

# BC WIRE

E-Newsletter for Builders Club Advisors

October 2010

"Being a Builder means so much to me. I get to help out our community and have fun with other students at the same time!" –Hannah, sixth grade Builders Club member

## Builders Club on YouTube

Check out the new [YouTube video](#) that highlights how great Builders Club is. Have the video playing while you hand out [recruitment cards](#) to potential members. Or, at open houses and parent nights, have the video playing while you hand out the [Builders Club brochures](#).

In addition to the video being online, a DVD version is included in each charter and club renewal kit. We can't wait to [hear what you think!](#) A pack of the recruitment cards are included in the renewal kit as well.

BC WIRE is a publication of  
Kiwanis International

3636 Woodview Trace  
Indianapolis, IN 46268 USA

1-800-KIWANIS, ext. 411  
(U.S. and Canada)  
1-317-875-8755, ext. 411 (worldwide)

[buildersclub@kiwanis.org](mailto:buildersclub@kiwanis.org)

## Got pennies? Create a mile.

Did you know that one mile of pennies placed side by side will total nearly \$800?

If you're looking for a cool new way to help out the March of Dimes during Prematurity Awareness Month in November, consider hosting a Mile of Pennies event.

Builders Clubs can help the March of Dimes accomplish its mission—to improve the health of babies by preventing premature birth, birth defects and infant mortality.

Here's how.

- Select a popular spot to hold the event, such as a park, school track or parking lot.
- Ask family members, friends and members of the community to donate pennies to the Mile of Pennies.
- Contact your local newspaper and other media in your area to help promote your idea. Visit [www.marchofdimes.com/youth](http://www.marchofdimes.com/youth) for materials, posters, art and more.
- Don't forget to send in pictures for publicity to your PTA newsletter and school newspaper or website. And also send the information to [buildersclub@kiwanis.org](mailto:buildersclub@kiwanis.org).
- To set up your Mile of Pennies, measure out 5,280 feet of ribbon or tape (which equals one mile). Be creative with your ribbon and place it in a unique shape, such as the March of Dimes logo or spiral shape, or simply place the ribbon in a straight line. Then, place the pennies you've collected ahead of time and have donors stop by to place their pennies side by side on the surface of the ribbon. After the ribbon is filled up, give yourself a big pat on the back because you've helped raise nearly \$800 toward life-saving research for babies! You can collect a quarter mile or half mile for a smaller goal.
- Finally, take the donations to your bank, have it counted and turn it into a cashier's check made payable to the March of Dimes.
- If you need any assistance, contact the March of Dimes office nearest to you by calling 1-800-BIG-WALK.



## Builders Club renewal

It's that time of year again—club renewals. In early September the annual renewal letter was mailed to each sponsoring Kiwanis Club's secretary. If you didn't receive the letter, don't worry. Simply go to the [Club Renewal Center](#), enter your Builders Club number and submit the following information: faculty advisor name and e-mail, Kiwanis advisor name and mailing address and number of club members.

You can select to pay online through PayPal or by check. If paying by check, simply print the invoice created online and mail it with the check to the address provided. Contact Members Services at 1-800-KIWANIS, ext. 411, with any questions.

### The National Middle School Association's Annual Conference & Exhibit

Baltimore, Maryland  
November 4–6, 2010

Are you attending this year's event? Don't forget to check out the Builders Club booth, #640, in the exhibit hall. For more information, visit [www.nmsa.org/annual](http://www.nmsa.org/annual).

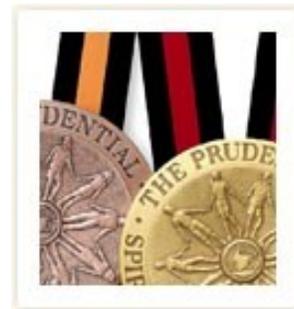
# BC WIRE

## Join our Builders Club winner

Over the past 15 years, Prudential Spirit of Community Awards have been given to nearly 90,000 middle and high school students across the country for helping the less fortunate, protecting the environment and serving their communities through volunteer activities.

In 2009, [Kylie Kuhns](#) of the Mifflinburg Area Middle School Builders Club was a National Honoree for her work with “Kelsey’s Dream.” She established this foundation to support a variety of original programs benefiting children with cancer, in memory of her older sister, Kelsey. Learn more about the foundation at [the Kelsey’s Dream website](#).

If you have a student that should be recognized for their outstanding service, encourage them to [apply now](#) to win a sizable cash prize, a trip to Washington, D.C., and a chance to inspire other young people to get involved in volunteering. The application deadline is November 2.



## Manage your helpers

Whether you are a Kiwanis or a faculty advisor, you could also use a few more hands to help with your Builders Club. As you begin to recruit help, you become a volunteer manager. Here are a few tips to help you in this role:

1. Ask me to volunteer. Don’t wait on someone to volunteer, but instead, ask for their help.
2. Show me the benefits for the mission and myself. Think about a person’s interest and available time. If looking for someone to help during school hours, look for retired or stay-at-home parents.
3. Help me succeed. Organizations have loyal volunteers when they help volunteers enhance their skills.
4. Allow me a “time out” rather than a “retirement.” Sometimes people need a break either for personal or professional reasons. Let them take a break, but follow up with them and ask them to volunteer again (see lesson #1).

Adopted from *Associations Now*, November 2009

Did your club participate in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF? Submit donations with the [UNCIF Donations Form](#).

## What is our club doing now?

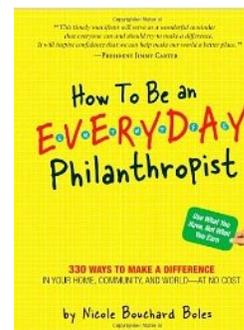
If you are looking for some free projects for your club, you might want to check out “How to Be an Everyday Philanthropist: 330 Ways to Make a Difference in Your Home, Community, and World—at No Cost!”

Here’s an excerpt from the book:

### Send a card

From children suffering from serious illness and long hospitalizations, any contact with the outside world (especially with other children) can make life seem more normal. Organizations like Hugs and Hope ([www.hugesandhope.org](http://www.hugesandhope.org)) and Make a Child Smile ([www.makeachildsmile.org](http://www.makeachildsmile.org)) help spread cheer by helping kids send drawings and cards to sick children in hospitals across the country. You can even send a small gift if you wish. Visit these websites for the names, backgrounds, and medical conditions of kids eager for mail.

Check out a [book review](#) for more details. You’ll also see that some copies are available through Amazon for under US\$1.



## What’s your time worth?

Have you ever wondered how to quantify the time you spend with Builders Club or other volunteer projects? The estimated dollar value of volunteer time for 2009 was \$20.85 per hour. [Learn how states compare and how this amount was calculated.](#)

## Advisor-quick guide

Need a quick refresher on the roles of the Kiwanis and faculty advisor for a Builders Club, check out the updated [Builders Club Advisor Guide—quick guide](#). This two-page document highlights the responsibilities for each advisor. For a more detailed version, make sure to read the [Builders Club Advisor Guide](#).