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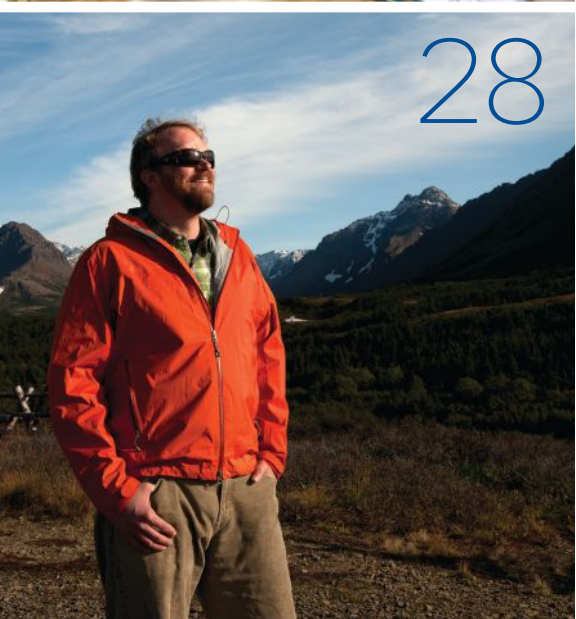
**DuraLux II
Microfiber**

Burgundy Cashmere Fern Chocolate Indigo





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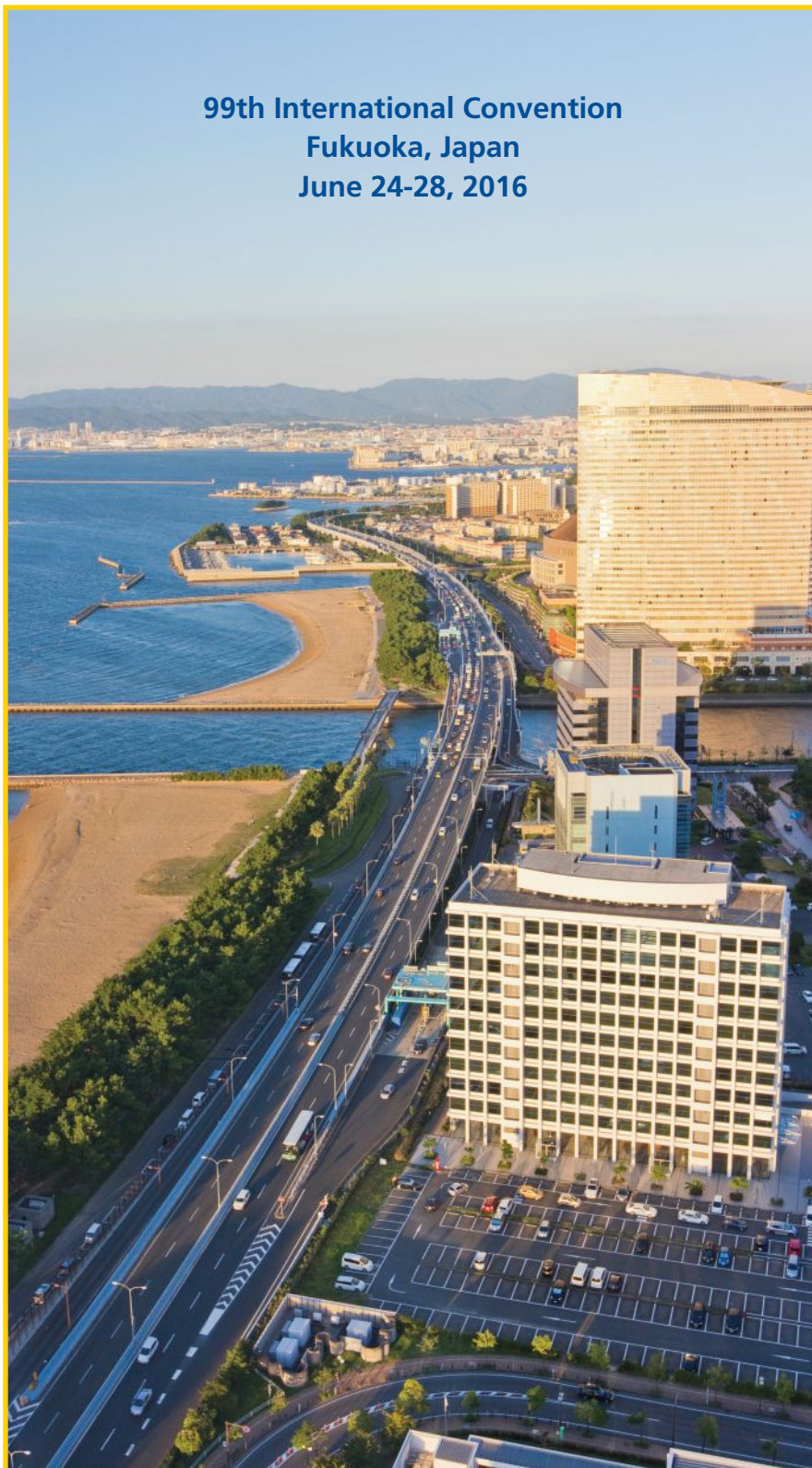
On the cover:

Thanks to Lions, these children in Tanzania received a measles vaccine.



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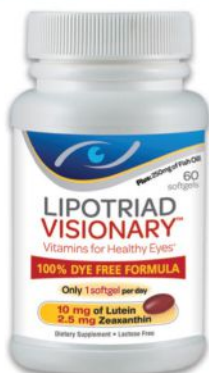
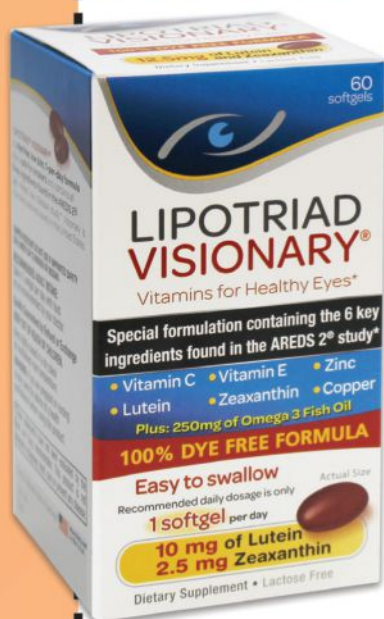
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Leos clear a road in Nepal after the devastating earthquake last April. LCIF supported the relief and recovery efforts of Lions and Leos there.

The 'Foundation' of Our Greatest Service

English is considered one of the most difficult languages to learn. Why? Sometimes the words don't make sense. There is no ham in hamburger. Nor is there an apple or a pine in a pineapple. I'm being partly facetious, but it is true that many words are problematic. Non-English speakers struggle with the difference between homework and housework, moral and morale, and collage and college.

But one word that makes a lot of sense, especially as used by Lions, is "foundation." The foundation of a home is the concrete or masonry that supports it. Appropriately, "foundation" also means a fundamental principle, or supporting material or the base on which something rests. Our forebears made a wise choice in 1968 to name our grant-making arm Lions Clubs International Foundation. This entity is indeed the main support of what Lions do. It embodies our fundamental principles. It's our sturdy, reliable base for Lions' service.

Lions clubs could conceivably function without LCIF. But the world would be a much less pleasant place. Millions more would be blind. After disasters, people would go hungry and lack shelter. Youths would not learn self-respect or learn how to avoid drugs and alcohol. (Thank you, Lions Quest!) Measles would kill many more children. Local communities would not be able to avail

themselves of health clinics, schools and playgrounds for those with disabilities.

LCIF is a brilliant, remarkably effective way for Lions to multiply our impact. It's the way we pool our resources and channel our good will. It's our tool for clubs to serve on a much larger scale than they could on their own.

In this issue you will learn more about the wide scope of LCIF and its record of service success. Please continue to generously fund it, as Lions have done for nearly half a century. Help Lions help others through LCIF.

English may not be the easiest language to learn, but as a language it's wonderful for expressing truths and describing reality. So I can't say this any clearer: LCIF is our great foundation that does a world of good. Please keep supporting it.



山田 實純

Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada
Lions Clubs International President

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Dr. Cherukuri knew untreated hearing loss could lead to depression, social isolation, anxiety, and symptoms consistent with Alzheimer's disease.

His patients needed hearing aids, but couldn't afford them. Even though the prices of other electronics were falling, hearing aids were still extremely expensive.

Superb Performance From Affordable Hearing Aid

Layers of middlemen and expensive unnecessary features were keeping hearing aid prices too high. Dr. Cherukuri and his colleagues developed a medical-grade hearing aid without sacrificing quality. His MDHearingAid PRO costs under \$200 and comes with a 45-Day Risk-Free in-home trial.

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— Dr. May, ENT Physician

"I have been wearing hearing aids for over 25 years... Their sound quality rivals that of my \$3,000 custom pair of Hearing Aids."
— Gerald L.



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[The Big Picture



Little Squirts

Usually confined to an orphanage in Japan, 53 children spent a glorious, memorable day in the mountains, chasing one another with squirt guns, splashing and swimming in a blue creek and winning toys at bingo. Eighteen members of the Yokosuka Chuo Lions Club escorted the children. Some of the children were from the White Birch Home for Children and Babies, founded by Lion Toru Hamada. The others were from Shunko



Gakuen, originally founded for children orphaned by World War II. The club has held the outing for 20 years. "These children have few or no chances to go out with their families or other caring adults," says Koyama Hidekazu, vice director of Shunko Gakuen. "Playing outside, they become completely different kids in an instant." The children also "hand fish," plucking rainbow trout from a cordoned-off section of the creek and later eating the grilled trout. Read more stories of Japanese Lions helping children on page 34.



[The Big Picture

Happy Lions



Lions in District 300 G2 in Multiple District 300 Taiwan officially launch an app to enhance communication among Lions and to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of their service projects.

[The Big Picture



(1)



(2)



(3)



(5)



(4)

Travels of a Mascot

Until rescued a few years ago by sharp-eyed Lion Jim Cotter, Lion Leo quietly spent his days languishing on a shelf at a Goodwill store. Since his liberation, he's traveled 45,000 miles around the world, thanks to the oversight of longtime Lion James Royse of the Granbury Lions in Texas and his peripatetic son, Col. Jamey Royse of the U.S. Army. Lion Leo has amused passersby and sparked conversations about Lions in London (1), a NATO base in Afghanistan (2), Gibraltar (3), the Czech Republic (4) and the Castle Hill Lions Club Peace Park (5) in Townsville, Australia.



(6)



(7, 8)



(10)



(9)

Proving he likes to kick back and relax as well as the next stuffed animal, Lion Leo mingled with the crowd at the beer garden atop Zugspitze (6), Germany's tallest mountain. Lion Leo occasionally also went "incognito," preferring to remain out of the picture, as he did in Vienna at historic St. Stephen's Church (7 and 8), which Lions helped to restore. Lion Leo is always happy when his flight is on time (9). Ultimately, though, Lion Leo enjoys hanging out with his Lions friends, especially Lions veterans such as Jerry Ables (10).

PAPER CRANES TAKE FLIGHT

Seen a paper crane lately on Facebook or somewhere in your community? It's not too late at all to join Lions' paper crane campaign to promote Dignity, Harmony and Humanity. That's the theme of International President Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada of Japan, and Lions Clubs International is spearheading a paper crane movement. Lions are encouraged to make a paper crane and write #DignityHarmonyHumanity on it, take a photo of it and share it on social media with the hashtag #DignityHarmonyHumanity. Lions also can leave a crane somewhere in the community for someone to find or



give a crane to a friend. A Japanese legend promises that anyone who folds 1,000 cranes will be granted a wish. The wish of Lions Clubs is to spread dignity, harmony and humanity.

Watch a video on the paper crane campaign.



Cagua Lions in Venezuela provided vision screenings for more than 130 students.

ANOTHER 1.3 MILLION PEOPLE RECEIVE VISION CARE

October was a good month for sight: 4,917 Lions clubs worldwide reported to Lions Clubs International 7,731 vision projects serving 1.3 million people. Altogether, since the Centennial Service Challenge began in July 2014, Lions have reported serving the vision needs of 11 million people. The goal of the challenge is for Lions to serve 100 million people by June 30, 2018. To qualify, the service must be reported to LCI via the Service Activities Report on the online MyLCI system. The Protecting Our Environment campaign is next in April. So far, Lions have served 63 million people for the challenge. In addition to the vision numbers, Lions have served 22 million youths, fed 12 million people and benefited 18 million through environmental projects.



Overheard

"I look forward to this every year. When it hits January 1, I ask my mom, 'Hey, have my papers come yet?'"

—Tallin Thompson, a visually impaired high school freshman who attends a camp hosted by the Wood River Lions Club in Idaho. From Magicvalley.com.

"If you want to help people, being a Lion is the best thing in the world."

—Jack Sans, past president of the Orland Park Lions Club in Illinois, on his club's gifts for the needy. From The Regional News.

"They just took it out of the pasture. I wanted a cow that is used to being around people, like one that goes to the fair. ... It was hilarious."

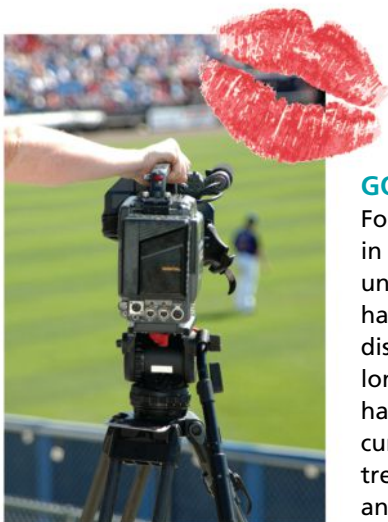
—Chuck Traxel of the Laporte-Benedict Lions Club in Minnesota after a cow involved in the club's Cow-a-Bunga Raffle at Laporte Days bolted through an orange snow fence and led chasers on four-wheelers across a busy highway. From the Grand Forks Herald.

RELIEF FOR REFUGEES

Refugees from Syria and Iraq rescued by the Turkish Coast Guard will receive 2,000 backpacks filled with supplies thanks to Lions. Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) awarded a US\$60,000 refugee assistance grant to 54 Lions clubs in District 118 R in Turkey. Lions will pack the unisex backpacks with blankets, undergarments, towels, hygiene products, bottled drinking water and numerous other supplies and give them to the Turkish Coast Guard. Since the beginning of 2015, the coast guard has rescued 54,000 refugees. During their arduous, dangerous journey the refugees typically lose the little they were able to carry. LCIF recently approved a US\$200,000 grant to assist refugees, and an LCIF/LCIF Refugee Steering Committee was formed to coordinate assistance.



Refugee children in Turkey display school supplies given to them by Lions.



GOOD NEWS FOR LION CARTER

Former President Jimmy Carter, 91, announced in December that he is "cancer-free" after undergoing treatment for melanoma, which had spread to his liver and brain. He had disclosed his cancer diagnosis in August. A longtime Lion and past district governor, Carter has worked with Lions' SightFirst program to curtail river blindness and trachoma. His cancer treatment did not stop him from getting out and having fun (read below).

Former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, were caught on the Atlanta Braves' "Kiss Cam" at Turner Field in September. Watch the short video.

First Roar

STOIC VIKINGS COACH JOINS IN

Bud Grant's stoicism was legendary when he roamed the sidelines as head coach of the Minnesota Vikings. But he sang along and was moved—as was everyone else at the Lions event—when Bob Carling, 98, led “God Bless America” in memory of Pearl Harbor Day. A World War II veteran, Carling has been an Eden Prairie Lion in Minnesota since 1961. A Navy veteran, Grant was a special guest at the Lions’ Wild Game Feed. His son, Mike, the football coach at Eden Prairie High School, is a member.

Photo courtesy of Daniel Huss and the Eden Prairie News



Bud Grant (left) and Bob Carling close the Eden Prairie Lions Club's Wild Game Feed.

66 Years Ago in the LION



MARCH 1950

A flash flood nearly wiped Spring Valley, Wisconsin, off the map in 1942, but eight years later, spearheaded by the Lions in town, “the press wires and the radio buzzed with the amazing news that ‘The Town That Wouldn’t be Licked’ had been cited as one of the nation’s cleanest towns.” Lion Earle Allen (far right) helped lead the cleaning brigades.

LIONS COME TO RESCUE AFTER GRISLY SHARK ATTACK

Surfer Mat Lee, 32, was attacked and severely injured by a great white shark near Ballina, Australia, in July. Lennox Head Lions are leading the fundraising effort to aid his recovery. Lennox Head is just a few miles from Ballina, one of the most popular



Mat Lee is comforted by his girlfriend, Suzy Gerada, at Gold Coast University Hospital.

surfing spots on Australia's east coast, and many Lennox Head Lions surfed when they were younger. “Mat has a long way to go with his rehabilitation, but he's a resilient young man with great support from family and friends,” says Don Hurley, president. The club is managing an account set up for Lee at a local bank, where an employee is a Lions’ past president. The club itself made a AUS\$4,500 (US\$3,300) donation to Lee following its golf outing. Lee made an AUS\$5,187 donation to the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter, which flew him to a hospital after the attack. “I’ve been making steady progress. I’m sure I will surf again one day,” says Lee. “The support from the Lions club has been fantastic and has made a huge difference in the road to recovery.”

By the Numbers

239

Age of a white pine, donated by Lac Du Flambeau Lions, that was carved to create a 45-foot-tall, 6,000-pound totem pole for the Wisconsin Lions Camp.



33

Pairs of snowshoes donated to a local school by Magnetawan Lions in Ontario, Canada.

102

Pairs of pajamas collected at a PJ's and Eggs meal held by Wickenburg Lions in Arizona for the state's foster care program. Many diners wore their own pajamas to the evening event.

715,000

Miles driven by Lions in Iowa since 2009 to transport donated corneas for use in surgery or research.

1,000,000

Cans and bottles collected in the recycling project of the Adel Lions in Iowa since begun in 2003.



20

New inductees for the McDowell County Sports Hall of Fame, begun by Welch Lions in West Virginia.

2

Emergency response trailers stocked with first aid kits and other items by Eudora Lions and the Kansas Lions Foundation.



20

Box fans donated to those without air conditioning by Lago Vista Lions in Texas.

8,208

Meals packed by Maricopa Lions in Arizona in 100 minutes for children in North Korea via the nonprofit Feed My Starving Children.



67

Fire hydrants painted for the city by Scotts Hill Lions in Tennessee.



'The Saddest Thing I Have Ever Seen'

BY NILGÜN NIORD

The headmaster at the school in Turkey near the border called me on my cell. I had organized a Lions Quest seminar at his school two years ago. The headmaster was desperate. More than 200,000 Syrian refugees had poured into the region. They lacked water, food, clothing and nearly everything else most of us take for granted.

I am probably a lot like you—a Lion, a spouse, a long-time worker. I am a past district governor from Turkey who lives there and in Sweden. I was an educator and owned a business. I had seen on television the plight of the refugees but had no idea how terrible their situation was until I met them in person.

They are an incredibly brave people to flee their homes with nothing. I met Zelya, who is taking care of her five children, two elderly women, three young mothers and seven children whose parents had been her neighbors who died in the war. She built two tents for them in the wilderness. She fed them with weeds she dug from the earth. Her only objective was to get back home.

It is heartbreaking to see the empty looks on the beautiful faces of children—not knowing what's going on, why they are not home, why they cannot eat. This is the saddest thing I have ever seen.

We are witnessing the biggest man-made disaster since the end of World War II. Some 2.5 million refugees are in Turkey. Most have traveled to big cities, and a quarter million are in camps. Their distress is unimaginable. One day you have a normal life in which you wake up, enjoy a warm breakfast, hug your children as they go to school, go to work ... and the next day your house is destroyed by bombs. Some of your family and neighbors are killed, and you have to flee. You seek a safe place, the neighboring country. You don't speak their language. You know no one.

I've helped people in crisis before. After the devastating Izmit earthquake in Turkey in 1999 my club supplied goods. The people were traumatized, but it was for a very short period. They had many shoulders to cry on and many arms to hold them. Soon they had new safe homes and continued their lives. The Syrian refugees do not have a caring society around them. They don't have a country any longer. They are unwanted strangers who cannot communicate and cannot build new homes and new lives for a long time.

Urged on by Past International Director Jan-Ake Akperlund, Swedish Lions provided funds, and I, my husband, Past Council Chair Leif Niord of Sweden, and others delivered food, clothes and hygiene supplies to refugee fami-



Swedish Lions provided this boy, a refugee, with goods.

lies. On our next trip we took more goods specifically for the children—warm outfits, shoes, crayons, painting books, chocolate biscuits, fruit juices and even some toys. When we gave them Lion notebooks and pencils, the joy and the gratitude in their eyes were unforgettable. They sang for us and tried to kiss our hands.

Thanks to the Swedish Lions, we've helped about 2,000 families. Our centennial slogan is "Where there's a need, there's a Lion." How true. The refugees are the most vulnerable people on our planet. Let's work together to restore their human dignity.

To donate funds or to learn how a district or multiple district can aid refugees through an LCIF pilot grant program contact LCIFHumanitarianPrograms@lionsclubs.org.

Jill Anderson

Minneapolis Ambassador Lion, Minnesota

As a pediatric ophthalmologist, Jill Anderson uses cutting-edge technology to save children's sight, carries a bag of tricks to make eye exams a breeze and strives to be a caring advocate for her patients' families.

Loves winter sports such as ice skating and skiing

Her Lions club includes many ophthalmologists

Was named one of the 2014 Best Doctors by Minnesota Monthly magazine



Anderson examines a patient at the Minnesota Lions Children's Eye Clinic whose vision she saved from cancer using intra-arterial chemotherapy. The treatment involves guiding a catheter up from the groin to the ophthalmic artery, delivering chemotherapy directly into the eye.

Drawn to the Eye

I never planned on ophthalmology, but in my medical school rotation I found myself really interested in it. The eye is beautiful to look at. Eye surgery is done in extremely small movements, which I love doing. Ophthalmologists are known as detail-oriented people, and it's true. We deal in millimeters.

Entertaining Exams

Surgery is fascinating, but the real fun is in interacting with kids. When I go to the Minnesota Lions Children's Eye Clinic, I bring a big bag of toys. I'll hold up a toy for the child to look at—they don't even know I'm doing an exam. I get to play with kids all day, yet I also get good exam information because they're relaxed.

Challenge of Detection

I care for kids with retinoblastoma—eye cancer that begins in the retina, usually in children under age 3. If it's caught early it can be an easy treatment, but unfortunately it tends to be noticed at a later stage. Parents will notice in photos that instead of red eye reflection, the eye looks white or dark. At that point, the tumor is fairly large.

Compassion and Action

It's incredibly hard to tell a parent that their 2-month-old has eye cancer. I do my best to help them through the process and choose the best treatment. Parents sometimes have to make hard choices. I might use lasers and freezing treatments or localized chemotherapy. Fortunately the rate of saving eyes today is pretty high.

Unfavorable Outcomes

We do have disappointments. I treated one child for an advanced tumor, but she developed a painful pressure problem, so eventually we had to remove the eye. It's upsetting to not have the outcome we wanted. But I can't sit and cry. I have to maintain a balance of empathy and good medical decision-making. That's not always easy.

Special Relationships

One unique thing about pediatrics is that I get to follow up with my patients as they grow because their visual development occurs over years. I love bonding with them and developing relationships with the families. I have four kids of my own, and I have my kids at work. They're hard jobs and can be challenging to balance, but I'm honored to do both.

Do you know a Lion who you think has a great story or deserves a bit of recognition? Email us a brief description of the Lion and the reason you're making the nomination to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org. Please include "One of Us" in the subject line.

The Lions' Pride Expands

In July 1987, at the Lions Clubs International Convention, delegates voted to open the association's membership to women around the world. While some early Lions clubs had women members, in 1918 the Lions Constitution was changed to limit membership to men. It would be almost 70 years before women would be once again welcomed into Lions Clubs International as members. In the meantime, many women volunteered alongside their husbands, friends and family members who were Lions. Some women formed Lioness clubs, the first of which was founded in 1920 in Quincy, Illinois, to support the activities of Lions clubs.

Lions began to take steps to open membership to women in the 1980s at the same time as several lawsuits in the United States were challenging the right of private clubs to have men-only membership.

When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in May 1987 that a California law prohibiting sex discrimination by any "business establishment" applied to Rotary Club, LCI opened membership to women in the United States. Women around the globe were welcomed into membership shortly after at the international convention.

Just two months after the vote, 3,500 women had joined the organization, bringing fresh perspectives and additional hands for service. Within five years, Lions had 55,000 women members.

In the last 30 years, the proportion of women in Lions Clubs has grown significantly. In 2004, Lions began a task force to discover and plan community projects that are of interest to women, identify new members and promote and charter new clubs. By 2015, women accounted for 27 percent of Lions membership worldwide, and 38 percent of new members are women. In some parts of the world the numbers are even higher. Women make up 43.5 percent of Lions in the constitutional area spanning South America, Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico.

Lions' strong service model is attractive to women who want to invest their time and energy into helping their communities. With their efforts and enthusiasm, Lions Clubs is a more thriving, global organization, ready for another century of service.

Read more Touchstone Stories at lions100.org.



Women joined Lions Clubs International as official members in 1987; by 2015 approximately 27 percent of Lions were women.

- Some of the first female Lions talk about their experiences (December 1991/January 1992 LION).
- Lions are surveyed on Women in Lions on the 10th anniversary of allowing them to join (July/August 1997 LION).
- Female Lions reflect on their experiences (February 2007 LION).
- "Generation Next: Younger Women in Clubs Bring Youthful Energy and Fresh Ideas" (October 2012 LION).
- A North Dakota Lion writes her thesis on women in Lions and her club's innovative approach.

Learning Fun, Lions-Style

Next question, please: Is there really a game show called “Lionopardy?” Yes, there is, with a Caribbean twist. Santa Cruz Lions in Trinidad and Tobago put their own spin on the popular TV show “Jeopardy” to educate and entertain children. Although their contest takes place in a Santa Cruz parish hall and not a studio, the excitement level still runs high. Students are eager to show off their knowledge to family members, friends and teachers in the audience.

Lions serve as game show hosts. “The show’s a spin-off of another project, our Know Your Country quiz. We

hosted that for 10 years and then we’ve been doing Lionopardy for the last three.

The kids come from four schools, but next year we want to include even more,” says Shinelle Grant. Five students between the ages of 9 to 11 compete on four teams. “The game show is a much more exciting format for the kids. It’s fun, and we’ve had some real nail-biting finishes,” she explains.

Each student receives a certificate and small cash prize as well as a book from Lions. Grant says the club invests about four months in its effort to develop a study booklet for participants.



Students think fast as a Lion judge awaits the correct answer.

Two categories are “Trinibagotions,” which asks children to name traditions in their country, and “Randonomics,” which asks standard math questions children are already learning in school. “We want to create and sustain a culture of lifelong learning,” Grant points out. “What we’re doing is reinventing the quiz into a fun experience for children and raising awareness about Lions and our community.”

Up and Down and All Around It Goes

Refurbished, repainted and repurposed, the old miniature train that Cheyenne Sunrise Lions operate is similar to that fabled little blue engine that thought it could chug its way over the steep mountaintop—and did. But in Wyoming, it’s not motivation that keeps this train moving. It’s Lions’ own ingenuity. “As parts become unavailable, we just develop new ones to take their place,” says Lion David Woods, one of the club’s several train engineers. The current engine and transmission are from a 1970 Ford Pinto.

The three-car train was purchased by the club in 1984 after member John Harper, a past international director, discovered it languishing in storage after a drive-in movie theater closed. Its former role was ferrying families around the drive-in lot to a playground shortly after World War II until the mid-’60s. Harper has a personal connection. “I was one of those children who rode the train,” he says. “When I suggested to the club that we buy it, members just opened

up their wallets, and we bought it for \$1,000.” What Lions can’t fix is usually repaired free of charge by an auto repair shop.

The train still thrills riders at parades, Super Day in Lions Park, Frontier Days and other area events. It has even made occasional appearances at the state fair. Before Lions bought it, they’d spent hundreds of dollars yearly to build floats for community parades. Now they just drive the train. “We never charge for rides, and we operate

virtually anywhere,” says Woods. The train’s been stored in several places, including at Harper’s house, but is currently housed in a deactivated nuclear missile silo that’s been decommissioned just outside of Cheyenne.

The train’s cars are each embellished with the name of a Cheyenne Lions club. Even though Sunrise Lions own the train, they also promote the Noon and Evening Lions clubs. “We’re only different because of the times we meet,” says Woods.



Train engineer Lion “Jeff” Jeffers drives the Sunrise Lions Train.

Photo by Linda Scham



Lions Party Hearty for Others

They call it a party, but what it really turns out to be is a whole lot of work. Illinois Lions in District 1 J don't mind, though. They're used to it. "We do this project every two years, although this time there were twice as many glasses as there have been in the past," says South Elgin Lion Paul Groth. Several Midwestern snowstorms last year delayed previously scheduled work parties until the collection of glasses grew to 270,000. "We had less people than usual working that day, too, but we still got it done in four hours," he adds. Lions from several clubs were joined by 31 volunteers, most of them high school students. The glasses, stored at the Lions of Illinois Foundation, are sent to another facility for sterilization and eventual use on eye missions in other countries.

South Elgin Lions Bruce Miller (left) and Gary Diehs sort eyeglasses with a student volunteer.

Special Kids, Special Day in California

Californians Sue and Bob Olin know firsthand how hard parents and caregivers of special needs children work

to provide a happy life. "Since there are four special needs kids in our extended family, we see the effort it

takes to raise a special needs child," says Bob, who with Sue is a member of the Lincoln Hills Lions Club. "It



After being fit with a safety helmet, a youngster is ready for his first spin on a motorcycle.

takes a lot just to be able to have a fun, relaxing time.”

The Olins are resolute that families in California raising special needs children will at least enjoy one carefree day, thanks to Lions. In 1999, they initiated a Special Kids Day project in District 4-C3 as members of the Walnut Creek Host Lions Club. It's now an annual district event. When the Olins moved to a new home in District 4 C5, they helped organize not only their new Lions club in 2010 but also Special Kids Day last year.

The Olins found 149 other Lions ready to pitch in, along with Scouts and numerous other volunteers including bikers from a motorcycle club, a ukulele band, an Elvis performer and even cheerleaders from the Sacramento Kings basketball team. There were also horse rides, game booths, a fire engine and rescue squad, face painting and balloons. “We had so many volunteers, we couldn't count them all,” Sue Olin says. Most of the food was donated, as well as crafting supplies for activities. One Lions club paid for a photo booth and others distributed goodie bags.

The bikers carefully gave motorcycle rides to guests. “The bikers were the big hit of the day, with both the kids and Lions,” says Bob Olin. Everyone riding a motorcycle had their photos taken. “A little girl named Amanda had her picture taken and then went over to the arts-and-crafts area to make a picture frame. She decorated it, put her picture in it and came back and gave it to the biker who gave her a ride so he'd remember her,” he recalls. “There wasn't a dry eye around when she did that.”

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*Prices are per person, double occupancy and do not include taxes & government fees of \$159 per person. Add-on airfare is available at an additional charge. \$100 per couple savings on select tour departures, offer expires 3/31/16. Seasonal surcharges and single supplements may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.

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NEW ZEALAND

Terminally Ill Mom Finds Friends

While painting a house that had been illegally stripped bare and left in ramshackle condition, Pam Macdonald turned toward her young daughter. That got the attention of Emma Morris, 6. “Is that your Mum? I am not going to have a Mum,” said Emma. “She is going to die.”

That’s precisely why Macdonald and other Lions, as well as two dozen tradesmen and craftsmen, held a “worker bee” to repair the recently purchased home of Susan Morris, whose liver cancer was expected to take her life in months. The mother of three young girls discovered she was fatally ill just about the time she learned the house she bought at a mortgage auction had been gutted by its occupants, who had finally left after a legal battle. They removed bathroom fixtures, wiring, even door handles and floor boards.

“I was absolutely gob-smacked. It’s unbelievable what was done to these houses,” says Macdonald. “I am a mum and a grandmother, and it tears my heart out at what she is going through.”

The volunteers actually fixed up two homes. Morris’ sister, Larissa, bought a damaged home too, just 75

feet from Morris’ home. Larissa, who has two young boys, lost her husband to a brain aneurysm three years ago.

In one weekend the volunteers installed two kitchens, reconnected the plumbing, fixed the toilets and did other repairs. Six Lions clubs took part: Toko & Districts, Kaponga, Normanby, Stratford, Rahotu and Patea. Donors contributed fixtures and other items, and the families had

to pay only for a few things for the homes.

“Susan’s attitude is incredible. She is a beautiful, smiley woman who is working so hard at being positive,” says Macdonald, a Toko Lion. When a nurse asked Morris how she finds time to relax, she said, “When I am hooked up for chemo treatment—they won’t let me move around then.”



Susan Morris and her daughter, Emma

AUSTRALIA

Cancer Test Saves Lion

A Lion who helped organize skin cancer screenings did the test himself and discovered he had melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer. Graeme Pascoe, a Golden Grover Lion since 1994 and a member of the health committee of District 201 C1, was treated by his doctor after the discovery.

Lions screened nearly 1,200 people in five rural towns, and 185 people had melanoma. The incidence of skin cancer in Australia is two or three times the rates in the United States and Canada. Skin cancers account for about 80 percent of all newly diagnosed cancers there.



A camper gets acquainted with a horse.

INDIA

Club Adopts a Village

The Narangi Lions Club has adopted a small village to preserve its heritage and improve the health of its 99 families. Tiny, isolated Burha Mayong is home to Tiwas, Hindu Assamese and Bengali Hindu refugees.

Narangi Lions have held health camps, literacy programs and classes on female empowerment for the families. They also constructed a hall and bathrooms and donated many goods including a computer, sewing machine and handlooms.

The 68-member club is working with the Social Welfare Department on the village improvement, according to the Assam Tribune.

LEBANON

Lions One-Up Elvis, Sting and Marley

The Lions' CD gives new meaning to "world music." It contains songs that were hits for Elvis, Sting and Bob Marley as well as other tunes made popular by French singers. The songs were performed by Lions from Lebanon, remastered in Los Angeles and pressed on CDs in Dubai. "Lions We Sing We Serve" is being sold at Virgin Megastore shops across Lebanon as well as at duty-free shops at the Beirut Airport.

The CD is a mix of pop, rock, jazz and reggae. Among the 14 tracks, and original artists, are "It's Now or Never" by Elvis, "I Will Survive" by Gloria Gaynor, "The Gambler" by Kenny Rogers and "Ma Liberte de Penser" by Pascal Obispo.

The Beirut Lions showcasing their karaoke talents on the CD are amateurs, but they pulled out all the stops in ensuring the quality of the CD and getting it noticed. The songs were recorded in a state-of-the-art studio; its owner, Walid Al Massih, is a well-known singer. Lions paid copyright fees for the songs. Rock star Moe Hamzeh, a Lebanon Lion, served as executive producer for the recording sessions.

Lion Lina Ezzedine, a graphic designer, developed the CD cover, and Lions took to



social media as well as radio and TV stations to publicize the album. But it's the quality of the recordings that set it apart, say Lions. "Once you hear the songs you will see it is very professional since they were remixed and mastered by professionals," says Lion Marie-Christine Boulos, cabinet secretary.

The innovative project by the Beirut New Vision and Beirut Berytus Lions clubs is raising funds for 13 Lebanese charitable groups. The CD is expected to generate US\$26,000 for a children's cancer center, a nonprofit that supports pediatric wards, a program to feed the homeless and 10 other concerns.

Listen to the Lions' version of "Redemption Song" by Bob Marley.

FINLAND

Horses Make Sense for Camp

Dogs, as in guide dogs, are most commonly associated with Lions, but a Finnish club used horses to help children with special needs learn, react appropriately and follow instructions. The Siilinjärvi/Kassarat Lions Club used equine therapy at a weeklong camp.

The children not only rode horses but also took lessons on horse care, horse grooming, saddling and basic equestrian. Horses are considered suitable for therapy because they respond predictably to people, and their behavior in many ways corresponds to how people react.

The club co-sponsored the camp with a church. About 20 Lions and their spouses

volunteered at the camp for a total of 150 hours.

The camp focused on single-parent families and blended families. Parents attended. They spent time together sharing stories and learning from one another while their children were busy with their therapy.

Besides the therapy, the children enjoyed typical camp activities such as swimming, fishing, hikes, treasure hunts and an adventure course set in the woods. The club has run a camp for a decade, focusing on a different target population each year.





LCIF Enjoys a Banner Year

As chairperson of Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), I am honored to present to you some of my favorite stories from the 2014-2015 Annual Report. These stories highlight the personal impact our Foundation made last year. Congratulations to Past International President Barry Palmer on a fantastic year of service and to you, Lions, for your unwavering support of our Foundation!

Joe Preston
LCIF Chairperson 2015-2016
Immediate Past International President

A Message from the Chairperson

Lions, you never cease to amaze me. When I became chairperson of Lions Clubs International Foundation, I expected to spend the year encouraging you to follow your dreams. Instead, you spent the year inspiring me with your selfless service and generous hearts. Thank you to all who supported LCIF this past year. I have seen firsthand the impact you have made, and I know now just how much Lions and LCIF can accomplish together.

Without your kindness and generosity, there would be more children at risk for drug use, fewer children would have access to life-saving vaccines, the fear of blinding disease would be a reality for more people and there would be less support for people in need following disasters. Every day, you live up to our "We Serve" motto. You continue to prove that love and compassion can overcome fear and isolation. Every day, you make our world a better place and give people everywhere the tools they need to realize their dreams.

Together with our partners, we are making significant strides and impacting more lives than we could alone. Alongside Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Measles & Rubella Initiative, we have prevented millions of measles deaths. Working with the World Health Organization, we are getting closer to eliminating preventable causes of blindness. Our partnerships with Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Companies and VSP Global are bringing eye health to more children than ever before. In collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Lions Quest is expanding in Europe, bringing positive life skills to youths in even more countries.

These partnerships are incredibly valuable, but LCIF could not accomplish any of these feats without the commitment of Lions around the world. This report will give you a glimpse at the dreams that we have turned into realities this year. As you read this report, look back on the projects and programs that have given you such pride and give careful consideration to how you and your club will continue to make dreams come true in the future.



LCIF Chairperson Palmer assists with disaster relief in Thailand.

Barry J. Palmer
LCIF Chairperson, 2014-2015



LCIF built this school in Rio Blanco.



Improving Local Communities

Through its Humanitarian grants, LCIF provides matching funds to support Lions' efforts to improve vital public service institutions and programs in their local communities.

In Guatemala, Rio Blanco's elementary school was struggling to accommodate its 100 students, and offered only one toilet for students and staff to share. The Lions of District 114-M in Austria secured a US\$51,000 Standard grant from LCIF to construct a new school building with four classrooms, a sports area, functioning restrooms and a storage room. Situated on land donated to the municipality of Joyabaj, the school is owned by the people of Rio Blanco.

The Austrian Lions ran a successful fundraising campaign, raising more than US\$110,000. Funds raised by the Lions that weren't used for construction were put into a scholarship fund to help the school's top graduates attend secondary school in the provincial capital.

"I appreciate the generosity of Lions for financing that primary school for our students here in Rio Blanco," says Florencio Carrascosa, the mayor of Joyabaj.

"The Lions make education possible, and education means hope for a future. We are very proud and thankful."



Supporting Youth

LCIF's Lions Quest program teaches character education, bullying prevention, drug awareness and service-learning for students through grade 12.

Cooper Village in Omaha, Nebraska, is a juvenile residential psychiatric treatment facility for students with severe behavior disorders such as attention deficit hyperactive disorder, bipolar disorder, severe depression, conduct disorder and oppositional defiant disorder. It uses the Lions Quest Skills for Adolescents curriculum for its Personal Development class, which is required each day in each classroom.

"We love the curriculum because it is much more than drug prevention education," says Ruth Woll, a Lions Quest teacher formerly at Cooper Village. "It starts with lessons on how to communicate effectively if students want to be heard in a positive way, which so many of our kids need. They get to know each other and learn how to talk respectfully to each other. Then it moves on to showing kids the importance of self-confidence with lessons designed to show them how special they are and help them build self-confidence."

"So many of our students come to us having had little success in schools, their homes and the community. I love the way the curriculum helps the students build their emotional and social skills. Each unit has great lessons designed to teach students about emotions and how to positively deal with them, all designed to help kids have better lives."

"I smile each time I think of Andy*, a known gang member. When one student picked on another, Andy reminded him that he didn't 'have to blow out John's* candle to make his burn brighter.'"

"The service-learning unit concerned me because our students live behind locked doors and are placed with us because they are not ready to be released into the community. They were excited, and I was pleasantly surprised by their talents and sense of responsibility when they tried to teach each other how to check and change the transmission fluid in a staff member's car."

"The lessons are vital and too often absent from these kids' lives. The lessons not only teach the dangers of drugs but also teach and help them practice daily the skills needed to make positive choices in their lives. Making learning fun and hands-on is how we reach our difficult population, so this curriculum is perfect for us."

**Names changed to protect privacy.*



Lions Quest teaches character education in schools.

Watch a video on Lions Quest in Uganda.



Combating Measles

LCIF provides financial and volunteer support to reduce measles deaths worldwide by increasing access to measles immunization where it is needed most.

The Lions of Zambia participated in African Vaccination Week for the second time, in close partnership with the local Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health. Lions printed and distributed 20,000 fliers all across the country. The Lions used the week as a platform to educate parents about vaccines and to discuss with families the importance of routine immunization. They visited homes, markets and bus stops, interacting with community members one-on-one and also using megaphones to relate the importance of immunization. Lions also worked with the Ministry as it carried out a number of public health interventions in conjunction with African Vaccination Week including vaccination clinics. By the end of the week, 141 Lions had assisted Ministry medical teams in vaccinating more than 7,850 children.

“Lions were foot soldiers, spearheading publicity, distributing fliers and displaying banners, and helped with crowd control,” says Past District Governor Christine Kasonde of Zambia. “Where there is a need, there is a Lion!”



LCIF is reducing deaths from measles.

Bill Gates has an encouraging video message for Lions.

INVESTMENT & IMPACT 2014-2015

IMPROVING LOCAL COMMUNITIES



178 Standard grants totaling US\$9,345,400, 28 International Assistance grants totaling US\$403,765, and three Core 4 Diabetes grants totaling US\$289,685 to support Lions' efforts to improve education, health care and other critical public services for 7,474,330 people in their own communities and those of their fellow Lions.

SUPPORTING YOUTH



Lions Quest programs were implemented and expanded in 15 countries and geographic areas through 35 Core 4 Lions Quest grants totaling US\$1,928,162.

COMBATING MEASLES



US\$6,000,000 to support the vaccination of millions of children through the Measles & Rubella Initiative and Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, and US\$638,272 to Lions in 13 countries to support their social mobilization and advocacy efforts

SAVING SIGHT



44 SightFirst grants totaling US\$12,158,240 delivered eye care services to approximately 9,465,750 people, improved 51 eye care facilities and trained 25,490 eye care professionals

PROVIDING DISASTER RELIEF



141 Emergency grants totaling US\$1,327,600 to support Lions and other partners as they provided immediate aid to 14,100 victims of natural disaster



Saving Sight

Lions save sight in many ways. LCIF supports their sight-saving efforts through programs like SightFirst, which helps Lions build comprehensive eye care systems in underserved communities to prevent blindness and vision loss and care for those who are blind or visually impaired.

Ensign is a nationally accredited, low-vision clinic in Colorado, which the Fort Collins Lions Club has supported since the clinic was established in 2001. In 2013, LCIF awarded a US\$200,050 grant to fund a three-year SightFirst project to expand low-vision mobile services throughout Colorado. The “Onsite” van travels around rural Colorado providing low-vision rehabilitation services. More than 290 low-vision patients have received services,

and 100 Lions have volunteered.

“Before, I walked around hunched down, not wanting to do anything for fear of being hurt,” says Maurine Sanford, a grant beneficiary. “But thanks to Ensign and the Lions of Colorado, I am able to stand up straight and move forward to the next phase of my life.”



Maurine Sanford



Providing Disaster Relief

The LCIF Emergency grant program provides financial support to Lions and other partners engaged in disaster response and recovery efforts. Major Catastrophe Grants provide significant funds for catastrophes with major international impact.

Shambhu Bahadur Bhandari, 76, had watched helicopters fly over his village in Nepal after the devastating earthquake last April, but none came to help. The local Lions club was the first to offer any assistance to his village. He approached the Lions with tears in his eyes, a bag of food in one hand and blanket and tent in the other. He hugged the Lions and expressed his gratitude that now his two young grandchildren could eat while he continued searching for food and shelter.

“With his words, we Lions were quiet and could not talk,” says Past Council Chairperson Pankaj Pradhan of Multiple District 325. “We watched each other. It was so painful time for us, but it was also a heartwarming moment for us. We are so fortunate that we got that opportunity to serve those people at that time in that place. We are always proud to be Lions and know that we really can make difference in society.”



Shambhu Bahadur Bhandari of Nepal gratefully receives food from Lions.



Mariam

In Their Own Words

“Thank you, Lions clubs of Brazil. Thank you for believing in us as athletes. Thank you for giving us opportunities to shine. You may be surprised, but you will not be disappointed!”

—Leticia Elias, Special Olympics athlete, Brazil

“The solutions to cure diseases lay not only in medicine, but also in the attitude towards the community. LCIF, thank you very much for your support of our community.”

—Dr. Juan Carlos Terán, Quito los Olivos Medical Center, Ecuador

“When I was told that a surgery camp would be organized, I was pregnant. Two days after the delivery, I decided to get operated and my husband brought me to the health center on our donkey. Now my eye doesn’t make me suffer and I can take care of my baby.”

—Mariam, trichiasis surgery beneficiary, Chad

THE LUCKIEST UNLUCKY MAN IN ALASKA

After a grizzly bear took his eyesight and very nearly his life, Dan Bigley relearned living and rediscovered community.

BY TODD SCHWARTZ



For the first 25 years of his life, Dan Bigley was lucky. Born into a loving and financially well-off family, he grew up relishing the outdoors and traveling the world. He spent much of his time hiking, climbing and skiing in the backcountry. He was lucky to be healthy and strong, living in a cabin in the ski town of Girdwood, Alaska, where he could watch the light and storms on 20,310-foot-high Denali from his deck and ski, hike and fish right out the back door.

After a youth filled with wandering in the wilds and a ski-bum lifestyle, Bigley had a job he loved, taking troubled kids on outdoor trips. He had a close and likeminded circle of friends. And, after a yearlong crush on a woman named Amber, he had at last gone on a momentous date with her. Life and luck, and now perhaps romance as well, were solidly on Dan Bigley's side.

Until they weren't.

It was a glorious sunny day, July 14, 2003, when Dan Bigley got horrifically, life-alteringly unlucky. He awoke that day, kissed Amber goodbye (that first evening had become a first morning), and packed up to do one of his favorite things in life: go fishing with a buddy on the Russian River, out on the Kenai Peninsula. The red salmon run was on, a favorite of local fly fishers—and an irresistible draw for the area's other dominant population: bears. With his dog Maya and friend John, Bigley fished all day. At twilight, they decided to try one more spot close to the Russian River Campground.

Bigley was no stranger to grizzlies. He'd seen them many times and gave them total respect. Fortunately, their usual behavior was to see a human and wander away, or better yet run away. Bigley's biggest fear was that some gun-toting fisherman would see a bear, freak out and open fire in the vicinity.

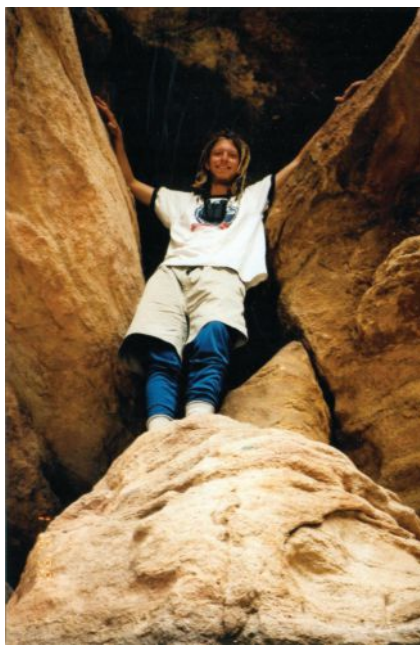
So when the bear came into sight on the trail, 30 feet away, back to them, Bigley didn't panic. He grabbed Maya by the scruff of the neck and the two men stood side-by-side, hoping to look larger. But this bear was different. Both men knew it right away. It didn't move off. It turned, raised its hackles and grunted. Bigley knew they had to get out of there fast. They backpedaled calmly, reversing course on the trail and planning to take the long way back to the car. When the bear was safely out of sight and they'd covered some distance, they relaxed and picked up the pace.

Suddenly the alders in front of them were shaking violently. Had the bear circled around to cut them off? Bigley had never seen anything like that. This time, there was no calm backpedaling. They turned and hoofed it in the other direction. In seconds, the bear that they thought was now behind them exploded around the corner in front of them. Head lowered, ears flat, eyes yellow as summer suns, the grizzly shot past Maya and John as they dove off the trail and came straight for Bigley. Running was pointless, as a

grizzly's top speed is as much as eight miles per hour faster than world-record sprinter Usain Bolt. Bigley only had time to attempt a dive into the bushes. He didn't make it.

The next few minutes were a brutal slow-motion nightmare of searing pain, attempts to play dead, primal screams, then blissful unconsciousness. Bleeding from his leap off the trail, John heard the awful sounds of his buddy being killed and managed to run toward the campground for help. At one point he stopped to listen. He yelled Bigley's name, but heard only Maya barking in the distance. After Bigley passed out, the bear had moved a few yards away to wait and watch, common behavior when neutralizing a threat. Then, just barely, John thought he heard Bigley moan.

So did the bear, which turned out to be a sow with two cubs nearby. It attacked again. This time it flipped Bigley over on his back. The last thing Dan Bigley would ever see was the bear standing over him, pinning him down. He could feel its breath on his face. The bear cocked its head sideways and bit down on the center of Bigley's face. The jaws of an adult grizzly, it has been calculated, can bite with enough force to crush a bowling ball. By comparison, Bigley's head was like the eggshell of a tiny, delicate bird. Bigley heard crunching, then a pop, then nothing. He remembers floating in pleasant blue light. He remembers seeing friends and family. He remembers making a very conscious decision not to die.



Before the attack, Bigley often relished the wilderness.

A New Life

Over the phone, the ER doctor couldn't even find words to describe Bigley's injuries to the on-call surgeon.

"It's terrible, just horrible," she said. "Please, we need you to come."

The EMT's report put it more succinctly: "Upper nose, eyes, forehead anatomy unrecognizable."

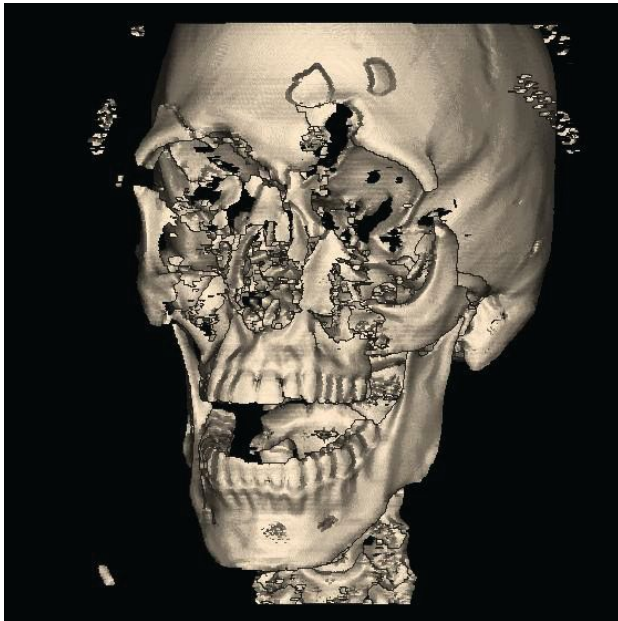
The surgeon, Dr. James Kallman, was a Fulbright scholar who had completed a fellowship in facial reconstruction, but he had been on his own in practice for less than a year. By his own admission, he was still pretty green at the time. He wondered briefly if he could handle this. Bigley's CT scan revealed bones shattered into tiny pieces, eye sockets crushed, his palate attached to nothing—and when he was taken into the operating room, Kallman could see that Bigley's brain was exposed to the point that part of it had herniated down into the space where his nasal cavity used to be. His eyes were pulled so far forward that both optic nerves had snapped.

"I must have been standing there with a stunned look for a little too long," Kallman would say later, "because the senior OR nurse looked at me and said 'Doctor, would you like to shave the hair?' I said, 'Yeah, that's where we'll

start. We'll start by shaving the hair.”

It took eight hours of surgery just to clean the wounds and sew up the skin. Then Bigley was put into a medically induced coma and the wait began to see if he would survive. With his brain tissue exposed and cerebrospinal fluid leaking out, infection was Kallman's biggest fear.

Against all odds, and with a fair bit of his good luck kicking back in, Bigley held on. Ten days after the attack, the swelling had receded enough to allow Kallman and a team of surgeons to begin a long series of reconstructive procedures, including rebuilding the floor of his skull to hold in his brain, shaping new facial features with titanium plates and mesh and wiring his jaw in place so his teeth would line up. It's impossible to overstate the amount of training and skill that went into putting the puzzle of Dan Bigley's face back together. But nothing, of course, could be done to save his eyes.

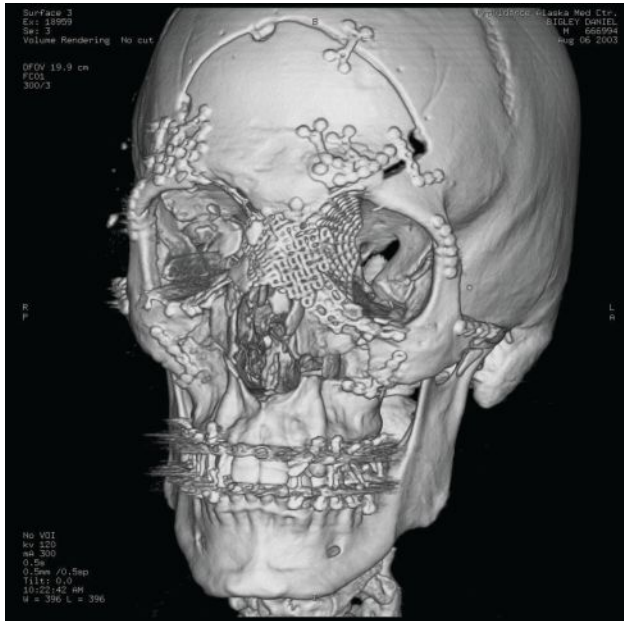


as well as providing foster care coordination and other wrap-around services in homes and schools.

“I used that line recently when I made a presentation to 2,000 people as part of an event for the Alaska Center for the Blind [ACB],” Bigley continues. “Most of my contact with Lions clubs has been indirect over the years, but they are very supportive of the organizations that have been huge in my recovery, including ACB, Guide Dogs for the Blind and [what is now] the Hatlen Center in California, where I went to learn the skills of living independently as a blind person. I thank every Lion for their commitment to the visually impaired.”

Bigley, who holds a master's degree from the University of Alaska, has something of a unique ability to connect with the traumatized young people he serves.

“I think they relate to me in a different way than other therapists,” he says. “What's unique about my trauma is



Bigley's CT scans—one from the night he came into the ER and the other after reconstructive surgery.

Slowly, Bigley was awakened from his coma, and then Kallman told him he was blind. Too drugged up to have much of an emotional reaction—that would come later—Bigley didn't really understand that his new life had begun. As he points out in his compelling book “Beyond the Bear,” (with Debra McKinney, Globe Pequot Press), he was going to have to learn to live all over again.

Lucky Again

“I'll take Lions over bears anytime,” Bigley says in his Anchorage office, 12 years and a few months removed from the bear. As clinical director of Denali Family Services, Bigley is the second-in-command at this 150-employee community mental health center, which serves hundreds of children with severe mental disabilities and their families,

that I wear it publicly on my face—you usually wouldn't know just by looking at our clients that they have been wounded.”

For Bigley, the road back from his wounds probably began before he could speak. Another lucky unlucky man from Juneau saw the news about the attack and immediately flew north to be at Bigley's bedside.

Back in 1959, Lee Hagmeier was the first, and until Bigley, the only person known to have been blinded by a bear. The parallels were close: both attacks happened in the Alaska woods to a young fisherman and lover of the great outdoors. Both were bitten so hard that their brains were exposed and their eyes destroyed. Probably, given the era, it's even more remarkable that Hagmeier survived.

Bigley listened, jaw wired shut, as Hagmeier told him how he had been devastated, then motivated. Hagmeier went on to earn his Ph.D., continued fishing and hiking,



Ask Bigley, though, and he will tell you that, second only to Amber and his kids, the luckiest unlucky man in Alaska has been most powerfully supported and lifted and shaped by community.

became a runner and kayaker and enjoyed a long career and happy marriage.

“To have Lee there meant a lot to me,” Bigley remembers. Although it took awhile to sink in, Hagmeier was the only person who could credibly tell him it would all be OK: “Here was someone, the only person in the world, in fact, who really understood what I was going through. We call ourselves a Tribe of Two.”

While he was there, Hagmeier taught Bigley’s friends how to physically lead a blind person without stepping on their dignity (you don’t grab them and steer, they take your elbow and follow). He also gave Bigley his first post-bear assistive tech: a talking watch, so that when he awoke he would know whether it was day or night.

After a month in the hospital and numerous surgeries, Bigley grew strong enough to go to his family’s vacation home in the hills above San Juan Bautista, California, to rest and recover. He left behind his cabin, most of his friends, and Amber, who was going to have to wait some time for a second date. “Just because my life is over,” Bigley, still wrapped in depression, told her before he left, “doesn’t mean yours has to be. I’m setting you free.”

“Back then,” Amber remembers, “I was just making things up as I went along. When I went to the hospital that first day, everyone in his family was looking at me like ‘who the hell are you?’ In the middle of that initial concern and confusion it was tough to figure out how to be there for him. When he left the state it was hard, but I decided to take a step back.”

Little by little, by fits and starts, Bigley’s life and luck returned. Reshaped and reimagined, certainly, but returned. And the generosity of Lions began to factor in. During his time in California, he got stronger physically and found an outstanding school to help him learn the specialized skill sets and technologies that enable blind people to live independently.

“From the beginning, what is now the Hatlen Center has received vital and continuing support from Lions clubs all over California,” says Laura Hardy, senior vice-president of the Hatlen Center’s parent organization, Junior Blind of America. “They have been very generous to us.”

Over the months, Bigley began talking to Amber again on the phone, and they began to rekindle the spark that had first brought them together. Three years after the bear, three years after Bigley urged her to move on, they were married.

Bigley moved back to Anchorage, attended college and then grad school, worked hard, and embraced his inevitable role as an inspirational figure.

“Oh, I hated that at first,” he says. “I thought, ‘Man, I’m so happy my pain and loss and personal tragedy makes you feel all warm and fuzzy inside.’ But today my perspec-

tive is that it’s so cool that I can help others, that I can spin lead into gold.”

“Dan is such an inspirational speaker and storyteller,” says Caren Ailleo of the Alaska Center for the Blind, which receives significant support from Lions all over the state. “Right now we’re helping Dan with assistive software and IT tools, and he greatly helped us by being a presenter at our main public event—which was also attended by Mike Brown, the district governor.”

“Dan is such a passionate guy,” agrees International Director Lewis Quinn, an Anchorage Lion. “He’s really achieved remarkable things. We’re proud to support ACB, of course, and through our clubs we also do a lot of bear awareness events to help people coexist with Alaska’s wildlife.”

Today, Dan Bigley is lucky to be alive, lucky to have Amber, lucky to have two great kids (Alden, 8, and Acacia, 6, who, according to Amber, have become great guides and protectors of their dad’s safety and already understand that people with disabilities can do remarkable things). He’s lucky to have a career with meaning, lucky to still be fishing, hiking and loving the outdoors, lucky to be the sort of person to whom the governor of Alaska awarded the Alaskan of the Year Award in 2008. Lucky to have his faithful guide dog, Anderson (who Bigley suspects may actually be smarter than he is).

But you make your own luck, as they say. Ask his friends, colleagues and family how Bigley moved beyond the bear, and they will tell you it’s his strength, humor and smarts. Ask Bigley, though, and he will tell you that, second only to Amber and his kids, the luckiest unlucky man in Alaska has been most powerfully supported and lifted and shaped by community.

“I was somewhat cynical when I was young,” Bigley says. “But what I experienced after the bear changed everything. I see the beauty in people now. I’m no hero; my story is one of humanity taking me by the hand. When things got really tough, dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder and depression, even just dealing with statistics in grad school, what kept me going was the fact that I just couldn’t let down all of the people who have helped me. I’ve learned that our strength is not our independence, it’s our interdependence.”

Which is something well understood by another group of lucky people: Lions.

Todd Schwartz is a writer living, skiing and mountain biking in Oregon, who has now added bears to his list of phobias.



99th Annual Lions Clubs International Convention
Friday, June 24 – Tuesday, June 28, 2016 • Fukuoka, Japan
Convention Registration and Hotel Reservation Form

Deadlines

- **May 1, 2016:** Deadline for advance registration and hotel reservation. Registrations after this date will be processed in Fukuoka
- **May 1, 2016:** Deadline to submit a refund request for registration, housing and/or ticketed event cancellation.

REGISTRANT INFORMATION *Please type or print name as it appears on passport/photo ID.*

First Name _____ Family (Last) Name _____ Badge/Call Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State/Province _____
 Postal Code _____ Country _____
 Daytime Phone _____ E-mail _____

☐ Lion ☐ Lioness ☐ Omega Leo **Club No.** _____ **Membership No.** _____ District _____ Title _____

COMPANION: First Name _____ Family (Last) Name _____ Badge/Call Name _____

☐ Lion ☐ Lioness ☐ Omega Leo ☐ Guest **Club No.** _____ **Membership No.** _____ District _____ Title _____

CHILD: First Name _____ Family (Last) Name _____ Age _____ ☐ Alpha Leo

CHILD: First Name _____ Family (Last) Name _____ Age _____ ☐ Alpha Leo

- ☐ This is my/our first LCI convention. ☐ Not my first convention, I've attended _____
☐ Letter of Invitation (If a visa is required for your country of origin) [Club number must be provided above to verify membership]
 The plenary sessions are presented in English with simultaneous translation. Will you require a headset? ☐ No ☐ Yes

PACKAGE A: *Includes convention registration for each registrant listed above plus one (1) hotel room serviced by shuttle buses during convention.*

☐ Before January 8, 2016: Reservation in delegation hotel
☐ After January 8, 2016: ☐ I prefer my delegation hotel ☐ if my delegation hotel is not available, next choice/preference _____
☐ Prefer hotel based on: ☐ room rate of _____ ☐ location near convention center
 Arrival date _____ Departure date _____ Number of Guests in Room: _____ Number of Beds Needed ☐ 1 ☐ 2
 Special Requirements: ☐ Non-smoking ☐ Wheelchair Accessible ☐ Other _____

• The Hotel deposit is US\$225 for a standard room and US\$350 for a suite. The hotel deposit is not the rate but reserves the room. **One hotel deposit per room, not per person** Your deposit will be credited to your hotel bill at checkout.

PACKAGE B: ☐ **NO ROOM REQUIRED** (Registration only for each person listed above.)

OPTIONAL TICKETED EVENTS *I/we plan to attend the following event(s): (Must be registered to attend)*

EVENT	DATE/TIME	FEE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT DUE
Melvin Jones Fellow Luncheon	June 27/ 13:30-15:00	US \$70	_____	\$ _____
District Governor/Past District Governor Banquet	June 27/ 20:00-22:00	US \$125	_____	\$ _____

LCI 2016 Convention Smart USB

FREE ☐

The LCI 2016 Convention Smart USB replaces the brochures, handouts, DVDs and more that you would normally carry back home. Enjoy this environmentally smart solution to easily organize and share information.

PAYMENT: Full payment is required with this form. • US currency only. Checks and money orders must be drawn on US banks.
 • Only Visa, MasterCard & Discover cards accepted. • Contact LCI for wire transfer instructions.

REGISTRATION FEES		Adult	Child (17 and under)	Alpha Leo	Omega Leo
Early	(before January 8, 2016)	US\$130	US\$10	US\$10	US\$60
Regular	(January 9 through March 31, 2016)	US\$180	US\$10	US\$10	US\$60
Late	(April 1, 2016 – onsite)	US\$200	US\$10	US\$10	US\$60

Package A:

Registrations: US\$ _____
 Ticketed Events: US\$ _____
 Hotel Deposit: US\$ 225.00
 Total Due: US\$ _____

OR

Package B:

Registrations: US\$ _____
 Ticketed Events: US\$ _____
 Total Due: US\$ _____

☐ Check ☐ Bank transfer/deposit (copy must be attached to this form) ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover
 Your name as it appears on the card _____ Credit card **must** be in the name of the registrant.
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ Security code (3 digits) _____
 Signature _____

Mail form and payment to: Lions Clubs International Attn: Convention Division • 300 West 22nd Street • Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA • Allow 4 weeks for processing and mail delivery of your confirmation. **Credit Card and Bank Transfer Payments can be faxed to: (1-630) 571-1689 (If you fax, please do not mail original)**
• Questions? Email us: registration@lionsclubs.org . Please note: Lions Clubs International will be documenting the international convention for promotional purposes. Your participation may be filmed or photographed at this event. Your registration is your consent for use of these images by Lions Clubs International.



SERVING CHILDREN



IN JAPAN

This is the year of Japan for Lions Clubs International. Our international president is Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada of Japan. The international convention will be held in June in Fukuoka, Japan's sixth-largest city. But it's service as usual in Japan, and that's a good thing. The 124,353 Lions in 3,120 clubs often focus on children and are perfectly positioned this year to heed Yamada's call to expand our service to children.

A Memorable Last Day of School

Heavy rain did not dampen the spirits of students of Tsuki ga Oka Elementary School taking part in a traditional lantern festival, a fixture of the culture of the Iwate Prefecture in eastern Japan. The children march through town with the box-shaped lanterns, consisting of a wooden frame with paper screens and handmade by them. The festival celebrates the harvest and includes prayers for the health of children. Morioka Mitake Lions have sponsored the festival and concluding fireworks for three years. The festival is held on the last day of school before summer break after the sun sets.



Sounds of Fun

“Waku waku” is an onomatopoeic term in Japan for expressing the feeling of happiness or excitement, and the Toshima Kodomo WAKUWAKU Network is a well-known nonprofit that supports children. Tokyo Toshima Lions team up with the nonprofit for a day of summer fun for children at Ikebukuro Honmachi Park. Lions have staffed a waterslide and cooked lunch on grills. Japan has seen a decline in its birthrate, and the club decided to sponsor a project for children to celebrate its 50th anniversary last year.

Making Memories

(Opposite) Four years ago, to mark its 50th anniversary, the Wakayama Nishi Lions Club held a ceramics workshop for graduating elementary school students. The students loved it, and the project has become an annual event. The experienced instructor is a longtime friend of the club. Helped by Leos, the students shape cups from raw clay, apply a colored glaze and dispatch their work to a kiln for firing. In a month they receive their commemorative coffee mugs. “I hope that the kids use the cups while studying for their exams and remember the fun time we had making them together,” says Past President Takayuki Kikuchi.





Plum Service Assignment

Shion Ishihara, a third-grader at the Hiroshima Central School for the Blind, enjoyed snatching the plums off trees at the beautiful Shukkeien garden. “Picking plums was fun because of the loud snap you hear,” Shion says. The fragrant ume plum, a relative of the apricot, is too hard and sour to eat, so it’s usually pickled and eaten as umeboshi, a salty condiment often served with rice balls. The Hiroshima Peace Lions Club co-sponsors the plum picking event, a community tradition since 1981. The garden has a much longer history, dating from 1620. “Shukkeien” means “shrunk-scenery garden,” and valleys, mountains and forests are represented in miniature in the garden’s landscapes. Near the epicenter of the atomic bomb blast, the garden was restored in the 1950s. The Lions had help with the plum picking: youths from the Hiroshima Juvenile Correctional School assisted Lions in guiding the blind children around the orchard. Within the park is the Hiroshima Prefectural Museum of Art, and the blind students were allowed to touch sculptures and other art when they toured the museum.









Pulling on the Same Rope

Thirty-years ago town officials balked at a Lions' proposal to hold a sports festival for children of all abilities for two communities in central Japan. On the Nobi Plain, Ikeda and Godo are tucked in between the Ibi River and towering Mount Ikeda. "They told us it won't work—we wouldn't be able to hold an event across two towns," according to a longtime member of the Ikeda Godo Lions Club, which serves both Ikeda and Godo. "We showed them it can work. That's leadership. That's Lions." Today the sports festival draws nearly 400 children, Lions and staff. The special needs children and other children compete in relay races, a balloon popping game in which the balloons are tied to ankles and a bread eating contest. A highlight was the tug of war. "Those kids can pull," says President Naoto Ito, referring to the children with disabilities.



Planting for the Future

Reforestation of barren hills last year, schoolchildren planted 100 oak trees that they had raised from acorns. For nine years Sano Nishi Lions have guided dozens of elementary school students in the Tochigi Prefecture in restoring a landscape in Ashio ruined by industrial pollution and also taught them about a local hero who is regarded as Japan's first environmentalist. In the 1890s, Shozo Tanaka led the fight against the Ashio Copper Mine, whose poisonous waste destroyed 6,000 acres of forest. The schoolchildren enjoyed their labor but let out an audible sigh when told the reforestation will not be finished until their grandchildren's generation.

Makeover Your Meetings

Meetings are often the heart of Lions clubs. They're a time to get informed, share ideas, set goals and of course, have fun. Are your meetings addressing the needs and interests of club members? Does the tone of your meetings fit with the membership climate? Are some traditions feeling outdated? The good news is that meetings can be tweaked in little ways or be completely reinvented—it's up to each club to make the call. LCI's "Your Club, Your Way" guide provides a blueprint for evaluating and updating meetings. Here are a few factors from the guide to consider:

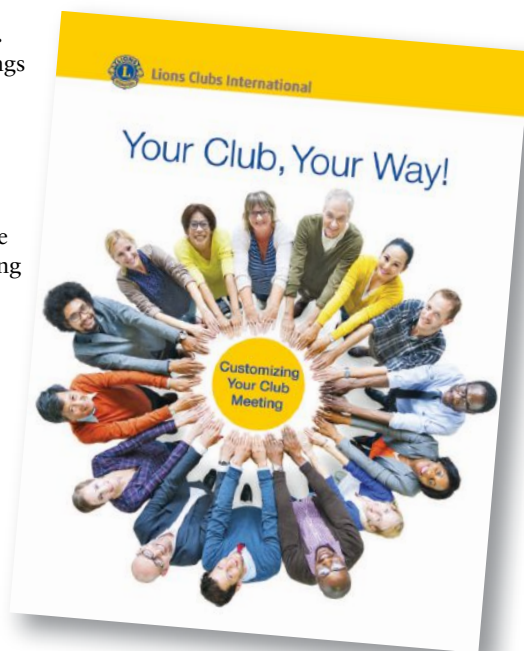
Determine the goals of your meetings. Are they to plan events, enjoy a speaker, conduct a service project, enjoy the fellowship, have fun or all of the above?

Determine the frequency of meetings. Some clubs meet once a week, while others meet once a month. Determine the amount of time needed to plan, communicate and get your members involved.

Identify channels of communication. While announcements during meetings can be exciting and motivating, take advantage of email, text messages, Facebook, Twitter and your club's website.

Determine meals and location. While meeting over a meal is a long-standing tradition, it's not a requirement and may lengthen and add to the cost of membership.

Question traditions. Many clubs open with a song or a pledge, but your club can determine which traditions you would like to keep and which to drop. Ask younger members to provide input.



Read the "Your Club, Your Way" guide and find more guidance on reinventing meetings. The guide includes ways to increase involvement, program ideas and a survey for club members to fill out and share their input on the future direction of meetings.

Baby Steps to Big Change

Change isn't always easy. If your club agrees that change is in order, Mindy Marks, division manager of District and Club Administration at LCI, recommends phasing it in gradually and assessing as you go. "Try establishing a special meeting once a quarter using a new format to see how members like it. Or consider replacing a monthly meeting each quarter with a service project or family-friendly event. Also, try more online collaboration to plan events or programs. Most importantly, start with the change that members want to see the most."

Lions Weigh In On Meetings

We asked Lions on Facebook, "What makes a great meeting?" Here are a few of the many comments shared:



Sammy Walker, Warren County Lions Club, Tennessee:

Interesting speakers, change meetings around, don't let your younger members get bored with same old thing.



Patti Patterson, Rathdrum Lions Club, Idaho:

Participation from all members present! Having fun, laughing, setting goals and having a plan to achieve those goals.



Elizabeth Steves, La Habra Host Lions Club, California:

A good informative program speaker that will engage the membership, a scope of activities, meetings on time from start to finish and tailtwisters who know their audience and can keep it fun.



Shari Walker, Churchville Lions Club, Maryland:

We have a great group ... small but very dedicated. We have an agenda, but we keep it "loose." A lot of laughs, but the jobs get done.

Centennial Legacy Projects: Build Your Community Legacy

BY PAMELA MOHR

Legacies stand as reminders of who we are and how we live our lives. Since 1917 when Melvin Jones first helped people understand that they could accomplish a greater amount of good for others by joining together, Lions have been building their own legacies of service through humanitarian action. Hundreds of millions of lives made better or saved, 99 years of service, a membership of nearly 1.4 million men and women and more than 46,000 clubs around the world—this is the legacy of Lions Clubs International thus far. We're now nearly one year away from reaching a milestone in the journey that began with one man who wanted to make a difference.

And while we celebrate the approaching centennial by honoring all that Lions have accomplished, LCI is also simultaneously charting an ambitious course for the future. New and exciting tools are available to help every Lion and club participate in and publicize this thrilling once-in-a-lifetime centennial celebration.

Legacy Projects are a hallmark of our celebration of a century of service. They'll showcase the service efforts of clubs around the world as well as illustrate to communities how Lions are a global force for good—beginning right in their own hometowns. Legacy Projects aren't a one-size-fits-all approach to service. Each of the three project levels offers visible, tangible ways for clubs to connect with their communities and beyond.

Legacy Projects don't have to be big, splashy or expensive. They're scaled to size so that any Lions club can participate regardless of size or budget. Projects will guarantee positive publicity for your club and you'll be joining in solidarity with clubs around the globe.

- **Level 1** Legacy Projects will raise your community visibility. Post new Lions signs, donate park benches, dedicate a statue or provide a park fountain.
- **Level 2** Legacy Projects are about giving back to the community. Give a gift that lasts—refurbish a park, build a footbridge over a heavily-traveled road, fund resources for the visually impaired, plant trees or donate a vehicle to a community organization that needs one.
- **Level 3** Legacy Projects are large-scale efforts. These include building a clinic, expanding a library or school, equipping a hospital or developing a training center to teach new work or life skills.

Once your club has planned and carried out its Legacy Project, promote it. Visual affirmation shows how Lions get things done. If you donate a park bench, sponsor a public dedication ceremony for it.



Before he became 1974-75 international president, Johnny Balbo, an Illinois Lion, pulls the "Queen of Chinatown" to promote Candy Day for the Blind in 1961.



Display a plaque or sign with your club name affixed for every Legacy Project. Take a photo of a ribbon cutting, plaque installation or Lions working together on a project and post it on social media. Use the hashtag #Lions100 on all centennial posts. You may see your club featured on LCI's social media channels or in LION Magazine if you do so.

Contact local news and radio and television stations if you unveil a newly-rehabbed park or plant a forest full of trees. Whatever level Legacy Project you choose, publicize your club's efforts. Use photos and video to show what Lions are accomplishing every day around the world. Visit Lions100.org to learn how to maximize your celebration efforts. Banner patches are available for both Legacy Projects and the Centennial Service Challenge. Report your Legacy Project using the MyLCI Service Activity Report under "Community and Culture" to earn one of these special recognitions.

Fulfilling one of the four Centennial Service Challenges that began in June 2014 and end June 30, 2018—Hunger, Youth, Vision or the Environment—may also qualify to earn your club official Legacy Project recognition. Since it began, 68 million men, women and children have already benefited from Lions' efforts to meet these four challenges. The goal of 100 million people served is within reach.

Where There's A Need, There's a Lion

Proclaim it proudly: Where's There's A Need, There's a Lion. These few words are at the heart of LCI's centennial celebration. You'll see them everywhere. They will be emblazoned on specially-designed centennial commemorative merchandise available at the online LCI store on banners, posters, brochures and all promotional material. In addition to the hundreds of items already available for purchase, there are 25 new centennial-themed products, including apparel, club supplies and attractive jewelry for men and women.

Lions100 Toolbox

Clubs have a wealth of resources to access from LCI to maximize their centennial experience and promote club growth. Traveling exhibits, fliers, PowerPoint presentations, newsletters, videos, press releases and planning guides are just a very small part of what's available to Lions. Commemorative coins and stamps will also be released. Check the Toolbox at Lions100.org regularly to see new materials and tools as they become available. Centennial celebration updates will also be published regularly in LION Magazine.

Share the history of Lions with 100 Touchstone stories—a treasury of tales that cover the earliest days to the most significant events in Lions' history. Find these stories and videos at Lions100 under the "Media" banner. Share them on your club's website, Facebook page, newsletters and with community news organizations.

Centennial Celebration Membership Awards

Years of thoughtful preparation at LCI have helped launch this worldwide celebration with a multipronged approach. From tips to guidance to tools, everything a club needs to promote its activities and increase membership is available at Lions100.org. Click on the "Programs" banner and go to "Centennial Celebration Membership Awards."

Among the new awards for growth and member retention are Limited Edition Centennial Membership Awards, available to Lions who sponsor new members and charter new clubs. There will be progressive levels of awards in silver, gold and diamond.

Melvin Jones wasn't thinking about legacies in 1917. He simply wanted to help others. Commemorate the centennial by honoring that very principle that has guided Lions through a century of service. Continue building a legacy that creates a better world for people in need. Where there's a need, there's a Lion—always.

Club Supplies has significantly discounted the retail price for Centennial highway signs, decals and bronze plaques in support of Centennial Legacy Projects. All of the centennial products are highlighted at Lions100.org and can be purchased at lcistore.org.



TROOP REINFORCEMENT

Three clubs in Ohio partner with a Girl Scout troop to collect eyeglasses.

BY SANDRA GURVIS

A half dozen, green-clad Girl Scouts are gathered on a rainy Saturday morning in the parking lot of a faded-looking strip mall in Chillicothe, Ohio. Despite the drizzle, they perform for passersby a short skit they wrote—"Seeing a Need." The girls theatrically cup their hands over their eyes and loudly proclaim: "We're Troop 1263 and we're seeing a need!"

Cars that drive by also grab the girls' high-spirited attention. The Scouts shout and wave a huge pink sign that reads "Drop your eyeglasses here."

Then a silver Chevy van pulls up. "We've got our first customer!" exclaims Melanie Blaney, the leader of Troop 1263. The girls rush forward to receive a bagful of glasses. Leaving the protection of a canopy, several Lions help them

with the glasses. Age, socioeconomic and even gender differences melt in the warmth and sunshine of a common cause.

The Saturday morning drive is the culmination of an unusual collaboration among the Scout troop and three Lions clubs to collect eyeglasses. For the girls, the project is a major undertaking, the opportunity to earn the prestigious Bronze Award, the highest honor available to a Junior Girl Scout. The award requires 20 hours of working as a group to create projects "that can be life-changing and have a major impact on the world around them."

For Lions, it's a chance to connect with children and to introduce them to Lions and their sight mission, as well as to enhance their own longstanding eyeglass recycling efforts. Collaborating with the Scouts also is just plain fun.



Girls from Troop 1263 (opposite) solicit eyeglass donations. Troop leader Melinda Blaney (above) and two Scouts handle donated eyeglasses. Sponsored by Dee Hathaway, wife of Lion Mike, Blaney became a Chillicothe Evening Lion during the Scout project.

“Well, this is awfully cute,” Mike Hathaway, a Chillicothe Evening Lion, remarked about the skit. Retired from the U.S. Forest Service, Hathaway has been a Lion since 1970.

A dozen girls ages 10 to 12 belong to the troop, drawn from two school districts in Chillicothe, a town of 22,000. Lions in nearby Waverly and Circleville also are partnering with the Scouts, in addition to the Chillicothe Evening Lions Club. Chillicothe is a slice of Middle America, an interesting mix of state prisons, manufacturing plants, abundant hiking trails and Hopewell Native American earthworks. Unseated as the state capital by Columbus in 1816, Chillicothe tips more toward the blue-collar and frayed white collar than its more hip, diverse neighbor.

The Lions clubs have supported Scouts but partnering with them is a new venture. The clubs are traditional-minded. They run fish fries and rummage sales. The signature project of the Chillicothe club involves leasing American flags and mounts to local businesses. “Over 750 flags are displayed in the community during the eight national holidays,” explains Hathaway.

So what brought the Scouts to the Lions? It was the result of pure chance—and then Google.

While working on a Scout project, “we helped a homeless man get eyeglasses,” recalls 10-year-old Claire Latham,

a soft-spoken blonde. “It was great to watch him” when he put on his new pair. Dutifully inspired, the Scouts talked to an eye doctor and a Braille teacher. “They heard about how expensive eye exams and glasses can be,” adds Blaney. Because some of the girls also wear prescription lenses, “they know how frustrating it can be” when the world around them becomes blurry and misshapen.

The Scouts learned about the Lions’ commitment to sight during a visit to the Havener Eye Institute at Ohio State University. At Havener, they learned about vision treatments, eye research and VOSH (Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity), which distributes donated eyeglasses to underserved countries. Among other clubs, Chillicothe Lions sort glasses and deliver them to VOSH as well as to the VOSH chapter at the Ohio State College of Optometry. Lions also help sponsor students on VOSH mission trips, most recently to Honduras and Peru.

Intrigued, the Scouts did a Google search on the Lions, locating Ron Barber of the nearby Leesburg Lions Club and then inviting him and his wife, Georgia, to tell them more at a troop meeting. “Hearing everything that the Lions do for vision care really sparked the girls’ enthusiasm and they came up with the idea for an eyeglass drive,” says Blaney.



LeRoy Brookins (from left) and Paul Meadows, Circleville Lions, and Roger Geise, a Chillicothe Evening Lion, transport glasses collected by the Scouts.

After the meeting, the troop went into full Girl Scout mode, creating and rehearsing the “Seeing a Need” skit, figuring out the logistics of the drive and putting together a publicity plan. Prior to the Saturday morning drive, the Scouts had already collected dozens of bags and boxes of eyeglasses and parts. They presented their skit and talked about vision care at churches, schools and other venues. They wrote letters to local businesses, asking for donations and support. They set up additional collection boxes to complement those already in place by the Lions.

The initial donations were sorted and stored at the clubhouse of the Chillicothe Lions. “We take just about anything but the [eyeglass] cases, which are bulky and difficult to ship,” explains Chillicothe Evening Lion Roger Geise, eyeglass collection chair. Piles of sunglasses and baseball caps slated for VOSH Ohio share space with stuffed animals for area children and out-of-commission hearing aids and cellphones to be revived for local homeless and elderly. “People give us whatever they have and we usually find a use for it,” Geise adds.

Back at the Saturday morning collection drive, the Scouts and Lions, who don’t yet really know one another, generally stay in their own clumps. Then an enormous white service van drives up. Two gentlemen wearing bright-red, button-laden

Lions vests jump out and throw open the back doors, revealing huge containers of glasses. The Circleville Lions are in the house. “Look at all those boxes!” gushes 11-year-old Olivia Barnes.

Clustered around the back of the truck, chattering excitedly, the girls are all for unloading them on the spot—nothing like seeing the immediate fruition of one’s hard work in a single place. But Circleville Lions President Leroy Brookins takes the long view. “These are really heavy,” he points out. “It would be hard to unpack them here and then find another vehicle to take them to the Chillicothe building,” a few blocks away.

“That is true,” agrees Latham. “We have a lot of glasses now and what if we get even more? Then we have no place for them.” One of the youngest in the troop, she is a quiet yet effective presence. The others agree with her, and off the men go to unload the booty, which requires not only a dolly but much heaving and hoeing by Brookins, his companion Circleville Past President Paul Meadows and Geise, holding down the fort at the clubhouse.

By now, everyone is buzzing about the success of the drive. “Our goal was to have enough eyeglasses to fill a box truck. I think this might do it,” enthuses Ashley Hibberty, 10, who acts older than her age.

Actually, added to some glasses the three clubs had already collected, the Scout’s project resulted in 7,600 eyeglasses. It required one large pickup truck, loaded to the brim. The eyeglasses were sent to VOSH. So that trash bag full of glasses just handed over from a passing car could end up helping folks in El Salvador, where the VOSH Ohio team has scheduled a mission in early 2016.

“We can’t thank you enough for being here,” Hathaway tells Ashley and the other girls. “We were thrilled when we learned that you wanted to team up with us.” They beam with satisfaction at the compliment. Then, as an aside to the adults, he adds, “We see this as a great opportunity to acquaint young people with helping others.”

While the Lions may be thinking they are grooming future Lions, the girls are more than halfway there, with life lessons lasting long past the shine of the Bronze Award badge. Both groups say they look forward to next year’s drive and possibly making it an annual event. It’s a good bet that they’ll have even more to say—and share—with one another.

Based in Columbus, Ohio, Sandra Gurvis is the author of 16 books; her current project is “Close Enough for Government Work: America’s Presidential Libraries.”

As Girl Scouts enters its 42nd year, Lions clubs help it grow. Read the story from the April 1953 LION.

Digitize Your Service

Browse through your Facebook newsfeed, Twitter feed or favorite blog and you'll notice one of the biggest emerging trends: video is on the rise. Experts predict that by the time of the LCI centennial in 2017, three quarters of all Internet traffic will revolve around video. That means it's time to get your cameras rolling and add video to your feeds and websites to build interest for events, create emotional connections, attract new members—and maybe even go viral. Consider these tips from Media Cause (mediacause.org) before hitting the record button.

Keep videos short. Messages that are too long or complex are often overlooked. Keep videos brief and to the point—under two minutes is ideal. To get and keep viewers' attention, include bright colors, interesting graphics and catchy music.

Use video only when it makes sense. Video is best used for storytelling, interviews and demonstrations. Videos can also help add a personal touch to an otherwise conventional message—hearing someone speak about their experience makes it significantly more memorable.

Use video across platforms. One of the major benefits of video is that it's so multipurpose. Facebook, Instagram and Tumblr all have fully integrated video uploading options, and YouTube videos can be embedded on virtually any website.

Go behind the scenes. Video is a great way to give your followers a behind-the-scenes look at your club. When a video helps a viewer feel like an "insider," they might be more likely to like, share and promote it.

Check out these short and simple videos that these clubs—all previous Digital LION Featured Clubs—posted to their Facebook pages:

- The Frankfort Lions in Illinois provide a glimpse of their Thanksgiving food collection project.
- The Chester Lions in New Jersey promote their Oktoberfest event with a traditional German dance.
- The Rockton Lions in Illinois give an inside look at a new member induction.



The 2014-15 first-place winner, IJsselstein-Lopikerwaard Lions Club, Netherlands

Winning Website

Does your club's website stand out in the crowd? Enter it in the Lions Clubs International Contest for a chance to showcase your club's hard work and creativity and receive some recognition. The contest is open to all clubs, districts and multiple districts. Entries are judged on the quality of content and design, and must be received at International Headquarters by May 1. Find the entry form at lionsclubs.org.

Find it at lionsclubs.org

Add an LCI video to your next club meeting agenda. Download LQ (Lions Quarterly) videos to inspire, video presentations to educate and PSAs to raise awareness. Search for "videos."

Connect with Us Online: lionsclubs.org/web

Club News

The **Amherst Lions Club** in **New York** has donated \$7,500 to outstanding graduating high school seniors for two years. Each \$500 scholarship is awarded to a student in financial need chosen from each of Amherst's five high schools. "We hope that our efforts to give financial assistance to students at the beginning of their college careers may eventually result in new Lions' supporters—and maybe even someday new Lions," says Bob Sikorski, president. The club also provides eye exams and glasses for children and teens in need and supports a youth coffee house. "We decided two years ago to prioritize service to youth," he adds.

The **Magnolia Lions Club** in **Arkansas** donated \$7,500 to Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester, Michigan.

Jekyll Island Lions in **Georgia** helped distribute packets with safety information to the island's 617 homes. Lions went door-to-door to personally give residents this information, which included fliers on the importance of having visible house numbers and smoke alarms. Lions also initiated a project of helping residents purchase house address signs with reflective numbers.

After a bear gained access to one of two concession trailers operated by the **Gibsons Lions Club** in **British Columbia, Canada**, tearing it apart so badly it couldn't be repaired, Lions had to build a new one. The trailer, one of two used by the club to sell its popular French fries, was not insured for bear attacks. Lions lost a significant source of their fundraising revenue. Lion Dave Morane, his wife, Brenda, son Steve, and Lions Bob Nordlund and Greg Collins worked together to build a new portable concession trailer on a steel frame. Costing \$8,000, the trailer is also now insured against bear destruction.

Brookfield Lions in **Connecticut** donated food to a social services agency to help a family in need.

The **Lions of District 24-D** have provided more than 2,000 credit card-sized plastic vision magnifiers to hospital emergency rooms in Virginia and northeast North Carolina. The 5X magnifiers are designed to help patients who experience a medical emergency and do not have their glasses with them in order to sign medical papers.



Lion Frank Petteway of the **Brazoria Lions Club** in **Texas** conducts a vision screening for a child at the Brazoria public library. People of all ages were welcome, but Lion Janice Edwards says that they publicized the need to screen children from 6 months to 6 years of age since the earlier a child's vision is found to be impaired, the better chance of correcting it.

Canso Lions in **Nova Scotia, Canada**, sponsored a breakfast with Santa. Lions cooked pancakes and sausages, and many families that attended brought donations for a food bank. The club also gave donations to the public library and a medical school student to travel to Africa on a mission.

Merrill Lions in **Wisconsin** gave \$1,000 to Never Forgotten Honor Flight to send two World War II veterans on a one-day trip to visit the war memorials in Washington, D.C.

The **Hazleton Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** purchased a "wheelchair" swing for disabled children to use at a park.

The **Emo and District Lions Club** in **Ontario, Canada**, helped club member Deb Firth on a mission to Guatemala by donating \$800. The money was used to construct two of the 16 dwellings that Firth and other volunteers constructed for some of Guatemala's poorest families in El Tejar.

Spokane Central Lions in **Washington** provide reading glasses to defendants required to appear in the community court held in the public library. Many of them are homeless and are unable to read the paperwork associated with their cases. If a defendant needs prescription glasses and Lions determine the need, the club pays for a pair. Most offenses are misdemeanors that require only community service.

The **Tokai Lions Club** in **South Africa** sponsors a fundraising Quiz Night for local businesses to raise money to fund projects for families in need. Lions have helped support a project to provide baby care products for newborns whose families can't afford supplies and have funded community outreach programs to feed the poor. Quiz team participants also bring children's books to each event to help Lions promote literacy.

The **Emmitsburg Lions Club** in **Maryland** raised more than \$8,000 to purchase a mobile vision screener and supportive materials. The screener uses infrared photo retinoscopy and is user-friendly with children. Several Lions attended a training session to learn how to use the new device, which will screen all children in community schools.

The **Germiston Lions Club** in **South Africa** and a church congregation provided clothing and blankets to victims of mob violence in a poor area.



The **Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation** created an optical finishing lab to produce high-quality, low-cost eyeglasses for Lions clubs to donate to people in need. Called the Lions Eyeglass Assistance Program (LEAP), it partners with 25 Lions clubs. Since it opened last January, the lab has produced 1,064 pairs of eyeglasses for Oregonians in need. Optical Manager Katie Warren (above) demonstrates how she edges glasses in the lab, which was largely funded by a SightFirst grant.

Aurora Noon Lions in **Illinois** co-sponsored a holiday party with a special education organization for hearing-impaired children. A Santa used sign language to hear the children's wishes, and they were also each given a present. More than 100 children, parents and caregivers attended the free event.

The **Tellico Village Lions Club** in **Tennessee** sponsors monthly health fairs in two counties. They measure blood pressure and glucose and screen vision. Approximately 50

percent of those tested are referred for further treatment. Lions purchase eyeglasses for those who are financially in need.

Ashland Lions in **Massachusetts** collected two tons of food at a local market to restock the town's food pantry. Lions distributed a list of needed nonperishable food to shoppers as they entered the store and were asked to purchase one or more items while they shopped for themselves. Lions also gave money to each teacher in an elementary school to purchase supplies for students who couldn't afford them.

The **Centerville Lions Club** in **Indiana** has loaned medical and convalescent equipment at no cost to the community for 50 years. Included are bedside chairs, risers, crutches, wheelchairs, canes and walkers. "The items are checked out as needed by members of the community and returned when not needed anymore," says Lion James Resh. "We purchase some of the equipment, and other pieces are donated to the club." Lions also donate scholarships, pay for eyeglasses for students in need, sponsor a 4-H club and plan annual Halloween celebrations for children.

Safety Harbor Lions in **Florida** sponsored a presentation at the library for community members to learn about diabetic retinopathy. Two ophthalmologists and representatives of companies that make medical devices for the management of diabetes gave updates on research and treatment regarding diabetic retinopathy.

The **Novato Lions Club** in **California** provided a Braille for a boy in Argentina after learning from a local couple who visited there that the child, enrolled in a school for the blind, needed one. The cost for a new Braille was prohibitive in Argentina, but President Connie Marelich was able to secure one that was refurbished by inmates participating in a prison program to repair the machines.

Okanagan Falls Lions in **British Columbia, Canada**, have collected 43,000 pairs of eyeglasses since 2010. Lion Colin Van Blerk drives within a 250-mile radius to pick up eyeglasses donated in several collection boxes.

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Club News

The **Lions Club of Chandpur Rupali** in **Bangladesh** sponsored a painting and essay contest among schoolchildren to promote the country's Independence Day celebration.

The **El Cajon Host Lions Club Foundation** in **California** donated \$36,000 to several organizations. Among recipients were Guide Dogs of the Desert, the San Diego Center for the Blind, Canine Companions for Independence, Lions Camp Jack and the Boys and Girls Club of East County.

The **George Lions Club** in **South Africa** arranged for 50 adults and special needs children to have their vision tested and paid for eyeglasses as prescribed. Lions also paid for cataract surgeries for two senior citizens.



Artist Doug Quarles donated his time and labor painting a large lion mural on the exterior of the **Benson Lions** clubhouse in **Arizona** because he believes Lions do so much for others he wanted to repay them. The club hosts blood drives every two months at the clubhouse for the Red Cross and routinely hosts bingo games and pancake breakfasts. Members sign and deliver cards for veterans at a nursing home during the holidays.

The **Avon Grove Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** has amassed approximately \$95,000 in medical equipment that it loans out to community members. "We probably loan a piece out to at least 40 or 50 people each month," says Lion Ben Keller of the large array of hospital beds, walkers, crutches, wheelchairs and other equipment Lions keep stored.

In **New York**, **Dover Lion Roger Callahan** has personally collected and delivered more than 8,000 eyeglasses to the eyeglass recycling center in Albany.

Wasaga Beach Lions in **Ontario, Canada**, conduct a roadside cleanup twice yearly, screen the vision of every kindergarten student and sponsor an annual student speaking contest for elementary schools.

Continued on page 54



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Jaxson McQuait

A Smile Emerges

Fourteen-month-old Jaxson McQuait loves trucks, climbing and keeping up with his big sister. But for the first few months of his life, this energetic toddler rarely smiled. His mother, Noelle McQuait, noticed that he didn't open his eyes much. When he did, they were crossed.

After visiting an eye specialist, her hunch that something wasn't right was validated. Jaxson was very far-sighted, and eye strain was causing his eyes to cross. "It was heartbreaking to find out Jaxson's vision was impaired. As a parent you don't want your children to have difficulties in life," says McQuait.

With help from the Forbes Road Lions in Pennsylvania, Jaxson received his first pair of eye glasses at 4 months old. "The Lions' help meant so much to us. We sometimes have to decide between paying a bill and groceries. We have to travel to see doctors and buy things like eye drops and patches. We're so grateful for the Lions," says McQuait.

With his new glasses on for the first time, Jaxson became a new person. "He looked around and his face lit up! It was amazing to see him start smiling and laughing. His personality opened up," McQuait recalls.

Jaxson has since had eye surgery to further correct his crossed eyes and has a new prescription that's helping him explore the world as an active toddler. Another surgery may be needed soon. McQuait knows that Jaxson will overcome any challenges with his vision. "I just want him to be comfortable with himself and his glasses, and to not be held back from anything he wants to do."

Lions, has your club heard from a recipient of your service or charity? Tell us about the feedback you've received from those whose lives you've changed for the better. Email a brief description to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org. Please include "Thank You" in the subject line.



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Club News Continued

Continued from page 52

Lions clubs in Colorado helped provide eyeglasses for a mission to Uganda, where more than 600 students and staff at a primary school were screened and given glasses as needed.

Cullman Lions in Alabama purchased 17 red Radio Flyer wagons for the Children's Hospital of Alabama. The wagons are used to transport pediatric patients around the hospital instead of wheelchairs.

District 204 Lions in Guam sponsored their first fundraising golf tournament. More than 120 players participated and several businesses and corporations donated \$15,000 in sponsorships and prizes.

Roar of Approval

Kevin Turnbaugh of the New Oxford Lions Club in Pennsylvania has authored three books on contemporary issues. Retired from a 27-year career as a civilian logistician in the U.S. Army, Turnbaugh lost his sight to retinitis pigmentosa (RP) years ago. He and his new Leader Dog Harpo are recent graduates of Leader Dog School for the Blind in Rochester, Michigan, and Turnbaugh is also serving as a study patient for Johns Hopkins' Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore to further research into RP and other eye diseases.

Austin Downtown Founder **Lion Patti Robinson** of Texas has been awarded a \$1,000 prize from a community nonprofit, Recognize Good. The prize money was awarded in Robinson's name to the organization, All Blind Children of Texas, which supports visually impaired students, their families and teachers. Robinson, who has worked at the Texas School for the Blind for 35 years, recently helped charter a Leo club that includes primarily blind and visually impaired students. A past club president, Robinson has been a Lion since 1997.

In Memoriam

Past International Director Eugene Howard Stallings, who served on the international board of directors from 1991 to 1993, has died. A Lion for 50 years, he served as president of both the Louisburg and Oxford Lions clubs and as president of the North Carolina Lions Foundation and was a director of the North Carolina Eye and Human Tissue Bank. In 2002, he was inducted into East Carolina University's Educators Hall of Fame. Stallings was an infantryman in the European Theater during World War II.

Corrections

The Bentonville Noon Lions Club, which is celebrating 25 years, is in Arkansas, not Arizona (January LION, page 55). Khodr Farhat (January LION, page 9) did not receive a college scholarship from the Birmingham Lions Club. The LION regrets these errors.

For the Record

As of December 31, Lions Clubs International had 1,382,071 members in 46,397 clubs and 743 districts in 210 countries and geographic areas.

Convention Countdown

2016	Fukuoka, Japan June 24-28
2017	Chicago, Illinois June 30-July 4
2018	Las Vegas, Nevada June 29-July 3
2019	Milan, Italy July 5-9
2020	Singapore, Singapore June 26-30

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85 Years: Boonsboro, Md.; Forrest, Ill.; Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.; Monroe City, Mo.; Paris, Ky.; Paris, ON, CAN; Simcoe, ON, CAN; Syracuse, Kan.

80 Years: Brookhaven, Miss.; Clinton, ON, CAN; Drumright, Okla.; Du Quoin, Ill.; Freeport, Ill.; Greenfield, Mass.; Greenfield, Ind.; Menasha, Wis.; Neenah, Wis.; Northampton, Mass.; Pinckneyville, Ill.; Poplar Bluff, Mo.

75 Years: Buttonwillow, Calif.; Charleroi, Pa.; East Bernard, Texas; Elyria Evening, Ohio; Goleta, Calif.; Mojave, Calif.; Norwood, Mass.; Pasadena, Texas; Paxton, Neb.; Roby, Texas; Staunton, Va.; Willimantic, Conn.


50 Years: Bloomville, Ohio; Briones, Calif.; Brookfield, Conn.; Carbonear, NL, CAN; Cloverdale, BC, CAN; Delhi, Iowa; Edmonton Northgate, AB, CAN; Edmonton Southgate, AB, CAN; Glenavon, SK, CAN; Glenwood, Ill.; Goldsboro Downtown, N.C.; Ham Lake, Minn.; Hellgate, Mont.; Houston Space City, Texas; Iota Egan, La.; Nashwaaksis, NB, CAN; Oshkosh Lakeshore, Wis.; Portland Deering, Maine; Richmond Melbourne, QC, CAN; Rochester, Wash.; Sandown, N.H.; Sister Lakes, Mich.; Spring Grove, Minn.; St. Anthony, Minn.; Val D'or Metropolitan, QC, CAN; Waskada, MB, CAN; Wayne Fall, Ind.; Williamston, Mich.; Willow Springs, Mo.; Wind Lake, Wis.

25 Years: Gallatin Lake Viking, Mo.; Hacienda Heights East Valley, Calif.; Odessa Veterans, Texas; Tok, Alaska

*Lions clubs operated before Lions Clubs held its first convention in Dallas on Oct. 8, 1917. Hence, the centennial of some clubs predates the centennial of Lions Clubs.


Anniversaries are based on the official records of Lions Clubs International. The recorded charter date at LCI sometimes differs from local club records.

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Photo by Cristian Simescu

A Big Big Bird

Two children meet a feathery friend at the annual Easter egg hunt of the Broadview Heights Lions Club in Ohio. Nearly 400 children typically attend the event, begun more than 30 years ago.

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