A Message From The President

by Jessica Petro

On behalf of the 2017-18 Board of Directors, thank you for an outstanding Kiwanis year! We hope you enjoy this annual report, which offers a small glimpse into some of our service projects and social events this year. Our president-elect, Mark Farmer, has already begun planning for the 2018-19 year and we hope to hear from you as his board works to develop meaningful community service and social and networking opportunities. Our goal as a club is to provide fun and effective projects and programs that improve the DC community while appealing to our members and the community at large, and we hope you agree that our work creates lasting change for so many.

The last page of this annual report details our contributions – both volunteer and financial – to a wide variety of community organizations. We hope you are proud of your membership in the Kiwanis Club of Washington, DC and that you are looking forward to another exciting and productive year to come.

Best wishes for a wonderful end of summer and fall and I hope to see you at our annual Change of Command event on Saturday October 6, 2018 at 1:00pm so we can celebrate in person!

Habitat For Humanity

by Serena Bell

Kiwanis was a Silver Hammer sponsor for the Habitat for Humanity of Washington, DC’s “Women Build Campaign,” representing a $50,000 donation. This sponsorship included six hands-on build dates in 2017 in July, September, and November, and in 2018 in March, April, and May. Kiwanis members also attended a reception in September at the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

In total, we had 41 volunteers contribute 472 hours of service. Thank you to all the members who volunteered throughout the year to help us build homes for needy families!
Student Leader Awards
by Mark Farmer

This year marked the 21st anniversary of the Kiwanis Club of Washington, DC’s Student Leader Awards, formerly the Joe Riley Youth Leadership Awards. Since inception, we have awarded more than $500,000 in scholarships and awards, recognized hundreds of outstanding leaders, and provided assistance to DC students at a critical time in their lives.

At this year’s luncheon, we were honored to be joined by Mickie and Jenna Levenson, the daughter and granddaughter of Joe Riley. Clayton “Aristotle” Rosenberg, the Joe Riley Youth Leadership Award winner from 2010, also attended. Clayton recently moved back to Washington after earning his Master’s in Business Administration from Hult International Business School. Clayton has also joined the Kiwanis Club of Washington, DC and is looking forward to giving back to the DC community.

The 2018 Student Leader Awards Luncheon began with a prayer and remembrance of Joe Riley from his friend and pastor, Father Raymond Kemp, included inspiring keynote remarks by Fanta Aw, vice president for campus life at American University. Following the keynote, Vernon Holleman reprised his role as emcee and recognized the incredible achievements of the 2018 Kiwanis Club of Washington, DC Student Leader Award recipients.

We had 85 students from more than 20 high schools apply for this year’s scholarships, which made the selection particularly difficult. This year’s awardees included three student body presidents, six students with a GPA of least a 4.0, six first-generation immigrants, numerous athletes, student activists, artists and musicians, and one student who will be the first in her school’s history to attend an Ivy League university. These students truly embody the values and ideals of Kiwanis International and the Kiwanis Club of Washington, DC, and we look forward to hearing from them as the progress through college, continue to serve their communities, and change the world.

Bright Beginnings
by Mark Farmer

Our club continued its partnership with Bright Beginnings to support their home-based care program and serve DC’s most fragile families. Washington, DC has one of the highest homelessness rates in the country with more than 2,700 children under the age of five experiencing homelessness. Bright Beginnings serves this community by taking a two-generation approach to addressing homelessness: They ensure school readiness for early learners and educational completion and workforce readiness for parents.

Our Kiwanis club helps to sponsor their home-based program, which provides Early Head Start services to children and their families in whatever environment they call home. During a weekly visit, Home Visitors meet with parents and children in the family’s location, coaching parents on strategies to be the child’s “first teacher,” screening and assessing the child, and providing family support services.

We also continued our hands-on service with Bright Beginnings by sponsoring a Thanksgiving Celebration with the home-based program families. The George Washington and American University Circle K Clubs joined us to play games, make crafts, sing songs, and serve lunch to 50 adults and children. We also provided them with Thanksgiving baskets that included non-perishable food and a $25 gift certificate for groceries. This is the second time we sponsored this event, and we were able to serve 15-20 more people this year than last year. This project is a great opportunity to interact with the students and meet the families that we are supporting through our partnership with Bright Beginnings.
This year, we supported three service leadership programs: a Key Club at School Without Walls High School and two Circle K clubs at American University and The George Washington University.

The Key Club at School Without Walls High School was chartered in December 2017. School Without Walls High School is a DCPS public magnet school located on the campus of The George Washington University in Foggy Bottom. The Key Club started with 17 members this year and participated in service projects at Food & Friends as well as “Wreaths Across America” at Arlington National Cemetery. The students have elected leadership for 2018-19 and attended officer training; we look forward to seeing their club grow in the next year!

American University’s Circle K was in its second year of reactivation. They attended Circle K district events this year and volunteered with Lucky Dog Animal Rescue, We Are Family (distributing food to the elderly in Columbia Heights), handed out candy to kids at the AU Trick or Treating event on campus, and assembled and donated sandwiches for Martha's Table. They also hosted a very well-attended Kiwanis Professional Development panel. Kiwanis members shared advice on their career paths, taking advantage of opportunities available as a student, and starting off in your career.

Jose Leoncio served as President of the Circle K at American University, and in March 2018, was elected Governor for the Capital District of Circle K. In the new year he will lead all of the members (approximately 600) and Circle K clubs in DC, Maryland and Delaware.

The Circle K club at The George Washington University had a banner year for club membership, earning an award for membership growth in the entire Circle K district with 43 members. They also raised money this year for Yuda bands, a nonprofit that raises money to send to developing countries to send youth to school, and GWU’s Relay for Life. For hands-on service projects, members volunteered at dog adoption events, served food to clients experiencing homelessness with the nonprofit Charlie's Place, and park clean-up and restoration with Friends of Noyes Park in Ward 5. Our Kiwanis Club presented a Carthage-Pullman Award to Sebastian Vazquez, which represents a $250 donation to the Circle K Tomorrow Fund, providing service grants to Circle K clubs. Sebastian was an active member of the Circle K club, in addition to responsibilities as the District Chairperson for Club Building and an International Trustee.
DCYP
by Stacey Simmons

Our young professionals have been busy this spring. We’ve volunteered at: Nations Night Run, a 5K that benefits Stand Up To Cancer; Croquet Day, a croquet tournament benefitting SCAN and victims of child abuse and neglect; Kenilworth Gardens, landscaping and spring cleanup; Books to Prisons, packing and shipping book selections to prisoners across the country; and a beautification day at Tyler Elementary School. We’ve also enjoyed socials in multiple neighborhoods around DC. We have some great ideas for fall and hope you can join us!

Fitness Field Day
by Kelsey Robinson

Throughout the last few years, the Kiwanis Club of Washington, DC has partnered with Aiton Elementary School to host field day for their students. The school on their own doesn’t have the personnel and/or funding to do it themselves so Kiwanis provides music, entertainment, and the structure needed to run field day successfully. The 2018 Kiwanis Fitness Field Day was held on Friday June 1st.

A few weeks prior to field day, Kiwanis held their Annual Meeting at Southern Hospitality in Adams Morgan where 25 volunteers stuffed goodie bags for the students. The bags included items such as a granola bar, shampoo, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste and a coloring book with crayons. The bags were given to the students at the conclusion of field day.

On Friday June 1st, a group of 15 volunteers coordinated activities such as a water sponge relay, obstacle course, parachute, and a full soccer game for approximately 280 elementary school students. After the activities concluded, the students selected a book from the book fair and six firefighters from the Engine Company 30 fire department presented a fire safety demonstration. The day ended around 3pm with a scavenger hunt and dance party.
Kiwanis Celebrates the Holidays with River Terrace

by Vernon Holleman, III

On Thursday December 21st the final day of school before Winter Break the Kiwanis Club of Washington, DC, as it has for decades, hosted a Christmas party for the wonderful children of River Terrace School in NE Washington.

After serving lunch to the children, faculty, and parents of River Terrace, the first signs that a party was soon to start was from the sounds of Sidney’s Music and Entertainment, under Bob Smith’s direction as they produced holiday music to lift spirits and get the celebration started.

Longtime Kiwanis member and past president, Newt Wood, officially got the event going by playing the Mad Hatter emcee and welcoming everyone and introducing the band and his helpers. Newt’s energy and commitment have long made this event special!

Newt’s daughter, Tara, along with April Gassler, were the Mad Hatter’s elves and passed out stuffed animal toys to the very excited students as they answered fun holiday trivia questions.

Mark Lohr, a clown magician, provided the main act and made the kids laugh and smile as he fumbled around and tied animal balloons.

As has long been the case, the finale for the show is a visit from Santa Claus – when the children scream with delight! Another long-term Kiwanian, Dick Juergens, played the role of Santa and did so beautifully. This was Dick’s second year in the red suit!

Although not in the costume, Kiwanian Carter Kannapell was responsible for filling the wish list for the River Terrace students. Each child gets a present and Carter and his wife have for years facilitated getting these presents.

We’d love more Kiwanians to join next year but, once again, the event was a great success, high energy, and fun!

Special additional thanks to RT School’s Carl McFadgion and Kiwanis Club Manager Leslie Hall for their important help!

Fall Carnival at River Terrace

The Kiwanis Club of Washington, DC continued its decades-long tradition by hosting the annual Fall Carnival at River Terrace School. Kiwanis originally held this event for Sharpe Health School, which our club help charter in the 1940s.

Led by Tris Kruger, the Kiwanis Club provided a petting zoo, train rides, face painting, and music for dancing. For the 10th year, seniors from the Landon School attended the carnival to spend time with and assist the students of River Terrace as they enjoyed the carnival’s activities.

The club hopes that more members get to experience this event in the future, and thanks Tris for his 30 years of leadership of this event!
A YEAR IN REVIEW

82 MEMBERS
748 VOLUNTEER HOURS
AS OF 7/31/18

$50,000
SILVER HAMMER SPONSOR
472 TOTAL BUILD HOURS

41,000
IN COLLEGE & LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS

15 FULLY-LOADED LAPTOPS TO COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS

2017-2018 LEADERSHIP

Jessica Petro
President

Matthew Hodson
Immediate Past President

Mark Farmer
President-Elect

Christina Frost
Secretary

Nicholas Robinson
Treasurer

Directors:
Serena Bell
Dustin Borzet
Cindy Crist
Kelsey Robinson

Kiwanis Club of Washington, DC

cordially invites you to join us for our
Change of Command Luncheon & Officer Installation
Saturday October 6, 2018
1:00pm - 3:30pm
Carmine’s
425 7th Street NW
Washington, DC 20004

Tickets for Members & Guests: $30.00 each

RSVP to Clubmanager@kiwanisd.org
Tickets may be purchased at www.kiwanisd.org

Kiwanis Club of Washington, DC