



Young Children / Priority One



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Dolls for Doernbecher Children's Hospital!

The Downtown Salem Kiwanis Club, Salem Oregon as well as their recently created Keizer Kiwanis Club Satellite, is preparing to cut, stuff, and sew Kiwanis Dolls for Doernbecher Children's Hospital. Naturally you might as, "What's a Kiwanis Doll?"

Kiwanis Dolls are small plain white muslin dolls without even standard features like eyes, mouth or clothing.

To alleviate the fear and apprehension most kids have of hospitals, nurses use the dolls to explain treatments. When a child requires an intravenous shot, nurses give a trauma doll the shot first. When a child needs an arm or leg cast, the nurses put a paper mini-cast on the doll.

With the dolls, kids get the feeling that they're not the only ones who are traumatized, the doll is, too. A pack of crayons is given to the children with each doll. The kids are then encouraged to depict their injuries and feelings by coloring on the doll. Coloring the dolls often acts as a sedative for the children, many of whom are frightened not only by their injuries but by the unfamiliar and threatening hospital environment. A positive experience on a child's first visit can really project to the future of their medical care.

The Kiwanis dolls also make work easier for the nurses, who are often looked upon by children as the source of their boo-boos. They're rewarding to nurses who don't like to be the ones inflicting pain all the time. The nurses become seen as healers.

More info— Bill Van Natta at: bcducks@msn.com



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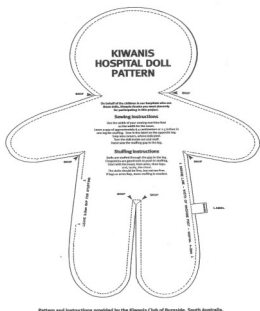
“RON” SEZ:

- 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.**

Old Mission Kiwanis Club (Mission, Kansas) Readies Next Delivery of Kiwanis Dolls

Club members are putting this finishing touches on approximately 70 Kiwanis hospital dolls and will soon deliver them to Childrens Mercy Hospital. The dolls serve several purposes. Medical professionals use them to demonstrate procedures children will undergo. Likewise, children facing surgery use the dolls to express feelings by drawing faces on the dolls that indicate their emotions or can mark where they feel pain. Upon leaving the hospital, each child keeps his/her doll, thereby retaining a positive reminder of the hospital visit. Over the past two years, Old Mission Kiwanis members have made and delivered approximately 300 dolls to Childrens Mercy Hospital. **More Info– Philip Porter at porterpc@sbcglobal.net**

Seniors sew dolls for children!



The Sedalia (Missouri) Kiwanis Club recently partnered with the Sedalia Senior Center for a project. Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. One of their recent projects ideas was to construct Trauma Dolls.

Trauma Dolls are small plain white muslin dolls without even standard features like eyes, mouth or clothing. To alleviate the fear and apprehension most kids have of hospitals, nurses use the dolls to explain treatments.

When a child requires an intravenous shot, nurses give a trauma doll the shot first. When a child needs an arm or leg cast, the nurses put a paper mini-cast on the doll. With the dolls, kids get the feeling that they're not the only ones who are traumatized, the doll is, too. The dolls can also be used by law enforcement agencies and groups such as Child Safe.

Since none of the members of the Club sew, they were at a loss. Then member Bob Milner had an idea. For the past five years, he has served as the representative from Pettis County for Care Connection, the agency that oversees the Senior Centers in a 13 county region.

He thought this might be a project someone at the Sedalia Senior Center might like so Milner spoke with County Senior Services Tami Hesseltine. She found four ladies who were interested and they sewed around 60 of the dolls. The Kiwanis club met at the Sedalia Senior Center on Friday, April 8 to thank the ladies and have lunch.

The dolls will be donated to the Bothwell Regional Health Center, the Sedalia Police Department and Child Safe.

More information—Robert J. Milner at bobmilner@sbcglobal.net

ELIMINATE
maternal/neonatal tetanus

Reading by the third grade important –Contributed by Dr. Wil Blechman, MD.

The disquieting side effect of our increasingly detailed longitudinal studies of students is we keep finding warning signs of a future graduation derailment earlier and earlier in a child's school years.

Robert Balfanz of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore found those warning signs as early as 6th grade— chronic absences, poor behavior, failing math or language arts, which when put together lead to a 90 percent risk that a student won't graduate on time.

A study to be released this morning at the **American Educational Research Association** convention here in New Orleans presents an even earlier warning sign: **A student who can't read on grade level by 3rd grade is four times less likely to graduate by age 19 than a child who does read proficiently by that time.** Add poverty to the mix, and a student is 13 times less likely to graduate on time than his or her proficient, wealthier peer.

"Third grade is a kind of pivot point," said Donald J. Hernandez, the study's author and a sociology professor at Hunter College, at the City University of New York. "We teach reading for the first three grades and then after that children are not so much learning to read but using their reading skills to learn other topics. In that sense if you haven't succeeded by 3rd grade it's more difficult to [remediate] than it would have been if you started before then."

Mr. Hernandez analyzed the reading scores and later graduation rates of 3,975 students born between 1979 and 1989 in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' National Longitudinal Study of Youth 1979. He found 16 percent overall did not have a diploma by age 19, but students who struggled with reading in early elementary school grew up to comprise 88 percent of those who did not receive a diploma. That made low reading skills an even stronger predictor than spending at least a year in poverty, which affected 70 percent of the students who didn't graduate. In fact, 89 percent of students in poverty who did read on level by 3rd grade graduated on time, statistically no different from the students who never experienced poverty but did struggle with reading early on.

We hear increasingly how important it is that kids develop appropriate literacy skills by the end of 3rd grade. Indeed, I am asked with some frequency why I keep pushing for Kiwanians to interact with children in child care and preschool, when it would appear more important to be involved with these children in grades 1, 2 or 3. What do I mean with the use of the words, "interact" and "involved?"

I hope Kiwanians will read to these very young children and provide books for them to take home, but also to get a sense from the child care and preschool directors whether some of the kids might also benefit from clothing or food supplements as well or even such things as dental care!. Kiwanians can supply some of these things to the director who would take care of things anonymously for the benefit of the child (one or more.)



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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 Clubs are lining up to contribute to The Eliminate Project.

The second Kiwanis International Worldwide Service Project was announced in June, 2010. Kiwanis and UNICEF have joined forces for The Eliminate Project to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT). This deadly disease steals the lives of 60,000 innocent babies and 30,000 mothers each year. The effects of the disease are excruciating – tiny newborns suffer repeated, painful convulsions and extreme sensitivity to light and touch.

To eliminate MNT from the Earth by 2015, 120 million mothers and their future babies must be immunized. This requires vaccines, syringes, safe storage, transportation, thousands of skilled staff and more. It will take \$110 million and the dedicated work of UNICEF and every member of the Kiwanis family.

If you would like to help in the fight against MNT, please mail with your tax deductible contribution to the Kiwanis International Foundation. A gift of \$1,250 will make you eligible for a Walter Zeller Fellowship Award.

Kiwanis International launched its first ever Worldwide Service Project in 1994, partnering with UNICEF to protect children from Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD), the world's leading cause of preventable mental retardation. Nearly \$100 million was raised, the project was an immense success, and now IDD is virtually eliminated across the globe.

