



MAY / JUNE  
2011

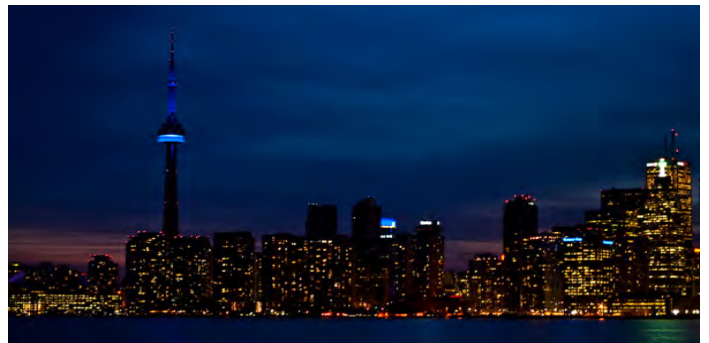
# TOPEKA CIVITAN CLUB



## FAMOUS LANDMARKS GO BLUE FOR AUTISUM AWARENESS DAY/MONTH

On Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011 Autism Speaks, North Americas Largest autism science and advocacy organization kicked off its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Light It up Blue (LIUB) campaign. A unique global initiative to celebrate World Autism Awareness Day and help raise funds and awareness of autism.

More than 1000 structures in over 180 U.S. cities and 30 countries joined Autism Speaks to shine a bright light on autism. Iconic landmarks around the world- including the Empire State Building and the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York City, the Willis Tower in Chicago, Universal Studios in Hollywood and Orlando, STAPLES Center in Los Angeles and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, along with Niagara Falls and the CN Tower in Canada, Gano Bhabon, the official residence of the Prime Minister and hundreds of buildings in Bangladesh, Christ the redeemer Statue in Brazil and the Sydney Opera House in Australia. Last but not in the least was our very own symbol of democracy the White House. Retail stores, concert halls schools and universities all helped kick off Autism Awareness month and celebrate World Autism Awareness.





## University of Notre Dame

Researchers at the University of Notre Dame's psychology department are using the Affectiva Q Sensor to measure how children diagnosed with autism respond to an interactive robot intended to augment interventions. Notre Dame researchers Joshua Diehl, Charles Crowell and Michael Villano along with therapist Kristin Wier are measuring how children diagnosed with autism respond to interactions with a humanoid robot during therapy sessions. The Notre Dame team is not developing the robot but rather is integrating it into therapy as a way to augment existing interventions. The idea is that the children often have an intrinsic interest in technology. The robot is technological but also has human characteristics. By practicing social interactions with the robot during therapy, children may be able to develop social skills in a more engaging and less stressful manner than with human. Robots don't react negatively and can reduce the stress of making social

mistakes. Once the children hone their social skills, they should be able to interact more smoothly with people. The challenge is to measure children's responses to the robots and improvements in their comfort levels over time. Therapists can gauge a child's reaction by looking at her overt behavior such as smiling and frowning. The team also wants to understand what is happening "beneath the skin" by measuring of physiological signs of stress such as electro-dermal activity (EDA - also known as skin conductance or Galvanic Response). Most affective measurement devices require confining children and attaching wires to them, which "simply wouldn't work" said Dr. Crowell.

### Key Activities

In October 2010, the Notre Dame team began testing the wireless, wearable Q Sensor on children to see how its EDA readings compare to readings from a tethered system BIOPAC Systems, Inc. that is often used in physiological research. The comparisons are "very similar" and "we're happy to use the Q Sensors for the projects," said Dr. Crowell.

Through the end of 2010 and into the spring of 2011, the team is piloting the Q Sensor on roughly 25 children with autism spectrum disorder who come to see Ms. Wier for services. In this pilot, they will use Q Sensors first to measure the children's affective response to therapists, then to therapy that involves the robot. Therapy can include practicing simple conversation, such as recalling their day in back-and-forth conversation. The robot acts as an additional participant who gives feedback to the child. It can even take over from the therapist as the interaction partner.

"One possible outcome of the project is the identification of any distinctive affective responses children with autism may have to robots in comparison to other humans," said Dr. Diehl.

*The project is supported by the National Institutes of Health Indiana Clinical Translation Sciences Institute and a Rodney F. Ganey, Ph.D. Collaborative Community-Based Research Grant.*

### Bottom Line

The wireless, wearable Q Sensor enables the Notre Dame researchers to measure children's affective response to robot-enhanced therapy without confining them to stationary measure devices.

### Future

If the pilot goes well, the team plans to start broader use of the robot-enhanced therapy and Affectiva Q Sensor in the spring of 2011. "We'll keep going as long unanswered questions remain or until we've exhausted all avenues of exploration. But we're looking for lots of positive results," said Dr. Diehl.

## **KAW VALLEY CIVITAN CLUB TAKES FLIGHT**

In recent weeks we have seen the beginnings of a new Civitan Club in the Topeka area.

The Kaw Valley Civitan Club started off slow but has gained momentum in the last month or so. The first few meetings have been filled with great information and heartfelt stories from members of the Topeka Civitan Club that meets at noon. So far the Kaw Valley club has 6 members who have joined and another 10 potential member and numerous others interested in attending to see what exactly Civitan is all about.

When asked why an evening club? Civitan International President Elect Bill Buscher said that an evening club offers an opportunity for those folks who would like to join Civitan but are not able to meet for a noon meeting a chance to meet after work.

The new Kaw Valley Club is in its early stages and will receive the support of the Topeka Civitan club until they feel they are able to fly on their own. With the number of talented professionals that have already signed up. It is the belief of many in the noon club it won't take long before they are well on into their first project and or community event.

The Kaw valley Civitan club meets every other Tuesday from 5:30 to 6:30 at TARC.

Everyone is welcome to stop by and see what's going on. See whose there, share a story or two make a new friend or build on an existing friendship. Civitan doing the work of the world and reaching out in service to others.

## **UAB Civitan International Research Center**

The UAB Civitan International Research Center is the culmination of over 50 years of Civitans helping those challenged by developmental disabilities. The Civitan International Foundation awarded a grant of up to one million dollars a year for 20 years to The University of Alabama at Birmingham for the creation of the UAB Civitan International Research Center, the first institution of its kind in the United States to be solely dedicated to research of developmental disabilities. This generous act by Civitans all over the world put in place tremendous human, financial, and technical resources to focus on the research and treatment of developmental disabilities.

Through interdisciplinary research, clinical services, and community programs, the UAB Civitan International Research Center improves the lives of people at risk for or affected by developmental disabilities. The Center conducts research on the development of the central nervous system, with special emphasis on human development and developmental disabilities. The Civitan-Sparks Clinics retain the same focus, but serves the developmentally disabled through various therapies and special needs programs. Because the Civitan International Research Center is a Center of

Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Research, Education and Service, it also provides training for professionals to become leaders in the field of developmental disability studies. The faculty and staff view each person within the context of the family, community and society, and offer specially tailored prevention and treatment programs.

### **Focus on Developmental Disabilities**

On the international level, Civitan is devoted to improving the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities. This focus began in the 1950s when Civitan funded some of the first special education training for school teachers. That commitment continues today through local and international efforts such as summer camps, vocational programs, Special Olympic Games and cutting-edge research, therapies and clinical services at the UAB Civitan International Research Center.



# Clergy Appreciation Day

Story submitted by Joe Zima

Every year in February, the Topeka Civitan Club observes Civitan International's "Clergy Week". This important event honors the service work of our local clergy in remembrance of the ultimate sacrifice made on February 2, 1943 by four U.S. Army chaplains (one Catholic, one Jewish and two Protestants) when their troop transport ship was sunk by a German submarine. As the *Dorchester* sank, the chaplains maintained calm as they handed out life vests. When they ran out, they willingly gave away their own vests to scared soldiers. Their act of sacrificial service to others will stand forever as a reminder of God's 11<sup>th</sup> Commandment that we love one another, as we love ourselves!

For more information, go to: [www.civitan.com](http://www.civitan.com) .

This year, our celebration was delayed by snowy weather until holy week in April. We were blessed with the attendance of several guest pastors, invited by our Civitan Club

members. Our speaker was Eunice Brubaker, Executive Assistant Pastor at the Fairlawn Church of the Nazarene. She is a native of the great state of Indiana and a die-hard Hoosier fan but has become a Wildcat fan, now that she is a transplanted Kansan! Pastor Brubaker is also the chaplain of the Kansas House of Representatives and she gave an inspirational talk about her past as a missionary for 13 years in the Philippines, her personal battle against cancer and her service to the men and women of the House of Representatives. She reminded us that it is often too easy to criticize our elected officials and that we should remember that they are human beings with the same troubles and needs as ours!



Eunice Brubaker, Executive Assistant Pastor at the Fairlawn Church of the Nazarene



# Most Devastating Storms in 50 Yrs Hit South

Submitted by Michael Hays

On Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> in Birmingham Alabama the weather was taking a turn for the worse. Many had made plans in case of bad weather, schools and Business closed. The news had been reporting the potential for damaging storms was likely in and around the Birmingham area. In the blink of an eye the storms rolled in and one of the worst if not the worst tornado outbreaks in 50 plus years in the South occurred. Topeka Civitan Bill Buscher and Civitan International president Elect was right in the middle of it. Having traveled to Birmingham earlier that day to attend the monthly board meeting. Bill found several board members had returned home to prepare and or access the damage from straight line winds that had already blown through the area.

Bill being born and raised in Kansas part of the infamous Tornado Alley. He had seen storms in his day. But this day in Alabama would be like none other Bill had ever witnessed or experienced firsthand.

When Topeka Civitan Club President Sharon Dodd finally got hold of Bill he was in a hotel lobby with other people watching weather updates as what very well maybe the storm of the century passed through the lives of all who were in its violent path. Topeka Civitan offers its Prayers and condolences for those who have been affected directly and indirectly by this horrific event. It has been said that the recovery will take time and the rebuilding may go slow but rebuild is exactly what they will do. And from the splinters those who had lost will find gain in the rebuilt neighborhoods and suburbs of Birmingham, Tuscaloosa and surrounding areas in Alabama.



## Civitan Club of Topeka honored Jr Civitan Club Seniors from Shawnee Heights High School

Submitted by David H. Fisher, Jr.

On April 28, 2011, the seniors from the Shawnee Heights Jr. Civitan Club were honored, at the Civitan Club of Topeka's noon luncheon, for outstanding community service.

Each senior was presented with a Community Service Award for their involvement in supporting special needs students and citizens in the Topeka area. Also attending the luncheon was the Jr. Civitan Club's sponsor, Dr. Renee Dexter who is the school psychologist and cheerleader coach.

The Jr. Civitan Club has about 40 members and is involved in several activities and projects. One unique yearly project is having a simulation seminar on the challenges disabled people have on a daily basis.

During the seminar the club members simulate many different types of disability. This helps club members understand and appreciate

the challenges of special needs citizens. Another unique project was, using the money they earned manning a concession stand at the Special Olympics Track & Field event; selling roses for Valentine's Day; and other projects, to provide a limousine to transport students from their school to a Prom for special needs students.

The Jr. Civitan Club also was involved in Special Olympics Bowling and raising around \$2,000 during the Polar Plunge fundraiser which helps special needs citizens at Topeka's Sheltered Living.



Jr Civitan Club's Co-Presidents Dylan Allen (left) and Cody Lawson (right) addressing the Civitan Club of Topeka's membership at the awards luncheon.



Seniors who attended the luncheon. From left to right are Dylan Allen, Cody Lawson, Kortney Sleep, & Erin White.

# TOPEKA CIVITAN AND SCOUT TROOP 478 TEAM UP FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Submitted by Michael Hays

Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 The sun rose bright over the stadium at Shawnee Heights High School. That usual chill was in the air which one has a hard time distiguishing whether it's the air temp or the goose bumps and anticipation of the days events. As the crowds gathered you knew something special was going to happen.

The stadium was a buzz of atheletes, parents, friends and family from across the state who came out to watch and cheer their sons and daughters, neighbors and friends as they competed in several Special Olympics track and field events.

Civitan's gathered at the awards tent like every year before. Where only weeks before the Topeka Civitan's had a scheduling confilct. When Special Olympics had to be rescheduled to the same Saturday as Topeka Civitan's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament their biggest fundraiser of the year. A call went out for help. And the Scouts and Parents of Pack 478 answered the call making this year even more special being able to team with our Scout friends.

Cub Master Scott Brunner and wife Tanya along with Civitan's helped guide the Scouts through the days events. Rhonda Hays and son Jacob, Dave Peterson and his son Christian along with Scott and Tanyas son Letyon worked the first shift of the day. These young volunteers were well prepared as any Scout would be. Followed directions and were very responsible in their duties. They made sure to get the awards to the podiums and help their parents along with the Shawnee Heights Cheerleaders in presenting those awards to some very special athletes. Second and third shiftS were worked by Lisa Rameriz and her two sons Andrew and Arron along with Jennifer Grogan and her son Connor.

Ms. Rameriz said "I enjoyd the day, and what a great experiece it was for the Kids"

President Dodd said it best.

"The youth of today are our volunteers of the future. These young men who came out on this Saturday and gave of their time are the leaders of tomorrow. Willing to learn and grow, to step outside their comfort zone to help friends in need. I am honored to have been able to work with with them and their parents"

It was a great day to be part of such a special event. It was a great day for the Athletes. A great day for Civitan's and a great day for the Scouts.



# TOPEKA CIVITANS 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER

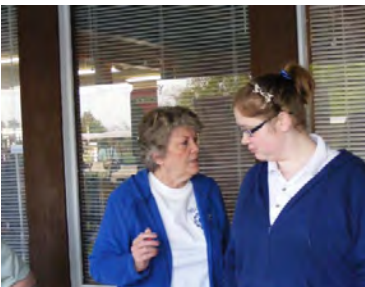
## From the Desk of Tournament Director Russ Cole:

The 2011 Civitan Golf Tournament was played Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>, but it is far from concluded. Thank you notes to the sponsors and donors still need to be mailed and in some cases to the players as well. Prior to thanking those folks though, I want to express my gratitude to the many Civitans that helped with the event. In particular I want to thank Marcia for all of her clerical work ahead of time and also working all day at the event. Thanks to Joe, for always responding when called upon for donor inserts, publications and advertisements. Thanks to Dave for not only working all day, but providing pictures of the hole sponsor signs and of the event itself. Thanks to Patty, Carolyn, Charity, Jan and Sharon for their many volunteer hours on the day of the event.

The event started out a little chaotic with the 7:30 shotgun start, but aside from that it went very well. We had the most golfers ever (19 teams), the most hole sponsors ever (51) and raised more money for our causes than ever before. Some things are still outstanding, but we should net over \$8,000 in profit! Many of our own members chose to sponsor holes this year, which helped immensely. They were Jan Howard, Marcia Dechand, Jack Shutt, Russ Cole, Vera Pearce (2), Ed Sable, Carolyn Edwards, Bill Buscher, Rick Biles (2), Ed Zeller, Barbara McGuire, Dave Fisher, Dean Robinson, George Evans, Brian Mills and Lynn Thompson.

If I've forgotten anyone, I apologize. I've asked Cypress Ridge for the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in May again for next. It's never too early to start lining up more players, donors and sponsors. Let's hope that the 7<sup>th</sup> annual event is even better!

Yours in Civitan  
Russ Cole



Photos by Dave Fisher  
And Michael Hays



# MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 6 <sup>TH</sup> annual Civitan Golf Tournament
8	9	10	11 Camp clean up day  Meeting Civitan Day Camp	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 NHRA Ticket taking 7AM-9PM	21 NHRA Ticket Taking 7AM-7PM
22 NHRA Ticket Taking 7AM-7PM	23 Board Meeting 6PM-7PM	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

# JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Business Meeting 12PM-1PM	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Breakfast Meeting Coyote Canyon 8AM-9AM
12	13	14	15	16 Civitans At TCTA The Boys Next Door 7PM to 10PM	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Board Meeting 6PM-7PM	28	29 No Noon Meeting 5 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday  Better pack a lunch	30		

# JULY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6 International Convention  Business Meeting Noon-1PM	7 International Convention	8 International Convention	9 International Convention
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Breakfast Meeting Coyote Canyon 8AM-9AM
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Meeting Civitan Day Camp 11:30AM – 1PM	28	29	30
31						



## Bracketology:

*The use of prior knowledge of basketball teams in the assorted Collage conferences. Choosing a potential winner based on stats of what has become known and March Madness;*

The winner of the first ever Topeka Civitan Bracketology contest was Lynn Thompson who was awarded for his hard work of choosing / guessing the potential winners of the bracket was mini K-State basketball. Over come with joy Mr. Thompson thanked his fellow competitors holding high for all the Kansas Jayhawks fans to see his prize.

Mr. Thompson said though he liked his prize. He could not display in his home such a magnificent artifact. That he would

always cherish this moment but this beautiful purple and white mini ball could serve a much greater need. And he donated it to be added to the Mothers Day basket to be given away at our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Golf tournament May 7<sup>th</sup>

As a Civitan Mr. Thompson truly showed how it is much better to give than to receive.



## Topeka Civitan Welcomes New Members

On May 4<sup>th</sup> 2011 three new members were installed into the Topeka Civitan Club.

International president Elect Bill Buscher sponsored new member Ryan Hellmer of Godell, Straton, Edmonds and Palmer. Ryan is an Associate in the firm.

Club Treasure Don Schultz sponsored Ms. Jeni Moss of TFI Family Services Inc. Ms. Moss is a Case manager at TFI and also the daughter of Mr. Schultz.

Civitan member Kris Green sponsored Ms. Miranda Souvannavong.

Ms. Souvannavong is the Manager of Triple A in Topeka and Lawrence.

We welcome Ryan, Jeni and Miranda to the club and look forward to many years of service with each of them.

With new members come new ideas and new opportunities for the Club to explore and to take part in.

## Civitan International Convention 2011 in New Orleans

The Topeka Civitan Club won the Big Fish award at the 2010 Civitan International convention. By winning the Big Fish award, the Topeka Civitan Club members will receive a 20% discount on their registration fee to the 2011 Convention in New Orleans.

2011 Civitan International Convention information and tentative schedule can be found at the Civitan website, [www.civitan.com](http://www.civitan.com).

Registration:  
\$ 176.00 (club members)  
\$ 220.00 (spouse or guest)

## Schedule Highlights:

**Wednesday July 6**  
Civitan Breakthru Golf Benefit Opening Ceremonies (evening)

**Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Opening Business Session  
Host District Function- Natchez Steamboat Cruise (Set up for Russ)

**Friday July 8**  
Workshops and Seminars  
President's Council Social (evening)

**Saturday July 9**  
Membership Extravaganza  
Elections  
Civitan Research Center Forum (afternoon)  
Installation Banquet (Bill Buscher of the Topeka Civitan Club will be installed as the 2011-12 International President)

**Sunday July 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Caravan will leave from New Orleans to drive to Birmingham Al.

**Monday July 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Civitan World Headquarters Tour (morning)  
Civitan Research Center Tour (afternoon)

# TOPEKA CIVITAN AND JR CIVITAN CLUBS CLEAN UP CIVITAN DAY CAMP

On Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup> Topeka and Shawnee Heights High School Jr. Civitan Club came together to form a unique and powerful team.

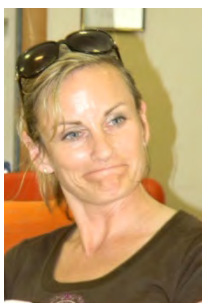
For the last few years the two clubs have come to Civitan Day Camp to rake leaves, trim sidewalks wash down equipment and put equipment out in anticipation of the campers arriving in a few weeks for a summer of friends and never ending fun at the camp..

This was not only a work day for both clubs but a mentoring opportunity for the Topeka Club as well as the Jr. Club to share new ideas.

The workers broke at noon for a lunch of grilled hotdogs, chips cookies and ice cold lemonade.

Topeka Civitan Joe Lolli who has been Camp liaison for several years along with Jan Howard, Patty Bottorff, Dean Robinson and Marcia Dechand organized this very special event.

In attendance were Special Guests James Robinson of Frito Lay Foods who came out to see first hand just what the camp was like. Also in attendance was the sponsor of the Jr. Club Dr. Renee Dexter. Civitan also met for the first time the new Camp Director Amanda Bridges who we look forward to working with long into the future of the Club and Civitan Day Camp



Photos by Dave Fisher and Michael Hays And Joe Zima

# PHOTO GALLERY

# Special Olympics Photos by Rick Biles



# Civitan Camp Clean up Photos by Joe Zima

