

# Key Club is the greatest student-led organization in the world

By Wayne Dell, Governor, Florida District of Key Club International

Throughout our history we have impacted our global community with a formidable 12 million service hours. With partners in service like UNICEF, Children's Miracle Network, Read and Lead, and March of Dimes, we are serving the children of the world on an enormous scale.

Perhaps our most successful endeavor is the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa through organizations like UNICEF and Grassroots Soccer. This past year alone, Key Club raised over three quarters of a million dollars to fund UNICEF's "Kick HIV/AIDS out of Kenya" project. This sum was so large, in fact, that not only did it fully fund the Kenya project for the next two years, but it also began funding the Swaziland project, a project focusing on a small Sub-Saharan country in Africa where HIV/AIDS is rampant. This project aims to develop care points in the villages, bringing food and water, activities for the children, local schools, and HIV/AIDS education.

As the past year closed with the very successful Key Club International Convention held here at home in Orlando, Florida, we trained new officers, educated members, and energized Key Clubbers. Between our speakers Jenna Bush, Judson Laipply, and Ethan Zohn, we managed to enjoy two dances and partake in workshops ranging from K-Family to learning how to tango. We are also proud to announce our victorious candidate for International Trustee, Joey Russo, who will be serving on the Key Club International Board for the 2007-2008 Key Club year.

Thank you, Kiwanians, for your support of this unique and outstanding organization. I look forward to working with Key Club and working with you in the upcoming year.



# Record Numbers for the Florida District of Key Club

By Carmen Calzon, Administrator, Florida District of Key Club

The Florida District of Key Club has posted record numbers of clubs and members in July 2007. The Florida District presently has a record 304 clubs with 13,384 members. This year's Board proposes to reach the 14,000 member mark and is hard at work to achieve that number.

In July 2007, the Florida District hosted the Key Club International Convention. Florida sent 153 participants to the Key Club International Convention in Orlando. Members of the Florida District were recognized during the closing ceremony. Kaci Kennedy, Jade Greene, Amanda Starr, and Joey Russo received the coveted Robert F. Lucas Outstanding Lt. Governor's Award. Joey Russo, past distinguished Lt. Governor and recipient of the Award was elected International Trustee. The Key Club of Lecanto High School and the Key Club of Jesuit High were recognized in the single service competition.

Many new initiatives are being planned this year by Key Club Governor Wayne Dell. His Governor's project will encourage mentoring and will follow Kiwanis Governor

Mark Taylor's "Be a Super Model" approach. This year, the District has also expanded its Sunshine Source publication and will be communicating with the Kiwanis Clubs that sponsor Key Clubs, on a regular basis. Governor Wayne and Governor Mark are working to truly forge a partnership that will propel Key Club to the highest level of service to our communities and our District, and provide leadership opportunities to its members.

In a turn-around of the traditional approach, this year's Key Clubbers will be holding recruitment drives for the sponsoring Kiwanis Clubs. This year, I am asking each Key Club Lt. Governor to recruit 3 members for their sponsoring Kiwanis Club. I hope this approach will trickle to each Key Club to also bring in 3 new Kiwanians. If their enthusiasm to date is any indication, we will soon have 900 new Kiwanians in the District. 2007-2008 is well on its way to being a banner year for Key Club in Florida!



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### Builders Club

By Dave Schmitt, P.E.

Builders Clubs are part of Kiwanis' future. Kids in Builders Clubs are currently in middle school and are making a significant impact to their school and community. Many of the kids in Builders Clubs are actually former K-Kids members which is a really nice trend to see, they are also future Key Clubbers. Builders Club gives kids an opportunity not only to serve their campuses and communities, but allows for developing leadership skills that will not only influence their middle school years, but future high school and college years. They will hopefully continue giving back to others when they become adults and hopefully after having a great middle school experience, consider being fellow Kiwanians.

Our goal for the Builders Club Committee this year is to double the number of schools that have Builders Clubs. Currently only 79 Florida schools have a Builders Club. This means too many schools are not having the opportunity to have one of these great clubs. I had a Kiwanis Club take on their first service leadership program in a club that has a very long history of doing great things. At first they were somewhat reluctant, but after working with these great kids and advisor for a very short time- thanked me for encouraging them to do so.

Giving kids an opportunity to learn leadership through service.

They also said their club had not had that much enthusiasm or energy in the past twenty years that they could remember due to their involvement with these kids

and seeing what a huge positive impact they had on others.

That is what this is about, giving kids an opportunity to learn leadership through service. For more information on starting a club in your area, please contact me at dave.schmitt@dseorl.com (407) 207-9088.



### Nine Key Club and Circle K Members Receive Scholarships



The Kiwanis International Foundation has awarded scholarships to nine Circle K and Key Club members in the Florida District.

Katelyn Marie Baird, a graduate of Palatka High School, received a \$4,000 Key Club International Youth Opportunities Fund Scholarship. She is attending the University of Central Florida in Orlando. The Youth Opportunities Fund scholarships are funded by the Key Club International reserve investment earnings and recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Key Club volunteers.

Megan Meckstroth, a graduate of the Kings Academy in Wellington, received the \$500 Harry S. Himmel Scholarship. She is attending the University of Florida in Gainesville. District Matching Scholarships are awards funded equally by the Kiwanis International Foundation and the district foundation. Matching Scholarships of \$1,000 recognize Circle K and Key Club members who have excelled in leadership and service. Financial need is not a factor.

Each district is eligible for up to five matching scholarships for each youth group based on the percent of Kiwanis clubs participating in the International Foundation's Annual Club Gift Campaign.

Four district Circle K's won matching scholarships: Dane Paul, University of Central Florida; Melanie Rodriguez, Florida State; Brandy Saffell, Florida State; and Hilary Slover, University of Central Florida.

Three Key Club members received a matching scholarship: Jade Greene of Boca Raton, attending Florida State; Megan M. Meckstroth of Wellington, attending the University of Florida; and Stephanie Perez of Miami, attending Florida International University.

The Kiwanis International Foundation's Annual Club Gift Campaign is conducted beginning each October. A total of 93 District Matching Scholarships were awarded this year.