



SEPT / OCTOBER
2011

TOPEKA CIVITAN CLUB

TOPEKA CIVITAN CLUB PRESIDENT SAYS TIME TO GO BIG



First and foremost, I'm very proud and honored to be President of a Club with such amazing, loyal and generous members. We Civitans are a rare breed of people who not only say we put others before ourselves, we actually do it, and I consider it a great privileged to be able to rub elbows with each and every one of you.

This year as President I have two main goals, they are to get the most out of everything we do as a group for the benefit of who we serve, and to have fun doing it. My mission is truly as simple as that, but if you think about it, it's a very broad task as well.

We have a tremendously active and supportive club and I would like to tap into that potential to help us do even bigger and better things for our projects and community. I'm ready to take this bull by the horns and make a HUGE splash in our community, in the media and to the people we serve by challenging every one of you to do 50% more than what you did last year.

Just think of the potential.... What if half of our club put in half as much energy as Russ does for the golf tournament? What if each member brought in \$500 worth of sponsorships for the tournament? Instead of putting \$6-7000 in the bank, we could be looking at a deposit of over \$20,000 and I believe that IT CAN BE DONE if we all come together and use our collective talents as a club to "get 'er done!"

Just think of the SPLASH we could make in our community with that kind of money. Not only with that new income increase our support to those who we serve, it will increase our public image, and without a doubt help our membership numbers grow and grow! Heck, the International President is a member of OUR club---this year is the year we go big or go home and I say we go BIG. We can do this as a team, as a group, as friends and most importantly, as people who CARE about others and want to make a difference..... This can be a record year for Topeka Civitan if we all join together and show this town what WE are really made of. This won't be easy, but trust me my friends, it will be well worth it. But, the only way we are going to be able to make this happen is if we all get behind one another 110%, and give it everything we have (and I'm talking to myself, too).

I'm asking each and every one of you to get behind our two major fundraisers like never before. Our Golf Tournament and the new brainchild of yours truly, the Fruit Cake Fling. Again, if we put all our efforts into these two events, the sky is the limit....

Who is with me? It's time to get down and dirty as Civitans and I hope you'll roll up your sleeves and start kicking 'butts' and taking names. TOGETHER we can do anything we set our minds too... Let's not just make a difference, let's make a HUGE difference. Here we go....

TOPEKA CIVITAN AND HEARTLAND PARK TEAM FOR A DAY AT THE RACES 2011

On August 27th Topeka Civitan and Heartland Park of Topeka continued a long time relationship and worked together to provide some very special friends a day of fun and excitement. The Day at the Races project began 6 years ago and has been an anticipated event every year since it first began.

Heartland Park Topeka and Topeka Civitan hosted 85 friends from Sheltered Living of Topeka. Sheltered Living clients and support staff, family members and friends began arriving at 9a.m. They were met by Topeka Civitans and personally escorted to the suites by Tyler Kirby Heartland Parks Special Promotions Coordinator and Heartland staff. The thrill was in the air and the excitement could not be contained. Heartland Park opened up three suites to our friends. And provided staffing to help us with any of our needs.

Civitans had gathered the night before at President Dodd's home for a BBQ and sandwich making social. All together 120 sack lunches we lovingly put together in less than an hour that night. As everyone expressed their excitement for the next day's event.

There were several highlights through the day. One such highlight was when Civitans escorted a group of friends to the pits to see the many cars up close. Several of the group made a stop into the souvenir shop and purchased items from hats to key chains. As the group was walking back a few friends with Civitans broke away to go back and see if they could get autographs of some of the drivers. Not more than thirty minutes later here they came with a driver in tow. A driver had seen the group touring the pits and began to unbuckle his harness and jumped from his car before it even stopped as it was being towed to the garage area. He quickly approached a couple of our friends and said hey I got something for you. He handed our friends posters and shirts and signed them all. You might say the crowd was over whelmed by this one drivers out pour of love and generosity.

When President Dodd told him who she was with and what we were doing at the track that day he grabbed up his gear and said lets go. The driver leaving his car to his team made his way to the suites and spent a good forty five minutes talking to all of our friends letting them try on his helmet, signing autographs for everyone and telling the group gathered around him about his car.

As the event came to an end there were smiles all around, for the day had been made great by what we will call the Heart in the Heartland. There were no strange looks no harsh words only love being shared by all involved. A Day at the Races a time to share, reflect and know what giving of one's time is all about.





TOPEKA CIVITANS ANSWER THE CALL FOR MDA

For the fifth year in a row Topeka Civitans dressed in their navy blues to work one of the longest running Labor Day events. Topeka Civitans gathered at the WIBW television studio to work the local leg of the MDA Telethon with Melissa Brunner and Ralph Hipp of WIBW channel 13. Do to long time Host Jerry Lewis stepping down earlier in the year the telethons national format had changed. This year Civitans didn't start the show early at 6 a.m. on Monday morning (Labor Day). Instead Topeka Civitans worked in prime time Sunday night.

The 2011 MDA telethon aired Sunday night September 4th and ran 6 p.m. until midnight. Not the usual 24 hours it had run for the past 30 plus years.

The head of the Area Chapter of MDA Michelle Jones said "Seeing the Civitans on the air first to start the pledge drive has become a local tradition." And one Ms. Jones hoped we would continue long into the future.

The Hour went fast taking many more pledges than normal. That even in a down economy the hearts of millions of Americans can open up and give to a very worthy cause.

Special thanks to all of the Civitans who stepped up to the plate to work this very special event.

CIVITAN DAY CAMP SEES DREAM OF GARDEN COME TRUE



Topeka Civitans working hand in hand with Parks and Rec of Topeka and Keep America Beautiful of Topeka and Shawnee County built a sensory garden in Civitan Day Camp. The local flagship project of Topeka Civitan, Civitans have wanted for several years to include a garden of this type for the children and young adults who attend the camp each year. Topeka Civitans worked from early morning through the afternoon to help build the retaining walls that would hold this special garden. A Sensory Garden is filled with plants

and flowers which will stimulate the senses. From plants that are fuzzy to stimulate the sense of touch to the vibrant colors and aroma of many wonderful flowers to stimulate the sense of sight and smell.

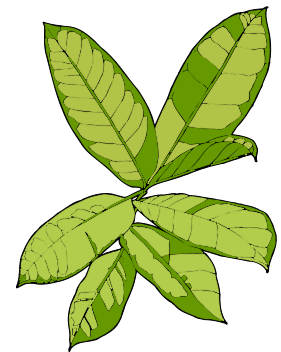
The garden in Civitan Day Camp was dedicated in memory of a long time advocate for children with special needs Ms. Linda Selbach. Ms. Selbach devoted 34 years to working with adults and children with disabilities. She worked for Sheltered Living, as a special education teacher in the Topeka Unified School District of 501 and as a case manager for people with disabilities for the state of Kansas.

In 2004 Selbach founded Dream Catchers, a Topeka- based organization for people with disabilities. After Ms. Selbach passed on Dec 31, at the age of 59 her colleagues at Dream Catchers were instrumental in having the sensory garden named in her honor.

Philicia McKee, executive director of Keep America Beautiful of Topeka and Shawnee County credited the Civitan Club of Topeka's work saying "These guys are good," "They know what they are doing. They're awesome."

Topeka Civitan Club President Sharon Dodd backed up Ms. McKee's sentiments by saying that the turnout of Civitan volunteers was phenomenal and the added help from Jr. Civitans and Frito Lay made the day even that more special.

When completed the Selbach Sensory Garden in the heart of Civitan Day Camp will be open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., expect during Civitan Camp hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Fridays the last week of May to the first week of August.



TOPEKA CIVITANS VOLUNTEER FOR CHILDRENS MIRICLE NETWORK RADIOTHON

Each August there is a call that goes out and Topeka Civitans answer the call. A call to help hundreds of children in the North East Kansas. Topeka Civitans for several years have taken part in the Childrens Miracle Networks three day radiothon to help raise funds for children of families who need medical attention and need assistance to get the much need treatments. Over the three days stories of families and of the children who have sought the assistance of CMN are aired. Several of the stories bring tears to the eyes of even the strongest of hearts. Phones are answered and pledges are taken to help provide assistance to the families. It may be as simple as a piece of medical equipment or as detailed as an opportunity to take a family trip together one last time and share an experience they may not have been able any other way.

The calls come in starting at 6a.m. and continue until 6 p.m. Some callers are folks who just have a need to give; others give in memory of someone special in their lives that they may have lost far too soon. Often the stories from the callers are as moving as those that are air all three days. Kara White with St. Francis Hospital and lead for CMN of Northeast Kansas has spoke at Civitan meetings the past few years and each year Civitans have listened to the needs of all the children from our local area. The children of our country are our future, and to be able to work with Children's Miracle Network allows us as Civitans the opportunity to invest in the future. Civitan President Chris Fisher has been instrumental over the years leading the charge for CMN. He along with Morning Radio personality Lani Novak have done some great things to help raise funds for CMN. Co-workers and the best of friends they do the 106.9 Country Legends Change Bandit Challenge. Chris and Lani are team captains of some wonderful people they call their bandits. Bandits go around and collect donations for CMN. Each team works hard to raise funds for CMN and their respective team captain. Lani and Chris (both extremely competitive people) put their own twist into the challenge and set a goal of sorts. That the team captain who brings in fewer donations has to do something crazy like wear a wedding dress all three days of the radiothon or take a pie in the face or in the past two years change the oil on the winning team captains bandits vehicles. Lani looked good in a wedding dress a few years ago and this year she advanced her knowledge of the inner workings of the combustion engine by changing oil for all of Chris Fishers bandits. But all kidding aside, everyone wins, and none more so than the children that Children's Miracle Network helps each year. Every dollar raised going to help them and their families in a time of great need.

The grand total raised for the radiothon this year was an amazing \$94,679.86



The Autism Story

By Jessica on October 21, 2010 ·

When Ashlyn was about three months old it became clear that there was not a parenting book out there that could help me. She did not meet her milestones. Well she did, just months, sometimes years, after they were supposed to come. We went from doctor to therapist to [educational psychologist](#). Autism was not the buzz word that it is now. and with severe gross motor delays, every doctor we met ordered x-rays and blood work and testing and testing and more testing. Some thought it was cerebral palsy, some a genetic disorder. No one really knew where to put us. In the meantime we spent two days a week at occupational, physical and speech therapy (by today's standards not nearly enough) and I waited for a diagnosis with a constant tug in my mind that they were all missing something. At three years old Ashlyn could say cheese and hot dog, she liked people but only adults, she hated the grass and the sand and tags in her clothes and getting her hair brushed and bright light and noise, but no one said autism. She started a special education pre-school 5 days a week and she thrived. There were kids in the class with classic autism and I did

not see my daughter in them so I thought that must not be it. Not knowing, at the time, that autism comes in as many shapes and forms as there are kids with the diagnosis. We plugged along with no "label" just piles of discouraging testing from the school countered by amazing gains the longer she was in a classroom setting. Eventually I learned of a nationally recognized autism expert who just happened to have an office close to us. I drove there thinking *I already know what he is going to say, I just need him say it*. He did not evaluate her the way the million doctors of the past three years had. He brought in a doll house and wanted to watch her play. She filled the doll house, with puzzles and books from the corner of the room. Then she took them all out and proceeded to put them all back in again. He looked at me as if there was never any question.



I will always remember that ride home. I felt an odd sense of relief that we finally had a diagnosis and could move forward, but was also scared out of my mind. Getting an autism diagnosis is like staring into a black hole. No one can tell you what your child's future will hold. Ashlyn is 15 now and has far surpassed any future I had imagined for her. If you were to meet her you would not see autism unless you looked for a minute or two and knew what you were looking for. She will talk your ear off, is great at math and can tell you all you ever wanted to know about cooking, her bus route and autism. In all seriousness, the road to get here has been rocky and we aren't "there" yet, wherever there may be. Every time I think we can coast for a bit we hit a bump and I fall off. I worry about what is happening, why it is happening and what we are going to do to keep it from happening again. She doesn't. Ashlyn just keeps on going as she always has.



Never knowing she has a story to tell at all.

TOPEKA CIVITANS RECEIVE HONORS AT INSTALLATION BANQUET OCTOBER 1ST 2011

Submitted by Patty Bottorff

CLUB HONOR KEY



The energy, enthusiasm, courage and deep down passion he exuded for helping others and building the club is more than obvious. When this nominee became a Civitan more than 5 years ago, the nominee brought with him great ideas, and great planning skills. The nominee always goes beyond what is required. The nominee is a great asset for this club. When there is a project to take on the nominee can be counted on to organize it and get the members involved. Honor Key Recipient - Michael Hays

CLUB HONOR KEY



Our second Honor Key recipient is a long time member of the Civitan Club of Topeka. Has held numerous offices and been involved with bell ringing, puts our roster together and we rely on this individual to keep us up to date on Civitan happens by e-mail. We can always count on this individual to be prepared if we need a fill in Chaplin and has provided the club with outstanding programs over the years. Even though it has been difficult year for this individual personally this nominee can attest that it's never too late to attend an International or District Convention. Our second Honor Key Recipient - Dave Fisher

TOPEKA CIVITAN OF THE YEAR



This person is always there to help with a project. This person has been our club secretary for 2 years and has done a great job. One nominator stated this person is the reason I joined Civitan, I have learned so much from this Civitan. The energy, enthusiasm, courage and deep down passion this Civitan exuded for helping others is more than obvious. This Civitan has participated in all of the numerous projects, bringing along this Civitan's spouse who is a project member to many of the events. This Civitan never says no, I don't think this Civitan knows the word. This Civitan is always there to lend a hand, give words of encouragement, and lead by example. Topeka Civitan Club 2011 Civitan of the Year - Carolyn Edwards

TOPEKA CIVITANS BILL BUSCHER LEADERSHIP AWARD



The Topeka Civitan Club is honored to be the home club of Civitan International President Bill Buscher. Bill has held many offices and has been instrumental over the years in helping the Topeka club grow not only in numbers but in knowledge of Civitan and its core values. Bill works hard to ensure that the Topeka Civitan club meets its goals and works the many hands on projects done each year. Bill has done many wonderful things in his life and being the President of Civitan International is a great honor. To honor Bill for all his work the Topeka Club tried to find an award this man had not won or been awarded. It was a task of mega proportions. The club decided that the best way to honor the man who has been so involved on so many different levels was to create the Topeka Civitan Bill Buscher Leadership Award. A very fitting tribute to a great man and a dear friend to all. On October 1st 2011 Civitan International President Bill Buscher became the first recipient of this award named in his honor.

FROM KANSAS, TO MT.OLYMPUS

Submitted by M. Hays



In the month of September the Topeka Civitan Club was graced with the presence of a world Champion. As this reporter sat at his table before the weekly meeting, in walked a hulk of a man. A man who walked with his head held high and had every head turning to see who he was. A man who when he sat down you could see the strength and confidence in his eyes. With a barrel chest and stove pipe arms, one did not have to guess but knew. That he had a strenuous workout program. No one gets that big without a lot of hard work and sweat. You couldn't help but be in awe of this true Olympian, this man whose drive rivals even the fiercest of competitors in his game.

Our guest this day was Brady Tanner World Champion Special Olympian. Tanner who this year traveled to Athens Greece for the 2011 World games. Tanner, a power lifter, traveled to Athens to compete in this year's world games and took home the gold in the dead lift, lifting 522.5 pounds;

gold in the bench press, lifting 335.5 pounds; and silver in the squat, lifting 495 pounds. Brady also earned another gold medal for his combined total in all three categories, which equaled 1,353 pounds.

Danny Lenz, a program coordinator for Special Olympics of Douglas County, said he had heard from Tanner's relatives, who were traveling in Greece, and said they were "just ecstatic."

Donna Zimmerman, senior vice president of communications for Special Olympics Kansas, said Tanner represented Team USA well. "We're just delighted with how the Kansas delegates performed," at the world games, she said.

Brady Tanner is from Lawrence and on June 16, 2011 prior to leaving for Athens the Lawrence City Commission read a proclamation declaring June 16 Brady Tanner Day.

This Olympian has the support of a very loving family who works with him each day and doesn't let him get by with not giving 110 percent. Not that Brady would try. Civitans were given the opportunity to see video footage of his lifts and when he was awarded the gold. Brady a gentle giant has the heart of a lion and the strength of a champion. The Topeka Civitan club was honored to be able to meet Brady and looks forward to following his accomplishments through the years.



From the Editors Desk

Submitted by Michael Hays

Over the past few months The Topeka Civitan Club has been trying out new locations to meet for their Wednesday meetings. Due the down turned economy and the rising price of food, their current location has had to raise the cost per meal. This has made the Topeka Club scout for new locations. From The Celtic Fox Bar and Grill, Kansas Grill and Odooleys Irish Bar and Grill, each potential venue has its own flavor and atmosphere, which appeals to some and not to others. While a general consensus may be possible, getting everyone to be happy with the venue when a decision is reached probably isn't possible. Now more than ever we need to keep our eyes on the big picture and ask ourselves exactly what we're trying to accomplish.

What goals are we hoping to meet? Who are we trying to help? Does it even really matter where we meet?

Some have said the décor of a place makes folks feel uneasy, where others may be used to a more elegant and formal setting. Some may find a bar distasteful where others may feel right at home with the wooden backed chairs, the plasma screen TV's and the less fancy food. And these are just some thoughts of the current members of a well established club whose friendships have stood the test of time.

What of the potential members who are brought to a meeting in hopes they might join? What would they say? Or would they? Would they be more worried about décor, location, and cost? Or what it is that they themselves are seeking to do.

Are they seeking a place to give of a very valuable commodity these days, their time? Or are they looking as to how being a member of a well established club will benefit them and possibly their carriers? Now I already hear it. That's a harsh statement. Yes maybe so, but one that has merit.

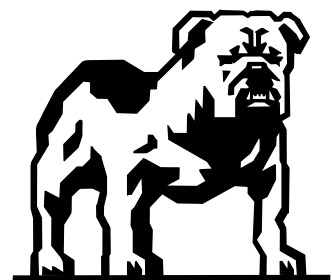
I understand from research and in speaking with current members that this is not the first time that the club has had to endure what we shall call growing pains. It is just the first time that newer members have had to deal with it. In the past, the Topeka Civitan Club has met at least three other locations. Each time a move has happened it was for the rising cost of food and the need to either raise the dues or find another more economical location. Dues are at a place where if raised may frighten the average everyday blue collar worker away. Then again it may not. It may be well within reach of the folks who are seeking a place to serve. But what if it does? I know several may say you can not dwell on what ifs you have to live in the here and now. True, very true. We should not dwell on our past or try and predict the future. Yet, he who forgets his past tends to repeat it.

The past few months has been a time of growing and reflecting. Sometimes even the best of friends have taken sides and stood opposite one another throwing verbal volleys. But as we all know everyone is entitled to their own opinion. It has at times made members who love being a part of the club rethink their very membership in the club. Some have expressed concern of leaving the downtown area. Many of our club members are well within walking distance of the current meeting location. And true as it is those who work downtown don't have to worry about parking. And yes any where the club might go downtown there would be the cost of parking on top of whatever the meal may cost.

What if there was a place on the west side of town. Who might that draw to a noon meeting? Would it hurt the current numbers in seeking newer numbers at another location? Or would it cause the club to grow even more building a stronger more unified organization. Who knows, maybe, maybe not? Again it's the what ifs and as it has been said before you can not dwell on the what if's.

But let's think about a few what ifs. What if Washington had not crossed the Delaware, What if Kennedy had not started the race to the moon, What if Dr. Shropshire had an idea of a club and not acted upon it? What if current members had never been invited to a meeting? What if breakfast meetings had never occurred, What if, yes what if, in its own right a powerful phrase?

Today many members do not care where the club meets. As long as it doesn't take from the greater good that can be done for those who Civitan serves here locally and abroad. That it be a place where this same debate doesn't need to be relived each year for every new Civitan President. A place which can meet the needs of a club and allow growth to occur. The time is now, to decide are we here to Serve or be served?



GEAR UP FOR A GREAT YEAR™

Submitted by David Hodges



We have been very fortunate these past few years to have great leadership. Year after year, we consistently have outstanding Presidents who are taking our club in very new and exciting directions. Dean Robinson, Joe Lolli, Mike Hays, Sharon Dodd and our current President Chris Fisher, just to name a few. Their vision is supported by the hard work and good nature of all our club members. But with Chris Fisher at the helm, what do we really know so far about the coming year?

Fewer fundraisers. I think we can all get behind this one. Two fundraisers a year. Period. Greater focus, support and execution on the ones we do have. This will free up a lot of time and reduce a lot of stress in trying to keep up with the growing demands of our project and general funds.

A continued tradition of service. All of us know why we're Civitans. It's because of the feeling we get when we help others. Thanks to a growing number of opportunities, there's more for us to reach and help than ever. We can expect nothing less in the coming year.

More events, more sharing, more reaching out to the community. Programs That Pack A Punch. Whether it's a business meeting, a membership meeting, a board meeting or even a Program Meeting, I think it's safe to say you can expect the unexpected.

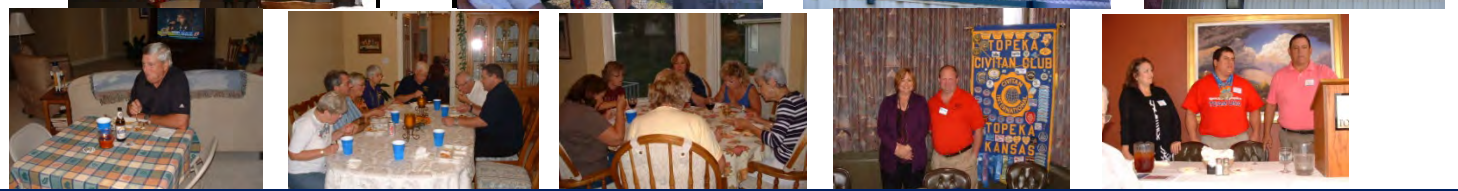
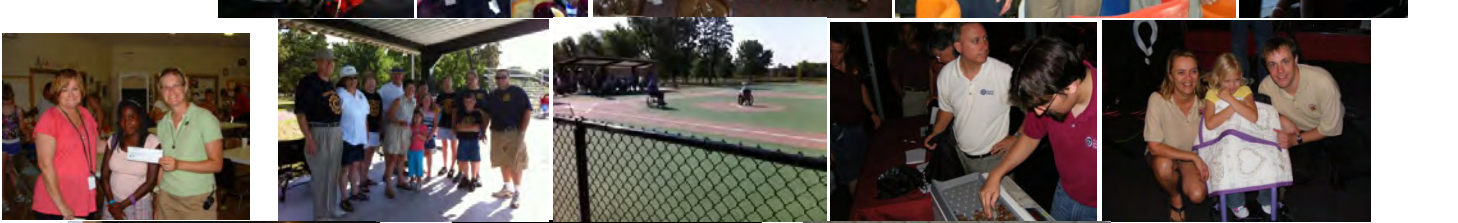
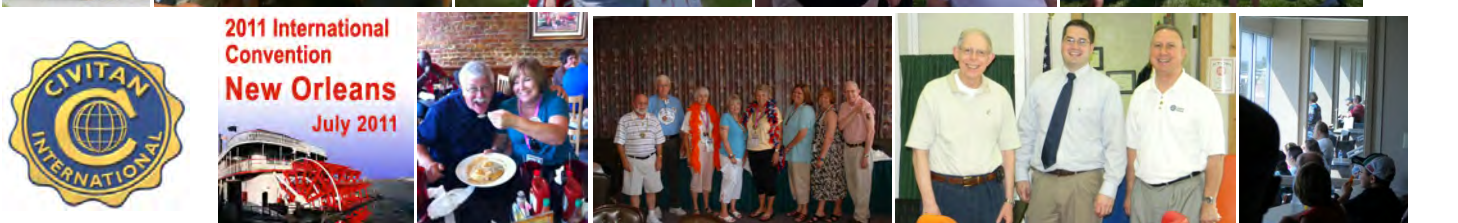
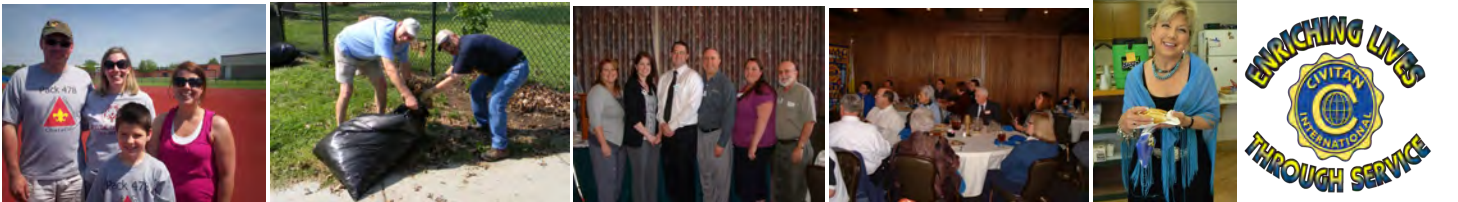
After all, Chris did substitute the word yes for "Yeehaw," didn't he? Brian Mills and Chris Phelps are working hard to bring us some very exciting programs this year and it will be fun to see who they get next.

More fun. What kind of mind comes with a way to turn what is basically a traditional Christmas time item into ... artillery? Chris Fisher's. The "Fruitcake Fling" promises to be unlike any event ever hosted by the Topeka Civitan Club. Given our fifty plus year history, that's really saying something. With Chris Fisher's radio background, Mike Hays' building skills and Keith Mazachek's engineering skills, this event promises to be a lot of fun.

So several weeks in, we know a little bit more about the coming year than we did before. We know we're going to reach people. We're going to help people. We're going to have fun and we're going to have a lot of fun together. We're going to raise some money we're going to give it to those who need it. We're going to roll up our sleeves and we're going to work very hard. We know we are going to have one great year. Please join me in helping Chris Fisher make this year, our best year, ever. Artillery and all.



Were out of shells up here. Got anymore of Sarge's Grandma's fruitcake?

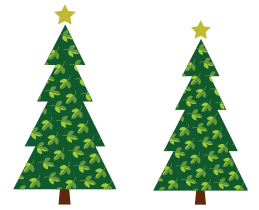


NOVEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Board meeting 6 pm WIBW	2 12pm to 1pm Business meeting	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 12pm-1pm Program meeting	10 5:45pm-9:00pm Dancehouse	11 	12
13	14	15	16 12pm-1pm Program meeting	17	18 CASA Holiday Home Tours	19 CASA Holiday Home Tours Breakfast meeting 8am (location TBA)
20 CASA Holiday Home Tours	21	22	23 NO MEETING HOLIDAY	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30 NO MEETING 5 TH WEDNESDAY			

DECEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 Board meeting 6 pm WIBW	6	7 12pm to 1pm Business meeting	8 5:45pm-9:00pm Dancehouse	9	10
11	12	13	14 12pm-1pm Program meeting	15	16 Salvation Army Bell Ringing	17 Breakfast meeting 8am (location TBA)
18	19	20	21 12pm-1pm Program meeting	22	23	24
25 	26	27	28 12pm-1pm Program meeting	29	30	31 

JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 Board meeting 6 pm WIBW	4 12pm-1pm Business meeting	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 12pm-1pm Program meeting	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 12pm-1pm Program meeting	19	20	21 Breakfast meeting 8am (location TBA)
22	23	24	25 12pm-1pm Program meeting	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Foundation Mission & History

Courtesy of Civitan International web site

Mission Statement: To build good citizenship by providing a volunteer organization of clubs dedicated to serving individual and community needs with an emphasis on helping people with developmental disabilities.

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the Civitan International Foundation is to support the educational, scientific and charitable endeavors of Civitan International.

History of the Foundation: The Civitan International Foundation was formed in 1960 as a way for Civitans to make tax deductible contributions to Civitan International in support of its projects. Civitan International's founder, Courtney Shropshire, died shortly after its creation in 1965. Upon his death, the Foundation's first official program, the Courtney W. Shropshire Memorial Scholarship Fund, was founded. Through the generosity of Civitans, thousands of students have been aided in the advancement of their education.

The Foundation first funded a wide range of projects in the 1960s, including the work of Radio Free Europe, the American Red Cross, Boy Scouts of America, the American Heritage Foundation, the National Association of Retarded Children, the National Safety Council, and the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge.

In the 1970s, Civitan participated in President Gerald Ford's program to resettle Vietnam refugees. They joined with the National Association for Retarded Citizens (NARC) to promote awareness of mental retardation through a public information campaign. In 1973, the Foundation helped the NARC respond to thousands of annual inquiries about services for retarded citizens. The Foundation made an \$85,000 commitment to fund the Civitan Public Inquiry Program at NARC. By the late 1970s, the program had handled over 600,000 inquiries.

The Foundation's support of the International Special Olympic Games began in 1979. Civitan donated \$500,000 and provided 50 volunteers for the 1979 games in Brockport, NY. In 1983, Civitan became a "prime sponsor" of the games in Baton Rouge, LA, donating almost \$500,000 and supplying hundreds of volunteers. Civitan continued its support by providing half of the budget and hundreds of volunteers for the 1987 and 1991 games.

In the 1980s, the Foundation began its support of the Osmond Foundation's Children's Miracle Network annual telethon. By 1987 it was the most successful telethon in the nation, due in part to Civitan volunteers and hundreds of thousands of dollars donated to the cause. In 1988, Junior Civitans alone raised over \$100,000 for Children's Miracle Network.

In 1988, Civitan's Board decided to focus Civitan International's resources on a flagship institution committed to providing clinical services and doing research in the area of developmental disabilities. After reviewing numerous proposals, the Flagship Study Committee voted unanimously to recommend the University of Alabama at Birmingham as the site of Civitan's flagship institution, and the Civitan membership adopted the proposal at the 1989 international convention. The UAB Civitan International Research Center was created with a 20 million dollar commitment by the Foundation. Since its founding, the Research Center has made many important discoveries, provided clinical services to children and adults with developmental disabilities, and used Civitan's funding to secure tens of millions of dollars in research and program grants.

While the Research Center continues as the Foundation's flagship project, and Shropshire Scholarships are still extended to dozens of students each year, the Foundation's role continues to evolve. New projects and programs are on the horizon as the Foundation remains focused on supporting the educational, scientific, and charitable endeavors of Civitan International.