Onondaga Hill Kiwanis Reading Program 
With Hillbrook Youngsters An Award Winner

The Kiwanis Club of ONONDAGA HILL, Ontario Division — Youngsters at Onondaga County’s Hillbrook Detention Center have improved as much as two reading levels with one-on-one reading help by retired teachers who are members of Onondaga Hill Kiwanis Club.

The reading help at Hillbrook is provided by Susan Ulm, Virginia McCarthy, and Judy Morgan—all retired school teachers—as they spend two hours or more each week helping youngsters with their reading.

Even though their stay at Hillbrook may be for only a few days or a few weeks, the youngsters seem to thrive on the personalized reading help ... and as they read better ... they also understand and do better in their other subjects. One of the teachers—Mrs. Morgan—says most of the youths with the personalized help are improving by at least two reading levels.

Onondaga Hill Kiwanis Club received the statewide Coral Single Service Award this spring for its reading program, which has also provided some books and other materials for the library at Hillbrook. The first place award compares Onondaga Hill’s project with those of all other clubs of similar size in New York State.

Donna Kay Campbell, a member of Onondaga Hill club and a chaplain at Hillbrook, worked with Kiwanis to secure a community partnership grant from the Central New York Community Foundation. The grant, partially based on the earliest work, provided $11,720, primarily for books and teaching materials at Hillbrook, and is being put to good use for the continuing active reading program.

Reading has received a top priority in the New York Kiwanis District for the past two years. Distinguished Past Governor Pat Cooney encouraged clubs to provide books and read to children as his statewide program for youth. Justin Underwood, last year’s Kiwanis state governor, continued the reading program with additional emphasis on “asking questions to see if children know what they have just read.”

Five Kaiser Fellowships Awarded


Marrazzo

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Salette, Michael Malark, and Glen Hollins

Our sincere condolences to the family of Past President Victor Allegretti from the Bensonhurst & Bay Ridge Club in the Brooklyn Division. Victor had a huge heart and was instrumental in donating thousands of dollars to the most needy of our communities. We are all going to miss him.

Hats Off to the K Family Project!

Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walks took place in 41 regions throughout New York State this Fall. As of the writing of this article K Family involvement in Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walks generated more than $10,000 across New York State! Hats off to Kiwanis, Circle K and Key Club for helping the Alzheimer’s Association in raising money for programs and services for the 400,000 New Yorkers living with Alzheimer’s disease today. Until a breakthrough or cure is found it is imperative that we provide the leadership necessary to support New Yorkers with Alzheimer’s disease. With your help we can continue to provide care consultation, support groups and educational programs for people affected by Alzheimer’s disease and their loved ones. Thank you!

In addition to the involvement of the K Family in New York State Memory Walks representatives of the Alzheimer’s Association have had the opportunity to speak at numerous Kiwanis club meetings over the last several months. Included in the presentation is an overview of the Alzheimer’s Association and the programs and services that we provide; responding to questions about Alzheimer’s and other related disorders; information about research and clinical trials going on today; and our hopes for the future. As you plan your upcoming Club and Divisional meetings please contact the Alzheimer’s Association Chapter near you. Someone from the Chapter will be honored to present at your next meeting.

Mrs. Susan Ulm, at left, of Onondaga Hill Kiwanis asks her student to read aloud so she can determine the progress he is making.

Mrs. Virginia McCarthy, at right, a retired teacher, works one-on-one with a youngster at Hillbrook Detention Center to improve his reading ability.

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