



Kiwanis Club of Independence Newsletter Judy Luffman-editor

Dates to Remember

- October 20, 6:30 pm.; Division IV meeting; Independence Bass Pro

Coming Soon

- * **October 25 (Sat.) about 1:30-4:30; 60th Annual Chamber of Commerce Halloween Parade around the Square. Volunteers needed to decorate and ride on a truck and hand out candy to people along the route. Dress up in costume. Our theme: "We've been trucking since 1929." Learn more details and sign up at the next mtg.**
- * **October 27-mid December: volunteers needed at the Independence Salvation Army Corps on Thursday evenings from 4-8 pm. Take information from clients for Christmas wish lists; contact Kim Robinson, case worker, for more information.**

Birthday

- 12, Sue Ridings
- 13, Kay Van Fleet

Anniversary

- 12, Joe & Don Reimal
- 15, Marina & David Womack

News about the Next Meeting

Come and meet the new Police Chief, Tom Daily, and new Community Development Director, Jennifer Clark.

Brag Bag

- **Scott Roberson**; he bragged about MU defeating Nebraska in a recent football game (and was disappointed that Robert Heacock was not present to suffer a bit!).

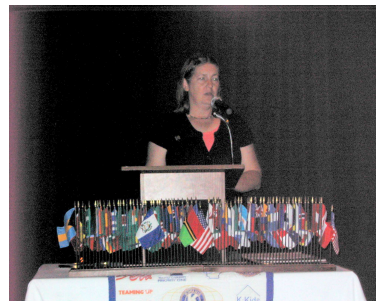
October 14 Assignments

Pledge Leader **Sandy Naylor**
Song Leader **Michael Hahn**
Opening Prayer **Judy Luffman**

Hope for the Hopeless

Gretchen Hicks, from Hope House, gave club members a verbal snapshot of the issue of domestic violence and shared how Hope House offers protection and help for victims, both women and men. Hope House was founded in 1983 in Independence when a glaring need became apparent that people who were victims of domestic violence and who had the courage to try to escape it had nowhere to go. From that initial beginning, Hope House has expanded to two locations, one in Independence and one in Lee's Summit. Program offerings have also expanded to meet the growing need.

Both Hope House locations offer security and protection from abusers, offer personal and legal counsel, offer free childcare when needed, and provide clothes and personal supplies for anyone who arrives at their door with only the clothes on the back.



Ms. Hicks was pleased to share that when a call comes from the police to lend assistance to a victim of domestic violence, Hope House personnel have pared their response time to 30 minutes. She was saddened to report that such calls occur far too often.

A sobering trend in abuse victims is the evil done by human trafficker. Ms. Hicks shared that human trafficking is not just a problem on the coasts. In fact, in her opinion, it is a more serious problem in the Midwest precisely because it isn't expected here.

Hope House offers secure temporary housing for women and children who need immediate protective shelter. The average client stays about 14 days but another sad fact is that many of them will have to seek help more than once. Hope House is also able to assist men who have been victims of abuse with everything except housing and look to other local agencies for an appropriate and safe place for their short-term stays.

Check out the Hope House website for a more in-depth look at services and ways to volunteer.

<http://www.hopehouse-ejc.org/index.php>

**Kiwanians Volunteer
for Drumm Farm Golf Classic**
by Barbara Langley

Drumm Farm held a very successful 7th Annual BigByte Drumm Farm Golf Classic last week. There were 18 teams that participated. Our club members were volunteers at each hole on the 9-hole Executive course where golfers participated in special golf challenges.

David Rock, event chair and trustee, and Larry Blick, golf committee member, asked Don Coffman, immediate past-president of Kiwanis, if the club would like to be hole volunteers. The idea of helping children and also as a memory to George Berkemeir, former superintendent at Drumm Farm and a Kiwanian, appealed to the club.

Janis Pule, a trustee for Drumm Farm and niece of George Berkemeir said she was glad to see the Kiwanis Club participating. It would have made her uncle very proud, she said.

“My uncle passed away in 2003. He tried to stay active in Kiwanis and at Drumm Farm,” she said. “I remember taking him to a Kiwanis banquet here, and he was so excited to be able to attend.”

Rufus Little, executive director of Drumm Farm Children’s Home, said the golf classic raises about \$50,000, which goes towards the operating budget. They anticipated raising about \$3,000 from an auction, which will go towards a new playground. The annual budget for Drumm Farm is about \$900,000.

Rock said, “There are many success stories of the children who live here. They come through difficult circumstances and Drumm Farm gives them hope and opportunity.”

Steve Pollard and Mike Lovelady are recent success stories. They graduated from Truman High School and currently attend Longview Community College. Pollard has lived at the farm for over three years. He is pursuing general studies, and plans to attend a four-year college majoring in Political Science. He then hopes to attend law school. Lovelady has been residing at Drumm Farm for over seven years. He is majoring in Grounds and Turf Management.

Thank you to our club volunteers and especially to John Freytag and Don Coffman for their work in organizing Kiwanis’ part in the day. Volunteers were: Tawna Noftzger, Bob Haas, Michael Hahn, Dan Montgomery, Fred Larsen, Nina Anders and her husband Ira, Max Ridings, Sue Ridings and their friends, the Wilcoxes, Tiffany Bumgardner, Barbara Langley, and Fred Mills.



Nina Anders checks in Kiwanis volunteers.



Michael Hahn cruising around.



Tawna Noftzger instructs golfers on the special challenges.



Fred Larsen and Dan Montgomery.



Max Ridings and friend Lee Wilcox.

***“Kiwanis is a global organization
of volunteers
dedicated to changing the world
one child and one community at a time.*”**