

A Short History of the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh

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On Behalf of the Kiwanis Centennial Committee
From the Archived Records of the Club and Its Members**

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The organization that was to become Kiwanis International was organized in Detroit, Michigan by Allen Simpson Browne. He was an organizer of fraternal organizations, generally providing sickness and accident insurance coverage for the members. It was first called the "Supreme Lodge Benevolent Order Brothers", affectionately known as the "BOBS", with the intent that it would provide increased business opportunities as well as health insurance for its members. The first member, a tailor, Joseph G. Prance, applied for membership on December 7, 1914.

The organization's name was changed to the Kiwanis Club and chartered by the State of Michigan on January 21, 1915. Today that club is the Detroit No. 1 Club, the only club having a number as part of its name. The name "Kiwanis" was suggested by the historian for the City of Detroit, Clarence M. Burton. It comes from the Ojibwe Indian expression "Nunc Keewanis", which means "self-expression" or "to make oneself known" and can be interpreted as "We Have a Good Time; We Make a Noise; We Trade; We Advertise".

Allen Browne considered the prime purpose of the organization to be providing better business opportunities among its members, a sort of reciprocal trade arrangement. However, this opinion conflicted with that of many of the founding members, who felt that its purpose should be to help others instead of helping other members' businesses. Thus, the first six months of the organization's life were very turbulent. About half of the charter members resigned due to dissension over the purpose of the club. Those who continued were the ones who supported the club having a civic purpose.

The first annual convention of "The National Kiwanis Club" was held in Cleveland, Ohio on May 18-19, 1916. A Rochester, New York attorney, George F. Hixson, was elected the first president of the organization. A total of six clubs were then in existence. On May 21, 1919, Kiwanis purchased all of the rights and interests of Allen Browne in the organization and its name for \$17,500, ending the conflict of purpose that had existed for over four years. The name was again changed to Kiwanis International in 1924, at which time the present Constitution, By-Laws and Objects of Kiwanis were adopted.

Kiwanis expanded into Canada on November 1, 1916 with the formation of the Hamilton, Ontario club. Kiwanis became a truly international service organization on April 17, 1962 with the chartering of the Kiwanis Club of Tijuana, Mexico, a non-English speaking country. Throughout much of its history, membership in Kiwanis was limited to males only, as with many other civic organizations. Gender was removed from the membership criteria at the July 5-9, 1987 International Convention in Washington, D.C. The first female admitted as a member of the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh was Mary Christina (Chris) Broughton, Peace College Director of Development, in September 1988. Christie Bishop Barbee, who then directed the Shepherd's Table soup kitchen, joined the following month.

Today, Kiwanis International has more than 8,300 adult clubs with about 235,000 members and nearly 8,000 youth clubs with about 350,000 members in more than 80 countries and geographic areas worldwide. Besides Kiwanis, the other adult clubs are Aktion for people with disabilities and Circle K for college and university students. The youth clubs are Key Club in high schools, Builders Club in middle schools and Kiwanis Kids in elementary schools. Both Rotary and Lions have considerably more adult members than Kiwanis.

Beginning of the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh

On December 5, 1919, sixteen¹ members of the Raleigh business community joined Kiwanis organizer George A. Selig of Knoxville, Tennessee at the Bland Hotel. After speaking with Selig to learn the requirements for obtaining a charter and being recognized by the National Kiwanis Club, they discussed the matter among themselves and decided that it would be a good idea to organize a Kiwanis Club in Raleigh. These men then went to work recruiting others to join them and called an organizational meeting for December 19th at the Bland Hotel, the first weekly meeting of the new Kiwanis Club of Raleigh.

On December 19th, five officers and twelve directors were elected, and the Club was completed on January 3, 1920 with 124 charter members. On April 8, 1920, a special meeting was held at the Carolina Country Club at which the Club's charter was presented by new Kiwanis Carolinas District (organized January 12, 1920) Governor Paul Haddock of Charlotte. Attorney William T. Joyner outlined the principals of the organization and welcomed the charter members. Representatives of the Kiwanis Clubs of Charlotte, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Durham and Wilmington attended.

The Kiwanis Club of Raleigh was organized shortly after clubs were completed in Asheville (8-11-19), Charlotte (8-27-19), Greenville, S.C. (9-20-19), Spartanburg, S.C. (10-2-19), Greensboro (10-23-19) and Winston-Salem (11-26-19) It was followed by clubs in Durham (2-12-20), Wilmington (3-10-20) and Columbia, S.C. (3-15-20). On its charter date, there were 111 members, but this number had grown to 122 by September before falling to 111 again as of July 1, 1921. Throughout its existence, the Raleigh club has been among the top 25 clubs in total membership and currently is seventh.

In its early years through the 1920s, classification of members by profession was considered important by the Club, and the number of members in a particular classification could not exceed two. The Board of Directors took under consideration all absences from meetings, and excused absences were needed to avoid expulsion from the Club. The Club's first newsletter, the "Raleigh Kiwanigram", began publication in 1922. It was supplanted by the "Raleigh Kiwanian Newsletter", which began publication in 1950.

During the years of the Great Depression in the early 1930s, the Club lost a number of members but managed to survive due to the core membership supporting each other and patronizing their respective businesses. With the nation's entry into World War II following the December 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the Club saw some of its members go off to fight in Europe and the Pacific. They included Micou Browne, Walt Keller, Karl Hudson, Van Webb, John Alexander, Jerry Hart, John Milner, Johnnie Smith, Gardiner Parker, Tom McCrary, Emmett Fontaine, Wright Dixon, Stan Fishel and Ed Batte, the last two becoming prisoners of war, all now deceased. Many of those who remained behind helped organize and staff Raleigh's Civil Defense program. They also sold War Bonds to help finance the war - \$44,690 during 1942 and \$56,954 in just the first quarter of 1943.

¹ Harry T. Adams, John C. Brantley, A.S. Brower, Robert A. Brown, George U. Baucom, Jr., Dr. Harold Glascock, Alfred M. Maupin, Charles T. McClenaghan, John S. McDonald, William R. Smith, Willis Smith, Virgil St. Cloud, Ralph Steele, Dempsey Vinson, A. Wray White, Charles V. York

The membership of the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh today is around 215, between 35 and 40 of whom are senior members who pay International and District dues but only the meal cost for meetings they attend, and the rest active members. Membership in 1970 was 230 and from there grew in stages to peak in mid-1985 at 285. It then began a progression of decline in stages such as was experienced by most civic organizations. Having fallen to slightly under 200 in the recent past, membership once again is on the rise through a concerted effort to attract people indicating an interest in civic involvement. Program and food quality, civic project participation and active new member recruitment are the most influential factors affecting membership.

The two articles that follow, both of which were written in 1950, the year of the Club's thirtieth anniversary, are instructive of those first 30 years of the Club's history.

"Raleigh Club Organized Over 30 Years Ago" – taken from The Raleigh Kiwanian of April 1950

The Raleigh Kiwanis Club had its beginning when a small and progressive group of civic-minded men held an informal meeting about December 5, 1919. The club is recognized today as one of the strongest constructive forces in the State's Capital City.

Formed more than 30 years ago, the Raleigh club is almost as old as Kiwanis itself. It is one of the oldest units in the international organization and, with one exception, the oldest civic club in Raleigh.

Adams, Smith, Maupin, York, Horton, St. Cloud, McClenaghan, Glascock, Baucom, McDonald – these were some of the men who attended the first informal meeting and decided to organize a Kiwanis Club. Within two weeks – by December 19, 1919 – the required number of members had been obtained and the first weekly luncheon was held and officers were elected. Harry T. Adams was selected to preside, and A. Wray White temporarily took over the duties of secretary.

The banquet, held at the old Country Club, was indeed a splendid occasion. There were speeches galore, music, favors, horseplay, and a touch of pathos. All stags were seated in a chicken-wire enclosure labeled "Tough Old Birds." Appreciating fully this rather heavy-handed piece of wit, the rest of the members saw to it that the "birds" remained in their temporary prison.

The charter was presented by Paul Haddock of Charlotte, then District Governor, and accepted by President Adams. There were about 100 members.

The first meetings were held in the sample room of the old Bland Hotel, and later in the main dining room. Many of the members were strangers to each other, and it was almost a weekly custom to have every member stand and tell his personal history.

The young club, however, immediately became active in public and civic affairs of the day. It sponsored a lecture by the American humorist, Irvin S. Cobb, and actually made money out of the project. On

another occasion, it entertained some 5,000 school children with a "Mother Goose" program in the city auditorium.

Enthusiasm made the club a lusty youngster, and the community began to sit up and take notice of this new force in the city.

Difficulties came, however, near the close of the second year, when excessive enthusiasm almost carried the club to financial ruin. Despite the heroic efforts of many faithful members, a pledge of \$1,500 to the community service budget and a \$6,000 contract for a series of concerts resulted in heavy losses. The club's third year began none too auspiciously; it was to be the crucial test.

Fortunately, the club had a president who was willing to shoulder the burden – Willis Smith. After studying the situation for some time, President Willis put it squarely up to the club that it must do two things: first, get on a sound financial basis; and second, fulfill the requirements of International and hold meetings weekly.

The first proposition was met by the club's unanimously voting upon itself a \$20 assessment, which was paid by every member, and the second by adopting for a trial period of two months the weekly meetings, which have never been discontinued. The year closed with no debt, a healthy balance, weekly meetings, firmly established, and everybody happy.

During the year 1922, Jim Weatherspoon guided the destinies of the club most successfully, and it was during that year, and the year following, under John McDonald, that the club may be said to have reached that safe, permanent place which it now occupies in the community. The club now has 158 members, of whom eight are privileged.

"An Adventure in Civic Enterprise" by Club Member Dr. Frank H. Jeter – taken from the Program for the Club's November 1950 "Holiday Escapades"

Since 1920, the Raleigh Kiwanis Club has served the Capital City of North Carolina. The Club was organized in that famous winter of 1919-20 and it immediately began to see a need for getting down to the real fundamentals of civic service. The club met first in a little secluded dining room in the old Bland Hotel. There was close communion in that room and close fellowship as well. The programs were not the finished products which we serve today. Great arguments would start as to some activity or some need and many a time the speaker had to be given the profound apologies of the club and invited to come back at some later date. Harry Adams was the first president and was elected to succeed himself because that first term was mainly a groping organizational year.

This young club was a colonizing group. It helped to start other Kiwanis units in this central North Carolina territory. No one thought it a hardship to go to Mebane, to Warrenton, to Smithfield, Benson, Selma or anywhere else, and not only did the members go out to take part in organizing new clubs, but

they returned to the clubs from time to time to help put on valuable programs. The letterhead on any piece of Kiwanis stationery tells the story of the men who headed the club during those early days; of those that remained with it through the hectic days of the Depression and are now carrying it to new heights of accomplishment in these later times. But these men were only the president. It is always the great rank and file of everyday Kiwanians who serve Raleigh in almost every capacity, whether officers or silent members.

One of the Club's early accomplishments was to bring great musical events to the City. In fact, the only assessment it has ever allowed to be placed on its members was to subsidize such musical treats long before any other group was formed for this purpose. One day the late Dr. E.C. Brooks, President of State College, told the Club of the heart-breaking pleas he had to face almost daily from boys who would be denied an education if they could not get a few dollars to pay their tuition charges. Right then, the Kiwanis Student Loan Foundation was begun and it has helped many a deserving boy and girl. Dr. Hugh Thompson brought to the attention of the Club the many young people who had no means of buying crutches or who could not continue expensive treatment for correction of crippling deformities. The Kiwanis Club dug into its collective pockets and aided these young cripples to become useful and self-sustaining citizens. Dr. Thompson gave so much of his time, without cost, for this purpose that the Club voted him an honorary membership which he has held to this day.

Before the days of the Community Chest [later United Fund and now United Way], Kiwanians gloried in the Christmas boxes which the members took personally to the poor of the City. It was not a "check" service but a personal service in which the fortunate learned to understand those who were perhaps not so fortunate. Kiwanis learned early of the value of the YMCA, the need for Boy Scout troops, the better cementing of relations between town and country, between urban dwellers and rural people, and they held meetings out in the country or invited rural people to come and meet with them. The Raleigh Kiwanis Club began rural-urban work in this section and helped to spread the idea over the whole Carolinas District and to other organizations.

For a time, after the Nation had adopted new ideas of social security and had begun to engage in the various welfare activities of all kinds, the Club began to enjoy itself in just being a club. Its members enjoyed a rich fellowship together. But the new ideas meant new kinds of organizations – new experiments in social welfare – and so the Club led the battle for the Community Chest; its members were the first to volunteer for Red Cross Roll Calls; the Club sold War Savings Bonds; its younger members went to war again. Those who remained at home organized the Civilian Defense Corps and took a working part in all its phases.

There came a need to study the government of the City of Raleigh. Kiwanis went about this matter very seriously and helped to bring into being the new [City Council-]City Manager form of government. Even before this had been done, those members who looked for a great service in which the Club could engage saw hapless men, grown old in business or professional life, lonely and often unwanted in this new day of longevity and of small homes and apartments. These men wanted no charity but asked for a place where they might pay their way and receive courteous and efficient treatment. As in the past,

Kiwanis recognized this need and this show that you enjoy tonight is a partial answer. All funds down to the last nickel realized from this and the other three previous shows, along with other contributions, are to be used for a Raleigh Home for Aged Men.

As that fund is built, Kiwanis continues to stay busy. Young men are filling its ranks. They come with energy, ideas and strength. The older members counsel with the experience of years. Wherever there is a need in the civic life of this Capital City of North Carolina there you will nearly always find a member of this Raleigh Kiwanis Club offering his talents and his service.

[Dr. Frank H. Jeter was the Director, N.C. State College Board of Publications and Editor of Agricultural Publications]

Kiwanis Club of Raleigh within Kiwanis International

Kiwanis International, whose headquarters is in Indianapolis, Indiana, is subdivided into 47 districts worldwide. One of those is the Carolinas District, comprised of the states of North and South Carolina and headed by a Governor, within which are about 275 clubs in 25 divisions. The Kiwanis Club of Raleigh is grouped with eight others in Wake County and one in Franklin County in Division 12 of the Carolinas District, which is headed by a Lt. Governor. For many years through the 1980s, the Raleigh club was a member of Division 5 where it was grouped with clubs as far north as Roxboro, Oxford and Henderson, as far west as Burlington and Graham, and as far south as Angier. In those days, interclub visits meant driving an hour or more to attend meetings.

Over its life, the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh has itself or jointly sponsored the formation of at least 17 other Kiwanis Clubs. They include the Capital City, Sir Walter, Raleigh Golden K, Cary, Garner, Garner Golden K, Apex, North Raleigh, Sanford, Fuquay-Varina, Wake Forest, Raleigh Highwoods, Uptown Raleigh, Crabtree Valley, Brier Creek, Holly Springs and Zebulon clubs, eight of which no longer function. The Club also sponsored the formation of Circle K Clubs at N.C. State University and Meredith College and Key Clubs at Sanderson, Millbrook, Broughton (chartered November 15, 1950 and re-chartered March 21, 1991) and Athens Drive High Schools and St. Mary's and St. David's Schools and continues to be the sponsor of the active clubs at N.C. State, Broughton and Athens Drive. The formation of the N.C. State Circle K Club, which received its charter on December 11, 1961 with 19 charter members, was jointly sponsored with the Capital City Kiwanis Club.

Kiwanis International has never held an International Convention in North Carolina, although two North Carolinian's have served as International President. The Kiwanis Club of Raleigh has served as the host for nine Carolinas District Conventions in 1930, 1939, 1951, 1960, 1975, 1988, 2000, 2003 and 2006.

Meeting Locations

Early in its history as it grew in membership, the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh moved from the Bland Hotel to the Virginia Dare Ballroom of the Sir Walter Hotel on Fayetteville Street. Through at least the mid-1960s, most members worked downtown, and the Sir Walter was a focal point of that area. In the late 1960s, the Sir Walter's food service began declining. Then it failed as a hotel and was converted into a

rental apartment and office facility. In October 1969, the Club's meetings relocated to the basement Carolina Room of the Memorial Auditorium.

The food service at the Auditorium initially was provided by Charlie Brown's Lakeside Restaurant. On September 28, 1973 it was taken over by Baxley's Restaurant & Catering, an institution across Hillsborough Street from N.C. State well-known to legions of its students. Baxley's was famous for serving barbecue, fried chicken, boiled potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, hush puppies and strawberry pie at virtually every meeting, including one on March 19, 1976 at which the Democratic Presidential candidate, Gov. Jimmy Carter of Georgia, was the speaker. Baxley's food made for well-attended meetings.

When the City of Raleigh enticed the North Carolina Symphony to relocate to Raleigh from Durham in 1977, the basement of the Auditorium was promised to the Symphony for its offices following renovation. Construction of the new Raleigh Civic Center had been completed, and on September 2, 1977 the meetings of the Kiwanis Club, along with the downtown Rotary, Lions and Civitan clubs, relocated there. The scheduled speaker on October 21st was NCSU basketball coach Norm Sloan, but he failed to appear whereupon several Club members filled in extemporaneously but admirably. This wasn't the first time nor the last a speaker didn't show up, but it may have been indicative that the Club would not find the Civic Center to be a good meeting facility.

Over time, the food supplied by the Civic Center's caterer, which was the exclusive supplier in that facility, grew progressively worse in quality and higher in price. More members moved their workplaces out of downtown, and the combination resulted in declining attendance of meetings. A meeting location survey undertaken in August 1986 indicated overwhelming dissatisfaction with the Civic Center. On January 30, 1987, meetings of the Kiwanis Club relocated to the basement Confederate Room of Ballentine's Restaurant in Cameron Village, where parking was easier and the food was far better in both taste and quality. At that point, the start of meetings was moved back from 1:00 to 12:30 pm.

On June 30, 1999, Ballentine's closed due to plans of Cameron Village to tear down the building in which it was located. The Kiwanis Club meetings relocated first to Raleigh Country Club beginning July 9, 1999, then to Sam's Steak Villa from August through November, and then on December 10, 1999 to McKimmon Center on the N.C. State University campus (the meetings in March and the first half of April 2000 were at the Masonic Temple). Although the Club had a choice of caterers there, the cost of room rental and member dissatisfaction with the food service combined to push the Club to again relocate.

In February 2003, the Kiwanis Club meetings relocated to Highland Memorial Methodist Church. For the first several years there, the catering was done by Ballentine's Catering, but when John Ballentine sold that company the catering was taken over by the Meadow Restaurant. Both this meeting location and the Meadow catering service have proven to be very popular with the members, resulting in good attendance of meetings, and continue.

The Raleigh Kiwanis Foundation, Inc.

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh in good standing in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Club also are members of the Raleigh Kiwanis Foundation, Inc. While this group began operation in 1947, it was not until April 28, 1954 that a Certificate of Incorporation under the name of the Raleigh Kiwanis Foundation for Aged People, Inc. was adopted. The original incorporators were Silas B. Coley, Earl H. Hostetler, Col. William T. Joyner, Wade C. Lewis, George Y. Ragsdale and B. Grimes Williams. The incorporators held their first meeting on May 7, 1954, at which time the objects and purposes of the Foundation were determined to be as follows:

- (a) To provide a place, not operated for profit, for aged people to pass their declining years as comfortably as possible with the companionship of other aged people.
- (b) To provide such assistance as possible to the aged people of the community to enable their remaining days to be useful to themselves and to others of the community.
- (c) To organize, conduct, and carry on various plans, efforts, and undertakings for the general moral, mental, and physical well-being and improvement of the aged people of Raleigh, of Wake County, and of the State of North Carolina.
- (d) To accept from officials of the United States or any state or political subdivision thereof payment of fees for services rendered by the Foundation to aged people accepted for care.

At that time, Raleigh had a residence for elderly women with little or no family to take care of them in their latter years called St. Luke's Home. Members of the Kiwanis Club believed that a similar residence for elderly men was needed and that developing and operating that facility should be a project of the Club. Mr. Coley, who was the President of Durham Life Insurance Company, reportedly was instrumental in persuading the Club to form a foundation to accumulate funds for that purpose. On August 27, 1954, the members approved amending the Charter to reduce the name to the Raleigh Kiwanis Foundation, Inc. and revise its objects and purposes (filed on September 24, 1954) as follows:

- (a) To organize, conduct, and carry on various plans, efforts, and undertakings for the general religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational advancement and well-being of the people of Raleigh, of Wake County, and of the State of North Carolina, and for the promotion of social welfare of said people.
- (b) This corporation is organized exclusively for the general religious, charitable, scientific, literary, and educational advancement, and for the promotion of social welfare of the people of Raleigh, of Wake County, and of the State of North Carolina, and no part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member of said corporation or other individual.

On May 16, 1958, the members again agreed to amend the Charter to comply with requirements of the Internal Revenue Service regulations for tax-exempt corporations, and the objects and purposes were revised to read:

- (a) To operate exclusively for general religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes.

- (b) This corporation is organized exclusively for the general religious, charitable, scientific, literary, and educational advancement, and for the promotion of social welfare of the people of Raleigh, of Wake County, and of the State of North Carolina.

Through the years from individual contributions, the proceeds of the Club's fund-raising projects and investment of those funds less distribution of earnings and profits from the Club's fund-raising projects, the principal of the Foundation has grown to \$743,387 as of August 31, 2014. Private sector development of retirement communities and public housing construction over the years following World War II combined to eliminate the need for the Club to be involved in developing a residence for elderly men. Thus, the Foundation's earnings and fund-raising profits have been used to fund a variety of projects and contribute funds to the programs of many non-profit social services agencies in Raleigh/Wake County. The Foundation has disbursed more than \$1,055,000 in dollars at the time of disbursement since its inception and well in excess of that amount in current dollars. The following chart relates disbursement amounts by year.

Year	Amount Disbursed	Year	Amount Disbursed
1955	\$ 7,700	1985	N/A
1956	2,950	1986	7,000
1957	4,500	1987	20,173
1958	1,750	1988	24,769
1959	6,529	1989	25,568
1960	6,437	1990	19,026
1961	0	1991	28,971
1962	19,400	1992	23,099
1963	3,500	1993	37,283
1964	4,248	1994	31,269
1965	5,383	1995	36,151
1966	5,883	1996	31,151
1967	12,500	1997	50,863
1968	10,000	1998	25,319
1969	2,225	1999	9,114
1970	2,500	2000	20,044
1971	N/A	2001	6,197
1972	2,500	2002	17,583
1973	6,000	2003	11,754
1974	9,500	2004	34,496
1975	6,700	2005	17,822
1976	N/A	2006	43,000
1977	10,000	2007	40,000
1978	N/A	2008	35,211
1979	5,191	2009	36,815
1980	3,687	2010	56,486
1981	6,740	2011	40,755
1982	5,845	2012	49,800
1983	8,477	2013	57,000
1984	18,080	2014	63,700

N/A – Not Available

Italics reflects incomplete data

The Raleigh Kiwanis Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

While the Raleigh Kiwanis Foundation, Inc. did not come into being until 1954, the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh first established a foundation on May 1, 1924, the purpose of this one being to loan funds to college students that would allow them to complete their educations. This was a revolving loan fund in which repayments of loans earlier made enabled later loans to be made. It appears that a typical year was one in which four loans totaling around \$1,600 were made. A Certificate of Incorporation was adopted on May 23, 1924, the incorporators being Harry T. Adams, John S. McDonald, Willis Smith, Warren W. Way and James R. Weatherspoon, and filed with the Secretary of State the following day. This program appears to have been continued into the mid-1950s. Articles of Dissolution were adopted on June 28, 1967, executed August 30, 1967, filed with the Secretary of State on September 18, 1967, and recorded by the Clerk of Wake County Superior Court on October 6, 1967. The following article written in 1950 provides insight into what was termed the Student Loan Fund.

“Many Students Helped With Scholarship Fund” - taken from The Raleigh Kiwanian of April 1950

Ample illustration of the power of an idea is shown by the growth of the Raleigh Kiwanis Scholarship Foundation, Inc., which has helped dozens of young men and women through college and which had assets totaling \$8,747.35 at the close of the last fiscal year.

The idea in this case was sown by the late Dr. E.C. Brooks, beloved educator and president of North Carolina State College.

While addressing the Raleigh club one day, Dr. Brooks told of the case of a young man, then a student at State College, who had begged for financial assistance so that he might remain in school and complete his education. The youth and one of his friends, from the same town, had decided that one of the two would have to drop out, find a job, and pay the other boy's way through college.

Dr. Brooks' address made a deep impression on the club members, one of whom, the late Captain John C. Benjamin, immediately handed him a check for \$50 and said, “I wish to help the young man with his education.”

From this beginning, the Scholarship Foundation was organized May 1, 1924, and received its charter on May 23 of the same year, with Harry T. Adams, Willis Smith, Warren W. Way, and J.S. McDonald as incorporators.

Loans have been made to both rural and urban boys and girls of Wake County, and they have helped to make the name “Kiwanis” respected and appreciated both within and without the city.

A report written in 1928 by J.S. McDonald, who was then chairman of the Foundation's board of directors, relates two cases to illustrate how the scholarship fund has helped worthy young people. One, a Raleigh boy, had completed his pre-medical work and two years of his medical course when he

found that his funds were exhausted. He was given help which enabled him to complete the course at one of the larger Northern medical schools, where he was elected president of the senior class and later became a faculty member. Soon thereafter, he returned to North Carolina, began the practice of medicine, and promptly paid off the loan.

The other boy, also from Raleigh, was a senior at Wake Forest College who would have had to drop out of school if he had not received assistance. He became editor-in-chief of the college newspaper, graduated with high honors, and entered the teaching profession. He also promptly repaid his loan.

McDonald reported that more than 15 boys and girls had been given help during the first four years of the Foundation.

One of the objectives of the Foundation, as stated in its charter, is “to promote the making of gifts by deed, will and otherwise to help defray the school expenses of boys and girls who might not be able to otherwise complete their education.” One of the largest gifts to date has come from the first donor, Captain Benjamin, who by will left \$1,465 to the Foundation.

Fund Raising by the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh Since 1947

Once the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh settled on developing and operating a home for aged people, it began efforts to raise funds to accomplish that objective. Beginning in 1947, the primary project was the annual Kiwanis Follies, a vaudeville-style stage show that was presented with the assistance of the Junior League of Raleigh in the auditorium of Hugh Morson High School (later Junior High School) on the site of the present Federal Building on New Bern Avenue. This professionally-directed show featured Club members and other local singing, dancing and comedy talent in performances for three weeknights in late November. Performances were well-attended and brought in considerable revenue, net proceeds for the 17-year run being more than \$106,000, an average of \$6,250 per year. An aspiring young actor well-known to North Carolinians, Andy Griffith, appeared in the 1952 production in a scene entitled “A Bit of Culture”.

As of December 31, 1955, the funds that had been generated by the Kiwanis Follies and been entrusted to the care of the Trustees for the Home for the Aged had a total balance of \$59,276.49, of which \$50,000 had been set aside as a permanent investment fund by the Board of Directors of the Raleigh Kiwanis Foundation, Inc. on April 14, 1955. At a Special Meeting on April 10, 1956, the Board adopted a resolution stating that “the Raleigh Kiwanis Foundation, Inc. accepts all of the funds now entrusted to the care of the Trustees of the Home for Aged with the express condition that any liability for federal or state income tax, admissions tax or other liability now due or which hereafter might be assessed against the Trustees or the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh, Inc., for the raising, management and handling of said funds be assumed and be paid by the Raleigh Kiwanis Foundation, Inc.”

As the Kiwanis Follies went beyond its fifteenth season, some of the content was such as not to comport well with the nation’s growing civil rights movement, and it was decided to discontinue the shows following the 1963 production. The replacement was the Parade of Barbershop Harmony Concert, held in

the Memorial Auditorium beginning in April 1964. Proceeds from the early shows were committed to benefit the Hilltop Home for Mentally Retarded Children. Proceeds from the April 12, 1969 performance were committed to shoes for foster children (\$5,120) and construction of a mini-park (\$8,000) that was completed in August 1969. This was the start of funding the foster children's shoe program. Sponsorship of the concert ended after the April 29, 1972 performance in order for the Club to focus on a travel film series project.

As the Club cast about for a new project, it was learned that some Kiwanis Clubs had begun sponsoring presentations by professional travelogue filmmakers that were well received. Jet aircraft were beginning to offer many more Americans the opportunity to travel all over the world, and there was considerable interest in learning about world geography and culture. The Club sent a delegation to Richmond, Virginia in 1966 to view and investigate a presentation sponsored by the Richmond Kiwanis Club at the Mosque Auditorium there. Upon returning, the delegation tendered a favorable report.

This led to the Club initiating a six-film season Travelogue series, usually two during the fall and four during the winter/spring, at Memorial Auditorium beginning in the fall of 1967. Profits were highest in the years between 1981-82 and 1984-85 when they were in the \$7,500-\$10,000 range, but they declined considerably after that time. The presentations were relocated to Daniels Junior High School beginning with the 1984-85 season when the season was reduced to four films. Beginning with the 1991-92 season, the presentations were relocated to Jones Auditorium at Meredith College and jointly sponsored by the Club and the College's Extension Department. They finally ended after the 1995-96 season as no profits had been made since at least the 1989-90 season.

At the height of the Travelogue film series popularity, the Club added operating a food booth at the State Fair each October as another fund raising effort. This project began in October 1981 with a homebuilt trailer booth purchased from the North Raleigh Exchange Club for \$3,000 loaned by the Foundation. The principal products sold were fried breaded chicken sandwiches, soft drinks, coffee and homemade brownies and cookies. A site was secured through the influence of Club member and State Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham, but the height of the trailer's counter was not well-suited to that site.

In 1985, a new site near the head of the Midway was obtained, a knock-down booth that could be transported on a trailer was constructed by some Club members in 1987, and the primary food item was changed from the hot dogs and French fries that were added in 1982 to Domino's pizza in 1993. In 1997, an all-metal purpose-built trailer booth was purchased by the Club for \$13,132 and used until that project ended due to lack of significant profit following the 2009 State Fair, after which it was sold for \$8,500. Net proceeds from the Fair booth peaked in 1993-94 at \$7,700-\$8,200.

During the years 1986 through 1988, the Club held a Fall Social in September featuring a charity auction that raised \$6,500-\$7,500. Beginning in 1994, Club members led by Bob Brooks began selling tickets to the opening performance of the holiday season of "A Christmas Carol" at Memorial Auditorium. Later, all clubs in Carolinas District Division 12 began participating in this effort, and annual profits to the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh grew to around \$9,000 in the mid-2000s.

In January 1989, the Club pledged \$30,000 to be paid by January 1, 1994 to the Boys Club of Wake County to help fund construction of a Girls Club facility in Raleigh, a Boys & Girls Club in Wake Forest and relocation of Camp Griffin. In order to raise funds to fulfill this pledge, the Club began the Kiwanis Golf Classic, which was held at Wake Forest Country Club for the first several years beginning August 15, 1991. For several years in the late 1990s, the golf tournament was co-sponsored with Haven House and for several years in the early 2000s with SAFEchild. Net proceeds have ranged from nearly \$4,200 in the early years to over \$10,250 in 2014, and this project continues. In 1984, the Foundation contributed \$7,500 to the Boys Club to replace the floor in the gymnasium, which was matched by a contribution from the Raleigh Jaycees.

In March 2007, the Club began a fund raising drive among its members to increase the principal of the Raleigh Kiwanis Foundation in order that it might be able to do more to benefit the local community. Club member and former International Trustee C.A. Dillon, Jr. pledged \$50,000 to get the ball rolling. By late June, 35 other members had pledged another \$105,000 toward an overall goal of \$200,000 and received Dillon Fellowship awards. The total raised by this effort was \$157,333 from 85 members, of which 82 received awards.

In March 2008, the Club began providing course marshals for the Raleigh Rocks Half-Marathon, which raised \$1,500. This project continued through 2013 and brought in \$2,500 in 2011, \$2,750 in 2012 and \$3,000 in 2013. The event was not held in 2014 due to Raleigh beginning to host the far larger Rock & Roll Marathon about the same time of the year. In 2010 and 2011, Club members sold tickets to the Rex Hospital Open golf tournament held the TPC at Wakefield Country Club. Net proceeds were \$6,363 the first year and \$3,950 the second year.

In 2010, the Club initiated an annual Pancake Breakfast held on a Saturday morning in October at Highland Memorial Methodist Church after a delegation from the Club went to Wilmington on November 2, 2009 to study the Wilmington club's very successful pancake breakfast there. This brought renewed interest and energy from the members and has grown in both attendance and revenue each year since then. The past three years the number of tickets sold has been over 3,000 and the number of meals served around 1,100 each year. Net proceeds in 2013 were \$20,300 and \$27,057 in 2014. This project also continues and is growing in both activity and financial reward.

In recent years, the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh has actively participated in two Kiwanis International World Service projects. Fund raising for the Iodine Deficiency Disorder elimination project began in the fall of 1995 with a Club pledge of \$75,000 and was completed in mid-2004 with \$107,200 having been contributed by its members. Many early contributors traveled by train to the Carolinas District's world's largest Kiwanis meeting at the Charlotte Coliseum on March 16, 1996 at which they were presented Hixson Awards by the International President.

Fund raising for the Eliminate (maternal/neo-natal tetanus) project began in early 2012 with a Club pledge of \$100,000 and was completed by late 2014 with over \$110,000 having been contributed by its members. Several members were presented Zeller Awards by the International President at a Club meeting on April 27, 2012. The Club also actively participated in a Carolinas District project to raise

funds to help build the Victory Junction Gang Camp for critically ill children in Randleman, N.C. Fund raising began in the spring of 2004 and was completed the end of that year with \$51,540 having been contributed by Club members.

Service Projects of the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh Since 1950

Through the civic work of the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh, many organizations and a multitude of people have benefitted during the last half of the 20th and the beginning years of the 21st century. During that period, perhaps the first major effort was the Kiwanis Orphans Beach Cavalcade, an idea initiated by member Wade C. Lewis to carry the children residing at the Methodist and Catholic Orphanages in Raleigh to the beach, a place most had never been. On May 18, 1951, the members of the Club came together around the lunch hour to sell a special edition of The Raleigh Times newspaper throughout downtown. The \$2,769 raised was used to charter nine buses from Carolina Trailways and pay other costs of transporting 335 children on June 2, 1951.

The buses headed first for Kinston where the children had a snack and refreshments. Then it was on to Camp LeJeune where the Marines treated the children to a weapons display, swimming at Onslow Beach and lunch. The next stop was Fort Macon State Park for a tour of the historic fort. Headed for home, the last stop was Goldsboro where the Kiwanis Club of that town treated all aboard to dinner. It was a day the children would never forget. This project continued for several years after with different places on the North Carolina coast being visited on later trips.

Beginning in March 1951, the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh sponsored Student Government Day for Raleigh, and later Wake County, high school seniors. Students spent a Friday morning shadowing their City government counterparts, all attended the Club meeting for lunch, and then a mock City Council meeting was held in the afternoon with students making ordinance and program proposals and the Student City Council debating and voting on them. It was considered an honor by high school students to be selected to participate in Student Government Day. This sponsorship continued through at least March 1998. During the 1990s, the Raleigh Youth Council began coordinating Student Government Day and made it part of Student Government Month.

On October 28, 1955, the Club entered into an agreement with the City of Raleigh's Parks & Recreation Department to help fund development of 28-acre Kiwanis Park on Noble Road near Wake Forest Road, led by Kiwanis Park Committee Chairman Robert B. (Bob) Small. Lights for the baseball field were the first thing funded with \$2,950 provided by the Foundation in 1956, followed by bleacher seating and a fence around the outfield. The Club sponsored the Little League baseball program there from about 1950 into the early 1990s, for which it was responsible for getting team sponsors (that funded uniforms), coaches, umpires and some equipment (bats, balls, bases, etc.). The Parks & Recreation Department took over the league following the 1992 season.

In 1968, the Foundation agreed to provide up to \$10,000 for continuing development of Kiwanis Park, whose improvement had not gone beyond the baseball field due to periodic flooding of Crabtree Creek. In November 1968, at least \$3,000 of that amount was committed to construction of three all-weather tennis courts and public restrooms at the park, which were completed in 1969. In 1973-74, the City built

a small community center there that was dedicated on July 26, 1974. The net proceeds of the 1975 NAIA national championship sponsored by the Club were committed to be used to build a soccer field there. In June 1979, the Club agreed to provide \$1,500 to be matched by the City and the Foundation agreed to contribute up to \$2,000 for the soccer field, which was completed the following month. It was estimated that the Club and Foundation together had invested more than \$20,000 in Kiwanis Park at that point.

The Kiwanis Club of Raleigh has had a close relationship with the Boys Club since that organization began operating in a former church on E. Lane Street in 1967. Many Club members helped raise the funds to get the Boys Club started, and the Foundation contributed \$5,000 as well. Beginning around 1990, Kiwanis Club members began grilling hot dogs and hamburgers, providing transportation for some of the children and playing Santa Claus for the Boys Club's annual Christmas holiday party. This continues and is very much enjoyed by Kiwanians and appreciated by the Boys & Girls Clubs.

In January 1979, the Club organized the first health screening at the Boys Club with 90 children being examined. Several were found to have life-threatening conditions and referred to the Wake County health clinics for follow-up treatment. Dental exams were added after the first year or two, with many being referred to the Wake County dental clinic for treatment. The screenings were repeated twice each year in the early spring until the final one on June 19, 1990. A dozen Kiwanians also coached the teams in the Boys Club baseball league in the summer of 1980. One of the players that summer was Levelle Moton, now the basketball coach at his alma mater, North Carolina Central University in Durham.

The Kiwanis Club of Raleigh also has had a long-standing relationship with foster children in Wake County since 1969, principally through funding the purchase of shoes for those children as referenced above. Until 1971, Club members drew cards with the names of foster children and individually contributed presents to them. In 1971, contributions by check began, exceeding \$3,000 in 1994 and reaching \$3,540 the next year. For many years beginning in the early 1970s, the Club also annually sponsored a skating or bowling party for foster children.

On April 28, 1973, the Kiwanis Club of Raleigh sponsored the Boys Scouts' Scout-O-Rama. This sponsorship continued through 1977 and was taken over by the Rotary Club in 1978. In January 1986, the Club began supplying a volunteer each day it was open to the Shepherd's Table soup kitchen at the Church of the Good Shepherd. This has continued but changed several years ago to supplying three to five volunteers on specific days designated by the Shepherd's Table. In 1988, Club member Sid Eagles originated the Send a Kid to Camp idea, which now is jointly operated by the News and Observer and Triangle Community Foundation. In October 1990, the Club Board designated building the original all-children's playground at Laurel Hills Park as a service project and enlisted Club members to participate in its construction.

On September 20, 1996, the Board of Directors approved the Club's participation in building a Habitat for Humanity house at 1105 Spaulding Street in Southeast Raleigh during 1996-97. A contribution of \$25,000 in cash was pledged toward the total cost of \$46,800. Club members (115) donated \$30,000, the Athens Drive Key Club raised \$2,300, the Foundation contributed \$14,500, and the \$46,800 was paid in early June 1997. Work on a dozen Saturdays by teams of Club members began in July 1997 and was

completed in late October. The house was occupied by its recipient family and dedicated on February 26, 1998.

In January 2006, the Club began participating in a Carolinas District Division 12 initiative in conjunction with the Literacy Society of Wake County. The Club invested \$300 to purchase dictionaries and deliver them to the third grade students at Emma Conn and Wiley Schools in Raleigh. That August another \$500 was invested to provide dictionaries for six schools during the 2006-07 school year. By 2011, the investment had increased to \$3,000 for 1,776 dictionaries for third and fourth graders in 12 schools, and the same level of investment was provided in 2012. This project has continued and been well received by the schools and recipient children.

In July-August 2010, the Club began holding an annual food drive to help stock the depleted pantry of Urban Ministries of Wake County. A total of 2,360 lbs. of food and \$350 in cash were contributed. Results for later years were 1,804 lbs. of food and \$1,700 in cash in 2011, 2,407 lbs. of food and \$2,425 in cash in 2012, 1,451 lbs. of food and \$2,800 in cash in 2013, and 2,138 lbs. of food and \$3,550 in cash in 2014.

Local organizations, in addition to the Club's annual youth activities programs, that have been benefitted by the Club and/or the Raleigh Kiwanis Foundation by \$10,000 or more in total (in dollars at the time of disbursement) since 1955 include the following:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Wake County and Camp Griffin
- City of Raleigh – Kiwanis Park
- Frankie Lemmon School & Developmental Center - Frankie Lemmon Foundation
- Habitat for Humanity of Wake County
- Haven House
- Literacy Council of Wake County
- Loaves & Fishes Ministry
- Raleigh Rescue Mission
- SAFEchild
- Salvation Army of Wake County
- Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen
- StepUp Ministry
- Tammy Lynn Center for Developmental Disabilities & Memorial Foundation
- Triangle Community Foundation – Send a Kid to Camp
- Triangle Family Services
- Triangle Radio Reading Service
- Urban Ministries of Wake County
- Wake County Cerebral Palsy Rehabilitation Center [now The Arc]
- Wake County Human Services – Foster Children of Wake County

Wake County Training Center for the Untrainable Child [Hilltop Home]

Wake Medical Center Pediatric Hospital & Pediatric Trauma Center
Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of the Triangle

As part of commemorating the centennial of the Club in 2020, plans are being formulated to make a substantial contribution both financially and in member participation to benefit the children of the Raleigh community. It is proposed that the Club again associate with the Raleigh Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Department on two projects: (1) redevelopment and expansion of the all-children's playground at Laurel Hills Park, and (2) renovation and renewal of Kiwanis Park. This is but a continuation of the many good works the Kiwanis Club has been performing in Raleigh for nearly a century now. That's what Kiwanis is all about – a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.
