

Kiwanis International Recommends 2003 Connelly Awards for Heroism

Indianapolis, Indiana – Robert P. Connelly, 34, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Lisle, Illinois, lost his life September 23, 1966, in an attempt to rescue a disabled woman who had fallen in the path of an on-rushing passenger train. Both were killed.

The first Robert P. Connelly Medal of Heroism was awarded posthumously to him at the 52nd Kiwanis International Convention in Houston, Texas (1967) with this statement: “By his unselfish action he put tremendous and dramatic meaning into the phrase ‘personal involvement,’ which is so much a part of Kiwanis philosophy. This man was the epitome of all that Kiwanis strives to be.”

The Kiwanis International Board of Trustees established the Robert P. Connelly Medal to honor Kiwanians or non-Kiwanians who had no official responsibility in a rescue effort yet risked physical harm or death by attempting to save the life of another.

The following recipients were recommended by the Grants and Connelly Committee and approved by the Kiwanis International Foundation Board of Trustees at the October 2003 Board meeting to receive the Robert P. Connelly Medal for Heroism or a Certificate of Courage: **Chad Barr**, nominated by the Kiwanis Club of Lenoir, North Carolina, who rescued a man from a burning house. Once entering the house, Barr’s vision was blinded by heavy smoke, which caused him to rely on a barking dog that led him to an unconscious man lying in a bed. Barr attempted to wake the man, but couldn’t. Barr carried the man to the porch where he eventually regained consciousness.

“I was just in the right place at the right time. I hope that another person would do the same for me in the same situation,” Barr says.

Ronald L. Halsey, nominated by the Kiwanis Club of Hub City, Texas, who saved his fishing crew after their boat sank in the frigid ocean waters off the shore of Alaska’s Kenai Peninsula. Halsey swam for two and a half hours to reach shore, then walked approximately one mile to the nearest fishing camp for help. Halsey saved two of his three crew members. His third crew member died. Halsey’s body was so stressed and temperature so low that he spent the next 36 hours in a nearby hospital.

“I knew that if I didn’t make it to shore, none of us would make it,” Halsey says.

The following individual received a Certificate of Courage for unselfishly assisting a drowning boy: **Clifton A. Brown**, nominated by the Kiwanis Club of Arcadia, Florida, who saved a young boy from drowning in a hotel swimming pool. Brown, along with a woman, pulled a boy who was not breathing and had no pulse from the pool. Brown began CPR and within minutes felt the child’s heart start to beat again.

“I have done CPR in the past at crash scenes and such, but this is the first time I was able to actually feel the heart start again,” Brown said. “It’s something I’ll never forget.”

The Foundation financially supports the programs of Kiwanis International and its sponsored programs. It enables individual Kiwanians, Kiwanis clubs, and the general

public to support national and international programs and organizations through disaster relief, grants, and scholarships.

Kiwanis International is a service organization made up of more than 8,400 service clubs in 89 nations. The Kiwanis service family includes Circle K clubs on college campuses, Key Clubs in high schools, Builders Clubs in junior high and middle schools, K-Kids in elementary schools, and Aktion Clubs for disabled adults. There are more than 600,000 service volunteers in the Kiwanis family.

Goldie Hawn to Speak At 2004 June Convention in St. Louis

A woman of many talents, Goldie is not only a gifted actor, but also a creative director, savvy producer, flourishing entrepreneur, respected CEO and loving parent.

An advocate that our strengths come from within, and a firm believer that we are responsible for our own happiness, Hawn has dedicated herself to enlightening others and encouraging the interconnectedness of society.

Dedicated to creating a more peaceful and tolerant world by supporting research efforts and teaching programs targeting children, the Bright Light Foundation (founded by Hawn) brings promise to the younger generation and its future.

You won’t want to miss Goldie’s keynote address on “Human Potential: The best place



For more information about supporting the Kiwanis International Foundation, please call 800-549-2647 (US and Canada), 317-875-8755 (worldwide), or visit our Web site at kif.kiwanis.org.



to start is with our children” during the closing session on June 29.

Children’s Champion Slated For Interfaith Fellowship Breakfast



David A. Hilliard is a champion for children. For more than 30 years, he has been president and CEO of Wyman Center Inc., a non-profit agency that helps youth develop through a variety of activities, including urban day camps, after-school clubs, and family programming. The St. Louis-area Kiwanis Camp Wyman is considered a model for outdoor experiences for disadvantaged youth.

Hilliard is scheduled to address the Interfaith Fellowship Breakfast at the 89th Annual Kiwanis International Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, June 26-29, 2004. Check the convention Web site at www.kiwanis.org/convention for more details.

The Commitment to House Students is Important and Should Be Taken Seriously

For the past several years, Kiwanis International has enjoyed a partnership with AYUSA (Academic Year in the USA), a non-profit student exchange program that places foreign students with “permanent” host families in the United States for periods as long as ten months while they continue their education in this country. These students typically arrive in mid-August. By all measures, the program has been a success in the New York District and elsewhere, offering benefits to both the students and their permanent families.

Recently, I have been advised that when a permanent family cannot be located prior to July 1, AYUSA policy allows for students to be sent to “arrival” families to be housed for one month while the search for a permanent family continues. The decision to host a student, either on an arrival or permanent basis, carries with it serious and demanding obligations, and is not to be taken lightly.

Because it is possible under current AYUSA policy for a student to arrive in the United States for up to ten months without any commitment for housing from a permanent family, I am advised that situations have arisen in our district in which arrival families and other Kiwanians have felt enormous pressure to serve as permanent families. The choice to serve as a permanent family offers many wonderful benefits, but it is to be made freely and not under such circumstances.

Accordingly, I wish to make it clear that the New York District in no way endorses or supports the concept of placing students in arrival families when no permanent family has been identified. I have asked our local AYUSA representative, who is also a Kiwanian, to discontinue this practice in our

district and to make our position known to her superiors. In doing so, however, I recognize that our district needs to be more active in assisting her to find permanent families, so that this problem does not reoccur.

I want to encourage all of you to continue to support AYUSA and to give serious consideration to acting as a host family if asked to do so. Speaking for ourselves, Karen and I hosted two foreign students several years ago, and it was a great experience. But if you undertake this commitment, it is important that you take it seriously, as any student who arrives here in reliance upon it will be placed in significant jeopardy if your offer is withdrawn.

It is my hope that the AYUSA program, which is an outstanding one, will now be able to move forward and expand in our district, with a clear understanding by all parties of their obligations to one another.— Gov. Peter

Kiwanian of the Year



The Kiwanis Club of Portchester/Rye Brook, Hudson Tri County Division—Treasurer PLG Nick Mecca presents Carol Ruspini the prestigious Kiwanian of the Year Award for her tireless club service.



Kiwanis Int’l Fdn

Joseph Eppolito

It is a pleasure to serve you as the 03-04 NY District Chair for the Kiwanis Int’l Foundation. The Foundation functions the help fulfill the mission of Kiwanis Int’l...Serving The Children of the World. I also am a member of the KIF Annual Gift Committee.

My goal is to encourage you and be a source of information about KIF as well as to help the District attain 100% participation in the Annual Club Gift Program. Each club will receive a flyer in the Fall of 2003 to make a donation. The minimum donation is \$5 per member as of 10/01/03 club membership totals or \$100, whichever is the lesser.

A minimum donation of at least \$25 will earn a club its banner patch but NOT points for Distinguished club status.

Only those clubs that contribute 100% will count towards a Division (and District)

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