

WORLDWIDE SERVICE PROJECT FAQs—Internal

Summary

Following on the success of the IDD project, Kiwanis International issued a global call for proposals to be considered to become the organization's second Worldwide Service Project. Nominated projects must be child-focused, provide hands-on service, be compelling and relevant and involve both global and local impact. The projects must also engage all Kiwanis programs, from Kiwanis Kids to Kiwanis. Deadline for nominations was Oct. 1, 2009. Kiwanis will announce its next Worldwide Service Project this summer at its annual convention in Las Vegas during the Opening Session.

Q&A

Q. What is a Worldwide Service Project?

A. Children and communities worldwide have diverse needs—access to health care, clean water, safe shelter, protection from slavery and forced labor, access to education, and so many others. A Worldwide Service Project is a directed Kiwanis family-wide program to make a positive difference in the world by working on behalf of children in need.

Q. Why undertake a Worldwide Service Project?

A. The numbers of children in need and the level of that need are as great or greater today than they have ever been. Though many organizations and agencies are working for many solutions, no one entity can resolve that need. Kiwanis, through a Worldwide Service Project, can identify and work to resolve or to significantly improve one area of need, benefiting children worldwide.

Q. Who are the finalists?

A. The Kiwanis International Board of Trustees has selected three Worldwide Service Project finalists: Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases for their Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) proposal; Malaria No More with the support of the Canadian Red Cross for their malaria proposal; and UNICEF for its proposal on maternal and neonatal tetanus.

Q. How did Kiwanis select the three finalists?

A. After receiving nearly 200 proposals last fall, a global committee reviewed the proposals and narrowed the list down to four. After hearing presentations from advocacy organizations about the four causes, the Kiwanis International Board selected the final three proposals.

Q. Will there be opportunity for hands-on service?

A. All three of the final projects include hands-on service opportunities for Kiwanis clubs and members. Kiwanis International required hands-on service to be a component of each proposal. In addition, the Worldwide Service Project Steering Committee, a global committee appointed by Kiwanis International President Paul Palazzolo, will be meeting with all three finalists to discuss their proposals. This in-depth discussion will include examining the proposed hands-on service components to ensure that they are in line with the type of service all Kiwanis family members are interested in doing. To learn more about the hands-on service proposed in each project, visit www.kiwanis.org/wsp to view the final three proposals.

Q. How can my opinion be heard?

A. Kiwanis is soliciting input through its website, www.kiwanis.org/wsp, from members on which project to select as its next Worldwide Service Project.

Q. When will the board make its decision?

A. The Kiwanis International Board will meet in April to make its selection.

Q. When will Kiwanis announce its decision?

A. In June, Kiwanis will announce the next Worldwide Service Project at the Kiwanis International Convention in Las Vegas during Opening Session.

Q. How many proposals did Kiwanis receive?

A. Between the months of June and October of 2009, Kiwanis received nearly 200 Worldwide Service Project proposals.

Q. Was Kiwanis' first Worldwide Service Project— Iodine Deficiency Disorders—successful?

A. The Iodine Deficiency Disorders Worldwide Service Project was immensely successful. Kiwanians and its service Leadership Programs raised more than US\$100 million, which today is at work in more than 89 nations. The number of households estimated to be consuming iodized salt has jumped from 20 percent in 1990 to more than 70 percent, and the effort has been heralded as one of the most successful health initiatives in the world.

Q. Why not just keep contributing to IDD until it is eradicated?

A. Iodine Deficiency Disorders is virtually eradicated as a health issue. Though 100 percent of the world's children are not yet protected, programs are in place that will, in time, protect all children from IDD.

Q. Won't this reduce the benefit we provide to our own community and its children?

A. There are children in need in every community in every country in the world.

Kiwanis and its Service Leadership Programs will continue to work in their community, but it is our hope, too, that Kiwanians can come together as a global organization of passionate and committed citizens to tackle one issue that harms or hinders children everywhere—perhaps even in your own back yard.

Every child deserves a helping hand up, whether he or she lives in your community or halfway around the world. Benefiting one child benefits every child.

Q. How does Kiwanis benefit?

A. Kiwanians who participate benefit by being part of a life-changing service project. We fulfill our mission—to develop and teach leadership and positively to change a child’s life—and we work in unison to make the world a better place for children. We embrace cultural and country differences and we demonstrate, through action, the passion, commitment and caring of Kiwanis members.

Additionally, Kiwanis will be seen as a world-leading organization, committed to children, to providing a helping hand and to helping change the world—for children and all of us.

Q. How much money will we raise?

A. Kiwanis has selected three finalists, and each with different fundraising goals. Until a project is selected, we won’t know exactly what resources may be needed.

Q. Is money the solution for a Worldwide Service Project?

A. While money is part of the solution, it is unlikely to be the only need. Kiwanis is a service organization and as such, service will be a part of the solution as well. There may be opportunities for hands-on service, advocacy or other types of support.

Q. Who will be involved?

A. All of the Kiwanis family will have a role in the next Worldwide Service Project. We will need the help and commitment of all—Kiwanis, Circle K International, Key Club, Builders Club, K-Kids, Kiwanis Junior, Aktion Club, everyone. The more hands, the more help and good we can provide, the more change we can make happen, the more children we can help.

Q. What if my club/district doesn’t want to be part of this project?

A. Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers committed to making the world a better place for children. It is our hope that your club/district sees the need in your home community, but that it sees, too, that the need there is inextricably tied to needs elsewhere.

We hope your club/district understands that the plight of a child, regardless of where he or she lives, affects every other child, and that if we are to make the world a better place, we must work hard, not only at home, but beyond.