



# RKC Reporter

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## ***Kiwanis International President Calls for Growth and Vision***

9 million children per year are being born healthy due to the reduction of IDD (Iodine Deficiency Disease) around the world, according to Kiwanis President Stephen Siemens, speaking to a pre-Rose Parade Interclub Luncheon of Kiwanis members on December 30, 2005, in Pasadena CA.

In a speech featuring subtle theological overtones Siemens, a Certified Speaking

Professional, described both the world today and his vision of Kiwanis's future role.

The progress relative to IDD is the long-term difference to the world's children resulting from our worldwide partnership with UNICEF over the past several years.

IDD, of course, is but one problem in the world, he pointed out. Few Americans have traveled enough to

grasp the impact of the grinding poverty that grips much of the globe.

### **The World Condition**

In Ecuador, for instance, Siemens encountered a medical clinic where, under that country's medical system, the services of the clinic staff were free – but patients had to pay for supplies in operations. A farmer who had preserved  
*(see 'Pres', p. 2)*

## ***GARVEY DISTRICT INITIATES AFTER SCHOOL RANGER PROGRAM***

After-school programs for "at risk youth" will be offered in five Rosemead schools beginning in late January, 2006. The programs are funded by five 21st CCLC (21st Century Community Learning Centers) grants administered by the Los Angeles-based Wood-

craft Rangers. The programs were secured for the Garvey District through the joint efforts of Supervisor Gloria Molina and School Board President and Kiwanian Bob Bruesch.

21st CCLC grants are part of the Federally funded "No Child Left

Behind" program passed by Congress in 2001. Due to budget cuts no new 21st CCLC grants are currently being approved, according to Bruesch. The contracts became available when another District vacated them due to the District's lack of corresponding  
*(See "Ranger, p. 4)*

Rosemead  
Kiwanis  
Club  
'Since 1945'

Box 832  
Rosemead, CA

**“Pres” (from p. 1)** severed fingers from a fresh accident came in but was nearly turned away for lack of \$3.85 for needed bandages, needle and thread. Siemens couldn't bear to see that occur and paid with \$5 from his own pocket.

It is incredible to believe, Stephen said in his keynote address, but the garbage disposal at the Hilton Hotel eats better on the discards from a single customer's meal than 30% of the world's population does in a day. Pocket change of the average American is more ample than the net assets of 53% of the world's humans.

We have been blessed by God in this country, he declared, but blessed for a purpose: “to be a blessing to the rest of the world.” It is a responsibility today reminiscent of the commission God originally gave to the ancient Israelites.

“All that we do as Kiwanians,” Siemens declared, “is an expression of love - a calling that involves caring for all people of the entire world.” To dramatize this blessing, Siemens used the analogy of a

rose, a ring and a rainbow.

### **The Rose**

The rose, he pointed out, is a symbol of love and comes in numerous varieties. The Rose Parade float, our IDD efforts and our local community projects are all expressions of love – one definition of which is outgoing concern -- unselfishly giving in order to make a difference.

Kiwanis has many roses in its garden. We have a family of affiliated clubs (Aktion, Builders, Circle-K, K-Kids, KEY/Keywin) and projects:(IDD, THRIVE etc ), in association with various partners. Each reflects love and giving in a different manner.

### **The Ring**

The ring is the symbol of commitment. We have shown our commitment to change for decades – “helping and changing the world – one person and one community at a time.” Right now Kiwanis Priority One is children, but we have changed focus and modalities in the past; we must be prepared to do more in the future.

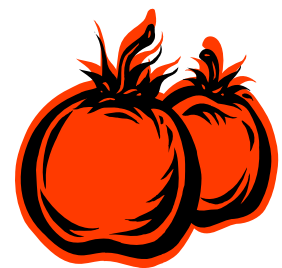
One major change that we must make is to commit to building our own ranks with dedicated individuals. The need for Kiwanis now is greater than ever before, and worldwide in scope. Change is never easy, but without it stagnation and obsolescence sets in. The key is to be open to change and do it wisely, not just for its own sake.

### **The Rainbow**

The rainbow is the symbol of promise – it was used in that manner first to Noah after the great flood of Genesis. It follows the storm and heralds the breaking forth of the light and warmth of the sun's rays. As such it is a call to faith.

The promise that Kiwanis is making on the National and Divisional level is to growth and being the “best show in town.” We want to do what it takes to grow 8% per year and be a million members strong.

Positive change takes faith in a promise. If we can only grasp the concept of the rainbow and the consequences of fulfilling it's promise, Siemens declared, this vision will happen, one child and community at a time.



# America's Divine Blessing

America was founded as a nation on Judeo-Christian principles. Still, many citizens and residents forget an important element, alluded to by Kiwanis International President Stephen Siemens in his recent address.

We, he contended, are indeed blessed, but for a reason — to be a blessing to the world. The ancient Israelites (not just the Levites who wound up being the priestly tribe) were to be a kingdom of priests for the benefit of the entire world. This heritage was passed on to the Church — spiritual Israel — and thence to us today.

Many of our founding fathers and early leaders recognized this at

various levels. America today has, by whatever means and for whatever reason, inherited the blessings — and with it the mantle of responsibility — promised by God, but then deferred, to ancient Israel.

The American view of “poverty” contrasts sharply with the rest of the world, according to Census Bureau statistics cited by the Christian Science Monitor.

“13% of Americans have incomes that place them below the official poverty line,” notes the Monitor. In Rosemead the figure is over 50%.

“But what, asks the Monitor, “does that mean in terms of their daily lives?” And Kiwanians need to ask

“how does this impact how do we address our communities and the world?”

“92% of Americans below the poverty line said they had enough food, as of 1998.

Some 86% said they had no unmet need for a doctor, 89% had no roof leaks, and 87% said they had no unpaid rent or mortgage.

“Two-thirds of those in poverty had air conditioners in 1998, up from 50% in 1992. 95% had refrigerators.”

Personal computers have grown increasingly ubiquitous. Fewer than 20% of homes had them in 1992; nearly 60% did in 2002 (more homes than own dishwashers).

## KIWANIS

'We Build'

Over the years Kiwanis themes have included:

- **Business mutual aid**
- **Young Children**
- **Education**
- **Spiritual Development**
- **Economic Education**
- **Community Health and Recreation**
- **Developmentally Challenged**
- **Parent Education**

'Helping and changing the world—one person and one community at a time'

## KIWANIS AREA CLUB MEETINGS

There are regular meetings of other Kiwanis clubs in our area, including those listed below. For current information see our Rosemead Kiwanis website under 'Meetings' at RosemeadKiwanis.org.

- **Alhambra**
- **Altadena/Crown City**
- **El Monte**
- **Montebello**
- **Monterey Park**
- **Pasadena**
- **Pico Rivera**
- **San Gabriel**
- **San Marino**
- **Sierra Madre**
- **South El Monte**
- **South Pasadena**
- **Temple City**

**“Ranger,”** from p. 1 after-school faculty mentoring.

“For us it was a perfect fit,” Bruesch said. “We already pay faculty to work with “at risk” kids after hours, so we didn’t have the same problem. Of course each Principal will tailor the program, but the kids will be the ones who benefit.”

Participating schools, predominantly serving pupils in the unincorporated area of the School District in accordance with Molina’s concerns, are Garvey Intermediate and four elementary schools: Hillcrest, Sanchez, Willard and Williams.

The programs will run from 3:00-6:00 Mon-Fri and contain availability of five elements:

**Nutrition** – a healthy snack consisting of juice, fruit and a low fat, low sugar dessert according to Federal guidelines.

**Arts and Crafts** – varied as to type but following

the historic Woodcraft Ranger pattern, which is akin to scouting merit badges.

**Homework Club** – supervised study, usually using assigned work by teachers but with available supplemental materials if needed.

**Healthy Living** – instruction and materials to make kids aware of the need for proactive attention to nutrition and exercise.

**Character Development** – values and principles along lines of the historic Woodcraft Rangers program.

The Los Angeles Woodcraft Rangers, today a United Way agency, were founded in 1915 as part of a nationwide movement started by naturalist Ernest Thompson



Picture by Briana Hong, Rosemead High School Key Club

**CLUB OF THE MONTH AWARD** — Rosemead Kiwanis President Ernie Ayala accepts Kiwanis Club of the month award from Division 10 Director Bob Lee for Rosemead After School program and other service activities.

Seton, who was also active in founding the Scouting and Campfire Girls/Bluebird organizations.

The Rangers have historically been more focused on crafts and the environment. A detailed history and link to their website has been posted on the “Organizations” page of the rosemeadkiwanis.org website.

Rosemead Kiwanis already supports a RIF (Reading is Fundamental) program at Willard Elementary with Jerlene Hales as Principal. Asked about this, Bruesch

noted that RIF grants must be applied for by Principals and obtained on an individual school basis. That said, it is a “logical next step” to anticipate that some will elect to seek RIF involvement.

In a related development, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has announced that, when grant funding resumes, those schools with active programs will be funded first. This means the affected schools will be first in line when the 21st CCLC grants expire in fiscal 2008.

