

K-Family Relations Article

By Adeline Pacevich (Kiwanis Family Relations Committee Chair)

K-Family

The K-Family or **Kiwanis Family** is an international service organization that encompasses seven Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs that share a common objective serving their homes, schools, and communities. All of the branches of the K-Family are oriented toward a specific age group and are guided by members of the adult organization, Kiwanis, to ensure that individuals of all ages have the opportunity to perform community service and gain valuable leadership experience.

The primary goal and function of the K-Family Relations Committee is to expand and fortify the connections between all branches of the K-Family, which include:

1. K-Kids

K-Kids or **Kiwanis Kids** is the primary/elementary branch of the K-Family, which seeks to provide children with valuable experiences that will encourage them to develop a passion for leadership, collaboration, and service. As of 2026, the international organization of K-Kids consists of more than 1,100 clubs and 22,000 members across 23 different countries. Like the other branches of the K-Family, K-Kids is built upon the principle of student leadership, as club members ages 6 to 11 work in collaboration with adult Kiwanis volunteers and teachers to design and carry-out service projects that interest them, as well as benefit their communities. Additionally, Kiwanis sponsors two programs associated with elementary school education and academic development, Terrific Kids & BUG).

2. Builder's Club

Builder's Club is the middle school branch of the K-Family, offering an opportunity for students aged 12 to 14 to develop friendships, build communication and leadership skills, dedicate time to service, and find a place that feels like they belong. The international organization of Builder's Club is made up of more than 1,100 clubs and 23,000 members across 21 countries. It is a student-led organization that encourages club members to use their passion and interests to initiate change within their communities, and to do so alongside peers that are equally-passionate about service.

3. Key Club

Key Club is one of the largest and oldest student-led service organizations in the world, and fills the slot of the K-Family specifically for high school students. The Key Club motto is "Caring - Our way of life" which speaks to the primary goals of Key Club

International: to help high schoolers to embrace their leadership potential; to foster kindness, teamwork and inclusivity; and to encourage the desire to make a positive impact wherever life may take them. Currently, Key Club consists of 251,000 members across 40 countries; this organization's broad reach exemplifies just how serious Key Clubbers are about making a tangible difference not just in their local neighborhoods, but across the globe as well.

4. Circle-K

Circle-K International is the collegiate level branch of the K-Family which empowers college students to lead through voluntary service to local and global communities, with a passion. It is also a key opportunity for young adults to build lifelong friendships and develop important networking connections that will serve them, and those who they serve, well in their future. Currently, Circle-K is the world's largest student led collegiate service organization, with over 13,000 members across 5 different continents.

5. Kiwanis Voices

Kiwanis Voices is a pilot program that is responsible for the creation of Kiwanis clubs specifically for individuals dedicated to community service and fellowship between the ages of 18 and 26. It is a new movement to help young adults get acclimated to Kiwanis with the support of their peers, in which they can further explore their passions and values to determine their mission and make a real difference in their communities. Kiwanis Voices is an integral piece of the K-Family as it bridges the gap for young adults who go right into the work-force, rather than into a college, and ensures that there is place within the K-Family where they can stay connected and develop their voice as they acclimate to adulthood.

6. Kiwanis

Kiwanis International is the primary adult branch of the K-Family and is a global service organization filled with adults dedicated to bettering the lives of children through community service, sponsorship, and encouraging youth leadership. The motto of Kiwanis is in line with its mission: "Serving the Children of the World", as Kiwanis operates in over 80 countries and localized clubs determine their projects to meet the unique needs of their community. Kiwanis sponsors Service Leadership Programs, which include K-Kids, Builder's Club, Key Club, Circle-K, Kiwanis Voices, and Aktion Club, in order to offer guidance to individuals of all ages in developing leadership skills and a passion for giving back. Currently, there are 449,229 Kiwanis members around the world who perform approximately 7,000,000 hours of service each year.

7. Aktion Club

Aktion Club is the K-Family branch specifically for adults with disabilities, and consists of 7,282 current members and 400 clubs across 13 different countries. It is dedicated to developing caring, passionate, and capable leaders through the medium of service. Aktion Club empowers members to embrace who they are, collaborate with others, establish lifelong friendships, and implement plans to serve children around the world, through action.

Further Information

The K-Family Relations Committee is responsible for increasing communication with and strengthening the bonds between Key Club and the other branches of the K-Family. If you would like some additional guidance or information along your journey of learning about and engaging with the branches of the K-Family, please contact your respective Lieutenant Governor or the chair of the Kiwanis Family Relations Committee: Adeline Pacevich -

Email: apacevich@njkeyclub.org.

You can also find more information about any one of the branches of the K-Family on their individual websites, listed as such:

K-Kids - <https://www.kiwaniskids.org/>

Builder's Club - <https://www.buildersclub.org/>

Key Club - <https://www.keyclub.org/>

Circle-K - <https://www.circlek.org/>

Kiwanis Voices - <https://www.kiwanis.org/voices/>

Kiwanis - <https://www.kiwanis.org/>

Aktion Club - <https://www.aktionclub.org/>