KIWANIS GIFTS TO CAMP WAWBEEK PROFOUNDLY IMPACT CAMPERS

At Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek campers enjoy exploring the outdoors, living in a group setting that encourages social growth and learning about themselves through the camp’s Challenge by Choice philosophy that encourages campers to achieve their goals and try new things by providing them with a safe environment in which they can go beyond their comfort level.

The accessible camp is situated on more than 400 beautifully-wooded acres near Wisconsin Dells, which provides a unique environment that allows campers to experience and learn things that parents and caregivers may not have the expertise, time, financial resources or energy to provide. Carefully chosen programming ensures that activities will be educational and fun.

Campers have the opportunity to participate in age-appropriate, accessible activities.

The oldest continuously-operating Easter Seals camp in the nation, Easter Seals Wisconsin Camp Wawbeek began providing services to children and adults with physical disabilities in 1938. By striving to keep pace with the changing needs of participants, Camp Wawbeek continues to evolve and thrive.

The camp’s group setting offers campers with physical or mild to moderate cognitive differences, or those in need of behavioral support, an experience they will not forget. Sessions are geared to the age and needs of the campers.

...continued on page six
Bay Cliff Health Camp, located in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, offers a therapy and wellness program for children. The camp’s primary mission is to improve the lives of children with physical challenges through an intensive seven-week residential summer therapy camp.

Each summer, Bay Cliff Health Camp serves approximately 180 children with orthopedic, hearing, vision and speech differences. The children range in age from 3 to 17 years and are referred to camp by doctors, therapists and other health professionals. The staff is carefully selected from across the United States. Ratios of staff to campers are high to meet the campers’ special needs. Professional therapy staff and dedicated camp counselors come to Bay Cliff to make a difference in the lives of children.

The camp has been serving children from across the Upper Peninsula since 1934. More than 12,000 children and their families have benefited in that time. Through Bay Cliff’s intensive program of daily therapy and camp activities, children learn to become more independent. They are inspired to believe in themselves and their futures. Bay Cliff’s program is truly life changing…a place where dreams come true!

The cost to serve and care for a child at Bay Cliff is $130 per day, $900 per week and $6,300 per summer. Parents contribute what they can afford, often leaving a significant cost that is funded by many individuals who believe in Bay Cliff and the futures of the children served.

The camp makes an annual appeal to raise the funds. All funds donated through the appeal are used specifically for the children’s summer therapy program. Donations help provide daily therapy, medical and dental care, food and lodging, camp activities and 24-hour care and supervision.

“Successfully reaching the 2017 goal of $335,000 will allow the camp to retain therapy and program positions and continue providing life-changing experiences for children,” said Camp Director Tim Bennett. “We vow to continue our efforts to be good stewards (of donated funds), with more than 88% of all funding supporting the children and programs,” he added.

Kiwanis clubs located in the Upper Peninsula have traditionally participated in service projects and supported the camp financially. Governor John Collins is allocating funds from his Governor’s Project towards the purchase of a sound system for the camp.

To make an individual contribution, or if your club would like to support Bay Cliff Health Camp, contact Director Tim Bennett at baycliff@baycliff.org or 906-345-9314.

To learn more, please visit www.baycliff.org.
KEY LEADER EVENT PROVIDES VALUABLE INSIGHTS, EXPERIENCES

By Matt Norby, Key Leader Coordinator

Key Leader is a weekend leadership program for today’s young leaders. This life-changing event focuses on service leadership as the first, most meaningful leadership development experience. A Key Leader will learn the most important lesson of leadership – it comes from helping others succeed. This year marks the thirteenth annual session of Key Leader at Camp Wawbeek at which youth from Wisconsin and Upper Michigan are afforded an opportunity to learn and grow.

The first time I attended Key Leader was in 2006. Our first session set the schedule for the weekend and introduced the core principles of Key Leader:

- **Personal Integrity**: Doing the right thing,
- **Personal Growth**: Developing mind, body, and spirit,
- **Respect**: Showing consideration for self and others,
- **Building Community**: Developing relationships to achieve positive goals,
- **Pursuit of Excellence**: Expecting and achieving the best.

That long-ago weekend experience was a priceless gift provided to me by Kiwanis. The most important lessons I learned were that leaders sometimes fail, that some of the best leaders might have the quietest voices and that being a leader doesn’t necessarily mean that one has to stand in the limelight.

As Kiwanians, we might not always get to see or feel the impact we have. If we are lucky, we might hear our SLP participants share stories and experiences of their time spent at Kiwanis-sponsored events and how these events helped shape their life experience.

Our Kiwanis district took on the challenge of becoming a Key Leader pilot district three years ago. A pilot district pays Kiwanis International for the curriculum and a lead facilitator and then budgets funds to cover any remaining expenses like lodging, food, snacks and the cost of student facilitators and chaperones.

Your club or individual contribution can help the Key Leader program prosper. Recruit a student in a local high school or college and sponsor their registration fee. If you can’t identify any local youth, help cover the cost of a student from a different area or donate directly to the WI-UM Key Leader fund to help cover expenses and lower the participation costs for all students.

Please donate so that participants can continue to be impacted by this event as I was more than 10 years ago.

If you have any questions or want to learn how to get more involved, please contact Key Leader Coordinator Matt Norby at 906-399-6803 or mattnorby@gmail.com.

FOSTER A LIFELONG DESIRE FOR SERVICE LEADERSHIP... RECRUIT A STUDENT FOR KEY LEADER TODAY!
As Kiwanis members, we care, we serve and we change children’s lives. The Kiwanis Children’s Fund offers a proven method to extend our Kiwanis impact.

The mission of the Children’s Fund is to assist Kiwanis International in serving the children of the world. A gift to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund helps children in many places, in many ways. For the Kiwanis family, the Children’s Fund is a way of reaching children through grants, scholarship programs and Kiwanis youth programs.

Through the Kiwanis Children’s Fund, you can help make the future better for children around the world — and for members of Kiwanis’ Service Leadership Programs. You can join the fight to eliminate a deadly disease like tetanus and you can join the immediate response to disasters that threaten families’ health and welfare.

The Kiwanis Children’s Fund President’s Challenge encourages Kiwanis district governors, district secretaries, lieutenant governors and Children’s Fund district chairs to pursue the President’s Challenge and rewards districts for the tremendous impact they make annually through unrestricted giving.

The 2016-2017 President’s Challenge criteria are:

- **Challenge to District Governors and Secretaries:**
  The Kiwanis Children’s Fund president encourages district governors and secretaries to be beacons of leadership and support by increasing the district’s unrestricted cumulative giving by 10%. The district total must reach a minimum of $2,000.

- **Challenge to Lieutenant Governors:**
  The president challenges lieutenant governors to be advocates and to actively promote the Children’s Fund within their divisions by increasing the division’s unrestricted cumulative giving by 10%. The division’s combined total must reach a minimum of $750.

- **Challenge to Kiwanis Children’s Fund District Chairs:**
  District chairs are leaders in the field, and they help set a standard of support and advocacy for other Kiwanians. The Kiwanis Children’s Fund president challenges district chairs to increase the district’s unrestricted cumulative giving by 10%. The district total must reach a minimum of $2,000.

An individual who meets or exceeds the President’s Challenge will be presented with:

- An invitation to attend a private reception at the Kiwanis International convention in 2018.

- A personal gift of appreciation from the Kiwanis Children’s Fund president.

Several of our lieutenant governors and their divisions met the challenge last year and I am hoping that our WI-UM Kiwanis District will do it again this year. For complete details about the Kiwanis Children’s Fund President’s Challenge, call 1-800-KIWANIS, ext. 254 or email childrensfund@kiwanis.org.

Fred Dietze can be reached at 715-381-0038 or by email at fred@freddietze.com.
KIWANIS AUTISM PROJECT IS WI-UM DISTRICT SIGNATURE PROJECT
By Lynn Messer, District Chair, Kiwanis Autism Project

The 2016-2017 signature project for the WI-UM Kiwanis District is the Kiwanis Autism Project which has provided more than 850 iPads for children on the autism spectrum from families with financial need since the program was launched as my Governor’s Project during the 2012-2013 administrative year. The District is seeking submissions to establish a signature project for the next five years.

A committee will choose three projects from all applications to be presented to the Board of Directors which will select two to be presented to delegates at the District convention. The winning project will become the District Signature Project for the next five years.

Now is the time to decide if we want the Kiwanis Autism Project to continue as the District Signature Project. I will be submitting an application for consideration before the June 1 deadline. The project has been continuing in a positive direction with iPad applications continuing to arrive weekly.

More than 850 children’s lives have been changed dramatically as a result of this effort. I have served as the District Chair for the project and I will volunteer to continue in that capacity if the project is selected by vote at the convention in August.

As stated by an autism professional “children on the autism spectrum are showing improvements in their educational and social pursuits using iPads and customized software applications that are installed on them.” My personal experiences meeting special education teachers and therapists working with children on the spectrum has been amazing and enlightening. These professionals have expressed many thanks to Kiwanis for what we are doing for these children. My wife and I have experienced hugs and tears from children and their families who have received iPads.

Press releases and other media coverage about awarding iPads to children on the autism spectrum has made the public aware of the impact of our Kiwanis efforts and given people who were formerly unfamiliar with Kiwanis a tangible example of the positive impact Kiwanis has in our communities. Club members throughout the district have expressed a desire to continue this project.

If your club has supported this project, I ask you to recall the feelings you experienced when you witnessed the joy on the faces of a child and their parent when receiving an iPad. It was through our Kiwanis efforts that the child, the family, the teachers and caregivers were positively impacted. If the application is selected and the Kiwanis Autism Project makes it onto the ballot at the District Convention, please vote to make it the District Signature Project for the next five years.

Lynn Messer can be reached at 920-946-0652 or by email at lmmrs001@gmail.com.

GOLDEN K DONATES IPAD; RECEIVES THANKS
By Don Smith, Appleton Golden K Kiwanis Club

Appleton Golden K Kiwanis Club members awarded two iPads in mid-February. One of the recipients is non-verbal. The apps installed on his iPad help him communicate with those around him. The positive impact of the Kiwanis Autism Project was affirmed when the club received a thank you poster, which he created, saying “Thank you for giving me a voice!”
Easter Seals Wisconsin celebrated 75 years at Camp Wawbeek, Wisconsin Dells, in 2013. The camp provides those with physical and cognitive challenges with a one-of-a-kind camping opportunity. The needs of campers dictate the services Easter Seals provides at the camp.

Camp Wawbeek’s goal of serving the needs of others aligns perfectly with the Kiwanis focus of changing the world by serving children, one child and one community at a time. Kiwanis empowers members to pursue creative ways to serve the needs of children through local service projects and fundraising. Easter Seals Wisconsin Camp Wawbeek has been a recipient of Wisconsin-Upper Michigan (WI-UM) Kiwanis District support for decades.

Approximately one third of WI-UM clubs contribute to the camp each year. Many district governors have designated Camp Wawbeek as recipients of their Governor’s Project appeal. Facilities throughout the camp bear placards identifying Kiwanis support, including:

- 1957: A new accessible swimming pool was built
- 1979: The pool was remodeled and rededicated
- 1981: A solar energy heater was added to the pool
- 1993: An accessible playground was dedicated
- 1994: The pool heater and filtration system were updated
- 2003: The Kiwanis Family Kafé was created
- 2008: A ropes course addition was built
- 2014: The accessible swimming pool was refurbished
- 2015: The Kiwanis Family Kafé received a face lift
- 2016: A multi-passenger “people mover” was purchased
- 2016-2017 District Governor John Collins is raising funds towards the purchase of an Arctic Cat Prowler all-terrain vehicle to move supplies across the camp’s 400 acres.

If you would like to individually support Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek, or if your club would like to make a contribution to the camp or to the Governor’s Project, please contact Camp Director Carissa Peterson, at cpeterson@eastersealswisconsin.com or 608-254-2502. More information about Camp Wawbeek can be found online at camp.eastersealswisconsin.com.
KIWANIS CLUB LAUNCHES NEW EVENT FOR APPLETON-AREA FAMILIES

By Jay Stephany, Appleton Fox Cities Kiwanis Club

On Saturday, April 8, Appleton Fox Cities Kiwanis Club members embarked on a new family tradition in the Fox Cities. As a replacement to a popular family outing called Quarry Quest, the Kiwanis club aimed to fill a void for families looking for fun on a spring Saturday. The Kidz Expo is a free family event that endeavors to be fun, educational and help kids be adventurous.

Held at Fox Valley Technical College, the theme of the inaugural event was active kids. With over 30 exhibitors, costumed characters including the Disney princesses, fire trucks, squad cars, construction and military vehicles, there was much for attendees to do. The event featured:

- **Interactive activities for children and parents**: face painting, pictures with favorite costumed characters, crafts, balloon animals, a diaper derby, tot-zones, selfie stations, peeps contest and on-going entertainment throughout the day.

- **Education**: Exhibitors shared products, services and information – using engaging, interactive displays or activities – making it fun for families to participate.

- **Brief seminars and programs**: Kids’ nutrition, Yell and Tell (water safety), scouting, Karate, YMCA programming, learning about our earth, fire safety and more.

- **Adventure**: Games, science projects, a treasure hunt, inflatables, an exercise course and even a real fire truck were popular additions to the event.

Attendance for the first-time event was estimated at between 3,000 and 4,000 according to Appleton Fox Cities Kiwanis members and Kidz Expo committee co-chairs Paul Shrode and Jean Long Manteufel.

“As an organization, we have always had an interest in serving youth in the community, trying to make this a much better community for families and for children in particular,” said Paul Shrode. “(The Kiwanis Club was) looking to do something at a time of year when there doesn’t seem to be much to do for families, and thought that a kids’ expo was an opportunity. We’ve seen some of them around the country. We did a little research and there are some great ones out there, and thought the Fox Cities could use something like that.”

For more details, please visit [www.foxcitieskidzexpo.com](http://www.foxcitieskidzexpo.com) or search for Fox Cities Kidz Expo on Facebook.
GARY RING RECEIVES KEY CLUB OUTSTANDING CLUB ADVISOR AWARD

Fond du Lac High School special education teacher/Key Club advisor Mandy Leibenow was excited to report that Gary Ring, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Fabulous Fond du Lac, received the award for Outstanding Kiwanis Club Advisor at the Key Club District Convention in March.

“We appreciate all the support and his presence at our events,” she said. “We also want to thank the club for funding our weekend at the district convention. We had a blast and learned tremendously about what other clubs are doing in their communities.”

IRON MOUNTAIN-KINGSFORD KIWANIS AND KEY CLUBS WORK TOGETHER

Kiwanis and Key Club members get together every year to help staff the gates, concessions and sell programs at Ski Jumps in Iron Mountain, Michigan. It’s the club’s largest fundraiser and it benefits the community. Without K-Family volunteers, Kiwanis Ski Jumps would not have the resources to operate. Fifty countries were represented this year among the jumpers. It’s a fun tailgate event that people look forward to each year.

The Iron Mountain and Kingsford Key Clubs both help staff the gates. In turn, the Kiwanis club supports both Key Clubs financially.

15TH ANNUAL MILWAUKEE KIWANIS GOLF OUTING SLATED FOR MAY 22

The Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee’s fund-raising golf outing will take place on May 22 at Western Lakes Golf Club, in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. The cost per foursome is $540 or $140 per individual golfer. Registration includes golf with cart, lunch, open bar social and Saz’s dinner. A $25 Wristband allows the golfer one mulligan, one step-up on a Par 5 Hole and entry into putting contest.

If you don’t care to golf but would like to attend the open bar social hour with appetizers, the dinner, the program, the auction and raffle the cost is $45. Registration opens at 10 a.m. with a lunch buffet at 10:30 and a shotgun start is at 11:30. The open bar social, silent auction, and much more fun begins at 4:30 p.m. with dinner at 5:30.

The Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee’s mission is to support and provide programs that impact children, the environment and adults with disabilities. Participate generously and thoughtfully. Your support at our golf outing helps us carry out many community service projects within the greater Milwaukee area! For details call 414-276-1331 or email kiwanismke@sbcglobal.net.
The Ripon Noon Kiwanis held its annual Children’s Fair on Saturday, April 1, inviting children from around the area to the free event at Barlow Park Elementary School.

Children could play games at any one of a number of booths, bounce in the bouncy castle, paint a picture or have their face painted. Parents, meanwhile, could chat with local organizations about the services they offer.

Two free, fun presentations were also held. Bruce Dumann the magician wowed the children, while kids could get up close and personal with Harriet the snake and Tina the turtle during a visit from Nature’s Guide Independent Naturalist Service.
Do you remember the excitement of hearing Dr. Seuss stories and learning about the wonderful characters when you grew up? Many things have changed, but what hasn’t changed is the excitement, interest and enthusiasm of preschoolers hearing the stories today.

The 14th Annual Dr. Seuss’ Birthday Read-Aloud event was held March 2 in Elm Grove. Volunteers read aloud to preschool children and provided books for local families to read aloud to their children. The events are sponsored by the Kiwanis club throughout the month of March. Research shows that reading aloud to children at an early age greatly improves their ability to learn.

With this in mind, the Literacy Council of Greater Waukesha partnered with the Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club and the Waukesha Family Practice Centers to provide appropriate books to families for reading aloud to their children. The groups also jointly sponsor reading events for pre-school children. Volunteers read to preschoolers in groups of 10-12 from Dr. Seuss books. They dress the part, they read aloud with animation, have fun and laugh a lot. The organizations will conduct about 40 events reading aloud to as many as 1,500 children.

The Elm Grove Golden K Club provides volunteers to read to preschoolers and Dr. Seuss books for them to take home. One of several sites for read-aloud events was Grandma’s House Day Care Center. The Director, Jess Donohue and her staff of about 30 maintain prop boxes including Dr. Seuss books containing themes for learning. She said, “It is rewarding and motivating to see the Kiwanis volunteer readers’ enthusiasm and the animated responses of the three- to five-year-old preschoolers. We are thankful the volunteer readers come year after year to celebrate Dr. Seuss’ Birthday with our children.”

The Literacy Council of Greater Waukesha is an award winning non-profit organization which provides volunteer one-on-one tutoring in reading, writing, speaking, math and English language.

The Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club includes more than 75 senior members committed to improving the world one child and one community at a time. The Dr. Seuss read-aloud program fulfills their mission.
MADISON WEST MEMBERS TELL STUDENTS HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED

By Ron Schuler, Madison West Kiwanis Club

Second-grade students from five classes at Midvale Elementary School asked six Madison West Kiwanis Club members how things have changed with respect to travel and communication. Kiwanian Fred Ross informed the students he traveled to school via street car. His colleague, Marv Beatty, growing up in rural Wisconsin, rode a horse to school. Some Kiwanians did not have access to phones when they were in second grade and communicated by letter or walking to the home of a friend or relative.

Kiwanis members visited five classes and each was assigned to two or three students who were studying history. The students were provided a list of ten questions to ask the elder volunteers. The students recorded the responses in words and drawings. They also recorded the birth date of the Kiwanian assigned. One student commented, “they are old people”.

The students also asked the Kiwanis members how they travel and communicate today. Even with the large age difference, the Kiwanis members use the same methods as the students to travel and communicate.

Midvale Elementary School and Madison West Kiwanis have a partnership recognized by the Madison School District. The school has an enrollment of 463 students in kindergarten through second grade. The majority come from low income or minority families. Most are in the dual language immersion program.

This school-Kiwanis partnership involves a multitude of other activities such as lunch buddies, potluck dinners, book fair, rummage sale, playground funding, students visiting Kiwanis and shelving library books. The Kiwanis club volunteers thoroughly enjoy working with the children and learn much from the students as well.

WHITewater Kiwanis Breakfast Club Members Honor Students

By John Newhouse, Whitewater Kiwanis Breakfast Club

Every spring, the Youth Committee of the Whitewater Kiwanis Breakfast Club select three Whitewater High School students who have excellent academic achievement, outstanding school participation and exhibit strong personal characteristics.

They and their parents are invited to a Kiwanis meeting during which each student is presented with a congratulatory certificate, a copy of the nomination letter from the high school principal and $100.
INaugural Kiwanis Chili Bowl Held in Port Washington

By Sam Arendt, Ozaukee Press, Port Washington, Wisconsin (used with permission)

The people spoke, and Twisted Willow was named the winner of the Port Washington Kiwanis Club’s inaugural Chili Bowl on January 29. Ten downtown Port Washington eateries participated, vying for the votes of the hungry public. On hand when the trophy was presented to the Twisted Willow were, left to right, restaurant workers Bradley Shelton, Mike Bleau, Eric Willborn, Kiwanis Club member John Sigwart, chefs Dan Wiken and James Flatley, Dylan Coomer and Angela Szczodroski. Wiken and Flatley, along with the kitchen staff, developed the chili they titled “Twisted Thunder Pants.” Proceeds from the Chili Bowl supported the Kiwanis Club’s Week of the Young Child activities, held from April 24 to 28.

West Racine Club Loses Last Surviving Charter Member

By Mary Sue Langendorf, West Racine Kiwanis

The last surviving charter member of the Kiwanis Club of West Racine, Wally Cooper, passed away in January. Wally was a dedicated Kiwanian and a true inspiration to all he left behind. His ready smile and willing attitude will never be forgotten. He was a Hixson Fellow, received the Tablet of Honor and Legion of Honor.

Wally and his wife, Arlene, had six sons. Their son, Rob, followed his father’s example as a valued member of the Kiwanis Club of West Racine with the same ready smile and willing attitude.

Classic Rock Event Planned for May 5 in Sheboygan

By Rich Miesfeld, Kiwanis Club of Greater Sheboygan

Attention classic rock fans! The Kiwanis Club of Greater Sheboygan is sponsoring an unforgettable night of entertainment and fun. Join club members on Friday, May 5 at the Stefanie H. Weill Center for the Performing Arts in Sheboygan to enjoy the musical talents of Edgar Winter, Rich Derringer and Mitch Ryder performing classic hits. The event is a fundraiser for Bookworm Gardens.

Bookworm Gardens is based completely on children’s literature. More than 60 different books are presented on the grounds of UW-Sheboygan. The garden has a mission of enriching the mind, body and spirit of young and young-at-heart through an outdoor exploration of literature. Proceeds from the concert will fund a bridge spanning a valley between two parts of the garden.

For more information visit www.weillcenter.com or contact Rich Miesfeld at miesfeld@att.net.
Oconomowoc Club Collects “Change for Hunger” for 14 Years

By Jerry Schneider, Oconomowoc Kiwanis Breakfast Club

Oconomowoc Kiwanis Breakfast Club member Steve Schmiedlin has had oversight of the “Change for Hunger” program since 2003. He presented the idea shortly after joining the club. Steve has been a very active member volunteering at most events and presently serves on the board. He is a George Hixson Fellow.

Collection boxes have been placed in Oconomowoc businesses through the years and Steve has faithfully picked up the money and found new places to put the boxes as needed. Oconomowoc area residents have been very supportive and collections have totaled $40,000 since 2003.

Oconomowoc Food Pantry co-founder Lois Jackson thanked the Kiwanis Club and Steve, stating how it takes time and dedication to facilitate this project. “The funds help out many community residents in a time of need,” Lois said. She further commented, “what a wonderful organization the Oconomowoc Kiwanis Breakfast Club is for helping not only the food pantry but many other organizations in the community.”

Gladstone-Rapid River Kiwanis Club Christmas Tree Decorated with “Remembrance and Honor Lights”

By Larry Kirschner, Gladstone-Rapid River Kiwanis Club

The Gladstone-Rapid River Kiwanis Club planted a permanent Christmas Tree in front of the Gladstone Beach House on September 9, 2016. The 25 foot spruce tree was donated by Teal’s Tree Farm of Bark River, Michigan and was transplanted by Parthi’s Landscaping of Marinette, Wisconsin.

The tree was decorated with 1,500 “remembrance and honor lights.” The club provided forms to purchase seasonal lights through the local grocery stores. Key Club members assisted with the sale of the lights by making the forms available to family and friends.

The tree lighting ceremony was initiated by Santa on November 23 with Christmas carols, hot chocolate and cookies. The remembrance and honor lights were shining brightly from dusk ‘til dawn through January 2.

The names of everyone remembered or honored with a holiday light were printed in the January 22 issue of the local newspaper.

I invite all Kiwanis communities to consider a similar community event and fundraising activity.
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KIWANEWS SCHEDULE

October/November .......................... Deadline: October 15
December/January .......................... Deadline: December 31
February/March .......................... Deadline: February 28
April/May .......................... Deadline: April 30
June/July .......................... Deadline: June 15
August/September .......................... Deadline: August 31

Email stories to tonya@allingenterprises.com or mail them
to Tonya Alling, 11 Stanton St., Ripon, WI 54971.
WAUTOMA KIWANIS CLUB ORGANIZES INAUGURAL AUTISM RUN/WALK

By Mary Braatz, Wautoma Kiwanis Club

The Wautoma Kiwanis Club held its inaugural Autism Run/Walk on Saturday April 1 at Parkside School. When the Kiwanis Autism Project was launched in 2013, the club embraced the effort, lead by club member Barb Struzynski. She worked hard to educate the community and club about the need. Soon the club received its first application and the first student was awarded an iPad.

Twenty-seven iPads have been granted to children on the autism spectrum since then. One recipient was non-verbal at the time they received an iPad but has since learned to speak. Given that news, Barb felt it was important to continue educating the public, raising funds and working to furnish an iPad for even more students on the spectrum.

Barb Struzynski and fellow Kiwanis member Jennifer Culver joined together to make their idea of a run/walk become a reality. Runners or walkers were able to register online on the club’s web site or they could register the day of the event.

Making the event more special was the printing of t-shirts by the Wautoma High School digital manufacturing class. A Key Club student, a former iPad recipient, and the Key Club Advisor worked alongside Kiwanis Club members to bring the autism run/walk to fruition.

APPLETON FOX CITIES CLUB SUPPORTS HYGIENE DRIVE FOR HOMELESS

“I don’t know what I would do if I couldn’t have a shower and clean clothes. Being homeless is one thing, but trying not to look or smell homeless is everything to me. Thank you so much for your hygiene donations!”

A Fox Valley Warming Shelter Client

This story is one of many that are reported by the 79 local Wisconsin crisis programs that benefit from the annual ‘Help for the Homeless’ hygiene drive. The Appleton Fox Cities Kiwanis Club delivered more than 250 donation boxes to 178 employers, churches and schools in the Fox Valley. There are 840 Wisconsin drop-off locations in 13 communities that rallied together to supply a year’s worth of products to each agency for local crisis programs.

The Fox Valley AKtion Club supported the drive by attaching the posters to the boxes. It is a great project that supports the community and engages members of a Kiwanis sponsored leadership program.