

The Kiwanis Club of the Copper Country was chartered on March 15, 1958. Kiwanis is part of an International Organization of volunteers whose primary focus is on the children in the community. Therefore everything the Kiwanis Club does is to benefit the children and families in the immediate area which includes Houghton, Keweenaw, and Baraga Counties.

One of the projects the Kiwanis Club participates in is the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program. Since 1980, the Kiwanis Club has been handing out three books to every third grader in the Copper Country to encourage children to become more active in reading. One reason the Kiwanis Club participates in this event is because members have expressed that fewer things are more rewarding than seeing how excited the children are when they receive their very own books. It is also very special to the club members when a parent remembers receiving their very own books from the Kiwanis Club and how their children are now receiving books from the club as well.

Every spring since 1992, the Kiwanis Club hosts the Family Fair. This is a completely free event for families of all ages and sizes. At this event families receive information from organizations around the Copper Country who are invited to attend. Along with information from these organizations, there are activities for people of all ages. Children can exchange a ticket for a free book at the book table followed by these favorites: free helium filled balloons; live music; games; and a big crowd pleaser - cookie decorating.

The Kiwanis Club prides themselves on the sponsorship of the K-Family clubs, which include Circle K at MTU, Key Club at Houghton High School, and Builders Club at Houghton Middle School. These students have gone to their District and International conventions and have come back prepared to put on a program to tell members how they interacted with clubs in their district and around the world. The leadership these students have shown and the ability to put on a presentation has allowed them to stand out above the rest. The Kiwanis Club believes these students have become a group of service minded youth in the Copper Country and hope they will become successful in life due to the experiences they have participated in during their time in the K-Family Clubs.

The Kiwanis Club also prides themselves on participating in many service projects throughout the year. These include ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, highway clean-up, handicap ramp building, Copper Dog crossing guards, and much more. Kiwanis meets on Wednesday's at 12:00 p.m. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Ballroom at The Bluffs where new members are always welcomed.



# Kiwanis®

