

# Kiwanis

## The Monthly Review

A Publication of the Alameda West Kiwanis Club

December, 2016

Volume 10 Issue 2

### President's Corner



Happy Holidays! And Happy Anniversary!

I've always been a large Christmas enthusiast, and this year, I am even more excited because we are celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I was able to join many Alameda West Kiwanians on November 28<sup>th</sup> as the City of Lakewood read a proclamation honoring the 50 years of service this club has given to the community (3 years more than the city has been incorporated).

While at the City Council meeting, Mayor (and Kiwanians) Adam Paul read through a few of the legacy projects that we've completed in our history. While the list wasn't exhaustive, it was impressive.

And, the Kiwanis Club of Alameda West isn't stopping there. There are more children to serve and more projects that will leave lasting impact on the community. These includes Bear Creek Lake Park, The Write Stuff, Meals on Wheels, Key Club, Jeffco Outdoor Labs, and many, many, more.

I look forward to celebrating with all of you on December 10<sup>th</sup> – it's a party 50 years in the making!

#### In this issue!

Pres. Corner.....	1
Thanksgiving packing.....	2
Outdoor Lab....	..2
Air Force Football.....	3
Important Dates.....	3
Kiwanian/ Month.....	3
Refugee Update.....	4
Key Club.....	5
District News/Education.....	6

#### MEETINGS

##### **Wednesday mornings:**

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

**Place:** Garrison Street Grill

608 Garrison Street

Lakewood, CO 80215



Visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/alamedawestki](http://www.facebook.com/alamedawestki).

# Kiwanis One Day – Thanksgiving Packing for the Action Center

On Kiwanis One Day, October 22, a huge team of volunteers packed 307 boxes of Thanksgiving groceries at The Action Center warehouse. The initial work for many volunteers was to sort out food so that cans of yams were with yams, cans of pumpkin were with cans of pumpkin and so on. Others engaged in making many, many boxes. With a smaller, yet might team, Alameda West returned the following Friday to finish the job. The team worked exceptionally quickly and efficiently. We packed 340 boxes. Those in charge for The Action Center predicted that the Friday group would only pack 100 boxes! The Action Center staff said that they are well ahead of what they anticipated as a result of such great volunteer help. After their work, the Friday group went to Garrison St. Grill for dinner.



## Outdoor Lab Greenhouses

Our Mount Evans greenhouse classroom was sponsored by the Rod and Ruth Greiner Family and the American Zang Education Preservation Foundation. Sadly, Mr. Rod Greiner passed away this past month. His family is proud to carry on his legacy and passion for Outdoor Lab and we are excited to cut a ribbon this spring on a project that gave him so much joy. Thank you Mr. Greiner for your vision and love for Mount Evans and our students!

*Outdoor Lab Foundation Facebook page.*



# Ronald McDonald House

Dick Lisseveld introduced us to Pam Whittaker, Executive Director of the Denver area Ronald McDonald House (RMHC). Our Club will be collecting our pocket change to help out with Ronald McDonald House since we have finished our pledge to The Eliminate Project. Our Kiwanis Rocky Mountain District Foundation has named RMHC our new District Project. Their biggest fundraiser is coming up on December 1<sup>st</sup> on KOSI radio throughout the day.



## DECEMBER

- \* Dec 3 Jeffco Night at the Avalanche
- \* Dec 10 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party
- \* Dec 9, 10 Salvation Army Bell Ringing
- \* Dec 16, 17 Salvation Army Bell Ringing

## JANUARY

- \* Jan 9-13 The Write Stuff Distribution
- \* Jan 21 Kiwanis District night - Nuggets

## FEBRUARY

## MARCH

- \* March 3-5-Winter Conference – Ft. Collins

## !!Kiwanian of the Month!!

### Darl Hobson & Wimpy Miller

If I try to imagine what was going on in Jefferson County 50 years ago, it's hard to imagine. And I can't imagine what two spry young men thought in 1966 when they started the Kiwanis Club of Alameda West. Besides chartering the club, both Wimpy and Darl have been active leaders over the past 50 years.

Wimpy and Darl have been instrumental in our signature projects with the Outdoor Labs at Mt. Evans and Windy Peak. They have organized hundreds of hours of volunteer projects with the Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, and the Action Center. They have brought in new members and led the club in multiple roles. And most importantly they have created lifelong friendships.

# Refugee Update

## Update: Abwe Family Takes Major Steps!

In November our refugee friends, Shemi, Ungwa, Neline, Shadrack and Fedha, enjoyed new adventures: the Denver Zoo, Thanksgiving, ESL and reunion with family. It was a full and fairly exciting month!

Ungwa's Mother (M'Mbanga), her 3 brothers: Kiza, Paul, and Asorolo, and sister Asha moved from Phoenix to Aurora to reunite the family. Ungwa's mother and siblings left Tanzania at the same time as our family, but were sent to Arizona. Now that the dust has settled, they were reunited here. The new arrivals live with others a couple of blocks away, but spend their days at Ungwa and Semi's watching the grandchildren and being family. We have happy Mothers and we know that means happy folks.

This month, Suzanne and Ungwa, Shadrack and Fedha had a free day at the Zoo, along with 25,000 others! (Thanks for supporting 4B!) We saw lions and tigers, no bears, oh my! Many of the animals come from Africa and Ungwa knew most of them: Suzanne learned the French word and the family learned the English word! It was a gorgeous day, we picnicked at the Tropical Discovery exhibit...fishes galore! And, Shadrack had a great time in the Zoo's kidscape areas, working off that boyhood energy! He's going to love the Bear Creek Lake Park area!

Thanksgiving began with a huge bird on a bed of rice, gift of the Cooks! And then a gathering with other refugees from the Denver area at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Refugee 1<sup>st</sup> Thanksgiving Dinner sponsored by the African Community Center. It was a wild time, but we ate good food, met others, and had some fun sit-dancing! Then, Suzanne's church sent a Thanksgiving basket with all the trimmings, and yet another turkey! She cooked it at home and delivered it later in the week. Cooking the pumpkin pie followed the next week. The Abwe's know Thanksgiving means FOOD and FAMILY!

And, the best news yet: Shemi (Dad) was accepted at the Asian Pacific Development Center for ESL classes, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights, 6 – 8pm Great news! He's already two weeks into this change and Ungwa should start in January. "Education is very important to me," he said to us. We agree!

Our Community Service Committee has voted to continue its support of the family beyond the required 6 months and is recommending adoption of this family for Christmas. The team will have a "tree" with gift tags for members to consider for gifting at Christmas. Recommended is a combination of grocery items, winter clothing, and, of course, learning toys and books. More about this at the next several meetings. We'll have a Santa sack ready.

Thanks to you for all you do in support of this family!



# Bear Creek Key Club

Bear Creek Key Club members showed up in force the whole month November and accomplished a lot during every meeting. During the first meeting, after planning Key Club Week activities, members made cards that would be placed in each Project Christmas Child box the following week. A yearbook staffer also came to take pictures of the club for the 2016/2017 yearbook. For the meeting during Key Club Week (11/7-11), members invited friends, participated in ice-breakers and made peanut butter sandwiches for The Action Center Shelter. Leftover candy from Safe Halloween was added to each sandwich bag. Kiwanis members, Susan McConnell and Barb Fuller joined in on the Key Club Week activities.

On the 10th, Key Clubbers teamed up with members of National Honor Society and the UNICEF Club to pack the Project Christmas Child boxes. During the last two meetings of the month, members cut up donated T-shirts and decorated the back of each one with puffy paints and markers turning them into "super capes" for children at Children's Hospital. During the weekend before Thanksgiving, five members volunteered at The Action Center Food Pantry on Saturday while another twenty volunteered over two shifts at The Action Center's Thanksgiving Distribution held at Jeffco Stadium.

Members this year are working to earn a Key Club letter. A careful record keeping system has been devised by the Key Club board to keep track of participation and volunteering.



# District & International Kiwanis News

## **KIWANIS EDUCATION:**

### **International Foundation News**

*The Kiwanis International Foundation is changing its name to the Kiwanis Children's Fund. The new name better conveys the purpose of our organization: We serve children. And it describes how: We raise funds to support Kiwanis initiatives.*

*Kids need Kiwanis. And your gift will continue to extend your Kiwanis impact, whether you make it to The Eliminate Project or through the annual club and individual gift programs. However you give, a fundamental truth remains: Your gift to the Kiwanis Children's Fund will change children's lives.*

*Stan Soderstrom, Executive Director*

*Kiwanis International & International Children's Fund*

### **Alameda West 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

It's a party!! Alameda West was chartered 50 years ago on December 8, 1966. We will celebrate with the community at the Sheraton Denver West on December 10, 2016.

Cocktails at 5:00 and dinner at 6:00 PM. Please join us in revisiting our past projects and honoring the non-profits that have been our partners throughout the years.



# **Kiwanis**<sup>®</sup>

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