

## Eliminate Project

Sister Anne-Marie Kirmse



The EliMiNaTe Project is off to a good start here in the New York District. As of Dec. 19, 2011, our total gifts and pledges amount to \$178,977.63, and pledges and contributions keep coming in. This translates into almost 100,000 lives saved. What an auspicious achievement for the beginning of the Campaign!

Why is the EliMiNaTe Project so important? In 38 countries of the world today, maternal neonatal tetanus is a deadly disease. Tetanus spores, which are found all over and cannot be eradicated, pose a real danger to mothers in areas where there are unsanitary birthing conditions. Tetanus can enter the baby through the cut umbilical cord and leads to an excruciatingly painful death marked with increased sensitivity to light, sound and other sensory stimuli. Worse than these conditions are the severe convulsions that the baby suffers. One child dies from MNT every nine minutes, and a mother dies every fifteen minutes. I shudder at the thought of the anguish of parents as they see their baby suffer without being able to comfort the child. Holding the baby, saying soothing words or singing



lullabies only make the problem worse.

In the face of such a terrible scourge, we Kiwanians are once again poised to make a momentous gift to humanity. MNT can be eliminated by a series of three injections, at a cost of 60 cents each. \$1.80 is all it takes to immunize a woman and her future unborn children. Surely each one of us can find this much change in our pockets or purses! Almost 20 years ago Kiwanis pledged to rid the world of IDD, and we did it! The world is a better place today because of us. If you were a member of Kiwanis in the 1990s, you can rightly be proud of the contribution you made. But this is not the time for us to rest on our laurels. Our New York State motto is "Excelsior," meaning ever upward, ever onward. We did it once, we can do it again!

We are in need of Kiwanians to serve the project as Division Coordinators or Club Chairs. Some divisions have these

positions filled, but most do not. A Division Coordinator assists the clubs in his/her division under the guidance of the Multi-Division Coordinator. The Club Chair would lead the fund raising activities of his/her club and oversee the preparing of reports. Ideally, the persons accepting these positions would agree to serve for the length of the campaign. For a more detailed description of these roles, please contact me at [kirmse@fordham.edu](mailto:kirmse@fordham.edu) or call me at (718) 817-4746. I will answer your questions and direct you to the Multi-Division Coordinator in your area.

It is truly my privilege to serve you in the capacity of District Coordinator for the EliMiNaTe Project. If there is any way that I can be of assistance, please let me know. I would be happy to come to a club or division meeting (within reasonable distance, of course, during the school year), to explain the project more fully. Just invite me!

## Eliminate Project Work Keeping Clubs Busy

During the past quarter, many Kiwanis Clubs and Service Leadership organizations have gotten involved in raising money for the Eliminate Project:

The new **Middle Village Kiwanis Club**'s raffle on Nov. 23 raised \$106 for the Eliminate Project to end neo-natal tetanus.

In December, several members of the **Bowling Green K-Kids** received New York Circle K Worldwide Service Project medals from Distinguished Past New York Circle K Gov. Rickie Santer, recognizing those who raised more than \$50 trick-or-treating for Kiwanis International's Eliminate Project. K-Kids Director Mia Biscardi received special recognition receiving a Diamond Level New York Circle K Worldwide Service Project Medallion. Faculty Advisor Rich Santer also announced that the club, as a whole, would be recognized with the Hixson Fellowship thanking the club for its \$1,000 contribution to the Kiwanis International Foundation.

The new **Sunnyside Key Club** conducted its first fund raiser, collecting \$194 for the Eliminate Project by collecting money with UNICEF Halloween boxes.

The new **Maspeth Key Club** raised \$160 at the its Flea Market for the Eliminate Project. Less than a month old, the club had fun at the flea market while raising money and awareness of the Eliminate Project.

**Circle K members on Long Island** staged a Murder Mystery

to benefit the Eliminate Project. Joined by K-Family from across Long Island and around New York State, the Circle K members from Adelphi University, Stony Brook University, Long Island University – CW Post, Nassau Community College and Five Towns College took to the stage to raise money to rid the world of Maternal/Neonatal Tetanus. Attending the event was New York District Kiwanis Eliminate Chair Sister Anne-Marie Kirmse.

By the close of the curtain, the event had raised more than \$3,300 for the Eliminate Project.



The Maspeth Key Club collecting for the Eliminate Project