

MINNEKOTAN

Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

No.48

September 2013

From the Desk of the Governor

09/01/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Cynthia Braseth

I approach this article with some sadness. This is my last article as Governor. But, this is not going to be a review of the year. I prefer to look to the future.

We just completed the convention and I have to say, that's a relief. There is so much to think about and so much going on that it can be somewhat overwhelming, but as always, in Kiwanis there is always lots of help available. If you were there, I hope that you completed an evaluation to let us know what you liked and what you didn't. We made some changes to the usual format so we need to know what you thought. If you weren't there, you missed a fun time! Friday afternoon was an excellent start to the convention. Holly Hoffman's speech was awesome and got us off to a great start. The hands on service project at the Boys and Girls Club was a highlight and offered service opportunities for everyone regardless of interest or physical ability. The people that I talked to really enjoyed the hands on approach that we had this year. The press we got in the paper the next morning was a great way to show the community what it means to be a Kiwanian. The day was topped off with "Survivor Night." Lots of games and friendly competition made for a really fun evening.



We opened Saturday with a wall of diapers built around the podium. I am so proud of the generosity of our members. We needed two pickups to transport the diapers to the shelter, and it took several of us to assist the representative from the shelter and get them all loaded up. What made it more significant is that the shelter had just posted on their website a desperate need for diapers. We came to rescue at just the right time!

Throughout the convention, we had several educational forums with something for everyone and all of them were well attended. This is a great opportunity for new members or those with new positions to get education and information and I could see that several people took advantage of that.

The House of Delegates passed an amendment to the bylaws to allow us to have board meetings via conference call. This option is only to be used when we have an issue that needs board action that cannot wait for the next scheduled board meeting. There are times when the Executive Committee has made decisions because we were not able to get the board together. This will allow better discussion and input from more people

when these issues arise. We also had an historic election. Sherry Scudder from Sturgis, SD was elected Governor Elect. This is the first time our district has had a Governor team of all women! We also heard a report from the members of the Strategic Planning Committee as to the status of each of the eight goals that are planned out for the next five years. We invite members to provide input or ideas as these plans are rolled out. It is a living document and will probably change over the years and as circumstances change.

Key Club and Circle K members also joined us again this year. There were several opportunities for mixing and mingling, and I noticed several lively discussions at the lunches and dinners where we all congregated. If I could change one thing in coming years, I would make these opportunities more frequent. I think we can all learn from each other and having these young people adds energy and fun to the whole convention.

I also need to mention the inspiration provided by our International Trustee, Jane Erickson. Her personal stories of how Kiwanis has impacted her life and the lives of others were so inspiring and made me cry every time she opened her mouth. If anyone listened to those stories and was not moved, they need a heart transplant. I know I came away from the convention with renewed pride and conviction in Kiwanis and our mission To Serve the Children of the World.

I want to personally thank all of the people who worked to plan and "run" this convention. This year, we worked with the local Aberdeen Kiwanis club to provide assistance at registration and with the book sale. Mark Nelson and Cartor Carlson worked with the convention committee to coordinate the service projects and the club volunteers. The convention committee: Ann Backes-Dodge, Steve Handegaard, Judie Rosendahl, Denny Cornell, Lowell Disrud, Stewart Ross, Sherry Scudder, Loreena Luetgers, Colleen Hyde, Bruce Klair, and Mark Nelson worked tirelessly to plan an interesting and fun convention. Special thanks to Ann Backes-Dodge for keeping everything on track during the convention and working with hotel staff behind the scenes. Also Colleen Hyde for keeping the registration running smoothly throughout. I also want to thank Nancy Cornell and Phyllis Klair for organizing the Partners Breakfast and booksale. Denny Cornell and Jack Zierdt also deserve thanks for the wonderful Memorial Service that was held. Special recognition also to Stewart Ross for organizing and working with the local Kiwanis club to make sure that the Service Projects went off without a hitch and for arranging the fantastic music that we enjoyed throughout the convention. Last, but not least, a HUGE thank you to Steve Handegaard, the best District Secretary any Governor has the honor to work with. His reality checks, gentle prodding, reminders and humor are all much appreciated.

Now for my final thoughts. My year is almost over, but, as I said in my final speech at the convention, my work is not done. I had some goals that did not get accomplished so I still have work to do. I know that I leave this position in good and caring hands. Judie will continue what I started and put her own stamp on the plan to make this district stronger so that we can provide more service to all of the children who need us. Thanks to everyone for making this a year that I will never forget.

September Update

08/29/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Steve Handegaard



Special Thanks and Congratulations: The 2012-2013 Kiwanis year ended at the end of September, but I would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to Governor Cynthia Braseth for her hard work and dedication to Kiwanis this past year. Also, special thanks to all who served in a Lt. Governor, District Director or District Committee position. They all worked very hard to support Kiwanis on the Club and District level. Congratulations to Governor Designate Judie Rosendahl who will lead our district beginning October 1. And last, but not least congratulations to Sharon Scudder who will serve as Governor Elect during 2013-2014.

Thanks again to Club Secretaries for submitting the Annual Club Election Reports for 2013-2014:

The reports were due June 1, so if you have not submitted your information online, please do so ASAP! We are still waiting for some club election reports! Please include email addresses whenever possible. It is very important that Kiwanis International and the District Office both receive this information in a timely manner so that directories and mailing lists can be compiled. When filed online and the report automatically goes to both Kiwanis International and the District Office.

Reminder about membership administrative changes:

Kiwanis International recently announced two changes:

- Cost to Enroll New Members Changing October 1st
- Change in Process of Counting End-of- Year Membership

For a more detailed summary of both of these changes [Click here](#)

Club Secretaries: Be sure that you have submitted all of your monthly online club reports for the 12-13 year. Remember that the September report (last report of the year) is due by October 10th, 2013. With the monthly online reporting system you will not be asked to submit a separate annual report. In addition, all reports must be submitted to qualify for the Distinguished Club Award.

Annual IRS Tax Reporting: Remember that all clubs must now file the appropriate IRS 990 Tax form each year. Failure to do so will result in fines and loss of nonprofit status.

Processing your billing roster for 2013-14: Just a reminder to club secretaries that it's the time of the year to prepare your club's billing roster! We know you want to get started as soon as possible! On September 2, your club can begin filing the billing roster online. Just login to the KiwanisOne Club Management portal at www.kiwanisone.org/login. You will find instructions for the online filing located on the Secretary Dashboard. We appreciate your assistance in maintaining accurate membership records and reporting your membership changes on time!

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office Contact Information:

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office

P.O. Box 735

Dalton, MN 56324-0735

Phone: 218-589-7581

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MN-DAK Kiwanians Make Service the Centerpiece of District Convention

08/21/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Stewart Ross, District Service Director

“I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.”

– Albert Schweitzer

I came upon this quote as I prepared to write another column about service in the MN-DAK District. I wanted to find a quote that might congratulate our district for the work done in the name of service but also clarifying how lucky we are to have found each other and a reason to be Kiwanians. I think Schweitzer captures this in the quote above.



As those at the MN-DAK District Kiwanis convention know, nothing can make us happier than to learn how to serve others, especially innocent, young children. As your district service director, I asked those attending the convention to bring diapers for a local shelter in Aberdeen that we visited months earlier. Although I expected our Kiwanis clubs and members to be generous with their donations, I never expected to see so many diapers in one room! If you were not there take a look at the picture....it was even more impressive in person. This generosity points out that although we can do service by ourselves, working with others can really make a difference. Thank you to all the Kiwanis clubs and members who brought diapers to the convention...I know the folks at Safe Harbor Shelter were shocked by the gift...so many young children who depend on the shelter during the year will now have diapers.

The generosity of our MN-DAK Kiwanians did not end with bringing diapers to the convention. On Friday afternoon of the convention many attendees visited the Aberdeen Boy's and Girl's Club and helped out where possible, from helping with a softball game, to reading and arts/crafts to cleaning the gym.

There are many ways to serve our communities and we only accomplished two of them through the diaper donations and working with the children at the Boy's and Girl's Club. We hope that those in attendance went back to their own Kiwanis Clubs highly motivated and excited about service. And this is as it should be since service is truly the lifeblood of our Kiwanis organization and clubs. Although I can only personally say "thank you" to those who participated in service at the convention I can also remind you that you will be the ones in our society who will be truly happy!

Get Ready for Key Club's Fall Rally

08/26/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Jessica Gotz, Key Club District Bulletin Editor

Mark your calendars for Key Club's Fall Rally, a weekend of amazing experiences and great fun. The Minn-Dak district's Fall Rally, a leadership and training event, is taking place **October 25-27, 2013** at Loretto, MN's Camp Ihduhopi.

Attendees will be going through high and low ropes courses, games, bonfires, service and training forums, discussion groups, and much more in a completely casual environment. Dress for the weather and make sure to bring closed-toed shoes for the



challenge courses and games. And don't forget your club's entry to the t-shirt contest- the winner receives a prize!

The weekend costs only \$150 per person with meals, lodging, ropes courses, and other materials included. A packing list, including items needed for the service project, can be found in the fall mailing. If you have any questions, you can check out the registration materials sent in the fall mailing or ask a Minn-Dak Key Club board member.

The weekend will be a blast, and the district board cannot wait to see you all there!

A Big Thank You From Governor Elect Designate

08/22/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Sherry Scudder

Thank you to all participating Kiwanians for a wonderful District Convention. We had a lot of wonderful workshops and a lot of fun. The Special Project with the Boys and Girls Club was quite successful and the Diaper Presentation was extra special. The gesture of obtaining school supplies by the spouses was very considerate and needed

I especially want to thank all of our wonderful members for the VOTE of confidence you have placed in me by electing me for your next Governor-elect. I am proud to serve and am preparing the 1st Dude, Larry and 1st Grandson Dude, Trever for action.

I would also like to thank Mary Sieling and Don Felmlee for the nominations they made on my behalf. Without them, of course, I would not have been elected.



I am proud to be a part of the Kiwanis Team and know that I will work hard to make a difference in the lives of the many that we serve and need service.

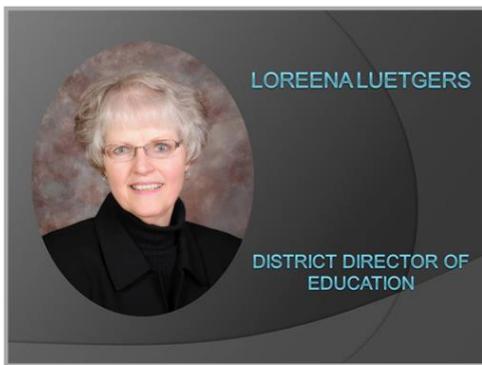
Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!!

Sherry Scudder
Governor-elect designee

Education Update for Club Officers

08/25/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Loreena Luetgers

Club Leadership Education sessions are completed. Thank you to all who attended. We hope that club presidents learned the information that is needed for your position and the discussion with other club members



was valuable. There were 42% of the clubs attending these sessions throughout the district and we would really like to have 100%.

The Leadership Guide, information presented and discussion is so important to help you to lead your club. Kiwanis has so many resources to guide you through your role as president. Likewise, secretaries can learn more about the online reporting, adding and deleting members, resources that are needed for their position, because the secretary is the person that is a constant resource to the club officers and members. Club Leadership Education is vital to a club's leadership and stability.

IF club presidents didn't attend a session, we encourage you to take an online session. The Lieutenant Governor for your club will deliver your two leadership books to you at the time of your installation if you haven't received them at a face to face session.

IF club secretaries didn't attend an online session, we encourage you to take one. There are sessions for the new secretary and one for the experienced secretary. These can be taken at your convenience, whether at one time or complete it in segments. These sessions are vital to club leaders for the information that you need for your office. **Deadline is September 30th.** These sessions are needed if a club wants to be a distinguished club. Click onto www.kiwanis.org and begin today!

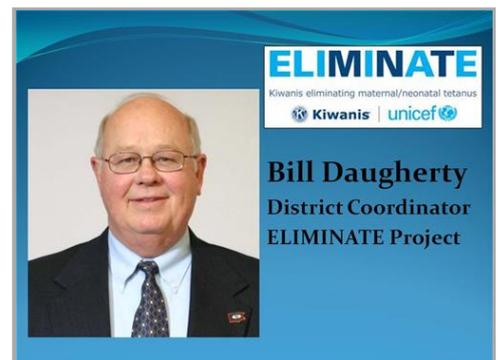
Some attendees of the online sessions have had problems with completion and logging out of the session. Please notify me at lluetgers@knology.net if you have problems and I will certainly help get it resolved so your club receives credit for your participation.

Club Presidents will be presented a handbook this year when they are installed by their Lieutenant Governor. This is a gift to you and we hope you will find this not only informative and easily assessable but also a helpful resource as it was designed with each of you in mind.

Eliminate Project Convention Report

08/28/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Bill Daugherty

We had a Silent Auction that surpassed my expectations. There were 52 items brought by the clubs to be auctioned off. Just over \$2900 was credited to the clubs for their items. The Terry Redlin print garnered \$825 for the Bismarck club as a result of the Lardy donation of the framed print. Another donation came from the Past Governor's partners book sale. The sale brought in \$472.50 for the Eliminate Project. Checks were turned in as follows: Fergus Falls \$400; Bismarck Golden K \$500; and Fargo South Point \$30. There were two Zeller donation amounting to \$2500. Thus the total donation to the Eliminate Project from the convention activities came to \$7,649.



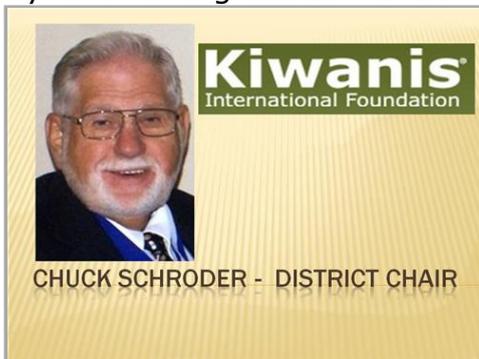
Both of the forums were well attended as clubs heard more about where we are in relation to our \$3MIL goal as well as encouraging members to consider becoming Zeller Fellows. Clubs were asked to consider becoming Model Clubs. We have 22 clubs that have made the pledge. Our hope is that 8 more clubs will accept the challenge and strive for model club status before the end of September.

OOPS, heres a part of a broken record.... CLUBS WE NEED CLUB COORDINATORS in every club. If you don't have one in your club please contact me with your name and contact information and you can be the club coordinator. The Project needs your liaison with your club.

WE CAN DO IT

08/27/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: E. Chuck Schroder

What a great convention we had in Aberdeen. Holly Hoffman started things off with her great story and how it changed her life and got us motivated. Then our Trustee Jane Erickson, she is a true Kiwanian. Her stories will keep you on the edge of your seat and your eyes will get full of tears and she has lived every one of them. Thanks Governor Cynthia for a great convention and your leadership.



The Foundations Booth did very well and thanks to all you members for your contributions. We were able to raise over \$1,600 and that put us closer to our goals for both the District and International Foundations and to be able to help the children of the World. Many of you asked why we didn't have more items, well we put out all that we got, and we do have one already for next year. But it is up to you to donate items for the raffle and we do like to have them come from the club or a member. So lets start to think about items for next

year.

There is still time for your club to participate in the Annual Gift Program. There are many clubs that have given in the past, that still have not sent their money in for this year. We need to have it into KI by September 30th.

Again, **THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR KIWANIS AND THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD.**

International Kiwanis President Visit- November 2nd

08/31/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Judie Rosendahl, Governor Elect

Have you heard that Kiwanis International President Gunter Gasser and his wife, Christiana, are coming to Fargo on Saturday, November 2, 2013?



A visit from the Kiwanis International President only happens once every five years and this is our year! They will be coming to us from Austria and we anticipate a great celebration! The event will begin with a hands-on service project in the afternoon. The Fargo clubs have organized the afternoon for us to make trauma dolls to be given to children during a time of trauma to them or their families. Everything will be set up for us and we can assist with this project for an hour or more if you prefer. Following that, we will have a social time and then a banquet with a program which will include remarks from President Gunter concerning his theme, "Building Bridges for children to the future." We will have entertainment and excellent food!

Many exciting things are happening in Kiwanis this year and of course, we want to be involved with all of it! President Gunter will be sharing with us about those new

initiatives.

To make this visit successful, we need your help! We need Kiwanis Family volunteers to participate in the service project in the afternoon and to attend the banquet. The committee has worked very hard to make this a fun and rewarding time for everyone. We hope for participation from every Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Club with as many attendees as possible. We have worked hard to keep the cost as low as possible while still providing a special time to share with our Kiwanis International President Gunter and Christiana.

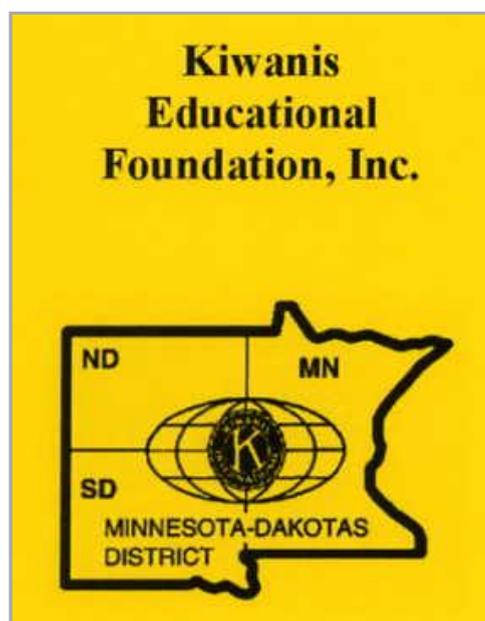
We are excited about President Gunter's visit and desire for your club members to be involved! **I think it will be a time to remember but only if you are there!**

More details and a registration form will be sent soon to club secretaries. Watch for it.

President Gunter's Bio [Click here](#)

Kiwanis Educational Foundation of the MN-DAK District

08/16/2013 - District: Minnesota-Dakotas - Submitted by: Dale Carlson



Actions at the District Convention, Aberdeen, S.D., August 9-11, 2013

At the Friday afternoon opening session Jack Zierdt, Secretary/Treasurer of the Educational Foundation, presented a brief Foundation report. An election was held to fill 2 expiring terms on the Foundation Board of Trustees. Larry Rittgarn was re-elected to a 3 year term as a Trustee from North Dakota and Bill Daugherty was re-elected to a 3 year term as a Trustee from South Dakota.

Here are some key points from the 2012-13 year of the MN-DAK Kiwanis Educational Foundation:

1. The Foundation has now reached the million dollar milestone in investments and cash on hand. Congratulations to all of the MN-DAK Kiwanians who have made this possible. We cannot rest on our laurels

but must continue to grow the fund to support students as college costs continue to escalate.

2. In April of 2013 59 scholarships were awarded to students in the MN-DAK District to be used starting in Sept. 2013. The majority of these scholarships are for \$825.00.

3. For the school year starting in Sept. 2014 we plan to award the same number of scholarships. The amount of these scholarships will probably be \$875.00 depending on donations given and the earnings received on the invested endowment monies.

4. Students receiving these scholarships must be from the MN-DAK District and must attend a college or university within the District.

The Board of Trustees of the Educational Foundation met late Friday after the convention general session. The following actions were taken:

1. Board minutes of May 10, 2013 were approved.
2. Jack Zierdt presented the Secretary/Treasurer report which was approved.
3. Dale Carlson was elected President for 2013-14. Bill Lardy was elected Vice-President for 2013-14. Jack Zierdt was elected Secretary/Treasurer for 2013-14.

4. The dollar amount for the 2014-15 scholarships will be determined in early October (probably \$875.00), and will be based on interest earned in 2012-2013.

5. The number of scholarships for 2014-15 will remain the same as for the previous year.

6. Chuck Schroder was present and commented on the excellent cooperation between the Kiwanis International Foundation and the MN-DAK Kiwanis Educational Foundation.

The MN-DAK Kiwanis Educational Foundation sponsored the memorial service on Sunday. A collection was taken that raised \$820.00 for the endowment fund. The raffle to benefit both the Kiwanis International Foundation and the MN-DAK Kiwanis Educational Foundation raised \$1520.00 for the Foundations.

The month of November has been designated each year as the Minnesota-Dakotas Educational Foundation Month. All District clubs are asked to focus on the work of the Educational Foundation that month and all Kiwanis clubs and members are asked to support the Foundation with financial gifts.

Club News

Fargo-Moorhead Social Hour

08/28/2013 - Club: Fargo - Submitted by: Fargo/Rough Riders Kiwanis Clubs

The Kiwanis Clubs of Fargo-Moorhead will be gathering on Thursday, September 26, 4:00-6:30pm to unite in fellowship. It will be an afternoon of socializing, getting to better know each other, swapping business tips, and exchanging ideas to make our organization the *best* it can be!



Any out-of-town Kiwanian who will be in the neighborhood that day is welcome to join. We are also inviting prospective members - if you know people in the FM area who might be interested in an evening or online club, please send them our way! Contact your friendly members at the Fargo or Rough Riders Kiwanis Clubs for more information.

Baxter Kiwanis Club and ISD 181 Partnership

08/27/2013 - Club: Baxter Lakes Area and Friends - Submitted by: Karl Samp



The lakes area is fortunate to have numerous service organizations that help make this a wonderful place to live, work, and raise kids. One such group, Kiwanis International, with chapters in Brainerd and Baxter, has found its mission in partnering with ISD 181 students of all ages. Kiwanis members are volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. "We want kids to feel like they can make a difference," explains Greg Breen, Brainerd Kiwanis Sponsored Youth Committee Chair. "They learn leadership skills by serving others and experience the joy of giving."

The Brainerd and Baxter Kiwanis Clubs sponsor several school groups and clubs. Adult Kiwanis members either lead the clubs, mentor, or work side-by-side with students for service projects. At all levels, the focus is

on developing leaders, building character, and serving others.

In January, 2012, the Baxter Kiwanis Club started sponsoring a new group at Baxter Elementary School called K-Kids. Third and fourth grade students that show leadership potential are recommended by their teachers for the extra-curricular, afterschool group. "Along with developing leadership skills, the goal is to do service projects that have an impact at the school, neighborhood, community, and international level," states Jennifer Pedersen, media secretary and co-leader of K-Kids. "The group elects a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. They learn how to run an official meeting, complete with motions, amendments, and voting 'yay' or 'nay.'"

All group decisions are student-driven, planned, and implemented. K-Kid Evan shares, "I love K-Kids because we help do service projects. When I see people doing good things I ask if I can help." Students made bulletin boards for the hallway displaying leadership qualities, raised money and supplies for Heartland Animal Rescue Team (HART), served at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, cleaned up garbage around the gas station near the school, and are collecting pennies for the Kiwanis International program, Eliminate Project, an effort to eradicate tetanus in developing countries.

Pederson and co-leader, media specialist TyAnne Rezac, state there's also a wonderful multi-generational aspect with volunteers from the Baxter Kiwanis Club that make it really special. "Marwin Bogue and Jean Collins are amazing. They attend every meeting, assist with projects, and are great with the kids."

Karl Samp, Greg Anderson and Dave Csanda, are Baxter Kiwanis members that are heavily involved with students at Baxter Elementary School. They lead a program called Terrific Kids. Every Tuesday morning, they visit the third grade classrooms to talk about character development and goal setting. Samp explains, "We talk about a different character trait each week, based on the Terrific Kids acronym: T=Thoughtful, E=Enthusiastic, R=Respectful, R=Responsible, I=Inclusive, F=Friendly, I=Inquisitive, C=Capable. Students are then asked to make two "smart" goals for the week based on that trait, one for school and one for at home." The following Tuesday, kids self-report on their progress by putting stickers on a chart if goals were met. To celebrate their accomplishments in Terrific Kids, all third graders get to go to the Good Samaritan Bowl-A-Thon in the spring.

"We try to reinforce the curriculum and what teachers are doing in the classroom with goal setting," states Samp. "Close to the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) testing period, we talk about being "Capable" and setting goals about doing their best work on the tests." The Brainerd Kiwanis Club also sponsors the Kids Triathlon at Whipple Beach in Baxter each August. "If they are participating, kids are encouraged to set a goal related to the triathlon," says Samp. "It gives them something healthy to work toward over summer vacation."

Joe and Christian participated in Terrific Kids last year. "One of my goals for school was to get my math homework perfect every day," says Joe. "A home goal was to help with every load of laundry." Christian added, "One of my school goals was to be responsible and keep my desk clean," and for home, "not to fight with my big sister." Joe and Christian summed up their experience by saying, "I got smarter by learning to set goals," and "I learned how to make the community a better place," respectively.

Kiwanis Clubs also recognize students for academic progress. Lowell, Harrison, Garfield and Baxter Elementary Schools sponsor the Bringing Up Grades, or BUG, program for fourth graders. In January, a Kiwanis Club member speaks to participating classrooms, introduces the BUG program, and lets students know that the teacher will be watching for who is trying to be the best student they can be. Each teacher selects two students from his/her classroom. Winners are announced in the spring at a special awards dinner for students, family members, and teachers.

Middle school can be a tough time to recruit kids to a club, with sports and other extra-curricular activities requiring more of their free time. But Forestview Middle School science teacher Dalen Hodge has had success in getting kids excited about Kiwanis' Builders Club. There are about 50 active members in 5th -8th grade at Forestview.

"Word-of-mouth is our best recruiting method," states Hodge. "Kids who have been involved have a great time and they tell their friends. It has a low-impact on their time while still providing volunteer opportunities. Once they do it, they realize it's a great thing." Eighth grader Jessie Ernster says, "I've learned how much fun it is to help people. It feels good to do good."

"It's about building kids who are great examples of young people in the community," explains Hodge. "Builders

Club has evolved into a group that has established relationships with a variety of community organizations." Students have raked leaves, planted grass and trees at Camp Confidence Learning Center, decorated and auctioned off bowling pins for the Good Samaritan Bowl-A-Thon, and sponsored special events at Forestview to recognize administrative and custodial staff. Hodge's goal is to have students grow in leadership skills, be good role models for others, and have a zest for volunteering. "It's one small piece of turning kids into good human beings," says Hodge.

At Brainerd High School, students can build on the foundations of leadership and service set in elementary and middle school by participating in Key Club. Ginger Augustinack, math teacher at BHS, advises the group of 69 members. "It's fun to see club members gain time management skills and learn to be responsible for projects and trustworthy with club funds."

For Key Club president senior Emily Bukowski, running meetings and coordinating the service projects are her focus. "I've learned to take more risks and go outside my comfort zone," explains Bukowski. "It's great to be out volunteering and helping with projects in the community."

Key Club projects span a variety of areas in the community and beyond, all year round. "We help serve monthly dinners at the Senior Center and work at the Ageless Expo and Harvest Bingo event," says Augustinack. "DeAnn Barry from the Senior Center is very generous to the Key Club for volunteer opportunities." Last spring, they sold frozen treats during the lunch hour to raise money for Alex's Lemonade Stand, a nationwide pediatric cancer research fund. Making decorative pillows for the women's shelter, helping at the Crow Wing County Fair grandstand concession booth, haunting the Haunted Trail at the Northland Arboretum in October, and volunteering at the Baxter Kids' Triathlon provide a lot of service hours for students' college and work applications. In the fall and spring, the group coordinates a blood drive at the high school with the Red Cross. In return, the Red Cross donates scholarship money for the group. Key Club also awards three senior scholarships each spring.

After graduation, the hope is that students continue in leadership positions and volunteer work. "You hear a lot about kids today. Sometimes the impression is that they are selfish or too busy. But if the 250+ kids involved in the Brainerd and Baxter Kiwanis programs are our future, our future is in good hands," concludes Breen.