



# Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District **Kiwanews**

**DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016** [www.wiumkiwanis.org](http://www.wiumkiwanis.org)



Members of the St. Jerome Builders Club with faculty advisor Jennifer Kandis, Kiwanis advisor Laurie Braund, WI-UM Governor James Burmeister, St. Jerome principal Jamie Cotter and Columbus Kiwanis Club president Christine Behl.

## **Columbus Kiwanis Club Members Charter New Builders Club**

*By Christine Behl, Columbus Kiwanis Club*

The Columbus Kiwanis Club is proud to announce the opening of a new Builders Club at St. Jerome School in Columbus, Wisconsin. WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor James Burmeister and his wife, Builders Club District Chair Fay Burmeister, attended the ceremony on December 14, 2015 to present the charter and install officers. Several members of the Columbus Kiwanis Club and Builders Club family members also attended.



Front row, left to right, St. Jerome faculty advisor Jennifer Kandis and Columbus Kiwanis Club president Christine Behl. Back row, left to right, Columbus Kiwanis member and past WI-UM District Governor Dick Mortimer, Kiwanis member Emogene Johnson, WI-UM District Governor James Burmeister, St. Jerome principal Jamie Cotter, Kiwanis advisor Laurie Braund and Kiwanis member Peter Kaland.



WI-UM District Builders Club Chair Fay Burmeister, right, presents the St. Jerome Builders Club charter to president Frank Roelke.

## MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

**Learn Something New at an Upcoming Midyear Conference***James Burmeister, 2015-16 WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor**James Burmeister*

The holidays are over and I hope yours were all very enjoyable. The season offers an opportunity to spend more time with friends and family. As we begin 2016, we need to get back to some serious work. We will soon be starting our midyear conferences (see page 4). One of the main purposes of midyear conferences is education. We will be holding training for incoming presidents,

presidents-elect and secretaries. It is important for officers to take this training to better prepare them to guide their clubs.

There are other educational opportunities at midyear conferences. A team of eight of our members recently took part in a conference on the I-Plan, Kiwanis International's strategic plan for the future. Special thanks to Dale Vannes, Mark Finger, John Collins, Jim Sanderson, Margaret Rudolph, Justin Hahn and Lena Scheibengraber for working with me on this project. We are in the process of developing a strategic plan for the WI-UM district based on the Kiwanis International I-Plan. Our proposal will be presented at midyear conferences before the District Board reviews it. This is your opportunity to ask questions and offer input.

A major part of the strategic plan addresses the steady decline of membership in our district and the impact that decline has been having. You may be aware of the dues increase to Kiwanis International. This was needed in large part due to membership decline and loss of

dues revenue. For several years international has been promoting The Formula program to counsel existing clubs and open new ones. This calls for club counselors and club openers in each division. Our district is not doing well at filling these positions. If you think you may be interested in serving in either capacity, please let me or District Formula Chair Dale Vannes know.

While the focus of Kiwanis International is mainly on opening new clubs, I feel our success lies mainly in strengthening existing clubs. We need to reverse the trend of declining membership and have every club end the year with a net gain in membership.

Another educational element of midyear conferences is a presentation offered on declining membership and revenue to operate our district. You will learn the extent of the membership decline and how it is impacting our finances. You will see the projected effect of membership increase and you will see why, if membership does not increase, we will be facing a dues increase in our district. I urge you to be informed and involved in our future. Help WI-UM remain a strong part of Kiwanis.

An important element of midyear conferences is the election of Lt. Governors for some divisions. We need strong individuals for these positions. Please consider becoming a Lt. Governor or taking part in the process to elect your representative to the district board.

I look forward to seeing you at a midyear conference.

*WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor Jim Burmeister can be reached at burmji@gmail.com or 608-429-2905.*

**Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District Events***By Mark Finger, WI-UM Kiwanis District Executive Director*

**West Bend Midyear Conference** . . . February 27, 2016  
West Bend Mutual, West Bend, WI

**District Board Meeting** . . . . . February 27, 2016  
Following the Midyear Conference, West Bend, WI

**Circle K District Convention** . . . . . March 4-6, 2016  
The Radisson, Green Bay, WI

**Key Club District Convention** . . . March 11-13, 2016  
Hyatt on Main, Green Bay, WI

**Escanaba Midyear Conference** . . . . . March 19, 2016  
Bay College, Escanaba, MI

**Richland Center Midyear Conference** . April 9, 2016  
UW-Richland Center, Richland Center, WI

**District Board Meeting** . . . . . April 9, 2016  
Following the Midyear Conference, Richland Center, WI

**Circle K Spring Fling** . . . . . April 22-24, 2016  
Camp Wawbeek, Wisconsin Dells, WI

**Kiwanis International Convention** . June 23-26, 2016  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**WI-UM District Convention** . . . . . August 12-14, 2016  
Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc, WI

**Key Leader** . . . . . September 16-18, 2016  
Camp Wawbeek, Wisconsin Dells, WI

**Kiwanis International Convention** . July 13-16, 2017  
Paris, France

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Useful Information from Your WI-UM Kiwanis District***By Mark Finger, WI-UM Kiwanis District Executive Director**Mark Finger**www.wiumkiwanis.org/midyear.***Midyear Conferences**

Midyear conferences will be held in West Bend on February 27, Escanaba on March 19 and Richland Center on April 9. Some divisions will hold elections for Lt. Governors, but you are encouraged to attend any conference that is convenient for you. Please refer to the schedule and registration form on page 4 or find the information online at

The midyear conferences will feature an introduction to the I-Plan, Kiwanis International's new strategic plan. In December, eight members from the district met for two days, learned about the I-Plan and put together a district strategic plan. We want to share the I-Plan with clubs at the midyear conferences so they can formulate their own strategic plan. This is one of the best ideas Kiwanis International (KI) has introduced with most of the structure for a good club-level strategic plan in place. All clubs have to do is to use the goals provided by KI or adapt them to their liking, choose which strategies fit best for their club, then complete action steps aligning with the strategies chosen.

**Annual IRS Form 990 Due February 15th**

Your club's 2014-15 IRS Form 990 is due by February 15th. All clubs need to file at least a 990-N no matter

how much your club has in receipts. Some clubs have lost their corporate status because they have failed to submit a Form 990 for three years.

**District Website: [www.wiumkiwanis.org](http://www.wiumkiwanis.org)**

Though many people like the recently revised district website, information may not be where you might expect it to be. When on the district website, go to the menu tab at the top right of the page and click on the different pull-down categories. The locations of many of the tabs you are used to seeing have been moved to different tabs in the new menu structure. Check out all of the pull-down tabs to see what's available on the site.

**Kiwanis District Foundation (KDF)**

I have accepted the position of Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Kiwanis District Foundation (KDF). Please send KDF correspondence to the district office. Last year your district foundation awarded almost \$27,000 in grants and matching scholarships. The KDF board reviews grant requests twice a year after the March 1 and September 1 deadlines and reviews scholarship requests after the March 1 deadline. Most of the money for these grants and scholarships comes from annual club contributions. To be eligible for a grant or matching scholarship a club must have contributed to the KDF at least once in the previous three years. See the KDF website at [www.wiumkdf.info](http://www.wiumkdf.info).

*WI-UM District Executive Director Mark Finger can be reached at [mfinger@wiumkiwanis.org](mailto:mfinger@wiumkiwanis.org) or 920-361-9954.*

**Kiwanis District Foundation Requests and Reminders***By Gail Pachucki, WI-UM Kiwanis District Foundation Zone Representative*

The Kiwanis District Foundation (KDF) will have basket raffles at each of the midyear conferences. We appreciate your basket donations. All funds raised support scholarships and grants. KDF matches club scholarship monies designated for a Circle K or Key Club member in an amount of up to \$500. The KDF also matches club scholarship monies for non-sponsored youth up to \$250.

Kiwanis Club service projects and programs which promote the ideals, goals and objectives of Kiwanis International and our District, and which have a scope benefiting multiple individuals are eligible for consideration. Forms are available at [www.wiumkdf.info](http://www.wiumkdf.info). All applications must be submitted by March 1. Take advantage of these scholarship and grant opportunities to help your clubs.

**WI-UM District Foundation Seeks Investment Advisor***By Mark Finger, WI-UM Kiwanis District Foundation Executive Secretary/Treasurer*

The WI-UM Kiwanis District Foundation (KDF) is seeking an investment advisor to oversee the KDF's portfolio, which is in excess of \$250,000. An *ad-hoc* committee is compiling a Request for Proposal (RFP)

which will include a copy of the KDF's Investment Policy. The RFP will be sent to all interested parties. For details, please contact KDF Executive Secretary/Treasurer Mark Finger at [mfinger@wiumkiwanis.org](mailto:mfinger@wiumkiwanis.org).

# 2016 Midyear Conference Registration Form

**February 27, 2016** – West Bend Mutual, 1900 S. 18th Ave., West Bend, WI – Div. 2 & 6 Lt. Gov. Election  
\$25 per person (includes lunch and morning snacks)/\$35 after February 13 deadline

**March 19, 2016** – Bay de Noc Community College, 2001 N. Lincoln Rd., Escanaba, MI – Div. 10 Lt. Gov. Election  
\$20 per person (includes lunch and morning snacks)/\$30 after March 4 deadline

**April 9, 2016** – UW-Richland Center, 1200 Hwy. 14 West, Richland Center, WI – Div. 3 & 4 Lt. Gov. Election  
\$20 per person (includes lunch and morning snacks)/\$30 after March 26 deadline

Please see the tentative schedule below with the workshops that are being planned. Please note that we are also offering a Club Leadership Education session for Presidents, Presidents-elect and Vice Presidents.

## Tentative Schedule

8:00	Registration	11:00 – 11:45	Workshops 2
8:30 – 9:45	Opening Session The Kiwanis I Plan	Room 1:	Chartering a Service Leadership Program and Recruiting an Advisor <i>Led by SLP Administrators</i>
10:00 – 1:00	Club Leadership Education President, Presidents-elect and Vice President Training	Room 2:	Club Secretaries and Treasurers <i>Led by Mark Finger</i>
10:00 – 10:45	Workshops 1	Room 3:	The Formula Works – Lakeland Area Minocqua Kiwanis Club <i>Led by Dale Vannes</i>
Room 1:	How Well Do You Know Our Service Leadership Programs? <i>Led by Justin Hahn</i>	12:00 – 12:45	Workshops 3
Room 2:	The Financial State of the District <i>Led by Bruce Hoebne</i>	Room 1:	Circle K/Key Club Graduate Program <i>Led by Fred Dietze</i>
Room 3:	Kiwanis District Foundation and Kiwanis International Foundation <i>Led by Jim Sanderson and Fred Dietze</i>	Room 2:	Marketing your Kiwanis Club <i>Led by John Collins</i>
		Room 3:	The Distinguished Club Program <i>Led by Charlie Price</i>
		1:00 – 2:00	Lunch (included with registration)
		2:00 – 3:00	Division Council Meetings

Please indicate the session you would like to attend so we can plan for meals and room requirements. Please check if you are attending Club Leadership Education and select the workshop track you will attend.

- February 27 West Bend, WI     March 19 – Escanaba, MI     April 9 – Richland Center, WI  
 Club Leadership Education (Club Presidents, Presidents-elect and Secretaries)  
 Workshops 1     Workshops 2     Workshops 3

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Member Last Name

First Name

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Phone Number (day)

E-mail

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Division #

Kiwanis Club

2015-16 Office Held

**Charge Card Authorization**     Master Card     Visa     Discover

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail registration to:**  
WI-UM Kiwanis District  
571 Center Street  
Berlin, WI 54923

**Fax registration to:**  
866-484-4745

**Email registration to:**  
[mfinger@wiumkiwanis.org](mailto:mfinger@wiumkiwanis.org)

## Support Fred Dietze for Kiwanis International Trustee

*By Fred Dietze, Candidate for Kiwanis International Trustee*



*Fred Dietze*

Canada this year and I would love to see you there.

When the temperature doesn't get above 0° summer seems like a long way off, but June will come quicker than expected. Why is June important? On June 23, the Kiwanis International Convention will kick off, celebrating the 101st anniversary of Kiwanis International and the 100th anniversary of Kiwanis in Canada. The Convention will be held in Toronto, Ontario,

Of course I have an ulterior motive for encouraging you to go to Toronto. I am running for Kiwanis International Trustee. I need your vote and would like you to help with my campaign. I encourage you to come to a midyear conference to find out more about Toronto and how you can help with the campaign.

For more information about my candidacy, please visit [www.freddieetze.com](http://www.freddieetze.com) and be sure to like my Facebook page: Fred Dietze for Kiwanis International Trustee.

*Fred Dietze can be reached at 715-381-0038 or by email at [fred@freddieetze.com](mailto:fred@freddieetze.com).*

## Make a Commitment to Community Service This Year

*By Ron Soellner, District Chair, Fundraisers, Human Spiritual Values and Services*

We have now shared with our families Thanksgiving, and the December holiday season. For those with children I'm sure the holidays were so special! The decorations, sweets and presents are all so great. Now that we are in the new year, if you are able, give of your time at a soup kitchen, visit a nursing home and consider putting together food baskets for families in need. Remember the true meaning of the season. Many folks look to a higher power for their true meaning.

We as Kiwanians give of ourselves to help the growth of children. We help nourish, educate about diseases and help guide our children and disabled adults through their early years. Kiwanians are lifesavers. Let us start 2016 with a goal of four new members per club before next October. We have this power!

*Ron Soellner can be reached at 262-359-0508 or by email at [rlsoellner1912@gmail.com](mailto:rlsoellner1912@gmail.com).*

## Participate in Youth Protection Guidelines Training

*By Dale Vannes, District Chair, Youth Protection*

Service Leadership Programs (SLP) are one of Kiwanis' greatest assets. Let's make sure we are keeping our youth and their advisors safe. Kiwanis International requires SLP advisors to have a clear background check. The sponsoring Kiwanis club must participate in youth protection guidelines training once per year, preferably during youth protection week in September.

KI recently issued a report listing clubs who completed

the training last year. I am certain that more clubs actually completed the training than was reported. The club secretary must record the completed training on the secretary's dashboard to Kiwanis International (KI). Please visit the website at [kiwanis.org/youthprotection](http://kiwanis.org/youthprotection) and contact me if you need help.

*Dale Vannes can be reached at 715-851-1038 or by email at [drvannes@yahoo.com](mailto:drvannes@yahoo.com).*

## Club Counselors and Openers Support the Kiwanis Formula

*By Dale Vannes, District Chair, The Formula*

The WI-UM Kiwanis District Formula Team is ready to help your club. Each Lt. Governor should have in place two club counselors and one club opener to serve their clubs. If you would like to learn more about the Formula for success, contact your Lt. Governor and he or she will assign a club counselor to attend your meeting with a goal of helping to strengthen your club.

We are still looking for motivated Kiwanians to serve as club counselors and club openers. If you are interested, want to get involved or would like more information, please contact me.

*Dale Vannes can be reached at 715-851-1038 or by email at [drvannes@yahoo.com](mailto:drvannes@yahoo.com).*

# Support the District Foundation with Van Kleef Fellowship

By Mark Finger, Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Kiwanis District Foundation



Please consider honoring a deserving club member with a Case Van Kleef Fellowship award.

Case Van Kleef served as the WI-UM Kiwanis District Foundation (KDF) President, was WI-UM Kiwanis District Governor in 1995-96 and served as Kiwanis International President in 2004-05.

The \$1,000 donation to the KDF from a club or an individual will strengthen Kiwanis. Honor a club member, strengthen your District Foundation and provide more service through our district at the club level by honoring someone with a Van Kleef. If a minimum of 25 Van Kleef Fellowships are reserved before the district convention in August, 2016, Case Van Kleef will be at our convention to present the awards. Contact the KDF to reserve yours today.

Mark Finger can be reached at 920-361-9954 or by email at [mfinger@wiumkiwanis.org](mailto:mfinger@wiumkiwanis.org).

# The KIF...Coming Soon to a Midyear Conference Near You

By Fred Dietze, District Chair, Kiwanis International Foundation



Fred Dietze

The three midyear conferences should be fun and educational. I would like you to attend one of my workshops regarding the Kiwanis International Foundation (KIF), but you will also have a wide range of choices. If you can't come to one of the workshops, please stop by the KIF information table and pick up some information to take back to your club. I will be

available at all three midyear conferences to answer any questions you might have regarding the KIF. I am also happy to travel to any club in the district to present a program. All you have to do is ask.

Now for some exciting news. The following Clubs have been recognized by the KIF for their cumulative (both individual and club) giving:

### 2014-15 Silver Level Today Clubs (\$25/member)

Madison West • Waukesha Golden K  
Wausau • Wisconsin-Upper Michigan E-Club

### 2014-15 Diamond Level Today Clubs (\$100/member)

Greater Hudson • Kenosha Breakfast

On behalf of the Kiwanis International Foundation and the children of the world, thank you!

Fred Dietze can be reached at 715-381-0038 or by email at [fred@freddietze.com](mailto:fred@freddietze.com).

# Elkhorn Area High School Key Club Officers Installed

By Julie Lopez, Elkhorn Kiwanis Club

The Elkhorn Kiwanis Club is happy to announce the recent installation of the Elkhorn Area High School Key Club officers. Congratulations to:

- President .....Katelyn Golly
- Vice-President ..... Abby Price
- Treasurer .....Greyson Lopez
- Secretary ..... Jaden Matzke
- Bulletin Editor .....Elly Russell

A special thank you to Lt. Governor Jessica Korducki and Key Club Advisor Amy Polyock for helping with the ceremony.

Elkhorn Kiwanians wish Key Club members the best!



Officers of the Elkhorn Area High School Key Club were recently installed.

# Platteville Kiwanis Family Celebrates Kiwanis Centennial

By Gary Lindahl, Platteville Kiwanis Club

The Platteville Kiwanis Club, together with the UW-Platteville Circle K Club and the Platteville High School Key Club, joined together for the first time ever on December 1, 2015. The event was organized to provide an opportunity for all members to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Kiwanis International. More than 70 people attended the celebration held in the new engineering hall building at UW-Platteville.

Special guests attending were Division 3 Lt. Governor Bruce Hoehne and past Division 3 Lt. Governor Charles Price, who brought an unexpected gift of money for the UW-Platteville Circle K Club, donated by his Dodgeville Kiwanis Club. The event afforded attendees the opportunity to donate winter clothing in support of the Circle K project for the Platteville Family Advocates.



Three branches of the Kiwanis family met in December to celebrate the Kiwanis International centennial.

The highlight of the night was presenting a George F. Hixson Fellowship to Bev Johansen who has served the club and community with service since joining in 1988. She has served as club president and for many years as secretary and treasurer. Bev has taken the lead on many of the club's service projects in the community, such as organizing the monthly banana night visitations to all the nursing homes and assisted-living facilities in the community, the road clean up of Highway 80 and assisting in the recent Reach Out and Read Program in cooperation with Southwest Health.

In addition, she has been a Kiwanis mentor to the Platteville High School Key Club and the UW-Platteville Circle K Club. Bev has been a key worker in club fundraisers which support many children and youth and other activities in the community.



Long-time member Bev Johansen received a George F. Hixson Fellowship.

Past President Thomas Lindahl shared that "Bev is the spark plug of the Platteville Kiwanis Club. It was fun to see her long-standing efforts recognized", he said. The recognition was truly a surprise to Bev and that made it extra special. To bestow a Hixson Fellowship, Platteville Kiwanis Club members donated more than \$1000 to the Kiwanis International Foundation Eliminate Project for maternal and neonatal tetanus.



## Mineral Point Club Works to Repurpose Kiwanis Lodge

By Joelle Doye, Mineral Point Kiwanis Club

The Mineral Point Kiwanis Club is busy planning the revitalization of a lodge in Water Tower Park. The guest house was built in the 1930s by the club and has been used through the decades as a visitor center. It sat largely abandoned for some time and the group hopes to give it new life and purpose.

## Greater Wausau Kiwanians Support Equine Therapy

By *Jeremy Tabin, Greater Wausau Kiwanis Club*

The Greater Wausau Kiwanis Club is proud to support so many great causes in the community. One way it does so is through large donations. In October, the club was honored to provide funding for and deliver a new riding tractor from Grebe's Hardware (valued at \$5,500) to Stable Hands Equine Therapy. In addition, Grebe's Hardware donated some supplies that can be used along with the tractor. A few weeks later, the club held its biweekly meeting at Stable Hands Equine Therapy. After a presentation by staff, which included insights on



*Three children, riding their therapy horses, are accompanied by volunteer aids and lead by the session trainer.*

the individuals that are being helped through the program, members attended a session that was scheduled for the evening. Three children with social interaction challenges spent an hour riding and doing various exercises with their companion horse. The smiles on their faces as they completed tasks and guided their horse were heartwarming. As the equine therapy center continues to expand in the coming years, the goal is to provide more classes for children and adults and to be able to hold sessions year 'round.



*On hand for the donation, left to right, Diane Abitz, Tim Grebe, Jamie Elenbass, and Kiwanis members Henry Osswald and Marv Machel.*

## Hixson Fellowships Awarded to Wausau Kiwanis Members

By *Jeremy Tabin, Greater Wausau Kiwanis Club*

The Greater Wausau Kiwanis Club presented the George F. Hixson Fellowship to five long-time club members who have helped the club positively impact the community. Gary Alexander, Pat Morath, Jeff Mulhern, Warren Torgerson and Bob Volker were honored with the Hixson medal, pin, and plaque through a generous \$5,000 donation by the club, to be directed toward The Eliminate Project. With these five fellowships, all current members of the club have now been bestowed with this great honor.

The club also presented honorary lifetime membership to three distinguished members: Bob Gifford, Wayne Schmidt and John Webb. The club is truly grateful for



*Kiwanis club members receiving Hixson Awards, left to right, Warren Torgerson, 2015-16 Club President, Bob Volker, Jeff Mulhern, Pat Morath, 2014-15 Club President, and Gary Alexander.*



*The Greater Wausau Kiwanis Club is proud to have been able to honor all current members with a George F. Hixson Fellowship Award.*

the dedication and hard work these members have provided throughout the years. John Webb has achieved more than 40 years of perfect attendance, served at the district level as Lt. Governor, and is a recipient of the Solberg Award. Bob Gifford provided a link to the local schools, was a past Key Club advisor for Wausau West High School and served as a club president. The club is thankful to Wayne Schmidt for his early-morning work at the Wisconsin Valley Fair Kiwanis Elephant Ears fundraiser, along with his skilled work at transporting the club's popcorn wagon over the years. Although these individuals are unable to make meetings on a regular basis, club members look forward to seeing them at special events in the future.



# Spotlight on an Active and Engaged Medford Kiwanis Club

By Miki Bix, Medford Kiwanis Club

Medford Kiwanis Club members kicked off the fall season with the Medford Reads Program – a program the club started in partnership with the school district more than 20 years ago. Mentors read with elementary students who are not reading at grade level to help them develop better skills. Currently, 84 kids are mentored by more than 75 community volunteers including several Kiwanians. Twice a year a banquet is provided for the Medford Reads participants, their parents and their mentors. In the fall the club serves BBQ; in the spring it serves pizza, which is donated by Tombstone Pizza. The club always provides a huge cake for the kids.

The club cleans up two miles of Highway 13 each spring and fall, and a road sign acknowledges the work done. Members also mow five miles of the rail-trail recreational path several times each summer and fall.

Each year the club raffles off two or three bus stop shelters so that elementary school students have a place where they can wait for the school bus out of the wind, rain, snow and sleet. This year, a local mobile home park requested a large shelter to accommodate several children. The club received many donations of wood, window and roofing materials and members put together a fine shelter which is used every morning.



*Kiwanians Paul Webb, Jim Peterson, Herb Archibald, Dave Goessl and Jon Knoll work on the bus stop shelter at Riverside Terrace Mobile Home Park.*

Twice a year the local theater has a comedy night with several comedians performing. Members handle the beverage service and receive a portion of the profits for their efforts. The parents-in-law of the theater owner are both involved in the club, so that certainly helps! This year the club made \$800 from two events.

The club also held a raffle for a Green Bay Packers package of four club seats with a parking pass for a home game. More than \$1,850 was netted – our best raffle ever. Members also run a Big Ticket Bingo event.

Participants buy a big ticket for \$22.50 which includes three cards for each of fifteen games. \$100 is given out in prize money for each game. The club had the best year ever, making more than \$2,000 from the bingo, a 50/50 raffle and the concession stand.



*Participants at Big Ticket Bingo concentrate on winning the Big Bucks.*

In December, additional lights were added to the club's 20-foot Christmas tree, which served as the anchor for the new Holiday Magic event on the Medford mill pond. Along the roadway were many other decorations with lighted displays – Santa and his reindeer, various cars, trucks, and tractors outlined in lights, holiday singers, the twelve days of Christmas – all done with LED lights and plywood cutouts. The Medford Kiwanis Club is spearheading this event along with the Medford Chamber of Commerce. This was the event's inaugural year with about 20 displays. Given the donations and community interest, it looks like this event will grow substantially in the future.

The club sent three high school students to the Key Leader program, one boy to Badger Boys State, and one girl to Badger Girls State. It gave another iPad to a



*Medford Area Public Schools Special Education Director Joe Greget, Jayden Gasser and her mother Sarah, and Medford Kiwanis Club President Catherine Leifeld shared a special moment when Jayden received her iPad.*

*...continued on page ten*

## Spotlight on an Active and Engaged Medford Kiwanis Club... *from page nine*

student on the autism spectrum at the middle school, donated funds for the school district's online summer reading and math program, and gave a \$1,000 scholarship to a high school graduate and \$500 to a student at Northcentral Technical College.

Members rounded out the year with a Coats for Kids collection. Local businesses, churches, and schools worked with the club on this program which collected more than 600 coats and a total of 1,300 other items such as mittens, scarves, snow pants and gloves. Items are taken to the local food pantry where they are given to anyone who needs cold weather gear. This was the best year ever although demand was not high early in the year because of the mild weather. When the weather changed there was a big run on warm coats. This year, one of the middle school classes chose Coats for Kids as their project, and they collected about 50 coats and 250 other items.



*Coats for Kids donations from Medford Middle School students.*

We also spent a full day ringing the bell and collecting donations for the Salvation Army.



*Bob Whetstone rings the bell for the Salvation Army on a cold day.*

Circuit Court Judge and Medford Kiwanis Club member Ann Knox-Bauer spearheaded a project providing Christmas gifts for three children from the St. Paul Community Giving Tree.



*Kiwanis members purchased holiday gifts for several children.*

Then the club ran into a snag. It usually puts a barrel on the mill pond ice and sell tickets for people to guess when the ice will melt and the barrel will sink. Remember that nice weather we had? Ever try to put a barrel out on water? It doesn't work. The club finally got it out – albeit about three weeks late!



*Stan Carbaugh and Dave Goessl put the ice out barrel on the ice.*

The club tries to involve other organizations, businesses and people in its projects. This fall, members were very successful in doing that. The club is fortunate to have staff from the local newspaper, *The Star News*, among its members so it enjoys a lot of local publicity. When we say "Kiwanis" everyone knows who we are!

*Editors note: I enjoy featuring the good works of the clubs in the WI-UM Kiwanis District and I would love to spotlight your club, too! Submit stories to [tonya@allingenterprises.com](mailto:tonya@allingenterprises.com).*

# Greater Hudson Kiwanis Club Cashes In On Muddy Shoes

By Nancy Dietze, Kiwanis Club of Greater Hudson

Would you like to play in the mud and earn money for your club at the same time? The Kiwanis Club of Greater Hudson did just that. They collected muddy shoes from participants at the Muck Fest in Somerset, Wisconsin after they finished their run through the obstacle course.



Participants are invited to "scrub your muck" to remove some of the mud from their clothing and shoes.



The Kiwanis Club of Greater Hudson turned muddy shoes into cash following the Muck Fest.

The club learned about shoe collections through a booth at the Kiwanis International Convention in Indianapolis. The company is Funds2Orgs. They collect used footwear to send to microenterprises in developing nations like Haiti, Ghana, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Benin and Senegal. The

shoes are re-purposed and then sold locally by an entrepreneur.

Collecting muddy shoes is fun and easy and your club is paid 50¢ per pair. You don't even have to clean the mud off the shoes! The company sends you the plastic bags, members put 15 pairs in each double bag and then store them until a truck is in the area to pick them up. A check is issued a few days after the shoes have been unloaded and counted. It takes three people per shift of around four hours each and a pick-up truck for each of the two shifts to lug away the bags of shoes. The Greater Hudson club filled over 47 bags (that's more than 700 pairs) with old muddy shoes!



Greater Hudson Kiwanis members earned more than \$350 collecting muddy shoes.

Fund2Orgs also has a more extensive plan to help you collect gently used shoes over a few months' time. This project earns money by the pound (averaging about 40¢ per pair). They offer a designated coach to help your club with advertising, planning where and when to collect, etc. Who doesn't have shoes in their closet that they don't wear any more? This campaign requires 25 pairs of shoes in each bag (they are dry and lighter weight) and the goal is to collect at least 100 bags (2,500 pairs) of shoes. It's not that difficult to do if you give bags to friends, relatives and colleagues.

For more information, please contact Tom Henderson at 407-930-2979 or visit [www.Funds2Orgs.com](http://www.Funds2Orgs.com).



## Key Club Members Help Prepare Holiday Baskets

By Dan Weninger, Fond du Lac Lakeside Kiwanis

Left to right, Alex Chiavetta, Olivia Newton, Katelyn Mulholland, Mikayla Newton, and Laura Wusterbarth, all members of the Oakfield High School Key Club, assisted the Fond du Lac Lakeside Kiwanis Club with creating Christmas baskets for twenty less fortunate families.

## iPads Donated to Children on the Autism Spectrum

By Karin Oliver-Kreft, Kiwanis Club of Sheboygan Falls

In their continuing commitment to serving the children of the community, the Sheboygan Falls Kiwanis Club presented four iPads in support of the WI-UM Kiwanis Autism Project. The project, developed in 2012-13 by Kiwanis District Governor Lynn Messer, strives to provide iPads and funding for apps for children on the autism spectrum with financial need. The presentation of these two iPads marks the 36th and 37th iPads presented by the Kiwanis Club of Sheboygan Falls. To date, more than 750 iPads have been donated and close to \$350,000 has been raised throughout the district.

Presenters included Kiwanis members Mike Holden, Sheila Kloepping and Lynn Messer. The presentation took place at Sheboygan Falls Middle School on November 5th. Recipients included Ty Davenport and John Bonnos, whose families attended the event.



Left to right, front row: Heather Davenport, Ty Davenport, John Bonnos; back row, Sheila Kloepping, Ty's sister, Ty's father, Valerie Bonnos, Lynn Messer and Mike Holden.



Left to right: Mike Holden, Lynn Messer, Lisa Meyer, William Meyer, Dalene Voss and Isaiah Voss.

Two additional iPads were presented by Kiwanis members Mike Holden and Lynn Messer to students at Plymouth Riverview School. These donations were made possible from the Edward Miller memorial gift to the iPad project. Recipients included William Meyer and Isaiah Voss.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a lifelong disability that affects the way a person communicates and relates to others. According to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control, one in 50 children in the United States is on the spectrum. Teachers use iPads to reach out to children with ASD with remarkable results. Children show tremendous improvements after playing fun-filled exercises on the iPad, which is less stressful and more fun for the teachers and the students.

## Kids Need Kiwanis; Together We Will Change the World

By Sue Petrisin, 2015-16 Kiwanis International President

Kids need Kiwanis. Without Kiwanis, kids in New York wouldn't have art supplies at summer camp; kids in California wouldn't have bike helmets; kids in Missouri wouldn't have a safe playground. Without Kiwanis, children with Down syndrome in Malaysia would have no place to learn life skills; children in Madagascar would be in the landfill fighting animals for food. Without Kiwanis, millions of babies would not survive the ravages of tetanus.

Plain and simple, kids need Kiwanis – now more than ever. I joined Key Club in 1977 to make a difference in my community. I saw that my efforts had a bigger impact when joined with those of others. That desire to continue improving lives and communities led to a lifetime as a member of the Kiwanis family. I am honored and humbled to begin my term as Kiwanis International President. This is an historic moment, not

only because Kiwanis is the first of any of the major service organizations to elect a female president at the international level, but most importantly, this is the start of our second century of serving the children of the world.

As we start this new Kiwanis year, I ask you to pause and remember why you first joined this remarkable organization. I joined to make a difference in my community. I bet that's why you joined too. Continue to make that difference. Re-energize those around you. Be the spark that helps children live better lives. Show the world what you are doing to help children.

I can't wait to see what you and your club is doing to make the world a better place for children.

Together, we will change the world. Kids need Kiwanis.

## Appleton Fox Cities Kiwanis Participates in Tree Lighting

By Jay Stephany, Appleton Fox Cities Kiwanis Club

Nothing says Christmas time like a Christmas tree. The smell of the pine, the twinkling of the lights – it's magical. What's also magical about the holiday season is volunteering. The Appleton Downtown Christmas Parade committee was seeking a volunteer organization to take ownership of the tree lighting ceremony in City Park prior to the parade. The Appleton Fox Cities Kiwanis Club stepped up to the task.

The weather was chilly but spirits were warm. Carolers from the Fox Valley Chorus of Sweet Adeline's, holiday music by DJ Legend George, food vendors, free hot chocolate, coffee, and apple cider and decorating Christmas cookies entertained attendees.

The tree was lit and everyone made their way to College Avenue in time for the parade, which is the largest night-time parade in the midwest. Last year's event drew approximately 80,000 spectators to downtown Appleton. The Appleton Fox Cities Kiwanis Club is excited about what it can do next year to grow this great community event.



Members of the Appleton Fox Cities Kiwanis Club planned and carried out the tree lighting ceremony just prior to the Appleton Christmas Parade.

## League Partners with Kiwanis on Voter Education Contest

By John Newhouse, Kiwanis Whitewater Breakfast Club

Some people vote, or don't vote, based on a preconceived notion of the relative value of one ballot. The Whitewater League of Women Voters (LWV) desired to challenge negative attitudes by offering a positive project for students. Knowing that many students in the current high school senior class will be of voting age soon, the LWV decided to sponsor a registration and voter ID video contest to educate students about registration and voting as a serious process. The organization feels that knowing how to vote is as important as deciding who to vote for.

The LWV publicized the plan and asked for financial support to offer money prizes, which the Kiwanis Whitewater Breakfast Club supported, approving \$400 for three top prizes. Students could team up or work



Winners of the Registration and Voter ID video contest received cash prizes provided by the Whitewater Breakfast Kiwanis Club.

independently to prepare a three-minute video presentation. A team of experienced citizens volunteered to judge the 23 entries, including a UW-Whitewater professor, a local TV producer and a newspaper correspondent and a Kiwanis member with extensive election poll experience.

One object of the contest was to use the top videos to inform voters, both in school and in the public, especially those who will be voting for the first time in 2016. The LWV scheduled a premier showing of the winning videos and presented awards to the three winning student teams at their annual holiday dinner. The Kiwanis Club then hosted the students and their winning videos at a subsequent club meeting.



Students eagerly awaited the announcement of the winning teams.

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Issue: February/March  
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Issue: April/May  
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Issue: June/July  
Deadline: June 15

Issue: August/September  
Deadline: August 30

Submit stories to editor  
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Back row, left to right, Karen Bailey, Phyllis Orsburne, Diana Russell, Cori Vandekieft, Bill Allen and John Russell. Front row, left to right, Tazuko Ferbuson from Madison4Kids and recipient Kira Vandekieft.

## Madison East Kiwanis Club Donates 27th iPad

By Karen Bailey, Madison East Kiwanis Club

On December 10, 2015, the Madison East Kiwanis Club awarded an iPad to 6th-grade student Kira Vandekieft at Sennett Middle School. This is the 27th iPad the club has donated to a child on the autism spectrum, in support of the WI-UM Kiwanis Autism Project. Local organization Madison4Kids provided grants totaling \$2,000 dollars towards the project.



## Annual Meat Raffle Will Support Autism iPad Project

By Dan Weninger, Fond du Lac Lakeside Kiwanis

The 4th Annual Meat Raffle will be held March 6 at the Beer Run Tavern in Pipe. Proprietors Dick and Sally Renk donate profits from the event to purchase iPads for local families with children impacted by autism. The event is two hours of fun and a great escape from the winter blues! For more information, please contact Dan Weninger at 920-979-1542 or [danweninger@yahoo.com](mailto:danweninger@yahoo.com).



Chuck Myrbrum and Cindie Pitz packed three trunkloads full of gifts for three families "adopted" by the West Bend Noon Kiwanis Club.

## West Bend Noon Club Packs Three Trunks Full of Holiday Compassion

By Tom Bergerud, West Bend Noon Kiwanis Club

The West Bend Noon Kiwanis Club donated three trunkloads of gifts for delivery to three families "adopted" by the club for Christmas. The families were referred through the Washington County social services agency. The club was able to supply the children with new clothes and toys and the parents with much needed home supplies. This is a project that the club has been proud to participate in for many years.

## Kiwanis International Has a Massive Service Impact



Service is at the heart of every Kiwanis International club, no matter where in the world it's located. Kiwanis members stage nearly 150,000 service projects, devote more than 6 million hours of service and raise nearly \$100 million every year for families, communities and projects. Key Club members pitch in 12 million hours of service each year, and CKI members another 500,000 hours of service! Aktion Club members donate another 92,000 hours of service every year. Add it all up, and that's more than 18 million hours of service every year!