



November 2014

# House Talk

The official newsletter of the Kiwanis Family House

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## Inside This Issue

- 1 Feature Story
- 2 Executive Director's Column
- 3 Awake-A-Thon Fun!
- 4 President's Message
- 5 Guest Corner
- 6 Spotlight on Service
- 7 Make a Difference
- 8 Event Calendar / Wish List
- 9 Who We Are
- 10 Our Mission / Ways to Help

## 2014-15 Will Be A Pivotal Time for Kiwanis Family House

A few short years from now, we may all very well look back on 2014 and 2015 as being a particularly transformative couple of years for the Kiwanis Family House. Put another way, our sense today is that we are poised to elevate to the proverbial "next level." Consider the following:

We are served by a freshly focused Board of Directors. With several new faces, the new Board has quickly embraced a number of realities. First and foremost, it is approaching time to author a new strategic plan that will advance us through the next half decade. The Board has also conveyed its desire to extend our current operating agreement with U.C. Davis beyond its expiration date in 2034.

We march toward an even larger family of Sponsor Clubs. Our target of reaching 100 in the coming year seems likely (another half a dozen will do it) and we will continue campaigning beyond that. "This is Our House" is emerging as more than just a catchy slogan. Members and clubs invested in our story are coming from a broader geographical reach across the California-Nevada-Hawaii District. Who knows what our numerical target for Sponsor Clubs will be three years hence!

Sometime in 2015, we expect to be able to report that we have constructed a new commercial laundry facility for staff operations, completely repaired and repainted the exterior and interior of the House with top-line products, replaced every one of the 51 guest beds in the building with quality furniture, and installed high-grade flooring that will serve our highly-trafficked facility for many years. We are completing these projects through donated cash, labor, and materials, and through grant funding. From our standpoint as facility managers, what we are doing in 2014 and 2015 should set us up favorably for the next decade.

As we prepare to say goodbye to 2014, we look forward to a pivotal 2015. And we thank you, our generous supporters, for your past and continuing efforts to make our dreams for the future and the future of the families we serve a reality!



*Even after more than 30 years of operations, the Kiwanis Family House continues to move forward*

## Executive Director's Column | Dan Germain

As our memorable 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration recedes further into our collective memory and we push into our 31<sup>st</sup> year, we are focused on our immediate future as well the legacy that will outlive most of us. Your current leadership – board and management – are committed to ensuring at least another 30 years of inspirational service. As is any effectively-run organization, we are compelled to elevate our sights beyond the challenges of day-to-day operation and perform as visionary strategic thinkers.

While we will not be ready to formally launch our new Legacy Giving program until the first quarter of 2015, I want you to know that it is coming. As you develop or amend your estate plans, I ask you, our loyal and passionate Kiwanis Family House supporters, to consider providing a little something for the needy families we serve.

The Board of Directors recently selected a legacy program logo and will soon be developing marketing materials. Here is a sneak preview of “K2 – Kiwanis Family House Legacy Giving Fund – Scaling the Mountain for Good.” As you may know, K2 is a reference to the second highest mountain peak in the world, located in Nepal. Our great service organization honors the letter “K” as does the mountain. As we educate supporters about our new K2 program, we will ask them to think about an initial gift of two percent. That could perhaps be two percent of a trust, life insurance policy, annuity, retirement account, or similar asset. Please start giving some thought to helping us “scale the mountain for good” and ensuring that future for the families who depend on us to survive critical injuries and illnesses.

Yes, we must think strategically. But the path forward is always shadowed by risk. While it is approaching time to author a new strategic plan to guide us for the next three to five years, the Board has demonstrated its wisdom by first taking on a comprehensive risk assessment. The end product will be a published Risk Management Plan that addresses risks related to finance and fundraising, human resources, insurance, crisis management, information technology, employee and guest safety, and the use of volunteers. Individually and collectively, they have the potential to deny our future. We must plan for them and mitigate them.

The Board has already begun cataloging revenue source concerns, particularly those related to support from sponsoring clubs, sponsoring individuals, grants, and fundraising events. However, no topic is hotter right now than the modest nightly rent we ask of our guests. We all dream of the day when we are able to serve guest families without having to request a fee for the service. We are not close to that day, as four of every ten dollars of our annual operating revenue come from guest families in the form of house rent. (But remember that a

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*Comments? Questions?*

*Email the editor at  
ritamgermain@gmail.com*

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*Contact KFH  
Executive Director  
Dan Germain to  
learn how **you** can  
help build our legacy*

*(continued on page 3)*

## Executive Director's Column *(continued from page 2)*

family's inability to pay is never a reason we do not take care of them; so we end up waiving a considerable amount of potential income).

One strategy for reaching that dream day (and scaling the mountain for good) is to build a large enough endowment through the legacy giving program. Unless and until we do, support from grants, fundraising events, sponsoring individuals, and sponsoring clubs remains mission critical. For these reasons, we not only need each of you to remain engaged with us, we need your help in growing the number of individuals and clubs supporting our wonderful House.

Please, pick up the phone and call me. Let me know how you are willing to assist.

## Awake-A-Thons: Fun and Fundraising!

For the past several years, area Key Clubs have hosted overnight fundraising events called Awake-A-Thons (AATs). Usually held over a Friday or Saturday night from 7 pm until 7 am the following day, these clubs ask attendees to raise a donation of from \$20-\$30 each to spend the night at their school with a hundred plus fellow Key Club members from their local and surrounding divisions.

These events began at Florin High School several years ago and in the last few years have raised more than \$100,000 for our House and other causes. Florin High School Key Club recently held its annual AAT on Halloween night, where students from a dozen high schools in Division 7 North and South and Division 27 attended. Chaperones were provided by teachers and Kiwanians from local Kiwanis clubs and the Kiwanis Family House. The event raised funds for both the Kiwanis Family House and the ELIMINATE project, and during the night, short presentations for both beneficiaries were made to the students. Other overnight activities included a rally, costume contest, glow dance, volleyball, and a video game tournament.

If this sounds like a great time for two great causes—IT IS! If you would like to find out more about Awake-A-Thons, and the possibility of holding one at your school, contact Gary Christensen at [gjcsmc@aol.com](mailto:gjcsmc@aol.com) or (916) 215-1460.



*Kiwanis Family House  
Board President  
George MacMurphey*



## President's Message | George MacMurphey

"What can I do to help? A frequently asked question from individuals who realize and appreciate the extraordinary value of the services that the Kiwanis Family House provides to the families of seriously ill patients hospitalized at the UCD Medical Center and Shriners Hospital of Northern California.

There are many answers to the question. There is certainly an answer that would appeal to and suit the talents of anyone who asks: time, talent and treasure; the mantra of the way we serve. Every issue of House Talk contains lists of needed items, appeals for volunteer hours, and suggestions for financial support. These are all good suggestions, and all of great value.

However, I would like to suggest and encourage support for my favorite option: become a Friend of the Kiwanis Family House. It is easy to do. There are four Friend levels:

- Copper for a \$100 donation annually, or just **\$10** monthly
- Silver for a \$300 donation annually, or just **\$25** monthly
- Gold for a \$500 donation annually, or just **\$50** monthly
- Platinum for a \$1,000 donation annually, or just **\$100** monthly

Flexibility as to how and when your donation is made is built-in to the program: make an annual donation by check once a year, or have your donation automatically deducted from your checking account or credit card via PayPal monthly. Signup or find detailed information on our website under "How to Help".

You can make or send your initial pledge at any time. A reminder will be mailed each year on your anniversary date. Of course, an opportunity will be offered to move up to a higher level if you wish. But why would you do so? Because the more you give, the more lives your generosity will touch.

Anyone familiar with the Kiwanis Family House, supportive in any way, probably thinks "I am a Friend of the House", and you are. The advantage to the organization of becoming an official "Friend of the Family House" is that we know we can count on your annual contribution and factor those dollars into our budget planning year by year. A substantial amount in the Friends of the Family House fund would be so valuable in planning for the future and make it a little easier to sustain our day-to-day operations.

The advantage to you – a good warm feeling inside knowing that you belong to a dedicated group of Friends of the Kiwanis Family House, and that the support you provide is critical to our ability to care for families in need.

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*Here is another suggestion:  
Add one more recipient to  
your holiday gift list ---  
Kiwanis Family House's  
Friend of the Family House  
Program*

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## Guest Corner | Guest Allen McIntyre

Allen has been a guest of Kiwanis Family House since September 16, 2014. He and his wife Mary are here in support of their daughter, Angela, who was severely burned in a car accident near her home in Modesto. This has been a difficult time for Allen and his family. Not only was his daughter burned on over half of her body in the accident, but he lost his 16 year old great granddaughter in that same accident.

Allen lives in East Palo Alto, California, and it is too far for him to drive every day from the San Francisco Bay Area. He and his family have been staying in their family motorhome in one of our RV spaces since their arrival. Allen says they are not going anywhere until Angela is released from the hospital. She has had 8 surgeries thus far, and faces several more skin grafts and other surgical procedures before she can leave UCDMC Burn Center. Although there are always setbacks, they can see that progress is being made. Angela is doing much better in the 6 weeks she has been here, and Allen and Mary say they see improvements weekly.

Allen and Mary both grew up in Louisiana, where they met and married after a five year courtship. He said with a laugh, "It took that long for her to catch me." That comment drew a "look" from Mary, which just made him chuckle more. The love between them is very evident. They have been married for 52 years now and have 4 children, 24 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. The McIntyres are a close and deeply religious family. All of Angela's brothers and sisters, her children, and many of her grandchildren, nieces and nephews have been to visit. The McIntyres receive phone calls daily from family and friends around the world who are asking how Angela is doing and letting them know that she is in many different prayer chains.

Allen says he is very appreciative of being able to stay at Kiwanis Family House. He is not sure what he would have done had KFH not been here. Staying in the RV space provides them some peace and quiet and helps with their peace of mind. Mary said, "It is nice to open the window in the evening and hear the wind singing in the trees as it rustles the leaves."

Allen said that he is amazed by how much being inside Kiwanis Family House feels like being at home. He sees people when he comes in to do laundry, and said that everyone is friendly and shares their stories with each other. "This is a wonderful place you have here and a good thing that you do for people."



*KFH Guest  
Allen McIntyre*

## Spotlight on Service | Charlie Bussey



*KFH Employee and  
CSUS Student  
Alex Ung*

Alex Ung is a college student in his fifth year of college and is a senior at Sacramento State. He is majoring in Business Finance. Alex was raised in Southern California. He works as a housekeeper on weekends and works a graveyard shift one night during the week at our Front Desk.

Alex has been an active member of the Circle K club at Sacramento State, serving as Vice President of Administration two years ago. Before he started working at Kiwanis Family House, he was one of our legions of volunteers. When asked why he wanted to work at KFH he replied, "I like to help people and make them smile." With his own infectious smile and contagious laugh, it's clear that Alex does this every day.

A few things you don't know about Alex:

### **What are your hobbies?**

Cycling and doing community service with Circle K.

### **When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

A Power Ranger.

### **Is that what you want to do now? If not, why not?**

No, it doesn't seem feasible anymore.

### **What is your favorite thing about working at Kiwanis Family House?**

I like talking with the guests. I feel that if they can talk a little and I listen, it helps get them through their bad times.

### **What is your favorite ice cream flavor?**

Mint Chocolate Chip.

### **If you could go back in time to meet someone from history, who would it be and why?**

My parents before they met each other. I would like to see what they were like and how much I am like that now.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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 Left:**  
Circle K at Sacramento State participated in 2014's Kiwanis One Day K-Family Workday at Kiwanis Family House

### Upcoming Events

Join us for the following upcoming events:

- November KFH Board Meeting**                      November 13
- December KFH Board Meeting**                      December 11
- January KFH Board Meeting**                      January 8
- Kiwanis One Day K-Family Workday**                      April 11

### November 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).

#### NOVEMBER PRIORITIES

Hotel size toiletries (shampoo and soap in particular), Clorox or comparable disinfectant wipes, paper towels, 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

- Cash donations targeted to Rent Relief
- Individually wrapped candies for our front desk candy basket

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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](http://www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org/how-you-can-help)

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



Visit [www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org](http://www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org)