



October 2016

House Talk

The official newsletter of Kiwanis Family House

Vol. 17 Issue 04



Path to the Sky | Dan Germain

On the afternoon of Friday, October 21, Rita and I stopped by to support the new Aktion Club of Aim Higher Elk Grove's art auction. Among the pieces we purchased was one entitled Path to the Sky.

Earlier in the day, we had learned of the passing of young mother Sandra Baxter. Sandy and her family, guests at Kiwanis Family House for the past year, had been so inspiringly featured in the October issue of Kiwanis Magazine. We treasure the publication's recent article and I hope you all had a chance to see it. Kiwanis members in 80 countries read about our great service to the families of the world.

Path to the Sky really resonated with me on this emotional day. As I write this, Kiwanis continues to support Sandy's husband Anthony, five-year-old Mark, and three-year-old Karissa as they struggle through questions about their path forward. Sometime soon, we will share goodbye hugs and tears as they leave KFH.



Our followers and supporters know that we touch the lives of so many families in a year's time. In a decade's time. In three decades' time. It is a rare but wonderful gift when a family comes back to visit with us years after surviving frightening medical traumas. We have such a wonderful gift with Jennifer and Erika.



In August 2011, Jennifer Deshais went to a prenatal doctor's appointment in Redding. She knew her baby had medical problems, but she was in disbelief when they told her it was so severe she was going to be flown by airplane to UC Davis Medical Center. Like so many other guests of Kiwanis Family House, she didn't have time to collect her belongings to bring with her.

Erika Zipora Hope Chilton was born at the medical center by Caesarean section on August 17. A sign by her bed called her Princess Zipora. Despite her angelic appearance, she was a very sick baby. She was fed her mother's breast milk through a

tube in her stomach, because her esophagus did not connect. She also had a heart defect known as cardiac tetralogy. Both problems required major surgeries. "When the surgeon came and talked to me, I just cried and cried," Jennifer recalled.

When she was not sitting in the hospital neonatal intensive care unit holding Erika, Jennifer spent her time at Kiwanis Family House. She called KFH her home for much of 2011 and 2012 before taking her daughter home to Redding. As they always do when they return to UC Davis Medical Center, Erika and Jennifer stopped by to see us earlier this month.

Path to the Sky will hang prominently in the lobby at KFH as a tribute to all families who pass through our doors. For many of us, it will be a special reminder of Sandy, Anthony, Mark, and Karissa.

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Read the article in the October issue of Kiwanis Magazine [here](#).

View the "Kids Need Kiwanis" video featuring Sandra's story [here](#).

View "Jennifer's Story" [here](#).

### The Wish List | Charlie Bussey

Wish lists are often overlooked when people are reading through publications by non-profit organizations. However, I don't believe that is the case here at Kiwanis Family House. The donations that come to Kiwanis Family House from the wish list that is published monthly as part of Housetalk form the basis for much of what we are able to provide our guests. We ask for much from our donors and somehow they always come through for us. If we had to purchase all of the items that are donated, our budget would soon be exhausted.



I don't know if any of you ever give much thought to the sheer volume of supplies that we use here to keep our facility clean, tidy and inviting for our guests and visitors. There are 36 toilets in Kiwanis Family House and we operate at close to 100% capacity year round. As a result, we use dozens of cases of toilet paper every year. Likewise, paper towels are also an item in great demand. To supplement our guest towels, we provide paper towels in all guest rooms as well as in each of the three kitchens. Our volunteers use them to clean various surfaces in the lobbies and kitchens and we use hundreds of rolls of paper towels every year.

Disinfectant wipes are used every day to "de-germify" door handles and countertops. Toilet bowl cleaner is essential to keeping our guest rooms and public area bathrooms clean. Cleansers for cleaning showers and sinks, solutions to clean the floors in the bathrooms and kitchens are needed, the batteries for remote controls, smoke detectors and for the guest room door key card readers must be changed on a regular basis.

Towels, wash cloths and bed linens get stained and/or wear out with heavy use and frequent washing and must be replaced regularly. Facial tissues are used frequently by our guest who are struggling with their emotions as they face an unknown future for a loved one.

Paper for our printers and copiers is often a donated item. Every time a guest checks in or out, paperwork is generated. Over the course of a year, it really adds up. Another little known or thought about item that we use a great deal of is bottled water. We keep it cold in our conference room refrigerator and we also supply it to any volunteer that comes to work. Many of you have attended our semi-annual work days in April and September and have seen firsthand how much water is consumed on just those two days.

Toiletry items which are commonly found in hotel rooms are also supplied to our guests and are in constant need of replenishment. The giant tubs of laundry soap that are supplied for our guests and for our staff to use are quickly exhausted. I think you get the idea. We go through a lot of stuff!

Some of these items are purchased and some of them are donated by our supporters. The more donations we receive, the better we are able to serve our guests in a time of great distress for them. It is so heartwarming when I receive a call from a Kiwanis Club or individual asking what we need. Sometimes it is a former guest who sees the need and comes through with a donation of pots and pans or dishes and silverware for the kitchens (you'd be surprised how they seem to disappear! Sometimes I think they have taken lessons from the socks in the dryer). It all adds up to a tidy sum of money that is saved, allowing us to provide for our guests and be responsible stewards of the trust and funds that are donated to us.

The wish list is ever changing and is updated monthly to reflect what we currently have the most need of. If it seems like some items are always there, it is because we are in constant need of them. The wish list is in each issue of House Talk and it can also be found on our website under "How to Help". Thank you for your many kindnesses. Please don't ever stop.

## President's Message | Jim Legler



So a couple of weeks ago my 11-year old granddaughter who is in the 6th grade proudly announced to me that she was selected by her classmates to serve as a member of a "Leadership - Service Council". This is a new program at her school and is apparently designed to promote a philosophy of community service and to develop leadership skills and is similar to a Kiwanis "K-Kids" program. Besides being glad that the school had developed such a program, I was of course extremely proud of her for wanting to serve and for her mom and dad for encouraging her to become involved. This conversation with my granddaughter also started me thinking about the impact

volunteers have on the day-to-day operations at the Kiwanis Family House.

During 2015, the number of individuals who volunteered at the facility was 2,093 and the total number of volunteer hours captured was 4,055. (These numbers are most certainly low since it is common that volunteers do not always record their actual time spent working.) While the paid staff working at the facility are a team of truly tremendous employees in every

way and who are dedicated to serving families and individuals staying with us while they or a family member is receiving medical care at the U.C. Davis Medical Center or Shriners Hospital for Children - Northern California, they are spread quite thin performing assigned tasks. This is where the volunteers come into the picture and make a major contribution. The critical tasks which the volunteers perform are too numerous to list here but include such things as folding freshly laundered linens, organizing the food lockers which are available to guests, washing windows, performing administrative clerical chores, and keeping the grounds around the facility neat. Currently we have a recent graduate from U.C. Davis assisting our Executive Director in the preparation of applications for grant funding. The diligent work handled by these volunteers frees paid staff to focus on assigned duties and adds the extra touch necessary to keep the entire facility "ship-shape".

In addition to individuals; Kiwanis Clubs; and Kiwanis Service Leadership Program clubs which include the Sacramento State and U.C. Davis "Circle-K Clubs", numerous area High School "Key Clubs", and members from the Orange Grove Aim Higher and Placerville "Aktion Clubs" all volunteer to assist at the facility. The positive contributions made by these groups are beyond calculation. On September 10th of this year a workday was held and in excess of 200 individuals participated for over 4 hours helping to prepare the facility for the coming winter and doing extra general cleaning and organization throughout the property. Included in the volunteers who participated in the September workday were members of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the American Payroll Association and workers from Ace Parking, which was part of the Sacramento Hotel Association's day of outreach.

Although "thank you" seems inadequate in expressing appreciation, "THANK YOU" from the Board of Directors and entire staff to all of the individuals and groups who are able to volunteer their time and talents to work at the Kiwanis Family House. Without all your individual and collective help, the facility could not continue to provide a high level of quality service to guests staying at the facility.

It is heartening to see and experience so many people participating in a cause like the Kiwanis Family House; a cause in which they believe and which has such a positive impact. I hope that my granddaughter's experience with her school "Leadership - Service Council" will be the beginning of a lifelong personal philosophy which includes service to others; service such as that being modeled by all the volunteers who work at the Kiwanis Family House. To quote Stephen R. Covey, "Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on earth".

**Attention Save Mart Shoppers - S.H.A.R.E.S. Cards Are No Longer Valid!**

# SAVE MART SUPERMARKETS

**Save Mart Supermarkets** recently announced that it has partnered with eScrip to manage its S.H.A.R.E.S. charitable giving program. The new **Shares powered by eScrip Program** continues the company's legacy of giving up to 3% of shoppers' eligible purchases to local, community-based organizations. What this means to you is that the S.H.A.R.E.S. card you now have in your wallet, which allows you to give money back from your purchases to Kiwanis Family House, are no longer valid.

But, it's simple to keep giving back to Kiwanis Family House through S.H.A.R.E.S. Just sign up on [www.eScrip.com/shares](http://www.eScrip.com/shares) and choose "Kiwanis Family House" as your charity in order to automatically continue your donations every time you shop. You just need to provide your name, phone number, and email address to get started!

The new program will allow FoodMaxx, Lucky, and Save Mart shoppers like you to see online how much you're donating to Kiwanis Family House. The more you shop, the bigger the contribution we receive!

Please don't delay--remember, the old S.H.A.R.E.S. card program ended on April 1st! WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED DONATIONS, which have totaled over \$21,000 in the last four years!

## Welcome Sponsor Club #106, Santa Maria Valley!

We are very pleased to announce that the Kiwanis Club of Santa Maria Valley in Santa Barbara County has become the 106th Kiwanis Family House Sponsor Club! Our team of club sponsors continues to grow around the District and beyond.

### Our club commits to...

Supporting families  
at Kiwanis Family  
House

We are grateful to Santa Maria Valley Kiwanis leaders for their commitment to the care of families dealing with serious illness and injury, particularly those families from Santa Barbara County who have been - and will be - our guests here at KFH.

#KidsNeedKiwanis



We are ready to add sponsoring club number 107--will your club be the one?

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

- o At least one additional donation or fundraiser on our behalf

If you are a 2016/17 Lieutenant Governor, can you help us locate one club in your Division which is not already a KFH sponsor? Let us know!



# Kiwaniis®

The Kiwanis Club of Rancho Cordova Presents:

**Saturday November 5, 2016**  
**3rd Annual**  
**Glow Ball**

**18-Hole Golf Tournament**

\$45.00 Per Player in advance

\$50.00 at the door

includes:

Glow Balls, Green Fees,

Glow Necklace, and BBQ Dinner

Bradshaw Ranch Golf Course  
 7350 Bradshaw Road  
 Sacramento, CA 95829  
 916-363-6549

Space is limited, so reserve your spot early!



3PM ..... 9 holes golf  
 5pm ..... BBQ dinner  
 6pm ..... 9 holes "GLOW BALL"

Benefitting:

The Kiwanis Family House

The Kiwanis Family House provides temporary housing and support to families of seriously ill or injured children and adults being treated at UC Davis Medical Center & Shriners' Hospital  
 501 (c)(3) Tax id# 68-0016966  
 www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org

Local Youth Scholarships  
Cordova Food Locker

|                                       |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Name on Credit Card _____             | Phone Number _____      |
| Credit Card # _____                   | Exp. Date / CVV # _____ |
| Signature _____                       |                         |
| Phone Number _____                    |                         |
| Number of Golfers _____ @ 45.00 _____ |                         |
| Dinner Only _____ @ \$10.00 _____     |                         |
| Total _____                           |                         |

|                      |
|----------------------|
| Name of Golfer _____ |

For info contact: Nora Stroke 916-225-0136. Detach and mail with payment, to Nora Stroke, P. O. Box 2641, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741. Or scan & email to NStroke@fcusd.org

## Kiwanis Family House Board and Committee Schedule

The Kiwanis Family House Board of Directors has announced a board meeting schedule for the 2016-2017 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 Rae Whitby-Brummer at [raewhitby@aol.com](mailto:raewhitby@aol.com) or (209) 712-2099.

## 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](http://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](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. This is great opportunities for clubs to work side-by-side with their sponsored youth, friends, family members, and membership prospects. Our next workday will be on **Saturday, September 10th**.

## Upcoming Events

**Join us for the following upcoming events:**

KFH Committee Meetings *October 24*

KFH Board Meeting *November 8*

Thanksgiving *November 24*



## Kiwanis Family House 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).

### PRIORITIES

- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Powdered laundry detergent
- Hotel size toiletries (shampoo, soap, etc.)

### GUEST NEEDS

- Bath towels (White 30"x52"), Hand Towels (White 16"x30"), Wash Cloths (White)
- Fitted Twin Bed Sheet Sets (White Cotton only, please)

## OTHER NEEDS

- Disinfectant Wipes (Clorox, Lysol or similar brand)
- Liquid Dish Soap (for hand-washing dishes)
- Unscented liquid Fabric Softener (NO DRYER SHEETS)
- Non-Latex Nitrile Disposable gloves, sizes S, M and L
- Paper Plates, Cups and Bowls
- HOME DEPOT and LOWE'S gift cards
- 9-Volt Batteries
- Hand held electric hair dryers

## Who We Are



Dan Germain,  
Executive Director  
[dgermain@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org](mailto:dgermain@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org)

Charlie Bussey,  
Operations Manager  
[cbussey@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org](mailto:cbussey@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/](http://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



Contact the Editor: Rita Germain | [ritamgermain@gmail.com](mailto:ritamgermain@gmail.com)

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