

# K-Family Comes Together to Make an Impact on the Lives of Young Women

## Kiwanis One Day Project 2009

By Valerie Connors, Public Relations Chair, University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee CKI

On Saturday, April 4, 2009, Circle K International Club of USF Sarasota-Manatee came together with their sponsoring Kiwanis Club of Manatee Sunrise and the Southeast High School Key Club for a Kiwanis One Day Project to throw a baby shower for 15 young moms and moms-to-be currently residing at the SOLVE Maternity Home in Bradenton, Florida.

Circle K of USF Sarasota-Manatee collected baby item donations on campus for a month and were very successful! Member of the Southeast High School Key Club and Manatee Sunrise Kiwanis Club also collected items at their club meetings. The many items will go to the SOLVE Store where the girls will use points they earn through various chores and tasks to purchase the items.

Jenna Christiano, USF Circle K Club President, was able to secure 17 diaper bags fully loaded with baby formula to gift to the young girls and club Vice President, Jessica Szempruch did a terrific job of coming up with and leading some fun shower games which the girls really seemed to enjoy! Also, club member Nathan Earl was able to solicit donations from Target and Starbucks to give away as game prizes to the girls.

Other thanks go to Kiwanis Club Advisor and USF Sarasota-Manatee alumnus, Valerie Longo for asking Circle K USF Sarasota-Manatee to be a part of their Kiwanis One Day Project. Also a thanks to all of the Kiwanis, Key Club members and to the other Circle K members Justin James, Cheryl Ouellette, and Valerie Connors who helped out with and participated in the baby shower at SOLVE.



Members of USF Sarasota/Manatee Circle K Club, Southeast High Key Club and Manatee Sunrise Kiwanis take a break during the baby shower hosted for the young women staying at the SOLVE Maternity House in Bradenton.

# Lake Park K-Kids Car Wash a Huge Success

By Elizabeth Jacobson, K-Kids Advisor, Lake Park Kiwanis Club

The Lake Park Elementary School K-Kids, sponsored by the Lake Park Kiwanis Club, held their car wash Saturday, January 31st. Denny's Restaurant in North Palm Beach graciously provided the location for the car wash, which raised \$162. Although the weather was cold, 16 K-Kids donated their time and energy to wash cars. Aided by their sponsors, Mrs. Patrick, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Williams, the car wash was a great success. The K-Kids are also raising money through the Pennies for Patients project, and have raised \$354 to date. They plan a bake sale in the near future, with the proceeds for all the fund raisers to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. We are all very proud of our K-Kids.



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## Giving out “Hugs” to Children and Much More

By Ashley Hall, Aktion Club Faculty Advisor, North Lakeland Kiwanis Club

The AFI Aktion Club, which is sponsored by the North Lakeland Kiwanis Club, has been working hard to collect “Hats and Hugs” for donation to local organizations. Many members of the North Lakeland Kiwanis have also donated to the Governor’s Project and these donations along with Aktion Club donations have so far been hugged and given to children at the Florida Baptist Children’s Home and most recently, All Children’s Specialty Care, also in Lakeland.

The AFI Aktion Club has a close relationship with with VISTE (Volunteers in Service to the Elderly) which is also located in Lakeland. For Easter the AFI Aktion Club members made Easter Greeting Cards and donated them to VISTE. VISTE gave out these cards to their clients (who are all 65 years of age and older) who receive help with groceries through their Commodity Program.

The AFI Aktion Club is also hard at work collecting magazines that will be donated to local Adult Day Care Centers and are planning a lake cleanup in the coming months.



Members of the AFI Aktion Club visit the All Children’s Specialty Care of Lakeland and donate “hugs” to the children treated there. Also pictured are Kiwanians Ashley Hall, Aktion Club Faculty Advisor and North Lakeland Kiwanis Immediate Past President, Mary Crowder.

## Habitat for Humanity – A K-Family Tribute Build

By Eileen Charette, Jesuit Key Club Faculty Advisor, Kiwanis Club of Tampa

When Mrs. Nancy Liddell died suddenly in July of 2008, Governor-Elect David Liddell discovered how diverse and immense his family, especially his K-Family, really was. A small group of teenagers sat in the back of Mrs. Liddell’s funeral wondering how they could honor a woman who had been their friend and inspiration as Key Club members.

Jesuit High School Key Club President Thomas Burley had heard the stories of a woman who had provided so much for her younger siblings. With that in mind, 17 year-old Thomas approached the Kiwanis Club of Tampa to seek their assistance in sponsoring a Habitat for Humanity house in memory of Mrs. Liddell. Tampa Kiwanis President Marty Kosco, who nominated Gov. David for his current position, jumped into the project planning with both feet! Kiwanis Foundation representative Lawrence Bevis, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Tampa,

guided the clubs through the process of writing a Foundation grant for \$10,000. The Tampa Kiwanis Foundation kicked in a \$15,000 grant. The Florida District of Key Club



FLOF Grant for \$1000 was added in. And the Jesuit Key Club raised about \$20,000 at their annual putt-putt tournament in February. Another Habitat sponsor was found in Gerdau Ameristeel from the Hillsborough County area.

On April 4, 2009, Governor David Liddell blessed the wall-raising ceremony at the Habitat for Humanity home being built in Plant City, Florida. Quickly, the house on Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd has become a reality. A celebration of the house will be held on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 1PM in Plant City. By mid-June, the Lopez family, a Habitat for Humanity future owner, will move into their house – the house that Florida’s K-Family built. When Kiwanians and Key Club members work together, nothing can stop them.

