

# Buckeye Bulletin

Ohio Kiwanis Newsletter

May 2018

**Dan Litzinger**  
**Governor**  
**Dan@ohiokiwaniis.net**



## Governor's Message

First Lady Barb and I have been very busy visiting many Divisions the past month and thank you to all who that hosted us. We are constantly amazed with the service and fund raisers we have witnessed from the Clubs in every Division. The support for the First Family Project has been tremendous. We will have a lot of funds to make Grants to Clubs for weekend

food packs at the end of our year.

The North Coast Blitz for building eight new Clubs will be underway May 6<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a huge effort with dozens of volunteers both from Ohio and across the Country coming to help. I want to sincerely thank all of you that have given your time to help on this effort and to those who will be there for the week helping make this a success. If you are reading this and wish to help please let me know.

We are planning a reception for Ohio at the Convention in Las Vegas on Friday June 29<sup>th</sup> around 6:00 pm. The event will consist of a nice selection of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The cost is \$50.00 per person of which the District will pick up \$25.00 of the cost and Dave Whitman will be sending out a request for tickets for \$25.00 each for those that want to attend to cover the cost. This will be in the Skyview Room of Ballys. It is my hope that everyone who is attending the Convention will plan on attending as it will be an excellent opportunity to fellowship with fellow Kiwanians.

I have been very happy with the growth of the District so far this year. Bill Pees is working on a membership month in June so please watch your e-mail for more information. We are celebrating a new Club, the Kiwanis Club of Champaign County. This club chartered in April. I also would like to point out that Jim Janosik is close to charting a Club in Sunbury, Ohio, and the Downtown Columbus Club along with Division 10-W is making great progress on a new Club in the Short North area of Columbus, so stay tuned.

I challenge all of our Clubs to stay in touch with the SLP'S they sponsor as well as look for opportunities for new ones as I don't have to tell you this is the best thing Kiwanis does. We have had several SLP'S form in the last few month. Thank you to those that helped facilitate that, but we still have a long way to go.

In closing I want to say my perception this year is that we have about forty percent of Ohio Kiwanians who really do not want to see their Clubs grow. This is very sad for me as I travel around and see all the good work this forty percent does in their Communities. It is hard for me to comprehend why they do not want to see this continue long after they are gone. This is why the future is full of opportunities for Kiwanis, and the impact I can make is what fulfills my life.

## District Secretary's Notes

As you receive this newsletter, less than 5 months of the Kiwanis Year remain. On a bittersweet note, that same amount of time is remaining in my tenure as your District Secretary. While I look forward to retirement and spending more time with my grandchildren, I will miss working with the members of the clubs and divisions of the Ohio District. I am extremely pleased that Lanton Lee has agreed to replace me when the Kiwanis year ends on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find more information about Lanton and his prior experience working with different branches of the Kiwanis Family.

**Dave Whiteman**  
**District Secretary**  
Secretary@OhioKiwanis.org



### **Membership Growth**

At this point in the year, the district Formula Team has built three new clubs in the district and it is also obvious that membership growth is a major commitment for many clubs. The number of member adds reaching my desk each day far outweighs the number of member deletes. As of April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Ohio District has increased by 270 members over our membership count on September 30, 2017. With the New Club Opening Blitz next week in the Cleveland Area, we anticipate opening several additional new clubs! Please keep working on membership throughout the year to make up for the expected losses in September!

### **Annual Club Elections**

During the month of May, all Kiwanis clubs should be holding club elections to guarantee that the future of the club remains bright. In 2017, significantly less than 1/2 of our Ohio District Clubs reported their Club Election Report online through Kiwanis Connect. What effect does that have? It makes it very difficult for Kiwanis International to produce a complete International Directory and it adds extra work for our staff in the district office to obtain accurate information for our District Directory. Please make sure this does not happen in 2018. Remind your Club Secretary to file the Club Election Report online immediately following your club elections!

### **Club Leadership Education**

Club Leadership Education (CLE) sessions are scheduled throughout the district over the next few weeks. Please check out the Club Leadership Education page on our district website at [www.ohiokiwanis.org](http://www.ohiokiwanis.org) to find more information, including a schedule of upcoming locations. There is also a link on that page to register online for a session near you.

### **International Convention**

The deadline for registering online for the International Convention in Las Vegas is May 18<sup>th</sup>. After that date you will need to register on-site. Do not let this stop you from attending. Las Vegas is a wonderful convention city. Remember that we will be trying to elect our own John DeVilbiss as Vice-President of Kiwanis International. Remember to review the bylaw amendments on the Kiwanis International Website to be prepared to vote on these changes. One is of interest to all members. The permanent reinstatement of the Family Membership class is being presented by a club in the Pacific Northwest District. Governor Dan is planning for a reception on Friday evening in Las Vegas for Ohio District members. Watch for more information to come!

#### **Have news to share?**

The Buckeye Bulletin is always looking to share good news about the terrific service that our clubs are doing. To share your club's story in the Buckeye Bulletin, please submit an attached photo of your club members in action. A brief description of the project and who will be benefitting from the activity should be included. If this is a signature project or a new project that information should be included as well.

You never know, your project could inspire another club in the district to do something similar in their community. We are also interested in your Service Leadership Program clubs' activities, since they often do amazing projects with minimal resources available to them.

Send articles to: [secretary@ohiokiwanis.org](mailto:secretary@ohiokiwanis.org). We will use them as space allows.

## **Fellow Kiwanis Leaders,**

The Ohio District of Kiwanis International Board is pleased to announce the hiring of Lanton Lee as our next District Secretary/Executive Director. Lanton's employment will begin July 2, 2018 and he will replace Dave Whiteman when he retires effective September 30, 2018 after twenty years of service to the Ohio District of Kiwanis International.

Lanton will serve the District on a full-time basis and his duties will include responsibility for all the administrative duties of running our District as well as focusing on membership growth by working with our Clubs, Divisions and membership committees to strengthen and grow Kiwanis throughout Ohio.

Lanton has been a member of the Kiwanis family for over thirty years having served as Ohio Circle K Governor while at The Ohio State University. Lanton's entire adult career has involved serving others with approximately 15 years of University employment before joining Kiwanis International staff in 2002 serving in a number of roles, most recently as an Area Director and Regional Development Strategist.

Lanton, an avid Ohio State University alumni and fan, resides in Hilliard, Ohio with his wife Lori and two children, all members of the Kiwanis family.

Please join us in welcoming Lanton to his new role with Ohio Kiwanis.

Yours in Kiwanis Service,

Bill Flinta  
Immediate Past Governor  
Ohio District of Kiwanis International



## **Noah Malik**

### **Governor**

### **Ohio District Key Club**

**noahsatish@gmail.com**



## **Hello Ohio Kiwanis,**

My name is Noah Malik, your 2018-2019 Governor of the Ohio District of Key Club International. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity to serve you all this year. It is truly an honor. It was only about a month ago that I was elected at the 2018 District Leadership Conference (DCON/DLC) in March. With roughly 270 in attendance, we had a very successful convention. At DLC, we also elected our new Secretary-Treasurer, Lillie Swinehart,

and Bulletin Editor, Charlie Adams. As an LTG, I had the pleasure of serving alongside both of them last year. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside them again this year. In the last few days, we also appointed our new District Historian, Noah Lowery, and District Webmaster, Betsy Myers. It will be an honor serving alongside them as well.

To me, the best thing about Key Club is that it is so much more than just a service club. It is an opportunity to gain valuable leadership skills, lifetime friendships, and so much more. But if we want every Ohio Key Clubber to leave with this one-of-a-kind experience, then we must expose them to Key Club at the higher levels. Broadly speaking, this is my main objective for the year: fostering more interaction between Ohio Key Clubbers and the greater Ohio District. There are several steps that our board will take this year to make this a reality. For now, our goal is to fill as many vacant Lieutenant Governor (LTG) positions as possible. If we can ensure that every Key Clubber has a liaison between themselves and the district board, then we have achieved the first and most important step in building stronger district-wide relationships. Besides filling vacant LTG positions, I am also working on organizing committees and planning for our board trainer in June.

If there is one thing that I would ask from Kiwanians, it is your support. As Key Clubbers, we look up to Kiwanians. Your advice and guidance truly means a lot. As we go through this next Key Club year, encourage your Key Clubs to play an active role in their divisions and in the broader K-Family. It will surely pay off.

Once again, I am greatly looking forward to serving you all this year. If there is ever anything I can do for you, please do not hesitate to reach out.

## Kiwanis Kids

**Jennifer Lewis**

**Lewis.792@osu.edu**



## A Complete Kiwanis Family starts with K-Kids!

The Kiwanis organization's greatest resource and product are its Service Leadership Programs (SLP). By encouraging your club to open a new SLP club and support its current clubs, you make an impact, provide meaningful service and help our Kiwanis Family grow. SLP success however requires both hands-on and financial support.

K-Kids are future Kiwanians. To keep them involved in community service and Kiwanis, give them the opportunity to continue through Builders Club, Key Club, Circle K, Aktion Club and Key Leader. There are District Administrators for each of these to support you and the advisors. They can recommend resources, advice, and help put SLP Advisors and other clubs in contact with each other. As in any leadership position, matching volunteers' talents with their roles and the club's needs helps ensure they succeed. By creating opportunities for the K-Kids, parents and members to interact at your events and meetings, your resources and membership can grow.

Contests and Awards – Provide clubs, individual students and advisors opportunities to be involved at the international level, compete for prizes and be recognized. Due December 15 and May 1 each year

Costs - Charter a new K-Kids club and invite a Key Club or Circle K to co-sponsor it! The charter fee is \$180-\$300 and renewal fees are \$180 per year.

KiwanisKids.org - Learn more about K-Kids and obtain the forms to charter and start a club  
You can also sponsor Terrific Kids (character building) and Bring Up Grades Programs (academic achievement) program for elementary age students. Kits are available from Kiwanis stores for \$115.

Monthly reports on K-Kids projects, completed online by Kiwanis Kids Advisor

**Help grow our Kiwanis Family and support kids locally by getting involved in K-Kids, Terrific Kids and Bring Up Grades Programs!**



**Second grade KKids at Granville Elementary school** painted pots and planted flower seeds on April 17 for an Earth Day (April 22)

project. The potted plants will be part of a Mother's Day (May 13) service project with the Builder's Club and Aktion Club. Each of the clubs are making flower arrangements and the Aktion Club will sell them for Mother's Day. Last year we started the project. The Aktion Club sold most of the potted arrangements and the KKids and parents delivered 12 donated flower arrangements to the local nursing homes as a service project after their "End of year" celebration. The Aktion Club raised over \$600 for their service projects from this combined effort. Way to go SLPs!



## May is Kiwanis Membership Month

Aristotle suggested that fellowship is the cornerstone of society. People who join organizations, go to conferences, participate in service projects, and attend fund raisers are all about fellowship. Fellowship is partly based on common tastes and interests, and also on mutual admiration and reciprocity. Fellowship, fun, and relevant service are necessary for a club to be effective and have longevity.

### Club Coach

**Diana Keplinger**

**Dk.kiwanis@gmail.com**



The member experience is so important to the health of the club. If members enjoy going to their club meetings they will want to attend, and they will want to share that experience with others. Those are two essential parts of the KI growth Formula.

Here are a few ideas that may help your club maintain the membership you currently have and avoid the loss at the end of this Kiwanis administrative year. We have to be pro-active and start now to stem the tide of member loss. I believe it is essential to having a positive membership growth. Remember, May is Kiwanis Membership month, so it is the perfect time to plan a membership special event to introduce others in your community to the Kiwanis experience.

Here are a few ideas that may help you with club strengthening and membership growth in the months ahead.

Use the "Measuring Membership Satisfaction" survey in your club. It is part of the Achieving Club Excellence tools and can be found at [www.Kiwanisone.org](http://www.Kiwanisone.org) \*. Ask your members what they love about your club. The members that do not attend regularly can provide a wealth of information to help you reduce member loss in September.

Consider having a questionnaire for new members at the end of their first year so that you can determine what they liked or disliked about their experience.

Keep members busy with relevant service projects. New members should have the first opportunity to volunteer on projects. They join because they want to serve and give back to the community.

Above all, have fun and fellowship at each meeting and event. Members will attend if they enjoy the time away from work or other responsibilities and believe it was time well-spent.

If you believe your club could use some help to strengthen your club, please contact me and I will help you find a club coach who will be a good listener, offer sound advice, and support your club in a variety of ways.

Don't wait until September. Use May to begin to build a stronger club and provide more service to the children and others in need in your community. <http://www2.kiwanis.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/measuring-member-satisfaction--fillable.pdf?sfvrsn=0> \* direct link to member satisfaction survey

### **New Albany Key Club**

by Fred Yun, Kiwanis Advisor

\$7,000 of fundraising and more than 3,500 hours of service for 2017-2018. What an accomplishment!!! The 250 plus members of the New Albany Key Club and the New Albany Kiwanis Club are proud of their achievements.

Their service projects are almost too numerous to list----but I will try. They include service to Special Olympics, the 4th of July Parade, the Ronald McDonald House, Thanksgiving Day Breakfast, Valentine's Day Care Packages, letters to Veterans and Parkland School students, stuff the bus with food for the needy, Hurricane Harvey Relief, Holiday Caroling for the Thirst Project, the March for Babies, helping kids shop for Christmas, no slip socks for the Wexner Nursing Home, no sew blankets for the homeless shelter, dog toys, the Pancake Breakfast thanking teachers, cleaning up around Blendon Park and helping Kiwanis with Trivia Night.

At the Key Club Convention, their scrapbook took second place in the scrapbook contest, numerous officers were distinguished and their President Simmi Diwanji was awarded Outstanding President. Also, Key Club Lt. Gov. Noah Malik, a New Albany Club member, ran for and was elected District Key Club Governor. At their banquet, a number of senior Key Club members were presented with medallions, supplied by the New Albany Kiwanis Club, honoring them for more than 30 hours of service.

Quite a successful year for these outstanding students who are dedicated to serving children and their community. Their school, their advisor Mrs. Mary Cook, and the New Albany Kiwanis Club are proud to support such great, caring students.



# KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

June 28–July 1, 2018

Las Vegas, Nevada

On to International  
Convention  
Ruth and Bob Handelman  
Ruth.handelman@gmail.com  
Robert@Handelmanlawoffice.com



Don't miss this opportunity to mix business and pleasure: Attend the Las Vegas convention in 2018 and make international friends!

**There's still time to register!**

Visit <http://www.kiwanis.org/convention/2018/register>

This year's workshops are grouped into 12 subject tracks. Strengthen your knowledge in one subject area or build a diverse schedule.

**How To's** - Learn from members who have created new programs, projects and events in their communities.

**Membership** -To serve more children, you need more members. These workshops offer a glimpse into a variety of successful membership initiatives.

**Leadership** - Challenge yourself to be a better mentor and coach to your peers by learning new tricks.

**Kids Need Kiwanis** - The Kiwanis family changes children's lives every day. These workshops will cover some of the ways our members serve.

**Communities Need Kiwanis** - Our service often supports entire families and communities. Learn about the larger-scale initiatives our districts and clubs are implementing.

**Kiwanis Children's Fund** - Members and staff will share the latest updates and impact from the Kiwanis Children's Fund.

**Partnerships** - Want to learn more about our partners and preferred charities? Join us for workshops, roundtable discussions and O&A sessions.

**Key Leader for Adults** - The concepts of Key Leader also apply to adult life. Experience program sessions that have touched more than 31,000 students worldwide.

**Club Leadership Education** - Club leaders of all experience levels will benefit from these skill-based workshops taught by engaging instructors.

**Young Children: Priority One** - Young Children: Priority One is a Kiwanis International program that addresses the needs of infants and children up to 5 years old. Learn why it's so important and how you can support it.

**Signature Projects** - Ever wonder how an idea turns into a signature project? Listen to club leaders who found unique ways to serve their communities and children.



**Cindy Champer**  
**Ohio MNT Chair**  
**cindychamper@aol.com**



### **Ohio Eliminate Project Moving Forward with Quilt Raffle Fundraiser**

Highlighting this month's new is the sale of tickets for a beautiful quilt to benefit Eliminate. What is most gracious about this is that quilt has been donated by Joanne Whiteman, wife of District Secretary Dave Whiteman. Joanne, like many of us, are passionate about Eliminate and the need to meet our goal. Presently the Ohio District is moving along well with an outstanding balance that needs to be met by 2020 (in 2

years) of \$321,950.02.

So if you are reading this article, please see the photo(s) provided and order your tickets now. Tickets are \$5 each, only 250 to be sold. Please make your checks payable to: Kiwanis Children's Fund, MEMO LINE - Eliminate AND YOUR CLUB NAME & K Number. In this way you will not only be helping Eliminate and your club, but also giving yourself a chance to win a beautiful quilt.

Stay tuned here for more ways to fundraise and meet our Ohio totals. Saving lives of women and children is so very important to all of us.



**Samantha Gates**  
**Governor**  
**Ohio District Circle K**  
**odckigovernor@gmail.com**



### **Hello, Ohio Kiwanians !**

I'm Samantha Gates and I am serving as the Ohio District Circle K Governor for the 2018-2019 term. The Ohio District Board and I are extremely excited to be working hand-in-hand with you and the rest of the Kiwanis Family to create a better world for all people.

In the upcoming months, Circle K will be having our annual board trainer in May, which will be our main source of training for the District Officers. We will be spending

this summer planning and setting a foundation for a smooth and successful year. In July, some members of Ohio District Circle K will also be traveling to Chicago for Circle K International Convention, where we will learn more about and elect the new International Board, attend educational workshops, and do a large-scale service project. We are currently looking for sponsors to help offset the travel and hotel expenses for this event, if anyone is interested they can reach out to myself or Bethany Sara, our Immediate-Past Governor and new On-to-International Chair, at basara@bgsu.edu.

Although we have not set our goals for the upcoming year, a common theme I have recognized among the new board of officers has been focused around making our district stronger. This would include building a strong foundation for our clubs through district and international resources, focusing mostly on recruitment and retention of our members, creating a better relationship between the district board and individual clubs, and increasing district involvement at our annual events. Additionally, we have students that are interested in chartering and re-chartering new Circle K clubs in the Ohio District, so we are hoping to work with these individuals to build more clubs throughout the year. We would also like to focus more on the education of our members and increasing involvement with the Kiwanis Family.

Each year, the Governor also selects a project that they would like the district to focus on throughout their term. This year, I would like our district to focus on reducing, reusing, and recycling our resources, and finding a more sustainable way of living without damaging our planet. We would work with our service partner, UNICEF, on their most recent project, WASH, which is also Circle K International's selected project for the next four years, among other selected projects.

Again, speaking on behalf of the Ohio District of Circle K, we are extremely exciting to be working with you over this next year. Thank you for your continued support, and I'm looking forward to another great year full of meaningful service, leadership, and fellowship!



Circle K International

## Partnership Programs

**Jamie Kaufman**

**James.f.kaufman@gmail.com**



## Ohio District Partnerships Update

As we pass the halfway mark in the 2017-2018 year, I wanted to pass along some additional information about the Partnership Program.

Kiwanis Partnerships are divided by purpose. Sponsors are marketing programs paying a direct fee to Kiwanis International. Promotional Partners help drive awareness of the Kiwanis brand and mission. Preferred charities provide Kiwanis with possible service projects and opportunities that support their mis-

sion. Community Partners work with local clubs on cooperative programs to strengthen the missions of both organizations. Cause marketing partners work with Kiwanis in specific campaigns and, finally, our Vendor partners provide preferred pricing and other benefits specifically to Kiwanis clubs and members. In this article we will explore how you and your clubs can get involved with our Vision Partners.

First is the US Army. Kiwanis' partnership with the Army stems from our shared values concerning leadership, service and education. Local Army units can supply your club with speakers on a variety of subjects, They can partner with your club on service projects and can assist High school students in Key Clubs to take advantage of their free, online standardized test preparation programs For more information: [www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com)



The children's TV network Nickelodeon sponsors a Worldwide Day of Play every year. On that day the network goes dark for the entire day and encourages youth to spend the day outdoors playing and having fun. Kiwanis clubs and their SLP programs can encourage local youth to participate, and can host or organize outdoor activities such as ball tournaments, bike rodeos and the like. To learn more go to [www.nick.com/play](http://www.nick.com/play)

Rustic Pathways leads international education and service programs, working with high school students to give them an international service experience. Rustic Pathways sponsors a trip each year specifically for Key Clubs or your club can work with them to tailor an experience for your group, They also offer student scholarships for their programs and provide fundraising ideas and opportunities to help defray costs. They can provide speakers on these subjects and will put together District wide experiences when asked. [www.rusticpathways.com](http://www.rusticpathways.com)



Our last sponsor partner is Landscape Structures. Landscape Structures can help your club create a signature project in your community. They will incorporate the Kiwanis logo, branding a playground forever as provided through your club. They will assist in planning playground design and recommending the right equipment to fit any budget. You can learn more at [www.kiwanis.org/playground](http://www.kiwanis.org/playground), or see examples of Kiwanis playgrounds at [www.playlsi.com](http://www.playlsi.com).

Please reach out at any time if I may assist your club further with establishing a local partnership or in providing further education on the Kiwanis International Partnership Program or those established within the Ohio District. More information on Kiwanis International Partners can be found at <http://www.kiwanis.org/about/partners> and information on our current Ohio District partnerships can be found at <http://ohiokiwanis.org/Page/29768>.

You can reach me at [james.f.kaufman@gmail.com](mailto:james.f.kaufman@gmail.com) or 419-266-2984

## **CLE Registration is now available..**

Registration for Certified Leadership Education is now available. We currently have four locations confirmed for CLE, and will be adding more as they become available across the state. You can register on-line through the Ohio Kiwanis website at <http://www.ohiokiwanis.org/Page/965>.

. There is no cost for the continuing education classes for club officers, but, we do need advance registration to ensure we have enough materials, and the minimum number of attendees required to hold the session.

Unless noted, registration for each class will be 8:30 am with the class starting promptly at 9:00 am. Class is typically over by 12:30pm. Registration is open in each division to ANY club officer wishing to attend. For club officers that are unable to attend any on-site classroom experience, I strongly encourage you to take the online class at [www.kiwanis.org/clubs/member-resources/training](http://www.kiwanis.org/clubs/member-resources/training) .

Below are the sessions that are **currently** confirmed and more will be added.

June 2: Kettering	Christ United Methodist Church, 3440 Shroyer Road, Kettering
June 9: Sidney	Shelby County Annex, 129 E. Court Street, Sidney
June 23: Cincinnati	Sharonville Firehouse, 11637 Chester Road
July 14: Marion	Dayspring Wesleyan Church, 2431 Marion—Mt. Gilead Rd., Marion

### **Vote for Ohio's Candidate for Kiwanis International Vice President: John DeVilbiss**

By the time you read this article, it will be less than two months until a very important decision is to be made at the Kiwanis International convention - the election of the next International vice-president, and ultimately therefore, the next KI president.

Ohio's candidate for Vice-president is John DeVilbiss; and if you have not already made your reservation for Las Vegas, please do so now - and **PLAN TO VOTE FOR JOHN!!!**

You might ask why, and you will see a few salient points below. But the most important reason is that **OHIO NEEDS A SEAT AT THE TABLE**. What are your hot buttons? Are you concerned about SLP? Membership? Conventions? Whatever it is, we have **NO INPUT** - or very little - if we do not have a seat at the table. **JOHN** can give us that - if we **GIVE HIM** our vote.

Here is more about John and his vision for Kiwanis -

1. **SERVICE** is the reason for Kiwanis; therefore it stands to reason that we need to open more Kiwanis clubs if we are to provide more service. Yet, from John's strong financial background, there has been a great deal of spending to make the membership growth work - and now is the time for Districts and clubs to put this training to work at both the club and District level, **WITHOUT** additional expense.

From 18 to 80, young folks, adults, seniors - we all need to feel part of something. The club that says they cannot handle another service project is simply because **THEY NEED NEW MEMBERS!!**

2. Existing clubs need to be brought up to charter strength and beyond. Every club needs a base to volunteer and provide the hands of service - but 10-15 members is simply not enough. Twenty one percent of clubs are 15 members or less. What happened to the excitement of new club builds and new members? It can happen when clubs are brought up to charter strength. Let's gain back that old spark!





**Julia Martin**  
**Young Children Priority One**  
**jamartinja@gmail.com**

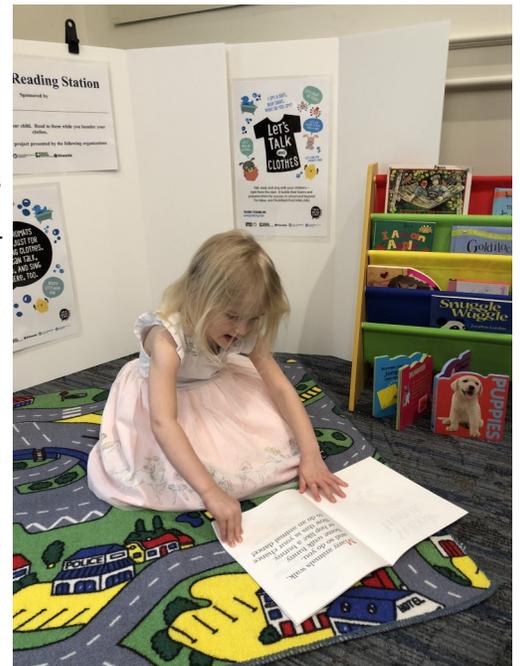
## **Creating Reading Corners in Laundromats to Boost Early Literacy, Numeracy and Parent Engagement with Young Children: A Perfect Fit with Kiwanis' "Young Children: Priority One"**

One of the most powerful ways to promote early literacy and parent engagement with their young children is providing materials that encourage both in venues where parents spend time with their children. This idea is most effective in venues where parents need to go for regular chores, that are easily accessible and not intimidating, where there isn't much stimulation available and where parents have significant "down time" that could be used for reading with young children. A prime candidate for these venues are laundromats, and ReadyNation is partnering with the Coin Laundry Association (CLA) to set up these Reading Corners in neighborhoods that serve disadvantaged families.

The interaction at these corners can promote not only basic literacy but also early math and science concepts that build different parts of the brain and complementary skill sets. Creating simple but attractive reading corners can help make the best use of these ordinary parts of the day to build both parental bonds and children's skills.

These are also attractive for laundromats because they set them apart from other competitors, offer a resource for customers, demonstrate their involvement in the community and engage children at the venues in productive activities. ReadyNation would also publicize their participation in social media.

Each corner would consist of an attractive book holder; a rug that promotes letters, numbers and geometric shapes (if space allows); and books that parents can use in the moment. The wall around the station would be decorated with posters created by the CLA and Too Small to Fail specifically for laundromats, as well materials from another organization, Read Aloud 15 MINUTES, that convey the importance of early reading. The CLA poster would include the Kiwanis logo and is available in English and Spanish. From that basic foundation, sponsors could do more to if they desire, such as conducting story time sessions. Kiwanis members would be responsible for identifying a local laundromat, maintaining the site, and purchasing the supplies, including the initial set-up and replenishing new or gently used books. Kiwanis and the laundromat are responsible for any liability coverage or issues. ReadyNation will publicize the efforts with our website, e-newsletter and social media.



THE OHIO DISTRICT FOUNDATION IS SUPPORTING THIS NEW INITIATIVE WITH TWO \$200 GRANTS. Applications are due August 1, 2018. Please contact me at [jamartinja@gmail.com](mailto:jamartinja@gmail.com) for more information about the program or the grant.

# **THE TEACHER SHORTAGE GOES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM.**



**KIDS NEED KIWANIS**