

# Kiwanis members have 127,000 projects a year

The first Kiwanis service project was conducted in 1914; before the first Kiwanis club was officially chartered. Since then, Kiwanis service activities have grown dramatically, year by year. As Kiwanis celebrates its 75th anniversary, Kiwanis clubs are sponsoring more than 127,000 individual projects each year to meet community and individual needs. To conduct these projects, Kiwanians are donating about 22 million hours of volunteer time and raising \$65 million each year.

Kiwanis service is local service. Each club identifies service needs in its community and plans its own projects to meet those needs. While service to children and youth is the continuing Kiwanis service theme, any community need can inspire a Kiwanis service project.

For example, recycling to extend the life of the local landfill is a major project of the Kiwanis Club of Tillamook, Oregon. The club secured a centrally located facility to use as a recycling depot and built a large loading dock and ramp. Members brought in three 32-foot trailers to collect newsprint and two 20-yard metal dumpsters to collect cardboard and magazines.

vested more than \$35,000, adding baseball fields, a concession stand with restrooms, a fence, and lighting. The park was deeded to the city in 1988.

Recently, the Kiwanis Club of Kishwaukee De Kalb, Illinois, built a pathway to connect its local parks. The city's engineering and parks department helped design the pathway, and local attorneys donated their services to acquire the needed easements and rights of way.

All that was left for the club to do was the hard work of constructing the path and repaying the \$18,000 borrowed to finance the project. After four major fundraisers and 1,584 service hours, the community's parks are connected by a paved and landscaped pathway used daily by hundreds of bird watchers, joggers, and bicyclists.

Helping the needy is another major aspect of Kiwanis service. Ten clubs in Colorado recently helped to ensure the success of the annual Great Colorado Winter Warm Up, a program to provide winter bedding and clothing for needy families and individuals. The Kiwanis members used their vans, trucks, station wagons, and campers to pick up 10,000 donated items from seventeen collection

entire dances, trolley rides, bingo nights, and Christmas caroling. The highlight of the year is the Guys and Dolls Prom, a formal affair with tuxedos and gowns.

In another form of social and recreational service to the handicapped, the Kiwanis Club of Topeka, Kansas, sponsors Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Girl Scout troops for handicapped children. In addition to financial support, the Kiwanians volunteer their time to conduct the meetings and supervise excursions for camping, ball games, and fishing.

A summer camp program can also provide many benefits for handicapped children and their families. The children receive a rare experience in independence from their families, and parents receive an equally rare vacation from providing constant care to their children. Yet, summer camp experience for handicapped children is generally not available because of the extra cost and manpower required.

The Kiwanis Club of North Central Seattle has accepted the challenge and

sponsors the Kiwanis Handicapped Children's Camp. About 100 children attend the camp for one week each summer, at no cost to their parents. All the camp work is performed by Kiwanis members and their spouses, with help from volunteer high-school students who work as counselors. Many Kiwanis clubs in the Chicago area have joined together to sponsor the Kiwanis Camp for Crippled Children in Plymouth, Indiana. The camp operates for an extended period each summer and is staffed by college students who are studying for careers in the field of services for the handicapped.

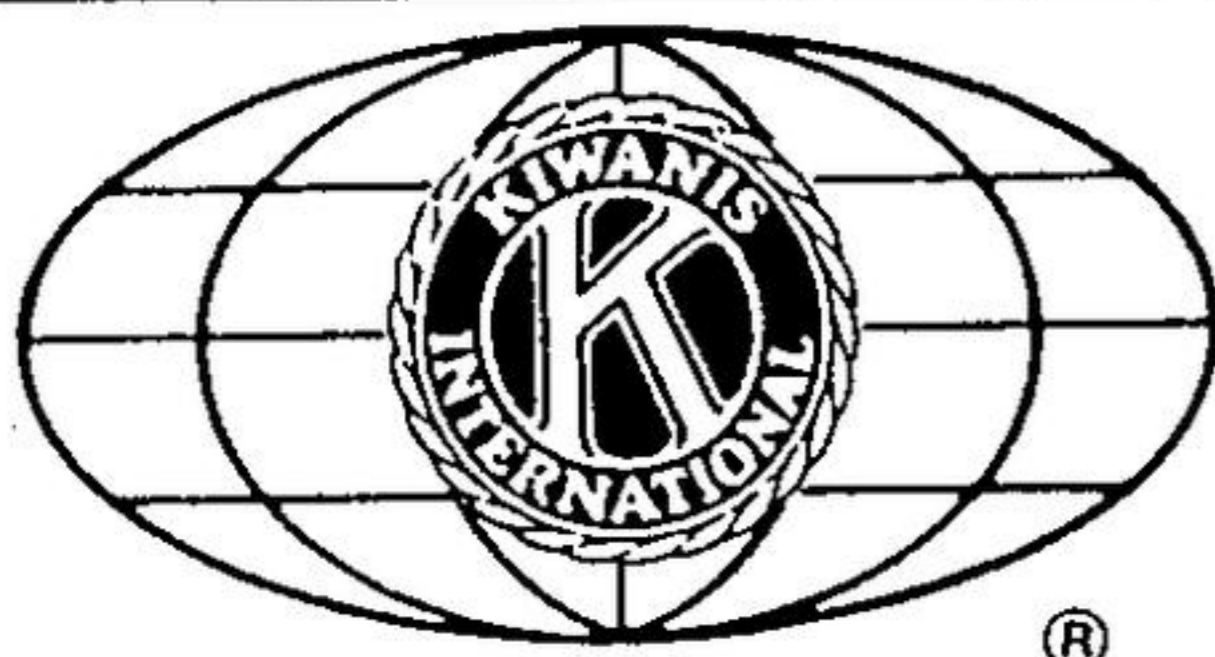
This may be the age of computers, but many people don't have access to a computer and so haven't learned how to use one. The Kiwanis Club of Meriden, Connecticut, has helped to remedy this need with the Kiwanis Computer Center at the community library. The club was granted funds by the city to build computer cubicles at the library, and the club accepted responsibility for purchasing four computers and software.

The club provided part of the money,

and additional funds were solicited from corporate donors. When the equipment was installed, the Kiwanians arranged for computer students from nearby universities to give a free training course. The center is now used by young and old who don't have computers of their own.

In keeping with the First Object of Kiwanis—to give primacy to spiritual rather than material values—clubs also sponsor projects in support of spiritual aims. The Kiwanis Club of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, for example, operates an ecumenical dial-a-prayer service. Space for equipment is provided by a local church. Kiwanians record selected scriptures, pay for the telephone line, and publicize the service, which receives about 500 calls per month.

This small sampling of Kiwanis service cannot do full justice to the amazing variety and scope of 127,000 projects that Kiwanis clubs are sponsoring each year in more than 8,000 communities around the world. Kiwanis service is truly limited only by the imagination and dedication of Kiwanis members.



Then the club set up a booth at the county fair and distributed information on recycling to thousands of fair visitors. Newspapers carried weekly notices, and the utility company inserted fliers in every resident's electric bill.

Once established, the program became self-supporting. With the club's help, a local sheltered workshop purchased a baler that provides full-time work for three people. The club also established three satellite depots that are now operated by other community groups. Thanks to this Kiwanis project, recycling in Tillamook has more than doubled in the past year.

Many Kiwanis clubs have created or enhanced community parks over the years. The Kiwanis Park in Leonard, Texas, began in 1978 when the Kiwanis club borrowed money to buy the land. During the following decade, the club in-

sites.

Another kind of delivery service has been organized by the Kiwanis Club of Berea, Ohio, whose members volunteered to drive donated eye tissue from the local hospital to the Cleveland Eye Bank. A duty schedule was established, and the first call came at 2:30 A.M. on a freezing winter night. But club members are happy to make the two-hour drive that helps to save sight, regardless of the time or weather.

Social and recreational activities for the handicapped are sponsored by many Kiwanis clubs. On one Friday night each month in Medford, Massachusetts, some seventy physically and mentally handicapped adults enjoy a social evening together, thanks to the Medford Kiwanis club. The events, designed to develop self-confidence and social graces, include Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Val-



KIWANIS LEADERS visited the White House in 1945 to brief President Truman on Kiwanis plans to help communities adjust from the war effort to a peacetime economy.

## making music:



## A KIWANIS CONCERN

More than 10,000 tooters, tinklers, strummers and singers converge on St. Catharines, Ontario, each spring for the oldest festival of its kind in Canada: the Garden City Kiwanis Music Festival.

There's a chorus of woodwinds chattering at the library. A brass choir trumpeting its noteworthy accomplishments in the parish hall of a nearby church. Everything from string ensembles to rock bands. Because this three-week-long event is more than a contest—it's a vital part of community life. It occupies an important place in each person involved.

For more than 50 years, St. Catharines' festival has challenged the talents of Canada's people. And for more than a decade, Kiwanis has been the driving force behind the planning, financing and implementation. It's not an easy job. But the payback is outstanding.

Kiwanis International is dedicated to community service. Last year, we raised more than \$65 million

for hometown projects. And we invested even more in time, talent and energies. With over 320,000 members in 8500 clubs, the K-Family serves 73 nations. Our Circle K college clubs number 600 with 10,000 members. And Key Club serves 3700 high schools with more than 125,000 members.

Everywhere you go, Kiwanis is involved. Making things better. Making things happen. And, sometimes, making music in harmony with yesterday's traditions and tomorrow's dreams. That's why the St. Catharines' festival is a Kiwanis concern.



*Congratulations on your 75th Anniversary*



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