



September 2016

# House Talk

The official newsletter of Kiwanis Family House

Vol. 17 Issue 03

## Sarah's Boy | Charlie Bussey



This is a story about Sarah, and about her six-year-old special needs son, Jacoby.

Jacoby is non-verbally autistic. He lives with his mother Sarah and seven-month-old sister in a small town in Humboldt County on the northwest coast of California just below the Oregon border. It is about a six-hour drive from Jacoby's house to Sacramento.

Sarah and Jacoby's father are no longer together, and Jacoby spends time at both homes. During the last week of August, Jacoby went to visit his dad. As many children are, Jacoby is attracted to water, and there is a swimming pool where his dad lives. In the

blink of an eye, Jacoby was out of sight and the next thing anybody knew he was face down in the swimming pool. They pulled him out of the pool, administered first aid and waited for the ambulance. Attempts at resuscitation were unsuccessful and Jacoby was placed on life support when the ambulance arrived. A Life Flight helicopter took him to UC Davis Medical Center and Children's Hospital, where he was placed in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) on life support.

When the helicopter took off with Jacoby, Sarah was on board. Her mother, Grandma Cynthia, followed below in the car. With little money and no place to stay in Sacramento, they spent the night at the hospital. The hospital social worker assigned to the PICU called Kiwanis Family House and inquired if we had room available. As it turns out, we did.

After staying for a few days, Grandma Cynthia needed to return home. Before leaving, she asked if it was okay if she contacted merchants in her area for donations of food and supplies for the Family House. We put her in touch with Jim Pell, the Lieutenant Governor-Elect for Division 20 of the Cal-Nev-Ha District of Kiwanis International. Cynthia sent Jim an email,

explaining her situation, and Jim contacted Dan Germain, our executive director. Jim personally pledged to help Jacoby's family and took the matter to his home Kiwanis club, North Coast Kiwanis, which is located in Eureka. The club members agreed with Jim that they wanted to help, and paid for Sarah and Cynthia's entire stay here at Kiwanis Family House.

For the past month, Jacoby has been battling for his life. He is suffering from seizures and has sustained brain damage from the drowning accident.

Sarah and her mother are truly grateful for the support they have received during the most difficult time in their lives. They have told me more than once that they don't know how they would have managed without Kiwanis Family House and the caring Kiwanians who support it.

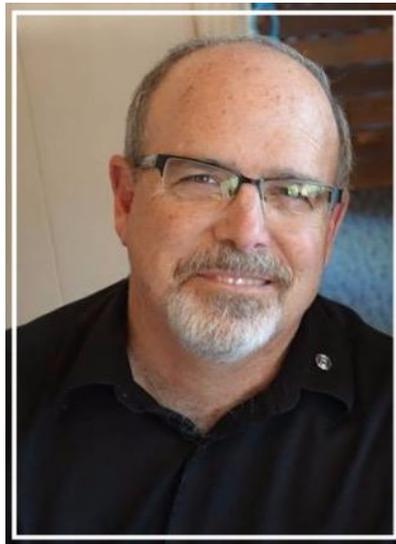
North Coast Kiwanis is one of Kiwanis Family House's 105 Sponsoring Clubs. Their support of Jacoby's family shows that they "get it". While Kiwanis Family House is not physically located in their service area, it is a service project that has a tremendously beneficial impact in their community. We are a global project with a local impact.

## Director's Column | Dan Germain

We love our volunteers...you hear every nonprofit organization say it, but what does it mean?

More than 32 years ago, Kiwanis Family House was started by volunteers-Kiwanians from Divisions 7 and 44 in the Sacramento area. Then, for many years, it was entirely run by volunteers, with no paid hourly staff until moving into the current house, ten years ago. But even with paid staff, there are still many ways in which volunteers make a huge difference even today.

The Board of Directors of Kiwanis Family House is an all-volunteer organization, as are the board committees. These dedicated folks, currently all Kiwanians (although Kiwanis membership is not required to serve on our board), spend countless hours working on the business of Kiwanis Family House. They bring their skills, experience, and energy to many tasks that would not or could not get done by the paid House staff due to limited time and resources. They bring expertise and key contacts in finance, law, human resources, operations, marketing, and many other important areas, which have and will continue to benefit our House immensely.



You will find these dedicated leaders at the House whenever there is a board meeting, committee meeting, workday, or job to be done, whether or not it is a "board responsibility". As an example, our board President, Jim Legler, has been volunteering weekly at the House with another Kiwanian for several years, maintaining the lawns and landscaping between our two big annual workdays. Board member Brian Davin keeps

an overall eye on the landscaping at the House throughout the year, in addition to taking the lead on outdoor projects for our two annual workdays.

Many non-board members also dedicate countless hours of service to our House. Greater Sacramento Kiwanis' Bob Isaacs shops biweekly for our food closet, and if you don't think that's a big job, just ask his wife Ann! East Sacramento's Gary Christensen remains active in marketing and development activities, and you will often see him in the Kiwanis Family House booth with me at conventions and conferences. After retiring from the board in June, my wife Rita continues to volunteer her time as editor of the House Talk newsletter, webmaster, and social media manager. For all of these individuals, as for many of you, volunteering at Kiwanis Family House is a calling that becomes a way of life. And it's a good thing that it does, because this core group of dedicated, sustained volunteers saves the House tens of thousands of dollars annually in landscaping, repair, marketing, and other staff costs. If we had to pay for these services, we would be in an impossible situation, given our other growing costs and stagnant income.

So, why do I tell you all this? Because we can always use more Jims, more Brians, and more Bobs. Do you have an interest in serving the House, and a skill that could be put to good use? Then I'd like to hear from you-drop me a line at [dgermain@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org](mailto:dgermain@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org) or call me at 916.736.0116 and let's talk.

## President's Message | Jim Legler



Following the Annual Meeting for the Kiwanis Family House held in June, a Marketing and Fund Development Survey was sent to Sponsoring Kiwanis Clubs and various other stakeholders. The survey consisted of 20 questions dealing with numerous operational areas but focused mainly on marketing efforts for the facility and fund raising opportunities. The information which was obtained from the survey was extremely valuable and provided the Board of Directors with a barometer with which to measure past performance and also offered the Board valuable information that can be used in the development of a list of potential priority action items to work on during the

coming year. A heartfelt "Thank You" to everyone who was able to take the time to complete the form and return it to us.

The Marketing and Fund Development Survey provided a basis for discussion during recent meetings of both the fundraising "Development Committee" and the "Marketing -Public Relations Committee". Workload items in these two committees along with identified areas of focus in the

other four standing committees of the Board of Directors provide the basis for a very busy year. In addition to developing a new Strategic Plan for the facility to replace the current one which was written almost five years ago, plans call for "tackling" several other critical operational issues. These issues include: updating our Fund Development Plan; preparing a Succession Plan for our management staff; completing work on a new Accounting Policy and Procedure Handbook; and completing work on an updated marketing strategy. (These workload items are in addition to continuing to seek opportunities to enhance our overall service to persons staying at the facility because they have a family member receiving medical treatment at U.C. Davis Medical Center or Shriners Hospital for Children - Northern California.)

The Kiwanis Family House is the product of its supporters and is dependent on maintaining a strong partnership with all components of the Kiwanis organization and other supporters within the community. Feedback from all our supporters is valued and critical to our ongoing ability to provide a high level of service and support to individuals and families in need of our services.

The eleven- member Board of Directors is comprised of individuals with varied experiences and skill sets. Plus we have several non-board members serving on standing committees who have specific expertise and talent which enables them to make valuable contributions. A common denominator each of these individuals' shares is a passion for the Kiwanis Family House and a strong desire to serve. Along with the continued support of all our supporters I have no doubt that this will be successful year; one which strengthens the internal structure of the facility while continuing to provide services that focus on making life just a little easier for individuals and families when they need it most...

Thank you for your support. One can, and does, make a difference...

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

The logo for Save Mart Supermarkets features a large, stylized red letter 'S' on the left. To the right of the 'S', the words 'SAVE MART' are written in a bold, red, sans-serif font on the top line, and 'SUPERMARKETS' is written in the same font on the bottom line.

**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!

## Sponsor Club #106...WE NEED YOU!

In July, the Kiwanis Club of Strathmore became our 105th sponsoring club. We are ready to add sponsoring club number 106--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
  - 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!

### Our club commits to...

Supporting families  
at Kiwanis Family  
House

#KidsNeedKiwanis



## 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!

\*\*\*\*\*

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 [cbusse@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org](mailto:cbusse@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	<i>October 11</i>
KFH Committee Meetings	<i>October 24</i>
KFH Board Meeting	<i>November 8</i>



## 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)

Kiwanis Family House | 2875 50th Street, Sacramento, CA 95817  
Ph. 916.736.0116 | Fax 916.455.7246 | [KFH@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org](mailto:KFH@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org)

Kiwanis Family House, 2875 50th Street, Sacramento, CA 95817

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [kfh@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org](mailto:kfh@kiwanisfamilyhouse.org) in collaboration with



Try it free today