



Kiwanis®

The Dalles

www.TheDallesKiwanisClub.org

FEBRUARY 2014

“Pop Tab” Help Support Ronald McDonald House

Who would have thought that saving the “pull tabs” from pop cans and other cans could support Ronald McDonald House Charities? Amazingly, the tabs are actually worth more than the entire can because they are made of a higher quality of metal.

The Dalles Kiwanis Club collects “pull tabs” or “pop tabs” to support the two Ronald McDonald houses located in Portland, Oregon.

Lee Huckins brought this project to The Dalles Kiwanis Club in 2000. At that time Lee was president and the club was part of Division 80. When the club moved to Division 66, we kept the program and it has continued for 14 years.

The pull tab program at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oregon and Southwest Washington raises nearly \$3,000 each year, which helps defer the cost of families staying at both houses. Donated tabs are picked up by a local recycling center and weighed to determine their values (varies from .30-.50 cents/lb). The center then sends RMHC a check — converting the donation of pop tabs into cash.

The houses provide a “home away from home” for approximately 1,500 families each year. RMHC requests \$20 per night from families who



Two Houses — One Purpose. Ronald McDonald House East and Ronald McDonald House West are supported through donations of pull tabs. Ronald McDonald House—East, 2620 N. Commercial, Portland, OR and Ronald McDonald House—West, 2440 SW US Veteran’s Hospital Rd., Portland.

stay, and relies on general fundraising to cover the remaining operating costs (nearly \$80 per night). No family is ever

turned away for an inability to pay.

We have included this project as a community service project for the Builders Club at The Dalles Middle School.

We welcome and encourage members to save the pull tabs and turn them in at the Thursday meetings. Lee has faithfully delivered the tabs to Portland every time there is enough bulk to warrant the trip.

We want to thank Lee for his dedicated commitment to this worthy Kiwanis project!

Check out RMHC’s website at www.rmhc.org



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES
Oregon and Southwest Washington



The Dalles Kiwanis Club Organizes Local Parades

By Karl Vercouteran



The 35th Annual Northwest Cherry Festival is coming up in April and along with it, the Cherry Festival Parade-- the biggest of our local parades. The Dalles Kiwanis Club members have been lining up parades for many years.

They were doing it as a community service project when I joined the club in

1977-- maybe Gary Honald, Wally Wolf, or Jack Kaser can fill in for pre-1977.

We organized both Cherry Festival and Fort Dalles Days parades in those days. Eventually we dropped the summer parade because harvest and vacation schedules made it difficult to field enough volunteers. We added the Starlite Parade in 1989.

The Dalles Kiwanis Club Newsletter

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child, one community at a time.

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Welcome New Members!



The Dalles Kiwanis Club continues to grow!
Please welcome these four new members!

Doug Quisenberry
Kimberly Cowan
Tim Melcher
Wes Haynes.

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I finished my year as club president around that time, and joined the committee that planned and sponsored the Christmas parade. The club was a co-sponsor for several years until International said that we could not do this because of liability issues. It was around that time that I became chair of the parade committee.

I remember Bob Briggs was doing that and he passed the job along to me. We used to arrive very early on parade days and mark spots for the entries on the pavement with chalk. That worked unless

foot traffic erased the chalk marks or rain washed them away. So I proposed that we paint numbers on the curb in 1993.

The first time around was a back-breaking job and a killer on the knees! So whenever we've had the numbers refreshed, we've called on one of the Boy Scout troops to take on the painting as a service project.

When lining up a parade, we get measurements on the entry forms, which are not always accurate-- a lot of guess-work is involved! Then we assign curb num-

bers and draw them in on a master map. After that it's just a matter of preparing packets for each entry that include parade order display numbers and a map to the entry's curb location.

Entrants are assigned to their parade order by a few logical criteria: walkers don't want to follow horses, noisy or musical floats or groups need to be separated from each other, flag-bearers come first, fire trucks and/or Santa come last, etc.

The Chamber of Commerce assigns parade order for the Cherry Festival Parade. Kiwanis (Karl plus another volunteer) assigns the order for the Starlite Parade and in recent years, the Veterans' Day Parade.

The day of the parade Kiwanians hand out packets to entrants and help them get into place. Once the parade begins, we make sure bands and horses get into their assigned places. It's been a fun activity over the years and the parade announcers always give the club a plug.

If helping organize the parade is something that you would like to do, be sure to contact Karl at kjverc@gmail.com

***Cherry MARVELous is Theme of the
35th Annual Northwest Cherry Festival
April 24-26, 2014***



Join the Team!! Bowling for Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Columbia Gorge (BBBS) is dedicated to improving the lives of children by creating mentoring relationships. Throughout Hood River, Wasco, and Klickitat counties our volunteer Bigs provide friendship and support to their Littles!

Big Brothers and Big Sisters is a program of The Next Door, Inc..

'Matches' (a Little and their Big) spend 8-10 hours per month doing things they enjoy, like fishing or baking. Volunteer Bigs must be stable and dependable, at least 18 years old and pass background screening. In-home interviews help match the adult's interests with the child's so they have things in common from the start.

Big Brothers Big Sisters' professional staff ensures the relationships are safe and rewarding for everyone. Independent research reveals that after one year Littles are, 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs, 52% less likely to skip school, 27% less likely to begin using alcohol, and 33% less likely to hit someone.

Research shows that the length of time the Little and Big are matched is directly linked to the impact on the child. In 2012, our average match length was 34 months, while our national affiliate found the average match length in 2011 across the U.S. was 22 months. Our "Bigs" and "Littles" are matched together longer! This means BIG impact for our Littles. There is no charge to the children, families or mentors who participate.



The 2013 Teams and Key Club Members Kiwanis Club members and Key Club Members

The Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Columbia Gorge! Bowl for Kids' Sake is our largest annual fundraiser - we hope to attract 300 'bowlers' in 2014! This is a great opportunity to get together with family, friends and neighbors for a couple of hours of fun to help kids in our communities.

The Dalles Kiwanis Club needs to put together two teams like we had last year. Each member of the team is supposed to raise at least \$100 each to support the program. If you are interested in bowling or helping to raise money, please contact Dixie Parker at dixiegene@gorge.net

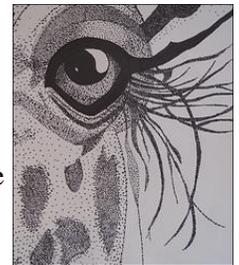
For more information on the Big Brothers Big Sisters program you can contact Kristen Reese via email at kristinr@nextdoorinc.org or check their website at: www.nextdoorinc.org

**SAVE THE DATE for
Bowl for Kids' Sake 2014!
Saturday, March 8th, 2014
Orchard Lanes
1141 Tucker Rd., Hood River**

Student Art Show Reception

The Annual Mid Columbia Middle/High School show will be held on February 4 - March 1, 2014. It is held at The Dalles Art Center, in The Dalles.

The reception for the Middle/High School Show will be held March 1, 3 - 4pm, at that time the cash awards will be handed out.



The Dalles Kiwanis Club annually budgets funds for the prizes for these shows. There will be two receptions and Kiwanians and their families are encouraged to attend these receptions. It means a lot to the students and their families that our club not only supports the show financially, but that we show up to take in the show and visibly show our support.

<http://www.thedallesartcenter.org/>



Skip-a-Meal begins in April

Feb 10, 2014

The month of April is always full of activity for Kiwanis clubs. There's Kiwanis One Day and also the Kiwanis International Foundation's Skip-a-Meal program. Skip-a-Meal is a program in which clubs or individuals choose to forego their usual morning coffee, club lunch or restaurant dinners and donate that equivalent cost to the foundation. And people have a lot of fun with it! Remember, US\$5 equals seven meals for children.

One of our favorite stories is from the Kiwanis Club of New Kingston, Jamaica. They raised money by extending the Skip-a-Meal's theme to a weight-loss competition for club members. With "KCNK's Biggest Loser," each participant's Skip-a-Meal gift also served as an entry fee. Participants were weighed and measured weekly, and anyone who gained weight from the previous week was "fined" for each pound gained. Club leaders arranged for two-month sponsorships at three local gyms, awarding one each to the first-, second- and third-place weight losers. Using the contest as an extra incentive, the Kiwanis Club of New Kingston ultimately gave our foundation JA\$26,060 (approximately US\$300) through the Skip-a-Meal program.

Another idea to consider is coordinating a potluck or a pitch-in dinner. If you're a club, invite people to your meetings, or if you're an individual, invite friends, family, neighbors and even club members to your home. Ask all individuals to contribute one food item that's inexpensive and easy to make. Use the gathering as an opportunity to explain the mission of the Kiwanis International Foundation and the purpose of Skip-a-Meal. If it would be appropriate, you can collect contributions or pledges to the Skip-a-Meal program. Remember, it only takes US\$5 to supply seven meals for children.

The Kiwanis International Foundation wants to know what you plan to do in the month of April to raise money for Skip-a-Meal. Share your story and email nbrown@kiwanis.org. Let's make the most out of this program in the month of April. Children around the world need our help. And all we have to do is skip a meal.

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The Dalles Kiwanis Club:
<http://tinyurl.com/lh2cglr>

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