



Circle K International

Official Newsletter of TCNJ CKI

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The Lion's Tale

After School Special: Wilson Elementary

By: Elisabeth Breen

This semester we started a new weekly service project at Wilson Elementary School's after school program. Wilson is a K-5 public school in Trenton. Many children attend the program, run by an independent non-for-profit company, where they receive homework help and enrichment activities. The fourth and fifth graders just started a new science unit investigating water and its properties. This is where Circle K comes in! We work with the fourth and fifth graders in small groups and help facilitate their discoveries. So far we have investigated the difference between water and other liquids in terms of buoyancy, saturation, and movement. They have been using the scientific method by making predictions and discussing their findings with the group. It's enlightening to see the looks on their faces when they finally understand something they never got before, or when something unexpected happens! Some of the students lack even a basic understanding of how the world around us works. One student didn't understand the difference between floating and sinking; she

did not know what those words meant! Science education, especially in the early years taught in a fun and interactive way, is critical for all children to develop a set of basic knowledge. These kids deserve these activities and I'm glad Circle K has the opportunity to help out!



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HAVE A GREAT SPRING BREAK!

A December Day of K-Family

Relations and Service

By: Steve San Filippo

TCNJ Circle K had a fun day of travel for K-Family Relations and Service on the last Sunday prior to finals, December 7, 2008. Alicia Hill, Elisabeth Breen, and I took a ride first, down I-195, to the Jackson Kiwanis Breakfast with Santa at the Whitesville Fire House in Jackson.

We enjoyed a breakfast of pancakes, eggs, and sausage, while meeting the Jackson Kiwanis members including District Administrator Ted Hordichuk, District Circling (our district newsletter) Advisor and Kiwanis Division 4 Lieutenant Governor Larry Meegan, Seabreeze Division (our division) Zone Advisor Carmela Adams, and Santa played by "International Godfather" and Jackson Kiwanis President-Elect Floyd Adams. Floyd is the one who does all the DJ work for Circle K district events and attends the rest of the district meetings and events. Just before leaving, we took a picture with Santa as seen here and also got his autograph, which is in the scrapbook for this year.

After our lovely breakfast, we got back on I-195 and continued east to the Jersey Shore town of Asbury Park. It was a sunny but very windy and cold day on the coast as we went to the Asbury Park Convention Hall on the Boardwalk in Asbury Park. At the Convention Hall was our service event with the Project Linus chapter of Mercer County. I'm sure you remember making the Project Linus blankets at our Late Night in the beginning of November.

We donated our blankets that day along with hundreds of others donated by other community groups to children of New Jersey Army National Guard troops deployed in Iraq for the holiday season. We helped with organizing and tagging all of the blankets, and with the assistance of a Boy Scout troop from Warren County, we distributed some of them at the actual event and packed other blankets for distribution at National Guard armories around New Jersey.

I would like to thank Stefanie Zitelli and Jessi Kafer for bringing the blankets to the National Guard Armory in Teaneck after I brought them back to TCNJ from the event. At the National Guard event, there was lunch and a music performance by the Holiday Express group, as well as a visit and speech by Governor Jon Corzine and a live show on New Jersey 101.5 FM. The event was taped and later played on the news broadcasts of News 12 New Jersey.

Unfortunately, our Project Linus part of the event was not filmed or broadcasted, but the overall event for the families of the National Guard soldiers was. We had a great time seeing the end of our Project Linus efforts and enjoyed the holiday performances, besides performing great service. It was truly a great day of K-Family Relations and Service and maybe our club can attend these events in the future.

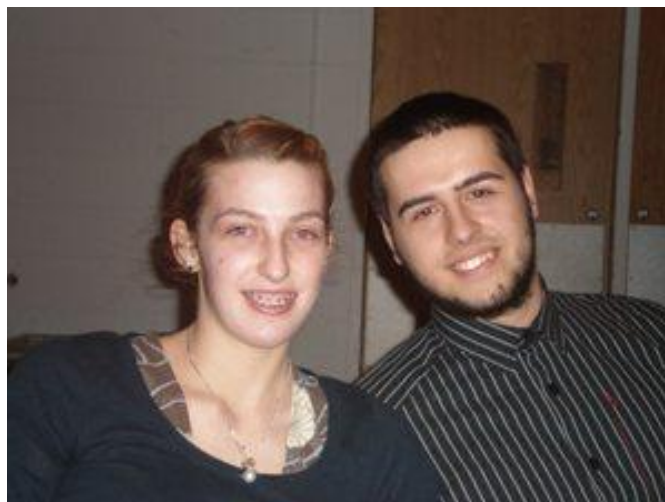
LEADERSHIP

FELLOWSHIP

SERVICE



Around The World



Dance the Night Away Winter Social

By: Hope Fine

On January 31, over forty members from the NJ District Circle K gathered at Monmouth University to dance the night away. The theme for the night was "Around the World." Posted around the room was the artwork of the Monmouth Circle K. This included replica pictures of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Big Ben, and The Great Wall of China. The dinner was delicious. It consisted of soup, salad, pasta in vodka sauce, and scrumptious chocolate cake for desert.

After we ate dinner, the dancing began. Circle K members had a blast. The DJ played all the modern songs as well as all our favorite line dances. They also played all the traditional Circle K songs, which included the Grease medley.

There was a raffle to win chance to dance with one of the NJ District Circle K Board Members. Steve was one of the nominees! In addition door prizes were raffled off. The door prizes fit the theme. Some of my favorite door prizes were little travel books and travel games.

It was nice to get to meet the members of Monmouth, the newest addition to the NJ District Circle K family. I cannot wait to see everyone at District Convention!

Library For The Blind

By: Caressa Slocum

Since September 2008, I have chaired a community service project where myself and four others visit the NJ State Library for the Blind every other week. We assist the library in a variety of ways.

One of the services that the library provides to people is for various newspapers to be recorded and broadcasted. What we do is go into soundproof booths and read 60 minutes of articles and editorials.

We also do some secretary work if needed, such as stamping envelopes, filing, and other tape rewinding. It's fun easy service, and it makes a noticeable difference too!

Kidsbridge Tolerance Museum

By: Alicia Hill

While many students enjoy sleeping in on Wednesday morning, some Circle K members are up volunteering at the Kidsbridge Tolerance Museum located on the first floor of Forcina Hall. At the museum, members act as docents for the many exhibits that focus on topics such as discrimination, prejudice, stereotyping, bystander behavior, kid heroes, and disability awareness.

At each exhibit, not only do the college students help elementary and middle school students partake in an activity at the station, but they also engage the children in meaningful small group discussions. After everyone has rotated through the exhibits, the children, with the help of college students, create puppet shows about a problem they learned about in the museum and how to resolve it. We try to make

the problems very related to the children's daily lives. Sometimes, the children also have the opportunity to have a Q and A session with members about college and/or listen to a presentation by a TCNJ student who has some type of disability and how they live. In the past, children and college students have had the chance to learn about people with visual and hearing impairments.

The museum is a great volunteer opportunity for members because it is right here on campus and they can dedicate as much or as little time as they would like each day they come. Kidsbridge also has group come on other days of the week, so everyone can find a time that works for their schedule. By visiting the museum and interacting with college students, the director hopes that children are coming away with lesson in character education, diversity appreciation, and life skills.

Ewing High School Key Club

By: Caressa Slocum

On Wednesday, February 18th, we met with the Ewing High School's Key Club. Steve, Nick, and I sat in on the meeting as they discussed some past events they had. Among these was a very successful blood drive (which they plan on repeating in their goal to collect 100 quarts) and a lock-in where they raised a significant amount of money.

Unfortunately because of some meeting time changes, we did not get to meet their entire

membership, but we did meet with the executive board and advisor, as well as some regular members. In totality, their membership is around 50 students!

The board and their advisor discussed with us the possibility of a joint Circle K-Key Club event in the future. It would involve service and fellowship so that we could bring the two clubs closer together. We plan on meeting with them further to figure out the details!

Circle K Executive Board 2009-2010 – Newly Elected

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Hope Fine
Vice President

Caressa Slocum
Treasurer

Alicia Hill
Secretary

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