Message from the Governor

05/01/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Judie Rosendahl, District Governor

I am excited to report that the Key Club Convention was a huge success! Nearly 200 people were registered, both students and adults. It was a very worthwhile time. The keynote speaker was Scott Backovich and he kept everyone riveted to their seats as he shared with us about seeing a need and doing something about it. The talent and oratory contests were outstanding and enjoyed by all! Now we look forward to the Region 3 and 4 Education Conferences this month.

I want to share some information from an article in the Key Club magazine. The points all pertain to CKI clubs, Key Clubs, and Kiwanis Clubs alike. Dues are important as you get extra benefits in return! Your dues pay for the following resources and opportunities:

- Foundation Grants including the Youth Opportunity Fund, which awards grants to Key Clubs for large scale service projects International and District publications
- Club resources for new clubs building and chartering including SLP charters
- Officer training materials and planning calendars, which are available online or through District chairs
- Support to Districts and Regions to provide resources for officer, advisor, and member training
- Kiwanis International’s official website and the MnDak District website
- Marketing and promotional materials for member recruitment, available from the Kiwanis International online store
- Administration, supplies, and services at reduced rates (for example, membership cards, pins, tee shirts, brochure printing, etc.)
- Club and District awards
- Conventions
- District Secretary/Treasurer’s support
- District leadership such as the Governor team, the Lt. Governors, the Administrators, and the Chairs who support the clubs and members in their respective areas.

Your district and international dues are a small price to pay in the long run for all of
these benefits! And there is more! One of the biggest benefits of dues is liability insurance. Being covered with liability insurance could save members and their families thousands of dollars in medical expenses if they are injured during a service project or event sponsored by your Kiwanis club. You can find more information about liability insurance at [www.KiwanisOne.org](http://www.KiwanisOne.org).

I want to encourage each of you to share why you love your club with your friends and acquaintances this month as we strive to grow Kiwanis throughout the Minnesota Dakotas District. Please remember that more members means more service for the children!

**May Update**

*04/30/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas*

**Call to Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Convention, August 8 -10, 2014 in Minneapolis, MN:** The Official Call to Convention letter will be sent by U.S. Mail to all Kiwanis Club secretaries the first week in May. The mailing contains the registration/delegate certification form and other information. You can also access and download the same District Convention Forms and Information on our district website right now at [Click here](http://www.KiwanisOne.org).

Again this year you have the option to register online or by US Mail. **Online registration is open now.** Online registration requires card payment. Look for the “Sign-Up” button at the above link. You can also find a link to the Marriott Hotel online booking website at the above link. District Convention registrations are due by July 7. Registrations after July 7 will incur an additional late fee.

**2014-2015 Club Election Report Online:** Club secretaries should submit the results of club elections through the online reporting system as soon as elections are completed. Due date for the club election report is **June 1st.** The online election report is ready to go, so you can submit any time. It is very important that this information is received in a timely manner so that directories and mailing lists can be compiled by Kiwanis International and the District Office.

**District Kiwanis Foundation and Past Governors Meeting:** The District Kiwanis Foundation Board and Past Governors Meeting will be held on May 16-17 in Fergus Falls.

**International Convention in Japan:** As of this date we have 11 Kiwanians and 2 guests from the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District registered for the Kiwanis International Convention. There is still time to register for the International Convention. You can register online or by paper postmarked no later than May 15, 2014. After that date you could still register on-site in Japan. You can find all of the necessary forms and information on the Kiwanis International website [Click here](http://www.KiwanisOne.org).

**Check out the digital magazine edition:** Just a reminder that the latest edition of Kiwanis-family magazine can be viewed online by clicking on following link [Kiwanis magazine](http://www.KiwanisOne.org).

**How to subscribe to MINNEKOTAN Newsletter:** If you or someone you know does not receive the MINNEKOTAN Newsletter reminder directly to your email address each month you can find a subscription link on our district webpage. (Highlighted in red)
Convention Corner

04/30/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Liz Lawrence-Ross

MNDAK KIWANIS DISTRICT CONVENTION
August 8-10, 2014
Minneapolis Marriott Southwest in Minnetonka, MN

Mark your calendars now so you don’t miss this great event! The call to convention packets will be mailed out to the club secretaries this week so watch for the registration forms, incentives and more. The deadline to be entered for these incentive prizes is July 7th. And new this year is a one-day registration fee of $125 for Saturday-only attendees. The full convention registration fee is $160. Only 3 months left until the convention, so please contact me sooner than later if you have any ideas or suggestions for the convention, or if you would like to be on the convention committee.

Happy Spring MNDAK!

Liz Lawrence-Ross
MNDAK District Convention Director
bigsisiterliz@yahoo.com

May is Membership Month, But ....

04/29/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Tom Allen

We all know that Kiwanis International has designated May every year as Membership Month when all of our clubs try to rush around and get a couple of new members. Actually, October through September should be membership months. Rushing around trying to recruit new members usually means we don’t reach our goal, that is if we even took the time to establish a goal.

First, our clubs need an active membership committee. One that is comprised of members who are outgoing, good communicators, knowledgeable about Kiwanis and comfortable extending invitations to potential members.

Our clubs need to establish a goal of how many new members we want. Without a destination being determined, what good does it do to keep looking at the map to determine if we are there yet? After setting our goals we need to establish a plan of how we want to get there. Whom should we ask? Should we have a special event? How about a special project and invite prospects? When are we going to do this and where? Who does the planning, etc.? 
Okay, you have a plan formulated, now what! Practice your personal ask and prepare to tell your Kiwanis love story. Why you love Kiwanis! Why you love your club!

Remember! Around the world, Kiwanis clubs make their communities better through more than 6 million hours of service each year. Every member represents 36 hours that improve lives every year. Think about what could happen if we all shared our Kiwanis stories—and inspired others to become a part of our movement to improve the world.

After all, according to Kiwanis International, 74% of members joined a Kiwanis club because someone invited them—and for 48% of them, it was a friend or relative. We all have a friend. We all have relatives. Many times they are waiting for you to ask them to help with a club project or visit with an SLP group. If you are concerned about being rejected if you ask them, pass their name and contact info on to the membership committee. Have them pose the question!

Our clubs have many outstanding community projects. We do great things in our communities that affect many people. We are proud of our projects. Share your stories! Share what you love about Kiwanis and your individual clubs with the people affected by those projects. Who knows, they may be prospective members.

Ask. Mentor. Involve. New members are like gold. We have to work hard to get it and keep it. Provide that new member a great orientation & keep them involved and engaged! They are such a valuable resource in our mission to improve the world one child and one community at a time!

**Lieutenant Governor Education**

04/28/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Loreena Luetgers

When the Lt. Governor team for next year arrived in Fergus Falls this past weekend, they were introduced to The Way Ahead, which will be the Kiwanis theme by Dr. Button, International President for 2014-15. District Secretary Steve Handegaard, Governor Judie Rosendahl, Governor-Elect Sherry Scudder and fifteen of the 21 Lt. Governors attended. Sherry will continue to find five more individuals to complete her team for next year. So, please contact her if you would like more information on being in the position, so you can help your region and clubs.

It was an informative, working and fun weekend from Friday noon through Sunday noon. The discussions were fantastic as everyone learned from the presenters and each other. Some of the topics that were covered were: job description and the responsibilities of the Lt. Governor; SLPs (service leadership programs); foundations; leadership and communication skills; reporting and budgets; service; region conferences and district convention; club visits; working with clubs with various facets; setting goals for their region and much more. The Formula, is a new concept program from Kiwanis International that was introduced and received well by the Lt. Governors to strengthen and support clubs, as well as help build new clubs. There will be more individuals throughout the district to help them, which was encouraging.

Region President Council Meetings were also introduced to the team. These quarterly meetings with the Lt. Governor and their clubs will be brought back from the days when the District was divided into smaller divisions. These will be held with the club officers
and members to inform them of upcoming events, questions they may have, and a time for clubs to discuss projects, etc. between them.

Our Lt. Governors are here to support you and your club to become a great club, do more service and answer any questions you may have. They have already been working hard in their regions to help you, the clubs, to grow, do more service and be a team of Kiwanians serving the children of our communities. Thank you for your willingness to serve in this capacity!

**The Eliminate Project**

*04/28/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty*

![Bill Daugherty District Coordinator ELIMINATE Project](image)

We have 14 months to meet our THREE MILLION Dollar goal for the Eliminate Project. As of April 16th we had $1,274,009 donated. There were 27 Model Clubs and one $100k club. Clubs donating were 81% of our clubs. In order for us to reach our goal much has to be accomplished in the next 14 months. We all need to be actively engaged and pursuing donations at the personal, club level and in our communities to reach our goal.

Look for new ways to fundraise through the resources at The Eliminate Project web site. Develop something unique to your community. Please don't take from your existing fund raising amounts that you use to support local efforts. An important thing to remember if you declare Model Club status you have FIVE Years in which to complete your pledge.

At our District Convention in Minneapolis, August 8-10, we will have a silent auction for the Eliminate Project. Last year 52 different items were included in the silent auction. We raised over $1,800 last year.

**Region 7 Kiwanis One Day Service Project- Building Dressers**

*04/24/2014 - Division: Division 07 - Submitted by: Kathy Welle*

15 Kiwanis Clubs, 9 Key Clubs and 1 Circle K Club = 141 K family volunteers who met at Bridging, Inc. in Roseville, on March 29, 2014 at 8:30am for beverages, muffins and donuts.

Lt Gov. Gail Heyda, Region 7, welcomed everyone and introduced each group by club name. Loud cheers were heard as each club name was announced.

Wendy Erickson, Bridging Program Supervisor also greeted everyone and gave an overview of how Bridging, Inc “furnishes homes with hope”. Wendy also introduced the founder of Bridging, Inc, Fran Heitzman, who started the non profit organization 27 years ago. Mr. Heitzman celebrated his 89th birthday earlier this year.

The Kiwanis One Day Service Project was assembling five drawer dressers.
The Kiwanis One Day Service Project was assembling five drawer dressers. Kiwanis clubs and key clubs sponsored a total of 89 dresser kits at $75.00 each. All 89 dressers were assembled in less than 3 hours.

Region 7 K family volunteers dedicated the dressers in honor of Fran Heitzman’s 89th birthday.

Kiwanis International Foundation is on the MOVE

04/27/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: E. Chuck Schroder

I'm writing this article on the plane coming back from a Kiwanis International Foundation meeting in Indianapolis these past several days. It was one of the better meetings that I have attended and very informative. **YOUR** foundation is in the best shape and condition that it has ever been. We are seeing GROWTH, STABILITY, and ENTHUSIASM. We can be proud of what our foundation is doing around the world and here at home. Charity Navigator has come from 0 some three years ago to 3.5 rating and in the fall of this year when we get rated, it will be a 4 which is the highest they can achieve.

I would like to pass on to you some very interesting facts regarding North America and the President's Challenge.
1. 65 Lt. Governors have achieved the President's Challenge.  
2. 25 Lt. Governors are at a minimum of $5.00 pr. member average.  
3. 71 Lt. Governors are at the minimum of $4.00 per member average.  
4. 80 Lt. Governors are at a minimum of $3.00 per average.
We have 2 Lt. Governors in our district that very close to being in the number one group, and this can come if they will put forth a final push in their regions. Our goal for this year in the district is **$30,690** and we are at a little over **$15,000**. We can reach this goal and help Governor Judie become a distinguished Governor. I have the tools to do this and those tools are **YOU THE MEMBERS** of this district. Have you sent in your personal gift to the foundation yet? If not, why not.

Lets make this happen and help the Children of the World. I got to see what your money is doing, not just in the US, but in the Philippines with our disaster relief, and in Grand Forks and Fargo ND when the flood hit. I have seen what the grant monies have done in Rapid City, Huron, Bismark, Mpls.. I will be telling more in the coming articles of the changes that are happening with your foundation. Thank you all for what you are doing for the Children of the World.

Scholarships Awarded

04/25/2014 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Jack Zierdt

The scholarship application process for this year is now completed. The schools have sent in their applicants’ packets and the judging has been done. The award-winning students have been notified. The schools that the winning students are graduating from this spring have been notified. The Kiwanis clubs that supplied the application materials to the schools that had winning students have been notified.

This process started in November of 2013 with the applications being mailed out to the
Kiwanis Club secretaries in the Minnesota-Dakotas District. It culminated the first week of April when the award winning notification letters were sent out with the student’s returning their acceptance forms by the end of April. This year’s process has resulted in the Kiwanis Educational Foundation of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District awarding $55,655.00 to 67 winning recipients. The amounts awarded in the scholarship process for the next school year (2014 – 2015) are broken down as follows: 57 recipients will each receive an $815.00 scholarship; 6 recipients (3 Circle K students and 3 Key Club students) will each receive a $1,000.00 scholarship that is matched by Kiwanis International Foundation funds and Kiwanis Educational Foundation funds; 1 student will receive a special Pat Rittgarn memorial scholarship at $250.00; 1 Circle K student at the College of St. Scholastica will receive a $1,000.00 scholarship and the Anoka Area Kiwanis Club received a $2,000.00 check for helping students with scholarship funds from a special fund, for their club, that was set up by one of their former Kiwanis members, with the Educational Foundation being the fiscal agent of the funds.

Individual members and Kiwanis Clubs have made all this possible because of the generous donations to the Educational Foundation. Your individual donations in memorials, Vantine Life Fellows, and Messer Fellows continue to add funds to our investments. We are, also, very grateful for the Annual Century Club Donations by the clubs to give us continued revenue to add to the investments. Remember that we can only use the generated interest from our funds annually to support our scholarship program.

Kiwanis One Day at Boys & Girls Clubs

04/05/2014 - Division: Division 02 - Submitted by: Courtney Taylor

The Kiwanis Family of Fargo-Moorhead celebrated Kiwanis One Day with a deep-cleaning project at the Boys & Girls Club facilities on both sides of the Red River. K-Kids, Key Clubbers, Circle Kers, and Aktion Club members joined Kiwanians to wash windows, vacuum stairs, dust cubbies, and more. Some 40 volunteers participated, leaving three polished venues for local children to reach their full potential.

Club News

Minot Kiwanis Keeps Prom-Goers Safe

04/28/2014 - Club: Minot - Submitted by: Kiwanis Club of Minot
Prom is the pinnacle of memorable nights for many high school seniors, and for nearly 30 years Kiwanis Club of Minot has been helping students stay safe on prom night. This year the club helped 300 students make memories in a fun-filled, chaperoned environment.

All said, the club raised about $4,000 in gifts, prizes and money for a casino-themed bash as Minot High School’s after prom on April 5. Special thanks to the many businesses in Minot that donated the cash and prizes given away at the end of the night. Top prizes included iPad minis, tablets, televisions, Xbox 360s, mini fridges, gift certificates for local restaurants and shopping, and much more. Kiwanians also arranged for music, food, and a photo booth to capture the moment. Check out photos on Rolling Thunder Photo Booth’s Facebook page!

Minot Kiwanis also supported Bishop Ryan High School’s after prom on April 26 by running gaming tables from Blackjack and Texas Hold-em to Chuck-a-luck. Nearly 30 Kiwanians sacrificed their sleep to make the nights a success!

Little Troop to Military Troop

04/28/2014 - Club: South Sioux Falls - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty

After the annual Girl Scout Cookie drive this year Troop 50589 of the Girl Scouts had six cases of Lemon Delights unsold. They wondered what to do with them. One of the girls had a close family friend who was serving at the Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan in the 100742nd TC of the US Military. The girls wanted to send the cookies to the Troops. The problem was how to cover the costs of the cookies. After asking other organizations in Sioux Falls to buy the cookies to no avail. One of the girl scouts lived next door to two members of the South Sioux Falls Kiwanis Club. The mother approached them to see if it would be possible for the Kiwanis Club to purchase the cookies. Shipping of the cookies would be handled by other means. After a discussion of the Board of Directors of the South Sioux Falls Kiwanis Club the cookies were purchased and sent on their way to Afghanistan. Thus from Troop to Troop the soldiers enjoyed a little taste of home in the Lemon Delight Girl Scout Cookies.

North Hennepin Kiwanis Sochacki Park Spring Clean Up 2014

04/28/2014 - Club: North Hennepin, Minneapolis - Submitted by: LTG Gail Heyda

Our club is celebrating our 25th year of our Adopt a Park clean up in Robbinsdale MN at Sochacki Park. This year Kiwanian Katie Polz and her sons Charlie and Henry attended the City of Robbinsdale's Arbor Day at Sochacki Park and planted a tree and cleaned up the park. The park is a popular park in the community and well used by visitors. We are fortunate for the park system in our area and enjoy maintaining the natural beauty of them.
Jamestown ND Kiwanis Club Donates to Backpack Program & Milk Program

04/25/2014 - Club: Jamestown - Submitted by: Jan Barnes

Jamestown, ND Kiwanis Club made a donation of $5,000 to Community Action for their backpack program. The agency provides a backpack full of non-perishable food items that are easy for children to open and use. Food is the backpacks include pudding/gelatin cups, fruit cups, peanut butter, jelly, canned soups, stews or chile, crackers, granola bars, Pop Tarts, dried fruit, cereals, milk and other items.

There is enough food in the backpack to feed a child over a school weekend. The program is for anyone who feels they need it. Someone picks up the backpacks on Monday and delivers them back on Thursday for the children to take over the weekend. From January to March 109 children from 82 households have used the program.

$1,000 was also given to the Jamestown School District's milk program. There are 155 students who would ordinarily not be able to buy milk each day so the school furnishes them milk, taking the loss.

"Helping with these programs is such a good feeling," said President of Kiwanis, Janna Bergstedt. "It is a comforting feeling to know that kids who would normally go hungry on the week-ends or not have milk in school are being helped through the generosity of an anonymous donor in Kiwanis."

A gift of $250 from the Kiwanis Club, under the Young Children, Priority One Program, was also given to Community Action for buying winter boots and coats for children in need.

Fridley High School Key Club Continues to Have Wins

04/24/2014 - Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Fridley Key Club

Thirteen Fridley High School Key Clubbers and three Advisors attended a fun packed weekend of workshops, entertainment and interaction with other Key Clubbers at the MN-Dak District Key Club Convention in St. Cloud, MN on April 11-13. For the first time all Officers, President Nicole Varicak, Vice President Jack Fite, Secretary Paige Nocton,
Treasure Yash Khatavkar, and Co-Bulletin Editors Katie Brown and Tiffany Tranby became Distinguished. Faculty Advisor Michelle Miner received the Distinguished Faculty Advisors Award. Aaron Neumeister received the Tom P. Horan Award given to a Distinguished Member who goes above and beyond the call of duty. President Nicole Varicak received the Sandy Nininger Award for outstanding contributions to home, school and community. This award is the highest that is given to one MN-Dak member each year.

The Club showed outstanding talent as two of the Fridley groups performed at the Banquet Saturday night. They were Yash Khatavkar with his piano performance of Fur Elise and Paige Nocton on the guitar with a vocal group of Nicole Varichak, Katie Brown and Reiley Johnson singing “Human.”

Emma Broos was recognized for her successful year of service at the District level. She retired as last year’s Lt. Governor of Division 7a. Jamie Arostegui from the Fridley Club was elected her replacement. Jamie also received 2nd Place in Oratorical competition.

The Club earned Distinguished Diamond Level Award for the 11th year in a row. It was the only MN-Dak Club to receive this award. Several other awards, which won 1st Place, will be further judged at the International Convention in Anaheim, CA in July. They are the Dodge for Darfur dodge ball tournament with its proceeds being sent to UNICEF to help victims in Darfur and Digital Poster advertising why one should join Key Club.

The highlight of the weekend was the awards ceremony where successes of the Clubs are honored. The Fridley Key Club looks forward to next year.

**Sturgis Golden K One Day**

*04/23/2014 - Club: Sturgis Golden K - Submitted by: Deb Looby*

Members of Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis Club held a very successful One Day when they donated 800 pounds of dog food and 400 pounds of cat litter to the local animal shelter during their "Four Paws Food Drive"

**Sturgis Golden K Receives Grant**

*04/23/2014 - Club: Sturgis Golden K - Submitted by: Deb Looby*

Last Fall, the Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis Club, with the help of city staff, made application to the Vucurevich Foundation for a grant to build a new food pantry. The grant was accepted and now the ground has been located with the city of Sturgis and building is getting ready to begin! Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis gives out about 50,000 pounds of food a year as well as government commodities. The pantry is staffed by Kiwanis volunteers as well as other community volunteers.
Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis Soup Supper

04/23/2014 - Club: Sturgis Golden K - Submitted by: Deb Looby

Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis held a very successful soup supper on the 30th of March. Over $1200.00 was raised to help benefit the needs of the local children.

Jamestown Kiwanis packages 200,000 meals

04/23/2014 - Club: Jamestown - Submitted by: Katie Ryan-Anderson

With the help of a generous donor and more than 400 volunteers, Jamestown Kiwanis and the surrounding community readied more than 200,000 meals for hungry families locally and abroad.

Jamestown Kiwanis raised $40,000 in 30 days and with it, purchased the supplies for the Kids Against Hunger event April 5 at Buffalo Mall.

Janna Bergstedt, marketing manager for First Community Credit Union and one of the event’s organizers for Kiwanis, said Kids Against Hunger packages and sends meals consisting of vegetables, vitamins, rice and soy for starving children in the U.S. and abroad. Meal recipients need only to add water and boil the dried ingredients for 20 minutes. Meals are distributed internationally as well as locally.

“We’re really grateful to the community for all its support. This is a big effort and a lot of work. But when we think of the results – 200,000 smiling faces – it’s all worth it,” she said.

Half of the meals stay local and will be dispersed in North Dakota and Minnesota through the Great Plains Food Bank. The remainder will be sent overseas.

“Some of the meals stay local, we’re proud of that,” said Kids Against Hunger Co-organizer Don Bentz. “But we also want to help starving children around the world. They don’t have the food-support programs we do.”

A child dies from hunger-related causes every six seconds, but to feed them requires so little. Each Kids Against Hunger meal serving costs 23 cents.

For more information about Jamestown’s Kids Against Hunger event visit Facebook.com/JamestownKiwanis.

Student Leadership Program in Action

04/23/2014 - Club: Baxter Lakes Area and Friends - Submitted by: Jean Collins

The Baxter Elementary K-Kids club has changed my life the last three years. These third
North Suburban Golden K Kiwanis Volunteers Help Build Furniture for Families in Need

04/14/2014 - Club: North Suburban Golden K, St. Paul - Submitted by: Ric Soderstrom, Sr.

Volunteering is great! On the last Saturday of March this year I had the opportunity – no let’s say I had the privilege – to volunteer to help out the less fortunate. The time to help others is one thing that retirement has afforded me. I joined 140 other individuals at a non-profit called Bridging where we assembled 89 dressers that were purchased at a discount from a local retailer using money provided by eight area Kiwanis clubs and their associated Key Clubs. The Kiwanis Clubs are made up of working and retired individuals. Key Clubs are established specifically to get high school youth in our communities involved in volunteer activities and are associated with and mentored by the local Kiwanis Club in their area.

The morning, approximately four hours of work, was spent opening cartons, sorting pieces of dressers, reading instructions and sharing the holding of parts, the turning of screws, the nailing of back panels and the final assembly of drawers to slots. People of many ages from all sorts of backgrounds and skill levels came together to make sure that 89 families would have 89 NEW dressers to put into their first home, their first apartment, or their first room. They were assisted by a few regular volunteers of Bridging who had assembled and reconditioned many pieces of furniture so that the final inspected dresser was done right. The volunteers got to sign their names on the backs of the dressers to indicate who helped make this new dresser possible for a first time homeowner or apartment renter. A total of 141 individuals donated four hours of their time for a total of 564 volunteer hours.

More amazing than the actual work we did was the person behind the concept of Bridging, that is -- helping people get furniture for their move into a home or apartment – perhaps for the first time and maybe even moving away from homelessness. The man that started all of this is a man called Fran who, at the very beginning of this volunteer day, stood on a metal ladder and gave us the most moving of pep talks. He just turned 89 years old and he described to us his first reconditioned crib that he gave to a family and fourth graders elect their own officer, make motions, decide on projects, serve their school and community. The students really put themselves into each of their project. When they chose HART, which is an animal rescue service, they had lots of money to donate as well as food and toys for the animals. The K-Kids learned that they could save a mother and her babies from tetanus for $1.80. They quickly started collecting change from all classes in their school. They came up with a Cookie Sales Project and they doubled their money in a very short time. They sang at a Retirement Home and had the residents requesting their return. After a long cold winter they are getting ready to plant trees in a local park. It is fun to work with these young people who are willing to try any project. K-Kids is the youngest of our Kiwanis SLP groups and they are Improving the World one child and one community at a time.
in need 27 years ago. That donation started this whole non-profit adventure, which he called the “food shelf” of furniture. That means he was 62 years old when he decided to start helping people move out of poverty to living in their own space. He reported to us that since that start with one crib his organization has grown to a warehouse full of used and donated furniture, beds, nightstands, dressers, cabinets, bookshelves, desks, and even small appliances. Over the 27 years, Bridging has supplied furniture to over 70,000 families. Bridging also provides furniture for Habitat for Humanity houses – as Fran says – to turn them into homes.

Yet another amazing fact is that this volunteer event by the local Kiwanis Clubs was part of a grander, worldwide event that boasts having over one million volunteer hours donated to similar projects all over the world on the same day. It’s called the Kiwanis One Day event. Judging from our 500+ hours here it would take around 2,000 such events worldwide on that day to accomplish that. ’I’d say, given what I know about my Kiwanis Club, this level of service is very doable and provides communities around the world with great support. Yes – volunteering is great and it helps children, families and communities. Wow!

Included with this article is a photo of three of our members: Don Rasmusson, Marv Boeckermann, and Ric Soderstrom.

**Warm hearts keep hands and ears warm**

*04/02/2014 - Club: Grafton - Submitted by: Rosemary Christinson*

Here in North Dakota when the temperatures soar to many degrees below zero during our winter months we know how fast skin can freeze. Those of us that live here in Grafton also know that hats and mittens frequently get lost. That is why the Grafton Kiwanis teamed up with the Spirits United Aktion Club and put the wheels in motion to make sure students that attend Century Elementary, Grafton Middle School and the EDGE would have hats and mittens to keep themselves warm on those cold blustery days. Members of the Grafton Kiwanis decided to allocate funds from their “Happy Dollars” for the purchase of hats and mittens. It only seemed appropriate that “Happy Dollars” be used as members knew how happy these kids would be. Rita Amiot, a local retailer who frequently goes to market to purchase items for her store was able to make arrangements for a sizable amount of hats and mittens to be delivered to Grafton. Without Rita’s contact we would never have been able to get as many as we did. They came in all colors and sizes. When the Spirits United Aktion club members opened the boxes they were extremely happy with the selection given. They went to work attaching a label that read, Warm Greetings From Your Local KIWANIS. Amber was quoted saying “It is always a good thing to have hats and mittens on a cold day”.

During the month of November, Aktion club members Don, Amber, and Dustin delivered the hats and mittens to the schools and the EDGE. The teachers and counselors at the two schools were very excited to receive this gift of warmth as often times they are buying hats and mittens for their students and know the need is so great. Now you may be wondering what is the EDGE? Is it a school in Grafton, North Dakota? Well, in a sense teaching does go on there but it is spiritual teaching. It is a Youth Center operated by a ministerial committee and an Activity Director. They depend on donations and volunteers to remain open. Director Jen Charbauski has stated that many times students and their siblings arrive with barely a coat. She was very thankful for the hats and mittens delivered to her center knowing when kids walk out the door not only will
they have the experienced the love of God, they will have some protection from the elements.

Robert and Dusty delivered the hats and mittens to the Century Elementary School. The Principal sent a thank you note that thanked the KIWANIS for the generous donation. She also said in her thank you note that the hats, mittens and gloves are just fabulous and will benefit so many children. Many families call to ask for help providing these items for their children and others are given on an as needed basis. They were very thankful for this gift.