



Happy November Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanians!

Our District ended 2021-2022 in very good shape with the Children's Fund. We were fourth in total giving with \$92,797. A little over \$62,000 of that came from individual gifts, with part of that being Wil Blechman fellowships. Thanks to all of the individuals who donated. If I knew who you were, I would have sent you a thank you note. I hope all of the Wil Blechman recipients have received a thank you note from me. If you haven't, please let me know. My latest update was after District Convention. We had \$26,609 in club gifts this past year and \$4,150 in other gifts, making it a great year. Thank you so much!

I have one thank you call to make to a club that has already sent its club gift for 2022-2023. Early gifts are appreciated! Every club secretary received a mailing from the Children's Fund early this month to encourage clubs to donate. If your club has never donated, please consider a donation this year. It doesn't have to be large. Every dollar helps. Encourage your members to save "K" Dollars for a few months and have your club treasurer send them to the Children's Fund from your club. I've been saving mine for two months and already have \$24. Remember, "K" Dollars are the ones with a "K" on them and in the serial number.

We have 15 clubs that have always donated to the Children's Fund that didn't donate last year. Please consider getting back into the routine this year. And to all of you who donate every year, thank you for being consistent! My annual calls to clubs will begin soon. I hope I am able to visit with someone from each club that I call. It's good to hear about the great things you are doing and to share information about the Children's Fund.

The grant that I would like to tell you about this month is from Uganda.

The Kiwanis Club of Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Uganda received a grant from the Kiwanis Children's Fund to provide support to children who have fled their home countries to escape violence. With the grant, the club will impact the lives of 1,000 children through a school support program that will pay fees, provide supplies and uniforms for all students as well as learning aids for children with disabilities. They will also be able to help schools create gender-sensitive hygiene and water sanitation facilities, assistance with health and nutrition for students suffering from problems caused by HIV, malnutrition, abuse and neglect and a leadership program that will encourage students to become positive members and advocates in their new community.

We had a district chair zoom meeting near the end of October. The club grant program is changing. There will be two grant cycles instead of three. The Letter of Inquiry for the first round of grants was due Nov. 1 with the full application due Jan. 1. The decision on those grants will be made in March. The second cycle has an April 1 due date for the Letter of Inquiry, the full application is due June 1 and decisions will be made in August.

There is also a Micro-grant program with decisions made as requests come in. These are for clubs with 35 members or less and range from \$250 to \$1,000. They may be requested between Oct. 1 and July 1 and will be awarded until funds are depleted. For more information on how to apply for a micro-grant, go to [Kiwaniis.org](https://www.kiwanis.org), click on Kiwanis Children's Fund, click on grants and scroll down until you come to Micro-grant Program. Everything you need to know is there.

Thank you for everything you do for children and families. Thank you for reading this article.

Jody Melcher  
Nebraska-Iowa Kiwanis Children's Fund District Chair