



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

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## **The Downtowner**

*Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown*

**November 1, 2023**

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### **October 12 Meeting**



**Dr. Troutman**

The speaker at our October 12 meeting was **Dr. Jacob Troutman**, a Pediatric Oncologist on the Board of Directors of **ThinkBIG**. That non-profit organization was founded in 2014 to help local pediatric cancer patients and their families with the financial burdens associated with their diagnosis. Since its inception, ThinkBIG has allocated more than \$1.3 million worth of financial support to over 225 families. That support included payment of rent, heating bills, funeral expenses, and other items associated with children's medical expenses. During the holiday season, a \$250 Weis Markets gift certificate is given to the families. ThinkBIG currently serves 28 counties, mainly in Northeast and Central Pennsylvania. In the Lehigh Valley, they have provided services to 11 families in Lehigh County and 3 families in Northampton County. ThinkBIG is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Board meets monthly to

review applications, which are approved based on family income, size, and employment status. They are in the process of hiring a full time employee for fundraising, marketing, and administrative purposes. Dr. Troutman shared comments from several families that have benefitted from their services. He suggested ways that volunteers can help out, including fundraising, helping out at events, and by donating on their website, [www.thinkbigpa.org](http://www.thinkbigpa.org).



**Karen and Bob**

After dinner, Division 17/18 Lt. Governor **Bob Moran** conducted the installation of officers and Board of Directors for the 2023-24 administrative year. **Karen Baker** was installed as Vice-President, **Enos Martin** as Treasurer and **Peg Harp** as Secretary. **Deb Lamb** was installed as a Board member. We thank these members who will serve as our club's leadership in the year ahead.

## 2023 Rose Sale



We enjoyed pleasant, nearly summer-like weather on October 26 for the delivery of our annual Rose Sale orders. **Tom Harp** met the driver from Ziegers Wholesale Florists at 4 AM at his garage. By 7 AM, members of the Allentown Northeast and Emmaus Kiwanis Clubs stopped by for their orders. Our club sold 90 dozen roses, Allentown Northeast sold 110 dozen, and Emmaus 70 dozen. **Deb Lamb** and **Enos Martin** helped box our orders for pickup and delivery. Enos then traveled to Raub Middle School where he dropped off 10 dozen roses donated by our members, for the Buiders Club to sell individually as a fundraiser. He also dropped off 30 dozen roses at the Southern Lehigh High School for the Key Club there to sell. Our club profitted approximately \$665 from the sale! We would like to thank everyone who bought and sold roses, and who helped with their delivery. And special thanks to **Peg Harp** for coordinating this year's sale.

## Holiday Hope Chests



Our community service project for November is to assemble gift boxes to be donated to needy children under the annual Holiday Hope Chest campaign. This year, we are donating gifts specifically to children enrolled in the Salvation Army Foster Care & Adoption Services. Their request is for 15 gift boxes for younger children in their program, and 3 gift cards for those ages 13 and above. Already **Tom & Peg Harp, Enos & Susan Martin, Terry Kennedy, Young Chang, Joyce Crosby, Deb Lamb, Kathryn Best, Ricki Stringfellow** and **Karen Baker** have volunteered to donate gift boxes or cards. We will be filling up shoe boxes with a variety of small gift items. They will be delivered to the agency on December 6. This is a wonderful project that is fun to do! As of this publication, there is still one gift box and one gift card available for donation by our members.

## Foundation Grant Awards

Our Foundation Board of Trustees has awarded a total of \$10,000 in grants to non-profit organizations that serve children and families in our community. This year, we received 14 applications for funding, and awarded grants to the following applicants:

- Boys and Girls Club of Allentown – “Make Your M.A.R.K.” Program
- Community Action Lehigh Valley – Funding for a Mural at the Sixth Street Shelter
- Community Music School – Music Instruction Scholarships
- Lehigh Christian Academy – Purchase of Hovercam Document Cameras
- Lehigh County Historical Society - Children's field trips, tickets, giveaways and in-school programs
- Minsi Trails Boy Scouts Council – “Scouting for Food” Campaign
- Phantoms Charities – Equipment for Sled Hockey Program
- Pratyush Sinha Foundation - Mindful Child Initiative (MCI) Classes
- Salvation Army, Allentown Corps – “Back to School” Backpacks
- SATORI – “Gift of Music” Instrument Donation Program
- St. Luke’s VNA - Books for Child Abuse Awareness Month
- The Kindness Project – Purchase of Foster Care Supplies

We congratulate these organizations for earning grant awards, and appreciate the important work they do for disadvantaged children and families. They will be recognized, and receive their grant checks at our annual **Foundation Grant Awards Luncheon** at the Shanty on 19<sup>th</sup> on **Thursday, December 7** from **12:00 PM to 1:30 PM**. Please be sure to save that date on your calendar!

## Service Leadership Programs



We continue our efforts to cultivate the development of Service Leadership Programs (SLP's) in the Allentown School District and beyond. The Key Clubs that we sponsor are all up and running. The Allen HS Key Club has been meeting and is looking forward to helping out at our annual LVCC Christmas Party on December 15. The Southern Lehigh HS Key Club is one of the largest in our area. They have numerous service projects scheduled, and just participated in our Rose Sale by selling roses at the school as a fundraiser for the club. The Salisbury HS Key Club has registered for the Holiday Hope Chests campaign, selecting the Valley Youth House as the beneficiary of their gifts. We are following up with the Allentown Central Catholic HS Key Club for a report on their activities. And **Karen Baker**, our advisor to the Brandywine Heights HS Key Club will be attending their meeting on November 8.

The Raub Middle School Builders Club continues to flourish. They meet every other week, and just completed a service project where they decorated cookies given to support staff at the school. We donated 10 dozen roses to the Builders Club, which they sold individually as a fundraiser. Our Foundation has purchased t-shirts for their members. They are trying to add members through word of mouth and school publicity.



We are following through with **Randy Buck** of the Allentown School District to set up a Zoom meeting with principals of several elementary and middle schools in the district to promote the development of SLP's at those schools.

## November 9 Dinner Meeting

In an effort to diversify our club's membership, we are welcoming individuals with disabilities to join us. Our very special speaker at the November 9 dinner meeting at the Shanty on 19<sup>th</sup> will be **Denise Brown**, Regional Director of the Pennsylvania Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Denise herself is deaf, and will have an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter with her. We have also invited **Jerry Latchic**, an individual with severe hearing loss to attend as our guest. This meeting will be informative as well the kickoff of an effort to recruit new members from our local disability community. Please plan to attend!

## **A Glance Into Our Past**

### **100 Years Ago – November 1923**

At the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Hotel Allen, dentist A. H. Jelly spoke on the health of teeth with an address titled “The Importance of Saving the Six-Year Molar”. Dr. Jelly indicated that biting thread and cracking nuts with your teeth had ill effects on the health of your teeth. Dr. Jelly contended that these practices by individuals was one of the leading contributors to abscesses. (Note: As you can tell, it was a slow month in the club’s history.)

### **75 Years Ago – November 1948**

The Club assumed sponsorship of a little-known aspect of Boy Scouts. The Sacred Heart Parish organized an Air Scout Squadron in 1948. This little-known Boy Scout program existed between 1941-1949. The squadron met in a Quonset hut in River Front Park along the Lehigh River. The squadron had 23 members and unfortunately had a short-lived existence. The program was established during World War II. The hope was to provide training in flying. In 1949, the program was renamed the Air Explorers and this program only lasted until 1965 in the Boy Scouting curriculum.

### **50 Years Ago – November 1973**

The average attendance at the four official club meeting for the month was 77 out of a total membership of 115. Twenty-five club members took over the Thanksgiving Day delivery of Meals on Wheels to give the regular drivers the day off. This was the third year that Kiwanis provided this relief to the regular volunteers. The Club participated in four inter-clubs with Allentown Northeast, Easton, Allentown-Salisbury, and Whitehall. Unfortunately, the last two clubs no longer exist.

### **25 Years Ago – November 1998**

Representative Paul McHale, 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, addressed the Club at the Allentown Hilton Hotel. His topic of discussion was the impeachment of President Clinton. McHale reflected on his six years as a representative in Washington. He chose not to run for a fourth term and the election saw Pat Toomey chosen to succeed McHale. Toomey later would successfully run as one of Pennsylvania’s two US Senators.

- **Enos Martin**

## **Upcoming Meetings and Activities**

**MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, November 9, 6:00 PM (Social Hour from 5-6 PM) at the Shanty on 19<sup>th</sup>. Speaker will be Denise Brown, Director, Allentown District Office, Pa. Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.**

**SERVICE PROJECT – Holiday Hope Chests! Deadline of December 6.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Thursday, November 30, 5 PM on Zoom.**



## **November Birthdays**



- 9 - Cindy Ashcraft**
- 13 - Ricki Stringfellow**
- 14 - Kathryn Best**
- 16 - Deb Lamb**
- 19 - Tom Harp**
- 21 - Terry Kennedy**



- **Tom Harp, Editor**