

Empire State  
**Kiwanian**



New York

April 2022, Volume 21-22, Issue 3

New York District, Kiwanis International

# Highlighting Service Leadership Programs

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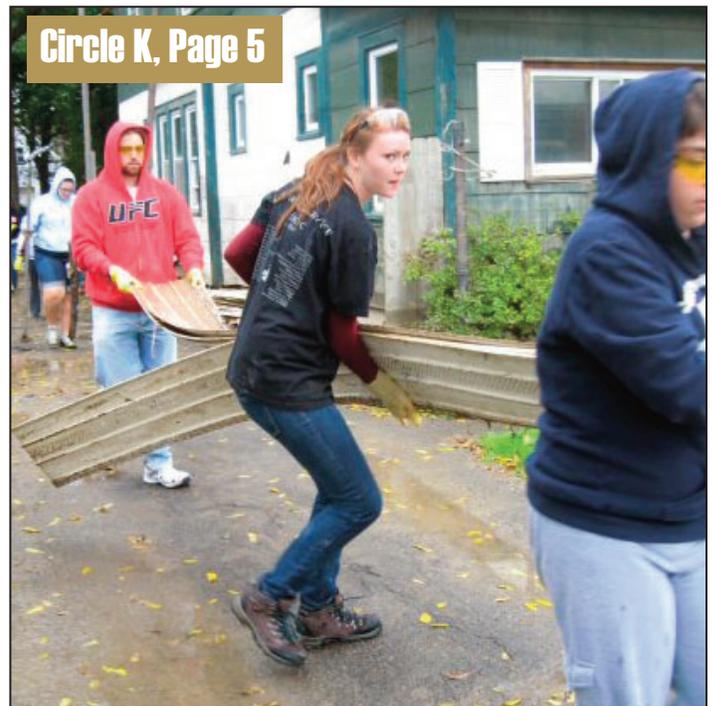
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# Aktion Club: The Only Service Club For Adults With Disabilities

## Mission:

To provide adults with disabilities an opportunity to develop initiative, leadership skills and to serve their communities.

## Vision:

To develop competent, capable, caring leaders through the vehicle of service.

## Core Values:

- Character-building: The ability to do the right thing, even when it might be the unpopular choice.
- Leadership: The ability to listen, communicate, serve and guide others.
- Inclusiveness: Accepting and welcoming differences in other people.
- Caring: The act of being concerned about or interested in other people or situations.

Aktion Club membership is open to any individual who is 18 or older, has a disability, desires to become a leader in his or her community and wishes to serve others.

Every Aktion Club member should be willing to perform community service to the best of his or her ability.

Members of all Aktion Clubs are selected without discrimination in accordance to local, state, provincial and national laws.

## Aktion Club Pledge:

I pledge on my honor to follow the Objects of Aktion Club. To better my community, my country and myself. To help those in need. To demonstrate loyalty to our community and nation. And to encourage others to do the same.

## Aktion Club History:

Aktion Club has more than 12,000 members worldwide. Part of the Kiwanis



**Mighty Roslyn Warriors Aktion Club preparing Easter Baskets for distribution at the St. Christopher-Ottilie Children's Home in Sea Cliff.**

family of clubs, it's the only community service club for adults with disabilities.

Aktion Club was started in 1987. Kiwanis-club member Jake Swartout organized the first club in Putnam County, Florida. With the assistance of fellow Kiwanians Ed Brooks and Dick Wittner, the Aktion Club concept spread throughout the Florida District — and by word of mouth throughout the Kiwanis world. Aktion Club became an official Service Leadership Program of Kiwanis International Oct. 1, 2000.

Today, there are more than 500 Aktion Clubs in 14 countries. The New York District has 800 Aktion Club members in 39 clubs.

The first Aktion Club in New York District was in East Aurora, and was chartered in May 2002. Aktion clubs in the New York District do service projects, fundraisers, have speakers, and do social events, similar to Kiwanis clubs.

Aktion Club is supported at the dis-



trict level by its District Administrators who provide programs, literature and opportunities to relate to individuals with disabilities. The New York District website [www.aktionclub-ny.org](http://www.aktionclub-ny.org) presents service ideas and opportunities, offers printable tools and resources, and provides an interactive map locating existing clubs.

The administrators are always happy to help new clubs open. See the district website for contact information.

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## 2021-22 Events

**May 21, 2022:**

Kamp Kiwanis Open House

**June 8-11, 2022:**

Kiwanis International Convention, Indianapolis, Ind.

**July 6-10, 2022:**

Key Club International Convention, Washington, D.C.

**July 24-27, 2022:**

Circle K International Convention, Austin, Texas

**Aug. 18-21, 2022:**

New York District Convention, Hyatt Hotel, Rochester

# Key Club Is Recovering from Covid

By John Goldstein  
Key Club Administrator

I would like to give you all an update on the New York District Key Club.

We had to cancel our 2020 in-person Leadership Training Conference and move the workshops and awards sessions to Zoom. The 2021 conference was a hybrid event where we live-streamed the workshops and awards sessions out to the more than 500 students who registered.



We have had great student leadership during the last three years. Gov. Camille Brock (2019-20) put together the online House of Delegates and the online LTC after it was cancelled. She also helped train the incoming board. Gov. Mariam Makar (2020-21) went the whole year with online board meetings. During that Covid year, Gov. Mariam and her board worked very hard to keep the New York District Key Club as strong as possible. This was no easy task with schools not allowing our clubs to meet in person. While our membership did drop to less than 7,700 students, we did go from the 6th largest district in Key Club International to the 4th largest. Gov. Mariam and her board did an outstanding job keeping our district strong.

This past year Gov. Chloe Baker (2021-22) and her board were tasked with bringing back all the Key Clubs that had not been meeting in the last 18 months. The



The North Shore High School Key Club shopping for items to donate to the Salvation Army

## KEY CLUB®

Board set goals for fundraising and service hours for the clubs in our district. Gov. Chloe's board worked very hard this past year and more than exceeded their goals.

The district membership has grown to more than 11,300 members and we are still the 4th largest District.

This year we held another hybrid leadership Training Conference, with more than 200 students in person and more than 150 online.

I want to give special thanks to Michael Berthel and Jason Steiner who worked closely with me and the students to produce all of our in-person and online con-

ferences and meetings. I also want to thank my committee. This extraordinary group of adults work directly with the district board and are responsible for its success.

The last two years have been difficult and I want to thank Governors Joe Ruggiero, Brenda Leigh Johnson and Jim Mancuso. I am truly thankful for the support that I had and have from these governors and their boards. Lastly, I want to thank all of the sponsoring Kiwanis clubs who supported their Key Clubs throughout the last 18 months and who continue to do great things with their Key Clubs.

I have the BEST job in Kiwanis. I am PROUD to be a Kiwanian and I thank you for allowing me to serve as your District Key Club Administrator.

# Striving to Make 2021-22 the Best One Yet

By 2021-22 Gov. Chloe Baker

The Best. One. Yet. From the Long Island Sound and the heart of New York City to the Finger Lakes and Adirondacks Mountains, and everywhere in between, NYDKC strives to serve our homes, schools, and communities within New York, connecting servant leaders both right next door and hours away through a digital screen.



This past service year was unlike no other, as students experienced a school year turned upside down battling COVID-

19 restrictions, causing a ripple effect on their Key Club experience. Many of our clubs were blessed to have in-person meetings, service events, and fundraisers, while others continued to meet via ZOOM.

Regardless of the circumstances, this year was extraordinary for the New York District. In the 2021-2022 Service Year, we raised our membership by 52%, served over 167,000 hours, and raised over \$175,000 for various charities and organizations. These accomplishments did not come easy, as our members volunteered at New York City Triathlons, Animal Shelters, After School Programs, and of course, Kiwanis Family Events. The time spent with members of the

K-Family has left lifelong memories and friendships amongst our Key Clubbers.

I labeled this past service year "The Best

One Yet," to embody a year full of service, leadership, inclusivity, and caring. The New York District of Key Club International has been on a momentous path forward, and I am eagerly awaiting to see where the District goes next. My successor, Gabriella Sloatsky from Tottenville High School, will no doubt experience an incredible opportunity as she leads NYDKC. Personally, I am grateful to have left my term with over 11,000 best friends.

Key Club is full of student leaders ready to serve their communities at a moment's notice. Our members experience lessons outside of the classroom and witness how one kind gesture can change someone's life. My term as District Governor has graced me with the experience of a lifetime, and I am so honored to have been a part of the best. one. yet.

# K-Kids: Reaching Out to Elementary School Pupils

K-Kids is the largest service organization for elementary school students, with more than 36,000 members worldwide. The first K-Kids was chartered in 2000. Today, there are more than 1,200 clubs worldwide.

K-Kids is a student-led community service organization that operates under school regulations and draws its members from the student body. Community-based K-Kids clubs also can be established at churches, libraries, YMCAs, lodges or similar facilities. A Kiwanis club, composed of like-minded, service-oriented people from the community, serves as the club's sponsor.

In K-Kids clubs, children are learning leadership through service. They're taking on the responsibility of running a K-Kids club as they plan and participate in community service projects. They assist the elderly with chores or organize community food drives. They serve their schools, raising funds for sports equipment and extracurricular activities. In big and small ways, they're changing the world around them. But the most significant change happens in the kids themselves.

K-Kids is structured only on the local club level but is supported by district volunteers appointed by Kiwanis leaders and



the Kiwanis International Office which provides guidelines, programs, educational resources and club recognition opportunities.

Clubs are chartered in partnership with

a Kiwanis club and a school or community-based organization serving elementary school students.

K-Kids is open to any elementary school student who wants to join. Each club and school principal or community-based organization leader has the latitude to set conditions for membership, so it varies from club to club.

# Builders Club Gets Middle School Students Involved

By Hazel Goldstein  
Builders Club Administrator

KIWANIS - SERVING THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

We are all familiar with this saying and proud to be part of this amazing organization. While serving the children, we need to think about future generations. Builders Club is the perfect starting point for us to look at our future.



Builders Club is for students in grades 5-8. This is a great age for young people to learn about leadership and responsibility towards others. Students at this age are ready to learn more about life in the "real world," ready to help others, and while they may not know it they are ready to be trained in leadership skills.

It's easy for your club to start a Builders Club! This is usually a school based club - so look at your middle schools. Start by finding a Kiwanis member who will be the Kiwanis Advisor to the Builders Club. This person should enjoy working with chil-



Members of the Builders Club at Berne-Knox-Westerlo elementary school in Berne install birdhouses along a trail behind their school.



dren and be willing to attend the meetings of the Builders Club. Then it's time to reach out to school administration. Set up a meeting and explain what Builders Club is and how it will benefit the students. You will need to ensure that the school realizes that they need to appoint a faculty advisor and provide meeting space for the meetings.

Once you have accomplished this - it's time to get started! You and the Faculty advisor can work together to strategize the best way to invite students to join the Builders Club. As this is happening your club can complete the charter application to send to Kiwanis International and you are in business!!

The Kiwanis International website has many great ideas for projects and ways for students to serve. As the New York District Builders Club Administrator - I am here to help you with whatever you need. Please do not hesitate to reach out by phone or email.



Fordham University Circle K members combined a pizza party with a project. Thirty members wrote cards for distribution to elderly adults.

## Even a Pandemic Couldn't Stop Circle K From Growing

By **Chelsea Shuren**  
2021-22 Circle K Governor

Hello New York Kiwanians!

My name is Chelsea Shuren and this past year I had the absolute pleasure of serving as the New York Circle K District Governor! This service year, our district was able to reach new heights, growing in membership by 7 percent and completing countless hours of service.



As governor, I was able to connect with members, leaders throughout our mighty district, helping guide them and offering support so that they could accomplish anything they set their minds to. Working with clubs and members was by far the most rewarding experience I had, seeing their projects flourish and growing in membership after a year that the pandemic took away where many of our clubs struggled greatly. As my fourth year in Circle K and eighth in the Kiwanis Family, I wanted to give back to the organization that had given me so much throughout my high school and college years, and I hope I was able to leave a positive impact on the individuals I worked with, just as

previous leaders have impacted me.

Nothing we did this year would have been possible without the support of our Kiwanis Family. To the New York Circle K Kiwanis Committee, to every Kiwanian who gets involved with their local Circle K and to all the clubs that sponsor SLP's, thank you for all you do! And to Kiwanis



Gov. Jim and Key Club Gov. Chloe, thank you for your unwavering support and love this year, you were the absolute best counterparts I could ask for!



Fordham Circle K members making fleece blankets to be donated to children in Manhattan.

# Service Leadership Programs Stage Outstanding Meetings

By Gov. James Mancuso

So Very Meaningful and Worth It

During March I had the privilege of attending two special Service Leadership events: the Circle K New York District Convention and the New York District Key Club Leadership Training Conference.

I found both to be outstanding. I walked away feeling refreshed by not only how terrific these young adults and children are, but how important our support of these organizations truly is.

The New York District of Kiwanis and our clubs can learn a lot from both Circle K and Key Club. Their conventions were professionally run (I also credit our district administration teams for the guidance provided) and their enthusiasm for Kiwanis is through the roof! They ran excellent caucuses, and training sessions.

I could tell they thoroughly enjoyed being with their friends and fellow Kiwanians. And, when you consider these events happened against the backdrop of Covid, it is even more impressive.

I offer my congratulations to both past Circle K Governor Chelsea Shuren and Key Club Governor Chloe Baker. These outstanding governors gave it their all during the past year and it showed.

Further congratulations go out to the new governors: for Circle K, Halley Gaston, and Key Club, Gabriella Slootsky. I have every confidence in their ability to lead.

For my part, I wanted to try and deliver a meaningful message at both conventions. To provide insights and advice that they might call upon when faced with life's challenges

For Circle K, I referenced a graduation address the actor Denzel Washington gave at the University of Pennsylvania. He spoke about embracing failure and always trying to "fall forward"; never to be discouraged when things do not go your way but learning from them will make you



stronger.

For Key Club, I thought about the things that concerned me when I was in high school. While there were some similarities there were also great differences. Today these students are concerned with topics such as social justice, addiction, climate change and diversity, equity, and inclusion. I targeted my comments with these topics in mind. After that speech, a Key Club Advisor told me that she liked my speech and Key Clubbers came up to her after and commented that they liked what "that Kiwanis guy" had to say.

I had an interesting conversation with a set of parents in attendance at the Key Club convention. They told me how their child's Kiwanis experience was so meaningful. Through Key Club, she learned leadership, writing, and public speaking skills; coming from a small town she otherwise would never have had the experience Kiwanis provides.

My message to you is always to be proud of all we do to support our Service Leadership Programs. Your investment of time, energy, and sponsorship of these clubs are so very meaningful and worth it.

## Kiwanian from Honeoye Falls Displaced By Fire

Imagine turning in for bed, with your husband or significant other just before midnight on a normal Thursday evening. Only to be awoken by neighbors pounding on your door, yelling "Fire, Fire, need to get out", you wake in a start, grab what you can and jet out your door into a hallway, in order to get to the exit.

Now imagine that you are blind, and so is your husband. That is what happened on the night of January 14, 2021 to one of our club members, Morgan Cox and her husband Shawn.

Let me tell you a little bit about Morgan, before joining Kiwanis you would see Morgan, Shawn and Morgan's service dog walking around the village of Honeoye Falls. One day you might see them in Family Dollar picking up a few items, or at the Honeoye Falls Marketplace grabbing some groceries. But if Morgan heard your voice, she would be the first to say hello. Morgan was installed into the Honeoye Falls-Lima, Mendon Kiwanis Club, and jumped right in. Every event we have held, Morgan was there to work it. Morgan does not allow her difference to define who she is, and it does not hold her back from doing anything she sets her mind out to do. Morgan is currently taking classes at MCC, pursuing a degree in Human Services, so that she can be a voice, an advocate and a



friend to those who are blind. There is nothing that holds Morgan back, not even a fire in her apartment complex.

Since the fire, Morgan and her husband have been living in a hotel in Henrietta. Their church has been graciously helping them cover costs, as has the local community and her local Kiwanis family. However, we would like to see other clubs in the Finger Lakes and New York District help them as well. There are many devices that she and her husband use to get along, different technology when they are walking along the street to know if a car is coming, or if they are on or off the sidewalk. It is

amazing to hear about the different things they can use to help. While Morgan is currently looking for an apartment that best fits their needs, we are looking to her Kiwanis Family to help them, cover the cost of food, housing, and anything else they feel they need at this moment.

If you feel it in your heart to help Morgan and Shawn, please send a check, or gift cards to Honeoye Falls-Lima, Mendon Kiwanis % VP Christine Mitchell 17 Creekside Drive, Honeoye Falls NY 14472. We want Morgan to know that she has not only joined a club, but a family!

# Buffalo KPTC: Supporting Pediatric Trauma Since 1987

By Stan Thompson

In 1987, I was approached by a group of doctors from the Children's Hospital of Buffalo. They were looking for an organization whose main emphasis was children. It was a natural fit! This is what inspired me to start the first Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Program.



I realized that this was an expensive quest and it would be ongoing. My personal belief was that all the Kiwanis programs had a shelf life. We can't continue to fund all of the old programs and adopt new ones as the need arises. With this in mind, I set my initial target at \$1 million. Some thought this was impos-

sible, but like true Kiwanians, they came through. In just three years, we raised One Million Dollars!

Knowing that we could not do this annually, I set it up so that none of our money would ever be given directly to the hospital. Instead, the money was placed into a tax-exempt trust fund, invested by the hospital board. This would enable the program to continue to provide funds as the need grew over the years.

Our Kiwanis committee is given the earnings report each year and we meet with the Pediatric Trauma Personnel who present a wish list of projects they would like funded. Our Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Committee (KPTC) selects which requests we will finance.

At the present time, we are donating between \$150,000 and \$175,000 per year to the program and all of the original money that was donated is still there

- giving, again and again, each year.

Because of our help, the Children's Hospital of Buffalo is now a Level I Pediatric Hospital, one of only 6 in the entire state, and the only one west of Syracuse. As the program grows and equipment becomes more expensive, we will need more money. However, the program will never die away!

Although we now have built up almost \$2 million in our KPTC foundation, the need for funding continues to increase at even higher costs. If we want to continue to save more children from pain, suffering, and even death, we need your help. Please donate to the Buffalo NY

KPTC. Please be a part of the solution. Let's write a book of success stories.

## KPTC Success Story #1

I received a frantic call in the middle of the night two years ago. My two-year-old great-grandson was badly burned in a home accident. His parents took him to a local hospital and told them to take him to the Children's Hospital Trauma Center. They were told his burns were so severe that he would require skin grafts and extensive time in the hospital. He was admitted to the Children's and treated with a new treatment which enabled him to be dismissed from the hospital in three days and no skin grafts!

Guess who financed the research for that new treatment-yep, it was KPTC!! Today that little boy is a tiger with no side effects from the horrific burns.

## KPTC Success Story #2

I was asked to attend a meeting of the Hamburg Kiwanis Club. A woman wanted to share her story about her granddaughter who had a blood disorder. The granddaughter was rushed by ambulance to our KPTC. The family was told that without treatment the child would have died within 15 minutes of arrival! She was placed on a blood warmer machine. Guess what was on that machine - a sticker that said: "Donated by the KPTC." Yep, we did it again!!

Then they inserted a scope down the little girl's throat. Do you want to guess where that came from? Another one from the KPTC!!

These are just two stories of how our Kiwanis program has helped children. There are hundreds more, let's keep it going!

## Membership Leaders for 2021-22

The following clubs have inducted 5 or more new members during the first half of 2021-22:

Club	Division	Members
Dutchess County Christian Churches	Hudson River	44
Ridgewood, NY 3-2-1	Queens West	37
The East Coast	Long Island South Central	25
Bay Terrace	Queens East	21
Sharing Hearts/Queens West	Queens West	16
Oceanside	Long Island Southwest	11
New Scotland	Capital	9
Poughkeepsie	Hudson River	9
Rouses Point-Champlain	Adirondack	9
Glens Falls	Mohawk	7
Canandaigua	Finger Lakes	6
County Seat, Mineola	Long Island North	6
East Meadow	Long Island South Central	6
Elmira	Chemung	6
Honeoye Falls-Lima Mendon	Finger Lakes	6
Levittown	Long Island South Central	6
Northern Niagara County	Niagara Frontier North	6
Sayville	Suffolk East	6
Garden City	Long Island South Central	5
Lindenhurst	Suffolk West	5
Newburgh	Hudson River	5
North Shore, Long Island	Long Island North	5
Northport-East Northport	Suffolk West	5
Salamanca	Southwestern	5
Sand Lake	Van Rensselaer	5
Southampton Town	Suffolk East	5

# International Convention is June 8-11 In Indianapolis

After cancelling conventions in 2020 and 2021, plans are under way to have a full convention again in June of 2022.

Registration is now open. Registration will close May 1 and no on-site registration will be available.

In addition to participation in the convention, a virtual-only registration is available for \$49.

More information, including items which will be voted on by the House of Delegates, are available on the Kiwanis Interna-

**JUNE 8-11, 2022**

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tional web site, [www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org). Click on the Convention link at the top of the page.



## Springville Named Finalist In Signature Contest

The Springville Kiwanis club in the Niagara Frontier South division has been named a finalist in Kiwanis International's 2022 Signature Project Contest.

The winners will be announced at the Kiwanis International Convention in June.

Springville submitted its annual Pageant of Bands, a competition for high school bands.

Schools from all around the area pack bus loads of their finest musicians to participate in jazz band, concert band, color guard, and marching band competitions.

Performances and judging begin on Friday and continues Saturday, all culminating in a parade through the village of Springville. Many of our members never even see the parade. As hosts, we run a concession stand with our Key Club to provide visiting schools with a filling, low cost food option. Often the only member that attends the parade is our president, who rides in the parade and sits on the reviewing stand with the adjudicators.

Past President and Lt. Gov. Jim Anderson once said, "I'm not even sure any of those people I was waving to knew who I was." This in fact may be true, but I'm not sure he'd have it any other way. We're not the ones making the music, we're not the band directors creating a place for their students to belong, and we're certainly not members of the color guard, freezing in skirts as they toss their flags high in the air. We are the nameless face that smiles and waves above the Kiwanis emblem as we ride down main street, we are the unknown workers that sell hot dogs for hours at the concession stand, and we're the name echoing

across the football field before trophies are awarded. We are merely hosts of an event much larger than us.

The Pageant of Bands is a Springville tradition; it's a celebration of music and the children who make it.



Past Finger Lakes Lt. Gov. Roger Awe thanks a donor who just contributed to the division's annual drive in support of the Golisano Children's Hospital .

# Mid-Year Celebrates 2020-21 Accomplishments



Past Lt. Gov. Gregg Cajuste (left) and Past Lt. Gov. Hazel Goldstein (right) present a stained glass representation of Past Gov. Brenda Leigh Johnson's logo to her. The gift was in thanks for her work during the 2020-21 Kiwanis Year. .

## Distinguished Lt. Govs. Honored

Past Gov. Brenda Leigh Johnson honored the following 2020-21 lieutenant governors as distinguished:

Central	Greg Riddle
Finger Lakes	John Treahy
Genesee	Heather Henderson
Hudson River	Steve Klein
Hudson River West	Hazel Goldstein
Long Island South Central	Gregg Cajuste
Metropolitan	Vincent DeRosa
Queens East	Sandy Liew
Queens West	Kerry Hansen
Suffolk East	Dr. Robert Borowski
Suffolk West	Kelly Drummond
Van Rensselaer	Wendy Prout

Three were given the additional honor of being named Super Distinguished:

Genesee	Heather Henderson
Hudson River	Steve Klein
Van Rensselaer	Wendy Prout



Gov. James Mancuso addressing Saturday's Gala.

## Did You Miss the Mid-Year?

If you missed the Mid-Year Conference you don't have to miss out on what happened there.

Go to the district web site, [www.kiwanis-ny.org](http://www.kiwanis-ny.org), where you can see:

- Distinguished clubs for 2020-21.
- 2020-21 Club Achievement Awards.
- Video recordings of the opening session and Gala Governor's Dinner.
- Video recordings of 7 forums which took place during the conference.
- Many more pictures from the conference.



Friday's Pajama Party provided some fun on the weekend, and hundreds of boxes of breakfast cereal for Kamp Kiwanis.