

# KIWANIGRAM

The monthly newsletter of the

# KIWANIS CLUB of SKIDAWAY



**AUGUST 2007**

## *President's Corner*

*Keith Glenn*

Service clubs, such as Kiwanis, are having difficulty attracting and retaining members. It is not totally clear to me why. It could be the changes in our society have diverted our attention and diminished the time for these service activities. What ever the reason, it certainly is not a diminished need for assistance to the children of our community. While government has a role in solving these problems, its rigidity makes it both inefficient and too often ineffective in dealing with the problems. Private Service organizations such as Kiwanis are infinitely well equipped to fill the gaps and holes in the systems. While we provide great service to Savannah we are resources limited.



The Kiwanis International Convention emphasized the need to grow the Kiwanis Membership. The goal remains a million members by our 100 anniversary in 2015. That is a three to four fold increase over the current membership. Is this a realistic goal? Certainly not if we continue to do things the same way; we need to do something different – but what? The only way to achieve this important goal is to build new clubs.

Our club was started with help from the Savannah down town club. Their efforts have added something over 150 members, a three to four fold increase over their membership. We could do the same for the Pooler area by helping to start a club. Dick Schomaker has agreed to lead that effort with help from Hazel Brown. They will need help and your volunteering is essential. Please contact Dick or Hazel and let's get started on this important effort.

## *Park Place Outreach*

### *Youth Emergency Shelter*

by Dana Taylor

If you have visited Brighter Day, the health foods store at the south end of Forsyth Park, you have been within a few hundred feet of Park Place Outreach, the Youth Emergency Shelter. Walking out the front door of Brighter Day places you just across the street from the park. Turn left and walk a few feet to Bull Street.



On the other side of Bull the first couple of lots on the left side of West Park Avenue are empty. Beyond those lots you see an ancient, tired looking, white house. You do not have to be an architect to know the old place has been there for more than a century.

You are looking at the present home of Park Place Outreach. Having seen the place I feel better knowing early next year it is to be replaced by a somewhat larger facility a third of a mile to the east, on East Henry Street. However the name Park Place Outreach will not be changed.

Park Place Outreach has been in operation for more than twenty years, offering emergency shelter to kids between the ages of 11 and 17 who, for various reasons have no place else to go. They come from a variety of sources. Many are already in the system, and are referred by agencies such as the Department of Family and Children's Services and the Department of Juvenile Justice. A few are walk-ins who have run out of other options. Some are referred by family or friends. However they arrive, the shelter's doors are open to them seven – twenty-four – 365 days a year.

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Presidents Corner

Along with starting new Kiwanis Clubs for adults; we need to lead our area in starting and supporting the youth organizations that will grow future Kiwanis members. Kiwanis offers youth clubs starting at the Elementary School and progressing to College. The children involved in these organizations can be the service volunteers of the future. Your involvement can service a role model for growing the next generation of citizens with an appreciation for the need to help the less fortunate in our community. More on this subject will be coming in the near future.

The last thing we must do is continue to grow our club. We have 25 new members in this Kiwanis year with 3 known losses due to moves and other factors.

You will very soon receive your notice of membership renewal, please complete it and continue with your help for the kids. Next, do a friend a favor by inviting them to a meeting. If everyone brought one prospective member to a meeting we would grow our club substantially and think what we could do for the kids.

We have sufficient numbers of members to do what we do - but we do not have enough members to do what needs to be done.

Kiwanis SpeakersJuly 5, 2007

Tom Sharp and Jerry Loupee appeared before the Club on July 5 to explain their roles in assisting National Guard and Reserve soldiers to return to their former employer.



The United Service Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act guarantees that the soldier may return to his former employer and receive equivalent treatment to what he or she would have received had they not been called to active duty.

Kiwanis SpeakerJuly 12, 2007

Police Major Gerry Long substituted for Police Chief Michael Berkow at the Club meeting on July 12. A 25 year veteran in the Savannah Police Department was recently promoted to major. Her p r i o r responsibilities i n c l u d e d



commander of the downtown precinct since 2000. Prior responsibilities included organizing the security plans for the annual St, Patrick's Day celebration and the G-8 Sea Island Summit three summers ago.

At Park Place Outreach the kids find shelter, a clean bed, three meals a day and a caring and understanding staff that will work with them and try to help them sort out their problems. School attendance is required, counseling is provided, and health education is stressed. The families of the young people are contacted, and efforts are made to reunite the youth with their families. When this proves impossible, they may be referred to other agencies that can provide for long-term care.

The shelter's facilities are limited. At the West Park Avenue house there is room for only six boys and six girls, with the boys and girls occupying separate sleeping quarters on the second floor. The new Henry Street location will have capacity for eight boys and eight girls. Yet even sixteen is such a small number, and there are so many kids that need help. Clearly the ones who get to Park Place Outreach have to be moved on fairly quickly, be it to a foster home, a Bethesda, or whatever. This is just an emergency shelter - a temporary stop in their young lives.

In preparing to write this article I interviewed a young woman who was one of the shelter's success stories. Call her "Jane," although that is not her real name.

Jane's mother brought her to the shelter the day before Thanksgiving last fall. Jane had been living with her mother, but the scene was one of mounting conflict and was ready to collapse. Jane's problems spilled over into school, where she was also doing poorly. The people at the shelter, who pledge that they will never turn a child away, admitted Jane.

A little bit at a time over the following days Jane shared her story with the other teenagers at Park Place Outreach. None of them sided with her. She talked with a house parent and a counselor at the shelter. They asked her questions about her relationship with her mother and her problems at school. At first Jane tried to put all the blame on her mother. But that quickly became uncomfortable for her. In her heart she was not proud of what honest answers would have revealed.

Jane is a bright girl. It did not take her long to start to realize that she was the one who was out of step. Reconciliation with her mother and a return to home soon followed. The grades have also improved. I asked her what she thought of Park Place Outreach now that she is back with her Mom. Her reply; "They really made me change. All I have to say is that I am a better person now."

Park Place Outreach receives financial support from Kiwanis of Skidaway, and two Skidaway Kiwanians are directly involved with the organization. Bob Egan is the shelter's President and Jack Hart serves on its board of directors. Hart also serves as liaison between the Kiwanis Club and the shelter.

### **Board of Directors— July, 2007**

Keith Glenn and Joyce Glenn (non-voting) and Erv Hietbrink represented our Club at the International Convention at San Antonio, Texas on July 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, and both described the business of the Convention for our Board. Members from over 1000 Kiwanis Clubs were there, with 3500 voting delegates, and 6000 total attendees.

Those at the meeting of July 12<sup>th</sup> will remember Mr. Glenn's report, and his description of the resolution approved, allowing the International Board five years of time to come up with new forms of membership and service, without approval of the general membership. The issue of membership is uppermost in all levels of Kiwanis.

Our Board, acting on V.P. Service, Gary Bocard's recommendation, approved 17 agencies for the Club's direct funding at a cost of about \$75,000, along with contributions for Dollars for Doers, and charities for the Georgia District (state) and Kiwanis International, bringing the total to \$82,000 for the year 2007-8.

Mr. Glenn asked Pete Liptrot and Frank Zugel to follow up with members on the renewal of membership for 2007-8.

Letters

(No letters to the Editor received this month.)

Letters to the Editor may be faxed (912-598-5103), e-mailed (kiwanigram@bellsouth.net) or mailed (c/o Dana Taylor, 1 Crape Myrtle Court, Savannah, GA 31411). We reserve the right to edit submitted letters.

**Advertise in the  
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Get the word out to potential customers, clients, partners, or whomever. Advertise in the Kiwanigram.

The member price? Starts at \$100 per year for a one column inch advertisement (about 3½ square inches based on present Kiwanigram format) that will appear monthly.

Contact Dana Taylor, 598-8065, Vern Kaskey, 598-8641 or Don Kipp, 598-7530

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**KIWANIS CLUB of SKIDAWAY**

KIWANIS CLUB OF SKIDAWAY, 600 Landings Way South, Savannah, GA 31411, Publisher  
DANA TAYLOR, Editor  
Web site, <http://www.kiwanisofskidaway.com> - (Members, Contact Richard Watters or Melissa Emery for ID and Password)  
Officers and Directors, Committee Chairs and Other Contacts:  
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President-Elect - Ervin Hietbrink  
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VP-Fund Raising - Bill Wright  
VP/Recording Secretary - Richard Shomaker  
VP/Administrative Secretary - Richard Watters  
Treasurer - Harry Krogh  
Past President - Thomas Rood  
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Thomas Sharp  
terms expiring 2008  
Don Kipp  
Robert Caswell  
terms expiring 2009  
Gary Brewer  
Frank Zugel  
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Administration:  
Attendance Reception - Jack Hart  
Attendance Records - Gary Brewer  
Awards - Pat Cummiskey  
District/Division Reports - Frank Zugel  
Inter-Club - Jim Chapman  
Kiwaniogram - Dana Taylor  
Kiwanis Education/ Orientation - Ervin Hietbrink  
Membership - Ron Morris  
Programs/Speakers - Will Weeks  
Legends of Golf - Dave Smith  
Fund raising events:  
Chile Cook-Off - Gene McDonald, Terry Overton  
Concert on the Green - Chris Williams  
Pancake Breakfast - Skip Salus, Chris Aiken  
Corporate Fund Raising - Emerson Ham

Services—Community:  
Community in Schools - Joyce Glenn  
Dollars for Doers - Bruce Powley  
Habitat for Humanity - Frank Guy, Bob Yeomans  
Interfaith Hospitality Network - Mark Forssell  
Juvenile Court - Chuck Ortmann  
Kids Café - Gary Bocard  
Library for the Blind - Dave Wyland  
Med Bank - Emmet Casey  
Mediation Center - Dick Watters  
Outstanding Citizen - Sid Carr  
Pediatric Oncology Support - Pete Liprot  
Red Cross Blood Drive - Chris Britten  
Salvation Army - Ron Morris  
Social Apostolate - Bob Egan  
Telfair Museum - Jack Neises  
Village Library - Jim Chapman  
Services - Young Children:  
Fishing Program - Tom Rood  
Greenbriar - Melissa Emery  
Early Childhood Education - Tom Clark  
Services - Youth:  
Bethesda Home - Bob Caswell  
Children's Advocacy Center - Skip Salus  
Hesse Bears - Emmet Casey  
Junior Achievement - Jamie DeLoach  
Mighty 8th AF Museum - Jim Keller  
Notre Dame Academy - Gary Bocard  
Park Place Outreach - Jack Hart  
Special Olympics - Robert Haas  
St. Paul's Academy - Bill Trice  
Youth Challenge Academy - Jack Huber  
SPONSORED YOUTH PROGRAMS  
Bethesda Key Club - Chuck Owen  
SCAD Circle K - Dianne Franz  
HUMAN & SPIRITUAL SERVICE  
Human & Spiritual Service Programs - Jim Giddens  
SPECIAL FUNCTIONS  
Auditor - Roger Nord  
Board Advisor - Hazel Brown  
Club Historian - Martin Otto  
Legal Counsel - Bob Schivera  
Marketing and Web Page - Melissa Emery  
Publicity - Tom Rood  
Photography - Melissa Emery; Martin Otto, Emeritus  
Safety Coordinator - Jack Sherrill  
Social and Trips - Dave Fox  
Song Leader - Dave Wyland  
Sunshine - Gwen Leathley  
50/50 Drawing - Sid Carr

**Kiwanis Calendar of Coming Events**

- August 2**            **Membership meeting - Speaker,**
- August 13**        **Kiwanis of Skidaway Board of Directors meeting**
- August 9**         **Membership meeting - Speaker,**
- August 16**        **Membership meeting - Speaker,**
- August 17-19** **Georgia District Convention, Albany Georgia**
- August 23**        **Membership meeting - Speaker,**
- August 30**        **Membership meeting - Speaker**