Kiwanis International President Visits KFH!

March 10, 2015 was a momentous day for the Kiwanis Family House. We were honored to host Kiwanis International President Dr. John Button and his wife Debbie for an historic day. The participation of Cal-Nev-Ha Governor Alan Guire, Governor-Elect Cherice Gilliam, and District Project Eliminate Chair Rocci Barsotti further heightened the special value of the visit. During the four-hour visit, President John and Debbie toured the facility, watched a special video segment of the late co-founder Leona Bright, met with a guest family from the state of Idaho, and celebrated a new international agreement among Kiwanis, Shriners Hospital for Children, and the Mexican Consul General's office in Sacramento.

Executive Director Dan Germain, members of the Board of Directors, and staff welcomed the dignitaries in the morning and provided a tour of the facility. Following the tour, all assembled in the conference room for a formal welcome and introductory remarks by the Executive Director. The opening presentation included a brief video segment in which co-founder Leona Bright recounted the humble beginnings for the Kiwanis Family House. The Buttons then sat with Jim and Linda Deffenbaugh, guests of the Kiwanis Family House from Idaho, and listened to them describe their respective health histories and the circumstances that brought them to Sacramento. It was a moving conversation during which Dr. Button, a retired physician, spoke to the healing value of family love and the critical importance of support resources such as the Kiwanis Family House.

Governors Alan and Cherice then joined the Buttons for a conversation about the legacy of the Kiwanis Family House - what it has meant, continues to mean, and promises to mean well into the future for the thousands of families we serve from all over the world. Governor Alan told President John and Debbie about work days enjoyed by K-Family members from his area of the District and that he believes the Kiwanis Family House represents the best example of what Kiwanis should be doing in other regions. Governor-Elect Cherice pointed to the flags of the world’s countries displayed in front of them and spoke of the international impact of the House.

Shriners Hospital hosted a luncheon for Kiwanis, local club presidents, and
representatives from the Mexican Consulate around mid-day to commemorate a new partnership that is described in the accompanying Executive Director's column.

The events of this special day were recorded and we look forward to sharing video excerpts with our stakeholders very soon. The International President's visit will have a lasting and memorable impact on the Kiwanis Family House.

Pictured are Kiwanis Leaders from the Cal-Nev-Ha District and Divisions 7 and 44 with representatives from the Mexican Consuls Generals’ Office in Sacramento

Executive Director's Column | Dan Germain

Partnerships can be wonderful and inspiring. We are always looking for new partnerships and ways to positively transform existing ones. On March 10, 2015, we celebrated a new venture that will enhance the quality of our services to families in need. It was our good fortune that Kiwanis International President John Button and Debbie were in Sacramento to help us embrace two organizational friends - Shriners Hospital for Children-Northern California and the Consulado General de Mexico en Sacramento (Mexican Consul General in Sacramento).

These three partners have come together to ensure the availability of temporary lodging for Mexican national families who travel to Sacramento to support pediatric patients being treated by specialists at Shriners Hospital. Here is the new agreement in a nutshell:

Kiwanis Family House will dedicate one of its recreational vehicle spaces for exclusive use by Shriners Hospital, which has secured the donation of recreational vehicle. It will be parked permanently in the space at Kiwanis
Family House. The Mexican Consul General will compensate Kiwanis Family House for the cost of the space rental. Shriners Hospital will refer Mexican national families to Kiwanis Family House for reservations and lodging. Guest families housed in the Shriners Hospital recreational vehicle will have access to Kiwanis Family House resources, including laundry room, RV shower, kitchen, food pantry, and clothes closet. In support, Kiwanis Family House staff will provide housekeeping services to the RV.

Social workers, nurses, and physicians at Shriners Hospital have been referring families, including some from Mexico, to the Kiwanis Family House since shortly after the current Kiwanis facility opened in 2006. We have made rooms available to them as vacancies have allowed. However, we have not always had available rooms. So this new agreement provides a resource that Shriners Hospital can count on for support of Mexican families.

Over the past five years, members of the Panchano family of Constitution, Baja California have become our good friends. In July 2009, father Damian was driving with his family in the car. They never saw the vehicle that hit them broadside at high speed and spun their vehicle. Thirteen-year-old Hector’s spinal injuries left him paralyzed from the waist down.

Following the second of two surgeries in Mexico, the family crossed paths with visiting representatives from Shriners Hospitals. Around Easter of 2010, Hector and his family made their first trip to Sacramento, supported by Shriners and charitable airplane pilots. Several surgeries later, Hector’s spinal support and wheelchair mobility are improved. The family returns to the Kiwanis Family House a couple of times each year.

Shriners Hospital is a regional pediatric medical center providing highly specialized care and rehabilitation to children with congenital conditions and complex medical needs. Shriners Hospital treats children with orthopedic conditions, spinal cord injuries, burns, cleft lip, scars from any cause, specialized plastic surgery and other complex surgical needs. A leader in pediatric orthopedics, Shriners Hospital for Children-Northern California is ranked by U.S. News and World Report as one of the top 50 pediatric orthopedic programs in conjunction with the UC Davis Children’s Hospital. The Northern California Shriners Hospital is also distinguished as the region’s most active and most noted pediatric burn center.

Dignitaries who spoke during the March 10 luncheon at which they officially unveiled the new agreement, beamed about advancing the missions of all three organizations. Dr. Pirko Maguina, who cares for pediatric burn victims, referred to the partnership as a "wonderful collaboration." Shriners Hospital Development Director Alan Anderson characterized the "love to the rescue" agreement as possible only with the multi-national partnership. Rodrigo Baez, representing the Mexican Consul General, observed how lucky his office is to have “two great partners,” stating that families from his country will now be able to focus on giving love. In his remarks, Kiwanis Family House Board President George MacMurphey highlighted that the new agreement puts the word "international" into capital letters.

**President’s Message | George MacMurphey**

Kiwanis International is the official name of our 100 year old organization. As I have stated before, the nomenclature "INTERNATIONAL" can certainly be applied to our Kiwanis Family House by nature of the nearly 2 dozen countries our guests have hailed from.

Now the international nomenclature for the Kiwanis Family House takes on new meaning. We are about to embark on a project which provides a permanently designated RV for families of Mexican Nationals being treated at Shriners Hospital for Children of Northern California. This wonderful opportunity has come about through the joint efforts of the Shriners, The Mexican Consul General in Sacramento, and our team at Kiwanis Family House.
The Sacramento Mexican Consulate, located in North Natomas, consists of a staff of about 40 people at various levels of consul and diplomat status. I engaged in a most interesting conversation with one of the members of the consulate staff during a meeting in March where the basic concept of the RV project was discussed. He talked about the many ways his colleagues assist the citizens of Mexico who find themselves in various difficult situations regarding so many different aspects of being in the U.S. and feeling alone. Not the least of these, probably the most traumatic, is having a child in the hospital being treated for a serious health condition, quite often for a long period of time. The consul expressed his sincere appreciation of our involvement in housing these families and his elation about the prospect of this new facility always ready to house these Mexican families with patients at Shriner.

As we Americans tend to do, I could not resist telling my story: the story of my involvement with the American Embassy in Paris. We had been travelling with another couple, Dick and Clair, and Claire had not been feeling well for several days. As we were waiting to board the plane for home at the Paris airport, she fainted away and collapsed in front of us. Delta Airlines officials, airport medics, and city EMTs responded promptly, revived her and decided she needed to go to a hospital, not to the airplane. Departure was eminent and we stood trying to decide what to do. The Delta representative made the decision. She stated that Delta would take care of our friends and get them on the very first flight leaving just as soon as Claire was able to travel, however, there were not able to take care of us. We were not related and if we stayed we would have had to re-book, pay (exorbitant) re-booking fees, and all the flights were full for the next several days. So we boarded the plane, leaving our friend laying on the floor waiting to be transported to the hospital.

Off we went in a state of extreme concern. We were given a Delta phone number supposedly to obtain information, but we were never able to get through after many attempts during our wait to change planes.

As we walked in to our home, around midnight, the phone was ringing. It was a most efficient gentleman from the American Embassy in Paris, calling about 8 A.M. Paris time. He provided us with complete details as to the name of the hospital, name and phone number of the hotel where Dick was staying, phone numbers for himself and other Embassy staff, some information as to Claire’s condition, and phone numbers to contact their children and families.

We later learned that the Embassy staff had arranged for Dick to taxi to the Embassy where he could make phone calls anywhere, assisting him in obtaining French currency, and worked with Delta to rearrange their travel itinerary. It turned out that Claire’s acute illness was due to a small bleeding ulcer. Three or four blood transfusions alleviated her anemia and weakness, and Delta did indeed put them on a flight four days later.

As I related this to the Mexican Consulate official, he nodded approvingly and agreed that what was done in Claire and Dick’s situation was exactly right, and what they at the Mexican Consulate make every effort to do for their citizens in difficult situations. He reiterated how appreciative he was of our service to his countrymen and how wonderful it will be to have the RV available.

Kiwanis International, Kiwanis Family House — International. We add another block to the International nature of Kiwanis and the House. It may be a small one as compared to IDD and Eliminate, but a very valuable and important one for the citizens of Mexico.

It goes without saying, but I can’t say it enough. All of our service here at Kiwanis Family House is made possible by our hundreds of supporters, Kiwanians and friends who continually give of their TIME, TALENT and TREASURE to carry out our mission.
Please know how much all efforts are appreciated by the Board, management and staff and especially by our Guests. We could not do what we do without all your wonderful and constant support.

**Annual Meeting and Election Set for Saturday, June 13th**

The Kiwanis Family House Annual Meeting and Board Election will be held on Saturday, June 13th, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Kiwanis Family House. All sponsor clubs are encouraged to send a representative to hear an update on the House, as well as to vote for three (3) open board of directors positions. The Annual Meeting Notice and Ballot Proxy will be mailed to all sponsor clubs in April. If unable to send a representative, a club may designate a proxy.

Click [here](#) to download the Board of Directors Recruitment Flyer, Application, and the Annual Meeting Notice.

**The 6th Annual March in March was a Great Success!**

The 6th Annual March in March on Saturday, March 21, 2015 was a great day for the Kiwanis family! Over 120 people attended the pancake breakfast, followed by "Hands Around the House", where we nearly circled the entire Kiwanis Family House. The March itself took place from 10 a.m. to noon, and during that time, our walkers completed a total of 2,468 laps! Ryan Su from C.K. McClatchy Key Club completed the most laps, 68.
Below is a list of our award winners, who will receive their awards at a future DCM:

Trophy for the Kiwanis division with most donations: **Division 44 with $1,160**
Trophy for the SLP division with most laps: **Division 44 South Key Club with 787 laps**

Brick for Kiwanis Club Donating the Most Money: **Woodland Kiwanis $625**
Brick for Kiwanis Club Walking Most Laps: **Lincoln Kiwanis 129 laps**
Brick for SLP Club Donating the Most Money: **Woodland Key Club $220**
Brick for SLP Club Walking the Most Laps: **Mesa Verde High 436 laps**

Individual with most donations: a TIE: **Muriel Brounstein and Marv Hale with $150 each** (each will receive a KFH Polo)

Thank you to Sacramento State Circle K for hosting this great FUN-draiser for the Kiwanis Family House. Can't wait to do it again next year!

Enjoy these fantastic pictures from the March, courtesy of Sacramento State Circle K member Ronnie Escorpiso, Jr.

![Picture 1](image1.jpg)
![Picture 2](image2.jpg)
![Picture 3](image3.jpg)
![Picture 4](image4.jpg)

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**Linda and Jim's Guest Story | Charlie Bussey**

Linda and Jim are from Rathdrum, Idaho, a small town in the Idaho panhandle north of Coeur d'Alene. They have been staying at Kiwanis Family House since January 16, 2015. They came here for two reasons: Chemotherapy and radiation for Jim, who was recently diagnosed with cancer, and a checkup for Linda. Somewhere in that last sentence is a story.

Back in 2013, Linda found out that she had failing kidneys and was in need of a kidney transplant. Her brother was matched with her and agreed to be a living donor. Shortly before the transplant was scheduled, Linda discovered that she had breast cancer. The transplant surgery was cancelled and Linda went into treatment for her cancer. After treatment was successfully concluded and Linda was declared to be cancer free, she was again ready for her kidney transplant.

What she found out from the hospital that was to perform her transplant was devastating. Although she had a living donor and would not be taking a kidney that could go to someone else, the protocol for a transplant in the United States for people who have had
cancer of any kind is that they must be cancer free for five years before a transplant can be done. Her nephrologist and oncologist both agreed that Linda would not be able to wait for five years. Linda and Jim then began calling other hospitals all over the United States to find out if there was a hospital that would do the transplant. They were repeatedly unsuccessful. While on the phone with UC Davis Medical Center (UCDMC) staff, they heard the same story, "There is a five year waiting period." Fortuitously for Linda, a surgeon overheard the conversation and asked if he could talk to Linda and Jim. After hearing their story and consulting with Linda's nephrologist and oncologist, UCDMC agreed to perform the transplant.

Linda, Jim and Linda's brother made the journey to Sacramento, and Linda received her transplant. She and her brother were required to stay after the surgery for a period of time to make sure that everything associated with the transplant went well and that Linda's new kidney was functioning properly for her. They did not know of and were not told of Kiwanis Family House. As a result, they incurred thousands of dollars of hotel bills, which had a severe impact on their financial situation.

Fast forward a few months to when Jim is diagnosed with cancer. He arranges to have his treatment here at UCDMC in conjunction with his wife's annual follow up on her transplant. This time, they are told about Kiwanis Family House. They stopped by a few weeks before treatment was scheduled to see what we had to offer and found out that we had RV spaces. They happened to own an RV, so they drove it down here and have been living in it for over two months. Instead of spending thousands of dollars, they have saved thousands of dollars. They readily acknowledge that "We could not have afforded a repeat of the costs of our last trip to Sacramento."

Today, Jim, who is a former Kiwanian, is receiving the treatment he needs, and Linda is getting the medical attention that she also requires. Last year, Jim took care of Linda while she was recovering. This time, because of the lifesaving transplant that she received, Linda is able to take care of Jim while he goes through the rigors of chemotherapy.

Jim said that when he was in Kiwanis he always thought that Kiwanis projects should focus on the local community and its needs. Now he says he realizes that the local community and the global community are the same.

96...97...Countdown to 100 Sponsor Clubs!

In February, Kiwanis Family House was pleased to sign-up it's 97th Sponsor Club, Mountain View Kiwanis! This, along with the half a dozen new sponsors we have recently added, means 97 clubs in California and Nevada are now official sponsors of the Kiwanis Family House. We are flying on a wave of confidence that we will reach at least 100 Sponsor Clubs during Kiwanis' centennial birthday. If your home club is not already a sponsor, please champion our cause with your board of directors. The commitment is as follows:

- A one-time sponsorship fee of $500
- Annually, thereafter:
  - Dues of $100 each October
  - At least one additional donation or fundraiser on our behalf

If you are a 2014/15 Lieutenant Governor, can you help us locate one club in your Division which is not already a KFH sponsor? Let us know!
How YOU Can Make A Difference | Rita Germain

Donors and volunteers make all the difference in our ability to care for our guest families during times of medical crisis. Without these two key groups, our Kiwanis Family House could not continue to fulfill its mission of providing temporary housing and support to ill and injured patients being treated at UC Davis Medical Center and Shriners Hospitals of Northern California. So, beginning this month, we will use this column to remind you of ways YOU can make a difference by helping the families who stay in our Kiwanis Family House.

Do you shop at Amazon.com? If so, an easy way to give back to the Kiwanis Family House is through the AmazonSmile program. You can shop at AmazonSmile for the same items you purchase on Amazon.com everyday. When you do, .5% of the purchase price of all items you buy will be donated to the Kiwanis Family House.

Just go to www.smile.amazon.com and designate Kiwanis Family House as your charity, and start shopping today—it's that easy!

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Volunteer opportunities are always available, and Operations Manager Charlie Bussey coordinates these efforts for individuals, clubs, and outside groups. To learn more, or to schedule a time to volunteer, contact Charlie at (916) 736-0116 or cbussey@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org.

In addition, large K-Family workdays are scheduled at least two times a year, typically in April during Kiwanis One Day, and in early September. These are great opportunities for clubs to work side-by-side with their sponsored youth, friends, family members, and membership prospects. Our next Kiwanis One Day K-Family Workday is scheduled for Kiwanis One Day, Saturday, April 11, 2015. Click here for the flyer.
**Upcoming Events**

Join us for the following upcoming events:

- April KFH Board Meeting  April 9
- Kiwanis One Day  April 11
- Creelman-Francisco Classic  April 30
- BIG Day of Giving  May 5
- KFH Board Meeting  May 14
- KFH Annual Meeting  June 13

**April Wish List**

Click [here](#) for a printable version of this month's Wish List.

The Operations Manager always has a ready Wish List of items that are needed by Kiwanis Family House. These items are usually available at a convenience store or perhaps you might have them in your home. If you feel you can help out with an item, either bring it to Kiwanis Family House or give the Family House a call at **916-736-0116** to arrange a pick-up of the item(s).

**APRIL PRIORITIES**

Disinfectant Wipes (Clorox, Lysol, etc.)

**GUEST NEEDS**

- Hotel size toiletries (shampoo, soap, etc.)
- Liquid hand soap
OTHER NEEDS

- Bottled water
- AA, AAA, C, and D Batteries
- Furniture Polish
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner (we have 55 toilets in the building, we use a lot of this)
- Bleach

Who We Are

Dan Germain,
Executive Director
dgermain@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org

Charlie Bussey,
Operations Manager
cbussey@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org

To View our Board of Directors, click here.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide temporary housing and support to families of seriously ill or injured children and adults being treated at UC Davis Medical Center and Shriners Hospitals of Northern California.

Our Vision

Our Vision is to continually provide convenient, restful, secure, and low cost accommodations for the families of patients being treated at the UCD Medical Center or at Shriners Hospital.

Our Values

Our Values are guided by the KIWANIS Service Motto: "Serving the Children of the World".

The KIWANIS FAMILY HOUSE encourages the following core values:
• A sense of community
• Dedication to service
• Respect for families
• Augmentation of services provided by other organizations
• Collaboration with community partners
• Foster awareness for those in need
• Generosity

Ways to Help

You can help the Kiwanis Family House by donating or participating in the following programs:

• Sponsor A Family
• Become a Friend of the Kiwanis Family House
• Buy a Brick
• Purchase a Bright Award
• Donate a Vehicle
• Participate in the SaveMart S.H.A.R.E.S. Card Program
• Donate Wish List Items
• Become a Sponsor Club
• Sponsor a Room
• Volunteer at the Kiwanis Family House
• And much more!

For information on these opportunities, go to:  
www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org/how-you-can-help/donate/

Kiwanis Family House is a 501(c)3 charitable corporation

Print the House Talk

Click here for a printable version of this month’s issue.

Current and past issues are always available at the Kiwanis Family House website.

You must have Adobe Reader to open and save the file. If you need Reader, please go here to download your free copy.

Stay Connected

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