



Kiwanis International—Avalon Park

December 2011

Florida District Club of the Year (2009-2010)



President's Message

The first quarter of our Kiwanis year is flying by. Thank you to everyone who helped with the food collection in November. We will finish our year in a big way with the Christmas social, Avalon Parade, our Santa Run and the toy collection for Bithlo. We are also working on building a new Kiwanis Club in Lake Nona, which will have its first meeting in December.

I know we will have a busy few weeks at the start of the month. Thank you for all of your help with our holiday projects. I know it is a busy time for everyone. All of your help is appreciated! I also want to give a special thanks to Sherry and Megan who made an awesome scrapbook! It is fantastic. Thanks too to Dave for all of the pictures he took all year.

Please come out and help with the Run, which is our biggest project of this year. Even if you help for a part of the day it will be very much appreciated. A special thanks to Al, Joanne, Sherry, Dave, Darla, Megan, Jerry, Josh, Debbie, Lori, Steve, Laurie and Shelly who are working on the committee and to our member sponsors: DSE, Yoga East, Primrose, Monarch, Kids R Kids, Avalon Park Accounting, Sweet Spot/Avalon Town Center Realty, Eastside Bistro, Avalon All Star Cuts, East Orlando Sun, First Class Merchant Services, Keller Williams/Brenda, Fairwinds, and Englert, Leite & Martin. We appreciate you!

Have a wonderful holiday with your family and friends. Get some well-deserved down time so we can hit the ground running again next year.

-Jennifer Englert



October meeting summary

Gobble, Gobble... Thanksgiving just passed and our club has so much to be thankful for... all of you!. *You* are our No. 1 reason to be thankful. *You* made us Club of the Year. *You* inspire others to join and get involved helping the children. *You* sacrifice time and resources so others may have better opportunities. *You* set the example for our youngsters to follow. And for all this and more, *you* are irreplaceable!



Member of the Month: Mara Wight!

Speaking of irreplaceable, we honored our Student of the Month, Matthew Tollentino, from Orlando Christian Prep High School. He is hoping to be accepted at UF where he'd like to pursue a major in accounting. We wish him well and "Go Gators!" Of course, when we talk about students, we immediately think about teachers. We honored Kim Dobson as our Teacher of the Month. Thank you, Kim, for all you do for your school, the children and the community around you.

We discussed the upcoming events of the month, which included the bike ride in support of our CKI and their efforts toward fighting Ataxia; Two Interclubs (North Orlando and then the Aktion Club near Winter Park); the November food drive; the upcoming Holiday Social (Dec. 2); the immediately following Santa's Run (Dec. 10); the January 2012 primaries (we have some volunteers already, anyone else? It's a good fundraiser for us); The February Bowl-A-Thon and the March Golf Tournament (need more sponsors...).

Our featured speaker was from the Easter Seals of Florida and he gave us an amazing presentation on the history of the Easter Seals (including an explanation of the name) and showed us their ongoing projects and goals.

What's coming up? Letters for Santa for sure!!! Remember last year we answered the children's letters to Santa? We will do the same this year thanks to our partnership with the East Orlando Sun through Megan Stokes. This is yet another way to promote literacy and it would be great to be able to answer as many letters as possible... will you help?

Student of the Month: Matthew Tollentino



New members!





Membership Spotlight

Each month we recognize outstanding members of our club. This month's spotlight is on Joshua Cole!

Joshua Cole is a native of Memphis, TN and relocated to Florida in 2006. He is the founder of First Class Merchant Services where he currently holds the position of Vice President and Secretary. Josh holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Information Systems from Mississippi State University. He and his wife Jamie have two children, Makenna, 3, and Christian, 4 months old. His Christian philosophy in life and work is to always give back to the community, which led him to the Kiwanis Club of Avalon Park as well as other charitable community organizations.



Kiwanis Kids

We have hundreds of kids in our K Kids, Builders and Key Clubs who do amazing things each month during the school year. Here's what each club is up to:



Food drive

The Kiwanis Club of Avalon Park, in combination with Avalon Middle School Builders Club, Stone Lakes K-Kids and Timber Lakes K-Kids, completed their 2nd annual food drive for the Bithlo/Christmas Community Center. They collected over two truck loads of food for the center who helps families in need.

Avalon K-Kids

These kids have been busy collecting food, bikes and they will decorate lunch bags and fill them with candy for kids in the Hiawasse community.

They will be participating in the Avalon Aglow Parade, wearing their school's tie-dyed shirts and carrying their banner.

They collected \$79 for Trick or Treat for Unicef with only five kids collecting!

Other plans for the school year include Book Hospital (fixing broken books at school), collecting items for SPCA, making cards for the Brain/Spinal Cord injury rehab patients, collecting pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House, participating in the Santa Fun Run and cleaning up the school campus.

The club is looking forward to a busy and fun year of helping our community.



Stone Lakes K Kids

Stone Lakes K-Kids have been working hard at collecting canned food for the food drive and, as always, they did a fantastic job. They are currently busy working on posters and morning commercials for Toys for Tots as well as getting the school involved in the Santa Fun Run. GO STONE LAKES K-KIDS!!!

Camelot K-Kids

This group did not have a meeting in November. They are all looking forward to their next meeting on Dec. 1 and their December activities.

Kiwanis Kids

Castle Creek K Kids

Castle Creek spent their last meeting work on their own food drive. They put their collections directly back into their school and community. They also have received a little over half the shoe boxes back that are going to the overseas troops. They are still working on shipping for the boxes.

Timber Lakes K-Kids

Timber Lakes kids filled dozens of boxes with nonperishable food that will be donated to the East Orlando community. The kids are very excited about their next project: making lunch and dinner for the families at the Ronald McDonald House.

OCP Builders Club

The builders club has been very busy with Trick or Treat in the trunk they did for the community on October 31st. They also have held a number of bake sales at the school's sporting events, held a school wide food drive for those in need and in process of electing officers and are planning on participating in our clubs Santa 5K event and Santa parade.



Avalon Builders Club

The club collected several hundred cans of food for the food drive and are looking forward to participating in the parade Dec 3rd and helping out at the Santa Fun Run. They are also still re-cycling paper. If you can, please help them to collect paper by depositing paper from your office and/or home in the green and yellow re-cycling bins in the bus loop at the school. The club thanks all of you for helping with their fundraiser.

Kiwanis Kids

Orlando Christian Prep Key Club

The key club has been very busy with the Trick or Treat in the trunk they did for the community on Oct. 31 . They also assisted the school with the charity golf tournament on Nov. 20 and served lunch to over 200 seniors at the Young at Heart event the school/church host every month. They are also starting their toy drive to help out some local families in need. They too are participating in the club's Santa 5K and Santa parade.

Timber Creek Key Club

The Key Club had another busy month collecting food for their Thanksgiving baskets they are preparing for those in need, helped with Harvest of Hope, continued works with Key to the Closet- their famous and award winning clothes collection program at school for those in need and also did a campus clean-up with the Avalon Middle Builders Club. They are also participating in the Santa parade and Santa 5K events coming up and also planning to serve dinner at Ronald McDonald House in early December.



UCF CKI Bike Ride



Teacher of the Month

Congratulations to the following teachers who went above and beyond

Avalon Elementary — NA
Camelot Elementary — NA
Castle Creek—Sherri Evans
OC Academy — Amanda Kulp
Stone Lakes Elementary — NA
Timber Lakes Elementary — Kristin Johnson
Avalon Middle — Maribel Lopez
Lake Nona High — Gail Chase
Orlando Christian Prep — Carol Kallina
Timber Creek High — Jennifer Houston

Thank you to our partners in this great program

Briantos
Boardwalk Bowl
Conga River Golf
Davis Bakery
Dennys
Eastside Bistro
Friendly Confines
Goodfellas
Marcos Pizza
Margaritas
McDonalds
Pizza Valdianos
Qdoba
Thunya Thai

Also thank you to sponsors of our student awards

All-Star Haircuts
Chilis
Chik-fil-A
Marcos Pizza

Fundraising committee

Fun Run!

The inaugural Kiwanis Santa Fun Run is right around the corner!

Please help us by committing at least part of the day to helping with the run, getting your friends, family and coworkers to sign up to run in the race and spread the word about the fun day we have planned after the race. There will be a fun run for kids, ages 5 and younger, bounce houses, vendors, food, live entertainment and more!

We encourage runners to dress festive for the race and the post-party.

For more information, "like" our Facebook page (Kiwanis-of-Avalon-Park-Fun-Run)

and visit the Santa Fun Run website at kiwanisclubavalonparksantafunrun.weebly.com



The poster features a cartoon Santa Claus with a large sack of gifts running alongside a brown reindeer. The text '5K' is written in a large, stylized font. To the right, the event details are listed: 'SANTA FUN RUN', 'DECEMBER 10TH, 2011', '8 AM', 'AVALON PARK', and 'KIWANIS CLUB'. Below the main illustration is the Kiwanis logo, a globe with a 'K' in the center. Underneath the logo, it says 'SPONSORED BY:'. A grid of 12 logos follows, including: FAIRWINDS CREDIT UNION, EASTSIDE Rusty, Avalon Park Accounting, THE KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY COMPANY, Yoga EAST, EAST ORLANDO SUN, FIRST CLASS, a circular logo with a house, Kids R Kids, ESQUIRE, LEITE & MARTIN, PC ATTORNEYS AT LAW, BELMONT BROS., DSE, and All Star Cuts.

Thank you to all the members who have worked so hard on this event and a special thank you to Sherry Graziano for taking the lead on this project. We appreciate all your hard work!

Fundraising committee

Kiwanis Club Holiday Social

When? Friday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m.

Where? Schmitt's Gingerbread House, 4348 Atwood Drive

What? We have planned a great evening of wine tasting conducted by a professional sommelier who will teach us the art and science of properly tasting wine and how to best match the various types of nectar of the gods to our favorite dishes.

Please bring a dish to share, a decorated bottle of wine we can raffle off, a wrapped white elephant gift to exchange (\$10 value)

This will be a great and memorable evening for our amazing Club of the Year!

Please RSVP to marawight@yahoo.com

Fore!!

Kiwanis of Avalon Park is holding its third annual Charity Golf Tournament on Friday, March 9, 2012 at Stoneybrook East.

Last year the club raised about \$8,000 to fund the three scholarships the club was able to provide as well as supporting our service leadership programs and many service projects done throughout the year.

We will need everyone's help in finding teams, hole sponsors and raffle prizes to make this year's event the best ever.

If you're interested in helping, please contact Dave Schmitt, Golf Tournament Chair.



Interclub

We had a great interclub with the South Orlando Kiwanis Club in November.

Their program discussed their upcoming turkey smoke event, which they do each year during the week of Thanksgiving. They smoke hundreds of turkeys and other meats during the week.

This is a great event and they have great club participation. Those attending the Interclub were April, Darla, Jake, Jennifer and Dave.

Be sure to attend the following upcoming Interclub meetings!

-7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec 6 at Central Orlando

-Noon Thursday, Jan 12 at North Orlando

-Noon Friday, Jan 27 at Orlando



Aktion Club



Social

We had a great turn out at this year's Spooktacular in downtown Avalon Park.

Many of us put on our best Halloween costumes — some were spookier than others!

We had a steady flow of kids at our booth, where they could do some Halloween-themed arts and crafts.



Thank you to everyone who came and made it a successful event!



We need...

This feature of the newsletter lets you know what we need to help get our projects going within the next few months.



-Runners for the Santa Run, stuff for goodie bags, tables, tents and volunteers the day of (Dec. 10)

-A sponsor for Lake Nona Key Club, which meets at 2:20 p.m. Mondays and a sponsor for OCP, which meets at 12:30 p.m. or 3 p.m.



-Food for the Food drive in November

-People interested in working on the PR Committee

-Decorated wine bottles for the Kiwanis social in December



-Golf tournament teams and raffle items

-Members for a new Lake Nona Key Club

-Used Ipods

-Items for the toy drive for the children in Bithlo at Christmas



★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!



Ingrid Dunn—Dec 18
Joanne Meneses—Dec 19
Sheila LaFont—Dec 25



Upcoming Events

Interclubs

- 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6 at Central Orlando
- Noon Thursday, Jan. 12 at North Orlando
- Noon Friday, Jan. 27 at Orlando

Club meetings

- Board Meeting at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13 at DSE
- January meeting at 8 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 5 at Eastside Bistro

Events

- Christmas K-Wine and cheese social at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2 at the Schmitt's
- Avalon Parade and Avalon Aglow at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3
- Santa Run at 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10 at the Avalon Amphitheater

Service

- Bithlo Holidays of Hope from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16

Save the date

- The Kiwanis Golf Tournament is March 9, 2012
- 6th annual Division 10 Bowl-A-Thon, Saturday, Feb. 18 at Boardwalk Bowl