

New York District Kiwanis Foundation

District Foundation

Sal Anelli



I am very happy to report to you that our 2016 Kamping season is under way.

The Kamp is really looking great as we constantly keep up with the maintenance. This year our maintenance cost soared due to some unexpected expenses that popped up such as a new food warmer and a replacement for the van used to transport staff and Kampers.

New government regulations forced us to purchase a new pool lift for our handicapped Kampers; the drama building roof has been deteriorating for a few years now and we could not take a chance on leaving it for another season so we hired a really good roofer so that it can be done prior to Kamp opening.

Those expenses were not in the budget but needed to be addressed. Of course there are the costs we encounter every year in order to get the Kamp in

shape for the Kamping season.

Thanks goes out to Kiwanians like Herb Chan, Anthony Merendino, Vice President Joe Battista and all the volunteers that come up every year for opening day and provide the labor for many of the things that need to be done around the Kamp. Without the most gracious Kiwanians our costs for upkeep would soar out of control.

I would like to personally thank Gov. Forbes Irvine for making his Governor's Project the four district foundations, I'm sure that the KPTC, Pediatric Lyme Disaster and Disaster Relief have benefitted from his project as well as we have at the District Foundation.

I would also like to thank Gov.-Elect Steve Sirgiovanni for his continued support of Kamp Kiwanis. Besides all the work that he and Kim Scharoff do putting together the Mets Game fundraiser, he was instrumental in getting a meeting with Councilman Eric Ulrich of Queens and as a result we were just awarded a \$10,000 grant from his discretionary funds.

Thanks go out to board liaison Brenda Leigh Johnson who opened her home to about 100 Kiwanians and friends for a fundraiser for Kamp Kiwanis, all the proceeds going to send children to Kamp. The East River Ki-

wanis club held a Golden Glove Night that raised enough money to send 11 children to Kamp and they are not done yet.

Thanks go to all those clubs that decided to do a Governor's Project to benefit Kamp Kiwanis, to all those who fulfilled parts of the wish list and sometimes taking whole category of items like Lou Cazzetta and the Staten Island Kiwanis Club who took care of all the medical items on the wish list as they have for the past 10 years or so.

To all of you I say don't stop, if for nothing else, just to change the fate of a child for the better, as I always say, we might not be able to help every Kamper but if one child is helped by attending Kamp Kiwanis, it's all worth it.

The New York Mets Game fundraiser is Saturday, Aug. 17, at 7:10 p.m. The Mets will be battling their division rivals Phillies; cost is \$60 per ticket. Bring your friends and come out to the ballpark. Last year this event was a great success, let's make it even better. For tickets please contact Kim Scharoff.

I hope to see you at this year's District Convention in Buffalo. Visit us at the Kamp table where we will be having "Bubbles for Kids".

International Foundation

Jim Mancuso



If we could somehow bottle up all of the good the Kiwanis International Foundation does and inject it directly into the consciousness of prospective new club members, our membership challenges would evaporate overnight.

Why do I feel this way? If you attended the Kiwanis International convention, went to the foundation's meeting there or visited its booth in the Kiwanis World Showcase, you would understand.

If a member knew and honestly felt that their efforts and the resultant money raised at a club's pancake breakfast, for example, saved lives they would join in a second. It is easy to lose sight of what good work accomplishes. I do not believe that the average member always realizes this fact: WE SAVE LIVES. Because of something as common as a pancake breakfast and donat-

ing raised money to the ELIMINATE Project, for example, children did not die. That is nothing short of amazing to me that in these common ways, we save lives.

The good work of the foundation does not stop with our worldwide service projects.

Our foundation issues many grants each year for many worthwhile causes. Take for example the grant received by the Foothills Kiwanis Club of Boulder, Colorado. This club runs an "Alert Service Dogs for Kids" program for children with special needs such as diabetes or severe allergies. These children's lives can be very constrained given their needs for constant protection and monitoring. The burden is enormous, so their parents can use the help too. So, far they have trained 16 dogs who perform emergency tasks to protect the children in the homes they live in. I watched in amazement as one trained golden retriever in the program started immediately to look for his assigned child's medicine when his trainer issued one simple command - "seek." To date, these dogs, through their training and actions, have saved two children's lives. You can learn more at their website www.alertdogs4kids.org.

There were other examples on display, including adaptive tricycles, which require little effort to pedal. This unique tricycle allows the physically challenged child to ride their bike just like all the other kids on their block. Or, a robot used to provide therapy to children. The list goes on and on, as the foundation made dozens of grants supporting many worthy causes.

Now, as the foundation has stopped fundraising efforts for the Eliminate Project, what can you do? First, please fulfill any outstanding pledge to the Eliminate Project. Second, give.

The Kiwanis International Foundation is now trying to build up its Children's Fund, so grants like the ones given above can continue and grow. To do so, you can donate directly to the foundation or perhaps consider purchasing a George F. Hixson award to provide recognition to one of your members, which includes a donation to the foundation.

With your help, the Kiwanis International Foundation will become an even stronger force for good in our world.