Students from three Siouxland middle schools were recognized for their efforts in “Making a Difference” in their communities.

Three Siouxland middle schools made a difference their communities and, they were rewarded with a trip to Arnolds Park Amusement Park at the Iowa Great Lakes on May 22nd.

Earlier this year, KTIV asked area middle and junior high schools to submit video applications outlining how their students were “Making a Difference” in their schools and communities.

Sacred Heart Middle School in Sioux City, Alta-Aurelia Middle School in Alta, Iowa, and Kingsley-Pierson Middle School in Pierson, Iowa, were selected.

Students from those schools traveled to Arnolds Park Amusement Park for a day of fun.

Students from Kingsley-Pierson focused their video on the difference they make in the life of fellow student Ryan Bubke, who battled a debilitating disease.

“It’s just a really fun field trip and it’s fun to have this memory of Ryan because we did something good for him and he has made a difference in our lives,” said Gabby Boustead, a student at Kingsley-Pierson.

“That is probably just going to be one of the most amazing experiences that we encounter because, I mean, we are doing something for Ryan and he is why we are here and he deserves it,” said Lea Hodgins, a student at Kingsley-Pierson.

For educators, the effort these students, and their teachers, put into the videos shows how much they care about their schools and communities.

KTIV solicited entries from Siouxland middle schools earlier this year. The campaign was sponsored by Arnolds Park Amusement Park and Woodhouse Sioux City, which gave a $1,000 donation to each selected middle school.

On July 4th, 13-year-old Ryan Bubke lost his battle with adrenoleukodystrophy, which is also known as ALD. It’s a brain disorder that destroys the protective sheath surround the nerve cells.

When Ryan was diagnosed with ALD after a seizure in February 2018, his classmates at Kingsley-Pierson High School sold “Bubke Strong” t-shirts to help support his family.

The students also hosted a benefit breakfast for the family and organized a school-wide sendoff for Ryan, and his family for their “Make-a-Wish” trip to Hawaii.

A video of the students’ efforts was submitted to KTIV’s “Making a Difference.”

Kingsley-Pierson Middle School’s video about their efforts to support Ryan and his family was selected along with two other schools and the students won a trip to Arnolds Park Amusement Park and a $1,000 donation to their school from Woodhouse Sioux City.
Three events sponsored by KTIV in a 48 hour period from April 5th - April 6th raised nearly $1 Million combined in funding for their various programs.

KTIV was the media sponsor for three separate events over that two day period: The Alzheimer's Association’s “Wine and Chocolate” Festival, The Bishop Heelan “Heelan Masters” Auction and the Sioux City Symphony Gala.

The Alzheimer’s Association's “Wine and Chocolate Festival” raised $292,500 from its event on April 5th in Dakota Dunes, South Dakota.

On April 6th, two KTIV-sponsored events, The Bishop Heelan Auction and the Sioux City Symphony Gala were held in Sioux City. Bishop Heelan’s event generated over $372,000 in support for educational programs and necessary equipment and the Symphony’s Gala Auction was able to raise a similar amount to support its educational outreach program and other programming expenses.

One of the highlights of the Symphony Gala was “Mozart,” a 6-week-old French Bulldog that was auctioned off to a local family for $20,000.

Proceeds help fun efforts such as the Symphony’s Carnegie Hall Link Up program. Thousands of Siouxland students from grades 3-5 to join the orchestra and sing and play along with the Symphony for a performance at the Orpheum Theatre.

Over 1200 Attend United Way of Siouxland’s “Women’s Power Lunch”

Empowering women was the focus April 24th at the annual United Way of Siouxland Women’s Power Lunch, sponsored by KTIV.

Victoria Arlen was the keynote speaker at the event at the Delta Events Center in South Sioux City, Nebraska.

Arlen is an on-air personality with ESPN, a Paralympic Gold and Silver medalist, and “Dancing with the Stars” semi-finalist.

She says no obstacle is too big to overcome.

“For anyone going through a tough time I try to remind them to keep climbing,” said Arlen. “Often times life can be, or your career can be like climbing a mountain and you slip up and you fall and it’s challenging.

So I like to encourage women especially to keep climbing because that view is totally worth it when you get there.”

Funds raised from this annual event support the United Way’s single parent scholarships at local participating colleges.

“Whatever it is that they are looking to do to improve themselves, to better themselves,” said Kathy Spohr, Women’s Power Lunch Committee Chair. “And it’s not just women, it’s men—single men are able to apply for this as well.”

KTIV’s very own Michelle Schoening and Stella Daskalakis were emcees of the event.
“Derby and Dreams” Supports Pier Center for Autism

KTIV’s Matt Breen and Stella Daskalakis were the co-emcees for the 7th Annual “Derby and Dreams” event supporting the Pier Center for Autism.

Locals gathered for a dinner, live music and a live and silent auction. Funds raised from the Kentucky Derby-themed event provide beneficial services to local children with autism and their families.

At the event, the organization announced the construction of a new 10-thousand square foot facility to be located on Stadium Drive in Sioux City.

“Are You Smarter Than Our Fourth Graders?”

Stella Daskalakis represented KTIV at the Sioux City Public Schools Foundation’s annual “Are You Smarter Than our Fourth Graders?” fundraising event in March. Proceeds supported the Sioux City Community School district with programs that can’t be achieved through limited state funding.

Contestants competed to answer questions, with help from some of the district’s 4th grade students.

The 2019 “Wine and Chocolate Festival” to support the local chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association shattered the organization’s fundraising record.

This year’s event, which was hosted by KTIV evening news anchors Matt Breen and Stella Daskalakis, raised $292,500.

The two-day festival brings winemakers from all over the country to Le Mars and Sioux City.

Wines were hand-selected to complement the multi-course meal.

The proceeds from the event will be used to support the programs and services provided by the Alzheimer’s Association including 24/7 Helpline, area support groups, community education and awareness and research.

KTIV Helps Sioux City Railroad Museum Celebrate 35 Years and Honor Volunteers

In May, KTIV’s Al Joens hosted a special event at the Sioux City Railroad Museum.

The organization was celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad and the 35th anniversary of the Siouxland Historical Railroad Association.

At the organization’s annual “Dinner by the Rails,” Al interviewed and helped recognize five of museum’s long-term volunteers who were awarded the “Golden Spike” Service Award.

Proceeds went to final renovations of the museum complex as well as funding and maintaining new exhibits and the museum’s educational program.

Recently, the Sioux City Railroad Museum was designated as a National Historic District and placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

KTIV Starts Parade Season at Orange City Tulip Festival

KTIV Chief Meteorologist Ron Demers “flings” Bing Candy bars to the crowd at the Orange City Tulip Festival in May. KTIV will participate in 13 different parades across Siouxland in 2019.

KTIV Chief Drone Pilot Jake Rains participated in the Pancake Breakfast and Fly-In at the MidAmerica Museum of Aviation & Transportation in Sioux City on April 6th.

He was able to demonstrate KTIV’s SkyLink 4 drone and answer questions from drone enthusiasts at the event.

The KTIV Community Service Report is made possible by the generosity of our sponsors.