



## Key Leader

Kim Scharoff

### Key Leader Moving Ahead

The weekend of October 6-8, 2006, we hosted our third Key Leader program at the Warwick Center with 34 students in attendance. Many thanks to the Hudson River West Division that donated all the snacks the students ate during the weekend. I also need to thank those Kiwanians who attended as chaperones: Ed Stoddard, Mary Burns, Pat Flynn, Elaine Flynn and Barbara Ewanciw, without them, the weekend would not have run as smoothly as it did.

Just because the 2006 events are finished does not mean that we are stopping. I am proud to announce that we have 2 dates booked for 2007. We would love to see all clubs in the district get involved by sponsoring at least one student to an event. Students can attend any Key Leader event in the world (obviously we want to see our 2 NY events fill but realize that some events outside of NY are actually closer for some).

#### Western NY Event:

May 16-18, 2007 Camp Stella Maris

#### Downstate NY Event:

October 5-7, 2007

(Columbus Day Weekend)

Greenkill (YMCA) Conference Center

The cost per student is \$160. If the participant is a member of a service leadership organization (Key Club or Builders Club), the cost is \$135. Student Facilitators and Chaperones are \$95.

We are also looking to build a network of people within the district to help promote this program. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I have a wonderful set of site coordinators working with me who are available to answer questions specific to the site. Western NY – Jennifer and Howie Barnes. Downstate NY – Richard Santer.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions [kscharoff@yahoo.com](mailto:kscharoff@yahoo.com)

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Club, Hempstead Kiwanis, Hempstead Key Club, West Hempstead Kiwanis, West Hempstead Key Club, Elmont Kiwanis, Elmont Memorial Key Club, Uniondale Kiwanis and Uniondale Key Club. SCAW stands for Sleeping Children Around the World. It is a program founded by Mr. and Mrs. Murray Dryden. Mr. Dryden liked to photograph sleeping children. When he retired he made it a project to present bed sets to 50 children in India. The set includes a mat or mattress, a blanket, a pillow, a mosquito net (if applicable), clothing, a sheet, a towel and school supplies. For the first \$200 collected and given to Kiwanis International through an Aktion Club, KI will match the funds. Whether you have an Aktion Club in our area or not, please become part of this wonderful program. If you have any question contact me at [Blueyes1255@aol.com](mailto:Blueyes1255@aol.com).

# Key Leader Program Held in Hudson River West



October 2006 Key Leader Program

By Amanda McLoughlin, freshman, Calhoun High School

Every year, Kiwanis International holds a leadership conference, called Key Leader, for students who show leadership promise. Often these students are Key Club members, and most of those students hold leadership positions in their clubs. There is approximately one conference for each state, though occasionally states mix. About thirty New York and Connecticut students attended this year's conference at Camp Warwick in Warwick, New York.

I was one of those lucky students. Two others attended from the Calhoun Key Club, Greg Mills and Constance Reilly. Key Leader lasted for two nights and three days, beginning on October 6th and ending on October 8th. The program is designed to benefit students who hope to become better leaders and acquire or move up in leadership positions. The program was largely organized by Kim Scharoff, the current president of Merrick Kiwanis. Activities included group work, team-building skills, and group discussions regarding leadership. The conference, as well as the people I met there, left a distinct impression on me.

A large part of the conference focused on discussion and interaction between students. We had many group discussions, group work, and group presentations. Most times the groups were changed, so everyone got a chance to meet and work with many other students. Some activities were humorous, others serious; one such 'serious' activity was discussing the morality of questionable situations. An example is music sharing

via programs such as Kazaa or LimeWire. While the situation is not a capital offense, the discussion that followed was intense. You don't get to experience that every day, honest conversations between a collection of mostly intelligent and strong-willed people. It was unforgettable.

Perhaps the best part of the weekend was meeting so many new people. The opportunity to meet a group of thirty people who all had leadership ambitions was incredible. Events like this are where future leaders are introduced to each other. I am convinced that I will hear of these people again in ten, twenty, thirty years. These are the people who will be CEOs, politicians, professors, or perhaps the president of their home club. Regardless of how large their ambitions, these people will make something of themselves. The opportunity to meet and befriend these people was invaluable. Naturally there were many strong personalities, but everyone was unbelievably friendly to each other. I am keeping contact with a few of these people via email, which I hope to continue for years to come.

Key Leader was an experience that would be hard to forget. The event was well-organized and informative, and I came home with a fresh outlook on service, as well as a revitalized motivation to one day run for a leadership position of the Calhoun Key Club. I feel privileged to have been chosen for such an honor, to represent my club and my town amongst the best student leaders in the state. I hope that the experiences I had and the friends I made will continue to aid me in my Key Club career and beyond.

# Oneonta Kiwanians Champion Suitcases for Kids Project

The Kiwanis Club of ONEONTA, Susquehanna Division – and it's Suitcases for Kids Project delivered the first of many suitcases to the Oswego County Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services and Foster Care Program. Program Director Sue Piero and her staff accept suitcases donated to the Oneonta Kiwanis Club.

Suitcases for Kids was established in 1996 by 12-year old Aubyn Burnside in Hickory, NC, in an effort to provide suitcases to foster children to have something in which to carry their belongings. Most foster care children carry their belongings in a garbage bag. Each child averages 7 moves while in foster care.

Can you help? Hard or soft luggage is acceptable. Please help a child who is less fortunate than you. Call Kiwanis Chair Neil Obergefell at 607/434-7922 to arrange for pick up of donations.

Kiwanis Chair Neil Obergefell will be collecting suitcases at Mid-Winter. So if you want to help just bring them with you. Look for a New Service Project Workshop about his program at the Desmond in Albany.



Oneonta collect Suitcases for Kids.



## Sponsored Organizations and Programs

Tony Palangi

### A NEW YEAR FOR KIWANIS 2006-07

First, congratulations to Governor Joseph Corace and First Lady Nydia elected to serve as the leaders of the New York District for 2006-2007.

Annually, the month of October designates the beginning of a new year for Kiwanis. For the Sponsored Youth Organizations it represents the first semester or period of the school year. It's indeed a time of anticipation, a time that generates enthusiasm, it's an opportune time for the students to become involved in school and community service projects and programs together with Kiwanis.

For the sponsoring Kiwanis clubs it's time to contact their sponsored clubs: Circle K Clubs, Key Clubs, Builders Clubs, K-Kids Clubs and Aktion Clubs. In order to ensure a successful year of growth and service, kindly review the following recommendations and follow up as soon as possible:

Make sure that club meetings have resumed following the summer recess and a Kiwanis Advisor appointed to assist them. Encourage the Kiwanis Advisor to report on a weekly or monthly basis the status of the club to the Board of Directors or club President.

Train the club officers if they haven't attended the Division, or Regional Training Sessions for officers.

Assist in the implementation of a membership drive to replace students who have graduated and to augment additional manpower needed for service projects and other club activities.

Participate in the preparation of a budget necessary to support all activities of the club.

Support them financially and provide transportation when needed to the Divisionals, Regional Training Conferences, Convention and other activities.

Invite the Faculty Advisor, Club Members, and the School principal to a regular Kiwanis club meeting and encourage Kiwanians to attend their club meetings.

REMEMBER – Communicate – work together as the K-Family – the avenue to success.

THE 25TH NEW YORK DISTRICT CIRCLE K SPEAKING CONFERENCE, held at the Georgian Inn in Lake George, November 3-5 was a highly successful conference. The theme "Don't Stop Believing in Service" was prevalent throughout the week-end. The off site service project --- Clean-up of Double H Camp in Lake Luzerne exemplifies the desire to serve on the part of our youth. The camp accommodates hundreds of handicapped children.

At the opening session of the conference on Friday evening Emily Canales, President of the Warren-Washington Aktion Club

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