



First Lady

Debra Fuchs

Partners Project

When Governor David first asked me about a Partners' Project, it didn't take very long for me to make that decision. I wanted to take this year's Governor's Project in a similar, but different, direction.

To those of you who don't know, I have a brother Richard who currently resides in a group home in Ozone Park, New York. He is legally blind and brain damaged. Although some may think it odd, while growing up in a home with a disabled brother, I never thought of him as "different."

As I got older I noticed those peculiar looks from people as we shopped in a store, walked down the street or even went to the movies. When people see other people as "different" they really don't know how to act.

My interest for the 2005-2006 Kiwanis year is to interact with these disabled individuals. I know that many of you are currently involved in fundraising for a myriad of charities that help disabled children, as well as adults.



This year, I would like Kiwanians to choose a new charity and a new way of fundraising. Open your hearts to visiting a group home or plan an interesting event. Give a little of yourself, it will mean a lot. What I would really love to see this year, is for you to charter more Aktion Clubs. I wholeheartedly believe that they would be an asset to this wonderful organization and that we can help them as much as they can help us.

I wish you all a wonderful year of service and I look forward to serving as your First Lady.

Ontario Kiwanians Concur with Attorney General Spitzer on Need for Business Ethics and Integrity

ONTARIO DIVISION – Kiwanians and guests lauded new York Attorney-General Eliot Spitzer for his remarks about ethics in business and government, and what his office is doing to make sure the rules are followed.

Onondaga Hill Kiwanis Club hosted the luncheon meeting June 27 when Spitzer told about his office's efforts to go after Wall Street brokerage firms that he said have been steering clients to unsound investments in order to benefit themselves.

Through the convictions obtained and \$3 billion refunded to investors, Spitzer said his office has begun to change the way Wall Street behaves.

One Kiwanian noted, "Isn't it refreshing to see an official work for honesty and ethics in business, rather than cave in to giant corporations and look the other way if they are not playing by the rules? Honesty and being ethical in our dealing with one another are certainly what we strive for in Kiwanis"

Admittedly a possible candidate for state governor in 2006, Spitz noted, "I believe in aiding markets and strong commercial environment, but the market doesn't work if there isn't some core integrity underlying the way business is done."

Spitzer called on state leaders to invest in the future, especially for young people... through education, energy, and transportation... because New York State has huge challenges. Residents and jobs have been moving out of state, but now those jobs and people are migrating even further to Asia and Latin America as well.

Rothman

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youth, "Be A Mentor." This program works hand in hand with First Lady Debra's Partners Project, working with our disabled youth and adults and the development of more Aktion Clubs.

I want to thank our district foundation and its President Lindy Marrazzo, JR and those clubs that participated with the Hurricane Katrina Relief. Donations were made to our district foundation, the American Red Cross and other organizations to help out the victims in the affected areas. In addition, we sent three tractor trailer loads of food, clothing and toiletries to the area. A special thanks to Lt. Governor Mike Malark for riding shotgun on the last two runs and his efforts coordinating the pick up and delivery of all of the items. Money that was donated to our district foundation were then donated to the local clubs in the affected areas. We should take great pride in helping our fellow Kiwanians in their time of need. Till next time, remember, "TOGETHER WE CAN," Do Anything!!



Attorney General Eliot Spitzer speaks to Ontario Kiwanians and friends on the important necessity for ethics in business and government. Seated to his right: Onondaga Hill members, VP Sue Ulm, Kay Folsom, and Virginia McCarthy. Seated to his left: Winston Thurlow of the Attorney General Syracuse office and LG-Elect Ronald Kern.

Peninsula Provides Twenty-Seven Years of Great Fun for Special Kids



Kiwanis Club of **PENINSULA**, Long Island Southwest Division – For the 27th year, club members and their families cooked more than 800 hamburgers and hotdogs for the special children affiliated with the Anchor Program in the Town of Hempstead.

This event has been chaired for all 27 years by Distinguished Past President Frank Mistero. The Peninsula members gave out more than 800 T-shirts to special children. They provided various rides for the kids to

L-R: Town of Hempstead Anchor Program Special Kids Chairman Frank Mistero, Peninsula President Sal Accomando, Town of Hempstead Supervisor Kate Murray, Town of Hempstead Anchor Program Coordinator Joe Lantini, and Peninsula Kiwanis Member Harry Beltrani Jr.

enjoy. The Town of Hempstead provided music so that the children could dance and have a great time.

Kiwanis Club of Westchester Village Supports Their Local Community



The Kiwanis Club of **WESTCHESTER VILLAGE**, Bronx Westchester South Division – recently donated the funds for a Communion Breakfast. Westchester Village

volunteers assisted in serving breakfast and lunch to the "Handicapped Association for Dets", with the help of the then LG Rocco Riti for about 100 people.

Limited Window on Tax Benefit to Donors

There is a limited window of opportunity of mutual benefit to both you and to the NYS District Kiwanis Foundation. There is a temporary suspension of limitations on charitable contributions between now and year-end. This presents significant opportunities for you as a donor, and for the BPO – **but only between now and December 31.**

Late last month, President Bush signed the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 (KETRA), also know as H.R. 3768. Under this Act, and during this limited window of opportunity, cash donations to charities are exempt from the 50 percent income limitation and the phase-out of itemized deductions if **the donations are made before year-end.** This provision creates a strong incentive to give larger gifts, especially from retirement funds such as IRAs, 401(k) and other retirement plans. Please consult your tax advisor for specific information.

All gifts to charity are eligible for this incentive, not just contributions to disaster relief organizations.