



## **Bowling Green Elementary School**

*2009, 2010 & 2011 Kiwanis International K-Kids Distinguished Club & Tablet of Honor Recipient*

2340 Stewart Avenue Westbury, NY 11590

516-876-7480

**Devon Rafanelli, President**  
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### **K-Kids Speech Contest** **by** **Devon Rafanelli**

One K-Kid's act of kindness CAN make a difference in the world. One K-Kids's act of kindness that can make a difference in the world is raising money for the Eliminate Project.

The Eliminate Project is saving mothers and their babies from maternal/neonatal tetanus around the world. One K-Kid, like me, could raise only \$1.80 to save a mother and their baby or babies from MNT. That's incredible!!! A K-kid who might only be 10 years old just saved 2 people, maybe even more, from MNT. WHAT IF that K-Kid raised twice that amount or triple that amount? That K-Kid just helped save 3 Mothers and all their babies from MNT. That's Amazing!!! That K-Kid just did something that most adults don't do. Doctors save lives. Fire fighters save lives. EMTs save lives. Even for adults saving someone's life is a rare occurrence.

However, through the Eliminate Project a K-Kids not only can save lives but actually help eliminate a disease from the face of the earth. That's something only medical researchers usually ever have the opportunity to do.

One K-Kid's act of kindness can make a difference in the world in many ways. For example the K-kids in my club did a lot of things are changing the world. My club named our Faculty Advisor a Charter Zeller Fellow at the Kiwanis International Convention in Geneva, Switzerland. In doing so, we saved the lives of 694 mothers and all their future babies.

My club also received a Hixson Fellowship for an additional \$1,000 donation from our trick-or-treat to Eliminate project. That saved an additional 555 mothers and all their future babies.

We also made the first donation to Eliminate at the 2010 Kiwanis International Convention in Las Vegas. This was before we even knew what Kiwanis' new Worldwide Service Project would be. All we knew is that Kiwanis would be doing a new project that would change the world on the scale of eradicating Iodine Deficiency Disorder. In Las Vegas, our Faculty advisor and our President received the Tablet of Honor and our donation saved the first 555 mothers and all their future babies.

One K-Kid in the Bowling Green K-Kids helped save the lives of 1804 mothers and all their future babies. Alone, that K-Kid made a difference in the world. For the one, two, three or more mothers that my money provided vaccines for, it is one K-Kid who made ALL the difference in that mother's world.

One K-Kid eliminated MNT for those mothers. It didn't take millions of dollars. It didn't take until 2015. It didn't take five years of donations from hundreds of thousands of K-Family members. For that mother, one K-kid eliminated MNT on the day that mother received her third vaccination.

As a K-Kid, I eliminated MNT from one mother's world. I didn't stop at one. It has already been many and I plan for it to be many MANY more.

Think about the pain, the suffering and the anguish, one K-kid has prevented. That is awesome power.

It is power that any K-family member can wield. All it takes is skipping a cup of coffee not buying dessert with your lunch and donating the money you save to the Eliminate project.

You, too, can make a difference in the world.