

Hidden Heroes

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Kid-Centered Care

Tennessee Lions save sight—gently.

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A Great Day on the Slopes

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Contents

November 2016

Volume 99 | Number 4



Features

18 Vision Not Required

West Virginia Lions treat the blind to a day of skiing.

24 Kid-Centered Care

Tennessee Lions save sight—while keeping kids smiling.

30 64 Things We Love About Lions

36 Hidden Heroes

Since the 1950s, Massachusetts Lions have quietly funded groundbreaking research in eye disease.



Departments

- 3 President's Message
- 8 First Roar
- 12 One of Us
- 14 Service
- 16 Service Abroad
- 41 Foundation Impact
- 42 Club News
- 47 Touchstone



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Join the Party of the Century in Chicago

"I celebrate myself," the great poet Walt Whitman wrote. Lions have been doing a lot of that as our Centennial approaches in June. Lions in New England saluted our anniversary on a scoreboard during the Patriot's first football game this season. Texas Lions threw a birthday bash at a hotel and celebrated with a decorated cake, flags, horns and 100 balloons. The Blandon Lions Club in Pennsylvania welcomed hundreds of people for free food, music, raffles and children's games and wisely let people know who Lions are and what we do.

Age is a funny thing. We celebrate every birthday when young, approach birthdays with hesitancy and black humor in middle-age and then throw on the party hats once again when we achieve the milestones of later years. So it has been and should be with Lions Clubs. We turn 100 only once. Let's appreciate who we are and what we've done, and let's be sure to let the public be a part of our celebration as well. We're not self-contained, after all. We exist because of needs in our neighborhoods. Let our neighbors join us in our revelry.

Here are some easily achievable ways to mark our birthday: fly the Lions flag on or before June 7. Honor the longest-serving Lion in your club or district. Make a centennial banner with "100" across it and place faces of Lions where an "O" is. Be sure to share your efforts on social media and use #Lions100.

Do a service project such a Centennial dance marathon, a birthday cake bake-off or distribute meals to those

in need and include a special Centennial treat. Connect with your community by having a Centennial float in a parade, donating 100 books to the library or stuffing 100 backpacks for children and include a Lions item. Invite new members by holding a celebration luncheon with community leaders, ask 100 potential members to attend a service projector or host a party with a 1917 or 2017 theme.

You don't have to devise your own Centennial materials. Club Supplies at Lions Clubs International has Centennial party supplies, banners, posters and flyers. LCI knew our milestone was coming and is fully prepared to help you party in style!

I've talked to many Lions excited about the Centennial, and multitudes of members plan to come to Chicago June 30 to July 4 for our huge Centennial convention. Please take part in the celebration. After all, you are who we are celebrating. Lions make Lions Clubs what it is, of course. I celebrate myself indeed. Enjoy this special year and thank you for your service.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Corlew".

Chancellor Bob Corlew
Lions Clubs International President

[The Big Picture



Always the Brides, Never the Bridesmaids

Taking the event over from the all-male Blenheim Lions Club in New Zealand, the all-female Beavertown Blenheim Lions Club has run its Bride of the Year Show since 2003. The women have to have been



married within the past year and live in Marlborough. "The girls are lovely—very excited to have the opportunity to wear their dresses again," says Lion Sue Stichbury. About 20 brides typically enter the competition. Tickets to the event are NZ\$40, and the club has raised NZ\$70,000 (US\$51,000) from it. A rescue helicopter service was the chief beneficiary from the fundraiser last year. Photo courtesy of the Bleinheim Sun

[The Big Picture



The Long and Winding Road

A Japanese club whose name pays tribute to a distinctive seagull sponsors a popular coastal walk close to the seagulls' breeding grounds. The Hachinohe Umineko Lions Club in northeastern Japan has held the 6-kilometer Umineko Walk since 2005. An umineko is a black-tailed seagull whose breeding ground



has been protected since ancient times. But most walkers come for the stunning scenery of the Tanesashi Coast, an array of rocky inlets jutting out from the water along a crescent-shaped beach. Japanese novelist Ryotaro Shiba once wrote, "If beings from outer space came to visit Earth and I was tasked with showing them our planet's natural beauty, Tanesahi would be our first destination." Students volunteer alongside Lions at the walk. Hikers are asked to bring their own bowls and chopsticks, and they are served soup at the end of their walk.

PAST PRESIDENT BEHAR DIES

As Lions' international president for the new millennium, Dr. Jean Behar of France took it upon himself to be innovative and forward-looking. Begun during his presidency in 2000-2001 were New Century Lions Clubs for younger members, club branches for smaller clubs and online leadership courses for Lions. One of the most important Lions in Europe, Behar died on Oct. 2 at his home in France. He was 87. A busy radiologist in the early 1970s, Behar rebuffed friends who asked him to join a service club (non-Lion). But he became a Lion in 1975 when he learned about Lions and was invited to become a charter member of the Le Havre Expansion Lions Club. His club soon began music lessons for young laborers. Later he founded the Medico Lions Club, which coordinated medical missions and donations of eyeglasses from French Lions to developing nations such as Niger and Senegal. As president his theme was Quality: Key to the Future, and he was particularly proud of the



International President Dr. Jean Behar presents the 2001 Humanitarian Award to Barbara Hendricks, an opera singer with many charitable endeavors.

successes of SightFirst. The number of cataract surgeries performed in China through the SightFirst China Action Plan reached 3.5 million during his term. Soft-spoken and modest, Behar greatly valued the friendships he made as a Lion. "Now I have good friends in many parts of the world, a reward that has enabled me to appreciate a number of cultures and human feelings," he wrote in the LION in 2000.

LCIF PROVIDES AID AFTER HURRICANE MATTHEW

Hurricane Matthew in October was the deadliest hurricane in the Atlantic Ocean since 2005. LCIF awarded an Emergency grant to Haiti to address immediate needs of disaster victims. Lions and Leos from Port-au-Prince traveled to Petit-Goâve to work with clubs there. They packed and distributed more than 2,000 relief kits of medicine and food. LCIF also awarded an Emergency grant to the Lions of 31 N in North Carolina. Lions there braved the conditions to bring food, water, blankets and medical supplies to those affected most by the storm. "When disaster strikes, Lions are among the first to offer help to the victims, even though they are often victims themselves," says Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada, LCIF chairperson. "Working together, LCIF, local Lions and Lions leaders assess the urgent needs and quickly deliver the aid most required by victims."



Overheard

**"I'm glad I can see.
I can do what I want
to now."**

—Madison Bradshaw, 7, after Cleburne Lions in Texas helped pay for surgery on her left eye when 40 other groups contacted by her family did not step up. From the Cleburne Times-Review.

**"I feel a lot safer
than I used to."**

—William Chittenden, 13, referring to Carol, his golden Labrador, a seizure response dog given to him by the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. William, who has epilepsy, lives in Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada. From the Nanaimo News Bulletin.

**"I started as a
guest and ended
up as an elf."**

—Michele Rubenstein on the Christmas party for hearing impaired students held by Warren Lions in Ohio. She attended it as a child with her father, Lion Rocky Rockwell. Rubenstein bought and wrapped gifts for the party, first held in 1965. From the Tribune Chronicle.

CUBA SIGHTFIRST PROJECTS SAVE VISION

Two LCIF projects to reduce childhood blindness in Cuba have saved vision and advanced pediatric healthcare there, and Lions Clubs International leaders recently visited Cuba to monitor the projects. LCIF Chairperson Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada of Japan and other Lions leaders traveled to Cuba. The Cuban eye hospital network is in need of updated equipment, and SightFirst provided a \$128,669 grant in 2012 to diagnose and treat retinopathy of prematurity, which occurs in premature births and can cause blindness.

The equipment provided by Lions allowed 2,732 premature infants to be screened, and 26 children to be treated at the Cuban Institute of Ophthalmology Ramón Pando Ferrer in Habana, the premier eye hospital on the island. SightFirst further provided \$35,811 in 2013 to improve low vision services and to address retinopathy of prematurity in western Cuba through collaboration with the

Lions Foundation of Germany and the Cuban Council of Churches. The grant made possible the training of more than 300 healthcare professionals, the equipping of 12 pediatric hospitals and serving nearly 1,700 children. Prior to 1959, Lions were a familiar presence in Cuba. The 1945-46 international president, Dr. Ramiro Collazo, was from Cuba, and Havana hosted the 1940 international convention. Lions helped eliminate yellow fever in Cuba in the 1940s and '50s, and statues in public squares and street names honor Lions.



José Martí, a student at the School for Children with Special Needs in western Cuba, meets with a nurse and an official of Germany-based Christoffen Blinden Mission, a partner of SightFirst in Cuba.

PHONE FEAT DONE IN CALIFORNIA

District Governor Dave Roberts of California set out to call every Lion in District 4 L6—in one hour. The goal was to thank them for their service with the intent to cement their bond to Lions. Mission accomplished—just about. Using their own cell phones, 30 Lions made nearly 900 calls last spring. The district has 1,350 Lions. But Roberts did not have a phone number for some and others lived in the same household. Most calls ended with Lions leaving a message on an answering machine. Those who did pick up often were touched. A Lion recovering from surgery was happy to talk to a Lion. A Lion who said he had not attended an event for a while was now motivated about his membership. "One Lion told me he was a Lion for life now that he was called by the district governor himself," says Roberts, who gave gift cards to the Lion who made the most calls and the Lion who finished his call sheet first.



Herman Ripp (left), president of the Appleton Noon Lions Club in Wisconsin, emcees a fashion show in 1967.

CENTENNIAL ISSUE COMING IN JANUARY

Get ready for the centennial issue of the LION in January. The once-in-a-lifetime issue will look back at the storied history of Lions, consider where we are today and look forward to our next century of service. It will feature compelling service stories, iconic images and a preview of Lions Clubs International's new five-year strategic plan, LCI Forward. Get ready to celebrate our past, present and future in January and be sure to hang on to this special centennial keepsake issue for a lifetime. Enjoy the above photo, a taste of what's to come.

TWO NEW LIONS AND TWO PROSPECTS

International President Chancellor Bob Corlew and his wife, Dianne, enjoyed the hospitality of Lions in Kerrville, Texas, this summer and happily took part in the induction of their daughter, Leigh, and son-in-law, Landon, who live in Texas. During the ceremony the Corlews' young grandchildren brought smiles to onlookers by raising their hands like their parents and doing their



International President Chancellor Bob Corlew welcomes his daughter and son-in-law as new Lions. They joined the Keller Lions Club, close to their home.

best to repeat the vows. Bowen, 4, received a New Mountains to Climb pin, which signifies his grandfather's presidential theme. He wore it dutifully for days but also wanted to play with his mother's Lions pin. "Mine is not real. I want a real Lions pin with an L," he told his mother.

LIONS BLOW UP A BRIDGE

Be a Lion—serve others, make friends and blow up bridges. Jim Harrer and Lisa Alexander of the St. Charles First Capitol Lions Club in Missouri flipped the switch on a detonator to destroy half of the 1930s Boone Bridge, replaced by a new bridge that spans the Missouri River between St. Louis and St. Charles counties. The Lions club earned the right to flip the switch after winning a raffle benefiting the St. Charles County Boys and Girls Club. The club had bought ten \$10 tickets. Harrer and Alexander earned the honors by being the first to respond to an email from President Cheryl Thiede seeking volunteers. (A non-Lion who bid the highest won the right to blow up the first half of the bridge.) A demolition team instructed the two Lions on what to do. They



The Boone Bridge is demolished, thanks to two Lions.

were 1,000 feet from the bridge when given the signal: “fire in the hole!” It took about a half-second to see what they did. “We heard the boom and watched the bridge disappear into the river,” says Harrer. “It was an awesome experience.”

By the Numbers



200

Tables occupied by 83 vendors at the toy train show held by Deer Park Lions in Maryland.

39

Varieties of candy sold at the candy store run in late November and December last year by Greenfield Lions in Ohio.



261

Boxes of crayons collected and delivered last year by Kearney Lions in Missouri to children who spent Christmas at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.



2,000

Oversized red bulbs likely used over the past 70 years for the lighted Christmas tree silhouette Pacific Lions in Missouri erect atop a bluff during the holiday season.

10

Pounds of used keys, as well as five pounds of pop tabs, 100 used hearing aids and 2,000 eyeglasses, sent to the Lions of Illinois Foundation by Joliet Noon Lions.

20,000

Meals supporting Stop Hunger Now packaged by Ipswich Lions in Massachusetts.

80 Years Ago in the LION



JANUARY 1937

The LION held a cover contest for the first issue of the new year, and the winner was Lion Bill Alligood of Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. He received a \$50 prize.

Read about the contest and see other entries.

Glenda Chen

Pasadena Host Lions Club, South Pasadena, California
Princeton University freshman Glenda Chen, 19, shipped 2,500 pairs of eyeglasses from South Pasadena to Paraguay in a "gap year" between high school and college, then travelled to the South American country to help the Asuncion Kaaguy Rory Lions disperse them.

Why Paraguay?

I wanted to go to South America, and I had two requirements. I wanted to live with a host family and to go to a place where I would have meaningful work to do.

How did the trip originate?

I helped host the people of Paraguay and Morocco for the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles, and I noticed one of the coaches was wearing a Lions pin. Later the coach invited me to come to Paraguay.

Did you prepare the glasses?

My parents and I had to clean, repair and screen each pair, print the prescription to attach to the glasses, and then sort them—2,500 of them. Sorting takes a lot of space. My parents are always willing to help, but at the end of the project I think my mom's motivation was to get this stuff out of her living room.

Did you take the glasses with you?

No. It took me 24 hours to fly. The glasses were shipped by ocean freight, and seasonal floods delayed their arrival two weeks. One box costs \$1,000 by air, and we had 10 boxes. So they went by boat.

How were you welcomed?

They had a big barbecue. Their beef is the best beef in the world.



Glenda Chen stands proudly in front of the Lions' float at the Rose Parade in California.

But they were expecting to meet a 50- to 70-year-old lady. Then I showed up.

What did you like most about Paraguay?

Nature. Everything is green. But it's very humid, which makes it physically miserable because the humidity makes it feel even hotter than it is. One hundred degree days are common. But the country is beautiful.

How did you contribute?

We had four vision screenings for children, but parents and teachers were also allowed to have screenings. The adults were really grateful. I think I was able to give

them a snapshot of a different culture, to also share my Taiwanese heritage. Because of the lack of Leo programs there it was new for the adult Lions to see the ways a young person is willing and interested in helping.

Will you go back?

I will, or there will be a lot of people mad at me. This trip gave me the chance to meet a lot of people, and, of course, there is that fulfilling-feeling. I like to think of it less as me helping people and more as "let's see if I can be useful and work with them."

I came back with a much different perspective and a lot less fear.

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

Service Old and New

Lions serve communities in expected and unexpected ways. We rank 10 projects from the most traditional to the newfangled.

TRADITIONAL



Knights We Know

Bradenton Lions in Florida did vision screenings in one year for more than 4,200 children including 157 with special needs. The Idaho/East Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation recycled nearly 42,000 eyeglasses in a year.

Time-tested Service

Shawneetown Lions in Illinois picked up trash along a main road. Hayward Lions in Wisconsin served brats to hungry residents including a few folks just in need of the company of others.



Picnics and Ponies

Grand Island Lions in New York held a picnic for 1,000 children with special needs; the day included pony and boat rides, face painting and lunch. Penn Trafford Leos attending the District 14 E convention in Pennsylvania made blankets for homeless shelters.

Elvis has not left the Building

Elvis (known to some as Lion Darryl Peebles) entertained at a 1950s dinner-dance of the Graham Branch Lions in North Carolina. The proceeds enabled Lions to pay for a similar event for the blind. Whiting Lions in Indiana contributed to Superhero Day by sponsoring a “Strongman” ring-the-bell contest.



Nakedly Good Service

Redwood Falls Lions in Minnesota held a Nearly Naked 5K. Runners wore extra layers to the race and then shed them prior to running. The clothes went to thrift stores. Gananoque Lions in Ontario, Canada, plan to make a local beach—just the second in the world besides one in Greece—accessible to people in wheelchairs. The ramps, pathways and railings will cost about CAN\$37,000 (US\$28,000).

NEWFANGLED

Veterans Park in Michigan Proudly Shines Again

For decades, since dedicated to World War I veterans in 1934, Veterans Memorial Park in Muskegon was proudly described as “Michigan’s most beautiful mile.” But the park deteriorated over time, and veterans were not happy.

“Probably about 70 percent of us are vets,” Dennis Cobler says of his 70-member club, the Muskegon Northside Lions. The oldest member is Phil Margules, wounded as an 18-year-old in the Battle of the Bulge. A Vietnam veteran, Cobler lost three cousins in that war. “My father, stepfather and father-in-law are all World War II vets. That park, and what it represents, is sacred,” says Cobler, a past international director.



Lions cut down and hauled away invasive cattails from the shoreline of Veterans Memorial Park.

Organizing a \$4 million park rehab isn’t easy. “It’s all about partnerships—and what seems like a few hundred permits,” Cobler says. Lions worked with federal, state and local agencies and another community group.

The club raised nearly \$30,000 to wire electricity and also relied on the volunteer help of retired members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and apprentices, says Lion Ed Weessies. Lions paid for an architect to redesign the park.

A big problem was that an invasive species of cattails had invaded the Muskegon Lake shoreline in the park. Lions quickly got to work cutting them down. “It was really hard work, but we put on our waders and got in there,” says Cobler.

All the efforts paid off. Restored to its former glory, the park was rededicated last November to celebrate Veterans Day.

The work is not finished. A \$2.3 million grant to restore the habitat for fish and wildlife on 15 acres is helping restore the shoreline, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Unclaimed but Not Unwanted

So what happens to all those eyeglasses left on airplanes? They often end up on the noses of the needy in Mexico and other impoverished nations, thanks to an enterprising Lions club in Alabama.

Scottsboro, Alabama, is home to the Unclaimed Baggage Center, a 40,000-square-foot store filled with just about anything airlines can’t reunite with owners after a 90-day search. That includes books, cameras, smart phones, jewelry, designer wedding dresses and golf clubs. But you won’t find eyeglasses. The center donates them to the Scottsboro Lions.

About 50,000 pairs of glasses are donated to the club each year.

The club dutifully stores them in a church basement before sorting and boxing them for delivery to the Moody Lions Club on the outskirts of Birmingham. Moody Lions then clean and scan the glasses by prescription for shipment to Eufaula Lions for their annual eyeglass mission to Mexico, where approximately 15,000 glasses are fitted to patients by more than 30 Lions and volunteers.

“Reading glasses are considered extremely valuable there, where so many people make their living by creating, sewing or assembling small items for sale,” says Alex Moore, a Scottsboro Lion. “All patients are also given a pair of sunglasses to wear in the tropical sun.”

Other glasses are given for overseas church and other mission trips, and approximately 30,000 eyeglasses go to the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis for use by student charity programs. “We do an awful lot of good in Alabama with those lost glasses,” Moore says.

Watching the Dog— Not the Puck

Canadian Carol Minnich admits she doesn't know much about hockey. But there she was in Toronto at the Mattamy Athletic Centre (formerly known as Maple Leaf Gardens) as hockey players rushed about the rink. She was watching—a guide dog.

Lions look after the guide dogs of players competing in the annual Canadian Blind Hockey Tournament sponsored by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. They sit with the dogs, feed them and sometimes quickly take them outside when noise bothers the dogs. Sometimes it's the cheering, and sometimes it's the noisy puck, which rattles so the players can track it.

The dog sitters will watch the games when they can. "What a clean game these athletes play," says Slava Tsvetkov, the Toronto Central Lion who organized the volunteering. "No gloves on the ice to settle a score, no fist fighting—just clean hockey and good sportsmanship."

Lions from at least six clubs in district A 711 have volunteered. "The dogs seemed happy to be with us," says Minnich. "But when their owners came to get them, some would howl. Mostly they'd jump around and wag their tails."



Carol Minnich enjoys the affection of Flash, a guide dog, as his owner plays hockey.

A One-Stop Shop for Social Services



North Kitsap High School Leos in Washington pack toiletries and necessities to be donated by Lions to those in need at Project Connect.

Hundreds of homeless and low-income people show up for the one-day delivery of social services at a community center in Bremerton, Washington. They come for clothing, flu shots, medication vouchers and more. The most popular services are haircuts—and eye exams.

The latter are courtesy of Lions in District 19. The Lions have been part of Project Connect since 2010.

Last year dozens of Lions worked alongside eight doctors from VOSH (Volunteer Optometric Services for Humanity) to dispense reading glasses and sunglasses. The Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center also assisted.

Lions have screened more than 800 people and handed out more than 600 eyeglasses since being involved, says Roland Arper of the Silverdale Lions. Lions also dispense bags of new toiletries put together by several Leo clubs.

Arper has seen people moved to tears for the help they receive from Lions. But recipients aren't the only ones whose lives are touched by the day of service. "I often get notes back from Lions who tell me what a heartwarming experience it was for them to be involved that day," he says.



Keith Ogley battles the elements in Upper Teesdale.

ENGLAND

Walking One Thousand Miles at Age 72

After his wife died at age 57, Keith Ogley knew he had to raise money for the hospice where she stayed. “I was told to,” he says. His wife made her wishes clear to him before she died.

Joan Ogley had belonged to a social club that raised funds for Cransley Hospice in Kettering, so she understood its value. Then, unfortunately, when she got cancer, she learned firsthand of its comforting ways.

“She was able to live in comfort and dignity,” says Ogley, a member of the Kettering & District Lions Club. “She, myself and my daughters and granddaughter were treated, throughout this terrible time, with care and compassion.”

Ogley did a short walk to raise funds for the hospice six months after she died in 2004 and another one six years later. But more than a decade after she died, after he had become a Lion and had turned 71, he decided to up the ante and hike from Land’s End in the southwest to John O’ Groats in the northeast, the furthest possible distance in Great Britain.

His plan drew “a fairly high level

of resistance” from friends concerned about his health. Some were less delicate about their objections. “They told me it was a hare-brained scheme that had no chance of success.”

In decent shape, Ogley did practice walks near his home. Using guide books, he hunkered down in a pub to plan his route. He plotted a course that for the most part avoided roads and relied on long paths. He secured pledges. Then he set off, supported by friends, family and Lions.

The hike was arduous. Ogley scrambled over rocks. He negotiated innumerable hill paths, long and steep. He withstood heavy rains—“good old British summer.”

His rucksack bore his club banner and a sign about his fundraising. Once, stopping to chat with students on a school outing, the teenagers reached into their pockets and dropped coins in his tin can. On another day a woman abruptly stopped her car after she drove past him, chased him on foot and made a \$13 donation.

Lions in towns he passed did their part. They often provided meals and lodging. Ogley attended club



Ogley slept in this “hobbit house” in Glencoe.

meetings and celebrated his birthday with the Morpeth and Teesdale clubs.

In 82 days Ogley covered 1,132 miles and raised \$14,700. When he reached John O’Groats he saw in the distance a crowd of children—no doubt sons and daughters of cyclists who complete the ride across the island. But, no, he knew them. “They were my grandchildren—with their parents—to celebrate the end of my walk,” he says proudly.



SWITZERLAND

Cookies, Cookies and More Cookies

Members of the all-male Bundner Herrschaft Lions Club in Switzerland have no qualms about donning aprons and baking cookies. Especially when it comes to Christmas cookies, made to help the club's many causes.

Thirty-five of the club's 43 members partnered with a catering company to make 72 kilograms (160 pounds) of decorative cookies. The Lions packaged the treats in attractive bags and sold them at Christmas events in the region. The cookies brought in more than 8,400 francs (US\$8,500).

Lions Lieni Kunz (from left), Victor Zindel and Christian Niederer bake holiday cookies.

JAPAN

Atomic Bomb Victims Remembered by Clubs

Heads bowed in prayer last Aug. 6, Lions and others observed a moment of silence at a memorial in Uwajima City. Since 2008, when Uwajima City Lions erected a monument to the atomic bomb victims, the club has held the annual remembrance on the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima.

Uwajima, heavily destroyed by conventional bombs during World War II, is 175 miles from Hiroshima. But throughout Japan are peace monuments recalling the war. Uwajima Lions say their monument and annual ceremony are meant to pass on the stories of survivors and promote peace and understanding.

Uwajima City Lions erected the memorial on the occasion of its 50th charter anniversary. Inside the memorial is a "peace flame," originally part of the burning rubble of the Hiroshima bombing. The flame in Uwajima was drawn from the "eternal flame" memorializing the bombing in Yame City.

A Dutch ex-pat artist living in Uwajima, Kees Ouwens, created the Lions' monument. He taught local schoolchildren how to use a chisel, and they helped him shape the marker.

A more well-known memorial is the Peace Clock Tower in Hiroshima, completed in 1967 to mark the 10th anniversary of the Hiroshima Riyo Lions Club. Designed by a club member, the tower is made from three twisting iron



pillars with a clock on top that chimes at 8:15 in the morning, the time of the bombing.

The memorial's epigraph says, in part, "Uniting the wide world with one heart, the role of Lions club members in establishing peace is big. ... The chime of the clock tower ... calls out to the world for 'no more Hiroshimas,' and we pray that the day for lasting peace may soon come to mankind."

Lions remember the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

INDONESIA

Kids with Cancer Get a Boost

Children with cancer from poor families being treated at a hospital in Bandung have an ally: the Bandung Ceria Lions Club. Members visit the children to cheer them up and provide food and toiletries to family members staying for free in housing nearby.



President Janny Susanty Kosasih visits a child with cancer at Hasan Sadikin Hospital in Bandung, Indonesia.

Aware of the emotional toll on families, the Lions visit the young patients and their parents "to support and comfort through consolation, attention, conversation and discussion," says Janny Susanty Kosasih, president. "By serving and sharing, we come to realize we are so lucky." Nineteen Lions assisted 125 patients and their families in a recent period.

Bandung, the capital of Indonesia's West Java province, has a population of 2.4 million. Chartered in 1993, the Bandung Ceria Lions Club has 73 members.



A GREAT DAY ON THE SLOPES

PHOTOS VICTORIA WEEKS

The blind children have heard the cautionary words from well-meaning people their whole lives: “Be careful.” “Slow down.” “You’ll hurt yourself.” Safety comes first on the slopes. What comes next are peals of laughter, squeals of fun and a pride in mastering—or, at the least, gamely trying—a new

activity. “Many of them have never gone this fast at anything,” says Lion Donna Brown, a teacher at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind. “When they don’t fall they get a sense of accomplishment. When they finally ski on their own [without holding a pole held by a certified guide],



A certified guide skis with a child. The children are from the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind and throughout the state. Skiing allows them "to use their orientation and mobility skills," says Christine Lewis of the Morgantown Lions Club.

they get to ski like everyone else." For nearly 40 years Lions of West Virginia have hosted days of skiing for the blind and visually impaired and then for the deaf. The weather sometimes does not fully cooperate. The thermometer can plunge far below freezing. But a day on the slopes can't be beat.

Well, at least the children feel that way. "I prefer cross country," says Brown, who is blind. "I have more success at that."



It takes practice to navigate the hills at Timberline Resort in Davis, where the most recent ski day was held. By the end of the day some skiers, if they have at least some vision, are able to ski without a guide.



Riding the chairlift up is almost as much fun as skiing down. (Right) A skier gives her guide a rest.



Making friends on the slopes is a cherished part of the day. Hot chocolate inside the lodge and a pizza party in the evening help bond the skiers.



The skiers develop a rapport with their guides.



For some, snow mostly has been an inconvenience. "It's the first time to get out in the snow, to play in the snow," says Lewis.



A PLACE *for* KIDS

The Tennessee Lions Eye Center skillfully and lovingly caters its care to children.

BY CLAIRE GIBSON

At a Starbucks outside of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Abigail Bean, 10, sips a Vanilla frappe and shivers. Blonde and fair skinned, she's wearing a navy cardigan and a pair of pink glasses. She's both happy and freezing because she's enjoying a sweet, icy drink. But when her shoulders finish quaking, her eyes keep moving.

"I've had a million kids ask me, 'Why do your eyes do that?'" she says, then shrugs. "I just tell them that's how I am."

Abigail's eyes move involuntarily as a result of nystagmus, a condition that affects fewer than one percent of the population, and in her case, the result of a rare recessive gene passed down from both sides of her family. Her mother, Amanda, noticed the eye movement when Abigail was just three months old and knew that something was wrong.

"I planned on asking the pediatricist about it at her three-month checkup," Amanda says. "But before I could even bring it up, he asked me when the eye movement had started."

When a visit to a local ophthalmologist proved unhelpful, Amanda wasn't sure where to turn. That's when her pediatrician recommended she take Abigail to see Dr. Sean Donahue at the Tennessee Lions Eye Center. Donahue performed a strabismus surgery to correct Abigail's misaligned eyes when she was 2. He performed another surgery to remove the stitches, and since then, has continually provided regular checkups and care for Abigail every few months.

"It was stressful," says Amanda, remembering the long drives up I-24 with her young daughter. "But Dr. Donahue put us at ease right off the bat. He gave us a diagnosis—ocular albinism and congenital nystagmus. He told us it can't be corrected with glasses. But he said, 'We can give her the best vision possible.'"

Abigail and her family experienced firsthand exactly why the Tennessee Lions have chosen to invest their time and their money in pediatric ophthalmology. For years, the clubs had been active, providing glasses and surgeries for adults in need. But in 1995, the former head of

Vanderbilt's ophthalmology program, Dr. Dennis O'Day, challenged the state's clubs to brainstorm how they might help care for children. Emboldened by his request, the Lions mobilized, raising \$4 million for the construction of a state-of-the-art pediatric ophthalmology clinic, as well as an endowment to sustain the clinic for years to come.

Located in the district surrounding Vanderbilt University, the Tennessee Lions Eye Center is as inviting today as it was when it opened in 1997. Valet parking is complimentary for patients and families, eliminating the hassle of navigating the hospital parking garages. In the waiting room, big-screen televisions enable children with low vision to watch from a normal distance. Toys and books occupy waiting patients and their siblings. A dark room provides quiet and peace for infants with sensitive eyes. Large murals of zoo animals like tigers and pandas line the walls. In every treatment room, an electronic stuffed animal rests on a shelf, waiting for a doctor to press a pedal near the patient's chair that activates its movement. For a child, a stuffed cow waving his tail back and forth is a much better vision test than an eye chart. It's a place any child would feel at home.

But it's also a place where children receive excellent treatment from some of the best eye doctors in the nation. With seven pediatric ophthalmologists on staff, the Tennessee Lions Eye Center accommodates more than 25,000 pediatric visits every year. And since it is the only clinic in 200 miles that operates on children, many of those visitors come from throughout the Southeast. Donahue, chief of Pediatric Ophthalmology at Vanderbilt, has seen firsthand just how transformative that treatment has been for children in the region.

"For years, most kids were seen for regular care by adult ophthalmologists," he says. "But kids are not little adults. Many of them are too young to read the eye chart, and even if they know that they have a problem, many of them won't tell you."

Tall, with grey hair and sharp features, the 54-year-old doctor grew up in rural Wisconsin, where his father was the town's only physician. He remembers running

into his father's patients in the grocery store, at school—on every corner. “I couldn’t act out at all,” he laughs. While medicine eventually called him into the fold, his early education focused on neuroscience, studying problems with the developing brain. In the following years, Donahue began to draw connections between his study of the brain and the vision system. That connection led him to ophthalmology, and ultimately, to Vanderbilt.

Coincidentally, Donahue arrived in Nashville the weekend of the pivotal Lions state convention in 1995 where O’Day challenged the audience to make a commitment to caring for children. While the Lions fundraised, Donahue treated complex patients like Abigail Bean, and

a new technology had emerged. The MTI camera used digital photography to identify children with amblyopia. If you Google “amblyopia screen test,” you can see how the camera works. With a single black-and-white photo, pediatric ophthalmologists can look for asymmetry in red-eye reflexes. That’s right—it turns out those red-stares you used to get in old photos are medically significant.

With this new technology, pediatric ophthalmologists could diagnose the most common, treatable vision impairment among children without the need for them to read an eye chart. Simple and useful, the camera had the potential to revolutionize pediatric ophthalmology by identifying patients far sooner than ever before.



Donahue is one of seven pediatric ophthalmologists on staff.

began experimenting with new technology to help identify a far more common pediatric problem: amblyopia.

“Amblyopia is actually a problem with the brain,” Donahue explains, leaning on his neuroscience background. If left untreated, specifically during the years of visual development between birth and 6 years of age, amblyopia can result in a permanent defect that leaves a person with only one functioning eye. But unfortunately, children can compensate with their strong eye, giving few cues for parents to pick up on that something is wrong. And worse still, children under the age of 6 can’t easily complete eye exams—after all, how do you read an eye chart if you haven’t learned your ABCs?

Around the time Donahue arrived at Vanderbilt,

As one of the few Ph.D.s in his medical field, Donahue was uniquely poised to develop a screening system to identify these patients. There was only one problem.

“We knew that if we could treat more children before age 7, they could be saved from a life of poor vision,” says Lynn Wilhoite, executive director for the Tennessee Lions. “But children of that age aren’t in school. They’re not in organized groups. So with [Vanderbilt], we trained volunteers to go out and do the screenings wherever we could find the children.”

Donahue had access to this new research and technology. Wilhoite had a crew of willing and eager volunteers. Together, they began a pilot program called Kids Sight, hoping that with their strengths combined,

more children would get the treatment they needed before it was too late.

A veteran who spent more than 34 years in the U.S. Army, Wilhoite had served as an engineer, building hospitals overseas to treat the troops. To him, building the Lions Eye Center and creating a massive state-wide screening program was just an extension of that service. But these were untested waters, and many in the medical field were wary of sending retirees out to do what was essentially medical research.

*‘We knew that
if we could treat
more children
before age 7,
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of poor vision.’*

Undeterred, the Lions and Vanderbilt established a plan. Volunteers would take MTI photos of children wherever they could be found and send the photos back to the Lions Eye Center for interpretation. Any child flagged for potential amblyopia would be contacted and referred to a pediatric ophthalmologist in their local area. All the while, the Lions and Vanderbilt would keep data about how the program was working.

To say the program was successful would be an understatement. Over the last 20 years, the Lions have screened more than 500,000 children in Tennessee, and of those, approximately five percent have been referred for further care. The data from this research has been so convincing that 14 Lions programs across the country have modeled their screening initiatives after Kids Sight. And this year the American Academy of Pediatrics asked Donahue to pen the group’s newest recommendations: encouraging MTI camera vision screening for every child under the age of four.

“That’s all happened because of what we started here with the Lions Club,” Donahue says. “Screening and treatment of amblyopia is one of the most cost effective treatments in all that we do in medicine, not just ophthalmology, but all of medicine.”

An Eye Center With Compassion

By Ryan Underwood

When my son Jack was about six months old, my parents visited us in Manhattan, and for dinner we trooped out to a nearby chophouse. As we sat at a comically long table, my dad waved at Jack, seated at the far end. Seeing this blur of movement, Jack smiled and leaned his head far back, looking over the bridge of his nose down the table at my father. At first, we all thought this was some form of baby fun. Perhaps it was gas. But then Jack kept doing it, and my wife and I noticed that his eyes seemed to cross in a more systematic way than just the googly-eyed look that young children have.

Within a few days, we took Jack to the pediatrician and our vague concerns sharpened into focus. His eyes were crossing—strabismus. He also had a bad case of nearsightedness. The good news was that surgery wouldn’t be necessary. The immediate challenge would be to wrestle this otherwise cuddly, curly-headed toddler into a pair of heavy, thick glasses.

A couple years later, we moved to Nashville, settling near Vanderbilt University. Having both gone to school there, my wife and I had passed by the Lions Eye Center numerous times, but never bothered to learn about it. Now it became a vital resource for us. We marveled at how the doctors there could discern anything about Jack’s condition by having him watch a clapping monkey at about the same distance as that long table in New York and how seamlessly they continued his treatment following our move. We met Dr. Lori Ann Kehler, who has not only become a family friend but also has cared for Jack with the same compassion she would for her own children.

Jack, now 12, has recently passed some important milestones. He took it upon himself to get fitted for contacts, and he has finally overcome the mighty tween struggle of putting them in and taking them out, cleaning them, and most importantly, not falling asleep in them. Perhaps more importantly, we discovered at Jack’s last visit that his eyes have nearly stopped crossing and that within a couple years the crossing could be gone altogether.

Ryan Underwood is editor of Vanderbilt Magazine.



The Tennessee Lions Eye Center handles more than 25,000 pediatric visits annually.

Year after year, Tennessee Lions continue to undergird their Kids for Sight program. They typically contribute \$200,000 annually for updating instruments and other costs.

Of course, not every child that comes to the Tennessee Lions Eye Center has a condition as treatable as amblyopia. Lauren Fields was born with optic atrophy, a condition that can't be corrected surgically or with glasses. Though she has trouble seeing things at a far distance and reading up close, her impairment hasn't stopped her from excelling on the basketball court. A senior in high school, Fields is busy in competitive AAU tournaments and with her school team—and plans to play basketball in college. Through the Tennessee Lions Eye Center, Fields has had access to PAVE, a program that has helped pay for some of the costs associated with her treatment. In 2016, a PAVE counselor encouraged her to take a field test to see if she could qualify for the bioptic glasses she would need to legally drive. Minutes after completing the test, the doctor revealed the results: Fields passed.

"I had some doubts," Fields says about the day she took the test. "But I was so excited. I was right before the cut off."

Fields is several years ahead of Abigail Bean in the process of learning to live with low vision. And for all of the surgeries, appointments and road trips to Nashville, Abigail knows her future will still include low vision.

But it doesn't slow her down. At school, she uses iPads, a mini acrobat camera and other equipment to help her see. In her free time, she's a competitive gymnast—"level three," she says happily. The judges don't know of her condition, and though it makes for a more

difficult time on the beam, Abigail shines on the floor and uneven bars. After losing a pair of glasses that went flying across the gym after a roundoff back-handspring, Abigail began wearing sports glasses with a strap that tightens around her head. With the sports glasses, she says, "If I land on my face, they don't hurt as much. And I fall a lot."

With the help of an orientation and mobility coach, Abigail is learning to walk with a cane. "I don't do very well in dark places or in crowds," she says. "But if there is a dip or a hole, I can know because [the cane] goes before me."

Of course, a cane isn't the only thing that's gone before Abigail. Donahue accumulated countless years of education, training and compassion to be ready to care for her eyes. He's gone before her. Thousands of Tennessee Lions, fundraising and creating a place for her to receive treatment, have gone before her. Lauren Fields, with her youthful persistence, hope and drive, is going before her, paving the way.

And Abigail herself is happy to be a guide as well. Until this year, she was the only visually impaired student at her school.

"She's in kindergarten," Abigail says of her new friend. "I've been mentoring her."

When asked what it feels like to be a mentor, Abigail finishes the last of her frappe, smiles, and sums it up with one word: *joyful*.

Lions throughout the nation preserve children's vision through screenings. Read the story from the February 2012 LION.



Your Community. Your Legacy.



*Make a lasting gift to your
community. Start planning your
Legacy Project today.*

Lions100.org



64 Things We Love About Lions

What do Lions do? You've probably been asked that question. But being a Lion is not just about service. It's a whole lot of little things and some big ones that define us. We have a shared culture, a way of doing things that bonds us and jokes that only we really understand. We become Lions by taking an oath. But we learn to treasure being a Lion as time passes. There is much to love about being a Lion. We could have listed 100 or more—but we ran out of room!



1 Our **international character**. We're in more than 200 nations and geographic areas. We're everywhere.

Our **summer camps for kids**, whether they are blind or deaf or challenged in some other way, bring joy and a sense of belonging to those who often lack both.

The **Lions logo** is one of the world's most recognizable logos.



Lions' **pins** are indeed worth collecting.

Lions get their hands dirty—and that's not from writing a check. Our **hands-on service** sets us apart from other service groups.



Our **trinkets and tchotchkes**, such as this kaleidoscope furnished by Bowie Lions in Maryland as part of their 50th charter night, carry a “wow” factor.



The
**Peace
Poster**

Contest has engaged children worldwide for more than a quarter of a century.

8

Through **Youth Exchange**, we change the world, dissolving borders and celebrating our common humanity.



Vision vans—in a mobile world on the move and in a hurry—Lions say, in effect, we’ll help you stop and “see” the roses.

Headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois: a visit there is as enjoyable as the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown is for a baseball fan.

Lions’ special relationship with the **United Nations** befits an association active across the world.



Leos. Enough said.



We’re a little
zany, not afraid
of indulging our
inner child.



We sing. Often. Quite well. Or sometimes not well. But sing we do.

We hold **great meetings**. OK, not all the time but often.

16

We're **multigenerational**. Many Lions follow in the footsteps of fathers and grandfathers and now mothers and grandmothers as well.

Our **name**. It has legs, so to speak, as well as paws and a mane. What we chose to call ourselves had been visually fortuitous.

Helen of Troy may have had a face that launched a thousand ships, but we'll take our Helen.

The incredible **Helen Keller** inspired us to be Knights of the Blind, and more than 90 years later we're still happy to claim her as an inspiration.



Our **all-state bands** bring the benefits of music to youths.

We **raise puppies**. And they become the eyes—and trusted companions—of the blind.

Our **clubhouses** are a home away from home.

Baseball for the blind—batter up, even those without sight.



We celebrate summer. The carnivals, the parades, the food booths—Lions create great memories for children and parents.

Our **missions** to low-income nations allow us to share our talents and treasures with the less fortunate.

In two words, our **We Serve** motto encapsulates who we are.

Lions **deter diabetes**, a growing scourge.

Big cities are cool, and Lions are plentiful there. But we also **embrace small towns**, where Lions often are a town's linchpin.

A simple concept but what a difference it makes: **eyeglass recycling** has brought the gift of vision to untold millions.

We're **friends with Facebook** and other social media. More and more, Lions are denizens of the digital world.



Nothing in the world can match the universality of an **international convention**.

If Lions Clubs is one of the world's greatest ideas, then **LCIF**, which enables Lions to pool their resources, is a close second.

Clean, fresh **water** in developing nations —made possible by Lions.



One of our most cherished partners is **Special Olympics**, a beneficiary of our commitment to sight.

34 When a **disaster** strikes, Lions, embedded in communities and knowing needs and people, quickly and effectively respond.

We **hate measles**—really, really hate it, as we work with partners to prevent the deadly disease.

We're best buddies with **Boy and Girl Scouts**.

Lions have **twice as much fun** as everyone else.



We can **paint the town Lion**.

We're **family friendly**; meetings and events are often family affairs.



We specialize in **small acts of kindness**.

Our **blind members** serve with amazing passion and energy.

We're **good sports**, staging well-attended athletic events.

Testament to our intrinsic value, **those we help often become members**.

Lions **cherish parks**, building, equipping and maintaining oases of greenery.

We **plant trees**—acres and acres of them.

Though not as prevalent today, **Tailtwisters** epitomize the fun side of Lions.



We love kids.

Lions Quest teaches life skills to youths, lessons that alter lives.

Cool club names (Bozeman Sweet Pea Lions, Edmonton Jolly Fellows, Dighton Dandelions, etc.)

Special interest clubs such as the Honolulu Kapiolani Ballroom Dancers Lions Club demonstrate the versatility of the Lions Clubs' model.



51

Campus clubs channel the enthusiasm for service among the college-aged.

Roadside signs mark our territory.

Slurp up this: the kitschy **World's Largest Soup Kettle** in Wisconsin is a Lions' creation.

Lions mints not only taste terrific but have enabled countless clubs to make their community a sweeter place.



We see the abilities of those with disabilities.

55

We surround ourselves with influential, prestigious **partners** such as the Gates Foundation, the Carter Center, Johnson & Johnson and the World Health Organization.



In the kitchen, on the grill or at the fairgrounds, Lions can't be beat ... such as the **blackberry slug** of Bremerton Central Lions in Washington ...

The **fried oreos** of Slidell Noon Lions in Louisiana ...

And the **cake donuts** of Bolton Lions in Massachusetts.

64 **You**—the ordinary, everyday Lion who serves day after day, year after year.

Jimmy Carter—his post-presidency humanitarian work exemplifies the Lions' spirit of service.

We put the festive in **festivals**. Summer or fall would not be the same without the local Lions and their carnival or picnic.

SightFirst has brought vision to millions, typically at the cost of a few dollars per person.



Lions' **bobbleheads**.

HIDDEN HEROES

Since the 1950s, Massachusetts Lions have quietly funded groundbreaking research in eye disease.

BY JENNI LAIDMAN

Lloyd P. Aiello was a young researcher in Boston interested in the blindness that can accompany diabetes when a cancer study drew his attention. He found the study so fascinating, he continued reading it as he walked down the hall and stepped into an elevator with one of his best friends, a cancer researcher.

Talk about serendipity.

Turning to his buddy in the elevator Aiello asked, “Have you ever heard of this thing called VEGF?”

“Oh yeah!” his friend said. “We’re working on it in cancer!”

If Aiello wanted to investigate VEGF—vascular endothelial growth factor—in addressing diabetic retinopathy, the nearby lab at Dana Farber Cancer Institute had nearly everything he needed to get started. But how to pay for this work? It was smart, but it was still speculative. None of the big-gun funders—the National Institutes for Health, the National Science Foundation—put money into this kind of gamble. But the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund (MLERF) did.

A Breakthrough

Throughout the last 60 years, MLERF has invested more than \$32 million in foundational eye disease research. Funding comes from Lions clubs, the vast majority from Massachusetts. Nearly all the state’s clubs—as many as 250 in past years—support MLERF. Current support is about \$1 million annually.

All those pancake breakfasts, fish fries and lobster dinners translate into scientific gains. MLERF’s willingness to take chances on cutting-edge research has paid off spectacularly at times.

“We are a little different than a lot of other Lions-based funding organizations,” said Martin Middleton, president of MLERF. “Our focus is providing seed money for institutions doing cutting-edge research. We specifically fund pure research. When a researcher has an idea, a way to attack a problem, and they need to do the initial experiments, we will fund the start-up work.” If such preliminary Lions’ funded work succeeds, the researcher can

take the results to the major grantors such as NIH.

Aiello’s focus on VEGF is a case study on how MLERF’s support can make a crucial difference in a scientific breakthrough, leading to healthcare advances.

In the early 1990s cancer scientists were eagerly investigating a signaling protein called VEGF. The protein, they had learned, signals blood vessel growth in tumors, and cancer researchers hypothesized that turning it off might starve cancer of oxygen. Aiello wasn’t interested in cancer, but he couldn’t help noticing the similarities between VEGF and the mysterious Factor X first postulated in diabetic retinopathy in the late 1800s. Factor X was theorized to fuel the growth of the leaky and malformed blood vessels that led to blindness in diabetic retinopathy patients—vessels that resembled the leaky and malformed blood supply of tumors.

Might Factor X and VEGF be the same thing?

Aiello’s fellowship adviser, George King, was quick to embrace the promise of investigating VEGF in diabetic retinopathy. King was the research director at the Joslin Diabetes Center, and his own research made an irreplaceable contribution to Aiello’s VEGF explorations. King had learned to grow retinal cells in the laboratory. While most labs relied on other types of eye cells for research, Aiello could conduct his VEGF experiments in the very cells he hoped to save.

Aiello, now a professor of ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School and director of the Beetham Eye Institute at the Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston, had long had a special relationship to diabetic retinopathy. He is the third generation in his family to work on the disease that threatens the vision of nearly 30 percent of diabetic adults. His father, Lloyd M. Aiello, was a leading eye researcher, as was his grandfather, William P. Beetham, for whom the institute Aiello directs is named.

The family had already changed the face of diabetic retinopathy treatment in 1965 when Aiello senior and his father-in-law, Beetham, developed photo laser coagulation therapy. Using lasers to zap the errant vessels in diabetic retinopathy reduced the risk of severe vision loss

by 60 percent. It was a revolutionary change. But it wasn't enough for Aiello's father.

"When I was growing up, he'd say, 'We're just not very good.' Even though [photocoagulation] saved all these people's vision—it was more effective than penicillin! It was a major, major contribution. But it still destroyed the retina," Lloyd P. Aiello says. Maybe VEGF would be the solution his father dreamed of.

Almost from the start, VEGF looked promising. "I mean, the VEGF really has remarkable effects. These weren't subtle," Aiello says. Within two years—lightning quick in science—he and his team had published a paper in the *New England Journal of Medicine* painstakingly outlining VEGF's role in diabetic retinopathy as the long-sought Factor X. Soon after, he published another paper in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* demonstrating, among other things, how VEGF's vessel-growing activities might be blocked. Turning those experimental results into a drug to safely treat patients, however, would require more than a decade and a half of clinical trials and U.S. Food and Drug Administration review. When, finally, clinical trials began to show that the new compound

worked, Aiello couldn't breathe a word about them. He couldn't even tell his father. The day before the positive results were to be published, he spoke.

"I said, 'Dad, guess what? It works, and it's better than laser,'" Aiello recalls. "And he looked at me and—he has a very dry sense of humor—he looked at me and he said, 'Well, it took you long enough.'"

The results more than fulfilled the MLERF's mission. "The Lion's gave us funding very early," Aiello says. "It was a small amount, and yet it generated something that has now become the worldwide standard-of-care for three major conditions: diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration and central retinal vein occlusion."

A Quiet Start

MLERF began inconspicuously—with a \$5,000 grant to investigators at Harvard Medical School working on a problem often called "blind baby disease," officially known as the retinopathy of prematurity. The grant came about because of a meeting of past Lions' district governors at a New Hampshire farm. Talk at the farm even-

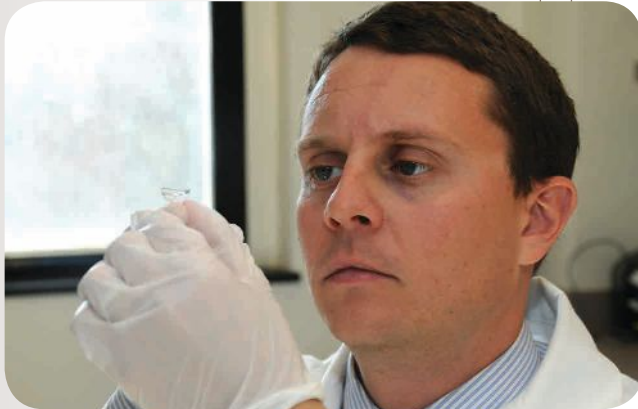
Dr. Lloyd Aiello made a key discovery about eye disease thanks to Lions' funding.



Researchers Funded by MLERF

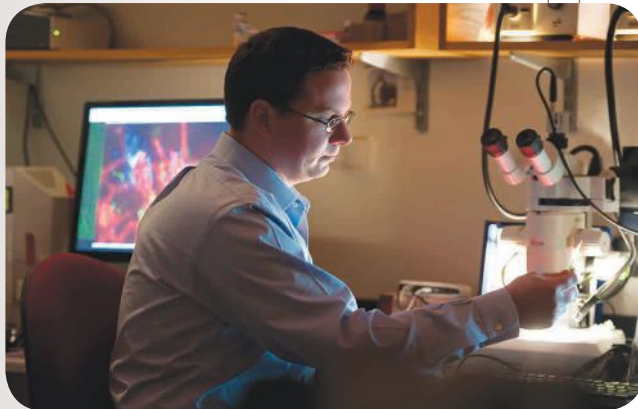
Dr. Joseph Ciolino

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Investigator, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts Eye and Ear
Ciolino and colleagues are developing a novel contact lens that will gradually deliver medication to the eye to treat fungal keratitis, which can lead to blindness. The condition is currently treated by self-administered drops, which in some cases must be hourly and are often done improperly by patients.



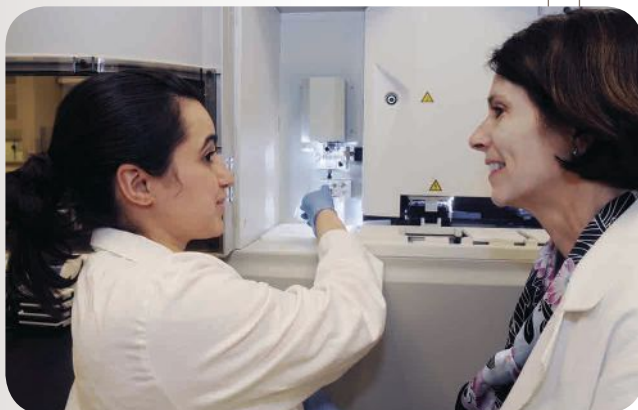
Kip Connor, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology and Assistant Scientist, Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts Eye and Ear
Connor is investigating innate immune system components in the eye to treat retinal detachment. Surgery is the current treatment for the condition, but it often is completed after irreversible vision loss has occurred.



Dr. Janey Wiggs

Professor of Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School; Associate Chief, Ophthalmology Clinical Research, Massachusetts Eye and Ear
Wiggs (right) is conducting research to identify the genes that cause inherited eye disorders including inherited retinal degenerations and inherited glaucoma.



tually drifted to the fact that two former governors had children who had lost their vision shortly after birth. Both infants were born prematurely, but sighted. Yet both lost their eyesight soon after birth. The seed grant from the Lions helped investigators learn that high oxygen levels in incubators caused blindness in some 2,500 premature infants annually.

Other great successes followed. Just as Aiello focused on the retina to find a treatment for diabetic retinopathy, Michael Young, an associate scientist and director of Ocular Regenerative Medicine Institute at Harvard University's Schepens Eye Research Institute, works on repairing the retina to undo the blindness caused by another disease, retinitis pigmentosa.

The retina sits at the back of the eye, serving as the central switching station for visual information. When

someone has one of the 100 or so mutations that lead to retinitis pigmentosa, the 100 million rod cells in the retina begin to die. Blindness strikes somewhere between the ages of 30 and 50, with some 50,000 victims in the United States, Young says.

But what if those retinal cells could be replaced with cells that lack the genetic defect? That's what Young set out to do. Although efforts to transplant mature cells into retinas failed time and again, about 15 years ago Young tried implanting a stem into a rodent retina. That was a game changer. The brain stem cells he employed in his initial experiments integrated into the retinas of adult animals without exciting an immune system attack. From brain stem cells, his team made the logical jump, demonstrating that retinal stem cells could also be successfully transplanted into the eyes of adult animals. Then they hit a wall.

Roxanne, star of TV's "Beat the Clock" in the 1950s, examines a model eye with Massachusetts General Hospital's Dr. William Stone, an early proponent of the Lions Eye Research Fund. Roxanne was in Boston to help Lions raise money for the fund.



For five years he and his team tried to stop the stem cells from maturing too rapidly, which meant they would no longer divide and make more retinal stem cells. “We tried everything,” Young says. They grew the cells on different substrates. They grew them as spheres. They flooded the cells with growth factors. They fed them an expensive diet. Nothing worked.

Then Young met Marie Csete at a conference in California. At the time, Csete was the head of California’s state-funded stem cell initiative, and she had a long history of working with stem cells in cancer labs. “I can remember the moment she said to me—it was kind of a throwaway comment—‘You should read my papers.’ I think she said, ‘You should try this. It will change your life.’” Csete had learned that stem cells in culture needed to live in a lower oxygen environment. While room air is about 20 percent oxygen, cells like no more than 5 percent. “She’s a smart woman. We took her advice very seriously.”

The result, he said, was astonishing. Not only did the retinal cells maintain their stemness, ever ready for transplantation, they kept dividing as stem cells. After letting the cell cultures divide and re-divide 20 times, he had enough cells for every retinitis pigmentosa patient in the world. The cells that grew from these cultures were far better cells than the ones grown at room oxygen levels. “They differentiate 1,000-fold better,” Young says. MLERF dollars helped him create a special substrate to study the new cells. He created a thin polymer scaffold like a wafer of rough tissue paper where cells could grow. Originally, the wafers were 100 microns thick—roughly the width of a table salt crystal; the ones they ultimately developed are no more than 10 to 15 microns—like a flake of skin.

In April, a surgeon placed the retinal stem cells Young had labored over for so long beneath the retina of a patient with advanced retinitis pigmentosa as part of a trial. If the stem cells show promise after testing in a handful of patients, the hope is to move onto a full-scale trial with far more patients.

“Support from the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund has been vital to the work of Schepens Eye Research Institute and Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary for more than 50 years. This has allowed us to pursue bold and innovative approaches to prevent and cure blinding diseases,” Young says.

A Bionic Eye

When Dr. Joseph Rizzo III, director of neuro-ophthalmology at the Harvard Medical School affiliate, Massachusetts Eye and Ear, put together the Boston Retinal Impact Team in the late 1980s, the journey to create a bionic eye combined a need for technical wizardry and surgical innovation in fields still in their infancy. “There was no foundation of knowledge to build upon,” Rizzo says. “We had to do everything from scratch.”

“It was really brutally hard, to be honest with you,” Rizzo says. “And we didn’t really have a laboratory. We didn’t have equipment. We had to take a lot of baby steps and make a huge number of mistakes and really hang in there.” And in fact, after 10 years of working with the goal of placing the ultrathin electrode array that would replace the retina inside the eye, they were getting worried. Even as the team solved so many problems, the challenges that remained seemed even larger.

“The retina is very delicate. It has the consistency of wet tissue paper,” Rizzo says. It’s also curved. Worse, the eye is a tiny sea in constant motion. The microelectrode retinal array needed to lie in contact with the curvature of retina to send signals to the nerves there. That meant it needed to be tethered against the tug of any turbulence. Tacking the array to the retina created a risk for scarring. Worse, it turned out, once the array was tacked down in one place, it popped up in another, requiring yet another tack. Now scarring seemed certain.

After a year of discussion with the entire team, they changed course, deciding to tuck the retinal implant in the back of the eyeball, which created a different set of problems to solve, but problems that seemed more manageable. Such hairpin course changes are simply part of doing science, Rizzo says. “We were trying to create something that was dramatically different. I’m more than happy to admit large-scale ignorance, but you just feel like you’re continuing to learn.”

Today, Rizzo and his team are preparing to place the implant in humans. They’re conducting pre-clinical trials through a company they formed called Bionic Eye Technologies Inc., with funding help through the NIH and the National Science Foundation. And they’re beginning an even more advanced bionic eye project, funded through the U.S. Department of Defense, that will work not only in people with damaged retinas, but also with nonfunctioning optic nerves.

It’s quite a change. More than 20 years earlier, the whole program was considered massively speculative to the big funders. That’s where the MLERF stepped in.

“Some of the very earliest money I ever received for this was from the Lions,” Rizzo says. “They helped me get going when there was no one else to turn to. It was an enormously valuable assistance in starting the project.”

‘When a researcher has an idea, a way to attack a problem, and they need to do the initial experiments, we will fund the start-up work.’

The Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund supports research for new laser techniques for earlier detection of cataracts and diabetes-related eye disease. Read the story from the April 1984 LION.

Improving Literacy in South Sudan

In war-torn South Sudan, women and girls often walk miles to wells. Then they wait in long lines for hours before carrying a heavy jug back to their families. The essential task leaves little time for school.

The pressing daily need to collect water has disastrous consequences. South Sudan has the lowest female literacy rate in the world. Not surprisingly, it also has the world's highest maternal mortality rate. Research by UNICEF shows a strong relationship between a mother's education and the health of her children. In South Sudan, girls are more likely to die of pregnancy complications than they are to complete primary education. One in ten children dies before the age of five.

Lions and LCIF are supporting a creative, practical solution to South Sudan's literacy challenges. LCIF awarded a Core 4 grant to Literacy at the Well (LATW). The nonprofit uses the time spent waiting in line to teach women and girls how to read and write. Those who learn at the well can then take the lessons home to their families. LATW recruits, trains and hires local teachers to lead the program.

Established in the United States, LATW has been operating in Northern Bahr el Ghazal in South Sudan since 2008. LCIF's funds are supporting the ever increasing demand for literacy programming in Aweil, the most heavily populated city in Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

LATW's Aweil Women's Leadership Center provides education for more than 1,000 women and girls each week. The center is used not only to teach reading, writing and English but also to train future instructors and to provide literacy instruction for community groups like police and health workers.

The challenges in South Sudan are immense. Located in East-Central Africa, it has been described as "the world's most failed state." Decades of war in Sudan destroyed the area's infrastructure. Only a handful of regions have running water, electricity, clinics, schools or paved roads.

The nation gained its independence in 2011. South Sudan's peace deal, signed in August 2015, was supposed to end the country's latest civil war that began in December 2013 and killed tens of thousands. But the agreement was never fully implemented, and as of press time more fighting was taking place.

The dire conditions make the Lions' efforts even more critical. Raising the nation's literacy rate can lead to economic growth and serve as a cornerstone of democracy.

Families that can read are healthier, less vulnerable to oppression, more likely to succeed and more able to help others in their community.

Literacy at the Well teaches women and children to read while they wait in long lines at community water wells.



The **Uniontown Lions Paul Ruley Eyeglass Recycling Center** in **Ohio** completed its 15th year of providing cleaned and graded eyeglasses. Since the center opened in 2001, 9,031 volunteer hours have been donated. Nearly 112,000 eyeglasses have been processed, and more than 109,000 eyeglasses have been delivered to overseas mission teams.

Members of the **Phoenix Phil-Am Lions Club** in **Arizona** walked 4.5 miles as a team to raise funds and promote awareness of the importance of early detection to fight breast cancer and save lives.

The **Albuquerque Rio Grande Lions Club** in **New Mexico** has raised approximately \$4,000 from a poker tournament at a nearby casino each year for the past five years. Funds have been donated to a ranch for homeless boys, Special Olympics, a youth soccer team, food pantries and for eye exams and glasses for people in need. In addition to the tournament, Lions give a presentation about the club, explaining how Lions help their community and the benefits of membership.

The **Blackwater Lions Club** in **Missouri** sponsored a fundraising dinner complete with an Elvis impersonator.

In **Wisconsin**, the **Allenton, Hartford, Hartford Kettle Moraine, Newburg, Richfield and West Bend Lions** and **West Bend Lioness** clubs united to help provide a diabetes alert dog for a teenager.

The **Marathon Lions** in **Wisconsin** donated \$10,204 to Special Olympics Wisconsin. The proceeds were from the club's annual Motorcycle Fun Run.

The **Tallmadge Lions Club** in **Ohio** sponsored a "celebrity chefs" fundraiser. Sixteen prominent community members prepared and gave tastings of their culinary specialties. A free ride on the Goodyear blimp was offered as a raffle prize. Funds were donated to help provide a pilot dog to a blind person, and to continue funding services for the visually impaired and deaf members of the community.

Benja Mize of the **Canton Lions Club** in **Texas** suggested that each member could help a food bank by donating \$1 a month to purchase toiletries for people who rely on a community food bank for assistance. She received \$305 from the 107 members to fund three months of necessities. Mize visits her local dollar store to purchase supplies, and Lions have donated more than 1,200 items to two food pantries. A member who is a dentist also provides toothbrushes, toothpaste and mouthwash.

Two middle school students were honored for their Peace Poster submissions by the **Bluffton Sun City Lions** in **South Carolina**. Each student gave a short presentation about how they expressed their vision of peace through art and received cash awards for their entries that won on the club and district levels.

The **Boardman Lions Club** in **Ohio** was awarded a \$7,000 grant from a foundation to purchase a Spot vision device for screening children. They test approximately 2,000 students annually as well as sponsor vision screenings throughout the community. Additionally, Lions purchase new winter coats for as many as 150 students each year and collect and recycle thousands of eyeglasses.



Bill Favero of the **Punta Gorda Lions Club** in **Florida** performs a hearing test on a preschooler as part of the club's sight and hearing screening campaign for children. Hundreds of children are screened annually by Lions.

For the fifth year, **Rockaway Lions and Leos** in **New Jersey** sponsored Special Olympics games at a high school that drew 70 athletes and their families. More than 100 volunteers helped athletes during games that included bowling, volleyball, basketball and floor hockey.

The **Northwest Lions Club** in **California** received 731 used eyeglasses and three hearing aids from students at 35 schools in the Glendale Unified School District. Lions collected another 300. All glasses were donated to the Lions in Sight missions overseas.

Sugar Grove and Franklin Lions in **West Virginia** raised more than \$91,000 and received a \$75,000 Standard grant from LCIF to help double the size of a physical therapy department at a nursing home. Fundraisers sponsored by Lions included a golf tournament and a steak dinner. The newly expanded department will feature more equipment and private space for patient/therapist conversations.

Quakertown Lions in **Pennsylvania** spent more than \$3,300 last year providing eye exams and eyeglasses.

[Club News



The **Indianapolis Chapel Hill Lions Club** in **Indiana** screened the vision of 4,314 students in 12 schools. About 35 percent of those tested were referred to the school nurse with vision issues.

The **Auburn Host Lions Club** in **California** sponsors four Leo clubs. The 100 students who serve as Leos volunteer on Lions' projects and sponsor food drives throughout the year, visit patients at Alzheimer's care facilities and donated their tips from waiting tables at a Lions crab feed back to charitable organizations. The Leo clubs are Placer High School, Chana High School, EV Cain Charter Middle School and Bowman Charter School.

Sandwich-Bourne Lions in **Massachusetts** collected 516 coats for kids and adults during their annual Coats for Kids drive. The annual event partners Lions with Anton Cleaners, which cleans and distributes through social service organizations all collected coats back to people in need in Cape Cod communities. Lions have been collecting coats for five years.

Centre Hall Lions in **Pennsylvania** not only donated their meeting hall for a food packing project, but they also donated \$500 to the effort and served as volunteers to pack and provide 10,000 meals for people in need around the world. Packages of vitamins, rice, dried vegetables and barley were put together by Lions and volunteers for Stop Hunger Now.

Douglas Lions in **Arizona** distributed 200 flags to first-graders in their community. Lions have been giving flags to students for 30 years to mark President's Day each February.

Since 2004, **Knowlton Lions** in **Quebec, Canada**, have sponsored a giant "garage sale," one not held in a garage but in a huge tent to accommodate the hundreds of shoppers looking for bargains. The annual event is the club's biggest fundraiser. "We accept just about anything in good condition," says Lion Errol Frechette. "It's a tradition now. People doing their spring cleaning always think of us first."

Rocklin Lions in **California** have collected 400,000 pairs of eyeglasses in 12 years. The club's sight committee aggressively pursues the eyeglasses by contacting the lost and found departments of cruise ships, casinos and public agencies including colleges and police departments.

Toms River Lions in **New Jersey** gave \$2,000 to the Toms River Police Department to purchase bulletproof vests for two new police officers.

More than 1,500 people in need were given meals by Lions from 10 clubs in **District 404 B2** in **Nigeria**. The project cost nearly US\$2,500. According to Ikeja Golden Lion Mercy Omosun, this effort was the first of several planned projects to meet the Centennial Service Challenge by feeding the hungry.

The **Patton Lions Club** in **Missouri** purchased and distributed 450 frozen turkeys to families in need. "The response from the community was terrific, and we added some new members after they saw the results of our club in action," says Lion Murray Dunn.

The **St. Andrew Lions Club** in **Jamaica** served breakfast to 160 residents of a homeless shelter in Kingston.

Yankton Lions in **South Dakota** collected and donated duffel bags and stuffed animals to a domestic violence shelter for children staying there. The club also gave 2,000 diapers, baby clothes and other needed supplies to River City Family Connections, which aids families and children in crisis.

Members of the **Houston Westbury Lions Club** in **Texas** were among the hundreds of volunteers helping the 25,000 runners participating in the Chevron Houston Marathon. They were part of the "Ask Me" volunteer crew who helped answer any questions runners had before, during and after the event.

The **Ft. Vancouver Lions** in **Washington** collected and donated winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves to an agency that helps the homeless and underserved population. The club also gave funds to purchase 75 new winter coats to help meet rising need.

Members of the **Arlington Host Lions Club** in **Virginia** support an organization that helps women and families in crisis. Each month Lions bring toiletries, diapers and other necessities for the group to their club meetings for delivery to Doorways for Women and Families.

Brusly Lions in **Louisiana** sponsored their second basketball game between the Harlem Ambassadors, an offshoot of the famous Harlem Globetrotters, and the Hometown Heroes team, composed of notable locals including a television weatherman, the mayor and police chief. The event raised \$7,500, which will help provide scholarships, meet community needs and support the Louisiana Lions Eye Foundation and the Louisiana Lions Crippled Children's Camp.

The **Noida Leo Club** in **India** organized a cultural dance competition in which more than 600 students from 250 schools participated.

The **Circle-Lex Lions Club** in **Minnesota** partnered with the Lexington Fire Department to sponsor a food drive at a grocery store. Shoppers could immediately purchase a \$5 bag of necessities to be donated on the spot to help feed children identified as being in need by the school district. Firefighters also collected cash in their boots to pay for "power packs" of food for students. The school district distributes an average of 280 packs weekly to hungry children.

North Augusta Lions in **South Carolina** participated in a community health fair that drew more than 100 vendors. Lions promoted vision and hearing loss prevention.

Pell City Lions in **Alabama** screened the vision of more than 500 middle school students. Twenty percent of the children were discovered to have vision difficulties and were referred for follow-up care.

Donations from the **Brandon Wheat City Lions Club** in **Manitoba, Canada**, helped purchase seven vehicles for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in 34 years.

The **South Brunswick Lions Club** in **New Jersey** gave \$500 to a community assistance organization to feed the hungry.

The **Capitol City Lions Club** in **Delaware** donated nearly 200 items to a facility that provides case management, food and housing needs for homeless families on a short-term basis.

Terryville Lions in **Connecticut** have adopted a community campaign to inspire others to acts of kindness in their community. The Plymouth Keys for Kindness project was developed by parent leaders and others who wanted to salute Plymouth's heritage as the former location of the Eagle Lock Company. It's also home to the Lock Museum of America. With the slogan "You hold the Key," colorfully-painted old keys are turned into "thank-you" keys given to individuals who show kindness to others. Recipients then "pay it forward" when they see another individual being kind. Lions donate to the project as well as volunteer on the coordinating committee.

The **Enterprise Lions Club** in **California** gave \$6,000 to several community groups. Recipients included the Salvation Army, a church food pantry, a fly fishing program that helps the rehabilitation of military veterans and Homeward Bound, which provides assistance to families of veterans.

The **Fennimore Lions Club** in **Wisconsin** donated \$250 to the police department to help purchase a bicycle for patrol around their community.

Knowlton Lions in **Quebec, Canada**, are sponsors of the "Guardian Angel" project developed by the Brome Lake Fire Department's efforts to keep children safe from fires. Lions rent simulation equipment so that firefighters can use an educational module to show students how quickly a fire can spread and how to quickly react to save lives. Lions also purchase 90 smoke alarms each year to be distributed by the fire department as part of its educational outreach program.



Waconia Lions and their families in **Minnesota** delivered 510 poinsettia plants to nursing homes, senior apartments and assisted living facilities as a holiday project. "Each recipient got a poinsettia and a personal greeting and a little 'chit chat' from Lions and their families. What a great way to start off the holiday season!" says Lion Rick Wagener.

The **Lions Club of Mombasa Bahari** in **Kenya** organized a poetry recital for 87 children from 11 schools. They ranged in age from 4 to 7 years old. Contestants in each age group were given a choice of four poems to recite.

The **Malpeque Bay and Area Lions Club**, **Prince Edward Island, Canada**, raised \$2,500 for an elementary school breakfast program, Meals on Wheels, a day care and another senior meals program.

The **Howards Grove Lions Club** in **Wisconsin** collaborated with the Parent Teacher Organization in their community to raise money for replacement playground equipment at an elementary school. A combined bake sale/bratwurst fry and book sale netted \$1,800.

Iron River Lions in **Wisconsin** built an access ramp at the home of a veteran who uses a wheelchair.

The **Chambersburg Noon Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** gave \$10,000 to a library to pay for a new casual seating area.

Club News



Members of the **McKeesport Lions Club in Pennsylvania** helped the local American Legion post place flags on the graves of every veteran in the McKeesport-Versailles Cemetery on Memorial Day.

Horton Brockaway Lions in Pennsylvania donated more than \$5,000 to a family in the community who lost a daughter and grandson in a house fire. Lions sponsored a spaghetti dinner, auction and 50/50 drawing to raise the funds.

The **Francis Scott Key Lions Club in Maryland** has been donating nonperishables to a food pantry for more than 10 years. Members bring canned and boxed goods to each meeting for donation to help feed the hungry. Lions also collect and donate children's books, puzzles and school supplies to elementary schools.

The **South Tucson Lions Club in Arizona** screened more than 4,000 children in the Sunnyside Unified School District. Lions provided further exams and eyeglasses for 300 of those children. Lions plan to expand the program to test more than 13,000 elementary school children annually.

The **Alberta Beach and District Lions Club in Alberta, Canada**, gave 40 holiday hampers packed with turkeys with all the trimmings and toys to families in need. The club also donated \$1,000 to a food bank.

Livingston Lions in Texas celebrated their club's 75th anniversary by sponsoring an informational daylong event to which local merchants, organizations and agencies were invited to disseminate information to attendees. Lions also served food and offered door prize drawings.

The **Lancaster Lions in Pennsylvania** donated \$10,000 to VisionCorps, a center for the blind, to purchase equipment.

After reading about a similar Lions' project in Wisconsin, President Christopher Stank of the **Mechanicsburg Lions Club in Pennsylvania** suggested that his club also illustrate the importance of giving to school children. Members agreed and gave each of the five 5th-grade classes at a school \$100 to "pay it forward." After voting, representatives of each of the five charities selected were awarded donations in a general assembly at school, also attended by Lions.

The **Peterborough Lions Club in Ontario, Canada**, initiated a Message in a Bottle program, in which residents are able to receive a free empty pill bottle in which to store their medical information in case of emergency. First responders will be alerted to look for the bottle by a label on the outside of the refrigerator door. Lions worked with more than 30 pharmacies and medical clinics on the initiative.

Fairhaven Lions in Massachusetts distributed 70 "gently-used" bicycles to Mass in Motion, a program sponsored by a state agency that prompts residents to eat healthier and exercise more. The bikes were collected by another organization and Lions gave them to children in need.

Middletown Lions in Kentucky celebrated their 40th anniversary with the community. "We celebrated with about 1,000 of our best friends," says Lion Kay Mills. The club grills bratwursts as a fundraiser each month at the same park when concerts are performed, and this generates approximately \$3,000 annually. Since the anniversary coincided with the concert, Lions served park-goers cake while school bands performed. Lions displayed photos of club activities throughout the four decades it has served the community, and recognized three of its charter members in a ceremony.

The **Parkdale Sherwood Lions Club on Prince Edward Island in Canada** donated \$51,672.47 to Queen Elizabeth Hospital/Eastlink Telethon Chair. The club has donated each year since the telethon began 20 years ago and has reached a milestone of \$500,000.

The **Grand Junction Lions Club in Colorado** sponsored its 87th annual parade, carnival and raffle. Lions have raised more than \$5 million for service activities in the nearly nine decades since the first parade was held.

The **Mattituck Lions Club in New York** has sponsored 35 dogs during the past 25 years for the Guide Dog Foundation. Puppies are usually named after previous members or in honor of deceased Lions who were instrumental in support for club projects. The club's Strawberry Festival is a 60-year tradition that is the biggest fundraiser for Guide Dog Foundation support. The festival is so successful that it also raises money for an annual holiday toy drive and other causes.

[Club News

The **Medway Lions Club** in **Massachusetts** provides scholarships to middle school students to attend an environmental camp, supports a summer camp for special needs children and paid for a child to attend a camp for diabetic youth. Lions also sponsor a high school's peer counselor program to train teens to be aware of dangerous behaviors that incoming freshmen may exhibit.



Plattsville Lions in **Ontario, Canada**, hid hundreds of chocolate eggs at a soccer field for 100 children during the club's annual Easter egg hunt.

The **Papillion Area Lions Club** in **Nebraska** has raised more than \$350,000 for Project Harmony, a child advocacy center that helps abused and neglected children. Lions sponsor an annual "Hops for Harmony" event that brings together artisan brewers from several states and restaurants to provide food and drink to hundreds of attendees. Lions find corporate sponsors and vendors who donate their profits, sell tickets, solicit silent auction donations and handle the details of organizing the event. In 2016, more than 40 brewers and 12 restaurants served nearly 1,000 people.

The **Madoc Lions Club** in **Ontario, Canada**, donated \$600 to an organization that assists military families after the club partnered with Support Our Troops to sponsor a concert.

Chickamauga Lions in **Georgia** gave three scholarships to graduating seniors.

The **Columbia Community Lions Club** in **Missouri** established a "Little Free Library" housed in a box at a bus stop. Patrons take about 50 books a week to enjoy. Each book is stamped by the club with the words, "Take a book, leave a book."

The **Saratoga Springs Lions Club** in **New York** sponsored its 12th annual Duathlon, a three-stage race and biking event. Proceeds from the event help support the Lions Eye Institute in Albany and the Lions Vision Center at Saratoga Hospital's Community Health Center. Lions also support the Saratoga War Horse, a nonprofit that assists veterans suffering from non-visible, psychological injuries. Additionally, the club recently collected 2,000 pounds of food for food pantries.

St. Maarten Lions donated \$1,000 to a local organization to host the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association Junior Men's and Women's Championships.

The **Bel Air Lions Club** in **Guyana** celebrated its 43rd anniversary by completing 43 service projects—one per day. Among the daily projects were medical and vision tests, providing large trash receptacles for use at schools, and feeding more than 400 people. Lions spent \$5,000 to complete the 43 service activities.

The **Plainfield Lions Club** in **Wisconsin** built a splash pad for children at Veterans Memorial Park. Lions gave \$30,000 and raised an additional \$85,000 for the project; \$75,000 in services and equipment was donated. The club's 22 members did the majority of construction on the splash pad.

The **Thorsby and District Lions Club** in **Alberta, Canada**, gave a donation to an elementary school for its preschool breakfast program for students.



Pearl Beach Lions in **Michigan** screened 540 students at an elementary school in partnership with two eye care businesses. Lion John Schuck (right) works with an eye care specialist to help test a student's vision. Eyeglasses were provided free of charge.

The **South Charleston Lions Club** in **West Virginia** partnered with a church group to sponsor a Breakfast with Santa as a fundraiser. Proceeds were used to provide food baskets for families in need.

The **Eagle/Glenmoore Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** has installed seven park benches in their community. The last bench Lions installed was in memory of deceased Lion Henry "Heisie" Greiner.

Members of the **Emmitsburg, Francis Scott Key and Middletown Lions Clubs** in **Maryland** participated in a joint vision screening at a community health fair.

The **Eureka Springs Lions Club** gave food donations to schools and a food bank in **Arkansas**.

The **Western Monongalia Area Lions Club** in **West Virginia** donated paper products and puzzle books to a Ronald McDonald House in Morgantown. Lions also contributed 36 gallons of recycled pop can tabs to the facility.

Natoma Lions in **Kansas** gave volunteer emergency medical technicians (EMTs) the club's "Good Citizens Award." The volunteers were recognized by Lions at a city hall meeting with an engraved plaque thanking all EMTs for their service to the community.

[Anniversaries

The **Ellenton-Parrish Lions Club** in **Florida** gave \$1,700 worth of donations to residents of Manatee Veterans Village, where residents ranging in age from 29 to 70 receive counseling, education and shelter.

The **Dar es Salaam Host Lions Club** in **Tanzania** arranged for 18 babies in their country to receive necessary heart surgeries in India. Lions have been sending children to India for life-saving surgery for the past 30 years. More than 3,500 babies have received operations in that time, with a 99 percent success rate, according to Lions.



Indiana State Senator Frank Mrvan, a U.S. Air Force veteran, takes part in a Veterans Day ceremony sponsored by the **Whiting Lions** at a war memorial in a local park. Lions have restored and maintained the memorial since 2008. The event included a wreath laying, speakers, patriotic music and the dedication of 25 new engraved bricks laid at the base of the memorial to recognize veterans.

The **Rockport Lions Club** in **Texas** gave toys to 570 children from 230 families as part of its 42nd Toys for Kids project. Lions raised more than \$2,000 from businesses and individuals to purchase gifts for children in need during the holidays.

The **Cold Spring Lions** in **Minnesota** donated \$35,000 to the community in two years. Among beneficiaries were the library, Scouts, youth football and baseball, the American Legion, the VFW and Relay for Life.

November 2016

95 Years: Joplin, Mo.; Eveleth, Minn.; Mexia, Texas; Tacoma Downtown, Wash.; Delta, Colo.; Lynchburg Host, Va.; Checotah, Okla.; Hillsboro, Texas; Rapid City, S.D.; Canon City Noon, Colo.; Red Bank, N.J.; Anthony, Kan.; Brainerd, Minn.; Bristow, Okla.

90 Years: Bridgton, Maine; Bend Sunrise, Ore.; Winnsboro, La; The Dalles, Ore.; East Prairie, Mo.; Alpena, Mich.; Minot, N.D.; Willits, Calif.

85 Years: Imperial, Neb.; Dillsburg, Penn.; Miamisburg, Ohio; North Little Rock, Ark.; Lake Country, Wis.; Berlin, Md.

80 Years: Valdese, N.C.; Cadiz, Ohio; Claypool, Ind.; Boone, N.C.; Alliston, ON, CAN; Ottawa, Kan.; Sylva Cullowhee, N.C.

75 Years: Charlotte, Mich.; Baxter Springs, Kan.; San Marcos, Texas; Pocahontas, Va.; Corcoran, Calif.; Winfield, Iowa; Sanford, Maine; South Parkersburg, W. Va.; Hamburg, N.Y.; Pinetops, N.D.; Concord, Mich.; Hyde Park, N.Y.; Marionville, Mo.; Town of Tarboro, N.D.; Hoopeston, Ill.; Appalachia, Va.; Unionville, Conn.

50 Years: Jackson Cascades, Mich.; Redwood City Sunrise, Calif.; Bolingbrook, Ill.; La Grange Evening, Texas; Dutton & District, ON, CAN; Chickamauga, Ga.; Comox Valley L C, BC, CAN; North Rustico, PE, CAN; Matane, QC, CAN; Hazelhurst, Wis.; Schulenburg, Texas; Niagara, Wis.; Punta Gorda, Fla.; Mulvane, Kan.; Greenwich Western Greenwich, Conn.; Meigs County L C, Tenn.; Trout Creek, ON, CAN; Montmagny, QC, CAN; Lake Grove, Ore.; Charny, QC, CAN.

25 Years: Whitesboro, Texas; Napa Greater Napa Valley, Calif.; Vancouver Columbia Crest, Wash.; Nederland Professional, Texas; Forest Ranch, Calif.

December 2016

100 Years: Memphis Downtown, Tenn.

95 Years: Glenwood Springs, Colo.; Vancouver Central, BC, CAN; Wellington, Kan.; Portland Downtown, Ore.; Bay City, Mich.; Marysville, Calif.; Weatherford Noon, Texas; Grand Rapids Cap Baker, Minn.; El Dorado, Kan.; Winnipeg, MB, CAN; Elgin, Ill.; Passaic-Clifton, N.J.

90 Years: Morgantown, Ind.; Ukiah Host, Calif.; Bridgewater, Mass.; Decatur, Ind.; West Hollywood, Calif.; Holland, Mich.

85 Years: Oklahoma City Capitol Hill, Okla.

80 Years: Arlington Host, Va.; Littleton, N.C.; Anacortes, Wa.; Plymouth, N.C.

75 Years: Hoquiam, Wa.; Lock Haven, Pa.; St. James, Mo.; Arcade, N.Y.; Fries, Va.; Churdan, Iowa

50 Years: Junction City Sundowners, Kan.; Oakfield, Wis.; Alberton, PE, CA; Lake Benton, Minn.; Bunker, Mo.; Simsboro, La.; Mastic Shirley LC, N.Y.; Buena Vista Township L.C., Mich.; Webster, Wis.; Benson, Minn.; Estacada, Ore.; Fowlerton, Ind.; Spotsylvania, Va.; El Centro Sol De Oro, Calif.

25 Years: Encinitas, Calif.; Toronto, Kaiteur, ON, CA; Rehoboth Anawan, Mass.; Gold Hill, N.C.; Bridgewater Academy, Mass.; Queens Village, N.Y.

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



LIONS QUEST



A Program of Lions
Clubs International
Foundation

Empowering Youth

LCIF is committed to empowering children and young adults in need all over the world. Lions Quest supports positive youth development through social and emotional learning, civic values, violence and substance abuse prevention and service-learning. Please join us in bringing hope and change to communities every day, everywhere.

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Dinuba High School Leos promote the building of a new library in **London, California**, during the community's Christmas parade. Dinuba Lions and several other organizations in the small rural community are working together to raise funds to build the facility.

North Shreveport Lions in **Louisiana** have "adopted" the residents of Harmony House, a nursing home for elderly patients in need. Lions visited the home during last year's holidays and distributed gifts to each of the more than 100 residents.

The **Brevard Lions Club** in **North Carolina** spent \$11,000 for new eyeglasses for 132 low-income people in the county. Lion Ed Brackney says, "Need has grown over 35 percent every year since the 2008 financial crisis. Prior to that, requests for help averaged about 20 pair a year."

In Memoriam

Past International Director Dr. **Yo Chul Shin** of Seoul, Korea, has died. A member of the Seoul Kang-Suh Lions Club since 1971, he served on the international board of directors from 1986-88. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, he helped charter 20 Lions clubs. He was a surgeon and clinical professor at two medical universities.

Past International Director **Wayne E. Davis**, 70, has died. A member of the Winchester Shawnee Lions Club since October 1974, he served on the international board of directors from 2007-09. He sponsored more than 100 members, published the first club handbook for the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum and delivered inspiring speeches at meetings. He also chartered nontraditional clubs such as the Middletown Children First Lions Club. He was a librarian at an elementary school and then an elementary and middle school principal.

Correction

The Miami County Traveling Lions Club is in Kansas, not Florida. The LION regrets the error.



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To celebrate 100 years of humanitarian service, the U.S. Mint will produce a limited-edition, silver dollar coin. For each coin sold, US\$10 is authorized to be paid to Lions Clubs International Foundation. These collectable coins make great gifts for family and friends and are the perfect way to show appreciation to your club members for outstanding service.

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LION

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STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

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	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Number of Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	330,098	323,319
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	287,875	283,598
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS	38,547	38,064
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	326,422	321,662
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside- County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	957	766
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	139	142
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	107	103
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))	1,204	1,011
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	327,626	322,673
g. Copies Not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	2,472	646
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	330,098	323,319
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	99.6%	99.7%

16. No electronic copy circulation.
17. This Statement of Ownership will be printed in the November 2016 issue of this publication.
18. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.

(Signed)
Christopher Bunch, Managing Editor

LCIF Enables Lions to Serve on a Larger Scale

After a half-century of global expansion, Lions established Lions Clubs International Foundation in 1968 as a way to amplify the power of Lion giving.

Since 1917, individual Lions clubs and districts had achieved remarkable success in providing service to people in need. But as Lions expanded around the world, a new way of funding Lions' service was needed.

The solution: LCIF, which serves as Lions Clubs International's charitable arm. The foundation supports the compassionate work of Lions worldwide by providing grants for local and global projects that help people to see and hear better, combat measles, provide disaster relief, support youth and improve communities.

In keeping with the slogan "Lions Helping Lions Serve the World," the foundation allows Lions to respond collectively by channeling funds to humanitarian projects around the globe. The structure helps Lions to help others on an even larger scale than clubs can do on their own, according to Past International President Joe Preston, who served in 2014-15.

It is a "logical extension of the Lions' model," Preston says. Just as individuals join a Lions club "because our service is more valuable when we unite with like-minded others, we support LCIF because our funds go a lot further when put into a common pool," he says.

Because it is centralized and big enough to collaborate with other nonprofit groups and corporate partners, the foundation can move quickly and effectively. Major corporations cited that efficiency when they ranked LCIF as the "best nongovernmental organization to work with" in a 2007 Financial Times survey.

Among the foundation's most prominent successes is its SightFirst program, which funds efforts to fight the major causes of preventable and reversible blindness and provides services to people who are blind or have a visual impairment.

As part of that global program, LCIF supports eye screenings and sight-restoring surgeries, as well as the distribution of medications to help prevent eye diseases plaguing developing nations. Since 1999, through a high-profile partnership with The Carter Center, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's nonprofit organization, LCIF has provided more than 271 million treatments to stop the parasitic infection known as river blindness, saving the sight of millions of people.

Its humanitarian efforts also include long-term funding to fight measles, a disease that claims millions of lives yearly in developing nations. LCIF raised US\$10 million



for vaccinations in 2012 through its One Shot, One Life measles initiative, and in the following year it committed to raising an additional US\$30 million for immunization programs by 2017.

The foundation's capacity to provide financial help has swelled dramatically over the years, as LCIF's widely admired disaster-relief program demonstrates. Its first grant came in 1973, when it provided a modest US\$5,000 to help flooding victims in South Dakota. By 2010, when an earthquake devastated parts of Haiti, LCIF mobilized US\$6 million in immediate and long-term relief efforts. And when an earthquake and tsunami struck Japan in 2011, the foundation provided US\$21 million in aid.

LCIF also has programs designed to help young people by building schools and day care centers, and it helps youngsters learn critical life skills through the Lions Quest program.

While it is best known for funding large-scale humanitarian efforts, LCIF puts most of its dollars to work each year in the form of grants that help local Lions clubs improve their communities. In Minnesota, for example, the foundation helped local Lions renovate the dormitory at a camp for people with mental and physical disabilities. And in the African nation of Burkina Faso, Lions of District 403 A1 used an LCIF grant to build a new school for children in the remote town of Kyon.

International President Wing-Kun Tam, who served in 2010-11, told LION Magazine that with its efficiency and broad focus, "LCIF is an incredible vehicle for Lions to serve both across borders and in their own communities."

Read the rest of the 100 Touchstone stories written for Lions' centennial at Lions100.org.



Photo by Al Benson

A Santa Who Signs

Jermaine Williamson, 9, uses sign language to tell Santa what he wants for Christmas. More than 130 deaf and hearing-impaired students and caregivers attended a holiday party held last year by the Aurora Noon Lions Club in Illinois. The party was held at Luigi's Pizza, owned by Lion Bill Poss. Santa is a dear friend of Don Basalone.



CONVENTION AND HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

LIONS CLUBS 100TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Illinois USA • Friday, June 30 — Tuesday, July 4, 2017



DEADLINES MAY 1, 2017:

• Deadline for advance registration and hotel reservation. (*Registrations after this date will be processed in Chicago*). • Deadline to submit a refund request for registration, housing and/or ticketed event cancellation.

REGISTRANT INFORMATION:

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

First Name/ Family (Last) Name Badge/Call Name

Address

City Postal Code Country

Daytime Phone E-mail

☐ Leo ☐ Lioness ☐ Omega Leo Club No. Membership No. District Title

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

☐ Leo ☐ Lioness ☐ Omega Leo Club No. Membership No. District Title

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

PACKAGE A:

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

☐ Before January 13, 2017 ☐ Reservation in delegation hotel
☐ After January 13, 2017 ☐ I prefer my delegation hotel ☐ Prefer another hotel

Hotel Name

Arrival Day/Date Departure Day/Date

Number of Guests in Room _____ Number of Beds Needed ☐ 1 ☐ 2

Special Requirements: ☐ Non-smoking ☐ Wheelchair Accessible ☐ Other

The Hotel deposit is US\$200 per room. Your deposit will be credited to your hotel bill at checkout.

PACKAGE B:

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

OPTIONAL TICKETED EVENTS

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

EVENT: MELVIN JONES FELLOW LUNCHEON

DATE/TIME	FEE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT DUE
July 3/ 13:30-15:00	US \$75	_____	\$ _____

EVENT: DISTRICT GOVERNOR/PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR BANQUET

DATE/TIME	FEE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT DUE
July 3/ 20:00-22:00	US \$125	_____	\$ _____

CENTENNIAL SERVICE CHALLENGE PROJECTS IN CHICAGO

☐ I am interested in participating in a hands-on community service project during the Chicago Centennial Convention. *Further details on registering for service projects will be sent to you in the coming months.*

PAYMENT: Full payment is required with this form. US currency only. Checks and money orders must be drawn on US banks. Visa, MasterCard & Discover cards accepted.

REGISTRATION FEES:	Adult	Child (17 and under)/Alpha Leo	Omega Leo	PACKAGE A:	PACKAGE B:
EARLY (Before January 13, 2017)	US\$130	US\$10	US\$60	Registrations: US\$ _____	Registrations: US\$ _____
REGULAR (January 14 through March 31, 2017)	US\$180	US\$10	US\$60	Ticketed Events: US\$ _____	Ticketed Events: US\$ _____
LATE (April 1, 2017 — onsite)	US\$200	US\$10	US\$60	Hotel Deposit: US\$ 200.00	
				Total Due: US\$ _____	Total Due: US\$ _____

☐ Check # _____ ☐ Wire transfer (*payment slip must be attached to this form*) ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard Discover ☐ Discover

Name as it appears on card Credit card must be in the name of the registrant.

Card Number Expires Month/Year Security code (3 digits)

X
Cardholder Signature

Mail: Lions Clubs International Attn: Convention Division • 300 West 22nd Street Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA • **Fax:** +1 630.571.1689 • **E-mail:** registration@lionsclubs.org

Please note: Lions Clubs International will be documenting the international convention for promotional purposes. Your participation may be filmed or photographed at this event. Your registration is your consent for use of these images by Lions Clubs International.

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200 COUNTRIES.
1 CHANCE TO CELEBRATE.

BE THERE.

100



Lions 100th Annual International Convention

JUNE 30 – JULY 4, 2017

MCCORMICK PLACE
CONVENTION CENTER
CHICAGO, IL, USA

Chicago and The Beach Boys

'Rock the Planet' with
our International
show headliners

Centennial Exhibit

Discover our history
through interactive
and virtual displays

Parade of Nations

Show your Lions
Pride! Located on
State Street

One Location

All the fun under
one roof at
McCormick Place

JOIN THE
CELEBRATION
AND REGISTER
TODAY!

Chance to win Grand Prizes at each Plenary Session!



Photo Credits: © Choose Chicago



Lions Clubs International

LCICon.org