

Lake Worth Kiwanis Club Support Local Children in Many Ways

By Chester F. Taras, Immediate Past President, Kiwanis Club of Lake Worth

The Kiwanis Club of Lake Worth continues to serve the needs of local children year round. From their mentoring program, distributing dictionaries, funding local "Every Child a Swimmer" programs, working on Blood Drives, collecting school supplies, giving scholarships to deserving students and supporting the Aktion Club - this little club is always busy! The funds they raise are used for various causes that most Kiwanis Clubs support and in addition they have produced a very special event for many years. Their "Holiday Festival" and "Family Adoption for the Holidays" programs are the service projects that they are most proud of.

Christmas 2008 was a very tough one for most organizations due to the downturn in the economy, but by partnering with the City of Lake Worth, businesses like Wal-Mart, Home Depot and Sneakers, they were able to continue presenting this wonderful holiday festival for, not only the children, but all residents of the Lake Worth area.

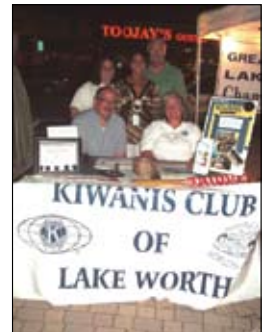
The Annual Lake Worth Holiday Parade ends at a wonderful park where every child, young or old, is transported into a magic wonderland. For many in our community, this is their only holiday enjoyment. The day includes live music and local dancers, a workshop where they can build wooden toys, games with prizes, bounce houses, rock climbing walls, bungee jumping and a even a visit to the North-pole to have a photo taken with Santa! The enjoyment created is the result of the hard work and dedication of the members of the Kiwanis Club of Lake Worth to ensure that the festivities at the event were FREE to all.

Local school teachers give the Kiwanis Club lists of children in need each year. The Club gets busy purchasing not only toys, clothes and bikes for the chosen child; but for all the children in the house with the parents receiving gift certificates

for food. These gifts are delivered by Santa and his Kiwanian elves on Christmas



Lake Worth Board Members June Evans & Paul Blockson (with grandchild) are excited to board the Santa Bus for deliveries.



Lake Worth Kiwanians assist with a Blood Drive.



Lake Worth Kiwanis with 3rd graders on Dictionary Day.

Eve.

Like each Kiwanis Club throughout the world, the Lake Worth Club supports the objects of Kiwanis and enjoys making a difference in others lives – but the faces of children who would not otherwise have any joy, at such a wonderful time of year, makes all the hard work and determination worth it!



Lake Worth Board Member Ted Bronstein gives Santa driving advice.

Countryside Kiwanis Host Exceptional School Children

By Tom Dulaney, Countryside-Clearwater Kiwanis Club

The Countryside Kiwanis Club recently hosted 348 Paul B. Stephens Exceptional School students, siblings and parents at their annual Zoo Day festivities at Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa. School administrators attending were Principal Gail Cox and Assistant Principal Maite Clark.

In addition to touring the zoo, everyone feasted on pizza and cold beverages afterwards while DJ Jody Bower, entertained with rock and roll and limbo music. Other entertainment included Clown Mikey Jones, who performed magical feats and ballooning along with students from the East Lake High School Key Club doing colorful face painting for the youngsters. All the kids said they really enjoyed their day at the zoo with the Countryside Kiwanis Club members.



For additional information on Countryside Kiwanis Club and their activities, please call 727-365-0200 or access their website at www.kiwanis.org/club/countryside.

2009 Riverdale Kiwanis Medieval Faire Great Success

**Over 13,000 Attend Annual
Event at Lakes Regional Park **

*Submitted by Rachel Smiley, Public Relations
Chair, Division 19*

The Riverdale Kiwanis annual Medieval Faire, held the weekends of Jan. 10-11 and Jan. 17-18 at Lakes Regional Park, brought over 13,000 attendees to experience medieval times. The event featured jousting, live chess match, live sword fighting, royal court, children's games and rides, jugglers, magicians, minstrels, period food and medieval themed merchants.

All profits from the Medieval Faire go to the Kiwanis of Riverdale Foundation Fund to support such programs as thanksgiving baskets for the needy, Christmas dinners, Buckingham Exception School, Orange River Elementary, Sunshine Elementary, school grants and scholarships.



Two knights competing in performance combat. Photo courtesy of www.EloquentImaging.com.



An actor performs in medieval costume. Photo courtesy of www.EloquentImaging.com.

Titusville Sunrise Kiwanis Club is 10 YEARS OLD!!

What a great time was had Saturday night February 21, 2009 at the San Mateo Clubhouse as Titusville Sunrise Kiwanis Club celebrated their 10th anniversary! Sunrise Kiwanis Club's first meeting was held on February 17, 1999 at Shoney's Restaurant and was officially chartered on April 8th with Florida Kiwanis District Governor, Lamar Fisher, presenting the charter. Dr. Dale Nanny was the Club's first President and completed that Kiwanis year. Denise Roberts was the club's first "full year" President, serving her term from October 1999 to September 30, 2000.

These were the only two Past Presidents who were unable to attend this celebration, however, Libby Canada and Mel Williams joined the other Past Presidents, Toni Merritt, David Ferguson, and Dale Aubrey, all who are still current members. LT Governor Brenda Van Nest and Titusville Noon Club's President, Karen Johnson, were the guest speakers. The current Sunrise Kiwanis President for 2008/2009, Mr. Ivan Briggs, hosted the evening. Special presentations included one made to Steve Bridges, who has completed 10 years of Perfect Attendance with this club.

Titusville Sunrise Kiwanis Club meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings at 7 am at Parish Medical Center. Everyone is welcome to attend. Some of the upcoming projects sponsored by Titusville Sunrise Kiwanis are: Mentoring at Oak Park Elementary School; Easter Egg Hunt (tentatively set for April 12th); Nursing Home Easter Bags; and a free Fishing Derby in April. It was a great night, and one all will remember at their 25th anniversary!!!

For more information on Titusville Sunrise Kiwanis contact Ivan Briggs



Seated Left to Right, Titusville Kiwanis Noon Club President, Karen Johnson, Richard Van Nest, Florida Kiwanis District, Division 11 Lieutenant Governor, Brenda Van Nest, Carol Briggs, Titusville Sunrise Kiwanis Club President, Ivan Briggs

Division 19 Kiwanis Join Annual Turkey Drive

Submitted by Kelly Sonnanstine, Ft Myers Gateway to the Island

November of 2008 brought the hopes of roasting Thanksgiving turkeys for families all over the South West Florida. Unfortunately, tough economic times threatened this annual family celebration. Five Division 19 Kiwanis Clubs, including the newly formed Gateway to the Islands Club, the Fort Myers – Metro club, the Fort Myers South club, the San Carlos Park Club, and the Lieutenant Governor joined with the Lamb of God Church for their Annual Turkey Drive. Each year, members of the church community prepare full meals to be distributed to needy families in the area. This meal includes "all the trimmings" from the fresh turkey, potatoes, and even desserts. Desserts were prepared and packaged by local high school culinary students. Then volunteers serve the meals and deliver them to the homes of local needy families. In 2007, the program served almost 800 meals.

The "Turkey Drive" grows each year and 2008 was no exception. Preparing almost 100 turkeys, 350 lbs of sweet potatoes, and a room full of bread the program and over 500 volunteers came together to serve and deliver over 2900 meals in a 5 county radius. Kiwanis club members assisted this program in gathering names of needy families, recruiting volunteers, cooking and delivering meals. This was truly an event to behold that brought hope to families throughout area.



Thirty Years Serving Our Children...

By Susan Lanier, Gulf Coast Kiwanis Club

Our Kiwanis Club Gulf Coast, Sarasota, FL has been blessed for 30 years hosting a Christmas Party and luncheon for The Oak Park School Students. Oak Park School serves students who are: 1) Behaviorally and Emotionally Disabled 2) Trainably and Educably Mentally Handicapped 3) Profoundly Mentally Handicapped and 4) Behaviorally and Emotionally Disabled.

On December 11, 2008 one hundred fifty students and teachers arrived at St. John's United Methodist Church along with very special guests, Santa and Mrs. Claus with a bag full of gifts! Our club believes in spreading love through service.



Santa & Mrs. Claus with students - Kiwanis Holiday Party

Kiwanis Club of Niceville – Valparaiso is Leading Contributor to Children in Crisis

By Ed Dunbar, Kiwanis Club of Niceville-Valparaiso

The Kiwanis Club of Niceville Valparaiso has committed to a multi-year project to support Children in Crisis, Inc. (CIC), a 501(C) (3) non-profit charity which operates The Children's Neighborhood, a community dedicated to nurturing and caring for abused, neglected, or abandoned children, taken from unsafe living conditions in Okaloosa and Walton Counties in Northwest Florida.

Before the CIC was established, when children were removed from their homes due to domestic disputes, neglect, or abandonment, there was no temporary facility available to care for them. Authorities would attempt to place them in individual homes. However, due to a severe shortage of foster homes, 45% of the children had to be separated from siblings, an equal percentage had to be placed out-of-county, and 26% of the available foster homes required an over-capacity waiver from the State before they could accept another child. The Children in Crisis organization was formed to address this need – the care of young children at their most vulnerable time, in the midst of a family crisis.

The Kiwanis Club of Niceville-Valparaiso has been instrumental in helping to both fund and build the Children's Neighborhood. The Club contributed \$6000 in 2007 and another \$6000 in 2008. In order to broaden and increase the Kiwanis Family contribution to this extremely worthy cause, the Club applied for and was awarded a Florida Kiwanis Foundation Grant of \$10,000 for the support of this important effort,

to be used for construction of the Neighborhood Center.

The Children's Neighborhood, when fully completed, will be composed of a neighborhood of twelve foster homes, staffed by

live-in parents, in addition to an emergency shelter that can house up to sixteen children for short stays, before they are returned to their parents or guardian, if acceptable, or placed in a foster home. Each of the twelve foster homes in the Children's Neighborhood will house up to eight children. Future plans call for a Recreation Center and a Transition Home for teens.

In the center of the neighborhood is a safe, modern playground, assembled by the Kiwanis Club of Niceville Valparaiso. Kiwanians contributed 400 service-hours to the assembly of the playground equipment, thus saving the CIC approximately \$12,000. The Club has also committed to share weekly grounds maintenance with other local service



Playground equipment assembled by the Kiwanis Club of Niceville – Valparaiso



Kiwanians Jim Lindsay, Jim Howard, and Jack Taylor provide quality control oversight a Immediate Past President Hu Ross assembles the playground surface.

organizations and to provide any other in-kind (Kiwanis-skilled) manual labor needed to assure the success of the Children's Neighborhood.

As an interesting "fringe benefit" for the Club, CIC Executive Director Ken Hair so identified with Kiwanians' commitment to children that he has become an active member of our club, and is currently President Elect.

For more information on Children in Crisis and The Children's Neighborhood, go to [http:// www.childrenincrisisfl.org](http://www.childrenincrisisfl.org).

Kiwanis Club Of Big Lagoon Participates In Florida Kiwanis “Hats And Hugs” In Action Program

By Eileen Brotherton, Kiwanis Club of Big Lagoon, Public Relations Chairwoman

Kiwanis Club of Big Lagoon recently participated in the “Hats and Hugs” in Action Program, when Kiwanians Pat McCormick, President of Big Lagoon, Mit Roth and Vete Senkus visited Hallmark Elementary School and delivered two large boxes of stuffed animals that were collected and donated by members of the club. The Kiwanis Club of Big Lagoon continues to help the children at Hallmark with needed items; many of the children that attend Hallmark come from single parent families who are struggling to provide the basic needs of their children let alone a luxury Teddy. We bring clothes, books, tutoring, etc. to them, and have adopted Hallmark children like our second family. The “Hats and Hugs” program seemed perfect for us to help Hallmark Elementary...for that is what Kiwanians do when we visit the children with the Terrific Kids Program, the R.E.A.D. Program and our members that tutor many of the students. A Teddy Hug is an extravagance to a Hallmark student and is so appreciated. The “Hats and Hugs” project is a program set up as a legacy

in memory of the wife of Florida District Governor, Nancy Liddell, who recently passed away. The Hats for kids is a program that supports children fighting cancer - Hugs is a program for kids that are in distressed situations.

The “Hats and Hugs” in Action Program is just another way the Kiwanis Club of Big Lagoon is making a difference in the lives of the children in Northwest Florida as they voluntarily carry out the Kiwanis dream to change the world for the better, one child and one community at a time. The following are children oriented activities that have received support from the Kiwanis Club of Big Lagoon: Perdido Kid’s Park; Sacred Heart Hospital Neonatal Unit; Scholarship for Excellence;

Relay for Life; R.E.AD. FURever Dog Reading Program;

Kiwanis International; Kiwanis World Link Program; Camp Happy

Sands; Big Lagoon Easter Egg Hunt; March of Dimes; Girl Scout Programs; Boy Scouts of America; Key Club; Hallmark

Elementary; Reading is Fundamental; Easter Service Program; and STRIDE Inc.

We invite you to attend the Kiwanis Club of Big Lagoon Meetings at: 13660 Innerarity Point Road Pensacola, FL 32507, Perdido Bay Community Center; Every Tuesday 7:30 am.



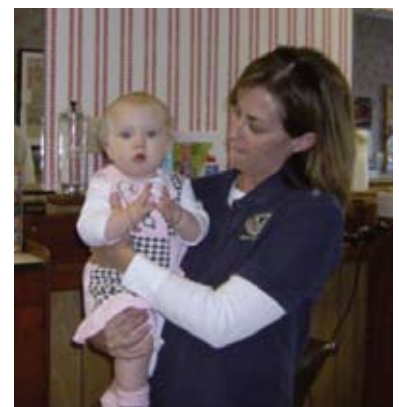
Front Row: (L/R) Hallmark Principal Sheree Cagle Mauldin and Elementary Resource Teacher, Judy LaBounty; Second Row L/R: Pat McCormick (President of Big Lagoon), Mit Roth and Vete Senkus holding some of the Teddy Bears donated for the children

Kiwanians Help One Year Old Avery Rose

By Tom DuLaney, Public Relations Chair, Countryside-Clearwater Kiwanis Club

Avery Rose was born January, 2008, totally deaf. Countryside Kiwanis member, Frank Ward, was made aware of this fact by her father while he was cutting Frank’s hair shortly thereafter. The Father, a barber, and Mother did not have the estimated \$170,000 to purchase the Cochlear Implants which were the only way to bring hearing to their daughter. Since no insurance company covers hearing loss expenses, Frank, being a good Kiwanian, knew what he had to do. He took the challenge to his club for some financial aid and other fund raising ideas. Since Frank is the club rep for the East Lake High School Key Club, he told them about this challenge which they adopted also. In addition to the fund raising efforts of the child’s family and friends, the Key Club raised \$500 and presented it to Avery Rose’s Dad at his barber shop on January 14th. In the meantime, the baby’s Mom had been working at Albertson’s which was later purchased by Publix Markets who subsequently covered another 80% of the cost of the Implants. However, the family is still not out of the woods yet but their hopes are a lot brighter.

So, because of a haircut, Countryside Kiwanis Club and East Lake High School Key Club were able to partner and bring some help to a baby in need. With a great deal of prayer, dedication and hard work, partial hearing will become a reality next week when Avery Rose, now one year old, will get her first Implant. She will get her other one later this year. There is still additional monies to be raised and there will be continued therapy but this once totally deaf little baby will be able to hear for the first time thanks in part to Frank Ward, Countryside Kiwanis Club, and East Lake High School Key Club helping make a difference in their community. For additional information on Countryside Kiwanis Club visit www.kiwanis.org/club/countryside. Perhaps hearing loss in children is something Florida Kiwanis and/or Kiwanis International can get behind and support in the future.



Clermont Kiwanis to Raise Funds for South Lake Boys & Girls Club

Submitted by Jamie and Carol Hanja from the Clermont Kiwanis Club

On January 14th 2009 the Steering Committee for Boys & Girls Club in South Lake organized a Lunch and Learns for the community. The purpose of the lunch (paid for by the steering committee themselves) was to give a presentation of the need and a background of the fundraising effort. A similar event was held in October as a kick off event to raise awareness in the community. Our goal is to raise \$300,000 by June of 2009 which is necessary to fund a club for the South Lake area children. It is our hope that enough funding will be in place to open a summer program for children whose parents work and would otherwise not have a supervised safe environment. A location has already been established with the Imagine Charter School and a partnership with Sylvan Learning Center tutoring services. Statistics were read to illustrate the need and high rates of juvenile crime in our community.

Local resident and Steering Committee Chair Tim Murry gave a speech about how there are no positive outlets for the area youth. As a local community organizer Mr. Tim Murry of Christian Men in Action was the one who reached

“Our goal is to raise \$300,000 by June of 2009 which is necessary to fund a club for the South Lake area children.”

out and contacted Beth Work asking for help. Last January Ms. Work spoke in front of the local Clermont community and the mayor, city manager and police chief. At the meeting Beth Work gave a pitch for a South Lake Club. There are currently two Boys & Girls Units serving the children in the north part of the county. Right away Kiwanians Jamie Hanja, Richard Collins, Audrey Jackson-Morgan and Tom Thomas were on board for this much needed Boys & Girls Club for South Lake. Shortly thereafter the Steering Committee formed.

A year later the efforts were in full swing at the January 14th Lunch and Learn. At the meeting we saw more community members joining and the momentum growing. No one can argue that there is definitely a need for the services the Boys & Girls club would provide. Spearheaded by Vice President Richard Collins the Clermont Kiwanis Club was the first service club in the area to step forward with a donation. It is our hope that others will soon follow and our funding needs will be met by our June deadline. Knowing that we cannot fail the local children, Kiwanis proudly puts its support behind this effort.



Pictured from Left to right are Berta Newbern, Rose Jayne, Jamie Hanja, Richard Collins, Audrey Jackson-Morgan, Valerie Winsett, Tom Thomas and Carol Hanja members of the Clermont Kiwanis Club donating to the Boys & Girls Club of Lake and Sumter Counties, Inc. Accepting check is Executive Director Beth Work.

Past Kiwanis President - Marty Grivjack and the Thelma B. Pittman Jupiter Pre-School

By Bob Horowitz, Immediate Past President, Kiwanis Club of Jupiter-Tequesta, FL

Computer literacy is essential for all children regardless of their family's socioeconomic condition. By having computers available as early as possible enables children to compete with others of their own grade level, who might come from more privileged circumstances. Thanks to the efforts of Past Jupiter-Tequesta Kiwanis Club President Marty Grivjack, many computers have been reconditioned and donated to worthy causes. When a local business, bank, or hospital upgrades their PC's, we have been fortunate enough to receive them for reconditioning.

Pictured are three computers that Marty has refurbished and the Jupiter-Tequesta Kiwanis Club has donated and set up at the Thelma B. Pittman Pre-School in Jupiter. This school is an integral part of our community and has been serving a vital role since 1968. Currently 90 children, (infants to 5-year olds) from all segments of our community are enrolled. Kiwanis' creed is "Young Children - Priority One". To that end, service projects at the Kiwanis Club of Jupiter-Tequesta range from pre-natal care to college scholarships.



Photo of 3 students seated in front of the computers flanked by Ruth Lawson, Executive Director of the Thelma B. Pittman Jupiter Pre-School (R) and Immediate Past President Bob Horowitz (L)

Kiwanis Club of Longboat Key Citizen Of the Year Award

Submitted by Bill Seva, LBK Kiwanis

February 19th, the Kiwanis Club of Longboat Key held its Annual Citizen Of The Year Award ceremony at the Longboat Key Center for the Arts. These awards have been made to deserving citizens since 1975. Some folks of note that have been recognized in the past are: Lt. Gen. Jim Edmundson, Edith Barr Dunn, Ralph Hunter, Jim Durante, and Dr. Murf Klauber.

This year the Citizen of The Year was Longboat Key resident and volunteer extraordinaire Claudia Fuller. She has been very active since relocating to the Town in 1990. She is President of the Republican Club of Longboat Key, PIC historian, secretary of the code enforcement board, connected with the Butterfly Garden and other activities. Her shining moment came when she wrote a play for the Town's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Also honored were; Longboat Key Police Officer of the Year, Willie Jackson and Longboat Key Firefighter/Paramedic of the Year Lt. Michael Murphy. These officers were selected by their peers.



Kiwanis Taste of Pine Island A Huge Success

Club Met Fundraising Goal While Thousands Tasted Local Cuisine

Submitted by Rachel Smiley, Public Relations Chair, Division 19

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Pine Island's Taste of Pine Island, held Sunday, Jan. 25 at Philips Park, was a huge fundraising success. The club reports that they met their fundraising goal for the Kiwanis Pine Island Youth Scholarship Fund, which assists Pine Island students with their higher education costs. Since 1985, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Pine Island has provided over \$100,000 in scholarships.

The Kiwanis Taste of Pine Island's success was attributed to bringing in twice as many vendors, which boosted record attendance. The annual event featured 78 local res-

Brenden Faulkner, the 2009 Fish Drop Drawing winner, pictured with Snook Cowboy who served as the master of ceremonies for the Kiwanis Taste of Pine Island.



taurants and craft vendors. Live entertainment was provided by the Pine Island Trio, The Skeeterland Band and Dogfish the Band.

In conjunction with The Kiwanis Taste of Pine Island, the sixth annual Southwest Florida Chowder Cook-off Contest and the Fish Drop Drawing were also held. The winners of the Chowder Cook-off Contest were: Perfect Cup of Matlacha (first place), Pine Island Winn Dixie (second place) and Jackie's Restaurant of St. James City (third place). Pine Island resident, 7-year-old Brenden Faulkner, took home the \$1,000 cash prize in the Fish Drop Drawing. Jane Zapks and Dave Kocarek took second and third place respectively in the drawing.



Jody Thacher of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Pine Island supervises judging of the Southwest Florida Chowder Cook-off Contest.

Robin Parmelee of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Pine Island sells tickets for the Fish Drop Drawing.



Kiwanis Taste of Pine Island 2009 crowds form to judge in the Southwest Florida Chowder Cook-off Contest.



Tom Timothy and George Birmingham of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Pine Island sell tickets for the Fish Drop Drawing.