Kiwanis Family House Tours A Success!

Tour attendees included Kiwanis International President-Designate Sue Petrisin, International Trustee Bruce Berven and wife Barbara, members of the Tahoe Sunrisers Kiwanis Club (Robert Ward, Deb Ward, and Charles Nelson, who generously donated the new KFH Reading Room), Executive Director Dan Germain, KFH Board Secretary Rila Germain, Former KFH Board President Bill Hooper and wife Gale, and Trustee Lon Salgren.

More than 100 Kiwanis Family members from Hawaii, Nevada, and California who were in Sacramento in mid-August for the 95th annual District Convention took a 15-minute shuttle ride from the downtown convention center to the Kiwanis Family House. Most of them had heard about our program but had never had the opportunity to get a first-hand look. Mike Pettibone, member of the Kiwanis Club of Placerville and operator of Foothill Area Rapid Transit, provided a 14-passenger bus and conventioneers signed up for one of eight scheduled tours over the three-day period. Post-tour reactions were enthusiastically
Executive Director Dan Germain was honored to provide a special tour to Kiwanis International President-Designate Sue Petrisin, International Trustee Bruce Bervin, and Bruce's wife Barbara prior to their departure following the convention. President-Designate Sue and Trustee Bruce hail from the Kiwanis Clubs of East Lansing, Michigan and Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

"The concept of Kiwanis Family House is certainly inspirational, and the journey from the original trailers to the current facility is a fascinating story. I know the efforts of the various Kiwanis Clubs and SLP participants make you justifiably proud. I particularly liked the recent addition of the Reading Room", said Berven.

During the convention, Kiwanis Family House team members answered questions at an information booth in the convention's exhibit hall. In addition, Executive Director Dan conducted two workshops during which participants learned about the history, services, and human impact of the House.

"This convention was important for us in numerous ways," Germain said. "The tours were huge. We continue to tell our story. We are increasing our profile and finding new support from members, clubs, and regions not yet well represented in our family of supporters."

**Director's Column | Dan Germain**

Our goal has been to reach 100 Sponsor Clubs during 2015, the year that Kiwanis International celebrates its 100th anniversary. I can officially announce that we have reached that milestone!

Our followers will remember that the Kiwanis Club of Fordham University, Bronx in New York became our 98th sponsoring club in June. About the same time, two other clubs had signaled their intention to submit applications: Kiwanis Club of Alameda and Kiwanis Club of Shasta Dam. At that point, the race was on to see which club would slot in at 99 and which one would earn the title and distinction as Club 100.

As a result of the paperwork sequence, Shasta Dam Kiwanis is now listed as Number 99 and Alameda Kiwanis as Number 100. In my heart, both clubs got us to this milestone. But then so did the 98 clubs that have helped us reach our array of targets over our 31-year history.

The value in human terms of Club 100 to the family members of seriously ill or injured loved ones is indistinguishable from that of Club 99 or, for that matter, Sponsor Clubs 1, 23, 51, or 70. None of this positioning registers with the families we serve as they endure critical medical episodes. But make no mistake - they feel the collective impact of our community service. They tell me every day how grateful they are for it. While the medical professionals are saving the patients, the Kiwanis Family House is saving their loving families.

With the growth of our team, our service impact expands exponentially. We are a healthier and more resourceful nonprofit provider today than we when were a few short years ago when we were a team of 50 sponsoring clubs. Our service impact will be even
more remarkable in the future with 110 sponsoring clubs, 125 sponsoring clubs, and 150 sponsoring clubs.

Based on their representations to me, I am very optimistic that the incoming team of Lieutenant Governors - the 2015/16 Rock Stars of Service - will help us push toward our next milestones. We will continue to add sponsors from areas of the district that are not currently represented and I am confident that the Kiwanis Club of Fordham University, Bronx will soon be joined by other clubs outside of California-Nevada-Hawaii. I am confident of these things because we are persuading more compassionate people that the Kiwanis Family House serves families from everywhere except Sacramento. It is the Kiwanis International gem that so many characterize it to be.

Sponsor Clubs...100 and Counting!

As you know, Kiwanis International celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2015. The Kiwanis Family House also welcomed its 100th Sponsor Club! We were thrilled to present Sponsor Club banner patch #98 to the Kiwanis Club of Fordham University, Bronx in New York at June’s International Convention in Indianapolis. Last month, we presented patches #99 and #100 to the Kiwanis Clubs of Shasta Dam and Alameda. We will continue to share the compelling Kiwanis Family House story with clubs around the District and International as we work toward our next milestones.

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

Welcome Our Latest Bright Award Recipients!

The Kiwanis Club of Citrus Heights recently presented a Bright Award to Gloria Macias for her ongoing support of the Kiwanis Family House. Ms. Macias has sponsored one of our 24 guest bedrooms, which is now officially known as Gloria's Room. Through the Bright Award program, named after founders Leona and Vern Bright, we honor individuals, clubs, divisions, districts, or organizations that have exemplified service to Kiwanis and community. We are grateful to Ms. Macias for her loving support of the Kiwanis Family House.

Also, on August 29, 2015, during Division 7’s Lt. Governor Installation, Cal-Nev-Ha Governor Alan Guire presented First Lady Melissa Guire with a Bright Award for her tireless efforts as First Lady as well as her longtime support of the Kiwanis Family House. Thank you Governor Alan and Melissa!
"Giving is so often thought of in terms of the gifts we give, but our greatest giving is of our time and kindness, and even comfort for those who need it. We look on these things as unimportant until we need them." - Joyce Hilfer

Kiwanis Family House provides a unique service to our guests experiencing medical crises. It also provides unique opportunities for a wide variety of individuals and organizations to perform volunteer community service. The entire Kiwanis family of clubs, K-Kids (elementary school), Builders Clubs (middle school and junior high), Key Clubs and Kiwins (high school), Circle K International (college), Aktion Clubs (adults with disabilities) and Kiwanis Clubs all come to Kiwanis Family House to volunteer their time and talents. At least once a month, a Key Club from a high school in the Sacramento area comes to volunteer a morning or afternoon here. We also often get Key Clubs from outside the area to give of their time and talents. This past month saw Key Clubs and Kiwanians from Santa Rosa and Fairfield come to Kiwanis Family House for service. Both of these cities are an hour or more from Sacramento. Later this year, a Key Club from Visalia (four hours away) will make the trip to Kiwanis Family House to perform service.

Other organizations donate time to us as well. In the past year we have had elementary schools and large corporations such as Intel and CINTAS provide service to us. Our volunteers dust, clean kitchens, mop floors, disinfect door knobs, install fixtures, fold laundry, do landscape and gardening maintenance.... the list goes on. Our volunteers come as clubs, but also as individuals, many of whom are not affiliated in any way with Kiwanis. They simply have good hearts and want to help.

Individual Kiwanians donate their time as well. For example, our House Chaplain, Ron Beams, is a member of Greater Sacramento Kiwanis and is here every Tuesday and Thursday, providing support for and listening to our guests as they struggle with the new realities that illness and tragedy have brought into their lives.

In 2014, Kiwanis Family House received the benefit of more than 6,000 hours of volunteer service from our Kiwanis family of clubs and the many individuals who have volunteered here. We are on pace for a similar number in 2015. As reported in the April 14, 2015, edition of Non-Profit Times, a leading publication for non-profit management, the value of an hour of volunteer time in California in 2014 was $26.87. Using that number and looking at the volunteer hours donated to Kiwanis Family House in calendar year 2014, KFH receives the equivalent of more than $168,000 worth of volunteer time each year.

While these organizations, companies, schools, and individuals all provide worthy and much needed services to our House, perhaps the most valuable of all our volunteers are the guests themselves. Our guests volunteer in many different ways. First of all, they offer their support to one another over a meal or a cup of coffee in one of the kitchens. Sometimes they will babysit a child when mom or dad has to go somewhere or do something where a child is either not allowed, like the NICU in the hospital, or where mom or dad can't devote the time and attention that the child will need. Other times, they will clean up a spill or mop a kitchen floor so that our staff doesn't have to do it. They may not
think of it as volunteer service, but it is. They are donating this time when they already have a full plate with a loved one (or themselves) in medical crisis. Their moments of peace and tranquility are precious and few, yet they often spend these moments doing things that help fellow guests and also our staff.

A good example of the generosity of our guests occurred just recently when one of our guest families provided a very valuable and much appreciated service to us. Paul and his wife Dale have been staying with us since early January while Paul was receiving treatment at UCDMC. They were almost ready to leave in early July when Dale became ill and needed diagnosis and treatment. Having been here for so long, they have truly become a part of our KFH family.

Paul is a retired tree-trimmer and as he regained his strength during treatment, he took it upon himself (with Dale's assistance) to prune, shape and trim all of the trees in our gardens and in each of the inner courtyards. Over a period of weeks, Paul kept at it, doing what he could to trim them while Dale hauled away the trimmings. He is finished with all of them now and they look spectacular.

It is clear to me from actions like Paul's and Dale's that our guests value what Kiwanis Family House provides to them. They show us every day in the little (and sometimes big) things they do around here to help our staff and each other. It is equally clear to me that every volunteer who comes here contributes to the continued success of Kiwanis Family House. On behalf of our staff and guests, thank you.

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart."
–Elizabeth Andrew

President's Message | George MacMurphey

Almost every day my wife and I watch the evening television news. Almost every day at the end of the newscast we say to each other "Why do we watch all this? Is there never any good news?"

Well, in reflecting on the past several months of Kiwanis Family House happenings, I realized that there is much good news to report.

Top of the list and most recent is the wonderful news that we have achieved our goal of 100 sponsor clubs. This achievement of 100 sponsor clubs in Kiwanis International's 100th anniversary year is fully detailed in Executive Director Dan Germain's column. Goals are good; achievement of goals is really good!

I will just list a few more items of GOOD NEWS that come to mind, in no particular order:

• The paint job on the entire exterior and much of the interior of our building, thanks to the Painter's Union, Kelley-Moore Paints, and the perseverance of Operations Manager Charlie Bussey to obtain these valuable donations.
• The completion of the laundry facility, made possible by generous donations from Kiwanis Clubs, Kiwanians, and Friends.
• A financially strong fiscal year (2014-2015) ending in the black with current cash reserves of 3 months of operating expense (another goal we have been working toward).
• The visit of Kiwanis International President Dr. John Button along with Cal-Nev-Ha Governor Alan Guire and Governor-Elect Cherice Gilliam. This visit certainly increases our visibility throughout Kiwanis International.
• The addition of The Kiwanis Club of Fordham University as the first sponsor club from outside the Cal-Nev-Ha District.
• Thousands of hours donated--over 6000 hours recorded in 2014.

There is more. What a happy, up-lifting newscast we could produce. It is such a good feeling to look back on all this "good news" we are able to report.

My Italian mother-in-law would frequently respond to "good news" with a phrase in Italian which I can't begin to put in writing and can only poorly say. Literally translated it was, "pray that it lasts".

We do "pray that it lasts"; that our 30 plus years of success will continue for many, many years to come. My belief is that we can be confident that our good fortune and valuable service will continue. Why? Because of the ever increasing number of Kiwanians, Kiwanis Clubs (now coast to coast!), and friends from so many walks of life who so generously continuously give of their TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE to support our major project in which we all have such pride.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, management, staff, and guests of the Kiwanis Family House, I say THANK YOU. I know I have said it before but I can't say it enough. It takes this sustained effort on the part of all of us to keep our remarkable facility operating, continuing to provide temporary lodging and respite to hundreds of families with gravely ill hospitalized loved ones.

Thanks to all of you for all you do.

**New Board and Committee Schedule Announced**

The Kiwanis Family House Board of Directors has announced a new board meeting schedule for the 2015-2016 term. Until further notice, 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 have been updated as well, 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 Rita Germain at ritamgermain@gmail.com or 916-549-1354.
Need a Mortgage Loan? Call Jon Kaempfer and 50% of His Fee Will Be Donated to Kiwanis Family House!

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. Our next K-Family Workday is scheduled for Saturday, September 12th. For the flyer, click here. This is great opportunities for clubs to work side-by-side with their sponsored youth, friends, family members, and membership prospects. Be sure to RSVP to Operations Manager Charlie Bussey by Wednesday, September 9th, if your club would like to join us!
Upcoming Events
Join us for the following upcoming events:

- KFH Board Meeting          Sept 8
- K-Family Workday            Sept 12
- KFH Development Committee  Oct 13
- KFH Marketing Committee    Oct 13
- Rancho Cordova Glow Golf    Oct 17

September 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](tel:916-736-0116) to arrange a pick-up of the item(s).

SEPTEMBER PRIORITIES
- Paper plates, bowls, and cups
- White bath towels
- Hypoallergenic twin bed pillows
- Bottled water

GUEST NEEDS
- Hotel size toiletries (shampoo, soap, etc.)
- Hand held electric hair dryers
- Alarm clocks

OTHER NEEDS
- Liquid dish soap
- Powdered laundry detergent
- Bleach
- Automatic dishwasher detergent
- Non-latex Nitrile disposable gloves

Who We Are
Dan Germain,
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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