

# Batavia Kiwanis Commits to Long Term Project

Four years ago the Kiwanis Club of Batavia decided it needed a long term project for the club, one that would fill an important need, unite their membership and associate the club with something that the community would want to support for years to come.

When the Batavia Kiwanians learned that their county's Justice for Children Advocacy Center (JFCAC) was paying \$18,000 per year to rent an older two story home in the Batavia and that their grant funding was dwindling, they knew that they had found the perfect project -- funding the acquisition of a permanent home for the JFCAC.

The Justice for Children Advocacy Center provides services for children from Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming (GLOW) counties who are alleged to have been sexually or physically abused. Services for these children include forensic interviews, medical examinations, victim advocacy and counseling, all of which allow every child's voice to be heard in a caring and compassionate setting. The JFCAC affords families of child victims comprehensive services without having to navigate the confusing web of multiple human service and governmental agencies on their own.

The JFCAC serves the entire GLOW region and provides services at no cost to victims. The center relies solely on grant funding and donations to support its work. As awareness of available services increases, the number of children served by the center grows and the center is increasingly challenged to accommodate these needs. As grant funding diminishes, the importance of reallocating funds such as those budgeted for rent is ever more important, so that these dollars can be used instead to provide direct service to children.

For the past three years, the Kiwanis Club of Batavia has held the Bidding on a Brighter Future Gala and Auction to raise money for the project. This event involves a major effort by the members of the club than in the first three years has raised \$120,000. They plan to continue doing this until they have raised the funds necessary to complete the project.

The Kiwanis Club of Batavia has also reached out to fellow Genesee Division clubs and they responded with enthusiastic support due to the recognition that the JFCAC serves children in the geographical areas of their own clubs. Clubs from Brockport, Byron, LeRoy-Pavilion-Stafford, Livonia, Mt. Morris, Nunda, Pembroke-Corfu-Darien, Warsaw and York-Leicester all began to consider ways to contribute to this effort. Several clubs earmarked their annual fund raising campaign profits to donate, some clubs donated items and



The crowd gathering at the 2013 Gala.

services for the Gala, while other clubs purchased tables at the Gala and became sponsors of the event. The warm embrace from their local clubs has made this a collaboration that has unified these clubs in a new way and rekindled the true spirit of Kiwanis while increasing club memberships through its compelling, common purpose.

Everyone in attendance at this great annual event has had a great deal of fun during the dinner and auction, as the club has strived to offer unique, quality items through the live, silent and basket auctions. The club hopes and expects that this event will get bigger, better and more successful each year. You can join the Kiwanis Club of Batavia and their fellow Genesee Division Clubs in supporting this very worthwhile cause by placing an ad in this year's Gala Dinner and Auction program, becoming a sponsor of the event, donating a basket or other item (large or small) for the auction, attending the Gala on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at Genesee Community College in Batavia, New York or by sharing the event information via Facebook, email and other social media.

The event planners can be reached at (585) 815-5234 or [info@biddingonabrighterfuture.org](mailto:info@biddingonabrighterfuture.org).

## Risk Management

Stephen Bernheim



We of Kiwanis have been very fortunate in that one of our mottos is that "we build bridges for children to the future," and to that end we support numerous organizations, including Key Club, Circle K, Aktion Club, Builders Club, K Kids, Bring Up Grades, Terrific Kids, and K Leader. To this end, we are proud of the accomplishments of these organizations and proud of our clubs that participate and sponsor these organizations.

Although we have this pride, and al-

though we do this wonderful work, situations in the world sometimes cause us to think of the people that we put in charge of these organizations and it is our hope and prayer that these people are above board and free of criminal backgrounds.

In the near future, each club will receive information from Kiwanis International. It is important that each club which sponsors one of these youth organizations utilize the background checks on the people in charge of the organizations. It is a must that our name and principles could never be compromised. If I can be of any help to you in figuring out these applications, please feel free to call upon me.

The reputation of Kiwanis can never be sullied and this small exercise in seeing to it that the people who we put in charge of the organization do not pose a threat is worthwhile.

## East Meadow Sponsors New K-Kids Club

In February a new K-Kids club at Meadowbrook Elementary School in East Meadow had a celebration of its new charter.

Participating in the event were members of the sponsoring East Meadow Kiwanis Club, Long Island South Central Division Lt. Gov. Ann Torcivia and District Gov. Joe Aiello.

The new club's president is Isabella Petz.