

## SummerFest 2011: A Big Success!

The club's annual PancakeFest, CartFest and booth were a big success once again this year at Ankeny's SummerFest. It was an early start on Saturday, but thanks to all the AKC members who were able to help set-up and serve breakfast. Over 200 people enjoyed pancakes and sausage during PancakeFest.

Thanks also to the SE Polk Kiwanis Club for once again lending their griddle to our club. A special thanks to **Mike Bennett** for keeping the griddle running and ensuring the pancakes turned out well.

Thanks also to Gavin for doing the quality control taste testing...we want to have a quality product and he took one for the team.

A special thanks to all of our PancakeFest and CartFest sponsors. Thank you!

### Meet Our Newest Member...

**Welcome to Katie Heim, AKC's newest member!** From Ann Arbor, MI, Katie and her husband JP moved to Ankeny with daughter Elizabeth in 2009. She and Jeff Damman opened the newest Two Rivers Bank & Trust location in Ankeny in July 2010, where she is Sales & Service Manager for the branch and for all Central Iowa retail branches. She received the 2010 Board of Directors Sales and Service Excellence Award and is an active member of Women of Worth, a women's networking group. Katie and JP are expecting their second child later this fall. Welcome to AKC, Katie! At right: New Member Induction of Katie by Jan Burch

### 2011 Sponsors:

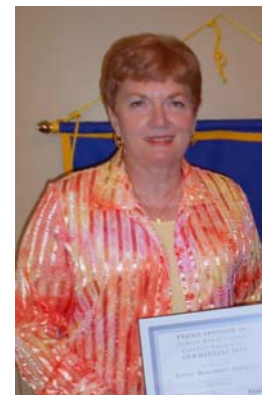
- AgriStar by Albaugh Inc.
- Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce
- Jan Burch & Bob Mitchell
- Edward Jones
- Executive Services
- Gateway Insurance Services
- Green's Appliance
- Iowa Pork Producers
- Lacey Mediation Services
- Mrs. Clark's
- Northwest Bank
- NutriShop
- 72 Degrees
- Tasteful Dinners-Ric Kerr
- Waterfront Seafood Market
- Wig & Pen



PancakeFest patrons enjoying all you can eat pancakes.



Above, Jan Burch and Bob Mitchell receive an appreciation certificate for serving as sponsors; below, Karon Lacey receives the certificate given to her and Mike Lacey for Lacey Mediation Services.



# Gavin's Corner

## For the Love of the Snack



Gavin Jerome doing quality control on the sausages as we get ready for Pan-cakeFest.

"If you come to a fork in the road, take it."

~ Yogi Berra

I have to admit the concept was a little strange to me...

At Kiwanis Miracle League, teams play ball for two innings, everybody scores and every game ends in a tie. Mindboggling.

You see, I grew up in a town where dreams go to die and hope never springs eternal. Except on the baseball diamond. And we played baseball for blood...for our township, for pride. Not keep score? Are you kidding me? What is the point?

So my first day volunteering at Kiwanis Miracle League field began with utter confusion as to just what this thing was all about. They had me working the concession stand. Now, those who know me will immediately recognize the sheer absurdity of that situation. Picture Charlie Sheen with a job at Medicap Pharmacy and you get the idea... (Winning...) I immediately spotted a potential problem. The concession stand had gotten 3 new boxes of candy bars, three different types of candy, none of which had wrapper representation on the "items we offer" corkboard. I knew I had to act fast, but I wasn't fast enough as fellow Kiwanian and concession stand veteran Todd Ashby quickly purchased a king sized 3 Musketeers bar, one of the rogue candies that had yet to earn a place on the corkboard. He quickly devoured it until only the wrapper remained. I sprung into action. There were only two new bars left and I didn't want to get stuck with something nasty. Luckily for me, one box was the familiar orange of a Kit Kat.

A "king sized" Kit Kat no less...For those of you in the know, a king sized Kit Kat is roughly the size of a Buick hubcap, give or take. I didn't want to eat this whole thing at 10 am in the morning but I am a giver. I felt I owed it to the good patrons of Kiwanis Miracle League field to let them know what a tremendous bargain a king sized Kit Kat bar is for just a buck. I would have to take one for the team...I hoovered my hubcap and made sure the wrapper was placed prominently on the corkboard. With that crisis averted, I began working the concession stand. It was quiet at first, a hot dog here, a cup of coffee there, nothing even a rookie like me

couldn't handle. I was told to prepare for the mad rush between games. Players are given a free drink ticket to exchange at the stand and they will "swarm" the stand like cheetahs on a gazelle.

We were supposed to make sure that we collected all the tickets in exchange for their beverages and make sure the players didn't abscond with anything other than a free drink. A daunting task to be sure, protecting the bags of chips and box of Airheads that were lying casually on the concession stand counter. We were the last line of defense and I was taking my deployment seriously.

Sure enough, as the Orioles and the Mets finished game one in a 28-28 tie, the players began to exchange their free tickets gleefully. We handled the first wave flawlessly and defended the chips admirably.

But then, out of the corner of my eye, I saw him...

Dressed in black, moving with catlike swiftness and the precision of a neurosurgeon he struck, grabbing a can of Diet Coke and disappearing into the mass of orange and blue jerseys of the first game's players.

That is what gave him away. The colors he wore were those of the "hated" Yankees, who were playing the Florida Marlins in the SECOND game. Obviously it was the NEW YORK Yankees that stirred such malevolent distaste inside me but that mattered not at this point. It wasn't his TIME to get his free drink. His team hadn't played yet and already he was trying to refresh himself with an ice cold can of Diet Coke. He must be stopped at all costs. Yankees MUST play by the rules. If not in the major leagues like every other franchise, at least I can enforce my sense of justice in my corner of the world. Yankees in all walks of life must learn they can't just take whatever free agent or free beverage whenever they want...I got caught up in another rush of customers so I was unable to vault the counter and chase after the "perp" Jack Bauer style who had just "procured" a beverage before his appointed time. Good thing too, as I had a near metric ton of Kit Kat bar still sitting in my stomach which prevented me with moving with my usual grace and agility of a jungle cat.

A short time later, a sweet older lady approached our counter with a look of consternation on her face and an apology on her lips. "I am SO sorry, Michael took this and he wasn't supposed to..." she offered sheepishly. So, my arch nemesis was named Michael...fitting...I tried to muster a smile of absolution as I quickly grabbed the "ill gotten booty" from her hand. "No harm done," I offered as I quickly placed the can of Diet Coke back into the cooler. Mid way through the second game, we had a steady stream of customers ordering hot dogs, hamburgers and popcorn. I swear I turned my back for just a second, to order a walking taco without sour cream to our gal in the back who was slaving over the crock pot of taco meat when Michael struck again.

He knew better than to attack MY counter and his target was the second window next to me manned by fellow a Kiwanian named Larry. Larry was slow taking his free drinks off the counter and it cost him. Michael reached for a Sprite this time and was gone in a blur of black Yankee jersey. Before I could open my mouth to object, Larry had reached for his wallet, placed a dollar and a quarter into the register to pay for Michael's indiscretion. I was stunned. Larry, even though he was further rewarding the bad behavior of a "Yankee", was truly a giver.

He began to chuckle as the same sweet lady brought the soda back to the counter from which it came. “Sorry, Michael gets a little excited...” she explained.

“Take it,” Larry said. “It’s paid for...”

Confused, Michael’s handler accepted the Sprite and backed away from the concession stand. The game raged on. The Florida Marlins were pummeling the Yankees but somehow the Bronx Bombers came back to tie the game in the second. It ended in a 21 -21 tie. Soon, the Marlins and the Yankees descended on the concession stand with pure joy in their hearts and free tickets in their hands. Excitement was everywhere and Marlins and Yankees mingled together in perfect harmony, all with a single solitary objective, the free beverage and possibly a snack. It was then and only then did a wave of enlightenment hit me. I finally got it. I finally understood what this was all about. To these players, the score didn’t matter. It didn’t matter whether they vanquished their rivals and obtained bragging rights for the rest of the season.

For them, they did not play for the love of the game; they played for the love of the snack.

And when you think about it, isn’t that what life all boils down to anyway?

My playing days are long over and life has become a series of obstacles, trials and tribulations. But through it all, I play for the love of the snack. I will do many things as long as there is food involved at the end.

I know I am not alone here...When you get to be my age, you can get through anything as long as there is a snack associated with it. My time at Kiwanis Miracle League revealed a revelation about myself, about life in general. In all future endeavors, if I want to put joy and bliss back into my life, I need to be like these kids and play for the love of the snack. If you are struggling in today’s economy, dealing with the stress and strain of the rat race, try changing the game a little. Stop worrying about the score. Stop measuring yourself in terms of winning and losing, victory or defeat.

Start playing the game for the love of the snack.

Like these players at Kiwanis Miracle League, joy and happiness are sure to follow you for the rest of your days. It took the smiling, ninja-like Michael to reveal that simple truth to me and put life into clear perspective. It took Michael, and the wonderful woman who “had his back” to put me in my place and reveal how silly and petty I have been trying to keep score all these years.

Damn Yankee...

***\*Save the Date: Thursday, Sept. 29th***

**Happy 5th Birthday, AKC!**

Instead of holding our regular meeting on September 22nd, we'll have a celebratory dinner at Waterfront on the 29th.

Please plan to attend as we induct 2011 - 2012 officers/board members and close out the Kiwanis year.

\*Spouses/families are invited to attend! Official invite to follow soon.

**Did you know...?**

...that Kiwanis members can purchase items through the online Kiwanis Store? Just about anything you can think of (from shirts, jackets, and hats to key chains, pens, and jewelry) can be found at [www.store.kiwanis.org](http://www.store.kiwanis.org), featuring the "Kiwanis" name and/or logo! Revenue from the retail store helps support the programs and activities of Kiwanis, so log on and shop to your heart's content!

...that the Membership Meeting on September 1st is likely to put our total club membership total to the number needed for us to receive a significant reimbursement of money paid to Kiwanis International this year? Growing our membership by 25% in one year (October 1– September 30) entitles the club to a return of some of the money paid to KI in October—an additional incentive to continue to hold membership meetings and invite friends, family, \*anyone\* to consider joining our club!

...that our club earned "Distinguished Club" status in 2008 - 2009...and again in 2009 - 2010...and that we are poised to do so for the current year ending September 30? Clubs earn points for growing/retaining membership, for sponsoring youth clubs/Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs like Key Club, for submitting monthly reports to KI on time (thank you, Katie McKinney!)—for various activities important to creating and maintaining a vital club. For this year, the number of points needed to gain Distinguished status increased from 80 to 100 points...and our club has been at 110 points for several months now. Let's close the year at 110+ points!

...that Ankeny Kiwanians are a busy bunch of folks who make time to have FUN together working on behalf of kids? Okay, you did know that. But did you know that Shana and her family will spend two weeks in January/February 2012 in Hawaii? And Pete and his family will spend the last week of September through the first two weeks of October on safari in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa? Did you know that Gavin met his wife Sandy when he was a senior at UNI—or that they will spend Gavin's birthday on September 3rd participating in the 'Walk A Mile In Their Shoes' walk-a-thon to benefit Hope Ministries' work in helping the homeless of Central Iowa? Did you know that Mike Sharp is from Mason City, Iowa...that Cory's a Kansas City Chiefs fan...that Dale's brother was Todd's RA in college? While volunteering, we laugh together and have a great time getting to know one another better. As we move through another busy month, we'll have fun learning more about each other as we make time to work together—and change the world, one child and one community at a time!



## AKC is One—and Your Business can Become a Miracle League Team Sponsor, too!

Ever wanted to own a baseball team? Now's your chance! You or your business/employer can become a team sponsor for the 2011 Fall Season of the Kiwanis Miracle League. What better way to help the League than to help financially? Whether as an individual, a couple, a company, or a club, all can “own” a team and help Kiwanis continue to offer this fun baseball experience at no cost for the kids in our communities. Not only will you (or your group) have the satisfaction of helping out financially, you will know that you are helping to make a difference in these kids' lives. In exchange for \$500, you will receive:

- A dugout banner for booth the spring and fall seasons;
- A listing on our web site—[www.kiwanismiracleleague.org](http://www.kiwanismiracleleague.org);
- Listings in various Kiwanis Miracle League brochures and publications; and
- Satisfaction knowing that you are helping make a difference in the lives of kids!

Act today! Download the [2011 Team Sponsor brochure](#) from the KML web site, provide the necessary information, and mail your check. You WILL be making a difference!



Above: Team sponsor signs are placed around the field for the duration of the season.



Above: Gavin, Shana, Mike and Cory “work” the concession standing during the Fall 2011 opening day of Kiwanis Miracle League on August 27.



Above: Mike Sharp buddies up with a player during Fall 2011 Kiwanis Miracle League opening day..

### **Congratulations, Bob Mitchell!**

Bob Mitchell was elected Governor-Elect on August 6th for the NE-IA District for 2011 - 2012; he will serve as Governor for 2012 - 2013. Way to go, Bob!



Kerry Walter-Ashby and Scott Pierce (Downtown DM Club) nominate Bob Mitchell for Governor-Elect at the NE-IA District meeting.



Ankeny Kiwanis Club

**Kiwanis**

International

admin@ankenykiwanis.org

www.ankenykiwanis.org

**Recent Birthdays!**

- **Shana Lancaster — July 19**
- **Dan Kavadas— August 31**

**Upcoming Birthdays!**

- **Gavin Jerome — September 3**
- **Kerry Walter-Ashby— September 15**

**Ankeny Kiwanis Club Officers and Board Members**  
2010—2011

Kerry Walter-Ashby—President  
 Jennifer Denny—President Elect  
 Sharlyn Hulling—Immediate Past President  
 Michael Sharp—Treasurer  
 Katherine McKinney—Recording Secretary  
 Jan Burch—Board Member  
 Gavin Jerome—Board Member  
 Karon Lacey—Board Member  
 Mike Lacey—Board Member  
 Bob Mitchell—Board Member



## Ankeny Kiwanis Club Calendar

**Upcoming Meetings**

**September 1—**  
Membership Meeting

**September 8—**Guests from Golden K to discuss 10/15 pancake breakfast (AKC selling tickets)

**September 22—**No Meeting—combined with September 29 anniversary dinner

**Upcoming Events**

**August 29—**Ankeny Park Board Meeting

**August 31—**Key Club—Meals from the Heartland

**September 24—**AKC to work at KML , 8:45—11:30 AM

**September 25—**Wiffle Ball Tourney at KML

**September 26—**HuHot Fund Raiser with Key Club, 4:30 p.m.

**September 29—**AKC 5th Anniversary Celebration at Waterfront Restaurant

**October 15—**Golden K's pancake breakfast at Elwell Food Center, State Fairgrounds



“Pete” driving another group to the SummerFest festivities.