

## Fields of a Dream

Famed singer's son is on a baseball quest.

## Random But Very Nice

Colorado club performs acts of kindness.

# LION

## Let the Celebration Begin!

Our Centennial President,  
Chancellor Bob Corlew of  
Tennessee and his wife, Dianne

JULY/AUGUST 2016 [lionmagazine.org](http://lionmagazine.org)



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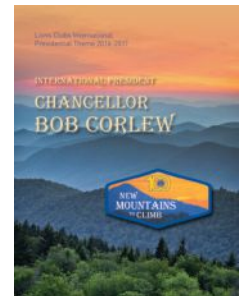
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Grand Junction Lions in Colorado know how to make someone's day.

**On the cover:**  
Photo by Daniel Morris

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Youthful service and spirit: the new MSU Lions Club.





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meet humanitarian  
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international  
understanding  
through Lions  
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Little River Lions in Florida take part in their annual light bulb sale in 1961 to pay for eye exams and glasses for those in need.

## 2017 Party Train Gathers Steam

Kathy Singleton recently emailed Lions Clubs International. When she was a first-grader in Springfield, Missouri, the Lions club bought her first pair of glasses. “I still remember the joy I felt when I was able to distinguish that trees had individual leaves. It excited my heart to learn to see the world in its infinite beauty,” she eloquently wrote us. “I pray y’all continue blessing many other kids like y’all did me.”

Yes, Ms. Singleton, for the next 100 years, we will keep on helping children as well as adults as we have for the past century. In our Centennial year, we want to honor and remember the past as well as move our great Association forward.

During our long history Lions not only reached out to individuals but also often impacted entire communities. After an earthquake and tsunami devastated Afognak, Alaska, in 1964, Lions built a new town for residents. Five years earlier in the tinder-dry cattle country of Texas, their town regularly threatened by prairie fires, Leakey Lions started a fire brigade including a fire truck. Long ago in 1925, alarmed by the inadequacy of schools, York Lions in Pennsylvania began a well-stocked circulating library. The pages of the LION from the last century are filled with

tens of thousands of such examples of life-changing and often life-preserving service.

Our Centennial service goal is to serve at least 100 million people by June 2018. We are on pace to shatter that goal. Please have your club “join the party.” Celebrate the Centennial in other ways, too, by inviting family and friends to serve with you and by planning a Legacy Project in your community. Find out how to participate at [Lions100.org](http://Lions100.org).

I am honored to serve as your Centennial president. I hope you are just as thrilled to be a Lion at this special moment in our grand history. The service we do today will echo down the decades as we invariably strengthen our Association and leave Lions Clubs in better shape than ever for generations to come.



Chancellor Bob Corlew  
Lions Clubs International President



# Acclaimed Hearing Doctor Creates a Virtually-Invisible Digital Hearing Aid...

And Offers it For a **Fraction of The Cost** of Other Hearing Aids.

Brian Sather - Staff Writer (Chicago)

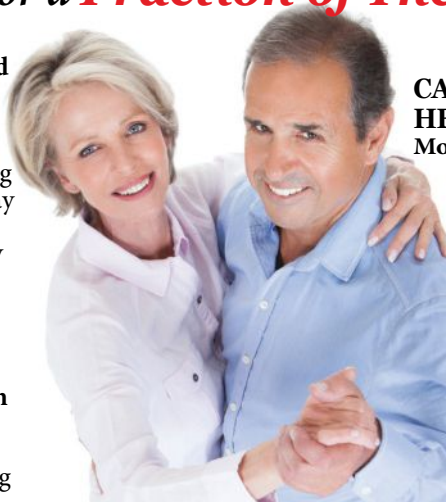
Like many board-certified Ear, Nose, and Throat physicians, Sreekant Cherukuri, MD saw too many patients with hearing loss go home without a way to improve their hearing. Why? Because they simply couldn't afford, needed hearing aids, which often cost hundreds, or even thousands of dollars.

As an attending physician in otolaryngology, Dr. Cherukuri knew the effects of untreated hearing loss went beyond simply not being able to hear. Depression, social isolation, anxiety and symptoms related to Alzheimer's dementia are all common health problems associated with hearing loss.

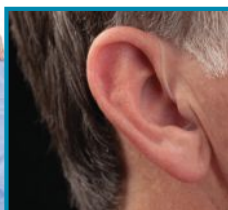
That's what led Dr. Cherukuri to create a powerful, small-sized and easily-affordable hearing aid.

After conducting his own quality, size and cost comparison of several hearing aids and sound amplifiers in the \$200 and under range, he found that most were large in size, and failed to clearly amplify the human voice, a TV or radio.

So his mission became to develop an ultra high-quality hearing aid that could barely be seen by others, at a price that anyone could afford. The result is the MDHearingAid AIR. Dr. Cherukuri says, "Even as affordable as the Air is, it works as well as hearing aids that cost \$3,500 or more. And even better, it satisfies my patients, and millions of other hard-of-



CAN YOU SPOT THE HEARING AID?  
Most people can't see the MDHearingAid AIR



Nearly Invisible

hearing people, who don't want hearing aids because it makes them look "old."

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Hearing aid ratings on the MDHearingAid AIR by ENT physicians and Audiologists show unanimous agreement that the sound quality and output is surprisingly accurate, even given its small size and low cost.

Dr. Cherukuri adds, "After exhaustive research and testing on older people who had hearing loss, I'm not at all hesitant to say the AIR is the best hearing aid I've seen at any price. The best part

for most people is, its tiny size makes it easy to keep a secret."

With scores of reviews praising the MDHearingAid AIR, anyone with hearing loss will likely find success. They'll also save a considerable amount of money, without sacrificing clear hearing results, and be able to "join the conversation" again.

Dr. Cherukuri backs each MDHearingAid AIR with a full money back guarantee. Readers of this publication can call the toll free number below now and receive a discount on a MDHearingAid AIR purchase.

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## What Others Are Saying:

"As a physician, I know how much people spend on health care. They should get the best value for their dollar, and this product is just as effective (if not more) than traditional, overly-priced hearing aids. I will recommend MDHearing AIR to my hearing-impaired patients."

— Dr. Chang

"I purchased an AIR hearing aid for both ears. I couldn't be more pleased. They are as small and work as well as a \$5,000.00 pair I had tried from somewhere else."

— Dennis

"I received the AIR hearing aid Saturday. I have been wearing it ever since and love it, Great amplification, no ear irritation, no whistling, perfectly comfortable, no problems whatsoever,"

— Ken H

"I put it in and forgot it was there until I went to bed. It has opened a world that has been lost to me for a long time."

— Laraine

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## [The Big Picture



Street Cred for Lions



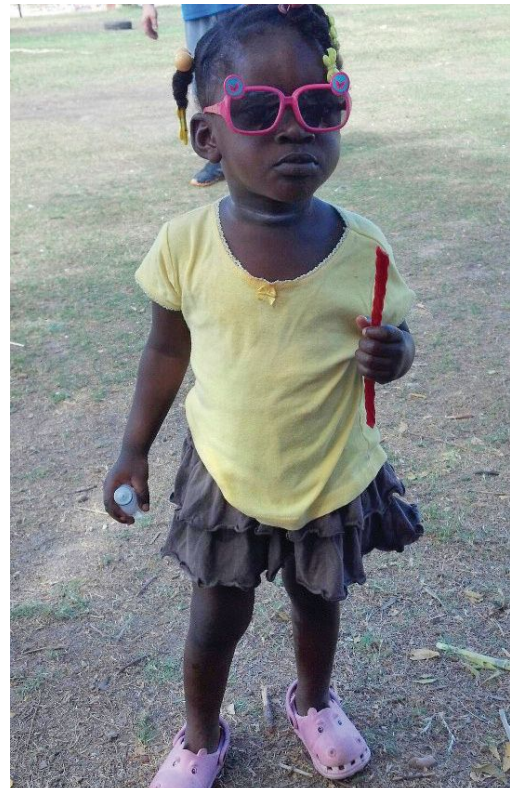


Blues great Robert Johnson, mostly unknown until decades after his death, often played on street corners. That's him popping out of the pavement in Brande, a small town in Denmark known for its stunning wall murals. Capitalizing on the town's artistic reputation, Brande Lions staged a summer street art festival. Artists from Italy, Germany, Morocco and other nations created paintings in the town square in three categories: three-dimensional, copies of famous works and free art. Ruben Poncia (shown) of the Netherlands did the Johnson painting.

Watch an interesting video on the street art festival.



## [The Big Picture



Children Come First For Many Clubs





Lions worldwide improve the lives of children in various creative ways. Benji Edds (top, left) races in the Owensboro Lions Club Soap Box Derby Spring Rally Race in Kentucky. A young boy (bottom left) sings at a cultural event hosted by Pollachi Liberty Lions in India. A child in Haiti (bottom, middle) grips a piece of candy given to her by Gravel Ridge Lions in Arkansas on their mission trip. Lions in Multiple District 300 Taiwan are particularly innovative in helping youths: (this page, clockwise from upper left) Keelung Hello Lions organize a judo summer camp, Lions in District 300 G2 raise awareness of fraud on college campuses through a cartoon posted on a tree, and Taoyuan Chung Yi Lions stage a show starring those with disabilities. Lions' service to youth will be highlighted Aug. 8-14 during Lions' Worldwide Week of Service for Youth. Learn more by visiting the Worldwide Week of Service for Youth page at [Lions100.org](http://Lions100.org).

## CENTENNIAL KICKS INTO HIGH GEAR

Lions are joining the party—the Centennial celebration. Clubs have reported serving 85 million people toward the Centennial goal of benefiting 100 million people by June 2018. About 62 percent of clubs are participating in the Centennial Celebration Membership Awards program by sponsoring new members or organizing new clubs, earning attractive pins and certificates. More than 3,000 Legacy Projects have been recorded; clubs are undertaking smaller initiatives such as making possible park benches or doing larger projects such as planting trees, building clinics and expanding libraries. The recent international convention in Fukuoka, Japan, included a full slate of Centennial activities including the unveiling of a commemorative coin, song and banner, 48 of which are headed around the world to be signed by Lions. The celebration will culminate at the 100th International Convention in Chicago June 30-July 4. Learn more about the Centennial at [Lions100.org](http://Lions100.org).



Lions assist people in Ecuador after the earthquake in April.

## LCIF RESPONDS AFTER THREE DISASTERS

Three major disasters erupted in the spring, and LCIF provided a Major Catastrophe grant in each instance to enable Lions to alleviate suffering. After the Fort McMurray fire in May in Alberta, Canada, ravaged 550,000 acres and forced nearly 90,000 people to flee their homes, LCIF approved a US\$100,000 grant for Lions to partner with government officials and agencies on relief. In April a magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Ecuador killed 660 and left tens of thousands homeless. LCIF provided a US\$150,000 grant for immediate and long-term relief and reconstruction. Lions distributed food, drinking water, blankets and clothing. Forty-nine people died in Japan when two earthquakes struck Kumamoto and other regions. LCIF provided a US\$250,000 grant for relief and recovery.

Andrew Shenkman prepares to plant a tree in Holland Marsh in Ontario, Canada, a conservation initiative supported by the Bradford Lions Club. Lions worldwide are expected to easily meet the Centennial goal of benefiting 100 million people by June 2018.







## Overheard

**"Small town, small town. That's what it's all about. You choose to live in a small town for a reason. It makes no sense to go to the big city when you can have a nice, tight community like you have here."**

—Adam Jenstead, 2015-16 president of the Sabin Lions Club in Minnesota, on his club's "blue bulb" giveaway and pasta feed benefit for the family of Jason Moszer, a police officer fatally shot while responding to a domestic disturbance. Residents shone the bulbs on their front porches. From The Forum.

**"It's the best feeling in the world to know what's going on around you."**

—Alexander Miller, 30, after the Salem Downtown Lions in Oregon enabled him to receive an eye exam and eyeglasses. Extremely nearsighted, Miller had been able to see only six inches in front of his face. From USA Today.

**"One of the things you find out about Lions is that we are a family. You walk in the club, and you are just one of us."**

—Les Herbst, past president of the Meriden Lions Club in Connecticut, observing the success of the club's Palm Sunday brunch, a 42-year-tradition. From the Record-Journal.



## MINNESOTA LIONS DONATE \$4 MILLION FOR VISION CARE

Minnesota Lions will give \$4 million over eight years to meet the growing demand for cataract surgeries and other ophthalmic services provided at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation (MLVF) will make possible four operating rooms on campus; each room will contain \$1 million of equipment. The first Lions' surgical suite opened in February at a new clinic built by the university. With the aging of the American population, demand for the expertise of ophthalmologists is expected to increase more than 33 percent in the next five years. New treatments are also increasing the demand for specialized eye surgery. Until February, university eye surgeons had been performing surgeries in shared space at other medical sites, resulting in delays in treatment. MLVF has supported vision care at the university since 1960 when the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank began.

## By the Numbers

100

Food service workers who displayed their speed and balance in the 22nd annual Waiters Race held by Visalia Breakfast Lions in California.

4.75

Million crossings annually of the Peace Bridge, connecting Buffalo, New York, and Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada, and lit up in blue last year on Lions International Diabetes Day, thanks to Lions in District 20N in New York.

15,000

Square footage of the new pit for the demolition derby and tractor pull at the 67th annual country fair of Terryville Lions in Connecticut.

20

Price in dollars of parking spots overseen by Greensboro Hamilton Lakes Lions, teaming up with Stamey's Barbecue, for events at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex in North Carolina.



6

Towns that cyclists pedal through in the Tour de Southington staged by Southington Lions in Connecticut.

150,000

Pasties (baked pastries with dough, sirloin, onions and potatoes) made and sold by Lancaster Lions in Wisconsin, assisted by Leos and others, four times annually since 1996.



1.5

Pallets of pancake batter used for the 55th annual Pancake Feed of the Norfolk Lions in Nebraska.

## LOVE AND MARRIAGE— AND LIONS

Lion Tim Roscoe interrupted the party for those with visual impairments in April at the Blind Association of Butler County in Pennsylvania. “Adam has a special announcement,” he said. Adam Fleeger, 24, who is legally blind, stepped toward Crystal Schroth, whom he met two years ago at one of the Lions’ parties. Fleeger got down on one knee and showed her a ring. “Will you spend the rest of your life with



Adam Fleeger and Crystal Schroth became engaged at a Lions’ event.

me?” he asked Crystal, who also is legally blind. She hugged him as the room erupted in cheers. The 25 members of the Cranberry

Township Area Lions Club at the party were in on the surprise. “Adam told me about a year ago. That’s how long he had planned it,” says Roscoe, secretary. About 100 people witnessed the proposal including family of Fleeger and Schroth. Fleeger used his forthcoming birthday as a ruse to invite family: he told Schroth the party would double as his birthday celebration. The couple expects to marry about a year from now. Incidentally, Jennifer Bindernagel, the director of the Bind Association, is a member of the Butler Lions Club, which meets in the room where the proposal was made.

## 71 Years Ago in the LION



### JULY 1945

At the White House, President Harry Truman (left) accepts a Lion pen desk from Robert Moore on behalf of the Kansas City Lions Club. Both men belonged to the club in Missouri.



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## Pleased to Meet and Meetings That Please

Meetings have always played a central role in Lion life, providing the companionship and fun members value so much. From the start, Lion meetings have served as the launching pad for service projects ranging from helping people who are visually impaired to providing disaster relief. That focus on service has been a constant over the years, even as meetings have evolved with the times.

In the association's early days in the 1920s and 1930s, club meetings included practical jokes and a broad humor. Tail Twisters, those masters of disruptive fun, strode through meetings snipping off neckties or cracking water-filled eggshells over members' heads.

After World War II, Lions expanded around the world and embraced many cultures, and by the 1980s women began joining the Lions. Some of the rough-and-tumble humor that marked the first decades was toned down as membership diversified. Today's meetings are more streamlined and involve less horseplay, but they still feature plenty of singing, socializing, games and bits of silliness.

Members of the Alum Creek Lions Club in West Virginia have opened every meeting since the club's 1961 founding by singing, "Home on the Range." The Chilliwack Stellers Jay Lions Club in British Columbia, Canada, raises funds at some meetings with a game that involves tossing the dollar coin known as a "Loonie" into a toilet seat set up on the floor.

The Internet and members with tight schedules have had an effect on Lion meetings as well. Clubs can hold

shorter meetings and provide routine information online. And some clubs convene online rather than in person.

As Lions clubs have spread around the world, club meetings have evolved to reflect local customs and naturally have a slightly different flavor when conducted in Asia, Europe, South America or Australia. Lions clubs in Switzerland don't do much singing, but in Japan and Indonesia they do. Hong Kong clubs sing traditional Lions songs, but their meetings also include Chinese blessings.

Even in a world where free time is scarce, meetings remain central to the Lion community. Lions take time after a busy day at work to go to a Lions meeting because meetings provide a "feeling that they belong, that they are connected to something larger than themselves," said William Berkowitz, professor emeritus of psychology at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, in an interview with LION Magazine.

Meetings may change more in the future, but their value to members won't. Past International President Wayne Madden, who served from 2012 to 2013, told LION Magazine, "Being a Lion is so rewarding precisely because we serve alongside people we know and like and share similar values with."

*Read the rest of the 100 Touchstone stories written for Lions' centennial at [Lions100.org](http://Lions100.org).*



The Toledo Lions Club in Ohio meets. Meetings have remained an essential aspect of club life over the past century, helping Lions stay connected to one another and to the broader association.



# ***“HOME OF THE BRAVE”***

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You'll notice plenty of design detail throughout this apparel exclusive, like contrasting gray lining in the hood, front pockets, knit cuffs and hem, a full front zipper, and even chrome-look metal tippets on the hood drawstrings. Imported.

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## Community Partnership Promotes Tolerance

When a deadly earthquake struck Nepal's capital city of Kathmandu a year ago in April, it did more than devastate a city. Thousands of miles away, it helped forge a friendship between members of the Coon Rapids Lions Club and the Nusrat Mosque-Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Minnesota. The two groups hosted a walk for Humanity First, raising more than \$2,000 for victims of the natural disaster. Their partnership also helped open up a conversation about cultural diversity that continues to ripple throughout the community of more than 62,000 north of Minneapolis.

Of the walkers, says Lion Lyle Goff, "It was about 50-50 Muslims and non-Muslims." He credits Lion Lori Anderson for actively identifying community outreach efforts. "Our club is trying to reach out to various religious and ethnic groups in our community. Coon Rapids has a growing population, especially with recent immigrants from Africa, Asia, Central and South America, as well as Eastern Europe," he says.

Anderson was first approached by Abdul Naseer about Lions and mosque members working together on a project. They planned the walk in only two weeks. "I think partnerships between community groups can really help us achieve more than individual efforts," points out Naseer. "Coon Rapids Lions helped us connect with the neighbors in our community based on our common goal of serving those in need."

The club's determination to promote cultural awareness has since grown into a community organization called Transformative Circle that Lions support, says Anderson. "We had a series of three informational meetings for the public with city personnel explaining programs and services. When these were over, everybody wanted to continue meeting," Anderson says. "This isn't in response to

anything negative that happened in our community. We just want to educate people about their neighbors and

foster understanding and tolerance," she points out.



Walkers and a bike rider engage in conversation while fundraising together for Nepal.

## Lions Help a Friend

When duct tape couldn't keep Tom Kearney's wheelchair together anymore, Lions stepped in to help. The Pennsylvania club co-sponsors a summer concert series in the park and "Wheelchair Tom," as he's known around town, is one of the regulars, says Annette James. "Tom has cerebral palsy, but he manages to attend every concert. He needs a wheelchair to get around, but also has to use a lift to bring him up to the level of tables or counters."

Lion Tony Ura has helped Tom Kearney with wheelchair repairs for several years. He discovered that its lift wasn't fixable the last time it broke, so Lions sponsored a pasta dinner to raise money to outfit Tom's new power wheelchair. The chair was covered by insurance, but a new lift and several accessories, including a headlight and safety flag, were not. Lions paid for these adjustments to make sure that Kearney can still travel around town by himself.



In Pennsylvania, McKeesport Lion Tony Ura visits with Tom Kearney after his wheelchair was updated with several safety accessories from Lions.

Photo by Kim Carr



## NORDIC NATIONS

# Child War Refugees to Get Limbs

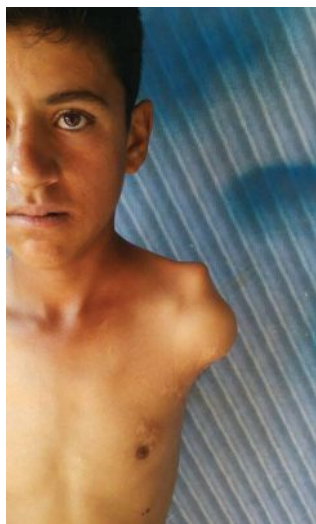
Mohamad, 15, a refugee from the war-torn Middle East, wept when he learned he'd receive a prosthetic arm. He's living in a camp in Lebanon, and Nordic Lions will help many of the 200 children at the camps in Lebanon in need of a prosthetic arm or leg.

Lions in Norway, Sweden and Denmark decided to partner with the Singer Center in Sidon, Lebanon, on the prosthetics after the Lions' Europa Forum in the fall in Germany. There they heard a talk by Norwegian Lion Einar Lyngar on how he and Lebanese Lions, supported by Lions in their nations, delivered food and clothes to desperate refugees from Syria and Iraq at camps in Lebanon but dangerously close to military actions of the Islamic State.

Nordic Lions also have agreed to create a medical center near the camps, to continue to provide supplies to refugees and to increase their support of makeshift schools at the camps.

Many children at the camps have untreated severe injuries from bombs or houses that collapsed. Most aid agencies have left the camp areas because of possible violence by terrorists. Lions, however, have been encouraged by their ability to get aid to refugees because of the ties of Lebanese Lions to government officials. "This [prior success] has given Lions great confidence," according to the Norway LION.

Turkish Lions also have partnered with Nordic Lions in helping refugees at camps.



(Left) Mohamad, 15, will receive a prosthetic arm.

(Below) Dr. Bassam Singer makes a prosthesis for a refugee child at Singer Center in Sidon.



## AUSTRIA

# Refugees Welcomed with a Gift

Lions in Austria have welcomed Syrian refugees with hygiene bags. The bags are filled with soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors and other items.



Austrian Lions are helping refugees.

Lions in upper Austria and southeast Austria have distributed 4,000 bags so far. The toiletries are intended to last two weeks. Thanks to a Lion's business connections, each bag cost the Lions only 10 euros (\$11.50).

About 8,000 Syrians applied for asylum in Austria last year. "We as Lions have a responsibility to provide humanitarian aid," says District Governor Alfred Hrusca of Schwertberg. Austria has 8,648 Lions in 263 clubs.

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# Here Comes the Judge

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BY JAY COPP

The verdict is in.

Lions' Centennial president is Chancellor Robert Corlew, elected in June at the convention in Japan. Entrusted with the reins of leadership in a pivotal year for Lions Clubs International, Corlew will be on trial, so to speak, for 2016-17.

"I'm scared, humbled and energetic," he says with an easy laugh. "I think that during our Centennial year we as Lions can have a tremendous impact on the world. We all have to work together, to pull together in every club, every zone, every district."

As president he'll travel worldwide to meet with clubs, service and nonprofit leaders, presidents, kings and dignitaries. He'll lead the board and help direct policy for Lions Clubs. He'll squeeze a lifetime of experiences in a single year. But it will be the experiences of his lifetime that will inform his choices and decisions.

Serving in the limelight is not new to Corlew, 63. The Tennessee resident worked as a judge and chancellor for 30 years. As a chancellor, hearing civil cases, he ruled on several high-profile, contentious cases involving businesses and government. He also worked as lawyer, taught law, and, at age 29, served on the city council in Murfreesboro for two years.

Corlew's service as a Lion has been similarly impactful. Not long after joining the Murfreesboro Lions Club, large, thriving and not shorthanded, he nevertheless became secretary. He dove into service, flipping pancakes, selling brooms, light bulbs and mops and raising funds for the opening of the Tennessee Lions Eye Center for Children, which quickly became a premier clinic.

Need and Corlew seemed to intersect. Attending the charter night of a club as district governor, an epic storm hit the community, and flood waters raged, stranding people in their homes. The new band of Lions put down their knives and forks, jumped into motorboats and rescued frightened people.

## A Precocious Youth

Located 25 miles from Nashville, Murfreesboro was a sleepy town of 40,000 when Corlew was a boy. His father raised beef cattle on 70 acres and taught history at a university. The oldest of three children, Corlew was unusually precocious. In second grade, he and a classmate started the 77 club, an imitation of the civic clubs to which Corlew's parents

belonged (alas, not a Lions club). "You had to be 7 to be in second grade, so that's where we got the name," he says.

Most of the class joined the 77 Club, and its main purpose was to hold a picnic—until they set their sights on "environmental protection," as Corlew puts it. The water fountain on the playground was leaking. "We kept the water from getting under the swings and slides," he says with a wry smile.

Just a year later, at age 8, Corlew continued to show a vibrant entrepreneurial spirit—a trait that came in handy years later when he was a Lion—when he went into the gasoline sale business. A friend of his dad was an oil distributor, and his dad had a 200-gallon tank. Corlew bought the gas from his dad's friend at wholesale price and sold it to neighbors at retail prices.

Sometimes his daring worked against him. When he was 8, he took his dad's two-month-old truck for a spin around the farm and crashed into the barn. As a constant reminder of his folly, his dad did not have the dent repaired.

Yet Corlew as a youth was an achiever, not a delinquent. Interested in civics, he secured a position as a page for an Alabama senator and lived in Washington D.C. as a high school sophomore. He shared an apartment with other pages, attended high school for three hours each morning and then spent the bulk of the day writing congratulatory form letters to constituents. "I did have dreams of being in government," recalls Corlew. "That did not happen, but my year in Washington had a big effect on me. I was walking on the Senate floor with a lot of folks I saw on television and in the newspapers."

Corlew actually became part of the media himself when he resumed high school in Tennessee. Before classes began, he stopped at a local station to read the news on-air. Corlew is gifted with a "radio voice"—deep yet pleasant. As a summer job in college he worked at another station in Murfreesboro. "He had a good voice, a good personality, willing to work cheap," explains Austin Jennings, the station owner who hired him. Jennings was not only a Lion but—an eerie coincidence—became international president in 1988.

Corlew studied history at Davidson College in North Carolina, becoming president of his senior class. He also signed up for the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and eventually served in the Army Reserve for a dozen years before retiring.



At Davidson, Corlew tutored disadvantaged children, some of whom made an unforgettable impression on him. That powerful volunteer experience, as well his years as a dedicated Boy Scout (becoming an Eagle Scout) and other instances of community engagement, helped make him who he was. “When we look back on our lives, there are probably things that happened that shaped us,” says Corlew. “Things that made us feel, ‘you know, I’ve got to make the world a better place. I’ve got to make things better for my town, my community.’”

He became a Lion in 1978 when he was a new lawyer. His introduction to Lions was quaint. A realtor who shared his office building, also working late that night, invited him to dinner. “He didn’t tell me where we going when we got into the car. It was a Lions meeting,” he says. That turned out to be just fine. He knew many Lions already, and they welcomed him warmly. “I learned from that experience that when we have visitors to our club that the attitude we have and the warmth of our welcome is so important,” he says.

Two other factors figured into him becoming a Lion—one very important and one not so important. “The Lions were very eager to tell me immediately about the projects

the club did. The club was so active in the community,” he says. “The food was pretty good too.”

Corlew embraced being a Lion and especially enjoyed helping youths. His Noon Club started a Kids Fest, bought gifts for children at an orphanage and did eye screenings. “We detected eye problems—a couple of which might have been life-threatening for the young person if we had not had the eye screening,” says Corlew.

Being a chancellor influenced his approach to being a Lion. “I think through my work I had the reinforcement of the need to listen to all points of view. I think I had more patience to listen to conflicting points of view,” he says. “My work on the bench was a big factor that helps me be a better Lions officer.”

His life got even richer when he met Dianne. His passion for cappuccino led to their meeting. Driving to a conference with time to kill, he stopped for a cappuccino in the faculty lounge at the law school where he taught. He bumped into the school’s registrar, whose son was a patient of a doctor at a pediatric clinic where Dianne was a physician’s assistant. “I think you should meet this doctor,” the registrar suggested. Corlew did and also happened to meet Dianne. After a year of dating, they married.

Lion Corlew does an eye screening at a school in Tennessee.  
Photo by Matt Michels



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## Corlew Confidential

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*“Bob said a friend told him this story. One day he [Bob] was eating lunch in a tiny little town. Some person pointed to him and said, ‘You know he’s one of the judges that come over here. You know I’ve been before all of them. That’s the politest SOB that ever put me in jail.’”*

**Scott Corlew**, Corlew's brother and a surgeon

*“Bob is—I hate to say it—softhearted, but he is. He’s a very kind person and empathetic. Even as a little girl if I had something like a toy break or an animal dying, Bob was certainly one of the folks I wanted to tell first. Because I knew he would understand and we’d have a little funeral.”*

**Mary Catherine Seiver**, sister

*“In his role as judge, I would watch him in the courtroom. He was very patient. My impression before was that a judge is somebody that has to be very stern. But I learned by watching Chancellor Corlew that it’s possible for a judge to have a kind spirit.”*

**Brent Pierce**, an assistant district attorney who was a student and intern of Corlew's

*“I see him being compassionate as we travel as Lions and we see different projects. There are times those projects bring tears to your eyes. There are so many people that just do not have the opportunities that we have. It makes you feel very fortunate, makes you want to help so much. And so I’ve seen that compassion extend not just from his work and his family but also very much in Lions.”*

**Dianne Corlew**, his wife

*“Something I’ve learned from my dad is just stay motivated. Everybody hits tough times. Just keep on going through it. Things do get better. And stay positive. You can find good things in everything.”*

**Robert ‘Roby’ Corlew IV**, son

“I think what I realized with Bob after dating for a while is our opposites balanced. We have a lot of things we’re not alike, and then a lot of things where we had the same interest. After dating for a while I realized our opposites balanced,” says Dianne. The Corlews are the proud parents of five grown children and five grandchildren. Three of their children live within a few miles of them, and the family gets together often.

One of the most important lessons Corlew tried to pass on to his children also applies to his life as a Lion, encompassing both fellow members and people they serve. “We tried to teach the children that some people are fortunate and some are not as fortunate,” he says. “Some people are smart and some are not. Some people have plenty of financial wherewithal and some don’t. You’ve just got to respect everybody for the talents and abilities they have.”

Thinking about how far he has come as a Lion, Corlew shakes his head in wonder. “When I was a very young Lion I remember being so excited when the governor came to visit. I remember thinking, wow, I need to wear my suit that day,” he says.

But it’s how far he can take Lions Clubs that matters to him now. “I hope we can say at the end of the year we grew individually as Lions and that we grew as an association, that we grew in our membership, in our service to the world,” he says. “The opportunity to serve as the 100th president is just an unbelievable dream. Becoming president means to me the opportunity to provide service that can change the world.”

The personalities, programs and predilections of international presidents have helped shape Lions Clubs International.

- The 1921-22 president, Ewen Cameron, an insurance executive and state senator in Minnesota, advocates “having one or more activities chosen by the International Association and then having the local organizations coordinate their activities along these lines” (September 1921 LION).
- The 1932-33 president, Charles Hatton of Wichita, Kansas, a real estate executive, asserts that in a “year of [economic] bewilderment” Lions are numerous and up to the task: “this united band is a greater organization that followed Alexander the Great” (August 1932 LION).
- The 1959-60 president Clarence Sturm of Wisconsin, a vice president of CARE, argues that Lions are uniquely qualified to foster “international friendship” and dedicates his presidency to that principle (July/August 1959 LION).

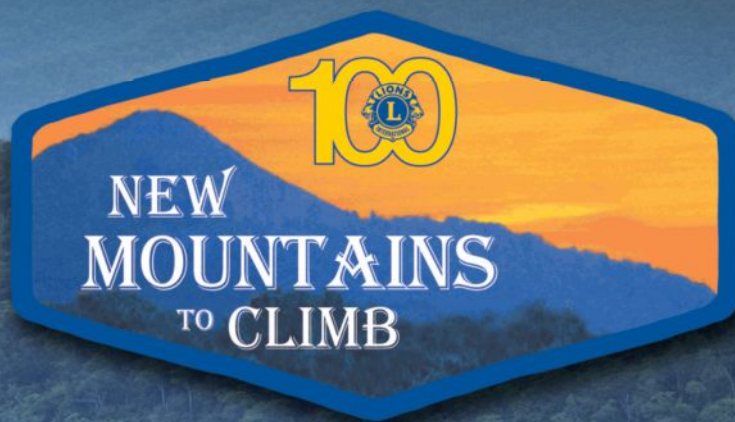
Watch excellent videos on Corlew and his theme.



Lions Clubs International  
Presidential Theme 2016-2017

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

CHANCELLOR  
BOB CORLEW



# NEW MOUNTAINS TO CLIMB

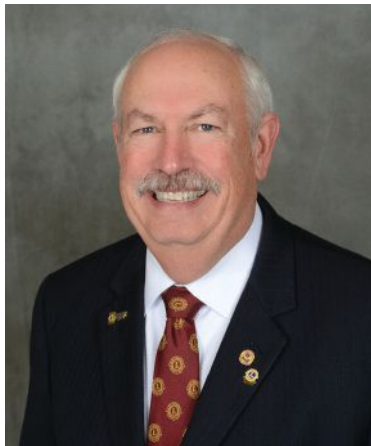
The sights and sounds of my home state of Tennessee are many and varied. From the sounds of the mighty Mississippi River in the far western part of the state, to the sounds of agriculture and industry in middle Tennessee, to the sounds of the wildlife in the Appalachians in eastern Tennessee, all are distinct and representative of warm, southern hospitality. The sounds of the waters of the Mississippi in the far northwestern part of Tennessee, and further south, the wail of blues music on Beale Street in Memphis, are gentle reminders of the distinctive part of west Tennessee. Further east, in the central or “middle” part of the state, the relatively flat landscape gives way to the rolling hills that characterize the portion of the state which gave rise to country music. The sound of the banjo, guitar, and mandolin which dominate the hills surrounding Nashville for years have inspired the dreams of many a rural Tennessee farmer. Printers Alley and Music Row are well-known names in the land which has earned the name “Music City, USA.” The sounds of agriculture then give way to the sounds of industry as one moves further east to Knoxville and the transportation city of Chattanooga. Just east of those sprawling cities begin the foothills of the Smoky Mountains, which dominate the entire landscape of eastern Tennessee.

Throughout the day, one can hear the frequent call of the coveys of quail—“bob, bob white”—interrupting the otherwise calm of the rural and even pristine landscape in some parts of the state.

And then, when evening comes, as the sun sets behind the mountains, one can hear the lonely call of the whippoorwill, or the haunting howl of a coyote in the distance. Near small hamlets, the sound of banjos, guitars and fiddles ring like echoes, calling people home. As

summer gives way to autumn, the hills and mountains become a splendor of color, as native maple, tulip poplar, birch, ash, chestnut, oak, and hickory trees turn russet, orange and yellow. Then as autumn becomes winter, the leaves give way to a blanket of snow, pierced only by the bare tree trunks and also the beautiful greenery of the cedar trees which dot the landscape.

The hills and mountains that form the backdrop of my home create a unique atmosphere. The natural boundaries of the Great Smoky Mountains formed over many generations a distinct culture with specialized dialects, a unique cuisine and a tradition of storytelling.



*International President  
Chancellor Bob Corlew*

I come from a strong stock that enjoyed and valued their privacy. They built their homes on the mountains and down in the “hollers” of Tennessee’s beautiful landscape. In doing so, they isolated themselves from the rest of the country and what was considered the mainstream of American life. This relative isolation inspired an independent spirit among those who settled here. An unintended result of the solitude of these mountain communities was the bond that formed among people in this

sparsely populated region. A cooperative nature evolved into a tradition of neighbor helping neighbor, of stranger helping stranger. The tradition of volunteering became so pervasive, that when the still young United States’ independence was challenged in the early 1800’s, it was the settlers of the region now known as Tennessee who volunteered in large numbers to defend its sovereignty – owing to Tennessee forever to be known as “the Volunteer State.”

The volunteer spirit continues to be prevalent in Tennessee. “People helping people” is a phrase which continues to characterize the attitude of many a Tennessean. It is rare that one walks by another who fails to greet him or her with a cheery “good morning” or, in the smaller towns, a “howdy, neighbor.” And in the tiny communities of the state, the driver of every



vehicle is met by a warm, friendly wave of the hand as he passes another vehicle.

Though times have changed, and old traditions have given way to modern technology, the historic friendliness that characterizes Tennessee remains. As times have changed, new challenges have arisen. New and different opportunities for service have become apparent. New ways for the generous to give have come to the forefront. Despite the modern times, the old volunteer spirit remains in the hearts of most Tennesseans.

The traditions I hold dear from my boyhood in Tennessee, and the independence passed on from my ancestors who overcame many challenges as they built a life in the foothills and mountains surrounding them, inspired me to choose “New Mountains To Climb” as my presidential theme.

Climbing a mountain is used as a metaphor for many daily situations people confront. It represents something that is difficult and arduous and that takes a maximum effort to scale. But it is only by climbing those mountains that we ever excel to our fullest. Each mountain represents a new challenge—a new opportunity.

As our world continues to change, each of us face new challenges—new opportunities to serve others. Blindness, measles, other health risks, food insecurity, lack of clean water, war and civil

unrest—all represent challenges for countless people around the world, and they represent opportunities for Lions as we work to make the world a better place. Lions must continue to climb upward, finding new ways to serve. Every mountain represents a new opportunity for Lions, and scaling each mountain provides each of us a chance to make the world better for another person.

As we commence a year of celebrating 100 years of community service – honoring our past and embracing our present – it is our future that we must plan and begin to forge. Our future is bright. But speaking metaphorically, if we are to ascend the next mountain, we must lay out a trail in front of us; we must mark our trail for future generations of Lions who follow, and preserve our tradition of service.





# REACHING THE SUMMIT OF SERVICE

Reaching the top of a mountain is not the end of a journey; it's the beginning of another. A new opportunity.

**We lead through service.** That is our strength. We are a network of community leaders who have seen the result volunteer service can bring, and the value that volunteers provide to their communities.

We must continue to assess our service initiatives and programs offered by LCI to ensure we have a unified vision in which service programs drive the purpose of our organization, and as a result, grow our membership, increase member satisfaction, allow for more meaningful partnerships and increase public awareness. Ultimately, we must continue to lead through service and enhance our position as the global leader in humanitarian service.

Lions have an enormous impact on the health and well-being of communities worldwide. Think of all the ways that Lions make a difference in day-to-day life:

- **Environment** – Lions help to keep our neighborhoods, streets, parks, rivers, green spaces, and water clean and safe for everyone.
- **Youth** – Lions tutor, teach, mentor, coach, and support young people with everything from math homework to dealing with personal crises to football and soccer tournaments.
- **Hunger** – We work on our own and with other agencies to stem food insecurity.
- **Vision** – Lions work on many levels to fight preventable blindness and provide much needed services to the blind and visually impaired.

Lions are critical partners of and participants in societies throughout the world.

Ask yourself this question: What would my community be like if there had never been a Lions club?

What would our cities, towns, state/provincial parks, schools, and libraries look like? What basic needs would go unmet? What opportunities to grow, learn, and thrive as a society would be lost? That is a world that is hard to imagine, and difficult to measure.

Fortunately, we don't have to imagine a world without Lions clubs. As we approach 100 years of service, our footprint of service has grown beyond what Melvin Jones could have possibly foreseen.

Lions continue to adhere to the two words that define us – our reason for being and the very essence of our existence – “We Serve.” And Lions embrace new challenges and new opportunities to serve others. No mountain is too high.

As we began our centennial celebration at the 2014 International Convention in Toronto, we asked Lions to climb the next mountain – to serve at least 100 million people in four areas – Youth, Vision, Hunger and the Environment – by June 30, 2018. Lions responded as only Lions do, with enthusiasm and determination. In only the first year we achieved more than one third of our goal. And now, as we conclude the second year of our Centennial Service Challenge, we are well past the two thirds mark, and positioned nicely to meet and exceed our goal.





But now is not the time to rest. Every community, large or small, that each club serves, presents an opportunity for a Centennial Legacy Project. Lions around the world are stepping up to meet this new challenge by creating a permanent legacy, which will forever remind Lions and others in the community of the great work we perform, and the mountains we climbed during our centennial year. Whether it's a park where children can play, a sports field where young people can compete, a school where students can learn, an eye center where those in need can be served, a hospital where the sick can be made well, a forested area where trees can grow and the environment be preserved, a library where our senior citizens can learn and enjoy their time, or merely a monument, a clock, or a sign to remind us always of our duty to serve, Lions around the world are now turning their attention to the needs that can be met through completion of a Legacy Project. The mountain is high, and we cannot yet see the top. It will take perseverance if we are to achieve what we set out to accomplish. But we are Lions, and we will not stop until we reach the peak!





# CONNECT WITH COMMUNITIES

We know from focus group surveys of non-Lions that our Lions logo is one of the most widely recognized among non-profit groups. People connect our logo with community service.

Serving the needs of our communities gives Lions a special connection and builds lasting bonds. Our goal is to have at least 20,000 clubs participate in the Legacy Projects. Whether your club participates with a level 1, 2 or 3 project as described in the below examples, make sure the Lions logo is prominently displayed as a permanent part of the project. And be sure to report your project in the same manner you record your centennial service challenge projects.



LACEY MIDDAY  
2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAY NOON  
PANORAMA CITY RESTAURANT







## Level 1 –

### Community Visibility

- New signage
- A memorial clock or statue celebrating the community
- Community benches
- Bike racks
- A gazebo or picnic area



## Level 2 –

### A larger gift to the community

- Refurbish a park or playground by installing new equipment, or accessible features for the disabled
- Provide accessibility equipment for an existing facility serving the community
- Equip an area of a hospital that addresses an unmet need
- Install a sanitation or clean-water system at a school
- Build a footbridge to make a busy intersection safer



## Level 3 –

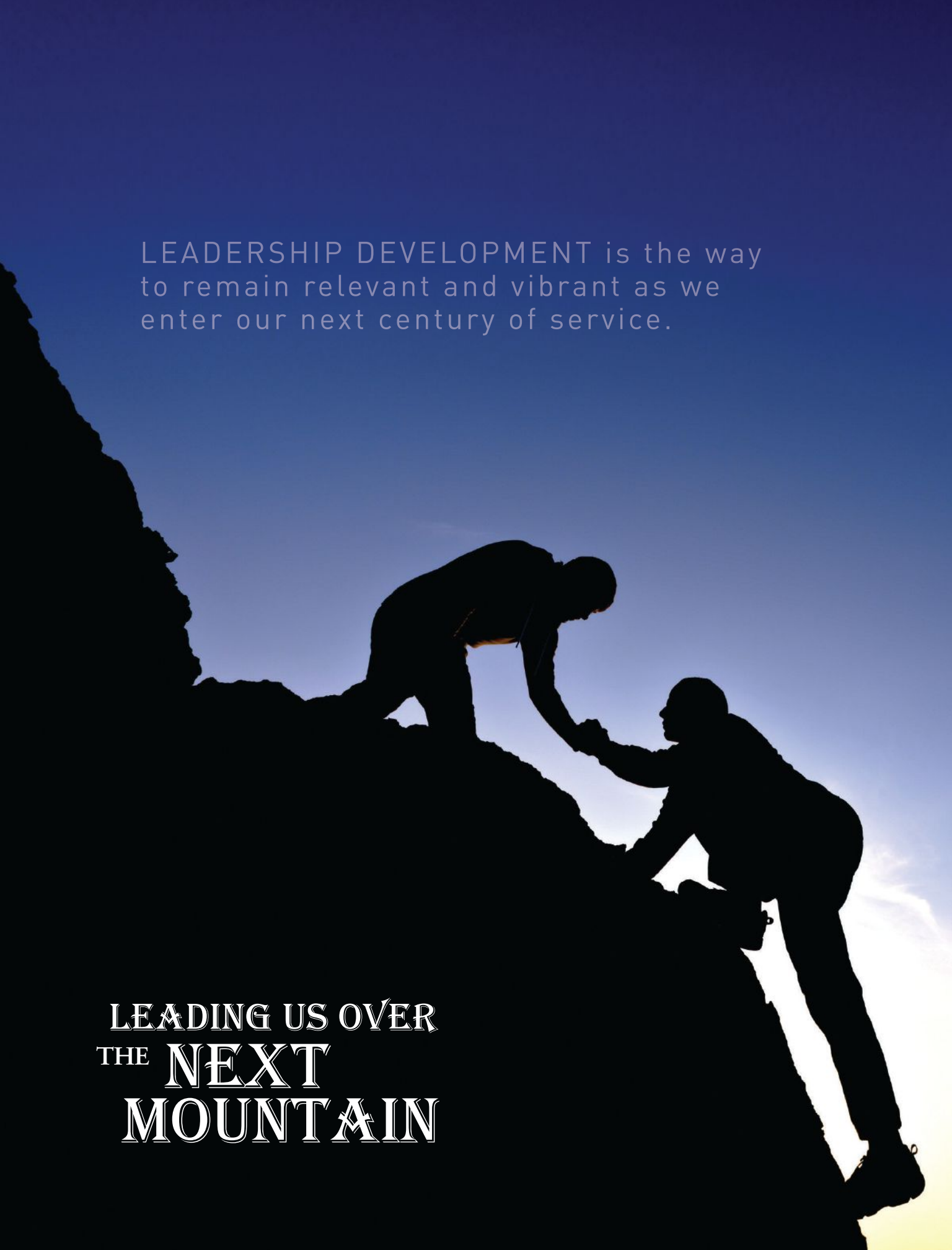
### A permanent project to advance quality of life in the community

- Develop or expand a medical clinic, library or a school
- Develop a Lions Room at a hospice or hospital
- Develop a technology lab at a center for the visually impaired and blind
- Develop a vocational training center for under-employed youth or the disabled
- Develop a new park, playground or pool for the community

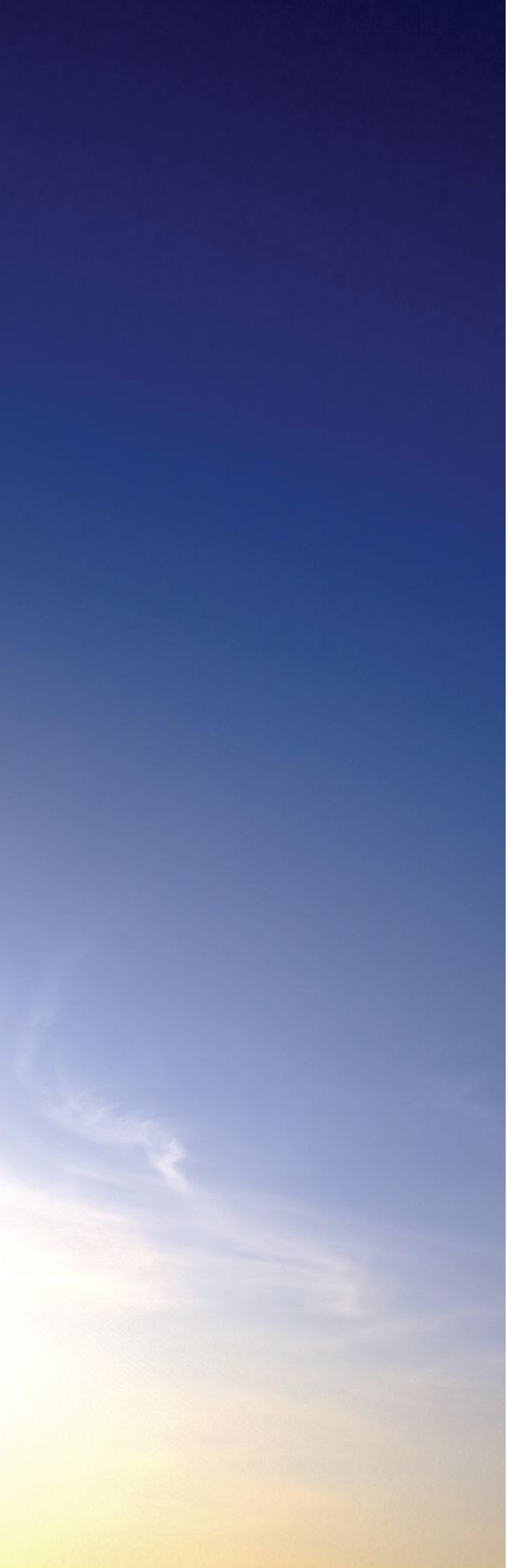
You can find more information about Centennial Legacy Projects at [Lions100.org](http://Lions100.org).

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT is the way  
to remain relevant and vibrant as we  
enter our next century of service.

LEADING US OVER  
THE NEXT  
MOUNTAIN







Leadership is vision, knowledge, drive, confidence, optimism, openness, humanity, and caring. It is direction and guidance that inspires dedication, confidence, and achievement. Leadership is required to inspire and bring out the best in people. It is a process by which a person influences and motivates others to accomplish an objective, and directs an organization in a way that makes it more cohesive and coherent (unified, connected, and harmonious).

A leader must inspire others, and instill passion and direction to an individual or group of individuals.

So, leadership is the ability to inspire, empower, and instill passion in others - the ability to guide and direct others - the ability to motivate others toward a common goal, and achieve the desired results.

A recent study revealed that young people volunteer not only to serve the needs of others, but also for opportunities for personal growth. The training and development we provide, and the actual leadership experience gained by being a member of a Lions club provides an opportunity for each Lion to serve others better and also to grow as an individual.

Leadership development also provides effective ways to understand and improve the way we handle our own and other people's emotions by learning how better to communicate, motivate, guide and instill passion in others.

As we strive to meet the growing needs for humanitarian service, we need to do so effectively and efficiently. Good leaders can make that happen. Strong service = strong clubs = member pride, engagement and enthusiasm.

Just as importantly, leadership development is the way to remain relevant and vibrant as we enter our next century of service. As we celebrate our centennial, we must plan for our future. One key to our future is succession planning - ensuring an adequate pool of knowledgeable, capable, enthusiastic, forward-thinking Lions leaders who will guide and support us for years to come.

To climb to the top of a mountain, you need the right tools. You also need the right tools to become an effective leader. Our leadership development programs, tools, and resources have enhanced the skills of thousands of Lions around the world, preparing them not only to effectively address challenges, but to anticipate those challenges as well. Whether your preference is face-to-face training or technology-based learning, LCI offers something for everyone. I encourage you to climb even higher by taking advantage of the various training and development opportunities offered by LCI and the GLT.

A full-page background image showing two mountain climbers on a steep, snow-covered mountain slope. One climber, wearing a white and grey jacket and a blue helmet, is positioned higher up the slope on the left. The other climber, wearing an orange jacket and a black helmet, is lower down on the right. They are connected by a rope. The background shows a vast, rugged mountain landscape with patches of green vegetation and snow.

# BUILDING OUR TEAM

## BY INVITING FOR IMPACT

Lions Clubs International is comprised of many teams – clubs, zones, regions, districts, multiple districts, District Governor Teams, the Global Leadership Team, the Global Membership Team, International Directors, Executive Officers, our staff, and many more – all working together toward the shared goal of enhancing our service to others.

Successful teams share two types of values. They value:

- 1) Achieving the goal or accomplishing the mission
- 2) Relating to each other as a team.

Shared values include:

- Roles – Team members understand the unique contribution and limitations of others and develop a distinct division of labor. In mountain climbing, one climber might be excellent at deciphering new routes, another at setting ropes, and yet another at leading on the rope.
- Shared Goals – The team goal is more important than the individual goal. For example, climbing team members share the desire to reach the mountain summit together as a team, not just as individual climbers.
- Team confidence – Teams believe they can achieve success.

A second set of shared values relate to interpersonal dynamics.

- Trust – Team members count on each other to come through as expected. In other words, the team members see a consistency in behaviors. In mountain climbing, team members belay each other, resting assured they are safely tethered, even if a partner sets the ropes.
- Interpersonal understanding – Team members are aware of individual moods, desires, and personal situations so that they can recognize when a fellow team member is too physically weak or mentally exhausted to continue a climb.

These five values prove essential in getting teams off the ground, and lead to success in reaching summits.

Each member of the team is no less important than another. And each member of the team makes an impact. For every new member





who joins our team, we impact the lives of 30 people through service. Simple math then tells us that for every 1,000 members who join, we impact the lives of 30,000.

Our goal during our centennial celebration period is for every club to invite three new members each year, and for every district to start one new club. That is a modest 5 percent increase – approximately 138,000 new members. But it represents reaching an additional 4.1 million people through service.

It's not about adding members for the sake of membership growth. It's about adding members to meet the growing needs of our communities.





# CONNECTING MY MOUNTAIN TO YOURS



Mountains are never isolated entities. They are connected. They are part of a series of mountains called ranges - the Alps, the Andes, the Himalayans, and yes - the Appalachian Mountains that run through my home of Tennessee.

Lions are connected too - through service, through fellowship and through something we all affectionately call "Lionism."

Lions around the world are connecting to each other as never before via the internet, which has enhanced our ability to communicate. Through real-time communication, the world has

gotten just a little bit smaller, even if only by perception.

And more than ever before, Lions are using social media to connect to the public.

Some clubs are even experimenting with online meetings, and allowing some members to attend meetings via Skype and tele-conferencing. Increasingly, our international officers are able to address a gathering of Lions in one country through Skype and FaceTime, while being physically present in another country around the world to address Lions in another setting.





There are many ways to use electronic communication, and just as many benefits, such as reaching a wider, more diverse audience. It's also a great way to save time and money.

In preparation for our Centennial Celebration in Chicago in 2017, our staff has reviewed a number of letters written by Melvin Jones. Our founder spent many hours personally reaching

out to new communities where there were no Lions clubs, and reaching out to Lions nearby. His letters inspired Lions and encouraged them to start new clubs in many underserved areas around the world.

As we plan our future, the Internet will play a crucial role. In the spirit of efficiency, expediency, and extension of Lionism, one has to believe that Melvin Jones would approve.



# THE NEXT MOUNTAIN AND BEYOND

Long after the centennial celebration is over, the cheering has subsided, and the music has been turned down a decibel or two – we will still have many challenges ahead as the Lions continue our work of making the world a better place. The growing need for service around the world will continue to confront us and challenge us as we move forward.

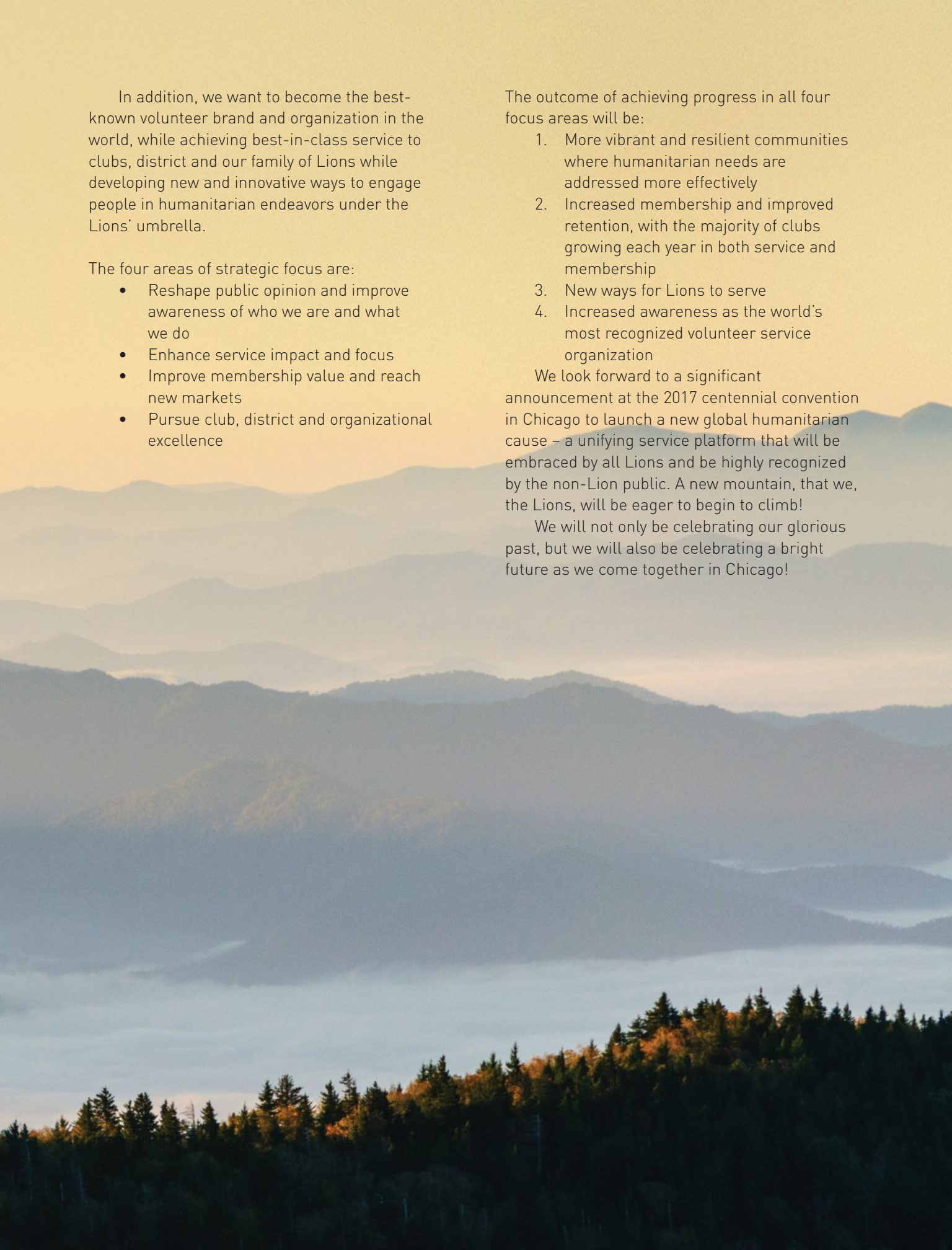
And we must move forward. We must continue to anticipate the next new mountain. And we must climb each one. People depend upon us.

LCI Forward is a strategic plan developed to significantly expand humanitarian service, improve our current operations, and pursue new paths to unite people in Lions' service.

A primary goal of LCI Forward is to improve the lives of at least 200 million people each year – more than triple the number of people served currently.

# FORWARD





In addition, we want to become the best-known volunteer brand and organization in the world, while achieving best-in-class service to clubs, district and our family of Lions while developing new and innovative ways to engage people in humanitarian endeavors under the Lions' umbrella.

The four areas of strategic focus are:

- Reshape public opinion and improve awareness of who we are and what we do
- Enhance service impact and focus
- Improve membership value and reach new markets
- Pursue club, district and organizational excellence

The outcome of achieving progress in all four focus areas will be:

1. More vibrant and resilient communities where humanitarian needs are addressed more effectively
2. Increased membership and improved retention, with the majority of clubs growing each year in both service and membership
3. New ways for Lions to serve
4. Increased awareness as the world's most recognized volunteer service organization

We look forward to a significant announcement at the 2017 centennial convention in Chicago to launch a new global humanitarian cause – a unifying service platform that will be embraced by all Lions and be highly recognized by the non-Lion public. A new mountain, that we, the Lions, will be eager to begin to climb!

We will not only be celebrating our glorious past, but we will also be celebrating a bright future as we come together in Chicago!



# THE VIEW FROM THE TOP

New mountains to climb. New challenges to meet. New goals to achieve. New people to serve. New members to welcome. New leaders to guide us.

As we celebrate 100 years of service, we exalt in the accomplishments of Lions who came before us – those who established our tradition of no need should be unmet – who wore a path up many mountainsides to establish our organization as the global leader in humanitarian service.

But our job is far from concluded. When asked why he climbed a nearby peak, one

famous mountain climber replied simply “to get to the top.” The world looks different from the top of a mountain. The view from the top presents a far different landscape – a 360 degree panorama. From the top of a mountain one can see towns and cities that lie ahead or behind; rivers that wind their way through valleys below – and yes, the next summit to climb.

We don’t yet know the view from the top of the next mountain. But we know we have to get there. We know we must ascend to the next level of service, and mark our path along the way for the next generation of Lions.

This is the time to prepare ourselves and those who follow behind us, for the next 100 years, and for the bicentennial of Lions Clubs International. I’m asking you to join me in this continuing journey as we climb to new heights.





A photograph of two young people, a man and a woman, working together on a wooden structure. They are both wearing red t-shirts with a yellow logo. The man is on the left, wearing glasses and using a yellow power drill. The woman is on the right, also wearing glasses and using a yellow power drill. They are both focused on their work. The background is a concrete wall and some greenery.

# Engage. Inspire. Serve.

**Join Us for Worldwide Week of Service for Youth**  
August 8-14

Plan a project to benefit youth in your community or invite the next generation of Lion leaders to serve with you. Help us reach our Centennial Service Challenge goal of serving more than 100 million people.

Visit **Lions100.org** for tools to plan, promote and report your project today!



# PITCHING A PROPOSAL

His father nearly topped the charts with “Little Green Apples,” and today Robert Smith has huge plans to make the world better.

BY TODD SCHWARTZ

The pitcher holds the ball, turns it in his hand, feeling the white cowhide for the perfect grip across the red stitches. Sixty feet, six inches away, the catcher punches his fist rhythmically into his glove. The sound makes a small echo. As he goes into his motion, the left-handed pitcher's right knee comes up and across, elbow goes back, shoulders turn. Then, the pitch is away. The ball slaps in the catcher's glove, a little high and a little outside.

Not bad, when you consider that the pitcher has been blind since shortly after birth.

## Star Baby

When Robert F. Smith was born, in 1968, his dad was having a pretty good year. O.C. Smith's recording of “Little Green Apples” was climbing to number two on the Bill-

board Hot 100 and was well on the way to selling a million copies. It would win the 1969 Grammy Award for Song of the Year.

The singer was out on the road when he got word that the son he and his wife were expecting sometime in August had been born in June, some eight weeks premature. He cancelled his concert and headed home. The neonatal technology of the day offered Robert's parents few options. Time in an incubator would likely save the baby's brain, but his eyes were another story. As it turned out, he would be blind.

As it turned out, that wouldn't slow him down very much. By age 5 he was racing fearlessly down the hill on his Big Wheel—including the time he went past the end of the driveway and did a hook slide right under a truck and out the other side. The famous laps he was bounced on as





a child included those of the Rat Pack, Ike and Tina Turner, Ray Charles, Rosey Grier and Stevie Wonder.

The silver spoon was taken from his mouth somewhat after his mother was divorced from O.C. Smith when Robert was 7 years old. The family moved from the Los Angeles hills to the inner city, and the younger Smith began to experience some new sides of life. No matter where he was on the arc from Sinatra's lap to public housing and selling magazines on the Long Beach Pier, Smith never lost his positive attitude or his forward momentum.

He inherited his singing voice from his dad, along with a love of people, and usually had a tune on his lips.

He also did some acting as a kid, and in 1984 he had a small part in the movie "Mask." In one scene he pitched a baseball. He'd always loved baseball—Smith was a big Dodgers fan, so it was a great scene to film. Little did he know it would be three decades before he would pitch again.

## A Three-Year Quest

There are more than 200 major and minor league baseball parks in America—30 gleaming stadiums for the major leaguers of "The Show," and some 180 not-always-so-shiny ballparks where minor leaguers work their way up and down the ranks. It's a long way from the bright lights and \$18 beers of Yankee Stadium to, say, L. P. Frans Stadium in Hickory, North Carolina. But no matter—on a warm summer night 5,092 happy folks can grab a seat and watch the Hickory Crawdads swing for the fences.

Maybe one evening soon the good fans of Hickory will also watch a confident blind man sing the national anthem, then make his way to the mound and throw out the first pitch. Same for every major and minor league ball field in the country. The man, of course, will be Robert F. Smith. And his Little Green Apples Project ([littlegreenapplesproject.com](http://littlegreenapplesproject.com)) will be the reason.

"I'm on a three-year quest," Smith says, "to sing the national anthem and throw out the first pitch at every major league and minor league ballpark in America. Why? To inspire people around the nation and the world to join together in doing 1 million acts of intentional kindness. Here's my mantra: Even a blind man can see that one act of kindness can make the world a better place. That better world begins with you and me and everyone who does something good for someone else."

Smith is in the initial stages of his kindness campaign. His plan is to have people post their acts of kindness to his website.

Beyond encouraging kindness, Smith is also determined to demonstrate to people with physical challenges that many things are possible beyond what they imagine. Why can't a blind man pitch a baseball? Why can't a blind man drive a NASCAR racing car (another of Smith's goals)? Why can't a blind man be an entrepreneur? All it takes is a little help from his friends.

"It's about us, not me," Smith adds. "But if what I do and how I live can touch someone and show them that limitations can be overcome, then this has value. The Little Green Apples Project is our way of spreading that idea wide. How do people get involved? Just do something kind. An intentional act of kindness can change everything—Lion Gene proved that to me. None of this would have been possible without him."

## Lion Gene

Eighty-six-year-old Gene Johnson, a Lion for 35 years, is just off the golf course after 18 holes, and eager to talk about Robert Smith.

"I came into contact with Robert through his agent here in Long Beach," Johnson says. "Robert's a fine young man, with a strong drive and quality about him. He wants to become self-supporting and to help other people facing challenges, and that resonated with me. So I've tried to do what I can to help him reach his goals."

Johnson, a past-president of the Long Beach Downtown Lions Club in California and a board member of the Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation of Southern California, pitched in—pun intended—in a big way. From helping Smith work to develop a revenue stream (a product, the Toss'n Towel Game Towel, a printed beach towel used in a beanbag tossing game) to finding him a pitching coach, Johnson has stepped up with both time and financial resources.

"Lion Gene has been incredible," says Owen Burgess, Smith's agent at the Ability Talent Agency. "He has been a huge help in so many ways—he represents everything the Lions stand for and all the good they do."

"I can't thank Lion Gene enough," Smith adds. "When I first started this idea of throwing out the first pitch across the country, I was discouraged because I couldn't throw a ball 15 feet anymore. Lion Gene found me a coach, and we went to work. We'd practice in sets of 20 pitches and after a few months I was averaging 16 strikes in each set!"

Businessman and longtime Little League coach Matt Simon worked with Smith several times per week over the summer of 2015.

"We went step-by-step, motion by motion," Simon remembers. "It wasn't as easy as I thought it would be! The catcher slaps his mitt and chants, and Robert throws at the sound. It's great—he's a good guy and you want to see him be successful."

Smith's singing comes much easier, since he's been doing it all his life. He recently remastered and re-recorded "Little Green Apples" to honor his father, who passed away in 2001. Again, Lion Gene was, you could say, instrumental, helping raise the funds to buy studio time for the effort.

"Not a lot of babies," Smith says, "have O.C. Smith singing to them in the womb, so I guess I just came out

*‘Even a blind man can see that one act of kindness can make the world a better place.’*



Where else would Smith visit but the Field of Dreams site in Iowa?

musical. I love singing the national anthem, but really that song isn't the easiest thing in the world to perform."

Especially when you're singing it in the middle of 63,000-seat O.co Coliseum, home of the Oakland Athletics, as Smith did last August.

"You have to sing it fast in a ballpark," laughs Smith. "I sing it in one minute and 17 seconds. And there's a delay on the mike, so you sing and then you hear what you just sang boomin' on the sound system. You have to concentrate! But for me, fear can be fuel."

That fuel keeps Smith—who, as is his plan, will very likely be the first blind person to steer a NASCAR race car around the track (with a sighted co-driver, of course)—moving, promoting, inspiring—and pitching, in every sense.

"I want to be an entrepreneur," he says, "not just a blind entrepreneur. A majority of blind people are unemployed. Why is that? I'd like to start an entrepreneurship workshop for the disabled. Everyone, including people facing physical challenges, can do and accomplish much more than they think. It just takes some inspiration, some help,





Lion Gene Johnson stepped up to the plate in supporting Smith.

and an intentional act of kindness along the way. So that's why the Little Green Apples Project is going to inspire a million of them. That's what I want people to take away from this—get involved by doing something kind. Just like Lion Gene. He made a huge difference for me.”

For his part, Johnson and his fellow Lions are eager to do their part for Smith—who is also eager to speak to Lions clubs and work more with Lions as he makes his way around the country.

“It’s clear to me,” Johnson says, “that it’s a vital part of the Lions mission to inspire individuals with challenges to take charge of their lives. Opportunities are there, and we need to do more to find and expand them. Robert is and can continue to be a very inspirational person for the disabled and for kids in our multicultural society. I would like to see Lions clubs sponsor him as he travels to ballparks, and he can perhaps help those clubs with a local fundraising event.”

So there’s the pitch. A million acts of kindness and a good man who happens to be blind and a baseball spinning

through a warm, blue-sky day in a ball park in a town near you.

Just be aware if you go to see Robert Smith when he makes it to Victory Field to throw out the first pitch for the Indianapolis Indians. We hear they can get a few rain-outs there. You know, as the hit song says, in the summertime...

*Based in Oregon, writer Todd Schwartz may not be a big baseball fan but, like Crash Davis, believes there ought to be a constitutional amendment outlawing Astroturf and the designated hitter.*

Enthusiastic and personable, Robert Smith describes his ballpark dream in a short video.

Also hear him sing the national anthem at a ballpark.





Naomi and Emma Miller have a lot in common.





# A NEW LIFE FOR TWO FARM SISTERS

BY MIKE LEONARD | PHOTOS J. KYLE KEENER

Amish farms ring Grabill, a quaint town of 1,053 in northeast Indiana. Amish men with full beards and women with head coverings and long, plain dresses ride into town on errands. Their horses and buggies clomp through the streets. This is where Emma and Naomi Miller grew up in an Amish home. The sisters have a lot in common. They're close in age. Emma is 25 and Naomi 23. Both are strong-willed. Both are blind.

Raised in a family of nine children, Emma was the first to go blind, her eyesight taken by retinitis pigmentosa around age 4. Naomi, born less than two years later, was blind from birth.

Their parents were protective but allowed them to attend public schools in New Haven. They also took part in programs and received job training at the Lions-supported Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Indianapolis. The sisters discovered Leos while at the School for the Blind, and they joined a Leo club about seven years ago.

Still, they felt penned in, restricted, unable to become themselves.

## Life as Lions

Jerry Smith, the president of the Harlan Lions Club, looks over the bustle of shoppers on a busy Saturday morning at a chain grocery store and chuckles at the sight of the Miller sisters, seated at a card table inside the store in Fort Wayne, an hour from Grabil.

The sisters became Lions in 2012. "At first, it was kind of strange having Amish Lions because the Amish keep to themselves and aren't joiners," Smith explains. "But once you get to know them, they're a hoot to be around. You know it's hard to be blind in this world. But they just shrug off it off and get on with their lives. They're two very independent young ladies."

The Millers moved out of their family home two years ago. They live on their own in a spacious and mostly finished walkout basement of a Mennonite family in Berne.

Their entry into modernity includes iPhones. "With our old phones we couldn't even text," Naomi says. "Now we can text with others and socialize. It just helps us communicate so we're not so alone."

Yet they've retained a crucial part of their identity. "Naomi and I both have apps on our phones so we can listen to the Bible," Emma says.

Though her parents opposed the idea, because they believed their family and the Amish community could meet their needs, Emma received a Leader Dog with the help of Harlan Lions. Naomi continues to use her white cane.

"Even before she had Josie, Emma was better at orienting herself than me. She can get around a building pretty well. I'm slower and I follow her lead," Naomi says. "But we all have our own gifts and talents. I'm a little faster with technology. I'm a little quicker on the computer. And I love to sing and I'm a little more particular with the notes. She follows me on that."

Pat Ehle, a longtime member of the Harlan club who, at age 87, is taking on a fourth term as president, has

helped the Millers adjust to their new lives. Ehle says the sisters "took to being Lions right away," whether it was volunteering to put together Christmas baskets for the less fortunate or soliciting donations for programs to assist the blind. "I've enjoyed my time with the girls. They're very intelligent and fun to be around," she says.

"Sometimes there have been tears. Sometimes, laughter," Emma says. "Pat had us through our tribulations."

"I don't want people from the Amish community to blame the Lions for our decision to leave," Emma says. "For us, frankly, they [the Amish] pitied us too much. It

was always, 'Oh, those poor things.' They never wanted to recognize that blind people can do a lot if you give them the opportunity. For us, the Lions gave us that opportunity to serve the community with the people who accepted us for who we are."

Emma says the separation from the Amish community and her family has been both painful and instructive. "I don't think God intended us to be separated from our family," she says. "Over these last two years, while the separation has been hard, I think it's actually started bringing us together to have a better relationship. Before, our relationship was 'either-or' and I don't think any of us tried to reach a place in the middle. But being separated, being down here in Berne, I feel is making me

start to grow up and not be so childish."

"I just want to get a job," Naomi adds. "Of course, there are things a blind person can't do, but there are a lot of things we can do, too. One thing we talked about in job training was being a receptionist. I can take calls, give out information, direct people to the person they're looking for. I just want to be around people more and be more productive."

The values they learned growing up still remain central to them. "I don't want people to think I'm proud—proud to have left the Amish, proud to be a Lion, proud to be independent. I try to be humble," says Emma. "I don't want people to think that we don't ever need help, that we are independent."

Since their earliest days, Lions' aid to the blind has brought all kinds of people into their circle—including humorist Will Rogers. Read how in 1927 the Oklahoman wag entertained 2,500 paying guests and 400 blind people at a Lions' benefit.

'For us, the Lions gave us that opportunity to serve the community with the people who accepted us for who we are.'







# *RANDOM ACTS of KINDNESS*

Grand Junction Lions in Colorado know how to make someone's day.

BY ERIN MCINTYRE



Stephanie Jordan is in tears after Brad McCloud of the Grand Junction Lions Club pays her day care bill as part of the Random Acts of Kindness campaign.  
Photo by The Daily Sentinel



Karen McClure, 63, lies down on her new bed, fanning her fingers out and sweeping her arms across the mattress so she can feel every inch of this wonderful new gift.

Tears well up in her eyes and trail down the sides of her face as she makes a snow angel, staring at the ceiling. “I just can’t believe it,” she says. “It doesn’t seem real. I didn’t know people did stuff like this.”

“Stuff like this” is a random act of kindness, performed each year by members of the Grand Junction Lions Club in Colorado. This year McClure was one of the lucky recipients of the program, which focuses on giving to neighbors in the community. Sometimes the members fulfill a known need, such as this one, and other times the act of giving is completely random.

McClure suffers from fibromyalgia and back injuries and has spent the majority of the past 15 years in bed. She was so thrilled to get a new bed that she didn’t even let her health care assistant put sheets on it before she tried it out.

Nearly 30 years old, her bed was so sunken that her health assistant referred to it as a “soup bowl.” It sagged so much she often could not sit up independently or get out of it without assistance. The frame was broken so Rubbermaid containers propped up the mattress. On her limited disability income, she couldn’t afford a new bed.

That terrible bed was gone now. Lion Jim Nickerson took it away when he helped deliver the new bed to McClure’s apartment. It was one of many random acts he participated in, carrying on the tradition of the club that has existed for more than a decade.

## How It Started

A city of 60,000 in the western part of the state, four hours from Denver, Grand Junction sits at the confluence of the Colorado and Gunnison rivers. It boasts a mild climate, spectacular high-desert scenery, plentiful recreational choices—and a very active Lions club. Many of its 125 members have been Lions for at least 20 years, and the club’s roster includes a slew of well-connected community leaders including government officials, bankers and small business owners.

The random acts of kindness program originated 15 years ago with Lion Gregg Palmer. “I stole the idea from Rotary,” he jokes. “I took it, and we made it better.”

Palmer’s business partner, Tom Brown of Brown’s Shoe Fit Co., was a Rotary member in California at the time, and his club passed out flower seeds as a random act of kindness to the community. One day Past President Lynn Hood came into Palmer’s shoe store, Palmer handed him the packet of marigold seeds and said, “I’ve got a hell of an idea. We could do the same thing here. But we’ve got cash, and people might need something more than flower seeds.”

So the idea was born to give each Lion in good standing \$100 to distribute as a random act of kindness, with a card explaining the purpose and letting the recipient know where it came from. The program was a sharp departure from their traditional funding priorities—normally the club gave money to only capital projects—with a goal of benefiting the greater good. In the past, club members allocated

funding based on how many people would benefit from the donation.

But the random acts are based on a single donation, often to a single person, and they definitely aren’t for capital projects.

“We typically help groups, not individuals,” says Palmer, a Lion since 1984. “This was outside of our normal criteria, and it wasn’t universally accepted at first.”

The program has evolved to provide what some of the 125 members consider “seed money” for bigger donations to individuals, or multiple random acts. Most of the members don’t just give out their \$100 and call it a day, says President Ken Brownlee. Many match the funds or spend even more.

The program has become a popular event in the community, and the club is well-known for its random acts. Palmer says it’s evolved to be a good tool for the club as well as a benefit to individuals. “Part of it is a recruitment and retention tool for our own club,” he says. “You don’t want to join another club after you do this.”

Some of these acts are more random than others. Brownlee has given away his \$100 in various ways over the years. In 2014, headed to the Veterans’ Administration Hospital, he was waiting at a bus stop. When the bus arrived, a veteran with a guide dog stepped off and Brownlee approached him, explaining that on behalf of his Lions club he wanted to give him the money. “He said, ‘That’s not necessary,’” Brownlee recalls. His eyes tearing up at the memory. Brownlee was able to give the cash to the veteran after briefly explaining the Random Acts program.

## ‘So Grateful’

This past year, Nickerson and fellow Lion Brad McCloud pulled up in front of the house in McCloud’s green Chrysler. They rang the doorbell and stood waiting to surprise Jamie Berns, Publisher’s Clearinghouse style.

Berns answered the door with a confused look on her face, obviously wondering who the heck these guys were and why they were bothering her.

“I was ready to tell them to go away because I can’t afford whatever they’re selling,” the 39-year-old single mom says. She was at home on her lunch break, and her mother had helped to arrange the surprise and made sure she was at the house.

McCloud and Nickerson explained she was receiving a random act of kindness and handed her the money. Berns couldn’t wipe the tears away fast enough as they spilled down her face.

“Seriously?” she asked them. “Ohmigod. Thank you, thank you!”

The kindness could not have come at a better time. Berns suffered from health problems and pancreatitis, broke her ankle, had wrecked her car and was laid off from work for months. She barely kept her head above water, scraping by with just enough to make her rent payments. To have an extra \$200 was an incredible gift and a relief.

“I’m so grateful. So, so grateful,” she says. “I just can’t stop crying!”

## 'This is the Best'

When Deborah Kohler took over teaching a classroom of high-risk, special-needs preschoolers at Clifton Elementary School last summer, she was dismayed to find her school only had broken toys for playtime and recess. The bikes were missing pedals; the centers of their wheels were cracked and wobbly. Duct tape held parts together. Three Tonka trucks were broken as well. And the playhouse, which was missing a roof, had been stolen from the playground outside the classroom.

The toys weren't just for fun. Because many of children are diagnosed on the autism spectrum or have other developmental issues, developing social skills through play and other interaction is important.

Kohler used her own money to buy used toys at yard sales and thrift stores so her students at the school in Clifton, located six miles from Grand Junction, wouldn't go without toys. Several Lions who knew Kohler decided to pool their Random Acts cash to buy bikes, a playhouse and toys for the children. Seeing the new toys for the first time, the children became giddy with joy.

The students raced around the room, trying out their new rides on the carpet before Kohler even had a chance to remove the bubble wrap from the handlebars. Four-year-old Jalivia Anthony jumped up and down excitedly when Lion Steve Stewart presented a box of Legos for her to open.

"This is the best!" she said.

"Miss Deb? You are the best teacher ever," said 3-year-old Aleyna Rowin. Kohler told her she should thank the Lions in the room who donated the toys, and Rowin went from person to person, thanking each of them politely.

Several Lions contributed toward this particular project, but Stewart also convinced a local business to help out as well, just as he did last year when he helped organize help for a family that lost their home in a fire and bought furniture for them. "We had \$700, \$800 that turned into probably \$2,500 that time," he says. "I like to leverage the money and get more people to participate, make a bigger difference."

## How They Do It

The Grand Junction Lions Club holds one major fundraiser each year—its annual carnival. Although it's a lot of work, they make enough money to fund all their grants and projects for the whole year in three hours. It's come a long way from when it started in 1929, to raise \$400 for Mesa Junior College. To date, the carnival has helped the club grant \$5 million to organizations.

The carnival's proceeds allow the Lions to fulfill their motto: Doing the most good, for the most people, while having the most fun.

"We believe we are the largest fundraising Lions club in the world," says Palmer. "Nobody raises more money than we do in one event, and we're able to be really generous because the community is that way."

Ultimately, the random acts are a small thing the club does over the course of the year, and financially it's a much cheaper investment than many of their other grants. But Palmer says that is beside the point, and he keeps that original packet of marigold seeds on his desk at work to remind himself what it's all about.

*FOR THE LIONS, THE RANDOM ACTS AREN'T JUST ABOUT THE GIVING. IT'S ABOUT THE RECEIVING OF THAT SPECIAL TUG AT THEIR HEARTS WHEN THEY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR OTHERS.*

For the Lions, the random acts aren't just about the giving. It's about the receiving of that special tug at their hearts when they can make a difference for others, and the welcome surprise of making someone's day a little better.

The personal connection with each recipient is crucial, the Lions agree. There's just something incredibly rewarding about making life easier or giving a person an unexpected gift.

"I didn't want to stick it in a bucket or mail it to someone," says Palmer. "I wanted that one-on-one [contact] because that's where you get that special feeling in your own heart."

This year, Palmer wandered around K-Mart until he saw a Marine and his partner walking in an aisle. Palmer approached him and asked if he'd been overseas.

"He said, 'Just back home, sir,'" Palmer says. "I handed him the money and he just kind of stood there and stared at me."

"Go out and do something nice for your family," he told the Marine, thanking him for his service.

"These are the kind of things that make this more than just a town you live in," Palmer says. "These are the kinds of things that make a community feel connected."

Extremely active since 1921, the Grand Junction Lions Club has been featured many times in the LION.

- Charter member tells why his club is "the best" (January 1937).
- One town's answer to downtown blight (November 1963).
- Club's carnival "raises more money with one single event than any other Lions club in the world" (February 2012).





Preschoolers ride new tricycles at Clifton Elementary School. Grand Junction Lions treated students to bikes, a playhouse and other toys as one of their Random Acts of Kindness.

Photo by Christopher Tomlinson/The Daily Sentinel



# Lions Mobilize for Refugees

BY ERIC MARGULES

Bolstered by US\$600,000 in grants from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), Lions in Turkey and Europe are extending a huge helping hand to the millions of refugees from Syria and Iraq. Lions are providing shelter, food, clothing, schooling, language assistance and integration programs.

## Refugee Relief in Turkey

Lions of Turkey, which hosts the most Syrian refugees of any country at 2.7 million, have received four refugee relief grants.

District 118-R (US\$60,000)—More than 50 Lions clubs are filling 2,000 backpacks with blankets, undergarments, towels, hygiene products, bottled drinking water and other supplies. These unisex backpacks will be packed by Lions and given to the Turkish Coast Guard, who will distribute them to refugees who are rescued at sea.

District 118-E (US\$26,000)—Lions are establishing a school for refugee children and supporting the nutrition and hygiene needs of 100 families for up to two months. Along with the Human Sources Foundation, an NGO in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Lions are converting empty classrooms in a community center to provide basic education and computer learning classes.

District 118-K (US\$61,300)—Lions are expanding the capacity of a camp housing 500 refugees to include two classrooms, additional toilets and a pantry, which will be stocked with clothing, food, sanitary items and basic first aid materials. Overwhelming demand means many refugees have to stay in the exposed courtyard of the camp. Lions plan to cover the courtyard and arrange for a private education association to take responsibility for education.

District 118-U (US\$60,000)—Lions in District 118-U, which borders Syria and Iraq, are providing aid to children and expectant mothers of 2,000 refugee families. The aid includes dry food, underwear, blankets, children's footwear, diapers, first aid supplies and hygiene products. Lions will also provide 10 prefabricated buildings with portable fan heaters to house refugees.

## Lions in Europe

For many refugees, Turkey is just one stop along their journey to Europe. Lions in Greece, the Netherlands and Slovenia have received LCIF grants to bring relief to refugees.



(Above) Lions in of District 118-E in Turkey provide desperately needed supplies to a massive influx of refugees.

(Right) A young refugee in Turkey receives supplies from Lions.



District 117-A, Greece (US\$10,100)—Lions are providing chemical toilets and generators to a refugee center in Rhodes, whose maximum capacity has been exceeded by the 6,000 refugees and migrants who have visited the shelter since August. Lions will also supply tents as well as outdoor heaters, sleeping mats, blankets and other desperately needed supplies.

District 110-AN, Netherlands (US\$15,000)—Lions are purchasing shoes, underwear and toiletries and other items needed most by 1,200 refugees living in four emergency shelters in Amsterdam.

District 129, Slovenia (US\$10,000)—Lions are working with the Slovenian Red Cross to prepare 2,000 portable emergency kits that include healthy foods for children, hygiene materials, blankets and coats. The Red Cross will hand out the emergency kits at distribution centers at critical entry points into the country.

Through these acts of service—and more to come—Lions are joining together to address one of the defining humanitarian crises of our time. If your club, district or multiple district is interested in aiding refugees, please contact LCI for project ideas and partnership opportunities. To donate or to find out how to request funds for local relief projects, please contact LCIF. LCI and LCIF will continue to work together to support Lions and their humanitarian relief projects.



## 29th Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest

# A Celebration of Peace



*Sponsor a Lions International Peace Poster Contest and join clubs worldwide in sharing children's visions of peace with your community.*

### How the Contest Works

Only a Lions club can sponsor the contest in a local school or organized youth group. The contest is open to students 11-13 on November 15, 2016. Participating students are asked to create posters visually depicting the contest theme, "A Celebration of Peace."

One winner for each contest sponsored by a club is chosen to advance to the district governor for judging. On the district level, one winner is selected to go on to the multiple district competition and from there one winner is forwarded to International Headquarters for the final judging. Entries are judged at all levels on originality, artistic merit and portrayal of theme.

During the final judging, 23 merit award winners and one grand prize winner are chosen to represent the many entries submitted from around the world.

### Awards

Artists of posters advancing to the final international judging are recognized as follows:

- **International Grand Prize Winner** receives a trip to an award ceremony where he/she will receive a cash award of US\$5,000 (or local equivalent) and an engraved plaque. Two family members (one being the winner's parent or legal guardian) and the sponsoring Lions club president or a club member (as designated by the club president) will accompany the winner to the award ceremony.
- **23 Merit Award Winners** each receive a cash award of US\$500 (or local equivalent) and a certificate of achievement.

### How to Enter

Lions clubs must order a Peace Poster Contest kit from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters. Available in all 11 official languages, it costs US\$11.95, plus shipping, handling and applicable taxes. Each kit contains everything your club needs to sponsor one\* school or organized, sponsored youth group:

- **Official Club Contest Guide & Rules**
- **Official School or Youth Group Contest Guide & Rules**
- **Participant Flyer** may be duplicated and given to each participating student to take home
- **Sticker** to place on back of winning poster
- **Certificates** for contest winner and school or youth group

*\*Clubs can sponsor more than one contest in either the same or multiple school(s) and/or youth group(s) by purchasing more than one kit. Clubs will send one poster per each contest sponsored to the next level of judging.*

The Lions International Essay Contest entry form is also included in this kit and on the LCI website.

**Kits are available January 15 – October 1, 2016.**

Purchase your kit early to allow adequate time for shipment and contest planning.



To order Peace Poster Contest kits (PPK 1), submit this form to the Club Supplies Sales Department at Lions Clubs International at [clubsupplies@lionsclubs.org](mailto:clubsupplies@lionsclubs.org); call (630) 571-5466 or 1-800-710-7822 (U.S., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and Canada only) or fax this form to (630) 571-0964. Note: All credit card orders must be placed online.

Visit [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) [search: Peace Poster]. For more contest information, deadlines, to download a video and view past finalists' posters.

Peace Poster Contest Kit (PPK-1) \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. @ US\$11.95/each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Language Required \_\_\_\_\_ Tax \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Available in all official languages.) Postage & Handling \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Lions Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

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The protection of your payment data is important to us. Your credit card\* purchases of Lions merchandise must be made directly online at [www.lcistore.org](http://www.lcistore.org). Please do not include your credit card number in any written communication or correspondence. \*Visa, MasterCard, Discover.

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Overseas - Postage/handling charges will be added at the time of processing your order.

Duty/taxes may be required upon receipt of your order. Lions Clubs International is not responsible for payment of these duties or taxes.

#### Sales Tax:

We are obligated to charge sales tax in Illinois and Canada.

# Thank You

## Ready to Take Center Stage

Like many high school seniors, Amy Bosko eagerly anticipates college. The outgoing 17-year-old dreams of studying musical theater and becoming a voice teacher. Thanks to the Lions, Bosko, who has been blind since birth due to congenital cataracts with secondary glaucoma, is ready for independent campus life.

Last summer Bosko—who won the 2010-11 Lions International Essay Contest—spent eight weeks at Blind, Inc.'s Post-secondary Readiness and Empowerment Program (PREP) in Minneapolis with an \$8,000 scholarship from the Naperville Noon Lions in Illinois. The program prepares blind high school students for college and beyond through a comprehensive curriculum that includes taking public transportation, doing household chores, being employed and using adaptive technology.

Bosko had goals in mind. "I was hoping to get better at getting places on my own. The instructors took us to Mall of America and had us find our own way in groups—they really threw us out there. It was more fun than scary to figure things out," Bosko says.

While living in a dorm with roommates, Bosko gained experience in another area for college: cooking. "We made spaghetti, tacos, chicken. I learned to tell if meat was done by touching it—no special equipment needed!"

Bosko is most grateful for the boost PREP gave her. She has fearlessly belted out songs and acted in school productions including "Grease," (pictured) but Bosko is on her way to bigger stages. She explains, "It was a great shove in the right direction. I can be more of an advocate for myself in college. I can't wait!"



Photo courtesy of Tokenbrit pictures

Read Bosko's winning essay on the "Power of Peace."

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](mailto:lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org). Please include "Thank You" in the subject line.

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# Why Haven't Senior Homeowners Been Told These Facts?

**Better read this if you own a home in the U.S. and were born before 1954.**



**FACT:** In 1988, President Reagan signed the FHA Reverse Mortgage bill into law.

It's a well-known fact that for many senior citizens in the U.S. their home is their single biggest asset, often accounting for more than 50% of their total net worth.

Yet, according to new data from the National Reverse Mortgage Lenders Association, senior homeowners in the U.S. are now sitting on more than 5 trillion dollars of unused home equity.<sup>1</sup> With people now living longer than ever before and home prices back up again, ignoring this "hidden wealth" may prove to be short sighted.

All things considered, it's not surprising that more than a million homeowners have already used a government-insured Home Equity Conversion Mortgage or "HECM" (more commonly known today as a reverse mortgage loan) to turn their home equity into extra cash for retirement.

However, today, there are still millions of eligible homeowners who could benefit from this FHA-insured loan but may simply not be aware of this "retirement secret."

Some homeowners think HECM loans sound "too good to be true." After all, you get the cash you need out of your home but you have no more monthly mortgage payments.

## **NO MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENTS?<sup>2</sup> EXTRA CASH?**

It's a fact: no monthly mortgage payments are required with a reverse mortgage loan;<sup>2</sup> the homeowners only have to pay for maintenance, property taxes, homeowner's insurance and, if required, their HOA fees.

Another fact many are not aware of is that HECM reverse mortgages first took hold when

President Reagan signed the FHA Reverse Mortgage Bill into law 28 years ago in order to help senior citizens remain in their homes.

Today, HECM loans are simply an effective way for homeowners 62 and older to get the extra cash they need to enjoy their retirement.

Although today's HECM reverse mortgages have been improved to provide even greater financial protection for homeowners, there are still many misconceptions.

For example, a lot of people mistakenly believe the home must be paid off in full in order to qualify for a HECM reverse mortgage loan, which is not the case. In fact, one key benefit of a HECM is that it automatically pays off your existing mortgage, which frees up cash flow, a huge blessing for seniors living on a fixed income. Unfortunately, many senior homeowners who could benefit from a HECM loan don't even bother to get more information because of rumors they've heard.

That's a shame because HECM reverse mortgages are helping many senior homeowners live a better life.

In fact, a recent survey by American Advisors Group (AAG), the nation's number one HECM lender, found that over 90% of their clients are satisfied with their reverse mortgages.

While these special loans are not for everyone, they can be a real lifesaver for senior homeowners like Betty Carter, who recently took out a HECM loan with AAG so that she could finally get the extra cash she needed to fix up her house.

*"With the help of AAG, I have been able to repair my home's foundation that I had*

*been putting off for several years, refinish the hardwood floors, paint the interior and will have the exterior painted within a few days. My house is starting to look like my home again and it feels good,"* says Carter.

The cash from a HECM loan can be used for any worthwhile purpose. Many people use the money to save on interest charges by paying off credit cards or other high-interest loans. Other common uses include making home improvements, paying off medical bills or helping other family members. Some people need the extra cash for everyday expenses while others simply use it as a "safety net" for financial emergencies.

If you're a homeowner age 62 or older, you owe it to yourself to learn more so that you can make an informed decision. Homeowners who are interested in learning more can request a free 2016 HECM Reverse Mortgage Information Kit and free Educational DVD by calling American Advisors Group toll-free at 1-800-840-2919.

At no cost or obligation, the professionals at AAG can help you find out if you qualify and also answer common questions such as:

1. What is the government's role?
2. How much money might I get?
3. Who owns the home after I take out a HECM loan?

You may be pleasantly surprised by what you discover when you call AAG for more information today.

\*If you qualify and your loan is approved, a HECM Reverse Mortgage must pay off your existing mortgage(s). With a HECM Reverse Mortgage, no monthly mortgage payment is required. Borrowers are responsible for paying property taxes and homeowner's insurance (which may be substantial). We do not establish an escrow account for disbursements of these payments. Borrowers must also occupy home as primary residence and pay for ongoing maintenance; otherwise the loan becomes due and payable. The loan must be paid off when the last borrower, or eligible non-borrowing surviving spouse, dies, sells the home, permanently moves out, or does not comply with the loan terms. Call 1-800-840-2919 to learn more.

A HECM/Reverse Mortgage increases the principal mortgage loan amount and decreases home equity (it is a negative amortization loan). American Advisors Group (AAG) works with other lenders and financial institutions that offer reverse mortgages. To process your request for a reverse mortgage, AAG may forward your contact information to such lenders for your consideration of reverse mortgage programs that they offer.

NMLS# 9392 (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org). American Advisors Group (AAG) is headquartered at 3800 W. Chapman Ave., 3rd & 7th Floors, Orange CA, 92668. AAG conducts business in the following states: AK (Alaska Mortgage Broker/Lender License No. AK9392), AL, AR, AZ (MB\_091141), CA (CA Loans made or arranged pursuant to a California Finance Lenders Law license (603F324) and Licensed by the Department of Business Oversight under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act (4131144), CO (Regulated by the Division of Real Estate; to check the license status of your mortgage loan originator, visit <http://www.dora.state.co.us/real-estate/index.htm>), CT, DC (District of Columbia Mortgage Dual Authority License No. MLB9392), DE, FL, GA (Residential Mortgage License #22849), IA, ID, IL (Illinois Residential Mortgage License; Illinois Commissioner of Banks can be reached at 100 West Randolph, 9th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60601, (312)814-4500), IN, KS (Kansas Licensed Mortgage Company MC. 0025024), KY, LA MD, ME (SCM11356), MI, MN, MO, MS (Licensed by the Mississippi Department of Banking and Consumer Finance), NC, ND, NE, NJ (Licensed by the N.J. Department of Banking and Insurance), NM, NV, NY (Mortgage Banker License #B500998 - NYS Department of Financial Services), OH, OK, OR (ML-4623), PA (Licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Banking 28356), RI (Rhode Island Licensed Lender), SD, SC, TN, TX (Mortgage Banker Registration), UT, VA (Licensed by the Virginia State Corporation Commission MC - 5134), VT (Vermont Lender License No. 6384), WA (Consumer Loan # CL-9392), WV, WI, WY (WY-DBA AAG Reverse Mortgage Lender/Broker License No. 2331).

# LION

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## Club News

The **Oceanside Sea Lions** in **California** took part in a Senior Expo and provided free eye screenings to all participants. Lions also collected donations for White Cane Days.

**Lions** from **southwest Minnesota** were among a contingent of individuals who visited a policy adviser to Governor Mark Dayton to support an oral health project to educate the public about the need for dental care for low-income children and teens. The initiative begun by Dr. Amos Deinard, a pediatrician, recognizes the need for fluoride treatment, and Lions are helping publicize the need for early intervention to stop pediatric tooth decay.



Players leap into action during a close game of the 17th annual Tip Off tournament sponsored by the **Town of Hamburg Lions Club** in **New York**. The boys' varsity and junior varsity basketball tournament is a four-day event where athletes from four different schools in western New York compete in 8 games as part of the club's youth outreach program. Lions raised \$10,000 from ticket and concession sales, tournament program advertising and a raffle. "All the money we raise is returned to the community as scholarships to graduating high school seniors who will move on to college," says Lion James Baker, who's chaired the tournament for all 17 years.

The **Amherst Lions Club** in **New York** gave five graduating high school students \$500 scholarships.



## Anniversaries

### July 2016

**100 Years\*:** Waco Founder, Texas

**95 Years:** Carbondale, Ill.; Greenville, Texas; Kalamazoo Downtown, Mich.; Liberal, Kan.; Pratt, Kan.; Torrington, Wyo.; Vinton, Iowa; Wheatland, Wyo.; Winfield, Kan.

**90 Years:** Bakersfield Host, Calif.; Indiana Harbor East Chicago, Ind.

**85 Years:** Campbellsport, Wis.; Clearwater, Fla.; Independence, Iowa; Lakeshore, ON, CAN; Summersville, W.V.; Thorp, Wis.

**80 Years:** Dillon, S.C.; Kingston, ON, CAN; Mitchell, ON, CAN; Pickens, S.C.; Sayreville, N.J.; South River, N.J.; Wellsburg, W.V.

**75 Years:** Blair, Neb.; Cayuga, Ind.; Ferndale, Wash.; Midland Valley, S.C.; Osceola, Iowa; Union, Mo.; West Liberty, Ohio

**50 Years:** Blue Ash, Ohio; Chicago Zzteca, Ill.; Hot Springs Oaklawn, Ark.

**25 Years:** Florence, Mo.

View the Higher Key Awards.

### August 2016

**95 Years:** Fort Dodge, Iowa; Greybull, Wyo.; Hastings, Neb.; Kokomo, Ind.; Lamar, Colo.; Long Beach Downtown, Calif.; Monroe Downtown, La.

**90 Years:** Denver, Pa.; Niles, Mich.

**85 Years:** Crystal Lake, Ill.; East York Danforth, ON, CAN; Mineral Wells Noon, Texas; Potomac, Ill.; Tyler, Texas

**80 Years:** Alvin, Texas; Carlyle, Ill.; Dunellen, N.J.; Kermit Downtown, Texas; La Porte, Ind.; North Providence, R.I.; Sault Ste. Marie ON, CAN; St. Ignace, Mich.; Union, S.C.; Weirton, W.V.

**75 Years:** Aurora, Neb.; Chippawa, ON, CAN; Dunkirk-Fredonia, N.Y.; Fredericktown, Mo.; Hudson, N.Y.; Ladysmith, BC, CAN; Monterey, Va.; New Glarus, Wis.; Niagara, ON, CAN; Pineville, Ky.; Redkey, Ind.; St. Louis Mid Town, Mo.; Wauconda, Ill.

**50 Years:** Hastings Evening, Neb.; Medina Dale Readfield, Wis.; Park West, Va.; Port Hardy, BC, CAN; Rock Island, Tenn.; Stanwood, Mich.

**25 Years:** Bakersfield Sports, Calif.; Los Angeles Mabuhay, Calif.; Oakley Delta, Calif.

\*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 International.

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

## Information

### In Memoriam

Past International Director **Ernesto Miranda Andretta** of Concepción, Chile, has died. A Lion since 1972, he was a member of the Concepción-Hualpen Lions Club and served on the international board of directors from 1993 to 1995. He was a Melvin Jones Fellow and a recipient of the Ambassador of Good Will Award.

Past International Director **Yasukazu Oono**, who served on the international board of directors from 1997 to 1999, has died. A charter member of the Morioka (Kozukata) Lions Club in Japan, he had been a Lion since 1961 and was Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

### Correction

Foley, the service dog for veteran Morgan Watt (May LION), was trained by Southeastern Guide Dogs, not Canine Companions for Independence. The LION regrets the error.

### For the Record

As of May 31, Lions Clubs International had 1,410,605 members in 46,912 clubs and 743 districts in 210 countries and geographic areas.

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## Pretzel Peekaboo

Eva Goodrich, 6, plays with her food at the annual Oktoberfest of Chester Lions in New Jersey. Eva's mom is Jaime, a Chester Lion.



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