

LION

SEPTEMBER 2018 LIONMAGAZINE.ORG



CAMPAIGN | 100
100
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Lions Clubs International Foundation
Launches Capital Campaign



Lions Clubs International





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PEACE

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600,000 children sharing their visions of peace

INSPIRE

Youth to showcase their talent

CREATE

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Kindness Matters. It starts with you and your club.

Order your Peace Poster Kit today!

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3 **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

4 **BIG PICTURE**

10 **IN THE NEWS**

14 **LCI FORWARD UPDATE**

15 **GLOBAL SERVICE**

44 **CLUB NEWS**



30
**BLESSINGS
COME BACK**

Wisconsin Lions turn an old Victorian into a home for patients recovering from or waiting for transplants at the nearby hospital.

34
BEING KIND

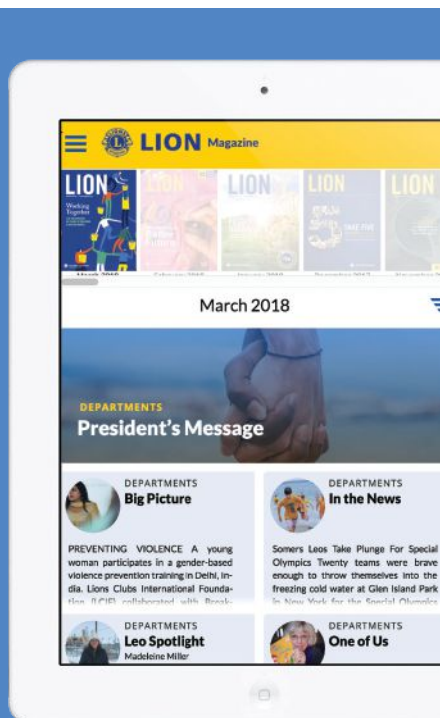
A young Lion leads by example after 10 people are killed in a nearby high school.

38
**COOL KIDS
TURN UP THE HEAT**

BBQ teams from all over the country (and one from Australia) converge on the Chicago suburbs to show their skills at the Westmont Lions' Red, White & Bar-B-Q competition Memorial Day weekend.

40
A SAFE PLACE TO PLAY

Lions in Poland give orphans and children with special needs the gift of a safe outdoor playspace.



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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Does your club have a unique tradition? Write to us at lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org and tell us about it. Use "Tradition" in your subject line.



VIDEOS

CAMPAIGN 100

See how LCIF impacts millions of lives across the globe and why they have launched their biggest campaign in the foundation's history.

LCIF EMPOWERING SERVICE: NEPAL

Following the massive earthquake that struck Nepal, killing nearly 9,000 people and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless, the Lions of Nepal secured funding through LCIF to rebuild the schools in the region.



THE VAULT



SEPTEMBER 1952 LIONS FIGHT POLIO

The President of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis praises Lions for their work helping to support children affected by polio.



JUNE 1976 LCIF DELIVERS AID TO GUATEMALA

Then known as LIF, the Lions Clubs International Foundation was helping rebuild a proud nation—a task needed again today after the country has faced more devastating natural disasters.

HIGHER KEY AWARDS

Lions honored for sponsoring members.

WE SERVE

MISSION STATEMENT OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL:

To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

CONTACTING THE LION

For change of address, non-receipt of the magazine and other subscription issues, contact 630-468-6982 or MemberServiceCenter@lionsclubs.org. For all other inquiries call 630-571-5466. Have a story idea or photo? Want to comment on a story or make a suggestion for LION editors? Contact the LION at lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org or at 630-468-6798.

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To Give is To Serve

Hello, Lions!

As you know, there are many aspects to being a Lion. One of the benefits of being a member of the world's largest service organization is that you have access to a vast network of support. A very important part of that support is through grants from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). LCIF is the only global Lions' foundation and it supports the work of Lions around the world—including you.

Any district has the opportunity to help its community through applying for an LCIF grant. In this issue, you'll see just a few of the many ways communities have benefitted from the funds. But in order to continue to provide this kind of support, LCIF needs your support.

With a goal of serving 200 million people per year, LCIF is kicking off a three-year campaign to raise funds in order to help more Lions help more communities in need. I ask that you consider how far your donation could go and consider giving financially as another way to serve.

So, Lions, let's rally ourselves. Their goal is our goal. 🐘

Yours,



Gudrun Yngvadottir

International President, Lions Clubs International



We Serve.

Spring Cleaning

Members of the Van Dyne and Fond Du Lac Lioness clubs spent Saturday, June 16, 2018, doing spring cleaning at the Restoring Hope Transplant House in Middleton, Wisconsin. A Wisconsin Lions project, the non-profit six-bedroom home near the University of Wisconsin in Madison, offers compassion and support to transplant patients and their families. See story page 30.









A Playground in Poland

A telescope atop new play equipment for orphans and children with disabilities is caught in a moment of stillness before the ribbon-cutting. Lions in Poland paid for the complete renovation of the playlot, which had become overgrown and unsafe for the children. See story page 40.

Serving Seniors

Taylor Adkins, 15, helps out at the League City Lions' Senior Breakfast, in League City, Texas, on July 1, 2018. She's been helping every month since she was 7 years old and says that serving seniors helps her feel valued. See story page 34.



Nickels Add Up For Massachusetts Lion



Lion Joe Elisii, 86, of the Hull Lions Club in Hull, Massachusetts, has reached his goal of raising US\$100,000 by collecting and recycling bottles and cans.

Every weekend Elisii drives his truck through town picking up bottles and cans from three local collection containers and some restaurants, sorts them, puts them in bags, and brings them to a redemption center.

“I like doing this,” Elisii told *The Boston Globe*.

“It keeps me busy. What am I going to do, stay home and watch TV?”

Hull Lions Club uses the money for its annual senior’s dinner in December, the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Perkins School for the Blind, and other community outreach programs.

Originally reported by The Boston Globe.

Looking Ahead

October is Vision
Awareness Month

What does your club have planned? For service ideas, check out archived issues of *Lion Magazine* at lionmagazine.org.

World Sight Day
10/11

International White Cane Day
10/15

International Hunger Day
10/16

SUN 1	MON 2	TUES 3	WED 4	THURS 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

OCTOBER 2018



Polio Outbreak Underscores Need for Vaccinations

A polio outbreak in Papua New Guinea has been confirmed by the World Health Organization (WHO), prompting the nation's deputy prime minister to declare a national health emergency and allocate 6.7 million Kina (US\$2 million) for the response.

Papua New Guinea had been declared polio-free for 18 years before this past April, when a boy in Morobe province came down with the highly infectious, debilitating illness. Now others in the same community have been confirmed to be infected.

Poliomyelitis ("polio") is a potentially deadly viral disease that invades the brain and spinal cord, causing permanent paralysis in a small portion of patients. There is no cure for polio, only a vaccination to prevent it.

Vaccination coverage in the province is low, with just under two-thirds of children receiving all three doses. According to CNN, the National Department of Health of Papua New Guinea has been working with WHO and other partners in launching a response to the outbreak, which includes a large-scale vaccination campaign and increased health surveillance to help detect illness and the presence of the virus.

Club Communications Win Big in International Contest

Winners have been announced in the 2018 International Contest, which provides Lions with the opportunity to showcase their hard work and creativity in communications while sharing their accomplishments with others from around the world. This was the final year the contest will be held. Winners include:

CLUB NEWSLETTER

Baguio City
Host Lions Club
Baguio City, Philippines

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

District 300-A1
Taipei, Taiwan
(Republic of China)

CLUB WEBSITE

Bombay Link Road
Malavani Lions Club
Mumbai, India
<https://www.lionsclubrm.com>

DISTRICT WEBSITE

District 300-A2
Taipei, Taiwan
(Republic of China)
<http://www.lions300a2.org>

MULTIPLE DISTRICT WEBSITE

MD 118
Ankara, Turkey
www.lionsturkiye.org

Please visit lionsclubs.org for a full list of winners.



Exposure to Germs May Prevent Childhood Cancer

A researcher in the UK believes he has pinpointed a contributing factor to childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)—the most common form of childhood cancer in developed societies—and hopes this breakthrough will lead to the prevention of ALL within five to 10 years.

According to his study, the culprit could be the modern, germ-free mentality of many new parents in developed countries.

Professor Mel Greaves, of the Institute of Cancer Research in London, has published a paper in *Nature Reviews Cancer* stating ALL has a two-pronged etiology, beginning in the womb and ending with infection of the child by a flu virus, bacteria, or other pathogen.

It's a "paradox of progress," writes Greaves in his paper. "The problem might be lack of infection."

Greaves states that slight mutations in the womb (common in all pregnancies) predispose a child to the condition, and then, lack of exposure to pathogens fails to adequately prime the immune system to fight infection. When a susceptible child is then infected with the flu or other common illness, her immune system may react improperly, causing ALL.

While ALL is "an intrinsically lethal cancer in the absence of treatment," says Greaves, advances in medicine has led to a 90 percent cure rate. "The problem is, it's traumatic, it's toxic, with long-term consequences for the health of those children," says Greaves, underscoring the need to look at not just how to cure childhood cancer, but how to prevent it.

OVERHEARD

“We are different women today. We work. We study. We have children. We are quite busy, and we have to think differently about how we approach women to join.”

— **Lion Gudrun Ossurardottir**,
Alftanes Seyla Lions Club.
See story on page 17.

“People want to be part of an active club.”

— **Will Webb**, Stanwood Lions Club. See story on page 18.

“Being a Lion is an antidote to feeling lonely. It makes you feel valuable.”

— **Taylor Adkins**, League City Lions Club. See story on page 34.

“We have all seen the ravages of diabetes here, and the transplants that are a result of it. The work Lions are doing for diabetes is not just necessary. It’s crucial.”

— **Cindy Herbst**, Middleton Lion and founder of Restoring Hope Transplant House in Middleton, Wisconsin. See story on page 30.

66 YEARS AGO IN THE LION

September 1952

The President of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis praises Lions for their work helping to support children affected by polio.

Read the original article at lionmagazine.org



BY THE NUMBERS

13

Years it took Lion Joe Elisii to raise US\$100,000 collecting bottles and cans for recycling.

10,000

Number of LED lights lighting up the wire and rebar Christmas tree made by Stanwood Lions to top the Stanwood, Washington smokestack.

537

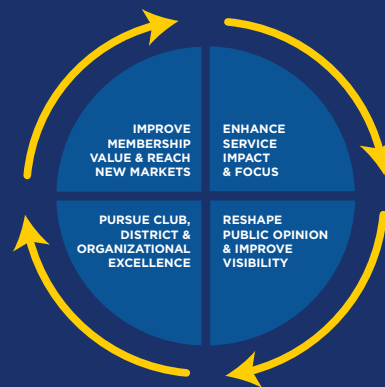
Years of service between the inaugural members of College Station Noon Lions Club Hall of Fame.

450

Number of 1-pound catfish stocked at Municipal Park Lake in Germantown, Tennessee, for the Lions Club Fishing Rodeo.

LCI Forward

UPDATE



All Lions are leaders. Lions are building legacies in their communities through the work they do, and one club in Orange, Texas, has found a way to ensure that the contributions of its members aren't forgotten.

Texas Lions Form a Club Hall of Fame

Thirteen College Station Noon Lions in Texas have been inducted into the club's first Hall of Fame. It's a new idea to improve club retention and honor long-serving Lions.

"We have so many Lions who have worked diligently and consistently for years locally, but may not have gone on to serve at the district level," says Lion Bonnie McGee, who worked with PDG Floyd Golan in starting the effort.

The club's new Hall of Fame honors Lions who have been outstanding in contributions of time, talent, and resources to further the community, club, and the mission of Lions. Lions must have been in the College Station club for at least 20 years, and are considered by the selection committee based on a history of volunteering in club projects and activities, serving as an officer, and chairing major committees.

The 13 Lions inducted in the 2017 inaugural Hall of Fame class collectively represent 537 years of service. On the day of the ceremony, they were guests at a special lunch with Past International Director Joe Al Picone.

"Our inductees today are Lions who recognized the needs of this community and the world, and eagerly came forward. Their leadership is embodied in the legacy during which this club has grown from 25 to nearly 200 Lions," Picone said to the group.

Inductee Pattie Sears, a Lion since 1989, explained how her father was a charter member of the Orange, Texas Lions Club. "He taught me about serving those in need, and I was proud of him because he worked hard and helped others," says Sears. "When I was invited to be one of the first women in the club, my heart filled with joy."

A new Lions Club Hall of Fame banner was unveiled at the ceremony and is on display at each club meeting.



College Station Noon Lions Joann and Phil Hobson make hundreds of snow cones at the club's annual "I Love America" event every July 4. The Hobsons are recent inductees in the club's new Hall of Fame.

How are you recognizing the exceptional service of Lions?

Think about new and creative ways to recognize and celebrate the contributions of your members.

MALAYSIA

Boy With Brain Tumor Undergoes 22 Surgeries

Using determination and social media savvy, Lions in Malaysia have acted quickly to save the life of a young boy with a brain tumor.

Qiu Hao was 4 years old when he came home from kindergarten with a bad limp and behaving abnormally. He was rushed to one of the public hospitals in Kuala Lumpur where he was diagnosed with a brain tumor complicated by hydrocephalus.

Qiu Hao's parents were devastated by the news and struggled to pay the medical bills, partly because they were being charged as foreigners in their home country. Qiu Hao was born stateless, a common occurrence in Malaysia where parents must meet a variety of criteria for their children to receive the proper documents to be considered a full citizen. Stateless children can apply for citizenship, but the process is long and can take up to two years, often ending in rejection for no known reason.

As Qiu Hao's parents filed appeals with the state and solicited friends for donations, Qiu Hao underwent 21 surgeries before doctors in Malaysia said there was nothing more they could do. Qiu Hao suffered from severe headaches and nausea, while remaining partially paralyzed from the remnant tumor.

When members of the Lions Club of Kuala Lumpur City heard about Qiu Hao they stepped in to help. After broadcasting the call for help across social media platforms, Qiu Hao was brought to multiple private Malaysian hospitals for a second opinion. However, each specialist was afraid the tumor was too close to vital areas of the brain to continue operating.

As a last-ditch effort, Qiu Hao's medical records



Qiu Hao is now well enough to attend birthday parties.

were sent to National University Hospital (NUH) in Singapore for review. Specialists there believed they could help.

The good news was tempered by Qiu Hao's citizenship status. He would need a passport to leave the country. Lions again went into action, helping to file the paperwork to get his application for statehood expedited.

Two weeks later he received his passport, and after his 22nd surgery, Qiu Hao is now recovering fast.

In addition to taking up the cause of another child in need of treatment, the club partners with other individuals to continue fundraising to cover the costs of Qiu Hao's treatment and ongoing therapy needs.

USA

Small Project Has Big Community Impact

When members of Cabrillo Host Lions Club took a Saturday to clear some brush from a hidden WWI memorial, the Aptos, California club stumbled onto what Lion Barbara Chamberlain called, “the perfect project for Lions.”

Chamberlain had always known the memorial was there. Having lived there for 50 years, the plaque, surrounded by natural stone, was on her freeway exit and she saw it daily. It was originally erected by Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to honor local men and women who had died in the first World War.

Over the years, brush began to overtake the structure. “I expect whoever had been caring for it moved away or otherwise went on,” says Chamberlain.

The Cabrillo Host Lions have undertaken some big projects over the years, including installing a bathroom at a local park. “But a lot of what we do, it’s just writing checks,” she says. “And the community doesn’t really engage.”

The cleanup project was inexpensive, costing just US\$12 to dispose of the brush, but engaged the community in ways Chamberlain hadn’t been expecting. The activity garnered a buzz of publicity in the local press and locals marveled at how they’d passed the spot every day and never knew the memorial was there. The Lions received a note from the president of DAR, thanking them for their work.

But Chamberlain is just happy to see the familiar sight again. “I figured we should do something, since those it’s honoring can’t speak for themselves.”



A WWI memorial is uncovered after Lions clear off brush.



Seyla Lions Gudrun Ossurardottir, Gudrun Maria Skuladottir, and Alda Lara Johannesdottir are proud of the bags knitted with Icelandic yarn by their club in Alftanes.

ICELAND

Building a Tight-Knit Club

The Alftanes Seyla Lions Club near Reykjavik, Iceland, was just a year old when one of their 22 members proposed an intense but rewarding project for them.

They had just five months to complete it, but it would build friendships, strengthen the club bond, and kick-start their charity fund with the money they would earn—more than US\$5,800 to support their community.

Lion Edda Waage approached the all-female club about knitting and sewing conference bags, like tote bags, for the women attending the Nordic Geographers meeting she was organizing at the University of Iceland. The women who couldn't knit could either learn from others or help with the final sewing.

The club accepted the challenge and began knitting more than 400

bags in patterns and colors inspired by the Icelandic Lopapeysa—hand-knitted wool sweaters with a patterned border around the neck. Each bag was unique.

“Because the theme for the conference was ‘Responsible Geographies,’ it seemed appropriate, both socially and environmentally, to have hand-knitted bags made of Icelandic wool,” says Waage. Although most knitting was done at home, the elementary school allowed the club to use its sewing room to finish the work, and leftover yarn was knitted into blankets for homeless women and for a disabled men's home, says Lion Alda Lara Johannesdottir.

Charter member Gudrun Ossurardottir, a Lion since 2002, had recruited the new Lions by sending letters to the wives of men in a large all-male club in town, inquiring about their interest in Lions, then following up with phone calls.

It wasn't easy. “It is more difficult to find women willing to make the time today. We are different women today,” she says. “We work. We study. We have children. We are quite busy, and we have to think differently about how we approach women to join. But we have made it work for us.”

What resulted was a group of busy but committed women who chose to focus on the needs of the young, the seniors, and the environment, and participation has been increasing each year.

But it's not as much about money as it is friendship that makes their club strong, says Lion Gudrun Maria Skuladottir, who organizes an annual golf tournament for the club to raise funds. “Meetings need to be educational, but also fun. When you have fun, you learn better and you work better,” she says. “You join Lions to make your community better, but it helps you as well.”



Lions Jay Roesch, William Webb, Paul Schumacher, John Rouch, and Tom Webb make sure the flag flies high over Stanwood, Washington.

USA

Stanwood Smokestack Lights Up the Town

For many years the landmark smokestack in Stanwood, Washington, stood only as a reminder of the town's lumber history—something people didn't pay much attention to.

But since 1998, the Stanwood Lions have been giving their community a reason to look up at it and smile.

They have given light and life to the old "Hamilton stack," topping it with seasonal lighted designs like

an American flag, a giant Christmas tree, a Valentine heart, and more, including a white cane for the White Cane Drive that raises money for the Lions' sight and hearing program.

The stack was built in 1927 to elevate smoke from the burning refuse of the lumber mill and keep it from blowing into town. But when the mill closed in the 1960s, the 150-foot-tall structure was left behind.

As the story goes, a group of Lions were out for breakfast when one noticed the smokestack out the window. "Hey, we should do something with that," he said.

Conversation turned on its ear, and soon the Lions were sketching plans on a restaurant napkin.

Their first design was a Christmas tree, the tallest of the wire and rebar decorations at 75 feet, with an 8-foot star on top and 10,000 LED lights visible from 18 miles away, says Lion Will Webb, who with his twin brother, Lion Tom Webb, makes the designs and hoists them to the top.

The Webbs, who have been climbing Washington's mountains for 30 years, were introduced to Lions by the stack project. Will, a firefighter, was asked his opinion when talk of the project began, and he and his brother met to discuss it.

Sure, they'd help. And yes, they would join the Lions. The Webbs

figured out a way to anchor a climbing rope on the cement stack and to install equipment for mounting the designs. Now Lions say these "youngsters" are the brains who get the job done.

"But we couldn't do it without the club, especially Paul Schumacher, the unsung hero, who gets the crew together," says Will.

The designs, including a pink ribbon promoting the American Cancer Society fundraiser, "Relay for Life," are hoisted with a hydraulic wench and cables. While raising the flag (181 feet up) can be challenging because of the wind, it's also the design that draws the most compliments.

There is no money making behind this project, says Lion John Haddock. It's just a creative way to spark community spirit. But the Lions do earn about US\$6,500 a year putting up U.S. flags for businesses on national holidays and the day of the Stanwood/Camano Island Fair.

About 200 customers hire the Lions to help promote patriotism, says Haddock.

Although the city recently purchased the mill property along the Stillaguamish River for redevelopment, the smokestack will stay. Lions will pay \$10 a year to store their equipment, and they will continue to light up the town.

The smokestack helps retain members, keeping Lions in the spotlight, says Will. "People want to be part of an active club."

USA

Lions Score a Touchdown for Vision Campaigns

In 1967, two Lions were sitting on a porch in Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina, watching a bunch of boys play football in an old broomstraw field.

They wondered why there wasn't a football league for the younger kids in town. They couldn't start it, they thought. But they knew who could: The Mt. Pleasant Lions.

The Mt. Pleasant Lions Club Youth Football League was started that spring with one team. Several years later, the league had grown to four teams and was supported by a junior varsity group. In the early 1980s, each team was encouraged by cheerleaders, and by the mid-1980s, the league had grown to include 17 teams and cheerleaders.

The past 10 years have averaged 300 to 400 boys and girls participating across three age divisions for children 5 to 12, says Lion Richard Bost.

Hundreds of volunteer coaches lead the players and cheerleaders now. Lion Ron Hurlocker, known in town as "Mr. Football," is there to announce every game, as he is for all the junior high and high school football games.

The Lions invested about US\$15,000 to build a concession stand and supply all the necessary equipment at the junior high where league games are played every Saturday in the fall.

Although the league was not started as a way to raise funds, registration fees, gate receipts, concessions, and an annual program book have made the league into the Lions' largest fundraiser, Bost says. It has enabled Lions to donate more than US\$350,000 to the North Carolina Brighter Vision Campaign, as well as tend to small projects.

Middle school and high school football programs are appreciative of the development program the league provides, and when the league sponsored a canned food competition, teams collected 625 pounds of canned goods for the needy.



Lion Ron Hurlocker announces all the football games for the popular Lions league in Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina.



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Womens

Womens

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A WORLD IN NEED NEEDS A WORLD OF LIONS



LCIF LAUNCHES BIGGEST CAPITAL CAMPAIGN EVER

In July, 2018, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) launched Campaign 100: Empowering Service. The US\$300 million comprehensive capital campaign is slated to span three years, with an impact expected to last for generations.

The money raised will ensure that Lions have the resources needed to increase their service impact, fight diabetes, and expand their global causes.

The goal is to empower Lions to serve more than 200 million individuals per year by 2021 and ensure that 100 years from now Lions will still be making the world a better place.

GET TO KNOW YOUR GLOBAL FOUNDATION

LCIF is the philanthropic arm of Lions Clubs International, which means one of its roles is awarding grants where they are most needed, anywhere in the world. By investing more than US\$1 billion in grant funding since its founding in 1968, LCIF empowers Lions on a global scale.

Together, over the past 50 years, LCIF and Lions have:

- Prevented avoidable blindness in millions through its SightFirst program, including 9.1 million cataract surgeries, the training of more than three million ophthalmologists and other health workers, and upgrading hundreds of eye care institutions.
- Provided more than 16 million students in 100 countries with access to positive learning environments through Lions Quest.
- Provided for the immediate and long-term needs of natural disaster-afflicted communities, distributing 4,600 emergency grants to date.
- Worked to bring global measles deaths to a historical low, helping to vaccinate a projected 87.7 million children.
- Supported the needs of humanity's sick, displaced, and disabled.

LCIF focuses its philanthropy on specific areas of need (focus areas) helping to give shape and direction to its impact. LCIF has historically focused on vision, youth, disaster relief, and humanitarian causes. As the needs of the world change, Lions evolve to serve their communities in new ways. LCIF is evolving as well, expanding their global causes to include diabetes, hunger, childhood cancer, and the environment.





5 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT LCIF

1

One hundred percent of donations go to fund grants and programs.

2

Grants are funded entirely by the generosity of Lions, partners, and friends.

3

It has a four-star ranking from Charity Navigator.

4

It is the only global Lions foundation.

5

LCIF has granted US\$1 billion in its 50-year history.



DOING GOOD AROUND THE WORLD

Some grants are large, while some are for just a few thousand dollars. Some projects are far from home, while others are just around the corner. But the need is global and the impact is powerful everywhere and at every level.

LCIF WORKS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

In Fremont, Nebraska, a US\$75,000 grant to Lions of District 38 0 enabled the construction of a sensory courtyard dedicated to engaging all five senses in children with a variety of special needs. “I love taking my son there and seeing his face light up with each new sensation and sensory element,” says Miranda Long, of Fremont. Summer Mau, a board member of the Autism Center of Nebraska, says, “The sensory courtyard gives us a fun family experience, free of judgment of the abilities my children lack. There are not many situations in our community where we get to experience things as a family.” The sensory garden project was spearheaded by Lion Mary Robinson, a mobility specialist at Fremont Public Schools, who teaches students who are blind and visually impaired. Robinson was inspired to create the garden after hearing about the strides a young child who is blind made after he began gardening with his mother.

A LITTLE CAN GO A LONG WAY

In India, many families are unable to prioritize the education of their children, especially girls. But one woman has embraced these girls, leading a charge to get them educated. In 2009 the Gajapatnagaram Lions Club of India, sponsored by the Burr Ridge-Hinsdale-Oak Brook Lions Club in the United States, was awarded a US\$5,000 grant from LCIF

to renovate a student dormitory in Andhra Pradesh, India, enabling 40 girls to attend classes, some for the very first time. Lion Saipadma cares for her students as if they were her own children, often traveling into students’ villages to convince their parents of the benefits of an education for their children. Currently, 48 girls and 25 boys are developing life and academic skills that will help them avoid migrant labor, gender stereotypes, child marriage, and other obstacles, all thanks to a grant from LCIF.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH GLOBAL ORGANIZATIONS LEAD TO HISTORICAL IMPACT

Between 1994 and 2008, LCIF has supported the work of The Carter Center with US\$59 million in funding to help eradicate onchocerciasis (river blindness) and trachoma, two communicable causes of blindness that were devastating countries like Nigeria, in Africa. Mass administration of the drug ivermectin (Mectizan®) donated by Merck & Co., Inc., has been so successful in two Nigerian states that the program is currently being phased out. During its partnership, LCIF and The Carter Center have funded river blindness and trachoma programs throughout Africa and the Americas. Overall, the Lions partnership with The Carter Center has led to the distribution of more than 214 million Mectizan® treatments in 11 countries. As a result, The World Health Organization (WHO) has verified that Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, and Guatemala are now free of river blindness. There is still more work to be done, though, and LCIF intends to provide US\$16 million in financial support for The Carter Center’s river blindness and trachoma programs through 2020.



CAMPAIGN 100 AIMS HIGH

INCREASING SERVICE IMPACT

Lions and LCIF are doing so much good. But there is still much to be done. Financial resources are needed in order to continue helping those in need. LCIF has committed to raising US\$300 million over the next three years, so that more Lions can do more good for more people around the world.

SUPPORTING LIONS' SERVICE

Through Campaign 100, LCIF will expand upon its demonstrated commitment to communities, making an even greater global impact with a focus on vision, youth, disaster relief, and humanitarian work.

It will also look for ways to reduce the prevalence of diabetes and improve the quality of life for those diagnosed.

Lastly, it will conduct research to identify the specific areas of greatest need and opportunity within the larger causes of hunger, childhood cancer, and the environment by conducting pilot projects to gain the expertise to develop sustainable, long-term programs on local and global scales.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

The generosity of Lions fuels the work of LCIF.

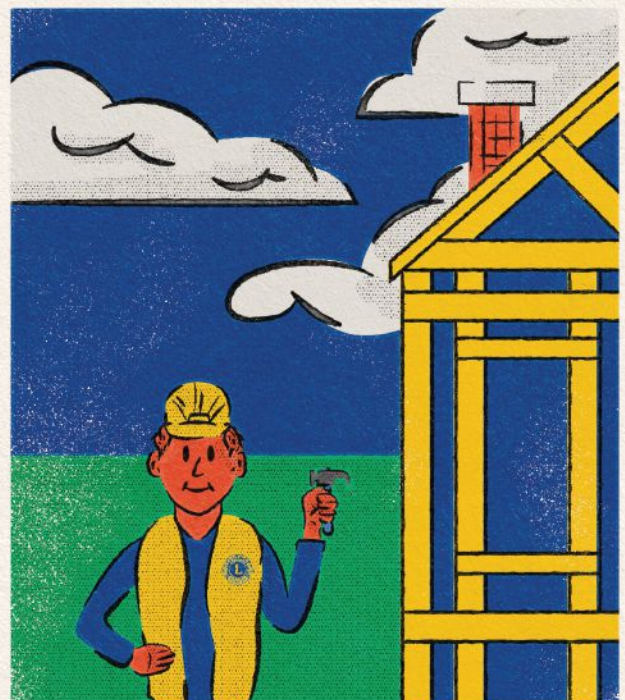
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BLESSINGS COME BACK



A Home for Families Undergoing Transplants Takes Care of One of Its Own

By Joan Cary



Ben and Liz Leuenberger sat in quiet conversation at the dining room table in Wisconsin's Restoring Hope Transplant House.

The day was young, but they knew at any time they could be welcoming others to join their “family” of transplant recipients and caregivers who stay at the house while getting medical treatment at the University of Wisconsin. The Leuenbergers, long-time residents now on the other side of that storm, would be there with open arms, just as others were there for them.

“There are a lot of times when this is full,” says 41-year-old Ben, a recovering heart and liver transplant patient, waving his arm over the table for 12.

The table at center stage in the grand Victorian is where guests start their day and where they unwind from it. It gathers strangers, creating friends the way kitchens collect and connect people at parties.

“It’s a support group right here,” says Cindy Herbst, the home’s founder and executive director, busy doing her paperwork nearby. “It all happens here. People come here as strangers and leave as family.”

Restoring Hope,



supported by the Middleton Lions before becoming a sanctioned Wisconsin Lions project, is just minutes from UW's Health

Transplant Program where more than 1,000 organ transplants have been done this year.

Cindy, a Middleton Lion, and her husband, Brian, bought the six-bedroom home to open as a nonprofit in 2013 after staying in a transplant home near Minnesota's Mayo Clinic where Brian's dad was undergoing treatment. They knew the Madison area was in need of something similar.

"Unfortunately, the economy went to heck soon after," recalls PID Peter Cerniglia, a Cross Plains Lion in Wisconsin. Cerniglia suggested to the Middleton Lions that they take on the house as a project, and the club put US\$35,000 into getting it open, up, and running. Then Cerniglia, his wife, Lion Joann Cerniglia, and Cindy started traveling around the state to club meetings and district conventions to enlist the support of more Lions, Leos, and Lionesses.

Since then, clubs throughout Wisconsin and northwestern Illinois have come through in a big way. Lions have contributed more than US\$540,000 toward the US\$1.2 million goal to renovate and expand, adding bedrooms and private baths. They hope for work to begin next spring.

In the meantime, Lions, Leos, and Lionesses meticulously maintain the property. They mow the lawn, wash windows, paint, change tires for guests in a rush, and more. They regularly drop off food and stacks of household supplies and toiletries, and

Fond Du Lac and Van Dyne Lionesses arrive on a Saturday morning to tackle spring cleaning.

they have sent money to help pay utility bills and buy breakfast food.

Some people might compare the old house to a bed and breakfast, but with an extra-large dose of compassion. Cindy likens it to a Ronald McDonald House (which houses the families of children in hospitals), but for transplant families.

"If I just wanted to rent rooms, I'd run a hotel," she says. But she doesn't just want to rent rooms. She wants to improve lives. Guests from 36 states and five countries have stayed with them, and all have one thing in common: the need for a new organ or a bone marrow transplant. Meeting others in the same boat is a huge bonus, the guests say. So is the low cost of US\$45 per night.

Guests can use the laundry facilities and cook in the kitchen, and every morning they get up to Cindy's homemade breakfast. While some may have the means to eat out, others may have already been through the overwhelming heartbreak of losing their home or farm to unforeseen expenses.

"They come and they have nothing left," says Cindy. "How do people deal with this? Not being able to be home to parent their children? Not knowing where the money is coming from? After seeing the differences in the families who come, I thought it best to start the day with everybody on the same level."

Shortly after breakfast on that Saturday, after many guests had departed for hospital visits and appointments, the Van Dyne and Fond Du Lac Lionesses appeared at the door, armed with mops, brooms, and buckets. After a bunch of hugs for Cindy, they were soon scattered about the house engrossed in spring cleaning. Before the question of lunch could come up, more Lionesses, this time from the Madison Monona Lioness Club, arrived and set out lunch for everyone at the dining room table.

"Don't they just rock, these Lionesses?" calls Cindy from the dining room.



The Leuenbergers have witnessed this kind of Lion support in the home for a long time now. They planned to stay for seven days but have been living at Restoring Hope for nine months since Ben's simultaneous heart and liver transplant, and Liz's pancreas transplant. They hope to go home to their





Cindy Herbst shares lunch with supportive Lionesses.

friends' house in LaCrosse when Ben's anti-rejection medications are regulated.

When the young couple arrived in Madison last year, Ben was in congestive heart failure and unaware that a tumor on his liver would require him to have a liver transplant as well. Liz, who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 9, was beginning to lose awareness of dropping blood sugar levels, and was having episodes of partial blindness. She stayed at the hospital with her ailing husband, and then in a hotel until there was a room for her at the house. And as Ben recovered, she prepared for her unexpected surgery.

"It's just been a blessing," she says of the home and its people. "We're so lucky this is here, that they're all here. To be able to talk to people who understand, or to not talk about it. It's a real blessing."

Cindy says at least one of the six bedrooms is always taken by someone like Liz, someone with diabetes. "We have all seen the ravages of diabetes here, and the transplants that are a result of it. The work Lions are doing for diabetes is not just necessary. It's crucial."

Besides bedrooms, the house offers large living spaces and porches, areas where folks can watch the Packers, play games, and relax together or alone. On that sweltering Saturday, the Leuenbergers found a spot of shade and a friend—Cindy and Brian's son, Eric—to play a game of "bags." Eric lives onsite to help guests, day and night, but he also befriends them.

Very early that morning he took an Iowa couple to the Farmers' Market in Madison before dropping them off at doctor appointments. He is good, the guests say, at helping in unspoken ways; in making them laugh.

"We have all seen the ravages of diabetes here, and the transplants that are a result of it. The work Lions are doing for diabetes is not just necessary. It's crucial."

"This is the help I need, but I would never ask for it," says Cindy quietly.

She had also been to the hospital early that morning. In a strange twist of fate, her husband, Brian, who has emotionally supported so many transplant patients, was diagnosed with leukemia in the spring. In mid-June he received a bone marrow transplant at UW.

"Cindy and Brian have done so much for us. It's devastating not to be able to fix this for them," says Liz Leuenberger. "They're caring and giving, and they've given so much."

"We understand so clearly the need for this house," says Cindy later in the day when quiet had returned. "You make lifelong friends here and you care so deeply for them. We never knew that Brian would get this sick and they would be serving me. The blessings we put out there are now coming back to us."

"But what would have happened if the Middleton Lions had not taken up this house?" she asked. "What would Brian and I have done if Peter and Joann had not traveled and talked every place possible, and taught me with their example, the relentless serving of Lions? What would we have done?"

After nearly 10 months at Restoring Hope, Liz and Ben Leuenberger received clearance from their doctors to return home to LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Ben was the first simultaneous heart and liver transplant recipient in UW Hospital history.



Restoring Hope founder Cindy Herbst says PID Peter Cerniglia is her "champion."

Being Kind

A Young Lion Leads by Example After 10 People Are Killed in a Nearby High School

- BY ERIN KASDIN -

The Photo

One evening, when Tayelor Adkins was 7 years old, as she sat with her parents at the dinner table, her dad, Lion Cory Thomas, asked her if she'd like to go volunteer in the morning.

"Sure," she said.

"Ok, you'll need to wake up at 6 am," he said.

"Oh..." She wavered.

"And I'm not telling you what we're going to do," said Thomas.

Her curiosity won out and she went, sleepy-eyed, with Thomas the next morning. When they arrived at the local church, she saw food.

"I was excited," she says. "I thought, 'Oh! We're gonna eat!'"

But she wasn't going to eat. She was going to serve.





PHOTO BY SCOTT OLSON/ GETTY IMAGES

Above: Taylor Adkins comforts a friend at a candlelight vigil after 10 people are killed in Texas high school. Below: Taylor talks to seniors at the League City Lions Club Senior Breakfast. Bottom: Taylor's dad, Lion Cory Thomas works the grill.

That morning she served breakfast to seniors at the League City Lion Club's monthly senior breakfast. She noticed how grateful they seemed for the food, even though many were well-off and didn't need charity. "It was the fact that a young person cared about them," she says. "It made them feel valued. And that made me feel valuable."

Now 15, she's been to every service event since, tagging along with Thomas, who has been club president and director of the board, among other things. She's too young to be a Lion officially, and there's no Leo club in her small town of League City, Texas. But, this spring Taylor unknowingly became an iconic symbol of what it means to be a Lion.

"It was the fact that a young person cared about them," she says. "It made them feel valued. And that made me feel valuable."

On Friday, May 18, 2018, a gunman opened fire and killed 10 people in a Santa Fe, Texas, high school, just 20 minutes from League City (about 12 miles) and home to one of Taylor's closest friends, Leila. Leila was in the arts program where the shooting took place. She made it out, but some of her friends did not. The following Sunday, Moms of Galveston County hosted an impromptu candlelight vigil and the Lions did what they do best. They came with food.



Leila, who has helped out at service events in the past, wanted to volunteer with Tayelor. She asked to wear something that identified her as a volunteer as she helped set up and hand out food, so Thomas handed her a Lions vest. However, as the evening wore on, Leila grew hot and gave the vest to Tayelor. “I never usually wear one,” Tayelor says, “but I put it on and then someone started playing a song and I could see Leila getting upset, so I tried to comfort her.” The moment was caught by a photographer and published in *The New Yorker Magazine* the following day.

“People Are Lonely”

For a long time, the League City Lions kept to themselves, says Thomas. Their philosophy when it came to district meetings and being a part of the greater Lions community was “Sorry, we’re busy working.” However, over the years they did begin reaching out, realizing that a network of Lions could do more good than a single club. While at first other Lions weren’t so welcoming to the insular League City folks, eventually, things started to warm up. They used social media to connect and now boast strong working relationships with many of their fellow Texas clubs.

League City’s focus is on children’s issues and they’re big supporters of the Texas Lions Camp, which provides kids with disabilities a place to enjoy that childhood rite of summer. And for the past 64 years, they’ve hosted the League City Music Festival to raise money for the camp. It’s the largest annual festival in League City and draws huge crowds. Tayelor gushes about volunteering at the festival. “I know that by volunteering, some kid from my area with diabetes, or who is deaf or blind, can go to this camp,” she says. “I go to camp and it makes me so happy, and I want other kids to have that.”

So how can a club that is focused on children help after eight teens are gunned down at a nearby high school? The answers aren’t easy. Thomas wants to implement a program he sees working at the elementary schools. It’s called “Dads at the Doors,” and is exactly what it sounds like. It stations Dads at every entry and exit to the school, ensuring kids have an adult figure to acknowledge them every day and ask how they are. “Every one of these school shooters has been a boy,” says Thomas. “Maybe if they knew Mr. Thomas would be there and say ‘Hi, how was your weekend,’ maybe that would make a difference,” he says.

Tayelor isn’t sure what can help, but she has an idea of what’s wrong. “People are lonely,” she says. “My school has 4,000 students but many times I just feel alone. And it sucks.” Tayelor combats this feeling of isolation with a small circle of close friends. But she also points out that kids have been feeling rejected and alone since the “beginning of time.” It’s only recently that they’ve coped by committing acts of violence against fellow students. “I think it’s because the kids around them are so insensitive,” she says. She notes how a stranger opening a door for her or a classmate smiling and making her laugh can have a big impact on her day. “Sometimes you just feel shut out. And the smallest thing can turn it around.”

“We need to just go back to being kind,” she says.
“Just be kind.”

Back to That Photo

The night of the vigil, the girls hadn’t noticed any photographers and were surprised when they heard they’d made the home page of *The New Yorker’s* online magazine. In their grief they also became acutely aware of the intrusiveness of the press. “It was kind of disrespectful,” says Tayelor. They hadn’t wanted to be the face of the latest shooting tragedy. But Tayelor’s dad saw it from a different angle. “I was overwhelmed with pride,” he says. “The empathy she expressed while holding hands with her friend was just a proud thing to see.”

It was also an important moment for Lions. For an organization looking to reach more young people and increase awareness of who they are and what they stand for, this photo of a young Lion comforting a friend in a dark hour is powerful.

Tayelor isn’t old enough to be a dues-paying member, but she is a Lion in every way. While she made the national stage in a Lions vest, speaking to her only underscores how much more there is to being a Lion than wearing the uniform.

When asked if there’s anything else she’d like to say, anything she feels is important to get across, she’s quiet for a moment.

“We need to just go back to being kind,” she says. “Just be kind.” ●

COOL KIDS TURN UP THE HEAT

BY JOAN CARY

When the Westmont Lions in Illinois extend the invitation to come and cook at their Red, White & Bar-B-Q on Memorial Day weekend, they mean it. This year they were especially sincere.

Sixty competitive barbeque teams from 11 U.S. states, plus Australia, fired up their multiple grills for the Lions' 12th annual event, which is sanctioned by the nonprofit Kansas City Barbeque Society. This year, just for them, Mother Nature preset the oven at 95 degrees and held it there.

But as the Lions under the sweltering sun liked to say: "These are people who can take the heat."

What began in 2007 as a glorified picnic in the park for Lions and the Jaycees, a national civic organization, has become a major annual event for the Westmont Lions—and for competitors





Left: Kansas City Barbeque Society judge Claudio Sanchez smells the aroma of a beef brisket entry.



Pitmaster Duce Raymond, at left, and competition partner Ron Nunes of Duce's Wild of Wood Dale, Illinois prepare their pork entry.

ving for US\$20,000 in prize money. Lion Jim Addington, who spearheads the project, says if the festival and contest isn't enough to keep hundreds of volunteers busy, the Lions also sponsor a Sunday morning 5K "Race to the Flag" that weekend, followed by a pancake breakfast.

But it's the Grand Champion that's the coveted title of the weekend. This year, Tennessee's Rooters-n-Tooters took home the grand prize—an earthen jug and prize money, although there are no losers at this event. All leftover barbeque from the contest goes down the street to the People's Resource Center food pantry where supervisor Hank Anzelone happily receives and distributes the meat to the needy.

Lions also netted about US\$10,000 for their charities, ending the weekend on a sweet note for everybody.

Chicago restaurant owner Dylan Lipe has been competing with his team in his orange Outlaw BBQ bus for seven years. "Why? Because it's fun," he says. "It's close to home, and it's where all the cool kids are." **L**



Chicken is prepped to be judged.



Lynn, left, and Paul Keltner of Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee are congratulated after being named the Red, White and Bar-B-Q Grand Champions.



A Safe Place To **PLAY**

In Gdansk, Poland, more than 100 children from J. Korczak's orphanage, the Special School in Gdansk-Oliwa, and the kindergarten for disabled children now have a safe and entertaining place to play.

With the help of an LCIF grant, the Gdansk Gedania Lions, Lions Club Meinerzhagen/Kierspe and Polish Lions from all over the country have turned an unsightly and unsafe area overgrown with trees, bushes, and weeds, as well as partly destroyed playground equipment, into beautiful Korczak's Gardens.

They cleared the land, installed a synthetic surface for safe play, and added a paved path so wheel-chairs can navigate the property. Children now have a grassy area, picnic tables, and a variety of colorful slides, swings, and creative playground pieces to enjoy and take part in therapeutic activity.



Above: Children from the orphanage and special school help cut the ribbon for their special play space.

Right: The hills were evened out and weeds and pieces of concrete removed, replaced with new grass, a synthetic play surface that cushions falls, and an integrational path.



Left: Weeds had overgrown much of the paths and playground equipment, making it particularly hazardous for some of the sick or disabled children who use the playlot.



Children and guests, including Gedania Gdansk Lions Club President Marian Sienkowski, stroll the new walking paths and play on the equipment on opening day.







The **Ashtabula Lions** in **Ohio** donated a Lion drinking fountain to the Lake Shore Park in their town as a centennial project. Lion Kathy Ray has her head in the mouth of the Lion.

The **Warrenton Lions Club** in **Virginia** raises money for their club activities and charities by selling the annual White House Christmas Ornament in their district. Since 1981, collecting and giving these ornaments from the White House Historical Association has become a holiday tradition. The association is a non-profit educational organization that preserves and educates the public about the history of the White House.

In **Illinois**, the **Breese Lions** recently donated US\$10,000 to the fire department for the purchase of a battery-operated Jaws of Life, improving their response time at accidents. The Lions are also contributing more than US\$5,000 toward materials for a new footbridge to be constructed in JC Park.

In **Michigan**, the **Weidman Lions Club** donated US\$970 to the Little League of Weidman for team sponsorship and new bats.

Hudson Hope Lions in **British Columbia, Canada**, have been providing a passenger van for the small community since the early '90s. It was well used, transporting seniors to medical appointments and more, and Lions raised CA\$82,000 (US\$61,626) through grants and donations for a new shuttle bus.

The **Lisbon Lions** in **New York** provided an Easter basket filled with food at the Easter dinner for the residents of Castle Ridge Manor, an assisted living facility in Lisbon.

Stafford Township Lions in **New Jersey** assisted coaches and athletes at the Special Olympics New Jersey Bowling Competition in North Brunswick.

Several members of the **Hebron Lions Club** in **Maryland** presented a 60-year membership chevron to Lion Billy Truitt at his home.

The **Jackson Lions Club** in **California** donated US\$2,000 to the Amador County Community College Fund.

The **Churchville Lions Club** of **New York** donated US\$10,700 to the Churchville Volunteer Fire Department to buy a new Jaws of Life tool. The new model has double the cutting power of the department's old hydraulic model.

Stafford Township Lions in **New Jersey** volunteered at "Rock Your Socks Off," a fundraiser to support the Down Syndrome Association of Central New Jersey, and the club donated gift baskets for the event.

The **Brazoria Lions Club** in **Texas** donated US\$5,000 to their community library and dedicated their new pavilion to the memory of Lion Scott McCaskill.



Brazoria Lion Bob Schwebel in **Texas** unveils the sign dedicating their new community pavilion to the memory of Lion Scott McCaskill.

Members of the **Iowa Lions Club** in **Louisiana** participated in vision screenings of preschoolers at the J.I. Watson Elementary School.



An eager crowd waits to shop at the **Knowlton Lions Club's** community garage sale that raised more than US\$7,000. The sale allows Lions to support their community, gives shoppers a chance to purchase practical items at a reasonable price, and promotes recycling.

The **Montague Lions** in **Prince Edward Island, Canada**, donated CA\$5,000 (US\$3,755) to help fund a course for people suffering with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

The **Shawneetown Lions** and **Harrisburg Town & Country Lions** in **Illinois** participated in a trash pickup day to tidy up the community and help the environment.

Minnesota's Ottertail Lions gave out US\$30,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors from four local schools.

The **San Antonio Founder Lions** in **Texas** appreciated the help of the Bexar County Probation Department and Boy Scout Troop 828 in setting up and taking down about 1,000 folding chairs for each of two parades during Fiesta Parade season.



The **San Antonio Founder Lions Club** in **Texas** celebrated another successful Fiesta Parade season, earning more than US\$8,000 on ticket sales and chair rental at the Battle of Flowers Parade and the Fiesta Flambeau.

In Memoriam

Past International President Austin P. Jennings has died. He was 91 years old. A Lion for 69 years, he was introduced to Lionism by his father, Selmer Jennings, who was a founding member of the Woodbury Lions in Tennessee. Austin P. Jennings served as past international president from 1988 to 1989. He organized a sight symposium attended by world leaders in ophthalmology and from that meeting came the program known today as SightFirst. He was also a vocal proponent of Lions Kid Sight. He received many association awards including the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor bestowed upon members, and he was a multi-level Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. Mr. Jennings also served many years as a Sunday school teacher and superintendent at First Baptist Church in Woodbury.

LION



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L ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER 2018

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95 Years: Corona Host, Calif.; San Angelo Downtown, Texas; Wheaton, Ill.; Cameron, Texas; Georgetown, Texas; Villa Park, Ill.; Dublin, Ga.; Nashua, N.H. Mamaroneck, N.Y.; Warren, Pa.

90 Years: Higginsville, Mo.; Rugby, N.D.; Vancouver, Wa.; Portland Hollywood, Ore.; Matador, Texas; Baytown, Texas; Hereford, Texas; Westerville, Ohio; Bloomington Inc., Ind.

85 Years: New England, N.D.; Alma, Ga.; Sun Prairie, Wis.; New Freedom, Pa.

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75 Years: Rock Island Evening, Ill.; San Bruno, Calif.; Villa Platte, La.; Hope, British Columbia, CAN; Medina, Ohio; Crown Point, Ind.; Abbeville, La.; Traverse City, Mich.; Upper Perkiomen Valley, Pa.; Green Forest, Ark.

Correction: In the July/August issue, the article “Strong Willed” incorrectly spelled the name of the Sebastian Lions Club president. His name is Ronald Blank. We apologize for this error.

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Wear Your Pride

In Las Vegas, at the 2018 Lions Clubs International Convention, the resident Lion talks to an International Parade participant from El Salvador to learn more about her traditional clothing. Look for a full recap of the 101st convention in the October digital issue.

Calling All **World Changers**

November 14, 2018 is World Diabetes Day,
and Lions are taking steps for global impact.



Join the movement at
fightdiabetes.lionsclubs.org



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