

CIVITAN

JANUARY 2020



JUNIOR CIVITAN IS GOING
ALL IN
FOR THE RESEARCH CENTER



CIVITAN
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Junior Civitan Governors and International Board prepare for first All In Summit

THANK YOU CIVITANS

*for supporting Giving Tuesday!
You helped us raise more than
\$17,000 through general Helm
donations with an additional
\$12,000 going to events that
benefit the Civitan International
Research Center.*

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FELLOW CIVITANS,

Here we are at the beginning of the 2020 calendar year! What lies in store for us in 2020? While I cannot predict the future, I do know that Civitans around the world will continue to serve their communities with the love and grace you each have. "You care, you dare and you share; this is the unforgettable rule of every true believer and achiever."

It is an exciting time for our Junior Civitan Governors as well as they embark on a new adventure with the **ALL IN SUMMIT**. Our staff at world headquarters has planned for a great weekend for each of the districts' Junior Governors when they arrive in Birmingham in February. Not only will there be fellowship but a lot of knowledge, especially from Dr. Powell and the CIRC. I do hope each district Junior Civitan Governor has the opportunity to attend this great weekend and to report back to their districts all they learned and experienced. As a former Junior Chair, I know that this Governors Update (All In Summit) is important to each Junior Governor, their chairs, and advisors. The knowledge each of you possess and bring forth is priceless. I will not be with you on this great weekend, but I want each of you to know that I am there in spirit. I will be traveling to Europe to attend several European meetings in Norway and Germany. I, too, will be on an adventure and learning as well. Let's learn together!

I wish each and every Civitan, both young and old, a very Happy New Year. Make it the best year ever. As always, I am with you all the way and you can reach out to me as your President.

**"Take the challenge of your life.
Reach out to your goals.
There is no limit to what you can achieve."**

Sincerely,

Patsy Perkal
Civitan International President 2019-2020



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**JUNIOR CIVITAN
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT**
Victoria Bailey, Cooleemee, NC

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Scarlet Thompson, Birmingham, AL



arc AMBASSADORS, GREAT SOUTHWEST

Members of the arc Ambassadors Civitan Club are committed to making a difference in the lives of others. Club members in Denver, Colorado, spent time during the holiday season making doggie blankets for a few furry friends at a local animal shelter. The club also recently completed a greeting card project for troops overseas. Thank you, arc Ambassadors, for warming the hearts, and paws, of those in need.

WORLD HEADQUARTERS UPDATES

FROM THE DESK OF SCARLET THOMPSON, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! The year 2020 holds special significance for Civitans as it marks one hundred years since the organization officially became incorporated as an “international” organization. It would only be two years later where club builders put together a Civitan group in Switzerland that would unfortunately not sustain itself. However, that didn’t keep Civitan leaders from continuing to work beyond the borders of the United States. Currently, the organization has clubs in a few dozen countries and is deeply rooted in many of them. Founders like Dr. Courtney Shropshire would sure be amazed to see Civitan’s expansion and impact over time.

The year 2020 also marks our 100th annual convention. Registration has opened for that event, which will happen in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Attendees will see some new and unique features this year, including a Civitan Connect lounge where fellowship and best practices will be shared and some new workshops that will pertain to issues facing clubs today. Don’t miss out on the special registration rates right now! Find out more by visiting www.civitan.org/convention.

Civitan International leaders spent the holiday season learning and working to make the organization stronger. A small group of board members and staff attended the Service Club Leaders Conference in Dallas in late November. While there, they interacted with leaders of other service organizations like Kiwanis, Optimist and Pilot clubs. All of the organizations are seeing the same challenges that Civitan is experiencing with membership, generational issues, and financial needs. The group is focused on these opportunities and is looking at collaborating to serve communities overall in an even better fashion. Part of the news coming from the gathering included latest membership numbers from these organizations. Currently, Civitan International is just larger than National Exchange Club and Ruritan National but is in the same size category of organizations like Zonta International and Y’s Men International. In addition, Civitan International has one of the largest youth programs of the 15 service organizations submitting data.

One of the other ways Civitan International leaders spent the last few months focused on the organization’s future and health was the convening of an adhoc committee to look at Civitan’s bylaws. A typical, healthy non-profit practice is to review organizational documents at least every five years to see if they need to be revised to include changes in laws, culture, or accuracy. The last time Civitan International deeply analyzed its International bylaws was in 2004. This adhoc committee worked for more than two straight days in December to fix issues, but also adapt some of the guidelines so Civitan and its members have more flexibility to grow and impact others. The committee includes President Patsy Perkal, Past International President Duane Capps, Past International President Mark Eisinger, and former International Board Director Linda Colley. Any proposals from this committee will need to be approved by the International Board of Directors and then ratified by membership.



SCLC conference in Dallas, Texas



Don't forget Shropshire Scholarship Applications are due by January 31st! Any Junior Civitan, Campus Civitan, or Civitan planning to attend a higher education program can apply for these awards, which is a way for Civitan International to give back to those serving others. Visit juniorcivitan.org and search the word "Shropshire" to find out more.



JUNIOR CIVITAN GOES ALL IN FOR RESEARCH

BY AMY NATSUMI ROBERTS

In less than a month, Junior Civitan Governors and International Board will meet in Birmingham, Alabama, for the inaugural All In Summit. This new twist on a traditional Junior Civitan fundraiser stands ready to make its mark on Junior Civitan history by being a weekend that embodies the principles and mission of Civitan's longest standing program.

GOING ALL IN

To date, the nineteen Junior Civitan Governors and International Board members worked diligently to raise an outstanding \$53,782 to support the Civitan International Research Center. Local Birmingham corporations have been moved by Junior Civitan's commitment to our flagship project and have pledged to stand with Junior Civitan by sponsoring the inaugural event.

Additionally, over a dozen community organizations and small businesses have offered their support by donating their time and talents. Birmingham is ready to go ALL IN with Junior Civitan

and ensure guests experience the charm, culture, and history that makes Birmingham the wonderful city that it is.

FELLOWSHIP

The only thing that's more southern than a warm and inviting "nice to have ya'," is topping it with pulled pork and a pickle. Add a side of Birmingham's best banana pudding and you have the makings for a delightful Welcome Dinner. Friday evening, guests will be treated to a Welcome Dinner that's full of southern charm. Following dinner, governors can expect to enjoy a night of fun games and music while chaperones are treated to desserts and coffee at a separate reception.

In addition to the Welcome Dinner, All In guests can expect several opportunities to pick up from where they last left each other or build new friendships. Fellowship is a large part of being a part of Civitan, and Junior Civitan Governors and International Board will enjoy activities that will foster those connections.





EDUCATE

Governors Update is sure to be a unique opportunity for governors to learn from one another and share their experiences. Governors will participate in collaborative sessions that aim to help these young leaders strengthen and grow their districts.

Visiting the Civitan International Research Center is a major reason for hosting the event in Birmingham. Our friends at the Civitan International Research Center have prepared exciting activities that have never been experienced by any Civitan. Ensuring that this experience is enriching and stimulating is a wonderful gesture from those at the Research Center to show their gratitude for Junior Civitan's support.

SERVE

Nothing says Junior Civitan like a fun and creative service project. Birmingham is home to thousands of nonprofit organizations that support the community in a number of special and unique ways. The inaugural Benefit BHM service event will consist of hands-on projects that are sure to impact hundreds in the Birmingham area.

Junior Civitan Governors will show their appreciation for the city of Birmingham by completing a series of service projects. For Meals on Wheels, governors will pack grocery bags for elders who live alone so they can have food on the weekends. For Growing Kings, governors will pack snack bags for young boys to enjoy while they're on field trips. For Vineyard Family Services, they'll assemble hygiene kits for young children who are in need. For Ribbons of Hope, governors will learn how to make autism awareness ribbons that will later be gifted to individuals with autism and their family members.

The inaugural All In Summit is positioned to foster the growth of our Junior Civitan Governors. It's prepared to leave a mark on the hearts of every individual in the city of Birmingham through Benefit BHM. But most importantly, it will connect our youngest fundraisers to the core that unites all Civitans across the world – the Civitan International Research Center.

All of this would not be possible without the support of our Civitans and Civitan clubs. Thank you to all of those who have generously supported their Junior governors to help get them to Birmingham.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO GO ALL IN! SUPPORT YOUR GOVERNOR AT THE ALL IN SUMMIT BY DONATING TODAY AT WWW.CIVITANALLIN.COM.



CHAMPIONS OF SERVICE

Contributors Meredith Binkley, Megan Mindel, and Scarlet Thompson

HAPPY TRAILS HEARTLAND DISTRICT

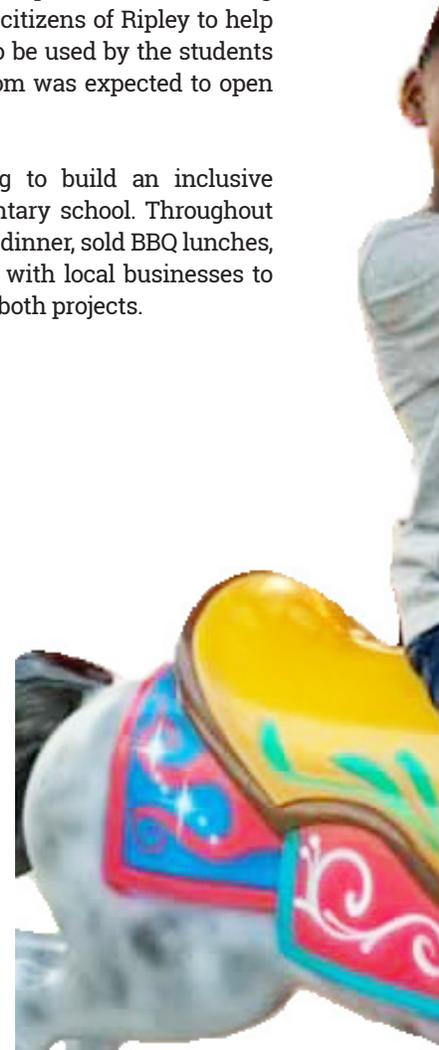
The Happy Trails club was chartered in 2017 as a part of the award-winning Dale Rogers Training Center (DRTC) in Oklahoma City, OK. DRTC employs over 1,000 teenagers and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities every year, and combined, those individuals earn over \$5 million annually.

The inclusive club prides itself on the job training they provide for its members as they strive to learn valuable life skills and earn a paycheck for their hard work. The club and DRTC have recently undertaken a new endeavor that will allow the Happy Trails members to continue to work and serve the Oklahoma City community. With the purchase of an in-house screenprinting machine, they can now provide services to a growing number of churches, non-profits, and businesses through their growing line of promotional items. This allows more members to have access to on-the-job training while also providing low-cost items to their customers.

TIPPAH COUNTY MISSISSIPPI NORTH DISTRICT

The Tippah County Civitan Club spent 2019 fundraising and bringing awareness to the citizens of Ripley to help fund a sensory friendly room to be used by the students at Ripley High School. That room was expected to open this month.

They have also been working to build an inclusive playground at the local elementary school. Throughout the year they hosted a sit down dinner, sold BBQ lunches, held a rib cookoff, and worked with local businesses to help raise the funds needed for both projects.



NEWBURGH

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

For forty-six years, the Newburgh Zombie Farm has been one of the premier fall attractions in the Midwest, scaring children and adults alike in preparation for the Halloween season. This year, in an effort to expand their fright nights, the Newburgh club transformed their zombie farm from Halloween tricks to Christmas treats, complete with the frightening Krampus the Christmas demon.

From the haunted house to the “no scare tour”, every aspect is handled by the Newburgh Civitans. Funds raised from these projects go directly towards funding the Newburgh Civitan club, as well as Easter Seals, Special Olympics, the CIRC, and the Warwick Country Fraternal Order of Police.

WINTERVILLE

GEORGIA DISTRICT

The Winterville Civitan Club in Georgia marked its 75th anniversary with a special banquet in December. The mayor, city council leaders and club members were all in attendance to mark the occasion. The group heard from keynote speaker Civitan International Executive Vice President Scarlet Thompson.

Winterville Civitans have had a mark on virtually every fixture in the city – from keeping its historic train depot up to the adding of equipment to its local park and city flagpole square. Over time, the club's activities have also included barbecues for first responders, wheelchair ramp builds, road cleanup projects, Christmas tree lots, fruit cake sales, candy and coin box, and scholarships for high school students. The club was chartered during World War II. It was sponsored by the old Watkinsville Civitan Club in the area, near Athens, Georgia.

Winterville Civitan George Chandler, who happens to be the son of one of the club's charter members, received a key to the city during the anniversary banquet. Congratulations to George and all of the other members of the club, who are celebrating this milestone!

DUBLIN

GEORGIA DISTRICT

The Dublin Civitan Club has been putting in over 300 hours a year for 36 years to put on the Dublin Civitan Fair. The club took over the fair in 1983 after another service organization could no longer maintain the festivities.

The fair brings in around \$20,000 annually which the club uses to build wheelchair ramps, provide scholarships, and manage other club projects throughout the year.





ROOTING FOR ROOT

BY AMY NATSUMI ROBERTS

"WHAT'S YOUR WHY?"

It's a question we hear a lot around Civitan. Responses tend to vary, but nothing is more common than, "I have a _____ who lives with _____." More often than not, the disorder or disease that impacts their lives is one being researched at the Civitan International Research Center.

If you were to ask Helen Root, a third-year research student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), what was her why for pursuing a career in research, her response would sound very similar to that of most Civitans.

Helen Root first became interested in researching autism because she has a cousin who is living with it. She's known, since she was a child, that she wanted to work with children with developmental disabilities because of her cousin. Since then, Helen's interests have become far more defined and focused.

The Civitan-Sparks Clinics at UAB serves a multidisciplinary program that focuses on evaluating and treating a variety of developmental concerns. When a child is referred to the clinic, they are assessed by a wide range of professionals and trainees representing a multitude of disciplines to give the most well-rounded diagnosis and approach to treatment.

Root's mentors, Dr. Sarah O'Kelley and Dr. Kristi Guest, worked together to develop a database with the Autism Spectrum Disorders clinic at the Civitan-Sparks Clinics. The database

allows researchers to review past medical records and past intervention history of patients who come through the Autism Spectrum Disorders Clinic.

"That gives us a rich dataset through which we can examine what differences there are between these children," says Root, "This essentially allows us to hone in on what the most important behaviors are for a diagnosis of autism. So this is a really rich dataset that we use."

Early detection and early intervention are two areas of concern within autism research that interest Root the most. "While those concerns related to development emerge before the age of two," Root shares, "[however,] the average age of diagnosis in the United States is 4 years old. So that means there's a two-year gap between when symptoms are first being noticed and when children are diagnosed." Root firmly believes a child is given a better chance of reaching their maximum developmental gains if they are given the opportunity to be diagnosed sooner and therefore introduced to proper interventions at an earlier age.

This past October, Helen Root received a Civitan International Research Center Emerging Scholars award for a project that will launch this fall. Root won the award when she combined her passion for autism research and her interest in genetic disorders. Specifically, Root will devote time and resources to better understand the prevalence of autism in children living with Pitt Hopkins Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder with only 500 recorded cases throughout the entire world. Root's winning proposal has the potential to serve and help individuals living with Pitt Hopkins, and their families, within their lifetime.

Root will travel and spend time with individuals with Pitt Hopkins Syndrome to help her better understand the disorder, which will help her develop viable treatment options while also establishing early detection signs.

"I'm really hoping to get a lot out of this study that can be used to turn around quickly and can go into improving their lives," says Root.

Helen Root has also received two travel awards from the Civitan International Research Center to travel to conferences and meet families with children living with Pitt Hopkins, who ignited her passion to focus her research in this area. She has also received a travel award to attend the International Society for Autism Research annual convention to present data that she found at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Root's appreciation for Civitan's support of her work is one that is heartfelt and genuine. Civitan looks forward to cheering for Root as she continues her journey, positively impacting the lives of so many in this and future generations to come.



PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT FRED KLETROVETS (1940 - 2020)

Civitan International celebrates the life of International President Fred Kletrovets. The Ohio native passed away on January 1st. Fred was diagnosed with Waldenstrom's lymphoma and lung cancer that metastasized in his bones as of July, and recently fought pneumonia.

Fred served in the International President role in 1987-88, which was a pivotal time for Civitan as it would soon move forward with plans to support the Civitan International Research Center. During his presidential year, Fred advocated for a 3-2-1 approach to grow the organization, which included building three new clubs in each district, each club holding two organizational meetings, and an increase of one person per club each year.

Fred joined Civitan half a century ago, during a SEEK meeting with the West Columbus Civitan Club and would eventually become Ohio's Civitan governor in 1979. He would build clubs, sell fruitcake, advocate for Junior Civitan and support so many other programs of the organization over time. The only adult Civitan to have the honor of serving on the first Junior Civitan International Board of Directors, he remained a member of two Civitan clubs in the Cardinal District until his death.

"Fred's leadership and personal commitment to Civitan have significantly benefitted the Central Ohio Civitan clubs for many years," says current Cardinal District Governor Kenneth Adkins, "And, the tremendous generosity of the Kletrovets family has touched countless lives in the Columbus metropolitan area."

Kletrovets was owner and president of Shoemaker Industrial Solutions. He is survived by his wife Betty (who is a dedicated Civitan herself) and two children and their families.

Thank you, Fred, for your impact on Civitan clubs in your hometown and beyond. You were truly a champion of service!



CIVITAN CONNECT

Connect with service-minded individuals from all over the world through Civitan Connect, a new communications program from Civitan International.

To learn more, visit civitan.org/civitanconnect2020.

