



Kiwanis International President Paul Palazzolo, US Fund for UNICEF President Caryl Stern, Bowling Green K-Kids President Julianne Hallett and Bowling Green K-Kids Faculty Advisor Rich Santer.

K-Kids: The First "Eliminators"

At the Kiwanis International Convention in Las Vegas, the Bowling Green K-Kids and their Faculty Advisor Rich Santer received the Kiwanis International Foundation's Tablet of Honor recognizing the K-Kids as the first donors to the ELIMINATE Project. Just two days earlier at the Convention's opening session, the ELIMINATE Project was announced as Kiwanis International's new Worldwide Service Project.

Through the ELIMINATE Project, Kiwanis International will partner with UNICEF to eliminate Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus in the 40 countries where the disease continues to kill newborns and their mothers. In these countries one newborn baby dies every 9 minutes due to neonatal tetanus. This can be prevented through tetanus vaccination of women of childbearing age and improved birthing conditions. As Kiwanis International eradicated Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD), Kiwanis, through the ELIMINATE Project, will eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus.

The Bowling Green K-Kids became the first donors to the new Worldwide Service Project (WSP) by donating over \$1,000 to the Kiwanis International

Foundation. The K-Kids raised these funds through their second annual Talent Show. The members selected the next Worldwide Service Project as their beneficiary before even knowing that eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus would be selected.

According to Faculty Advisor Rich Santer, the K-Kids had expressed interest in repeating the success of last year's talent show.

"When the topic of choosing a beneficiary came up, then President Kasha Bhatia asked which Kiwanis charities the group had not yet raised money for. As I explained the Kiwanis International Foundation's role in eradicating Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD), the members became very interested in the new Worldwide Service Project (WSP) that would be announced the following month at the Kiwanis International Convention in Las Vegas. After I described the three finalists, it became apparent that the K-Kids didn't care which disease they would help eliminate. They simply wanted to be a part of making the world a better place through elimination of a terrible disease," Santer recalled.

After the club inquired how to donate to the still unannounced WSP, Matt Morris of the Kiwanis International Foundation called suggesting the dona-

tion be made through the Tablet of Honor program. Mr. Morris also asked if representatives of the K-Kids would attend the convention to accept the award from Kiwanis International President Paul Palazzolo.

Talent show co-hosts President Julianne and Distinguished Immediate Past President Kasha were each invited to the convention. While Kasha could not attend, President Julianne Hallett and her family were able to join Santer and his family in Las Vegas.

The Tablet of Honor was presented at the Worldwide Service Project luncheon on Saturday. Following a moving presentation on maternal and neonatal tetanus and the ELIMINATE Project by US Fund for UNICEF President Caryl Stern, International President Paul called Santer and Julianne to the stage to accept the award.

Julianne beamed as camera flashes ignited and Kiwanians from across the globe congratulated her and asked to take her photo.

President Julianne left the convention with a deeper understanding of the impact the service of K-Kids has on Kiwanis International and the world. She is making plans to do additional fundraising to support the ELIMINATE Project during the 2010-2011 school year.