

K-Kids

What's it all about?

As Kiwanians we are dedicated to a goal of enhancing the lives of children throughout the world. It is a goal centered on service and there is no doubt our lives are better because of the gift of service. If service to others offers us a better life, doesn't it hold true that service to others will enhance the lives of all those involved?

This is where K-Kids can play an early role in the lives of young children, as it is a place where children may be involved in meaningful projects to help others as well as learning to work as a group member. K-Kids is the youngest and fastest growing service organization for elementary students worldwide. These clubs are ideally suited for students in grades 1 through 5 (ages 6 to 12). They are a "student-led" community-service organization, which operates under school regulations and draws its members from the student body.

Our club at Greenwood Elementary School in Des Moines is unusual. The membership consists of the members of the Greenwood Student Council; their officers serve as the officers of the K-Kids Club. The membership and the officers' change each semester, this means a large number of students are exposed to the role of service each year.

Picking meaningful projects is their greatest challenge. When the Kiwanis World Service Project to stamp out Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD) was first introduced, the students immediately connected the five cents for iodine per year with the fact that the deposit on pop cans was five cents and came up with a pop can drive. This project raised about fifty dollars for the IDD program. Put it another way and you can say the club provided iodine for one thousand children. Unfortunately for the K-Kids Advisor, Bruce Anderson, the students do not handle the money and he was left with the job of returning the approximately one thousand cans for the deposit refund.

We can be thankful we have had the opportunity of bringing this program to Greenwood School. Paul Strayer, a past president of our Club and a past Lt. Governor, is our Club's liaison to the Greenwood K-Kids Club. Contact Paul at pstrayer@msn.com if you'd like more information about our K-Kids Club or would like to help in any way.

2003 K-Kids International Art Contest Winner:

