



*Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.*  
December 20, 2007

## The Christmas Bell – A Christmas Story

By Ann Rhem



*John Campbell and Chuck Smith look as if they are really enjoying the bell ringing.*



*President Lynn Doane and Wayne Ladd ringing outside Food City.*

Tw'as the morning of the bell ringing and not a Kiwanian was stirring, no not a one. Not a one except for me, I thought. Perhaps less traffic at the Kroger location explained why my partner was still in bed. I guess I resembled Scrooge as I was less than enthusiastic about spending my Saturday morning out in the cold - ringing a bell. Off I went in my little red Honda sleigh armed with my bell, Santa hat, Christmas sweater and gloves, but when I got there, my bell did not want to cooperate. It had a small loop on the top and it kept slipping out of my glove and crashing to the sidewalk. I really did not want to switch to the Salvation Army bell, because I thought mine had a clearer, more resonant tone. Foot traffic was kind of slow and so I began to look around for something to attach to the loop on the top of my bell to make it easier to ring. I started to go inside and ask for something to use, but Les' warning of never leaving the kettle unattended admonished me. I'd already been sizing up the people as they came and went from the store. Suddenly, there appeared a man who had a toolbox on the back of his truck. I watched as he unloaded his treasures from his grocery cart. When he emptied his pack and turned around, over to the kettle he came with a bound and deposited some coin. With the boldness of someone in need, I said, "you look like a pretty ingenious person to me, how about fixing my bell so that I can hold onto it better." Without a word, he went straight to work and crafted a handle out of metal carpet stripping and electrical tape. It seems like such a little thing, but the stranger was a good Samaritan to me. I was quickly reminded of how the small things in life will bring such great blessings if we let them. Ere he got into his truck and drove out of sight, I smiled at everyone and wished them a Merry Christmas! The moral of the story is – next year when you are tempted just to drop a check in the basket for the Salvation Army, sign up to ring the bell for a couple of hours. Be careful though, you may receive more of a blessing than you give.

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## Key Clubbers Assist with Bell Ringing



*Dan Coughlin and Key Clubber.*



*Katie Williams from Dobyns-Bennett Key Club with Bunky Seay and John Hale – nice hat, John*



*Key Clubber with Steve Huret.*

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## Key Clubs Help Others



*Left to right: Annette Carico, Sullivan South Key Club Advisor; Laura Leeson, Secretary; Daniel Aycock, President; Hannah Mullins, Vice-President; Adam Griffith, Treasurer; and David Atkinson, Chair of Key Club Committee.*



*Dobyns-Bennett Key Club Officers (left to right): Tiffany Buehler, Editor; Lindsey Bridwell, President; Jennifer Emmette, Advisor; Haley Bridwell, Secretary and Alyssa Ison, Treasurer. (Vice-President Kathleen O'Neill not pictured)*

Key Club members at Dobyns-Bennett and Sullivan South are certainly no strangers to servant leadership. Both clubs have been very active in the community helping others this school year.

In September, the Dobyns-Bennett Club donated baked goods and volunteered at the Small Miracles Carnival at Wal-Mart. For Halloween they raised \$575 with Trick or Treat for UNICEF and helped with a party at the Boys and Girls Club. For Thanksgiving they delivered turkey and all the trimmings and canned food to three needy families in the school system. The holiday cheer continued into December when they assisted Kiwanians with serving a Christmas dinner at Kiwanis Towers and ringing the bells for Salvation Army. In addition to all these activities, they volunteer each week at Palmer Center.

Some of the activities for the Sullivan South Key Club included helping out at Remington House with decorating and caroling, helping to serve at the Kiwanis Towers Christmas dinner and helping with the Salvation Army bell ringing. Members have also adopted a needy family for Christmas; they will be providing food and gifts.

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## Kiwanis Club of Kingsport Donates \$2,000 to Boys and Girls Club



*Chuck Owens (left), Director of Boys and Girls Club, accepts check from Charlie Nitschke*

Last Friday, December 14, 2007, the Kiwanis Club of Kingsport presented the Boys and Girls Club with a check for \$2,000 to support the building of their new facility. In addition to the donation and the long history of supporting the Boys and Girls Club, the Kingsport Kiwanis Club recently sponsored the chartering of a Builders Club. President Lynn Doane plans to have a special presentation of the charter at an upcoming meeting.

The roots of the Boys and Girls Club go all the way back to 1949 when the Kiwanis Club conducted a survey regarding the need for a Boys Club in Kingsport. As a result, the club was established in early 1950. That same year Kingsport Kiwanis donated \$3,000 to cover the operating budget for one year. Two years later, Kiwanis donated four lots to the Boys Club. In the mid 60's when the current Boys and Girls Club was built, Kiwanis donated money to build the football field. In 1999, the Kiwanis Bowl was started with Kiwanis Club as a sponsor. Traditionally, a member of the Boys and Girls Club staff belongs to Kiwanis; the current member is Anne Beckleman, Director of Admin.

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## Kiwanians Provide Christmas Cheer to Residents



*Jo Birmingham, Helen Greer, and Martha Fleenor enjoy the fellowship at their table.*



*Wayne Ladd (left) and Chuck Smith with Betty Mathieson, at large board member with Kiwanis Towers.*

**Monday, December 3, 2007** – Seventy –two Kiwanis Towers residents and staff members gathered together for an evening of food, fellowship, Christmas Carols and door prizes. Kingsport Kiwanis Club members and Dobyns-Bennett and Sullivan South Key Club members served Christmas Dinner. This is an annual event that has been held for several years. Wayne Ladd said the residents look forward with great anticipation to the event every year.

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### Kiwanis Concerns

Pray for Ted Hagen, II who recently had a stroke, David DeVault who had cataract surgery and Gene Still who has been in the hospital.

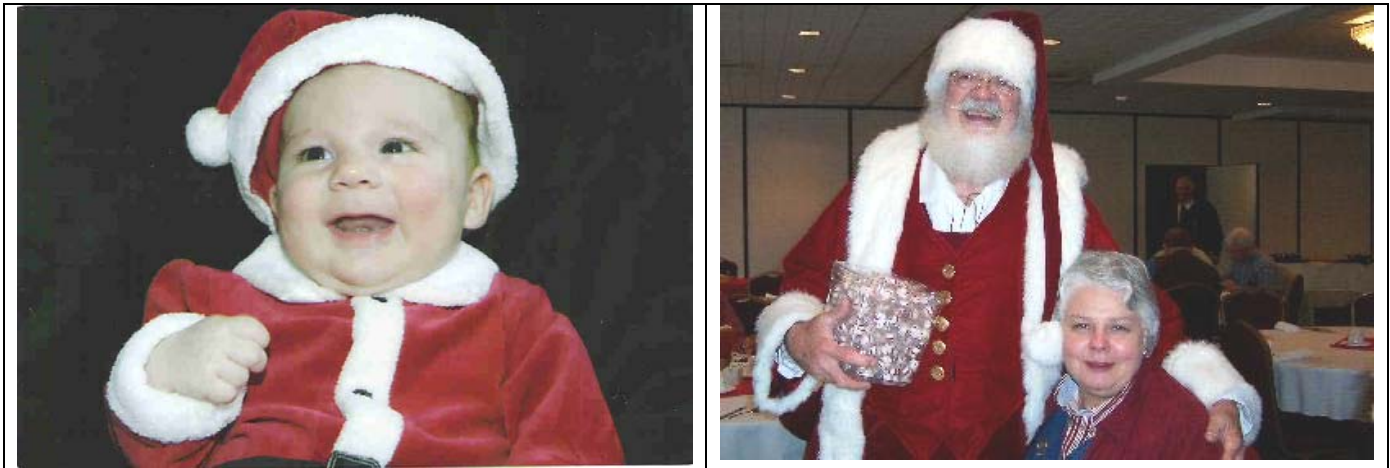
Keep Russ Hubbard in your prayers and thank him for serving our country as he returns from Iraq.

### Kiwanis Thank You

Tammy Porter, third grade teacher at Roosevelt, writes that some of her children who are considered as struggling readers have advanced as many as 18 levels since the beginning of the year. She credits the Kiwanis Readers with much of their success and is very appreciative of the help.

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## Which Santa Is the Cutest?



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### Upcoming Programs - Friday Noon at Americourt Hotel, Kingsport

December 21, 2007 – Christmas Songs – Sweet Adelines

December 28, 2007 – TBA – Meet with Cosmopolitan Kiwanis

January 4, 2008 – Diabetes – Jennifer LaRue

January 11, 2008 – TBA

January 18, 2008 – Dobyns-Bennett Basketball – Charlie Morgan

<http://www.kingsportkiwanis.org>

**TEAM – Together Everyone Accomplishes More**

**The Kiwanis Club of Kingsport  
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