

Governor's Project: Open Your Heart to Autism

Open your heart to Autism is this year's Governor's project. Governor Joe is very passionate about raising awareness and funds for autism.

You may be asking yourself what is autism? Autism is characterized by impaired social interaction and verbal and non-verbal communication as well as restricted and repetitive behaviors.

There are a total of two million individuals in the United States who have been diagnosed with autism. This number includes one in 88 children who have been diagnosed autistic.

The purpose of this project is to increase awareness of autism through club education, service projects where you work directly with individuals with autism and finally raising money to support the many charities dealing with autism.

The governor's project will culminate with a Kiwanis One Day Autism

Olympics event to be held in various locations throughout the district next spring.

Participating clubs will receive a banner patch and a pin for the president by conducting a program at a meeting on autism and one of the following:

1) Make a donation to an organization dedicated to working with children with Autism.

2) Participate in a walk to support an organization dedicated to working with individuals with Autism.

3) Send a child with Autism to Kamp Kiwanis.

4) Organize or participate in Kiwanis One Day Autism Olympics. Please note that Autism awareness month and Ki-



wanis One Day both occur in the month of April.

5) Work with a local high school or college and organize an athletic clinic for children with autism.

6) Set up a sensory-friendly movie day or live theater for individuals with Autism.

7) Organize a talent show where the performers are individuals with Autism and the money goes to autism charities.

8) Any other event you create to raise awareness or money for Autism.

We along with Governor Joe, look forward to working with you on this project. Please feel free to contact any committee member for more information. The materials are available on the New York District web site. Thank you and we look forward to a great year.

For further information, contact - Lori and Kevin Kamper - kkamper@op-tonline.net and Kim Scharoff - kscharoff@gmail.com

First Lady's Project: Treats for Troops

The First Lady's Project was selected by Carole "Cookie" Aiello to honor the brave men and women who fight for our freedom to keep us safe.

Clubs can design their own projects, including sending items to troops overseas. Clubs with local military bases

also can work with personnel at the base to find a way to support military personnel, perhaps by making sure their welcome home from deployment is properly recognized.

Items for gift packets for military personnel include treats such as cookies,

granola bars, gum, and fruit snacks. Another idea is to provide travel kits including personal hygiene items.

For more information, see the district web site, www.kiwanis-ny.org, or contact First Lady's Project Chair Ann Torcivia, friendstravelny@verizon.net.

What's Your Convention Experience?

In an effort to enhance the Mid-Year Conferences and Annual Conventions, Governor Joe would like all New York District Kiwanians to fill out a quick survey.

We are looking for responses from everyone – even if you have never attended a conference or convention, or have never missed one, we are looking for your feedback.

Please go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/B6HDD29> and fill out the convention survey.

It will only take a few minutes, but it will help us tremendously in learning how to make your experience better or to encourage you to attend. Governor Joe thanks you!

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Mohawk
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