

Past
Governor

Stephen
Sirgiovanni



Forty-five thousand miles in 365 days - and it was worth every moment.

Thank you all for the help and support during my year as governor of the New York District of Kiwanis. I have enjoyed every event, meeting, fundraiser, reception and service project that I attended. The most rewarding part was making new friends, seeing old friends and coming together to serve the children of New York.

The 2016-17 Kiwanis International President Jane Erickson challenged my

class of governors with leaving a positive handprint on our communities. I was fortunate to see the many positive handprints left by our club members from Long Island to Rochester, from Albany to Syracuse and everywhere in between. We are making a difference -- leaving our positive handprints on communities where people rely on Kiwanis to pick up the slack when programs are cut in cities, towns, schools and libraries. Communities turn to Kiwanis for help with books, backpacks, clothes and shoes, holiday gifts, food, scholarships, camp -- everything a kid needs to thrive, prosper and grow. We don't stop there. We help those who need it because we care.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to distribute Pediatric Trauma Kits, for helping kids get to spend a week at Kamp Kiwanis and for helping the Pediatric Lyme Foundation support youth who are suffering. Thank you for holding poetry

nights, parades and pancake breakfasts to raise the money needed to get things done.

I hope you will continue our efforts to build more clubs, invite more friends and family to join a service project, come to a meeting, help with an event or work with a club that is supporting an Aktion Club, a Key Club or any of the other valuable youth programs.

And I hope you will support Governor Candace Corsaro and her team during the coming Kiwanis year. Now is the time to work together to support our leaders, club members, youth who depend on us and community members who have come to rely on our help. I'm proud to say we've gained nearly 550 new members this year, more people who can work with us to leave positive handprints on communities around our state.

Thank you for your service to Kiwanis! And thank you for your support this year.

Chester Presents Everyday Hero Awards

In 2006, Kiwanis Gov. Joe Corace asked Kiwanis clubs in the New York District recognize individuals that have performed outstanding service.

This was also an opportunity to recognize individuals that go above and beyond the ordinary or expected, and do so without regard for attention or expecting something in return. In some instances one particular heroic action can make a difference and even save a life. Kiwanis

Clubs across the district presented these individuals the Everyday Hero Award.

The Everyday Hero Award also recognizes individuals who have personal struggles, physical or life events that you would never recognize when you are with them and speak with them. The way they carry themselves, their actions inspire everyone that comes in contact with them.

The Chester Kiwanis Club embraced the project and has continued to honor per-

sons each year. The club has presented more than 25 individuals with an Everyday Hero Award.

On July 20, the Everyday Hero Award was presented to three such outstanding individuals from the Chester Community:

Ashton Guidi, a 5th grader from the Chester Elementary School, who knows what it means to "stand up for the little guy". Having a cousin with autism, Ashton knew right away that he was here to look out for his cousin. He took spirited words from the coach of the West Point Lacrosse Team, Joe Alberici, and turned them in to action, encouraging both the West Point Lacrosse Team and his own Goshen Lacrosse Team to wear "Autism Speaks stickers on their helmets for the remainder of the season. He also continues to spread the word about Autism everywhere he goes.

Also honored were Anthony Battiato and Cassandra Catlett, two individuals who were in the right place at the right time and helped save the lives of a family of four. After seeing the back of a house on fire, Cassandra assisted the mother with gathering the two children from the upstairs while Anthony called 911. They ran to the back of the house and seeing that the fire was out of control banged on the downstairs window, knocking it out to wake the father who was sleeping in the family room.



Ashton Guidi receives his award from Sue Bahren.

See www.kiwanis-ny.org for the latest news.

Empire State Kiwanian
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