

Builders Club

**Millie
Mandese**



During these troubling times, powerful and purposeful Kiwanis education is more important than ever!

At the middle school level, this is accomplished through a Service Leadership Program within Kiwanis. As my predecessor Joanne Underwood has said many times, "there's only two groups of people that give Middle School children a chance to prove they are young adults, and they are Kiwanians and drug dealers! Which do you want influencing your children?"

Wow! What a powerful statement from a very knowledgeable Kiwanian! Throughout my term, I will be focusing on several of our Builders Clubs and the

wonderful projects they have been involved in.

Kudos to Long Island North Lt. Gov. Kathy Levinson and to the Finley's Builders Club of Glen Cove, who along with the Student Council and National Junior Society, created a food pantry in their school which provides assistance to Glen Cove families in need. Their dedication to this worthy cause which started in April 2016, continues to this day!

A special "Shout Out" to Long Island South Central Lt. Gov. Theodore Helm; The Kiwanis Club of Bellmore; The Grand Avenue Middle School Builders Club; and Advisor Sean Doherty for collecting and organizing new or gently used books suitable for young children to adults. They collected more than 250 books and have distributed them to high-poverty schools and organizations in the metropolitan area. Their next project will be to collect "Pennies for Patients" to benefit the Leukemia Society.

Special Honors go to Maspeth Kiwanis on its IS 73 Builders Club that has been

continually operating since 1977, 40 years! According to Advisor Michael Terry, they have raised tens of thousands of dollars for many, many causes. There were two projects that impressed me the most. The first was their work with the Maspeth Senior Self Help Center, where they participate with seniors to decorate dolls, which are then used by doctors and surgeons at various children's hospitals to show the ill children the parts of the bodies; and second is their participation in the Kiwanis Club of Maspeth's Annual Law Day, which is in its 45th year! In May, they will be marching in the Maspeth's Memorial Day Parade.

Accolades go out to Brooklyn Lt. Gov. Joseph DeMarco who will be adding a new Builders Club in IS 303, and to both a Builders Club and K-Kids Club in PS/IS 288.

As you can see, the children are our future, and what a better way to teach and show them this than to share with them our "Helping Hands".

Aktion Club

**Debra
Rothman**



I would like to thank many of the Kiwanis Clubs in the New York District for supporting/sponsoring the fastest growing segment of Kiwanis International's Service Leadership Program, Aktion Clubs.

Aktion Clubs are Kiwanis clubs for adults living with disabilities. Aktion Clubs are an untapped source of Kiwanis Club support. Aktion Club members can

assist with your club's service projects from pancake breakfasts to special olympics. Their members are eager to host their own meetings and participate in yours.

I would like to thank Sullivan County Aktion Club and several Kiwanians for assisting at the display table at the recent Mid-Winter Conference; Kiwanis adviser Sheila Lashinsky, Kiwanians Kathy Garkick and Karen Linen, Aktion Club President Lara Biella and Secretary Roberta Foster. In addition, they participated in decorating pillow cases for Kamp Kiwanis. Thank you to all the Kiwanis advisers and members from various clubs that helped out at the forum.

We started this Kiwanis year with 40 Aktion Clubs and added one new club,

Anchor Aktion Club sponsored by the Peninsula Hewlett Kiwanis Club. Now the bad news, five of our Aktion Clubs' dues have remained unpaid. Telephone calls and emails were sent to the Kiwanis advisers of the clubs. I was given assurances that the dues were going to be paid. I'm sorry to report that Kiwanis International has suspended those clubs. I don't want to embarrass any of the sponsoring Kiwanis clubs, so, please contact me at blueeyes1255@aol.com to verify if your Aktion Club is up to date with its dues. Please understand that when you sponsor these clubs, they depend on you for guidance, and in some cases financial support.

"If you can dream it, you can do It"
~Walt Disney

Fordham Kiwanis, Circle K, K-Kids Join for Warm Beginnings

Fordham Kiwanians teamed up with its sponsored Circle K and K-Kids members at PS 205 last week to knit baby hats for newborns in local hospitals to support of the District's "Warm Beginnings" service project.

Fordham Kiwanis club president Juliana Krammer, shown in group photo with the K-Kids club, heard about their weekly knitting sessions at a recent induction ceremony and invited Fordham Circle K members to get involved in the project.

K-Kids Advisor Sue Bruculeri is shown knitting with a member of the K-Kids club and was accompanied by 10 Circle K students. The K-Kids club, under the guidance of their faculty adviser, Mylene Michel, also meets each week to write out "get well" cards to children in hospitals.

