



Kiwaniis®

GREEN RIVER KIWANIS

Green River Kiwanis meets Wednesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. It is currently meeting via Zoom and in person at Epworth UMC, 4455 Epworth Rd., Newburgh, IN

Greenriverkiwanis.org
www.twitter.com/grkiwanis
[GRK Foundation/Amazon Smile](#)

Please use the weekly Zoom link you receive via e-mail from Bob Naas to access our meetings remotely. If you are not receiving this, contact Bob or Dick LeDuc.

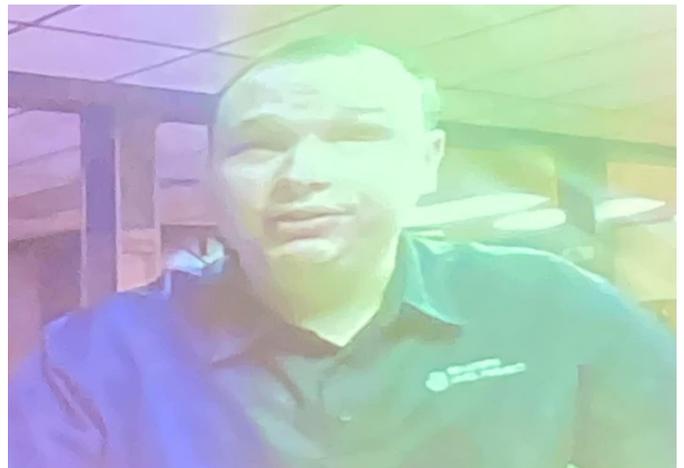
June 22, 2022

Today's guests were Diane Moll, Lucy Himstedt, Mike Box, Jim and Sabine Wathen, and Jim Sextone.

We had a last minute change in speaker due to COVID, so we thank Bryce Weiler, who stepped up to the plate admirably, via Zoom. Bryce is the disability consultant for the Baltimore Orioles and co-founder (with Anthony Iacavone) of the Beautiful Lives Project. As a child he listened to a lot of sports on the radio and was fascinated. It seemed (to others, perhaps) unlikely that a blind man such as himself would be able to become involved with sports, but Bryce had a different idea. He came to UE and convinced then basketball coach Marty Simmons to let him sit on the bench and be a part of the game, to be a part of the team. This was a very positive and successful experience for him, but he found things entirely different when he attended graduate school at Western Illinois University. In general people there were less helpful, believing he could NOT do things because he was blind. Undeterred, he sought to help others have the sort of experiences he had by co-founding the Beautiful Lives Project, which provides life changing experiences for those with disabilities. This organization helped provide a night with the Otters for Jacob's Village residents and those affiliated with the Highland Challenger League. It's more than just sports—experiences can involve music, dance, cheer-leading, etc.—whatever is wanted. Unlike some groups, TBLP serves both children and adults.

Funds raised go for the purchase of specialized equipment, to provide t-shirts, foods, etc. Bryce also helps companies become more accessible, and has even commentated on basketball games on the radio. Everyone faces obstacles; it's about how you overcome them! All that is needed is an opportunity. Bryce urges everyone to find and surround themselves with people who believe you CAN do things. He provided his contact information:

bryce@beautifulives.org; 812-899-5673.
The BLP website is www.beautifulives.org.



GRK Officers /Staff

President	Dick LeDuc
President-Elect	Martha Seal
Vice President	Dan Robinson
Treasurer	Kim Higgins
Secretary	Bob Bock
Newsletter Editor	Mona Meyer
Newsletter Publisher	Bob Naas

The rest of today's meeting was dedicated to showing our guests how much they'd enjoy joining GRK, the largest Kiwanis club in southwestern Indiana, with some 120 members. Highlights:

We've been involved with the Riley Walk for 30 years, and in general Kiwanis has been involved with Riley Hospital since 1915. Over the years the walk has raised over \$550,000 for Riley—\$1100 the first year, and \$42,000 this year.

We partner with the Caldwell YMCA for 2 events: providing backpacks and school supplies at a party in July, and have a Christmas party in December.

NOTE: this year's backpack party will be July 29.

We've held a golf outing for Riley for 13 years. Last year we had over 140 golfers and raised \$32,000.

Key Clubs provide the Kiwanis experience for high school students, and Circle K does the same for college students. We sponsor several of these.

BUG stands for Bringing Up Grades, and recognizes students who improve but may never make the honor roll. If a student raises one class grade by one letter and does not drop in any other class, s/he gets a BUG certificate. We do BUG with a number of schools, and BUG ceremonies usually get lots of GRK attendance.

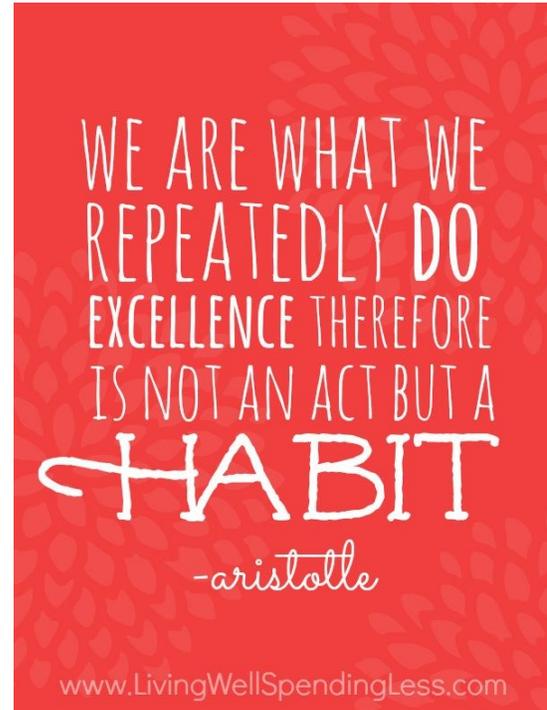
The Dream Center provides safe and enriching experiences for those living in the Jacobsville neighborhood. GRK provides a meal every month at the Dream Center, and holds an annual BBQ sale to fund these meals. We've also held a BUG program there.

Several GRKiwanians volunteer at the Food Bank, packaging boxes of food for seniors and stuffing backpacks with some food for a weekend for needy kids and their families.

The Point Man ministry is non-denominational and seeks to reach out to veterans who have suffered trauma (defined in many ways) from their military experiences.

We have an online auction (in July this year) and other fundraisers. But that's not all we do—we also have purely social occasions, like dinner nights out. This month's dinner night will involve a night at the Otters.

Thought of the week, courtesy of **Dan Oates**:



Next week's speaker is a mystery—to me, at least! But, no matter, come to GRK (and invite those guests back)—you **KNOW** the speaker will be great!

