Tom DeJulio, Past Governor and candidate for the office of Kiwanis International Trustee, delivered the keynote address May 6 at Long Island’s Tilles Center for the Performing Arts where the New York District and the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center Foundation celebrated the 90th Anniversary Celebration of Kiwanis International.

Past Governor Tom explained how the vision of the Kiwanis founders was brought to life by generations of Kiwanians executing service projects over nine decades. Inspired by the musical venue of the Tilles Center, he quoted the lyrics of Stephen Sondheim’s composition, “Putting it Together,” and reminded the audience that “a vision is only a vision if it is only in one’s head.” We are indebted to hundreds of thousands of Kiwanians who recognized the fact that having only a vision is no solution to the world’s problems. As the song goes, “everything depends on execution - bit by bit, piece by piece, Kiwanians have put it all together by their selfless deeds of service to others for ninety years.” Tom added that the vision that is embodied in the first Object of Kiwanis became the indelible “work of art” which has impacted the lives of children in countless ways and has given Kiwanis its distinctive identity.

Past Governor Tom generated some laughs from the audience when he stated there is nothing that upsets a Kiwanian more than someone who answers the question “What is Kiwanis?” with a comparison to Lions or Rotary, celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Tom said, “With all due respect to our elders in the service world, Kiwanis has carved out its own identity through its diversity and its incomparable involvement with sponsored youth programs.” He called the Kiwanis vision “a vision of the future for our children,” and congratulated those who sponsored and attended this fundraiser for ensuring safer, healthier, and happier futures for children served by the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center.

The gala celebration was attended by well over 200 persons and raised $30,000 to benefit children served by the KPTC at North Shore/lij’s Schneider Children’s Hospital. Those in attendance were treating to an outstanding concert performance featuring the Diocese of Rockville Centre Choir and the Island Chamber Symphony. The audience delighted hearing the eclectic program of beautiful music which included Charles Gounod’s Mass of St. Cecelia, selections from “The King and I,” a medley of Duke Ellington favorites, and the Battle Hymn of the Republic. The finale, a special arrangement of Irving Berlin’s God Bless America received sustained applause and a standing ovation.

Past International President and the KPTC’s founding President, Tony Kaiser, organized the event and served as Continued on Page 5