

MINNEKOTAN

Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

No.52

January 2014

Message from the Governor

01/01/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Judie Rosendahl, District Governor

I trust that each of you has enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to a great Kiwanis year! So many opportunities await us as we work together with Kiwanians locally, in our Minnesota Dakotas District, and around the world. One of the tenants of our strategic plan is to increase our service throughout the District. One of the ways to do that is for each Kiwanis club in the district to add one new service project this year. Adding something new does not happen by itself but it takes a club with a vision and the will to accomplish it! Perhaps a community assessment would help your club find projects that, if successfully implemented, will have a meaningful impact on your community. The purpose is to discover and identify services the community lacks and transform that information into positive change by club members and community resources. This assessment will ensure your club's projects and services are still needed and to identify new initiatives. The process of assessing your community begins by contacting people in local organizations and interviewing them as to their needs and how Kiwanis could help them to meet those needs. Schools, churches, libraries, businesses, child-care providers, human services, and law-enforcement agencies could be included in the people you would contact. Then bring the information back to the club members and determine how your club could help in any of these areas. I am asking you to please consider conducting this assessment and striving to increase your service this year!



Special Youth Art Project for Eliminate... Those of you who came to Fargo for President Gunter Gasser's visit were the first to hear about this year's project to raise funds for the Eliminate Project. Christiana Gasser presented us with the project which asks that each Governor collect a minimum of fifty drawings or paintings which will be paper framed by Kiwanis International and then sold at the Kiwanis International Convention in Japan this July. The Minnesota Dakotas District can also frame them and sell them at our convention in Minneapolis this August. We are asking each club to present this to your service leadership clubs including K Kids, Builders Clubs, Key Clubs, Circle K, and Aktion Clubs. If you do not sponsor an SLP, you may contact your school and ask for their student's involvement. The basis for the pictures is to know the wishes

of all relevant people concerning the theme of “We build bridges for children to the future”. What do children and others visualize when they hear about bridges to the future? Let’s ask them and have them draw or paint their vision.

There are no limits on the medium. Pencil, paint, watercolor, felt pen, crayon and ink are all acceptable. However, we are limited to only two sizes for the pictures:

- DIN A4: 29,7cm x 21 cm
- 8.5 x 11 inches

Be sure the child’s first name and age is provided with the picture along with the completed Kiwanis Artwork Release form. [Artwork Permission form](#) **These pictures should be sent to me by March 15, 2014 at 205 Wildwood Ave, Madison, MN 56256** as they must be at Kiwanis International by April 15, 2014. Thanks so much for your help with this project!

Myron and I send our sincere best wishes to you for a great new year as we work together to change the world, one community and one child at a time!

January Update

01/01/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas



Happy New Year and Best Wishes for 2014!

The Kiwanis Youth Protection Guidelines were updated on October 1, 2013.

There are more than 300,000 youth members of the Kiwanis family—making this update an important event for all Kiwanis clubs and members. By knowing and adhering to these guidelines, Kiwanians also protect themselves and the reputations of their clubs. Kiwanis International recently sent a snail mail letter to all club secretaries with information that you and your club should know. What has changed for Kiwanis clubs and members? [CLICK TO READ LETTER](#)

Email Addresses and contact information: Club Secretaries- Please check your club member information database and make sure that we have the current email addresses for all members in your club that have one. You can update your club members’ information through your online KiwanisOne Secretary access. The Kiwanis International database is where we access email addresses for the District MINNEKOTAN Newsletter and other important communications. Email addresses change often, so please keep them as current as possible. **Beginning this year all members can access and change their own profile information by logging into the following Kiwanis Portalbuzz website** [click here](#)

IRS Reminder: All clubs are required to file the appropriate annual IRS tax form by February 15th. See the separate article in January MINNEKOTAN.

2013-2014 Club Insurance Resource Guide: Your club secretary should have received the 2013-2014 Insurance Resource Guide in a mailing from Kiwanis International. It contains answers and information to most questions about your general liability coverage and risk management practices. If you have very specific liability insurance questions you can call Lisa Hendricks at Kiwanis International (1-800-KIWANIS ext 112) or you can also contact the insurance carrier directly. That contact information is listed in the guide. You can also view all of the material online [Click here](#)

Governor Elect Candidates: If you are interested in running for Governor Elect for 2014-2015, 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, 2014 to be included in the March issue of the MINNEKOTAN. Candidates can announce their intention to run at a later date, but may 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.

Leadership opportunities: If you are interested in being a future District Lt. Governor, Regional or District Chairperson, etc., please contact your Lt. Governor, other officer or myself. Each year the district is in need of interested and dedicated leaders. It can be a very interesting, rewarding and educational experience.

Download International Convention Materials: Need help promoting the Kiwanis International Convention in your club bulletins and newsletters? Check out the convention Web site at [Click here](#), 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 13-14 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. 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 24 and Saturday, January 25, 2014.

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

REMINDER to Kiwanis Clubs- Tax filing due Feb. 15th

12/31/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas

Just a reminder that all Kiwanis Clubs must file the appropriate form with the IRS by February 15th.

If your club's gross receipts is \$50,000 or less you are required to file the IRS' electronic postcard Form 990-N. (The definition of gross receipts is any and all income to your accounts, even if it is an in-and-out item.)

If your club's gross receipts normally exceed \$50,000 and up to \$200,000 you are required to file Form 990EZ. If your club gross receipts are greater than \$200,000 then you must file Form 990. Failure to file for three consecutive years could result in revocation of your tax exempt status.



For more information go the Kiwanis International website [Click here](#)

Eliminate Challenge for Region 2

12/30/2013 - Division: Division 02 - Submitted by: Peter Larson



Lloyd Paulson, after challenging his Moorhead Kiwanis Club to be a Model Club for the Eliminate Project, is now challenging his fellow Region 2 Kiwanians to participate in this very important International Service Project. He has set aside \$150,000 as an incentive for other Region 2 Kiwanians to make significant gifts to the Kiwanis International Foundation Eliminate Project.

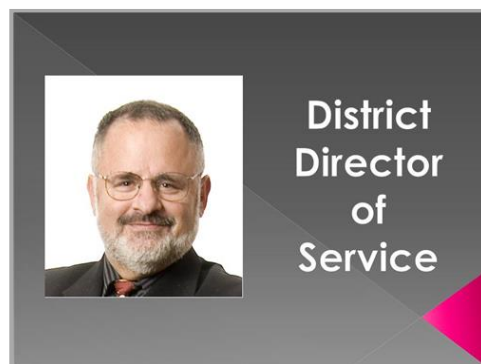
Each of the 21 clubs in Region 2 will be visited in the next few months with details of this challenge. The basic information is that he will contribute an incentive of about 25% of the amount pledged and paid. That amount will be applied to such recognition items as Walter Zeller Fellowships (a pledge and payment of \$920 will result in an incentive contribution of \$330 for the total \$1,250) and the incentive contributions will be applied to potential model club Eliminate contributions for the Kiwanian's club.

For additional information please email Peter Larson at phlarson@midco.net or call at 701-261-7012.

Develop a Signature Service Project for Your Club

12/25/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Stewart Ross

I am writing this column on Christmas Day. Before you become concerned it is important to know that I am Jewish and therefore today is no different than any other workday for me. In fact, I have always done some of my best writing in late December with no other concerns. We have a few more inches of snow from Christmas Eve here in Minneapolis and the temperatures continue to stay below freezing with below zero temperatures around the corner for the next week.



What I really want to talk about in this column is service, as you might expect. As I travel around the MN-DAK district I am struck by the wonderful array of service projects our clubs complete for their communities and often beyond. Some clubs turn service into fundraisers such as parking cars at county fairs or providing a drum corps show for the community.

The best service projects I see, however, are nearly always signature projects. This is where a club has analyzed the needs of their community and found a project that they can call their own. Although it is always valuable to help other organizations such as the Salvation Army, Boy and Girl Scouts, Habitat for Humanity and on and on, developing a signature service project that ONLY your club is known for has incredible benefits.

When a Kiwanis Club only helps other organizations with their service projects, the club does not benefit in improving the recognition of the club in the community. Even if 100 club members work for a month with Habitat for Humanity (a wonderful thing to think about) the recognition comes mainly for Habitat for Humanity. Of course, we want to help organizations such as this and I am not suggesting we stop doing so. What I am suggesting is your club board of directors spend some time surveying the needs of the community and surrounding area and look for opportunities to develop a signature

project, one that no other organization in town is doing.

In this way, not only will your club be doing important work for the community but will also improve "name recognition" and morale of members. Some clubs have built playgrounds, developed a city park, given awards to students and civic leaders with the name "Kiwanis" in the title. Other clubs have prided themselves on providing coats and hats and gloves for needy children titling the program "Kiwanis Coats for Kids." You get the idea. Find a niche in your community, spend some time planning how best to provide the service, come up with a good branding campaign and when you are ready, go for it! If you have yet to hear about Kiwanis Bring Up Grades program here is a service you can do for students with help from Kiwanis International that can be a signature project for your club.

While it is important to help out other organizations, especially for smaller clubs, having your own signature service project can do wonders for recruitment of new members, pride of your existing members, and name recognition of your club in your community and beyond. Why not make this a New Year resolution for 2014! The timing could not be better....

Start Planning Now For Membership Month

12/29/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Tom Allen

May is Kiwanis Membership Month, but now is the time to start planning your strategy for bringing new members into your club. Develop a plan and get your members



thinking about the people they know who would be a good addition to your club. As we know from our interclub visits, each club has developed their "own personality" over the years. Not everyone you or I know will necessarily "fit in" in your club or into my club. But each member knows at least one person who would definitely be a great addition. We just need to put their names and phone numbers down now so we can plan to maybe ask their assistance on a service project or get them to a meeting. Plan! Plan! Plan!

Over the next several months (as space and time permit) I will be adding some ideas to your membership toolbag and dusting off others so your club and mine can grow. If you have ideas that have worked with your club in the past or new ideas you would like to share with others, please drop me an email (tallen@rushmore.com). As the saying goes, "We're all in this together."

Eliminate Project

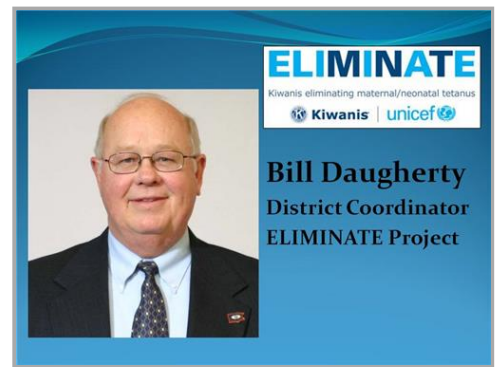
12/29/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty

One more country has been declared free of Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus. Laos has just been announced as one of 34 countries that have been successful in this UNICEF - Kiwanis International Project. There are still 25 countries in which this is still a deadly affliction, we hope to have raised enough funds by International Convention in 2015 to reach the Kiwanis pledge of \$110 million dollars.

Our District has just passed the MILLION Dollar mark. We pledged to donate \$3M by 2015. Clubs declaring that they will be model clubs are the driving force toward this goal. Just last week, Vikingland Moorhead in Region 2 declared their intention to be a

model club.

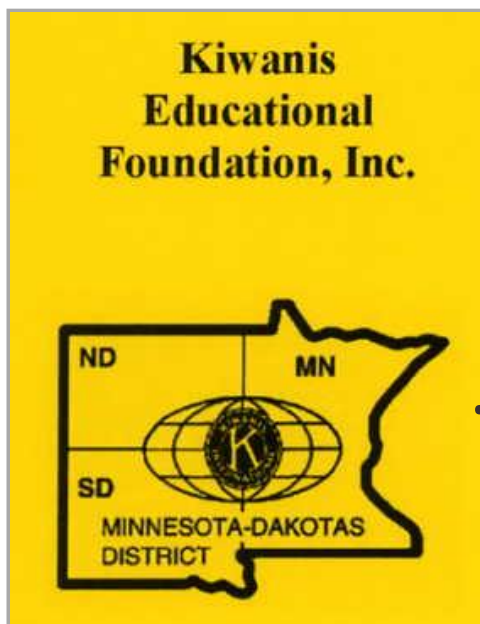
A very good way to begin reaching a club goal for The Eliminate Project could be a drive to encourage members to consider becoming Zeller Fellows with a gift of \$1250. This can be paid in installments or in a lump sum and credit cards are acceptable. To become a Zeller Fellow a member needs to go to the Eliminate Project.org web site and fill out the pledge form. If we are to reach our District goal we all need to pull together to repeat the success we in Minn-Dak had in the IDD effort in the 1990s.



Thank you to all who have given and to all who will become Zeller Fellows soon.

Minn-Dak Educational Foundation: Ways to help

12/23/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Jeff McKinney



Let's take some time this month as we turn the calendar over to a new year to talk about building the assets of your Minn-Dak Education Foundation. When you give to the Foundation it ultimately helps those we give scholarships to. The more assets we manage allows us to have more money we have to give to the very deserving students of our District. There are many ways you can give to the Foundation; here is just a sample of the ways to give.

- [Gifts of Stocks and Bonds](#)

A gift of your securities, including your stocks or bonds, is an easy way for you to make a gift. By making a gift of your appreciated securities, you can avoid paying capital gains tax that would otherwise be due if you sold these assets.

- [Gifts of Real Estate](#)

A gift of your real property (such as your home, vacation property, vacant land, farmland or ranch or commercial property) can make a great gift. If you own appreciated real property, you can avoid paying capital gains tax by making a gift to us.

- [Gifts of Retirement Assets](#)

A gift of your retirement assets, such as a gift from your IRA, 401k, 403b, pension or other tax deferred plan, is an excellent way to make a gift. By making a gift of your retirement assets, you will help further our work. This is especially true if you are 70.5 years old. We use this method a lot in our church foundation where I am on the board.

- [Gifts of Cash](#)

A gift of cash is a simple and easy way for you to make a gift. You will receive a charitable tax deduction that will provide you with savings on this year's tax return.

- [Gift of Insurance](#) A gift of your life insurance policy is an excellent way to make a gift to us. If your life insurance policy is no longer needed or will no longer benefit your survivors consider making a gift and help further our mission.

A Year of Traditions

12/07/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Courtney Taylor

Happy American New Year! While you recover from the busy winter holiday season, eat black-eyed peas for good luck, and make a list of new year's resolutions, take a moment to learn about a few traditions on the other side of the ocean.

Some Japanese holidays coincide with the timing and spirit of American holidays. The New Year, Shogatsu, is sometimes celebrated in Japan through January 3. In addition to Valentine's Day on February 14, on which women give chocolates to men, the Japanese also celebrate White Day on March 14 for men to give cakes or chocolates to women. Labor Thanksgiving Day (Kinro Kansha No Hi) is an ancient holiday for crops and takes place on November 23.



A variety of other holidays are unique to Japan, such as traditions that are mystically based. Setsubun is the spring festival, which takes place during the first few days of February. This is also known as the bean-throwing festival, intended to scare off evil spirits. In March and September, the spring and autumn equinoxes are recognized by visiting ancestors' graves. The Obon Festival is also called the Mid-Summer Festival and Festival of Lanterns. This commemorative holiday takes place during the summer and is honored by visiting one's hometown or spending time with family. People believe that the spirits of their ancestors visit, and they send them away again at the end of the day by sending lanterns down the river.

Other festivals focus on children and culture. Hina Matsuri is the Doll Festival on March 3, celebrating the health and happiness of girls. Children's Day (Kodomo No Hi) on May 5 was originally intended to celebrate boys but now honors all children. Golden Week is a series of celebrations starting with the birthday of Emperor Showa (1901-1989) on April 29 and ending with Children's Day. May 3 is Constitution Day or Kenpo Kinenbi, a national holiday that honors the new constitution that was put into effect after the Second World War. May 4 is Greenery Day (Midori No Hi), reflecting Emperor Showa's love for plants and nature. Health & Sports Day (Taiiku No Hi) takes place on the second Monday in October. It was established after the Summer Olympics that were held in Tokyo in 1964. Culture Day is on November 3, honoring older traditions, freedom, and peace. This holiday was first held in 1946. People are awarded by schools and the government for cultural achievements. Shichi-Go-San is the 7-5-3 Festival on November 15. These three numbers are considered lucky, so children whose ages are one of those years celebrate. A person's coming of age is celebrated on his or her 20th birthday on the second Monday of January, called Seijin No Hi. One holiday that rotates is the Emperor's Birthday, which changes based on the individual in power. Emperor Akihito's birthday is on December 23, and the national holiday Tenno Tanjubi has been on this day since he took office in 1989. This date is one of only two public ceremonies at the Imperial Palace that are open to the public for well-wishers to be acknowledged by the Imperial family.

Unique to 2014 will be a celebration in America as registration opens for the convention in Japan! Please visit the Kiwanis International website for more information.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

12/28/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: E. Chuck Schroder

I'm hoping that each and every one of you had a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year. I hope that you got your fill of all the football bowl games and Santa was good to all.



As I promised, I will be giving you all of the new programs and changes that have taken place at the International Foundation. This month let's take a look at a couple of the the club recognition programs.

1. 100% George F. Hixson Fellow Club: Any Kiwanis club in which all dues-paying members are George F. Hixson Fellows will be recognized as a 100% George F. Hixson Fellow Club. Recognition will be based on September 30 certified membership as determined by Kiwanis International. Recognition includes:

- *One-time special recognition banner from the Kiwanis International Foundation
- *Listing on special club recognition page on the foundation website
- *Listing in foundation annual report
- *Invitation for club president and one member to a private reception at the international convention with the Kiwanis International President and Kiwanis International Foundation Board of Trustees
- *Recognition badge for club website

CLUB BANNER RECOGNITION

These club recognitions are awarded annually at the end of the Kiwanis year based on September 30 certified membership as determined by Kiwanis International. Eligible clubs will be determined by the Kiwanis International Foundation. Recognition will be sent to the current district Governor or district Chairman for presentation.

These are two ways "YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE". Next month I will cover a couple more changes and give you the up-dates.

Club News

W St Paul Kiwanis Santa Breakfast

12/30/2013 - Club: West Saint Paul - Submitted by: Jim Probst

By Gabrielle Dunlop

On Sunday, December 15th, the West St. Paul Kiwanis club held their annual Santa Breakfast at the YMCA in West St. Paul. Every year, it is a great event that brings the community together. This year, over 300 people attended the breakfast! At the event, the Kiwanians served a breakfast of pancakes, eggs, and sausage. Volunteers that consisted of both Kiwanians and Key Clubbers (the high school version of Kiwanis) helped out with kids games, crafts, a bake sale, and pictures with Santa. More than twenty Key Clubbers from four different schools in the Twin Cities volunteered their time to help at the breakfast. The night before the event, Key Clubbers baked cookies and brownies,



and sold them at the bake sale that took place during the breakfast.

Key Club and Kiwanis are both two really great organizations, and it is great to see them work together as a team to put together the Santa Breakfast every year. As a Key Clubber myself, this has been my fourth Santa Breakfast. I love helping Kiwanis with this event, because they help our club in various ways. The Key Clubbers help Kiwanis set up the tables and decorations the night before. During the actual event, they help children do arts and crafts, man the bake sale table, and conduct the games for the kids to play.

The Santa Breakfast is a great example of teamwork. Both groups are very ambitious and hard working, and together they manage to put on a fun community event each year. If you have not yet been to the Pancake Breakfast, I encourage you to come next year because it is a lot of fun!

Partnered With Builders Club for Christmas

12/27/2013 - Club: Rapid City - Submitted by: Tom Allen



While Rapid City Kiwanis has purchased gifts for the children in the Rural America Initiatives Early Headstart Program for a number of years as part of their commitment to Young Children Priority One, this year was different.

Members of Rapid City Kiwanis partnered with the West Middle School Builders Club to make Christmas a little merrier for 25 children at the Early Headstart Program at Soo San IHS on December 13th. Kiwanis members Karen Pearson and Chris Allen shopped for toys and clothes for the children earlier in the week. The Builders

Club members met after school to wrap an article of clothing and a toy for each child. Their hard work to make Christmas a little brighter for the younger children paid off when they were surprised with a pizza party after the wrapping was completed.

Builders' faculty advisor, Ann Hast, has served the group since the club was established and has been instrumental in helping the Builders raise money to support the numerous projects they have planned for the year. Rapid City Kiwanis & West Middle School Builders wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all Kiwanis family members everywhere!

Club Christmas Project

12/27/2013 - Club: Foothills (The) - Submitted by: Sharon Wilson

Members of the Foothills Kiwanis joined with parents to make Christmas a little more exciting for children in the Piedmont Valley area.

The parents returned a form containing their child's name to their school--Kiwanis placed these names on the Giving Tree and members of the community chose a name and purchased a gift, returning it unwrapped to Wells Fargo Bank where members of the Foothills Kiwanis picked up those presents.

The 4th grade classes at Piedmont Valley School held a toy drive and these toys were used to supplement the gifts the children receive.

On the morning of December 18th, club members, local volunteers and members of the Rapid City Kiwanis joined to wrap the presents for 112 children. Everyone had fun picking age appropriate gifts to add to the stack for each child and then wrapping each gift. Parents were then scheduled to pick up presents on Saturday, December 21st.



Coats For Kids

12/09/2013 - Club: Watertown - Submitted by: Tim Oviatt



Watertown, SD Kiwanis Club's annual Coats for Kids project was well under way before the very cold early December weather consumed much of the upper Midwest. Kiwanis partners with the Watertown School District to provide winter coats, boots and snowpants to students identified as being in need of winterwear.

Kiwanian Karyl Somers, who does the Coats for Kids shopping, indicated to several organizations in Watertown that she anticipated an extra need this year. Somers was successful in generating additional funding support from several community sources including the Watertown Community Foundation and the Women & Giving Group to add funds to Kiwanis' project funds. Dozens of items to brave the cold have been distributed to students through School District Social Worker Paula Davis' office. Davis indicated that additional items as

needed throughout the winter will be purchased thanks to the Kiwanis-led community effort.

Pictured from left to right are Kiwanian Karyl Somers, Paula Davis, School District Social Worker, and Kiwanis Club President Brad VanMeter.

Festival of Trees

12/03/2013 - Club: Fargo South Point - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn

Fraser Ltd., is a non-profit organization that provides services for children with special needs, at-risk youth, and vulnerable adults. They have been very instrumental in the development and continued support of the FM Aktion club in the community.

One of their major fund raisers is the Festival of Trees, which is set up at the Fargodome this year until December 6. There are 155 decorated trees on display. Many of the area businesses, and organizations are involved in decorating the trees.



This year the Fargo South Point Kiwanis club members voted to decorate one of the trees for this event. On a Sunday afternoon in November the members got together at

one members house to make the decorations and then at a regular club meeting the club members decorated the tree. Pictured here is the tree the we are proud to be a part of for the 2013 festival of trees.

The last Saturday in November Fraser Hall sponsored a free holiday event, with cookies from the Claus family from 1 to 4 PM. There were also sleigh rides, free photos with Santa etc.

The Homeless Sleep Out

12/02/2013 - Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Dany Christenson



On November 1st 104 students attended The Homeless Sleep Out that took place on the Fridley High School football field. Students started arriving around 10 p.m. and didn't leave till 7 a.m. Everyone was given a large box to sleep in. The boxes were donated from International Paper Company. High school students were told to bring warm clothes, duct tape, and blankets to keep them warm through the night. Many students arranged the boxes in groups so they were by all of their friends during the night. In order to attend The Homeless Sleep Out each participant needed to

collect a minimum of \$10 pledges, \$1000 went to SACA and \$1000 went to the Eliminate Project. This event was very successful in raising money.

Dany Christenson, Chair
Fridley High School Key Club