

Student Community Service Volunteers: An Invitation

The Kiwanis Club of Brandon warmly invites students interested in Community Service to our Tuesday meetings. This is a great opportunity to see and hear what a Kiwanis Service Club is all about, to engage with our experienced members, and if you are interested in Kiwanis, to be treated to a *free lunch*. The Kiwanis Club of Brandon is all about improving our community and making life more fulfilling for others. We serve our communities while providing members with an opportunity for personal growth and fellowship. Men and women from all walks of life and at every stage of life and career may volunteer their services through Kiwanis.

The Kiwanis Club of Brandon was founded as a community service organization in 1919, and supports a variety of projects and activities each year. Our motto is “Change the world- one child and one community at a time”. Some of our major fund raising events are the Annual Kiwanis Family Kar Derby and the Kiwanis-Police Bicycle Auction. Projects funded by Kiwanis Club of Brandon include Mini University and the Kiwanis Kids Leadership Program, Youth Activities Centres, Brandon Fire Department "Learn not to Burn" program and "Babysitting Training", Scholarships, Camp Bridges, Community Room in the Healthy Living Centre, Westman Kiwanis Courts (low-cost housing for those in need), recreation facilities, international disease eradication, a major national campaign to end youth homelessness, and many other worthwhile projects. Our club members enjoy the company of friends who share their passion for service, while exploring opportunities for leadership and networking.

Kiwanis International is located in 80 nations with over 15,000 clubs and 600,000 members, more than half of whom are student members! There are different Kiwanis family clubs for particular age groups, such as Builders Clubs for adolescents; Key Clubs for teens; Circle K clubs for university students and Kiwanis Club for both adults and university students. Each community's needs are different, so each Kiwanis club is different, helping their communities in countless innovative ways. By working together, members achieve what one person cannot accomplish alone. Service is at

the heart of every Kiwanis club, no matter where in the world it is located. Members globally stage nearly 150,000 service projects every year for communities, families and children. Kiwanis clubs focus on changing the world by serving children, one child and one community at a time. Members meet new people from all over their region and the world through their service projects, fundraising and by attending district and Kiwanis International conventions.

One of the newest members of the Kiwanis Club of Brandon is a Brandon University international student, David Lopez. He is from Jamaica and already has a long history with Kiwanis. When asked about his background with the organization, his response was, "I was influenced to be a part of a Builders Club, Key Club and Kiwanis Club by my father who was a Kiwanis member and my older brother who was a president of Key Club and later a Kiwanis Club of Montego Bay member. I spent 6 years in Builders Club during middle school. Then I transitioned to high school where I joined Key Club for 5 years and was the bulletin editor for 2 years. During these years I had a lot of fun travelling to other clubs at others schools and meeting many different people. Not to mention the exciting events we would conduct, all while socializing with other members. After that I attended university and decided to join Kiwanis Club of New Kingston, and was a member for 2 years before migrating to Canada. Now, I am a proud member of the Kiwanis Club of Brandon, and look forward to serving for many years."

So as a Kiwanis member you'll become part of a global organization of volunteers who dedicate their time to helping others. By joining our club you will help to serve the children of Brandon and surrounding areas and overseas (you may even qualify for a community service citation on your Brandon University transcripts!). We gladly look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events.

The Kiwanis Club of Brandon conveniently meets in the Louis Riel Room beside the cafeteria, each Tuesday from 11:45 am to 1:00 pm. For more information you may contact David Lopez at LOPEZDG58@brandonu.ca or President Hamid Mumin at mumin@brandonu.ca.