

# MIDLAND KIWANES



# Kiwanis®

President: Cathy Devendorf  
Secretary: Richard Kopple  
President Elect: Ralph Wirtz  
Treasurer: Cheryl Whitman

Location: Valley Plaza, The Great Hall  
Time: Monday Nights, 6:00 PM

Bulletin Publisher: Donna Jo Aiken  
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Website: [www.midlandkiwanis.org](http://www.midlandkiwanis.org)  
[www.mi.kiwanisone.org](http://www.mi.kiwanisone.org)  
[www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org)

President Cathy opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

**Program Next Week: May 7:** No Formal Meeting  
**HONORS BANQUET: Great Hall**

### Programs - Upcoming Meetings:

May 14: Bev Wenzel, the ROCK  
May 21: Human & Spiritual Aims (Memorial Day)  
May 28: Memorial Day - NO MEETING

**Committee Meetings this week:** None

**Committee Meetings next week:** None

### Secretary's Report:

- Monthly Reports Due - Last Reminder as there is no formal weekly meeting next week
- Prayer Breakfast, May 3, Shields, sponsored by Thomas Township Kiwanis Club. Four members are going.

**Anniversary:** None

**Birthdays:** None

**Guests:** None

### Announcements:

- **Cathy:** No Foundation Meeting in May
- **Carl:** Honors Banquet volunteer positions are all filled. Thank you! Sign-up sheet for those volunteers and members who will be there for dinner was passed.
- **Earl:** Pink buckets are crying for dollar. Give 'til it hurts
- **Earl:** Tall in the Saddle is going very well. Kids are great
- **Kevin:** Rose Sale posters are still available. Kevin is accepting orders this week and will be next week at the Honors Banquet
- **Kevin:** Gift Card Sales order sheets were distributed. Orders due 5/14. (*See order form attached*)

**50/50:** Next drawing will be 5/14, hosted by Tom Darger

### Happy Dollars:

- **Gil:** Happy he wasn't hit on way to Kiwanis meeting tonight by a car running a red light!
- **Cal:** Hit 200 mile mark of bike riding – ahead of schedule!

- **Roger Briggs:** Happy that they caught the adult black bear and got it out of his neighborhood!
- **Carl:** Granddaughter graduated from U of M, 60,000 people attended, Keynote: Charles Woodson (U of M grad), former defensive back/returner for Oakland Raiders, Greenbay Packers & 1997 Heisman Trophy winner, currently a CBS broadcaster. GREAT weekend!

**Program:** Terrah Johnson, Greater Midland North Midland/Coleman Family Centers

Earl introduced Terrah as an SVSU graduate and former Family Services Coordinator at Greater Midland Community Center.

Terrah indicated the two family centers serve low income families but strive to give the children a sense of belonging. Coleman is 39% low income and 9% unemployed; the area North Midland (NMFC) serves has 21% low income and 12% unemployment. Due to Federal financial programs, as well as the generosity of the Midland Community, there is no differentiation between the children. All are viewed as the same socio-economic level.

Due to the distance to town and price of gas, both centers are a "one-stop service hub" by partnering with many organizations providing services. They have food pantries, clothes closets, early-childhood-development, after-school programs, camps and family activities, etc.

They invite children from birth to 6 years old, or until they start school, and after-school programs, including a new teen program (in partnership with The ROCK).

Both family centers' goal is that 95% of the children in early childhood daycare will meet all developmental milestones when beginning school. They use an early childhood program to track each child's development (i.e. mental, physical, communication, etc.). This includes family input as to the child's performance and activity at home. Meetings are held with the families and Individual Development Plans (IDP) are developed if necessary.

Analyzing the overall data for the children at the family centers is also important. The family centers altered their fine motor activities when data showed a lower level of accomplishment among children than other skill being measured.

Field trips differ a bit from city based early childhood development programs. For instance, NMFC children visit Larkin Food Center to see how pizza is made or Draves Auto to see how to change a tire.

The Family Centers offer gardens the children plant, nourish, harvest, taste and send home to parents with recipes. Children participate in gym classes, tumble rooms, outdoor and nature classrooms, walking trails and STEM Labs where they participate in experiments, painting, caterpillar to butterflies, tadpoles to frogs and other activities that just get messy. Currently the children at NMFC are waiting for chicks to hatch and at Coleman are waiting for ducks to hatch.

**Questions and Answers:**

- Ratios of children to staff are set by the State but the family centers hire part-time and full-time staff allowing lower children to staff ratios. Hiring full-time staff offers more stability for the children but it is a struggle due to budgets.
- Close connection with the public schools is important. Coleman is located on the Coleman Elementary School campus so communication between teachers as to the expectations is strong. NMFC is part of the Great Start Collaboration which has close connections with Midland Public Schools and expectations are well known.
- Terrah shared that both family centers are a capacity with a waiting list. A consultant is working to evaluate the space utilization in the buildings in an attempt to increase capacity..
- The Prom Dress Give Away event held at NMFC a couple weeks ago was a huge success – 330 donated prom dresses were distributed to smiling high school girls throughout the entire county. A fun time was had by all!

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.