It is the gift giving season...

December has a tradition of gift giving.

The exchanging of gifts is one of the core aspects of the modern Christmas celebration, making the Christmas season the most profitable time of year for retailers and businesses.

Gift giving was common in the Roman celebration of Saturnalia, an ancient festival which took place in late December and may have influenced Christmas customs.

There are stories about the Magi that brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

There are traditions of other gift givers such as St. Nicholas, Sinterklaas, Kris Kringle, Father Frost, Santa Claus, and Father Christmas.

A number of nations issue commemorative stamps at Christmas time. The US Postal Service, Canada Post (Postes Canada), and Royal Mail regularly issue Christmas-themed stamps each year.

For many, the stress of this season centers on what to buy for others, especially those people who seem to have everything.

The key of gift giving is to give until you feel good about it.

(Continued on page 6)

Special guest!

Last month our Kiwanis Family House (KFH) had a special visitor. It was Lori J. Butler CFRE (see a related article by House Director Dan Germain on page 5). She is the Cal-Nev-Ha District Secretary and its Executive Director. She came on staff August 1st and took over officially (Continued on page 6)

President’s Message

by Bill Hooper

As another year draws to a close it is amazing to reflect on all we have been able to accomplish in the last 28 years at Kiwanis Family House.

A Kiwanis project that started with Vern and Leona Bright realizing families needed a safe affordable place to stay while a member of the family was hospitalized at UCDavis Medical Center and a vision that Kiwanis could help make that happen.

The efforts of the local Kiwanis Clubs to build the first house with only seven bedrooms in temporary buildings that has now evolved into a beautiful permanent 32 bedroom facility that housed 142 families last month and is now supported by the efforts of 90 Kiwanis clubs and members of their SLPs. What a terrific job our Kiwanis Family has done.

Each year we face new challenges and another member of our K-Family steps up to help us with a critical need.

Last month one of those people was Brian Davin. Brian is a landscaper and member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Sacramento.

On Saturday morning he started his day at 5:30 a.m., arriving at his shop loading up his vehicles with items that would be needed to clean the landscape around our Kiwanis Family House that day.

As the rest of the volunteers arrived from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. from Lincoln, Greater Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Roseville, Carmichael and East-Sacramento Midtown Kiwanis Clubs along with members of the Lincoln High School Key Club (Go Zebras!), members of Sac State Circle K Club and off duty EMT’s.

Brian had jobs for each of us organized and ready to go. By 4:00 he was able to pack up and head back to his shop and the Kiwanis Family House landscape was neat and clean.

The value of the days’ work according to Brian was about $10,000. What (Continued on page 6)
Important Dates

Kiwanis Family House
Board meetings
Kiwanis Family House
2875 50th Street
Sacramento, CA 95817
Second Thursdays 7:00 pm
2012
Dec 12 (Wednesday)
2013
Jan 10
Feb 13 (Wednesday)
Mar 14
Apr 11
May 9
June (annual meeting) TBA

Kiwanis Family House
Mission Statement
"The mission of the Kiwanis Family
House is dedicated to providing
housing and support to families of
seriously ill children and adults being
treated at University of California, Davis, Sacramento."

Subscription information about
House Talk
❖ House Talk is the official publica-
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❖ Each Sponsor Club is emailed a
copy to the designated Kiwanian.
❖ If you are interested in receiving
the House Talk via email visit our
website at:
www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org and
enter your email address on the
lower left-hand corner where it
says "Sign Up For Our Email
Newsletter".
❖ If you wish to receive it by US
Postal Service contact Editor on
page 9.

Would you donate 3% of
your supermarket
shopping to our
Kiwanis Family House?
It is simple as 1-2-3
1. Do you shop at Save Mart,
Smart, Food Maxx or Lucky
Supermarkets?
2. If so scan your S.H.A.R.E.S
card and the house gets a
percentage. You still get the
great sale prices and the
rest.

Free money
There are still areas with Albertsons
Supermarkets. Keep using your Albert-
son's Preferred Savings Card.
Register your card by calling
(800) 353-9002.

House Talk is published monthly and
sent to supporters and owners of the Kiwa-
nis Family House Inc. The editor is solely
responsible for the content. It is the intent to
be 100% accurate. Articles labeled as
Editorial represent the opinion of the editor
and may not represent the opinion of the Ki-
wanis Family House, the board, or Kiwanis
International. The address of the editor is P.O.
Box 1131 Sloughhouse, CA 95683-1131 or
email: jwseigal@sbcglobal.net

Buy a brick!
The memorial bricks cost $100
each. The lettering grid is 15 spaces
across and three rows deep.
Use them for birthdays, anniver-
saries, memorials, sponsored organi-
zations, past presidents, honorary
members, and more. They last long-
er than plaques.
For more information or a brick
order contact editor.
See page 10.

See us at:
❖ Feb. 9, 2013 Cal-Nev-Ha
Mid-Year Conference North,
Modesto, CA DoubleTree by
Hilton, Modesto
❖ March 2, 2013 Cal-Nev-Ha
Mid-Year Conference South,
Burbank, CA Los Angeles
Marriott Burbank Airport

House Talk is a monthly newsletter pub-
lished by the Kiwanis Family House, Inc.
2875 50th Street, Sacramento, CA 95817-
2308. (916) 736-0116.

website: www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org

The Kiwanis Family House is a 501 (c) 3
organization incorporated by in the State
of California and recognized by the IRS.

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President:. William (Bill) Hooper (2014)
Vice President……………Calvin Hara (2014)
Secretary……………………Emily Chirk (2014)
Treasurer…………Matthew J. Wehner (2014)
Director……………………….Rita Beall (2013)
Director……………………Karen Borman (2014)
Director….William (Rick) Dwyer (2015)
Director……………………Bob Isaacs (2013)
Director…………George MacMurphey (2013)
Director…………Dan Saulisberry (2015)
Past President………William (Rick) Dwyer
UCDMC Liaison............J.P. Eres III
Editor………………………...John W. Seigal

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Marriott Burbank Airport
Kiwanis Family House, not in my backyard!

**Report #127**

Since October 1, 2001 to October 31, 2012, (the effective dates of this report), **11,560** families have stayed one or more nights at our Kiwanis Family House while being treated at UCDMC and Shriners Hospital for Children®.

This report covers over 11 years. Previous to October 1, 2001 the reports were tabulated in a different format.

Our KFH has hosted **901** families from **outside Cal-Nev-Ha District** (California, Nevada, and Hawaii). These **901** families come from:

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri

Also, there have been families from:

- Belgium
- Brazil
- Canada
- England
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Israel
- Italy
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Pakistan
- People’s Republic of China
- Republic of Palau
- Serbia
- Taiwan
- Uruguay
- Venezuela
- Wales

Division 7 and Division 44 are considered the “host” divisions. Families living within 35 miles of UCDMC are **not** eligible to stay at our KFH.

**Aren’t you glad that there is your Kiwanis Family House in Sacramento, California?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Div.</th>
<th>Lt. Gov.</th>
<th>Families</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Thompson</td>
<td>3,155</td>
<td>27.29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Ghag</td>
<td>1,247</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Goad</td>
<td>828</td>
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<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Baran</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>7.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>McGrath</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>6.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Kocher</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>5.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Hauser</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>3.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Andrews</td>
<td>440</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Preston</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>3.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Braik</td>
<td>316</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>McIntire</td>
<td>219</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fedrico</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Gilliam</td>
<td>164</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Farris</td>
<td>134</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>verBurg</td>
<td>119</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Orosco</td>
<td>112</td>
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<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Dahlquist</td>
<td>111</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bliss</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Williams</td>
<td>67</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Bowen</td>
<td>39</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Petrick</td>
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<td>0.33%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Kinsey</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Cordero</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Talley</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>Uramga</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Frost</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Field</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Castleman</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Zitterkopf</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Ross</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Bloemen</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Dopf</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Fields</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lim</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Cunning</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Brooks</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Lagunas, Jr.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Grimm</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Montaño</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Manning</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Wait</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Waronek</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td></td>
<td>11,560</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The column to the left mentions numbers, where are guests are from, codified by Kiwanis Divisions.

This article defines our guests from their neighborhoods during the month of **October 2012**.

**California**
- Anderson (3)
- Aromas
- Berry Creek
- Boulder Creek (2)
- Burney (2)
- Coacella
- Copperopolis
- Corning (6)
- Cottonwood (2)
- Covelo
- Dos Palos
- Dunsmuir
- Durham (2)
- Earlimart
- Etna
- Eureka
- Fairfield
- Fontana
- Grass Valley
- Gridley (2)
- Hoopa
- Hughson (2)
- Janesville
- Kelseyville
- Klamath
- La Puente
- Livingston
- Lodi (2)
- Madera (2)
- Magalia (3)
- Marysville (4)
- Mckinleyville
- Merced
- Modesto (2)
- Montague

(Continued on page 4)
Neighborhoods... not numbers! (Cont'd)

- Mount Shasta
- Mountain Ranch
- Nevada City (2)
- Oakdale
- Orland
- Oroville (8)
- Palermo
- Palo Cedro
- Placerville
- Porterville
- Portola
- Rancho Cordova
- Red Bluff (5)
- Redding (15)
- Reedley
- Rohnert Park
- Sierraville
- Sonora (2)
- South Lake Tahoe
- Stockton (5)
- Susanville
- Tulare
- Vacaville
- Valley Springs
- Watsonville
- Westport
- Yreka
- Yuba City (2)

Michigan
- Grand Rapids

Missouri
- Arnold

Montana
- Philipsburg

Nevada
- Carson City (2)
- Fallon
- Gardnerville (2)
- Incline Village
- Las Vegas
- Reno (4)
- Sparks (2)
- Spring Creek
- Stateline (2)
- Yerington

New York
- West Stockholm
- Winthrop

Oregon
- Grants Pass

Redmond
- Texas
- Carrollton

21st Annual Red & White Ball
Karen Borman is reminding everyone to circle February 16, 2013 on their calendars. That is the date for the 21st Annual Red & White Ball to benefit our Kiwanis Family House (KFH). It will follow the same successful formula that has been developed over the decades.

Set your GPS for the Dante Club located at 2330 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95825. It is a dinner dance.

♥ Cocktails 6:00 p.m.
♥ Dinner 7:00 p.m. Prime Rib, chicken, and vegetarian entrees.
♥ Followed by music and dancing.
♥ Dress is semi-formal
♥ Tickets are $45@ payable to Kiwanis Family House. Tickets must be purchased by February 12, 2012.
♥ For more information contact Karen Borman (916) 769-7384 or bormank@aol.com

Does the name Ivan Pavlov ring a bell?

December's Special Days
December 8th
Enlightenment of Buddha

In 535 BCE Siddhartha Gautama reached enlightenment and assumed the title of Buddha, (one who is awakened).

December 8th
Hanukkah (Chanukah) Starts Sundown Dec. 8th

Hanukkah (Chanukah) begins at sunset on Saturday December 8, 2012, and ends at sunset on Monday December 16, 2012.

Dec. 25th
Christmas

The annual holiday commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Dec 26th– Jan 1st
Kwanzaa

This nonreligious African-American holiday draws on African tradition related to harvest celebrations.
**Impressions**
The monthly column by Dan Germain
KFH House Director

"Thanks for all you do for families. I know it means so much to them."

Such simple sentiments are rich compensation for those of us who serve our guests around the clock. Our families regularly convey their gratitude and appreciation. The medical professionals with whom we partner remind us from time to time how we contribute to family healing. This month, I want to specifically thank members of our Kiwanis family who take time out of their day to notice what we do. I contend that K-family members around the district are noticing us more and more because we are purposefully increasing our profile.

The observation above was offered by Lori Butler, Cal-Nev-Ha Kiwanis Executive Director and District Secretary, following her very first visit to the Kiwanis Family House on November 19th.

Prior to touring our magnificent facility, Lori and I sat in our conference room where I shared video segments featuring former guests who help us tell our compelling story. She listened to the late Leona Bright reflect on the vision that she and husband Vern Bright shared as founders of the KFH. I answered questions about our operating expenses and our typical sources of revenue, particularly highlighting our Sponsor-A-Family and Friends-of-the-Family House programs. I also reinforced just how much we depend on our 90-plus sponsoring Kiwanis clubs.

I explained our strategic goal of increasing the number of sponsoring Kiwanis clubs beyond the current 90 and the ongoing challenge we face in persuading others that we are not simply a local northern California project. After all, in 28 years, we have provided a place of respite for families from all 50 states and 20 other countries. After lodging with us, they return to their home communities. Kiwanis clubs and members intent on addressing local human needs are their neighbors. As such, providing financial support to the Kiwanis Family House is a way to support the needs of local families. At least, we view it that way.

We understand that the Cal-Nev-Ha board of directors is considering a proposal to designate the KFH as an official District project. Should that come to pass, we would be grateful to the District for propelling us further toward our strategic goal. Until then, we will continue to pursue other strategic plan action items to heighten our profile.

We value visitors like Lori Butler, not only because of her position and her impressive professional credentials but because she hails from an area of the District that we very much want to reach. When she thanked us for all we do and commented on how much we mean to the families we serve, I knew I had just visited with a new friend of the KFH. I hope she chooses to wear her new KFH polo shirt throughout her Kiwanis travels.

On behalf of our terrific staff and wonderful army of volunteers here at the KFH, I convey my sincere holiday wishes to all of you and your loved ones. We know that we benefit from your giving holiday spirit 12 months out of every year.

Dan Germain
ggermain@
kiwanisfamilyhouse.org

---

**Creelman-Francisco Classic is set**

The oldest Kiwanis Charitable Golf Tournament is set for the April 25th, 2012, last Thursday at the Davis Municipal Golf Course in Davis, California.

Mark your calendar now!

---

**Kiwanis Family House Wish List**

By Dan Germain

**December 2012 Wish List**

Our House Director always has a ready Wish List of items that are needed by the Family House. These items are usually readily available at a convenient store or perhaps you have them at your home. If you feel you can help out with an item, either bring it by the Family House or give the Family House a call at (916) 736-0116 to arrange a pick up.

**December Priorities**

Please consider donating DVD movies to replace our library of old VHS movies.

Also: Kleenex or comparable tissues; umbrellas; individually wrapped HOLIDAY candy for the reception desk.

**Guest Room Needs:**

- Two collapsible bassinettes
- Cleaning Supplies:
  - Lysol® blue toilet bowl cleaner
  - Swiffer® All-Purpose Cleaning Solution
  - Swiffer® pads (wet)
  - Liquid dish washing machine soap
  - Small bottle dish washing soap
- Personal Care Items:
  - Deodorants
  - Personal travel-size shampoo, conditioner, and soap
  - Hand-held hair dryers
- Kitchen Supplies:
  - Disposable drink Cups 10-12 oz. hot/cold beverages
  - Coffee
  - Cookies
- Other Essentials:
  - Ziploc® freezer bags – quart/gallon

Please call the Kiwanis Family House at (916)736-0116 to coordinate the donation of any of the special Wish List items.

Kiwanis Family House
2875 50th Street
Sacramento, CA 95817

---

**No! The Grinch did not steal Christmas!**

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Sacramento (a sponsor club) held its annual Dr. Seuss House Lighting!

Lorie Deering chaired the event. Pictures were taken with the Grinch and the Cat in the Hat.

Donations were collected for our KFH wish list. Thank you!

---

www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org
It is the gift giving season...

(Continued from page 1)

Here are some suggestions:

- **See’s Candy.** Many sponsor clubs raise money selling See’s Candy. In fact, our Kiwanis Family House will be doing so this year. Prices start about $20.00. Go to our website to find more information about those locations or order candy from us at: see’s candy@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org

- Give the gift of hospitality. Sponsor a **Family for a Night**, or several nights at our KFH. The cost for a night is $40.00. See article on page 1.

- Buy a **Brick for our KFH**. The bricks can be lettered and serve as a lasting memorial to honor the person. Bricks cost $100@. See article on page 2.

- Become a **Friend of our Kiwanis Family House**, or gift such a friendship. Gifts start at $100 annually. See article on page 6.

- The gilt edged gift of the year, is to give a **Bright Award**. You may want to honor a family member, club member or business associate with this gift which is named after **Vern and Leona Bright**, the co-founders of our Kiwanis Family House. For details contact the editor (page 10) or go to our website.

---

What does CFRE stand for?

CFRE stands for **Certified Fund Raising Executive**, an internationally recognized certification in the fundraising field and administered by CFRE International.

CFRE International exists to uphold the public trust through voluntary certification of fundraising professionals.

CFRE International supports and encourages fundraising professionals to aspire to the highest standards of professional competence and ethical practice in serving the philanthropic sector.

---

Special guest

(Continued from page 1)

October 1, 2012 after **Pete Horton** retired.

She has been a Kiwanian for eight years a member of the Sunrise Vista Club. The CFRE after her names means that she is a Certified Fund Raising Executive.

When asked what her impressions were of our KFH, she replied: “As a non-profit professional I was very impressed at the efficient use of volunteers, materials and donations.

“Before my visit I truly had no concept of just how nice these facilities truly are. I knew they would be great because “the House” carries the Kiwanis name. Still, they really are as inviting and home-like as they could possibly be.

“I have been blessed to be a client of a Ronald McDonald House as a parent of a child who had Lymphoma. What I saw was very personal to me. There are so many programs and donations given to children’s charities that serve children and their families exclusively because the perception is the funds go directly to helping children….what the average person doesn’t realize is that children can be effected just as directly when their adult caregiver or parent battles an illness. Kiwanis Family House truly helps children too when they help adults.

“It’s a comfort to know that this place exists.

“I was grateful to learn how many families are helped from all over Cal-Nev-Ha. What a sense of pride I had to see the chart that showed 13 families have been helped from the District I live in North San Diego County. I know what it is like to be a family with similar needs – things like a hot meal that’s not out of a vending machine, a clean place to shower and supportive smiling faces change your attitude at the end of a hard day. And, to think that this was all created by Kiwanians reminds me why I am so blessed to be one.”

Thanks for visiting and welcome aboard to your new position in Kiwanis.

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President’s Message

(Continued from page 1)

a difference the Kiwanis Family under Brian’s leadership made that day.

This is just one of the many stories of weekends and evenings hard working members of the Kiwanis Family have spent to make sure the House is ready for those who need it. On behalf of the Board of Directors I want to offer special thanks to all the different **Brian Davins** and their helpers who have stepped up over the years, many of them more than once.

You are truly special people who are making a difference for many who need your help. Your efforts are truly appreciated!

May each of you have wonderful Holiday season and a happy and prosperous New Year! God Bless you.

Till Next Time, Yours in Kiwanis Service, Bill bhoopklg56@comcast.net

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Key Club Awake-A-Thon

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Awake-A-Thons hosted by Key Clubs are a great way to raise money for a favorite charity.

Several Key Clubs in the greater Sacramento area have done so and have raised tens of thousands of dollars for various charities including our KFH.

For a guidebook contact the editor (see page 10).

For more information contact **Gary Christensen** gjcsmc@aol.com or (916) 215-1460.

Listen & Silent

Both have the same letters

Coincidence?
Gift your car

"Tis the season"

Here is how:
If you have an old car, boat, or Recreational Vehicle (R/V) you can transform it into cash for our Kiwanis Family House.

Our KFH has partnered with Car Program Inc. to provide an easy-to-use tax deductible process to donate your car, boat, or R/V.

You are able to donate your vehicle, running or not, and it does not have to be registered.

Questions: Call Board Member Calvin Hara at (916) 812-5524 or Car Program Inc. (800) 240-0160. This agency can accept donations from most of our 50 states to benefit our KFH!

DONATE A CAR
(800) 240-0160

Kiwanian contact: Calvin Hara (916) 812-5524

KFH... visit us!
If you are in the neighborhood and want to stop by for a visit, please do.

If you want to arrange a special tour in advance, call us at (916) 736-0116.

Hold a club meeting here!

Get your SHARES Card (on page 2) so we get our “share”.

Gift a TV

Our Kiwanis Family House (KFH) guests watch TV in their rooms. But the TV’s in their rooms are wearing out.

Donate $300 so our KFH may purchase replacements. We are targeting Best Buy Store’s Insignia model which has a DVD player.

Families need diversions while worrying about family members. Televisions allow them to catch up on the news.

Recycling makes cents!
Donate ink cartridges, LASER cartridges, toner cartridges etc. to our KFH.

We even have a container for used plastic bags to be recycled.

It helps the environment, lessens the impact on land fills, and makes cents.

If you work for a company, ask it if it will cooperate in giving you the items to take and donate.

Our KFH gets money when we turn them in for recycling.

Recycling money is “green” and spends the same way with a lessening on the KFH budget.

Become a friend!
Want to feel good about yourself? The become a Friend of our Kiwanis Family House. It takes an annual donation of $100 (or more). Information about memberships and ways to pay, is available at our website: www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org

Want to feel better about yourself? Consider giving your friends and relatives the “gift” of becoming a Friend of our Kiwanis Family House.

These donations keep our KFH in operation and keeping our commitment of never having to turn anyone away for lack of payment.

There is a plan to redo the walkway in front of the Kiwanis Family House.

Needed: A person with experience working with concrete to pour a walkway in front of the house.

Also needed: People to move the bricks currently there and help with framing for the walkway.

Anyone with a green thumb who could help us with the landscape maintenance or upgrading the landscape please call House Director Dan Germain at (916) 736-0116 or dangermain@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org

KFH Board member Calvin Hara takes care of most of our maintenance needs at the House, but he could use some help from a Handyman.

Calvin Hara can be reached at (916) 812-5524 cmhara@comcast.net

Ways to support our Kiwanis Family House...

For your “SHARES” card to the left:

1022

SHARES Participants
$4,500,000

Four Million Five Hundred Thousand DOLLARS

1802 122456789 111000222444

Save Mart

www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org
Choose safe, appropriate toys this holiday season

By Thomas Bullen, M.D.

The choices for children’s toys are endless, so it’s important to pay attention to age guidelines. Of course, the most important gift to any child is quality time from you!

The holiday season is upon us, and the choices for children’s toys are endless. What should you give to those youngsters on your list? Here are some guidelines to help you pick something that is likely to be fun as well as safe.

Pay attention to age guidelines on the toy. Guidelines may be intended for reasons of safety or developmental abilities. Think carefully about how they apply to the child you have in mind. Just as some kids are intellectually advanced and would enjoy a board game designed for older children, other kids may still be likely to pop things in their mouth at five years, well after the age when small parts are normally allowed.

Be aware of hanging danger for infants. Once babies can raise themselves onto their hands and knees, avoid toys that they could hang themselves on, such as mobiles hung within reach of the crib, toys with strings, or crib gyms that are strung across a crib or playpen.

Watch out for small parts! Generally, any toy that can fit through a toilet paper tube is too small for a child under 3 years. Some toys are obviously made for older children, otherwise advanced and would enjoy a board game designed for older children, other kids may still be likely to pop things in their mouth at five years, well after the age when small parts are normally allowed.

Consider the needs of other children in the house. Avoid toys that may be dangerous to little brothers and sisters if they are likely to grab hold of them.

Don’t buy toys that shoot. Every year, toys such as launchers, toy guns and bows and arrows cause serious eye injuries when shot at close range. So what are good choices? Check out these suggestions for the age group you have in mind:

Young infants: Toys to look at or listen to are your best bet. Squeak toys and rattles are good, but make sure the soft ones don’t squish down to that toilet paper tube opening size.

Mobiles and crib gyms are great until the baby can raise onto hands and knees.

Older infants: Babies that can sit up love to play with blocks, nesting cups, stacking rings and simple pop-up toys. Cardboard or vinyl books with large, simple pictures are also popular.

Toddlers: Think motion for this age group! Large balls, toddler play structures, digging tools, trikes or big plastic cars are all great backyard choices. For quieter moments, choose simple art supplies, such as crayons, markers, finger paints and play-dough, as well as easy puzzles. Bath toys are also fun.

Preschoolers: Three-to-five year-olds spend much of their day in make-believe land. Dress-up items and toy tools or kitchen utensils make big hits. Puppets, dolls, stuffed animals, and play sets with village, farm, or transportation pieces also stimulate the imagination. This is also a great age for a child’s tape player and cassettes featuring children’s storytellers and music.

Ages 6-9: Early elementary school-age children are ready for bigger challenges, both intellectually and physically. Bikes, scooters and sleds make great gifts, but be sure to include appropriate protective gear, such as helmets, as well as knee, wrist, and elbow guards for roller blades. Kids this age enjoy science sets, model and craft kits, and board games. Easy chapter books are also good buys.

Ages 9-12: Children this age are beginning to develop interests and skills that they may pursue the rest of their lives. Consider giving a subscription to a children’s magazine, geared towards nature or literature. Strategy games such as chess or other board games are popular, as is equipment for team sports.

Teens: Perhaps the hardest age group? Not if you know the child. You really have to target interests, as presents at this age merge with items you would buy for an adult. Books, magazine subscriptions, calendars, hobby and sports equipment are good bets. If you don’t want to guess, consider choosing a gift certificate to a favorite music or book store.

If possible, spend time enjoying your gift with the recipient. It’s the best way to ensure you’ll give treasured memories along with a present.

The most important gift to any child is quality time from you!
"Letters, we get letters, we get stacks and stacks of letters..."

These letters are left at our KFH addressed to you. They are published to show our readers of the impact made by the staff and services of our Kiwanis Family House and UC Davis Medical Center. The letters are published as originally written and punctuated. This is to preserve the sincerity and spontaneity of the writer.

“When I came to Kiwanis House, the need was for my sister’s life. “She has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. “I was so thankful to have a place where my family could feel at home. “Thank you for your services. “It helped me survive during a difficult time. “God Bless you!”

“Thank you for being so accommodating. “Our daughter had spinal fusion and we appreciate your being here in our time of need. “She is doing amazing now. “Thank you again so much”.

“Thank you for being here. I don’t know what we would do without you. “The employees and volunteers are so helpful and kind. “You all helped us in a time of great need! “What a wonderful organization. “Thank God for KFH”

“Your house saved me and my daughters’ lives. “Got us away from a very mean man. “Thank you.”

Kiwanis Family House has been wonderful. “My daughter is now 5 1/2 months old and was born at UC Davis. She has cerebral cysts and has had 5 brain surgeries. “I can’t afford a hotel every night and KFH has shown me hospitality by helping with a place for me to sleep. “If not I would be camped out with an air mattress in the hospital. “My daughter is doing better and we hope she won’t have to have anymore (operations) until she gets older and they have to replace the shunt. “The staff here at KFH have made each time we’ve stayed here, they made us feel like we are a big family. “We want to thank everyone who was there for us and helped us through the rough times. “Sincerely”

“Thank you so much. “This has been a God Send for the room and space for my car for 10 days and the bus, I didn’t have to drive. “May God Bless you all!”

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity to our family in this trying time. Words cannot express our gratitude for your graciousness!

Thank you for letting my parents stay while I was in the hospital. Thank you for everything.

The Allen family

Very Sincerely yours,
Now you can help support the Kiwanis Family House by using Facebook. If you are on Facebook (or are planning on joining) you should “Like” the Kiwanis Family House page.

You can also click “Share” on any posting and this will share our stories with your Friends. It appears on their wall and news feed for Friends to see and spreads the message of Kiwanis Family House!

You can also “Suggest” a page to all your friends via a message. Just click on “Suggest to Friends” (the fourth link down from the logo) and choose the friends to whom you want to send an invitation to the Page.

You can post any comments, stories, or suggestions for other Fans to see, and it will also appear on your walls for your Friends to see.

If you want to reference something that is on the website, you should include a link to the Kiwanis Family House page along with your posting.

House Talk: Contact the Editor

Quick Facts about House Talk
1. **House Talk** is a monthly newsletter published by the Kiwanis Family House, Inc.
2. The editor is solely responsible for the content of **House Talk**.
3. Deadline 5:00 pm on the second Thursday of the month.
4. Items are solicited. Items submitted will not be returned unless noted by the sender.
5. Errors in the **House Talk** are to be brought to the attention of the editor. Egregious errors will be corrected in a future edition.
6. Responses to the articles and authors unless indicated otherwise can be sent to the editor for forwarding.
7. Editor is **John W. Seigal**.
8. Email address is: jwseigal@sbcglobal.net
9. US Postal Service address is: P.O. Box 1131 Sloughouse, CA 95683-1131

With The Eliminate Project, Kiwanis International and UNICEF have joined forces to eliminate *maternal and neonatal tetanus*. This deadly disease steals the lives of nearly 60,000 innocent babies and a significant number of women each year. The effects of the disease are excruciating — tiny newborns suffer repeated, painful convulsions and extreme sensitivity to light and touch.

To eliminate MNT from the Earth, more than 100 million mothers and their future babies must be immunized. This requires vaccines, syringes, safe storage, transportation, thousands of skilled staff and more. It will take US$110 million — and the dedicated work of UNICEF and every member of the Kiwanis family.