# DIFFICULT

Don't shy away from these harder projects because just as the planning and execution effort intensifies, so do the rewards.

## Adopt a room

## Members needed: 5-10+

Help brighten the atmosphere of those in need. Adopt a room at the local orphanage, community center, library, school or whatever by cleaning, painting, decorating and giving an all-around rejuvenation.

Winning tip: Make a multi-year commitment or convince other organizations to adopt rooms to multiply impact.

#### Art show

#### Members needed: 3-5+

Hold an art fair for the local kids. Have them submit art in different formats and age groups, then display them and allow the public to vote on the winners. Instill a love of art in the new generation and raise the spirits of local children through this awesome project.

#### Blood drive

#### Members needed: 10-15+

## A great Kiwanis family inter-club opportunity

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs a blood transfusion, and the need only intensifies as you begin to consider the thirty nations of Key Club International. Donating blood is the second best way to partner with the American Red Cross to directly save lives. The first is to host your own school – or community-wide blood drive. Make sure to include a canteen with snacks high in sugar and protein, and schedule lots of helpers to act as escorts. Contact your local Red Cross office or visit www.givelife.org for more information.

## **Building benches**

## Members needed: 5-10+

## A great Kiwanis family inter-club opportunity

Head over to the hardware store, pick up some supplies and build benches for your local park, school, or other community area. Get instructions online and recruit your local Kiwanis family members to help the cause.

*Winning tips:* Try to get wood and other supplies donated, and consider building your benches on-site. Assembling in a line – Henry Ford style – can help with productivity, too.

#### Carnival night

#### Members needed: 10-15+

A hall or auditorium can be decorated to suit the theme of a carnival with relative ease. Offering a range of activities (think cake walk, weight guessing, ring toss, etc.) can keep kids happy and having fun for hours. Sell refreshments and provide entertainment to make the evening truly unforgettable.

*Winning tip:* Assign different club members to certain booths and plan for each activity accordingly.

#### Dodgeball tournament

#### Members needed: 10+

Want to serve with some excitement, energy and fun? Try a dodgeball tournament for charity. Inviting local schools to register and send teams can spread the fun around, and getting local new outlets to cover the event will add to the experience. Charging a small entry fee for teams and selling tickets, snacks and souvenirs can raise money quickly.

#### Lock-in

#### Members needed: 5-10+

Host an all-nighter at your town's YMCA, community center or school at which students can enjoy themselves by participating in different activities like crafts, games, movies and/or a dance. Donations collected or the funds generated from charging a cover fee can be donated to your favorite charity.

Winning tip: Kids respond to food, consider serving it.

#### March for Babies

#### Members needed: 10-15+

March of Dimes is an organization that works to save the lives of babies born prematurely or born with life-threatening birth defects. They fund research and treatment and implement advocacy programs with the ultimate goal of creating a world in which every baby is born healthy and on time. In their signature project, the March for Babies, participants gather pledges from sponsors and walk a pre-determined path to raise both funds and awareness for this very worthy cause. Consider hosting your own March for Babies, or rally the members of your club to form a team to march in a nearby event.

*Winning tips:* Have your route well-planned and clearly marked in advance. Consider holding the event in the morning before it gets too hot, and always be prepared to help participants in need; keep water bottles and a first-aid kit on hand at all times. Consider holding a celebration breakfast at the finish line just like at Key Club's international convention.



## Special Olympics

## Members needed: 15+

## A great Kiwanis family inter-club opportunity

Volunteer at your local Special Olympics event as assistants, concession stand workers or cheerleaders! The athletes will appreciate all your hard work and support, and the community with back you in your support of the handicapped. Don't have an event in your community? Visit www.specialolympics.org to learn how you can plan one.

**Winning tips:** Be patient and ready yourself for a long day. Contact your event's organizers early and often. If you don't have one now, contact your local Kiwanis Club about chartering an Aktion club in your area to allow Kiwanis to compete next time around.

\*\*www.aktionclub.org\*\*



## Spooktacular!

## Members needed: 10-15+

Combine all the old favorites of Halloween into one fun haunted house for local children. Booths for bobbing for apples, cake walks, costume contests, snacks and games will all contribute to a great, safe evening. You can even recruit other organizations on your campus to aid you in the holiday event.

*Winning tip:* Encourage parents to celebrate Halloween with their children at your haunted house – but keep the frights age-appropriate. Close your events a few minutes before your scheduled event end time.

## The great sofa hunt

#### Members needed: The more the merrier

#### A great service project to introduce at a club meeting

Finally an easy way for everyone in your Key Club to get involved. Send each member of your club or student body home to dig through their home's furniture, nooks and crannies for loose change. Grandparents' homes can be treasure troves as well, so encourage your members to hit up family members. Donate the funds to your club's

favorite charity.

*Winning tip:* Display the change collected at school so students can see their small contributions build up into one large donation when everyone works together for the betterment of your home school, and community.

Trauma dolls

Members needed: 5-10+

## A great service project to incorporate into a club meeting

Sew dolls for children in local hospitals that can be used by doctors to explain procedures and injuries to kids. To gain ownership in their situation, friendship in a new toy and a sense of community caring, the kids can then keep their new custom-made doll. With a little time, patience and creativity, you can brighten the day and possibly even change the life of a hospitalized child in your community.

*Winning tip:* Have materials ready if you plan to make trauma dolls at a Key Club meeting.

Variety show

Members needed: 5-10+

## A great Kiwanis family inter-club opportunity

Brighten the days of residents at local nursing homes, orphanages, hospitals, senior centers, etc. by hosting a youth variety show for all to enjoy. Acts can vary from the simple and straightforward to the elaborate and intense. Remember to keep the cameras rolling to catch every minute on film.