

# Kiwanis®

Burlington, Iowa

Serving the Children of the World®

February, 2011

## **Burlington Kiwanis** **BurlingtonKiwanis.org**

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Hello Kiwanians,

The busy holiday season is over, and our Kiwanis activities have slowed down a bit. However, there are still needs in our community that should be addressed, so there are several committees working on their fund raisers or service projects:

Travelogue starts up again with the following programs  
February 24th – “Northern Europe”  
March 24th – “America’s Amazing Places”  
April 14th – “Wildlife of Yellowstone”

“After School Programs” are always in need of volunteers.

Rose Day (Administrative Professionals Day) is gearing up for their April sales.

Kiwanis Night Out committee has started planning for our annual fun evening in May.

Membership committee is organizing a membership drive during May Membership Month.

The Pancake Committee is already making arrangements for our biggest fund raiser on Labor Day weekend.

As you plan your schedule for the upcoming months, please make sure to schedule in time for Kiwanis activities. I know life is busy for all of us, but we belong to a “SERVICE” organization, which means we all need to volunteer for the above. We must commit the necessary time to make them successful!!

Remember – Success is not measured by what we have. It is about who we are and what we give. So, volunteer, go out there, and “DO YOUR THING!” You don’t have to be listed on these committees in the directory – they all need help. Please notify me if you are interested in participating for any of the above projects. Give of your time and talents for the benefit of our local children in need!

Burlington Kiwanis President  
Karen Clay

# Serving The Children of The World

Kiwanis Projects are conducted year around, usually for the purpose of raising funds to assist in meeting the needs of children around the world. These activities provide fellowship for members to work together to accomplish the mission of the project. It is a rare occasion that we are aware of those we assist, or as a matter of fact, what it takes to make the work worthwhile. Two situations I am aware of point out how our actions mean more to others than we ever realize.

The following story describes the impact of work done by volunteers and friends of Marna, a high school classmate of mine those many years ago. Emily was a 10 year old granddaughter of hers, and sadly, was diagnosed with terminal cancer. The precocious child did not want friends and family to be sad when they visited. Her favorite food was olives and as her condition deteriorated, all she wanted to eat was olives. As her condition worsened her Oncologist told her parents that she could eat all the olives she wanted. The last several weeks of her life went by, and she finally succumbed to the ailment.

Her parents live in the mountainous area of southern California that is subject to forest fires. They had a very comfortable home in the hills with the closest home a little more than one half mile away. To reach their property, it was necessary to wind your way up a winding mountain road. A few days after Emily's funeral, a group of friends and members of their church decided to do something in memory of Emily. They decided to plant an Olive tree in the back yard of her parent's home. A short memorial service was conducted and the tree was planted. It thrived and for the family, it was a living memory of Emily and her outgoing spirit.

In the fall of 2009, the area was subject to a devastating forest fire, and all of the residents of the mountain area were evacuated until the fire was successfully extinguished. They were away from their homes for more than a week before they received notice that it was safe to return home. As the family wound its way up the mountain road, they saw several homes had been totally demolished or badly damaged. The foliage and trees were badly burned. When they arrived at their house, the landscaping was charred, and although their home was still standing, the roof edge was burned and their garage was destroyed. They got of their car to begin to survey the damage. When they walked around to the back of the house, all was blackened. However, there in its place was the "Emily Tree" completely untouched. The family considered it as a sign that Emily was telling them that all is well and she will forever be with them. The small gesture of planting a tree demonstrated to all who participated that their efforts were not without value.

Another short example is of a man who was a business executive. For all of his adult life he kept a daily journal. One day, they received word that their only son had been killed while serving with the Army in Iraq. As they were preparing for the final memorial service, the father went to the attic to go through some of their son's belongings to find something that would characterize the son's personality. He found a journal that his son had been keeping without the parent's knowledge. He picked up one of his own journals and opened the journal randomly to June 14, 1983. His entry in the journal that date said, "went fishing with Andrew - the fish weren't biting, the mosquitoes were terrible and it was a total waste of time." His curiosity was aroused so he opened Andrew's journal to the same date. At that time, Andrew was 11 years of age. Andrew's entry said, "Went fishing with my dad today, the greatest day of my life!"

These anecdotes emphasize that we don't need praise, recognition or publicity to make a difference in the life of a child. Every effort we make for Kiwanis makes an impact upon some child. We don't need a thank you; we merely need to realize that no matter what the project entails, we are "serving the children of the world."

Tom Cameron

## Kiwanis Newsletter Articles Needed

The Kiwanis Club Newsletter is in need of articles. If you are on a committee, please ask someone to write up a short information article. It's great to include when the event is, who can attend, do you need volunteers, and even a few fun facts about the event if you have them.

You can send the article or information to Tom Cameron for editing. Tom will look over your information and can even help you put the article together if you need assistance. Tom enjoys writing and knows a lot of the club history.

tom@cameronins.com

## Address Change?

Send updates to  
Secretary  
Michelle  
Randall

mwilliams@lisco.com  
call 752.6027

## Kiwanis Inspirational Moment

*George Burns said: "If you were to go around asking people what would make them happier, you'd get answers like a new car, a bigger house, a raise in pay, winning the lottery, a face-lift, more kids or less kids, a new restaurant to go to – probably not one in a hundred would say a chance to help people. And yet that may bring the most happiness of all!"*

*Kiwanians are that one in a hundred – we're Kiwanians because serving makes us happier.*

## ***Are You Doing Your Best to Make New Members Welcome?***

Try to picture this – you have been asked to consider joining the Burlington Kiwanis Club and attended a meeting as a guest. You were given a membership application and a booklet telling about the Kiwanis organization. You were very excited at the prospect of working with all the other members to accomplish the goal of “Serving the children of the world.” When you are inducted your sponsor introduces you to all in attendance and you are filled with pride.

Now, picture this – it is one week later and you are attending your first regular meeting as a member. You are not sure where to hang your coat, but you notice others hanging theirs in the cloak room, so you do the same. You then enter the double doors into the meeting room and there are people visiting there, but no one notices you. You ask yourself, “What do I do now?” You notice others checking something on the table as you enter and when you look at it, you see it is obviously an attendance sheet, so you also do that. What comes next – people are sitting at various tables. Are their assigned seats? Finally, someone you are acquainted with asks you to sit with them. You are relieved because at least you will have someone to visit with. You sit down, and then wonder about your lunch, so you ask your acquaintance who tells you there is a buffet line for you to get your own. Finally, you have your food, eat your lunch and enjoy the meeting. The conversation at the table is cordial, but not very inclusive.

What is wrong with these scenarios? We have lost some new members in the past year because we were not welcoming. That is a disgrace. Here we are, all with the goal of serving children and we cannot even serve our fellow member. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to be their mentor and companion for several weeks as they become familiar with what membership is all about. There is more to being a sponsor than getting someone to put their name on a membership application.

What can we all do about this? It should be fairly easy – introduce yourself to the new member, preferably as they enter the meeting room. This will make them feel more comfortable. Forget your own little “clique” and be warm and friendly to the new member. Make them feel that they truly are members and part of the club. Remember, before we can “Serve the children of the world” we must extend ourselves and serve our fellow members, also. Let’s not lose any more new members because they did not feel welcome. Make an effort!

Tom Cameron

## ***Your Board of Directors***

Your Board of Directors approved \$250 each for two Burlington elementary students to attend a week long diabetes camp to help them manage their lifestyles better. The board also approved a donation of \$100 to the Leopold Heritage Group as a cash prize for a conservation related essay contest for local school students.

The board approved the membership application of Jason Delzell with ServPro of Burlington. Please welcome Jason to our club!

Submitted by Michelle Randall, Vice President Elect

## ***Programs***



Arranged by Dan Wiedemeier

3 – Tom Carper, Amtrak National Railroad, Update on National Rail System

10 – Dennis Hinkle, Greater Burlington Partnership, Economic Update

17 – David Duke, Ames Construction Company, New Rail Bridge Lift Span

24 – Mark Richardson, Great River Health Systems, Health Care Update

## ***Invocations***

Arranged  
by  
Morris Hurd



3 - Rev Michael Orthel

10 - Jim O'Neill

17 - Jon Hart

24 - Char Blodgett



PO Box 15  
Burlington, IA 52601



# February, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Kiwaniis Meeting Noon, Comfort Suites National Rail System	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Kiwaniis Meeting Noon, Comfort Suites Economic Update	11	12
13	14	15 Board Meeting Noon, Peaches	16	17 Kiwaniis Meeting Noon, Comfort Suites Rail Bridge Lift Span	18	19
20	21	22	23	<b>24</b> <b>Birthday Table</b> Kiwaniis Meeting Noon, Comfort Suites Health Care Update	25	26
27	28					