



President—Paul

Spoke Newsletter

Wednesday Augusts 1, 2018

Attendance: 25(58%) Attendance with make ups: 25(58%)

Program Wednesday, August 8, 2018

Steve Sipple—Lincoln Journal Star Sports Columnist

Arranged by Greg Schnasse

Program Wednesday, August 1, 2018

Roberta Christensen, Mentoring Director—Royal Family Kids, Lincoln, NE

Arranged by Jerry Christensen



Roberta grew up in Springfield, Missouri. She attended Evangel University where she received her degree in education. She received her master's degree in special education and specialist's degree in school psychology from University of Nebraska at Kearny. She began teaching in Bertrand, Nebraska and then worked for Service Unit 11 in Holdrege and then Lincoln Southeast High School. Now she is retired working part time as School Psychologist and doing many volunteer positions. She spends most of her time volunteering for Royal Family Kids. She is on the board and serves as the head of the mentoring program.

The Royal Family KIDS Mentoring Club in Lincoln, Nebraska asked the children this winter how they would like to serve the community. One little girl named Mira conveyed that she wanted to give some of her clothes to the People's City Mission and was adamant that she wanted to help homeless people.

We began the planning process and discussed ways to donate items, as well as other ways we could serve at the Mission.

I sometimes forget these kids have been through more than we can ever know. After we had started talking about serving at the Mission, Mira's mom told me she didn't think it would be a good idea for her to go to the Mission. Apparently, Mira and her biological family were in and out of the Mission when she was younger and sometimes for long periods of time. Mira's mom was concerned that the atmosphere may bring up some bad memories and trigger some emotional responses that Mira may not be ready for at this point in time. That was not even on my radar. It made me understand and appreciate her desire to help the homeless so much more. She is an amazing child.

That being said, her mom suggested we donate to Harold's Closet instead. Mira mindfully went through all of her clothes, toys, and books and picked out things that she wanted to give. Her entire family got on board and there were about five or six large garbage bags full of clothes, shoes, and toys for us to donate.

A Rotary Thank You to Roberta Christensen for an excellent presentation on the Royal Family Kids organization in regard to comforting abuse and changing lives.

**Lincoln East Rotary Club
Meetings at Valentino's—70th & Van Dorn
Noon Luncheon starting @ 11:45 a.m.**

August 1, 2018

While I'm not sure this can be labeled a "service" project, I am super proud of Mira. Most people at the mentoring club only get to see the energetic, athletic side of her—that of which can be hard to tame at times. But, she has a different side that I've been able to see; the soft, caring, and empathetic side. I could go on and on about Mira, but suffice it to say that she is an incredible girl and God is doing big things with her already.

(Roberta Christensen—RFK Mentoring Director)

Royal Family Kids **History:**

In 1985, an assistant pastor named Wayne Tesch and his wife, Diane, saw a need to provide hope to local foster children in Costa Mesa, California. They created a week-long summer camp held in the mountains, the "cathedral of the outdoors," in order to create *moments that matter* for foster children ages 6-12. After the first five years of hosting camps through their church, the Tesches realized the need was in every county in the U.S. They also realized it was possible to launch RFKC as a countrywide organization. So in 1990, Wayne left his position at the church to become CEO of the new charity. Diane joined him and brought her organizational skills and experience in franchising from the for-profit world, and together, they launched **Royal Family Kids' Camp, Inc.**

From 1990 to 2008, the organization steadily grew, serving more and more children each year and equipping more lay leaders from churches around the world to be able to serve children in foster care. Royal Family KIDS refined its training program and learned how to franchise its model so that its ultimate mission — to serve every foster child, ages 6-12 — would be possible.

In 2008, the organization expanded to include a school year mentoring program called "Royal Friends Club," headed by Joanne Feldmeth, the former Executive Director for Child SHARE.

In 2015 Royal Family KIDS served over **7,700** children in **209** camps in **40** states and **4** international countries. **100,000+** children have attended the camps since 1985. And in the Mentoring Clubs had **42** Clubs with **691** Club KIDS, **1258** Staff & Mentors.

PROGRESS: Through the dedication and collaboration of our national staff, volunteers, and partner churches, we have stayed true to our mission and have increased the number of Royal Family KIDS camps and mentoring clubs throughout the United States. In 2017, we continued to experience revenue growth. The growth in contributions to Royal Family KIDS is an indication of the donor-community's confidence in our programs, and the positive trajectory changes that we are making in the lives of the children we serve.

Royal Family KIDS 2017 year-end totals display growth in camps, mentoring clubs, children served, and number of volunteers.

2017 CAMPS

- ◆ 203 camps in the U.S.
- ◆ 8,665 children served
- ◆ 14,045 camp volunteers
- ◆ 30 *international camps

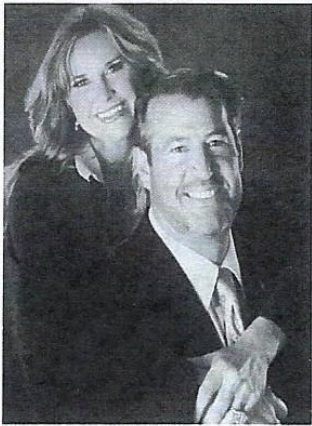
2017 MENTORING CLUBS:

- ◆ 48 mentoring clubs in the U.S.
- ◆ 809 children served
- ◆ 1,416 mentoring club volunteers
- ◆ 5 international mentoring clubs

Over 119,254 children have experienced a life-changing Royal Family KIDS camp in almost 30 years



Blake & Kathy made an excellent presentation at the Rotary District 5650 Conference



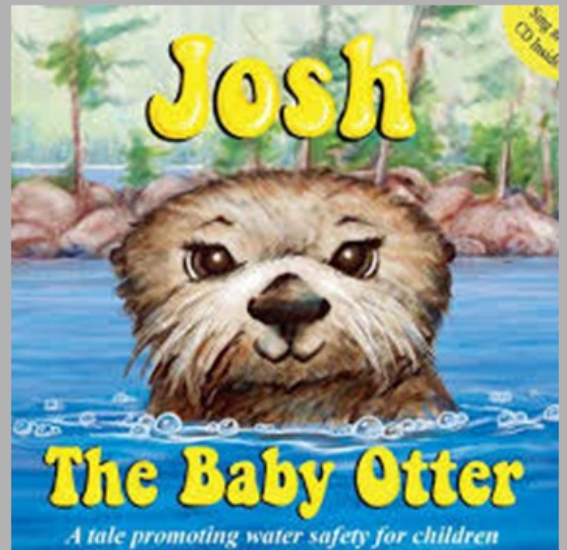
Blake Collingsworth is the co-founder of the Joshua Collingsworth Memorial Foundation. Blake and his wife, **Kathy**, established the foundation in July of 2008 after losing their son Joshua in June of that same year to a backyard pool drowning.

After extensive research Blake believed there was a missing component in the way we were educating and creating awareness to children and adults about water safety. Blake knows children listen to characters that they look up to and adore. It's how the character Josh The Otter was conceived. In the fall of 2008 the children's book "Josh The Baby Otter" was written and published. The character, including a full size mascot and other materials, were developed to engage children and their parents to understand the importance of learning to swim, only going around water when an adult is present and always swimming with a buddy.

Since the creation of Josh the Otter in 2008, hundred's of thousands of children have been introduced to Josh the Otter in all 50 United States, Canada, Jamaica, Bahamas, Japan, Brazil, Australia and even Pakistan. Over 250,000 copies of the book have been distributed. There are 66 mascot suits and hundreds of hand puppets of Josh the Otter being utilized.

Blake is currently a self-employed land developer and residential contractor and serves on his foundation's board as President and is also on the board and current Vice President of the National Drowning Prevention Alliance. He is also the Club President of a new local evening Rotary club and past board member of the Nebraska Children's Home Society.

Blake and Kathy have appeared on many local television news shows, radio stations and interviewed for newspaper articles.



Camp Kitaki

Executive Director, Jason Smith, Lincoln East Rotary Club Member



NANCY HICKS—Lincoln Journal Star

SOUTH BEND - It's the final full day at YMCA Camp Kitaki's weeklong summer camp, the morning where campers pick their own adventures.

There's a lot of noise coming from the **Rotary Music Playground**, where Solomon Thomas, 8, is showing off his version of a spear, a broken branch found on the ground.

"You wanna hear the loudest thing we have?" he asks, as he and friend Henry Cohen, 9, pound on metal bars that create a heavy gonglike hum and talk about becoming predators, with knives springing from their wrists. They really like the playground, part of Fort Pawnee, because "you can just do whatever you want - except lock anyone out!"

"Yes. That is an important camp rule. I'm glad they remembered it," says **Jason Smith, the camp's executive director**.

The Camp is all about inclusion, a place where everyone feels like they belong and are respected.

And on plan-your-own-adventure day, Molly Hansen, 10, plans to join some of her new friends to play instruments by the pond that morning. Her brother Will, 12, has selected archery and hopes to get the first bull's-eye of the day.

A mouse skitters across the rafters of the open shed, while a counselor goes over the archery rules - no pointing at anyone, no dry firing, pay attention to the cease-fire direction.

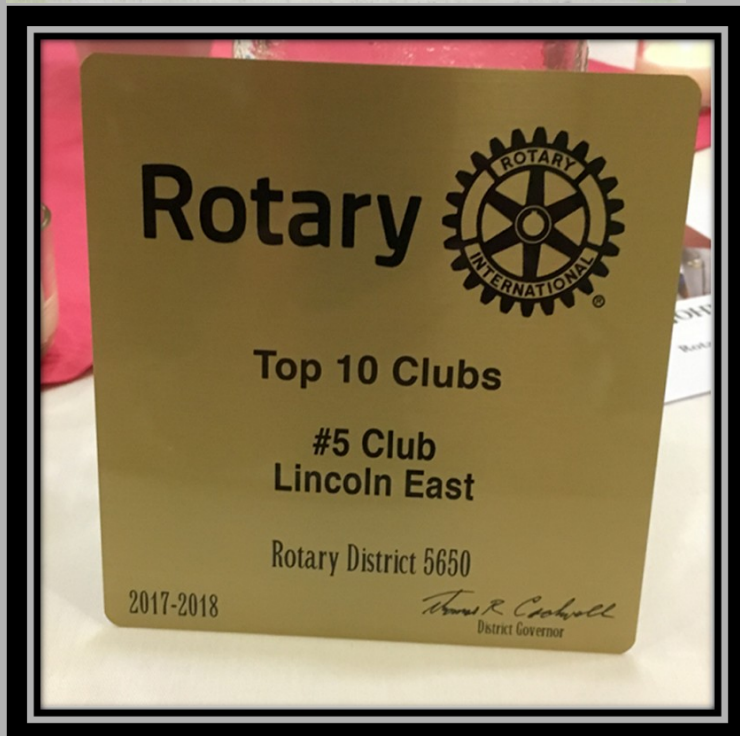
Safety first and wildlife all around are two givens at the YMCA's 215-acre camp in the hills near the Platte River between Lincoln and Omaha.

(Lincoln East Rotary sponsors two children each summer)

Congratulations

Lincoln East Rotary Club Officers,
Board of Directors and Members:
2017-2018

President	Barry Stelk
Past President	Blake Collingsworth
President Elect	Paul Horton
Secretary	Jerry Christensen
Treasurer	Dick Cumming
Sergeant-at-Arms	Gene Frederick
Director	Wayne Casper
Director	Deb Durre
Director	Dennis Duckworth
Director	Greg Schnasse
Director	Duane Tappe



A "Special" Rotary Thank You to Jerry Christensen, Secretary, for recording all the necessary data used to calculate points to determine Rotary club standings in the District.



Anniversaries & Birthdays

Weeks of August 2—8

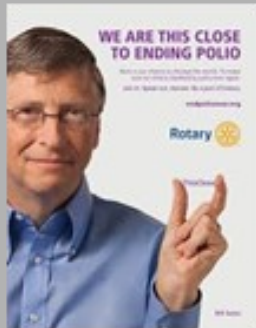
Birthdays:

Milt Schmidt—August 2

Dean Douglas—August 4

Jerry Christensen—August 5

Anniversaries: Andrea Ahrens—August 5



Happy Dollars

Jerry Christensen	\$ 5.00
Duane Tappe	\$ 2.00
Dean Douglas	\$ 1.00
Dennis Duckworth	\$10.00
Andrea Ahrens	\$ 3.00
Darrel Huenergardt	\$ 2.00
John Duling	\$ 1.00
Barry Stelk	\$ 5.00
Charles Erickson	\$ 1.00
Wayne Casper	\$ 5.00
Total	\$35.00



Greeter Duty

August—Dean Douglas

September—Dennis Duckworth

October—Gordon Bair

Make Ups

N/A



Cashier Duty

August—Deb Durrie

September—Al Burdick

October—Rachel Martin

Contact Dick Cumming

Guests & Visitors

Merrilea Anderson

Sue Schuerman

Roberta Christensen

Steve Grosserode

Dick Cumming

Speaker

Lincoln East Rotary Club—August Speaker Schedule

August 8—Steve Sipple—Lincoln Journal Star Sports Columnist—Greg Schnasse

August 15—A Young Girl's Escape from WWII Germany. Elfi Lee—Dick Cumming

August 22—Dr. John Keller—"Digital Photography Workshop"—Dick Cumming

(NOTE: Bring your Digital Cameras and Smart Phones for tips in Photography)

Lincoln East Rotary Club
Spoke Newsletter
Published by Wayne Casper