

MINNEKOTAN

Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

No.27

December 2011

Give-Act-Celebrate

12/01/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Denis Cornell, Governor

We are now two months into the 2011-2012 Kiwanis year. Nancy and I have now traveled to four of the seven regions in the Minnesota-Dakotas District, the charter celebration for the new Kiwanis Club of Marshall, MN as well as the K Family Retreat at Stewartville, MN. We have met many great Kiwanians, participated in some great service projects and have been blessed by smiles and hugs from some terrific children. Many clubs have reported that they are adding members and we continue to work on new club building in several locations around our district. We **must** continue to grow our existing clubs and build new clubs, so that the great Kiwanis service tradition will continue and provide a better future for our children. The need is great and we **must** meet that need.



At this time of the year we stop to reflect on all the blessings which have been bestowed upon us by our creator. I am so very thankful for my wonderful family, both my blood family as well as my Kiwanis family. I thank each and every one of you for all that you are doing for the children of the world. This is also the time of year when the needs of our communities are the greatest. Kiwanians are out ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, collecting food for the food shelves and collecting toys for the children in our communities. These are just a few of the service projects which Kiwanians are found performing each day. This is a great time to invite a friend, neighbor or acquaintance to a service project or a club meeting.

There is a trend in today's society to give alternative gifts to loved ones and friends during the holiday season. If you are considering an alternative gift, consider a donation to The Eliminate Project in honor of family members or friends. A gift of this type will please the recipient and save countless mothers and babies from the devastating but preventable horror of Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus. [Click Here](#) to learn more. Nancy and I wish you all Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

December Update



Greetings! The holiday season is upon us and it is a great time to get involved in Kiwanis service and help others in your community! We wish all of you and your families a very happy holiday season.

Governor Elect Candidates: If you are interested in running for Governor Elect for 2012-2013, please submit a picture and a short biographical sketch not to exceed 600 words, along with an endorsement from your home club, to the District Kiwanis Office, P.O. Box 735, Dalton, MN 56324 **no later than February 15,**

2012. Your information must be received by that date to be published in the March MINNEKOTAN. Candidates can announce their intention to run at a later date, but will not be able to have an article in the MINNEKOTAN or district website. Governor Elect candidates must be a Past Lt. Governor. The election will take place at the District Convention next August. A complete list of rules and regulations for district officer campaigns can be obtained from the District Office.

Club Donations to Outreach: Special thanks to all of the clubs that contributed to the Outreach Program during 10-11. We look forward to seeing your contribution again in 11-12. Most Kiwanis clubs include this as an annual budget item. Dollars given to the Outreach Program are used by Key Club and Circle K District Boards to build new Key and Circle K clubs, to attend Kiwanis District Conventions and Kiwanis special meetings, and to acquire needed supplies and equipment. Our Circle K and Key Club District Boards are very busy and active. They need our financial support. Checks can be made payable to Kiwanis Outreach and mailed to me at the District Office.

Download International Convention Materials: Need help promoting the Kiwanis International Convention in your club bulletins and newsletters? Check out the convention Web site at www.kiwanisone.org/convention, where you'll find information about the convention as well as helpful downloads such as logos and ads.

Online Monthly Club Reporting: Since our online reporting is so very important, I would like to once again review the process for the 11-12 year. Your club should be submitting your monthly club report online by the 10th of the following month. Your Lt. Governors, District Officers, District Office and Kiwanis International are able to view your reports without you having to send any additional emails or hard copies. Among other things the online monthly reports will again be the official basis for selecting the Distinguished Club Awards for 11-12. If you have any questions, please give me a call or send me an email.

Tri-K District Board Meeting: Kiwanis, Circle K, and Key Club District Boards will meet in Fergus Falls, MN on Friday, January 27 and Saturday, January 28, 2012.

Thanks again for all your great work in Kiwanis!

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office Contact Information:

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office
P.O. Box 735
Dalton, MN 56324-0735

Phone: 218-589-7581
Email: secretary@mndak-kiwanis.org

2012 is in St. Cloud

11/27/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Ann Backes Dodge

Thank you to all the members who participated and attended the convention in Sioux Falls, SD this last August. Thank you to all who filled out evaluations as we are discussing some of the suggestions that were given as we plan the St. Cloud Convention. So, mark your calendars August 3-5, 2012. The convention will be at the St. Cloud Civic Center and Best Western Kelly Inn. The St. Cloud Kiwanis clubs are excited to host this district event with the district convention committee and make it a huge success.

Be Loud, Be Proud & Be in St. Cloud!

Ann Backes Dodge
District Convention Coordinator
Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District



Eliminate Project Needs You!

12/01/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty



We are on the threshold of a major effort to rid the world of maternal and neonatal tetanus. The Project needs help from Kiwanians all over the District. Ideally we will have 20 divisional coordinators to lead the effort with a team consisting of club members and the district coordinator as we move toward a donation level of \$3 million by 2015.

So far 5 people have stepped forward to serve as coordinators working with 6-8 clubs each in our effort to Eliminate death from tetanus during birth. Please contact me with your interest in serving or recommend someone else that may be interested. We would like to have these position filled by Dec. 15th. Call or email me at 605-332-0780 or BillDaugherty@yahoo.com.

Minnesota Dakotas Foundation Scholarships

11/27/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Lardy, Foundation Vice President

Last month scholarship applications were delivered to high school counselors or principals in communities with active Kiwanis clubs. The scholarships, offered by the Minnesota Dakotas Educational Foundation, are only available to students who attend post-secondary institutions in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Superior WI. Only 3 applications are allowed from any high school. This year each scholarship will be \$800.

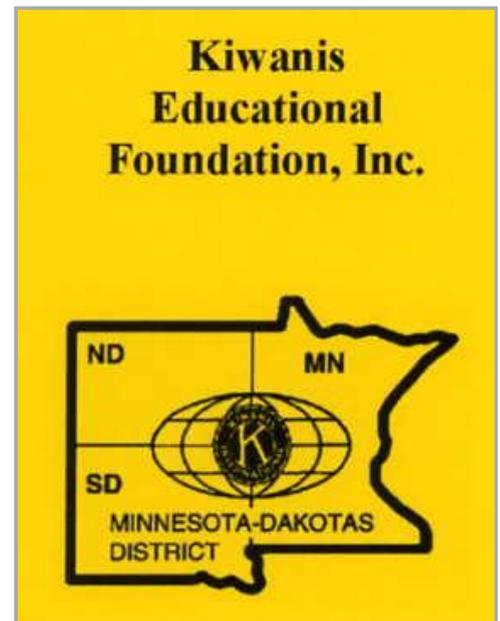
Other application requirements are:

*Applicant's high school transcript must be included

- *High school counselor or principal must complete her/his portion
- *High school counselor or principal must sign his/her portion
- *High school counselor or principal must mail 3 copies plus original application, including transcripts to Minnesota Dakotas Foundation, 914 Southern Pine Ln SW, Rochester MN 55902
- *Packets must be postmarked by January 27, 2012.

Full details on scholarship applications are in the packet delivered to each high school. Every requirement of the application must be followed exactly to avoid having the application rejected.

For more information contact Jack Zierdt, Minnesota Dakotas Foundation Secretary/Treasurer: Phone 507-289-7012. Email: jjzierdt0706@charter.net.



In the Spirit of Gratitude

11/27/2011 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Ann Backes Dodge



This last week I received an email from someone I have not met yet. She is moving to the Grand Rapids area soon and she is looking for an organization to be involved in that makes a difference in the community. A mutual friend gave her my name and email and told her to discuss Kiwanis with me.

As I answered her questions and shared my story of my Kiwanis Family journey it made me wonder, do Kiwanis members in our district realize what a difference they can make or for that matter have made?

Our focus is around youth, which means for every Kiwanis club that sponsors a youth sponsored organization (K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club and Circle K) each and every Kiwanian in that Kiwanis club is a mentor. However, with our Young Children Priority One, it truly means that every Kiwanian is a mentor. By definition, mentors are positive people and it takes a positive person to help another learn, grow and succeed.

I have been a part of the MN-DAK Kiwanis Family for 26 years because I grew up participating in Key Club and Circle K. The successes I have had in my life have come from the wisdom and support of the many Kiwanis mentors that have been there for me. The willingness to share their knowledge, skills and life stories have meant the world to me. They have helped me through tough times and showed me how to get through the difficulties that were challenging me. I have nothing but great love and respect for those Kiwanians as they didn't just open their lives up to me, they shared with many Key Clubbers and Circle K'ers.

There shouldn't be a season where people focus on gratitude, however it does happen every year during this time. There is much to be grateful for and we should share every

day our appreciation. Thank you to all the Kiwanians who took time out of their busy lives to make such a difference in mine! Thank you to all the Kiwanians who are making such a big difference in my life now!

What is your Kiwanis Family story? Why did you want to be a part of this great organization? Have you invited anyone to a Kiwanis meeting or project lately? This is a great district with amazing people as members. Be proud to be a Kiwanian and share your story. What other organization can make a difference in fellowship, leadership and service like Kiwanis?

In the Spirit of Gratitude,
Ann Backes Dodge

Giving outside the norm

11/30/2011 - Division: Division 07 - Submitted by: Don Felmlee, Lt. Governor, Region 7

(The following story appeared in the Red Wing, Minnesota Republican Eagle Newspaper.)

Giving outside the norm

By Danielle Nordine
Red Wing Republican Eagle

Don Felmlee heard about Kiwanis by word of mouth. More than a decade ago, someone asked him to come to a meeting and see what the service club was all about. Felmlee said at first the social aspect was the biggest draw. But as he learned more about the program he got more and more involved. He has been president of the local group and is now a regional lieutenant governor.

Nationally, service clubs generally are seeing their membership numbers diminish, and Red Wing is no exception. But it seems those who are still involved are more deeply immersed in the causes than ever.

Kiwanis works to "make life better for children," especially in Third World countries, Felmlee said. When he first joined, the organization had taken on a project to eliminate iodine deficiency, which can cause serious illnesses. It took about \$100 million and 10 years, but the organization "practically wiped it out" by getting the funds and process in place to distribute iodine salt to developing countries, he said. "This is what impressed me," Felmlee said.

Now the group has started an effort to eradicate neonatal tetanus, a disease babies can get simply from being born into unsanitary conditions. "The cure is there. We know that we can cure this disease," Felmlee said. It will take about another \$100 million to come close to ending that disease, but he said he's confident the group can eliminate it.

"In my time in Kiwanis we already did it with one disease. Now to do it with two — I feel if I don't do anything else, that's a pretty good thing to have," he said. The ability to help those both around the world and locally is relatively universal across service clubs.

"You can volunteer time and give something outside the scope of your normal day. You have a direct impact in what goes on in the community," said Goodhue County Sheriff Scott McNurlin, who is a member of Red Wing Rotary and Goodhue Lions. "It makes you



a better, well-rounded human being." McNurlin, who is currently president of Rotary, said he enjoyed local initiatives such as working directly with youth struggling in school or at home and helping to maintain Pottery Pond. "It's very locally based and community-oriented," he said. "I saw Rotary International also having a global impact."

Many other clubs such as League of Women Voters also work on programs to educate the public and facilitate discussions on issues important to locals. While Red Wing's Rotary group grew a little this year, McNurlin said overall they've lost about 20 members in the last six or seven years. "Some people say it's a sign of the times," he said. "Fewer and fewer people are wanting to do community service and wanting to volunteer through service clubs." The Goodhue Lions have bucked the trend and grown in recent years, McNurlin said, but they're an anomaly.

Felmlee said Kiwanis membership has diminished noticeably since he started. "Our society's changed," he said. People are more involved in activities with kids or other clubs that aren't service-based, he said. Also, the struggling economy has contributed to the decline. Many businesses used to cover membership fees for service clubs but aren't able to do that anymore, he said. That doesn't mean people aren't volunteering, but many are doing it on their own time.

But in Felmlee and McNurlin's opinions, they're missing out on the social aspect of the clubs. "They have great programs and you meet people," Felmlee said. "You also get reacquainted with people you haven't seen for a while." Felmlee said gatherings are more like programs or get-togethers rather than a formal meeting. "Business is done separate from our program," he said. "When we come to a meeting it's good friendship and fun." Members also benefit from getting involved, McNurlin said. Most clubs have speakers or discussions at meetings and host social events like cook-outs. But beyond that, it's also a good feeling to help out, he added. "All people need to feel they're giving something back beyond immediate family or work," McNurlin said. "There's a personal stake in the sense that you feel like you're contributing." McNurlin encouraged those interested in the clubs to simply check out a meeting. "Each one has a unique niche in what they do," McNurlin said. "If people are looking for a way to give outside the norm, it can be interesting to go to a service club see how they operate."

Club News

Willmar Peanut Days a Huge Success

11/30/2011 - Club: Willmar - Submitted by: Maribeth Williamson

This year the Willmar Noon Kiwanis Club raised over \$19,000 from Peanut Day sales – a new record for our club! Our net revenue will exceed \$15,000. Pictured is Elaine Bolland, Executive Director of Harmony Visitation Center, who graciously accepted our initial check in the amount of \$10,000, from Earl Knutson, Peanut Chairman.

Harmony Visitation Center, a program of Safe Avenues, was selected as the 2011 Peanut Partner and recipient of funding from the fourth annual Peanut Day Campaign. Funds will be designated to restore programming hours curtailed due to loss of funding.



Harmony Visitation Center provides a safe, neutral environment for children to spend time with noncustodial parents and other relatives. The Visitation Center reduces the children's risk of exposure to harmful situations such as domestic violence, sexual abuse, and child abuse that they may otherwise be subject to at home. Harmony does this by providing a safe, secure environment staffed by trained monitors.

Harmony has experienced a 33% increase in cases in the first 6 months of 2011, while receiving a 30% cut to their budget, leaving them no choice but to eliminate staff positions and 416 visitation opportunities for the year. The funds from Peanut Days will enable them to reinstate some or all of these visits. All this happened because our Kiwanis club sold 185 boxes of peanuts!

Mitchell Club Benefits Little Girls in Africa

11/23/2011 - Club: Mitchell - Submitted by: Carol Grode-Hanks



Members of the Mitchell Kiwanis spent a half a day together sharing their love of sewing, friendship, and caring for others and created 27 dresses out of gently used pillowcases for little girls in Africa. The Little Dresses for Africa (LDFA) program is a non-profit Christian organization which provides relief to the children of Africa. Simple dresses are made out of pillowcases and distributed through the orphanages, churches, and schools in Africa.

Paula Deckert, treasurer of the Mitchell club, learned of the program at the 2011 District Convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She attended a presentation that included 100 service projects and a sample dress was passed around. One look at the dress and Paula knew Mitchell could make a difference. Within one month, she had pillowcases, volunteers, donations, and a date set for sewing.

To date, all 50 states have participated in LDFA and over 500,000 dresses have been distributed in 31 countries of Africa. Children in South Dakota have also been recipients of the LDFA program. Their message is clear: "We're not just sending dresses, we're sending HOPE!"

Fridley Key Club Celebrates Key Club International Week

11/15/2011 - Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Maddy Earley

Fridley Key Club Members, with the help of other high school students and staff, celebrated Key Club International Week, November 7 - 11, with a different event each day. A recap of the week is as follows:

1. Monday was Wear Your Club T-Shirt Day. Members filled the halls and classrooms with their turquoise t-shirts emblazoned with "Fridley Key Club."

2. Tuesday was Miracle Minute Day. Key Clubbers showed a video about the new Kiwanis Worldwide project "The Elimination of Neonatal Tetanus (Eliminate)" in the Advisory Rooms. Following the video Key Clubbers held a Miracle Minute, a 60 second long fund drive.



A baby dies every nine minutes from neonatal tetanus worldwide. For \$1.80 worth of shots given to the mother her baby can be saved from this painful, fatal disease. During this Fridley Miracle Minute, the Key Clubbers received \$60.00 and saved 33 babies.

3. Wednesday was Recognize Your Advisors. The Key Club Board recognized Crzy Mry Bowen, Gene Burns and Bruce Messer. The three were treated to a loud clapping ovation.

4. Thursday was Donate Your Used and New Clothing Project which will continue until holiday vacation begins. Key Clubbers placed receiving boxes in the office and choir room. The clothing received will be discreetly given to high schoolers by the school staff.

5. Friday was Hat Day. All students and staff paid \$1.00 for the privilege of wearing a hat on Hat Day. The event raised \$203.00, and there were some unusual hats.

During International Key Club Week, the Fridley Key Club raised \$263.00 from the Miracle Minute and the Hat Day, saving 146 babies. The Key Club received an additional \$40.00 from a student who was touched by the goal of two projects. She alone saved 22 babies.

Besides raising money for Eliminate, the Fridley Key Club made a big splash in the school. Key Club is determined to make it a caring and helpful community.

Maddy Earley, Lt. Gov. Region 7a
Fridley Key Club
11/15/11

MINOT GOLDEN K, BESTOWS HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

11/13/2011 - Club: Minot, Golden K - Submitted by: Richard Sabol-Sec/Treas.



Members of the Minot Golden K, gave Honorary Membership to Alan Walter, Minot City Public Works Director. Alan was instrumental in providing leadership this summer during the flood in Minot, North Dakota. He gave a presentation to the Golden K, updating them about the flood cleanup and the development of flood protection for the city of Minot and Souris River basin.

Pictured are Weyburn Niewoehner, President and Alan Walter City Public Works Director during the presentation.