



**“Building our community, one child at a time”**

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## **The Downtowner**

***Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown***

**December 1, 2020**

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### **Region 6 Meeting**

We did not have a monthly club meeting in November. Our November 12 meeting, which was to be held in person, was cancelled due the spike in coronavirus cases. However, on Saturday, November 14, there was a Zoom meeting of Pa. Kiwanis Region 6 that **Enos Martin** and **Tom Harp** participated in. The meeting was chaired by Region 6 Trustee **Mike Coolbaugh**. Pa. District Governor **Don Smith** welcomed everyone, and thanked clubs for supporting the Kiwanis Children’s Fund ELIMINATE project. Don has a goal of building 4 new clubs statewide this year. He urged us to “have fun” this year, despite the pandemic. He suggested that we distribute food to the needy, read virtually to children in classrooms, send cards to the military and those who are shut in, and in the spring plant gardens in the community. He mentioned that some clubs were assembling “flood buckets”, 5-gallon buckets filled with cleaning products, for distribution to areas hit by flooding and other natural disasters. Several speakers followed Don with updates on Key Clubs, Circle K Clubs, and other Service Leadership Programs in the state. We then heard from **Michele Baehr**, Executive Director of the Greater Northeast Pa. Chapter of the American Red Cross. The Red Cross provides 40% of blood supply to hospitals. One unit of blood can save 3 people! They also deploy Disaster Action Teams after fires and natural disasters to provide financial support for the first 3-5 days after an incident. They provide free smoke detectors with 10-year lithium batteries to any household that needs one. They also provide fire survival training to elementary school children. And they regularly provide free CPR and AED training in the community. Michele’s presentation was very enlightening. The last session this editor attended was with **Tiffany Callaio**, District Membership Chair. She reported that Kiwanis International has 183,759 members globally, with 3,042 members in Pennsylvania. There are 155 clubs in our state. There was a 5.26 % decline in membership last year, but so far this year membership is rising.

## Raub Food Donations



**Lots of Food from Weis**



**Ricki, Terry and Enos Filling Boxes**

On November 20, **Enos Martin, Ricki Stringfellow, Terry Kennedy** and **Tom Harp** boxed up Thanksgiving meals for 10 critically needy families of Raub Middle School students. The morning started with Enos and Tom loading up groceries at the Weis Market on N. Cedar Crest Boulevard in Allentown. The manager there, **Tim Genua** was a joy to work with. He gathered all of the food ahead of time, including 12-15 lb. Weis Quality frozen turkeys, stuffing, dried mashed potatoes and rice, canned sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, green beans and corn, microwavable soups and mac and cheese, bottled apple juice and water, and chocolate and vanilla cake mixes with frosting. We loaded up Enos' son's pickup truck and headed to the Raub Middle School, where Ricki and Terry helped us unload the food. We were assisted by **Jackie Hudak** and **Izzy Vasquez**, Community School Coordinators at Raub. Later, **Principal Jose Delgado** stopped by to thank us for our service to the Raub community. It was a good feeling packing the boxes with enough food to feed a family of 4-6 for not just a Thanksgiving meal, but several after that. We later learned that 14 adults and 33 children were directly impacted by this donation. We spent around \$800 on this food purchase from the Kiwanis Children's Fund grant our club received this year. We will use the balance of the \$2,000 grant to purchase non-perishable food items to help stock up the Raub Middle School pantry for the winter months ahead. Raub is a school whose families are in deep poverty. It is good to know that these funds will benefit dozens of needy families, thanks to Kiwanis!



**Raub Middle School Pantry**

## Judith Chase Memorial Bench



Our plans were to officially dedicate the **Judith Chase Memorial Bench** at the LVCC South Mountain Center on November 20. Regrettably, that event had to be cancelled due to a COVID-19 incident at the center, resulting in a shut down until after Thanksgiving. The bench was installed in front of the building, and a photo of it was shared with our membership and Judy's family. It is a sturdy park bench that will be enjoyed by families of children enrolled in the center for many years to come. We would like to thank the Kiwanis Foundation of Allentown, and all individuals who donated towards the purchase of the bench. Judy was a wonderful woman, a pioneer in the field of quality early childhood education, and a 15 year member of our club. This small gesture on our part will commemorate our relationship with Judy, and how much we respected her.

## Holiday Hope Chests



Throughout the month of November, 12 members of our club assembled "Holiday Hope Chests", shoeboxes filled with small gifts to be donated to the Volunteer Center of The Lehigh Valley. The 22 boxes our members donated will be distributed to children at a variety of local non-profit organizations. We would like to THANK **Joyce Crosby, Deirdre Govan, Belinda Gray, Tom & Peg Harp, Terry Kennedy, Bob Krupka, Deb Lamb, Enos & Susan Martin, Todd Siegfried** and **Ricki Stringfellow** for their generous donations. The gift boxes were dropped off at Tom's house, and he will be delivering them to the Volunteer Center drop-off site this week. They will brighten the day of many children during this trying holiday season.

We are pleased to report that the Salisbury High School Key Club took our lead, are donating 33 Holiday Hope Chests of their own. Wow! Thanks to **Emily Paulik**, Key Club Secretary and **Barry Frick**, Faculty Advisor for taking the lead in organizing this initiative.

## Foundation Grant Awards Meeting

This coming **Friday, December 4**, at **12 noon** we will be hosting a Zoom meeting to recognize 12 non-profit organizations that received grants from our Foundation this year. Representatives of each of the grantees will join us to provide updates on their programs, and how our grant will benefit children enrolled in those programs. Last month, we listed those organizations, which include:

- Boys and Girls Club of Allentown – “Make Your M.A.R.K.” Program
- Community Music School – Music Instruction Scholarships
- Greater Valley YMCA, Allentown – Allentown Area Meals Program
- HADC YouthBuild – Funding for iPad Laptops
- Lehigh Christian Academy – TouchMath Rtl Learning Assistance Program
- Lehigh County Historical Society – Funding for Student Field Trips, Museum Admissions and History Books
- Lehigh Valley Children’s Centers – STEM “Mad Science” Program
- Minsi Trails Boy Scouts Council – Funding for Virtual Scouting Programs
- Pratyush Sinha Foundation – Yoga and Mindfulness Classes for Allentown Youth
- Salvation Army, Allentown Corps – Backpacks with School Supplies
- SATORI – “Gift of Music” Instrument Donation Program
- St. Luke’s VNA – Books for Parents on Preventing Child Abuse

Foundation President **Bob Ashcraft** will chair the meeting and introduce the grant recipients. Checks were already sent out to the non-profits. But we are excited to see all of them at one meeting, albeit virtually. So please plan to attend our meeting this Friday! Peg will send out instructions on how to “Zoom in.”

## LVCC Virtual Christmas Party!



Since 2006, our club has sponsored a Christmas Party for pre-school children enrolled in Lehigh Valley Children’s Centers classrooms. Initially, the parties were held in the banquet room at the Allentown Brew Works, and only included about 20 children from the Walnut Street Center. For entertainment, we hired a magician, treated the children to lunch and a visit with Santa, and provided each with a gift. In 2013, we moved the party to the LVCC South Mountain Center and invited three Allentown centers - South Mountain, Walnut Street and the Early Learning Center. Instantly, the party grew from a modest 20-30 children to over 170! Every year, volunteers from our club, and the Allen HS Key Club have helped out at the parties by preparing and serving lunch, providing goodie bags and presents to the children, and arranging for Santa to spend time with

each child. Last year's party was the best ever, as LVCC arranged for a professional photographer to take individual photos of the children on Santa's lap that they were able to take home to their parents. But alas, 2020 brought a global pandemic, and the need to eliminate large gatherings in person. Our solution this year is to participate in a **Virtual Christmas Party**, which is scheduled for **Friday, December 11** from **10-11 AM**. LVCC will arrange for the Zoom classroom visits. Each classroom has a "smart white board" that the children can huddle in front of. Plans are to have the children engaged in a story book reading, a scavenger hunt, and a sing-along, followed by a virtual visit by Santa from his workshop on the North Pole! We will still be treating the children to a chicken nugget lunch by dropping off food at the LVCC commissary at South Mountain. It will be prepared in their kitchen and shipped out to all of the centers for the children to enjoy. This year, the LVCC Union Boulevard Center will be included in the party. Our members, as well as those from the Allentown Northeast Kiwanis Club will be invited to attend. You will be provided with Zoom codes prior to the event. We encourage you to join us in the book reading and sing-along. The children will be thrilled to see us, and vice-versa. We are also arranging to give each child a book as a present at the end of the party. So please plan to take just an hour of your time to join us at the party. **HO-HO-HO!**

## Salvation Army Bell-Ringing



For many years, our club has sent volunteers to the Lehigh Valley Mall to ring the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive. This year is complicated. However, we would like to continue our tradition of supporting the Salvation Army's biggest fundraiser of the year. This year, our club is scheduled to ring the bell at the inside entrance to Macy's at the Lehigh Valley Mall on **Saturday, December 12 from 10 AM – 8 PM**. We have typically done 1 ½ hour shifts. Tom Harp has sent out an e-mail requesting volunteers for these time slots. We will be wearing masks and maintaining social distance from the donation kettle. So please consider volunteering for this great cause. Like the Salvation Army, we in Kiwanis are "Doing the Most Good."

## A Glance Into Our Past

### ***100 Years Ago – December 1920***

On December 29, Philadelphia Mayor J. Hampton Moore and Philadelphia Solicitor David Smyth and their wives traveled to Allentown in a howling snow storm to attend the Kiwanis Club's Ladies' Night at the Hotel Allen. A large crowd heard addresses by both Mayor Moore and Solicitor Smyth prior to entertainment by Miss Mona LaMar and "Her Million Dollar Dancing Dolls." The attendees spent the remainder of the evening dancing the night away.

### **75 Years Ago – December 1945**

On December 24, the Club hosted 600 children at the Earle Theater. The children were treated to a show and were each given candy, fruit, nuts and a Christmas gift. The gifts were wrapped by Boy and Girl Scouts sponsored by Kiwanis. Included with the gifts were 100 pairs of shoes for the underprivileged children.

### **50 Years Ago – December 1970**

The Club had 201 members at the end of December 1970. An astounding 34 of those members achieved perfect attendance for the entire year during a time when the club met every Thursday at noon with one member having had perfect attendance for 36 consecutive years! Eight members were recognized for having been members for over 25 years.

### **25 Years Ago – December 1995**

Despite a nasty snow storm on December 16, the Club hosted over 200 children at the Hispanic Children's Christmas Party at Alliance Hall. Four days later, 15 members packed 836 boxes of food at the Salvation Army for distribution to needy families.

- **Enos Martin**

## **Upcoming Meetings and Activities**

**SERVICE PROJECT – LVCC Virtual Christmas Party, December 11, 10-11 AM**

**SERVICE PROJECT – Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell-Ringing at the LV Mall. Saturday, December 12 from 10 AM to 8 PM. Macy's indoor entrance.**

**MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, December 4, 12 Noon, Annual Foundation Grant Awards "Luncheon" on Zoom**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, December 30, 5 PM. Zoom Video Conference.**



### **December Birthdays**



**20 – John Stoffa**

**25 – Deirdre Govan**

**29 – Joyce Crosby**

**31 – Enos Martin**

**Merry**  
**Christmas**