

Almaden Valley Kiwanis Newsletter

Volume 1
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Kiwanis One-Day



Over 210 volunteers from Division 12, including Kiwanians, Circle K members, Key Clubbers, Aktion Club members, Builders Club members and parents attended our park clean-up at Alum Rock Park in San Jose this year. The rangers appreciated all of our trail maintenance work, cleaning the play ground equipment and turning the Fibar under the equipment, and cleaning around picnic areas. Almaden Valley

Kiwanians led a team of middle and high school students in clearing weeds to widen a portion at the beginning of a trail off the parking lot, making two major sections more passable by hikers and increasing visibility at two signposts.

*Sarah Gianocaró,
2010-11 Vice-President*

AVK Successfully Manages Many Projects



At the end of an email that I recently received from a fellow Kiwanian was this thought provoking quotation: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead. "A small group of thoughtful, committed citizens" so aptly describes members of the Almaden Valley Kiwanis Club. The activities of the club so far have made notable contributions to our community. To name a few successful service projects:

Almaden Cares: a program to raise community awareness of the dangers of teenage speeding and teenage driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

Red Cross Blood Drive: made significant deposits into the blood bank to save lives.

Turnaround Scholarships: to acknowledge teenagers who have overcome personal challenges and family obstacles in order to continue their education.

Fund raising activities are necessary to defray the expenses associated with service projects. That's where the fun comes in. Here is a partial list of this year's fundraising projects:

E-Waste Drive: to clean up the environment (and make money for Kiwanis projects)

Election night at the Registrar of Voters: to support democracy (and make money for Kiwanis projects)

Day at the Races: to encourage the sport of kings (and make money for Kiwanis projects)

Comedy Night: to nourish our sense of humor (and to make money for Kiwanis projects)

Almaden Art and Wine Festival: to promote arts and crafts in the Almaden

community (and to make money for Kiwanis projects)

Outback Dinner Sales: to celebrate the contributions of Administrative Assistants during Administration Assistants Appreciation Week (and to make money for Kiwanis projects)

The club's workload is lightened by the enthusiastic participation of members from our Leland High School and Pioneer High School Key clubs. Since our primary purpose is to support the positive development of youth in our community, AVK members operate hand in hand with Key Club programs and conventions. Key Clubs also independently conduct their own projects in keeping with Kiwanis goals.

With a membership total of only 24 one may ask, "How do they manage to do it all?" Our membership represents a wide spectrum of backgrounds, interests and talents. We adopt projects that are in keeping with Kiwanis objectives and at the same time appeal to dedicated members who will take the ball and run with the team. There are long-term projects (such as the Turnaround Scholarship Awards and the Almaden Cares Program) and there are short term projects (such as the project to build a walkway for Simonds School and the Red Cross Blood Drive). AVK provides inspiration and opportunity for every member. Amid all these activities, the focus is clear: We are here to help the youth in our community. That is our purpose.

*Caroline Cooper,
2010-11 Recording Secretary*

Family Giving Tree

I urge you to visit the site, www.familygivingtree.org. The organization was started as a Senior College project at San Jose State University in 1990. The goal is to ensure that no child goes through a Christmas Holiday without a present from Santa. They are now located in three states.

Carla started donating to the Family Giving Tree about 18 years ago. She convinced her students and staff at Leland High School to give; that first year, they donated about 92 presents. Over the years, our donations have

been increased by Leland High, Simonds Elementary, Almaden Valley Kiwanis, Silicon Valley Kiwanis, and private donations from other sources (including Carla herself). This past holiday we rented a U-Haul 14-foot truck and brought about 1,400 presents to the Family Giving Tree warehouse. We are told that we are the biggest of the school donors in all three states and in the top ten corporate donors.

There are opportunities to work at the warehouse as Elves. The Elves sort and categorize the gifts and

help send the gifts to the children in need. We intend to make a visit to the Family Giving Tree offices in Milpitas this spring and see what the Kiwanis can do to assist next holiday season.

Carla and I wish to thank all of our friends who have assisted us with this project in the past years. Please let us know if you wish to be an Elf in the warehouse one day next season. We will do the research and let all of you know what our options are.

*Jim Lucarotti,
Immediate Past President*



Leland Key Club

It was a great year for the 2010-2011 Leland executive board. Since we are all seniors, we will be graduating and moving on to Circle K. The new officers are all sophomore girls with the exception of our bulletin editor, who is a junior. Their spirit and enthusiasm for Key Club will definitely help lead them through another successful year. We had tons of fun at District Convention last weekend and are excited for Relay for Life; we are forming a team with Pioneer for the second time, and this year we are participating at

Leland. We are getting started on fundraising by hosting a car wash at Pioneer on Saturday, May 14th! All proceeds will go towards our Relay funds which benefit the American Cancer Society. Please come out and support us in our fight against cancer.

*Asami Osato,
Leland Key Club President*



*Members of the Leland Key Club
with the Lieutenant Governor
banner for the 2010-11 year.*

Kiwanis Club of Almaden Valley

PRESIDENT
CHRIS VERBURG

VICE PRESIDENT
SARAH GIANOCARO

RECORDING SECRETARY
CAROLINE COOPER

CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY
ANN CHRISTIANSEN

TREASURER
STAN HARRIS

INFO@ALMADENVALLEYKIWANIS.ORG

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.almadenvalleykiwanis.org

or visit us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=54494327647

Upcoming Events

5/1: Safety Faire

Our big pediatric trauma prevention project for the year will take place on Sunday May 1 from 2pm to 4:30pm at Pioneer High School. In addition to inspecting helmets and having helmets available at cost (or free if needed), safety stations will be run by Key Clubbers from Pioneer and Leland High School with assistance from K-Kids at Simonds Elementary, and Almaden Boy Scout Troop 200. Two local non-profits, Spokes to Folks and Good Karma Bikes, will provide free safety inspections and adjustments. Friendship Lodge #210 F&AM (Masons) will provide Child ID kits. This event is free to the public and volunteers may bring their own children to participate (please bring bicycle and helmet). Any questions, please email sarah@almadenvalleykiwanis.org

About Kiwanis...

Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. Kiwanis International and its Service Leadership Programs for young people dedicate more than 19 million volunteer hours and invest \$100 million to strengthen communities and serve children annually. The Kiwanis International family is composed of 600,000 adult and youth members in 15,000 clubs in more than 70 countries and geographic areas. Kiwanis members make their mark by responding to the needs of their communities and pooling their resources to address worldwide issues.

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TO: