His wish that he had never been born is temporarily granted by his guardian angel, Clarence, and George realizes how the entire community is better because he was a part of it.

As we prepared the cover story for this magazine, I was reminded how George Bailey could have been a Kiwanian, and how Bedford Falls would likely have been a Kiwanis community.

Sadly, in recent years, we've seen several hundred Kiwanis clubs die, and the storyline of "It's a Wonderful Life" has played out in real life. First, the Key Club and other youth programs no longer have sponsors. Scholarships disappear. Charities lose funding. Kiwanis shifts from a contributor in the community to a pleasant memory.

I urge you to read "What If Kiwanis Didn't Exist" (page 10). Ask yourself, "What would disappear if my Kiwanis club no longer existed?"

The good news is that thousands of our clubs are still strong and making a difference. The better news is that we, as Kiwanians, are in control of the future of our clubs and our service. The only way we ensure the future of our good works in our community is to bring new members and clubs to Kiwanis.

We can't let our good works disappear. We've never had a greater need for Kiwanis and its George Baileys than we do today. Don't be afraid to share Kiwanis with someone in your community who also cares about children.

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PARIS

ANNUAL CONVENTION
2017

July 13–16, 2017 | kiwanis.org/convention

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

TRENDS, TIPS, FACTS AND FIGURES FROM KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

LEGACY OF PLAY CONTEST

This annual contest sponsored by Landscape Structures, a Kiwanis Vision Partner, will kick off April 13. Discuss with your club how you can create a Legacy of Play in your community by entering to win US$25,000 in playground equipment. Watch Kiwanis' Facebook page for more information.

SIGNATURE PROJECT AWARDS

You can shine a light on the life-changing work Kiwanis clubs in your district are doing through signature projects. This year, Kiwanis International is offering a new Signature Project Recognition Program and Contest. The program and contest will draw attention to the many incredible signature projects Kiwanis clubs are doing around the world to make a difference in communities.

What's a signature project, you ask? Signature projects are service projects, fundraisers or events that:

- Are recurring
- Enhance the Kiwanis brand
- Demonstrate significant service or fundraising impact on the community
- Strengthen membership and partnership opportunities

The goal of this contest is to recognize clubs that participate in signature projects to impact their communities and to inspire all clubs to create exciting signature projects.

Learn more about the contest at kiwanis.org/signatureprojectcontest.

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BOARD ACTION

The Kiwanis International Board of Trustees voted to approve Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, as the location for the 2021 Kiwanis International convention.

For more information about action taken during the January Kiwanis International Board meeting, go to kiwanis.org/boardaction.

SERVING TOGETHER

It's often said that the more hands we have on a project, the more people we can help. Now we're taking that thinking to the next level. Kiwanis International will join forces with Lions Club International, Rotary International, Junior Chamber International and Optimist International for an International Week of Service—a collective effort on an unprecedented scale. Volunteers around the world will come together during the last week of March. Join us as we promote all of our organizations, highlight membership opportunities and reinforce the importance of service, civil engagement and individual responsibility. Learn more through Kiwanis' social media channels.

MARCH FOR BABIES

It's time to lace up your shoes and March for Babies! This March of Dimes event raises funds in the fight against premature birth, giving more moms the chance to have healthy, full-term babies. March for Babies also develops and strengthens your leadership skills, helping you plan events, set and meet goals and inspire a team. Lead a March for Babies event near you. Sign up today at marchforbabies.org.

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"The Formula is what propelled us to becoming a chartered club."

MENTORING AT ITS FINEST

AN EXISTING KIWANIS CLUB LENDS SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE TO HELP FORM ANOTHER.

Moving to a new town and wanting to start a business is no small feat. Nate Nelson knew he wanted to plant roots in his new community, and quickly, so he sought out Kiwanis. His father was a Kiwanian for years, so it seemed like a natural fit for him.

Since the closest Kiwanis club was more than an hour away, Nelson recognized the need for a club closer to his own community. The Grandville Hudsonville Kiwanis Club was made a reality under the guidance of the Grand Rapids North Kiwanis Club.

"The Grand Rapids North Kiwanis Club was instrumental in our new club's success," Nelson says. "First, recognizing that there was a need in our geographical area for a club, they helped us organize others who would benefit from a new club. They took care of many of the administrative and financial duties, and helped us become acclimated to some of the many cultural nuances of Kiwanis, which can be a bit intimidating at first."

After nearly a year, the Grandville Hudsonville group was ready to make the leap to becoming a standalone Kiwanis club. They organized a membership drive, which proved to be very successful.

"The Formula is what propelled us to becoming a chartered club," Nelson says. "The organization and volunteer support was incredible, and in just one week, we went from six members to 16."

Members of The Formula team joined members from the Grand Rapids North Kiwanis Club to knock on business doors and share the Kiwanis message with as many people as possible.

There isn't much about the Grandville Hudsonville club that is in the "traditional" Kiwanis mode.

"We skew much younger than most clubs," Nelson says. "We are also open to meeting at different locations and at different times. Many of us have little kids at home, so we want to be involved in service projects that our kids can participate in as well."

Many unique service ideas have been added to a running list of ways to involve the whole family. Suggestions include having kids decorate bags of donated food, after-school meals, having games donated to the club that interest various age levels, and more.

What does the future hold for the Grandville Hudsonville Kiwanis Club?

"We plan to do a membership drive to bring in new Kiwanis members," Nelson says. "We will focus on community outreach, like The Formula team showed us, and will also concentrate on becoming more involved in our local schools."

To learn more about how The Formula can work for your club, visit kiwanis.org/theformula.

Do you have a success story about The Formula to share? Share it with us by emailing loveit@kiwanis.org.

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IT'S NOT TOO LATE

This is one sweet deal that you just can't miss. Spots are still available to support IHOP® National Pancake Day, where every dollar raised stays local—at your Children's Miracle Network Hospital. Find out how pancakes can help save lives today at kiwanis.org/npd.

SPRING CLEANING WITH KIWANIS WAREHOUSE

Prepare for your spring projects by shopping at the Kiwanis Warehouse, where Kiwanis members receive free ground shipping on all orders regardless of size or volume. Browse through more than 260,000 wholesale products, including gardening tools, garden hoses, paintbrushes, school supplies, arts and crafts, games and toys. Shop now: kiwanis.org/warehouse or call account manager Frank Albanese at 877-837-9569, ext. 157, or email frank@dollardays.com.

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What if Kiwanis didn't exist?

IN A WORLD WITHOUT KIWANIS, KIDS WOULD SUFFER MOST.

STORY BY KASEY JACKSON

Veronica and her children likely would not have a warm meal every day if it weren't for the Kiwanis Club of Sisters, Oregon. Her husband has left. She has no income. She can't make the house payments. She has found a job, but it's far away and pays little—hardly enough to feed her and her children, ages 8 and 2.

Veronica relies heavily on the food she receives from the food bank that's owned and operated by the Kiwanis Club of Sisters. The food bank provides basic staples to more than 200 people per month, and it has for the past 25 years.

Now, imagine: What if that food bank weren't there? What would Veronica and her children—and all the others who turn to the food bank—do? What if the food bank weren't there because the Sisters Kiwanis Club didn't exist?

That's hundreds of hungry people in Sisters, Oregon—and no Kiwanis to help.

Veronica's family relies on Kiwanis. It's not much of an exaggeration to say there are months when they rely on Kiwanis to survive. And they aren't alone. Countless families around the world turn to Kiwanis—and other service organizations like Kiwanis—to make ends meet, to put

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food on the table, for medical support, for scholarship funding, for leadership training and for school supplies. There are also countless families who rely on Kiwanis-funded sports fields, playgrounds, schools and after-school programs. The list goes on and on.

But take Kiwanis out of the equation and Veronica and her family are left hungry. Who will help them? Who will build the playgrounds? Award the scholarships? Provide after-school programs? Who will stock the food pantries?

It's a simple math equation balancing community needs and the human and financial resources needed to fulfill them. And in many communities, Kiwanis is the solution. That means Kiwanis' strength in membership numbers is directly tied to Kiwanis' ability to make a difference through service.

But here's where the math gets troubling: Since about 1992, Kiwanis has steadily lost an average of 2 to 3 percent of members each year. In most clubs, it's a member here and a member there. That's not to say Kiwanis isn't attracting new members. In fact, each year, more than 30,000 people join Kiwanis around the world. It's just not enough to fill the gap left by those who leave Kiwanis or pass away.

"Getting new members is only part of the battle," says Stan Soderstrom, executive director of Kiwanis International. "Keeping the members we have now is by and large the biggest challenge. Statistics show most people are not 'lifers,' meaning they aren't going to remain active in their Kiwanis club until they die. We are seeing that most members remain in Kiwanis for about five or six years. To stay afloat, we need to not only gain members—we need to keep the ones we have as long as we can."

So the question becomes: Do we have enough members to continue serving our communities?

In order to continue providing the service that members have delivered in communities for more than 100 years, Kiwanis must strengthen its membership. Kiwanis must stop losing members. Whether we craft our statement to say, "We have a problem" or "Folks, we're in a bit of a pickle," the meaning is the same. We must do something or Kiwanis could disappear.

22,000 CHILDREN DIE EACH DAY DUE TO POVERTY

UNICEF

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

But there is hope. Kiwanis members have made it their calling to rally and help those who need it most. So it's probably safe to say that most Kiwanis members aren't ready to allow Kiwanis to disappear into the history books. And it's important to note that while Kiwanis' membership numbers might be troubling, we are not alone. Many member organizations are experiencing similar trends in membership and are working hard to identify why this is happening, find new models for attracting members and, most important, create new models to thrive in community service.

So why is Kiwanis losing members? There could be many reasons. Priorities change. People just don't have time anymore. As the older generations age and leave or members pass away, clubs aren't filling these holes with vibrant, younger members. And lately, it's been easier to get hundreds of thousands of people to capture video of themselves dumping ice water over their heads in the name of charity than it is to get someone to pay a membership fee to join an international service organization. People are hungry to give back and help—but the traditional ways of doing so just might not be top-of-mind for most people. Text to donate to a cause? Sure, that's easy. Commit to attending Kiwanis meetings, fundraisers, social events and service projects for at least a year? Not as easy.

A simple search online yields numerous articles about service club membership organizations

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"For associations like Rotary and Kiwanis, member engagement demands a deeper recognition of market forces and consumer behavior. It requires a more personal, experiential view of our members' needs and to better define, understand and deliver what our members truly value."

Brian King
director of membership development, Rotary International

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"When Stars of Tomorrow doesn't happen next year and Kids' Day Races aren't held at the Park County Fair, kids in Powell will certainly notice. We're saddened that local youth will also feel the Kiwanis club's absence in other ways."

Tessa Baker

Excerpt from an editorial dated October 18, 2016, published in the Powell (Wyoming) Tribune

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and their membership woes. One article, published by The New York Times in 1992, proves that concerns about declining membership are nothing new. The reasons for the declining membership, however, may be changing. According to that article, at the time "the most frequently cited reason for the service clubs' decline (was) … the economy." The article, which focuses primarily on U.S. membership numbers, goes on to state that during a recession, people are more likely to worry about their jobs than they are about their Kiwanis (or other service club) meeting. Other reasons for declining numbers included many of the reasons we still state today: Family time is a priority and increased mobility means fewer people have ties to their community.

Fast forward to today, and the conversations around water coolers at Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions are similar: What are the numbers? Where are we growing? Where can we do better?

GLOBALLY, MORE THAN 42 million infants and young children (up to age 5) ARE OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE

World Health Organization

A LOOK AT THE TRENDS

While it's true that Kiwanis' overall membership number is decreasing, that's not the entire story. For instance, Kiwanis is seeing impressive growth in areas such as Taiwan and the Philippines, even while it struggles to keep or add new members at the same rate in North America. This is the case at Rotary International as well.

According to Brian King, director of membership development at Rotary International, membership in Rotary also varies by geographical location—sometimes quite dramatically.

"While membership in North America has been stagnant in recent years—and in some areas, in decline—Rotary in other parts of the world is growing at an extraordinary rate," he says.

This information falls directly in line with statistics released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. According to research for the year ending September 2015, the U.S. volunteer rate declined by 0.4 percentage points to 24.9 percent. That's about 62.6 million volunteers in the United States who volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2014 and September 2015—which is only 25 percent of the adult population in the United States.

For those numbers to mean anything, the average member needs to not only recognize the trend, but also to understand its impact on the organization. That seemingly innocuous, slow membership loss multiplies over time in the thousands of clubs

MORE THAN 780 million PEOPLE LACK ADEQUATE ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER

The Water Project

that make up Kiwanis International. Take the once-healthy club that loses one or two members a year, then multiply it by three decades. Then multiply that by 6,000-plus clubs.

"The average Joe or Jane Kiwanian doesn't necessarily know the structure of Kiwanis International as a whole," says Soderstrom. "This is not a surprise because most clubs are primarily focused on helping their own community. It's not to say the bigger picture isn't important to them. It's just that they are so focused locally that they don't have to think globally. And local affects global when it comes to membership numbers. Individual club membership really does affect the entire organization."

WHY WE DO IT

In the Flanders region of Belgium, at least 800 children rely on the Kiwanis White Ravens project.

The Kiwanis Club of Waasland Sint-Niklaas spearheads the

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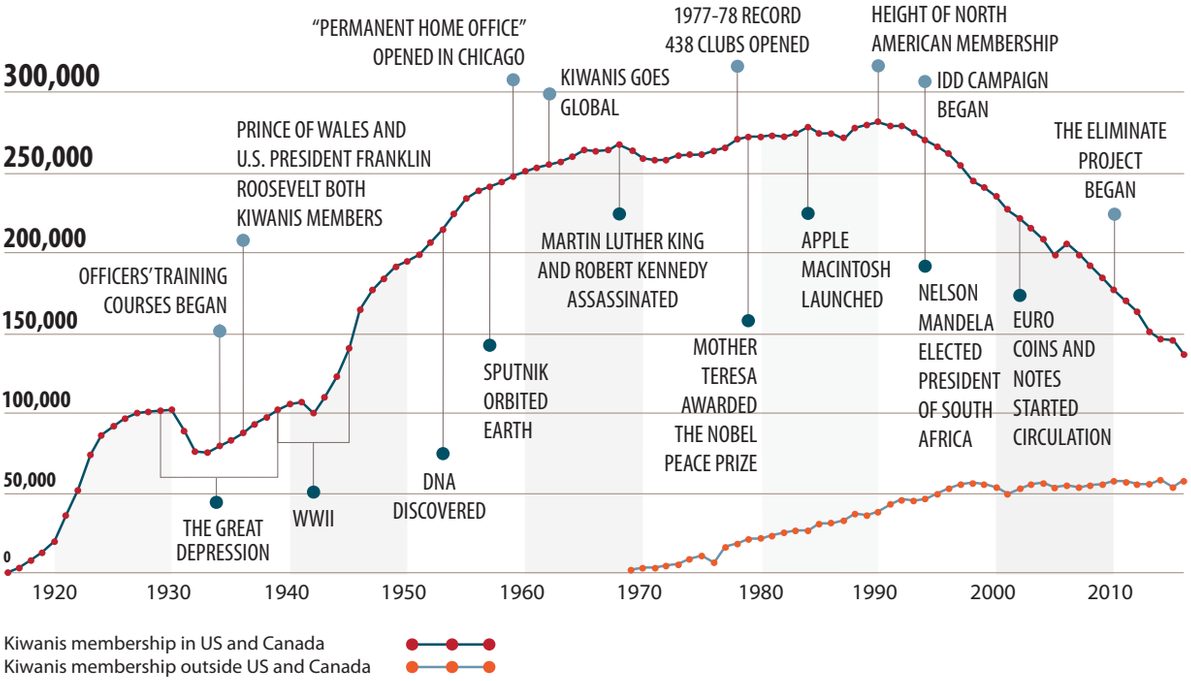
MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS



White Ravens project to alleviate the effects of poverty on child development.

Chris van de Sande is one of the Kiwanians working diligently with schools and teachers to detect which students are most at risk of child poverty. Once the students are identified, the "White Ravens," a group of about 55 teachers and volunteers, receive funds to spend on the children throughout the school year for any need that arises. Those needs have primarily been nourishment, school supplies/educational materials and clothing. The most basic of needs for a child to succeed.

Since the White Ravens project began, at least 800 children have been directly helped with new clothing, food, educational materials, footwear and more. According to figures released by the Kiwanis club, more than 12 percent of Flemish children live in a household with an income below the regional Flemish poverty-risk threshold.

If Kiwanis didn't exist, who would help these children? Who would step up to put clothing on their backs, shoes on their feet? What would happen to those children and what would their futures look like?

Bud Romberg understands what it's like to worry about families going without help from Kiwanis. His club, the Kiwanis Club of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, recently announced it would relinquish its charter after 68 years of service. The club was known for its hands-on service, with at least one project a month and several ongoing projects. Club members point to an aging membership and lack of interest from younger residents as the reason for the club's demise. If there's a positive side to this, Romberg says, it's that the club "will live on in the hearts and minds of those whose lives were affected by our club."

Romberg is happy to report that scholarships awarded annually by the Steamboat Springs Kiwanis Club also will live on.

"We plan US$4,000 per year split between high school scholarships and preschool scholarships," Romberg says. "We anticipate our funds lasting at least 10 years."

Meaning the Steamboat Springs Kiwanis Club will keep helping children for almost a

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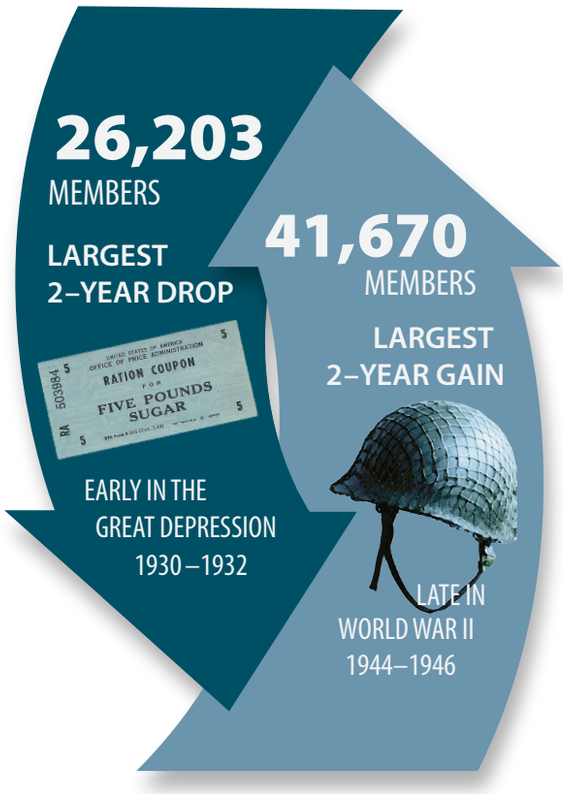

26.6%
INCREASE OVER PAST 10–YEAR PERIOD IN ASIA–PACIFIC

19,959
RECORD CONVENTION ATTENDANCE SET IN 1975

5,900
AVERAGE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DECLINE DURING MID 1990s

9,803
MEMBERSHIP INCREASE IN YEAR WOMEN JOINED KIWANIS

decade after it closes its doors.

Romberg says he'll "miss meeting and working with other members." And he's not the only one who will notice this Kiwanis club's absence.

"I've gotten two notes from community members," he says. "One from a woman who has been involved for many years with situations involving seniors, indicating how instrumental Kiwanis was in getting senior programs started in our community. And I got one from a prominent local businessman indicating that Kiwanis has been an important functioning part of the community for all of his life in town—and he was born here."

It's not easy or comfortable to imagine a community losing a Kiwanis club. But for many communities around the world, it's reality.

"I shudder to think of what our world would be like without Kiwanis," says Kiwanis International President Jane Erickson. "We would have kiddos without food to eat, or places to sleep, or the immunizations they need to survive and then thrive. We would have kiddos without books, without bike helmets and without caring adults to let them know they matter in the world. There would be young emerging leaders without the role models they need to grow in courage, character, caring and commitment. There would be a world without the special language of Kiwanis, the language of love for others. Wow, what a sad world that would be."

The Steamboat Springs, Colorado, Kiwanis Club disbanded after 68 years.

"We just have been getting too much gray hair for too long. We needed younger people, and they didn't seem to be interested or have the time to join us."

Bud Romberg
Kiwanis Club of Steamboat Springs
Source: Craig Daily Press

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SHARING OUR STORY

The reality of Kiwanis' membership trends should serve as a wake-up call. A world without Kiwanis is a terrible thing to imagine. But just as there is hope for Kiwanis' future and the good work yet to come, there is good news. The good news is that all of this imagining of how the world would be without Kiwanis is just that—imagination.

"We aren't finished," says President Erickson. "We are still here. We still have work to do and we're going to pull on our boots and hit the ground running like we always do. And the better news is that we have proven ways to get back on track with our membership, to gain more strong, capable, willing people with love in their hearts who want to give back to their communities and their neighbors. The good news is we can act. The good news is we already know how to get more people involved—we get them excited. Then we ask them to join us."

Tommy Ewart is no stranger to the excitement that comes from being involved, being active and helping others. He's the CEO of a furniture company. He's a devoted husband and a new father. He's young. And he's a member of the Kiwanis Club of Florence Pee-Dee, South Carolina. He finds time for Kiwanis because he's made it a priority. And not only does he find time for Kiwanis himself, he is out in the community "selling" Kiwanis to others, preaching its successes, asking people to join. And it's working. When he joined, the club had about 30 active members. Today, it has more than 50—and it's still growing.

This all works for Ewart because he has a powerful, positive Kiwanis story.

"My father was a Kiwanian and past president in the town I grew up in (Sumter, South Carolina)," he says. "I remember helping with pancake breakfasts and ringing the bell at Christmas for the Salvation Army as a young boy. My family got to go to the international convention in Louisiana as well. His influence not only as my father, but what he does giving back to his community, set a wonderful example for me. My banker (who works with my father) and personal friend Dwayne Brockington (a fellow Kiwanian) whom I have known over 20 years, helped lead me to Kiwanis. My wife, Frances, (now a fellow Kiwanian in the Darlington, South Carolina, club) and I were talking about getting involved and giving back to our community. I mentioned this to Dwayne and the rest is history."

AT LEAST 250 million OF THE WORLD'S PRIMARY-SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN ARE UNABLE TO READ, WRITE OR DO BASIC MATHEMATICS

United Nations

Jeri Buckman of the Sisters Chamber of Commerce in Sisters, Oregon, sees exactly how this works in her community and recognizes just how much positive change Kiwanis can bring.

"If people participate in their community, it gives them a sense of belonging and pride knowing that they are giving back," Buckman says. "I think this has been lost a bit in our society."

Buckman hits the nail on the head. It seems so simple that it couldn't possibly be the answer—but time and again it has proven to be just that. If you spread the excitement and show others what good Kiwanis is doing, people want to be a part of it. She says without Kiwanis, Sisters wouldn't have the food bank, money to give graduating seniors, food basket donations for the fire department at Christmas and the large number of volunteers—people helping people. She recognizes how much Kiwanis can change a community. And people in her community want to be a part of that.

It works in Asheville, North Carolina, too.

Kiwanis Club of Asheville President Jensen Gelfond is proud of his club's annual fundraiser, a race on the grounds of "America's largest home," the Biltmore

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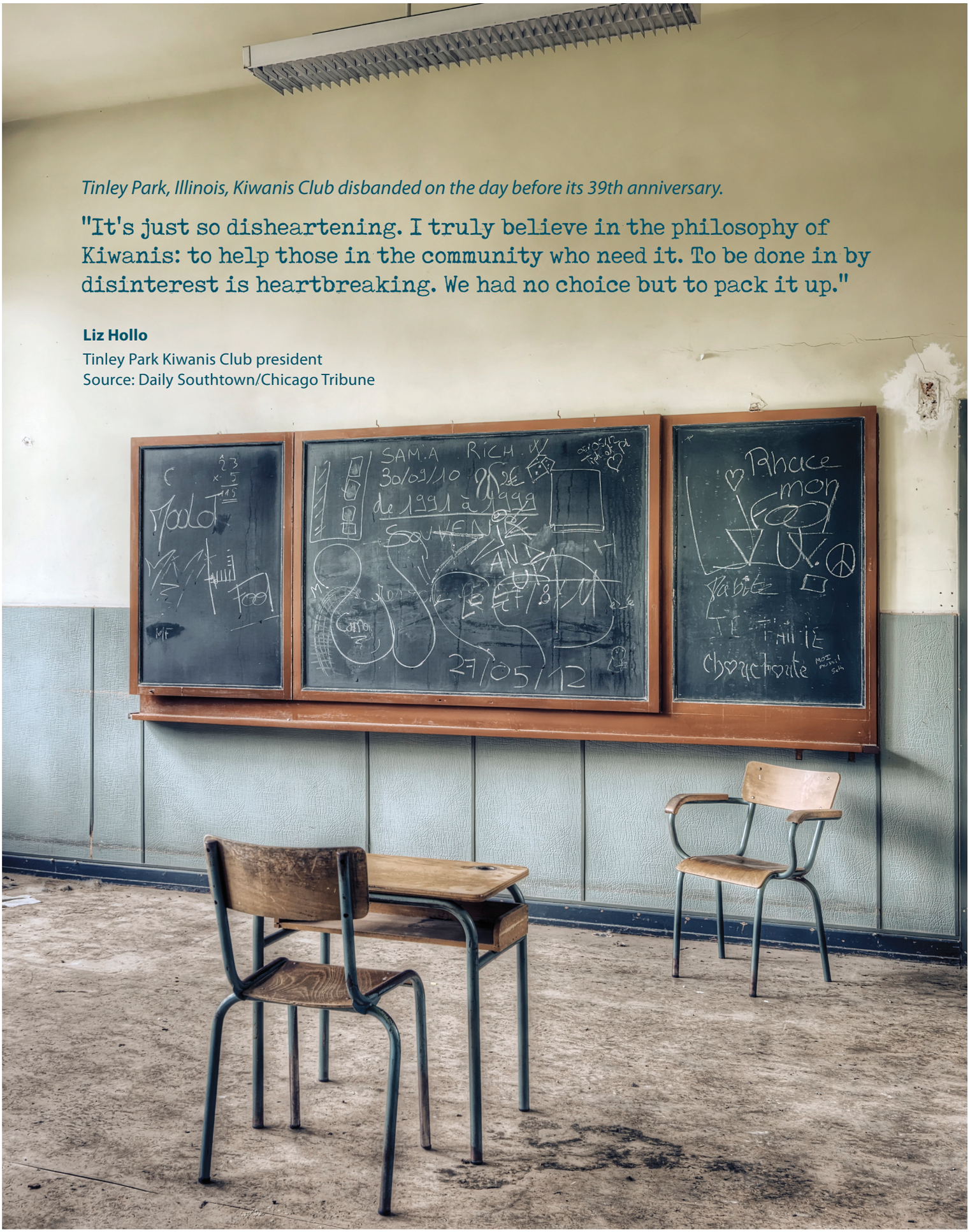

Tinley Park, Illinois, Kiwanis Club disbanded on the day before its 39th anniversary.

"It's just so disheartening. I truly believe in the philosophy of Kiwanis: to help those in the community who need it. To be done in by disinterest is heartbreaking. We had no choice but to pack it up."

Liz Hollo
Tinley Park Kiwanis Club president
Source: Daily Southtown/Chicago Tribune

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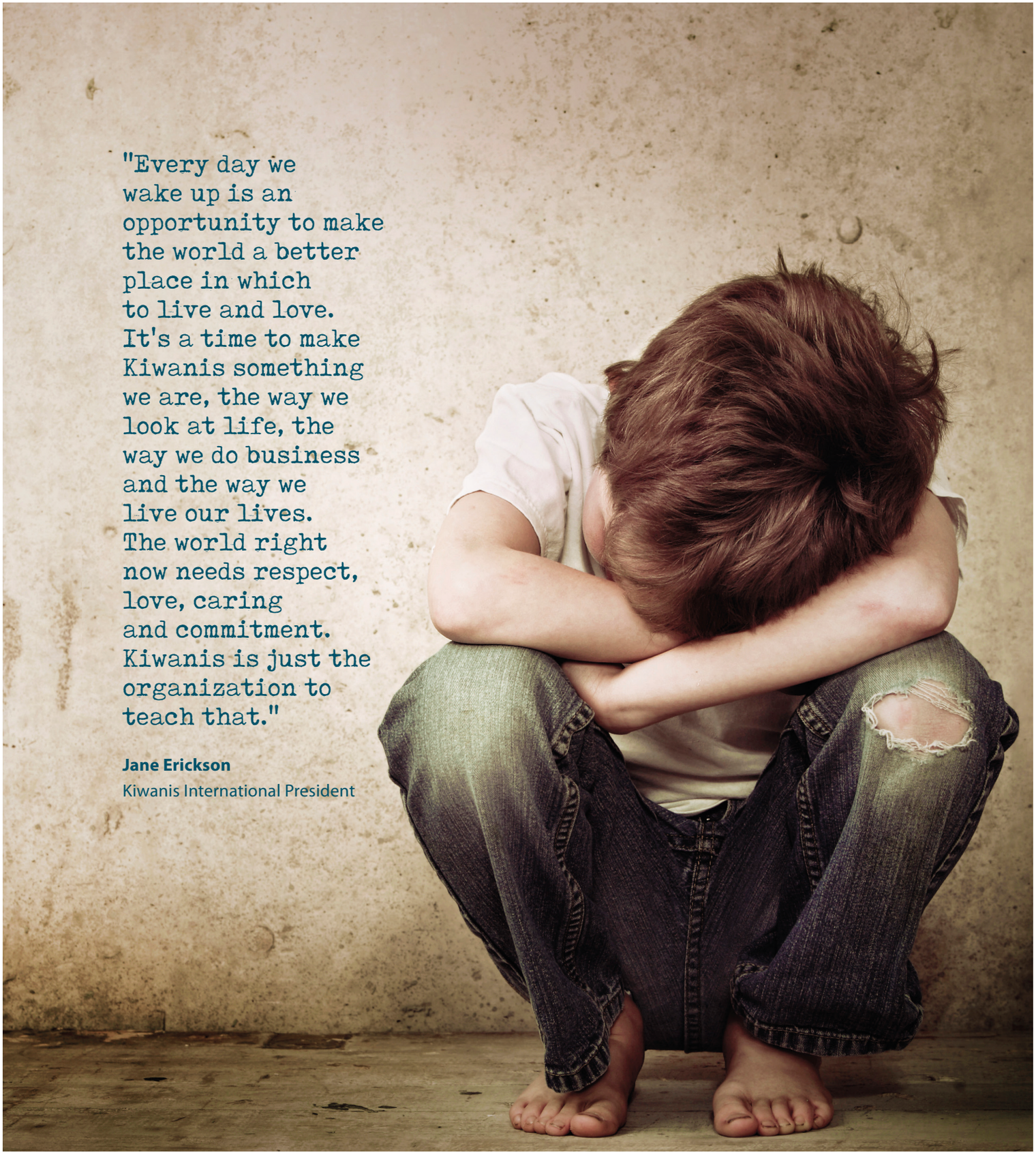

"Every day we wake up is an opportunity to make the world a better place in which to live and love. It's a time to make Kiwanis something we are, the way we look at life, the way we do business and the way we live our lives. The world right now needs respect, love, caring and commitment. Kiwanis is just the organization to teach that."

Jane Erickson
Kiwanis International President

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Estate. This May marks the 20th Annual Biltmore Kiwanis 15K/5K Classic, an event that draws people to Asheville from all over the country—and, in turn, brings attention to Kiwanis. The one-day event also nets the club about US$20,000, which goes right back into the community for many Kiwanis projects, such as a bike program, backpack project, chess tournament and the ongoing Carolinas District project: the Kiwanis Family Care Center at Mission Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit.

The club's membership fluctuates a bit each year, but has held steady between 37 and 42 members for the past four years. Gelfond says it's important to have a signature project, such as the Biltmore race, to get—and keep—people interested and excited about being part of Kiwanis.

"Some people who would otherwise not know much about Kiwanis come to experience the race because of its location on the one-of-a-kind Biltmore Estate," Gelfond says, "and they leave with a deeper understanding of Kiwanis and our community efforts.

"When someone feels they are an active participant in the community they live in, wonderful things can happen. That's the core reason why I joined Kiwanis; I wanted to be part of a group that empowered me to dig deeper into my community." K

Steps you can take: There are things you can do right now. See page 50 for some ideas.

PORTRAIT OF OUR WORK:
KIWANIS AROUND THE WORLD

What would happen to these life-changing projects if Kiwanis didn't exist? Who would help these children and families?

- Kiwanis Kids' Day Football has been a signature project and fundraiser for the Kiwanis Club of Springdale, Arkansas, for almost 65 years, allowing hundreds of young players and cheerleaders to learn about sportsmanship, teamwork and character development.
- Kiwanis Sail 4 Children brings Kiwanis clubs together from Belgium and France to offer more than 100 children the chance to get on a boat and sail on the North Sea.
- In Malaysia, the Going to School with Kiwanis project has been helping children succeed in school since 2009, complete with backpack distribution, gifts and dictionaries.
- Three times a month, members of the Kiwanis Club of Dawn Busters, Metairie in New Orleans, Louisiana, provide and serve hot meals for the homeless.
- Orphans in Uganda have books, a new kitchen, beds, desks, chickens, cows, a medical clinic, some land and even a bus thanks to support from the Kiwanis Club of Missoula-Sentinel in Montana.
- Cammy Babiarz has Rett syndrome, which has put her in a wheelchair. When Evanston, Illinois, Kiwanians saw her mother, Jackie, lifting a 50-pound wheelchair in and out of her car, they vowed to raise US$50,000 to buy a handicap-accessible vehicle. They did just that. "That was the best Christmas we'd had in a while," Jackie says.
- From Vancouver to Newfoundland, Kiwanis festivals have celebrated Canada's best musicians for more than 70 years.
- The children of the Honduran cloud forest are starving. What little food they eat is consumed by the parasites in their bellies. With support from the Kiwanis Children's Fund and the Kiwanis Club of Federal Way, Washington, Projecto Honduras International delivers worm medicine to the families up in the hills.
- The Kiwanis Club of New Delhi, India, provides prosthetics for those in need through the Kiwanis Prosthetic Limb Clinic.
- New Zealand Kiwanians work hard behind the scenes to organize science fairs for hundreds of students throughout the country—from the north to the south island.

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HOPE FLOATS

THE KIWANIS PEDIATRIC TRAUMA INSTITUTE PROVIDES MORE THAN JUST MEDICAL CARE.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KASEY JACKSON

OliviaRose is screaming. Her mom and grandmother are trying to hold her down, but the struggle is real. OliviaRose is having nothing to do with this. And anyone in their right mind wouldn't blame her. There's a stranger with a rotating handheld saw standing next to her—and he's ready to use it. He turns it on, and she screams louder. Her mom hands her a small stuffed animal. OliviaRose, a strong and feisty 19-month-old, throws it to the ground.

The adults around OliviaRose are smiling and chatting—just so you know this is nowhere as bad as it seems. In fact, this is a completely normal scene inside the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute at Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center in downtown Boston, Massachusetts. OliviaRose is about to have her cast cut off, and it's a whole lot louder and scarier than she's willing to accept. But less than 10 minutes later, OliviaRose has calmed down and is standing with full weight on her legs again—without the bright pink cast that moments ago covered her hips and thighs.

OliviaRose came to Floating Hospital for Children after being hit by a car in her driveway. With a broken femur, she spent three days in the hospital, receiving special care the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute and Floating Hospital for Children could provide.

KPTI began in 1981 as a partnership between the New England District of Kiwanis and Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center. At the hospital's pediatric emergency department, children

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like OliviaRose receive top-of-the-line care—the facility is verified as a Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons. And the need for such a facility is great: Traumatic injuries are the leading cause of death and disability to children, more than all other diseases combined.

OliviaRose's grandmother, Lisa Torigian, speaks highly of the care her granddaughter has received at the hospital.

"Everyone's been so helpful," Torigian says as OliviaRose steadies her wobbly toddler body against her grandmother's legs. "We needed a special car seat after the accident, and the hospital social worker and KPTI provided a voucher for us to get one for free. The nurses provided us with a room so we could stay and some vouchers for lunches. On the day of the accident, I never left her side. I held her hand even in the emergency room. The doctors and ultrasound technician were so helpful and told me exactly what was going on. They were always there for us and answered all of our questions."

KIWANIS CARE

Leslie Rideout is just one person responsible for the quality care OliviaRose received during her time at Floating Hospital for Children. Rideout, a pediatric trauma nurse coordinator for KPTI, is a busy woman. In her role, she finds herself doing many things: coordinating care for families, educating families about potential traumas, taking notes during patient/doctor consultations, visiting families, securing proper car seats for patients and distributing bicycle helmets and other safety information.

Another big part of her job is to make sure everyone is doing everything necessary for the hospital to remain a Level 1 Pediatric Trauma center. That's a big task—but one Rideout performs with a smile. She loves her job—she's been here 15 years—and she takes great pride in sharing a little of the hospital's early days as, literally, a floating hospital.

"They sailed only in the summer months," she says as she points out details on the scale model of the turn-of-the-century boat that ferried healthcare around the harbor. "Patients and families were allowed on the boat. Many believed the sea air was particularly good at healing."

The Floating Hospital was founded in 1894 as a hospital ship and was towed around Boston Harbor, serving more than 1,000 children in the first year.

The partnership with Kiwanis also began on water, as the story goes. Kiwanis member and former

"They sailed only in the summer months. Patients and families were allowed on the boat. Many believed the sea air was particularly good at healing."

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president of the Kiwanis Foundation of New England Harold "Hap" Gerrish, a dentist from Maine, was on a boat with other Kiwanis members when talk turned to what they could do for pediatric patients.

"Nothing was being done in pediatric trauma research, and they were specifically interested in research," Rideout says. "They went to a few hospitals here in Boston— these men in Kiwanis— and they were turned down. They eventually came to Tufts and Tufts said yes. So they have been our partners for more than 35 years."

Kiwanis has funded millions of dollars for the program, Rideout says, in addition to providing volunteers on the ground to distribute important safety information and talk about trauma education.

"We couldn't be here without Kiwanis," she says. "And the youth groups are unbelievable. Circle K and Key Club fundraise a lot. And when our reviewers come for our review (for trauma level 1 status), they always say that one of our greatest strengths is our collaboration with Kiwanis, because this type of work partnership really works and is wonderful."

"We couldn't be here without Kiwanis. And the youth groups are unbelievable. Circle K and Key Club fundraise a lot. And when our reviewers come for our review they always say that one of our greatest strengths is our collaboration with Kiwanis."

Anne Keliher and Leslie Rideout

'WE ARE THE KIWANIANS'

When it comes to talking about the money that flows into the KPTI program, John Maihos is an expert. He's the immediate past president of the Kiwanis Foundation of New England, a position he held for the past three years. He knows all about the New England District's countless bicycle rodeos. He knows the facts about childhood trauma and has some safety tips and stats to back it all up. And of course, he knows the importance of what Kiwanis is doing.

"The KPTI program really is a community-outreach program, and it gets our name out in front of people," he says. "If someone says, 'Have you heard of Kiwanis?' they have one more thing they can relate to Kiwanis. I think exposure is important. But even more important is we're actually impacting kids' lives.

"You hate to hear about a kid getting hurt, but we've actually had stories hit close to home. A Kiwanian from Danvers, Massachusetts, had a child injured at one of the local fairs. All of a sudden, when they were responding to this child, and the father was with his child

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at the time, he realized he was getting into the helicopter for the med flight with the KPTI program. His son and he were going to end up at 'our' trauma center. All of a sudden he realized, 'Oh my. I'm heading to this program that we have funded. We have a part in this.'

"We have such an important role. We don't double as doctors. We're the Kiwanians. We support the community program. We still have an affinity to it. We feel it's ours in a way. It was a very emotional moment for him, and in fact when he tells the story, it becomes a very emotional moment for all Kiwanians in the room because they recognize that this program that we helped start is potentially going to help save this child's life.

"We have such an important role in this. We don't double as doctors. We're the Kiwanians. We support the community program."

"This happens all the time to children we don't know or have an emotional connection with, but we are making a difference in their lives. That's the most important part of what we're doing."

BEST ADVICE

If Walter J. Chwals could give parents and caregivers one bit of advice, it would be this: Wear a helmet.

And he should know. As chief of pediatric surgery, professor at Tufts University School of Medicine and director of the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute, Chwals knows a thing or two about childhood trauma and how to prevent it.

John Maihos

"Wear head protection when you are exposing yourself to potential head injury," he says. "If you're riding a bike, you should be wearing a helmet. If you're skiing, wear a helmet. If you are rollerblading or skateboarding or on a hoverboard, wear a helmet. More than 50 percent of all the trauma we see with kids involves head injury. You can heal a bone, but sometimes brain injury consequences are more permanent. We know from research that head injury is the most frequent cause of mortality and morbidity in pediatric trauma."

We asked Chwals to talk to us for 30 minutes about his jobs at the hospital and about childhood trauma in general. After almost an hour had passed, he showed no signs of running out of information to share. One of the most exciting projects he likes to talk about? A pediatric trauma database named after Kiwanian Hap Gerrish—a joint project between the Kiwanis Foundation of New England and KPTI.

"The use of databases in pediatric trauma is very important in establishing patterns of disease, patterns of trauma," he says. "The Hap Gerrish database is our attempt to try to create an interactive database. If

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Dr. Walter J. Chwals

it's used in the way it was intended, it can really revolutionize the way we gather and evaluate trauma data. We'd be better able to track and accumulate data about age-related trauma. We'd have a better chance of knowing if the number of trauma cases in a particular age group or accident group were increasing or decreasing across the country. The database allows for the incorporation of other databases with the touch of a finger, literally, and accumulates those data under one database roof."

Chwals is passionate about spreading the word about trauma prevention. He goes through the list of childhood injuries by age group: falls from windows, improper (or no) restraint while riding in cars, failure to wear a helmet. All preventable scenarios when following the proper safety precautions.

"There are three arms to the KPTI program," he points out. "One is the clinical care we provide for the patients who have been injured and come to our institution. Second is to promote research regarding trauma. And the third arm is injury prevention, which is an important feature of the overall institute because trauma is a preventable disease. Through various legislative initiatives and community education programs, we've been able to decrease the relative incidents of particular types of trauma in the pediatric population. The thrust of the organization is to provide overall improvement in trauma care and in understanding how trauma occurs and preventing that trauma."

KIWANIS IS RIGHT THERE

Chwals says educating the public about trauma is crucial.

"We give clubs the information, and they go out in the community with the brochures and share and educate," he says. "We often do it through local EMTs and other social organizations and police, fire department, YMCA or YWCA, church groups. It has helped the Kiwanis members to participate in this worthwhile effort because it really does make a difference in terms of the overall safety of a community and making folks aware of the dangers and pitfalls in everyday life. We're very grateful to Kiwanis for their support and the fact that they have the foresight to understand how important a disease entity trauma is in the pediatric populations and have provided us all of these years with the support we need to be able to deliver trauma care to injured children in the New England area—and all over the country." K

About trauma: Learn more about the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute at floatinghospital.org/trauma

"We're able to reach families through the Kiwanis Foundation of New England and clubs. We give clubs the information and they go out in the community with the brochures and share and educate."

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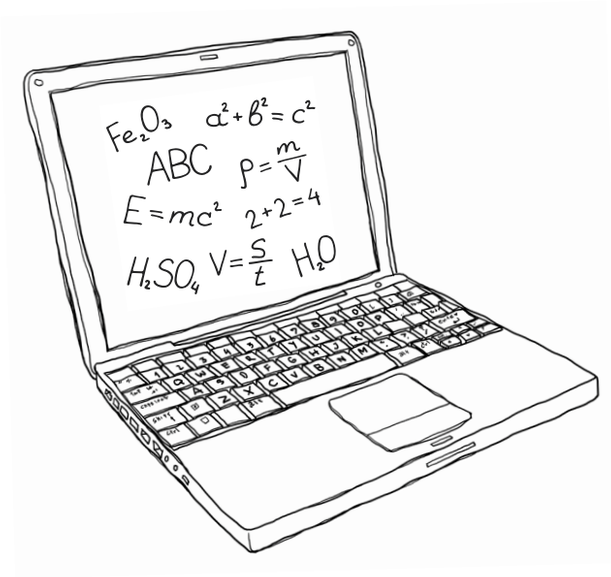

BRAIN FOOD

WHAT CAN YOUTUBE TEACH US?

STORY BY CURTIS BILLUE

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We've all heard it. Screen time is bad for you, bad for kids. Scientists have linked too much screen time to higher risk of obesity, diabetes and restless sleep. News media outlets report that face-to-face communication should replace social media status updates, TV consumption, games and video watching.

The cause for concern is understandable. According to the Nielsen Total Audience Report Q1 2016 for the U.S. population, the average time spent per adult on computers, smartphones and tablets was 3 hours and 21 minutes. Throw in live TV, games, DVD players and recorded shows, and we spend nearly 9 hours a day staring into a screen.

Wow. That's a ton of junk.

Or is it? What if some of this stuff isn't junk at all?

Let's take a look at YouTube, for example. It can be a trash can of memes, stunts, epic fails and idiocy. It can be glitzy music videos, endless unboxing of products or just a bunch of cats being cats. But beyond all of this, YouTube can enlighten us, delight us and just possibly be the brain food we crave.

Check out these recommendations for some educational, online inspiration.

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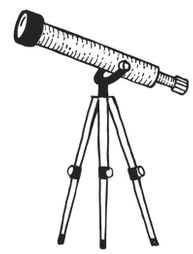
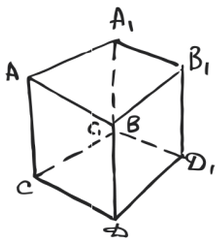
SMARTER EVERY DAY

Destin Sandlin isn't your average run-of-the-mill rocket engineer. He's a YouTube star, combining his passion for scientific exploration with his boyish, southern charm. His enthusiasm for scientific discovery makes this channel an educational treat. youtube.com/user/destinws2



VSAUCE

Host Michael Stevens' curiosity has no limits. He explores the known universe, theoretical ideas and the weird and turns it all into a science lesson. His 11 million subscribers prove he's on to something here. youtube.com/user/Vsauce



VI HART

Victoria Hart (known as Vi Hart) has hands that are well known among math geeks everywhere. Her mathematical musings in the form of doodles, food and polygonal shapes make math fun. Really. youtube.com/user/Vihart

EVERY FRAME A PAINTING

Tony Zhou gives insight to the fine art of editing and filmmaking. His video essays dissect the forms of film into memorable love letters of the craft. youtube.com/user/everyframeapainting

VERITASIUM - AN ELEMENT OF TRUTH

Clever in name, clever in concept, Derek Muller contemplates life through scientific, economic and mathematical lenses. Great visuals and experiments. His "man on the street" interviews are fun and informative investigations into human behavior and our misconceptions about the world. youtube.com/user/1veritasium

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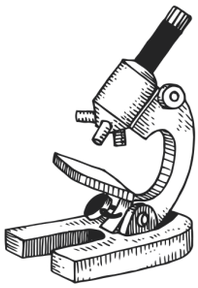
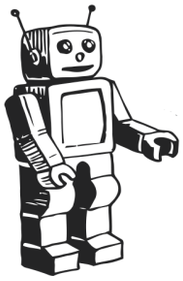


NIGHTHAWKINLIGHT
A tinkerer at heart, Ben Cusick takes simple items and combines them into low-cost projects of wonder. Levitating magnets with Bismuth crystals, a vacuum-suspended fish tank, homemade plasma engravers, and a fretted cigar box guitar are just a few examples. youtube.com/user/Nighthawkinlight

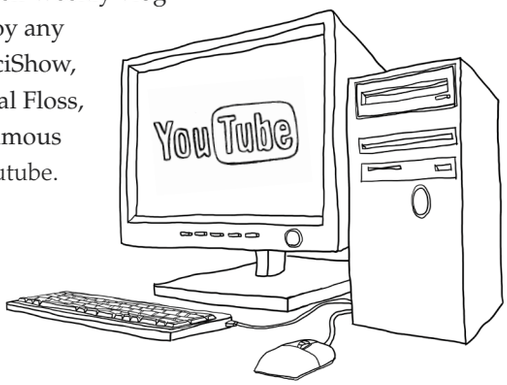
IT'S OKAY TO BE SMART
Quirky and fun, Joe Hanson wants science to go beyond facts and into the world of excitement and wonder. His perspective is fun for the whole family. youtube.com/user/itsokaytobesmart



KURZGESAGT – IN A NUTSHELL
Want to understand complex issues in our world with cute animations and nerdy cultural references? Follow these colorful ducks in deep discussions of science, politics and technology. youtube.com/user/Kurzgesagt

CGP GREY
Grey, as a stick figure with glasses, keenly observes the world of politics, geography, economics, history and culture with British charm and wit. youtube.com/user/CGPGrey

VLOGBROTHERS
John and Hank Green began their modest project as a way for the brothers to converse by video during the week, and now they have turned their weekly vlogging into a media powerhouse. Enjoy any one of their cornucopia of shows: SciShow, SciShow Space, CrashCourse, Mental Floss, vlogbrothers. (And yes, that's the famous author John Green. Same dude.) youtube.com/user/vlogbrothers



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FIESTA NOCHE DEL RIO SAN ANTONIO

COLORS SWIRL AND MUSIC BLARES AT THIS LONG-RUNNING AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL KIWANIS CULTURAL FESTIVAL.

STORY BY KIMIKO MARTINEZ • PHOTOS BY CARLOS JAVIER SANCHEZ

San Antonio summers are hot. Even after the sun goes down on this Texas town, the humidity clings to Aaron Rios as he buttons his crisp white shirt backstage at the Arneson River Theater.

But he's not complaining.

For five years now, the mariachi leader has given up weekends during his busiest season of the year to be here instead—at the San Antonio River Walk for the Kiwanis-produced Fiesta Noche del Rio show.

As a musician, he's passionate about providing people with an immersive, magical musical experience, which is what this show is all about. But it's also about giving back. And that's why he's here, sweating in the summertime heat, getting ready to take the stage.

"It was just one of those things that happens for a reason," Rios says. "It was my turn to pay back."

You see, in 2009 Rios' son was born prematurely. He spent two months in the hospital before being able to come home. And during that time, several local children's organizations came to the Rios family's aid.

"It was very humbling to see these people I never knew help without asking questions or even seeing if we qualified," Rios says. "Every day I had these organizations calling and showing up, asking if we were OK and what they could do for us. So when I found out what the show was all about, I didn't hesitate to be involved."

Alamo Kiwanis Club Charities Inc. has been producing Fiesta Noche del

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Rio continuously since 1957 and has raised more than US$2.75 million for local children's charities like the ones that became a lifeline for Rios and his wife. And San Antonio Kiwanis Club members add their support, arranging sponsorships, selling tickets and working the shows.

The show was originally created to attract visitors to the River Walk and featured the legendary Rosita Fernandez—"San Antonio's First Lady of Song." During its 60-year run, the event has ranged from a traditional/folk program to a Tejano show to a Las Vegas-style show with choreographer Felipe de la Rosa, who choreographed for Charo.

"We take our audiences on a tour," says Elizabeth "Lisa" Sanchez-Lopez, who has been involved with the fiesta for 25 years, starting as a dancer before moving on to choreography and singing and eventually becoming the show's director in 1995.

"We take our audience to Spain and Argentina and Mexico and then back to the U.S. and Texas without ever having to leave their seats."

From start to end, the Arneson stage is awash with colorful dresses and costumes, and the pageantry of professional performers who bring a mix of rich cultural traditions representative of the region … and beyond. Flamenco, tango, salsa and Caribbean beats—and even some country and western music—fill the thick Texas night air as River Walk tour boats roll past and audience members take in the performance.

"It's definitely worth the $20 that you pay," Sanchez-Lopez says. "We have audience members from New York tell us this is just as good as a Broadway show."

The performers here, though, aren't making Broadway pay. And joining the show is a big commitment. Performances are held every Friday and Saturday night from May through August, with auditions in December and rehearsals beginning in January. And yet, dancers, singers and musicians like Rios come back year after year.

"We take our audiences on a tour. We take them to Spain and Argentina and Mexico and then back to the U.S. and Texas without ever having to leave their seats."

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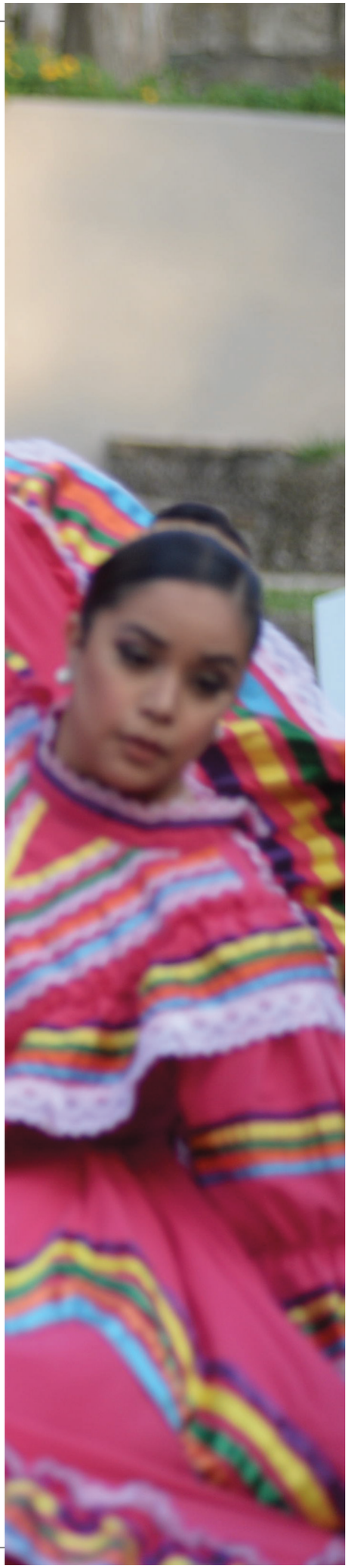

Rios and his bandmates could be making four times the amount they earn at the fiesta on any given weekend night, but they're still here five years later with no plans of going anywhere soon.

"If there weren't a cause behind it, I don't know that there would be the same level of commitment," Sanchez-Lopez says. "Here they want to see success because of the cause."

The cause, in this case, gets very real for cast members when they visit the organizations that benefit from Fiesta Noche del Rio and see the children whose lives they have the opportunity to impact.

"Artists can be divas, but when they come into this environment, they leave all that at the door," Sanchez-Lopez says. "We really push ourselves to put on a great show so we can raise the most funds possible for those causes."

The night is dark, but the mood is light as audience members learn to salsa and dance the Cotton-Eyed Joe before the entire Fiesta Noche del Rio cast joins the mariachis—Fiesta de San Antonio, led by Rios—for a final, closeout number.

"To perform at the show is unreal, and we make it magical," Rios says. "We leave the audience with a smile, and that's what we are all about."

That … and making sure that other local families have the support and opportunities that his family did; making sure that the children of San Antonio have something to smile about. K

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"You get to visit over and over again, and you're a part of something that's important to history."

SHIPSHAPE

PEARL HARBOR KIWANIANS MAINTAIN A PIECE OF HISTORY.

STORY BY SAM STALL • PHOTOS BY KENT NISHIMURA

Thanks to a strange twist of fate, Kiwanian Kay Tokunaga has become something of an expert on battleship maintenance. She's secretary of the Kiwanis Club of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and for the last few years she, her fellow Kiwanians and kids from five area Key Clubs have spent one Saturday morning each month helping to keep the Battleship Missouri Memorial shipshape.

"It's been a really worthwhile partnership," Tokunaga says.

The memorial primarily consists of the decommissioned USS Missouri, a hulking battleship best known for hosting the Japanese surrender ceremony that ended World War II. Now a floating museum, it's maintained by approximately 150 paid staffers, plus a swarm of volunteers—including the Pearl Harbor Kiwanians and their Key Clubbers.

Not that Tokunaga and company clean the entire ship. They've "adopted" its bridge and wardroom, spending their Saturdays buffing every brass surface (of which there are plenty) to a high shine.

"Polishing the brass takes a lot of elbow grease," Tokunaga says. "But when it's polished nicely, it's just beautiful."

Spiffing up every inch of Big Mo (the Missouri's nickname) is beyond the powers of even the most industrious club, however. The vessel is 887 feet long, making it 332 feet longer than the Washington Monument is tall. "It's very possible to get lost below decks if you don't know your way around," says Neil K. Yamamoto, a member of the Missouri's full-time staff and vice president of the Kiwanis Club of Kaneohe.

Angelika Galanza, president of the Waipahu High School Key Club, has helped out for four years aboard Big Mo. She can attest to the intimidating scale of the ship—and to what a privilege it is to help maintain such a unique vessel.

"It's something you can cherish," Galanza says. "You get to visit over and over again, and you're a part of something that's important to history."

Yamamoto makes a point of helping the Key Clubbers understand that role by taking them on tours below decks when time permits. As for Tokunaga, she prefers to stay in the spaces she knows.

"As many times as I've been on the battleship," she says, "I still have a hard time figuring out exactly where everything is."

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"He becomes a teen like all others, a huge smile on his face. None of that would be possible without the Kiwanians."

WHEEL OF CHANGE

A CREATIVE ENGINEERING PROJECT HELPS THE DISABLED COMPETE.

STORY BY FABIENNE APRIL

It started with an "aha" moment. While visiting Brest in the western French region of Brittany, Angoulême Kiwanis Club member Joël Treny saw Kiwanians taking disabled kids for a ride in an all-terrain machine featuring one wheel. "This is for us," he thought.

Treasurer Treny ran the idea by his club's president, Jacques Lafaurie. They contacted a local artisan specializing in equipment for the disabled and learned that developing and building a similar machine would cost EUR3,000.

The club set out to raise funds by organizing a cabaret evening, historical conferences and even a garage sale. It soon had enough money, and the "Kiwanette" was born, developed specifically for the club by an artisan engineer. The club took delivery in January 2015. Word-of-mouth did its magic, and after just one use, requests from parents and associations came pouring in—so much so that the club is developing a reservation calendar to ensure the popular vehicle won't be double-booked.

The Kiwanette can be enjoyed free of charge from the Angoulême club; if rented commercially, the price is EUR150. The design allows access to beaches, hilly areas and rocky terrain, making it especially popular among people with disabilities who otherwise would prevent participation in running events.

Fifteen-year-old Killian Favraud already has ridden the Kiwanette three times and excitedly anticipates the races, reports his mother, Angélique. In May 2016, he participated in the Joëlette World Championships, a 12K race for people with disabilities. Cheered on by his younger brother, William, Killian's team came in 60th out of roughly 100 participants.

"He wants to win," says Angélique, voice trembling. "I would never have thought that his enthusiasm for racing would make me forget that he is disabled. He becomes a teen like all others, a huge smile on his face. None of that would be possible without the Kiwanians."

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HAVE A SEAT, FRIEND

RECESS IS NO TIME TO BE LONELY FOR IDAHO SCHOOL CHILDREN.

STORY BY JULIE SAETRE • PHOTO BY LOREN BENOIT/COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

For some elementary school children, recess is far from a welcome break. Without a friend to share the fun, the playground can be a lonely place. That's why the Kiwanis Club of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, introduced "buddy benches" to their community.

The buddy bench concept is simple: Children feeling left out and lonely on the playground can sit on the bench, which is a signal to classmates that they are reaching out with offers of friendship.

Coeur d'Alene Kiwanis Club President-Elect Carolyn Hendry Jorgensen and board member Sandra Davis—both volunteers with area children's programs—heard about the buddy bench concept at a Kiwanis meeting and knew it would be a great asset for youth. Members of the club subsequently voted to fund three benches for Borah Elementary School, which educates more than 350 children in a low-income area.

In October (U.S. National Bullying Prevention Month), the club donated US$300 for construction of the benches to KTEC-Technical High School, a cost-free public school for grades 11 and 12. There, students measured, cut, welded and powder-coated three durable metal structures. When weather permits, two will be installed on Borah's playground, while the third offers a place of respite and friendship inside the school.

Adam Foote, a school counselor at Borah Elementary, has incorporated the benches—and the message of kindness behind them—in his curriculum.

"When I talk about empathy," he says, "I talk about being 'investigators' and trying to figure out how others are feeling from body language and nonverbal and verbal cues. I then teach students that we demonstrate compassion by not only asking questions to understand the feelings of others, but taking it further and doing something to help other students feel better."

Each school day at Borah begins with a morning-announcements video, and Foote frequently recruits student actors to demonstrate how children can show concern and offer friendship via the new furnishings.

"The plan," Foote says, "is to take these skills we have already taught and now apply them to whenever students see other students sitting alone on the buddy bench."

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"Many of these families are in Maryland because there is work on chicken farms."

SHARING CULTURES

MARYLAND KEY CLUB TURNS COMMUNITY SERVICE INTO A SIGNATURE PROJECT.

STORY BY ARIANA GAINER

The year 1999 opened a new chapter in the history of the Meade Senior High School Key Club in Ft. Meade, Maryland. Amber Coffman, a Key Club member at the time, developed a heart for serving the many Guatemalan families that reside in the state. Her mother, Bobbi, became the club's advisor in 2000, and she and Amber invited Key Club members to join their efforts to build lasting relationships with families from another culture. Not only did the members accept the offer, but they adopted the outreach as their signature project.

"Many of these families are in Maryland because there is work on chicken farms," Bobbi says of the state's 34,000-plus Guatemalan residents. "Word about the job opportunities here spread in Guatemala, so many people have moved here. Sadly, the majority of them live in condemned trailer parks without basic necessities because they have nowhere else to go."

Refusing to sit by while members of their community lived in poor conditions, the Key Club members took action. For 17 years, they have been collecting groceries, clothes, refreshments, gifts, toiletries, blankets and toys to donate to Guatemalan families in Marydel, Maryland. The town, a two- to three-hour trek away by car, showed a Guatemalan population of 42.55 percent in the 2010 U. S. Census—the highest of any community in the country.

The club has remained passionate about the project thanks to the school's sizeable Hispanic population. Students from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras have been eager to help, and because they are bilingual, they are vital to the project's success, building trust between Key Club members and Guatemalan families.

To execute the project year after year, the Key Club partners with a number of local organizations and state agencies, including Happy Helpers for the Homeless, Anne Arundel County and stores that donate children's clothing.

Rain or shine, Key Club members make the trip to Marydel several times a year to donate their time and resources. The last trip of 2016 was scheduled for December 17, when a severe ice storm hit. But club members still showed up.

"The police, the schools—everyone was telling us to stay home," Bobbi says. "But we wouldn't miss an opportunity to help these families for the world."

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"I was helping at a grade school one day and noticed that sometimes these kids come to school and don't have any warm clothes."

WARM HEARTS, COZY COATS

FOR MONTANA KIWANIANS, COLLECTING COATS IS A YEAR-ROUND THING.

STORY BY WENDY ROSE GOULD

Walk through Dillon, Montana, for the first time and you may be surprised by the large barrels speckled throughout the tiny 300-square-mile town. For the folks who live there, however, those very barrels—found in the neighborhood's grocery stores, banks and hospital—have been a year-round mainstay since 1999.

Throughout the year, Dillon residents place new and gently used coats, scarves and gloves in these barrels for the Coats for Kids & Families Drive, organized by Jo Ann Juliano and supported in part by the Kiwanis Club of Dillon. In the fall, donated items are cleaned and pressed before being gifted to children and families in need.

"I think it's necessary to help your community," says Juliano. "When you live in a place you love, you should turn around and do something for that place. This is America, and that's what we do. We help each other out."

Juliano leads by example. In addition to the coat drive, she runs two radio stations that broadcast high school and college sports events, served on the Chamber of Commerce and played a role in bringing a YMCA to Dillon. It was through her work within the community, and with its children, that she noticed the specific need for coats.

"I was helping at a grade school one day and noticed that sometimes these kids come to school and don't have any warm clothes," she says. "I thought to myself, 'Well, heck. Let's do something about that.'"

Other community groups get involved too. For example, the Kiwanis Club of Dillon donates funds to support the drive, a dry cleaner makes sure the donated items are as good as new and health department and hospital staff refer families in need. The drive brings in 400 to 500 coats annually, or roughly 8,000 coats in the past 18 years.

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Elkhart, Indiana, April 17
Minneapolis (Downtown), Minnesota, April 18
Scranton, Pennsylvania, April 18
Saginaw, Michigan, April 19
Bridgeport, Connecticut, April 25
Kenosha, Wisconsin, April 25

75TH—1942
Brighton, New York, April 2
Lincoln County, North Carolina, April 21

50TH—1967
Cherokee Village, Arkansas, April 3
Karlstad, Sweden, April 3
Greater West Pasco, Florida, April 13
Bernardston, Massachusetts, April 13
Laguna Hills Saddleback, California, April 20
Blair, Nebraska, April 24
Fredrikstad, Norway, April 25

25TH—1992
Tung Feng, Taichung City, Taiwan, April 8
Booneville, Arkansas, April 9
Sint Martens Latem/Deurle, Belgium, April 21
Narbonne, Carrefour Du Sud, France, April 21
Dordrecht, Netherlands, April 24
Heerhugowaard, Netherlands, April 24
Malate Central, Malate, Manila, Philippines, March 23
Lung Ching, Taichung Hsien, Taiwan, March 24
Taiping City, Taiwan, March 26
Covington, Washington, March 31

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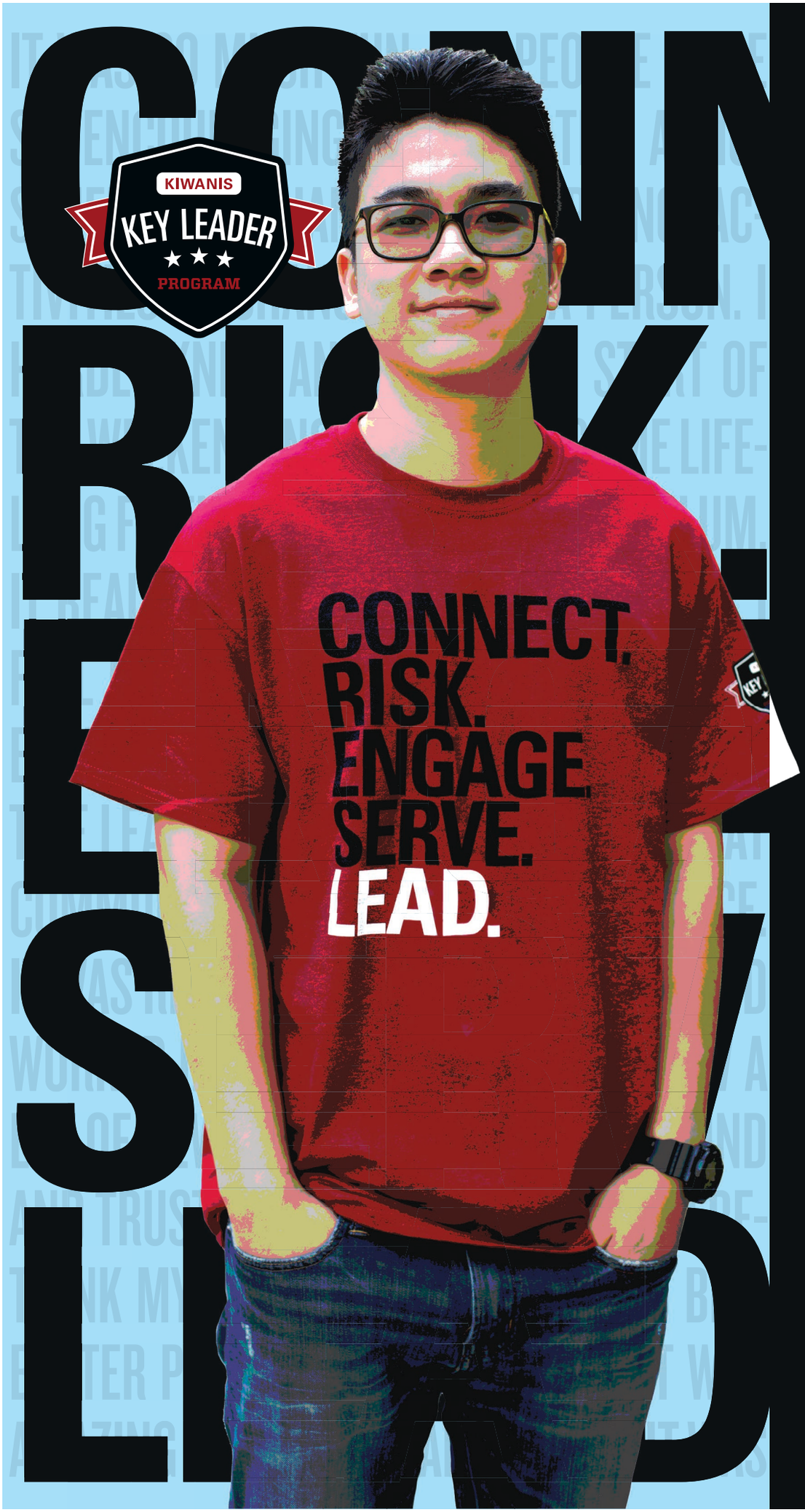

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3. Invite someone you know to your next project.
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5. Make Kiwanis fun!

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