

Green River Kiwanis Presidential Address—

September 29, 2026

Good evening, fellow Kiwanians, distinguished guests, and friends.

It is a profound honor to stand before you today as your new President of Green River Kiwanis Club.

Looking around this room, I don't **just see** a group of volunteers; I see the heart, the hands, and a driving force of our community.

For years, Kiwanis has stood on a simple yet transformative premise: serving the children of the world. But when we talk about helping children—whether right here in Evansville, across our state, throughout our nation, or around the globe—**we must remember that this isn't just a "good idea." It isn't merely a civic duty or a nice event on a calendar. Serving a child is a life-changing experience.**

When you mentor a young person, provide a warm meal, or create an opportunity where none existed

before, **you rewrite the trajectory of that child's life.** But something else happens in that transaction—something equally powerful. You change yourself. The joy, purpose, and perspective gained from stepping outside our daily routines to lift up someone else reshapes who we are.

As I step into this role, my overarching vision is to ensure that our club continues to be an engine for that mutual transformation. To guide our journey this year, I am setting four clear, ambitious goals for Green River Kiwanis.

Goal 1: Sustainable Growth — A 15% Increase in Membership. (+15%= ~21)

My first goal is centered on our most valuable asset: our people. This year, we are targeting a 15 percent increase in our total membership.

Now, why 15 percent? This isn't about chasing numbers for a trophy or padding a roster. It's about sustainability and vitality. We all know the realities of life—natural attrition happens. Career moves, family transitions, and life-changing factors mean that dedicated members occasionally have to step back.

If we stand still, we regress. A 15 percent growth

target ensures we don't just survive those natural shifts, but thrive through them. **More importantly, every new member brings fresh energy, new ideas, and extra hands to serve.** When we add members, we directly expand our capacity to make an impact in Evansville. **I ask each of you to look at your professional and personal networks in the coming months. Who in your circle is looking for purpose? Who has a heart for service? Let's invite them to take a seat at our table.**

Goal 2: Planting Seeds Early — Investigating a Kiwanis Kids Club

My second goal focuses on our youngest future leaders. We will investigate the feasibility of formulating a Kiwanis Kids Club (K-Kids- Ages 6-11) for elementary school-aged children. (We already have “our foot in the door” in working with the elementary schools with B.U.G. programs.) Leadership development shouldn't wait until high school or college. The values of empathy, civic responsibility, and collaboration are best planted early, when a child's view of the world is still forming. A K-Kids club gives elementary students their very first taste of organized service. They learn how to run a meeting, how to vote on projects, and how small actions—like a shoe drive or a park cleanup—can make a big difference.

By looking into how we can bring a K-Kids program to our local elementary schools, we aren't just serving children today—we are actively cultivating the next generation of Kiwanians and community leaders for tomorrow.

Goal 3: Expanding Leadership — Investigating an Aktion Club

My third goal looks outward to a group of individuals who deserve every opportunity to lead, serve, and shine. We will investigate the feasibility of sponsoring a local Aktion Club.

For those unfamiliar, Aktion Club is the only service club for adults living with disabilities. It provides a structured, supportive environment where members elect officers, plan service projects, and develop genuine leadership skills.

This initiative is about dignity, inclusion, and joy. Individuals with disabilities are so often on the receiving end of community service, but Aktion Club flips the script—it empowers them to be the givers of service. It offers a space where they can experience the pride of leadership, the joy of teamwork, and the satisfaction of giving back. By researching the feasibility, partners, and logistics of starting an Aktion Club here, we take a massive step toward making Green River a more inclusive, compassionate community.

Goal 4: Prioritizing Our Culture — A Delightful Experience

Finally, my fourth goal is directed inward, right here to this room. I am committed to making membership in Green River Kiwanis a truly delightful and enjoyable experience.

We all lead busy lives. You give generously of your time, your energy, and your hard-earned resources. Coming to a Kiwanis meeting or participating in a service project should never feel like a chore or a second job. It should be the highlight of your week. This year, we will focus heavily on fellowship, warm hospitality, engaging programming, and celebrating our shared wins. We will work hard, yes—but we will laugh often, build deeper friendships, and foster an environment where every member feels valued, heard, and energized. When our club experience is joyful, our service becomes effortless, and our membership naturally grows.

Conclusion

Fellow members, these four goals—growing our numbers, inspiring elementary students through K-Kids, empowering adults with disabilities through Aktion Club, and enriching our own membership

culture—are interconnected. They all stem from that singular, profound truth: changing a life impacts yours.

We have an incredible year ahead of us. It will take work, curiosity, and collaboration, but I know the heart of Green River Kiwanis. I know what we are capable of when we align our passion with a shared purpose. This is altruistic service at its best. (An act of helping or serving others out of a genuine concern for their well-being that is driven by selflessness rather than the expectation of personal reward.)

Thank you for your trust, thank you for your dedication, and let's make this a transformative, joyous year for our club and our community. Thank you.