

Kiwanis volunteers bring spirit of Christmas to Multnomah Village

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

If you're one of those people who just dread the holidays full of parties, endless assortments of sweets, and the buzz of shopping madness, then by all means, the yearly Breakfast with Santa is the place for you!

I'm not talking about the piping hot, perfectly round pancakes or the sausage links that seem to be swallowed whole. Nor am I talking about the long wait to see the kindly old gentleman from the North Pole.

I'm talking about the wonderful volunteers who make up the Southwest Hills Kiwanis. Yes, *those* guys, the ones slathering pancake batter on the large griddle every year during Multnomah Days.

Breakfast with Santa is held at the Lucky Lab in Multnomah Village every December and the Kiwanis pull out all the stops. Volunteers from three generations gather to prepare the tables, create center pieces, and serve nervous bellies waiting to see Santa.

But it was one volunteer in particular who pulled my heartstrings that cold, blustery day: an eight-year-old girl named Kaia.

From Oregon City, no less, Kaia awoke at five-thirty that morning to get ready for the long ride to the village she's never been.

"My job is to set the table and put the syrup on the tables," she beamed as her reindeer antlers flopped from side to side.

She also helped with trash and reset place settings after the first set of families departed. She said she didn't even know Santa would be there.

Over 200 children and their parents were served that day and collected nearly \$5000 for Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

According to Teri Mills, lieutenant governor of the Southwest Hills Kiwanis, they raised over \$224,000 this past year for Doernbecher. A Mustang convertible raffle ticket fund raiser, organized by Vietnam Veteran Paul Faulk, alone brought in nearly \$126,000.

Paul, along with Kirk Caudill and Bob Collison, have almost 80 years of service in Kiwanis alone. They're the ones that get to stand over the hot griddle for hours at a time.

Kiwanis International is over 100 years old and was named after an Indian Village in upstate New York. Current membership numbers around 240,000 in 7,700 different clubs in 80 countries. The average age is 57, with membership being 74 percent men and 26 percent women.

Kiwanians have programs that range from the elementary school up to college. The Key Club attracts high school students who in turn conduct



Kiwanis volunteers Paul Faulk, Kirk Caudill and Bob Collison sling up some tasty pancakes. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

community projects.

Monies have also been donated to the Mt Hood Kiwanis Camp for children and adults with disabilities, Neighborhood House, and the Southwest Community Health Center.

"We're starting a new program," explained Teri. "We found out that many of the seniors, who receive food from Loaves and Fishes' Meals on Wheels, end up giving their pets half of their meal."

So starting in 2013, the Kiwanis, in coordination with the Banfield Pet Hospital, will solicit pet food donations and distribute to the seniors

with pets.

When asked why an eight-year-old girl had to work for hours and hours for people she didn't even know, Kaia replied that her whole family including her grandmother helps out.

"Kids are missing out on all the fun," she said as she took someone's order. "I haven't even said hi to Santa yet. I've been so busy!"

And did she get to eat all the pancakes she wanted? Yes! Three of them!"

For more information on the Kiwanis or the pet food collaboration project, please check out their website at <http://www.kiwaniswhills.org>.

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Update: Water work on SW streets

The Portland Water Bureau is nearing completion of its **Westside Header Project-Phase 2**. In January, the contractor must make the final connections to the new 36-inch diameter supply pipeline on SW Market Street, west of SW Naito Parkway. One traffic lane will be affected. This work will take about one week, starting January 7.

On its **Carolina Mains Project**, crews will re-start work in January, making pipe connections to the three Burlingame water storage tanks on SW 10th Avenue. The street work is completed. Under dry weather conditions, the damaged sections of asphalt on SW 10th Avenue and SW Chestnut Street will be repaved.

On the **Portland Heights Main Project**, work to install a new 16-inch diameter pipelines to connect to the water storage tanks at SW Talbot Road continues. Crews are working their way down SW Greenway Avenue, back to SW Montgomery Drive to the tank site.

Please obey all flaggers' instructions and traffic detour signs. Motorists are encouraged to find alternate routes away from the work zones.



COMMUNITY RECYCLING

Sat., Jan. 5th, 9am-noon at St. Luke Church, SW 46th Ave & SW Vermont St.
Donations requested. Items must be clean and sorted by category.

Holiday Items - Artificial trees & light strings. *Recycle screw-in bulbs separately.*
Soft Plastics - Stretchable plastic bags, film, shrink-wrap, bubble wrap, lumber wrap, pallet wrap. *NO frozen food bags. NO food packages that crackle when squeezed.*
Rigid plastics - Clam shell containers, PVC plastics, plastic toys, lids and caps, nursery pots, trays, tubs, buckets, toothbrushes, straws, motel room cards, etc.; CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, cassettes and cases. *NO plastics made for use in microwave ovens. NO corn-based 'PLA' compostable products (non-plastic eating utensils, cups, etc.). NO latex or rubber gloves.*
Light bulbs - CFL's, incandescents, floods and halogens. *NO fluorescent tubes.*
Small batteries - All small battery types. *No auto or boat batteries.*
Electronics & small appliances - All one-person-liftable TVs, VCRs, computers, DVD players, monitors, printers, photocopiers, scanners, fax machines, stereo equipment and Freon-free household appliances.
Styrofoam, block & Styrofoam food underliners - *NO packing peanuts, foam, foam rubber.* **Corks & Printer cartridges** - All types and sizes.

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