

MIDLAND KIWANES



Kiwaniis®

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

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

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Website: www.midlandkiwanis.org
www.mi.kiwanisone.org
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President Cathy opened the meeting at 6:31 PM.

Program Next Week: February 19: Midland County Youth Action Council

Committee Meetings this week: Kiwanis board meeting

Committee Meetings next week: None

Secretary's Report: Dick Kopple reported that the state leadership meeting is on the 17th in Detroit for those interested in attending.

Anniversary: None

Birthdays: Travis O'Keefe and Gil Harter had birthdays.

Guests: Brad Bahr, although he has turned in his paperwork to become a Kiwanian.

Announcements:

- **Earl:** Pink buckets are out...Let's eliminate! Give 'til it hurts!!!!
- **Tom:** He heard from former member Deb Rittenburg this past week and noted that she has taken a position with Huntington Bank.

Happy Dollars:

- **Roger:** for OSU basketball team victory
- **Tom Madden:** U of M basketball team win.
- **Tom Darger:** Construction completed at West Midland Family Center and complimented Earl for his involvement.
- **John:** He thanked Brad Bahr for attending, noting we have done nothing to scare him off.
- **Earl:** He noted that Keith Wirt, an architect on the WMFC project died before it was completed.

Program: *Holly Barth, RN/BSN, and, De/BSN, both community health nurses in Midland County* brought to you by Young People Priority One Committee, to talk about the Midland Countywide Baby Shower. Both work for the Midland County Health Department, Deanna moving there from MidMichigan Health. Holly has two children, 13 and 11.

Holly believes that all children have within the the potential to do great things and it is our job create a great work that can help them nourish that potential. She said that in 2004 the county borrowed the idea for a countrywide baby shower from neighboring communities and adapted it to what they believe would work in Midland County.

Holly said Midland County uses a group baby shower concept, and all registered participants are provided with an educational presentation. An agency fair is available to help families access available resources. Additionally, each family receives a gift to take home with them.

The goal: To help encourage safe and healthy families for pregnant women and those with children under one year old, as well as assist them in locating additional resources and services available to them.

In 2017, the group's 13th year of having the baby shower, 77 families attended, which took place October 21 at Messiah Lutheran Church. Of those in attendance, 19 of the women were pregnant, 52 had a child under one year old and six were pregnant and had a child under one. This was the highest number of attendees in any year since it started.

She said 92 percent of the families were receiving benefits thought the WIC (the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children) program and that 85 percent were getting some type of benefit through the state Department of Health and Human Services.

Led by the Midland County Health Department, the planning committee includes 11 other youth-related organizations.

Registration is conducted through those and other organization and is by invitation only, and families need to be served by a local service agency and have at least one risk factor: financial stress, mental health issues, domestic violence or limited social/emotional support.

The baby shower is designed to accommodate up to 100 families.

Midland Kiwanis provides the principal funding support for the baby shower, with Kiwassee, Mid-Michigan Community Action Agency, Messiah Lutheran, local businesses, other agencies, individuals and all agencies on the planning committee.

The educational aspect of the baby shower changes yearly, and has included topics such as literacy, nature play and taking care of the parent as well as the baby. Holly said 74 percent of the attendees planned on making changes in the way they cared for their infants based on the educational part of the shower. Other topics have included safe sleep, immunizations, car seat safety and child abuse prevention, among others.

Sixteen care providers attended the 2017 Shower Resource Fair. Of the 77 families, 77 percent said they learned about a new agency or service through the event.

Holly noted that 38 percent of the births in Midland County are paid for by Medicaid. Deanna noted that there are about 1,200 births annually in Midland County.

On a final note, the Diaper Alliance also contributed 5 certificates for diapers of 500 each and volunteers help with the shower.

Holly closed the program by talking about other programs through the health department related to youth – the Maternal Infant Health Program, hearing and vision screenings, the Children’s Special Health Care Services and vaccines for children who are uninsured or underinsured.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.