



# 2007—2008

## New York District Kiwanis

### ***First Lady's Project***

First Lady Marlene has a passion for reading. She is a veteran reading teacher and knows that while reading is important to a successful life, the lack of reading ability is a powerful indicator of serious problems in life. Some states use the number of Third Graders with poor reading skills as the basis for determining (fairly accurately) the number of prison cells they need to build. Add to this the demonstrated facts 1) that reading to unborn children produces happier, better adjusted children and 2) that regularly reading to children from the earliest ages on has a positive influence on learning abilities in school.

Marlene wants her project to focus on informing expectant parents of the importance of reading to their children and getting NEW children's books into the hands of pre-natal to age 5 children and their parents as early as possible. Clubs can do this by giving new, early childhood books to pediatricians' offices, birthing clinics, Head-Start, pre-school centers, Community Health Centers, Public Health Nurses, and Day Care Centers. The focus will be on needy Families.

To qualify for the First Lady's Project Banner Patch, describe below the group of children your club is focusing on, what kind of new books you distribute, what centers you will work with, and briefly describe how the project was done and how it was received by club members, parents, teachers, physicians and other professionals.

See the accompanying detailed directions and instructions which is also available on our website ([www.kiwanis-ny.org](http://www.kiwanis-ny.org)).

<b>The Kiwanis Club of:</b>	<b>Division:</b>	
Reading Program is/was:		
We purchased the new books from:		
How does/did your club members interact with the children/agencies?		
The reaction of those involved were:		
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>President:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Please send this completed form to</b>		
New York District Kiwanis, 1522 Genesee St., Utica, NY 13502		