



KIWANIS KAPERS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF FOUNTAIN HILLS, AZ

FEBRUARY 2017

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time

February fundraisers forthcoming

The weather is pretty nice, all the winter visitors are here and it's a busy time in Fountain Hills.

And for our club that means two annual fundraisers this month — the Super Pancake Breakfast on the morning of Super Bowl Sunday and the Great Fair, set for three days on the last weekend of the month.

Proceeds from the Super Pancake Breakfast are earmarked for the Project Eliminate fund, an international effort by Kiwanis to eliminate maternal neonatal tetanus. While the Noon Kiwanis Club has met its monetary pledge for MNT, we are still helping the cause because Kiwanis International is still trying to reach its overall goal of collecting \$110 million to combat MNT.

As for the Great Fair, this is the club's largest fundraiser of the year, since crowds are up and so are food sales. We will set up our trailer once again at Avenue of the Fountains and Saguaro Blvd. to offer delicious breakfast and lunch items.

"All hands on deck" is the battle cry for these fundraisers as a plethora of volunteers are needed. New to the club? This is an excellent opportunity to get involved and experience some Kiwanis moments along the way!



This group celebrated New Year's Eve at the Ronald McDonald House.

Club dishes comfort to families

Kiwanis is about serving the children of the world, and one way the club does that is by embracing the Ronald McDonald House.

Families who have severely sick children in the hospital or receiving major treatments, and cannot afford a hotel, for example, are welcome to stay at the RMH for little to no cost.

Volunteer groups are welcome to provide a home-cooked meal to these families, and our club has done this project for several years now.

It is a worthwhile endeavor that will warm your heart, especially as you listen to families and provide comfort (and comfort food) to them at the RMH dining room. They need all the encouragement they can get.



This family enjoys a meal courtesy of the Noon Kiwanis Club.

Several Kiwanis clubs in the Southwest District have signed up to serve meals at the Roanoke facility for most Sunday evenings through 2017. This is an impressive effort by Kiwanis clubs, and our club is happy to participate. The latest trip was on December 31, 2016, and the next trip is set for Sunday, February 12.

The facility recently underwent a major renovation courtesy of Phoenix International Raceway, so the dining area has a racecar theme. The much-needed improvement received rave reviews from those who attended.



A WORD FROM PRESIDENT KEN BROWN

A RAY OF HOPE IN HAITI

Fellow Kiwanians:

It is a 6 hour drive from Port Au Prince, the capital city, to the other end of the peninsula extending to the west. A journey of only 125 miles. But it took us 2 hours to get from the airport in the capital to the city's outskirts because we were playing dodge-em cars with cars, trucks, motorbikes and tap-taps (pickup trucks disguised as buses).

Port Au Prince is a city full of merciless poverty, streets strewn with garbage and open sewers skirting the streets masquerading as ditches. It is a city teeming with people eking out a living who knows how. When you finally leave the city behind, you can pick up speed passing all those other forms of transportation, dodging vehicles coming head-on in the other lane. Meanwhile, people walk the shoulders of the road all along the route. Including kids in school uniforms risking their lives as traffic buzzes by them, blowing horns as a warning to beware.

The entire 6 hour drive exposes you to unrelenting poverty. Teeming masses of people are mired in squalor along that entire route. It doesn't take long before you conclude that the situation seems hopeless. What chance do these people have of ever improving their bitter lot in life? What possible prospect do all those children in colorful uniforms marching on the shoulder of a busy highway have of living a better life than their parents. It's all too easy to conclude that there is NONE!

But I saw a glimmer of hope in spite of all that. Hope for all the hundreds and hundreds of kids living in the compound at ESPWA, a word that means "hope" in Creole. Hope, also, for the 350 malnourished kids we are engaged in feeding each day in a town nestled in the foothills of Haiti. There really is hope that things could change for all these children because of a brand new development that we heard about while we were in Les Cayes, the third largest city in Haiti, far from the nation's capital. Roger Bates and I are grateful we had the chance to visit this country and witness firsthand the ray of hope to which we are contributing.



Peek-A-Boo!

Our club continues to be a strong supporter of Extended Hands Food Bank on Laser Drive. This group got creative after packing all these food boxes. Jon Geller was behind the camera, and behind the boxes are Craig Gildersleeve, Paul Appeldorn, Jack Mateski, Charlie Fox and Jerry Comeau. Regular visits are scheduled to the food bank to help pack boxes, bags and sometimes even to help distribute food to clients. Our club also has financially supported EHFB for many years. Those new to the club are encouraged to sign up for the next food bank visit. It's great volunteer work!

Kiwanis Across the Border

Club President Ken Brown, board member Roger Bates and past president Al Roselieb traveled to Nogales, Mexico in January as part of our annual Kiwanis Across the Border Project.

We partner with the Santa Cruz Kiwanis Club in Nogales, Ariz. to partially fund the distribution of clothing, gifts and other goodies to poor families in Nogales. This project was started many years ago and has continued to be a strong reflection of our commitment to serving the children of the world (in and outside of Fountain Hills). Everyone who makes this trip is blessed in so many ways and delights in the gratitude of the families and children.

Pepe and Ramona Wise of Nogales coordinate this project every year and welcome the continued involvement of Fountain Hills.

Various photos on this page from the trip were taken by Al Roselieb.



Upcoming Calendar of Events

Feb. 5	Super Bowl pancake breakfast
Feb. 7	Aktion Club meeting
Feb. 9	NO MEETING
Feb. 11	Extended Hands Food Bank service project
Feb. 12	Ronald McDonald House Dinner
Feb. 15	K-Kids, Builders clubs meetings
Feb. 16	Luncheon meeting; FH Dark Skies Assn.
Feb. 21	Aktion Club meeting
Feb. 23	Set up for Great Fair food booth (no meeting)
Feb. 24-26	Great Fair food concession
March 1	K-Kids, Builders clubs meetings
March 2	Luncheon meeting; U.S. Marshal David Gonzales
March 3-5	Southwest District Kiwanis Midyear Convention
March 4	WisconsinFest (Community Center)



Honoring our students

Each month during the school year our club honors outstanding Middle School and High School students. A big thanks to Superintendent Dr. Patrick Sweeney and Principals Anita Gomez and Cain Jagodzinski for cooperating with us and selecting the students we honor. Emerson O'Neil and Wesley Francis-Mead, holding certificates, were honored as the January 2017 Pacesetters. Presenting the honors were Fountain Hills High School Dean of Students Jennifer Ray, left, and club President Ken Brown, center. The students' parents also joined in the celebratory moment.