

LION

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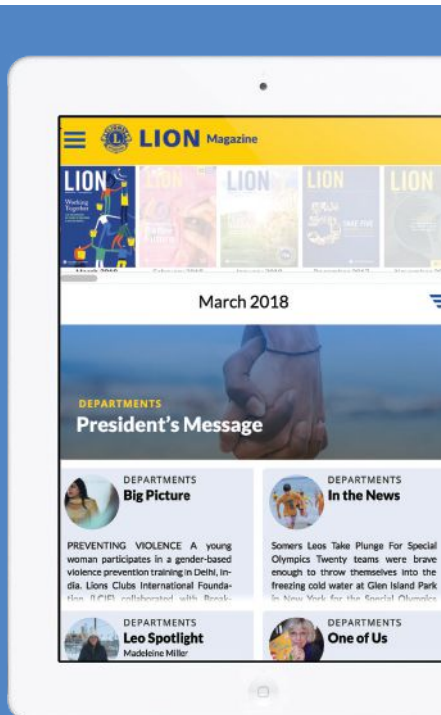


Feet on the Ground

Stories from the 2017-2018
LCIF Annual Report



Lions Clubs International



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VIDEOS

CAMPAIGN 100 - EMPOWERING LIONS TO #BE100

Want to know more about the most ambitious capital campaign in Lions history? Watch now.

LCIF: SERVING LIONS, SERVING THE WORLD

Every day, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) works to fulfill its mission: "To support the efforts of Lions clubs and partners in serving communities locally and globally, giving hope and impacting lives through humanitarian service projects and grants." Learn how LCIF is making a difference in your community.



THE VAULT



APRIL 1953 ONE TO GROW ON

Lions celebrated the Girl Scouts as it entered its 42nd year.



MARCH 1965 DISASTER IN CEYLON

Before LCIF was formed, Lions still found a way to help disaster victims.



HIGHER KEY AWARDS

Lions honored for sponsoring members.



Membership Awards: December Achievers

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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Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

Your Foundation for Service

there when the world needs us

Campaign 100: LCIF Empowering Service empowers Lions to serve hundreds of millions of people. Your gift of US\$2 per week can help continue this truly humanitarian mission!



7.8 Million
Cataract Surgeries to Restore Sight

87 Million+
Immunized Against Measles

US\$118 Million+
for Disaster Relief Programs

CAMPAIGN | 100
100
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Visit **LionsClubs.org/Gift** to give today
and to set up your recurring gift.

Build a Strong Foundation for a Strong Future

Hello, Lions!

When building a home, the most important first step is to have a strong foundation that can support the rooms, furniture, and lives that will rest upon it.

In serving, it's equally important to have a solid foundation to support the work we do.

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is that support. It enables Lions to do work that would otherwise be out of reach.

But without the contributions of Lions and friends, LCIF would not be strong enough to support all the work that needs to be done. It would not be able to help fund the water pipes being installed in Malawi or the gender-equity programs for young people in India. It wouldn't have been able to send emergency aid to the people of California when devastating fires ripped through their town, destroying everything.

Right now, these places may seem far away from your town and the needs of your community. You may be focused on the local homeless shelter that needs food or the high school in desperate need of a new gymnasium. And maybe right now your club can raise the funds for those efforts. But one day your community may need help from LCIF.

And LCIF will be there for your community. But only because millions of Lions around the world recognized that your town is just as important as theirs. They said, "I will help, no matter where the need." And that is how we support one another. That is how we make this a world of interconnected communities. A world of Lions.

That is why it is more important now—when so many challenges face our global community—that Lions recognize and contribute to the work LCIF empowers.

After all, it could be our community that needs it next.

Yours,

Gudrun Yngvadottir

Gudrun Yngvadottir

International President, Lions Clubs International



We Serve.

100th Birthday Party Turns into Wedding



Lions Judy Goldman (New York Ann Sullivan-White Plains Lions Club, in Eastchester, New York) and Mannie Corman (Brooklyn Bridge Lions Club in Brooklyn, New York) surprised more than 160 members of their friends and family on Labor Day, 2018, when they turned a centennial birthday celebration into a wedding ceremony.

The two, who have a 24-year age difference between them, met when Corman was a spry 92-year-old. “We met as friends,” says Goldman. “I had already had two men in my life—one I divorced and the other died. I thought I didn’t want another man.” But fate thought otherwise. After a trip to the beach involved sharing a bathroom with no door, they had no choice but to get to know each other better. They’ve been together ever since.

When Goldman finally agreed to marry Corman, they decided his 100th birthday celebration would be the best way place to take their vows.

Corman has been a Lion since 2003 after having undergone cataract surgery that didn’t go well, leaving him blind in one eye. A non-profit group called Visions, supported by Lions clubs, provided

him with adaptive equipment and showed him how to use it, charging him nothing for the service. He was so taken with this, that he decided to get involved.

Since then he has regularly donated money and time. His first donation was for US\$350,000 to help build a dining and community room in the accessible apartments owned by Visions.

The non-traditional couple, who met through Goldman’s late husband, are maintaining their separate residences—and separate Lions clubs. Goldman has recently transferred to a small women’s club, where she hopes to help revive the membership. She likes being a Lion because she feels like the money raised is truly going to a good cause.

“Every bit of money you donate to Lions goes to serving Lions,” says Goldman.

As for marrying a 100-year-old? “He makes me feel secure,” she told the New York Times. “I’m not looking for a 72-year-old prince with wavy hair. I’m looking for a real person to be with.”

L IN THE NEWS

OVERHEARD

“We want to make sure there is not one day that children go to sleep with hunger, and not one day that children go to school with an empty stomach.”

—**Past District Governor Ruth Chua**, president of the Manila Amity Lions Club, in the Philippines. See story page 8.

“With a child in a wheelchair, the other children will say hi to them, maybe, but they don’t play with them very much. But when they ride this cycle, every kid down the block comes to see what it is, and they’ve got new friends.”

—**Joe Tarver**, of the Lubbock (Texas) Lions Club on the impact of the three-wheeled bikes he makes. See story page 16.

“I thought ‘Oh, my God,’ and there she was smiling.”

—**Susan Matroni**, on the reaction from her mother to a gift from Lions. See story page 20.

BY THE NUMBERS

3

Number of wheels on a Cycle For Life custom-made bike developed by the Lubbock (Texas) Lions Club.

245

Daily deaths from measles

820

Millions of people who go to bed hungry every night

35

Percent of women globally who have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence

5

Number of animatronic pets bringing joy to patients with dementia in Pennsylvania, thanks to Lancaster Lions Club

USA

Giving the Non-Verbal a Voice

Just because a person is non-verbal doesn't mean he or she is without the need to communicate. Like everyone else, maybe more than everyone else, the non-verbal need to voice their wants, needs, and emotions.

But how?

At an Ohio respite home for individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities, staff recognized the need to solve that problem, and the Lions of District 13 OH1 stepped up to help them do it. They communicated amongst themselves and with other local community groups and raised the funds to get the technology that the cottage so desperately needed.

Kaitlyn's Cottage in Defiance, Ohio, is a non-profit respite care provider serving more than 20 rural counties in four states. Disabled individuals of all ages can stay there from one night to a week to meet friends and experience life in a fun and safe environment. Meanwhile, their caregivers and family can take time for themselves and do the things that may be overwhelming while providing care.

Kaitlyn's Cottage was built in 2012 on the grounds of ProMedica Defiance Regional Hospital by Dan and Sharon Farrell who wanted to create a place for their granddaughter, Kaitlyn, who has communicative disabilities and is non-verbal. Cottage staff soon realized how the need to communicate actually intensifies in



individuals like Kaitlyn, and they wanted to help her have a "voice."

When Lion Rod Martin, a friend of the Farrells, heard about the situation he recalled a story he read about a former National Football League player with ALS who uses an eye tracker to communicate. The computer allows the user to "speak" their wants and needs, controlling it with their eyes instead of a keyboard or mouse.

Martin, a 50-year Lion, was impressed by what he saw and not afraid of the US\$20,000 price tag for the interactive technology that includes the Tobii Dynavox Eye Tracker. If anyone could raise the funds, he knew Lions could, he says. And so he and his wife, Mary, spent three months fundraising.

Martin reached out to his club and the Wauseon and Bryan Lions Clubs in the area, plus other

community organizations like the Rotary, Moose, Eagles, Elks, and VFW.

"It was so neat because all of our clubs went together so nicely. Everyone jumped right on it and we were able to raise the US\$10,000 in a very short period of time," says Martin.

Halfway to their goal, Martin also learned of grants available through LCIF, and in May the Lions of District 13 OH1 were awarded a matching US\$10,000 LCIF-Anthem Foundation "Healthy Heroes Grant" designed for projects that help those with disabilities.

"The equipment is in place and amazing," says Martin. "These people have problems we don't have. We're fortunate, and anything we can do to help them is right in my eyes."

INDIA

In the Wake of Flash Flood, New Club is Born

Battered by heavy rainfall, residents of the small town of Nawapur, in the Nandurbar District of Maharashtra, woke up to flash floods on August 16, 2018. The Rangavalli river overflowed and the local dam was breached, flooding 10 villages in the district. About 14 lives were lost and 462 homes damaged. Many had to flee to safer areas. In addition to the human lives lost, 110 animals were washed away in the floods.

Even as local government responded, Lions Clubs from Nandurbar swung into action.

District Governor Sanjay Vora phoned LCIF to obtain an emergency grant of US\$10,000, which was quickly used to help the flood victims, and a subsequent US\$100,000 grant was secured to help rebuild 200 homes in the region.

Since many of those affected by the floods lost their livelihoods, Lions used the grant to put together care packages containing groceries that would support a family of four for an entire month, along with other essentials.

Lion Nitin Karwa, together with Nandurbar Femina, Nandurbar, and Dhule Lions, prepared 650 kits that were then distributed to the flood victims at their doorstep.

The locals were so impressed by the Lions' spirit of service that they decided to form their very own club.





Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

More than One Way to Serve

Stories from LCIF's 2017-2018 Annual Report

"No one has ever become poor by giving." –Anne Frank

Lions are doers. There is so much to be done in the world. And the physical act of helping can feel so good—hammering a nail in the frame of a new house for a tornado victim, ladling soup for a hungry child, or ushering a grandmother to her first diabetes screening are all visceral ways to experience the rewards of service.

But what if there was no money to buy the nails, or to pay for the gas to heat the stove, or to get the equipment to screen for diabetes? Where would we be without the donors? Is giving a form of doing?

Campaign 100 will help LCIF empower Lions to create positive change in communities near and far. In addition to messages about our world in need, Campaign 100, and how Lions can be involved in expanding humanitarian efforts, LCIF is proud to present stories from LCIF's 2017-2018 Annual Report. "While I've been humbled and inspired by Lions since joining our incredible organization in 1978, my year as Foundation chair opened my eyes far wider to the world of good Lions do with funding and guidance from LCIF. Twelve months spent crossing the globe and visiting grant projects beautifully illustrated how

together, we can." - Chancellor Bob Corlew, Past International President and 2017-2018 LCIF Chairman.

The list of challenges the world faces is long

Two hundred fifty-three million individuals are blind or visually impaired, and global trends suggest that figure may triple by 2050. Climate change is causing a steady rise in natural disasters, robbing innocent people of homes, jobs, and lives. By 2025, half the world's population will be living in water-stressed areas. Two hundred forty-five people die each day from measles, prevented easily by safe and inexpensive vaccines. Two-thirds of children report being victims of bullying. Four hundred twenty-five million people are living with diabetes, and this figure may soar to nearly 630 million by 2045. Each night, more than 820 million people go to bed hungry. And every two minutes, a child is diagnosed with cancer.

These are big problems. They need innovative solutions, backed by the means to effect change.

Lions are those innovators. LCIF is the means.

Many Lions on the ground working to address these challenges rely on grants from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). These grants wouldn't exist without the generosity of Lions and friends who donate money to the Foundation.

100 reasons why

The 2018-2019 Lion year marked the launch of the most ambitious capital campaign ever for LCIF. Campaign 100 is in full swing now, looking to wrap every Lion into the fold.

The campaign gets its name from several factors: it was initiated during Lions Clubs International's 100th year of service. The foundation is asking that 100 percent of Lions participate, giving the equivalent of US\$100 per year during the three-year campaign. This aggressive fundraising goal would empower Lions to serve hundreds of millions, ensuring that 100 years from now, the world will be a better place.

It's a lofty goal, but stories of service in action highlight just how important it is to continue funding the vital work Lions do.

What you and LCIF have done together

If you've donated to LCIF this year, here is a sampling of the work you helped enable.

Delivering Dignity in South Korea

New, clean, modern, safe—apt descriptors of a new facility 50 men with intellectual disabilities and severe handicaps now call home.

Residents of a Lions-built care facility in Seoul, South Korea work on a project in their new space.

Augmenting funds raised by Lions in Korea, LCIF provided a US\$100,000 grant to construct a new rehabilitation center in the Eunpyeong District of Seoul, South Korea. Funds were awarded after social welfare facility Angels' Haven was ordered to shut its doors due to unsafe conditions. After the building shut down, residents squeezed into 50-square-meter apartments shared with 14 other people and with just a single toilet. That is where they lived for four years, until LCIF and Lions intervened.

In a collaborative effort bringing dignity to facility residents, Lions in Korea, LCIF, Angels' Haven, and the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Seoul City, Eunpyeong County, that new, clean, modern, safe building was constructed. Residents are finally living with dignity in much-needed private spaces and can also enjoy the building's areas designated for exercise, treatment, and social gatherings.

Hurricane Strikes in Puerto Rico, LCIF Responds

September 16, 2017. Some consider it the worst day in Puerto Rico's history. It's the date Hurricane Maria wreaked unprecedented havoc on the island. It's also the date Lions began mobilizing to help the storm's victims. In the wake of Maria, whose 175-mile per hour winds left a trail of death, destruction, and devastation, Lions beat a path to the island's residents despite widespread flooding, downed





Lions in Puerto Rico went into action after Hurricane Maria devastated the island.

powerlines, and impassable roads. Amid crumbled homes, obliterated businesses, and fertile fields from which crops had been ripped, Lions stood, delivering help and hope.

They were able to do so because of a US\$100,000 Major Catastrophe Grant from LCIF.

Lions in Districts 51-C, -E, and -O began distributing nourishing food almost immediately, helping more than 6,000 people each day maintain the strength they'd need for the long days, weeks, and months ahead. "The Lions are gonna work very hard to help this community come back together," says Lion Miriam Vazquez, Past Council Chairperson. "So I think that's the spirit we have to continue with. To help and show others how to help."

Ukraine Orphanage Magnifies Reading

In Ukraine, 27 orphanages are designated for children with disabilities, blindness, or low

vision. While most facilities can fulfill basic needs, many don't have the means to provide vision-challenged youngsters with specialized equipment they need to develop scholastically. Reading and schoolwork become challenging, often rendering them defeated and developmentally delayed.

With a US\$34,000 grant from LCIF and funds collected locally, Lions of Ukraine brought hope—in the form of 45 electronic magnifiers—to children with severe low vision at Ternopol Orphanage. Small in size and handheld, the Aidnear Portable Digital Eyesight Aiding Device magnifies images as much as 32 times on a screen delivering full-color, high-definition, high-contrast images. Perhaps best of all, the children can participate in class alongside their normal-sighted peers and have the opportunity to enjoy and do well in school.

Gender Equity Intervention in Delhi, India

Gender-based violence and inequality are sad and pervasive realities. The World Health Organization estimates 35 percent of women globally have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence. As if the wounds and psychological damage weren't enough, in many parts of the world, abused women are shunned. Unable to find work, they have

A vision-impaired student at an orphanage in Ukraine uses one of the 45 electronic magnifiers provided by Lions to help keep students on track.





Young people in India learn about gender equity in an effort to reduce the rate of gender-based violence.

limited ability to provide for themselves and their children. Sadly, the cycle continues. Those raised in families with violence often perpetuate or experience it as adults.

Educating youth on gender equity from an early age is vital to ending the cycle, particularly in India, where the problem is endemic. In collaboration with communications and television services in India, LCIF is doing just that. Through a gender-based violence prevention program piloted in Delhi, LCIF is helping promote positive and safe learning environments. Dosti Ka Safar (The Journey of Friendship) is based on Lions Quest lessons—which foster social and emotional learning—and designed to foster greater gender equity among 2,000 youth in and around New Delhi. The customized intervention employs teacher-led discussions, films, and the Lions Quest skills practice model, moving constructive behaviors from the classroom to the real world.

Finding a Balance Between Diabetes and Childhood

“At camp, I was able to make new friends with kids who have the same disease. With them, I was able to talk about diabetes and didn’t feel so alone with my problems.”

This message of relief is from Thomas, a young teen fortunate to have attended a Lions type 1 diabetes camp near Gratz, Austria. With a US\$32,722 grant from LCIF, Lions supported the week-long event for youth ages nine through 14.

In a fun-filled environment, campers learned how to manage their disease and improve metabolic control—critical to maintaining optimum health for children with type 1 diabetes, who really just want to be kids like “everyone else.” Leading the effort was a team of non-clinical and medical staff, who measured participants’ blood glucose levels at the beginning of the camp and tested campers as often as 10 times daily.

Alternating between educational activities such as learning to count carbohydrates, calculate insulin doses, and handle insulin pumps and injections, and typical camp

Students at the LCIF-sponsored diabetes camp learn how to manage their disease, and have fun, too.



happenings like swimming and other sports, Thomas and fellow campers wrapped their week of fun in the sun with new friends and are more comfortable with, and more capable of handling, their disease.

Feeding Filipino Children: A Different Approach

Worldwide, the death of one in three children can be attributed to malnutrition. In the Philippines, Lions took a unique approach to decreasing food insecurity and malnourishment of children by providing an enticing incentive: cash. The program brought healthy food to kids while putting money in their parents' pockets. Lions... serving up a win-win situation!

"We want to make sure there is not one day that children go to sleep with hunger, and not one day that children go to school with an empty stomach," says Past District Governor Ruth Chua, president of the Manila Amity Lions Club, in the Philippines.

Supported by a US\$1,500 LCIF grant, Lions' innovative program worked like this: As an incentive for parents to take their malnourished children to daily meals provided through the club's supplemental feeding program, cash prizes were awarded

for weight gain! "Club members worried that providing just one feeding wouldn't make a lasting impact on the children," explained Chua. "With the assistance of LCIF, Lions provided nutritious meals every day to children who were small, often weak, more susceptible to illness and infection, and at risk of falling behind in school. In addition, much needed money was awarded to their parents."

More Resources Means More Children Saved

"Your child has cancer." Four gut-wrenching words no parent ever wants to hear. For many in the State of Wisconsin, USA, those words are inextricably linked to vital medical services provided at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin (CHW). Through its oncology program, CHW cares for two-thirds of the state's children with cancer and has treated more than 8,000 patients. With the number of children needing cancer-fighting bone marrow transplants expected to rise, CHW desperately needed additional—and extremely costly—treatment technology. LCIF and caring, compassionate Lions, stepped in to help. A US\$100,000 grant from LCIF, and assistance from more than 500 Lions clubs in Wisconsin, helped the hospital purchase life-saving equipment. Now, CHW's medical team is able to treat an additional 150 children every year.

Vital medical services and equipment are critical to giving children a fighting chance against cancer. Thanks to LCIF, 150 children each year will get a better shot at beating cancer and going on to live full, healthy lives.

Malnourished children in the Philippines get regular meals thanks to the innovation of Lions.



Wells for Wellness in Malawi

Humans can go just three days without water. After around 72 hours, the body begins to rebel. So, if your only access to life-sustaining hydration is unsanitary, you drink what's available, cook with what's there, and bathe in what's accessible. In other words, you jeopardize your life in trying to sustain it.

In the African country of Malawi, 70 percent of the population is without treated, sanitary drinking water. Nearly half of rural populations have to travel 30 minutes or more to obtain their drinking water. This means millions of people in Malawi—men, women, children, entire families—are living in rural areas without access to a safe water source. Water-borne diarrheal diseases are the second leading cause of death for children under five.

Malawi's average 6-month rainy season, responsible for 95 percent of the country's annual rainfall, has been shorter than usual in recent years.

With a focus on the environment and serving humanity, in January 2018 LCIF awarded a US\$60,000 grant to compassionate German Lions committed to delivering liquid hope—clean water—to Malawians.

In the country's Madisi area, five water wells are being drilled and will be equipped with solar-powered pumps. One well, strategically located at a school for kindergarteners and primary school children, will ensure youngsters are hydrated throughout the school day, thus enhancing their ability to learn. The remaining wells will serve residents of nearby villages, providing them with safe, sanitary water for cooking, drinking, and maintaining personal hygiene.

The benefits continue. Wells will support Madisi's agricultural efforts, a main source of food for 60 percent of the population and the primary source of income for another 20 percent.




Lions build water wells for communities in Malawi, enabling residents to get safe drinking water.

What Goes Around Comes Right Back Around

While Lions belong to a global organization, they are often focused on bettering their immediate surrounding communities. It can seem like a lot to ask them to give money to a foundation that funds projects around the world. But, we are a global community of Lions and we empower one another no matter the distance. Better yet, that same foundation—LCIF—also funds projects in their community.

The money you give to LCIF comes back, amplified by the donations of other Lions. For example, giving US\$100 to the foundation one year could come back to you as US\$300 when your district is in need.

It's an investment in your club. Your club is an investment in your community. And what is the world if not a collection of communities? 



To see more success stories and envision how your club might make a difference, visit <https://lionsclubs.org/en/explore-our-clubs/service-stories>.



Want to know more about the most ambitious capital campaign in Lions history? Watch now.



Our Impact Through Campaign 100: **LCIF EMPOWERING SERVICE**

INCREASE SERVICE IMPACT

- **Vision:** Lead the global charge to rid the world of infectious blindness, reduce avoidable blindness and visual impairment, and improve overall quality of life by providing services to people who are blind or visually impaired.
- **Youth:** Serve youth through improved access to quality education, vital health services, inclusive social and recreational opportunities, and positive youth development programs.
- **Disaster Relief:** Be deeply engaged in disaster relief efforts and in preparing for, and responding to, natural disasters whenever and wherever they strike.
- **Humanitarian Causes:** Sponsor and deliver programs that address the distinct needs of at-risk and vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, the disabled, females, orphans, and others disproportionately impacted by social and economic factors and requiring special services.

FIGHT DIABETES

- **Diabetes:** Be a major part of the response to this global epidemic through multi-faceted, comprehensive health initiatives, reduce prevalence of the disease, and improve quality of care for those living with diabetes.

EXPAND OUR GLOBAL CAUSES

- **Childhood Cancer:** Strengthen medical and social services, increasing global life expectancy of children living with cancer, and enhancing quality of life for them and their families.
- **Hunger:** Work toward a world in which no one goes hungry, expanding resources and infrastructure needed to address food shortages globally.
- **Environment:** Protect the environmental health of our global communities, generating long-term, positive ecological and humanitarian impact.

How to: Applying for an LCIF Grant

- 1 Assess the needs in your local or global community
- 2 Work with fellow Lions and local leaders to come up with a project plan addressing unmet needs
- 3 Research LCIF grant eligibility
- 4 Complete and submit a grant application to LCIF; applications and instructions can be found at: [lcif.org/grants](https://lCIF.org/grants)
- 5 Work with your local team and LCIF to answer any questions about your application.
- 6 If your project is approved by the Board of Trustees and grant conditions are met, LCIF disburses funds and you can get started
- 7 Submit periodic progress reports to LCIF
- 8 When your project is complete, submit a final report to LCIF and celebrate the impact you've made in your community, however global or local it may be!

For more detailed information on the specific requirements and processes for each grant type, visit [lcif.org/grants](https://lCIF.org/grants).





Joy Ride

Cycles Help Disabled Feel Freedom on Wheels

BY ANNE FORD

Nearly 40 million Americans live with a disability. If Joe Tarver had his way, all 40 million would be on bicycles.

“People need exercise, and there’s no exception,” says Tarver, a member of the Lubbock (Texas) Lions Club. That’s why, for three decades and counting, he, his wife Nona, and their son Brad, have worked to provide accessible, customizable bikes to children and adults with permanent disabilities.

Cycle For Life recipient Jerrod Meyers poses with Dan Pope, President of the Redbud Lions Club, which is the National Sponsor of the Cycle for Life Project), Bryan Steward, Manager of W. W. Grainger, Lubbock Store which donated funds for several cycles, Marshall Cooper, Past International Director, and Joe Tarver, Cycle for Life coordinator.

But the Tarvers haven't done it alone. With them have worked numerous Lions, many of them from the Lubbock area, to help people with disabilities access the exercise, fresh air, and fun that provide so many benefits to mind and body. And it all began with one idea.

Tarver is the founder of New Ideas Development, Inc., a company that guides new ventures to the market. About 30 years ago, he found himself holding the patent to a bicycle technology called front-wheel drive. Cycles with this technology are powered by moving the handlebar up and down with the hands, rather than pedaling with the feet. "We were putting it on two-wheeled bicycles," he recalls. "It wasn't really going anywhere."

That is, until an acquaintance caught wind of the innovation and told Tarver about his young daughter, who had spina bifida. The girl's legs were paralyzed—but she would be able to operate a front-wheel drive three-wheeled cycle, since it wouldn't require her to balance. "So we welded up a three-wheeled bicycle, went down to the Walmart and bought some paint, spray-painted it real nice, and took it to her. It was a total success," he says. "We didn't think much about it."

Then the phone started ringing. "We got calls saying, 'We need something like that too,'" says Tarver. "So we built three more, and it just kept growing. Accidentally, really. Like a lot of good things."

The Tarvers' efforts eventually evolved into Cycle for Life (cycleforlifeproject.com), a Lubbock-based company that works with Lions clubs and private foundations to make accessible bicycles available free of charge to people with disabilities. The cycles are manufactured in Taiwan, then customized by Cycle for Life according to the recipients' abilities.

For example, if riders have low muscle tone, they can use a cycle that is powered by both hands and feet. If they don't have the use of their legs, they can use a front-wheel drive cycle. If they are blind, they can use a "centipede" model that connects to an additional bike, so they can ride tandem-style with a sighted person.

And if riders aren't able to use their hands or feet, they can sit in a wheelchair that connects to a bicycle, so they can enjoy the movement and fresh air while someone else pedals. The cycles can be further customized with arm rests, lap and chest belts, baskets (to hold an oxygen tank, for example), and other options. Each cycle costs about \$1,500 to manufacture.

Past District Governor (2-A1) Alvin Owen of the San Angelo (Texas) Lions Club was immediately taken with Cycle for Life when he encountered some of its bikes on display at a Texas Lions State Convention. Right away he thought of San Angelo Lions Charities, a local 501(c)3 through which the town's seven Lions clubs can donate funds for those in need.

And so, late last year, San Angelo Lions Charities purchased 80 cycles from Cycle for Life and began distributing them to those in need. So far they have distributed about a quarter of the stock. "The only qualification is that users have a disability that prevents them from normal activity," Owen says. "There's no financing whatsoever. The individual could be a millionaire or a pauper; it doesn't make any difference."

The cycles are loaned to users on a long-term basis. That's so that if "the person passes away, or their disability gets more serious so that they can no longer use the cycle, they can return it to us," Owen explains. Until then, "we ask that they'll keep the cycle secure and keep it out of the weather so that it doesn't deteriorate."

One of their first recipients was 40-year-old Jason Slawson of San Angelo, who is paralyzed from the waist down due to a roofing accident. When he first heard about the cycles, he wasn't interested, assuming that they used the same clunky technology that he had encountered 20 years ago in his post-accident physical rehabilitation. But then





Raquel and her son, Ivan, who is blind, ride in tandem on a specially fitted bike.



Jerrod Meyers feels the freedom of mobility in his specially adapted cycle courtesy of the Cycle for Life program, sponsored by Lions.

📷 PHOTO BY KELSEY HART

he saw a front-wheel drive cycle and changed his mind. “I just couldn’t believe the difference,” he says. “It just seemed a lot cooler. As soon as I saw it, I couldn’t wait to get it.”

Slawson, a former college athlete who now owns a roofing company, uses his cycle to stay in shape. “It reminds me of a high school football workout,” he says. “I’m pretty physically fit for my condition, and just to the end of the street and back is a full workout. It’s the real deal, for sure.”

That’s music to Tarver’s ears. He’s not sure how many people have received a Cycle for Life cycle over the years, but he knows it’s at least several

thousand, and he’d like it to be many thousands more. Lions Clubs in Fort Worth, Abilene, Beaumont, Houston, and Vernon, Texas, plus others in Kansas City and Tulsa, are just some of the clubs working with Cycle for Life to get accessible cycles to those who can benefit. Cycle for Life even helps Lions Clubs research and submit funding requests to local foundations.

“Foundations love the project, because we can show them that every dollar they give is worth \$30 in physical therapy value,” Tarver says. That’s not even including the value of the joy and socialization that a cycle provides to, say, a child who uses a wheelchair. “With a child in a wheelchair, the other children will say hi to them, maybe, but they don’t play with them very much. But when they ride this cycle, every kid down the block comes to see what it is, and they’ve got new friends.”

And then there’s the value to the Lions themselves. Tarver says: “We have one Lion who’s getting up in age, and every time I see him, he says, ‘Remember when we gave that bike to that little kid?’ It sticks with him, just like when you put glasses on someone and they can see well for the first time. When something like that happens, that’s when you really become a Lion.” **L**

Best Friends

Animatronic Pets Bring Real Joy

BY JULIE ENGELHARDT

It was early August 2018, and Susan Matroni was listening to the evening news from her home in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, when she looked up and saw her mother on the television screen.

“I don’t usually sit down and watch the news early, but for some reason I turned on the TV and I heard them say, ‘Helen’” she says. “Whenever I hear that name I look up because it’s my mother’s name. And I looked at the TV and I saw her.”

Her mother, 87-year-old Helen Marouchoc, has been a memory care resident at Conestoga View Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Lancaster for six years. Two years ago Marouchoc stopped recognizing her own daughter. “It was devastating,” says Matroni.

But during that evening news program, Matroni saw a glimpse of the mother she once knew.



Lion Jim Adams and Susan Matroni sit with Matroni's mother, Helen, as she enjoys time with the newly "adopted" animatronic puppy.

An Idea is Born

In early 2018 Lion Jim Adams was working on a new idea for his Lancaster club. Four years prior his brother-in-law had passed away from Alzheimer's disease. During his illness, he had found great comfort in his dog, who relatives would bring to visit and sit in his lap at the nursing facility.

Adams wondered if he could bring the same comfort to other dementia patients. However in researching pet therapy, he realized there were some downsides. Real pets required food and veterinary care. And some people were allergic, meaning they wouldn't be able to benefit.

"The idea was to find something that might be of comparable comfort for folks," says Adams, "but something hypo-allergenic and requiring no care." Then he came across the "Joy For All™" Companion Pets—audio-animatronic dogs and cats that look, feel, and react like real pets.

He thought maybe the Lions could purchase a few for a local nursing home and see if it helped the patients at all. His club was on board.

Lancaster Lion Bill Crabtree approached Conestoga View, the long-term care facility where his father had stayed just two years prior. Situated in an eight-story building, the facility has one floor dedicated solely to memory care patients. They typically have between 55 and 65 residents in that unit.

He spoke with volunteer coordinator Kim Skinner. "I said, 'we've got these pets, would you be willing to look at them,'" says Crabtree.

A Trial Run

At first they were rather hesitant. "They thought these would be cheap plastic animals," he says. "They thought you'd just push a button or a paw and it would say, 'arf-arf' and that would be it."

Their reactions changed after actually seeing what Crabtree had.

He carried the pets wrapped in nice boxes into Conestoga View, and invited Skinner, her boss, and the activity lead for the dementia floor to open them up. "They were flabbergasted at how big they were—rather life-size, like a small pup and a regular-sized cat," he says.

He demonstrated how the animals worked, showed how they reacted to touch or voice through sensors. "If you bark in the dog's face, it will bark back," he says. "The cat will purr when you pet it, and if you stroke it enough, it will actually roll over onto its back," Crabtree says. One of the employees, who continually stroked the cat during their conversation, expressed her concern as to how well the patients would respond to this therapy. Crabtree chuckles, "I waited about five minutes then said, 'You seem to have made a good friend.'"

Her hand flew off the pet, not realizing how engaged she'd become with the animal. She realized that if she was reacting this way to the animatronic pet, then she was certain the patients would respond in the same manner.

Conestoga View agreed to do a trial run.



Lion Kim Macsi helps one resident feel the lifelike fur of the new companion.



Lion Bill Crabtree and Activities Director Kim Skinner show off three additional pets donated by the Lancaster Lions this past Christmas.



It went well

According to the Conestoga View activity director, Kristin Everhard, the pets have brought a great deal of joy and excitement to the residents, as well as to the staff and patients' family members.

"The room lights up [when the pets come out] and it's really neat," she says. "We have residents who don't otherwise respond to other things or talk, but when you give them the pet to put in their lap, they start smiling and hugging it and start talking."

According to Everhard, the biggest joy was seeing the reaction from one resident who had been stuck in a fetal position, wouldn't speak, and didn't respond to other stimuli. Once she had the pet, she opened up and actually began talking. "She moved her arms and body—something she hadn't done in a long time," says Everhard. "It really makes you tear up."

The success of the project was covered by their local news station where Matroni was tuned in that late summer evening.

And it was with her mother holding the pet that she saw a glimpse of the woman she once knew.

"I thought 'Oh, my God,' and there she was smiling," says Matroni. "I haven't seen her smile or respond or react emotionally in at least three years. She was smiling and holding this robotic dog and petting it and kissing its forehead. I just sat there and sobbed."

Her mother usually stared blankly when Matroni went to visit. "But when she has the animal in her lap it triggers a different part of her brain," she says. "There's life in her eyes again. It's just amazing."

Amazing especially given they never had any pets in their house before. "That's the funny thing," says Matroni. "She didn't want any animals in her house. I was totally amazed she loved it!"



Smiles Extend Beyond the Patients

Matroni is so grateful for the generosity of the Lancaster Lions that she's committed to donating a cat to the center.

Crabtree couldn't be more pleased. The club donated three more animals this Christmas and they're looking to expand the program, working with the district to reach out to other clubs to see if they'd be interested.

And Skinner is so pleased with the project that she's considering becoming a Lion herself. "I love volunteering and it's a great way to make connections." 🐾



Lion John Turner has been the jolly Santa providing free rides on the back of his “sleigh” for each of the 21 years the Cloverdale Lions have hosted their annual Toy Run in California.

The **Middletown Children First Lions Club** in **Virginia** dedicated a Little Free Library in their town to honor Past International Director Wayne Davis, a Shawnee Lions Club member who died on October 19, 2018. His wife, Lion Marge Davis, a charter member of the **Middletown Children First Lions Club**, died shortly before him on September 14, 2018. Both were

retired educators. Fifty Lions attended the dedication and many Lions have donated books to keep the Little Free Library well stocked.

Summerside Lions on **Prince Edward Island, Canada**, served Christmas dinners to 70 seniors and the blind.

The **Cloverdale Lions Club** in **California** held their 21st annual Toy Run on Dec. 2 with about 400 participants bringing toys as their entrance fee. In return they get a ride with Santa, hear a live band, try for raffle prizes, and enjoy a Lions Famous BBQ lunch. Roughly US\$11,000 worth of toys were collected for 125 children, and US\$4,000 in toys was left over. Lions loaded two trucks and drove the toys to Chico, California to distribute them to children affected by the Camp Fire that destroyed Paradise, California and surrounding areas. About 30 Lions worked from morning to night to make it all happen.

The **Malvern Lions** in **Arkansas** presented Melvin Jones Fellowship Awards in memory of Lion Joe Keith for 65 years of service, and Lion Norris White for 52 years of service. Both were World War II veterans.

The **Sarasota Lions Club** in **Florida** provided free diabetes and eye screenings for children during the semi-annual yard sale at the Sarasota Community Church.

In Memoriam: Dr. Franklin Mason, International Director from 1988 to 1990, died after a brief illness on January 11, 2019. He was 94 years old. A member of the Mullins Lions Club in South Carolina since 1953, he was serving as the District Honorary Committee Chairperson and previously served as a president of the South Carolina Lions Eye Bank and the South Carolina Lions Charitable Association. Dr. Mason is a member of the South Carolina Lions Hall of Fame. He served for two years as chairman of the International Finance committee and received numerous Lion awards including the Lions Ambassador of Goodwill Award, the highest award given to a member. He served as a paratrooper during WWII and later practiced dentistry for 65 years. The late Past Director was an avid runner having started at age 58 and running his first marathon at age 60. He completed 120 full marathons, the last at age 85. He holds many state running records, all earned after age 75, and used many marathons to raise money for Lions.

In **Oregon** the **MD-36 Lions** have partnered with the Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation since 1994. A member of Lions KidSight USA, the foundation has committed to achieving its 2020 Vision of all Oregon children having their vision screened each year. Oregon Lions screened 182,094 students during the 2017-18 school year, highlighted last fall by hitting the milestone of one million children screened since the inception of the program.

About 80 hearing impaired students, their caregivers and teachers from schools in West Aurora, **Illinois**, were guests of the **Aurora Noon Lions Club's** 12th annual holiday party where the students communicated with Santa Claus in sign language.

The **Gresham Lions Club** in **Wisconsin** made their annual donation to LCIF in honor of Lion Bob Traeger who has served his club and community more than 50 years. Traeger was awarded a Melvin Jones Fellowship at the Gresham Lions' Christmas Party.

In **New York** a big turnout at the Side-by-Side Dice Run allowed the **Scio Lions Club** to make a donation of US\$2,452 to the transformation of the Diabetes Center at Jones Memorial Hospital in Wellsville, New York.

When Snellville Georgia Lion Marcia Anderson-Esson visited her former home in Connecticut she heard from the **Bloomfield Connecticut Lions** that they were collecting hard eyeglass cases to make first aid packages for the homeless in their state. Back in Georgia, Anderson-Esson and fellow **Snellville Lions Club** members with the help of a **Georgia Lions Lighthouse** member Perri Finch packaged and sent 254 eyeglass cases to the Lions in Connecticut to use toward their worthy cause.

The **Conway Evening Lions Club** in **Arkansas** partnered with the Conway Regional Health Center Wellness/Diabetes Education Office and Faulkner County Library to sponsor a diabetes screening on International Diabetes Day.

Members of the **Rimbey Lions Club** in Rimbey, **Alberta, Canada**, say "We serve and we sing." They kept up the long standing tradition of singing Christmas carols for patients of the Rimbey Hospital on Christmas day. The tradition was started around 1949 and only broken once when health concerns kept all visitors out of the hospital.

Spring Grove Lions and their friends in **Pennsylvania** delivered Christmas baskets to 27 needy families. The baskets included the food for a family dinner, canned goods and toys donated by the Spring Grove Elementary School, and gift cards from Kennie's Market.

Al Minguez Sr., director of the Eyeglass Committee for the **Bensalem Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** collects more than 8,000 eyeglasses every year and donated more than US\$2,000 in sewing and craft items to the Bucks County Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

In Memoriam: Philip Y. Tom, International Director from 1998 to 2000, died unexpectedly on January 25, 2019. Tom joined the Chicago Central Lions Club in 1958 and held many offices within the association. He was District 1A International Understanding and Cooperation Chairperson, and was helpful as Constitution and By-Law Committee Chairperson for both the district and state. He also served on the International Credential Committee for 27 years, 20 of those as chairperson. Past Director Tom received numerous Lion awards including the 50-year Charter Monarch Award and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor granted by the association to its members. He was also a member of the American Legion, the National Canners Association, and a life member of the Amateur Trapshooting Association. He enjoyed a successful career in the Chicago market.

LION



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APRIL 2019

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90 Years: Dallas Oak Cliff, Texas; Gaffney, S.C.; Plant City, Fla.; Farrell, Pa.; Topeka, Kan.; Seattle West Seattle, Wa.; Highland Park Highwood, Ill.; New Milford, Conn.; Ridgefield, Conn.; Newport, Ore.; Douglas, Ariz.; Ann Arbor Host, Mich.; Rock Hill, S.C.

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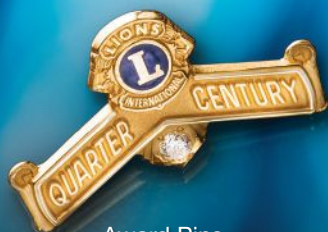
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50 Years: Brenham Noon, Texas; Engadine Naubinway, Mich.; Odessa Ector, Texas; Hebron, Ind.; Barnes, Kan.; Chatfield, Minn.; Cazenovia, N.Y.; Wilsonville, Ore.; Louisdale, Nova Scotia, CAN; Dudley, Mass.; Sebek, Minn.; Maple City, N.Y.; Westphalia, Kan.

25 Years: Pabos La Seigneurie, Quebec, CAN; Pearl River Sixth Ward, La.; Sedgewick, Alberta, CAN; Ewing Boones Path, Va.; Westborough, Mass.

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