

Kiwanis

Hiawatha-CREW and Marion Metro Kiwanis Clubs

Helping a young person fulfill their potential. Changing the world one child at a time. Here is an opportunity for a club project that will make a real difference in a young man's life, and a young man who will go on to make a positive difference in the world around him. Let me tell you how my club came to be involved with this project.

On June 15th 2009 I was contacted by Linda Greenberg from Annapolis, Md. She works with a Uganda charity (www.4uganda.org), and she was working hard to find another group to partner with her in helping a student she had befriended during her travels to Uganda. By the time she talked to me she already had arranged for this student to be accepted to the Scattergood Friends School (www.scattergood.org) in West Branch, IA for the 2009-2010 school year. Because she had worked with Kiwanis Clubs in the past, she was looking for a local Kiwanis contact to help coordinate her efforts. As a current Lt Governor and President of my club, she ultimately contacted me.



Brian is a 16 year old boy who has now been in Iowa since August of 2009. Despite his own hardships in Uganda, Brian started a "kindness club" where once a month he got together with friends and did something nice for a needy person. Linda said their last project was helping a woman in her 80's. She lives in a rundown shack that is miles from the nearest water. They carried water to her and helped fix up the shack.

Brian had nothing when he arrived. He wore clothes that were given by the tourists that came to see the silverback gorillas that live near his home town, and his only luggage was a small backpack.



I told Linda that Brian's circumstances exemplified the Kiwanis goal of changing the world one child and one community at a time. I committed both personally and through Kiwanis to help Brian, and to try to raise his tuition as a club project.

This is a big challenge, but will be extremely rewarding for all involved. Iowa's Scattergood Friends School has generously offered a scholarship to allow Brian to attend for \$2365 per year instead of the normal \$23,650 per year. Since it is a boarding school, the tuition includes room and board. In addition there are expenses for health insurance and a small allowance.

So far we have almost raised enough for his first year's tuition. However I still need to secure funding for the next three years. Three clubs have pledged \$200 per year for all 4 years. In addition, several individuals have given very generously for this year, but I am uncertain those individuals will be able to sustain that level of giving for 3 more years.

Brian already wants to make a positive difference right here in Iowa. He attended the Iowa Key Leader camp last fall and is currently working on getting a Key Club started at Scattergood. The interim director at Scattergood is Ginny Windsor. Some of you might remember her as a past president of a Kiwanis club in Omaha. She has agreed to be the faculty advisor for the new club.

Brian deserves our help. He is a young man who has already demonstrated a generosity of spirit and a desire to help others. In addition, he has the potential to become an adult who can help his country balance the needs of its people and the needs of the remarkable animals that surround them.

I am looking for clubs to pledge \$200 each year for the next 3 years toward tuition for this worthy young man. If you or your club can help please contact me. Donations/pledges of any amounts will be greatly appreciated.

Thank-you for your consideration.

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