BY MICKLE LEAMEY

FOR PETE’S SAKE
LET’S BUILD K-KIDS CLUBS

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Is there any grandparent who reads this who does not know the joys that come from watching your young grandchildren follow in your footsteps? As K-Kids advisors, that chance comes from being “foster grandparents,” as well.

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Where else in Kiwanis can we get such a bargain? As always, these clubs can be split between cosponsoring Key Clubs, PTA’s and local business groups, and the sponsoring Kiwanians. Is there a better way to keep our children from the evil temptations that would lead them down the wrong path than to get them involved in life-affirming activities that will lead down the right one?

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Now, for Pete’s sake, let’s end the year on the right note. Let’s build the K-Kids clubs. If we build them, they will come.

Editor’s Note: Recently on our return from the New York District Convention in Buffalo, we were driven back to the airport by a kind Kiwanian of the West Seneca Kiwanis Club. His name is Charlie and during our short drive he told us his story . . .

by Charlie Markel, Ryan’s dad

My son drowned while taking a swim class at school. We were told it was mandatory for children, so we let him. I also had a pool in my backyard at the time of the tragedy. My son was taught to swim since he was a baby.

When this happened, we set up 3 goals. We had to find out what happened, make sure it never happened again and make sure my son was never forgotten. When he had his wake there were so many people who came for it. They didn’t know what to do so they gave us money. We didn’t want to touch it so we set up a fund to put the money into.

We called this Ryan’s Fund.

We use this money to give away scholarships every year in his name. Last year, we gave away three. I keep putting his allowance money in the account, as well as, Christmas, birthdays and any other holiday there is. The only catch to winning this scholarship is you have to be below a 90 grade average and be active in serving your community.

My wife Sandy is an RN. When we found out what happened we couldn’t believe it. He lost his life because no one knew how to do CPR. Even though they were trained they panicked. The teacher wasn’t paying attention and didn’t know what to do when the time came. My wife decided to start teaching CPR, so no family has to endure what we are going through.

We started Ryan’s Hope Foundation Inc. We are waiting for our not-for-profit to come back from the federal government. It should be back any day.

Our Foundation has taught over 1000 people this year. We have eleven teachers, who go to school, churches, fire halls and houses. We will teach from one person to 50 at one time. We have focused our attention on schools in the beginning but now want everyone. When someone has a heart attack or drowns you have up to 4 minutes to revive them with no brain damage caused. From 4 to 8 minutes you can revive someone but there will be damage. What we are trying to do is give people the knowledge to save a life until the EMT show up. When performing CPR you give the patient extra time until help arrives.

My wife and I fund this project. Once a year we have a fundraiser to help defer the cost of this. Whatever we need, we just pay for it ourselves. We charge $12 to take the course. American Red Cross charges $80 for someone to take the course. The only reason we charge $12 is because that’s what we get charged from American Red Cross. If the people can’t pay I have friends and ourselves who will put the money. Some things are more important than money. We do take donations. Every bit helps.

We have been trying to change the laws in the schools. This is not an easy task. We want to make sure that there are two sets of eyes on the pool at all times, and that children also are not taking swimming that day be taken out of the pool area so there is no distraction to the teachers. We want all school employees to be trained in CPR and AED use.

New York State has usually man-

Continued on Page 8

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The program includes a walking program in the school, walking on a cross country path and on the track in nice weather, and using the fitness and exercise room with the treadmills, bicycles and elliptical machines in rainy weather.

Kiwanian Margaret Boyle, through the club and outside donations, has supplied each student with a Kids & Kiwanis Walk for Health T-shirt, a pedometer and water bottle.

The St. Lawrence County Health Initiative Program has been instrumental in helping with information and will provide a nutrition

Editor: Mickie Leamey

Kiwanis Partners With Elementary School for Fitness

Callicoon Elementary School walks the halls for fitness.

Kiwanis Club of CALLICOON, Hudson River West Division – partnered with the local elementary school on a very interesting project, in support of Governor Peter Mancuso’s project of promoting physical fitness in children. Everyday at lunchtime, a group of students and teachers walked the hallways of the school.

By the end of the project, the group had walked a total of 2,417 miles (the distance from Stewart Airport in Newburgh, New York to Los Angeles International Airport in Los Angeles, California). To celebrate, the participants were treated to pizza and ice cream!

Norwood Kiwanis Aids School With Phys-Ed Program

The Kiwanis Club of NORWOOD, St. Lawrence Division – Supporting the Governor’s Project, Norwood Kiwanians in conjunction with Norwood - Norfolk Elementary School Physical Ed. teacher Lee Middlestead and guidance counselor Carrie French, are conducting an extra-curricular exercise program for fourth and fifth graders after lunch time at the school.

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To Ryan’s website: www.ryansfund.com

Ryan’s Story

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