Club Single Service Entry Form
(Submit to district administrator)

K-KIDS CLUB INFORMATION
K-Kids Club Charter Number: 00389

K-Kids Club of: Bowling Green
Address: 2340 Stewart Avenue
City: Westbury  State: New York  Postal Code: 11590
Phone: (516) 876-7480

BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

FACULTY ADVISOR
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KIWANIS ADVISOR
Kiwanis Club name: East Meadow
Name: Norma Gonsalves
Address: 1901 Merion Street
City: East Meadow  State: New York  Postal Code: 11554
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E-mail:

SIGNATURES
Signatures grant permission to promote contest winning entries on the KI Websites and in KI publications.
K-Kids Club President’s signature: Kira Strubel
K-Kids Club Secretary’s signature: Mia Rascardi
Faculty Advisor Signature: Norma L. Gonsalves
Kiwanis Advisor Signature:  
District Administrator Signature: M. S. Seewy  Kiwanis District: New York

August 2012
Harlie Treanor Memorial Fund and Tree Planting

Service Need: The tragic drowning death of K-Kids member Harlie Treanor left our club, school and surrounding community in shock and in mourning. Harlie’s mother reached out to our club because K-Kids was so important to Harlie. She asked our faculty advisor and our club to help her deal with her loss and help Harlie’s friends cope.

Our club decided to find a way to channel everyone’s sadness into something positive.

Project Plan: We planned to set up a memorial fund in Harlie’s memory. This fund would gather the funds necessary to honor Harlie’s memory annually during 5th grade graduation, create a living memorial to Harlie at our school and make donations to causes that represent Harlie’s interests.

Project Implementation: Following Harlie’s funeral, our faculty advisor called a special summer K-Kids meeting at our local library. Nearly every club member that was not away on vacation or at summer camp attended. At the meeting, we discussed our ideas regarding how we could honor Harlie’s memory. Ideas proposed included a Harlie Treanor Memorial Award to be given at 5th grade graduation, donation of Harlie’s favorite book “Faithful Elephants” to the school library, a memorial tree planting on the school’s front lawn, a service project distributing boating safety information to boaters and making donations to charities that had a connection to Harlie.

Our sponsoring Kiwanis Club agreed to open a special account under the East Meadow Kiwanis Foundation to receive donations to fund our plans. With the support of Harlie’s family, we informed the community that a memorial fund was set up in Harlie’s memory. Donations totaling over $2,500 were deposited into the fund.

Our club members submitted designs for the Harlie Treanor Memorial Award Medallion and lapel pin. We also solicited the donation of a weeping cherry tree. In addition, we identified Kamp Kiwanis, the Huntington Hospital Pediatrics Department and the Guide Dog Foundation as recipients of donations in Harlie’s memory. We chose Kamp Kiwanis because Harlie was supposed to go to Kamp Kiwanis just days after her death. We chose the Huntington Hospital Pediatrics Department because that is where Harlie was treated after the boating accident that killed her. We chose the Guide Dog Foundation because Harlie loved animals and loved helping people. The Guide Dog Foundation helps animals help people.

Our club also met with DPP Alan Alterman who is a Coast Guard Safety Instructor. With DPP Alan’s help, we selected boating safety brochures and held service projects over two full weekends during which we greeted boaters at the Wantagh Park boat basin and distributed safety fliers.

When school reopened in the fall, we held the Memorial Service and Tree Planting at our school. We invited our entire school, Harlie’s classmates that had moved up to middle school and the local community. Our President Kira Gruber presided over the service.

The service brought together everyone who loved Harlie and allowed them to participate in a healing activity. In addition to participating in a traditional Kiwanis Gong Ringing Memorial, every attendee was invited to participate in the planting by placing a shovel of dirt on the tree. We also donated two copies of “Faithful Elephants” to the school library and unveiled the Harlie Treanor Memorial Award.

Final Results: When Harlie’s father addressed the Memorial Service audience, his heartfelt thanks and gratitude to our club alone made all our efforts worthwhile. Fortunately, our efforts also produced a living memorial to Harlie, created an award that allowed Harlie’s life to become an inspiration to future
5th graders, reminded boaters of the safety rules that if followed could have prevented Harlie’s death, provided books that will teach children about the impact humans have on animals, provided funds for Kamp Kiwanis to be readied for this year’s campers, help train a dog that will change the life of someone who is blind and, helped save the lives of pediatric trauma victims brought to Huntington Hospital.

Public Awareness: Over 150 students, teachers, coaches, friends and family members attend the Memorial Service and Tree Planting.

Our boating safety flier distribution was covered by a reporter from the East Meadow Herald. Local newspapers also announced the Memorial Fund and told people where they could send their donations.

The East Meadow Herald, Westbury Times and East Meadow Patch also covered our tree planting service.

In addition, TV and newspapers all mentioned K-Kids when covering the boating accident and Harlie’s funeral.

Member Impact: This project had a profound impact on our members. Those of us who knew Harlie well learned that when faced with tragedy you can either retreat in depression or find a way to turn yourself around and make something good come from your pain. We also gained a new respect for our President Kira and our officers. They demonstrated leadership at a time of great sorrow. Our officers showed great poise and maturity as they led the Memorial Service and Tree Planting. They proved to everyone what 4th & 5th graders can do even in the worst of times.

Additional Information: see attached articles from the New York District Kiwanis Website
Bowling Green K-Kids Distribute Boat Safety Brochures

The Bowling Green K-Kids honored the memory of fellow K-Kid Harlie Treanor by distributing boat safety brochures and life vest stickers at the Wantagh Park Boat launch ramp on July 28 and Aug. 4. Harlie was killed on the Fourth of July when the Kandi Won capsized in Oyster Bay following a fireworks cruise.

The Builders Clubbers, Key Clubbers and Circle Kers on the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center’s Service Leadership Committee assisted the K-Kids. The Builders Clubbers were from WT Clarke Builders Club. The Key Clubbers were from Division 6 and the Circle Kers were from LIU-Post.

While the threat of rain and thunderstorms greatly reduced the number of boaters going out on the water July 28, a beautiful day allowed the K-Kids to distribute more brochures Aug. 4. The boaters were generally receptive and many offered their condolences to the K-Kids over the loss of their classmate and friend.

"While we believe that all safety rules were followed onboard the Kandi Won on the Fourth of July, we simply want to help reduce the chance that a boating accident will cause others to endure the sadness and loss that we feel over Harlie's death," explained Bowling Green K-Kids Faculty Advisor Rich Santer.

"In addition, this project has taught the K-Kids members the power of turning grief into positive action," continued Santer.

The Bowling Green K-Kids expressed their appreciation to Easts Meadow Kiwanis Distinguished Past President Dr. Alan Alterman who supplied the Coast Guard brochures and life vest stickers. Alterman is a boat safety instructor and a member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. The K-Kids also thanked their Kiwanis Advisor Norma Gonsalves and her Assistant Distinguished Past President Liz Fries for helping secure county approval for the safety project.

The Bowling Green K-Kids is a community service club for students at Bowling Green Elementary School in Westbury, NY. The K-Kids is sponsored by the East Meadow Kiwanis Club. **(Posted August 5, 2012)**

KPTC President Joe Corace and K-Kids advisor Rich Santer with K-
Kids, Key Clubbers and a Circle Ker moments before torrential rain washed out their boat safety brochure distribution on July 28.

Bowling Green K-Kids members and Builders Clubbers from the KPTC Service Leadership Committee give a boat safety brochure and life vest stickers to a family launching their boat.

Bowling Green K-Kids members and Builders Clubbers from the KPTC Service Leadership Committee chat with boat owners about their friend Harlie and boat safety.
Bowling Green K-Kids Remember Former Member

On Sept. 20, community members, faculty members, students and classmates of Harlie gathered outside the east entrance of Bowling Green Elementary School to honor the memory of Harlie Treanor a recent graduate who lost her life with two other children in a Fourth of July boating accident.

Bowling Green K-Kids President Kira Gruber and Faculty Advisor Mr. Santer led the tree planting service. Harlie was an active K-Kids member dedicated to the club's community service activities.

In her opening remarks, President Kira told the crowd, "This afternoon, we are not here to focus on the sadness of Harlie's passing but to take steps to ensure that the wonderful person she was is remembered and emulated by those who follow her through Bowling Green Elementary School."

Faculty Advisor Mr. Santer explained the involvement of the East Meadow Kiwanis who setup the Harlie Treanor Memorial Fund, the Bowling Green K-Kids who met over the summer and planned the tributes that are being put in place to honor Harlie's memory and thanked the school district, Zaino's Nursery and the many donors who contributed to the memorial fund.

Following heart wrenching comments by Mr. Treanor, Harlie's family, teachers, Kiwanians, fellow K-Kids and classmates ceremonially added top soil to the base of a weeping cherry tree planted just east of the walkway to Bowling Green.

Next, K-Kids Vice President Marisa unveiled a black marble memorial plaque which reads, "In memory of Harlie Paige Treanor 2001-2012" followed by the K-Kids logo.

Distinguished Immediate Past President Devon donated a copy of the picture book "Faithful Elephants" by Yukio Tsuchiya. DIPP Devon explained that "Faithful Elephants" is the true story of three elephants in a Japanese zoo during World War II. She told the audience about the powerful impact the book had on Harlie when she read the book in Mr. Santer's 5th grade class.

In donating the book, Devon said, "No one can read this story without taking a giant step closer to feeling the compassion that Harlie felt for the world's wildlife. We hope that making this book available to all the students of Bowling Green will spark some of Harlie's compassion for wildlife in other students."

President Kira concluded the service by a traditional Kiwanis Gong Ringing. As Kira rung the gong 11 times, the audience stood silently reflecting on their memories of Harlie and the positive impact she made on everyone who knew her and even those who did not. (Posted September 24, 2012)

Mr. Treanor and Madison add soil to the weeping cherry tree.
K-Kids and classmates of Harlie add top soil.
K-Kids President Kira Gruber and Faculty Advisor Mr. Santer lead the memorial gong ringing.
Flowers Planted around Memorial Trees

A planting committee of 12 Bowling Green K-Kids met early Monday morning to plant fall cabbages, marigolds, crocus bulbs and tulip bulbs around two memorial trees on their school's front lawn.

One tree was recently planted in memory of former K-Kids member Harlie Treanor who was killed in a boating accident only twelve days after her elementary school graduation in June of 2012. The second tree was planted 13 years ago in memory of Joey Torcivia, the son of the LISC Kiwanis Division’s Lt. Gov.-Elect Ann Torcivia.


Torcivia was so grateful and impressed by the K-Kids efforts that she presented a $100 check as a donation to the K-Kids’ effort to raise funds to support the Long Island Alzheimer's Association's Legacy Garden. (Posted October 8, 2012)

K-Kids Claudia, Tia and Madison plant a fall cabbage
Mickie Leamey advises the K-Kids Planting Committee

The Bowling Green K-Kids Flower Planting Committee