

## **Aktion Club takes Action**

### **Social Capital in our Community**

The “k” in Aktion club represents its’ connection to the Kiwanis Club and involves twelve members from the Brantford area. Aktion club began in Florida ten years ago and now has 200 clubs running internationally.

Some of the club’s objectives are: to give to the daily human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life, to encourage daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships, to provide through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships to render altruistic service, and to build better communities. “We are volunteering and giving back to society—our community as well as other parts of the world,” said Diane Richardson, club president, during an interview.

Diane was elected president of the club by the other members and has been involved for 3 years. In the beginning she went to the meeting to observe with her sister and continued going because of the people and activities of the club.

The club’s latest project is “Operation Shoe Box” which involves each member having \$12 to spend at the Dollar Store in order to fill up a shoe box for children at Christmas time. Each participant picked the age and gender of the child the proceeds will go to those living in a third world country.

According to Joanne Murray, a Kiwanis club member who is involved with Aktion club, each club determines their own projects and who will benefit from the fund raising activities.

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving, the members posted flyers at Corben Court to let people know that they would be back on Saturday to collect food for those in need. The group collected 500lbs of food for this food drive.

During a fund raiser called “Pesky Pennies”, members collected and rolled 100,000 pennies with the proceeds going to three different charities. One of the charities was “sleeping children around the world” which provides bedding and mosquito nets.

“In the summer we joined up the with other Kiwanis members and cleaned up the Children’s Charity Village. The clean up included washing walls inside to pulling weeds on the outside. We were getting it ready to open for the fall,” Diane said.

The meetings are held every first Wednesday of the month from January to March and every first and third Wednesday April to December. The group meets at the Thorpe Funeral Home’s Carriage House at 96 West Street. The meetings are conducted with the same format as the Kiwanis club

meetings opening with a gavel hitting a bell followed by Oh Canada. Meetings may include business discussions, information or education programs, entertainment and refreshments.

This past spring members were invited to a conference in Toronto which included a special performance by the Famous Players Theatre.

Members also participated in a leadership training session during the summer, in Ingersoll Ontario and 5 people from Brantford joined in to share their fund raising activities.

“For me I feel like I’m doing something good....it’s volunteering,” commented Diane.

***This Social Capital Story was brought to you by Stacey Bruner***

