The recent Kiwanis International convention (ICON) in Indianapolis was one of those rare celebrations that you wish every member of the organization could experience. It was the centennial anniversary of Kiwanis - one hundred years of distinguished service to the families of the world. Celebrate we did! We were also honored to witness the ascension of the first female to the office of Kiwanis International President. Congratulations Sue Petrisin from Michigan! You have an open invitation to visit Kiwanis Family House as part of your international travels during the coming year.

For those of us who staff the Kiwanis Family House exhibit booth at ICON each summer and tell our story to Kiwanians from other parts of the world, this year’s trip was pivotal for another reason. For the first time, I left the convention feeling as though there is a good chance folks in another district will attempt to replicate what we have done in California-Nevada-Hawaii and build a house to lodge families dealing with serious illness or injury. I won’t identify the location because I don’t know whether they are ready to formally announce their intentions. However, they told us about a children’s hospital under construction that is proximate to their Kiwanis district office. They told us that their Kiwanis membership includes interested physicians and, notably, the president of the hospital foundation. They conveyed a confidence that they could raise the funds to build their version of Kiwanis Family House. But, they acknowledged, they will need help establishing policies, procedures, and systems to operate their service facility. We exchanged business cards.
To our new friends who are embarking on this sizable challenge, Cal-Nev-Ha's Kiwanis Family House is ready, willing, and able to support you by sharing our 31 years of experience and expertise. We are prepared to be part of your project team. Our house is your house. We also understand that local circumstances will present you with different challenges and different opportunities than we have faced. In that regard, supporting you should bring new perspectives for us and I find that very exciting.

During the convention, we talked to people from a couple of other regions who said they wanted to take our materials home and talk to their district leadership about starting a program similar to ours. They spoke about the need in their areas. We have had numerous conversations like these over the years, yet there still is only one Kiwanis Family House. Finally, that may change.

I often allow my vision to wander without restriction. In the wake of conversations I had in Indianapolis, I can see a Kiwanis International that is respected around the world for its network of lodging facilities that serve as safe and comfortable places of respite for families navigating medical crisis. Could this be part of our organization's brand in the next century? I am too emotionally invested in Kiwanis Family House to offer a realistic answer.

Maybe I should ask President Sue Petrisin and her successors, President-Elect Jane Erickson from Nebraska-Iowa, and Vice-President Jim Rochford from Illinois-Eastern Iowa what they think.

Captions for photos above:
**Left:** President Dr. John Button and Past President Tom DeJulio and Rosemary DeJulio visited the KFH booth. The DeJulios also picked up the sponsor club patch and certificate for KFH's newest sponsor club, Fordham University Kiwanis! **Right:** The official program of the 100th Kiwanis International Convention.

Past KI President and KFH supporter Alan Penn at the KFH booth.

Dan and Rita Germain visited with President-Designate Sue Petrisin.
97...98...Countdown to 100 Sponsor Clubs!

With the addition of the Fordham University Kiwanis Club, we are now very close to our goal of 100 or more sponsor clubs in this, the 100th year of Kiwanis International. As it stands, 98 clubs in California, Nevada, and now, New York, 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 or 2015/16 Lieutenant Governor, can you help us locate one club in your Division which is not already a KFH sponsor? Let us know!

"Imagine" - A Guest Story | Charlie Bussey

Imagine that your optometrist says, "There's something going on and I want to refer you to UC Davis Medical Center for some additional testing." A month goes by and life goes on, two teenagers, a busy career as a successful real estate agent, and the appointment is forgotten. Another month goes by and the optometrist calls and asks if you have been down to UCDMC yet. You say "No, I guess the referral never came through." The optometrist convinces you to call the hospital and set up an appointment.

Now, imagine that you are at the doctor's office at UCDMC and she says to you, "I need you to go over to the Emergency Room and check in. You need an MRI and it will be faster if you do it this way." You make your way over to the Emergency Room and wait to see someone there. They send you to Radiology for the MRI and when you come out of that there is a neurosurgeon telling you that he needs to send you to ICU and schedule
you into the brain surgery rotation and that your operation will be in a couple of days.

You say, "What are you talking about...brain surgery? I just came down here for an optometry appointment." The neurosurgeon explains that you have a tumor that is wrapped around your pituitary gland and has placed pressure on your optic nerve and the optic reception area of your brain. This is why your vision is not normal; the tumor has damaged your eyesight and if it isn't removed things will continue to spiral downward.

Your life has just been turned upside down. If you can imagine any of this then you will have imagined the real life situation of Denise Proctor.

Denise is a resident of Diamond Springs, California, a Gold Rush town in the Sierra foothills about 50 miles east of Sacramento. She is a mother of two, who works as a real estate agent. She was recently diagnosed with craniopharyngioma. It generally affects two different age groups, children under 14 and adults over 45 (Denise falls into the latter group).

The medical specialists at UCDMC recommended a course of treatment that started with brain surgery. They removed as much of the tumor as possible and considered the surgery a success. Unfortunately, the nature of this tumor and its growth pattern prevented the surgical team from being able to completely remove it. To get the rest of the tumor, Denise is undergoing a six week course of targeted radiation therapy.

One of the most common side effects from this tumor is impaired vision caused by damage to the optic nerve and the optic reception center of the brain. This has happened to Denise. Another side effect of the tumor is the build-up of fluid inside the brain cavity. Denise has to have what she refers to as a "brain drain" on a weekly basis. Since she can no longer drive, Denise cannot easily get to and from the hospital. As a result, she was referred to Kiwanis Family House for the duration of her treatment.

Denise says that KFH is a true blessing. "I feel so at home here. In the morning, I get my coffee and sit and talk to the staff at the front reception desk. They listen to me yammer on and it is so nice to have somebody who is willing to just listen." She goes on to say, "This place has been a true blessing for me and my family. The brain drain and radiation take so much out of me that I would not be physically able to get back and forth to Diamond Springs every day. Staying here allows me to take the hospital shuttle back here after my treatment and just go to bed and rest."

Denise says the staff and other guests at KFH are very supportive of her and her situation. "I have met so many sweet people during my stay. I can't imagine what my life would be like if Kiwanis Family House wasn't here."

President's Message | George MacMurphey

Our fiscal/administrative year ended in June with a well-attended Annual Meeting. Clubs from 8 divisions were represented demonstrating the strong on-going support for our Kiwanis Family House from Kiwanians throughout the Cal-Nev-Ha District. I extend a heart-felt sincere 'Thank You' to all who were present or sent proxies. We continue to successfully fulfill our mission with the help of out 98 sponsor clubs and the hundreds of Kiwanians and friends we are so fortunate to have.

I would mention 3 highlights of the annual meeting, the first being the showing of our
newly produced video. It is an amazing production. It tells our story so well. We all know the story but I don't think there was a dry eye in the house after we viewed the presentation. The video is geared to Kiwanians but I think it could give a comprehensive overview of our facility to any audience. The other 2 impressive presentations of the past year's accomplishments involved re-capping the successful funding and construction of the laundry facility, as well as the story of the painting of the entire exterior and much of the interior of the building. We know that both projects happened, but it was so satisfying to hear the summations.

I extend sincere thanks and appreciation to retiring Board members Gary Christensen, Rick Dwyer and Dan Saulisberry. Well Done!

And I extend a warm welcome to newly elected Board members Guy Blair, Past Division 44 Lt. Governor and member of the Folsom Lake Club (Division 44), Kathleen Ross, current Division 44 Lt. Governor and member of the Granite Bay Club (Division 44), and Rae Whitby-Brummer, past CNH District Governor and member of the Greater Lodi Club (Division 27). Welcome aboard!

I am honored and humbled to have been elected President of our Board for another year. Serving with me will be Jim Legler, Vice President, Rita Germain, Secretary, and Matthew Wehner, Treasurer. We will do our best to steer our ship on a steady course.

I have no doubt that the year ahead will present some challenges. With the joint efforts of a capable and energetic Board of Directors, our able administrators, our dedicated staff and the multitudes of Kiwanians and Friends who continually give of TIME, TALENT and TREASURE, we look forward to a successful, productive year. What a team!

Thanks to everyone for all you do.

Update from the Kiwanis Family House Annual Meeting

The Kiwanis Family House Annual Meeting and Board Election was held on Saturday, June 13th, at the Kiwanis Family House. Representatives of sponsor clubs were greeted by Board President George MacMurphey, and heard updates on the House from Executive Director Dan Germain, Operations Manager Charlie Bussey, and Treasurer Matthew Wehner (in absentia). A copy of the annual meeting presentation can be found here.

Three new board directors were elected to replace our three retiring directors, Gary Christensen, Rick Dwyer, and Dan Saulisberry. They are: Guy Blair (Folsom Lake), Kathleen Ross (Granite Bay), and Rae Whitby-Brummer (Greater Lodi). Their terms officially began on July 1st, and the first meeting of the new Kiwanis Family House board is scheduled for Thursday, July 9th, at 6:30 p.m. at Kiwanis Family House.

The new board also elected officers for the new year. They are: George MacMurphey, President (East Sacramento), Jim Legler, Vice President (Galt), Rita Germain, Secretary (Greater Sacramento), and Matthew Wehner, Treasurer (Davis). Returning board members are: Chris Creelman (Sacramento Suburban), Bob Isaacs (Greater Sacramento), and Duane Paul (Citrus Heights).

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!

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.
Upcoming Events

Join us for the following upcoming events:

- **July Board Meeting**  
  **July 9**

- **Cal-Nev-Ha District Convention**  
  **Aug 13-15**

- **DCON Golf Tournament**  
  **Aug 13**

- **Swing Fore Kids Golf Tournament**  
  **Aug 31**

July 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).

**JULY PRIORITIES**

- Disinfectant Wipes (Clorox, Lysol, etc.)
- Bottled water
GUEST NEEDS

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

OTHER NEEDS

- Liquid dish soap
- Powdered laundry detergent
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner (we have 36 toilets in the building, we use a lot of this)
- Bleach
- Automatic dishwasher detergent

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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