

# Kiwanis

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DES MOINES KIWANIS NAMES 2009 TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

DES MOINES, IA....In what has become an annual tradition, the Kiwanis Club of Des Moines (Downtown) announced its 2009 Teacher of the Year on June 3, 2009. JOSEPH ADRIAN, fifth grade teacher at Phillips Traditional School, is this year's recipient. A native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, Mr. Adrian has taught school in the Des Moines Public School System for 20 years, all at Phillips Traditional. Mr. "A", as he is known to his students, is a graduate of Drake University where he received his BA in Sociology in 1986 and a Masters in Education in 1989. He was attracted to Drake because of a football scholarship and several high school friends from Scranton, PA on the Drake football team.

On hand to make the presentation at a surprise all-school assembly were Des Moines Kiwanis members: Michelle Wall, president; Jan Burch, immediate past president; Bob Mitchell, past president & past Lt. Governor; Paul Strayer, past president & past Lt. Governor; and Luke Garnaas, board member and selection committee chair; Dave Turnball, past president; and Justin Brady, newest club member. While family members were unable to be present, all present were treated to a video from his two children from Minneapolis, as well as special words from his student teacher advisor of 20 years ago.

The Des Moines Kiwanis Teacher of the Year award is unusual in that the students select the teacher through a nomination process coordinated by Kiwanis through the Des Moines Public School administrative offices.

"Mr. Adrian has developed a family of learners who not only strive to excel, but also care about each other. He's the first in line to help any student or teacher," said his principal, Ms. Laurel Prior-Sweet. "Mr. A is a positive, nurturing teacher who always has high expectations of his students. He brings out their best!"

In making this year's selection, Luke Garnaas, committee chair, stated, "We were impressed at how Mr. Adrian reaches out to support school and community activities while furthering the mission of Phillips Traditional in a challenging environment." Mr. A said that the biggest

challenge he faces is the constant changes in kids' family and home environment. "I try to help the kids feel good about themselves. I love watching them grow despite numerous negative issues in their lives."

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Des Moines Kiwanis was formed in 1919 and is said to be the oldest Kiwanis Club west of the Mississippi River. It meets weekly on Wednesdays at 11:45 a.m., AllPlay/Forte Conference Center, 615 Third Street, Des Moines. Des Moines Kiwanis is spearheading the local effort to build the first Miracle League Field in Iowa—the Kiwanis Miracle League at Principal Park, which recently held its grand opening on May 29, 2009. Area kids with special needs are now able to play baseball on the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines Field.

The Kiwanis International Family includes more than 8,000 clubs with more than 600,000 members in more than 95 nations. This past year, Kiwanis clubs throughout the world donated more than \$100 million and over six million volunteer hours for community-service projects worldwide—Serving the Children of the World.

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Picture caption: Joseph Adrian (center), 2009 Kiwanis Teacher of the Year, is congratulated by Jan Burch (left), immediate past president, Des Moines Kiwanis, and Michelle Wall (right), president, Des Moines Kiwanis.

For Further information contact Jan Burch, immediate past president, Des Moines (Downtown) Kiwanis, 457-7691, [BurchHR@aol.com](mailto:BurchHR@aol.com) or visit our web site at [www.downtowndesmoineskiwanis.org](http://www.downtowndesmoineskiwanis.org).

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