Fordham University Kiwanis Becomes 98th Sponsor Club!

We have exciting news! In May, the Kiwanis Club of Fordham University, Bronx, New York, became the 98th Sponsor Club of the Kiwanis Family House!

This news is exciting for several reasons. First, we are now only TWO clubs away from hitting the magic number "100" during Kiwanis International's 100th year. Second, the Fordham University Club is the FIRST Kiwanis Family House sponsor club from outside the California-Nevada-Hawaii District, demonstrating the true international reach of our House.

And finally, we are excited because Fordham University Kiwanis is the home club of Past International President Tom DeJulio and his wife, Rosemary DeJulio. The DeJulios have been longtime supporters of Kiwanis Family House. As Tom stated recently, "Although we are unable to sustain a project like Kiwanis Family House, we are proud to be a sponsor so we can say the Fordham club's reach of service knows no boundaries, in the United States, as well as in the world. Thank you for allowing us to be part of the good works of Kiwanis Family House."

Good works knows no bounds for the 26-year old Fordham University Kiwanis Club. With 65 members, the club is a 100K Model Club for the ELIMINATE Project, and hosts a Satellite Club for Fathers of Children with Special Needs (viz. autism).

The club also works closely with the Fordham Circle K Club, founded in 1970 and still going strong with 50 members. The club also sponsors both a K-Kids Club and a Builder's
Each year, Fordham Kiwanis sponsors four or five Bronx neighborhood children to go upstate to have their “first camping experience” at NY District Foundation's accredited Kamp Kiwanis. At least two of these campers have "special needs". They also sponsor the "Pajama Project", where club members collect books and pajamas for children who need them.

We are proud and honored to welcome Fordham University Kiwanis as the 98th official Sponsoring Club of the Kiwanis Family House!

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

With the addition of the Forham University Kiwanis Club, we are now very close to our goal of 100 or more sponsor clubs in this, the 100th year of Kiwanis International. As it stands, 98 clubs in California, Nevada, and now, New York, are now official sponsors of the Kiwanis Family House. We are flying on a wave of confidence that we will reach at least 100 Sponsor Clubs during Kiwanis’ centennial birthday. If your home club is not already a sponsor, please champion our cause with your board of directors. The commitment is as follows:

- A one-time sponsorship fee of $500
- Annually, thereafter:
  - Dues of $100 each October
  - At least one additional donation or fundraiser on our behalf

If you are a 2014/15 or 2015/16 Lieutenant Governor, can you help us locate one club in your Division which is not already a KFH sponsor? Let us know!

Executive Director's Column | Dan Germain

Today's question: Are we elevating the profile of the Kiwanis Family House, where family caregivers find temporary lodging and respite as they support hospitalized loved ones? It is premature to answer that question definitively but something positive seems to be happening to our 31-year nonprofit enterprise.

Those of us who are members of the marketing team vary the wording to repeat the essential messages of the Kiwanis Family House story. While our representations carry impact, they admittedly only deliver so much. This is largely because we beat the drum constantly.

But there are occasions when "they" voice similar sentiments, often in more artful and articulate ways. Perhaps we value their endorsements so much because their rich personalities draw us in or because we highly respect the influential District and International offices they hold. In any case, we are moved when they speak.

During his March 2015 visit to the Kiwanis Family House, International President and retired physician Dr. John Button offered several thoughtful insights. “When one family member is ill, the whole family is ill so we have to care for the whole family. When you are worrying about where you are going to sleep, whether you can afford it, where your next meal is coming from, that interferes with you getting better.”
Then he said this directly to a guest. "I have no doubt that the speed of your recovery has been aided immeasurably by your experience here at the Kiwanis Family House. No doubt."

"Our community is global," continued President John, "and certainly the work that is done here at the Kiwanis Family House demonstrates that in spades, because they have families from all over the world here."

On that same occasion, California-Nevada-Hawaii (CNH) Governor Alan Guire said of the Kiwanis Family House, "This is a great example of what we can and should be doing throughout the world. This is a great showpiece and it has been proven that it works."

CNH Governor-Elect Cherice Gilliam added, "We need to let the world know that (the Kiwanis Family House) is here. Members need to see what belongs to this organization and what they do here. I would love to see them come here - if they are from Jamaica, if they are from Canada, if they are from Europe - and then go back to their clubs and say, 'There's a house serving international people with our name on it.' I am so glad it is called the Kiwanis Family House and not some other name because it truly represents who we are as an organization."

President John's wife, Debbie Button, observed, "Some of the families who have stayed here take the Kiwanis name back to their own communities. They remember what the Kiwanis Family House did for them and their family. It can only help spread the great news about Kiwanis around the world." We clearly have friends and supporters in President John and Debbie, who by the way hail from Ridgetown, Ontario, Canada.

Within weeks of the International President's visit, we were thrilled to receive a communication from Past International President Tom DeJulio, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Fordham University, Bronx, New York. The Fordham University Club has applied to become the first Kiwanis Family House Sponsor Club from outside California-Nevada-Hawaii! We are so grateful for this cross-country support but we should not be more grateful than the families from Bronx, Brooklyn, Akron, Astoria, Centereach, Port Washington, College Point, Winthrop, Yonkers, West Stockholm, and Adams, all New York State residents who have collectively spent nearly 100 guest nights at our Kiwanis Family House over the past five years.

These recent developments are very important ones for us. Let's not forget that that the CNH Circle K District recently adopted the Kiwanis Family House as a standing District Fundraising Initiative. Are we elevating our profile? Are we positioned to advance our organization to "the next level" of success? It sure feels that way, but time will have to tell us.

President's Message | George MacMurphey

It Takes a Village (to raise a child)...an old African Proverb which became the title of a best-seller some thirty years ago. As we approach the end of our fiscal/administrative year — our 31st — it occurred to me that it takes a village to operate and sustain our Kiwanis Family House.

We have a large, widespread Village: our capable hard-working management team of Dan and Charlie, our superb staff, our dedicated Board of Directors, Kiwanis Clubs, individuals Kiwanians, eager SLP Members, former guests, and friends from all walks of life.

Our Village spreads out from throughout the Cal-Nev-Ha District across the country with supportive guests from every state. Our Village is now truly coast-to-coast with the addition of a new sponsor club in the Bronx, New York. We can say we're International,
considering the co-operative involvement of Shriners and the Mexican Consulate in housing Mexican Nationals here in Sacramento. Not to mention the strong expressions of praise and support from International President Dr. John Button, a Canadian!

Our village is large and growing. Our villagers constantly give of their TIME, TALENT and TREASURE to keep us going.

This past year has been a good one in so many ways. Several projects have enhanced the facility, financially we are sound, and we are blessed with our multitude of dedicated, eager, and proud supporters - Our villagers.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I say THANK YOU TO ALL.

And, I want to personally express sincere, profound words of appreciation to the Members of the Board of Directors. Each and every one has been on-call, dedicated, and eager to contribute in any way necessary.

Thank you, everyone, for a wonderful year.

I will add a foot-note: we can’t rest on our laurels. This is a continuous, nonstop endeavor to provide temporary lodging and respite to families as they support hospitalized loved ones. Let us keep up the good work in the coming year and for countless years in the future.

**KFH Annual Meeting is Saturday, June 13th**

The Kiwanis Family House Annual Meeting and Board Election will be held on Saturday, June 13th, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Kiwanis Family House. All sponsor clubs are requested to send their president or a representative to hear an update on the House, as well as to vote for three (3) open board of directors positions.

The Annual Meeting Notice and Ballot Proxy were mailed to all sponsor clubs at the end of April. **If unable to send a representative, a club is requested to designate a proxy so that a quorum can be reached.**

Click [here](#) to download the Annual Meeting Notice and Proxy Form.

**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!

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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.
Upcoming Events

Join us for the following upcoming events:

- KFH Annual Meeting  
  June 13
- July Board Meeting  
  July 9
- Kiwanis International Convention  
  June 26-28
- Cal-Nev-Ha District Convention  
  Aug 13-15
- DCON Golf Tournament  
  Aug 13
- Swing Fore Kids Golf Tournament  
  Aug 31

June Wish List

Click [here](#) for a printable version of this month's Wish List.

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

JUNE PRIORITIES

- Disinfectant Wipes (Clorox, Lysol, etc.)
- Bottled water

GUEST NEEDS

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

OTHER NEEDS

- Liquid dish soap
- Powdered laundry detergent
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner (we have 36 toilets in the building, we use a lot of this)
- Bleach
- Automatic dishwasher detergent
- Open end and box end wrench set

Who We Are

Dan Germain,  
Executive Director  
[dgermain@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org](mailto:dgermain@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org)
To View our Board of Directors, click here.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide temporary housing and support to families of seriously ill or injured children and adults being treated at UC Davis Medical Center and Shriners Hospitals of Northern California.

Our Vision

Our Vision is to continually provide convenient, restful, secure, and low cost accommodations for the families of patients being treated at the UCD Medical Center or at Shriners Hospital.

Our Values

Our Values are guided by the KIWANIS Service Motto: "Serving the Children of the World".

The KIWANIS FAMILY HOUSE encourages the following core values:

- A sense of community
- Dedication to service
- Respect for families
- Augmentation of services provided by other organizations
- Collaboration with community partners
- Foster awareness for those in need
- Generosity

Ways to Help

You can help the Kiwanis Family House by donating or participating in the following programs:

- Sponsor A Family
- Become a Friend of the Kiwanis Family House
- Buy a Brick
- Purchase a Bright Award
- Donate a Vehicle
- Participate in the SaveMart S.H.A.R.E.S. Card Program
- Donate Wish List Items
- Become a Sponsor Club
- Sponsor a Room
- Volunteer at the Kiwanis Family House
- And much more!
For information on these opportunities, go to:
www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org/how-you-can-help/donate/

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

Print the House Talk

Click here for a printable version of this month's issue.

Current and past issues are always available at the Kiwanis Family House website.

You must have Adobe Reader to open and save the file. If you need Reader, please go here to download your free copy.

Stay Connected

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