

The Kiwanis Chronicles

News of the Club and the Community it Serves

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**"A Record of Tomorrow's
Good Fortunes"**



**Serving the Children of the
World**

**La Mirada Kiwanis Club,
La Mirada, CA**

Rio Hondo Temporary Home

Dr. JERRY ROODZANT introduced our speaker of the morning, David Littlehales. David is the Executive Director of the Rio Hondo Temporary Home in Norwalk. David was born in Philadelphia and raised in Long Island and went to the University of Delaware. He has two Masters degrees, one from Michigan State University.

David described the conditions whereby a family might become residents of the Temporary Home. He pointed out that more and more families are being impacted by the current economic conditions. Sometimes these come as a result of over-spending or poor planning but many times they come from conditions beyond the person's control. Some have chronic illnesses that preclude them for actively searching for a job.

There are more than one class of homeless. We typically think of those who are living outside of a domicile but there are many persons and families moving from one temporary home to another, staying with one relative or friend for a while and then another. There are some who are losing their apartments when the apartment house owner defaults on his loan.

The Norwalk Temporary Home can handle twenty-four families at a time. Once admitted they are given their own rooms, a case manager and three meals a day, seven days a week. They take membership and become a part of the community. They have chores and responsibilities to fulfill. Once there they save 80% of their income as they continue to work if they have jobs or receive unemployment. The savings are controlled so that after their stay at the Home which is three years, they can have enough saved to move through the next step. This is normally going through HUD to obtain housing.

He noted that considering the estimate that there are 22,000 homeless in L.A. County, they are "a drop in the bucket" when it comes to curing the entire problem. But to those who go through the system they are a lifeline. to the future. Their budget is 1.1 million dollars and they receive funding from HUD, the State, County and grants. Right now they are in a struggle as these entities are also cutting back. For instance they normally receive \$25,000 annually from one donor. This year they cut back to \$16,000.

They serve eight primary cities, including Norwalk, Santa Fe Springs, and La Mirada, They have been active for around twenty years and in that time have provided assistance to around 1900 families. They lease facilities from the State using 19,000 feet with a rent of around \$4,000 a month.. They have 15 staff members serving 24/7. They have six house managers, 1 1/2 cooks and a secretary.

They are not an emergency shelter. There is a waiting list which is transitory as many have to find other means before they can be accepted into the Home. One of the questions thrown at David was how they measured success. He thought for a moment and then responded: They obtain housing. They stay in housing. They are saving money. They are learning job skills.

He was asked how persons are selected. The referrals mostly come from agencies and the timing has to be right to fill the vacancies as they occur.

We thank David for this look at a local group who are helping those who need help. Anyone interested in contacting David can do so at 562 863 8805, ext 222, or by e-mail at dlittlehales@riohondohome.org.

Pancake U

ART LESLIE announces the First session of Pancake U will be at Day Star Warehouse, 14501 So. Marquardt Ave., Santa Fe Springs on Thursday, May 7 at 5:00 PM. Come and get your fill of training so that uniform greatness will be achieved.

April 29 Dollars and Nonsense

The meeting started with the Pledge led by LA DONNA MUNIER. PAT RUIZ and Dr. MIKE WINTER led us in "America." GERALD PEEBLER took us through the Peebler Discipline as we were off and running on another Wednesday morning meeting. President DEBBIE SCHEIBEL presented a check to Pastor JACK MIRANDA for Living Faith Church for all their help to Kiwanis. She also read a card of Thanks from a Foster Road teacher for our pancake breakfast and reading help last month.

When the bucks were bugled Dr. MIKE WINTER rose to the occasion and started with some of his own. He gave for new members and for the Pancake University program. On the report it will be known as new member orientation. PAT RUIZ gave a sad buck for the passing of a long time friend, Mary Benedict. (She was a friend of the entire La Mirada Community.) She added one for Happy times. JIM MCGIRR gave for the Ducks and their playoff efforts. He added a couple for missing the Carnival.

MARK ROYSTON reported back in from his sojourn to Virginia and told of a half of an Interclub put on by himself and the incoming Lt. Governor of the Northern Virginia Division as the two awaited in vain for the regular meeting of the Clarke County Kiwanis. Apparently they were dark and we visitors weren't aware of the change. JOHN TOVAR gave for all the work done the past week. He gave another one for the School District hiring a new Superintendent from North Carolina who will take over July 1. Ginger is retiring after many many years at the post.

STEVE FORSTER gave a Happy one for eastern basketball and for his daughter's fourth birthday. He will be fishing this weekend and hunting next weekend. Pastor JACK MIRANDA wanted to know what the UCLA football program has in common with the Armed Forces. The answer, of course is that both have a "no draft" policy. Dr. JERRY ROODZANT gave for the fulfilling hours he spent in the ticket booth at the Carnival this past weekend. The satiation effect was such that he went home with glazed eyes.

GERALD PEEBLER gave for helping two days at the Carnival and offered a suggestion as to how it might be run more efficiently. RICH TRUJILLO gave Sad/Happy bucks for the La Mirada Girls Softball team's effort last week. They lost the front end of a home and home game and were about to lose the second one when a freshman pitcher and a Long Beach bound batter combined to bring them back for a win. (Vince Scully couldn't have described it better.)

LA DONNA MUNIER gave for the time at the Carnival and for the trip to Mexico being still up in the air. TONY ARMAS waited for the roar of the crowd to subside and gave a buck because he didn't have anything to say. GENE GLEASON told of getting free VIP tickets to the Duck game. REED TAYLOR gave for being unappreciated for his comments at the back gate ticket booth by those collecting the cash.

LOU PILTZ gave a dollar to get one minute of quiet. He added another for all the aluminum can tabs given him this morning which will be turned over to the Ronald McDonald House as a part of their charitable efforts. HARLAN COMEE gave for Debbie being the Lt. Governor Elect. SHERRY BRAKEBILL wanted to know if she is ever going to get a free weekend from Kiwanis activities. DEBBIE SCHEIBEL gave for everyone's help.

Kiwanis Softball Tournament

Saturday saw the beginning of a softball tournament sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of La Mirada. RICH TRUJILLO serves the dual role of chairing the tournament and being the coach for the La Mirada Girls Softball Team. The tournament will run two Saturdays.

There are sixteen teams playing from eleven schools. The results of the tournament will be reported in next week's Chronicles along with the details of our secondary activities, that of offering a variety of goodies to those assembled.



Fireworks Stand

RON KNIGHT announced the upcoming Fireworks Stand Event over the July 4th Holiday Period. We will still be in the parking lot near Albertsons but a bit remote from last year's location.

"Who am I?"

1. I have one brother with a PhD. and who taught in a University in the Western U.S. and another who was an Architect.
2. I have filled silos but I am not a farmer.
3. I made road bridges possible but I am not a highway builder.

Who am I?

(Don't forget the evening members.)