

Kiwanis Meeting Minutes

Date: April 14, 2025

Location: Asbury Park Library

Time: 6:30–7:30 PM

Members Attending: 16

Guests Attending: 1

Guest Speaker: Tiffany from the Foundation for Youth and Families, Incorporated

Tiffany Marie DeSousa spoke about her work with the Foundation for Youth and Families, Inc. and its initiative, *Choose Love, Celebrate Life*. She emphasized the impact of **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**—potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood—and identified them as the biggest threat to youth development.

She recommended the book *The Body Keeps the Score* and explained that her organization is piloting several programs:

- **Pilot #1: Community Care Connection** – Launching next week; serves residents of Ocean and Monmouth Counties. People can call for information about donations and drop-offs.
 - *Free Family Fun Nights* are ongoing.
 - Future plans include Peer-to-Peer Support, Kinship Navigation, and Psychoeducational Groups.
- **Pilot #2: Home Share Solution Program** – For young adults aged 18–24. This program is not yet active.
- **Pilot #3: The TreeHouse Project** – A planned five-bedroom home for runaway youth (ages 10–19). This project aims to fill the gap in safe haven shelters in Ocean and Monmouth Counties. A fundraiser will be held on **September 20th at a local farm**. More details to come.

Book Ark Update

- The *Book Ark* unveiling will take place on **May 16th at Mount Carmel School** at 6:30 PM. Kiwanis built the ark—please join us!
- **Maria Torres** has been diligently stocking all of the Book Arks. We've distributed over **1,200 books** so far. Thank you, Maria!

Bridge of Books

- Volunteers are needed to help sort books at the Bridge of Books in Atlantic Highlands.
- A date will be set soon—**please stay tuned and consider helping!**

Eat Here Now Finances

- **Total spent:** \$4,587 (shipping, printing, and miscellaneous)
- **Net income:** \$7,013
- **Restaurant Week:** Starts **April 27th at noon.**
 - Volunteers needed at **11:30 AM** to help sell books in front of The Showroom.
 - Shannon will circulate a sign-up sheet.
- **Memorial Day Weekend Sale** is under discussion—stay tuned!

Little League Sponsorship

- Kiwanis is sponsoring the **Padres (ages 13–15)**, managed by **Michael Tempora.**
- We contributed **\$1,000** for sponsorship and will have a prominent banner.
- Overall enrollment is up. There's interest in growing the girls' softball program.

Scholarship Committee

- Volunteers needed!
 - **Shannon** will lead and manage.
 - Responsibilities include reviewing applications and determining award amounts.
 - Last year, we awarded:
 - Two \$1,000 scholarships
 - Two \$500 scholarships
 - All recipients were from Asbury Park High School
 - **Valli and Linda** will assist.
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Beach Toy Box

- We may send out a **Wix email** to request donations.
 - Considering updating the sign to emphasize the word "**borrow.**"
 - Donations are welcome anytime.
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Next Social Event

- Scheduled for **Wednesday, April 23rd, from 6–7:30 PM**
 - Location: **Johnny Mac's**
 - Shannon will send out an email with details.
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Network 21 / Allaire Farm Event

- **Wendy** will take the lead in reorganizing this event.
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