

THE AKTION CONNECTION



NEWS FROM AKTION CLUB

Greetings from Kiwanis International! This is the first publication of our Aktion Club newsletter for club advisors. The mission of this newsletter is to share information from the international office as well as to share articles and resources that will be helpful in working with our Aktion Club members.

If you are interested in having your club highlighted in this newsletter, please send me an e-mail at: kgriffin@kiwanis.org and I will contact you with more information.

Please share your thoughts and ideas regarding this communication. Your feedback is appreciated!

October, 2010

The Eliminate Project

Kiwanis International and UNICEF have joined forces in the ELIMINATE Project an effort to save mothers and babies by eliminating maternal neonatal tetanus. Neonatal Tetanus kills almost 60,000 newborn children every year. In addition, a significant number of women also die due to maternal tetanus. It is estimated that 129 million women still live in areas at high risk for MNT."

What can you do to help? Raise awareness! For the next few months, start spreading the word! Let everyone know what we are working on. Next, assign someone from your club to

be the project liaison. Determine your plan of action. What are your fundraising ideas? Be prepared to implement your ideas in October 2011.

Here's what you and your club can do to get ready for the July 2011 kickoff of The Eliminate Project:

The first step is to learn about maternal/neonatal tetanus. Follow the outline below

October–December 2010: Appoint a member to lead your club's campaign.

January–March 2011: Spread the word about MNT. Get involved with your spon-

soring Kiwanis club.

April–July 2011: Work on a fundraising plan. Watch the Geneva kickoff at:

www.KiwanisOne.org/convention.

Find resources at: TheEliminateProject.org.



Vacations to suit all needs

One of the challenges of living with a disability is trying to find vacation destinations that will accommodate all of one's needs. Perhaps you or a loved one cannot travel alone, but are fairly independent. There are travel agencies and organizations that specialize in vacations for people with developmental disabilities and special needs. Most of these agencies include travel, meals, attrac-

tions, supervision and more in one package price. Souvenirs and special purchases are not included.

If you don't find exactly what you are looking for, custom packages for groups or individuals are available. Either way, professional, trained staff are available who are committed to providing special needs travelers with a vacation of a lifetime.

Check out the links below for more information or to book your next vacation!

[Exceptional Vacations](#)

[Guided Tour](#)

[Special Vacations](#)

Employers committed to hiring people with disabilities

Are you or someone you love looking for employment? It can be tricky in today's economy and even trickier if you have a disability that might put you at a disadvantage.

However, there are some employers who hire people who have disabilities and governmental agencies that will help!

For example, in April of this year, Walgreens was named "Private-Sector Employer of the Year" by the *Careers and disABLED* magazine for its commitment to recruiting, hiring, and promoting people with disabilities. Their pilot pro-



gram in Dallas boasts of hiring people with disabilities for 10 percent of their clerk workforce.

Another employer to look to is Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart has been recognized for hiring individuals for by looking at their abilities rather than their disabilities. "We do things that make good business sense," said Joe Mullet, Wal-Mart Manager.

For assistance in obtaining employment, each state has a government program or a division of vocational rehabilitation that will assist individuals with disabilities to obtain and retain employment. These programs are committed to helping people with disabilities find meaningful careers. So, get out there and find something you love to do!

Looking for some fun activities for your club?

Try out some ideas in this book by Helen Sonnet and Ann Taylor called "Activities for Adults with Learning Disabilities."

This book has it all! There are activities related to: cooking, arts & crafts, party games, drama & dance, special occasions and outside events!

Take the time to do one short activity each meeting to build friendships and trust. (Not to mention how much fun it will be!)



Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered

SABE is the United States' self-advocates organization. Founded in 1990, they have been working for the full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in the community throughout the 50 states and the world for 20 years. This non-profit advocacy organization is run by a board of self-advocates representing 9 regions of the country.

Many Aktion Club members are currently associated with SABE. Please encourage your members to learn more about this organization in your state. There is a wealth of information available on disability related issues. This would also be a wonderful place to recruit new members. Use this organization as part of your growth plan!



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