Middletown Kiwanis Thinks Outside the Pizza Box

Local dignitaries join Middletown Kiwanians at the pizza luncheon celebration on the new park equipment.

Kiwanis Club of MIDDLETOWN, Hudson River West Division—came up with a new community fundraiser to help raise substantial revenues to do some big community projects. Middletown Finance Chairperson John McCarey came up with a new creative idea. He approached Planet Wings, a local pizza chain and successfully proposed that Kiwanis sell and deliver pizza as a fundraiser.

John presented his ideas to the club. The project would enable the club to do some major Community Parks Projects involving equipment for youth participation. Their goal was to make, sell and deliver 1000 pizza pies in one day for a $10,000 profit. The Board approved the crazy idea.

Chairman John McCarey receives an appreciation presentation from Middletown President John Goldstein.


A Pizza for Parks Committee met for breakfast every week for five weeks to plan and organize the event. The chairperson provided graphic weekly club meeting updates with a costume and big charts. The club secured corporate sponsorships of $250, $500, $750 and $1000. Each sponsor received pizzas and was listed on 16,000+ sales flyers and specialty T-shirts. The flyers were inserted into the newspaper prior to Kiwanis Pizza Day as part of their $1000 corporate sponsorship. The club promoted the event with several prominent news stories and pictures.

Three Musketeers – (l-r) Chair John McCarey, Dan Johnson, and Joe Masi.

Lots of local dignitaries including the Mayor and County Legislators were on hand for a Pizza lunch and special Middletown recognition presentations.

Kiwanis Pizza for Parks delivery day was challenging and exciting. Over 75% of the club membership, friends, children, and spouses went into action to deliver the 900 + pie sales. Kiwanis receipts grossed over $10,000. The community thought it was great, a new and refreshing idea.

The Middletown Club seized the opportunity to recruit several new members. The Pizza for Parks fundraising project was a tremendous success, not only in generating the Parks playground equipment but also in creating excitement, club enthusiasm, and positive “can do” spirit for new and long term members.

Youth Services

Serving our Youth from birth to adulthood. It covers everything from athletics, educational, emotional, mental, physical, safety, and social needs. Governor Peter’s Physical Fitness Governor’s Project is a perfect example of a youth service project. In order to assist you and your club identify projects that would accommodate your community’s needs you can go on-line to Kiwanis International or call 1-800-kiwanis and request a set or youth services bulletins. Of course, is your club has done a community analysis you should already have your youth services projects inventoried.

To assist your club implement successful projects it is strongly recommended that you work with and through the following organizations local school district(s). House of worship, Athletic programs (baseball, football, hockey, basketball, lacrosse, softball and track). Scouting Programs for H club and many more. How about Kamp Kiwanis and KPTC? Remember, as the Holidays approach it’s a great opportunity for us to lift little hearts and put smiles on little faces. Not only for the children of the world but for the children of our communities.

Key Club Leadership Training Conference

Held at Kamp Kiwanis the weekend of September 12-14, was a highly successful affair. Key Club District Officers, Board Members, LG’s, Club Presidents and Committee Chairs attended it. New York District Administrator Andrew Lowenberg, Dejean, and Key Club Administrator from the

2003-2004 A New Year for Kiwanis

Annually, the month of October designates the beginning of a new year for Kiwanis. For the Sponsored Youth Organizations it’s a time of anticipation, a time that generates enthusiasm. It’s an opportune time for the students to become involved in school and community service or activities.

For the sponsoring Kiwanis Clubs, its time to contact Key Clubs, Circle K Clubs, Builders Clubs, K- Kids Club and Aktion Clubs. Please review the following recommendations and follow up as soon as possible:

• Make sure that regular Club meetings have resumed.
• Ensure that a Kiwanis and Faculty Advisor are there to guide and counsel the club.
• Train the club officers if they haven’t attended the Divisional or District training sessions for officers.
• Assist with the implementation of membership drive to replace students who have graduated and to augment additional manpower needed to carry out our service projects, fundraisers and other activities.

At the New York District Convention held at the Nevele Country Club in August, the Sponsored Youth panel thoroughly discussed how a Kiwanis Club could work with Sponsored Youth. It was well attended and enthusiastically received with a question and answer period that covered most of the following recommendations:

• First of all communicate - invite members of your sponsoring club to your regular club meetings including the faculty advisor.
• Encourage Kiwanis members to attend their meetings.
• Mail a copy of your club newsletter to the club president and faculty advisor.
• Include members of Key Club and Circle K in your interclub.
• Key Clubbers and Circle Kers are endowed with diversified talent and skills. They can provide interesting programs at your club meetings
• Encourage joint projects in fund raising and community service.
• Attend and support their Divisional meetings, as well as, District and International Conventions.
• Treat your sponsored Youth Program as a continuous project with the potential of involving the entire club membership.

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Tony Polonzi

Sponsored Organizations and Programs

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November/December 2003

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