Wow time flies!

Kiwanians we have completed five amazing months of service to our communities and opened five new clubs in our District. What an awesome performance Kiwanians, we indeed are making a difference. Thanks to all who made this a reality.

In a few weeks many of our SLP’s will be making final arrangements for their District Convention. I urge all Kiwanians to assist them financially and make arrangements to attend the convention. We, have the ability to take away worries, pain and hardship. Remember Kiwanians provide the opportunities for all SLP’s to reach their potential. Kids need Kiwanis now than ever before.

I challenge every Kiwanian to be leaders of excellence and continue to be advocates of good values in this every changing world.

Your Servant Leader

Robert Moo Young
Governor 2017-2018

_Service is Our Passion”
#Kids Need Kiwanis
We are into that period when we highlight our Service Leadership Programmes (SLPs), participate in their activities and celebrate with them.

The Aktion Club launched its inaugural Week and received special recognition from US Congress.

Heather Stuart, president of the Arc Fresno Aktion Club, proudly displays the recognition presented to the Kiwanis Aktion Club from the U.S. House of Representatives.

The inaugural Builders Week will be March 19 - 23 where members will be able to show their communities what they are about.

The 55 years celebration of Kiwanis service for Past Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Jim McDonald, who joined Kiwanis in 1962 after benefitting from a college loan underscores the importance of Kiwanis building communities and developing leaders.

It reminds me of the proud Kiwanis moment recently when I watched the video of Miss Ke-mesha Kelly giving her valedictorian speech at University of York, U.K. Miss Kelly is a past Lieutenant Governor of the Key Club District of Jamaica. She was also the beneficiary of Key Club District of Jamaica Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement and Service, the Kiwanis Club of Kingston Award for Youth in Excellence in Leadership 2008.

Let us continue to support and empower our SLPs' so they will become leaders who will change the world and to make it a better place.

Amendments and resolution proposals for the 103rd Kiwanis International convention have been posted! Learn more: http://bit.ly/2nDxN3P #KiwanisCon18

Key Club is the oldest and largest service program for high school students worldwide. It is a student-led organization that teaches leadership through service to others. Members of the Kiwanis International family, Key Club members build themselves as they build their schools and communities. Key Club serves on almost 5,000 high school campuses in over 30 countries. Membership is greater than 260,000 students and continues to grow.
As Kiwanis International celebrated its 103 anniversary on January 21, 2018, several activities were executed across the globe. One such, was the National Church Service at the Portmore Holiness Christian Church which saw one of the largest gatherings of Kiwanians from Divisions 23 East, 23 West, 24 and 25, since the beginning of the administrative year. It was a spiritual “coming together” of teachings, worship, praise and fellowship, thanking God for the strength in carrying out the different projects over the years. Bishop Alvin Bailey, Senior Pastor delivered the message. Governor of Eastern Canada and the Caribbean District, Robert “Bobby” Moo Young, was present to bring greetings on behalf of the over 125 clubs of Eastern Canada and the Caribbean District. “The Kiwanis Movement is an honorable one and I am proud to be leading this delegation in service of humanity” he noted. Among the other many distinguished Kiwanians in attendance were Lieutenant Governors Dwight Lawrence, Sharon Williams, Wentworth Gabbidon and Herman Grant as well as Kiwanis Foundation of Jamaica President, Christopher Robinson.

In the meantime over in Montego Bay, the Kiwanis Club of Providence executed its annual gesture of welcoming the first baby born at the Cornwall Regional Hospital. It was a joyous occasion, as the all female members converged on Ward 4 to present gifts to twins (boy and girl) born to Tasenior Scott and Sheldon Rodman. It was an extraordinary project, as the group was anticipating one baby. As usual, the cradle of newborn gifts was enough for the surprise twins. Director Kenya Keddo along with Chairman Merdel McCabe, were elated to not only lead a healthy delegation but to continue the mandate of service to 0-5 year olds, through its Young Children Priority One Committee.

Each year on January 21 and June 8, the Club visits the Cornwall Regional Hospital to welcome the first born on Kiwanis International birthday and the Club’s birthday respectively.
Kiwanis Club of Linstead Charters K-Kids at Orangefield Primary


These future leaders of grades 1 – 5, have displayed interest in volunteerism, exhibited leadership qualities and have vowed to keep the Kiwanis flag flying high at Orangefield Primary.

Under the leadership of Faculty Advisor and Secretary of the Kiwanis Club of Linstead, Mrs. Devina Thompson, the newly formed K-Kids have began meeting each Friday evening in order to plan their weekly activities and projects. “The students are extremely proud, excited and interested in being involved at this level in the planning of activities and they look forward to a wonderful term, as young K-Kids leaders” Mrs. Thompson said during the Charter ceremony.

Plans are also already under way for joint projects between Orangefield and its sister club Wakefield K-Kids.

Kiwanis welcomes Orangefield into the family.
2018 Kiwanis EC&C District Convention…."Watch Out fi Dis”
“Look out for this”

Don’t miss out on any of our Main Events…

Opening Ceremony – Thursday, May 17, 5:00 p.m.
Presidents, SLPs, and Awards Luncheon – Friday, May 18, 12:30 p.m.
Celebration Breakfast – Saturday, May 19, 7:30 a.m.
Members’ Grand Gala – Saturday, May 19, 7:00 p.m. (Ticketed Event)

Don't miss the Jamaica Night “Spirits Awakened” - one of the main events at the 2018 EC&C District Convention on Friday, May 18, starting at 7:00 p.m. till you say when...

Come experience a night of mystery and excitement as we party on the lawns of the Rose Hall Great House while enjoying Jamaican cuisine and music... The Jamaica Night Host country party promises to be a night when spirits flow ...literally.

Rose Hall Great House

Visit our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/KiwanisECCDConJamaica2018/ for more details on the Convention, Hot Spots in Jamaica, and the work that Kiwanians are doing in Jamaica. Follow us on Twitter @kiwanisdconja18 and Instagram @eccconvention2018...

NO VISA REQUIRED

Don’t miss it.....
The Kiwanis Club of Negril Point in collaboration with Past Lieutenant Governor of Kiwanis Division 25 Cornwall, Allan Causwell, presented a bursary of $20,000.00 to Karlene Arthurs, mother of Devaro Bremmer of Brighton, Westmoreland. Devaro who was a student of Revival All Age School received very good grades in GSAT and now attends Frome Technical High School.

The idea of a bursary for a needy student is the brainchild of Past Lieutenant Governor, Allan Causwell who donated $10,000.00 which was matched by the Kiwanis Club of Negril Point Club. The criteria for selecting the student to receive the bursary were their financial need and their performance in GSAT. Devaro lost his father a few years ago and his mother is unable to work due to an ongoing illness. The Principal of Revival All Age School where he attended recommended Devaro as an excellent student who did very well in the subject areas particularly in Mathematics, his favorite subject. Devaro’s ambition is to be an aeronautical engineer.

The Club also provided him with school books, a school bag, physical education gears, cash donated by members and other items he needed for his first term in high school. Eight club members have since committed to paying his transportation cost (daily roundtrip from home to school), approximately US$50.00 per week. One of the club’s prospects also paid for Devaro to attend Cadet Camp at the end of the Christmas term.

A special Christmas gift of cash was made from The Kiwanis Club of Negril Point to Devaro and his family to ensure that they had a good holiday. His mother is very grateful to our club for sponsoring her son and thanks us regularly.

The Kiwanis Club of Negril Point has committed to supporting Devaro through his five years of secondary education.
Literacy begins at birth. Reading to a child from birth provides the sights and sounds that will help the brain develop fully. Research strongly suggests that children exposed to books, story telling and reading from birth are more likely to be successful in school and to complete their education. Early literacy programs targeting parents of newborns have demonstrated the effectiveness of this approach.

Excerpt from the United Way of London & Middlesex Proposal to Kiwanis Club of Forest City-London.

In the fall of 2008, Kiwanis Club of Forest City-London approached United Way of London & Middlesex for advice on how to introduce to the London area a children’s literacy project similar to a successful model implemented by the Niagara area Kiwanis clubs. The goal was to distribute new books purchased at wholesale cost to young children, targeting low income areas of the city.

At the same time in London the Child and Youth Network (CYN), a group of over 100 local community partners, was working on concrete ways to address literacy for children, youth and families. A local study commissioned by United Way had shown that there was a need for a comprehensive program to promote literacy from birth, and the CYN was aware of a highly successful program in Nova Scotia called “Read to Me!” which targeted families of newborn children.

In November 2008 United Way presented to Kiwanis, on behalf of London’s Child and Youth Network, a proposal called “Making Literacy a Way of Life”. The goal was to provide a literacy bag containing books and information to expecting and new parents, providing them with literacy tools that could be used as soon as the baby was born. The proposal was based in part on the Nova Scotia “Read to Me!” Program and in part on the Niagara Region Kiwanis children’s books distribution model. The CYN had the expertise to choose the best books, give the right information, provide training and disseminate the resources. The Kiwanis Club of Forest City-London had both financial and volunteer resources to contribute to the program.

By the fall of 2009 the new program was up and running. The name “Baby’s Book Bag” followed by “Literacy…right from the start” was agreed upon. An accompanying image was designed and an order placed with a Toronto distributor for an initial 2000 sturdy, attractive bags. Each bag would contain two colourful board books, a suggestion sheet on how to engage baby while reading to him or her, contact information for early childhood classes and resources, a library application form and a Kiwanis information pamphlet.

One Kiwanis member had offered to provide storage space at his warehouse for the bags, the board books and the accompanying information sheets and pamphlets. Kiwanis volunteers were trained to assemble the bags at the warehouse and pack them up in boxes for delivery by CYN members to distribution locations. Kiwanis members were also trained to meet expecting parents at prenatal health classes and speak about the benefits of newborn literacy before handing the parents their very own Baby’s Book Bag.

“Baby’s Book Bag” “Literacy…right from the start” was on its way.

Over the years the program grew under the direction of the CYN: a CD with accompanying lyrics was produced by local musicians and added to the Bag; the music from the CD was made available on SoundCloud.com; “Do You Have This Bag?” posters and Baby’s Book Bag coupons...
were designed and distributed to reach expecting parents at hospital Pre-Admit Clinics, and physicians were encouraged to distribute Baby's Book Bags via “Prescription for Literacy” coupons. The Baby’s Book Bag program was promoted by both CYN and Kiwanis at regional and international events and conferences. By the end of 2017, over 10,000 Bags had been distributed in the London community.

In November of that year, the two organizations were awarded the 2017 Pillar Innovation Community Collaboration Award for the Baby’s Book Bag program. Congratulations were extended not only to the Kiwanis Club of Forest City-London and the Child and Youth Network, but to every educator, librarian, physician, nurse and community volunteer who had shared the message about the importance of literacy from birth with expecting and new parents.

Why has this program been so successful? Some contributing factors may be:

- a recognized need for more early childhood literacy programs in the community
- the quality and functionality of the Bag contents including attractive board books with accompanying tips on interacting with newborns, an enjoyable CD, and helpful links to newborn resources in the community
- good communication and cooperation between the two organizations
- satisfying hands-on experience for volunteers
- opportunities to reach expecting parents before they are caught up in the “business” of raising a baby
- the innovative nature of the program, allowing it to change with the times.

Following are comments from CYN and beneficiaries about the program:

**Julie Brandl, Past Chair, CYN Literacy**

“Working with the Kiwanis Club of Forest City-London has been an absolute joy. From our first meeting, they were enthusiastic and willing partners and I believe our collaborative efforts are making a real difference in our community. Being able to give expectant parents a Baby’s Book Bag is not only spreading the message about the value of reading to children from birth, it is also giving them the tools to do so. We hear from both service providers and from the parents themselves how much they love the Bags, the books, the music and the messages. And most importantly, we are hearing that the babies love to be read to... that’s literacy right from the start.”

**Jennifer Smith, Project Manager for Literacy, CYN**

“The Baby’s Book Bag initiative and the benefits it brings to new families in London would not be possible without the Kiwanis Club of Forest City-London. The Club’s investment goes well above and beyond the incredible financial support they provide. So many members have made it their business to volunteer time, energy and commitment to ensuring the bags are packed, stored, and delivered right to new and expecting parents with friendly smiles and loving hearts. And by working together throughout the years, the Child & Youth Network’s partners involved in this work are thrilled to consider our partners at the Club our friends, too.”

**New Parent and Baby’s Book Bag Recipient (a)**

“We received a bag when I was pregnant with my son. He’s almost 2 now. He loves the books we received and loves reading with us every day. We use the bag as his ‘school bag’ for day care.”

**New Parent and Baby’s Book Bag Recipient (b)**

“I hadn’t even considered before that reading to an infant was important. I love to read but didn’t think there was any point to reading to my baby until they could start to talk. Your info session made me realize how ignorant I was about that kind of stuff. I am SO happy the Kiwanis Club of Forest City-London member dropped into my prenatal class because (my son) loves books and loves to be read to. Thanks!”

Kiwanians from Forest City-London receive the Pillar Community Innovation Awards for the Baby’s Book Bag project. Also in the photo are members from the Child & Youth Network, and the sponsor of the Pillar Awards representative of one of the companies that sponsor the Pillar Awards.
A young man was hoping to attend Veterinary School in Guelph Ontario to follow his dream but unfortunately his parents did not have the means to send him. He heard about a service club that offered loans to students to assist with their studies and when he investigated he found out it was the Kiwanis Club of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

A letter was written to request financial support for him to go to Veterinary School and he was invited to come and meet with their committee. Since no one had received any money the year before, he was told he could have the money from both years, a total of $800 and he would receive that amount for the next six (6) years while he was in school. The agreement was that he did not have to start repaying the loan until one year after graduation and if he repaid it at the rate of $800 per year there would be no interest at all.

That young man went to Veterinary School, graduated and set up a practice in Sault Ste. Marie which was called Northland Animal Clinic. He repaid the loan to the Kiwanis Club of Sault Ste. Marie with gratitude and based on the terms that was agreed to.

After thinking about what he could do to give back to his community and the organization that supported his dream, he decided to join Kiwanis. The newly formed Kiwanis Club of Lakeshore had just been chartered in 1961 and their meeting time was best suited for his schedule, so he decided to join their club and did so February 7, 1962.

This individual is a Past President and Past Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Jim McDonald. He has been selected as Kiwanian of the Year. He was already awarded a Mel Osborne Fellowship, a Walter Zeller Award and was recently presented with the Legion of Honour.

Of course, he is retired now from his Veterinary practice and has sold his clinic but that has not stopped him from his dedication to the community, Kiwanis and the Children of the World.

On his actual anniversary of joining Kiwanis, February 7, Dr. Jim McDonald of the Kiwanis Club of Lakeshore, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario was treated to a special celebration by his fellow members to celebrate his 55th Anniversary of joining this great organization.

Congratulations PLG Dr. Jim McDonald and we wish you many more years of Kiwanis service. You inspire us all!
In December 2017, the Kiwanis Club of Lakeshore held its 27th Annual Award Dinner for “What Christmas Means To Me” at the Grand Gardens North ballroom. "What Christmas Means To Me" is an essay contest about the spiritual meaning of the holiday season. It is open to all elementary school children from grades 1 to 8 and can be submitted in any language or religious denominations.

Past President Rev. David Jack who was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation established this annual service project 27 years ago and it is as popular today as it was back then. Each year between 250 and 300 entries are received.

There were 2 winners in each of the 4 categories. Grades 1 & 2 winners are Madelyn P. from St. Basil’s grade 2 and Aarna K. from St. Basil’s grade 2, grades 3 & 4 winners are Chloe G. from Riverview grade 3 and Hannah L. from grade 4, grades 5 & 6 winners are Ashley M. from St. Paul grade 5 and Lily D. from St. Basil’s grade 6 and grades 7 & 8 winners are Hailey L. from St. Paul grade 7 and Avery W. from St. Paul grade 7.

In addition, there were also two best overall winners. The best overall winner was Niyati P. from Pinewood grade 5 and the second best overall was Leah C. from Holy Family grade 4.

The winners not only read their essay at the awards dinner, but also read them on the Oldies93 radio station’s Weekend Club hosted by Lou Turco on live from the Quality Inn & Suites Bay Front. We would like to thank our sponsors; Station Mall Merchant Association, Quality Inn & Suites Bay Front Hotel, Broadview Home Inspection Services, YMCA, Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre, Staples Store and Oldies93 radio station.

Congratulations to all 10 winners.