Kiwanis
NEBRASKA-IOWA DISTRICT

Happy 4th of July month, Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanians!

I enjoyed seeing some of you at International Convention. I hope you had as good a time there as I did. So many passionate speakers about great topics! I loved listening to former Key Club and Circle K members tell how those experiences shaped the people they are today. Wow! We are making an impact on our youth for sure! I enjoyed visiting with Kiwanians from Nepal. They are a very young district, but the impact they have made on their children through Children's Fund grants is phenomenal. I thanked them for all they have done in just a few years. The need is great!

Two clubs donated to the Children's Fund in May and one in June. Our club tracker was just updated for June last Friday. I have made the May thank you calls and will make the June one tomorrow. Thanks to all of you who have donated as a club and/or individually. We are doing well. As of June 30, our District has raised $22,257 in club gifts That's great! We are $6,700 away from meeting the President's Challenge of a 10% increase in club giving over last year. Three months to go. Will we make it?

At this point 49.66% of our clubs have donated. The total club giving report through June has not been updated yet so I don't know our total contributions including individual and other.

I got to visit with some of the Children's Fund staff at ICON. They are all working very hard to make sure the Children's Fund is meeting the needs of clubs through grants. Grants are funded by donations. That's why donating is so important. We can make such an impact on children around the world with our donations. Sometimes those grants cone right here to Nebraska-Iowa. We not only help in other parts of the Kiwanis world, but we also help friends and Neighbors right here in our District. Also, at ICON during the Children's Fund Luncheon, Milford and Lenora Hanna were honored for their generosity to the Children's Fund over the years. They and many other Nebraska-Iowans are good examples for all of us.

The grant I would like to share with you this month comes from South Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The club is partnering with the Toy Lending Library of South Dakota. They are adapting the service for special needs children. Boxes of toys are placed at libraries where they can be checked out and returned. The South Sioux City Club is working with the organization to create 34 boxes of toys for children with physical or neurological differences, such as autism and visual/auditory impairments. Experts, including professors of child development at Augustana University and parents of children with special needs were consulted. The grant will help pay for special books and toys that are hard to find and cost more. Educational materials will also be available for caregivers. The toy boxes will be assembled by members and sanitized regularly. About 300 children will benefit from these toy boxes being created just for them. What a great project! I wonder if there is a Toy Lending Library in Nebraska and/or Iowa. If anyone knows, please let me know.

Since my next article probably won't come out until after District Convention, I'll extend an invitation to all of you to stop by the Children's Fund table and visit. I received some new handouts in the mail yesterday. I will also have two Meeting in a Box kits to give away. Please stop by to say hello, ask questions, and take handouts. It's always nice to put faces to the voices I hear on the phone when I make Children's Fund calls.

And keep saving those "K" Dollars to give to your club to help with its donation or to send in yourself as an individual donation. Every dollar helps!

Thanks for reading!
Jody Melcher
Kiwanis Children's Fund District Chair