



Aktion Clubs

Debra Fuchs

The Aktion Club of the Adirondacks was presented the second place award from Kiwanis International in the Single Service Project Award. Here is a description of the project. The club heard about a local soldier from the Adirondacks area who lost a leg in Iraq. The soldier was recovering in Texas and the club contacted his mother. She told them he was lonely, and in pain and needed support. They made a large poster sized card which was decorated and signed by all the members. They made the soldier a gigantic pillow and a fleece with an Army design. The Club Advisor helped the members with the sewing. They delivered the pillow to the soldiers parent's who were going to Texas to visit him. The soldier was so touched by the gifts, he cried when he saw them. Next, the club sent the soldier candy for Valentines Day. He returned home to central New York and is currently attending college. In October 2007, the club sent cards to soldiers at Walter Reed Army Hospital. The hospital returned the cards because specific soldiers names on the cards. The VA Hospital in Bath NY was contacted for help. They had four soldiers with no family contact. So the Action Club forwarded the cards to them. In February 2008 the Aktion Club sent easter cards to the Bath NY VA hospital.

The Aktion Club members learned to share their love and caring with people they have never met. Since many of them grew up in institutions, this concept is one they have not had the ability to develop. Obviously they are doing very well at it.

Publicity is not permitted by the organization that operates the homes where the members live. The Kiwanis Clubs in Saranac Lake and Plattsburgh were told about the efforts of the Aktion Club. This will become on an ongoing project. The Aktion Club members are learning about creativity, caring, and how valuable they are.

Santino's Mom Honored By Donation for Kids



Above, l to r: Councilman Santino, Five Towns Kiwanis President Ed Monaco and Golf Chairman Tom Cohen. In honor of Councilman Santino's mother, Frances, who passed away last year, the Five Towns Kiwanis donated \$3000 to the St. Raymond's School for their classroom audio/visual update program. School Principal Sister Ruth Ann, attended the evening portion of the event where she was presented with the donation.

Lewiston Kiwanis Tees Bring Message of Hope to Iraqi Children

The Kiwanis Club of **LEWISTON**, Niagara Frontier North Division – Kiwanians know how to fulfill their service mission to children in the most challenging places around the globe. Lt. Colonel Patrick Roemer, Commander of the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer (ECES) Squadron, is a Lewiston New York Kiwanian deployed from the Niagara Falls NY Air Reserve Station who brought hope to orphaned children in Iraq.

Some 200 Lewiston Kiwanis shirts were distributed to Iraqi children in an school orphanage in Baghdad while Lt. Colonel Roemer led his squadron to volunteer their "free time" to make badly needed repairs to the facilities.

On the home front, Kiwanis Lt. Governor and Lewiston member Chuck Stojak coordinated the delivery of the shirts from his

club to his fellow Kiwanian and others from the Buffalo area stationed in Baghdad. Stojak reports that the school repairs were as well

received as the "white" t-shirts, a color and style found "cooler" than customarily worn by Iraqi children.



Kiwanis servant leaders featured in the first photo with the happier Iraqi orphans are, from left, MSG William Soda (Buffalo), SRA Robert Argy (Lewiston), TSG David Rendina (Niagara Falls, TSG Roger Cook (Salamanca NY) and SMS Charles Gregory (Nashville, TN).

Merrick Supply Drive Gets An A+ Grade

61 local needy students started off the school year with bright new backpacks filled with every required item on their teacher's school supply list, and new clothes as well, thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Merrick and the overwhelming generosity of the community.

Kiwanians spent two weekends in August collecting supplies and cash donations outside three local pharmacies. The club then purchased additional items to complete the list from each child's teacher, and also gave each child a \$100 gift card to Old Navy.

All schools in the district provided the club with the children's names and the supplies they needed. The bags were packed and delivered to each child's home the week before school started.

DPP Bernie Stein, School Supply Chairperson, noted, "That's 61 kids who went back to school with everything their teachers asked of them and didn't have to feel any less about themselves or their families simply because they're going through rough times." He cited a phone message he received from the mother of one recipient: "You've made my life so much easier and so much better. I appreciate all your help – the children were ecstatic – you've touched our hearts." "That's what Kiwanis is all about," Stein added.

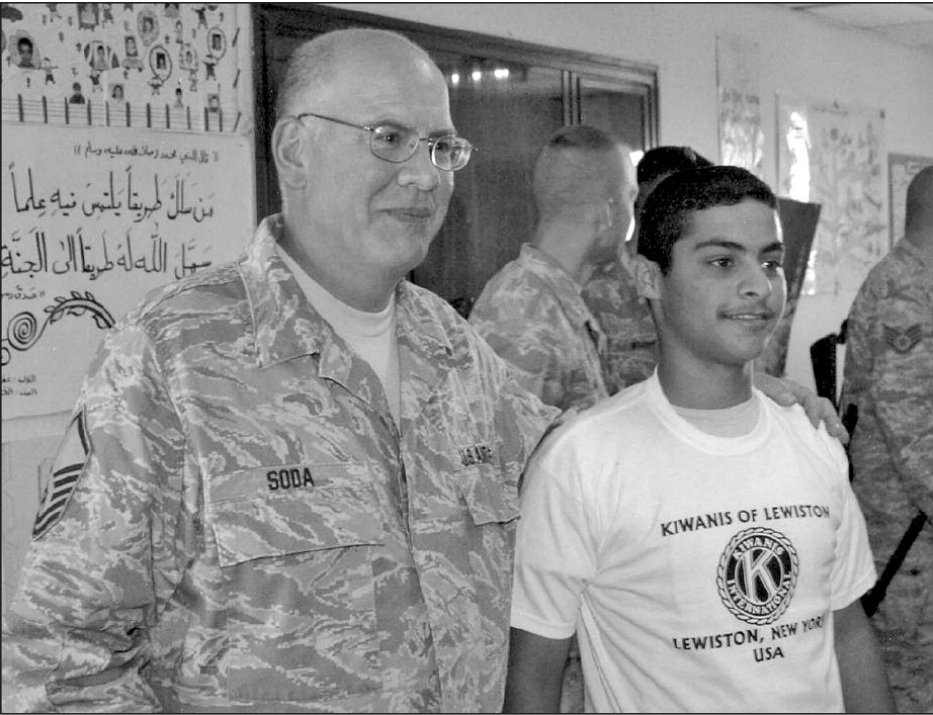


Photo above: MSG Soda with one young orphan whose life was touched in a positive way by the spirit of Kiwanis service.

Joy Freeman Welcomed Into the Ranks by Fordham Past Presidents



Fordham Kiwanis past club presidents welcome Francoisline "Joy" Freeman (second from right) as their new leader for 2008-09. From left, Immediate Past President Vincent Volino, Distinguished Past Presidents Susan Brucculeri, Dr. Georgina Arendacs, Dr. Rosemary DeJulio, Joy Freeman, and Sister Anne Marie Kirmse. The Fordham club will be celebrating its twentieth charter anniversary in 2009.

THE EMPIRE STATE
KIWANIAN

Official Publication of
THE NEW YORK DISTRICT
KIWANIS FOUNDATION, INC.

Published by
The New York District Kiwanis
Foundation Inc. in the interest of
and for the development of the clubs
in the district.

Circulation9,000

NEW Publication Office

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