

# Almaden Valley Kiwanis Newsletter

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## Our First Bicycle Safety Faire

On May 1st, Almaden Valley Kiwanis held its most ambitious service project in recent memory: a bicycle safety faire held at Pioneer High School, successfully involving many Kiwanians, Key Clubbers, and community organizations including Boy Scouts, Masons, and two non-profit bicycle repair organizations. Thanks to the support of the Kiwanis Cal-Nev-Ha Foundation as well as previous club fundraisers, the club had **over 150** high quality, attractive bicycle helmets to give to community children. Attendees had existing bicycle helmets inspected, new helmets fitted, and bicycles repaired. Further, they participated in several activities teaching bicycle safety,



*Club member Johnny Khamis and his son arrive at the Bicycle Safety Faire.*

such as a slow-motion race and an obstacle course.

The club will reprise its safety booth at the National Night Out event on August 2 in the Hoffman-Via Monte Neighborhood, an Almaden community that has been previously supported by the city's Safe Neighborhood Initiative. We hope to offer similar events in the future at local elementary schools as well.

## Key Club District Convention

District Conventions are a great training opportunity for everyone, but especially for Key Clubbers. How often do high-schoolers get to mingle with thousands of like-minded peers to discuss leadership and community service? The Key Club District is the same geographic area as the Kiwanis District (California, Nevada, and Hawaii) and has about 43,000 members. The District Conventions usually alternate between northern and southern California,

and this year was Anaheim's turn. In mid-April, I escorted 5 members of Pioneer High School's Key Club on an 8-hour bus ride, and endured two days of hearing 3,000 teenagers screaming in unison every time they were asked how they felt. Much fun was had, and much leadership was trained. The Pioneer Key Club is off to a great



*Pioneer Key Clubbers Jacquelin, Emily, Daniel, Jakin, and Audrey, surrounding District Governor Diana Nguyen.*

2011-12 year, due in no small part to the reminder all conventions impart on their attendees: that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

## Turn-Around Scholarship Benefit

Club members did a fantastic job supporting the Division 12 Kiwanis TAS (Turn-Around Scholarship) Benefit silent auction and raffle on April 6th, by making donations and/or soliciting donations from businesses in the community. Items were combined into fun packages that generated numerous bids. Thanks to a few of our generous members who placed the winning bids on four of our nine auction entries, our auction proceeds tripled

the amount from last year. Ticket sales and cash donations were *four times* our 2010 amount, and were matched with funds from the Shortino Foundation.

Then, at a May 6th luncheon, our club's six scholarships were awarded to students from Leland, Pioneer, and Gunderson



High Schools. Both events were worth attending, to hear the impact we make on students in our community.

## Habitat For Humanity

On May 28th, the club finally got a chance to help out at a Habitat For Humanity build. This has been a crazy year for Habitat; for unclear reasons, they have shut down builds

on Sundays, so all of Silicon Valley's volunteers are in a very long line for Saturday shifts. The result? We didn't get an appointment until the year was 2/3rds over!

Undaunted, our fearless club members (well, Cindy and I, with Cindy's husband Todd and past Leland Key Clubber daughter Leslie) trekked to Morgan Hill one

mild Saturday morning, and helped install baseboards. It was no small task, because all 20 workers that day were doing baseboards, and there were only two saws. *Dun-dun-dunnnnnnn.*

Happily, the construction on that build has since completed, and they will be holding their dedication ceremony on August 6. Come see six wonderful, deserving, and deeply appreciative families receive the keys to their new homes!



## 8th-grade Key Leader camp

On May 13th, Via West (formerly Camp Costonoan) hosted the Bay Area's first-ever Key Leader event for 8th graders. Key Leader is a two-day long leadership training camp that was first developed in 2003. Among other things, it teaches through example five core principles of effective leadership: integrity, growth, respect, community, and excellence. It's an ambitious agenda even for its typically high-school-

age audience; but the 55 8th-grade students showed the camp counselors that they were up definitely to the challenge.

The next local Key Leader camp is in November, at Camp Jones Gulch. It will be for high-schoolers in the 14-18 bracket. I have been drafted to be

the photographer for that camp, so let me know if you're interested in participating in this exemplary service-leadership opportunity!



## Special Games

Almaden Valley Kiwanis members joined Kiwanians from around the area (both Divisions 12 and 34) at the 33rd Annual Kiwanis Special Games on May 19, 2011. The day opens with the parade of athletes, where

the athletes march around the track by school as their names are announced to the cheers of the over 670 volunteers. This year, 850 student athletes



participated in 6 different events, including the tennis ball toss where our club members were busy helping athletes throw tennis balls at pins, retrieving

tennis balls, resetting pins, and awarding 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons for their efforts. It was quite a rewarding experience to see the smiles on the athletes' faces.



The club also helped support the games financially, which was greatly appreciated by Division 34; the Games cost around \$16,000 each year.

## Comedy Night 2011



Almaden, and has more than enough space for a stage, a buffet, a drink bar, and raffle items.

Two of our three scheduled comedians backed out at the last minute, but were replaced with three others that came

highly recommended.

After an evening of nonstop laughs, we raffled off about a dozen items to an enthusiastic audience. By almost all accounts, it was our best Comedy Night ever.



Our third annual Comedy Night fund raiser was on June 18. For the first time, we finally got to use the Almaden Community Center, and it proved to be a fantastic venue -- in addition to being a great building with ample parking, it is centrally located in



Congratulations to the committee (and especially to committee chair Dick Gardner!) on a fun event.

And if you're curious, we brought in an epic, record-setting \$2.84! Almost exactly enough for a latte!!

# Almaden Valley Kiwanis

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We're on the web:

[www.almadenvalleykiwanis.org](http://www.almadenvalleykiwanis.org)

and on Facebook!

## About us

Almaden Valley Kiwanis was founded in 1988, making this its 24th year of providing a variety of services to the Almaden Valley community. We have 26 members, and are always looking for more high-energy, dedicated folks who want to get involved.

Some of our continuing projects are the Key Clubs at Leland and

Pioneer High Schools, the K-Kids Club at Simonds Elementary School, and the Turn-Around Scholarship program

Our meetings are at 7:30am on Thursday mornings, at the Cup & Saucer restaurant (1375 Blossom Hill Rd).

# Kiwanis<sup>®</sup> International

Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time. Annually, Kiwanis International and its Service Leadership Programs for young people dedicate more than 19 million volunteer hours and invest \$100 million to

strengthen communities and serve children. The Kiwanis International family is composed of ~600,000 adult and youth members in ~15,000 clubs in more than 70 countries. Kiwanis members make their mark by responding to the needs of their communities and pooling their resources to address worldwide issues.

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**TO:**

