



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

April 1, 2024

March 14 Meeting



Dana Zamolyi

Our March 14 dinner meeting at the Shanty on 19th featured two speakers from Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley, **Dana Zamolyi**, Health Center Coordinator, and **Meghan Baker**, Director of Advancement. Club VP **Karen Baker** served as program chair and introduced the speakers. Turning Point’s mission is to eliminate domestic and intimate partner abuse, and to empower the survivor. Since it was founded in 1978, Turning Point has served more than 100,000 victims of domestic abuse. In 2023, a total of 3,480 survivors and their children received services. They also answered 3,447 calls on their 24/7 Helpline. Last year, over 12,000 hours of counseling was provided in person, virtually, and over the phone. Turning Point housed 40 domestic survivors in their Transitional Housing Program. They offer legal services to their clients, and training

programs to organizations in the community. 75% of their funding is from government grants. The balance comes from private donations and special events. They raise money through annual appeals and fundraisers, like their annual Holiday Gift Card Drive. They need volunteers for their Helpline, to act as mentors and “ambassadors,” and groups to deliver meals and other tasks. Turning Point provides critical services to victims of domestic abuse. We are interested in building a relationship with them in the year ahead.

Putting Fundraiser



Deb and Young Showing off Their Putting Skills!

On March 10, our club held its first unique fundraiser in many years, a Putting Contest at the HiJinx Brewing Company Ruppssville Rd. location. Although turnout for the event was less than hoped for, those who attended had a great time! Several members of our club, including **Bob Ashcraft** and his extended family, and a couple of Kiwanians from other clubs in our Division, tried their hand at putting on our indoor mat. In the end, we raised \$90 for our club’s treasury. **Young Chang** won the 50/50 drawing. He promptly returned half of his winnings as a donation to the club. Thank you, Young! **Deb Lamb** won the HiJinx gift basket, and **Amy Harpster** of HiJinx won the trophy for most putts made. **Curt Keck**, owner of HiJinx enjoyed the experience as well, and offered to host this fundraiser any time in the future. We look forward to doing this again, perhaps in the evening.

Read Across Pennsylvania



On March 11, our club participated in “Read Across Pennsylvania” week by volunteering to read to 15 children enrolled in the LVCC after-school program at Muhlenberg Elementary School in Allentown. We would like to thank **Deb Lamb**, **Joyce Crosby**, **Karen Baker**, and **Dierdre Govan** for spending quality time with the children and reading

to them in groups. Each child was able to take home the book they read. And, we treated them to a snack afterwards! It was a rewarding experience for young and old.



Earth Day Service Projects



We hope that several volunteers from our club will join us on **Saturday, April 20** to help with a couple of community service projects to celebrate "Earth Day." From 9 am to 12 noon, you can help with the "West End Earth Day Clean Up" in the West End Theatre District of Allentown. Meet at the War Memorial on the SE corner of 19th and Allen Streets. Supplies will be provided. Also that day, we will be helping out with the initial phases of a mosaic to be installed outside the Family Resource Center at the Sixth Street Shelter, 219 N. Sixth Street, Allentown. Our Foundation provided them with a \$1,000 grant to purchase materials for the mosaic. Details regarding this activity will follow. But for now, please consider penciling in April 20 to volunteer for either of these projects.

Service Leadership Programs

We are extremely proud and honored to announce that for the first time in decades, our club is sponsoring a new Key Club, at **Lehigh Christian Academy (LCA)** in Allentown! We submitted a petition on behalf of LCA to Kiwanis International, and it was approved

on March 11, 2024. We now have the charter kit and Key Club banner for LCA, and they are in the process of scheduling a chartering ceremony at the school this month. As the sponsoring Kiwanis Club, we will be invited to attend. The LCA Key Club has elected officers, and has already staged a couple of service projects, including the donation of over 1,000 batteries for the homeless population in Allentown, and sending out Easter greeting cards to residents of a local nursing home. **Jeremy Kappes** has volunteered to be the faculty advisor of their Key Club. Congratulations, Lehigh Christian Academy for joining over 1,800 Key Clubs in the Pennsylvania Kiwanis District!

Enos Martin reports that the Raub Middle School Builders Club filled 7" plastic Easter eggs with candy and small toys that were donated to 12 residents of the Phoebe Home. Both the residents and members of the club were touched by this gesture. For the first time, the Raub Builders Club will be featured in the school yearbook. And, members of the club plan to volunteer to clean up the campus for Earth Day. The Raub Builders Club has only 10-12 members. They are small but mighty!

Other Club News

- We continue to prepare for our **14th Annual LVCC Picnic**, to be held on **May 23** at the Allentown Rose Garden Pavilions in Allentown. There will be a Zoom meeting with LVCC staff and our volunteers on Tuesday, April 9 at 2 PM to focus in final plans for the event. Let President Tom know if you would like to participate. Allentown Mayor Matt Tuerk plans to once again stop by at the picnic, and we have invited Allentown School District Superintendent Dr. Carol Birks to join us as well.
- A reminder – we have reserved a Dugout Suite for our annual “**Allentown Kiwanis Day at the IronPigs**” game on **Sunday, June 9, 1:35 PM** versus the Buffalo Bisons. There will be an early Father’s Day Celebration at the ballpark, with a bucket hat giveaway for men. Get your reservations in early!
- Our Club and Foundation has pledged \$15,000 over 5 years to sponsor an exhibit at the new **Da Vinci Center** in downtown Allentown. We will be invited to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the center on May 21. Details to follow!

A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – April 1924

Allentown Mayor Malcolm W, Gross, an honorary member of the Allentown Kiwanis Club, addressed the Club on April 24 with a presentation on the Allentown Park System. Gross served as mayor for 12 years from 1920-1932. Due to health issues, he declined to run in 1931 for a fourth consecutive term. After his recovery, he ran successfully and served four more years from 1936-1940. Mayor Gross worked closely with General Harry Trexler to create the Allentown Park System. His leadership led to the purchase of land to establish the Rose Garden, the Lehigh Parkway, and Cedar Creek Park (the location of our LVCC spring picnic). During his second term, he began the effort to convert General Trexler’s summer home, Springwood, in to the Trexler Memorial Park. In 1948, Allentown renamed the Rose Garden to the Malcolm W, Gross Memorial Rose Garden. His son

John “Jack” Gross served as mayor from 1960-64. His grandson Malcolm W. Gross established the highly successful law firm of Gross McGinley & McGinley located on South 7th Street.

75 Years Ago – April 1949

The second annual Allentown Kiwanis Sports and Hobby Show took place on April 6-10 at the Fair Grounds Grandstand Building. Despite this location being three times the size of the Armory (location of the initial show), all space was sold out for the show. More than 1,000 people attended the opening night which included similar displays and activities as in 1948. A matinee cooking show was added to the second day and a matinee fashion show to the third day to attract women. Chief Crazy Bull, grandson of Chief Sitting Bull, entertained the children during the first day. Over 25,000 people attended the event and the Club raised over \$1,500 for its youth programs.

50 Years Ago – April 1974

The Club’s Foundation announced grants to Casa Guadalupe (\$300), Little Le-Hi Trout Nursery (\$500), Fund for Caboose Fire Victims’ Families (\$300), Public Health Nurse Library and visual aids (\$2,500), ABE (now Lehigh Valley) Airport Chapel (\$1,500), LARC (now VIA) Building Fund (\$500), and Casa Guadalupe camperships (\$300). The Caboose Bar Fire occurred on March 23, 1974, when a gasoline can was ignited and tossed into the crowded bar located at 128 N 6th Street. Nine people were killed and a dozen injured as a result of the fire.

25 Years Ago – April 1999

The Club’s archives do not include any information on the activities in April 1999.

- **Enos Martin**

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, April 11, 6:00 PM (Social Hour from 5-6 PM), Shanty on 19th. Speaker will be State Senator Nick Miller. Interclub with Allentown Northeast and Emmaus Kiwanis Clubs

SERVICE PROJECTS – Saturday, April 20, “Earth Day” Projects. 9 AM – West End Cleanup. Also, mosaic project at Sixth Street Shelter.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Thursday, April 28, 5 PM on Zoom.



April Birthdays



NONE!

April Club Anniversaries

Deirdre Govan - 7 years
Minsi Trails Boy Scouts Council - 5 years



- *Tom Harp, Editor*