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Kiwanis

Kiwanis Club of Flint

90th Anniversary Celebration

90th
1917~2007

*90 years of service promoting
excellence in education and
healthy outcomes for young people
in Flint and Genesee County!*



Kiwanis

Kiwanis Club of Flint

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Milestones in Club Development

- 1917 Kiwanis Club of Flint Chartered
- 1924 Educational Foundation Trust Formed
- 1928 Health Camp Opened
- 1952 Health Camp Foundation Formed
- 1987 First African-American Members
- 1988 First Female Members
- 1993 Student Athlete Program Moves to Kiwanis
- 1997 First Female President of Flint Club – Patti Waxweiler-Higgins
- 1999 First African-American President – Claude High
- 1999 Builder's Club Formed at Warwick Pointe Academy
- 2001 Sheila Hoyt became the first president of Kiwanis to become a new mother. Lily arrived the day after Sheila finished her term.
- 2005 Flushing High School Key Club Adopted

Compiled by
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May 1, 1992

Updated by
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April 2002

Updated by
Amede Hungerford
Sally Jaeger
2007

90th Anniversary Planning Committee

Dawn Bentley, *Chairperson*
Tom Bryson
Tom Collison

Garnet Elliott
Amede Hungerford
Patti Higgins

Tanya Lane
Becky Pettengill

Special thanks to Fine Line Design for program graphics.



Kiwanis

Kiwanis Club of Flint

90th Anniversary Celebration

Since 1917, our Past Presidents have included a "Who's Who" of this community, the people who made things happen. Their leadership made Flint special and not just another factory town. Only a group of dedicated members could achieve such a record.



Joanne Piper is pinned by Frank Moss

We are fortunate to have a great deal of historical information for the Club. Past historian, Ray B. Withey collected files of newspaper clippings, photos bulletins and other memorabilia dating back to 1942 when he joined the Club. They are stored in the Perry Archives of Sloan Museum. They were invaluable to Orlo Crissy who compiled the Club History for the 75th Anniversary. This account borrows heavily from that publication and the 2002 update.

Our Club has been fortunate to always have an outstanding secretary. Especially deserving of our appreciation and commendation is Earle Graves, who gave his support as secretary to the officers and members for 37 years. Many of the successes we've enjoyed were supported by Earle. He was succeeded by Tom Collison.

The Future

The Kiwanis Club of Flint brings 90 years of experience in creating collaborations, providing valued community service and promoting the education and leadership of young people. As we continue to evaluate and address the changing needs of the greater Flint community, the Flint Club will rise to the occasion, fulfilling its mission of serving the children of the world, one child and one community at a time.



*Community Service and Fellowship:
Foundations of the Kiwanis Club of Flint
Left to right: Amede Hungerford, Doloris Grays, Charlie
Sheridan, Carl Sposito, Garnet & Debbie Elliott*

Foundations

The founding of the Kiwanis Club of Flint officially took place April 20, 1917 with 36 charter members. It was the sixth Kiwanis Club organized in Michigan and 42nd in the United States. The first Kiwanis Club was founded in Detroit in January, 1915. Many of the great names in industry, education, business and the professions, as well as community leaders have been and are members of the Flint Kiwanis Club.

The name "Kiwanis" comes from the Indian word "Kee-wan-is." The spelling was changed at an early State Convention so that the clubs would have an easily spelled, euphoric, interesting name. The Kiwanis motto, "We Build," became a guiding force and inspiration for building a better world. The custom of using the Pledge of Allegiance to open a Kiwanis meeting was introduced by resolution at the Detroit Convention of 1917, an expression of patriotic feelings associated with World War I that has been used ever since.

The Kiwanis founders recognized the importance of closer social and business relationships among business and professional members. The idea of a Club rendering service to its Community was appealing in a time of rapid growth and expansion during the industrialization period, the military build up for World War I and the departure of men to military service.

Among the leaders in the early federation of the Michigan Clubs were Reverend J. P. Pengelly, Vice-President, and Forrest W. Boswell, Secretary, both of Flint. Throughout the years, the Kiwanis Club of Flint has participated in and supported other Kiwanis activities. It has provided organizational leadership with three District Governors, 13 Lt. Governors, several members of International Committees and a past International Trustee; organizational growth by chartering the Fenton and West Flint Clubs; and meaningful interclub dialogue by organizing two State Conventions in Flint, supporting Divisional Meetings and sponsoring Interclub meetings. Amede Hungerford is one of the 13 Lt. Governors from the Kiwanis Club of Flint who remains very active in divisional, district and international club building activities.

In Flint, members of the Club have provided leadership through the Board of Education, City Offices, Mayor, City Celebrations, Chamber of Commerce, the media and other civic positions. One Kiwanian, Arthur E. Summerfield, Sr., chaired the Republican party during the Eisenhower election and was subsequently appointed Postmaster General.

Throughout the past 90 years, members of our Club have been active in many service projects that have enhanced the community of Flint and Genesee County.

Early Projects

In an early effort to collaborate on a project, the Club organized 5,000 Flint citizens, including Boy Scouts, the YMCA, church groups and other organizations, to clean up the dump on Moon Island, the site of the former Atwood Lumber Mill. Unfortunately the plan fizzled and in 1927 Edwin Atwood presented the City with \$5,000 to build a park in his father's name. A river channel was filled and work on Atwood Stadium began.



Kiwanians work together on Flint River beautification

In 1919 the Club was approached by the Boy Scouts who were building a camp near Fenton. The Club provided funds and assisted in building the Mess Hall at Lake Copenoneconic.

Member, Harry B. Black, trained in Forestry, interested the Club in reforestation. In 1923, the Club planted 61,000 seedlings on 40 acres of city-owned land on West Pasadena Avenue. The project was spearheaded by Paul Purdy, John L. Riegler and Harry Gault. The site of Kiwanis luncheons in the past, the "Kiwanis Black Forest" still stands; some trunks are two feet in diameter. The next year, the Flint Kiwanis Club planted 2,500 seedlings in the Huron National Forest. It soon became a District effort, covering 10,000 acres. In 1935, a Kiwanis monument was dedicated at the completion of the project, near the Lumberman's monument. Composed of native stone from across the State, the Kiwanis monument lists names of individuals and clubs who contributed to the project with special recognition to Harry B. Black.

old way: role model...a drug dealer
United Way: positive role models, life-building mentoring activities, enriching and fulfilling character development, improving academic achievement, breaking the cycle of crime, parental support

As a single mom raising a teenaged son with no positive male role models, Theresa was worried. Thanks to Big Brothers/Big Sisters, David found positive male role models. Today he's a member of the 100 men, 100 boys program and is planning for his future.

Today, the United Way's comprehensive approach to achieving results helps ensure that resources are invested wisely, knowing that changing lives will make Genesee County a better place to live for all of us.



United Way
of Genesee County
www.unitedwaygenesee.org



Key Club members provide volunteer service for Flushing 3rd & 4th graders.

A **Builders Club** was chartered at Warwick Pointe Academy in 1999 with Sally Jaeger, Charlie Sheridan and John Riegle as advisors. They volunteered at the Crim, UNICEF Halloween Drive, and the Athlete of the Year Luncheon for two years. Warwick Pointe Academy became Woodland Park Academy and the activity was suspended. However, the Club's involvement with young people did not end there. Walker Fesmire became the advisor to the **Flushing High School Key Club** when the Flushing Kiwanis Club disbanded. This is an active and growing group of young people who provide important volunteer service in the community and at Flint Kiwanis functions such as the pizza party for deserving 3rd and 4th graders from the Flushing area schools, the CRIM Festival of Races and the annual Student Athlete banquet. Many thanks to Walker Fesmire for mentoring these young people.

In 1987, Kiwanis International invited women into membership. It was also the year that the Flint Club inducted its first African-American member, Claude High. The next year, our club admitted its first female members. Patti Waxweiler-Higgins became the first woman to serve as president in 1997 and Claude High became the first African-American president in 1999. That was the same year that Patti Waxweiler-Higgins became Lt. Governor for District 17. Membership diversity strengthens the organization.



Lt. Governor Patti Waxweiler-Higgins presents the Distinguished President pin to Claude High in 1999, Saginaw, Michigan



A little magic for 90 third and fourth graders from five Flushing area schools courtesy of the Kiwanis Club of Flint.

*Congratulations on 90 years
of service to the Flint Community!
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Educational Foundation Trust

In 1924, the Flint Kiwanis Educational Foundation Trust was established to assist students from Flint and Genesee County in completing their education. Paul Purdy, Horace F. Potter and Fred Aldrich spearheaded the project. The Arthur G. Bishop family provided much of the initial financial backing. Additional contributions, memorials and gifts have created a trust totaling more than \$362,000. These scholarships and loans have assisted so many young men and women in pursuing a degree in higher education. Originally a loan program, the format was changed to a scholarship program in 1988.



Educational Foundation Scholarship Recipients

The Genesee Intermediate School District directs deserving students to the Flint Kiwanis Foundation. Applicants must be residents of Genesee County and meet achievement, leadership and character criteria. Once a grant is awarded, the students can reapply each year for four years. This trust is unique to the Flint Club and furthers its commitment to education and leadership development of Flint area youth.

The Kiwanis Health Camp

The Health Camp was established in 1928, a joint effort of Kiwanis and the Genesee County Tuberculosis Association. The purpose of the camp was to “help children who had had tuberculosis, or those who had contact with the disease, to grow strong in body by providing good wholesome food, lots of fresh air, adequate rest and necessary medical care.” Phil J. Braun and Dr. Frederick H. Miner led the planning. The 21 acres of land for the camp, located at the corner of Belsay and Stanley Roads, bordering on the Flint River,



Kiwanis Health Camp Float - 1939

PROUDLY CELEBRATING
FLINT KIWANIS' 90TH BIRTHDAY!



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