SHEBOYGAN FALLS KIWANIS CLUB AWARDS 44 IPADS TO CHILDREN ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM IN SUPPORT OF DISTRICT SIGNATURE PROJECT

By Karin Oliver-Kreft and Lynn Messer, Sheboygan Falls Kiwanis Club

In December, the Sheboygan Falls Kiwanis Club demonstrated their commitment to helping children on the autism spectrum by providing iPads to three children, bringing the total to 44 iPads the club has given as part of the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District Autism Project, which provides iPads to children on the autism spectrum with financial need.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a lifelong disability that affects the way a person communicates and relates to other people and the world around them. According to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control, 1 in 50 children in the United States are affected by autism. Teachers use iPads to reach out to children on the spectrum with remarkable results. Children show tremendous improvement after playing fun-filled exercises on the iPad, which is less stressful and more fun for teachers and students, and is also beneficial for parents, siblings and other caregivers.

Children show improvement when interacting with apps on the iPad which support academic concepts, comprehension and direction-following. Apps can be updated as the child grows, so the iPad can continue to be a great tool for their learning.

…continued on page nine
Please join your fellow Kiwanians during one of three midyear opportunities to meet other members, have a little fun, win a basket raffle, enjoy lunch and — most importantly — enhance your knowledge of...

“HOW TO KIWANIS”

WI-UM MIDYEAR CONFERENCES

February 11, 2017 ............... Appleton, Wisconsin
Fox Valley Technical College, 1825 N. Bluemound Dr.

March 25, 2017 ............... Elkhorn, Wisconsin
St. Patrick’s Parish School, 534 Sunset Dr.

April 29, 2017 ............... Medford, Wisconsin
Medford Area Senior High School, 1051 W. Broadway

$25 Registration Fee (includes lunch)

WI-UM KIWANIS DISTRICT 2017 MIDYEAR CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:00  Registration

8:20 – 8:50  Opening Session
Learn about district plans for growing membership though The Formula program and the process of selecting the 2017-2018 district signature project. Then hear the call to the 2017 district convention.

Room 1
9:00 – 1:00  How to Grow Your Club
Grow your club membership using social media, recognition programs and The Formula program. Learn how to attract new members and improve your club’s public image.

Room 2
9:00 – 1:00  How to Maximize Your Impact
Maximize your club’s impact by understanding the district project, governor’s project, service leadership programs and Kiwanis partnerships. Bring your club project ideas to share with clubs from across the district.

Room 3
9:00 – 1:00  How to Manage Your Club for the Future
Maximize and protect your club’s investment by understanding best practices such as Kiwanis International’s youth projection guidelines, risk management practices and learning how international, district and club foundations work.

Room 4
9:00 – 11:45  Club Leadership Education
Send your club president, president-elect and vice president to this training program specifically designed to help them serve more effectively.

12:00 – 1:00  Club Secretaries
Send your club secretary to review the PortalBuzz online procedures and the club iPlan template.

1:00 – 2:00  Lunch (included with registration)
2:00 – 3:00  Division Council Meetings
3:00  Adjourn

PICK UP IDEAS ABOUT...

• How to grow your club’s membership,
• How to maximize your club’s impact, and
• How to manage your club’s operations.

Attend a special training program for club presidents, presidents-elect and secretaries.

See below for details and registration info.
The theme of the 2017 midyear conferences is “How to Kiwanis” and three events are planned throughout the district. On February 11th we will be gathering in Appleton at Fox Valley Technical College, on March 25th we will gather in Elkhorn at St Patrick’s Parish School and on April 29th we will gather in Medford at Medford Area Senior High School.

Why should you attend?
This year the workshops will revolve around improving your club. Kiwanis needs to grow and we will be utilizing these sessions to provide your club with some important “how to” ideas. Learn how to grow your club, how to have a bigger impact in your community and how to manage your club. Examples on the agenda include using social media and The Formula to recruit members, utilizing Kiwanis partnerships and setting up a club foundation. You’ll return to your club with useful information that can be easily implemented.

Midyear conferences are fun!
Taking new ideas back to your club is important, but why else should you attend a conference? Enthusiasm spreads like wildfire when a number of people who share the same passion for Kiwanis gather together. We all have a desire to change the world one child and one community at a time and the rekindled passion you will gain at a midyear conference will ignite renewed passion in all your club members.

Expand your Kiwanis network.
Reconnect with friends and expand your Kiwanis circle by meeting other members and district leaders at a midyear conference. The opportunity to learn what other clubs are doing successfully and take those ideas back to your club is immeasurably valuable. One of the things I love about Kiwanis is the great people in the organization and our ability to support each other and the causes we cherish.

Support the KDF and the Governor’s Project.
The Kiwanis District Foundation (KDF) will host a basket raffle, the proceeds of which fund Key Club scholarships and community-based grants. While you’re in the spirit of helping the KDF, attend the session that explains how the KDF gives back to clubs through community-based grants. Plan to present a donation from your club to the Governor’s Project, which this year focuses on providing an emergency all-terrain vehicle for Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek and a sound system for Bay Cliff Health Camp. We’ll also have fun celebrating some of the amazing club accomplishments from the previous year during lunch.

Register today!
From education to fellowship and fun, the 2017 midyear conferences offer a little something that will appeal to everyone. This year’s events promise to be a fantastic time. Register online today at www.wiumkiwanis.org/midyear or remit the paper form found on page four of this issue. We look forward to seeing you at a midyear conference soon!

Justin Hahn can be reached by phone at 414-510-1609 or by email at justinhahn1128@gmail.com.

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Justin Hahn can be reached by phone at 414-510-1609 or by email at justinhahn1128@gmail.com.
WHAT WE TAKE FOR GRANTED, KIWANIS TAKES TO HONDURAS.

Clean water. Immunizations. Playgrounds. New books. Last year, we gave 18.5 million volunteer hours and US$107 million dollars to help kids and families around the world. Get involved at Kiwanis.org.

A NEW NAME FOR THE FOUNDATION

By Stan Soderstrom, Kiwanis Children’s Fund

An exciting change is underway for all Kiwanians. The Kiwanis International Foundation is changing its name to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund. The new name better conveys the purpose of our organization – we serve children. And it describes how we raise funds to support Kiwanis initiatives. Kiwanians around the world shaped this change – from their work as volunteer leaders to their participation in surveys and interviews. We hope you and your club will choose to contribute to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund with an enhanced understanding of our purpose and a stronger identification of our connection with Kiwanis’ mission. Kids need Kiwanis. Your gift will continue to extend your Kiwanis impact, whether you make it to The Eliminate Project or through the annual club and individual gift programs. However you give, a fundamental truth remains – your gift to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund will change children’s lives.
SUPPORT THE KIWANIS CHILDREN’S FUND WITH A PLANNED GIFT
By Fred Dietze, District Chair, Kiwanis Children’s Fund

During the Kiwanis International convention in Toronto, chief operating officer Ann Updegraff Spleth hosted an educational workshop on planned giving. For the Kiwanis Children’s Fund (formerly known as the Kiwanis International Foundation) it was a great way to reach Kiwanians on an important topic. And it remains timely.

If you have discussed planned giving with other Kiwanians, you may have discovered the same thing we have…many people are still unsure about this giving opportunity. Maybe it’s because they lack knowledge or maybe it’s because what they know seems complicated.

Planned giving is simple to understand. Here are four of the most common questions we hear:

**What does “planned giving” mean?**
Planned giving refers to gifts that will benefit Kiwanis in the future while helping the donor achieve his or her personal financial goals today. A planned gift may be given during the donor’s lifetime or as part of an estate to support programs like Circle K International or Key Club. It may be cash or other assets, an annuity purchased by the donor, or a life insurance policy or retirement account that names the organization as a beneficiary. The astonishing thing about planned giving is that it often allows donors to make a larger contribution than they thought possible because of the tax and income benefits.

**Am I wealthy enough to make a planned gift?**
Absolutely! Your estate doesn’t have to be large to make a difference. Planned giving is a way to make a greater impact over a lifetime than you could have made through personal income alone.

**What options are right for me?**
There is no one-size-fits-all answer, so the Kiwanis Children’s Fund offers many options. How about a bequest to the foundation through a will or trust? Or life insurance that names the fund as a beneficiary? You can also name the foundation as a beneficiary of a retirement plan or IRA.

**Who can help me understand this better?**
The foundation will provide additional information and answer your questions about planned giving. Contact Ann Updegraff Spleth at auspleth@kiwanis.org or 1-800-KIWANIS, ext. 155. She will be happy to discuss the best fit for you. Or, consult your financial and legal advisors to explore your personal situation and options.

Fred Dietze can be reached at 715-381-0038 or by email at fred@freddietze.com.

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**IMPORTANT KIWANIS DATES**

**Appleton Midyear Conference and District Board Meeting**
February 11, 2017, Fox Valley Tech, Appleton, WI

**Key Club District Convention**
March 3-5, 2017, Hyatt on Main, Green Bay, WI

**Circle K District Convention**
March 17-19, 2017, Racine Architect Hotel, Racine, WI

**Elkhorn Midyear Conference**
March 25, 2017, St. Patrick’s Parish School, Elkhorn, WI

**Medford Midyear Conference and District Board Meeting**
April 29, 2017, Medford High School, Medford, WI

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

**WI-UM Kiwanis District Convention**
August, 18-20, 2017, Holiday Inn, Fond du Lac, WI

**Key Leader**
September 15-17, 2017, Camp Wawbeek, Wisconsin Dells, WI
The WI-UM Kiwanis District Foundation (KDF) would like to thank and acknowledge the clubs who contributed to the annual club gift campaign for the 2015-2016 Kiwanis year. These gifts enabled the KDF to budget more than $35,000 in grants and scholarships for 2016-2017. Clubs which contributed are:

**Division 1**
Burlington, Greater East Troy, Kenosha, Mukwonago, Racine, Union Grove, Waterford Area, West Racine, Western Kenosha

**Division 2**
Brookfield, Menomonee Falls, Milwaukee, Parkland, Greendale

**Division 3**
Belleville, Dodgeville, Downtown Madison, Madison East, Madison West, Middleton, Mineral Point, Monroe, Platteville, Prairie du Chien, Stoughton, Verona, Baraboo

**Division 4**
Cambria, Columbus, Portage, Reedsburg, Richland Center, Waupun, Wisconsin Dells

**Division 5**

**Division 6**
Chilton, Greater Sheboygan, Kiel, Manitowoc, Manitowoc Golden K, New Holstein, Oostburg, Plymouth, Port Washington, Sheboygan Falls, Two Rivers

**Division 7**
Allouez, Green Bay, Appleton-Fox Cities, Darboy, Green Bay, Little Chute

**Division 8**
Antigo, Greater Merrill, Lakeland Area, Minocqua, Marshfield, Medford, Neillsville, Plover, Wausau, Wisconsin Rapids

**Division 9**
Barron, Bruce, Cumberland, Eau Claire, Eau Claire Clear Water, Eau Claire Early Risers, Eau Claire Indianhead, Greater Hudson, New Richmond, Spooner

**Division 10**
Alger County, Copper Country, Escanaba, Gladstone, Greater Ishpeming-Pioneer, Ishpeming, Manistique Area, Marquette

**Division 11**
Berlin, Fabulous Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac, Kewaskum, Omro, Wautoma, West Bend Early Risers, Wild Rose

Many clubs have already contributed to the club gift campaign for the 2016-2017 Kiwanis year. Hopefully the KDF is on your list, too. The more we receive the more we can return to clubs in grants and scholarships next year.

Mark Finger can be reached at mfinger@wiumkiwanis.org or 920-361-9954.
KDF PARTNERS WITH MADISON WEST KIWANIS TO SPONSOR PLAYGROUND
By Bill Battista, Executive Director, West Madison Little League and Madison West Kiwanis Club member

As a result of funding provided by the Madison West Kiwanis Club in memory of two long-time members, Art Peterson and Ernie Rothe, West Madison Little League’s (WMLL) playground area got a complete makeover and will be ready for action on opening day in April.

Art Peterson was a former WMLL board member and was the key person in securing the current WMLL field lease in 1964. Art and a colleague laid out the current Major and Senior fields and coordinated field construction that year. He also served as Little League District 4 Administrator for many years. Upon his passing, his family designated the little league program as one option for memorials. Those funds were applied to the playground project.

Ernie Rothe was very supportive of many community youth projects over the years and left a sizable donation to the Madison West Kiwanis Club in his estate. The club’s board of directors chose WMLL’s playground renovation as the first recipient of $20,000 from Rothe’s bequest. In addition, the Madison West Kiwanis Foundation donated $2,500 to the project and received a matching grant from the WI-UM Kiwanis District Foundation.

A formal dedication ceremony is planned for Spring 2017 prior to opening day in April. The playground name will be the “Rothe/Peterson/Kiwanis Playground” and will include a brass home plate recognizing each donor (Ernie Rothe, Art Peterson, Madison West Kiwanis Club, the Madison West Kiwanis Club Foundation, and the WI-UM Kiwanis District Foundation).

West Madison Little League thanks all three Kiwanis organizations, as well as the families of Art and Ernie, for their tremendous support.

A TISKET, A TASKET, A KIWANIS DISTRICT FOUNDATION BASKET
By Gail Pachucki, KDF Zone Rep and cheerleader

Our district midyear conferences arrive early in 2017 and naturally, your Kiwanis District Foundation (KDF) begs for baskets for our raffles. Please consider donating a gift basket in support of the KDF. Thousands of dollars are given by the foundation to clubs each year to use for matching community grants and matching college scholarships. In 2017 alone, $35,000 will be returned to clubs for those purposes. You and your clubs make this happen and we are grateful for your generous support. Baskets can be dropped off at the registration desk.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO KIWANIANS
By Kasey Hodges, Circle K WUM District Governor

On behalf of Camp Wawbeek and Bay Cliff Health Camp, thank you for your attendance at the K-family baseball game, service day and hockey night. Nearly $3,000 was raised from ticket sales at the three events. Circle K members are close to $5,000 in funds raised this school year in support of the camps. We encourage you to visit our district convention in Racine, March 17-19. The event will feature workshops, membership recruitment, social events and service projects. Join us for our K-family luncheon on Saturday to gain perspectives from a range of K-family members. Please contact Kasey Hodges if you have questions or need registration information at khodges612@gmail.com or 608-370-3515.
WAUTOMA KIWANIS GRANT 26 iPADS IN SUPPORT OF AUTISM PROJECT

By Mary Braatz, Wautoma Kiwanis Club

The Wautoma Kiwanis Club ended 2016 by giving its 26th iPad to a child on the autism spectrum – 11-year-old Gabe Huck. The club awarded its first iPad in March of 2013 and has been working hard to keep the Kiwanis Autism Project going so that every child on the autism spectrum will receive one. The club feels that the iPads help the children become the most productive person they can be.

Kiwanis member Barb Struzynski is the chairperson of the project and has a passion for helping every child that needs an iPad. She has come up with a new idea to help raise more money and get the word out about autism. The club will be hosting the first annual Autism Run/Walk in Wautoma this spring. The club is very proud of the 26 iPads it has awarded with number 27 in the works to kick off 2017.

FOND DU LAC LAKESIDE CLUB DONATES 24TH IPAD TO A CHILD ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

By Dan Weninger, Fond du Lac Lakeside Kiwanis

Kiwanian Dan Weninger presented an iPad on behalf of the Fond du Lac Lakeside Kiwanis Club to Roberts Elementary student Evan Thao on December 22nd while dad, Timothy Thao, and teachers Heather Glaser and Rebekah Wolf looked on. The club has donated 24 iPads since 2012.

WATERTOWN AWARDS 11TH IPAD

By Susan Luetzow, Kiwanis Club of Watertown

The Kiwanis Club of Watertown recently presented an iPad to Grace McCloskey, a second-grade student at Douglas Elementary School. The club has made eleven iPads available to children on the spectrum through the district Kiwanis Autism Project. Kiwanian Roger Herbert, special education teacher Ann Baxter and second-grade teacher Lori Clark helped present the iPad. Grace’s parents Jack and Lisa McCloskey and her brothers Collin, Shaun and Liam were excited to be there with Grace.
MONROE KIWANIS CLUB WINS WI-UM DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

By Jim Glessner, Monroe Kiwanis Club

Immediate Past District Governor Jim Burmeister recently presented a check for $1,000 to the Monroe Kiwanis Club. The club won the membership challenge issued by the district by having a net gain of six new members. Forty-seven clubs ended the administrative year with more members than they had when they began and were entered into a drawing. The Monroe club’s name was drawn from the entrants. “The Monroe Kiwanis Club is proud to have accepted and won Governor Jim’s challenge to increase membership,” said club Membership Chairperson Bobbie Bernet. The funds were placed in the club’s administrative account.

The 44th Sheboygan Falls iPad presentation occurred during the annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus held jointly by the Sheboygan Falls Kiwanis Club and the Greater Sheboygan Kiwanis Club.

The Kiwanis Autism Project’s goal is to provide iPads and apps for 1,000 children on the autism spectrum. 840 iPads have been awarded in the WI-UM Kiwanis District since 2012-2013 District Governor Lynn Messer chose the iPad project as his Governor’s Project. Kiwanis members and clubs have made a significant difference in the lives of 840 children – of which the Kiwanis District is very proud. The project was named the 2016-2017 Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District Signature Project.

The project is progressing as more clubs get involved and more iPad applications stream in. The iPad grant application is linked at www.kiwanisautismproject.com. Project chair Lynn Messer will speak to clubs about the District Signature Project. If your club would like more information or would like to be notified when a child in your area submits an application, please contact Lynn.

Thank you to all the clubs that have supported this amazing project. We truly are changing the lives of children, one child and one community at a time.

To learn more about the Kiwanis Autism Project, visit www.kiwanisautismproject.com or contact Lynn Messer at lmmsr001@gmail.com or 920-946-0652.
KIWANIS CLUB OF FABULOUS FOND DU LAC DONATES TO UNITED WAY

By John Cooper, Kiwanis Club of Fabulous Fond du Lac

Amber Kilawee, Director of the Fond du Lac Area United Way, was the featured speaker at a recent meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Fabulous Fond du Lac. The club’s fundraising committee presented a check for $800 to the United Way from proceeds of their efforts at Fondue Fest. With an annual attendance of more than 20,000 people, Fondue Fest is the largest event in downtown Fond du Lac. It features live music, a Kids Zone, a craft fair and farmers market, and, of course, cheese and chocolate fondue.

The Fond du Lac Area United Way funded more than $570,000 in grants to 26 different agencies last year, including Habitat for Humanity, the senior citizens’ center, Girl Scouts and the YMCA. Annually, nearly 30,000 individuals are served by United Way agencies.

GREATER SHEBOYGAN KIWANIS PRESENTS CONCERTS TO BUILD A BRIDGE

By Richie Miesfeld, Kiwanis Club of Greater Sheboygan

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Sheboygan was proud to sponsor a recent performance of “The Guess Who,” a group known for having had fourteen top 40 hits including “These Eyes,” “No Time,” “Hand Me Down World,” American Woman” and “No Sugar Tonight.”

The concert was presented at the Weill Center for the Performing Arts, a fully-restored theater in Sheboygan. Over 800 guests rocked and rolled to a raucous performance as the music took them back in time to more youthful days. The Weill Center was a resplendent and acoustically perfect venue for the performance. The concert was the first in a series of six to be sponsored over the next three years to raise $200,000 to fund a bridge at Bookworm Gardens, a 3.5 acre botanic garden inspired by children’s literature.

Bookworm Gardens is based completely on children’s literature – more than 60 different books are presented in an outdoor garden setting 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 concerts will be used to fund a bridge spanning a valley between two areas of the garden.

Amber Kilawee, Director of the Fond du Lac Area United Way, accepts a check from Kiwanian Harry Schneider.

Richie Miesfeld, President of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Sheboygan, right, and his wife and fellow club member, Carolyn, left, meet founding member and percussionist of The Guess Who, Garry Peterson. Peterson relayed a story of playing little league baseball in his hometown in Canada in a program sponsored by the local Kiwanis Club.
KIWANIS CLUBS PROVIDED PARENTING NEWSLETTER FOR 25 YEARS

By John Newhouse, Whitewater Breakfast Kiwanis Club

The Fort Atkinson and Whitewater Breakfast Kiwanis Clubs have been working together on a project to benefit new moms since the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District adopted the Parenting Newsletter as a signature project in 1991.

Hospital staff affix labels to the newsletter each month and then send them to the Whitewater Breakfast and Fort Atkinson Kiwanis Clubs to do the folding, tabbing and zip code sorting necessary for the hospital to mail the brochures. The clubs shared the cost of printing and the hospital provided the storage and mailing costs.

Beginning in 2017, the UW-Extension converted to an online-only version and the clubs were phased out of the newsletter activity. The dedicated group of volunteers is seeking a new project that will positively impact children.

KIWANIS CLUB OF DARBOY NAMES STUDENT-OF-THE-MONTH

By John Schultz, Kiwanis Club of Darboy

Each month the Kiwanis Club of Darboy recognizes a Kimberly High School student as Student-of-the-Month. These students are nominated and selected by a group of teachers and administrators for being an outstanding and service-oriented individual. The recipient is featured in the newspaper and a donation is made by the club to the charity of their choice.

WATERTOWN AND OCONOMOWOC KIWANIANS CHARTER AKTION CLUB

By Susan Luetzow, Kiwanis Club of Watertown

The Watertown and Oconomowoc Kiwanis Clubs joined together to create a new AKtion Club, the only service club for adults with disabilities with more than 12,000 members worldwide. AKtion Clubs draw members from organizations that support individuals with disabilities, as well as other community programs. If you would like information about chartering an AKtion Club in your community, contact District Administrator Charles Zarnoth at cjzarnothpc@gmail.com or 920-849-2658.
 Members of the Platteville Library Foundation and the library staff accepted a $10,000 donation from Platteville Kiwanis Club President Steve McCarthy and Secretary Bev Johansen in partial payment towards a pledge of $35,000 for construction of a new public library, scheduled to open in the spring of 2017. As part of the club’s literacy mission, the funds will furnish and stock the children’s library portion of the new facility. Many hours of fundraising on the part of Platteville Kiwanis Club members have gone into making the first payment possible nearly a year ahead of schedule.

CAMBRIA CLUB MEMBERS GIVE HOLIDAY CARE PACKAGES

By Roxanne Krueger, Kiwanis Club of Cambria

Kiwanis Club of Cambria gifted area residents and children with boxes filled with canned goods, fresh produce, meats, sweets, clothing and toys. A special gift of homemade goat soap was also included in each box. The items, donated time, and money to support the project were generously provided by area businesses, organizations, individuals and Cambria Kiwanis Club members. The giving spirit is alive and well in Cambria!

PARK NEEDS BATS BUT NO BALLS...

By Ian Stepleton, Ripon Commonwealth Press*

Kiwanis Park sits on land owned by the Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club, which makes it available for public use. But... it’s hardly used! Members of the club are hoping it will get a little more action this spring, though maybe not from the kind of visitors one might expect.

The club installed a bat house on the flat area at the base of Kiwanis Hill in November. “Bats can provide to the community by eating mosquitoes that carry the West Nile Virus,” club president Tim Lubinsky said. “Building a bat house is a win-win situation – good for the bats and for the community.”

Even if the bats aren’t excited about it just yet, Lubinsky is. “I felt that the park has been under-utilized. Hopefully we can do more to naturally enhance this small acreage,” he said. “I’ll be excited when I see bats using it next spring.”

*Excerpt of an article published in the Ripon Commonwealth Press

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Cambria, left to right, Jeanne Radtke, Dave Eisinga, Shirley Lloyd, Barb Braaksma, and Jim and Joanne Sanderson prepare holiday gift boxes for distribution.

Platteville Kiwanis Club members donate the first $10,000 of the $35,000 pledged to furnish and stock the children’s library section of the Platteville Public Library.
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT HELD AT WISCONSIN STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

By Ron Schuler, Madison West Kiwanis Club

On December 6, the 92nd Annual Capitol Christmas Pageant was held inside the Wisconsin State Capitol Building in Madison. The pageant was supported by funding from the Madison West Kiwanis Foundation. Volunteers from Madison West Kiwanis Club, Edgewood High Key Club, Edgewood College Circle K and other local elementary school students made sure the event ran smoothly. The musical performers were students from Madison-area schools.

In 1982, the Madison West Kiwanis Club assumed the responsibilities for the pageant when the school district chose to discontinue support due to budget and other constraints. At that time, an anonymous donor provided a substantial contribution to the Madison West Kiwanis Club Foundation specifically for pageant support. This contribution was a major stimulus to the growth of the foundation, which has grown substantially to nearly $500,000 to date.

OCONOMOWOC KIWANIANS ORGANIZE CHRISTMAS PARADE

By Jerry Schneider, Oconomowoc Breakfast Club

For the fifth consecutive year the Oconomowoc Kiwanis Breakfast Club organized the Christmas parade for the city of Oconomowoc. This year’s parade took place on December 3rd along a crowded route through downtown Oconomowoc. Parade entrants were encouraged to light up their floats which made for a bright and festive show. Parade sponsors were recognized on a banner on both sides of a van driven by a Kiwanis member.

JANESVILLE JOLLY JINGLE PARADE PROMOTES “TRUCK ON ICE” EVENT

By Teresa Behm, Janesville Blackhawk Golden K Club

On Saturday, December 3, the Jolly Jingle Parade lit up downtown Janesville. Members of the middle school Builders Club distributed more than 500 candy canes while escorting the “Truck On Ice” float decorated by the Janesville Blackhawk Golden K Kiwanis Club. The club has raised money with its “When Will It Sink?” fundraiser since 2003. People pay for the privilege of guessing when the truck will fall through the ice. The guess closest to the actual fall-through wins $3,000 and 14 others win cash prizes ranging from $100 to $250.
KDF OFFICERS AND ZONE REPS

President
Jan Williams .......................... 920-237-5544
djwains.com .......................... Berlin

Vice President
Michael Pierski .......................... 262-679-5395
pierski@juno.com .......................... Muskego

Secretary/Treasurer
Mark Finger .......................... 920-361-9954
mfinger@wiumkiwanis.org .......................... Berlin

Immediate Past President
Jim Sanderson .......................... 920-348-5568
jjandersn@centurytel.net .......................... Cambria

Zone 1/Term: 2015-18
Gail Pachucki .......................... 262-728-3711
chooky2@tds.net .......................... Waterford Area

Zone 2/Term: 2015-18
Vacant

Zone 3/Term: 2015-18
Mary Mennen .......................... 608-924-1721
memennen@mhtc.net .......................... Madison West

Zone 4/Term: 2016-19
Jim Burmeister .......................... 608-429-2905
burmji@gmail.com .......................... Portage

Zone 5/Term: 2014-17
Jim McMullen .......................... 608-436-4568
jmcmullen@kanduindustries.com .......................... Janesville

Zone 6/Term: 2015-18
Ken Irwin .......................... 920-827-2109
irwins@tcei.com .......................... New Holstein

Zone 7/Term: 2014-17
John Polansky .......................... 920-954-1316
jrpolansky@msn.com .......................... Appleton-Fox Cities

Zone 8/Term: 2016-19
Lori Bents .......................... 715-389-1570
lbentsdc@tznet.com .......................... Marshfield

Zone 9/Term: 2016-19
Debbie Suennen Rickard .......................... 715-246-5884
dsrickard@frontier.com .......................... New Richmond

Zone 10/Term: 2014-17
Vacant

Zone 11/Term: 2013-16
Vacant

Past Foundation President Representative
Paul Shrode .......................... 715-942-1726
shrode@fvtc.edu .......................... Appleton-Fox Cities

Past Governor Representative
Kathy Gillis .......................... 920-475-0500
wium.admin@gmail.com .......................... Little Chute

DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Governor
John Collins .......................... 262-914-2721
coljrcollins@gmail.com .......................... Western Kenosha

Governor-elect
Justin Hahn .......................... 414-510-1609
justinhahn1128@gmail.com .......................... Waterford Area

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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

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SANTA AND KIWANIS GIVE HOMELESS KIDS A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER
By Jay Stephany, Appleton-Fox Cities Kiwanis Club

The room went from a roar to a hush when Santa walked in. The kids knew they would soon get their chance to tell the big man their hopes and wishes this Christmas.

For many of the 90 kids at the Breakfast with Santa hosted by the Appleton-Fox Cities Kiwanis Club, this would be the only time they would get a gift during the holiday season. Their immediate futures are in flux. The kids, who range in age from infants to teens, are homeless – living in shelters due to various family circumstances. Some of their parents are fleeing domestic abuse situations. Others have fallen on hard times. “We, as a Kiwanis club, want to make sure every child gets something from Santa,” said Jay Stephany, one of the event organizers.

Some of the kids were nervous when they approached Santa. You could see excitement on the faces of others. Some were in tears, not knowing what to think of the jolly, fat man in a red suit. “You get that feeling of joy watching the children,” Stephany said. “But then you remember the reality that these kids will go back to and it just breaks your heart. But, if we were able to give these kids just two hours away from their reality, it was well worth it.”

The club has been hosting a breakfast with Santa for members’ kids and grandkids for years. In 2010, they decided to move the event to the local children’s museum and invite children served by partner organizations after seeing a need for this kind of service project. Since then, the breakfast has tripled in size.

“It’s one of my favorite projects our Kiwanis club does,” Stephany said. The kids receive gifts ranging from footballs to hair braiding supplies and everything in between. A grant from We Energies, the local power company, helps with some of the expenses. The rest comes from fundraisers held throughout the year.

“I look at the things we do and the people we work with and Kiwanians are the ones who make it happen,” Stephany said. “It’s an honor to be a part of this club.”

SHHH! SANTA HAS A SECRET SHOP AND KIWANIS “ELVES” IN DODGEVILLE
By Charlie Price, Dodgeville Kiwanis Club

The Santa Secret Shop was hosted by the Dodgeville Kiwanis Club on December 3 and 10, 2016. More than 120 volunteers worked each day to help 379 children shop for family holiday gifts. Many children in need shopped with insufficient or no money. All gifts selected were wrapped and tagged, no questions asked. At least 3,000 gifts were distributed this year. Club members look forward to shopping the sales to stock up for next year’s Santa Secret Shop!