Lewiston Kiwanis Teens Bring Message of Hope to Iraqi Children

The Kiwanis Club of LEWISTON, Niagara Frontier North Division – Kiwanians know how to fulfill their service mission to children in the most challenging places around the globe. Lt. Colonel Patrick Roemer, Commander of the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer (ECE) Squadron, is a Lewiston New York Kiwanian deployed from the Niagara Falls NY Air Reserve Station who brought hope to orphaned children in Iraq.

Some 200 Lewiston Kiwanis shirts were distributed to Iraqi children in an orphanage in Baghdad while Lt. Colonel Roemer led his squadron to volunteer their “free time” to make badly needed repairs to the facilities.

On the home front, Kiwanis Lt. Governor and Lewiston member Chuck Stojak coordinated the delivery of the shirts from his club to his fellow Kiwanian and others from the Buffalo area stationed in Baghdad. Stojak reports that the school repairs were as well received as the “white” t-shirts, a color and style found “cooler” than customarily worn by Iraqi children.

Merrick Supply Drive Gets An A+ Grade

61 local needy students started off the school year with bright new backpacks filled with every required item on their teacher’s school supply list, and new clothes as well, thanks to the Kiwanian Club of Merrick and the overwhelming generosity of the community.

Kiwanians spent two weekends in August collecting supplies and cash donations outside three local pharmacies. The club then purchased additional items to complete the list from each child’s teacher, and also gave each child a $100 gift card to Old Navy.

All schools in the district provided the club with the children’s names and the supplies they needed. The bags were packed and delivered to each child’s home the week before school started.

Kiwanian servant leaders featured in the first photo with the happier Iraqi orphans are, from left, MSG William Soda (Buffalo), SRA Robert Argy (Lewiston), TSG David Randina (Niagara Falls), TSG Roger Cook (Salamanca NY) and SMS Charles Gregory (Nashville, TN).

Joy Freeman Welcome Into the Ranks by Fordham Past Presidents

Fordham Kiwanis past club presidents welcome Francoline "Joy" Freeman (second from right) as their new leader for 2008-09. From left, Immediate Past President Vincent Volino, Distinguished Past Presidents Susan Brucuceri, Dr. Georgina Arendacs, Dr. Rosemary DeJulio, Joy Freeman, and Sister Anne Marie Kirmse. The Fordham club will be celebrating its twentieth charter anniversary in 2009.