**Kiwanis Family at Work in Merrick**

The Kiwanis Club of MERRICK, Long Island South Central Division – helped the holidays become a little merrier for more than 20 local families, residents of Regina House, and parishioners served by the Sacred Heart and Cure of Ars churches’ food pantries when members of the Kiwanis Club of Merrick delivered bags filled with food, turkeys and toys the Sunday before Christmas.

Kiwanis President Ilene Dixel praised the community for supporting the food drive the previous two weekends; despite some inclement weather, the Kiwanis carts outside the Stop ’n’ Shop, Kings and Associated supermarkets were filled to the brim. The toys were collected at the Merrick and North Merrick elementary schools.

After 20+ Kiwanians, members of the Calhoun High School Key Club, and Merrick Avenue Middle School Builders’ Club sorted the thousands of pounds of food, they worked their way through the “warehouse” assembly line, filling the bags and preparing them for delivery. Then, like elves, they gathered up the food and toys, added lots of good cheer, and delivered them — and the hope for a happy holiday — to their neighbors.

The article that follows, written by 13-year-old Amanda McLoughlin, a member of the MAMS Builders Club and daughter of Kiwanian Tammy McLoughlin is the best explanation of the Kiwanis “family” at work.

**A Little Help Goes A Long Way**

As my mother, Tammy, my brother Connor, and I surveyed the mounds of food donated by Merrick citizens in the Food for Those in Need drive, I was hugged by Doug Mills, last year’s Kiwanis President who is so close to my family, he is practically my uncle. Pres. Ilene Dixel was there as well, directing the volunteers to sort the packages. One turkey was placed in each bag. We all had our numbers, our instructions, and our tasks cut out for us. Our job was to fill each bag. Our goal was to give 240 bags each morning, and our completion of the job would be the best holiday gift we could give this family.

Once the bags were lined up in rows across the MAMS gym, we sorted the food items to the right places. We completed the task and we were ready to produce the final product. The day started early and we worked hard.

The event got underway as a few Key Clubbers, three children of Kiwanians, and Ilene Dixel were there as well, directing the work. Ilene Dixel set the pace and the upstate chairperson is PLG Payanoff listing all the memory walks and who sponsors them. The Kiwanian Tammy McLoughlin is the best explanation of the Kiwanis “family” at work.

State Senator Charles Fuschillo (left) and State Assemblyman David McDonough (right) joined fellow Kiwanians Alan Aronson and Tammy McLoughlin in choosing just the right toy for each child on the Kiwanis Santa list.

**First Lady Debra**

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son is tPKG Peter Mietenkorte (516 546-3277) and the upstate chairperson is PLG Kathy Peris (607 734-7723). Included in this addition of the ESK are the requirements and reporting form for this year’s Partner’s Project. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me. I hope that you all had a happy and healthy holiday. Please complete four of the projects described on the right and forward the completed form to: First Lady Debra Fuchs, 84 Madison Avenue, Island Park, NY 11558.

It takes a village of Kiwanians members – and generosity of Merokians – to help the less fortunate in our community have a more joyful holiday.

**Alzheimer’s Project**

Steve Haller

DO YOU WANT A WONDERFUL SERVICE PROJECT THAT CAN INVOLVE YOUR ENTIRE K-FAMILY???

If your answer to this question is yes, read on.

Each year the Alzheimer’s Association hosts Memory Walks across the entire State of New York. To the best of my knowledge, there are only seven divisions who have clubs actually participating in one way or another. They are Bronx Westchester South, Brooklyn, Finger Lakes, Genesee, Long Island North, Long Island South Central and the Long Island Southwest. I must make mention of two divisions that have made a total commitment to the Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walk in their communities for the last two years: Bronx Westchester South led by DPLG Sister Anne-Marie Kirmse and the Long Island South Central Division led by DPP Maurice Cassano.

On day of the walk, you can find Key Clubbers and Kiwanians working together handing out tee-shirts, cutting bags, serving food, putting up sponsorship signs, and collecting pledges from K-Family donors.

If your club or division supports the Alzheimer’s Association in anyway please send me an email at stevenh@minutemanpress.com so I can get a true handle on who is involved. These K-Family volunteers either give a donation of money, volunteer their services, which is what Kiwanis is all about, or form a team of four or more people who have sponsors and they walk the walk.

All the money raised by the walk in your community stays in your community and helps the many support groups, care consultation, services and educational programs they offer to the patients and their families affected by this terrible disease.

I will be sending an email to the presidents in the next couple of months (through the district office, with the help of Gerald Payanoff) listing all the memory walks around the state, that are usually held in early September. I sincerely hope that our K Family will respond.

**Partners**

IN LIVING AND GIVING

EMPIRE STATE KIWANIAN

February 2006

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