House Talk
The official newsletter of Kiwanis Family House

Vol. 15 Issue 9

March 2015

A New Beginning for the Vaillettes

Welcome to this world, Kynzlee Marie Vaillette! Your parents will tell you that you have loving friends at the Kiwanis Family House.

Many of our readers and supporters remember Alicia, Erik, and one-year-old Macie Vaillette, a family which spent three months at the Kiwanis Family House in late 2013. They endured a most difficult holiday season during which their son Jace Scott was born with multiple heart defects. He battled courageously for four days before finally succumbing.

More than one year later, we share the wonderful news that the Vaillette's added a new daughter to the family on March 4, 2015. We cannot wait to meet you, Kynzlee Marie!
Executive Director's Column | Dan Germain

I have met a thousand people who claim to be exclusively responsible for the oft-cited maxim "People support what they help create." Truth be known, I have claimed to be the original author of the saying for most of my life. But at least 999 people out there know I was not the first to think of it. Regardless, it is quite a gem in the world of management and leadership principles. Those fascinated by leadership concepts and practices often follow difference makers in corporate settings, like banking, manufacturing, information technology, oil, or agriculture. Others adhere to the messages of political or sports heroes.

Does anybody know a magician named Jeff McBride? Yes, even personalities in the field of magic have something to say about participative leadership. I will share some of Mr. McBride's material with you and then - in the true spirit of Kiwanis Family House team accomplishment - invite you to participate in a collective response.

Mr. McBride offers, "A magic show differs from a magic act in that it is longer and often a full evening experience. There are usually different styles of magic: dramatic, comedic, solo effects, grand illusions, smaller close-up effects with video support, and yes, audience participation routines. There is a huge difference between a spectator and a participant. A spectator spectates, merely watching, witnessing without being directly involved. A participant is co-creating the experience and has a role to play in the production of the magic."

Mr. McBride advises others in his field. "When designing your show, try to find the times where you can move your audience from being objective witnesses into subjective participants. Objective witnesses have less responsibility and do not participate in the action. A subjective participant is actively engaged in the magic experience. They support the show by not only applauding at appropriate moments but also by selecting cards, helping the magician with various tasks and activities like holding ropes or other props on-stage with the performer."

He continues, "There are many ways to transform individual objective witnesses into a collective of subjective participants. Even getting the entire audience clapping rhythmically to the beat of the music transforms single individual objective witnesses into a group of subjective participants. When an audience is all clapping rhythmically, you have given them the temporary role of drum section in the musical accompaniment and they are helping to create the experience. I encourage you to study great performers and how they generate excitement, mystery and fun by utilizing effective audience participation techniques. Explore ways you can welcome your audience into your magic world, and participate in the magic. People support what they help create!"

The first five (5) of you to email me a brief paragraph applying Mr. McBride's take on this famous maxim to support of the Kiwanis Family House will be featured, appreciated, and valued in next month's column. Of course, I could mesmerize you all right now with my magical spin but then - deprived of the opportunity to invest your own self - you wouldn't be inclined to support it.

Email me at dgermain@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org.

President's Message | George MacMurphey

Volunteers, donors, contributors: the Kiwanis Family House could absolutely not operate
without the ongoing giving of TIME, TALENT and TREASURE by individual Kiwanians, friends of the House, clubs and organizations, local and national labor unions, local businesses and large corporations. We are so grateful for all you do.

I could compose a list several pages long recognizing our multitude of supporters. However, at the risk of leaving out some of the hundreds that would be on the list, I would like to lift up one particular unique donor. The other day as I was leaving the House, a delivery truck drove up and I was reminded of an exceptional long time un-heralded gift that we have received for nearly as long as the House has been in existence. The delivery truck was from Rust Florist. The delivery was something we see every time we enter the front door of the House. Once a week, every week, week in and week out, Rust Florist delivers a bouquet of colorful flowers, usually carnations, which remain fresh and bright looking for the entire week.

We all know that this happens, that it has been happening for a "long time", and that everyone enjoys and appreciates the flowers. As I began inquiring, no one I asked was sure just when or why the floral gifts began. Gary Christenson and Mauda Butte were sure that flowers came to the original house for many years. Mauda said that sometimes there were enough blooms in the bouquet to place a flower in each room of the original House. The details of how it all began seemed lost in time.

So I paid a visit to Rust Florist just down Folsom Boulevard at 53rd Street, a fixture in East Sacramento for over 30 years. Present owners, brothers Marty and Greg Rust, said their firm had indeed been sending flowers "for a long time."

The shop was founded in 1970 by Joseph Rust, and his two older sons, George and Dennis. Younger sons, Marty and Greg, became involved in the business and several years ago assumed ownership. As they tried to recall the origins of the flowers for the House, they remembered a Kiwanian coming in and talking about our new little facility cobbled together from construction trailers in 1984. Possibly Vern Bright? No one knows at this point in time. Whatever support the Kiwanian was asking for resulted, on the spot, in a commitment by the Rusts to provide some flowers. My guess is this happened at least 25 years ago plus or minus a couple of years. I doubt the Rust family said, "We will send flowers every week forever", but that is what has evolved.

Marty and Greg expressed their respect and admiration for the House. They are well aware of what we provide. They said they were pleased to be a part of the House with their contribution.

Florists take pride in providing beauty, and the Rusts can certainly take pride in providing a spot of beauty at the desk where guests are first introduced to our Kiwanis Family House.

As I was discussing the bouquet with staff member Bonnie, a potential guest came in and admired the flowers. I could not resist telling her the short version of this story. She was quite touched and said, "My daffodils are beginning to bloom at home, and here I am with a very ill loved one who has just had an organ transplant. I needed some flowers to enjoy." She asked me to express her appreciation.

I do express the appreciation of everyone involved with the Kiwanis Family House, and of all the guests who are greeted by the lovely bouquets as they enter. Every gift of TIME, TALENT and TREASURE is so greatly appreciated. We thank the Rusts. Their weekly contribution embodies all three elements of our mantra.
Join Us for the March in March on Saturday, March 21st

The 6th Annual March in March is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2015! Sponsored by CIRCLE K AT SACRAMENTO STATE, this year promises to be a fantastic FUN-draising event for the entire Kiwanis Family!

The day will begin with a FREE pancake breakfast for all between 8:30 - 9:30 am, followed by the following activities:

- 9:30 - 10:00 am  Join Hands Around the House
- 10:00 - 12:00 pm March Laps Around the House
- 10:00 - 1:00 pm  KFH Carnival

Individual, club, and division prizes for the most money raised and the most laps walked will be given, including a NEW divisional trophy for the SLP and Kiwanis Clubs raising the most donations! To participate, just raise $15 in pledges or more (pledge forms can be downloaded below).

We look forward to seeing YOU at the March in March!

Click here to download the flyer and pledge forms.

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

In February, Kiwanis Family House was pleased to sign-up its 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!

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:

March In March  March 21

April KFH Board Meeting  April 9

Kiwanis One Day  April 11

May KFH Board Meeting  May 14

June KFH Board Meeting  June 11

KFH Annual Meeting  June 13

March 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).

MARCH PRIORITIES

Vinyl Mattress Protectors/covers for our 51 new twin bed mattresses. Covers must fit 14" deep mattress.
GUEST NEEDS

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

OTHER NEEDS

- Unscented facial tissue (Kleenex)
- Individually wrapped candies for our front desk candy basket
- Disinfectant Wipes (Clorox or similar)
- 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

Contact the Editor: Rita Germain | ritagermain@gmail.com