

the Genesee County Park System. The Arboretum showcases the varieties of trees and plantings suitable for the area. Kiwanis has contributed trees and shrubs to enable For-Mar to reach this goal. It is estimated that 9,000 school and adult groups have been given instruction and have taken nature hikes led by qualified naturalists at the Nature Center. Kiwanis has also supported a transportation program that allowed inner-city children to visit the facility. In addition, many individuals have walked, jogged and enjoyed the nature trails on their own.

Another beautification project, the **Kiwanis Traffic Triangle** was initiated by Bill Weitzel. His committee transformed a weedy, uncultivated piece of land along Robert T. Longway Boulevard by the Farmer's Market into an attractive pocket park. Bill Slattengren and Joe Higgins have continued to lead the project. Past President Grace Goyette spearheaded planting an Eisenhower ash in the Triangle to honor American war veterans. An attractive sign, identifying the site as the "Kiwanis Traffic Triangle" was erected in 2005 thanks to the labors of Joe Higgins and Tom Collison.



Kiwanis Traffic Triangle

Support for fine arts has included support for student scholarships through the Flint Institute of Music's **Shining Stars** Program, **Music in the Parks** and a \$10,000 sponsorship for the expansion of the **Flint Institute of Arts**.

Past president Grace should also be acknowledged for starting the **Veteran's Salute** held each November to honor America's war veterans, especially those Kiwanians who had answered their country's call. We are fortunate to have a number of World War II, Korean and Viet Nam veterans in our club.



Past Presidents (1983): Back Row: Ray Withey, Jack MacArthur, Tony DeBlaise, Ernie Hamady, Blume Roth, Joe Anderson Middle Row: Bill Wright, John Riegle, Jr., Keith Kerr, Max Graff Front Row: Felix Bessolo, Paul Converso, Russ Conlon

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was deeded to Kiwanis by the City of Flint. Kiwanis would provide the equipment and the Tuberculosis Society would provide food and staff. However, in 1933, Kiwanis assumed all financial responsibility. In the first year the camp was a tent city but grew to a campus that included dormitories, a mess hall, a director's cabin, a medical office and a craft building that served 200 campers for the summer.

Each year before the opening of camp, a "Clean-Up Day" was scheduled. Kiwanians descended on the camp with lawn tools, mowers, bush trimmers, brooms, mops, cleaning cloths and lots of elbow grease. Even with sore muscles, the fellowship that developed and the dinner together in the evening made it all worthwhile.

In 1952, the Kiwanis Health Camp Foundation was created to receive contributions to meet the increasing cost of Health Camp operations. This 501(c)(3) fund has grown through the years and now amounts to more than \$260,000. Advances in the treatment and prevention of tuberculosis reduced the number of children who needed the services of the Health Camp and other organizations such as the Mott Foundation, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the YMCA and the YWCA established camps for healthy children. After an extensive needs study, the Camp was closed in 1978. Keith Burden, and John Riegler, Jr. chaired and supervised the operation of the Camp for 20 years and facilitated its phase out. The land is now part of the Genesee County Recreation Area. The earnings of the Foundation have been used in recent years for grants to meet the needs of children and youth in Flint and Genesee County.

Early Fundraising

Maintaining the Health Camp required fundraising. The "Kiwanis Minstrels," held from 1933 through 1936 in the IMA Auditorium, featured such stars as George Algoe, Art McPike, Tom Razenberg, Paul Purdy, Merle McCormick, Orm Rewey, Phil Braun, Ed Kapp, Art Crawley, Art Sarvis, Harry Commins, Russ Roberts and Jim Mayfield—all outstanding community leaders.



Big Band concerts were produced in 1955 and 1956, featuring Paul Whiteman and Benny Goodman. Air Shows were featured in 1962 and 1963, and concerts by the U. S. Marine Corps Band were held in 1964 and 1967.

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to the Flint Community.

Joe and Patti Higgins





Student Athletes honored at annual banquet.

These extraordinary young scholar-athletes and their guests are invited to a Kiwanis luncheon to be honored by their coaches and school representatives. All nominees and athletes of the month are recognized for their achievements at the Athlete of the Year

celebration. A male and female athlete are selected as Athlete of the Year and awarded a scholarship.

Recent Community Service

In 90 years the Flint community has faced many changes and Kiwanis has responded to these changing needs. In recent years the Club established a **Community Grants** Committee chaired by immediate past-Presidents which evaluates requests from various non-profit and educational institutions in the area. Several of these grants will be noted, though the list is not all-inclusive.

The **Genesee Food Bank**, serving Mideastern Michigan, and one of the largest in the nation, was started by former Kiwanian, Kim Yecke. Bill Kerr, the current president of the Food Bank was also a member of Kiwanis.



President Garnet Elliott and Charlie Sheridan volunteer at Food Bank of Eastern Michigan

Kara Ross, business administrator at the Food Bank, is a current Kiwanis member. The club volunteers to sort foodstuffs one Saturday a month and has helped pack Christmas boxes.

The **Durant-Tuuri-Mott Community School** needed special equipment to use by its students with disabilities. Kiwanis partnered with the Quota Club of Flint and was able to make a grant to fill the budget gap. Near DTM is the **Flint Children's Museum**, which Kiwanis was able to help stretch its limited budget with a grant to expand its facilities for hands-on-activities for young children.

The Club has been an active supporter of **For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum**, part of



Keynote address by Dan Cady inspires student athletes.

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The Kiwanis Ladies Auxiliary raised funds for the camp by holding ice cream socials. They donated 25 beds and some clothing for the new campers in 1934 and provided a cabin for the cooks in 1936. They mended torn clothing throughout the years. From time to time income from bowling and golf exhibitions added to Camp funds.



Kiwanians and guests enjoy the barbecue

Kiwanis Barbecue

The biggest fund raiser, however, was the barbecue held at Jack Bancroft's farm, two miles west of Swartz Creek on Miller Road. The first barbecue was held in 1936 and took a great deal of planning and the enthusiastic support of the entire membership. Fields adjacent to the highway were used for parking so that those attending would be close to the big tents. The cement barbecue pit had to be set, lights installed and a stage built, tables and chairs set in place and food ordered. Traffic control and security were arranged and musicians and entertainers booked. Support from industry and local businesses made it possible to put on the barbecue year after year. The barbecue was able to raise an average \$8,000 a year for the Camp Fund.



An American Federation of Labor Orchestra was one of many groups that contributed their time to make the Kiwanis Barbecue a success. Note C.S. Mott in the left center of the picture.

The weather often threatened the barbecue, and it was moved to the IMA auditorium. Although this problem was solved, rent and entertainment costs increased and attendance decreased. After 40 years, the Kiwanis Barbecue ended in 1976.

The Kiwanis Travelogues

The "Travel and Adventure Travelogue Series" was chosen to replace the Barbecue as the Club's major fundraiser. This program provided seven

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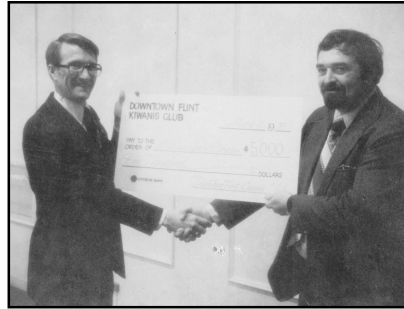


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The Crim running and walking events have not only promoted physical health and performance; its 10,000 plus participants have put Flint on the map. Kiwanis was among the first to provide seed money for the event and, from the beginning, members assisted in organizing registration materials, presenting medals to the 10 mile runners as they crossed the finish line, and cheered on the **Special Olympians** at their special races. John Riegle, Jr. has served as liaison for many years.



Bob Graves presents a contribution to Art Thomas for Special Olympics

In addition to these activities, the Club has always supported special projects as they arose. Some of these have included funds for speech and hearing services, camp scholarships for boys and girls, scouting activities, Mott Children's Hospital, the Kiwanis of Michigan Foundation and promotion and awards for the local Science Fair.

Whaley Children's Center Kiwanis House

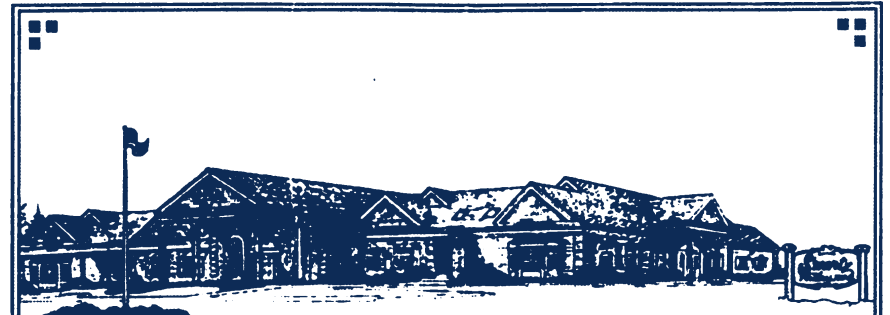
The Flint Club joined with the other clubs in District 17 to purchase a house for the Whaley Children's Center. The mortgage has been paid and the Clubs have provided new carpeting, furniture and a roof for the house. Earle and Isabel Graves, have, through the years, organized many activities for the six residents of the House including dinners, bowling and miniature golf. The opportunity to assist the Whaley Children's Center in providing a brighter future for these youngsters fulfills Kiwanis' mission to assist and improve the lives of children.



Tom Bryson gets a laugh from Bill Sharpe

Student Athlete of the Month/Year

One of the most significant new programs undertaken by the Club is the Student Athlete of the Month/Year that was brought to us by the Exchange Club of Flint when it disbanded in 1993. The annual award, named for Donald B. Sark, the father of Exchange Club member and sports writer Pete Sark, celebrates its 31st anniversary in 2007. The program was originally coordinated by Tom Skinner, a former Kiwanian, in conjunction with a panel of area high school athletic directors who meet monthly to review nominations and select the monthly male and female recipients. Kiwanian Becky Pettengill is the current chairperson.



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evenings of entertainment and personally-filmed and narrated travelogues of places and countries throughout the world. The Club arranged for a half-hour of live entertainment before each film. Entertainment included many high school vocal and instrumental groups, adult orchestras, concert bands and choral groups. The Travelogue began at Southwestern High School Auditorium, but by the end of the year the demand for tickets outgrew the facility. It was moved to Whiting Auditorium and met with great success for many years. Kiwanians acted as Masters of Ceremony and greeters to welcome the guests. In the early years, a candlelight dinner was available before the program. In the late nineties a drop in sales coupled with rising costs led the Club to reluctantly discontinue the series. It was taken over by the Flushing Club for several years but ended when that Club disbanded.



Denny & Roy Morrison preview a travelogue program.

Gourmet Nut Sale

When it became clear that the Travelogue could no longer support the charitable needs of the Club, President Sheila Hoyt introduced the gourmet nut sales in 2000 as an additional fundraiser. Janet Gibbons and Tom Collison assumed responsibility for the project until 2006 when Bob Keel became chairman. Tom supplies storage and a distribution point for the product in the garage of his downtown building.

Committed to Community Service

The Kiwanis Club supported other community needs as they arose. In 1932 and for several years after, the Agriculture Committee gave calves, sheep or pigs to deserving boys and girls through local 4-H clubs. A special recognition stipend was given to a boy or girl for their participation in 4-H in Washington, D.C.



Keith Burden takes a break!



John Riegler, Jr. accepts award

The Club provided scholarships to students of the Flint Institute of Music Camp with talents in the fine arts. In 1936 the Vocational Guidance Committee provided assistance to Flint high schools and supported a cooperative program led by the Chamber of Commerce that included industry, business and education known as the Business and Education Coordinating Council. In 1952, the Club organized a "Get Out the Vote Campaign" assisting some 5,000 people to get to the polls. In 1955 and 1956 Kiwanians helped in the Flint Riverbank Beautification project.



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John L. Riegler, Jr.
Past President, Kiwanis Club of Flint