

### CALENDAR

**February 14:** Valentine Party (Penny Ecarius)

**February 15:** New Hope Village room adoption meeting, Midland Nazarene Church, 5441N. Jefferson (John Congleton)

**February 16:** Date Night at West Midland Family Center (Mike Cronenberger)

**February 16:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Midland Heroin Summit (Alex Rapanos)

**March 11:** Walk for Warmth, Midland Community Center (Diane Stevens)

**April 18:** Kiwassee Kiwanis Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (Dick Skochdopole)

**July 17:** Kiwassee Kiwanis Fore Kids Golf Outing (Betsy Sullivan and Porter Brown)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Roger Briggs:** Step Up Coach Director Kurt Faust published a thank you note in Saturday's Midland Daily News, recognizing the Kiwassee Foundation's \$3000 grant for the Sneakerpalooza program that provides new shoes for students.

**John Congleton:** Groups adopting a room at New Hope Village, including Kiwanis, should send one or two representatives to an informational meeting February 15 at 6:30 at the Midland Nazarene Church, 5441 N. Jefferson.

**Alex Rapanos:** The Midland Heroin Summit is at 7:00 at the Grace A. Dow Library.

**Fred Honerkamp:** Max Bottomley is NINETY-FOUR YEARS OLD! The Birthday Boy said, "I feel like I'm 49!" Mentioning many events Max witnessed, Fred thanked him for inventing the wheel. Sign up for the Valentine's Day lunch, and remember to give your better half a card, candy, and roses—the life you save may be your own.

**MEMBER NEWS:** Jack Higgins is back recovering from 4-hour surgery in preparation for radiation to treat lymphoma. Al Burmester is scheduled for valve replacement surgery tomorrow, and Doug Snoddy will have "maintenance" surgery next week. Bruce Rayce visited with Joe Malan, who told him, "I need to get back to Kiwanis." That's great news!

### PROGRAM: Camp Fish Tales

Community Service Committee Co-chair Dick Jellum introduced Beth Dow, Executive Director of Camp Fish Tales -- AND former president and current active member of the Bay City Kiwanis Club! She explained that Camp Fish Tales is for children, youth and adults with cognitive and/or physical disabilities. Located on 65 acres 4 miles north of Linwood, it is 100% barrier-free and wheelchair accessible. It is one of only three camps in the state that accept people over age 18. To date, the youngest camper has been 10 and the oldest, 86! Over half of the adult campers are 40 or older; many live in group homes and attend together.

The camp runs ten one-week sessions each summer, along with respite weekends in March, April, October, and November. The cost per camper depends on his or her level of independence and averages \$850 for a one week session. Some campers attend more than one session, and many have transitioned to staff positions.

Funding for campers comes primarily from Community Mental Health, along with Medicaid, private donations, corporate and foundation grants, and fundraisers for scholarships. Some campers pay their own way, and no one is turned away. While most campers come from the Tri-City area, Camp Fish Tales serves people from all around the state and even Canada.

Activities include equestrian therapy, a petting zoo with exotic & farm animals, arts & crafts, archery, paintball, bowling, a hoedown, a hayride, a dance, and pontoon boat rides. Counselors must be at least 18, and preference goes to college students focusing on careers in medicine, education, recreation, or social work. Depending on the camper's needs, a counselor may work with one camper through the week or a group of up to three campers.

Plans for expansion in the next two years will add two dormitories, a larger kitchen, and additional housing for staff. An indoor gym and pool, and equestrian and gardening programs are on the wish list. Beth addressed the misappropriation of funds that Camp Fish Tales endured a few years ago; that challenge is behind the organization: there is new staffing and a new Board of Directors, and an independent company handles all of the finances.

Camp Fish Tales enjoys plenty of community support, including Boy Scouts and church groups that help with painting, groundskeeping, and holding fundraisers. Beth is always looking for more people to volunteer in a variety of capacities. She closed her presentation with an invitation to visit Camp Fish Tales, especially during a week when camp is in session!

**REMINDERS:** *Feb. 15:* Adopt a Room meeting *Feb. 16:* Board Meeting, WMFC Date Night, Midland Heroin Summit

**CORRESPONDANCE:** Fred received a thank you from Cleveland Manor for our support of their Christmas party; a letter from Kurt Faust for the Foundation's grant to support Sneakerpalooza, a letter from the Midland County Sheriff Scott Stephenson inviting us to the D.A.R.E. spaghetti dinner on March 10 at Messiah Lutheran Church, and an invitation to the Noon Rotary Club's "Boots on the Green" event for veterans to be held at Currie Golf Course on September 8.