



December 2014

House Talk

The official newsletter of the Kiwanis Family House

Vol. 15, Issue 6

Inside This Issue

- 1 Featured Story
- 2 Executive Director's Column
- 4 President's Message
- 5 Guest Corner
- 6 Make a Difference
- 7 Event Calendar / Wish List
- 8 Who We Are
- 9 Our Mission / Ways to Help

Enthusiastic Supporters: It's Time for Action!

"The real secret of success is enthusiasm" – Walter Chrysler

If you're reading this, chances are that you are already an enthusiastic supporter of Kiwanis Family House. Enthusiasm defined is, "intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval". In other words, enthusiasm equals passion, and when passion exists, action happens.

Today, more than 30 years after Vern and Leona Bright founded our Kiwanis Family House, action is needed. From our humble beginnings in 1984, we have grown larger, and now spend nearly \$500,000 annually to keep our doors and our arms open to guest families in crisis. And, these dollars do not come easy. We receive funds from numerous sources, and each one is critical to our continued operation.

So, what is this action I speak of? It can take many forms.

- Action can mean providing **volunteer support**, which many of you do. And volunteer support can happen every day, not just during club outings or large workdays. Volunteers are needed anytime for a variety of tasks. For example, all of our board members are volunteers. They not only attend month board meetings, they participate on committees, plan and attend KFH events and events benefitting KFH, shop for groceries, provide professional expertise, file our taxes, and write this newsletter. We have other volunteers, such as Carol Frost and Jim Legler, who faithfully keep our lawns and grounds trimmed on a weekly basis.
- Action can also take the form of **monetary support**. If you are a friend of our Family House, why not become a Friend of the Kiwanis Family House? For as little as \$10 a month, you can show your ongoing support of the work we do and the families we assist. By increasing income in this category in the coming years, we can ensure our continued ability to operate, and perhaps even reduce or eliminate the amount of rent requested from our guest families in the future.

(continued on page 3)



The board and staff of the Kiwanis Family House wish all our friends and supporters a very happy holiday season!

Executive Director's Column | Dan Germain

During this season of giving, we at the Kiwanis Family House are humbled by the continued support we receive from Kiwanis clubs and individual supporters. You are the reason that the Kiwanis Family House has had the privilege of serving more than 25,000 families in crisis over the past thirty years, and, with your continued support, we plan to serve even more families in our next three decades.

The renowned specialists at Shriners Hospital of Northern California are currently treating Azul, a three-year-old burn patient from Choix in the Mexican state of Sinaloa. Her loving parents will be guests of the Kiwanis Family House for several months to come and will depend heavily on assistance from our rent relief fund. I send this appeal to you on behalf of Azul's family and the hundreds of other low-income families who find solace at the Kiwanis Family House during times of medical crisis.

As you weigh the distribution of your dollars and the tax advantages of your year-end charitable giving, please consider the following realities:

- To this point in our fiscal year, financial support from sponsoring Kiwanis-family clubs has met our budget target. However, we are significantly short of our year-to-date target for donations from sponsoring individuals.
- Our partner hospitals are referring an increasing number of low-income families to the Kiwanis Family House, a phenomenon they attribute to recent changes in health care insurance programs. As a result, we are foregoing (waiving) more potential rent income than we anticipated. Thus, we are short of the budgeted target in this category as well.

These two factors have combined to create a shortfall in our 2014/15 operating funds. ***The families we serve need our immediate help. Azul needs our immediate help.***

I ask all who receive this message - including those of you who send us your Friends of the Kiwanis Family House donations monthly or annually - to consider joining members of our Board of Directors in donating **\$100 or more** to our Kiwanis Family House before the end of the calendar year. It's easy to do: just donate online at www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org, or send your check to:

Kiwanis Family House
2875 50th Street
Sacramento, CA 95817

On behalf of the Kiwanis Family House Board of Directors, its staff, and management, we are continually grateful for any and all support you are able to provide to our House. By giving just a little more **now**, rest assured that you are directly helping families such as Azul's breathe a little easier this holiday season.

Wishing you and yours a joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year!

Comments? Questions?

*Email the editor at
ritamgermain@gmail.com*



*Executive Director
Dan Germain*

It's Time for Action *(continued from page 1)*

- Finally, action can mean **promoting our cause**. As we have been known to say, we wish we had Ronald McDonald House Charities' name recognition and bank account. With 350 RMHC facilities, it is clear that they are physically in more locations that Kiwanis Family House could ever hope to be. But, we too have a far-reaching impact. Serving families from all 50 states and 24 foreign countries (to date), our reach is worldwide. But, as I often tell people, we are the best-kept secret in town (and out of town). This is where YOUR action can come in. We need *your* help in spreading the word about KFH and the work we do. To Kiwanis, to our local communities, and beyond.

So, how do we spread the word? Here are just three easy ways:

1. **Update your club on the Kiwanis Family House at your weekly club meeting.** If your club doesn't have an "ambassador" of KFH, volunteer to become one. Share the news you read here and on our blog and in social media with members who may not have seen or heard it. Share our monthly wish list, and collect donations for the House. And be sure to remind your board at budget time of the importance of fulfilling your annual sponsoring club obligation to the House.
2. **Forward this newsletter to your own list of contacts, whether or not they are Kiwanians.** Let your friends and family members know that you are a passionate supporter of the Kiwanis Family House, and that you hope they will become one, too. Encourage them to subscribe to the newsletter themselves, so that they will receive updates and news on a monthly basis, and stay connected to our House.
3. **Share, "like", and comment on our posts in social media regularly.** The Kiwanis Family House regularly posts on Facebook and Twitter, and it just takes a few moments to ensure that your contacts see these updates, too. With over 1,300 fans of our Facebook page, if each one of us did this, we could conceivably reach more than 1,000,000 people with our messages? Wouldn't that be something for the "best kept secret in town"?

We never take for granted your enthusiastic support, and we never will. We look forward to seeing what we can do together to tell the world our amazing story!

Welcome KFH Sponsor Club #96!

We are proud to welcome our 96th Sponsor Club – **Sebastopol Kiwanis!**

If you would like to find out how your club can become a Sponsor Club, contact Executive Director Dan Germain at dgermain@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org or (916) 736-0116.



*Help us tell the world
our amazing story!*

President's Message | George MacMurphey

*Kiwanis Family House
Board President
George MacMurphey*



Each year for the past 15 years, Mauda Butte has prepared Thanksgiving dinner for guests of our House

On Thanksgiving morning, I dropped by the Kiwanis Family House, feeling thankful for the House. Also thankful for our management, staff, members of the Board of Directors, volunteers and friends and for the support of Kiwanians and Kiwanis Clubs from an ever-expanding geographical area. It was a good feeling on a beautiful Thanksgiving Day.

As I entered, a wondrous aroma of cooking fragrances greeted me. I followed my nose back to the staff kitchen, where Mauda Butte of the Sacramento West Kiwanis Club was busy preparing a bountiful feast to serve our guests and their families. There were 3 turkeys, 2 hams, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, salads, breads, pies-----everything imaginable----to provide Thanksgiving dinner for 40 or more guests.

Now I have always heard that "Mauda does Thanksgiving dinner at the House". Nice sounding words, but to see the event actually happen for the first time made it real, exciting, and very impressive to me.

This is at least the 15th year that Mauda, with the help of a few Kiwanians and others, has prepared this dinner. The project started at the old House where she became Director in 1999 and has continued here at our new facility since it opened in 2006.

Moving on to the large conference room, I found a very nice set-up with 6 tables for 4, a long table to seat 20, with alternating green and white tablecloths---very festive.

While looking around and visiting with a couple of Kiwanian volunteers, one of our guests came in and offered sincere and profound words of thanks for the day. She was far from her home in Custer, South Dakota, and was so grateful for our hospitality. She said that she felt as though she was at home among family and friends. She seemed so happy.

We are so grateful for and appreciative of our many volunteers, including members of the Greater Sacramento Kiwanis Club, who not only donated the Thanksgiving meal but provided volunteers to prepare, serve and cleanup. But I feel that we need to give special praise and thanks to Mauda Butte for this exceptional and selfless act of service. She has provided a Happy Thanksgiving for hundreds of our guests and families of patients at UCD Medical Center over these many years.

I offer a sincere Thank You to all who are involved with the Kiwanis Family House in any way, and a special "thank you" to our "Thanksgiving Lady", Mauda Butte.

Let us always remember that our collective efforts do make a difference in the lives of the hundreds of wonderful and deserving people we are blessed to be able to serve every year, year in and year out. I thank you on their behalf, as they would do if they could.

Guest Corner | Charlie Bussey

Our guest stories take all kinds of shapes and forms. Every story is unique. Some are inspiring, some are tragic. All of them involve pain and suffering, both emotional and physical. I never cease to be amazed at how our guests bond with one another over a cup of coffee while facing their individual struggles. Together they seem to draw strength from each other; strength for themselves, strength for their loved ones and strength for each other.

Our guests come from everywhere. Looking at the guests that have checked out during the first nine months of 2014, we have had 1278 guests, an average of 142 per month. The average stay during that time was just under 5 days (4.8) each. They have come from 53 of the 58 counties in California, with only Alpine, San Benito, Ventura, Imperial and Marin counties not represented.

As has been stated many times, the majority of our guests come from the counties that lie north of Sacramento. This year, 13% of our guest nights have been used by guests from Shasta County (Redding). 8.7% were from Butte County (Chico, Oroville, Paradise). Those two counties account for over 21% of the guests in Kiwanis Family House. 6.6% of our guests come from the state of Nevada, mostly from the Reno/Tahoe/Carson City areas. Another 5% of guests come from Siskiyou County (Yreka, Weed), which is the county to the north of Shasta County.

Nearly 11% of our guests were from either San Joaquin (Stockton, Lodi, Tracy, Manteca) or Stanislaus (Modesto) counties. These counties are not sparsely populated or in isolated areas, yet they still lack the medical expertise that is found at UCDCM and Shriners Hospitals. As a result, many guests still have to travel some distance to receive necessary medical treatment.

The biggest surprise to me was finding out that our guests have also come from 26 different states, Washington D.C. and 4 foreign countries. These may seem to be just numbers, but they demonstrate very clearly the true reach of our mission and conclusively show that Kiwanis Family House is not just a "local project."

Seeing numbers like these and knowing what they represent, wouldn't it be wonderful if there were other Kiwanis Family Houses in other parts of the world? Then maybe we wouldn't have to explain to people that our mission "...is like Ronald McDonald House, which you have probably heard of." Instead when we mentioned Kiwanis Family House, people in general would know exactly who we were and could say in return, "How may I help?"



*KFH Operations
Manager
Charlie Bussey*



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 every day. 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!

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 **Saturday, April 11, 2015**. Look for more information soon on our website!

At Right:

Auburn Kiwanis recently spent a day working together at our House. Auburn is also the latest Kiwanis club to sponsor a guest room.



Upcoming Events

Join us for the following upcoming events:

- December KFH Board Meeting** December 11
- January KFH Board Meeting** January 8
- February KFH Board Meeting** February 12
- Cal-Nev-Ha Mid-Year North** February 28

December 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).

DECEMBER PRIORITIES

Paper towels, unscented facial tissues, toilet paper, hotel-sized toiletries (shampoo and soap in particular), Clorox or comparable disinfectant wipes, non-latex disposable gloves (all sizes), bottled water

GUEST NEEDS

- White (no colors, please) wash cloths
- Lysol or comparable toilet bowl cleaner
- Dishwasher detergent
- Liquid hand soap

OTHER NEEDS

- Individually wrapped candies for our front desk candy basket

DECEMBER 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30	31			

JANUARY 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2015						
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

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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:

- o A sense of community
- o Dedication to service
- o Respect for families
- o Augmentation of services provided by other organizations

Collaboration with community partners

- o Foster awareness for those in need
- o Generosity

Ways to Help

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

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

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

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



Visit www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org