Children's Fund News

By Kiwanis Children's Fund District Chair Jody Melcher

Kiwanis CHILDREN'S FUND

Greetings, Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanians! Happy April! Flowers are blooming, trees are budding out and it's supposed to be warm by the end of the week! Maybe Spring is really here!

March was a good month for The Possibility Project in Nebraska-Iowa. We now have seven IMPACT Clubs in our District. Bellevue-Offutt in Division 20 committed to raising an average of $500 per member over the next five years. They join Hampton and Mason City-River City in Division 1, Nevada in Division 11, Iowa City Old Capitol in Division 14, Fremont in Division 19, and Lincoln Northeast in Division 21. Thanks to these clubs! Together they have pledged $179,000 over the next five years.

Our District total as of April 1 is $248,758.62 in cash and pledges. Thank you so much for your continued support of this project. All of the funds raised go into funding grants. What project is your club currently doing that could be expanded, or what project would your club like to do that could be helped along with a grant from the Kiwanis Children's Fund?

Listed below are The Possibility Project Champions and the divisions they represent. When they contact you to speak at a meeting, please welcome them to share information about The Possibility Project with your members. Thanks to the clubs that have invited their Champion to give a program at a meeting. I appreciate it! It's important to be able to make an informed decision about your club's involvement. We know not every club can be an IMPACT Club. Some can. All club and individual donations for the past 2 ½ years have gone into the project. Traditional grants are funded twice a year. Microgrants are funded monthly.

Jim Davies—Divisions 1, 2, 8
Pam Henderson—Divisions 3, 4, 5, 6
Lyle Weber—Divisions 9. 10. 14, 15
Jody Melcher—Divisions 11, 12, 13, 16
Emily Wageman—Divisions 18, 19
Brian Wells—Divisions 17, 20
George Cook—Divisions 21, 22 N&S, 23
Divisions 24, 25—open. I have contacted several people in these divisions without success. If you would be interested in receiving more information about how you can help in these divisions, please contact me.

The grant story I would like to share this month comes from New Jersey. The Kiwanis Club of Bloomfield, New Jersey built a Little Free Pantry. Non-perishable food items are put in the pantry to ensure that kids and their families have access to food. The club members have food drives at grocery stores to maintain the pantry. They report that 500+ kids have been impacted. Great project and so easy to do. Our club has two Little Free Pantries. One is stocked with meal type food and snacks. This pantry is located across the street from the Public Library near the elementary school and on the grounds of a church where free evening meals are available twice a week. The other is placed near two schools and is stocked with snacks for kids to grab on their way to and from school. They both get a lot of use.

Keep saving those "K" Dollars. If every member of your club donated "K" Dollars to your club to donate to The Possibility Project, it would make a huge impact! Or you may choose to send them in your own name. It's so much fun to check your dollar bills and find that "K"!

Thanks for reading!