



**Grand Rapids Y Service Club
Y Service Clubs International
Mid East Region
December 21, 2012**

OUR MISSION

As Y's Men International is a world-wide fellowship of persons of all faiths working constructively together based on the Christian teachings, in partnership with and supporting the YMCA, its mission is to strive through active service to develop, encourage and provide leadership to build a better world for all humankind.

CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Peter Chadwick
Pres. Elect: Neil Topliffe
Secretary: Ethan Ray
Treasurer: Bob Smith
Asst. Treas: Tom Johnson

BOARD MEMBERS

Brad Howell
Mark Radtke
Harry Capogna
Bob Williams
Past Pres: John Duiven

ACTIVITY CHAIRS

Chaplin: Gary Davis
Run Thru the Rapids:
Syd Baxter & Kent Mudie
Santa Claus Girls:
Bob Smith
White Elephant Sale:
Gregory Winer, Chair
Sparks Editor:
Neil Topliffe
[Sparks Editor](#)

President Pete Chadwick called the club together. Jud Ross offered an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: Sharon Marks (Chuck Marks), John Corriveau, photographer

Birthdays were recognized and **Grateful Dollars** were received.

Club News

- Children from the David D Hunting Child Development Center, under the leadership of Prentis and Jamilyn, treated us by singing Christmas music, with us joining in on the last song.



- **\$12,000 Scholarship Presentation:** Run Thru the Rapids co-coordinator Kent Mudie, presented Ron Nelson, Greg Dodd and Henry Capogna a check to support scholarships for kids to go to camp next

- summer, more than double the previous few years. Assisting were Don Kern, and Pete Chadwick. *[Photo by J. Corriveau]*
- **Club Dues:** Notices have been sent to the 12 members still needing to pay their dues before the end of the year.
- **White Elephant Sale:** Greg Winer confirmed, to applause, that we will remain again this year at our Plainfield site.
- **Service Club Endowment:** Bob Williams shared how an endowment is a lasting gift that keeps giving even after we are gone. "We need you to make a year-end gift to support future Camp Manitou-Lin kids," he urged.
- **Board meeting:** January 16, 5:30 pm at Pinnacle Insurance.

Did you know?

We collected \$162 at our meeting to support the International Y Service Project to **“Roll Back Malaria”** in 3rd world countries. Thanks John Carruthers for encouraging us to support this project.



Find us on Facebook

- [White Elephant Sale](#)
- [Run Thru the Rapids](#)

Grand Rapids Y Service Club
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www.gryserviceclub.org
www.runthrurapids.com
 is a member of
 Y Service Clubs International.
www.ysmen.org
www.ysmenusa.com



See next page photos

Bob Smith, Maestro at Making Deliveries Go Smoothly

Friday was Service Club Santa Girls Delivery orientation, with Bob Smith, master organizer at developing routes and a systematic process for 350 Santa helpers to deliver Santa Claus Girls gift bags to more than 13,000 kids in Kent County, reaching 540 homes. We got our assignments and marching orders from Bob with 6:00 & 7:30 am Saturday arrival times for us to be at our stations at the Amway warehouse, set to wave our red signs for carrier crews. And it all paid off again this year with all the routes out the door for delivery in a little more than 2 hours.



Saturday morning we were joined by a couple hundred other volunteers to help haul the big black bags to the cars, “making sure you keep them in order, highest number in the car first, and stay in line, and don’t lose your driver or else!”

Service Club members demonstrated their inability to quietly wave those red signs, notifying runners to pick up the bags. Hollering prevailed, in spite of Bob’s attempt to keep things less hectic. But it worked with barely a mishap and a real sense of joy from volunteers and drivers, some arriving at 6:00 am, to help make Christmas special for kids in our community who wouldn’t have quite the same Christmas without Santa Claus Girls and we volunteers. All it takes is the big smiles and bulging eyes of a kid answering the door to know it all is for real – and worth the effort.



Upcoming Speakers

- Jan. 4 Greg Dodd – Annual update on Camp Manitou-Lin**
- Jan. 18 Judge Hugh Brenneman – US Magistrate Court W MI**

Images of Y Service Club Santa Helpers at work

It all began weeks before, creating routes for the 540 homes and 13,000 recipients across Kent County



Lots of members worked hard sorting the piles of bags into routes for pickup while others blew lots of hot air into balls that would have been a flat disappointment otherwise



Some folks did lots of careful looking! That flashing vest was perfect as cars arrived on delivery day



Bob Smith, our commander, whipped the troops into shape before Santa's delivery folks appeared. And then the route guides went to work, with red signals close at hand – "Hey we need carriers HERE!"



As one group left, more arrived and the smiles at the other end told the whole story!

[Photos – Bob Williams & Neil Topliffe]

