



# Kiwaniis Club of Woodhaven

Kiwaniis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.

## Kids Against Hunger

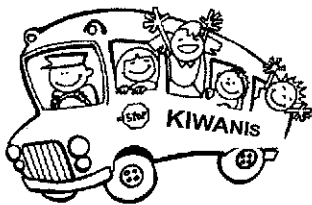
A program of Feeding Children International

14,400 children die every day from malnutrition, starvation, hunger-related diseases. Three hundred third, fourth, and fifth graders from across the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District spent their Saturday morning, February 5th to fight hunger around the world. Students turned the Bates School gym into eight assembly lines to pack a remarkable 36,936 meals.

"Kids Against Hunger" packing was sponsored by the Bates School PTO, Erving School PTO, Gudith School PTO, Wegienka School PTO, Yake School PTO, PHMS National Junior Honor Society and the Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven. Sponsoring groups picked up the \$9,300 tab for supplies. Teachers, parents, bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and administrators joined Kiwanians in providing supervision.

Dr. Donald E. Burwell, President & CEO of the Kids Against Hunger Great Lakes Coalition, educated students about hunger issues around the world. At the end of Dr. Burwell's presentation, youngsters put on their hairnets, aprons, and gloves and got down to business. Three and half hours later, the dust settled and 36,936 meals were on their way to aid in the battle against hunger. After a morning of working the line, students took a couple of minutes to taste a sample of their hard work.

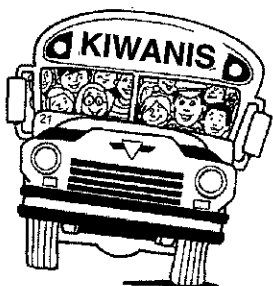
## Bus Project



The expense of purchasing, maintaining and insuring a bus has grown to the point where most Scout Troops, Churches and Youth groups are not able to support the cost of owning and operating their own bus. Woodhaven Kiwanians felt they could serve the entire community by purchasing a bus and making it available, along with Kiwanian bus drivers, for the entire community. In 1987, we purchased our first bus.

From this humble beginning, we have grown to the point where we now own two buses to meet our community's needs. We currently have a 2000 seventy-seven passenger bus we purchased new for \$59,100 in 2000. Two years ago, we traded in our 1994 bus for a 2008 seventy-one passenger bus. The purchase price for this new bus was \$65,500. This gives us two buses. One is ten years old and the other just two year old. Yet with both buses on the road, we occasionally find that two busses are not enough, and we need to borrow a third and sometimes a fourth.

During the 2010 Kiwanis Year, our Kiwanis Busses took 192 trips, traveled 11,969 miles and carried 9,288 passengers. Among the groups we served this year, were four recreation departments, five different churches, several scout troops, and the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District. Our Club is committed to provided a safe ride for our many riders.



## An Apple for Ryan

Each September, nine schools in the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District & Porter-Clark Chiropractic Center participate in An Apple for Ryan Food Collection. An Apple for Ryan was formed in memory of Ryan Sergent, a kind, young athlete from Flat Rock High School, who passed away while participating in cross-country practice in 1995. Food is gathered & sent to Bates where it is sorted & packed. Additionally, \$3,000 of food was purchased with money collected. On delivery day, Kiwanians, families, & friends gather at Bates at 7:30 am to pack the food on 3 buses.



Traveling in a caravan, the volunteers and Kiwanis members visited 13 food pantries at Our Lady of the Woods church, Woodhaven Community Center serving the Senior Citizens, Community Lutheran Church (Flat Rock), St. Pat's in Wyandotte, the Downriver Salvation Army, Our Lady of Lourdes (River Rouge), All Saints, Freedom House serving African Political Refugees, St. Anne's, St. Patrick's, St. Dominic's, St. Leo's all in Detroit and finally Manna Meal.

This year, St. Dominic's served double the number of families they served last year. All Saints reported they provide food for over 600 families each month. Also very revealing was watching the eyes and listening to the conversation of the student volunteers ranging from kindergarten through high schoolers as they saw the blight and need of our intercity. And young Ryan Sergent's goal of making our community a better place, had been met once again.

## Kindergarten Literacy

Each year, the Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven provides a reading program for Kindergarten students throughout the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District. A time is set up with each School's Principal for two or three Kiwanian volunteers to read the book in class to the kindergarten students. After reading the book to the class, the Kiwanians explain a little bit about what Kiwanis is and what we do for the community, and present each child with their very own copy of the book to take home with them and share with their family.



We have found this program to be a very successful one in getting the children interested in reading and, hopefully, their families to help their child to read.

## Reading Is Fundamental®

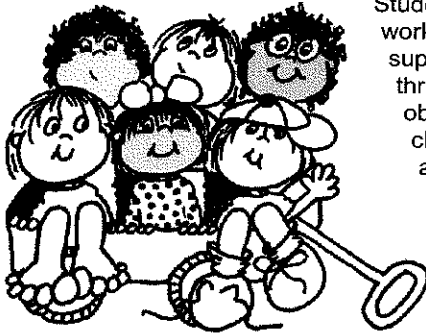
Each year, the Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven donates \$3,000 to the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District. The money from Kiwanis entitles the District to a "matching" grant of \$8,000 from the Mazda Foundation to fund Reading is Fundamental for 1,500 students in second through fifth grade. Each student receives a free book of their choice three times a year to support student ownership of books and reading materials of their choice.



# Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven - Serving our Community

## Youth Challenge Self Esteem Building Day

For the past dozen or so years, the Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven has planned an annual spring event to challenge students to do their very best. Our program has evolved to include 100 students each May. Our goal was to build team work and to challenge youngsters to do their personal best.



Students learned team work as they helped and supported each other through two different obstacles courses. They challenged themselves as they navigate the low ropes course and took their turn climbing to sixty foot climbing tower. They cheered as their principals' struggled

with the ropes course. Students arrived at Bates School at 8:30 am along with school administrators, teachers, parent volunteers and Kiwanians. After a breakfast, they boarded the Kiwanis busses for a full day, returning, very tired, about 4:45 pm in the afternoon. Our day at Howell Nature Center included a spaghetti lunch prepared by the camp staff. Our Student High Adventure Day is funded by \$2,500 from our Club and \$1,000 from the Robison Family Foundation.

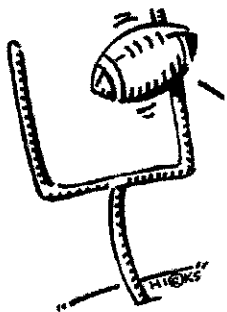
## Veterans' Breakfast

The Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven, in partnership with Southwest Solutions, provided a Pancake Breakfast for our veterans living at Piquette Square. The breakfast was hosted on November 11th, Veterans Day, to honor all those who served our country. While honoring our veterans is important, it is even more important for the veterans at Piquette Square because all of the 153 residents were formerly homeless.

Piquette Square is a permanent, supportive housing facility for veterans. In addition to the pancake breakfast, the Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven also provided needed items such as personal hygiene products, toiletries, blankets, towels, and other household items.



## Friday Night Football



Each Friday night, as the Woodhaven High School Varsity Football team takes to Scarton Field, Kiwanians lend a helping hand. It has been a long standing tradition that Kiwanians support our student athletes and the High School Athletic program by providing both ticket collectors and a "Chain Gang" to handle the chains and down marker. It is part of our outstanding relationship between Kiwanis and our School District.

## Youth Citizenship Dinner

For the past thirty years, the Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven has set aside a day each May to pay tribute to the student leaders in our school. This is not an academic award, but rather an award for the student who is a leader, who participates in service to his/her school and has provided service to their school or community. Kiwanians ask the school to look for students who possess the outstanding personal characteristics we would like all youngsters to emulate. Typically they are students who are involved with helping other students, as well as, staff. Each school will choose their winner.....once the winners are chosen Kiwanians invite the winners, their teachers, their school administrator and families to one of our Wednesday meetings. At our awards dinner, students are introduced by their teachers, who share stories of the students' dedication to others. Our Club President presents each student with a certificate to help remember this exciting day.

## CS Mott Children's Hospital

Each May, the Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven holds their annual children's shower for the patients and their families at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital. Last year, more than 90 people from walks of the community participated.

Hundreds of gifts, including toys, crafts, handmade fleece blankets, trauma dolls, hand-knitted infant hats, stuffed animals, books, monetary donations, as well as gasoline and gift cards, were collected for the "Child & Family Life Department" at the Hospital. "Child & Family Life Department" uses these gifts to make hospital visits easier for children and their families.

Shower Guests enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner, cake and participate in Mott Hospital Bingo and a basket raffle was held resulting in a donation of over \$380 for the Hospital. Our fourth annual shower is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at Bates School.

## April is Autism Month

Today, it is estimated that one in every 110 children is diagnosed with autism, making it more common than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes and pediatric Aids combined.

Each April, the Woodhaven Kiwanis holds their annual movie for autistic children and their families at the Emagine Theater in Woodhaven. The movie is *autistic friendly* with the lights left on, the sound lowered and the doors left opened because some of the children are claustrophobic. This setting is conducive to the needs of autistic children. It also provides parents the opportunity to take their child to a movie without feeling they are being distracting to others.



## To Learn More about Kiwanis



Contact:  
Paul J. Eisey, Secretary  
(734) 771-0552  
[www.woodhavenkiwanis.org](http://www.woodhavenkiwanis.org)