

Celebrating Anniversaries, AFI Style

Submitted by Ashley Hall, Aktion Club Faculty Advisor, Kiwanis Club of North Lakeland

This year the Alliance for Independence Aktion Club will mark its 2nd year as a service club in the Kiwanis International family. On May 20th, 2009 the AFI Aktion Club will celebrate with an anniversary breakfast, sponsored by the North Lakeland Kiwanis Club. Currently the AFI Aktion Club boasts 58 members, all of which desire to give back to the community that has so freely given to them. Here is a little history on how the AFI Aktion Club got started.

Rob Crowder, who is a member of the North Lakeland Kiwanis Club, was at a Kiwanis District Convention back in 2006, chatting with his friend Matthew Cantrall. Matthew, who is a member of the Lakeland Kiwanis Club, suggested that Rob attend the Aktion Club Party that evening and the meeting the following day. Rob decided to follow Matthew's suggestion and was glad that he did. Rob said, "I was so impressed with the Aktion Clubbers excitement, commitment and determination. I was hooked!"



From that day on, Rob made it his mission to start an Aktion Club, which is a service club for adults with disabilities. At that time there was already one Aktion Club in Lakeland at Sunrise Community and Rob was unaware of another place that may want to start an Aktion Club. A few months later Dave Powell (a member of the North Lakeland Kiwanis) was talking about a donation that he had recently made to PCAHC. Rob asked him what PCAHC was and once Dave told him, he knew he had found exactly what he was looking for.

After meeting with Shirley Balogh, President/CEO of AFI (formerly PCAHC), Dave Powell, Matthew Cantrall and Rob Crowder began putting in the work to get an Aktion Club chartered at AFI.

And the rest is history. In the two years

since the AFI Aktion Club was chartered, the club has completed more than 20 service projects in a total of 889 hours. These projects, such as putting together Personal Care Bags for children in the Guardian ad Litem Program and helping to create a Butterfly Garden, have been completed with the help of other organizations in the community. The AFI Aktion Club has worked with VISTE (Volunteers in Service to the Elderly), The Montessori School, Kiwanis and Talbot House, just to name a few. Recently the AFI Aktion Club assembled 100 First Aid Kits that will be donated to VISTE to go home to their clients. All of the items in the First Aid Kits were either donated or purchased with money raised by the Aktion Club.

Congratulations to the AFI Aktion Club for all of your hardwork, determination and dedication to giving back to the community.



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Submitted by Elizabeth Jacobson, Lake Park Kiwanis

The K-Kids at Lake Park Elementary, in their yearlong fundraising endeavor, presented a check for \$411.45 to "The Pennies for Patients" Leukemia Foundation. On April 30, 2009 the check was presented in front of the whole school just prior to a chorus presentation that was all about "Possibilities", as you can see from the photos. How appropriate!!



A Message from Your District K-Kids Chair

By Dave Schmitt, K-Kids Administrator

Florida leads the way with Kiwanis International with its involvement with K-Kids clubs and the promoting of service and leadership. We greatly appreciate the efforts, not only of these kids, but of the outstanding school advisors for their efforts in supporting the Kiwanis cause and their time and dedication working with these great kids. Thank you for another great year of service. We have 217 active K-Kids clubs now in Florida - awesome! We are happy to welcome our two newest clubs K-Kids clubs to the K-Family: Imagine School at Town Center - Sponsored by Flagler Kiwanis and Safety Harbor Elementary - Sponsored by Safety Harbor Kiwanis. Thank you to all of the sponsoring Kiwanis Clubs, faculty and Kiwanis advisors for your time and efforts.



K-Kids around the District

Andover - (Kiwanis of East Orange Sponsoring Club) - Promoted the Pasta for Pennies Campaign, cleaned up litter around the campus and made bookmarks for Teacher Appreciation Week and collected soda can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

Apollo - (Titusville Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - We collected money for UNICEF, made medals for school field day, collected items for hospitalized children, held food and clothing drives, held a school wide drive for baby food jars, had a beach clean-up and helped at the Family Fun Fest.

Avalon - (Kiwanis of East Orange County Sponsoring Club) - The K-Kids at Avalon Elementary finalized their pop top collection and count and awarded the winning classrooms with their prizes. They participated in a sock project making toys for an animal shelter.

Braden River - (Kiwanis of Lakewood Ranch Sponsoring Club) - The Braden River K-Kids club has been busy this year creating a quilt for an organization called More Than Warmth. Each child designed a quilt square and wrote letters to the child that will receive the quilt.

Bunnell - (Flagler-Palm Coast Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - 2008-2009 Club Accomplishments Swaziland Children - Trick or Treat for UNICEF, Lollipop fund raiser, Flagler County Humane Society Supply Drive, Hoops for Heart American Heart Association, Relay for Life.

Brooksville - (Kiwanis of Brooksville Sponsoring Club) - They held their elections and planted roses around the school.

Camelot - (Kiwanis of East Orange County Sponsoring Club) - Give a Kid a Backpack - collect used school supplies to give to students in need.

Castle Creek - (Kiwanis of East Orange K-Kids Sponsoring Club) - Lights, Camera, K-Kids! Casey's Character Corner skits.

Challenger - (Kiwanis of Brooksville Sponsoring Club) - Has a cleaning the swamp project and elected officers.

Coquina - (Titusville Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - They assisted with PTO craft day, beach clean-up and help with Family Fun Fest.

Deltona - (Kiwanis of Spring Hill Sponsoring Club) - Helped with the school carnival, bedtime story reading event and held a school clean-up.

Edgewater Public - (Kiwanis of Deltona-Southwest Volusia Sponsoring Club) - School clean-up and a car wash.

Garner - (Winter Haven Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - We helped with the school garden and continue the maintenance and clean-up as part of the Kiwanis Clubs Kiwanis One Day event and helped at the club pinning ceremony.

Gulf Breeze - (Central Pensacola) - We made art contest posters, held a Hats & Hugs collection project and held an adopt an animal project.

Griffin - (North Lakeland Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) Project with VISTE (volunteers in service to the elderly). Dimes for Dictionaries.

Holly Hills - (Holly Hills Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - The K-Kids Club of Holly Hill Boys & Girls Club has visited the Riviera ALF.

JD Floyd - (Brooksville Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - We worked on the botanical gardens, held a clean-up project and helped move the fish pond at school.

Imagine Charter School - (Flagler Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - We collect items for the Flagler Humane Society.

Imperial Estates - (Titusville Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - We planted a garden for school, helped at Family Fun Fest and a beach clean-up.

Lake George - (Kiwanis of South Orlando Sponsoring Club) - Collected over 250 "Hats" and 400 "Hugs" for Camp Boggy Creek

Madeira Young Writers - (Gulf Beaches Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - Three of our K-Kids from Madeira Young Writers won the highest of awards at the 2009 Alliance of Young Artists and Writers National Awards.

Moton - (Kiwanis of Brooksville) - We held a fundraiser for the local deputy that was killed and collected aluminum cans for a school project.

Old Kings - (Flagler Beach Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - We collected items for the Flagler Humane Society.

Phyls' Academy - (Lauderdale Lakes - West Sunrise Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - The kids provided Easter Care baskets to the children.

Pinewood - (Sponsored by Jensen Beach Kiwanis) - They made Easter cards for the local nursing home and wrote thank-you cards to soldiers.

Ridgecrest - (Seminole County Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - We collected blankets for project Linus and wrote notes to go with each one, collected personal care items for the Ronald McDonald House, made spring baskets, bookmarks and cards for veterans.

Riverview - (Titusville Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - They are planting a butterfly garden and helped with Family Fun Fest.

Ruediger - (Tallahassee Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - Our Kiwanis Kids participated in a Penny Harvest last fall and raised over \$2000, visited our Elder Day Stay Program and played Bingo for Thanksgiving and sang Christmas Carols for Christmas.

Rymfire - (Palm Coast Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - Hats & Hugs a for local law enforcement, fire departments and hospitals. Collected the cans, plastic bottles and paper that each classroom recycles and transferring it to the huge recycling bins outside the school.

Safety Harbor - We received our charter, we provided Valentines for the residents of a local nursing facility, "Stuff the Bus".

Sawgrass - (Gulf Beaches Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - We participated in the spring festival and held a trash pick-up.

Stewart - (Kiwanis of Bradenton Sponsoring Club) - We helped weed and clean the school gardens, adopted a nursing home, helped a student with Leukemia and did landscape work for our school.

Stone Lakes - (Kiwanis of East Orange County Sponsoring Club) - Held campus clean-ups and worked on raising funds for Relay-For-Life.

Timber Trace - (Palm Beach Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - Earth Day project which involved cleaning the school campus.

Villages - (Lady Lake Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) - The kids made tissue flowers for prayer breakfast and helped.

Village - (Lauderdale Lakes - West Sunrise Kiwanis Sponsoring Club) The club played mayor and commissioners for the day at City Hall and had K-Family Fun Day.

Union Park - (Kiwanis of East Orange Sponsoring Club) - We are collecting money to sponsor an animal or animals at the SPCA - either for shots, or a kennel.

Waterford - (Kiwanis of East Orange County Sponsoring Club) - Led a new community service event call Canstruction.

New Horizons With Aktion

By Barbara Pyle, Aktion Club Administrator

Winding down after 3000 miles, visiting all Zone Conferences within the state and meeting all the wonderful people in Kiwanis. It was exciting to put faces with names people that we communicate with daily on the Internet. Congratulations to the new Aktion Clubs that have chartered this year, we hope to see you at the State Conference in August.

Information on our Annual Conference: It will be in held at the Rosen Centre Hotel, August 28th and August 29th in Orlando. Friday night will be our dinner/dance and Saturday will be our annual meeting. Our theme will be "Be Patriotic and Support our Troops." Registration for our 14th Annual Conference will be \$10 per person attending. There will be entertainment Friday and Saturday. If anyone is interested in going to Sea World, ask for the disability discount, our quoted price was \$37.48 per ticket.

What is the "New Horizons with Aktion" Clubs in the state? I am very thrilled and proud to announce that for 2009-2010, your new Aktion Club Administrator will be Past Governor, Donna Batelaan.

Donna is very much a friend to Aktion Club and has some wonderful ideas about how to help to enrich our clubs and members. After 4 exciting years within the Aktion Club, I am ready to hand over to Donna, the wonderful experience that each one has given to me.

I thank you for being there and how proud I am for each club within the Florida District. I will be sending out information on the Conference shortly. See you all in August at the Rosen Centre.



Highlight: Hats & Hugs

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Brandon sends Hugs with Kiwanis Kows

Submitted by Jim Powell, Secretary, Kiwanis Club of Greater Brandon

On April 23, 2009, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Brandon presented our Hugs to the Hillsborough County Fire Department to use during fires, auto accidents or children left at a safe haven. This is a fun hands-on project that our club enjoyed doing. The Brandon club chose stuffed cows because when our club was founded, the Brandon area was mostly dairy farms and orange groves. All our club members and the firemen hugged each Kiwanis Kow. The Kows each wear a tag that says "Hi, I am a Kiwanis Kow and I have hugs for you." We have also given Kiwanis Kows to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.



L-R - "Fireman Dave" and Captain Bob Porter



L-R - Wayne McKenney, Linda Orvis, Eddie Jenkins; back row - Melissa Poston, Cliff Knox, Christin Selmon, James Jensen.

Kiwanis Club of Cooper City Gives Hats & Hugs

Submitted by Steve Cummings, District Chair, Public Relations

The Kiwanis Club of Cooper City delivered 120 baseball caps to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood bearing the Kiwanis logo and the hospital logo.



(R to L) Steve Cummings-Club President, Mike Kadel-Treasurer, Lydia Kruger-President Elect and Bruce Blitman-Kiwanian of the Year make the presentation to the head mangers of the hospital.



President Elect Lydia Kruger who owns three stores named Shirts R Us made all the caps.



They were so grateful for the gift and gave us a tour of the facility. In my new assignment as Division Advisor to the Key Clubs in Division 24, I plan to bring in some Key Clubbers to volunteer at the children's hospital next Fall in different capacities.