



The Medina Kiwanis Brick



“serving the children of the world”

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www.kiwanis.org



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Child Safety Training

At our February 26 meeting, Erin Grohe and Madison Davisson delivered a powerful and important presentation on child safety. Madison, the new Executive Director of The Children’s Center of Medina County, and Erin, who directs CASA and the Children’s Advocacy Center, shared information that was both eye-opening and practical for anyone who works with or around children.

Their presentation covered the many forms abuse can take, including physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, cyber abuse, neglect, grooming, human trafficking, and sextortion. One of the strongest messages was that abuse is not always obvious. Warning signs can be subtle and may show up through changes in behavior, mood, communication, or comfort level rather than visible physical evidence.

The presenters also explained why children often do not speak up right away. Fear, shame, confusion, loyalty, and uncertainty can all keep a child silent. They emphasized the importance of responding appropriately if a child shares a concern: stay calm, listen, reassure the child, and report the situation rather than trying to investigate it yourself.

The program tied directly into Kiwanis youth protection practices and reminded us that child safety is not just a policy, it is a responsibility. During the discussion, Kerry Kelley also shared a personal experience from a Kiwanis event in which subtle signs raised concern. Rather than dismissing what seemed small, she trusted her instincts and escalated the situation to the appropriate people.

As Kiwanians, we are committed to serving children. This presentation was an important reminder that protecting them begins with awareness, prevention, and the willingness to speak up when something does not feel right.



Pictured: Erin Grohe and Madison Davisson

Schedule

- March 12**
Judge Alice Batchelder
- US Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals
 - March 16**
Satellite Club
 - March 18**
Board Meeting
 - March 19**
Macy Hallock Essay Contest
 - March 25**
Project MUNCH
 - March 26**
Key Club Model Meeting
-
- April 2**
Service Project - Packing for Easter Bunny Drop Offs
 - April 9**
Care Packages for Ronald McDonald House
 - April 13**
Satellite Club
 - April 15**
Board Meeting
 - April 16**
Anna Slepecky - Polka
 - April 22**
Project MUNCH



Valentine's for the County Home

Thank you to Kimberly and Marty Gaska for helping us continue our annual tradition of providing Valentine's Day cards to residents of the Medina County Home.



Top Left: Marty Gaska **Top Right:** Anna Slepecky, Julie McNabb, Aaron Harrison

Bottom Left: Tim Nelson, Sue Milligan Russell, Linda Hoffmann **Bottom Right:** Hank & Nanette Waite



Kiwaniis
CLUB OF MEDINA



Our annual Easter Ham Fundraiser sale is underway!!

Orders and payments are due to Brian Harr by March 26.

Akron Children's Brings Its Mission to Medina Kiwanis

At our February 19 meeting, Katy Fuerst from Akron Children's Hospital shared an inspiring look at the hospital's impact in our community and the care it provides for children and families across the region. She spoke about Akron Children's long history, its commitment to treating every child as they would their own, and its continued growth as an independent, community-governed children's health system focused solely on kids.

Katy also highlighted Akron Children's growing presence in Medina County, including the new Medina Health Center, which brings primary and specialty care closer to home for local families. With pediatricians, specialty services, and rehabilitative care all in one location, the center is helping meet the needs of children in Medina County and beyond.



Pictured: Katy Fuerst and Kerry Kelley



One of the most meaningful parts of the program came from Katy's son, Hendrix, who bravely shared his personal story of brain injury and his experience as a patient at Akron Children's. Hearing directly from Hendrix brought the hospital's mission to life in a powerful way and reminded us that behind every statistic is a child, a family, and a journey.

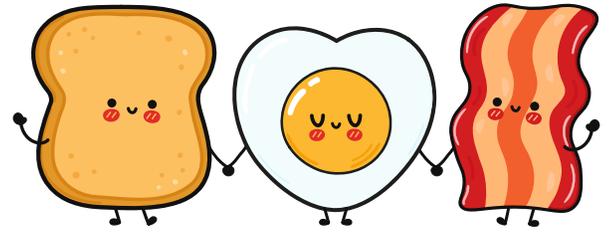
Katy also shared ways our club can support Akron Children's through giving, volunteering, and participating in community events. It was an informative and heartfelt presentation that gave our members a deeper appreciation for the role Akron Children's plays in the lives of so many families.

In recognition of her work the book, *The Hospital: The Inside Story*, by Christle Nwor was dedicated in her honor to the Medina County District Library.



Good Friday Breakfast

The Medina Kiwanis Breakfast Club is hosting our annual Good Friday Breakfast at Williams On The Lake on Friday, April 3rd, at 7 am. The buffet breakfast cost will be \$25, payable at the sign-in table at the door. Last year's attendance was 80+ from Medina Lions, Medina Odd Fellows Lodge, Medina Rotary, Medina Breakfast Kiwanis, Medina Kiwanis, Medina K of C, Cloverleaf Kiwanis, and Brunswick Rotary.



Please let Nanette Waite know if you plan on attending before March 27th.

COMMUNITY PINWHEEL WALK

Building Joyful Childhoods Together



Join us for a day of family fun while raising awareness for
Child Abuse Prevention

Sunday, April 19, 2026

12:30 PM - 4:00 PM

12:30 PM - Family Activities | 3:15 PM - Child Abuse Prevention Program and Walk
Historic Medina Square



Wear blue to show your support
MedinaCountyChildrensCenter.org



Scan QR Code to Register



Cheers to our February Birthdays!



Russell Fanello
Martin Gaska
Glenn Toth
William Young
Becky Crain
Erin Grohe

Cheers to our March Birthdays!



Matt Bazemore
Jim Haymond
Barry Jones
Tim Nelson
Joan Samkow
Nanette Waite

Corrected from the previous issue



Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help with the
Easter Bunny Drop Off!

Sunday, March 29th 10 am - 1 pm

Contact: Keith Dirham
dirham_1@yahoo.com

Happy Dollars

- **Laura Todia** gave \$10 Happy Dollars, "Happy to be back and Russ is doing better."
- **Curtis Perkins** gave \$5 Happy Dollars, "Not so happy to be home after visiting South Africa where it's 85-90 degrees and I survived the 15 hour nonstop flight."
- **Erin Grohe** gave \$5 Happy Dollars, "Swearing in our FIRST EVER class of CASA volunteers this past Friday. 14 total!"
- **Anna Slepecky** gave \$1 Happy Dollar, "Tim Nelson took over the 50/50 for me. Thanks Tim!"



Board of Directors

2025 - 2027

Joan Samkow
Tracy Knappins
Russ Fanello

2026 - 2028

Kimberly Gaska
Chery Short
Ed Zackery

Mailing Address:

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Club Officers

President

Aaron Harrison

President Elect

Krista Wasowski

Vice President

Kerry Kelley

Immediate Past President

Marty Gaska

Secretary

Nanette Waite

Treasurer

Brian Harr

Kiwanis Defining Statement

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child, and one community at a time.