

# WHO? WHY? WHAT? of THE KIWIS CLUB



There are now 41 Kiwi chapters in 22 states making up our national organization. The individual chapters support many of their local charities and worthy causes, including shelters for abused women and children, food pantries, breast cancer awareness, the Ronald McDonald House, Guide Dogs for the Blind, to name only a few.

## WHO?

The Kiwi Club is a unique philanthropic social group that ties former and current American Airlines stewardesses and flight attendants to a network of friendship, community service, and mutual support. The organization – the first of its kind – includes chapter members and members at large.

Originally, club membership was limited to those who no longer flew for American. However, membership was opened in 1978 to include those currently flying for American, and now includes those flight attendants from airlines merged with or purchased by American Airlines.

The Kiwi Club will soon celebrate its 70th anniversary, and many airline organizations have patterned themselves after this exceptional group.

## WHY?

Those early stewardesses missed the exciting world of flying, and since they had so much in common knew it would be fun to get together occasionally and socialize. This early social concept quickly evolved into a group providing support to charities, though never forgetting to have a good time and making friends. Unlike the shy, wingless New Zealand native bird for which this organization is named, Kiwis are not shy! They chose the name of this bird because they had been required to leave and could no longer fly when they reached the age of 32 or were married. That is no longer the case. Many Kiwis have been flying beyond the age of sixty and more!

The Kiwi Club provides a bridge and common bond that links yesterday's stewardess with today's flight attendant.

## WHAT?

Kiwis have generously raised and contributed millions of dollars to various charities, including their endeavor [Wings Foundation](#) – an organization that provides help for online AA flight attendants in need. The Kiwi Club is firmly committed to this organization and has generously donated over a half-million dollars since it began supporting Wings in 1996.

In addition to supporting Wings, the club supports the National Kiwi Fund, a fund that provides assistance to active Kiwi members who are in need. One dollar of each member's dues goes into this fund. Kiwi support doesn't stop with monetary assistance; voluntary hands-on involvement by members and their families is often provided.

## FUN AND FRIENDSHIP

One of the many benefits of belonging to this organization – and there are many – is friendship. A familiar answer is heard from members who are repeatedly asked how they benefit from being a member of The Kiwi Club: "Fun and life-long friendships."

Kiwis automatically bond because of their on-board experiences. However, it is what follows that keeps the organization alive: Friendships, fun, connections, being useful and making a difference in the world, knowing that someone is always there to "watch your back." Just ask any Kiwi.

Time knows no boundaries when Kiwis connect. Contact our [Vice-President](#) for



information on how to join this wonderful organization.