

Kiwanis

International

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ABOUT KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time—locally and globally through Kiwanis club-sponsored activities and programs. Kiwanis comprises 600,000 adult and youth members in 70 nations and geographic areas that serve children and communities worldwide.

Kiwanis members are service-minded men and women united in their commitment to and compassion for others. They dedicate more than 6 million volunteer hours and invest more than US\$100 million annually in projects that strengthen communities and serve children. Kiwanians, through guidance and example, work to prepare today's children to be tomorrow's citizens.

Membership Figures

Kiwanis clubs, as of September 2007: More than 8,000

Kiwanis members, as of September 2007: More than 250,000

Service Mission

Any community need can become a Kiwanis service project, especially the needs of children. In 2005, Kiwanis clubs sponsored about 150,000 service projects and raised \$107 million. Kiwanis clubs impact their communities in a variety of ways:

- In the US, many clubs support pediatric trauma facilities and sponsor camps for underprivileged or handicapped children. In schools, clubs sponsor programs to help students develop important character traits, become responsible citizens (Terrific Kids) and improve their grades (Bring Up Grades). In Canada, Kiwanis is widely known for sponsoring music festivals for young performers.
- Kiwanis clubs in Australia initiated the hospital doll program. In addition to providing comfort to injured and ill children, these featureless cloth dolls can be marked on with felt-tip pens. This helps children describe their symptoms and allows physicians to demonstrate the treatments the children will receive. The idea spread quickly to Kiwanis clubs in Europe and then to the rest of the world. Additionally, Australian clubs teamed with New Zealand clubs to donate a dairy herd to the only agricultural college in East Timor, not only to aid education but also to provide milk to local children.
- European Kiwanis clubs are strong supporters of Special Olympics. The clubs in Western Europe also launched the Kiwanis Education Program to assist students, teachers, and schools in Eastern Europe with teaching assistance, donations of computers and other equipment, and student exchanges.
- Kiwanis clubs in Latin America support orphanages and health clinics and build schools in underserved areas. In Malaysia, Kiwanis clubs sponsor several centers for children with Downs Syndrome, while in Sri Lanka the focus is on a children's hospital.

Kiwanis Worldwide Service Project

In 1994, Kiwanis adopted its first Worldwide Service Project, a campaign in partnership with the United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF) to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders (IDD). Iodine deficiency is rare in areas where iodized salt is used, but in other parts of the world, IDD is the leading cause of preventable mental and physical retardation. Kiwanis raised \$100 million through the campaign, funds that are now at work in more than 89 nations ensuring that more than 80 million children in the developing world will be born free of iodine deficiency disorder this year. Today, the number of households estimated to be consuming iodized salt has jumped dramatically from 20 percent in 1990 to more than 70 percent.

The Kiwanis Name

The name "Kiwanis" was coined from an expression in an American Indian language of the Detroit area, "Nunc Kee-wanis," which means, "we trade" or "we share our talents."

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KIWANIS HISTORY

The first Kiwanis club was organized in Detroit, Michigan. The group received a charter from the state of Michigan on January 21, 1915, and this is regarded as the birth date of Kiwanis.

The first clubs were organized to promote the exchange of business among the members. However, even before the Detroit club received its state charter the members were distributing Christmas baskets to the poor. A lively debate ensued between those who supported community service as the Kiwanis mission and those who supported the exchange of business. By 1919, the service advocates won the debate.

Kiwanis, like most service organizations formed in the early 20th century, originally was established as an organization for men. The issue of women's membership was debated with increasing support throughout the 1970s and 1980s and was approved in 1987. Today, more than 60,000 women worldwide call themselves Kiwanians.

Kiwanis became international with the organization of the Kiwanis Club of Hamilton, Ontario, in 1916. The organization expanded to the province of Quebec in 1917 with the creation of the Kiwanis Club of Montréal and organized its first francophone club in Québec City in 1921. Kiwanis limited its membership to the US and Canada until 1962, when worldwide expansion was approved. Since then, Kiwanis has spread to all the inhabited continents of the globe, and three individuals from outside the US and Canada to serve as Kiwanis International President.

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KIWANIS SERVICE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

As Kiwanis membership has grown and enthusiasm for its service-based format has spread, Kiwanis has created additional volunteer and leadership opportunities for people at every stage of life through the extended Kiwanis family and its Service Leadership Programs.

Circle K International

Circle K International (CKI) is a Service Leadership Program for college students, with more than 13,000 members on more than 550 university and college campuses in 17 nations. Circle K was started in Pullman, Washington, and was organized formally as a service organization in 1947. Its members are committed to service, leadership, and fellowship. Visit circlek.org or call 800-KIWANIS.

Key Club International

Key Club International, the oldest Kiwanis Service Leadership Program, was started with 17 boys in Sacramento, California, in 1925. Today, the organization is active in 26 nations and includes 4,800 clubs and 244,000 members. More than 2 million youth have enlisted in Key Club since its inception, including many leaders in government, business, entertainment, and sports—from former US President Bill Clinton to Elvis Presley. Visit keyclub.org or call 800-KIWANIS.

Builders Club

When middle school and junior high students began to show an interest in organizing to serve their schools and communities, the Builders Club program was launched in 1975. With support from Kiwanis clubs, Key Clubs, and Circle K clubs, the Builders Club network has grown to include more than 1,200 clubs and more than 36,000 members in eight nations. Visit buildersclub.org or call 800-KIWANIS.

Aktion Clubs

In October 2000, Kiwanis extended service opportunities to adults living with developmental disabilities through the formation of Aktion Club. These clubs provide members with opportunities to develop initiative and leadership, to serve their communities, to be integrated into society, and to demonstrate the dignity and value of citizens living with developmental disabilities. To date, there are more than 6,790 members in more than 260 clubs. Visit aktionclub.org or call 800-KIWANIS.

Kiwanis Junior

Kiwanis Junior clubs are recognized in Europe and help to share the Kiwanis service experience with young adults, ages 18-35. Kiwanis Junior became an official program in 1992 and now includes more than 50 clubs. Visit kiwanisjunior.org or call 32-9/216 77 77.

Key Leader

Key Leader is a weekend leadership development retreat for middle and high school students designed to begin a process of personal leadership growth. Since its inception in 2005, more than 3,000 students have successfully completed the program in the US, Malaysia, and Brazil. Key Leader is intended for a broader spectrum of students—not just academic achievers—and focuses on how service to others helps develop leadership skills. Visit key-leader.org or call 800-KIWANIS.

K-Kids

This organization for elementary school-age students began in 1990 when the first club was formed in North Lauderdale, Florida. It was adopted as a sponsored program by Kiwanis International in 1998. Today, 27,000 K-Kids in 950 clubs and eight nations actively create opportunities for community service, leadership development, and citizenship education. K-Kids is one of three programs under the Kiwanis Kids umbrella. The other two are Terrific Kids and Bring Up Grades (BUG), both of which are designed to help students improve their grades, behavior, peer relationships, and self-esteem. Visit kkids.org or call 800-KIWANIS.

Terrific Kids

Terrific Kids is a student-recognition program that promotes character development, self-esteem, and perseverance. Students work with their classroom teacher to establish goals to improve behavior, peer relationships, attendance, and coursework. After a specific period of time agreed

upon by the teacher, principal, and student, the child is recognized as a "Terrific Kid" (Thoughtful, Enthusiastic, Respectful, Responsible, Inclusive, Friendly, Inquisitive, Capable) for achieving his/her goals. Visit kkids.org or call 800-KIWANIS.

Bring Up Grades (BUG)

Bring Up Grades (BUG) recognizes students who raise their grades to an acceptable range while maintaining or continuing to raise them from one grading period to the next. BUG awards students by placing them on the school's BUG Honor Roll and awarding them with a recognition ceremony or party. Visit kkids.org or call 800-KIWANIS.