

# TECUMSEH KIWANIS DISPATCH

February 2026 Diana Halstead, President 785-633-0286  
Volume 66 Number 5 Larry McCammon, Secretary 785-554-2558  
Chartered April 12, 1961 Cindy Cooper, Treasurer 785-224-1711  
Meeting Second Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Tecumseh United Methodist Church



**KIWANIS** is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time.  
[www.tecumsehkiwanis.com](http://www.tecumsehkiwanis.com)

## February Meeting

Diana was our program chair for February and she invited Eric Culbertson who is the Community Liaison for SENT, which stands for Strengthening and Equipping Neighborhoods Together. SENT is headquartered in the old Avondale East elementary school building in the Hi-Crest area of Topeka. This area has been the site of crime and violence for the past several decades. SENT was started in 2018 to improve the Hi-Crest neighborhood and Eric indicated that crime has decreased 21% since that time. There are three main areas of focus at SENT - Housing, Education and Community Wellness. For housing, there is a plan to build 173 apartments and 41 single family homes with 15 homes to be completed this year. These are to be built around the 31st and Fremont area. They are also encouraging residents to apply for a \$10,000 grant to improve the front of their property. For their education piece, they have several programs for youth to teach financial responsibility, Creative Expressions for developing healthier relationships through art, games and more. SENT also has programs for adults helping them to break away from negative beliefs and discover positive self-worth along with parenting resources. Community wellness includes a food pantry where the clients are able to shop and get what they want. There is also a wellness clinic, addiction services, and mental help services. They also offer chiropractic services and massage therapy. There are currently 12 staff members and 12 volunteer positions.

SENT is a well kept secret that appears to offer a great many programs and resources for south-east Topeka. Our club purchased personal hygiene items like they hand out to their clients. Eric gladly carried them away with him. We appreciate his dedication to this worthwhile organization and his sharing of their story.

Thanks to Regina who provided our dessert even though she was not able to attend due to a house full of sick children.

## Upcoming Programs

March 11 - Debbie  
Dessert - Cindy  
April 8 - Denise  
Dessert - Diana  
May 12 - Regina  
Dessert - Ashli

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

April 18 - Pancake Feed

## Volunteer Hours

Kiwanis volunteer hours for the month of January were 149 giving 431 hours since October 1.

## Cuddle Blankets

Club members spent a good many hours for the past several weeks cutting fleece and tying pieces together to make cuddle blankets for Successful Connections which is a part of Child Care Aware. Thanks to Diana for delivering them. Making them is more enjoyable than one would think plus it is a good cause. Look for pictures on the second page.

## Expenses

We had no club expenses in January.

**Kiwanis, serving the children of the world.**



Eric Culbertson from SENT was the speaker for our February meeting. Club members brought personal hygiene products for their pantry.