



CKI members clear flood-damaged materials at a home in the Binghamton area .

CKI Members Aid Flood Victims

The New York District of Circle K sponsored its third annual Large Scale Service Project Sept. 30-Oct 1 in the Binghamton area. There were 63 Circle K members from 13 clubs participating, making this year's event the largest to date.

During the weekend, CKI members participated in a variety of community service projects, many related to the relief efforts after the flooding in the Binghamton area. Some clubs were sent to break down walls in a water-damaged home; others helped clean front lawns and removed debris or water-damaged furniture.

More than 550 hours of service was performed during the weekend, and more than \$100 was raised for Project Eliminate.

Got Questions?

So what are these SLP's everyone keeps talking about?

Periodically we hear terms that we just don't quite understand. One of the latest "new" terms is SLP's, which stands for Service Leadership Programs.

For many years we called them "Sponsored Youth": Circle K, Key Club and Builders Clubs. Kiwanis sponsored organizations that taught Leadership Skills to our youth in a hands-on way, by running their own clubs and doing service projects they felt were important. We recently added K-Kids, Terrific Kids, B.U.G. and Aktion Clubs. Aktion Clubs are made up of adults with disabilities. Aktion club members aren't "youth" so the name was changed to Service Organizations and Programs. Kiwanis continually adds new programs so now they are called "Service Leadership Programs" or SLP's.

They include: Circle K - our College and University branch of Kiwanis; Key Club - our High School branch of Kiwanis; Builders Clubs - our Middle and Junior High Branch of the Kiwanis family; K-Kids - our Elementary School part of the Kiwanis Family; Aktion Clubs - the branch of our Kiwanis Family made up of adults with Disabilities, often those living in group homes and Key Leader - a leadership training program that reaches beyond those already involved in Kiwanis, to students who have shown leadership abilities in their High Schools and actively help them develop these abilities.

Builders Clubs

Joanne Underwood



A Builders Club is a student-run organization at the Middle or Junior High school level, sponsored by a Kiwanis Club and guided by a Faculty Advisor and a Kiwanis Advisor. That doesn't sound like a really big deal, but trust me, they are really big deals!

Puberty is a difficult time for young people. It's an age when they are extremely vulnerable. Kids going through this age are at an extremely crucial point in their lives and while wanting to be independent, they need direction and support from adults, but don't want to be told what to do! They are going through big changes in their physical being. They are attracted to the opposite sex, but at the same time, filled with self-doubt. Hormones are raging,

energy abounds, they "know" they are grown up, understand so much more than adults give them credit for but often feel alone and misunderstood. Opportunity or disaster is just waiting to happen, which will it be? Think back to that time in your own life, and I'm betting it wasn't your favorite time either. So, what can you do about all this? I'm so glad you asked!

You and your Kiwanis club can help this age group develop into self-confident, productive, young adults filled with real self-esteem, capable of standing up to peer pressure, and even drug dealers; young people who are a credit to themselves, their families and their communities. And, it's easy to do! Just sponsor a Builders Club!

Builders Clubs are run by the members. The members decide what they would like to do, and how to do it. In this way, the Kiwanis Club, their advisors and their school show the students that we believe in them. The students are given the opportunity to prove to the world that they are capable and able to do something big, something worthwhile and something that will help oth-

ers or their community. This experience not only makes them feel good about themselves but helps others to see them in a different light and feel good about them and the future too. That Really IS a Big Deal!

The choice is yours. You can ignore the situation and let Middle School students flounder, and hope for the best; you can complain about "kids" and blame their parents, the schools, drugs and the times. Is that what you want for your children, your grandchildren and your neighborhood kids? Or, will you step up and make a real difference in their lives by giving them the opportunity to do the things that will make a difference? That is how we truly "Change the World, one child and one community at a time."

Call me (585) 342-7657, e-mail me (hjoanne202@aol.com), write to me (91 Jewel Street, Rochester, NY 14621) or walk up to your Lt. Governor and ask them, "How do I start a Builders Club"? You'll be glad you did!