



# Kiwanis Club of Corvallis Annual Report – 2004-05

We Build...A Better Corvallis

## 2004-05 – A Year for the Ages

### Introduction:

During 2004-05, the Kiwanis Club of Corvallis experienced success of record-breaking proportions. Collective fund-raising efforts produced all-time high levels of money raised for service projects. New and innovative fund-raising and service projects were implemented with unexpected positive results. Membership levels were stabilized and new administrative measures made statistical reporting easier and more efficient. Regular weekly meetings were conducted in a professional-but-friendly atmosphere and were started and ended on time.

### Fund-Raising:

In August 2004, the budget committee sat down to develop the annual budget for 2004-05. Based on results from previous years and best-guess projections, we estimated the total service income would be \$14,300, considerably less than the amount that had been requested by service committee chairs. As 2004-05 progressed, it started to become clear that we were going to exceed this amount. Our Holiday Greens Sale Committee, chaired by Elise Schloeder, raised a total of \$5,525, \$2,500 more than expected. The Pancake Party Committee, chaired by Betty Brose, raised \$4,440, \$440 more than expected. The Berry Sale Committee, chaired by Cheri Galvin, raised \$5,500, \$2,800 more than expected. The Ink Jet Cartridge Recycle Committee, chaired by Earl Garthwait, raised \$1,093 and the Great Pumpkin Road Run, chaired by Doug Conrad, raised \$2,600.

In addition, two new fund-raising projects were added during 2004-05: the Kiwanis Klassic Golf Tournament, chaired by Joe Raia and the Fall Festival Road Run chaired by Doug Conrad. Because these events took place at the very end of the Kiwanis year, exact amounts have not yet been tallied but it is estimated they will bring in an additional \$9,000-10,000. Total funds raised during 2004-05 should end up being about \$15,000 more than estimated.

As a result of the phenomenal efforts by so many people, the 2004-05 budget committee was able to provide all the funds requested by service committee chairs. A new standard of excellence in fund-raising has been established.

### Service Projects:



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Exciting new service project efforts took place during 2004-05. To highlight but a few:

The Feed The Hungry Local Kids Committee, chaired by Bob Stebbins, put together an innovative program to help feed hungry kids over the weekends. Kids living under the poverty level enrolled in the Corvallis school system are eligible for subsidized breakfasts and lunches. Some kids live in such dire economic conditions they often don't get to eat when they are at home. Committee members recognized this need and developed the Kids' Food Backpack Project, a collaborative effort between the Kiwanis Club of Corvallis, Lincoln Elementary School, Corvallis Boys and Girls Club, the Oregon Department of Corrections and Linn-Benton Food Share. Inmates incarcerated in Oregon prisons and working in the Oregon Corrections Enterprises program stitched together 50 kids' backpacks from scrap blue jean material and donated them to the project. Lincoln Elementary School was chosen because its students have the highest poverty rate. Boys and Girls Club kids and officials assisted in the development of the program. Kiwanis and Zonta provided funding to buy non-perishable food items at low cost from Linn Benton Food Share. Each Friday morning, Kiwanis volunteers were joined by Lincoln Elementary School student volunteers in stuffing the backpacks with food items. Lincoln School principal Julie McCann chose the students to receive backpacks based on severity of need. Kids took the filled backpacks home over weekends and returned them empty the following Monday. I asked Ms. McCann if this program was really filling a need. She told me some of the kids are so hungry, they eat food from the backpacks on their way home. Kids who otherwise would not show up on Fridays, did so in order to receive a filled backpack. The program, featured in a Gazette-Times newspaper article in March 2005, will be repeated and expanded during 2005-06.

The Young Children Priority One Committee, chaired by Les Ishikawa, managed to obtain a \$5,000 grant from the Kiwanis International Foundation to fund the Strong Kids Program at Old Mill Alternative School. This is the largest grant of its kind ever received by our club, at least in recent memory.

Finally, the Community Services Committee, chaired by Irma Sargent, has for many years maintained the South Corvallis Triangle Beautification Project. This is a small triangle of land at the south end of the Mary's River bridges on south 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> streets leading to/from the downtown area. This beautifully landscaped piece of land is kept in immaculate condition almost single-handedly by committee member Glenn Klein who spends countless hours planting and weeding. His efforts were rewarded when the City of Corvallis Parks and



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Recreation Department awarded Kiwanis with a certificate honoring city beautification.

## **Administrative:**

2004-05 ushered in technological modernization in the administrative arena. To make it easier for committee chairs to submit monthly reports to the club secretary, a web-based online reporting system was developed and rolled out. Instead of having to locate paper forms and hand-write/mail reports to the secretary in that fashion, committee chairs were able to pull up the Kiwanis Club of Corvallis website (<http://kiwaniscorvallis.org>) online reporting system, fill in a few boxes and click the “submit” button. Reports automatically are then transmitted to the club secretary via e-mail in the appropriate format. This relatively simple technological addition resulted in committee reporting at a level of ease previously unknown.

The club secretary mastered the new online reporting system that had been put forth by the Kiwanis Pacific Northwest District office. As a result of the two new online systems, the amount of time needed to compile and submit monthly reports by the club secretary has been dramatically slashed and this has enabled him to participate in some of the service activities.

Club members submitted request for agenda items via e-mail in advance of weekly club meetings. This enabled the president to start and end meetings on time, make the most of limited time and convey a smooth, professional image to guests.

## **Summary:**

2004-05 truly was a year for the ages. It was the result of outstanding efforts by many people and set the stage for what I hope will be an even more successful 2005-06 under the leadership of president Kate Sundstrom. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as president during such a remarkable year.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Oldenstadt, 2004-05 President  
Kiwanis Club of Corvallis