Spring 2010

Kick it up!

What’s inside...

KEY CLUB COOL | AMPLIFY YOUR SERVICE
WEBTASTIC! | THE BUZZ | MADLIBS
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www.buildersclub.org
A Key Club International program of Kiwanis International
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Dear Builders Club Members,

Can you believe it’s been another school year? I’m sure you’re all excited about your Builders Club’s successes. Check out the Key Club president’s message to you in the special feature beginning on page 4. Whether you’re graduating or not, you’ll be excited about what’s ahead.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sherri McKeen, Builders Club specialist
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We’ve gone digital!
(You can even turn the pages on your computer screen.)
Does the fun you’ve had as a Builders Club member have to end when you move on to high school? No way! Keep it going by joining Key Club, the biggest service program for high school students in the world. You’ll be able to do good things, make friends and keep on having fun. Need proof? Here’s what some Key Clubbers say about it. ...
I bet your school year has been awesome. Know why? Because you’re members of Builders Club. You’ve given your time and energy this school year to make things better and to help others. And if you’re like me, helping others makes you feel good about yourself.

I remember how good I felt working for charities when I was in middle school. My favorite was a program called Spirit of Santa. Each holiday season, I would go to the community center to pack boxes of toys and clothes for children who wouldn’t have Christmas presents without them. Knowing I helped someone my age meant a lot to me.

“If you’re nervous about high school, Key Club is a great way to meet students of all ages, build on your strengths and improve your confidence.”

—Blaire Sambdman, Dixon High School, Illinois
When I entered high school I found something that helped me continue the spirit of giving—and much more: Key Club. As a freshman, Key Club made me feel sure about myself while letting me make a difference. My fellow club members—even the seniors—treated me as an equal and we spent many hours serving others and having fun.

If you’re in your last year of middle school and will be a high school freshman next year, check out Key Club and consider joining. And if you’ll still be in middle school next year, it’s not too early to be

“I joined Key Club because I was a member of Builders Club all three years of middle school and wanted to extend my service. The best thing about being in Key Club is everything—from meeting new people to doing service to becoming a leader.”

—Yuling An, Homestead High School, Sunnyvale, California
“Key Club is the best organization in the world, no doubt about it! It’s the best thing that’s ever happened to me.”

—André Hamilton, Cornwall College, Falmouth, Jamaica

thinking about taking your service to the next level in high school.

Key Club has been one of the best experiences of my life, and I believe you’ll have the same experience if you give it a chance.

—Abigail McKamey, Key Club International President

Learn more at www.keyclub.org.

Abigail McKamey is Key Club International president. She is a senior at Lawrence County High School in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. In addition to helping others, Abigail enjoys reading, spending time with her family and friends and exercising. She has more than 1,650 friends and 600 photos on Facebook.
Do
Ask for help—and permission—before you start. Talk to your faculty advisor, who’ll know who on the school staff can help you.

Meet the master. Meet with your school’s Webmaster to see if you can add your Web pages to the school’s Web site. Most Builders Clubs with Web sites do this.


Do it with style. Make sure visitors to your Web site can find information quickly and easily. Find Builders Club logos at www.buildersclub.org, and include articles and photos of your club’s service projects and fundraisers.

WEB IDEAS

Here are some things you could post on your Web site.

SERVICE PROJECTS

STORIES

PHOTOS
 Builders Club? Build your own Web site.

**DON’T**

**Dis your friends.** Choose stories and photographs that will make people feel good about themselves and your school.

**Go stale.** Refresh articles, news and photographs every week or two, and avoid boring pictures.

**Use a pattern.** Busy backgrounds, like polka dots or stars, will make people dizzy. Choose a solid instead.

**Hide.** Remember to send your Web address to buildersclub@kiwanis.org, and put a link to www.buildersclub.org on your site.

**Sneak shots.** Ask your classmates for permission before you post their pictures. Your Webmaster can help you create a release form.
Kick it up

Amplify your club’s service with the March of Dimes and UNICEF
On an upcoming Saturday morning, members of the Pinon Mesa Builders Club will lace up their sneakers and head out for an 8.5-mile walk around their southern California community. While many of their classmates are watching TV, cleaning their rooms (yeah, right) or sleeping in, these kids will be raising money to help babies.

The club is among many Builders Clubs making tracks this spring during March for Babies events. The money they raise will help moms have healthy babies and help sick babies get better. It also will help scientists find cures for birth defects.

By teaming up with the March of Dimes, Builders Clubs are doing something really important. “We signed up because we wanted to do something meaningful for young children,” says Pat Summers, Pinon Mesa faculty advisor. “Hundreds of thousands of children are born too soon—or sick—each year. We couldn’t think of a better way to spend a Saturday morning.”

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**Step by step**

Your Builders Club can make a difference for babies. It’s easy as A, B, C.

**Sign up.** Get in step with March for Babies. Find an event near you and sign up at [www.marchforbabies.org/Kiwanis](http://www.marchforbabies.org/Kiwanis).

**Talk to friends.** Invite everyone in your club and school—and members of the Kiwanis club that sponsors your Builders Club—to join you on the day of the event.

**Do it your way.** Can’t make it to the event? No problem. You can host a fundraiser in your school or community. Go to the March for Babies Web site for suggestions.
Builders Clubs across the United States are ready to put their best feet forward in March for Babies events this spring. In addition to Pinon Mesa Middle School in California (see the story on page 11), clubs in Montana, Virginia, Florida, North Carolina, Maryland, Minnesota, Arizona, Missouri, Kentucky, Texas and Maine are doing good things to help babies.

If your club is taking part in a March for Babies event or doing something special for the March of Dimes, let us know. Send us an e-mail at buildersclub@kiwanis.org.
This past fall, the Builders Club at Pacific Beach Middle School in San Diego, California, reached out to help children in Uruguay, a nation in South America more than 6,000 miles away. The club organized a Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF competition between grades to see who could raise the most money for Operation Uruguay. More than $400 was raised.

While this was going on, a Builders Club at Hanson Middle School in Massachusetts was staging its own Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF contest. The club asked each student and staff member to chip in a quarter and raised more than $250.

By taking part in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, Builders Clubs raise between $30,000 and $45,000 each year to help UNICEF make sure children in need around the world get things like water, education and food and medicine. This year, UNICEF has teamed up with Builders Club and Key Club to raise money for Operation Uruguay, a project that will help teens build skills and have a safe place to gather.

Learn how your club can help at www.buildersclub.org/servicepartners.

Sweeter than candy

On the Web
The buzz

Cuties of the year

Has your club ever hit the big time in the grown-up world? Hey, it can happen! In Marina, California, the Los Arboles Middle School Builders Club got its moment in the spotlight. The Marina Chamber of Commerce recognized the club as “Service Club of the Year.” Not a small feat for 16 middle schoolers.

How did they do it? Great service. The club sponsored a Relay for Life team, “Cuties for a Cure,” and raised more than $2,000 for the American Cancer Society at the Marina Relay for Life. They also collected more than $400 in donations to support UNICEF in just 3 days.—Renee Bailey and Giselle Young

HELP FOR HAITI

What did your club do to help the people of Haiti after January’s earthquake? In Dunn, North Carolina, Builders Club members at Coats-Erwin Middle School collected jeans as part of Aéropostale’s Teens for Jeans campaign. In California, the Builders Club of the Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe collected shoes for Haiti through Soles4Souls. In Illinois, four Builders Clubs sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Blue Island donated shoes through Share Your Soles. Got projects of your own to share? Log on to buildersclub@kiwanis.org and let us know.
Fill in the blanks with your own word choices. Then read the story to a friend.

Our Builders Club just _______ a ______ adjective project, and we can't wait to tell ______ person about it. At our club's first meeting at ______ place, our advisor asked us what kind of ______ noun we wanted to ______ past tense verb this year. Before we got started, we wanted to find out what our community ______ past tense verb and what we could do to help. Our advisor asked the ______ job title to help too.

We found out the ______ noun was in need of ______ noun, ______ noun and ______ noun. We knew we'd found the ______ adjective project.

Our club put together a ______ adjective drive. First we made ______ plural noun. Then we read a ______ noun on the ______ noun. The ______ noun with the most ______ noun was going to win a ______ adjective party.

In the five days of the project, we collected ______ number items for the ______ adjective. They were so thankful that they sent us a huge ______ noun.
Use your own words or pictures to tell the story of a Builders Club project.

Ideas: Draw a picture or cartoon, write a poem, create a collage, paste a photo. It’s up to you!