



Kiwanis®

MINNEKOTAN

Published by Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International

February 2017

Welcome to the latest news from around our Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District. In addition to articles by some of district leaders you will also find many interesting articles and photos from Kiwanis Clubs in our district.

As always we encourage clubs to submit news articles about their activities, service projects or fundraisers. To submit an article go the District News on our website and find “News-News Story Submission” page <http://mndak.portalbuzz.com/Page/1013>

This document is a PDF summary of the latest news that can also be found on the district website. If you prefer you can also view all of our news articles directly on the district website. You can search by District, Division or Club and view or print each article individually or as a group. In addition the photos appear in a larger format on the website. Here is a link to the website <http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/Page/1012>

An archive of current and past MINNEKOTANS can be found on our district website <http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/Page/1014>

Steve Handegaard
District Secretary/Treasurer
Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis International

District I-Plan draft completed - 1/31/2017

Submitted by: Peter Larson

On January 20th the Strategic Planning Committee completed its work on the Draft I-Plan for the Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis District. Once the review is completed, the plan will be e-mailed to the club presidents for their information. The District will be working on eight strategies to improve such things as member retention and new club formation, how to improve participation in the district convention and whether to add a new division 8 out of Divisions 6 and 7.



In February, I will be meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, with International President Jane Erickson and the other Region 4 Governors to discuss ways of improving the Kiwanis Experience in the Minnesota Dakotas District. I will also be attending the Circle K District Convention in Fergus Falls, MN.

If your club has a great Signature Project, there is a contest being held by Kiwanis International. The District can select one Minnesota Dakotas club signature project to represent our District. Please contact me for information on this contest. The project needs to be selected and submitted by March 31st.

February Update - 1/30/2017

Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas

Governor Elect Candidates: If you are interested in running for Governor Elect for 2017-2018, please submit a picture and a short biographical sketch not to exceed 600 words, along with an endorsement from your home club, to the District Kiwanis Office, P.O. Box 735, Dalton, MN 56324 no later than February 15, 2017.



Your information must be received by that date to be published in the March MINNEKOTAN.

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

Lt. Governor Elect Candidates: We are still in need of Lt. Governor Elect Candidates for 2017-2018 in some Divisions. Contact your current Lt. Governor if interested. The Lt. Governor Education program will take place April 28-30 in Fergus Falls.

Reminder about Kiwanis Clubs & IRS filing requirements:

All organizations, including all Kiwanis clubs must file the appropriate annual IRS tax Form by February 15. The form used depends on your annual gross receipts.

District Annual Audit: The Annual Audit of the Minnesota-Dakotas District Financial Accounts for the Kiwanis year 2015-2016 was recently completed by Westberg Eischens, PLLP, Certified Public Accountants of Willmar, Minnesota. The report is on file at Kiwanis International and the District Office.

Tri-K District Board Meeting: Kiwanis and Circle K District Boards met in Fergus Falls, MN on January 20 and 21, 2017. Minutes of the Kiwanis District Board meeting will be viewable on our district website soon.

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office Contact Information:

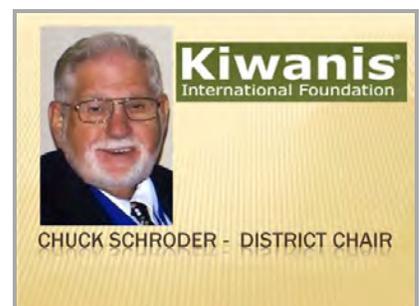
Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office
P.O. Box 735
Dalton, MN 56324-0735
Phone: 218-589-7581
Email: secretary@mndak-kiwanis.org

DISTRICT GRANTS CHANGE - 1/29/2017

Submitted by: E. Chuck Schroder

The Kiwanis Children's Fund helps the Kiwanis Family extend its impact around the world - and it continually looks for ways to improve the grant programs to help even more Children.

The Children's Fund is excited to announce an upgrade to one of our most important programs. Beginning October 1, 2017: Eligible Kiwanis International districts can apply for a grant equal to 15 percent of total district annual fund gifts made the previous administrative year. That's TRIPLE the percentage available in previous years. So the more undesignated gifts to the Children's Fund that originate from our district, the larger the grant our district may receive.



You May know this program as "the district recognition five percent district grant." In addition to the funding upgrade, they gave it a name that's simpler and easier to remember: the District Grant Program.

Program improvements won't stop there. They are working on more ways to help districts achieve our shared mission. Additional details about the District Grant program will be shared with you as they are finalized.

For the current Kiwanis year, our grant program guidelines won't change, and grant amounts will remain five percent of the total undesignated gifts from 2015-16. Those grant amounts will be calculated soon, and additional information will be shared with the District chairs of the Children's Fund in qualifying districts.

In the meantime, THANK YOU for all you do to serve the children of the world. Kids need Kiwanis. You and your clubs participation in giving to the Children's Fund Makes a bigger difference in those children's lives. Let's make a difference and give to the Children's Fund.

The Language of Love - 1/29/2017

Submitted by: Courtney Taylor, OTIC Chair

The International Convention registration is now open at <http://www.kiwanis.org/convention/2017/register> Why not practice a little French? A few French/English cognates to enjoy are radio, dentist, and hockey. What a relief to be able to say chocolate, pizza, salad, and taxi with familiarity during your stay this summer! If you opt to visit the Paris Science Museum, you are likely to recognize the words for physics (physique), biology (biologie), and astronomy (astronomie).



Now let's cover a few of the words you might want to study...

Good morning/afternoon – bonjour (bon shoo)

Good evening – bonsoir (bon swa)

Good night – bonne nuit (bon nwee)

Goodbye – au revior (oh ruh-vwa)

Please – s'il vous plait (seel voo-play)

Thank you – merci (meh-si)

Excuse me – excusez-moi (ex-koo-say mwah)

Sorry – désolé (day-zoh-lay)

My name is – Je m'appelle (juh mah-pell)

Where – où (oo)

When – quand (kohn)

How – comment (kom-mohn)

How are you – Comment allez-vous (kom-mohn-tah-lay-vo)

Car – voiture (vwa-tue)

Subway – métro (met-wo)

Bike – vélo (ve-loo)

Breakfast – petit déjeuner (pe-ti de-zjo-ney)

Lunch – déjeuner (de-zjo-ney)

Dinner – dîner (di-ney)

Drink – boisson (bwe-soh)

Coffee – café (ka-fey)

Tea – thé (te)

Milk – lait (ley)

Fish – poisson (pwe-soh)

Cheese – fromage (fro-mazj)

Egg – neuf (uff)

Check/bill – L'addition (la-dee-see-oon)

See you soon! A bientôt!

Convention Corner - 1/29/2017

Submitted by: Judie Rosendahl

Many wishes to you for a great year ahead in 2017! The District Convention committee has begun planning for our 100th Convention. We will be in Watertown, SD August 11-13 at the Watertown Event Center with rooms at the Ramkota Hotel. Many activities are being planned including Friday night at the Terry Redlin Center. We are



looking forward to reconnecting with old friends and as usual, making new Kiwanis friends. We have a keynote speaker who is top of the line with much to share with us! Let's mark our calendars now for August 11-13, 2017!

Why do we attend our District Convention? I received this testimonial after the convention last year.

"Thank you for an enjoyable District Convention. It was interesting, educating, and FUN! I picked up hints/ideas I plan on streamlining for our club. One especially I have already laid some ground work: reading to Young Kids, and enticing potential new members. What I truly enjoy the most at these events is: People....meeting/visiting with them, learning who they are personally, every person is unique in their own way, happenings in their club, hardships they encounter, successes they have attained. I know what works for them, may not work for us, however, tweaking a little here and there may be just the right fit!"
Susan Sylvester, Crookston Kiwanis Club

Be a Century Club - 1/29/2017

Submitted by: Denis Cornell

The Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Educational Foundation Inc. is dependent upon contributions from Kiwanis members and clubs throughout the district to build foundation assets in order to continue providing scholarships to high school students in our district. A Kiwanis Club in the Minnesota-Dakotas District becomes a Century Club with an annual suggested contribution of \$100.00 that can be taken from the Charitable or Administrative funds of your club. Last year your foundation awarded more than fifty \$865.00 scholarships to high school students in the district and we plan to award scholarships in the same amount this year.



This year the Century Club contributions are lagging behind. As of January 11, 2017 thirty-eight (38) clubs in the district have contributed \$4190.00. This represents a giving rate of only 27%. If your club has not made a Century Club contribution in the past, now is the time to start. The Century Club contribution should be included in the annual budget of each club and sent to the foundation secretary as soon as the club budget is approved.

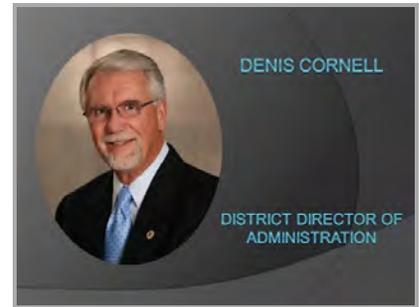
The Century Club contribution form was provided to each club late last year along with scholarship application forms and is also available on the MN-DAK District Kiwanis web site under the

Foundations tab. Mail your Century Club contribution to: Minnesota--Dakotas Kiwanis Educational Foundation, 914 Southern Pine Lane SW, Rochester, MN 55902. Do it for the future leaders of Kiwanis.

Division Star Awards - 1/29/2017

Submitted by: Denis Cornell, Administration Director

Each year one outstanding Kiwanis member from each of the seven MN-DAK divisions is selected for recognition at the district convention in August. The Division Star Award is an excellent vehicle for clubs to recognize the exemplary service of members for recognition should they be selected as the division recipient. Each club is allowed to nominate one outstanding member for this recognition. Clubs must submit Division Star Award nominations to their Lt. Governor no later than April 1st and Lt. Governors must submit the Division Star selectee to the District Secretary-Treasurer no later than May 1st. It is critical that these deadlines be met to allow for plaques to be acquired and for the Division Star program to be printed.



The Division Star Award criteria and nomination forms are available on the Minnesota-Dakotas District web site. Go to <http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org> select MENU in the upper right corner then select Awards. Clubs are encouraged to inform the Division Star Award winner of their selection and, if at all possible, pay for the selectee's expenses at our district convention in Watertown, SD, August 11-13, 2017.

Building a Builders Club - 1/29/2017

Submitted by: Nancy Cornell, Builders Club Administrator

Now is the time for your club to consider sponsoring a Builders Club. Builders Club members are middle/junior high students who learn the value of being servant leaders by engaging in service to their school, community and beyond. They bring excitement and enthusiasm to your Kiwanis club. Go to www.kiwanis.org/charter. Under the "Youth" tab click on "Start a Builders Club". You will find information on how to approach a school, obtaining advisors and



students, by-laws and much more. Check it out.

Congratulations to the new CHS Helping Hands Builders Club that chartered on January 11, 2017 with 38 members. Thank you to the Crookston Kiwanis Club for engaging students in your area. You will be rewarded with fun and excitement as you get to know your Builders Club members.

The Minnesota-Dakotas District has 21 Builders Clubs but we need more. There are students in your area eager to do service but not knowing how to go about it. Help them and enrich their lives and yours. If you have any questions, please contact me at nancy2@centurytel.net or call 507-346-2044.

Love is in the Air - 1/29/2017

Submitted by: Sherry Scudder, Dist. Partnership Coordinator

Happy Valentines Day to all my fellow Kiwanis members. We know you are all full of love for our organization, the communities and children you serve. Keep up the love by sharing time with our Kiwanis Partners.



This month, we are focusing on our Kiwanis Partner, IHOP. It is National Pancake Day on March 7, 2017 from 7 a.m to 7 p.m. On this day many IHOP Restaurants are offering free Buttermilk short stacks until 10 p.m. in exchange for donations to help raise money for Children's Miracle Network (another Kiwanis Partner).

Kiwanis club members are encouraged to volunteer to put purpose behind the free pancakes. Kiwanis members greet guests, encourage donations, spread the word about the impact the iconic IHOP tradition has in your community

- * Get your club on board. Appoint a chairman and create a committee.
- * Invite your local children's hospitals representative to be a guest speaker at your club meeting to share local National Pancake goals
- * Circulate a volunteer sign-up (two hour shifts are best with no more than 3 people per shift.
- * Take your club meeting on the road. Schedule a tour of the local hospital so your club can see first hand why your support matters.

How to participate in National Pancake Day

Register your team online through the NPD volunteer registration page
Call your hospital representative and let them know you registered
Your hospital representative will help identify your team's restaurant location
Call or meet the IHOP restaurant manager to confirm that your club can help
Watch the trailing video at a club meeting
Wear your Kiwanis logo gear
Arrive a few minutes early for your slotted time
Ask members to find the manager and introduce themselves
Get to work, have fun and raise a ton of money.
Make this an annual project

For more information visit <http://www.ihoppancakeday.com/,CMN> or <https://vimeo.com/200387312> to find out how you can get involved.

Good Luck and thanks for supporting our Kiwanis Partners – IHOP and CMN

Service - 1/29/2017

Submitted by: Al Vanderlaan

To all service minded Kiwanians, that is all of us. I heard of many great service projects that each of your clubs are participating in from your Lt. Governors during our district's Tri-K board meeting. Thanks for helping the children in your communities!!

Kiwanis is continuing to put Scholastic Book Oasis in communities throughout the MNDAK District. I was told that several are being built now. Thank you. The second Reading Oasis has been placed on an Indian reservation , the Rosebud in South Dakota at the Hedog Elementary School in Pomerlee , S.D. Dedication will follow this spring when the weather gets better .

I am promoting "sex trafficking prevention education " for our district. There will be a speaker at our district convention in Watertown to be held at the Ramkota Inn August 11--13. I hope you will all put these dates on your calendar. It is our 100th district convention. Every club is asked to bring along their home club banner. There will be much more information to follow. Let's make it a big success .



We spoke about collecting shoes through a group in Florida, www.funds2orgs.com. It was decided each club or cluster of clubs could make their own decision if they wanted to do it as a money raising idea for service related projects. Working as clusters of clubs would allow smaller clubs to participate as well as larger clubs. Contact me and I will email you the information .

I look forward to working with you for the next couple years. Your Governor Elect, Dan , asked me to continue on during his time as governor.

If you have questions or needs about service please let me know.

Eliminate Pledge - 1/28/2017

Club: Rochester Day Makers - Submitted by: Dick Odell

The Kiwanis Day Makers Club is rapidly closing in on our 5 year “Model Club” pledge to save 39,000 women’s lives from contracting birthing tetanus for both them and their babies. Model Club Pledged \$70,000 in 2012.

Our retirees-based club has focused our fund raising activities in both our community and encouraging our members to consider personally supporting the fund raising activities by funding Kiwanis Zeller or Kiwanis Hixson fellowships. Fund raising activities were supported with 1,000’s of hours of our club members with Herberger’s, Kwik Trip, restaurant, pizza, badges, golf ball drops, car washes and other community activities by all our members. These “all members” funds have allowed our club to offer “Eliminate Matching Funds” for members looking to fund Zeller and Hixson Fellowships.

The following number of members acquired fellowships for Day Makers Club Eliminate M/NT campaign:

Hixson Awards (15 members - \$1,000 Fellowships)

Zeller Awards (30 members - \$1,250 Fellowships)

Congratulations to all members of the Kiwanis Day Makers Club who helped raise funds and/or funded our 45 fellowships for the Eliminate M/NT Campaign. Thank you all for your “altruistic service and giving.”

Reading Oasis - 1/28/2017

Club: Rochester Day Makers - Submitted by: Dick Odell

What started a year ago came to fruition Friday, 1/27/17, as the Kiwanis Day Makers assembled the Reading Oasis modular center, book shelves, labeled books and placed them on the shelving units. Kiwanis Day Makers partnered with IBM (\$2,000 community fund grant), the Rochester School Board and Gage PTO (\$2,775), and individual member contributions (\$725) to raise the \$5,500 necessary to obtain the matching funds from Scholastic Book Fairs for the Oasis project.

The Reading Oasis provides a dedicated space designed to spark students' interest in books and help strengthen their reading and comprehension skills. The Reading Oasis includes: • 1200 books • listening library (30 books on CD) • 3 large bookcases • modular reading center, padded bench • reading themed carpet • 4 colorful beanbag chairs.

Reading the assembly instructions was a challenge as there were “no words” ... only multiple diagrams. This proved a challenge for some assembly teams. The Kiwanis Day Makers (25 members, 4 spouses, and 2 Gage staff members) were able to complete the project in about 2 hours, then enjoyed the coffee and donuts. Even the “reading carpet” was installed. A good time was had by all.

Read more about the Scholastic Reading Oasis program at:

<http://www.kiwanis.org/kiwanisone/serve/read-around-theworld/scholastic-literacy-programs/scholastic-programs-for-yourclub#.WJED62yQzs0>

On Tuesday, February 7th, at 3 PM, we have scheduled the formal ribbon cutting ceremony at Gage Elementary with Mayor Brede and the news media presentation. Plan on coming and be a part of the celebration.

Builders Club Serves Youth - 1/28/2017

Club: Rapid City - Submitted by: Vern G. Hagedorn

The Rapid City Club provides the gifts for the Rural America Initiatives Head Start program close to the Builders Club. This year two members of the Service Learning Programs Committee decided to purchase gifts that encouraged reading and that provided warmth for the child. Each of the 30 children received a long lasting hard-bound

Christmas story book which the parent could read to them, or an older child in the family could also read to other children in the family. They also received a warm flannel throw. Both would last more than a year and more value than a toy or candy.

The Builders Club brought wrapping paper and wrapped the gifts while listening to Christmas music and eating cookies brought by other club members. It was surprising how capable these young people were at wrapping packages. One young man said he came from a single parent family and he wrapped all of the gifts in his family and he was really skilled.



Harvey ND Kiwanis Group Participates in FMSC Food Pack - 1/27/2017

Club: Harvey - Submitted by: Sandy Teubner

Pictured Kailey Lemer, Drake-Anamoose FBLA and Sandy Teubner, Harvey Kiwanis President



Harvey ND Kiwanis group participates in Feed My Starving Children Food Pack

Harvey Kiwanis members were informed at their January monthly meeting, about the Feed My Starving Children project by Drake-Anamoose FBLA member Kailey Lemer. She presented an interesting program on where the packaged food goes and the volume of meals the organization has prepared over the past two years. She also invited volunteers from age 5 and up to come to the Anamoose school on Saturday, Jan 14, 2017 to work 2 hour shifts to package food. Their goal was to raise \$22,000 for 100,000 meals at 22 cents a meal. Kailey invited Kiwanis members to volunteer and we had two members with their children partake in the food pack.

Feed My Starting Children is a Christian, non-profit organization with the mission: 'Feeding God's Starving Children Hungry in Body and Spirit'. FMSC packs meals to send to starving children all across the world. They have served over 70 countries and came to Anamoose ND, Saturday, Jan 14, 2017 to pack food, with volunteers, for children – which is in line with Kiwanis' mission to serve children!

Being a Buddy - 1/27/2017

Club: Hibbing - Submitted by: Scott Mescher

Jack Trenberth of the Hibbing Kiwanis Club and others volunteered their time packing food kits for kids as part of the Buddy Backpack Program of the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota. Over 750 kids receive the packs each week in St. Louis and Koochiching counties, meaning more than 25,000 meals will be served this school year.

(Hibbing Daily Tribune)



Caring Baskets - 1/27/2017

Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley - Submitted by: Katrina Mraz

The Fridley Key Club recently implemented a new project, the making and delivering of “Caring Baskets”. This project started as a result of a young child going through serious health concerns. The Board realized that there were others out there going through similar concerns and they wanted to reach out to show their love.

Consequently, the Board made a decision to deliver a minimum of two to four baskets per month. The Board accepted recipient names from the members and acted on them. After identifying the recipient, the nominee would find out what this person liked such as chocolate, stuffed animals, books, coffee, games, candy and toys. A list was developed and distributed to the members. It listed items that were needed for future baskets.



Each basket contained a get well card and a “Caring; Pass it On” card. The reason you have received this card is because someone did a Random Act of Kindness for you. Please pass this card on after doing A Random Act for someone else.

So far the Club has delivered over 10 baskets to worthy recipients. This project has impacted the entire Fridley community! It truly exemplifies the Key Club Motto - Caring: Our Way of Life!

Katrina Mraz, Project Chair

Spreading Christmas Joy - 1/27/2017

Club: Rapid City - Submitted by: Vern Hagedorn

The West Middle School Builders Club met at their regular December meeting to spread a little Christmas joy to patients at the Sioux San Hospital. These patients would be hospitalized over Christmas and have no family with which to spend the holiday. Some students used their creative skills to create a card from scratch, while others recycled old Christmas cards adding their own greeting inside the card.

Approximately 30+ cards were created. This was one of their December service projects.



Coat Collection Big Success - 1/26/2017

Club: Black Hills, Hot Springs - Submitted by: Vern Hagedorn

The Hot Springs club's "Coats for Kids" project has come to a successful close with a total of 423 assorted coats and several handmade scarves and hats. This was a fantastic effort and great community participation. Thanks to Sonny's Fine Foods, First Security Bank, and The Black Hills Federal Credit Union for their help by being collection points for this project. A big thanks is extended to the project director, Shirley Leigh without whom this project wouldn't have been this successful.



Scholastic Reading Oasis at Chisholm Elementary - 1/24/2017

Club: Chisholm - Submitted by: Christine Towner

On January 13th, the Chisholm Kiwanis Club held an Open House and ribbon cutting for a Scholastic Reading Oasis at the Chisholm Elementary. The Oasis was made possible by a grant from the Owens Family Charitable Foundation along with matching funds from Scholastic. Sherwin Williams donated paint for the project. The

school room was transformed into an "oasis" with ocean scenery and palm trees so children can relax while enjoying a book.



KIWANIS HOLIDAY LIGHTS DONATES \$60,000 - 1/23/2017

Club: Mankato - Submitted by: Sharon Taylor

The Kiwanis Holiday Lights Board of Directors is pleased to announce \$60,000 will again be donated to the 84 non-profit organizations that assisted with the event this past year. “Although attendance and donations were down this year due to several rainy nights as well as some bitterly cold weather, we’re able to again donate \$60,000 to the nonprofits that helped us this year,” said Scott Wojcik, Kiwanis Holiday Lights president. “We’ve really worked hard to manage our finances in order to plan for years when traffic is down due to weather. That’s helped us make sure we can still give back a substantial amount to the groups that help us out,” he said.



New additions were a rotating merry-go-round display, a hot air balloon featuring a life flame, additional songs in the “dancing lights” area and a three-night live ice sculpting event that culminated with the creation of a lighted sculpture of “The Sibley Park Ice Dragon.” As has been typical of the growth of the event each year, even more lighted trees were added to the event.

The event was completely volunteer-driven and lasted 37 nights, or a total of 165+ hours of operation. Additional statistics include:

- Over 165,000 people attended the free event in 2016. (Mild weather helped account for 180,000 visitors in 2015).
- \$60,000 will be donated back to the non-profit groups that assisted with set-up, tear-down and evening volunteer help during the event. (\$60,000 in 2015, \$50,000 in 2014, \$40,000 in 2013 and \$30,000 in 2012). Remaining proceeds will go to help offset expenses and to improve the event in future years.
- 84 non-profit groups participated, providing 12,089 volunteer hours with 1,735 volunteers participating. Funds will be dispersed to the non-profit participants based on a formula that includes volunteer assistance with set-up, tear-down and nightly operations. Participating non-profit groups also

received a tree that they could decorate along the walking path.

- For the third year, visitors were encouraged to vote on their favorite non-profit tree this year.

Winners were; 1st place – Open Door Health Center received a \$300 prize; 2nd Place – BENCHS received a \$150 prize; 3rd Place – One Bright Star received a \$50

- Over 4,500 children visited Santa and each received a free book courtesy of Capstone
- 51 Greater Mankato businesses participated as cash sponsors, showing continued support for the annual event
- An additional 35 businesses participated as in-kind sponsors
- 11.5 tons of food was collected by 20 area food shelves
- The opening night parade was presented by the Mankato Area Derby Girls. The winner of the \$500 float contest was Anthony Ford Fund.
- Over 1.35 million energy-efficient LED lights glowed brightly throughout the event, with the electricity costing less than \$50 a night!
- Thirty-one area restaurants donated food to help feed the volunteers during the event, as well as during set-up and tear-down
- Four live reindeer were again on display for the duration of the event.
- The opening parade and lighting ceremony for the 2017 Kiwanis Holiday Lights season will be November 24, 2017.

5-YEAR TOTALS FOR KIWANIS HOLIDAY LIGHTS

70.5 tons of food has been collected for area food shelves

\$240,000 has been donated to the non-profits who have provided volunteers Over 600,000 people have visited the event to date

About Kiwanis Holiday Lights:

Kiwanis Holiday Lights was established in 2012 by members of the Mankato Downtown Kiwanis Club. Presenting sponsors are the Mankato Area Foundation and CHS. The mission of Kiwanis Holiday Lights mission is “Create a celebration of Holiday Lights for the Greater Mankato Area that builds on past traditions and promotes the communities we serve, while raising non-perishable food donations for those in need.” The free event is held each year in Sibley Park in Mankato, MN. Cash and food donations are accepted each night.

Willmar Kiwanis “Peanut Partner” Check Presentation - 1/13/2017

Club: Willmar - Submitted by: Maribeth Williamson

Each year since 2008, the Willmar Kiwanis has embarked on a “peanut” fundraiser. The club solicits grant applications from non-profits throughout the community. The projects are reviewed and evaluated by the Grants Committee and a winner is selected. This winner is the “Peanut Partner” for the fundraising campaign. The Kiwanis Club then goes to work seeking donations from businesses and individuals in exchange for a box of peanuts. Over the years, the Kiwanis Club has donated over \$80,000 to various “peanut partners.” A large percentage of the campaign funds go to the “peanut partner;” however, smaller donations are also made to other nonprofits throughout the community.



The following have been “Peanut Partners” over the years:

- Safe Avenues – Playground for Kids
- YMCA Mentoring Program
- Willmar Public Library – Homework Help Program
- Harmony Visitation Center
- Willmar Public Schools Child Guide Program – Wheels for Kids
- United Way & Willmar Food Shelf – Support for Growmobile
- West Central Industries – Lego Program for Challenged Youth
- United Way Imagination Library & Little Free Libraries
- Willmar Community Ed & Rec – Scholarship Fund

The 2016 “Peanut Partner” is Willmar Community Ed & Rec – Scholarship Fund.

Kindness in Spearfish Award - 1/2/2017

Club: Spearfish - Submitted by: Kay Cox

Marna Bergstrom -Third quarter Kindness in Spearfish recipient- Kiwanis Club of Spearfish

Since 2004, when Keith and Marna Bergstrom moved to Spearfish from California, our community has become a much brighter place. Marna has tirelessly volunteered at various organizations including, 1) The CASA Program for 8-9 years, the Good Shepherd Clinic for 7 years, Queen City Medical (as a greeter) for 9 months, The Happy Times Band (playing a kazoo) for 5 years, and has been very active in her church, the United Church of Christ.

Marna also does numerous behind-the-scenes projects that have benefitted many. After finding out that

several of the patients at the Good Shepherd Clinic had inadequate bedding for the winter Marna was the driving force behind a call for blankets from various churches and organizations. She also has routinely supplied supply toys, blankets, winter clothing and other items to workers who serve a low-income population. Most recently she enlisted the help of members of her church and took goodie trays to local law enforcement officials to let them know their community was behind them.

It was for these reasons and many more that Marna was chosen by the Kiwanis Club of Spearfish to be the third quarter "Hidden Hero" through their Kindness in Spearfish project. When given the choice between having her membership fees paid for one year to the club or donating money to her favorite charity, Marna selflessly chose the Good Shepherd Clinic to be the recipient of a \$100 gift.

The Kiwanis Club is proud to honor Marna and is looking forward to receiving other nominations from the community through their website www.kindnessinspearfish.com. Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time. Meetings are held weekly on Fridays, 12:00 pm, at Roma's Ristorante and guests are always welcome.