



Kiwanis

MINNEKOTAN

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March 2016

Message from the District Governor

Submitted by: Kent Hochgraber, District Governor

This last week of February your Governor will be spending time in Groton and Brookings, South Dakota. We start with a visit in Groton on Wednesday and end up in Brookings on Thursday. Then I will be spending time at the Circle-K Convention in Brookings this weekend. This should be an exciting time as these young folks know how to have a good time. I will have a chance to visit with Bruce Berven, our International Board Trustee who is also attending the Circle-K Convention.



The second weekend in April I will travel to Hot Springs, SD for a Governor's visit and the end of April to Chisholm and Duluth for a Governor's Visit. We have several other regions that are looking at dates for their Education Conference and Governor Visits. Looks like April and May will begin to be busy months.

Our Main theme of course is "GETTING BACK TO THE BASICS". We need to spend more time in membership and recruiting new Kiwanis members. We will also be talking about the District Convention coming up in August in Fergus Falls. We will be having a GREAT convention. I have heard about some of the plans and this will be a convention to attend.

Remember the Theme starting March 1st is MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP. Just ask someone to come to the meeting with you.

See you along the trail!!!

Kent

March Update

Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas



Lt. Governor Elect Candidates: We are still in need of Lt. Governor Elect Candidates for 2016-2017 in some divisions. Contact your current Lt. Governor if interested. The Lt. Governor Education program will take place on August 4th in Fergus Falls.

Member contact information: Remember that members can update their own contact information and other information that is on record with the Kiwanis International database. If your email address, regular mailing address changes, etc. you can go at any time and make those updates on your record. Just go to the following link. If you do not have a password you will be asked to create one. Give it a try. See if your information is up to date. Here is the link to the login page [Click here](#)

District Kiwanis Convention: Mark your calendars....the Minnesota-Dakotas District Convention will be held August 5-7, 2016 in Fergus Falls, MN. All clubs should be represented at this annual convention.

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

Club Elections: Just another reminder that your club election report will be due June 1st. The annual election of club officers should be done at the club annual meeting as specified in the Standard Club Bylaws.

Kiwanis International Convention in Toronto, June 23-26, 2016: Remember the price of registration increases on April 15th, so if you are planning to go register now. Be sure to check the convention schedule so that you arrive in time for all of the important events and activities. One thing that is not listed on the International Convention schedule are the District Caucus meeting times. *The meeting time for the Minnesota-Dakotas District Caucus will be Thursday afternoon, June 23 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Centre Hotel.*

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

Besides registering, be sure to report your club's two International Convention delegates and two alternates to the International Office by April 30 on the Delegate Certification Form. To download the Delegate form [Click here](#)

District Kiwanis Tri-K Board Meeting: The meeting was held January 22 & 23, 2016. The minutes of the meeting can be found on the district website. [Click here](#)

Lt. Governor Education: The Lt. Governor Education Conference for the 2016-2017 Lt. Governor Teams will be held August 4 in Fergus Falls just prior to the District Convention.

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office Contact Information:

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Dan Leikvold Announces Candidacy for District Governor Elect- 2016-2017

District: Minnesota-Dakotas

Dan Leikvold of the Lead, South Dakota Kiwanis Club has announced his candidacy for District Governor Elect- 2016-2017. The election for this position will take place at the District Kiwanis Convention in Fergus Falls on August 6, 2016. Following is some background information from Dan.

I live in Lead, South Dakota. My wife Tracy and I have a daughter, Taylor and a son, Braeden. We enjoy hiking, biking, skiing and walking our dogs in the beautiful Black Hills. We relish spending time with family and being able to travel to interesting places.

*I have worked as a school teacher, principal, and superintendent for the last thirty-two years. I have been a member of the Lead Kiwanis Club for eleven years. I have been the President of the Lead Club and in 2014-2015, I was the Lt. Governor of Division IV. In these roles, I have tried to "serve the children of the world" and believe strongly in the **six permanent Objects of Kiwanis International**.*

In addition to Kiwanis, I serve on several boards, including the Lead and Deadwood Chambers of Commerce, Northern Hills Junior Achievement, Dakota Land Trust, Northern Hills Alliance for Children, Lead-Deadwood Community Foundation, Meals on Wheels volunteer, and the Friends of South Dakota Public Broadcasting.



District Leadership

Submitted by: Peter Larson

Have you ever wondered about what Kiwanis International is all about? Would you like to expand your understanding of what Kiwanis is doing outside of your own club? Do you want to be part of the articles you read in the Kiwanis magazine? Think about joining the Minnesota Dakotas Leadership team. We need Lt. Governor Elects, we need someone to coordinate the K-Kids program in the district, and a Youth Protection Manager.

All you need to do is contact myself at plarson@midco.net or Leadership Development Coordinator: Judie Rosendahl at mjrose@frontiernet.net and we can advise you about the job description and responsibilities that come with these positions. Please think about joining, the feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment in serving is priceless.



How Do We Attract Young Professionals

Submitted by: Bruce Klair

I constantly hear that we cannot attract younger members. Younger members do not want to volunteer. The Generation Xers and the Millennials are too involved in their lives to be in our club. You're probably right. Young people do not want to be a part of all the trappings of your present Kiwanis club. But they do volunteer. Did you know that the 33 to 44 year old age group have the highest percentage of volunteer participation of any age group? (31% according to one study). But they want to volunteer on their own time, at their own schedule, doing things that they can see are making a difference to their communities.



Young professionals bring great ideas and energy to any club. There are a few simple things you can do to engage these folks:

Be tech savvy. A well-maintained online presence lets potential members know your club is smart and up to date. So update your website. Communicate via email. Post projects and club conversation on social media.

Be flexible. Make meals and meetings optional. Many clubs include the cost of the meals right in their membership dues. Young professionals may find this cumbersome or too expensive. Explore options for accepting electronic payments, such as PayPal or a Square credit card reader. Consider satellite membership for members unable to meet at your current time. Have a "contemporary" meeting once a month with a different format or at a different time or place to accommodate these folks who can't be at a regular meeting.

Show your impact. Young professionals are results-driven. Make sure they see what happens when members give time, talent or treasure. Ask these young people what service projects they would like to see the club involved in.

Whether we like it or not, the world is changing, and Kiwanis must change with it. Let's reach out to these young professionals and find out what it would take to get them into the Kiwanis family.

District Kiwanis Convention Corner

Submitted by: Judie Rosendahl, District Convention Director

The Convention Committee is hard at work planning a great convention for all of us in Fergus Falls on August 5-7, 2016! We are making some changes and our goal is to make the convention relative to everyone! We trust that you will come away from the convention feeling rejuvenated and eager to do more "to improve the world, one child and one community at a time."



We are looking for vendors to display their products. We are planning a vendor reception where everyone will hear a little about the vendors product. We anticipate that will be a positive experience for both vendors and the Kiwanians. Please encourage anyone you know to take part in our convention as a vendor. Please let Sarah Gasevic (701-799-7998) know of anyone you think of so she can make the needed contacts. Please mark your calendars now to join your fellow Kiwanians in Fergus Falls August 5-7!

Kiwanis Service

Submitted by: Al Vanderlaan, District Service Director

Thank you Kiwanis for all the great service projects I keep hearing about.

The Book projects seem one of the main drives and connecting factors throughout the MnDak district. Please continue to work on new locations to place an Oasis. From my experience so far I think if you have trouble in the public schools pushing back, contact the private schools. The three Christian schools Watertown worked with seem to have greater needs than the public schools. They are more appreciative in my experience. So was the Boys and Girls club. Remember any place where you put an Oasis has to have a school associated with it.

The SMIF book project is in good hands with Darryl Meyer heading up the program. Jim Bock is looking into doing the same thing with the southwestern area, SWIF. They contacted me a month ago and said they wanted to explore the same program with Kiwanis as the SMIF. Good job guys. Help Darryl and Jim as much as possible. Thanks.

Remember that there are more than one level of participation with Scholastic Oasis. There are Six ! 1) \$ 8,000 2) \$5,500 3)\$2,750 4)\$2,200 5) \$1,100 6) \$550 . Ask about details if you are interested. Contact Stephanie Davern 952-843-8481 from Scholastic books with any interest you may have. Remember to consider asking for money for these programs from other sources other than current money making projects. A club member or a business person or a wealthy individual in your area may provide funds if you only ask. That is how Watertown put five Oasis locations in South Dakota.

I look forward to working with you, just ask. Thanks. Al



Kiwanis Interclub Award Criteria Changed

Submitted by: Steve Handegaard, District Sec/Treas

Please note that the criteria for receiving the Interclub Award has changed. At the recent District Kiwanis Board meeting the board changed the number of unique required visits from 8 to 6. See more information about the award on our website. [click here](#)

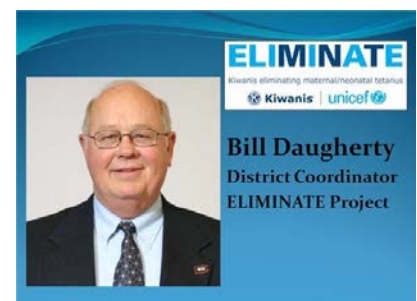


Eliminate Project

Submitted by: Bill Daugherty

We have reached the pledge goal of \$110 Million dollars. The pledge of about \$3 Million from the International Foundation added to the \$107 Million dollars pledged by individuals and clubs made this possible. Now we have to ensure that the club pledges are reached so that we truly can eliminate MNT in the World.

Here in Minn-Dak we have NINE clubs that have exceeded their model club



pledge. What's great is they haven't stopped. They are continuing to raise dollars for the Project. I believe the next report from Kiwanis International will show another 8-10 clubs that have met their pledge amounts.

We still need the donations of many individuals to the Zeller level to ensure that we meet our goal of \$3 Million. We are half way there now. Please consider donating \$1250 for your Zeller award. Thanks to all!

TODAY, TOMORROW, FOREVER

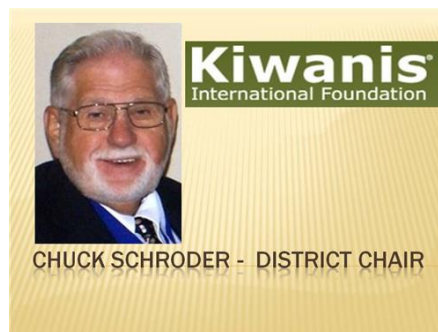
Submitted by: E. Chuck Schroder

TODAY. With annual gifts to the Kiwanis Children's Fund (Kiwanis International Foundation Annual Gift) donors extend their impact by supporting programs and initiatives that help Kiwanian's change the lives of children TODAY.

TOMORROW. With our Global Campaign for Children, the Kiwanis family makes a positive impact on the lives of Children worldwide. The campaign gift a club or person makes now will change the world tomorrow. As you likely know, Kiwanis has partnered with UNICEF for the Eliminate Project. The Kiwanis family is helping change history by raising US\$110 million to eliminate maternal and Neonatal tetanus.

FOREVER. With a planned gift to our foundation, a donor can change children's lives even beyond his or her own lifetime. A donor's estate doesn't have to be large to make a difference. The Kiwanis International Foundation can help people explore gifts that make sense for their circumstances-and make kindness a part of their legacy.

Now is the time for your club to make that \$10.00 gift pr member or more if this is what you want. If any of you have any questions on the above, please contact me. LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE.



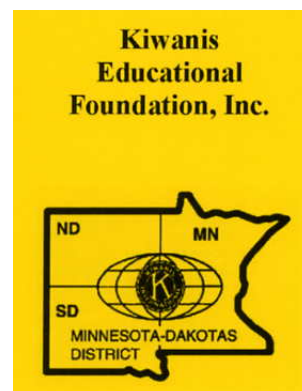
Scholarship Judging Time

Submitted by: Bill Daugherty

It is scholarship judging time in Minn-Dak. In each of our divisions groups of three Kiwanians are reviewing scholarship apps from High School Seniors from our three States. This year we have received 197 applications. In Division 5 we are evaluating 39 applications. This process is to be completed by March 25th. Each Division reviews applications from a different division. The scholarship amount this year is \$856 which will be awarded to 55 students. The student must attend a college or university in the District.

The students are evaluated on six different categories with different points allocated per category. The categories with points are: Academics (15); School Activities (15); Community Service (20); Need (10); Applicant letter (30) and Letter of Recommendation (10).

It is a good experience to review and judge the applications. All the applicants have different strengths that we must judge and score to determine the final score. This information is then sent to Jack Zierdt, Secretary/Treasurer of our Educational Foundation for final selections.



Kiwanis Club of South Suburban Twin Cities

Submitted by: Gail Heyda, Club Secretary

"Feed My Starving Children" packaging meal event took place in Apple Valley on Saturday, 2-6-16 where 1000 volunteers attended. The Kiwanis Club of South Suburban Twin Cities including Amy, Troy, Gail, Courtney and Delaney joined the Lakeville HS Key Club members including VP Hanna, Melissa and several others pack meals. By the end of the event, over 4 million meals were packaged! The Key Club members enjoyed the time together and we hope to continue to be involved in more service projects together. We look forward to our next project!



Legacy High Key Club Chartered

Submitted by: Paul Schadewald, Bismarck Kiwanis

Bismarck, North Dakota has grown a lot in the past 10 years. In August 2016 a new high school opened in northeast Bismarck. It is a wonderfully designed facility that is one of the best in North Dakota and is called Legacy High School. A new high school provided an opportunity for a new Key Club. High school staff and students worked with the Bismarck Kiwanis Club to organize our second Key Club. The club chartering documents were submitted to Kiwanis International in January 2016. The newly chartered Legacy Key Club received their gavel and stand from Kiwanis International on February 24th. Thank you to Gina Solemsaas, Legacy teacher and Key Club advisor for working with these great students. Bismarck Kiwanis member Reva Kautz is our club liaison. The Bismarck Kiwanis Club helped by paying startup costs.



The Key Club has already completed a service project. They made 18 fleece blankets and gave them to Diane Zainhofsky from the Abused Adult Resource Center for families in shelters. The Bismarck Kiwanis Club's annual pancake breakfast is scheduled for April 3rd and Key Clubs from both Bismarck High School and Legacy High School will assist in making this fundraising event a success.

Photo: Legacy High Key Club officers with gavel.

Grand Forks Aktion Club Chartered

Club: Grand Forks - Submitted by: Paul Fladland, Pres-Elect



Pictured at the November 5, 2015 Grand Forks, ND Aktion Club Kiwanis Charter Banner Presentation are from left to right: Tracy Livingood, Pres; Paul Fladland Club Advisor and Jay Almlie, Pres of Grand Forks Kiwanis (sponsoring club); Jill Brenna, Sec; Alexandra Johnson Champlin, Aktion Club Coordinator. Although the club had been meeting monthly since the fall of 2014, it took awhile to get signatures from guardians/members. The club chartered with 20 members and they normally do a project each month making gifts to deliver to folks

at skilled nursing facilities in the community, and, will be involved in the future with Grand Forks Kiwanis for local projects and our annual picnic at Kiwanis Park. The meetings are lively, include National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance, club business, treats and occasional presenters. We are proud to have this club added to Kiwanis International and the newest Aktion Club in our District.

Kiwanis Club of Minot willing to stay up all night!

Club: Minot - Submitted by: Carla Dolan

The Kiwanis Club of Minot will be in need of sleep after April 2, but it's all for a good cause. This is their annual Minot High School After Prom Party. The group has been holding the event for more than 30 years. Their hope is to keep juniors and seniors safe the night of prom by offering them a chance to continue celebrating into the wee hours of the morning. Kiwanis offers food, games, and fantastic prizes! Fifty members are needed to make this successful and those members



unable to attend that night will help by securing prizes and funding. The group effort pays off as hundreds of students attend each year. So be sure not to call any of us on Sunday, April 3, we surely will be sleeping!

ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ

Moorhead High Key Club Delivers Books

2/23/2016 - Club: Moorhead - Submitted by: Peter Larson

Treasurer Tanner and Secretary Olivia of the Moorhead High School Key Club delivered over 200 slightly used Scholastic books to Churches United, a Moorhead, MN. shelter for the homeless. These books were collected from the Key Club members own libraries since the start of the year to provide reading material for the children and young adults living at Churches United. Nick, who holds a reading session for the young children was very happy to have new age appropriate material to read to them and will encourage others at the shelter to read these almost new books. Learning to read is the most important gift a person can receive. It is hoped that these books will encourage those young minds at Churches United to explore the world around them through the adventures in these books.



Zeller Award Winner

Club: Fargo South Point - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn

The Fargo South Point Kiwanis Club presented a Zeller award to one of its very fine members, Lowell Johnson. Lowell is a retired college instructor and a very loyal and hardworking member of the Fargo South Point Kiwanis club. The South Point Kiwanis Club provided 9 Zeller awards during the time they were working on their Model club status that they achieved when they completed their pledged amount.

Loyal members like Lowell are the back bone of Kiwanis and we are very proud to have him in our club. Other Zellers were presented to other members and family members, as well as one that honored a very hard working office manager and secretary of Madison Elementary school.



Valentine Singing

Club: Olivia - Submitted by: Don Orth

Hi Kiwanians. Don Orth here.....Secretary of the Club in Olivia, MN.

On Valentine's Day, 1977, my son died of a brain tumor. He was a 17 year old senior at BOLD High School. He was a four sport athlete, good student, in band and choir, and headed for College at St. John's University. He survived the disease for 14 months and died in our living room at 12:40 PM on February 14th, Valentine's Day.

I didn't know how I would ever get over this. I didn't know how I would survive future Valentine's Days. Then in 1998 our Kiwanis Club was looking for a fund raiser and we read in the Willmar newspaper about a group of Barbershop singers that traveled the area singing to people on Valentine's Day. We thought, I bet we could do that.

So, we made some calls to area singers and rounded up enough guys who could sing in each of the four parts and formed one quartet and began practicing. We found old barbershop books in area music stores and picked about 6 songs written in old barbershop style from the early 1900's. We practiced in the conference room of my Bank.....HomeTown Bank of Olivia. We started working on those songs in October and by Valentine's Day of 1998 we thought we knew the songs well enough to try and hit the road.



We advertised a bit in the local newspaper and radio and put up fliers. HomeTown Bank gave us some money to offset expenses. Most of us were in other choirs in the area and decided to wear our tuxedo look that we used with the Woodbury Choir.

So with a bit of trepidation, we were interviewed on the radio station early that first Valentine's Day and sang one of our songs on the radio. After that, we all fought off the urge to just go to the bar. Instead we went to the Renville County Court House and sang our songs in the Rotunda. Wow, that went pretty good. The acoustics were great and it made us sound like a choir. It pumped us up so off we went spending the day singing to ladies around Renville County who were in total shock and surprise to see us come. We sang about 3 songs at each stop and gave each lady a rose. The reactions were everything from joy toI wish you were singing to someone else.

By the end of the day, we sang to about 25 people and made about \$625 for our Club before expenses. But we had the time of our lives and we thought it was a Valentine highlight for many of our "victims".

If I did the math right, that was 19 years ago. We are still doing it. But now we are up to 2-3 men's quartets and a ladies quartet. We know about 30 songs but still stick to the old songs that are mostly 100 years old. Each group now sings to about 50 people on Valentine's Day and we cover Renville County and one of our groups spends the afternoon singing in Willmar. We now make two to three thousand dollars and use most of the money to buy bike helmets for kids in the area.

We sing mostly in schools, and nursing homes, and places of work and retail stores and restaurants. Each stop is an experience that is unforgettable. It would make a great book. This year, a highlight was singing to a group of Kiwanians from the Willmar Kiwanis Club in a local coffee shop.

For me personally, this project has become a win - win - win. Our Club makes some money. The recipients love us, and I get to spend the day laughing and singing with good pals instead of thinking of the past.

Any thoughts or questions, you can contact me at doncorth@gmail.com.

Ukuleles at Bennett School

Club: Fargo South Point - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn

Fargo South Point Kiwanis Club members donated Ukuleles to Bennett Elementary School. This is the second Elementary school in the Fargo area to receive Ukuleles for the music program. Madison School received the same gift a year ago. The donation includes a teaching ukulele for the teacher and 5 student ukuleles for the students.



This form of music is a method of teaching the fundamentals of music and has also become a very popular method of teaching music.

The South Point members have also targeted more schools in the area that will be receiving this type of gift in the future.

Builders Club packages food for starving children

Club: Moorhead - Submitted by: Peter Larson

Horizon Middle School Builders Club members and Moorhead Kiwanis members along with many other community members worked a two hour Feed My Starving Children shift in Fargo, ND. This was a Builders Club service project where they selected the project and the Kiwanis members helped. During this shift over 49,000 meals were packaged to provide nutritious meals for starving children around the world. Loud, fast music kept the energy up for the entire shift which left us tired but very satisfied with the results of our labor. After the event, the Builders Club continued our day of service by working at the FM Emergency Food Pantry for another 3 hours. We repackaged bulk pinto beans and broke down cases of Mac & cheese meals and Cat food. We also sorted food donations for the food pantry. These service projects demonstrated the Kiwanis Defining Statement of serving both the children of the world and our own community.



LEAD-DEADWOOD KIWANIS CLUBS CELEBRATE

Club: Lead and Deadwood- Submitted by: Bob Phillips and Dan Leikvold

The Kiwanis-Family of Lead-Deadwood recently held an "All Club Meeting" of the four Kiwanis Clubs in the local area. Over sixty-five members and guests enjoyed an evening of entertainment, food, and information as well as getting to know people from the other local clubs. The meal, catered by Lotus Up in Lead, was enjoyed by guests from Hot Springs, Sturgis and Rapid City who joined in the festivities that took place Monday, February 8, 2016, at the CMC in Lead.



The idea for the affair came from Past Lt. Governor Dan Leikvold and involved the Lead-Deadwood Middle School Builders Club, the Lead-Deadwood High School Key Club, the Kiwanis Noon Club and the parent club, the Kiwanis Club of Lead. Special recognition was given to Wendy Schamber for her work in leading both the Builders Club and the Key Club.

President Otto Hallberg presided over the meeting with Bob Phillips leading the program which consisted of a brief history of the local club which just celebrated its 90th birthday, having been founded in Lead in 1925. Also included in the program was an introduction period of everyone in attendance, a community sing-along led by Stan Angle, and a special presentation by Mr. Dean Peterson and two of his singing students who were going to be presenting their selections later in the week at Contest, Gracie Kosters and Dylan Arehart.

Special guests included Past Minn-Dak Governor Sharon Scudder of Rapid City, current Lt. Governor Vern Hagedorn of Hot Springs, Past Lt. Governor Dan Leikvold of Lead, Lt. Governor Elect Debbie Looby of Sturgis, Minn-Dak Circle K Governor Kate Ross of Rapid City and Key Club Lt. Governor Alli Engel of Lead.

The Noon Kiwanis Club meets at the Stampmill at noon on Wednesdays and the Kiwanis Club of Lead meets at 6:00 p.m. Monday at the Lotus Up. Anyone interested in more information or in joining a club, contact Secretary Mona Tinker at 584-1777 or Bob Phillips at 584-1326.

Harvey Kiwanis Sponsors Boy Scout Charter

Club: Harvey - Submitted by: Sandy Teubner

Harvey Kiwanis Group President, Sandy Teubner, presented Mark Friedt, Boy Scout Troup #534 committee chairperson, with a check for their 2015 Boy Scout Charter. They have been a sponsor for number of years and enjoy having the connection with the Boy Scouts. Harvey Kiwanis just finished their fall/winter fundraiser project which is collecting deer hides from community hunters in dumpsters that are then picked up by a dealer in furs/hides. Proceeds are then added to our project fund to cover such projects as the Boy Scout Charter and school supplies for Back to School Day. Our current project is raising funds for playground equipment in



Centennial Park. Look for more info to follow in the future.....we are excited about this BIG PROJECT!!

Fridley Key Club Donates Blankets to Bridging

Club: Columbia Heights-Fridley Submitted by: Katie Stevenson

A giant chocolate ganache cake greeted Fran Heitzmen as he descended the steps of the Fridley auditorium on Thursday, February 25th, to receive a gift from the Fridley Key Club. Fran, the founder of the non-profit Bridging, had come to collect the 105 blankets made by Key Clubbers throughout the year for a project they called Blankets for Bridging.

Students, advisors and project partners had spent the year buying fleece, tying blankets and soliciting donations for Bridging, the largest furniture bank in North America. With warehouse locations in Roseville and Bloomington, Bridging has furnished over 70,000 homes since its foundation in 1987. Over 240 people come through the doors each week, and Bridging tries to give each person their own blanket. The blankets the Key Clubbers have made will go directly towards that ministry.

Over cake to celebrate Fran's 91st birthday and the completion of the project, he told the gathered Key Clubbers how proud and grateful he was that they had put the time and effort into this project. Telling stories of those directly impacted by Bridging's work, Fran teared up as he reminded students, "When good people get together to do good things, good things happen."

Blankets for Bridging started as the brainchild of Kiwanis Advisor Mary Bowen in the fall of 2015, and she worked with members to make the vision a reality. "Mary had this idea that we should have a goal of 91 blankets, in honor of Fran's 91st birthday. I think we partnered with every known service group in Fridley to make the [105 blankets] happen," said Key Club president Kati Stevenson, who helped organize the project. Fridley Key Club worked with the Fridley Middle School Builder's Club, the JAMS Ladies, Messiah Lutheran Church and other individuals in order to reach their goal.

After the short program, Key Clubbers sang a rousing "Happy Birthday" to Fran and got to chow down on the chocolate cake. They then packed up the car with the 105 blankets; many were surprised that they all fit. Bridging's Volunteer and Program Supervisor, Wendy Erickson, who accompanied Fran, reiterated her thanks for the donation. "You've made a huge difference in lives of families in need. Thank you for being awesome!"

Fridley Key Club will continue to work with Bridging throughout the year. On March 15th, members will volunteer in the very warehouse where their blankets are currently being distributed. On April 2nd, Key Clubbers from across the Twin Cities will come together for Kiwanis One Day, where adults, college students and high schoolers build dressers for Bridging.

For now, Fran is happily passing out his new 105 blankets to families in need, and the Fridley Key Club looks forward to all the people and projects they will serve in the coming months.

Mankato Kiwanis Book Project

2/24/2016 - Club: Mankato Submitted by Karen Rekstein

The Mankato Kiwanis is on a mission to give out as many books as possible to children who may not have them. See news article in the local newspaper for more information. [Click here](#)