



### Builders Club

Joanne Underwood

Being the Builders Club Administrator is a lot different from being a Builders Club Advisor. The responsibilities are different, the people I am responsible to are different and quite frankly, you adults are not as much fun as Middle School Kids nor, are you as easy to motivate to take on another project (such as starting up a New Builders Club or reactivating a former one), and I know, that's because of the many many demands already on your life and your time. FOR THIS VERY REASON, we NEED to build and reactivate as many Builders Clubs as possible! Let me explain.

Students in the Middle School and Junior High years have more energy than any other group I know, and they can use that energy in focused, productive ways, IF given direction and support. While we (adults) have 10 important projects pulling us in every direction, vying for whatever time we can find, these students dream of being given a chance to show they are grown up and can do things!

They are too young to have part time jobs, cannot yet drive, but know they can do important things, yet no one seems to give them a chance to prove it. This is a crucial time in a young person's life. Self-esteem is ready to develop, but often not given a chance to. After all, there are only so many truly gifted athletes, or academically gifted students.

The rest (the vast majority of students) are falling through the self-esteem cracks. We have an important opportunity to help these kids develop into productive, caring people with leadership skills, experienced at planning and carrying out projects that will benefit their communities and as a result, develop true self-esteem (which can carry them far when faced with negative peer pressure). These are the kids who (with direction and guidance) will become the leaders of tomorrow. That opportunity they need, is a Builders Club.

Builders Clubs are Student run organizations, guided by their Faculty Advisor and a Kiwanis Advisor. The service they perform often puts our Kiwanis Clubs to shame; they don't know that there are limits, so they are almost unstoppable. They thrive on the sense of accomplishment and the esteem that comes with it. They love to work with adults, so can double the productivity of your club if asked to join you in a project! And with every project they undertake, they develop those leadership skills that were unavailable to them without their Builders Club but so necessary for productive, confident citizens.

Now I ask you, if your club does not sponsor a Builders Club, what is holding you back? Especially since they no longer have to be in schools?

Yes, you read that right. Kiwanis International has agreed that if " a junior high/middle school will not allow a Builders Club in the school, a community-based or

*Continued on Page 11*

# Sibs Place Gets \$3000 from Peninsula Kiwanis Fundraiser



The Kiwanis Club of PENINSULA, HEWLETT, Long Island Southwest Division – On February 1st with the help and support of Peninsula Kiwanis, Hewlett High School hosted its 4th annual Hoops For Hope basketball game with the event proceeds going to SIBSPPlace. The project was started by Hewlett High School basketball coach and Peninsula Kiwanis member Bill Dubin.

This year with various fundraising efforts

**Pictured above, left to right: SIBSPlace Founding Donor Michael Schamroth, Hewlett High School Basketball Coach Bill Dubin, and Peninsula Kiwanis President Kevin Cooney display the check for \$3000.**

including the Hoops For Hope basketball game the club has donated over \$3,000 to help the siblings of children with catastrophic diseases.

## Secretary Underwood

*Continued from Page 2*

your Kiwanis Club does not qualify for tax-deductible contributions for individuals and corporations. (Your club may have a separate 501(c)3 entity that you most likely have the identified as a foundation). This is an update of Kiwanis International's application to the IRS:

1. The applications have been forwarded with an agent's and supervisor's recommendations to the IRS Quality Review Department. Though no official communications have been received, this department reportedly will send Kiwanis International additional questions related to the original applications.

2. If that department denies 501(c)3 status, the application will proceed to Washington DC for another level of review.

3. If 501(c)3 tax reclassification is approved, the IRS wants a January 1, 2007 effective date, not October 1, 2007 as requested in the application. Kiwanis has responded that it will accept that change.

### Why should my club be Incorporated and is it hard to do?

Incorporation of your Kiwanis Club is not really an option. All new clubs that are chartered agree that the club will be incorporated within one year of their charter. Why is this important? It provides a layer of protection of the individual officers and board members. We do live in an era of lawsuits.

It is not hard to become Incorporated and does not need to cost a lot of money. Yes, an attorney would be good to have do this for your club, however, you can easily go to the New York State website (Department of State, Division of Corporations) [www.dos.state.ny.us](http://www.dos.state.ny.us). There you will find a blank Certificate of Incorporation (under Section 401 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law). Just fill it in with your Club's name, purpose for which your club is formed, the names and addresses of the initial directors and officers. Send that form with \$75 payable to "Department of State" NYS Department of State Division of Corporations, Albany, NY 12231.

### How your club can have free dues for new members

During the Montreal Kiwanis International Convention the delegates approved a bylaw

that would reward those clubs that grew by 25% from September 30th of one year to September 30th of the following year. Clubs that achieved that growth would receive a credit or other payment for the International Dues for those new members over and above the club membership of the previous year. In January, Kiwanis International sent checks to the following clubs for achieving this criterion:

- Baldwinsville (Ontario)
- Fonda – Fultonville (Mohawk)
- Fordham, Bronx (Bronx Westchester South)
- Gouverneur (Saint Lawrence)
- Hamburg (Niagara Frontier South)
- Manhasset Port Washington (LIN)
- Mount Morris (Genesee)

What a terrific motivation to grow! We hope to report your club here next year! Just three caveats, be sure to get all your member adds and deletes into Indianapolis well BEFORE September 30th. Your club's dues billing must have been paid in full. Additionally, the credit or payment will be for ONLY Kiwanis International dues (currently \$42) and only for the numbers of members at year's end that exceed the beginning of the year!

### The Kiwanis International Site has changed!

When you go to [www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org) you will find a brand new look. This is now the site that most people surfing the Web will see. The content is designed to explain to non-Kiwanians what we do as a group of volunteers. Lots of splash and neat stuff will be found on this page. However, to find the form downloads and reporting information you need to administer your clubs just click on "member resources" on the left menu and you will be taken to [www.kiwanisone.org](http://www.kiwanisone.org). This is the site that will give you all of the information and forms you need as Club Secretary, etc. They have also added some neat features and search functions that should help your club improve your members' experiences at meetings and projects.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact the District Office or me at ANY TIME! ... Justin Underwood, NY District Secretary/Treasurer, 1-800-419-8898 or [justinau@rochester.rr.com](mailto:justinau@rochester.rr.com).



### Key Leader

Kim Scharoff

### Kiwanis Key Leader going Strong...

Kiwanis International has impacted positively on the lives of young leaders since 1925 through its youth leadership organizations K-Kids, Builder's Club, Key Club and Circle K. Many credit these programs for their first taste of leadership, including myself, senators, governors, university presidents, corporate executives and a United States President.

In 2003, a task force of professionals was asked to invent something extraordinary. The result is an exciting program designed to move beyond where most other youth leadership programs stop. The result is KEY LEADER. Sponsored by Kiwanis International, a professional facilitator will guide the potential youth leaders through an interactive weekend retreat at the conference site. KEY LEADER is designed to open doors for teens, graduating eighth grade through high school seniors. It is designed to reach students in the middle of the pack as opposed to those on the top of the academic pyramid. It focuses on personal leadership growth and service leadership as the most meaningful leadership –development experience.

In the New York District, we have 2 events each year. The first will be May 16-18 at Camp Stella Maris in Livonia and the second will be October 17-19 at the Greenkill Conference Center in Port Jervis.

The all-inclusive cost for this weekend is \$175 for a student and \$95 for a student facilitator. A school, Kiwanis Club, community organization, church group, family or others may pay this cost.

What we have found successful is for clubs to award "scholarships" to the Key Leader Weekend so that students realize that they have been singled out because of apparent potential. The best way to do this is to contact local schools and ask for nominations. Clubs can then either require an essay from each student or work with a leadership club advisor (hopefully a Key Club Advisor) to work on selecting the recipients. The Kiwanis club would decide who and how many they will send to the Key Leader weekend and present the awards with enough time for the students and their families to plan.

A Kiwanian should be assigned to contact the students 6 weeks prior to the event and help guide them through the registration process. I would also suggest keeping the names of other students in case substitutes are needed. You can also let those students know that they can attend the Key Leader weekend if another sponsor can be found (it can be a parent, church or any other group).

Here in New York, we have a committee of dedicated Kiwanians who are available to answer questions and provide additional support/information. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [kscharoff@yahoo.com](mailto:kscharoff@yahoo.com). I look forward to making the Key Leader program a larger success in New York.