

# New York District Kiwanis Foundation

District  
Foundation

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It's spring time, at least I hope it is by the time you get to read this because as I sit here writing this article it is still in the low 30's out my window. None the less it is spring on the calendar and we have to act accordingly, that means that preparation are on the way to get the Kamp cleaned up and ready for the Kamping season.

To that end, let me tell you about May 14th, 15th and 16th which is our Kamp opening weekend. That's when you, New York District Kiwanian, can plan to come up, put on you work clothes and help us get "YOUR" Kamp ready for June when we start getting the first Kampers.

You may have noticed that I emphasized the word "YOUR" because I still think that there are many of you that don't realize that the Kamp is owned by the New York District Kiwanis Foundation and you, as a member in good standing of New York District Kiwanis, are

automatically a member of the Foundation, that makes you part owner.

Now that I have cleared that up, if you, do own a house, a car, an apartment or anything else of substance, you know that it needs to be maintained, well so does Kamp Kiwanis, and since you're one of the owners, you must come up and help maintain it, (Oh the power of deduction).

This was a very harsh winter and many things at the Kamp need repairing, if you decide to come up and help us, we can use you. You don't have to be a skilled craftsman. If you are, we'll direct you to tasks that are your strong suit, otherwise we'll just use your talents of painting, raking, cleaning and anything else that you can do.

I told you last year we were very happy that the organization "Lifestyles for the Disabled" came up to our Kamp for two weeks after the children's Kamping season, this was a great help to us and it was a great experience for them. We were able to keep some of our staff the extra two weeks and along with our executive director and assistant director we were able to provide them an experience that they are still talking about. Rebecca, Luke and the staff of counselors provided two weeks of great memories for those individuals.

## 2015 Kamp Kiwanis Schedule

Adult Week 1	June 21-26
Adult Week 2	June 28-July3
Child Week 1	July 5-11
Child Week 2	July 12-18
Child Week 3	July 19-25
Child Week 4	July 26-Aug. 1
Child Week 5	Aug. 2-8
Child Week 6	Aug 9-15

Well it seems that this organization was so impressed that they have decided that they will do it again. We are thrilled that they have chosen to come back and give those individuals more great memories, after all that's our motto, "Kamp Kiwanis, Where Memories Are Made".

All of us at the New York District Kiwanis Foundation want to thank all of the clubs and individuals that helped send all those children to our Kamp and we certainly hope that you repeat or exceed what you did last year. Have a great Easter or Passover and spring.

See you at Kamp.

## Ticonderoga Kiwanis Creates a New Signature Project

On Friday mornings in Upstate New York, a dedicated cadre of Kiwanis volunteers meets to distribute backpacks filled with nutritious foods for needy children from low-income families.

Many of these backpacks are delivered to the children's classrooms for them to pick up on their way to the bus at dismissal time while others are delivered to other school buildings.

These children-in-need are excited to receive their backpacks full of food. "Oh goodie, it's our backpacks! They're here," said one young student.

In 2012, Ticonderoga Kiwanis took a serious look at the problems affecting local children. What it found was alarming! Nearly 28 percent of local school-aged children live in households struggling on incomes below the federal poverty level.

Most of these kids receive a major portion of their nutrition from the free breakfasts and lunches they receive at school, Monday to Friday.

The Ticonderoga Area BackPack Program is designed to meet the needs of these hungry local school children on weekends.

The program provides backpacks filled with food for every weekend during the

school year that is nutritious, shelf stable, and easily prepared and consumed. Kiwanis partners with the local school districts in this effort.

School staff who know the children, their issues, and their backgrounds select the children to participate in the program. They also contact the children's parents to explain the program and ensure that the parents are on board with their children participating in the program.

Kiwanis is responsible for the raising funds for the program and coordinating the volunteer efforts.

Numerous studies document that children who suffer from under-nutrition tend to have more health problems, have poor attendance at school, have more behavior issues, and have poor academic performance.

But how to tackle such a big issue? Ticonderoga was fortunate to identify the Regional Food Bank of NE NY and its established backpack program. The Regional Food Bank plans the menus, orders the food and delivers it twice-a-month, and uses its tremendous purchasing power to provide the food at 25 percent of retail cost.

Kiwanis International Foundation

provided very generous early support for the program which has enabled it to serve more needy children. An initial grant of \$7,515 fueled the program's expansion in the 2013-14 school year. From only one school in the program and 45 kids at the end of the prior school year, with the Foundation's support, the program expanded to four local schools and 120 children.

Kiwanis International Foundation continued its generous support of the program with a second \$7,515 grant for the 2014-15 school year. With this support, the program today includes five local schools and 170 children. At this level, the annual cost for the food from the Regional Food Bank is \$28,500.

It is important to note that this project continues every weekend throughout the school year. Kiwanis volunteers team up to accept the twice-a-month food deliveries and organize the food storage room in preparation for the weekly stuffing of the backpacks.

At its present level of 170 kids, the volunteers will fill over 5,200 backpacks per year -- the equivalent of 32,000 meals!