



Happy February Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanians!

January was a good month for the Children's Fund. I made nine thank you calls to clubs that donated last month. Love those thank you calls! So far this Kiwanis year, 50 out of 149 clubs have donated. That's nearly 34%. Pretty good. Every year, the president of the Children's Fund issues a challenge to the district chairs. This year's challenge is to raise 10% more than last year. It is hoped that will be achieved by every club giving 10% more than they did last year. That doesn't always happen. Some clubs have this year. Most clubs donate an amount per member which is what is generally asked. When membership drops as it has for many clubs throughout the Kiwanis world, that amount goes down because there aren't as many members in the club on Oct. 1 as there were the previous year. Hopefully, we can make up that difference with more clubs donating that haven't for a couple of years, or at all. Last year, total club giving for Nebraska-Iowa was \$26,609. To reach the 10% President's Challenge we need to raise \$29,269.90 from clubs this year. So far clubs have donated \$14,332. We are close to halfway. Thanks for your generosity and for considering a donation yet this year.

The District Board of Officers and Trustees has decided how our District Grant and Scholarship funds received from the Children's Fund will be used. The District Grant will provide two \$500 scholarships for graduating Key Club members and over \$3,000 towards Key Leader. The Scholarship Grant will provide two \$1,000 scholarships for Circle K members. We received all of these funds because of club and individual generosity last year. Thank you so much!

The grant I would like to share this month is for IDD or Iodine Deficiency Disorder. Long time Kiwanians will remember the IDD project in the 1990's. Some of you will remember Steve Siemens was governor during that time. His goal during DCON was to fill a semi with nickels. Why nickels? Because it only took a nickel's worth of iodine to keep someone from being iodine deficient.

From 1994-2005, \$105 million was raised by Kiwanians to fight IDD. The Children's Fund continues to raise money for this effort. Recently \$30,000 was granted to the Iodine Global Network to determine the status of iodine deficiency prevention throughout Europe. The findings were surprising. Nearly one-half of infants born in Europe today are iodine deficient. There are salt iodization regulations in most of Europe. However, they are not sufficient enough to ensure that all population groups are getting enough iodine, and lawmakers are not aware of or do not understand the priority this issue needs. Hopefully the involvement by The Children's Fund will help alleviate this problem.

Remember last month when I talked about using RMD's for my annual donation to KCF and my new use for "K" Dollars? Well, that all went out the window when the law changed, and I don't have to take RMD's for another year. So, my "K" Dollars will supplement my individual donation to The Children's Fund for one more year. Keep saving your "K" Dollars to donate. If your club does not donate to The Children's Fund for whatever reason, ask your members to save "K" Dollars, put them all together in August and send them to The Children's Fund as a donation from your club. Something to think about.

Happy Valentine's Day to all of you. Thanks for reading!

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Jody Melcher
Kiwanis Children's Fund District Chair