

# Young Children / Priority One



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## Rockland Kiwanis host presentation on child abuse

By Seth Jacobson ,Rockland Standard Newspaper

Child abuse is never an easy subject to discuss but the Rockland, Massachusetts Kiwanis were on hand to hear the sad realities last week during a talk with the group's guest speaker, Tom O'Toole of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

"He was there to just kind of let us know what's going on out there," said Kiwanis member John Rogers, regarding O'Toole's visit to the Harmon Club last Thursday.

Kiwanis member Diane Koury, who owns a dental practice in Abington, said she's had patients where she's wondered if abuse is involved but stressed it's tough to tell.

"It'll be nice to have some sort of frame of reference to try to identify abuse," she said to O'Toole.

During his presentation to Kiwanis, O'Toole said the main purpose of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC) is "to protect and promote the well being of children and their families and to prevent abuse before it happens."

He explained the MSPCC works with at risk families to counsel them and prevent abusive situations for children. He said the group serves 35,000 children and families each year and noted these days, there's one main reason for a lot of the abuse that is occurring.

"Right now, poverty is a huge factor when it comes to child abuse," O'Toole said. "The frustration parents are feeling often trickles down to the children."

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### **"JJ" SEZ:**

1. **Keep focused on Young Children/ Priority One.**
2. **Adopt a project.**
3. **Involve your local community.**
4. **Partner with other organizations.**

## 27th Kiwanis Motor Treasure Hunt benefitting Downs Syndrome was huge success.



Once upon a time, in a land far, far away, sits a tranquil lake. It's calmness mystifies the people all over the kingdom though not many has explored it's magical effects to one's soul. Many, even the most adventurous, brave warriors have found the journey to the mighty lake to be a great feat.

Ok, ok.....enough of the "SHREK" opening!

The 27th Kiwanis Motor Treasure Hunt was held from 12-14 June, bringing ardent hunters to the less explored Lake Kenyir Resort & Spa. The venue, being more than 400km from Kuala Lumpur might be a great appeal to some, but on the on the other hand, a challenge to others. Chairman KH Wan has decided to take the risk and challenge nevertheless. After a couple weeks of brainstorming, the theme, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Treasures" in conjunction with the Chinese Zodiac Year of the Tiger got the thumbs up.

The decision turned out to be in the organiser's favour, hitting the maximum of 93 registered cars. Lake Kenyir Resort & Spa charted a full house with the Ballroom expected to be packed to its walls and doors during meal times and the Prize Giving Dinner!

As in all the years, the Hunt was flagged off early in the morning of 12 June, clocking off at the finish line in Kuantan. Again, the COC, Kwn Toh Wei Ming, in his second year of duty grilling the participants' mind-power and intelligence, succeeded in his task, sending everyone into a mental fatigue. The long drive from Kuantan to Lake Kenyir further pushed their mental strength to the limit!

The net amount raised was RM321,000! The funds were distributed to the pre-selected beneficiaries, the Kiwanis Down Syndrome National Centre, the Kiwanis Club of Kuala Lumpur Service Fund, WWF Malaysia's Tx2 Campaign, Rapha's Children Home Kuantan and Pusat Jagaan Birthright in Klang.

Kiwanis Club of Kuala Lumpur would like to record it's gratitude to all the sponsors, to all those who have contributed in kind and cash and those who have helped out in so many other ways.

To all Kiwanis Hunt fans...the 28th Kiwanis Motor Treasure Hunt will live up to all expectations with the newly elected (by the Council of Animals!) Chairperson, Lee Siew Fang leading the troupe! Perhaps a more 'driver friendly' destination this time??

## Baby Manual is in the works. By Bart Regelbrugge, YCPO Member

Working on a prototype Baby Manual Kit has revealed many comments and sources that need to be shared. You may feel motivated to share them too.

“What you do right now- before pregnancy, during pregnancy, and through the first five years- will affect your children for the rest of their lives.” quoting Dr John Medina from his book, *Brain Rules*. This is well known in some circles. However, there are probably millions of people especially teenagers who have not heard this all encompassing statement!

New Mexico teenage pregnancies are too high. All too often the guys walk away from the situation they created. In many cases, they are unprepared to handle the emotional, financial, and parental responsibilities. Well, a father recommended *Be Prepared* by Gary Greenberg and Jeannie Hayden. This book is a how-to manual. It covers many of the situations fathers handle. Since the content of *Be Prepared* is very useful, this book should be read before babies arrive.

The more they know before being parents the better chances their babies will experience better lives! *Bright from the Start* by Dr Jill Stamm is another good source for information. Her first baby weighed one (1) pound and four (4) ounces! Whatever, she writes is backed by experience and knowledge.

Visit [www.teachingstrategies.org](http://www.teachingstrategies.org). There you will find booklets like *Creative Curriculum Learning Games* and much more. Once parents notice that their children are exhibiting special interests in something, they can select *Learning Games* that enhance these interests. Dr Joseph Sparling developed these *Learning Games* for birth to five year olds. Of the original group of 111 babies, eventually 40% graduated from colleges or universities! Whereas, in the control group only 20% went on to higher education. In our hurried society, these games are perfect for parents to help improve their children's brain development.

Google *Kindergarten Readiness Checklist*. Parents are the first and best teachers for their children! Yet, a large percentage of parents aren't preparing their children for schools. By having Kindergarten Readiness Checklists, parents can make sure that their children are ready for kindergarten!

Kiwanis Clubs can help motivated parents with knowledge and tools can help their children fall in LOVE with learning before the age of five (5)!

## The Eliminate Project will change the World

To eliminate MNT from the Earth by 2015, 129 million mothers and their future babies must be immunized. This requires vaccines, syringes, safe storage, transportation, thousands of skilled staff and more. It will take US\$110 million — and the dedicated work of UNICEF and every member of the Kiwanis family. Talk it up at your Club. **More Info: [TheEliminateProject.org](http://TheEliminateProject.org)**



**2010-2011 Kiwanis International Committee**

**Jane "JJ" Miller, Chair**  
P.O. Box # 134  
Waters, MI. 49797-0134  
Phone: 989-732-2127  
E-mail: jjmillerjjrn@aol.com

**Ron Jackson, Vice Chair**  
1120 Wordsworth Dr  
Roswell, GA. 30075  
Phone: 404-934-6640  
ronpjackson@bellsouth.net

Dr. Wil Blechman,MD.-Florida

Miki Cunat - Illinois

Troy Dibley - Capital

Bobbe Godwin - Pacific NW

Jeanne Hagen -New Jersey

Herb Hayde - Southwest

Grete Hvardal- Norway

Kimko Horii -Japan

Jane-Judy Miller-Michigan

Bart Regelbrugge-New Mex.

Rae Rupp-Sch- III-E. Iowa

Donna Rutledge -Michigan

Neil Simmons - LaMsTenn

Elizabeth Warren -Staff -Kiwanis International, Indianapolis, IN

Neil F. Simmons, Newsletter Editor  
1005 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Suite 202  
Kenner, Louisiana USA 70062  
Phone: 800-460-4599  
E-MAIL—nfsimmons@bellsouth.net  
Fax:800-765-0785

**Editor's Notes:**

“You are encouraged to send articles for publication that showcase your Club’s, , Division or District Young Children/Priority One Projects. If you e-mail me with the contact, I will do the rest.”



**Club de Panama visits Children's Hospital.**

On this FATHERS' DAY the photos speak for themselves...I was not there but I thank my Club Kiwanis Canal de Panama for sending along these pictures of yesterday's visit to the Panama Childrens' Hospital, I just chose a few of the shots but I think you get the idea.....Mark

