



Member **Larry Combs**' son Bryan, and his wife Susan, of Charlotte, NC, recently donated \$200 to the Kiwanis Foundation Disaster Relief efforts. We are so appreciative of this wonderful gesture of compassion.

Member **Matt Jones** is making a difference in the S.W.I.M. Tutoring Program! His student actually brought a friend to the tutoring session because Matt made such a positive impact on the kid! Way to Go Matt!

New members **Carrie Hewitt** and **Nicki Swafford** have graciously offered to be our Project Co-Chairs for the **Kiwanis Cottage Project** at the *Boys and Girls Homes* location in Lake Waccamaw, NC. Carrie and Nicki are co-founders of the new local business *Paradise Provisions* and our club is so lucky to have them! The Year-In-Review presentation at our January 8th meeting inspired these women to be an integral part of redecorating the entire cottage plus offering the girls residents monthly birthday parties. If you'd like to be a part of this undertaking, please reach out to Carrie or Nicki. **On behalf of our club – THANK YOU!**

We are excited about a new fundraising **Partnership Campaign** that **Rodney Dillman** will be leading in the coming months. Rodney will be our speaker on the January 15 meeting to outline what goals, tasks and outcomes are expected.

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### Upcoming Events



Jan. 19 – **New Bern Club Coaching Day**

Jan 19 – **Beach Sweep Clean Up.** Meet at Roland Avenue Public Access at 12 noon. If you have additional questions, please contact member Chad Merritt.

Jan 31 - **Pender County State of Education & Economy Presentation** hosted by Pender Education Partnership, 137 Worth Beverage Dr., Burgaw, starting at 5 pm. RSVP 910-274-2100

Feb. 5 – **Board Meeting** after Regular Meeting

Feb. 8 – 10 – **Kiwanis MidYear Conference** at Marriott Resort & Spa, Hilton Head Island, SC. Steve Smith mentioned the club will help with finances for any member that wants to attend this valuable event!

April 12 – **Kiwanis Legacy Scholarship Applications** due to Steve Cokor.

## Upcoming Events con't

May 21 – Kiwanis Scholarship Breakfast Meeting

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### Success Story: Our Disaster Relief Funds At Work

Based on the requests from the school counselors, we put our Carolinas District Kiwanis Disaster Relief Grant to good use last week! We purchased needed items from Kiwanis Partner Dollar Days and our club will be having a “service hour” during an upcoming regular meeting to sort, pack and distribute these items as requested by each local school. As mentioned before, we purchased “Magic Drawer” items and cold weather items for the CHEW and MUNCH Backpack Programs.

*As Kiwanis Servant Leaders, we will continue to focus on changing the world, one child and one community at a time.*

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- If you have not paid your **quarterly dues**, the invoices are ready. Bring your checkbook to the next meeting and contact Mac Murray.
- Steve Smith mentioned that there are 12 members who have their **Kiwanis Background Check Approval** expiring soon. If you are volunteering directly with kids, please check the [PortalBuzz](#). Due to liability, if you are a Kiwanis member and volunteering directly with the kids, you **MUST** request a background check through the [Portal Buzz](#). Our club historically reimburses members for the cost of this background check.
- If you are not getting updates by email, please reach out to Steve Smith to make sure your e-mail is correct in the PortalBuzz system. We don't want you to miss out on all the fun.

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**Here's a list of current local volunteer opportunities where YOU can make a difference!**

Our **Bi-Annual Reverse Raffle** is slated for this spring. Our first Reverse Raffle netted around \$10k for the Foundation and scholarships in Spring 2017. This year Committee Chair Jeff Bell is interested in recruiting a Co-Chair to coordinate the venue, print and sell tickets, etc. This is our biggest fundraiser so reach out to Jeff with your ideas and assistance.

The **Annual Golf Tournament** is scheduled for May this year (no firm date) and Committee Chair Chad Merritt is looking for volunteers! There is a need for teams to play and for individuals to help with the actual event. More details to come.

We are searching for a **Kiwanis Co-Advisor** to assist Don Martin with the **Dixon High School Key Club** as soon as possible. Please contact Andrea Carter or Bill Horstmann to learn more about the opportunity.

Want to create a mentor relationship with an elementary school student? Contact **Les King** to participate in the **Reading Program**.

We've been hearing a lot about the devastation suffered in Western Pender County after the hurricane. But there is good news on the horizon! Member **Tim Horner** is working closely with **Kiwanis Club of Hampstead** to charter a **Kiwanis Club of Burgaw**. If you'd like to help out with that new endeavor, please contact Tim.

Want to help local students get up to speed with their studies after the hurricane? Contact **David Deitz** to participate in the **SWIM Tutoring Program** (Students Winning With Intentional Mentoring) (previously known as **Homework Helpers Program**) at Surf City Middle School.

Want to be part of a **Signature Leadership Program** (Builders Club or Key Club), contact the SLP Chair KP who can help find you a place in one of the programs that will fit your schedule.

Want to use your muscle and brawn? Contact **Daniel Blevins** who is helping coordinate **outreach efforts** to the Western part of Pender County. (PS – there is also a need for materials to literally rebuild.)

Savvy yourself as a thrifty shopper? **Disaster Relief Chair Cathi Litcher** would welcome your research and input on the purchase of various items requested by our local school Faculty Advisors and Counselors. Just think, you get to surf the net to get the biggest bang for our buck - you earn volunteer hours but don't leave your couch.



Like to volunteer from your house? **Collect Box Tops** from participating products to donate to our Builders Clubs! Here's a picture of a Box Top for Education so you can look for them on your favorite items!

Don't have the time but have financial resources? Contact **Bill Horstmann** who can help you determine where your donation could have the most impact based on your preferences.

If you have a personal **Facebook** page, PLEASE "like" our [Kiwanis Club of Topsail Island page](#). Also consider adding a "Donation Button" to a personal post to your connections that allows your friends to help our community in rebuilding and recovery through **Kiwanis of Topsail Island Area Foundation**. It's tax deductible. Need help with this? Contact **Cathi Litcher**.

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As some of you are aware, this is the season of preparing college applications! Our **Scholarship Chair Steve Cokor** will be updating the scholarship criteria and application to distribute to Dixon High School. We will not be giving scholarships this year at Topsail High School as the Kiwanis Hampstead Club is now sponsoring that school's Key Club. If you'd like to be a part of the committee

or know of a deserving senior, please contact Steve for the application.

If you have a connection with a larger organization that might consider donating to Kiwanis, please reach out independently or contact **Rodney Dillman** or **Cathi Litcher** for assistance. We are excited about a new fundraising **Partnership Campaign** that Rodney will be leading in the coming months.

The **Kiwanis Foundation of Topsail Island Area** is now recognized as a Bronze Level non-profit with [GuideStar Kiwanis Foundation of Topsail Island Area Inc.](#) If you know of someone that would like to donate, the [Guidestar.org](#) website outlines our club's focus, programs, and successes.



President Designee **Andrea Carter** asked for our members to consider sharing his/her expertise with our club as a guest speaker. We'd love to learn more about everyone's stories! Also, if there is someone you think would be a good speaker, please let Andrea know.

If you have additions, changes, updates or feedback regarding this information, please contact Cathi Litcher at [cathi@thelitchergroup.com](mailto:cathi@thelitchergroup.com).