



NYCYP INSIGHTS

Kiwanis Club of New York City Young Professionals

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Key To Your Future Day II a Success!

On October 29, the New York City Young Professionals held one of their signature projects - their second annual "Key to Your Future Day", according to Immediate Past President Kevin Dean. The project is patterned on Circle K's successful "Key to College Day" project where Circle K members speak to Key Club members about college, but takes it a step further. The Key to Your Future Day event is a combination of presentations, workshops and one-on-one discussions among the Kiwanis members and members of its three sponsored Key Clubs. Attendance was also opened up to other Key Clubs sponsored by neighboring Kiwanis Clubs. Approximately 50 students attended the event.



NY District Governor David Rothman as guest speaker

The day, which included lunch for the attendees, began with remarks by Kiwanis Governor David Rothman who commended the young professionals for their commitment to his Governor's Project "Mentoring Kids," and advised the attendees to continue to develop their relationships with their Kiwanis sponsors and to remain active in the Kiwanis family

throughout their lives. Guest speakers also included representatives from two local colleges, one also on mentoring, and one the other on the college admissions process. Workshops followed on topics such as "Writing a Winning College Application Essay,"

"Financing Your Education," "College & Employment Interviewing," "Employment in Accounting & Finance," "Résumé Writing," "Key Club Leadership Opportunities and Life Outside Your Club," and finally "Employment in the Arts & Media," all with the Kiwanis members as panelists. Attendees were given information in advance and were required to sign up for the workshops. In order to maximize attendance and make the event interesting for as many attendees as possible, the workshops were delivered in three repeating sessions with the different topics offered in varying combinations. The day finished with an open time of refreshments and mingling where the attendees got the opportunity to speak directly with the Kiwanians. Nearly all of the young professionals' membership took

part in some way, and the club calculates that over 300 service hours were involved, from planning to fruition.

The event was held in the conference center of Ernst & Young's Times Square office tower. The club is lucky to have six members who work at Ernst & Young, and the company was very supportive of this effort, including donating the space and providing supplies. The club believes that holding the event in such a professional environment provides a unique opportunity for these students to which they might not otherwise be exposed, and also lends a sense of substance and polish to the proceedings. As with the first event a year ago, the attendees' response has been overwhelmingly positive, and the club plans to continue this annual project.

According to Charlotte Owens, chair of the young professionals' Sponsored Youth Committee, "The idea wasn't to hold ourselves out as experts on any of this subject matter. It was to pick subject matter that was relevant to the students, and then to present it from our own individual perspectives. We thought this would generate an atmosphere of inquisitiveness and curiosity, and we were right."

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Key Club Leadership Opportunities Workshop. Past CKI President Jason Steiner, at the far corner, participates in the discussion.



First Lady Debra, Governor Dave, and NYCYP Kiwanian Denise Detrano



LTG-Elect Kevin Dean excites the audience



Key Clubbers, Kiwanians, and guests actively listening to the speakers

DUES! DUES! DUES!

All of you are familiar with the term. This year, our dues will be due on **December 31st**, 2005, to club treasurer Meg Deiss. As you know, the total cost is comprised of club dues, district dues, and international dues. Some of you

do not have to pay international dues since you were a former sponsored youth and have been a member of Kiwanis for less than 2 years. For the others, you will have to pay the full amount. Meg will be sending you an invoice

on how much your dues will be for 2006. If you have any questions, please contact Meg Deiss at deissm@newschool.edu. Remember, the dues are due on December 31st, 2005!

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Tye, Dawn, and Kids with a Promise

Tye's Merry Experience at the 1st Annual Kiwanis Children's Holiday Party

At 6:30am on Sunday, December 4, 2005 I woke up to a cold snowy day; with the question... do I really want to get out of bed? Then I remembered why I set my alarm clock so early on a frigid Sunday morning...I had volunteered to help with the Kiwanis Children's Holiday Party.

I arrived a little after 9:30am at the Evangelical Christian Church in the Bronx to find the children, from the Kids with a Promise After-School Program, crammed into the church's common room checking in with Joe and Dawn before loading the bus. In their hands were the highlights magazines and their faces were filled with excitement. At 9:45am we loaded 37 children (ages 5 to 16), one infant, 5 par-

ents and two teachers onto a yellow school bus for the surprisingly quick trip to Staten Island.

When we arrived at the Renaissance Banquet Hall and entered the party room filled with Christmas carols and red, green and white balloons and decorations, it became clear that we had the biggest group from our division. We were also the first to arrive. We took up five large tables on the right side of the room next to the dance floor. The first hour was unstructured; the children were free to help themselves to food, dance, or

interact with Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph, Shrek, or the two clowns who wowed the kids with their balloon twisting skills. The characters were played by Key Club students from the Staten Island area.



Lisa picking some delicious desserts

The food was excellent, there was something for everyone, for example there were Chicken Fingers and

French Fries, which were popular with the children, and the made to order



Dr. Seuss hugging the kids



Mike, Sean, and Tanya eating brunch

omelettes, stuffed French toast (yummy!), and veal and eggplant parmesan were the adult's favorites. At 12:30pm there was a magic show starring one of the clowns. He was so funny, in a corny way, that I found myself as enthralled as the children. Santa Claus put in a quick appearance

shortly after the magic show. The children were disappointed that he did not stay longer. However, it is possible that the children scared him away after the DJ told all the children to get up and give Santa a hug. As you can imagine, it's never a good idea for 50 children to hug one person! Dawn and I had to pull the clinging children away from Santa one at a time.

After Santa made his exit the DJ played some games with the children and led them through some popular party

dances, like the Hokey Pokey, Chicken Dance, Macarena, etc. The DJ was great! He had a lot of energy.



Dawn trying to give Santa some space

After the party games, the DJ began playing music for the children to dance.

At the end of the party, each child received a gift that Santa left for them. The younger children received the game Connect Four and the



Dawn enjoying Hokey Pokey

older children received the board game Operation. In conclusion, I was glad that I made the decision to get out of my bed that cold, snowy morning.

The children were excellent! I work with children on a daily

basis so I can appreciate the effort that the staff of Kids with a Promise put into preparing the children for the event. The program had short notice to get their children and parents together for this event, and they did an excellent job. I hope that we get a chance to work with this wonderful program again. I can't wait for next year's Holiday Party!

Tyesha is a board member of the Kiwanis Club of NYC Young Professionals. She is pictured on the right with kids from Kids with a Promise





KTYFD II: Continued

Immediate Past Key Club Governor Kristin Kramer, who was a guest panelist at the event a year ago observed, "Key to Your Future Day was absolutely fantastic. From the professionalism and the eagerness of the Key Clubbers to the down-to-earth nature of such distinguished Kiwanians, I was impressed and invigorated everywhere I looked. Key Clubbers were able to learn from their Kiwanis sponsors about college, the corporate world, opportunities in public service, and even how Key Club can play into all these things through unique leadership opportunities. Learning from one another in a forum such as this truly exemplifies what it means to be a Kiwanis family."

The club believes that although certain ideal circumstances may have been unique to them,

any Kiwanis club could easily undertake this project – an outstanding illustration of Kiwanis International's recent partnership with the United States Department of Education, "Take the Lead in Preparing America's Future." Additionally, although the club does not yet formally sponsor a Circle K club and is actively pursuing that opportunity, with minimal tailoring the project would be just as successful to a college-level audience. A formal event-style program is not required in order to establish this kind of a relationship with youth. Dialog can be held at club meetings, or more ambitious clubs can open up the program to students outside of sponsored youth, such as an event at a community center or at a high school. The beauty of the event is that it is scalable; it can be tailored to the needs of the Kiwanis club and still be successful.

Dean summarized, "As Kiwanians, we often say

that the sponsored youth are the future of the organization. We can better ensure that future by treating youth as equal partners in our common mission, thereby making it obvious why they should stay involved with us after they graduate. Through projects like Key to Your Future Day, we show them that we care and want not only to help but also to learn from them, and as a result we believe they will be more interested in continuing their participation with the Kiwanis Family."

The club has been approached by Immediate Past Lt. Governor Eric Shivnarain of the Queens West division to assist him in holding the project in that area, and Dean encourages all Kiwanis clubs to consider holding such a project this year. Questions on the project may be directed to Dean, Chair of the NY District Young Professionals Committee for 2005-06.

Written by IP President and LTG-Elect Kevin Dean

Jason Steiner ponders... "Why I Joined Kiwanis"

Among the often pondered questions in our society today – How can we achieve world peace?; How can we fix social security?; How can we improve our educational system?; Who will win this year's Super Bowl?; Will the Yankees be able to sign a long-term answer for center field?; Will the 2nd Avenue subway ever be completed?; and Why do some of our potholes seem to be the size of some small nations - perhaps the one most demanding of an answer is, Why did I join Kiwanis and specifically, why the New York City Young Professionals Kiwanis club?

OK, so maybe we all have far more important things to concern ourselves with, but I was asked by our esteemed president to document my answer to those last two questions, and as the dutiful new member that I am, I willingly comply.

In theory, the more appropriate question would have been, "What took you so long?" I am quite familiar with the K-family, having spent my six college years (undergraduate and then graduate school, for those of you who suddenly thought that our membership standards had dropped!) as an active participant of Circle K. But that was from 1986 to 1992. Over 13 years ago! During my time as a member



Jason met Alison when she was still in high school

of CKI, I was the vice-president of my club at NYU, lieutenant governor for the then Bronx Metropolitan division (NYU, Manhattan College, Fordham, and SUNY Maritime), New York district Governor, and finally, Circle K International President.

So after six years in Circle K, did I expect to join Kiwanis? Yes, eventually. No, not immediately. I moved to Pittsburgh and took time to begin a career, learn a new city, and adjust to a completely different quality of life than the one I was accustomed to having grown up here in New York City.

After two years, I considered my options. I wasn't prepared to build a club, but also wasn't content with my other options either. I was offered the opportunity to join the Pennsylvania District Circle K Kiwanis Committee, if I joined a club. Still, the appropriate opportunity evaded me. I was invited to join one club, but found making weekly meetings typically held before I was able to leave work fairly difficult. I was also invited, along with several other former Circle K friends of mine, to join another Kiwanis club that met at lunch very close to my place of

business. Seemed promising. Unfortunately, their "lunch" meetings lasted two hours. Additionally, every hands-on project they undertook was done on weekdays during business hours. Going to

"In theory, the more appropriate question would have been, 'What took you so long?'"

Children's Hospital to entertain the kids? Tuesday at 1 pm. Holding a golf outing to raise funds for Muscular Dystrophy? Shotgun start on Thursday, beginning at 11 am. Did these guys work? One of my friends actually did

briefly join a club but grew frustrated and eventually withdrew his membership after realizing that they were a check-writing group and not a "get your hands dirty" group. Not that there's anything wrong with that. It's just not what I was looking for. Kiwanis membership remained elusive.

Fast forward to 2003. Mergers, cost cutting, and other opportunities brought me back to New York City (although I still have my house in Pittsburgh – that's a story I'll spare you!) After laying low for a while, a couple of good friends of mine, Stacey and Alison Guardino, found out I was back in town and gave me a call. Stacey and I met in Circle K while I was at NYU and she was at Manhattan College. Alison was still in high school when I met

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Kiwanis Club of New York City Young Professionals

Meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each Month
Restaurant San Martin, 7:30PM
143 East 49th Street (b/w Lexington and Third Ave)
New

Club President: Joseph Lim
Club VP: Dawn Shmidt and Danny Orsburn
Club Secretary: Alison Guardino
Club Treasurer: Meg Deiss

We're on the Web!

<http://www.kiwanisnycyp.org>

Guess Who?

- 1) Member graduated from NYU as a journalism major and is now in public relations
- 2) Member was the first female key club governor of the NY District.

Answers to Guess Who? in last issue

- 1) *Jessy Hsieh*
- 2) *Jason Steiner*

Jason Steiner: Continued



her. (Boy, do I feel old!) They ultimately told me about the NYC Young Professionals Kiwanis club – how it started, how it is “non-traditional,” the types of projects it performed, and the types of people involved with it. Based on everything I heard, it sounded too good to be true. It was exactly what I was looking for in a Kiwanis club - other members closer to my age than my parents’, meetings that were feasible for me to attend, projects that involved getting out into the community. (Of course, the new Kiwanis policy of waiving dues for former sponsored youth members didn’t hurt matters either – but I digress!) They invited me to one of the clubs projects, Meals on Heels, and a club social. Both events brought back vivid memories of my time in Circle K as part of the K-family. They brought back the wonderful feelings of making a positive difference in others lives. It also reminded me of something I said as CKI President. I had said during my address at the Kiwanis International Convention in Anaheim, California, that Kiwanis and Circle K were working together with ultimately one goal in mind...to make both of our organizations obsolete...to mold a world in which the service that Kiwanis provided would be unnecessary.

My “test-drive” project, Meals on Heels, reminded me that there is still much work to be done. The people that I worked that project with and those whom I met at the club social, only solidified that NYC Young Professionals was indeed the group in which I wanted to rekindle my K-family involvement and with whom I wanted to serve my community.

As a result, I am now a proud member of the New York City Young Professionals Kiwanis Club.

As so many of my friends from my Circle K days so succinctly put it, “It’s about time!”

Lobells say “Thank You!”

To those who have touched our lives:

As we begin the season of celebration of the birth of Jesus, we are so grateful for the blessing of family and friends and the caring and concern they have shown us since the devastation brought upon us by Hurricane Katrina. In these difficult times, communities have grown stronger and we have made many new and lasting friendships. So, while we are saddened by the destruction of our beautiful Gulf Coast, we are a truly blessed family. As God’s Word says, God takes care of His children. And He did just that through the generosity of others.

Since August 29, our lives have been greatly changed. Immediately following the storm, we spent a few days in Louisiana where we were able to regroup and find some direction as to what God would have us to do. After much prayer, we returned to Long Beach where Adam returned to his job at BellSouth and I worked with our church’s recovery effort.

At first, we stayed in a “tent city” established through BellSouth where the people were wonderful in providing for all of our needs. They not only cared for us adults but also kept an ever-watchful eye on our children who grew to love them all. After a couple of weeks, we were able to move into a large camper that belonged to a friend from our church. We remained there for about six weeks before we were able to rent a three bedroom, two bath duplex here in Long Beach.

After three months, our lives have finally returned to “normal.” Evan and Christen have gone back to school and are both doing quite well. Both will be celebrating birthdays this month and their major objective is to have a “cool” birthday party. Seth is suffering through the “terrible two’s” a few months early! Of course, all are excited about Christmas, but Evan says all he



wants for Christmas is “his two front teeth!”

Our lives will never be the same not only because of the storm but also because of the love, caring, and compassion of others. Your gifts of money, clothes, toys, and other personal items have made our lives so much easier. You enabled us to come out of one of the most difficult times of our lives with dignity and thankfulness. Your love, support, and prayers have sustained us through these months and we rely greatly on your continuing to pray for all of us.

We will continually seek God for direction and are excited to see what He has in store for us.

God has provided for our family most abundantly. His grace has truly been amazing!

May you have a blessed Christmas and a fulfillment of God’s promises for the New Year!