

MINNEKOTAN

Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

No.42

March 2013

Greetings from the Desk of the Governor

03/01/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Cindy Braseth, District Governor

As I write this, I am thinking of Spring and that I am entering the sixth month of my term as Governor. It has been a true pleasure and honor to serve in this capacity. I will be doing a fair amount of traveling in March so I hope the weather holds. It is also time for each club to take a look at your budget and write those checks to the Kiwanis International Foundation and the MnDak Education Foundation. I know you all have them in your budget, so why not get the check out so you can mark that as done. The amount and number of student scholarships we can offer hang in the balance and it seems we wait until the last minute every year. Let's make this year an exception and get it done early.



As promised, I am going to discuss the first goal of the Strategic Plan that was recently approved by the District Board of Directors. Membership Growth is listed first. Without members, we are not able to fulfill our mission of service to the children of the world. This is a five year plan and may, at first glance, appear to be very conservative. Let me assure you, this plan is a real stretch for the District and will put us in great shape for the future.

Goal: The District membership total will be a minimum of 5,000 members by October 1, 2017. Responsible parties are the Lt Governor teams, Membership Director, New Club Building Director and District Secretary. The goals for each of the next five years are listed below:

2012-2013: 4,650
2013-2014: 4,750
2014-2015: 4,850
2015-2016: 5,000
2016-2017: 5,000

We are using a baseline of 4,892 which was our membership as of October 1, 2012. Knowing that we have averaged a net loss of 275 members each year from 2008-2012, our goal for the first three years of the plan is to stabilize that loss and begin to see net growth in 2015-2016. When you look at the numbers, it appears that we are projecting a loss for those years, when in actuality, we are projecting gains. For instance, 4,650

members projected for 2012-2013 would be a gain of 33 members over where we would be if our current trend were to continue. To reach the final goal of 5,000 members would be a turnaround of 1,473 members.

We have developed strategies around new club building, club revitalization, making service the center of everything we do and improved Kiwanis education of club officers and members. We have plans to bring Club Leadership Education and Achieving Club Excellence workshops out into the District and make them more accessible for leaders and members. I think we all know that we need to build new clubs and there are areas of the District that are underserved. However, we also need to place more emphasis on revitalizing clubs and making them stronger. This two pronged approach will move us into the future.

Tune in next month for the second goal of the plan, Service Leadership Program Growth and Support.

Invitation to the Annual Key Club District Convention

02/18/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Rayna Wang, Minn-Dak Key Club District Secretary



The Minnesota-Dakotas Key Club District Board would like to invite all Kiwanians to our annual District Convention, which will be located in St. Cloud, MN, from April 19th- 21st this year. We will have a variety of forums and service sessions, as well as a talent show and a fundraiser for Mended Little Hearts, our Governor's project. We would love to interact with you there!

If you are interested in attending or being a chaperone for your Key Club, simply contact your Key Club for more details and registration materials, or visit our website [Click here](#)

We encourage you to communicate with your Key Club and help arrange carpools or transportation to allow more Key Clubbers to be able to come to DCON as well! We hope to see you all there!

Picture: The Key Club District Board at Tri-K Convention in January, 2013.

Sharon Scudder Announces Candidacy For Governor Elect

02/15/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Sharon Scudder

I would like to announce my intention to seek the position of Governor Elect for the Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International for the Kiwanis year of 2013-2014.

I joined the Sturgis Golden "K" Kiwanis in February 11, 1998. Wow, 15 years has passed and it doesn't seem like it because I am having fun. The old saying "Time flies when you're having fun!" Well that's how it should be in Kiwanis. I thought when I joined the Golden "K" it meant Golden, as in a Precious Stone, I never related it to age. Our Club is great, well attended, a lot of humor, and serves the community and children through the Food Pantry and many other projects. I am so lucky to be a part of Sturgis Golden "K". The Sturgis Golden "K" Kiwanis has endorsed me for Governor-elect.



After serving several years as a member, I wanted to do more so I was asked to run for President of our Club and that was very exciting to see the cooperation that members gave to complete different tasks. My team of President, President-elect, Secretary and Treasurer was great but not leaving out the Past Presidents who advised me well. At the end of my term, I asked questions on where to go after my presidency. Mr. Lyle Sonnenschein, who was my Lt. Governor at the time, answered my questions and there I was a Lt. Governor (2 term) I loved it and did not want to give it up.....but had to pass it on. I was very lucky to be appointed to a new position as District Membership Director (3 terms).....I also am an instructor for CLE Training. I love it all. However with my upcoming retirement from my housing career, I will have time on my hands so I decided to seek the office of Governor-elect. I hope my climbing up the ladder will benefit many and with your support, the climb will be successful.

My other qualifications of leadership entail, 2 terms as Club Leadership Education Instructor (CLE). I was and am blessed to serve 22 years as Executive Director for the Meade County Housing and Redevelopment Commission and Contracting Officer for 10 years for Butte and Lawrence County Housing and Redevelopment Commissions. I have served as City Council Alderwomen for 10 years of which 4 of those years, I was president. I was a 2 term Zonta Club of Sturgis President, Past Chairwoman for the Black Hills Council of Governments, Chairwoman for the Sturgis Rally, Public Safety and serve on many other organizations. I am always looking for opportunities to be repurposed.

I graduated from Cheyenne Central High School, WY in 1966. I have an Associate's Degree from Black Hills State College and the rest of my education comes from the School of Hard Knocks. (Experience & Life)

I have been married for 42 years to my husband Larry. We have one son, Troy and two grandchildren, Trever (10) (who many have met) and Noaa (5)

I see the need for our children in the community everyday as I work with the most vulnerable people in the United States. Kiwanis is an organization that truly cares and helps the communities in a variety of tasks but more so, the feeling we receive when we can see children and families benefiting from our volunteerism. One can make a difference. I want to make a difference and serve. Kiwanis here I am, take me - I am yours. (Pick me, Pick me)

I am seeking your support at the District Convention in Aberdeen in August for the position of Governor-Elect. I thank you in advance as I am sooo..... excited.

Keynote Speaker- MnDak District Kiwanis Convention

03/01/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Cindy Braseth



Make plans NOW to attend the 2013 District Convention in Aberdeen South Dakota. If you don't, you will miss the Keynote Speaker for this year, Holly Hoffman. I have heard her speak and was both entertained and inspired by her message of living each and every day to the fullest.

Holly was born and raised in Eureka South Dakota where she also graduated from Eureka High School. She attended Northern State University after graduation. She and her husband, Charlie, manage a cattle ranch in north central South Dakota. Charlie also serves as a Representative in the State Legislature.

They raised three children who all attended South Dakota Universities. After raising their children Holly decided it was time to do something for herself so she applied to be on the reality show Survivor. She was the last woman standing, and last member of the Espada Tribe in the game. Hoffman placed fourth in Season 21 Survivor Nicaragua.

Holly is now traveling throughout the United States making appearances and speaking to various organizations and schools. By sharing her Survivor experience she has become a motivational speaker. Her message is that to be successful you need attitude, determination, confidence, desire and faith; and to never give up. Holly is the author of "Your Winner Within".

Whether or not you are a Survivor fan, her message will resonate with you. Come join us August 9-11.

To learn more about Holly visit her website [Click here](#)

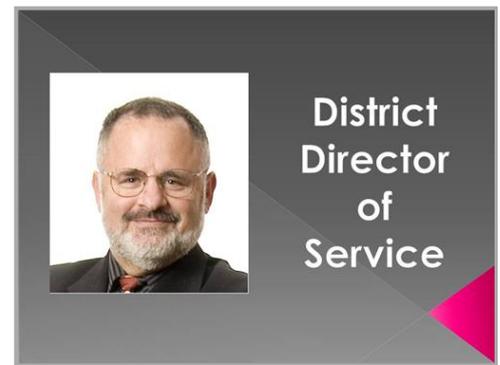
Notes from your MN-DAK Service Director

02/28/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Stewart Ross, District Service Director

We are now 5 months through our Kiwanis year. This is a good time to ask some questions of your club. As the MN-DAK Service Director here are some questions I would ask you to consider.

What service projects has your club completed so far this year? Were they important projects that your community continues to encourage or were they projects your club does year after year without any real evaluation? What service projects does the club have planned for the second half of the Kiwanis year? Are these projects exciting? Do you have enough varied service projects to interest most of your members? Has your

club found a significant project that is all your own, rather than always being connected to some other organization? Is your club careful to separate fundraisers from physical service so that both are emphasized in balance? As new members join the club are they asked what kinds of service they are interested in performing? Has your club done a community analysis yet this year to see if new projects for service are needed?



I could go on and on with questions but these questions would seem to give most clubs pause for reflection. We know club members join Kiwanis for numerous reasons and some do not join to do service. However, it is clear that for those members who move beyond being members to full fledged Kiwanians, doing service for others is an important part of their enjoyment. Seeing others succeeding because of our service is a human emotion that can hardly be matched. Even those members who THINK they are not interested in service, do become interested in service once they have that emotional moment where they feel what they did for another human being made a difference. Whether it is reading to a child who has no one reading to them, or handing a child a coat who has only a ragtag jacket, or helping with Bingo for a group of seniors citizens, nothing can replicate the giving of service to others. It is an important part of the Six Objects of Kiwanis.

I know our clubs in our district do incredible service for our communities and beyond. However, we can always work to encourage more members of our clubs to become true Kiwanians through physical service for others. We can also all improve our service work through clubs by listening to various community leaders in reflecting on the success of our service work and what new service might be necessary in our communities as changes occur over time.

Thank you for all you are doing to serve others. Let's continue that service and take it up another notch as we move into the second half of our Kiwanis year.

Stewart Ross, Director of Service for MN-DAK

Club Health Tips

02/19/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Loreena Luetgers



Last month we encouraged you to evaluate the health of your club, so let's have a follow up along with some health tips for your club.

First, club meetings can fulfill a member's expectations when leadership and members explain what we do and why. Examples: We send officers to Club Leadership Education (CLE) to learn leadership skills and the club's operations. We tell members about what clubs do on Kiwanis One Day, not just let them know that it's April 6th. Also, acronyms are confusing and have no meaning, therefore, don't use them in a meeting or an agenda for a board meeting. Some of us refer to the success of IDD (Iodine Deficiency Disorder) when explaining the Eliminate Project. New members don't know what that was. The club sends their officers and members to DCON and ICON. Well, that's not what we use to kill mice or a symbol on our computer screen. They are the District Convention and International Convention!

Second, let's keep our board meetings punctual by starting and ending on time.

Everyone's time is valuable. The president keeps the meeting in order and control, parliamentary procedure is followed and all board members should be encouraged to ask questions and discuss in a businesslike and friendly manner.

Third, committees should be meeting on a regular basis, hopefully each month. This is the area that every club member needs to be involved, is on a committee. The chair of the committee should be listening to the member's ideas, suggestions and encourage everyone to speak freely. Therefore, the chair doesn't have all of the ideas and does all the work; he/she is the facilitator and gets people to work together. This is where the member can "shine" by using their talents and creativity. IF members get "shut out" of a committee, the member will leave the club!

Remember, the quiet member or "shut out" member may be a "diamond in the rough" if you encourage them, mentor them and work beside them. If our committee chair is to be the facilitator, this is exactly what a club president is: the facilitator and leader, encouraging each member with their talents.

Fourth, the stability of the club's membership depends on the club's members. It's that simple. Each member is responsible to make other members feel important, missed when not attending, mentor them into a leadership role, celebrate their accomplishments and encourage them at all other times. Imagine what our membership would be like if did just that?

Fifth, let others know about your club and feel welcome to visit and join. Talk about Kiwanis to others when you share with them about your volunteer work. Wear Kiwanis clothing as it is a great icebreaker. Let people know about the Eliminate Project. Many people who are not Kiwanians have contributed because they have seen our enthusiasm about such a life saving effort. This is happening all around us!

The health of our clubs depends on each one of us, as we work together. For more helpful tips, [Click here](#).

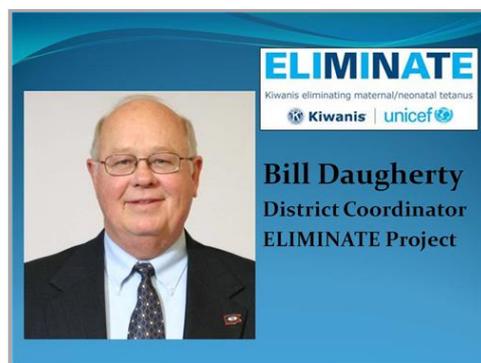
ELIMINATE PROJECT NEWS

02/26/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty

A little late to "hold the presses", last month I reported that the Albert Lea club had declared to be a Model Club. I had the right city but the wrong club. It was the Day Breakers of Albert Lea that have joined our growing list of Model Clubs. Perhaps my mention of the Albert Lea club was just a little premature, but I'll wait for their declaration soon.

This is the year of Participation in the fundraising effort of Kiwanis. This is the time for clubs to seriously consider what level of giving they are willing to commit to in order to save the lives of many infants who are dying of tetanus just for being born. REMEMBER one baby dies every nine minutes. Since joining the effort of UNICEF and the US Fund, nine more countries have been able to claim they have this scourge under control. This means that only 1 in 1,000 new borns are dying of tetanus in their countries.

Talk it over with your club, get involved, the world needs our help now. Club that have had fundraising efforts are encouraged to transmit the funds donated to Kiwanis International on a routine basis. The fund don't prevent any deaths in a club's treasury.



Building Leadership

02/26/2013 - Division: Division 05 - Submitted by: Carol Grode-Hanks. Lt. Gov. Region 5

Building Leadership

Congratulations on becoming a member of Kiwanis- and, oh, by the way, would you be the club President? Too often, this scenario is real whether it is the club President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Board Member. Unfortunately, clubs struggle to find leaders and it is becoming the norm to ask the newest members to fulfill leadership roles.

Leadership is our most important resource and we need to develop leadership in order to accomplish anything of significance. Leaders have a vision, take initiative, influence people, solve problems, follow-up, and take responsibility. We all know natural born leaders, but is it fair to ask them to jump in with both feet without taking the time to mentor and orientate them to the six objects of Kiwanis?

Effective leaders are developed as part of a club's leadership plan. New members with leadership experience should know that you value them, respect their potential, and commit to helping them succeed as future leaders of your club. Make sure all club members receive new member orientation including a history of both Kiwanis International and your local club. Share the mission, objects, and procedures of your club. Encourage members to attend interclubs, district meetings, conventions, and online webinars.

Building leaders is a continuous process and recruiting new leaders is a key element in leadership building. Clubs need new people who are willing to take on leadership roles; otherwise, the loss of one or two members can seriously hurt the club's strengths. Current leadership is also a key element in leadership building. The most important thing current leaders can do to develop others is to demonstrate what a good leader looks and acts like. If you have good leadership skills, the changes are that your club members will be aware of them and emulate your strengths.

Leadership development is an ongoing project, and if you haven't started developing your club's leadership plan yet, there is no time like the present to start. Follow these six steps to building leadership and you will find it easier to get where you want to go.

1. Envision your leadership team
 1. What kind of skills does your team need
 2. How will the team support each other
 3. How will the leaders be committed to the Objects of Kiwanis
2. Set leadership development goals
 1. Plan your club goals
 2. Set measurable action steps
 3. Have realistic timelines
3. Model good leadership
 1. Demonstrate good communication
 2. Be positive and upbeat
 3. Take new members under your wing
 4. Attend interclubs, conventions, workshops, etc
4. Set leadership goals for individuals
 1. Succession planning (article next month!)
 2. Expect others to lead
 3. Invest in your club members
 4. Help members reach their potential

5. Recruit new members to lead
 1. New members bring new ideas
 2. New members build community support
 3. Get new members involved in committee tasks
 4. Recognize new members accomplishments
6. Develop yourself as a leader
 1. Draft your own leadership plan
 2. Seek additional training for your position
 3. Build relationships with others in similar positions
 4. Enjoy leading- others will want to share in the joy

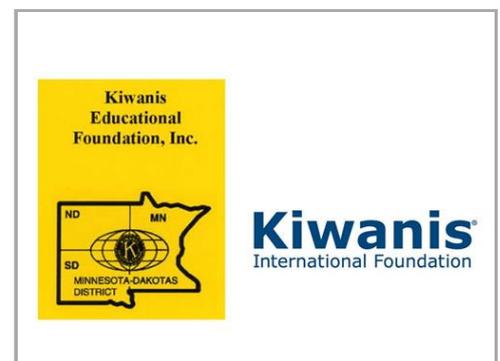
Building leadership is no small task, but it is vital to the heartbeat of your club. Leaders are valuable and necessary to fulfill our mission of Changing the World, one child and one community at a time.

Kiwanis Foundation Updates

02/28/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty and Chuck Schroder

Minn-Dak Educational Foundation Reviews
Scholarship Applications
Submitted by: Bill Daugherty, District Educational
Foundation

As this item is being written, teams of Kiwanians throughout the District are assisting the Educational Foundation in reviewing 153 scholarship applications submitted from students in our three state District.



This exercise is one of the most rewarding experiences one can have serving our District. Through the review and ranking process we are to select those students who appear to be most qualified for a scholarship. We get to review applications from Regions other than our own to in effect negate the "homer effect" in the ranking process. There are three members on each team selected to review and rank the applications on eight different criteria from class rank and GPA to types of course work undertaken, to service both in the school and the community. We look at the applicants level of need, the letter they submit as well as a letter of recommendation from someone who knows the student.

Once the Regions have been ranked, the Educational Foundation Board has to select the 50-54 students to receive a scholarship. This process is rewarding to the reviewers in that we see first hand the quality of students in the District and are reaffirmed in the notion that not all students are just getting by. We see students who are excelling in their course work, who are driven to perform at the highest level and who have set high goals for themselves

YOU CAN HELP

Submitted by: Chuck Schroder, District Chair, KI Foundation

The question your asking yourself is, how can I be of help? Well I have several answers for you.

1. For those of you that come to the district convention, know that we have a raffle for some very nice items. Well, we are looking for the members to share their talents with

us and bring something to the convention to put in the raffle. If you do wood working, quilting, art work or what ever it might be, we would sure like to have you share it with us. Please let me know at the following e-mail on what you plan to bring: ecschröder@alliancecom.net.

2. Visit with your club and ask if they have sent their money into the KIF foundation annual club program. This is the where we are asking each club to contribute \$6.00 pr member. This money is used to provide Key Club and Circle K scholarships, Grants to clubs to help fund their projects, for every dollar given by the district, 5 cents comes back to the district. It is also used for disaster help and we have seen it in our own district. But most recently when the storms hit the East Coast, many Kiwanians were effected by this and we were there to help. So without the help from the clubs, there won't be money to do these things.

These are only two answers to HOW YOU CAN HELP and in my next article I will give a couple more. Thank you for all you are doing to help the children of the world.

March Update

03/01/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas



New Club Bylaws Ready For Online Submission:

The new Standard Form for Club Bylaws is now available for online submission by the club secretary or club president via the KiwanisOne Club Management Software.

All clubs are asked to adopt the new bylaws by September 30, 2014. Once submitted online, clubs can access their bylaws at any time to review them, create a new version, or download a PDF copy to print or share. Learn more and get started at [Click here](#).

Please note that a NEW LOGIN MAY BE REQUIRED. The KiwanisOne Club Management System is undergoing a major renovation with many new features. The club bylaws tool is the first to launch. This means you will need to re-register your current KiwanisOne login or create a new login to access the new bylaws tool. This is a one-time new login request. (Tip: re-registering your current login will provide a seamless transition to the

other new features later this year.)

District Kiwanis Convention: Mark your calendars...the Minnesota-Dakotas District Convention will be held August 9-11, 2013 in Aberdeen. All clubs should be represented at this annual convention.

Club Officer Changes: If for some reason there is a change in your club president or secretary at any time during the year, be sure that your club promptly informs Kiwanis International and the District Office. These changes can also be entered online by the club secretary. Your club may miss out on important communications if we do not have the correct contact information.

Club Elections: Just another reminder that your club election report will be due June

1st. The annual election of club officers should be done at the club annual meeting as specified in the "new" Standard Club Bylaws- *One meeting each year between January 1 and May 15 will be designated as the annual meeting for club elections. At least 30 days previous notice of the annual meeting must be given to members. One-third (1/3) of the members in good standing shall constitute a quorum.*

Kiwanis International Convention in Vancouver, June 27- 30, 2013: Remember the price of registration increases on April 1st, so if you planning to go register now.

Kiwanis Clubs in good standing are allowed to designate two representatives to the House of Delegates. Of course, you do not need to be a delegate to attend, everyone is welcome! Information and online registration forms can be found on the Kiwanis International convention website. [Click here](#)

Besides registering, be sure to report your club's two International Convention delegates and two alternates to the International Office by April 30 on the Delegate Certification Form.

District Kiwanis Tri-K Board Meeting: The meeting was held January 25 & 26, 2013.. The minutes of the meeting can be found on the district website. [Click here](#)

Lt. Governor Education: The Lt. Governor Education Conference for the 2013-2014 Lt. Governor Teams will be held April 26-28, 2013 in Fergus Falls.

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office Contact Information:

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office

P.O. Box 735

Dalton, MN 56324-0735

Phone: 218-589-7581

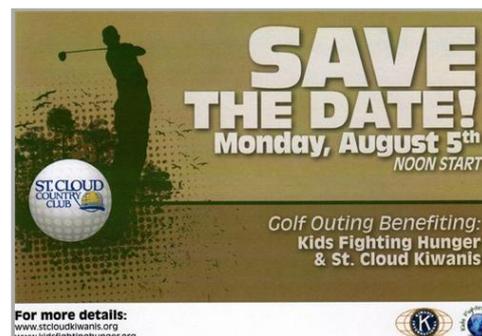
Email: secretary@mndak-kiwanis.org

Club News

St. Cloud Downtown Kiwanis Club to Sponsor Golf Outing Fundraiser

02/22/2013 - Club: Saint Cloud - Submitted by: Art Grachek

The Downtown St. Cloud Kiwanis Club in partnership with Kids Fighting Hunger of Central Minnesota will sponsor a golf outing fundraiser on August 5, 2013 at the St. Cloud Country Club. The annual event is a 4-person scramble format and will be followed by a dinner. Two raffles will be offered to participants. A Premier Raffle will award prizes of \$200 or more, and a general raffle will award prizes of lesser value.



Golfers can register as a team or individually. Golf package options include \$95 for golf and dinner; \$595 for a hole sponsorship with 4 golfers, 2 carts, and dinner; and \$895 for a hole sponsorship with 4 golfers, 2 carts,

dinner, plus recognition on all advertising as a major sponsor. Hole sponsorships can be purchased for \$250, and cash donations of any amount will be accepted.

Proceeds from the event will be divided between Kids Fighting Hunger and the St. Cloud Kiwanis Club. The St. Cloud Kiwanis provide funding for a variety of projects including scholarships for high school students, sponsorship of a K-Kids program at the Boys and Girls Club, support of reading projects at Lincoln Elementary School, a landscaping project for the Adolescent Treatment Center at Catholic Charities, and outright donations to a number of organizations that foster the well-being of children and youth. Kids Fighting Hunger's (formerly Kids Against Hunger) mission is to work together to end world hunger. The goal of the organization is to engage the community of Central Minnesota to provide temporary hunger relief. For more information about Kids Fighting Hunger, go to [click here](#)

The St. Cloud Kiwanis Club invites golfers from the Minnesota-Dakotas District to participate in this fun event. For registration information or questions, contact Jeff Voit at 320-203-6550 or email jeff@schluchteradvisors.com

Hixson Awarded to Sturgis Golden "K" Members

02/22/2013 - Club: Sturgis Golden K - Submitted by: Deb Looby



The Sturgis Golden "K" Club donated \$2000.00 to Eliminate and in return were able to award two members the Hixson Award. Pictured are Vern Jones and Maynard Schmidt receiving plaques. Past Hixson Award winners also shown are DeWayne Hayes, Donald Dubbe, Donald Workentine, Clifford Kenoyer, Leo Getsgo, Vern Simons and in front Warren Prascher.

St. Cloud Kiwanis Donate Diapers and Baby Formula

02/18/2013 - Club: Saint Cloud - Submitted by: Art Grachek

Jan Zitzow, co-chair of the St. Cloud Kiwanis Club "Young Children Priority One" committee, delivers donated baby diapers and baby formula to the St. Cloud Catholic Charities food shelf. The items were collected by Kiwanis Club Members as a special project to help provide the food shelf with the much needed items for babies. Along with donations of diapers and formula, Kiwanis members contributed \$180.00 toward the purchase of diapers and formula.



The Kiwanis "Young Children Priority One" committee's mission is to implement projects for children, prenatal through age five, that promote child health, early development, nutrition, and safety. Carol Copeland, along with Zitzow, are co-chairs of the committee. The St. Cloud Kiwanis is a service organization that focuses on programs for children and youth. The club meets weekly at the Kelly Inn. Prospective members are welcome and can contact the organization through its web site at www.stcloudkiwanis.org

Warm embrace of 49ers a comfort in illness

02/11/2013 - Club: Sioux Falls East - Submitted by: Chuck Schroder



The following story appeared in the **Sioux Falls Argus Leader** on February 3, 2013. Mike Daly is a member of the Sioux Falls East Kiwanis Club.

Warm embrace of 49ers a comfort in illness by Terry Vandrovec

For as long as he can remember, Derek Daly has been a free-agent football fan, switching NFL allegiances at the drop of an officially licensed hat.

That's how it goes when your dad — former South Dakota State University coach Mike Daly — has so many ties in the pro game. You bounce around based on personal connections.

But those days are over. Derek Daly, a Lincoln High School and Augustana College grad, will back the San Francisco 49ers for life — one that he hopes will be long, happy and healthy. He'll even be in Superdome tonight in New Orleans to cheer on his team against the Baltimore Ravens in the Super Bowl.

Making a little noise is the least he can do in exchange for all the support the franchise gave him during a life-threatening illness.

The 24-year-old has returned to graduate school at the University of Iowa, a key step in recovering from a bacterial infection that attacked his brain, eyes and heart. He required emergency surgery to replace an aortic valve.

The support from the 49ers was spearheaded by General Manager Trent Baalke, a one-time Jackrabbits football assistant. Plus, the 49ers got him the tickets for the game. So it would be pretty cold to root for the Ravens, although his dad has an in there, too.

"It's a really big positive," Daly said, "out of this tremendously negative situation." Things look good now, but about a month of not feeling well reached an unhealthy low in late September when Daly went to Minneapolis to watch the 49ers play the Vikings.

He looked so rough that his parents took him home to get to the bottom of it. Daly jokes that he was kidnapped. His dad mentioned the situation to Baalke, almost in passing.

The Baalke connection began in 1990 when Mike Daly — on the recommendation of longtime North Dakota State University coach Rocky Hager — hired Baalke to be the defensive line coach at SDSU. The two did a lot of fishing together in northern Minnesota and Canada over a course of five years and formed a relationship that extended beyond job changes.

Current Jackrabbits coach John Stiegelmeier was SDSU's defensive coordinator at the time. He said he never would he have predicted that Baalke would go on to become general manager of an NFL franchise.

But even as a young assistant in what at the time was an NCAA Division II program, Baalke was decisive and relentless. There's really no other way to go from regional scout to general manager in four years. In the days after the 49ers' conference title game against Atlanta, Baalke was putting in long days scouting a college all-star event.

"Some guys know somebody and they're on the right branch to get where they are," Stiegelmeier said. "I literally picture Trent having climbed the tree and climbing as far up the tree as he wanted to be through hard work and intensity. His motivation and desire to be great is at an unequaled high level."

That almost certainly came in handy in persuading Jim Harbaugh to leave a growing and good thing at Stanford to become head coach at San Francisco, a franchise that had not been to the Super Bowl since 1994. In short order, the 49ers have become physical, fast and — yes — decisive. Look no further than a midseason quarterback change rife with risk.

Erstwhile starter Alex Smith, a former No. 1 overall draft pick, is among the players who have taken an interest in Derek Daly. They have talked far beyond casual conversation and met face-to-face before a divisional-round playoff against the Green Bay Packers.

Despite the tough turn in his professional life, Smith was engaged and interested — that much is obvious from pictures taken during their conversation. Then again, so was tight end Vernon Davis and linebacker Patrick Willis and Harbaugh and so many others.

Yes, that means Daly and his dad were there at old Candlestick Park during the postseason run, fulfilling one of the goals they set as means of motivation during the health scare. Being invited guests of the team was an almost incomprehensible bonus.

"It's really an example of what a class organization they have," Mike Daly said. "It's neat to see a group of people that are the exact opposite of the stories we too often hear. Not that they aren't without controversy now and then, but it's just a phenomenal group. And Trent is up near the top of that."

Baalke was on the road and preparing for a game when he found out that Derek Daly was ill — it would have been understandable for the information to go in one ear and out the other, especially in light of a disappointing loss to the Vikings. Instead, he followed up immediately and repeatedly texting, emailing and calling to check on the situation.

He sent get-well videos from players, lined up autographs, reserved spots at team meals and — the topper — produced seats at the Super Bowl. The 49ers' opponent tonight is the Baltimore Ravens, the other NFL organization that reached out to Derek Daly during his illness. Turns out that his dad grew up with Ravens assistant head coach Jerry Rosburg in southern Minnesota.

Still, there's no doubt what team Derek Daly will back. He just hopes the 49ers don't give his surgically repaired ticker too much of a workout.

"It'll definitely get my heart rate going," he said. "They've been that way all season. I said that to Trent, 'You guys are bad for my heart — but keep winning.' Thankfully, they have."

In photo: Derek Daly (second from left) is surrounded Saturday after San Francisco 49ers practice at the Superdome in New Orleans by (from left) his dad, Mike Daly; 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick; and Derek's mom, Carol Daly.