



Young Children / Priority One



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Kiwanis Dolls for Japan Project,

by: Mary Ann Beckham, Georgia District Chair YCPO

Inspired by the scenes of the devastation in Sendai, Japan and learning of the many children left orphaned as a result of the earthquakes and tsunami, Georgia District Chair of Young Children Priority One, Mary Ann Beckham, contacted Miki Cunat, member of the YCPO Kiwanis International Committee. After hearing how the clubs in Japan were organizing a Kiwanis Doll project for the children in the area, Mary Ann asked if the Kiwanis Clubs of Georgia could also help bring a little love, joy and comfort to the children in the disaster zone through the doll project.



After much encouragement from Miki Cunat, Kimiko Horii, YCPO Co-chair of the doll project, and other members of the YCPO International Committee, Mary Ann enlisted the help of her fellow Georgia Kiwanians.

The result was several clubs provided hundreds of doll shells for stuffing, some provided completed dolls and a few made monetary donations to help cover expenses. During the recent District Convention held in Savannah, Georgia, Mary Ann provided a display table where attendees could learn more about the project and pick up doll shells to stuff during the convention. There was also a workshop just for stuffing the dolls. Kiwanians could be seen sitting in various spots all over the hotel, stuffing the dolls while visiting with friends. Even the Kiwanis International Trustee, Piero Grasso and his wife, Valeria Gringeri from Italy, were spotted stuffing dolls!

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“RON” SEZ:

- 1. Keep your Club focused on Young Children/Priority One.**
- 2. Start a new YC/PO Project this month.**
- 3. Involve every member of your Club.**
- 4. Partner with other organizations.**

The Sarnia Kiwanis (Canada) Club is Committed to Serving the Children of the World

Each year, service clubs in Sarnia receive donation requests to support a variety of causes, and for the nearly 30 members of the Sarnia Kiwanis Club of the Seaway it is no different. However, it's often a matter of finding the right project and then raising the necessary money. Since 2007 the Seaway Kiwanis have partnered with Bluewater Health Foundation in Sarnia, Ontario to identify the most pressing local equipment needs relative to the club's mandate of *"serving the children of the world, one child and one community at a time."* According to Ken Machan, President of the Sarnia Chapter, this focus on helping children and the partnership with the Foundation is what drives annual funding decisions of the Club's Young Children Priority One/ Youth Services (YCPO) committee.



Never in Vain: An Opportunity Appears

In 2011, the Kiwanis were presented with a unique opportunity at the top of the Foundation's equipment 'wish list,' something that would substantially improve the quality of care for some *very* tiny patients in the hospital. Thus unfolded the purchase of a vein viewer for the Maternal/Infant/Child (MIC) program – the first of its kind in any hospital in Southwestern Ontario. The Kiwanis were elated, and as Don Burnard, Chairman of the YCPO Committee and past Lieutenant Governor of Division 3 says, "The purchase of the vein viewer was truly one of those times when everyone was excited ... we

knew that it would radically change infant care and virtually remove the guess work that often goes with finding the right vein in which to insert an I.V. in small children."

TVCOGECO Puts the Fun in Funding

Funding the approximately \$20,500 necessary to purchase the vein viewer was done through the Kiwanis successful TV Bingo program hosted by TVCOGECO. The weekly television show puts the club in the enviable position of being able to consistently raise money for some very worthwhile local children's projects like the Children's Animal Farm in Canatara Park. In addition, the success of the TV Bingo has meant that the club was able to fulfill their commitment even earlier than anticipated; the Kiwanis had committed to pay for the Vein Viewer over 2 years but thanks to funds raised they were able to pay off the full amount in one year. "TV Bingo is a win-win for everyone involved," explains TVCOGECO Programming Manager Terry Doyle. "It supports the TVCOGECO mandate of assisting the local community in seeing itself through the power of television, while Seaway Kiwanis is able to conduct important fundraising for local projects."

Breakthrough Technology

For Dr. Nash Rashed, Medical Director of the MIC program, the vein viewer has become more than a piece of equipment because it represents the next level of exceptional patient care for some of the most vulnerable: infants and children, "The vein viewer is something that we can all relate to...consider that when a newborn gets an I.V. or needs to get medicine administered immediately, it can take several attempts to find those tiny elusive veins. Since we've had the equipment it has made the procedure so much less invasive and distressful for children and of course for the parents who are often with them when we are inserting IVs."

(over, please)

Seaway Sarnia Kiwanis (continued)

As for Kathy Ross, Program Manager MIC, having the vein viewer available has had a tremendously positive affect in the MIC program, “We are focused on delivering the best care possible, and the vein viewer provides our staff with the best tools/equipment available and decreases the stress caused to the infant by multiple I.V. starts. We are fortunate to be the first MIC program in Southwestern Ontario, to have this incredible piece of equipment – it is truly making a difference!”



And Finally...

To understand what it means, the portable vein viewer, or vascular access starter as it is more properly known, is the first and only device to project a digital image of a patient’s vascular system directly on to the surface of the skin and display the network of veins so that a nurse or doctor can easily locate the vein and avoid numerous uncomfortable pokes. And, as the most advanced groundbreaking technology, it provides image quality that is 600% brighter and twice as deep. It has also been clinically proven to reduce the number of attempts to start an I.V. by 50 per cent, reduce time to start an I.V. by 50 per cent, and has doubled patient satisfaction scores for unnecessary catheters. Essentially, it removes the guess- work from I.V. and needle-insertion procedures and at Bluewater Health, this translates into improved patient comfort.

For more information contact: Ken C. Machan, President— machark@newenglandarbors.com

Dolls going to Japan from Georgia (continued)

Many of the convention attendees took doll shells home to be completed. Mary Ann also enlisted the help of the Japanese ladies of the Japanese ministry in her church to complete the doll shells left over from the convention. These ladies were so happy to be able to help the children in the disaster zone. Not only did they complete about 80 dolls, they made an additional 30 dolls. Some of them were even made completely by hand stitching as they did not have sewing machines. Upon completion of all of them, there will be over 400 dolls ready for shipping to our sister Kiwanis Club of Sendai, Japan.

Mary Ann wishes to thank all of the Kiwanians and their friends who participated, and especially Miki Cunat, Elizabeth Warren, Wil Blechman, JJ Miller, Neil Simmons, Ron Jackson, Kimiko Horii, Donna Rutledge, Michigan District YCPO Chair, and the Sendai Kiwanis Club

GREAT NEWS !

From Kiwanis International: According to our 2009-10 (the latest we can get data) annual club report, of the 5,253 responding clubs, 3,320 said they participated in some sort of YCPO related project. That is 63.2% of the total responding clubs. More and more children are having better and healthier lives because of Kiwanis Clubs worldwide.

2011-2012 Kiwanis International Committee

Ron Jackson, Chairman
1120 Wordsworth Dr
Roswell, GA. 30075

Paulette Barney— Rocky-Mountain
Mary Ann Beckham— Georgia
Penny Ecarius— Michigan
Grete Hvardal- Norway
Beth Kindschi- Wisc-Upper Michigan
Avanti Kollaran— Capital
Romy Marinao-Phillippines-Luzon
Ann Raymond-New Zealand-S.P.
Neil Simmons-Louisiana-Miss-Tennessee
Elizabeth Warren-Kiwanis International - Staff

Neil F. Simmons, Newsletter Editor
 1005 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Suite 202
 Kenner, Louisiana USA 70062
 Phone: 800-460-4599
 E-MAIL—nfsimmons@bellsouth.net
 Fax:800-765-0785

Editor's Notes:

“You are encouraged to send articles for publication that showcase your Club's, , Division or District Young Children/Priority One Projects. If you e-mail me with the contact, I will do the rest.” NEIL



ELIMINATE
 maternal/neonatal tetanus

Kiwanis Club of Wythe County (Virginia) Donates Reading Books to Kindergartners by Anne Powell



The Kiwanis Club of Wythe County provided approximately 400 reading books free to all kindergarten students in the Wythe County School system. Under the guidance of the school system and the assistance of Kirsten Smith, Reading teacher, these books, "Read To Your Bunny", were presented during the orientation/open house day on August 16. The funds to purchase the books came from the two major Kiwanis fundraisers - the annual Gospel Sing held each spring and the Christmas wreath sales. The Kiwanis is a volunteer organization which helps the children of the community one child at a time. The Kiwanis Club of Wythe County assists with other community needs as providing funds for playground and safety equipment or special educational programming needs for several Wythe County schools, providing donations to the Family Resource Center, Agape Food Bank, children's programs of the Wythe County Public Library and the Red Cross Blood Drive, sponsoring a child to 4-H camp, funding a scholarship at Wytheville Community College for a student focusing on early childhood development and supporting various other youth and community projects. For more information contact President Dana Jonas at 276-620-8740 or danajonas@embargmail.com.