



June 2016

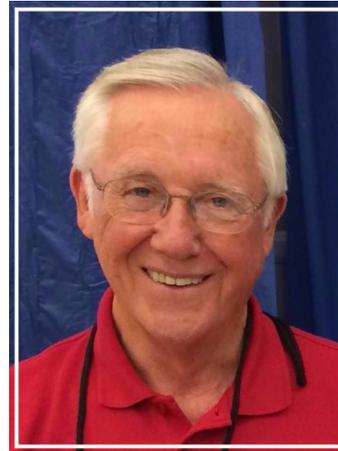
House Talk

The official newsletter of Kiwanis Family House

Vol. 16 Issue 12

President's Message | George MacMurphey

As our administrative/fiscal year draws to a close, my time on the Board of Directors is up; termed out after 6 years. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the board and to have the opportunity to act as President of the Board for the past two years. Contributing in my small way to the operation of our beloved facility has been so very rewarding.



At our annual meeting on June 11 three new board members were elected for 3 year terms to replace retiring board members Rita Germain, Bob Isaacs, and myself. The new board also elected new officers to serve in 2016-2017. Everything is in place for a smooth transition to a successful and productive year ahead.

This past year's Board of Directors has been an outstanding group to work with. That should be no surprise considering the wealth of Kiwanis leadership experience represented. Looking over the "credentials" of the board members I find that every one has been a club president, at least once. (Actually one is the president-elect for next year). Seven have served or are serving as Lt. Governor, and one is a former District Governor. Such an assemblage of experienced, dedicated, talented hard-working Kiwanians!

Our new board meeting schedule and board committee meeting schedule has, in my opinion, contributed greatly to the efficiency of the board. Board meetings are now held every other month, giving the 6 standing committees the month in between to meet and deliberate. This results in committees bringing recommendations and action items to the board for consideration and approval, resulting in very effective use of time. This re-organization has made for efficient and successful management of the organization.

Thank you-----to all of our board members, to Executive Director Dan

Germain, to Operations Manager Charlie Bussey, to each and every staff member, to the hundreds of volunteers and to the hundreds of Kiwanians and Friends who continue to support our Kiwanis Family House, giving so generously of their TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE, year in and year out. All these efforts keep our remarkable facility operating as we continue to provide temporary lodging and respite to hundreds of families with gravely ill hospitalized loved ones.

I know I have said it many times before but I can't say it enough: THANK YOU.

Thanks sincerely to all.

George

A Look Back, A Look Ahead | Charlie Bussey



Many of you are familiar with the monthly Wish List that is a regular feature of House Talk. You may not know that this same Wish List is published on our Kiwanis Family House website in the "How To Help" section. The Wish List is a compilation of items that our staff and guests use on a regular basis, things like sanitizing wipes, cleaning supplies, personal toiletry items, etc.

I am amazed by the amount of support that we receive from our Kiwanis family (that's you). When we put out the word, you always respond. Aktion Clubs, Key Clubs, Circle K, Kiwanis Clubs and Divisions all step up with support. Some clubs set up a friendly challenge with another club or even all of the clubs in a division to see who can bring in the most paper towels or toilet paper. The beneficiaries of all of this are our guests. Having these supplies on hand for them helps to relieve their stress and removes the burden of even having to think about something other than their loved one at the hospital. It also relieves the stress on our budget. Every item that is donated is one that allows us to save our precious budget dollars and keeps our expenses low.

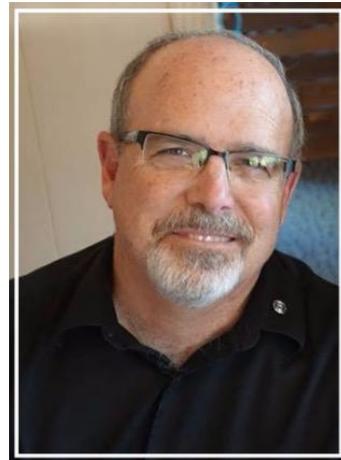
This July marks my third anniversary as the Operations Manager here at Kiwanis Family House. Much has been accomplished in that time. Through the incredible amount of support we have received from our sponsoring clubs and individuals, we have been able to paint the outside of the facility along with all of the public areas inside. Several rooms have been upgraded with chair rails, new paint, lighting, curtains, bathroom shelves, artwork and more. We have a staff laundry room to wash and dry all of the linens we use daily. We have replaced all of the mattresses and box spring foundations in every room. We have new flooring in all of the lobbies. As a result, the inside looks better than ever. The landscaping and planting beds have been the recipient of much love and attention at Kiwanis One Day and by a dedicated team of volunteers who show up

every week to mow, trim, prune and fertilize. A past guest pruned every plant and bush during his stay here in 2015. As a result, the outside of the building looks better than ever. Things look better than ever!

With all that has been accomplished, we are not done. To paraphrase a famous speech, "I have a dream." A dream that all our rooms will have blackout curtains so our guests can sleep more comfortably during the daylight hours. I have a dream that one day, we will have a solar-powered facility and not have to spend thousands of dollars each month on electricity. I have a dream that the carpet in the guest rooms and hallways will be replaced. I have a dream...could you or your club help make one or more of my dreams come true?

Director's Column | Dan Germain

As I write this, we are a week away from our trip to Toronto, Ontario, Canada and the 2016 Kiwanis International Convention. Once again, Kiwanis Family House will staff an exhibit booth in the convention's great hall. This year, we are most excited that convention staff has produced a brief video segment promoting Kiwanis Family House which will be shown to the international audience at one or more of the general sessions. This will be unprecedented recognition for us.



This rare opportunity to enjoy a high convention profile comes on the heels of a recent three-day visit by the managing editor of the Kiwanis International Magazine. As a result, later this year, Kiwanis Family House - and three wonderful guest families - may be prominently featured in a premier publication that reaches Kiwanis members in 80 countries. This too will be unprecedented coverage. The international reach of our great story will mirror the international reach of our services, as we have hosted families from more than 30 countries around the globe.

Former guests have described Kiwanis Family House in many ways as they have endured serious illness or injury: home away from home; a rock; a lighthouse; a miracle; a place of peace, caring, refuge, and respite. I recently received an email from an Oregonian whose granddaughter had been hospitalized for acute seizures. About our services, he wrote, "The whole experience there was an oasis in a desert of confusion. We felt safe and well cared for and welcome to stay as long as we needed."

There are many ways to portray the Family House as a safe haven. "Oasis in a desert of confusion" is my latest favorite. It sounds much like this excerpt from a poem written by Pamela Rae.

For I know now
no matter how deep

the pool becomes
from these cascading tears--
I will always have sanctuary
and huge relief
from my fears
as you have
so beautifully engineered
my safe haven
and most cherished refuge
from all my many woes
and where I can always connect
with so many other hearts and souls

Doesn't that sound like Kiwanis Family House? Currently, more than 100 Kiwanis clubs in three states financially support this safe haven that has been so beautifully engineered. Within our walls, many hearts and souls have connected with each other in search of refuge from many woes.

Our external environment is dramatically changing and impacting our revenue streams. For example, membership trends across the Kiwanis organization have not been positive. If innovative membership strategies currently being implemented are effective in turning the tide, we should be fine. If they are not, financial support that now comes from Sponsor Clubs and individuals is at risk. On another front, our partner hospitals are referring an increasing proportion of low-income families who are unable to contribute any amount toward the cost of their stay here. We care for them anyway.

At the recent 2016 Annual Meeting of Kiwanis Family House, we highlighted our marketing and fundraising achievements and challenges. We recognize that if we are to continue serving the families of the world well into the future, the following are imperative:

- We must secure an extension to our existing operating agreement with UC Davis Medical Center. The current agreement ensures we will operate through 2034. We should know by the end of this calendar year whether our request to extend the agreement another 30 years will come to pass.
- Once we secure an extension to the term of the agreement, we must effectively introduce and implement our legacy giving program. Preliminary development work has been completed and program roll-out is pending.
- We must add to our family of Sponsor Clubs. We are so thrilled to have more than 100 clubs providing financial support to us. However, if we are to ensure a sustainable future, that number needs to grow significantly and from beyond California-Nevada-Hawaii. Further, it will be critical for our Sponsor Clubs to renew their commitment to fundraising on our behalf.
- We must add to our family of individual donors. I ask every person who values our oasis to enroll via our website and become a monthly Friend of Kiwanis Family House.
- Finally, we must land one or more corporate sponsors. To date, we have not done so.

Yes, we are an oasis in a desert of confusion. We hope that the visibility we will enjoy in 2016 will serve as a springboard to a long and sustainable future for this haven, one of Kiwanis International's signature projects.

2016-17 Kiwanis Family House Board of Directors Announced

The annual meeting of the Kiwanis Family House was held on Saturday, June 11, 2016. During the meeting, board directors Rita Germain, Bob Isaacs, and George MacMurphey were retired after completing two consecutive terms each, and three new directors were elected by a vote of our sponsor club delegates:

- Muriel Brounstein, Folsom Lake Kiwanis (Division 44)
- Brian Davin, Greater Sacramento Kiwanis (Division 7)
- Paul Zappettini, Placerville Kiwanis (Division 44)

The following board officers have been elected for the 2016-2017 term:

- Jim Legler (Galt Kiwanis) - President
- Guy Blair (Folsom Lake Kiwanis) - Vice President
- Rae Whitby-Brummer (Greater Lodi Kiwanis) - Secretary
- Matthew Wehner (Davis Kiwanis Kiwanis) - Treasurer

These new directors and officers join returning directors Chris Creelman (Sacramento Suburban), Jim Kocsis (Davis), Duane Paul (Citrus Heights), and Kathleen Ross (Granite Bay)

Thank you to our retiring board members for your service, welcome to our new members, and congratulations to them and our new board officers.

Attention Save Mart Shoppers - S.H.A.R.E.S. Cards Are No Longer Valid!



Save Mart Supermarkets recently announced that it has partnered with eScrip to manage its S.H.A.R.E.S. charitable giving program. The new **Shares powered by eScrip Program** continues the company's legacy of giving up to 3% of shoppers' eligible purchases to local, community-based organizations. What this means to you is that the S.H.A.R.E.S. card you now have in your wallet, which allows you to give money back from your purchases to Kiwanis Family House, are no longer valid.

But, it's simple to keep giving back to Kiwanis Family House through S.H.A.R.E.S. Just sign up on www.eScrip.com/shares and choose

"Kiwaniis Family House" as your charity in order to automatically continue your donations every time you shop. You just need to provide your name, phone number, and email address to get started!

The new program will allow FoodMaxx, Lucky, and Save Mart shoppers like you to see online how much you're donating to Kiwanis Family House. The more you shop, the bigger the contribution we receive!

Please don't delay--remember, the old S.H.A.R.E.S. card program ended on April 1st! WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED DONATIONS, which have totaled over \$21,000 in the last four years!

Sponsor Club #105...WE NEED YOU!

We are ready to add sponsoring club number 105--will **your** club be the one?

Our club commits to...

If your home club is not already a sponsor, please champion our cause with your board of directors. The commitment is as follows:

Supporting families
at Kiwanis Family
House

#KidsNeedKiwaniis



- 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 2015/16 or 2016/17 Lieutenant Governor, can you help us locate one club in your Division which is not already a KFH sponsor? Let us know!

Kiwanis Family House Board and Committee Schedule

The Kiwanis Family House Board of Directors meeting schedule for the 2016-17 term is as follows: the board shall meet **every other month (odd months: January, March, May, July, September, and November)** as well as in the month of June following the Kiwanis Family House Annual Meeting. Except for June, all meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Kiwanis Family House, unless otherwise announced.

Board committee meeting schedules are as follows:

- **Development Committee:**
Every other month (even months) on the second Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.
- **Marketing Committee:**
Every other month (even months) on the second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
- **Governance Committee:**
Every other month (even months) on the fourth Monday at 5:00 p.m.

- **Operations Committee:**
Every other month (even months) on the fourth Monday at 6:00 p.m.
- **Human Resources Committee:**
as needed every other month (odd months), date and time TBD
- **Finance Committee:**
as needed every other month (odd months), date and time TBD

For more information, please contact Board Secretary Rae Whitby-Brummer at raewhitby@aol.com or 209-712-2099.

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. This is 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:

Kiwanis International Convention	<i>June 23-26</i>
KFH Committee Meetings	<i>June 27</i>
July KFH Board Meeting	<i>July 12</i>



Kiwanis Family House 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).

PRIORITIES

- Toilet paper
- Disinfectant wipes
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Powdered laundry detergent

GUEST NEEDS

- Hotel size toiletries (shampoo, soap, etc.)
- Hand held electric hair dryers
- Bath towels (White 30"x52"), Hand Towels (White 16"x30"), Wash Cloths (White)
- Fitted Twin Bed Sheet Sets (White Cotton only, please)

OTHER NEEDS

- Disinfectant Wipes (Clorox, Lysol or similar brand)
- Liquid Dish Soap (for hand-washing dishes)
- Powdered Laundry Detergent
- Unscented liquid Fabric Softener (NO DRYER SHEETS)
- Non-Latex Nitrile Disposable gloves, sizes S, M and L
- Paper Plates, Cups and Bowls
- HOME DEPOT and LOWE'S gift cards
- 9-Volt Batteries

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

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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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