



## PACIFIC NORTHWEST KIWANIS CORK SCULPTURE

### KIWANIS CLUB OF KENNEWICK

*Celebrating 75 years at the Benton Franklin Fair!*

August 2023

Chartered in 1926, nearly 100 years, the dedicated members of the Kiwanis Club of Kennewick have been committed to helping our community, one family and one child at a time. Kids are our mission and our passion, and we turn that passion into action. This is further demonstrated by our cork sculpture project submission.

The idea of this project appealed to Kiwanis Club of Kennewick members as being a project that ALL could participate in – designing, engineering, gathering corks, gluing corks, painting, updating the website, and more.

Kiwanians met early January to gather ideas for the sculpture and over the course of the next month or so, the sculpture design took shape. Our chief fabricator, Rick Corson built the Ferris Wheel in his garage that was later covered in corks. He and other members pulled together a motor to automate the main component of the sculpture – the Ferris Wheel. The Ferris Wheel features details on our many club programs. The foundation was built with key highlights of our club programs and projects as well as featuring highlights of our region. May, June, and July corks were applied, more corks were applied, and then lastly MORE corks were applied. We collected nearly 13,000 corks and applied over half. In July and August, club members completed the finishing touches.

Special thanks and appreciation go to third generation Kiwanian Vickie and Brian Bergum. They opened their home and shop as a work area for the many “cork” meetings/socials. During these meetings Kiwanians worked hard (maybe not so hard) on the sculpture, shared a meal, and socialized.

Our records indicate that almost 80% of club members participated in our sculpture. **And 100% had fun!**

Read on to learn more about the club’s programs inspiring the design of our Cork Project submission.

## *Celebrating 75 years at the Benton-Franklin Fair!*

In 2023, the community will celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Benton-Franklin Fair and Rodeo. The Kiwanis Club of Kennewick was awarded the "Benton-Franklin Fair Booster of the Year". **A great honor for our nearly 100-year-old club** and its history.

The fair was originally formed in 1911 as the Grape Festival in downtown Kennewick. When the Grape Festival ended in 1947, many Kennewick Kiwanians were instrumental in the formation of the Benton Fair Association. Thus, the fair committee led by Kiwanians was formed and opened in 1948. Over the following years, the Club has been a contributing force. Most recent years, building ticket booths, selling tickets, and managing entrance and exits - all to reduce the operational costs to the fair.

The **Ferris Wheel is the cornerstone element of our cork sculpture**. Each one of the Ferris Wheel buckets highlight one of the many programs the Club supports in the community helping children and families. Each bucket was designed and artistically crafted by one of the many contributing Kiwanis Club of Kennewick members.

Take a few moments to learn about the **programs highlighted** on the Ferris Wheel Buckets in our PNW District Cork Project submission:

- [Finley Food Bank](#)
- [Girls on the Run Sponsor at Amistad Elementary School](#)
- [ITR Football](#)
- [Kennewick American Youth Baseball League Sponsorship](#)
- [Kid's Fishing Day](#)
- [Outstanding Orcas Pod Booster Club at Amistad Elementary School](#)
- [Pen Pal Program](#)
- [Student Scholarships for over 25 years!](#)

In the lower left-hand corner of the sculpture, you will find a proudly crafted baseball field. Kiwanis Club of Kennewick is recognized as the **longest sponsor of a little league team**, and it's estimated we sponsored over 1,000 children to be able to play ball.

The totem pole located alongside **Camp Kiwanis** may catch your eye. Kiwanis Club of Kennewick was the driving force behind the creation of Camp Kiwanis in Columbia Park, a major asset for youth and community activities. The main component of Camp Kiwanis is a large club building, a solid structure of concrete blocks and sweeping exposed beams. It was built by volunteer labor led by Kiwanis Club of Kennewick. Oversight of the Camp was turned over to a foundation formed by all Tri-City Kiwanis Clubs.

The **Columbia River flows through the center** of the sculpture with the Horse Heaven Hills in the background. Wines produced in this area have brought worldwide acclaim. Adjacent to the river is a small pond - Columbia Park Pond. Kiwanians built and have maintained the handicap accessible dock for all children to be able to fish and sponsor a fishing day each year for children to enjoy the thrill of fishing.

**New members, new ideas, new projects.** One of our newest members brought to the Club a request to support the Master Gardener Program and introduced the Club to the Demonstration Garden, Community Gardens, Plant Grow Children program, and others. The Club looks forward to embracing our new members with new ideas and projects.

For nearly 100 years, the Kiwanis Club of Kennewick members focus on making a difference in the lives of children and families in our community. Thank you to the Kiwanis District Leadership for developing this project.



## Ferris Wheel Programs Highlighted!

### **Kennewick American Youth Baseball League Sponsorship!**

The club has sponsored the Kennewick American Youth Baseball Team since the mid-1950s sponsoring over 1,000 children. The league is for 8-12 year-olds.

A local newspaper reported that “the club’s sponsorship is the longest-running sponsorship of a youth program in the Tri-Cities for a youth baseball team. There have not been exact records kept, but this Club has sponsored the same baseball team since at least the mid-1950’s.” One coach reported to the Club that he had played on the team when he was a boy.

“PLAY BALL!”



When it comes to Youth Baseball, Kennewick Kiwanis is #1. Batting for the Kennewick Kiwanis team in the American League is Mikie Jones.

### **Outstanding Orcas Pod Booster Club at Amistad Elementary School**

A parent/teacher organization to fund and promote student activities at Amistad was formed in 2023 with the assistance of members from the Kiwanis Club of Kennewick.

The booster parent officers promote all activities in both English and Spanish. The new organization’s first fund-raising endeavor, Penny Wars, was a success. Looking forward to the 2023/2024 school year, the boosters want to recognize student achievements, promote activities that encourage students to read and learn, and create an inviting environment to attract parents to become involved with school projects. Kiwanis guide the organization as a liaison with the school administration and oversee the financial matters.

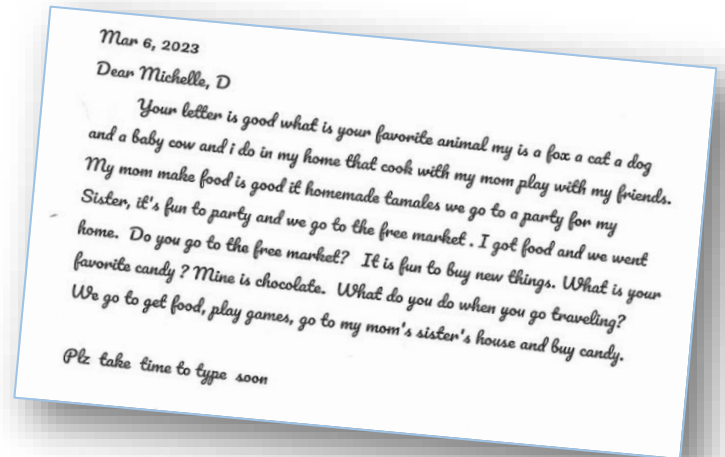




## Pen Pal Program

A dedicated 4<sup>th</sup> grade program. Club members are matched with a student and share letters with each other. At the end of the program there is a "Meet Your Pen Pal" activity. This is a three-month program.

Kennewick Kiwanians have worked with Amistad Elementary for over 8 years and this program is found to be very rewarding for both the child and volunteer.



## Kid's Fishing Day!

Every April, Kid's Outdoor Experience stocks a local pond with over 8,000 Rainbow Trout. Fishing is open to children ages 5-14 who register and pay a fee. Kiwanis Club of Kennewick offers 50 scholarships to students of Amistad Elementary School to offer them a new experience for achieving academic improvement. Scholarships include registration and paying the fee, including receiving a new fishing pole to keep so the child will be able to fish. During the day, Kiwanians help bait the hook and instruct the students on casting and catching fish. Kiwanis club members provide



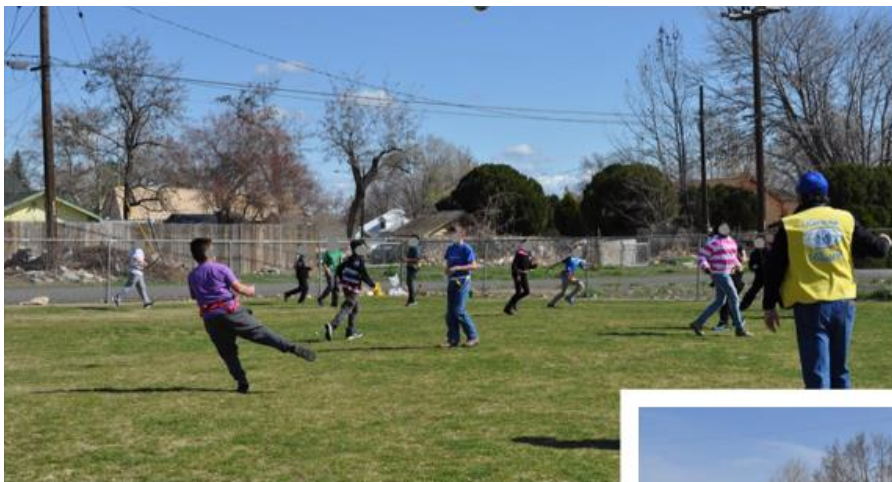
over 60 hours of volunteer time to assist the children with fishing on the day of the

event. In response to the high student interest in this event, Kiwanis Club of Kennewick is planning a pilot program to start a fishing club for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Amistad Elementary School.

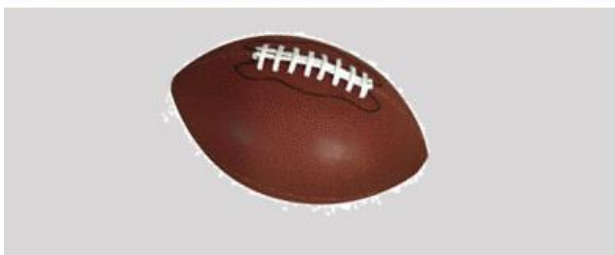
## ITR Football

**ITR** or **"I take responsibility, excuses are for losers!"** is the team motto for Amistad 5th grade flag football.

The program is a mentoring program structured to instill into the students that people who are leaders, successful and respected take responsibility for their actions. They can make mistakes, but they take responsibility for what they say or do. People who are not successful and often may not be respected often use an excuse or blame someone else for their actions. The 5th grade football players want to be leaders and use ITR on the field, in the classroom, and at home to work towards being successful in life.



**"ITR"**  
I take responsibility,  
excuses are for losers!





## Girls on the Run!

### Kiwanis Club of Kennewick Sponsors and Supports Amistad's participation!

"Girls on the Run reaches girls at a critical stage, strengthening their confidence at a time when society begins to tell them they can't. Underscoring the important connection between physical and emotional health, our program addresses the whole girl when she needs it the most." *Girls on the Run, cited July 2023.*



Girls on the Run is a national 501© (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams. The 10-week program drives a transformative, sustained change in the lives of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls across all 50 states. The program inspires girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident using a fun, experienced-base curriculum which creatively integrates running.



Learn how you can change the life of a girl in your community! Visit [girlsontherun.org](http://girlsontherun.org).

Or ask a Kiwanian!

## Finley Food Bank

The Finley Kiwanis Club is a satellite club of the Kiwanis Club of Kennewick. Finley is a rural community just outside the city limits. To reduce hunger in the community, each third Thursday while school is in session, Finley club members pick up food from Second Harvest and deliver it to the Finley Community Center. With assistance from the Finley Chapter of the Moose, Finley School District students and personnel, and Kennewick Club members, food is sorted, repacked, and distributed to Families in need.

On average, 55 families, nearly 200 individuals) are provided with a minimum of one box of much needed food each month.



## Student Scholarships for over 25 years!

Kennewick Kiwanis Foundation Awards 21 Scholarships in 2023.

The Kennewick Kiwanis Foundation awarded 21 scholarships totaling \$41,500 in 2023! Scholarships come from donations to the Foundation by past and present Kiwanians, as well as citizens in our community. Scholarships are typically \$1,000 annual awards with some increasing to \$2,500.

Visit the [Kennewick Kiwanis Foundation](#) website for more pictures and information!

### *A few of the 2022 Scholarship Awardees!*



## What's next for the Kiwanis Club of Kennewick Cork Sculpture?

The club has submitted the sculpture in the Benton-Franklin Fair. So, maybe a blue ribbon.

We anticipate it will be appearing at the club's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026/2027. Look forward to receiving your special invitation to our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Thank you!