

What *exactly* is Service?

By Leah Moretz, Administrative Secretary

While completing your Carolinas District Monthly Report Form, have you ever wondered what to include as service hours? A definition of a service project is located in the second part of the Kiwanis International Annual Report on Service:

A SERVICE PROJECT IS AN ACTIVITY CONSISTENT WITH THE OBJECTS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES OF KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL, DEvised OR PLANNED BY A KIWANIS CLUB OR CLUB COMMITTEE, AND PERFORMED BY MEMBERS OF THE CLUB FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS.

Individual contributions or services are not reportable unless they are the result of committee planning and arrangement. Do *not* include fundraising projects or other Kiwanis administrative committee functions.

What does all this mean? In the Carolinas District, it is interpreted as meaning activities with ACTUAL hands on service should be counted as service hours. Raising money for your service budget, such as a pancake breakfast, should NOT be included as service hours. This activity requires the club only to make a monetary contribution.

What are the grey areas? Ringing the bell for the Salvation Army would be considered service hours. Why? Because Kiwanians are doing an activity to raise money for ANOTHER organization. Taking pancakes to shut-ins from your club's pancake breakfast – these would be service hours. Producing your club's bulletin would NOT be considered service. Why? Whom is this bulletin helping OUTSIDE of your club? The bottom line, the question to define service, should be "Did the Kiwanian actually help another person in the community by their activity, and did a club committee or the club's board approve the activity?" If the answer is YES, then it's service!

What if we have members of our club that do service for other organizations? Can these hours be part of our club's service hours? Only if they are approved by your club's board of directors. Is the person representing Kiwanis while they are doing the service? Then have your club's board approve the project each year as an ongoing service project.