# Children's Fund News

**By Kiwanis Children's Fund District Chair Jody Melcher**

Hello Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanians! Happy May!

Everything is so green and growing because of all the rain we have had. Flowers are blooming and it's a beautiful time of year. I hope those of you who were affected by severe weather recently are doing okay and getting the assistance you need. In my article about the District Foundation, I will share information about how your club can apply for a Disaster Relief grant to help people in your community. The Children's Fund no longer has a Disaster Relief Fund. Our District Foundation took that type of grant.

I have not received an update recently on Children's Fund Club gifts. It is supposed to be available this month, so I hope to contact clubs to thank you for a gift made in March and April in the next couple of weeks.

The Children's Fund is going to launch a new project at ICON in Denver. It's pretty exciting. They have been in the silent phase since last year's ICON, raising funds from long time donors. The amount to be raised is much less than what we have raised in the past for IDD and Eliminate. And it will help us benefit the children in our communities. That's all I can say right now. Maybe more than I should have said. Ooops!

I have been making phone calls for the past few months looking for volunteers in our district to help get the word out to their areas. I have four of eight volunteers at this time and am currently in conversation with others to help fill out our team. We have great people on board. We are looking forward to promoting the Possibility Project in Nebraska-Iowa. The Children's Fund staff researched what members wanted for a new project. What they heard helped them come up with this project. If you go to ICON, you will hear about it there. If not, I will give details in my July article.

The grant I will share with you this month comes from Nepal. This is a pretty young district, only being in existence for about three or four years but they hit the ground running to support their kids right from the start and continue making a huge difference in the lives of children! The Kiwanis Club of Lalbandi learned that four or five cases of children on the Autism Spectrum were diagnosed daily at a health clinic in Kathmandu. Some of the children are no longer able to attend school. Club members are partnering with local autism centers to help become aware of symptoms.

They receive training to help screen for the disorder and also help at therapy centers that provide speech and language assistance, and play-based, physical, occupational, and nutritional therapy. Funds from the grant will help provide medication and food for those in need, as well as software to help track patients' progress. Wow! Such a needed and important service!

Don't forget to save "K" Dollars. Your club and individual gifts are important in assisting with grants like the one above. Important work!