The Lion’s Tale

TCNJ Circle K Helps to Light The Night

By: Alicia Hill

On September 27, 2008, Circle K members participated in the 10th annual Light the Night Walk for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The walk raises money for treatments, and an eventual cure, for blood cancer, raises awareness about the hundreds of thousands of people who suffer from these diseases, and provides the nation with an opportunity to honor survivors as well as those who have been lost. Over the past decade, nearly $40 million was disbursed to patients through the LLS Patient Assistance program to help them get the treatment they needed to fight their cancer. Additionally, over 100,000 patients and family members have found comfort and hope through LLS First Connection and Family Support Groups (http://www.lightthenight.org/site/c.itZj7MOlwE/b.711107/). Light the Night walks occur all over the country and can be recognized by people carrying gold, white, and red balloons which light up the night sky. Our club members participated in the walk that was held at Waterfront Park, home of the Trenton Thunder minor league baseball team. The first group of members to arrive at the park was the volunteers. Although the air pumps for the balloons were delayed in making it to the baseball stadium, we still found ways to assist. Members helped by arranging the free food provided to the walkers, giving out t-shirts to those who had raised a great deal of money for the cause, and assembling stars that were hung at the stadium. We also had Circle K members, who raised $80 in donations, come to participate in the walk. The walk started at 7:00 with an opening ceremony, which included a speech by a Leukemia survivor. The rain even held out for the walkers and the event was a great success. We hope that TCNJ’s Circle K will continue to be part of this event for several years to come.
By: Steve San Filippo

From Saturday, August 2 to Wednesday, August 6, New Jersey Circle K members participated in multiple service projects at LSSP (Large Scale Service Project) in Denver, Colorado, the Mile High City. On August 2nd and settled in at the Cherry Creek Hotel in Denver, and met with Circle K friends new and old from around the US, Canada, and the Caribbean. LSSP officially began at night on August 2nd when attendees were broken up into fellowship groups by country, as our event was Olympics-themed. I was placed on Team China and we made our team poster involving pandas!

The next morning, Sunday, August 3rd, we started our service with the Salvation Army at their Denver Area Warehouse and Headquarters. The Salvation Army has their major goal of providing all necessary services for alcohol and drug rehabilitation of adults with separate male and female rehabilitation centers where those needing help live, recover, and change their lives in the course of six months. The tasks for Circle K members varied from cleaning and painting living quarters, offices, and dining room areas to working in the warehouse, offloading thousands of donated goods and sorting these goods to stripping old mattresses for sale of the box springs as scrap metal. I spent my time cleaning the dining room, greeting the people in rehabilitation when they had their Sunday morning snack, and then the rest of the time I stripped old mattresses with box cutters.

On Monday, August 4th, we continued our service with the Salvation Army at their shops around the Denver metro area. At the Northglenn store, my group of 20 people and our group leader, Sub-region B Representative Ronald Liu of the Cal-Nev-Ha district, worked on cleaning the store, moving new merchandise into the store, and organizing the store better. My group finished all of our work by 1 PM and we had to stay at the store until after 3 PM, so we simply hung out on the couches that were for sale and watched old movies and read old books. It was such a relaxing way to spend volunteering time! After a return to the hotel, there was a choice of all participants to either attend the Colorado Rockies vs. Washington Nationals game or to stay at the hotel for a pool party.

For our third and final day of service on Tuesday, August 5th, we turned our attention to the issue of homelessness in Denver by helping out the Denver Rescue Our Mission. The Denver Rescue Mission was having a carnival for low-income and homeless children to get a free backpack and school supplies for the new school year the Saturday after LSSP. Our job was to compile 7,000 backpacks full of supplies and to make games out of wood and other materials for the carnival. My task was to help with painting and reconstruction of some of the older games, while many other people assembled the backpacks and painted and built tons of new games. Our final task of the day, in the afternoon, was to remove wood chips from an open area near the playground at the transitional housing site and to fill it with sand to make a sandbox for the children there.

Our final day on Wednesday, August 6th, consisted of a morning of fellowship competition of various Olympic/field events between the various countries, and then a boarding of buses to take us to our International Convention (ICON) hotel, the Sheraton Denver in downtown Denver, where we stayed until Sunday, August 10th when we returned to New Jersey!!!
On Saturday, October 26, 2008, there was a huge event going on at TCNJ’s campus: the annual Ewing Township’s Community Fest. Just like every year, many different organizations came out and set up a table. Circle K’s table was located in the children’s activity area in Quimby’s Prairie, which is between Green Hall and the Science Complex/Holman Hall from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The table was underneath a tent, fortunately, since it was raining all day and also very windy.

Many Circle K members participated in this event. Cheryl Varghese, Elisabeth Breen, and Liz Connelly sat at the table from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm. Then, Steve San Filippo, Alicia Hill (pictured), Iris Tian (pictured), and Brianna Gunter (pictured) sat at the table from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Next, Alexis Servedio, Amy Moroz, and Brianna O’Hara sat at the table from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Finally, Jena-Rose Coluccio and Crystal Wall sat at the table from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm.

The craft we did was the same one from Homecoming week. The kids that came to our table made Roscoe the Lion out of paper plates and other supplies. We provided construction paper, big googly eyeballs, markers, crayons, colored pencils, glue, scissors, and more for them. The fifteen children who came to our table had a blast making their very own Roscoe the Lion . . . and so did some of the Circle K members!
New Jersey District Club Rally

By: Elisabeth Breen

Moo moo! Oink! Quack! Oink! Baaa! Cock-a-doodle-doooooooo!

It may sound like you’re on a farm, but you’re not! You’re at the first ever New Jersey District Circle K Club Rally! Last month, on September 27th, Circle Ker’s from all over New Jersey gathered at Stockton College to have a day of fun and spirit. We started off with some icebreakers, the first being with farm animals. Everyone was assigned a farm animal and had to make the noise of that animal until they found their herd. Once together, each group had to make up a song. I don’t think there’s any dispute that the cows won, but I did like my group’s rendition of spider-pig! Can you guess what animal I was?

After some more ice-breakers we broke for a delicious lunch of an assortment of food brought from different clubs. And dessert too! Then we broke into teams by school and had a little friendly competition. Let’s just say TCNJ lacked a little in fruit handling skills and that reflected the rest of our performance as well. But, since we were literally rolling on the floor laughing I think I can safely say we enjoyed ourselves.

Although TCNJ did have the smallest turnout, we had spirit. It was a lot of fun and a great way to start the Circle K year. If you want to be in on the fun and understand some of the inside jokes next time, join us at the next district event: Insight! The theme is pirates and it’s sure to be boat loads of fun!

Kiwanis Pasta Dinner

By: Caressa Slocum

On Sunday September 21st, the Kiwanis of Ewing Township held their annual Pasta Dinner fundraiser. The event was held at the local Ewing High school, which attracted a variety of community members. There was a lot of buzz and excitement the day of the event, where the Kiwanis, Ewing High School Key Club, and our Circle K, met early to setup and begin cooking. Salad, bread, Pasta, meatballs and cake were among the items served. Since the event was held on a Sunday afternoon/evening, TVs displayed the football games, which promoted a home-like feel. The Pasta Dinner was a delicious success!

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