



House Talk

Kiwani's in Action at our Kiwanis Family House

Volume XII Issue 7

January 2012

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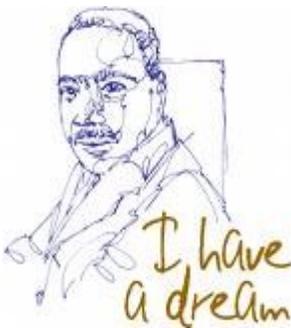
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From our house, to your house:



We wish you a Happy and a Prosperous New Year!

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day
Jan. 16, 2012



At the Lincoln Memorial, August 28, 1963

"...We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..."

Janus... as in January



In Roman mythology, **Janus** was the god of gates, doors, doorways, beginnings, and endings. His most apparent remnant in modern culture is his namesake, the month of January.

To assist Janus, with his backward and forward looking abilities, annually (since January 2005) each Kiwanis Family House Board member is asked to look back and select one or two accomplishment(s) for the past year and then provide a goal (or two) for the new year.

These are responses from the board members who responded this year.

Calvin Hara (Vice President of KFH Board):



"The spirit of volunteerism flourished in 2011 with many Kiwanians, sponsored program youth from Circle K and Key Club providing financial and hands on assistance. The spirit of compassion to helping those in need is appreciated by the 100+ families staying at the Kiwanis Family House each month."

"I look forward to the new year with the same and even more excitement and unselfish giving. The Board of Directors will continue to guide the organization with fiscal and sound responsibility."

Rita Beall:
"Accomplishments for 2011: -Opened our first-ever See's Candy Holiday Store for our KFH -Met with stakeholders to develop new Strategic Plan and focus for next 3-5 years"



"Goals for Next Year: (Continued on page 5)"

President's Message by Bill Hooper

The first six months of our Kiwanis Family House (KFH) year have been challenging, exciting, and productive.



The excitement is evident every time I go to our House and watch Key Clubbers, Circle K members, and Kiwanis members either working on a project, or talking excitedly together before or after a meeting, or visiting with a patient who stopped them to say thank you.

The central location of our KFH to the Sacramento and Northern California area has given us a secondary mission as a gathering place for the Kiwanis family. If you or members of your club have not visited us think about calling us, taking a tour and/or holding a meeting at the

House. It really feels good to experience firsthand the difference your House and your efforts are making for over 100 families a month.

It has been productive because we have successfully implemented and carried out many new fund raisers such as the Rose Bowl Extravaganza, and working for Fun Events. Both Kiwanis Clubs and Service Leadership Programs (SLP) Clubs have helped with these fund raisers and organized events of their own which have been very successful.

The energy is positive as members of the Kiwanis family call us to ask how they can help at the House or to offer a suggestion on a new project, suggest a prospective corporate partner, or a grant that we might want to apply for. UC Davis Medical Center continues to expand, providing more specialized care for chil-

dren and this has brought us more patients from all over the district and the world. There has been very little slow down this winter as we always have a waiting list.

In 2012 we will continue to look for corporate partners, search for grants that seem to be appropriate for us and apply for them. The positive publicity we have received from being selected by the Sacramento Bee's *Book of Dreams* and being featured every week in the newspaper has been great for KFH, UCD Med Center, and Kiwanis. Board members are always working with community
(Continued on page 10)

"...The excitement is evident every time I go to our House ..."

Our Kiwanis Family House is a United Way Certified Partner Agency!





Important Dates

**Kiwanis Family House
Board meetings
Kiwanis Family House
2875 50th Street
Sacramento, CA 95817
Second Thursdays 7:00 pm**

2011

January 12

February 9

March 8

April 12

May 10

June (annual meeting) TBA

July 12

Aug 9



Free money

There are still areas with Albertsons Supermarkets. Keep using your Albertson's Preferred Savings Card.

**Register your card by calling
(800) 353-9002.**

House Talk is a monthly newsletter published by the Kiwanis Family House, Inc. 2875 50th Street, Sacramento, CA 95817-2308. (916) 736-0116.

website: www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org

The Kiwanis Family House is a 501 (c) 3 organization incorporated by in the State of California and recognized by the IRS.

Board of Kiwanis Family House

President: **William (Bill) Hooper (2014)**
Vice President.....**Calvin Hara (2014)**
Secretary.....**Emily Chirk (2014)**
Treasurer.....**Joyce A. Blonskij (2012)**
Director.....**Karen Borman (2014)**
Director.....**Bob Isaacs (2013)**
Director.....**George MacMurphey(2013)**
Director.....**Dan Saulisbury (2012)**
Director.....**Neil Strain (2012)**
Director.....**Rita Beall (2013)**
Director..... **Matthew J. Wehner (2014)**

Past President.....**William "Rick" Dwyer**
UCDMC Liaison..... **J.P. Eres III**
Editor.....**John W. Seigal**

House Talk is published monthly and sent to supporters and owners of the Kiwanis Family House Inc.. The editor is solely responsible for the content. It is the intent to be 100% accurate. Articles labeled as Editorial represent the opinion of the editor and may not represent the opinion of the Kiwanis Family House, the board, or Kiwanis International. The address of the editor is P.O, Box 1131 Sloughhouse, CA 95683-1131 or email: jwseigal@sbcglobal.net

Kiwanis Family House Mission Statement

"The mission of the Kiwanis Family House is dedicated to providing housing and support to families of seriously ill children and adults being treated at University of California, Davis, Sacramento."

Subscription information about House Talk

- ♥ *House Talk* is the official publication of our KFH.
- ♥ Each Sponsor Club is emailed a copy to the designated Kiwanian.
- ♥ If you are interested in receiving the House Talk via email visit our website at: www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org and enter your email address on the lower left-hand corner where it says "Sign Up For Our Email Newsletter".
- ♥ If you wish to receive it by US Postal Service contact Editor on page 10.

Buy a brick!



KFH Board Member, **Neil Strain**, is showing the bricks.

The bricks cost \$100@. The lettering grid is 15 spaces across and three rows deep.

Use them for birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, sponsored organizations, past presidents, honorary members, and more. They last longer than plaques.

For more information or a brick order contact editor.

See page 10.

Would you donate 3% of your supermarket shopping to our Kiwanis Family House?

It is simple as 1-2-3

1. Do you shop at Save Mart, Smart, Food Maxx or Lucky Supermarkets?
2. If so scan your S.H.A.R.E.S. card and the house gets a percentage. You still get the great sale prices and the rest.



3. If you do not have a card contact editor (page 10) and send your name and USPS mailing address. Editor will send you a S.H.A.R.E.S. card by return mail!
Scan the S.H.A.R.E.S. card each time you shop!



See us at:

- ♦ **Feb 11th Cal-Nev-Ha District Mid-year Riverside, California**
- ♦ **Mar 3rd Cal-Nev-Ha District Mid-year Monterey, California**
- ♦ **June 28-30th Kiwanis International Convention New Orleans**



- ♦ **Aug 23-25th Cal-Nev-Ha District Convention Santa Clara, California**

Kiwanis Family House, not in my backyard!

Report #117

Since October 1, 2001 to November 30, 2011, (the effective dates of this report), **10,012** families have stayed one or more nights at our Kiwanis Family House while being treated at UCDMC.

This report covers over ten years. Previous to October 1, 2001 the reports were tabulated in a different format.

Our KFH has hosted **784** families from **outside Cal-Nev-Ha District** (California, Nevada, and Hawaii).

These **784** families come from:

Alabama	Montana
Alaska	Nebraska
Arizona	New Hampshire
Arkansas	New Jersey
Colorado	New Mexico
Connecticut	New York
Delaware	North Carolina
District of Columbia	Ohio
Florida	Oklahoma
Georgia	Oregon
Idaho	Pennsylvania
Illinois	South Carolina
Indiana	South Dakota
Iowa	Tennessee
Kansas	Texas
Kentucky	Utah
Louisiana	Vermont
Maryland	Virginia
Massachusetts	Washington
Michigan	West Virginia
Minnesota	Wisconsin
Mississippi	Wyoming
Missouri	

Also, there have been families from:

- Belgium
- Brazil
- Canada
- England
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Israel
- Italy
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Pakistan
- People's Republic of China
- Republic of Palau
- Serbia
- Taiwan
- Uruguay
- Venezuela
- Wales

Division 7 and Division 44 are considered the "host" divisions. Families living within 35 miles of UCDMC are **not** eligible to stay at our KFH.

Aren't you glad that there is your Kiwanis Family House at UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, California?

Div.	Lt. Gov.	Families	%
39	Mower	2,692	26.89%
14	Dunning	1,112	11.11%
Out of	District	784	7.83%
27	Montalbo	756	7.55%
45	Pisiewski	657	6.56%
46	Smith	628	6.27%
44	Bowes-Jr.	609	6.08%
20	Smith	391	3.91%
23	Siminske	366	3.66%
8	Frazier	320	3.20%
32	Avants	266	2.66%
7	Kocsis	203	2.03%
5	Hillman	163	1.63%
26	Gilliam	136	1.36%
18	Roberts	108	1.08%
36	Tidler	103	1.03%
34	Litteer	97	0.97%
12	Imper	96	0.96%
2	Bowerman	90	0.90%
38	Rardon	57	0.57%
28	Yelinek	36	0.36%
43	Bowen	32	0.32%
29	TerBorch	27	0.27%
33	Johnson	27	0.27%
42	Gray	24	0.24%
41	Bonar	22	0.22%
11	Nakawatase	21	0.21%
22	Rugg	18	0.18%
15	Haendiges	17	0.17%
31	Higgins	16	0.16%
6	Whately	15	0.15%
16	Hyland	15	0.15%
30	Fields	14	0.14%
47	Platzke	14	0.14%
10	Arnold	12	0.12%
24	Benitez	12	0.12%
1	Davis	11	0.11%
4	Brooks	11	0.11%
37	Sargent	11	0.11%
25	Montaño	9	0.09%
13	Graham	6	0.06%
35	Salgren	6	0.06%
19	McDannold	2	0.02%
	Totals	10,012	100.0%

Rose Bowl Extravaganza Winners By Roni Stroud



"What a true honor it was to represent both Division 44 and the Kiwanis Family House on last year's Kiwanis International Float and the idea came to me for this year's fund raiser.

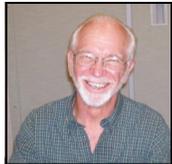
*"One didn't need to be a Kiwanian to win nor did they have to come from an area that actively supports KFH. However ... as luck would have it this year, **Bill Hooper** (current president of KFH), drew the ticket of not only a Kiwanian but a very active Kiwanian who has supported the Kiwanis Family House from the very, very beginning."*

First Prize (two rides on the Rose Bowl Float) went to: **Bob Tutton** a member of the Kiwanis Club of Auburn, Division 44, volunteers at our Kiwanis Family House and has served on its Board of Directors. His wife, **Carlene**, is also a member of Auburn Club and attended both KFH ground-breakings with Bob as well as being one of the first volunteers at KFH.

Bob commented: *"When Roni called me and told me about the drawing for the Tournament of Roses Extravaganza drawing I thought she was just called to let me know the outcome-- and told me they missed me being there. She told me who pulled each winning ticket and that they were each put in a separate envelope. So I'm listening to all of this and the winners of 2nd and 3rd prizes. Then she told me Bill Hooper pulled the 1st place prize winner and it was Carlene and I and everyone applauded and said wonderful things. I believed Roni, but I told her 'I can't believe it' and it still has not fully sunk in.*

"We are honored to be the recipients of the grand prize and honored to be the representatives for Kiwanis and the KFH. Wow, it is still hard to believe We are so looking forward to the trip; neither of us has seen the parade in person.

The **Kiwanis Club of Placerville** won 2nd prize (two tickets to the Rose (Continued on page 4)

	 <p>Joyce Blonskij (916) 812-2378 Joyce@blonskij.com</p>	 <p>Rita Beall (916) 549-1354 sacbealls@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Karen Borman (916) 489-4476 bormank@aol.com</p>	 <p>Emily Chirk (714) 213-0716 echirk@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Gary Christensen (916) 215-1460 gjcsmc@aol.com</p>
 <p>Calvin Hara (916) 812-5524 cmhara@comcast.net</p>	 <p>Bill Hooper (916) 988-6880 bhooqk56@comcast.net</p>	 <p>Bob Isaacs (916) 737-2831 kiwanisb@surewest.net</p>	 <p>Richard Kocher (916) 991-1344 richkoch013@comcast.net</p>	 <p>George MacMurphey (916) 483-9883 georgemac1@comcast.net</p>	 <p>Daniel Saulisbury (209) 745-6838 dsaulisbury@the-brickyard.com</p>
 <p>Neil Strain (916) 354-8895 Neilstrain@sbcglobal.net</p>	 <p>Matthew Wehner (530) 758-8111 mwehner@carbahalcpa.com</p>	 <p>Kiwanis Family House Ambassadors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ Communication is a two way street. ♥ We are here to inform. ♥ We are here to listen. ♥ We are here to remind. ♥ We are here to answer any questions. ♥ We are here to offer suggestions. 		



“Own The Clouds”

The first Guide to Investing in Cloud Computing Companies by Joyce Blonskij

All Kiwanians and friends of our KFH are invited to a virtual 24 hour book launch party that starts at midnight Tuesday, January 31, 2012.

All of the author’s proceeds will be donated to the Kiwanis Family House. The goal is to raise \$100,000.

“My goal is to enlist the help of hundreds of caring Kiwanians and friends to send out over one million messages around the world using: e-mail, Facebook post and Twitter feeds on launch day, Tuesday Jan 31, 2012, to generate at least 12,000 book sales, and to raise one hundred thousand dollars to help

hospitalized children get better faster and back home with their families by providing parents a way to be at their child’s bedside.”

Ever wished you had invested in Microsoft, Google, or Apple before they exploded and dominated their industries? The next boom is taking shape and happening right now. **Bill Gates** wrote in a 2005 memo to top executives, “*The next sea change is upon us.*” He was talking about **cloud computing** – the new buzzword for all things wireless, and connect us through the Internet, a.k.a. the “cloud.”

But how do you sift through all the players in the race to find the ones who will eventually shoot out ahead?

Own the Clouds: The First Guide to Investing in Cloud Computing Companies is the place to start.

Here’s what you’ll learn: You’ll learn about clouds, the **Four Key Cloud Elements**, and secrets rarely shared by financial professionals to help you invest and choose wisely.

For more information and to be kept up to date, go to this website: www.owntheclouds.com or email: Joyce@Blonskij.com

Rose Bowl Extravaganza Winners (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

Bowl game and \$500 spending money). The Kiwanis Club of Placerville, after winning 2nd prize, went back to their club meeting and re-auctioned off the prizes. **Lori Warden** won the auction and through that, the Placerville Club donated an additional \$675 to KFH through this fundraiser

Congratulations to **Karen Borman** of the Kiwanis Club of Carmichael, California who won 3rd prize (two tickets in the viewing stand).

Karen Borman said: “*I am of course happy to win. It is an excellent cause plus Roni makes it fun. I already have family plans so I am donating the parade tickets back to our KFH.*”

Roni concluded: “*I am so grateful that through the support of all those that entered into the Tournament of Roses Extravaganza, we were able to raise approximately \$5600 for KFH ... thank you again, everyone!!!*”

Woodcreek Key Club S.H.A.R.E.S.



Readers of *House Talk* know about the S.H.A.R.E.S. cards program of SaveMart, S-Mart, Food Maxx, and Lucky Supermarkets. But the use of these cards our KFH earns 3% of the gross purchase.

The Key Club of Woodcreek High School in Roseville, California took the distribution of S.H.A.R.E.S. cards as a service project.

Shown above are: **Manmeet Baines**, President and **Jon Cana**, Vice President. Photo credit: Kiwanian Beverly Snow.

When asked why the club selected this a project? President Baines responded: "It helps fundraise for the Kiwanis Family House on U.C. Davis campus."

In response to the question why do you want to help the Family House?

President Baines responded: "They are part of our Kiwanis Family. They help house families that have children at the UC Davis Medical Center so they can be close to their children." Vice President Cana added: "If I was in the hospital, I would want my family support and close to me, which is what the Kiwanis Family House provides."



The 20th Annual Red & White Ball will be at the Dante Club February 11, 2012.

Set your GPS to 2330 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Sacramento, CA.

The Prime Rib promises to be even better this year for the same cost of \$40.00.

Tickets will be available in December.

There will be a disk jockey.

Karen Borman is taking the lead. Contact information is on page 4.

Janus as in January (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

-Revitalize Friends of the Kiwanis Family House Program. Add to the membership and provide ongoing recognition to contributors.

-Source additional sources of ongoing funding/grant opportunities.

Karen Borman:

"Since joining the board in June, I have spent most of my time learning about the Family House and the KFH board. I am in awe of the talents of those that serve on the board and of their many accomplishments."



"I have two goals for 2012. One is to have every weekend day covered by volunteers at the front desk for the following reasons. I believe that all Kiwanians should experience the Kiwanis Family House. It is hard to spend three hours there without appreciating everything you have. In addition, it will give the employees an opportunity to catch up and get ahead with their assignments."

"My second goal is to get the clothes closet working to everyone's benefit. I will need once a month volunteers for that job also."

Emily Chirk: "In looking back on this past year, I find one of our achievements to be that of a successful strategic planning meeting. The meeting provided the new goals that we



hope to work towards in the upcoming year. For 2012, in particular, I am excited about bringing more support to the Kiwanis Family House through the involvement of the Service Leadership Programs in the form of the Circle K Clubs and Key Clubs in the Cal-Nev-Ha District. While many Circle K Clubs and Key Clubs already do provide the KFH support in areas of fundraising and service, by developing a program that allows them to become official sponsors of the KFH, we will be able to garner the support of many more clubs, thank and acknowledge those that already support the KFH, and truly make the KFH an outstanding example of what can happen when all branches of the Kiwanis Family work together."

Neil Strain: "I am very pleased with the increase of public awareness of KFH over the past year."



My wish for the coming year would be to implement as many points in our new Strategic Plan as possible.

Matthew Wehner: "In the five months since joining the board, I have gained an understanding of the house finances and I am preparing the 2011 tax return. My goal is to utilize volunteers more at the house. I would like to see clubs and members more involved with the house."



Heraclitus was an ancient Greek philosopher who lived about 100 years before Plato. He held "Nothing is permanent except change. The only constant is change". There will be changes for 2012, some foreseen and some not.

Our success is not based on the obstacles that lie before us, but how we overcome them.

Creelman-Francisco Classic 2012

The Creelman-Francisco Classic is the oldest charity gold tournament in Kiwanis.

The 52nd annual will be held on the last Thursday in April, April 26th at the Davis Municipal Golf Course in Davis California.

All proceeds from that event support our Kiwanis Family House.

For 2012 Kiwanis Governor **Richard "Dick" G. Olmstead Jr.** will be playing in the Creelman-Francisco Classic. Mark your calendars. For details contact: **Chris Creelman** (916) 709-1839.



Chaplain's Corner



Bev Johnson, Sunshine

The end of a calendar year is a time for reflections, a time for remembering

special events during the past year and beyond.

Over the years Kiwanians have remembered the special contributions of individuals and groups in a variety of ways.

One way has been with a copper colored oak leaf.

I'll never forget the one memorial leaf on the door to room #3 in the original Kiwanis Family House on 48th St. It reads: "**Bev Johnson, Sunshine**".



Let me tell you about **Bev Johnson, Sunshine**. Twenty-eight years ago this month, at the age of 23 years, she was admitted to Sutter Memorial Hospital for the final time.

Beverly was born with Cystic Fibrosis, a terminal disease that took the lives of children many years younger than Bev.

Early on Beverly resolved not to let this disease intrude on who she was or what she could achieve. She pulled top grades, bagged honors for graphic designs and played the clarinet in the Rio Americano High School Marching Band.

While in college she went to work for Cal Trans as a draftsperson. And rarely did a week pass that she didn't visit a friend in the hospital or at home, someone who needed encouragement and cheering up.

She was a huge presence at Cystic Fibrosis fundraisers. In the early eighties, when the disease began to exhibit ominous signs of the approaching end of her life, with a shrug of her shoulders she would say: "*Please, no heroic measures to save me if my time comes.*" And as she spoke she wore that contagious smile. "*There's nothing to be sad about,*"

she said. "*I've had 23 great years.*"

A few months after her death, the original Kiwanis Family House opened its doors to serve as a refuge for parents and loved ones of critically ill children. It was appropriate to remember Beverly's spirit and her family contributions with a small oak leaf that read – "**Bev Johnson, Sunshine**".

I remember Beverly at this time for two reasons.

First, the Christmas season reminds me of words from the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. "*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death light has dawned.*" (Isaiah 9:8) Christians understand these words as a reference to Jesus who might be described as "Sonshine".

Like it has been in previous generations so today people still find themselves in deep darkness, darkness caused by threats of war, collapsing economies, unemployment and issues of health. But, through the "Sonshine" of Bethlehem's child there is hope and a future. So it was. Beverly refused to give up. She always looked ahead and she encouraged others to do the same.

Second, the other reason I reflect on Beverly at this time is because an attitude of Sunshine is what the KFH mission is about.

A few weeks ago I visited with a woman whose husband had died a month earlier. Her granddaughter was at the Medical Center where she was recovering from her second kidney transplant. And if all this wasn't enough, this woman's one daughter was battling terminal cancer. If I were to summarize her comments to me she said: "*I need this place and all the smiles and the help of all who make this possible.*"

As I reflect on it, Beverly's smile continues. It's vivid in my memory. But it's also replicated by each of you in what you do and give to make the Kiwanis Family House a haven of help and hope. So, consider yourself the recipient of a maple leaf. It has your name inscribed. And it reads "Sunshine". For, as one who supports KFH that's what you are for others.

Have a wonderful New Year!

Walter C. Tietjen, Chaplain

Top ten!



If you want to watch **David Letterman's "Top Ten"**, you have to stay up late and watch TV.

If you want to see KFH Guest Relations Coordinator's **Mauda Butte's "Top Ten"** from the KFH Wish List, all you have to do is read it here!

If you cannot fit them in an envelope to mail, then gift cards from Sam's Club and Costco work just fine also.

# 10	Variety of soups (not chicken noodle nor tomato)
# 9	Snack size Zip Lock Bags
# 8	Gallon size Zip Lock Bags
# 7	Quart size Zip Lock Bags
# 6	Powdered laundry soap
# 5	Individually wrapped candy for candy dish
# 4	Powdered coffee creamer
# 3	Small bottles of Ranch and Blue Cheese Dressing
# 2	Wash Cloths
# 1	Cookies



Ways to support our Kiwanis Family House...



Do you have a "one of these days" car? Parked in the garage? Driveway? That you are going to restore or fix up?

Make it a today car and donate it!

If you have an old car, boat, or Recreational Vehicle (R/V) you can transform it into cash for our Kiwanis Family House.

Our KFH has partnered with **Car Program Inc.** to provide an easy-to-use tax deductible process to donate your car, boat, or R/V.

You are able to donate your vehicle, running or not, and it does not have to be registered.

Questions: Call Board Member **Calvin Hara** at (916) 812-5524 or **Car Program Inc. (800) 240-0160**. This agency can accept donations from most of our 50 states to benefit our KFH!



- ✓ Next day pick-up
- ✓ Non-runner ok
- ✓ No smog ok
- ✓ 100% tax deductible

DONATE A CAR
(800) 240-0160

Kiwanian contact: Calvin Hara (916) 812-5524

KFH Open House

Our Kiwanis Family House Open House for January will be the 3rd Thursday on January 19, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Get your SHARES Card (on page2) so we get our "share".



Become a friend!

Want to feel good about yourself?

The become a **Friend of our Kiwanis Family House**. It takes an annual donation of \$100 (or more). Information about memberships and ways to pay, is available at our website:

www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org

Want to feel better about yourself? Consider giving your friends and relatives the "gift" of becoming a **Friend of our Kiwanis Family House**.

These donations keep our KFH in operation and keeping our commitment of never having to turn any one away for lack of payment.

Recycling makes cents!



Donate ink cartridges, LASER cartridges, toner cartridges etc. to our KFH.

It helps the environment, lessens the impact on land fills, and makes cents.

If you work for a company, ask it if it will cooperated in giving you the items to take and donate.

Our KFH gets money when we turn them in.

Besides the above there is a receptacle for plastic shopping bags.

Recycling money is **"green"** and spends the same way with a lessening on the KFH budget.

HELP WANTED

Anyone with a green thumb who could help us with the landscape maintenance or upgrading the landscape please call House Director

Gary Christensen at (916) 736-0116 or gjcsmc@aol.com



KFH Board member **Neil Strain** takes care of most of our maintenance needs at the House, but he could use some help from a Handyman.

Neil Strain can be reached at **(916) 354-8895 or Neilstrain@sbcglobal.net**

Sponsor a Family for a Night



Donations pay for those families who cannot afford it, or supplement families who can only make partial payments.

We never turn away deserving families for lack of payment.

Send in your donation. It is \$40@ night. Send check or your credit card number with expiration date (Visa, MasterCard, and American Express only). Mail to Kiwanis Family House, Inc. 2875 50th Street Sacramento, CA 95817-2308.

Gift it to the person who has everything.

It is the source that keeps us in operation! It is that important!

"New teleaudiology program to improve follow-up for newborns who did not pass hearing screening"

New teleaudiology program to improve follow-up for newborns who did not pass hearing screening

Babies who do not pass newborn hearing screening tests require immediate diagnosis and intervention, but that can be a challenge for families living in the vast expanse of rural Northern California, where a dearth of pediatric hearing specialists, geographic isolation and the topography all conspire to create obstacles.

Those obstacles meant that in 2007, 40% of rural Northern California newborns who needed additional testing for a potential



hearing loss did not receive it and were "lost to follow-up" care -- giving Northern California the poorest lost-to-follow-up rate in the state, where the overall average was 8%.

"Bringing these babies back for testing is imperative to optimize their development, especially the speech development critical to acquiring language and learning," said **Anne Simon**, senior pediatric audiologist in the UC Davis Department of Otolaryngology.

But Simon also said she understands that there are substantial barriers that discourage families in rural communities from making the trek to the audiologist so that their infant can receive additional testing.

"Making the three- or four-hour-long trip to a big city medical center with a four-week-old baby and may not be possible for many families," Simon said.

To meet those families' needs and improve the numbers of infants receiving follow-up care for hearing loss, UC Davis has entered into a unique new partnership with the State of California and Mercy Medical Center, Redding. It will allow infants located throughout Northern California to be seen by a pediatric audiologist at UC Davis -- via telemedicine.

Among the first of its kind in the nation, the new pilot program is funded by a three-year, \$354,242 grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration Maternal and Child Health Bureau through the

state Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), Children's Medical Services.

Early identification of deaf and hard-of-hearing infants before three months of age and starting early intervention services before six months of age are the most important factors in developing age-appropriate language skills, whether families communicate using sign language or spoken language.

Participation in the program is by referral from the state Hearing Coordination Center.

The teleaudiology program is unique because, rather than consulting with audiologists or other clinicians at the remote location, who then diagnose and treat the patient, the UC Davis audiologists actually perform the hearing screening and make the diagnosis.

The telemedicine connection also allows Simon to switch camera views in order to see the infant and their parent, as well as the technician and the screening room, and to view the child's ear canal and eardrum with the information being recorded by the device during the two- to four-hour-long testing period.

Simon administers three tests to determine whether a child does indeed have hearing loss, and if so, its source.

In the auditory brainstem response (ABR) test, an electrical signal is evoked from the brainstem as a response to an auditory stimulus. It tests whether the child may have a conductive hearing loss, which may be caused by obstruction of the middle ear, a sensory loss in the cochlea, or neurological issues. The second test, otoacoustic emissions (OAEs), tests inner-ear health and can indicate the site of a lesion for hearing loss in infants. Tympanometry tests the health of the middle ear and the mobility of the ear drum.

Simon said that the goal is to have children return for diagnostic testing and follow-up care by the time they reach three months old, at the latest.

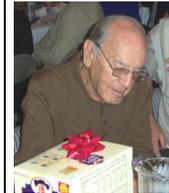
"The sooner the better," Simon said. "If we intervene by 6 months we find that children have a much better chance of acquiring age-appropriate language," she said. "So we want to get hearing aids on them by 6 months."



"Over the years"

The current series of **House Talk** (Volume I Issue 1) is dated May 1, 2001.

**Seven years ago
Volume V Issue 7
January 2005**



The Kiwanis Club of Sacramento-Suburban Pres. **Chris Creelman**, reports the Bristow-Thomas Holiday Food Auction is a winner again.

Top bidder was **Jack Francis**, and he donated all of what he bid for to our KFH. All he kept were the poinsettias. The money raised at the auction is used to stock the pantry at our KFH.

**Six years ago
Volume VI Extra Edition
January 2006**



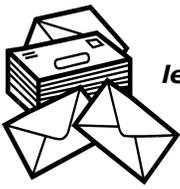
Freak winter storm on January 1st damaged **Mauda Butte's** car (left) and a guest's car (right).

**Five years ago
Volume VII Issue 7
January 2007**



Kiwanian **Leon Weston** took a break to from his volunteer job at our KFH, to point out his club's (Kiwanis Club of Elk Grove) sponsored guest room.

So far 13 guest rooms have been sponsored. This leaves 19 more. The cost to sponsor a room is \$25,000 (payments may be made over a five year period).



"Letters, we get letters, we get stacks and stacks of letters..."

These letters are left at our KFH addressed to you. They are published to show our readers of the impact made by the staff and services of our Kiwanis Family House and UC Davis Medical Center. The letters are published as originally written and punctuated. This is to preserve the sincerity and spontaneity of the writer.

"To the Management and staff of the Kiwanis House,

"We thank you for your assistance and support when we were guests at your wonderful facility while (name) underwent surgery at UC Davis Medical Center.

"Kiwanis House is a great facility, thanks in a large part, to all of you, because you're are too special to forget!"

"To the Kiwanis Family Center:

"Words can't express my appreciation for this wonderful place.

"You're truly been a blessing!"

"Thanks so much!"

"It is a great place for me to stay here, when my husband in hospital UCD. It makes me feel peace when I enter this house.

"My husband and I appreciate very much for all Kiwanis did to make this wonderful place for family to stay.

"Thanks millions. Hope all Kiwanis have a wonderful Holiday Season."

"Kiwanis,

"Thank you for giving us a home away from home and for being so kind.

"It meant so very much.

"Hugs!"

"So much gratitude, not enough words. Our son came gown to UC Davis with 2 types of pneumonia and a throat infection. That's to people like you — and the staff at UC Davis. We would have never been able to sleep the night.

"God bless you all"

"Nombre) ella tiene 6 años y estuvo aquí muchas gracias a Kiwanis Family House por su ayuda y apoya y disculpen todas las molestias que hemos causado. (Nombre) tiene un tumor en la cabeza . Gracias a Dios la operaron le dieron radiación, y le están dando quimioterapia con la quimioterapia. (Nombre) se esta recuperando poco a poco. Los doctores dicen que hay que tener paciencia porque ella se un va recuperar poco a poco su tratamiento durara por lo menos. 1 año ella se empieza ya a mover sus manas, piernas y dedas y su cabeza poco a poco se recuperar.

"Espero en Dios que pronto se mejore.

"Muchas Gracias a Kiwanis House por toda su ayuda.

"Que Dios les de mucho y sigan ayudando a mucha gente como nosotros."

Dear Kiwanians,

"My daughter recently had a terrible auto accident involving multiple internal injuries, and a broken back, shoulders, legs, arms, knees, hands and ankles.

"When we stayed at the Kiwanis Family House, the volunteers and staff created a tremendous atmosphere of love an support.

"As my elderly mother and I visited my daughter, we took that feeling of love and support with us. I am sure that helped my daughter gain the will to fight to live and get better.

"My daughter is going to live, and probably walk again. Thank you for helping make that possible.

"I hope many people will I put the Kiwanis Family House on their list of Favorite Charities for Donation.

"I know I will.

"Thank you so much.

"Sincerely, "Mom" and "Grandma"

"Thank you, everyone, thanks for your kindness, and help.

"It made our stay pleasing in this time. God Bless all of you."



"To all Kiwanis Family and the volunteers of Kiwanis Family House:

"We stayed here for two weeks including Christmas.

"If it were not for the Kiwanis Family House, we would not have maintained our sanity.

*"Thank you thank you for this place and the many volunteers who keep it going. **This is an amazing place.**"*

"Thank you, everyone, thanks for your kindness, and help.

"It made our stay pleasing in this time. God Bless all of you."

"We thank Kiwanis House so much for the gracious hospitality that was extended to our family during a very stressful and worrisome time. Staying here has been a great help in allowing us to be near to our son when he needed our support the most.

"Thanks again and God Bless!"



**A note from Karen:
Lend a helping hand!**



A special thanks to all the volunteers who help to make our KFH a better place to be for our guests.

We still need volunteers to work the front desk.

Wanted: Clubs to adopt one weekend day a month to work the front desk at the Kiwanis Family House. 10-1 or 1-4 shifts. Answer phones, help as needed.

Questions: Contact me:

Karen Borman 916-489-4476
bormank@aol.com

President's Message

By Bill Hooper (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

members and clubs to seek out fund raising opportunities and sharing our story.

Red & White Ball

We already have the 20th Annual Red and White Ball scheduled for Feb. 11 at the Dante Club in Sacramento and the Lt. Governors of Divisions 7 and 44 hope to bring 3,000 K Family members together April 28th at the River Cats Stadium for Governor Olmstead's visit followed by a baseball game.

The Creelman-Francisco Golf Tournament is scheduled for April 26th and the Swing FORE Kids Golf tournament is scheduled for August 27th.

We also have a committee working on bringing a major performer to Sacramento for a celebration fund raiser for our 30th anniversary in July of 2014. This year KFH was represented at about 36 United Way Events giving us the opportunity to share our story throughout the community and we will do this again.

A Key Club advisor who runs marathons is interested in a run for KFH. Sounds like 2012 will be very exciting!

The Board approved an updated Strategic Plan developed by a large committee in October at the December board meeting. A new high powered committee headed by **Gary Christensen** was appointed to prioritize then present an implementation strategy to the Board. This will help keep the Board focused as we deal with the many challenges an operation of this size faces. The Board also approved a new job description for the House Manager that will help streamline the management of the House in accordance with the Strategic Plan.

On behalf of all of us at KFH we thank you for your help with this wonderful service project and wish you the very best in the New Year! You are making a difference!!! Till next time,

Yours in Kiwanis Service,
Bill

President announces new assignments

William "Bill" Hooper, President of the Kiwanis Family House Board of Directors, has announced that **Gary Christensen** has been named Interim House Director of the Kiwanis Family House effective January 1, 2012.

In his new role, Gary will be responsible for the daily operations of the Kiwanis Family House, including oversight of the facility, staff, and guest services. He will retain his current volunteer position as Development Director as he takes on these additional responsibilities.



A long-standing member of the East Sacramento-Midtown Kiwanis club, Gary has served as a Past Board President of the Kiwanis Family House from 2002 to 2005, and was instrumental in leading the capital campaign which successfully raised the funds needed to build the current Kiwanis Family House on the campus of the UC Davis Medical Center, which opened in July of 2006.

As the volunteer Development Director, he has continued to provide fundraising and operational support to help insure the future success of the Kiwanis Family House.

Mauda Butte, currently House

Director, will take on the role of Guest Relations Coordinator beginning January 1, 2012. In this new role, Mauda will be responsible for ensuring that guests of our Kiwanis Family House receive needed services and support during their stay. Mauda is a longtime member of two Kiwanis Clubs, Sacramento West and KFH, and is a former Lt. Governor for Kiwanis Division 7.



For more information, visit <http://www.KiwanisFamilyHouse.org>.

Find us on
Facebook

Now you can help support the Kiwanis Family House by using Facebook. If you are on Facebook (or are planning on joining) you should "**Like**" the Kiwanis Family House page.

You can also click "**Share**" on any posting and this will share our stories with your Friends. It appears on their wall and news feed for Friends to see and spreads the message of Kiwanis Family House!

You can also "**Suggest**" a page to all your friends via a message. Just click on "**Suggest to Friends**" (the fourth link down from the logo) and choose the friends to whom you want to send an invitation to the Page.

You can post any comments, stories, or suggestions for other Fans to see, and it will also appear on your walls for your Friends to see.

If you want to reference something that is on the website, you should include a link to the Kiwanis Family House page along with your posting.

House Talk Contact the Editor

Quick Facts about **House Talk**

1. **House Talk** is a monthly newsletter published by the Kiwanis Family House, Inc.
2. The editor is solely responsible for the content of **House Talk**.
3. Deadline 5:00 pm on the second Thursday of the month.
4. Items are solicited. Items submitted will not be returned unless noted by the sender.
5. Errors in the **House Talk** are to be brought to the attention of the editor. Egregious errors will be corrected in a future edition.
6. Responses to the articles and authors unless indicated otherwise can be sent to the editor for forwarding.
7. Editor is **John W. Seigal**.
8. Email address is: jwseigal@sbcglobal.net
9. US Postal Service address is: P.O. Box 1131 Sloughouse, CA 95683-1131

