



# Kiwanis®

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Kiwanis International advocates for a nurturing school climate through Kiwanis youth programs**

INDIANAPOLIS—Kiwaniis International was one of more than 200 organizations invited by the Obama administration to the White House to participate in discussions on gun violence following the tragic deaths of children and educators in Newtown, CT.

“The causes of gun violence go beyond the use of guns and gun control,” said Kiwanis International President Tom DeJulio. “Kiwaniis International supports youth programs that promote a safe school climate, and we are committed to expanding our anti-bullying initiatives and offering more positive opportunities for character development.”

More than 360,000 youth are members of Kiwanis International’s programs through Circle K, Key Club, Builders Club and Kiwanis Kids. Through their commitment to community service, these youth receive mentorship and are taught the values of self-worth and good citizenship.

Kiwanis fosters the value of service to others. By performing more than 12 million service hours each year, youth members make a difference in their communities and the world, organizing a variety of service projects, such as cleaning up parks, collecting clothing and organizing food drives. They also learn leadership skills by running meetings, planning projects and holding elected leadership positions.

“Our members’ opinions vary greatly on this issue,” DeJulio said. “However, we all care about creating safe communities for our children and youth, and we support and encourage a dialogue on this important issue.”

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## **About Kiwanis International**

Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of members dedicated to serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and its family of clubs, including Circle K International for university students, Key Club for students age 14 to 18, Builders Club for students age 11 to 14, Kiwanis Kids for students age 6 to 12 and Aktion Club for adults living with disabilities, dedicate annually more than 18 million service hours to strengthen communities and serve children. The Kiwanis International family comprises nearly 600,000 adult and youth members in 80 countries and geographic areas. Members also make an impact throughout the world by participating in Kiwanis International's Global Campaign for Children, The Eliminate Project: Kiwanis eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus. For more information about Kiwanis International, please visit [www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org).

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