



**EXCHANGE CLUB OF ROCKVILLE
NEWSLETTER**

www.rockvilleexchangeclub.org

The meeting was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at Beni's Restaurant in Vernon, CT and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Todd Gottier. We had 25 members in attendance and 2 guests. Our guests were Judy Clarke, Executive Director of KidSafe and Robin Kohler, Deputy Director.

Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation by Mike Riley

Health and Wellness Report:
Nothing to report

Note from me, Kathy Luginbuhl, Secretary:

I would like to personally extend our thanks on behalf of the Club, to Judy Clarke and Robin Kohler for being our guests at this meeting. For those of you that were there, I am sure you left with a new and renewed appreciation for all that they do for KidSafe.

Judy gave a very informative presentation of personal stories she has encountered with past clients, and the new affiliation they have with the Village of Family Services (VFS), and so much more. KidSafe is a subcontractor of VFS and it is a 3 year renewable contract. She spoke of the Youth Program at Cornerstone and how they see between 135 and 150 kids PER WEEK and even more over the summer.

She told us how there is a "major problem" in Vernon and Ellington Towns with sex trafficking. This was very sad news to hear! She also told us that bullying is a major problem as well. Warned us all to watch what the kids are doing on their computers. There is a lot of terrible stuff out in the world that can just appear on your child's computer and we need to be aware of it and act upon it. I know for myself, I found the information she provided to be overwhelming!

She also told us that they have been awarded \$200,000.00 from the Village of Family Services for renovation to the inside of the KidSafe house. The plans are to put in new carpets, fix interior walls, renovate the basement, (make it dry storage area), new furniture, appliances, sinks, toilets etc. They are very excited and so are we! There is one final approval that the need to receive from the bond Commission and they expect that soon. It will take six to eight months to complete the project. VFS will be taking over the third floor of the building for their use.

Judy encourages her staff to go for as many training programs as possible.

So much more information was shared. They will be back again to speak to us and I hope that more of you will plan to attend and hear firsthand all the exciting things taking place there.

KidSafe Report:

Jerry Bundy gave a quick update on the Kars for Kids Program. More vehicles have been donated and they are currently working on them. He also stated that the Fried Dough Wagon is 26 years old! The spare tire blew out from dry rot and Town Fair Tire donated new ones. Thank you to them! He also noted and thanked John Luginbuhl for completing the inside of the trailer. Now the outside must get done. Bill Johnston asked if anyone else is interested in trailer advertisement. It can be done on an individual basis as well as a business.

KidSafe Car Show:

Bill Johnston and Janice Kiristis are looking for some help from club members for this event. A lot of planning goes into this and they have meetings underway. If you could help them, please plan on attending a meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Italian Club. Please feel free to contact them with any questions. Trophy Sponsorships are available for \$100.00 per person. Actual trophies are in the works.

Scholarships:

Mike Riley gave a report that all candidates will be decided upon by the middle of May and the schools will be notified. He also reiterated how many students are in need. He applauded the candidates for being so strong in changing the pathway of life they have lived and to pursue further education and the scholarships.

Upcoming event:

Todd Hany gave an update on our **Annual Golf Tournament** that is rapidly approaching. The date is **Monday, June 29th at Ellington Ridge Country Club**. We are asking for tee sponsors, golf foursomes and raffle prizes. It would be greatly appreciated if all the club members would contribute what they can and get some foursomes set up. Please send in or bring to the next meeting any tee sponsors, raffle prizes or lists of foursomes to us. We are counting on all of you to help us make this an even better and more successful event than last year!



Susan Spellacy will be mailing out the golf brochures to all members this week. If you don't receive one or need more, please let her know. We have plenty!

Remaining meeting dates for Spring 2015:

- Wednesday, May 20th: Travel Meeting to Basil's Restaurant - Stafford
- Wednesday, June 3rd: Beni's Restaurant – Vernon
- Wednesday, June 17th: Beni's Restaurant – our final meeting before summer break – Award of Scholarships

Please mark your calendars with the upcoming dates to remember:

- Senior Picnic at Henry Park: June 20, 2015
- Golf Tournament: June 29, 2015
- July in the Sky: July 1, 2015; rain dates July 2nd or 3rd
- Vernon Carnival: July 22nd – July 25th
- KidSafe Car Show: August 22, 2015

We had signup sheets available at the last meeting for all of the above events and still need more people to help us. Especially at the Carnival. Please think about what you can help us with. We need everyone to do their part.

The 50/50 was won by Mark Fox; who in turn gave it to Judy and Robin to pass along to Paula of KidSafe to buy pizzas. That was extremely generous and so appreciated. Thank you Mark!

The bottles were won by Robin Kohler and John Luginbuhl who handed it over to Judy Clarke. Again, that was very generous John! Thank you!

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Thought for today:

Some people never contribute anything positive to society, they may even drain our resources, but most of us try to do something better, to give back.

Martin Yan