After a spirited fundraising campaign over the course of the past year, our long-discussed commercial staff laundry room will soon be built. Kiwanis Clubs and Divisions have donated $18,000. Individuals have donated $9,000. Various foundations have awarded grants totaling $15,000. Our funding goal has been reached and we can begin construction as soon as UC Davis Medical Center approves the final architectural plans. Among the key contributors deserving recognition is Paul Gumbinger, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta. Gumbinger Associates Architects have donated their professional services.

The final funding piece fell into place in September when the Cal-Nev-Ha Kiwanis District Foundation awarded a $7,700 grant for the project. The Sacramento Bee, the Thomas Winn Foundation, and the Setzer Foundation also awarded grants. Twenty Kiwanis clubs donated in support.

When the new facility is completed, the Kiwanis Family House will relieve its most problematic operational bottleneck. There is currently considerable competition between staff and our guests for access to the three existing residential washing machines and three existing dryers. There is also insufficient space for staff to process daily loads of sheets and towels.

We will let our readers know when the new facility opens.
Executive Director’s Column | Dan Germain

100’s Everywhere You Turn

Healdsburg Kiwanis in Sonoma County is Kiwanis Family House (KFH) Sponsor Club Number 90. Number 91 is Campbell Kiwanis in Santa Clara County. Number 92 is Grantville-Allied Gardens Kiwanis in San Diego County. Number 93 is Greater Colfax Kiwanis in Placer County. All have come on board in the past two months.

We greatly value the spreading geographic representation among our family of Sponsor Clubs. It mirrors the geographic distribution of the persons we serve. Did you know that families from 11 of Nevada’s 16 counties have stayed at the KFH while supporting hospitalized loved ones? Additionally, 28 Hawa’ian families have been our guests. Did you know that families from 54 of California’s 58 counties have leaned on Kiwanis and the KFH for support and solace over the years? If you know our story, you know that we touch communities in all three states.

We often emphasize that we have hosted families from every state in the United States and from 23 foreign countries in our 30 years of service. The Kiwanis Family House serves the children and families of the world, as do Kiwanis Clubs everywhere.

Kiwanis International marches toward its 100th birthday in 2015. Concurrently, the Kiwanis Family House marches toward 100 Sponsor Clubs! We need seven more clubs to join the family of sponsors and help us reach this milestone. I am supremely confident that we will reach and surpass this target with the partnership of those who believe in what we do for Kiwanis and, most importantly, what we do for family members caring for seriously ill and injured loved ones.

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Sponsor Club Reminder

The new Kiwanis Year begins on October 1st!

Sponsor Clubs will soon receive their Annual Dues Notices, which are mailed to the club’s mailing address. Annual Dues are $100, and should be mailed to:

Kiwanis Family House
2875 50th Street
Sacramento, CA 95817
September K-Family Workday A Success!

On Saturday, September 6th, nearly 150 volunteers from 32 Kiwanis family organizations, including Kiwanis Clubs, Circle K, Key Club, and Aktion Club, worked alongside members of the Sacramento Hotel Association to landscape, clean, repair, and beautify the inside and outside of our House during the fall season’s annual K-Family Workday.

Leading this effort were Executive Director Dan Germain and Operations Manager Charlie Bussey, along with “landscape guru” Brian Davin of the Greater Sacramento Kiwanis Club. Board members Chris Creelman, Rita Germain, Jim Legler, and Duane Paul, along with Immediate Past Board President Bill Hooper, veterans of previous large-scale workdays, took charge of a variety of projects and volunteers. At the end of the day, all shared in a bar-b-que lunch and the satisfaction of a job “well done”!

We’d like to say a huge “Thank YOU!” to all who participated in this very productive workday! Be sure to mark your calendar for our next workday on Kiwanis One Day in April 2015.

Volunteers gather at September 6th K-Family Workday
Bright and beautiful, protected and preserved; an apt description of the sparkling Kiwanis Family House. The entire exterior is in the process of being repaired, caulked and painted courtesy of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, using members of its apprenticeship and Job Corps programs. The workers are using paint and other materials donated by Kelly-Moore Paints. What a wonderful gift!

Over the 30-plus years of its existence, the Kiwanis Family House has faced many financial crises, but as the leaders over the years have said, someone or some group seems to come along at the right moment to pull us through and enable us to continue our mission. We are always so very thankful and grateful to our benefactors, and so fortunate that they come along, as the Painter’s Union and Kelly-Moore Paints have done, when we need their help most.

In thinking about all of this, I realize that we are not just recipients of “Manna from Heaven”. A Painter’s Union official did not just drive by one day and think, “The Kiwanis Family House looks like it could stand a coat of paint. They’re a deserving non-profit, so let’s paint it”.

The ongoing philanthropic help we receive is a result of the constant efforts of dedicated board members, staff, management, Kiwanians, and other volunteers and friends.

My simplistic understanding of the paint job is this: Operations Manager Charlie Bussey heard that such a project might be possible, and contacted the Painter’s Union via their website. His inquiry struck a note with officials on the East Coast, and was referred to the local contact for the Union, who, when presented with a comprehensive description of our mission and our needs, set the wheels in motion! A second appeal was then made to Kelly-Moore Paints by Charlie and Executive Director Dan Germain, and as a result of their efforts, a donation of paint, caulking and repair materials was made. None of this would have happened without Charlie and Dan’s insight, effort, and much communication with the right people, who were in a position to make this large project materialize.

Non-profits like our Kiwanis Family House are faced with the constant task of raising money to continue on. We at the Kiwanis Family House are so fortunate to have such a group of diligent and dedicated supporters constantly monitoring the financial needs of the House and always on the alert for possible sources of donations. Kiwanians can only do so much personally. We realize we have to reach out to the community in many directions.

We can’t say “thank you” enough to all who work so hard; Kiwanians, sponsor clubs, management, staff, friends, other organizations, and the UC Davis Medical Center. The list goes on and on, and continues to grow over the years.

A profound ‘Thank You’ to All!
There is a common theme to all of our guest stories. Something has happened to a loved member of a family and the medical attention and expertise that their condition requires has brought them to UC Davis Medical Center or Shriners’ Hospital. Every one of our guests is in a strange place far from their homes and they have been removed from their normal routines and support systems. On top of that, they are stressed and emotionally upset about what has happened or is going to happen to their ill or injured loved one.

The names change on a daily basis and while each family’s situation is unique, there is a similarity evident in every story. They need our help. We become part of their new routines and support systems. They come to Kiwanis Family House in a state of confusion and bewilderment. They wonder, “What is this place? What is a Kiwanis? Why do they want to help me? What is going to happen? How will I pay for my stay?”

They come to the Front Desk where a friendly and kind voice asks them “How may I help you?” The guests start telling their stories, sometimes in tears, sometimes in a halting voice because they are so upset and confused that they are having difficulty even speaking. Sometimes the words spill out in a torrent because they are so relieved to have somebody to listen to them. “My (sister, son, husband, wife, mother, daughter, grandmother, cousin, etc.) is in the hospital. I have been staying in the hospital and one of the social workers told me about this place and said I could stay here tonight. I don’t know what I am going to do. I haven’t worked since I have had to be here. We didn’t plan for this. We have no extra money; I don’t even have money for gas to get home.”

John’s family is representative. The hospital has requested that they stay for the next three weeks and that there is a room available for them now. They take a tour of the facility and they go to their room and get the first good night’s sleep they have had in the last ten days. The next day, John and his daughters have smiles on their faces and the tension that was so evident in John the previous night is noticeably less. They sit down at the Front Desk and talk to somebody different than the person they saw last night. John says “Thank you. This has been really nice for my kids and me.”

The three weeks pass like it is only three days. Our staff has come to know John and his two daughters, Jenny and Sarah, who are 3 and 4 years old. They come up to the Front Desk every day and get a piece (or 5) of the candy that is always available in the dish on the desk. John sits and tells us how his wife and baby are doing and we share a little of our lives with each other. John is not ready to leave us yet. His wife

(continued on page 6)
Guest Corner *(continued from page 5)*

is not scheduled to check out for another week. The hospital has sent a request to extend John’s stay for another week. There is room available and reservations are moved around so that John can stay in the same room for the remainder of his stay.

Another week goes by and John comes out of his room with the biggest smile on his face. He is clearly happy about something. The housekeeper asks him what it is and he says “We’re going home today; my wife and the baby are being discharged from the hospital.”

John is now our friend and it feels like we have known him for a long time. He has become part of our extended family. He will never forget the month that he and his children spent at Kiwanis Family House. He tells the Front Desk person “I don’t know what I would have done if you (KFH) weren’t here. I didn’t have money for a motel. I didn’t have money for food. Now we are going home. How can we ever repay your kindness?” The answer he receives is “We are happy that we were able to help you. Have a safe journey home.”

Spotlight on Service | Charlie Bussey

Bianca is a “super senior” at Sacramento State University majoring in Recreational Administration with a concentration in Recreational Therapy. A super senior is one who has enough credits to graduate but has not completed the requirements of their chosen major. For Bianca, this is not because she isn’t smart (she is), but because she changed her major from Psychology during her junior year in college.

Bianca first learned of Kiwanis Family House as a member of Circle K International, the college level service leadership program sponsored by Kiwanis. Bianca was President of Sacramento State Circle K for the 2013-2014 school year.

In October, Bianca will reach her second anniversary as one of our staff members. During her time with Kiwanis Family House she has performed all of the tasks required of our staff from Front Desk reception on evenings and weekends (sometimes overnight) to Housekeeping services. Her ability to perform multiple duties makes her a valuable asset to our organization.

Born and raised in Oakland, CA, Bianca loves crafts, music and community service. She is fluent in Spanglish. If you ask her she will tell you she speaks 1.5 languages. Bianca describes herself as adventuresome and not afraid to face a challenge. She is also a very compassionate person and is able to listen to our guests with empathy. Her attitude and commitment to the comfort of our guests are just two of her outstanding qualities.

*(continued on page 7)*
Spotlight on Service (continued from page 6)

Why did you want a job at KFH? I wanted a job that was rewarding while I attended school. Working in a shoe store wasn’t going to do it for me. When I heard there was a job opening at KFH I jumped at it. I really enjoy the good feeling that you get working here and being inspired by our guests, their struggles and determination to persevere through their hardships.

What is your favorite thing about working here? The community and sense of family and support that exists among the staff here. Everybody is willing to help each other and teach each other about KFH and what it takes to help our guests.

Your least favorite? I don’t know… It’s the doors. Pushing cleaning carts through those heavy doors is hard. The doors aren’t user friendly. They don’t have a handicapped accessible option to open mechanically for people with disabilities or who lack the strength needed to push or pull them open.

What do you want to do after graduation from Sac State? I want to have a rewarding career using what I have learned in college to help people make the most of their quality of life.

Can you describe your greatest accomplishment? I have two that are hard to choose between. The first is that I recently sang at a benefit concert. I have always wanted to perform in a public venue and I got the chance to do that. The second one is that I am the first person in my family who is going to finish with a university education.

Lend a Helping Hand – Sponsor A Family!

Clubs and individuals may designate that donations made to the Kiwanis Family House be directed to the Sponsor A Family Program. This program was established to assist low-income families who stay at the Kiwanis Family House and are unable to pay all of the modest $50 in nightly rent we request from our guests.

Imagine if you had a close family member in the hospital far from home. You would need a place to stay, just as our guest families do. Maybe you have cash in the bank or a credit card that would allow you to pay for a hotel room or even a room at the Kiwanis Family House for an extended period. But, unlike many of us, the majority of our guests do not have these options, nor a means to earn money while they are far from home and their paying jobs. Without the Kiwanis Family House and the Sponsor a Family Program in place, these families would be sleeping in hospital rooms, in their cars, or even on the street.

Donors may sponsor a family for a night ($50), two nights ($100), a week ($350), or for any number of days. Sponsor A Family donations may be made in cash, by check, or most conveniently, via PayPal on our website, www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org.
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. Check our website and Facebook page for upcoming events.

Exterior Painting In Progress

The exterior of our Kiwanis Family House is currently being repaired and repainted, thanks to generous donations from the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades and Kelly-Moore Paints.
Upcoming Events

Join us for the following upcoming events:

- **Glow Golf Tournament**: October 4
- **October KFH Board Meeting**: October 9
- **November KFH Board Meeting**: November 13
- **December KFH Board Meeting**: December 11

October 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).

**OCTOBER PRIORITIES**

Fitted twin sheet sets (white cotton only, please), Non-latex disposable gloves (all sizes), Clorox or comparable disinfectant wipes

**GUEST NEEDS**

- Powdered Laundry Detergent
- Lysol or comparable toilet bowl cleaner
- Dishwasher detergent
- Liquid hand soap

**OTHER NEEDS**

- Cash donations targeted to Rent Relief, New ‘Staff Only’ Laundry Room Capital Campaign or to help with the recent unbudgeted expenditure to replace our old and broken phone system.
- Individually wrapped candies for our front desk candy basket
- HP 74 and 75 printer cartridges
Who We Are

Dan Germain, Executive Director
dgermain@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org

Charlie Bussey, Operations Manager
cbussey@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org

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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:

- 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

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