

# K-Kid ZONE



**INSIDE**

**Page 3**  
Building everyday leaders!

**Page 5**  
K-Kids in the Service Spotlight

**Page 6**  
Contests, conquests, and other  
K-Kids news

**Page 7**  
Leadership Word Search; Sudoku



**VOL. 5, NO. 2**  
**FEBRUARY 2008**

## Dear Advisors:

Happy 2008! In this issue of K-Kid Zone, we celebrate the K-Kids core value of LEADERSHIP: *the ability to listen, communicate, serve, and guide others*. As teachers and mentors of your students, you should model this value and establish an environment that fosters "Building Leaders," the motto for our program.

Here are some ideas for creating an environment for leadership development:

- Allow club members to identify community needs and develop projects to address these problems. Focus on the K-Kids leading these projects instead of the adults.
- Develop specific training for elected officers within the club to strengthen their skills.
- Establish a partnership with a local Builders Club, Key Club, or Circle K club and develop a mentoring program.
- Use Web sites and books that outline team-building activities during your club meetings.
- Embrace the concept of "Service Learning," and focus on the student's learning through actively participating in the service project.
- Establish non-elected positions for students to serve as "project leaders."

Hopefully some of these ideas can be applied to your K-Kids club. If you continue to keep the core values in focus, you can easily adapt activities or initiatives designed to foster leadership in your own club.

Please continue to use the resources available by your sponsoring Kiwanis club, district administrator, and the International Office. That is why we are here! If you have any questions or suggestions, be sure to contact us.

### THE K-KIDS PLEDGE:

"As a K-Kid, I promise to serve my neighborhood and my school; I will show respect toward my environment; and I will try to make the world a better place in which to live."

### THE K-KIDS MOTTO:

"Building leaders"

### THE K-KIDS OBJECTIVES:

To provide opportunities for working together in service to school and community.

To develop leadership potential.

To foster and develop strong moral character.

To encourage loyalty to school, community, and nation.

## K-KIDS CORE VALUES:

Character building

Inclusiveness

Caring

Leadership

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Kiwanis  
**K-Kids**  
Young Leaders Helping Others

## Dear Parents:

A warm but belated Happy New Year! This time of year is characterized by millions, maybe even billions, of adults setting resolutions for the new year. Though enthusiasm and devotion are immeasurable in the beginning, interest in keeping resolutions begins to fade as the year progresses. How are you doing so far?

K-Kids was born as a service organization to develop leadership skills in elementary school students interested in making a personal contribution to their home, school, and community. Over time, a vision, mission, and core values were established to create a unity between clubs.

As the parents of these developing leaders, we need your help to keep their interest and dedication alive. We cannot let service and the commitment to K-Kids be a New Year's resolution, but rather a lifetime commitment.

This issue of the K-Kid zone focuses on LEADERSHIP, one of our core values. Leadership is *the ability to listen, communicate, serve, and guide others*. Many of us have probably read books, attended conferences, and maybe even participated in programs to help us become better leaders. By belonging to a K-Kids club, your children already participate in a program specifically designed to help develop leadership skills they can apply throughout life.

Thank you for keeping your children inspired to serve through the K-Kids program and helping them make a lifetime resolution to serve and lead.

## MAGAZINE STAFF

### EDITOR

Lisa Pylon

### EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Dick Isenhour

### DESIGN/PRODUCTION FIRM

M Design

### K-KIDS OFFICE:

3636 Woodview Trace,  
Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, 46268-3196

TELEPHONE: 800-549-2647

or 317-217-6168

FAX: 317-879-0204

E-MAIL: [kkidzone@kiwanis.org](mailto:kkidzone@kiwanis.org)

WEB ADDRESS: [www.kkids.org](http://www.kkids.org)

# Leadership logic

3

## Leadership traits in action!

Don't look now, but you just might be developing into a leader – and that's a good thing! That's what Tessa Meyer, Alyssa Walter, and Emily Longhi might tell you, anyway. The girls, seniors at **Valparaiso High School** in northwest Indiana, are active members of the Key Club there. They are just as active, though, with the **K-Kids club at Parkview School**, a club they helped form while they were in the Builders Club at **Ben Franklin Middle School**.

"I have been teaching fourth grade for 31 years and I have encountered lots of remarkable young people," says Greg Caras, the K-Kids advisor. "Many scholars, musicians, athletes, and other gifted people have blessed my time in the classroom. These three young ladies, though, have done so much for other people that they stand out from the crowd. They are true leaders."

And what makes them "true leaders"? The ability to see something that needs to be done and doing it – an important leadership trait you're developing as a member of a K-Kids club.

When the girls were in middle school, they attended a Builders Club convention where they heard a much younger student talk about being a K-Kid. They returned to Valparaiso, determined to start a K-Kids club at the elementary school there. They first met with two of their former teachers and persuaded them to be sponsors. After getting formal approval from the principal, the girls recruited members and figured out how to collect dues, obtain membership materials, and organize service projects.

"They showed the type leadership," says Mr. Caras, "that many people twice their age can't figure out."

Being an active member of a K-Kids club gives you a chance to provide service to your school and community AND gives you the tools to become leaders, just like Tessa, Alyssa, and Emily. Being a leader means you are able to **listen, communicate, serve, and guide** others.

A true leader doesn't have to be bossy, rude, loud, or always in charge to make a difference. Rather a leader should:

- Reflect with the group.
- Be a pathfinder.
- Direct.
- Serve others.
- Listen to others.
- Enlighten.
- Head activities.
- Be an example.
- Inspire peers.
- Advise.

Try to focus on ways to become a leader during the rest of the school year. Take advantage of what you learn as a member of K-Kids and find ways to use your leadership at school, home, and in your community. You can begin by performing some of the exercises included on Pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter.



Young leaders (left to right) Tessa Meyer, Alyssa Walter, and Emily Longhi helped form a K-Kids club while they were members of a Builders Club.

## Leadership defined

Have you ever heard of the Golden Rule? If you follow the Golden Rule – "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you" – you're already on way to becoming a leader. Here are some other skills of leaders. Gather the rest of your club and your advisor around and talk about them more so you really understand what they mean.

**Communication.** Being able to share ideas – and listen to ideas – is important for all leaders.

**Teamwork.** Working well with others is a very important skill.

**Negotiation/compromise.** You may know this as the "art of give and take."

**Planning.** Coming up with a strategy or way to do things makes sure your activities are successful.

**Persistence/determination.** This means the ability to continue working toward your goal no matter what stands in your way.

**Vision.** This is the ability to see things the way you'd like to see them.

**Food for thought: Can you think of any other traits that leaders have?**

## Check this out!

Here are some thoughts about leadership – and related topics – from K-Kids club members:

"I am very glad that I joined K-Kids because I'm now a better leader with confidence to talk in front of people." – *Kolbee Lynn Tibbets, Heyburn Elementary School, Idaho*

"At first, I was a little shy about speaking in front of my peers and taking on responsibilities, but now I really appreciate all of the new skills I have learned so far with K-Kids." – *Diamond Stewart, Peyton Forest Elementary School, College Park, Georgia*

"We enjoy helping other people and consider it our responsibility to encourage others to do their best. We are role models for future generations and believe that hard work and dedication are the building blocks to one's character development." – *Kylie Toner, Windsor Heights, West Virginia*

"K-Kids can help children become a better leader because we don't discriminate against anyone. Everyone is welcome to participate and it teaches us to be good citizens" — *Alex Wagner, Ridgecrest Elementary School, Largo, Florida*

"Without K-Kids, I would not have the confidence or ability to do many great things." – *Sarah Lynn Folks, Ridgecrest Elementary School, Largo, Florida*

"The last thing I believe is the most important that K-Kids can offer is the ability to face problems. K-Kids offers this to their members by holding meetings where we don't do an activity, but instead we think about what we can do for others to help." – *Michelle Darr, Orifino Elementary School, Idaho*

# Leadership logic

Read through each of these statements carefully. If you believe the statement is true for you personally, make a checkmark.

- I look for opportunities to lead.
- I act quickly when asked to volunteer.
- I look for different ways to do things.
- I can motivate myself.
- I can see how things should be and involve others.
- I seek excellence.
- I persuade others with ease.
- I volunteer for activities involving both fun and work.
- I am not afraid to state my needs and desires.
- I look for new ways to improve.
- I can begin working on things without someone telling me to.
- I am comfortable working with "first-time" or "first-annual" events.
- I create opportunities to contribute to a group.
- I seek change and moving away from the way things are always done.
- I have a lot of energy and can lead a group.



## SCORING

Total your score and use the following key to see if you have the initiative to be a leader.

**If your score is 0-5, you have low initiative.**

Don't worry, you have opportunities to improve your score by volunteering your talents and time to your K-Kids club.

**If your score is 6-10, you have mid-level initiative.**

You are a go-getter and are becoming more confident. You are a good "worker bee" and often allow others to take the lead.

**If your score is 11+, you have high initiative.**

You're already a great role model for raising your hand and taking the initiative. People look to you to begin and accomplish tasks and activities.

*Source: Key Club International Values Workbook*



## The leaders in my life

Everyone can be a leader. Every person – you included – has character traits and qualities of leadership. Some of those qualities are listed here. After each one, write down the name of a person you believe has that quality.

A person I know well who does the right thing: \_\_\_\_\_

A person I know well who has a sense of direction: \_\_\_\_\_

A person I know well who respects power: \_\_\_\_\_

A person I know well who embraces differences: \_\_\_\_\_

A person I know well who acts with passion: \_\_\_\_\_

A person I know well who can handle unexpected situations: \_\_\_\_\_

A person I know well who is humble: \_\_\_\_\_



Excerpted from *Everyday Leadership: Attitudes and Actions for Respect and Success*, by Mariam G. MacGregor, M.S., copyright © 2007. Used with permission of Free Spirit Publishing Inc., Minneapolis, MN; 800-735-7323; www.freespirit.com. All rights reserved.



# Spotlight on Service K-Kids Club good deed doers

## K-Kids boost holiday spirits

Erin Cahalin, a fifth grader at Lounsbury Hollow Middle School in Vernon, New Jersey, is waging a valiant fight against leukemia. And to boost her spirits, members of the K-Kids club at her school visited her at home this past holiday season, singing Christmas carols, showering her with gifts, and presenting her family money they had raised at school.

The club collected the money by organizing an "adults-only" fundraiser with a prize of a gift certificate to a spa. Students also donated loose change to the cause during the school's November Book fair.



K-Kid get ready to sing some Christmas carols.

Erin, according to the local newspaper, was "moved to happy tears upon seeing her friends, many of whom she has known since preschool."

The caring action of the club is only one of the good things it did to help children during the holiday season. The club also raised money from a variety of fundraisers, including Crazy Hat and Crazy Hair days, a bake sale, and a "guess the number of candies in a jar" contest. The money was used to buy gifts for a Christmas party for abused children.

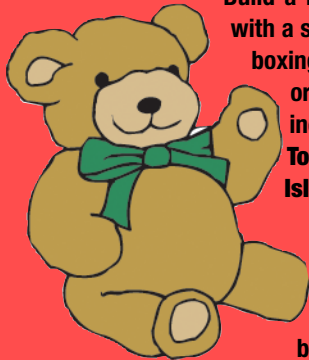


Erin Cahalin (right) and her mom, Stephanie.

## Kids, teens stuff bears with best wishes

Did you have a teddy bear or other stuffed animal growing up? Remember how safe and secure holding that stuffed animal made you feel? Well, hundreds of young patients at Miami (Florida) Children's Hospital will be getting that same feeling soon thanks to the Kiwanis family there.

About 150 people got together recently at Marco Island's Coastland Center Mall Build-a-Bear to stuff more than 500 bears, filling each one with a small red heart and a secret wish, before hugging and boxing each for delivery to the hospital. The event was organized by the Lely High School Key Club and included help from the K-Kids club of Marco Island's Tommy Barfield Elementary School and the Marco Island and East Naples Kiwanis clubs.



"My nieces love to go to Build-a-Bear and their bears are their best friends,"

Courtney Williams, Key Club president, told the Naples News. "I just thought it would be great for the children to have a friend, a bear to hold on to while they are going through their illnesses."



A long line of kids wait for help finishing teddy bears that will be given to patients in a children's hospital. (Photo credit: Kelly Farrell, The Naples News)

## Program connects kids with seniors



A K-Kid from Lincoln Elementary School connects with senior citizens. (Photo credit: Beth Gilbert, North Platte Telegraph)

Senior citizens can be a lot of fun and have lots of interesting things to say. That's a lesson learned this past school year by the K-Kids club at Lincoln Elementary School in North Platte, Nebraska, while working with senior citizens to create history scrapbooks.

Every other Wednesday for several months, K-Kids members met with residents of the nursing home, listening to stories about life "in the good ol' days." In addition to hearing tales about milking cows and going to one-room schoolhouses, the kids became friends with the senior citizens and helped them write their personal histories.

"This has just been a really great way to connect generations," Melissa Garcia, coordinator of North Platte's Community Connections program, says.

## 6

## K-Kids news briefs



Members of the Southside Elementary School K-Kids club, Batesville, Arkansas, are captured picking up trash around their school in a photo posted on the K-Kids Web site.

### Spotlight your club!

#### SHARE YOUR K-KIDS STORY

Want to let other K-Kids club know about the great work you're doing? Then shout it out!

For starters, be sure to write K-Kid Zone about your favorite service project or fundraiser. Remember to give the name of your club, the title of the project, and the date it took place. Tell us why this project was important and how many K-Kids members helped. Include your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address. And don't forget to take great color action photographs.

Send us your story and photographs by e-mail to [kkidzone@kiwanis.org](mailto:kkidzone@kiwanis.org) or mail it to K-Kid Zone, 3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

You can also share your K-Kids story by posting it in the [K-Kids in Action](#) section of the K-Kids Web site. Visitors to this site can view photos of K-Kids serving communities, raising funds, or being leaders at their schools. Take a peak at this section to see what other K-Kids clubs are doing! (You'll probably have to register to use this part of the Web site. There's a link on this page to help you out.)

International Foundation leadership award. District winners then vie for overall, international recognition.

Contest themes, criteria, and entry forms can be found by going to the K-Kids Web site at [www.kkids.org](http://www.kkids.org), selecting **Resources** from the K-Kids menu, and clicking on **Contests**.

When overall winners are identified, the Kiwanis International K-Kids staff begins using the best of the best to promote the K-Kids program.

All district speech winners, for example, become K-Kids Ambassadors and often are invited to speak at meetings of Kiwanis clubs and Kiwanis district conventions. Overall first-, second-, and third-place K-Kids speech contest winners will receive a trophy from Kiwanis International and will be asked to contribute footage of their winning speech to be included in a DVD used to promote K-Kids.

Excerpts from winning essays are published in the K-Kid Zone, posted on the K-Kids Web site, and often published in *Kiwanis* magazine.

District scrapbook winners often are displayed at the Kiwanis, Circle K, and Key Club International conventions, and photos of each scrapbook are posted on the K-Kids Web site.

Each district Kiwanis International Foundation leadership award winner receives a US\$200 savings bond and plaque in recognition of demonstrating outstanding leadership abilities. Media releases announcing the winners of this prestigious award are sent to Kiwanis district bulletin editors.

### It's time to 'Read Around the World'

Have you read any good books lately? Are you reading one now? If not, now's a good time to start by taking part in [Read Around the World](#).

A Kiwanis International program, Read Around the World gives K-Kids clubs and other Kiwanis-family clubs a time to share reading with others. Though any time is a good time to promote reading, Kiwanis-family clubs—like your K-Kids club—should set aside time between February 1 and March 3, 2008, to celebrate Read Around the World.

Your club can celebrate Read Around the World by having a book-reading party for younger students, organizing a "books-open" or "TV-off" day, hosting a book character dress-up day, or planning a creative event that centers around reading in the community. Other suggested activities include sponsoring a read-in or staging a reading marathon; conducting a book party; or helping your school or local library by providing new children's books, setting up and decorating a special children's section, or staging a library-card drive.



Now's a good time to share the joy of reading.

For more suggestions or more info, go to [www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org), select the Service Projects option from the menu on the left side of the page and then choose Read Around the World.

### Calling all speech makers, scrapbookers, essayists, artists, and young leaders!

It's time to give some serious thought to entering this year's K-Kids contests. Every year K-Kids club members compete in contests to identify which members are the best speakers, essay writers, scrapbookers, artists, and leaders.

Contest entries are submitted by April 1 to the K-Kids district administrator, who judges and selects one overall district winner from each category: speech, essay, art, scrapbook, and the Kiwanis

# K-Kids Leadership Word Search

Print this page, then read these excerpts or statements from articles found in this K-Kid Zone. You'll find each of the words in red letters in this puzzle. (Words or phrases in the puzzle have no hyphens or spaces.)

- **Everyone** can be a leader.
- A leader is someone who acts with **passion**.
- A leader is **comfortable** with "first-time" events.
- A leader practices **teamwork**.
- Three Builders Club members started the K-Kids club at **Parkview** School.
- A true leader doesn't have to be bossy, rude, loud, or always in charge to make a **difference**.
- K-Kids members develop the skills and abilities that not only help them with **bettering** themselves, but also bettering the lives of others.
- The **motto** of K-Kids is, "Building leaders."
- The K-Kids pledge calls for us to respect our **environment**.
- One of the Objects of Builders Club is developing leadership **potential**.

C P T E E C N E R E F F I D J  
 A D T E A Y C A U F P O Z I S  
 Q U W V R E N I E O S Y G F A  
 A C Y E N V I R O N M E N T O  
 P X Z R V H D A J V O O C E S  
 F E D Y T X P O T E N T I A L  
 W V F O Q M B E T T E R I N G  
 E E D N A O T T E O I K R K U  
 I Q B E U T C P A S S I O N N  
 V M P N I W O N M R O T F E L  
 K E I U I T A B W O Y E B T K  
 R G B A T S A O O J F I H J R  
 A D W O K N G V R R X F F K O  
 P X M H S S I O K R A V L B W  
 T H C O M F O R T A B L E M L

# K-Kids Leadership Sudoku

	PASSION	HUMBLE	RESPECT
HUMBLE			PASSION
PASSION			DIRECTION
RESPECT	DIRECTION	PASSION	

Solution for Leadership Word Search



LEADERSHIP

C P T E E C N E R E F F I D J  
 A D T E A Y C A U F P O Z I S  
 Q U W V R E N I E O S Y G F A  
 A C Y E N V I R O N M E N T O  
 P X Z R V H D A J V O O C E S  
 F E D Y T X P O T E N T I A L  
 W V F O Q M B E T T E R I N G  
 E E D N A O T T E O I K R K U  
 I Q B E U T C P A S S I O N N  
 V M P N I W O N M R O T F E L  
 K E I U I T A B W O Y E B T K  
 R G B A T S A O O J F I H J R  
 A D W O K N G V R R X F F K O  
 P X M H S S I O K R A V L B W  
 T H C O M F O R T A B L E M L

Solution for Leadership Sudoku Here's the solution to the Leadership Sudoku found on page 7. How did you do?

<b>DIRECTION</b>	<b>PASSION</b>	<b>HUMBLE</b>	<b>RESPECT</b>
<b>HUMBLE</b>	<b>REPECT</b>	<b>DIRECTION</b>	<b>PASSION</b>
<b>PASSION</b>	<b>HUMBLE</b>	<b>RESPECT</b>	<b>DIRECTION</b>
<b>RESPECT</b>	<b>DIRECTION</b>	<b>PASSION</b>	<b>HUMBLE</b>