

LION

JUNE 2019 LIONMAGAZINE.ORG

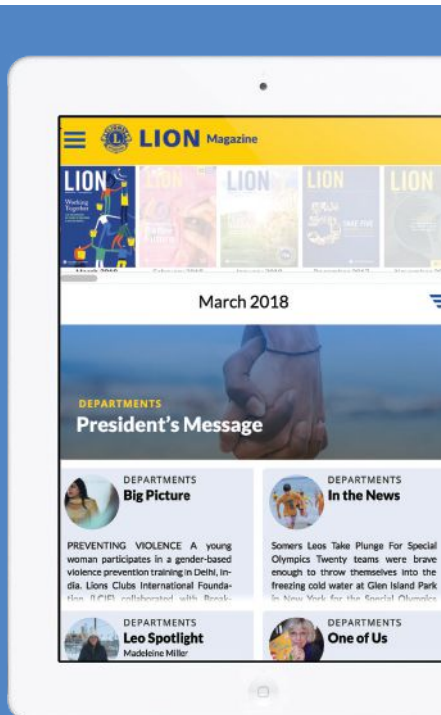


Bigger Than Me

Partnerships Create
Lasting Legacies



Lions Clubs International



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Partnerships Ensure Your Work Continues

Hello, Lions!

When I think of the power of partnerships, I think of the task of raising a family. I remember how difficult it was at times to balance the care and nurturing of my children with the demands of school and work life.

On those nights I needed to work, my husband was there to put the kids to bed. On those days when my kids were sick or sad or just needed their mom, I had coworkers who understood and helped cover while I stayed home and gave them medicine and hugs.

I could have done it all alone. Many do. But it sure was easier with partners. Partnerships not only support you in your efforts—whether it's raising a family or planning a service project—but they also ensure the work you do lives on, even when you move on.

You could plant a garden and tend it alone, but it will die if you move away or can no longer care for it. But if you get the whole community involved, you will have planted something that will live beyond you. And that is the very definition of what it means to make an impact.

Let's make this a summer of building the relationships that will help our work continue well into the future.

Yours,

Gudrun Yngvadottir

Gudrun Yngvadottir

International President, Lions Clubs International



We Serve.

Guide Dogs Lead Marathon Runner Across Finish Line

Runner Thomas Panek made history on March 17, 2019 after becoming the first blind person to run in the United Airlines New York City Half Marathon without a human guide. Panek, the president and CEO of Guiding Eyes for the Blind, ran with three Labrador retrievers that took turns in guiding him as he completed the 13.1 mile race.



PHOTO BY CRAIG BARRITT/GETTY IMAGES

All four in the Running Guides Relay Team received their medal.

Guiding Eyes boasts the Blind Running Guides program, the only program in the world where extensively trained dogs enable people who are blind and visually impaired to run with only their guide dog's support.

Lions have long supported the organization, donating nearly US\$750,000 to Guiding Eyes over the past decade, and funding numerous projects and improvements at their headquarters, training center, and veterinary clinics in Yorktown Heights, NY.

Panek, 48, trained in Central Park for six months with his guide dogs, Gus, and siblings Westley and Waffle, he said.

He ran the first five miles of the race with Westley, then five with Waffle, and then 3.1 with Gus, crossing the finish line in Central Park with Gus in two hours and 21 minutes. Panek announced that Gus, his loyal guide dog for five years, would be retiring after the race.

Lions Gather at United Nations to Discuss Protecting the Health of the World's Children

Lions and Leos from across the globe gathered at Lions Day with the United Nations in New York, New York on March 9, 2019 for discussion on the theme, "Protecting our Future: The Health of our Children."

Lions joined leaders such as Riva Greenberg of the International Diabetes Federation and Dr. N. Menabde of the World Health Organization to discuss the most pressing issues facing children today. Leos discussed issues important to them, such as the environment, and offered insight into the nuances of social media.

There was a second Lions Day with the United Nations held in Geneva, Switzerland, on April 10, with the same theme.



Leos Lindsey Chu and Bobby Wong discuss the importance of social media and offer help during Social Media Break.

L IN THE NEWS

OVERHEARD

“The cast of characters changes over time, and you have to keep building the bonds of the alliance to continue.”

— **Nancy Messmer**, Clallam Bay Sekiu Lions Club in Washington on maintaining vital partnerships. See story page 8.

“The most important reason [I did this run] is to encourage people to run, no matter what disability or ability level. No matter what, health and wellness is important.”

— **Thomas Panek**, president and CEO of Guiding Eyes for the Blind, who completed a half marathon with his guide dogs. See story page 4.

“I feel good to be someone’s light when they are in darkness.”

— **Stella Foo**, of the Kuala Lumpur City Lions Club in Malaysia. See story page 14.

BY THE NUMBERS

500

Gallons of blood collected by the Red Cross in partnership with the Emmett Lions Club in Michigan.

3

Number of birthdays Jayden Ban has been able to celebrate thanks to Lions in multiple countries including Malaysia, New York, and Spain.

3000

SIDS prevention packages boxed and sent to area hospitals, daycares, health centers, and orphanages by the Redwood Falls Lions Club in Minnesota.

Looking Ahead

July/August

August Welcomes the New International President

International Youth Day 8/12

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

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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			

July 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	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

August 2019

USA

Putting SIDS to Sleep

What impressed the Redwood Falls Lions Club most about Becky Bruns was her willingness to give back to the community through education on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome [SIDS] after the tragic loss of her son.

What impressed Becky about Minnesota's Redwood Lions was "their willingness to help in every way possible, without question and with smiles on their faces.

"They were there," she says.

Bruns and her husband, Shaun, of Redwood Falls, started the non-profit "Dominick Bruns Memorial Fund" [dominickbrunsmemorial.com] in 2008 after the loss of their son, Dominick, to SIDS. Their mission is to prevent SIDS and rebreathing through the education of new parents and families in their area; to better the lives of infants, children, and families through community involvement, and to preserve the memory and legacy of their son.

Becky Bruns, the mother of three, a farmer, and a small business owner, says Dominick did not have a chance to create his own legacy, so the family started one for him.

Along with education, she oversees the distribution of HALO SleepSacks, wearable swaddling blankets that have been proven to reduce the risk of future SIDS occurrences.



Redwood Falls Lions get involved by helping with the packing of SleepSacks for shipment. Becky Bruns and her mother bring about 1,000 SleepSacks to the Redwood Falls American Legion Hall about an hour before the Lions' evening meeting. Lions set up tables in an assembly-line fashion, including information on the organization and preventing SIDS, and various colors and designs of the sacks. They are meant for distribution to hospitals, daycares, health centers, and orphanages. Then two tables of Lions armed with scissors, tape, and boxes compete to see which table can effectively pack the most.

More than 3,000 packages have already been boxed by the Lions, and there will be more.

Bruns had previously done the work with family members and volunteers over a period of several weeks, but the Lions enjoyed it so much they asked if they could help again.

Club president Cindy LaBrie says, "We've asked Becky to keep us on the schedule for future shipments as it's a project we'd like to continue doing in the years ahead."

PHILIPPINES

Feeding a Lot of Hungry People

The Katarungan Central Lions Club in metro Manila Barangays fed more than 10,000 people in need at Luneta Park in front of the Quirino Grandstand.

The project was initiated by PID Vic Cheng Yong in partnership with the Filipino Chinese Lions Foundation and ATM Chain Foundation of China with the Quezon City Katarungan Central Lions Club and cost approximately US\$76,000.

It is the biggest project so far held by the Philippine Lions. The ATM Chain Foundation of China donated funds for the project as well.

One thousand Lions were present to help. The club plans to continue the project next year.





Bigger Than Me

Partnerships often mean the difference between a fleeting project and a lasting legacy.

By Joan Cary

Don't Let this Die

People come and go. They change their priorities or get pulled away for one reason or another. They get sick. They get old. At some point, they pass away. It is a hard truth of life. Individuals are impermanent.

But partnerships can endure. Partnerships are bigger than one person.

"The cast of characters changes over time," says Nancy Messmer of the Clallam Bay Sekiu Lions in Washington. She and her husband, Lion Roy Morris, continue partnerships they helped create in 2007 with the Washington Clean Coast Alliance, now known as Washington CoastSavers. "You have to keep building the bonds of the alliance to continue," she says.

The inspiration for CoastSavers started with a Seattle environmentalist who was leading a small group in cleaning up the state's most remote beaches. He came to Messmer and Morris with the news that he was ill. He didn't want sympathy; he just wanted to make sure his work continued.

"Don't let this die," Nancy Messmer remembers him saying.

She and her husband knew, she says, "If you're a very hard-working person you can get a lot done just by yourself. But you can't do the really big things."

Messmer and Morris met with other Lions, representatives from like-minded volunteer groups, and stewards from the Olympic National Parks. "We got together and everybody in the room realized that nobody was anybody's boss, and we created an alliance," says Messmer, environment chair for MD19.

Now, 12 years later, more than a thousand volunteers pick up 34,000-plus pounds of debris along Washington's Pacific coast for Earth Day each April. And that is just one event. In September they partner with the Ocean Conservancy for the International Coast Cleanup, and the Clallam Bay Sekiu Lions coordinate the cleanup of the Western Strait of Juan de Fuca, partnering with the local visitor center and the county, and inviting all volunteers to a Lions BBQ afterwards.

Lions Emil Person and Roy Morris with their helper, Paul Blake, clean up debris along the Strait of Juan de Fuca in Washington.



Many things like this happen every day around the world because of valuable partnerships, says Messmer. But to keep these projects alive and productive, she says, partnerships have to be able to endure and evolve.

“There are some people who think if you go through the process of planning, writing your goals, having your objectives, and you have a coordinator and a website, you’re done,” Messmer says. “But we know the process of doing big work is a continuous effort. And sometimes it’s big things and sometimes it’s little things, but it’s continuous.”

Many Hands Make Light Work

You could say the Cannonball snowballed. For many years Iowa’s Mason City Evening Lions sold about 700 chicken dinners on Cannonball Day—the day the people of Mason City celebrate their railroad history around the town’s Cannonball 457, a steam locomotive built in 1912.

But by last year the dinner tickets totaled more than 3,000, which, according to project chair Dennis Brunsvold, is more than the small, aging club could handle alone. The funds generated by the dinner are far too important to the community to let the project fade away. But the club needed help.

When the River City Kiwanis club heard the Lions were in need of a helping hand, they offered theirs.

“They’re a young club and their membership is 80 to 85. We’re a small club with only about 23 members, and our average age is 74,” says Brunsvold. “We decided that a partnership was the answer to keeping this successful project going.

The two will join forces this month for the traditional Lions BBQ chicken dinner.

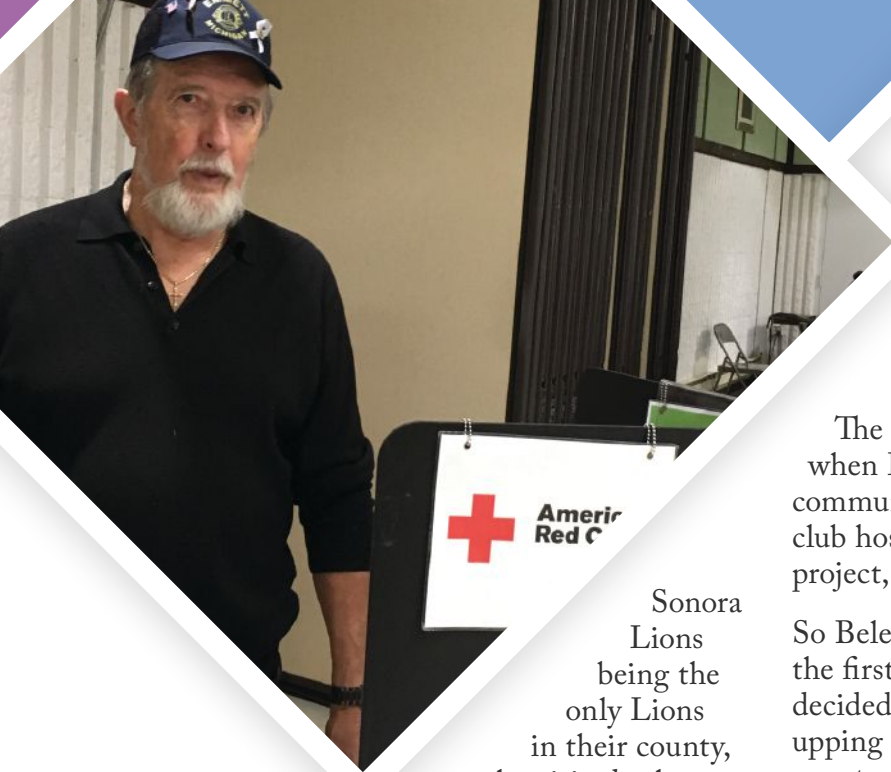
“One nice thing about this is that Lions deal with sight. Kiwanis deal with kids,” Brunsvold says. “We’re both all about helping the people in our community. And now the people who support Kiwanis will support the dinner. We all benefit.”

Michigan isn’t the only place where these traditional club “rivals” are joining hands.

Past District Governor Tom Penhallegon knew when he started the Sonora Lions tree removal project in California with Lion Glenn Gottschall two years ago that success would take more than one man and one club.

He saw the skeletons of multiple dead trees that needed to be removed, and he knew removal would benefit the community. But his club alone didn’t have the manpower, money, or expertise.

“The only way this project was going to happen was through partnering,” Penhallegon says.



In Michigan, Emmett Lion Chuck Belesky has donated more than 19 gallons of blood and helped his club host community blood drives.

Sonora
Lions
being the
only Lions
in their county,
he visited other
neighboring service
organizations to explain

the Lions' Tree Mortality Aid Program—a way to help low-income and elderly homeowners with the costly removal of the dead and dying trees that had succumbed to bark beetles and drought.

"Kiwanis and Rotary both went all in," Penhallegon recalled this spring as the project came to a close. Both organizations delegated members to the TMAP board of directors. "Each of the clubs held fundraisers bringing in tens of thousands of dollars to finance the taking down of hundreds of trees at a cost of US\$400 to US\$1,200 per tree."

This was not only a project where partnering was a great help to the community, says Penhallegon. "It brought a better understanding of community to all clubs."

Pooling Your Resources Adds Up

In Michigan, Emmett Lion Chuck Belesky convinced his club to partner with the Red Cross in organizing multiple blood drives, and through that effort they have helped close to 12,000 people, he says.

The project started in October of 1975 when LCI asked every Lions club to do a community event, and Belesky suggested his club host a blood drive. "When you suggest a project, you're doing it," says Belesky.

So Belesky and his wife, Nancy, organized the first Lions blood drive, and Lions decided to continue it every year, slowly upping the number of drives from one each year to three. In January they held their 100th.

According to Belesky's calculations, the Red Cross collected 3,999 pints of blood during those 100 drives, and each pint can help three patients, so 11,997 patients in need of blood have been helped by the Emmett Lions alone.

A Vietnam War veteran, Belesky began giving blood during the war, and he vowed that over time he would give 15 gallons of blood. As of April, he had surpassed his goal, having given 19 gallons [456 pints] of blood.

"Why? Well, I always felt that giving blood is a great thing to do," he says simply. "People are always in need. And I know if I needed blood I'd want somebody to help me."

Partners Show Up When You Need It

For many years the 92-year-old Carpinteria Lions Club in California has made it a point to get to know the neighbors. This year they made visits to nine other clubs, the furthest

about two and a half hours away, says club president Neal Bartlett.

Along with fostering camaraderie and friendship, visits among clubs allow Lions to get and give feedback on projects, lend support, and share ideas.

Thanks to an idea shared by the Santa Maria Lions, the Carpinteria Lions have netted more than US\$125,000 for charity from nine years of hosting their popular Christmas fundraiser—the annual Lions Festival of Trees.

The project has also proven the value of friends willing to help in a pinch.

Before Thanksgiving each year, the Carpinteria Lions put 20 or more Christmas trees on display in a community building for local businesses and organizations to adopt. They decorate the trees and add themed presents underneath. During the festival, visitors buy US\$1 raffle tickets from the Lions to drop in the boxes under the trees and presents they hope to win.

But trouble came last year when a heavy rain storm hit the town. Hours before opening day the Lions awoke to find more than an inch of water throughout the venue. Who came to help? Neighboring Lions. And the event opened just one day late.

“Our visitations to other clubs helped

Sonora Lions in California invited neighboring service organizations to help in the removal of dead and dying trees that posed a danger to their community.



us establish those relationships and that friendship,” says Bartlett. “Their help was very important to us.”

In October the Carpinteria Lions also run a tri-tip sandwich booth at the state’s largest free festival, the California Avocado Festival, when the town’s population jumps from 14,000 to 200,000.

“It’s labor intensive. All hands on deck,” says Bartlett. “We need everybody in the club down there and it’s still not enough.” So Lions from the UC Santa Barbara, Ventura Downtown and Camarillo Amber’s Light clubs, as well as others, come to their assistance. In turn, Carpinteria Lions donate part of the proceeds to these clubs so they

can fund their own projects.

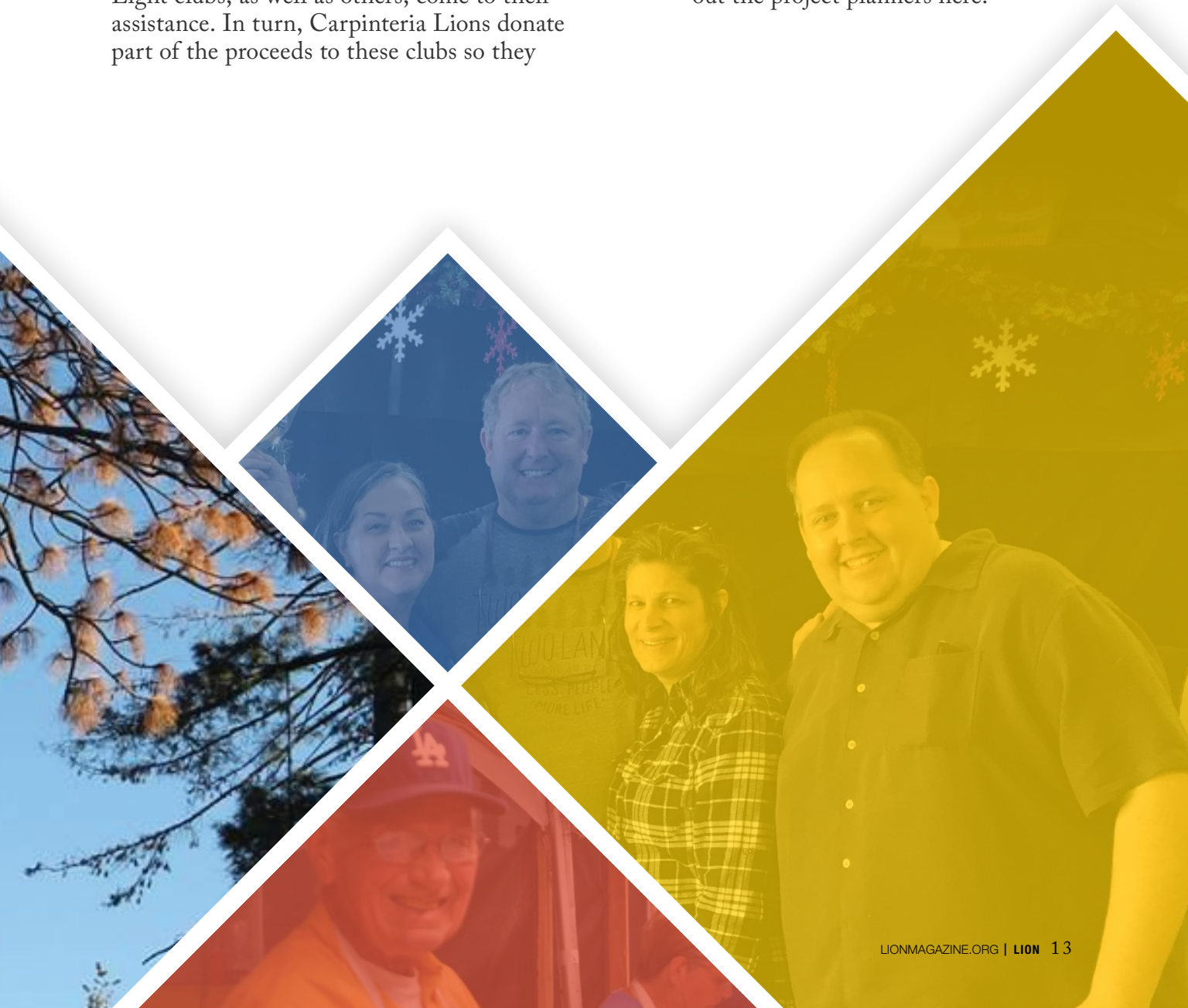
“In my opinion, visitations don’t happen as often as they should,” says Bartlett. “A lot of good comes from people getting to know each other and working together.” **L**



Watch how advocacy can help influence others and win partners.



To learn how to start effective partnerships with your club check out the project planners here.



A High Note

Sometimes Saving One Life Can Help Change Your Own

BY JAY COPP

His father calls him “cheeky and cheerful.” Jayden, 3, also is—in the best sense possible—a mimic of sorts. Often confined to a hospital bed while he battles cancer, he’s accustomed to being helped. But he’s learned to do unto others as has been done for him. He’s not afraid to reach out to others in affection.

When his mother reads to him, he energetically claps to show his appreciation. When his illness gets the best of her and her spirits sag, he gently asks, “What’s wrong, mummy?” He consoles her, “Don’t worry.”

Lots of Lions in four nations have worried about Jayden and lent their support since his parents learned he suffered from neuroblastoma, a rare, potentially fatal disease. He’s been

treated in his native Malaysia and then Singapore and, lastly, Spain. If funds can be raised, his parents hope the next stage of treatment will take place in New York, where a vital vaccine is available.

His doctors in Malaysia, unable to provide the necessary sophisticated medical procedures, had almost given up hope after his initial treatments. Jayden’s parents were at a low point, believing they were out of options. What subsequently happened—his odyssey to other nations to receive advanced care—is testament to the network that exists among Lions, as well as their determination to serve and step forward to save the life of a toddler.

“Battling cancer is a marathon. Every new symptom is a reason for sleepless nights,” says his father,

Marcus Ban, who works in the engineering industry. “Jayden currently is living a cheerful life. We’re looking forward to returning home on a high note.”

Lions who have visited with Jayden are struck by his upbeat demeanor, despite the often grueling and painful treatments. “He’s been a fighter since he came into the world. For us, Jayden is a superhero,” says Eduardo Zea of the Barcelona Gaudi Lions Club.

Neuroblastoma commonly occurs in children under 2. Immature cells called neuroblasts do not grow into functioning nerve cells. Instead, for reasons not understood, they become cancer cells. Only 700 cases are diagnosed each year in the United States. When found and treated early on, chances for recov-



Jayden plays doctor—something he's very familiar with after a battle with neuroblastoma that began when he was just two years old.

ery are good in the United States. But outcomes are far less positive in developing nations.

After he and his wife began to despair of securing adequate care, Ban happened to learn about a child with a rare disease who was helped by the Kuala Lumpur Lions Club and other Lions in Malaysia. The story was told in the LION Magazine (September 2018) and regular updates were being given on Facebook and WhatsApp.

“Marcus rang me up,” recalls Stella Foo of the Kuala Lumpur City Lions Club. Kuala Lumpur is the capital of Malaysia with 1.6 million people. “Maybe we can’t help everyone survive, but we could at least save this one life. It meant the whole world to his parents and family.”

Like the other child helped by Malaysian Lions, Jayden was flown to Singapore, where he received surgery and chemotherapy. Unfortunately, the microscopic cancer cells, tiny but ferociously malignant and resilient, often prove to be resistant to chemotherapy. So off Jayden went to Barcelona for eight months or so of immunotherapy.

Lions from the various nations came together to help Jayden, thanks to the Global Action Team (GAT), a worldwide network of Lion leaders that provide Lions and community leaders with access to key programs and tools. GAT promotes membership, leadership, and service.



Jayden and his parents celebrate after getting the green light to go home from his doctor.

Past Council Chair Patrick Chew of Malaysia, a GAT Area Leader, contacted GAT staff at LCI about Jayden’s plight. A meeting was arranged at the LCI convention in Las Vegas with Past Council Chair Patrick, Past District Governor Ken Chew, a GAT Area Leader from New York, and Portia Fagel of the Yonkers Millennium Lions Club in New York.

“This is a great example of how the GAT activated the global Lion-to-Lion network,” says

Global Action Team Chairperson, Past International President Kajit Habanananda. “Lions were able to reach across borders in service.”

Helping Jayden was a no-brainer for another reason: pediatric cancer is one of Lions’ global causes.

Lions have assisted Jayden in numerous ways. Kuala Lumpur Lions donated from their own pocket, appealed for funds on social media, and persuaded other clubs in Malaysia to help. The Singapore

Tanah Merah Lions Club raised funds at its multiple district convention. The Yonkers Millennium Lions Club in New York raised money and acted as a liaison between the family and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. The GAT team at LCI in Oak Brook sent Christmas presents to Barcelona for Jayden.

Lions in Barcelona helped make Jayden and his parents feel at home in their city. They visited the hospital, donated 700 diapers (diarrhea is a nasty side effect of the treatment), presented him with a nifty bathrobe, and even provided the family with a transit card for local transportation. They threw Jayden a birthday party when he turned 3 and gave him a fire truck and a stuffed lion.

Jayden endured treatment for neuroblastoma, a rare cancer affecting young children, in three different countries before being cleared to go home.



Lions have donated nearly 25 percent of the US\$340,000 in medical expenses incurred so far for Jayden's treatment.

"We are forever grateful and indebted to Lions," says Ban. "Their kindness, generosity, and love transcend borders and ethnicity. Lions have helped us grow from despair to hope."

Ban is particularly grateful to Foo for her tireless service on behalf of Jayden. She's the "big bang" at the center of Lions' efforts, he says.

The generosity of Lions has inspired Ban to reach out to other families in similar straits. He and his wife, Mooi Mooi, coordinate a WhatsApp chat room for other families in Spain grappling with neuroblastoma. Five families currently are leaning on Ban and Mooi for advice. "They're strangers here. Life can be really tough. They need help in looking for accommodations, translation services, visas, even groceries," he says.

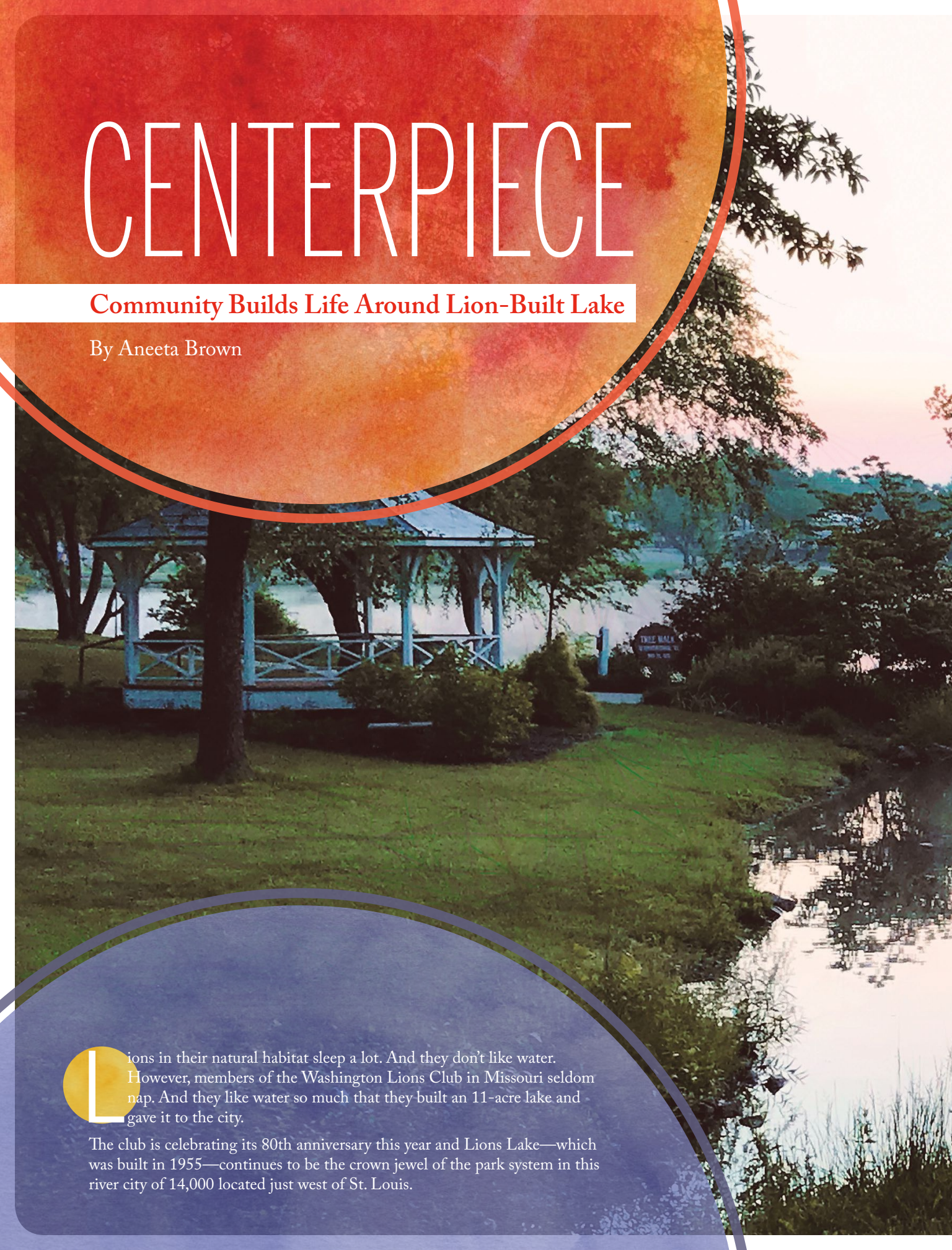
Jayden and his family were expected to return home to Malaysia in April. But to prevent a relapse they'd like Jayden to receive a vaccine treatment, an extension to the immunotherapy, which may become available in Barcelona within a year but is currently offered in New York. Ban is willing to uproot his family to ensure his son stays healthy: he says he is considering relocating to the United States and finding a new job here.

Jayden's care is lifesaving. For involved Lions, it's been life-changing. "I feel good to be someone's light when they are in darkness," says Foo, who has two young children. "I'm a happier soul after seeing what I've done. I feel that we all need help at a certain point in our lives. I know how to love my own family better than before because I know that life is so fragile." **L**

CENTERPIECE

Community Builds Life Around Lion-Built Lake

By Aneeta Brown



Lions in their natural habitat sleep a lot. And they don't like water. However, members of the Washington Lions Club in Missouri seldom nap. And they like water so much that they built an 11-acre lake and gave it to the city.

The club is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year and Lions Lake—which was built in 1955—continues to be the crown jewel of the park system in this river city of 14,000 located just west of St. Louis.





“Lions Lake is of special interest to local birders and has earned a reputation of attracting unusual birds—like loons and trumpeter swans—from time to time.”

In 1954, when the club was just 15 years old, members asked the U.S. Soil Conservation Service to design a lake on city-owned property formerly occupied by a farm. The park commission and city council quickly approved the Lions’ pledged donation of US\$7,000 toward construction of the lake.

Washington was a factory town in the ‘50s, and in 1954 the average factory wage in Missouri was US\$1.73 per hour. A Blue Cross/Blue Shield family healthcare premium was US\$2 a month. Raising US\$7,000 may have deterred other service clubs, but not the Washington Lions.

A front-page news story in the Washington Missourian on March 3, 1955, gave them a leg up as the club announced it would conduct a house-to-house canvas to collect white elephant items for an auction. Merchants and residents donated hundreds of items, netting US\$915. Other club fundraisers included game night, a second white elephant auction, a rodeo, and a professional wrestling match.

When the lake was formally dedicated on May 20, 1956, more than 14,000 fish were released. At the time, the lake was surrounded by farmland with only one quarter of the shoreline planted with trees. Over the years, Lions and the community have made improvements that have slowly turned a simple lake into a destination.

Today the lake is rimmed with giant sycamores and other mature hardwoods, evergreens, shrubs, and flower beds. The city added a walking trail in 1989. Over the decades, the Lions funded construction of four picnic pavilions and a playground.

Lion Jerry Jasper, who served as the city’s Director of Parks and Recreation from 1979 to 2005, was deeply involved in the lake’s largest renovation. “In the early nineties, we took out 800 truckloads of topsoil, completely emptying the lake,” he says. “So much sediment from nearby farmland had drained into the lake that the shoreline was sloping, and algae had become a huge problem.” They cut the banks at a 90-degree angle and armored them with rocks and fencing. When the project was finished, the Lions offered to buy a fountain to keep down the algae and to keep part of the lake from freezing in winter so geese would have fresh water to drink. On its 40th anniversary in 1995, Lions Lake was rededicated.

Vince Borgerding was club president in 1995 when the fountain was proposed. “I really had to fight for that fountain at a city council meeting,” he says, noting that an electric fountain in a lake would add significant costs to park operations. But they won the debate and the club spent US\$10,000 for the new fountain. It lasted 22 years. “When it broke, I got phone calls from people all over city asking me what the Lions were going to do about it,” he says. Last year the club paid US\$27,500 for a new fountain and presented it to the city to install.



Lions Lake is now the centerpiece of the town—a destination for major family and life events. It's the site of first dates, engagement photo shoots, and weddings.

No single public property in Washington attracts more visible wildlife. It is home to geese, ducks, turtles, muskrats, toads, frogs, squirrels, and fish. Deer, eagles, and snakes are there, though they keep a lower profile.

Great Blue Herons, with their stealthy fishing tactics, present regal silhouettes throughout the year. “Lions Lake is of special interest to local birders and has earned a reputation of attracting unusual birds—like loons and trumpeter swans—from time to time,” says Donald Hays, who has taught college-level bird biology classes and is a U.S. Geological Survey Breeding Bird Surveyor. The gazebo at the lake is a favorite spot for prom photos

and small weddings, and an accessible fishing pier draws people of all ages and abilities, including Jimmy West, who lives in a nursing home across the street from the lake and undergoes regular dialysis treatments.

West has studied the Lake for years and knows when the fish might be biting. On those days—in spring, summer, and fall—he loads his fishing gear on his motorized wheelchair, drives across the road to fish for a few happy hours.

James Feltmann, Sr., 93, is the club's oldest and longest serving member. He believes club membership continues to be strong because members welcome men and women with various skills and backgrounds. Interested persons must participate in at least two fundraisers before being proposed for membership. The strategy seems to be working. Washington Lions Club, has a current membership of 183, making it Missouri's second largest club.

In the past 20 years, the club has donated more than US\$750,000 to various local charities, but their most prominent contribution will long remain the lake. **L**



Speaking Leadership in Spokane

USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Heads West

It's a city that seems to have anything you could possibly want: mountains, rivers, lakes, a thriving arts scene, and state-of-the-art shopping. If you're attending this year's USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum September 19-21 in Spokane, Washington, you have a wealth of learning and recreational opportunities ahead of you. The most difficult part will be choosing which to attend. Maybe you can do it all.

First and foremost, the forum will be centrally located in the Convention Center District. So, in between stimulating forum panels and workshops, you can take a break and stroll along the very walkable downtown to check out the boutiques, restaurants, and award-winning wineries and breweries that have helped land Spokane on lists such as USA Today's 10 Best Craft Distilleries.

But despite the array of distraction at your doorstep in Spokane, this year's forum promises to keep you busy and engaged for two and a half days. With more than 70 seminars and workshops to choose from, including "Millennial Mindset: 5 Strategies to Captivate the Younger Generations" and "Leading Without Authority: How to Motivate and guide volunteers who don't have to say 'yes'," you will be sure to find something to inspire you.

Speakers like Joshua Allison, founder and chief Ideator for ThinkCafe, a consulting company committed to solutions for the new workplace, Katherine Greenland, Founder and Principal at Greenland Consulting LLC, Rachelle Strawther, Director of Leadership Training and Development for Gonzaga University's School of Leadership Studies, and Michelle Ray, back by popular demand after her rousing keynote address in Columbus in 2018, this year's forum aims to help you grow as a leader so that you may mentor others to become leaders as well.

Come Early, Stay Late

Extend the trip with tours before and after the forum. Explore Glacier National Park, historic sites, beautiful parks, scenic lakes, unique attractions, and family-owned wineries and craft breweries on professional tours.

Take a look at the opportunities at lionsforum.org.

LCI Forward

UPDATE



There's always room for a new goal. There are no small acts of service. But there are always new ways to think big about service.

Thinking Outside Your Town

In 2004, the Rocklin Lions in California decided they needed to step up their efforts in collecting eye glasses. Until then they had been happy if they collected 35 in a year.

But new club president Max Best decided they could do better. In addition to implementing an expanded drop-box program in their town, they also began contacting local lost and found departments for unclaimed glasses. After some success with that, they asked themselves, “Why limit ourselves to just our town?”

They began contacting the lost and found departments in every casino, hotel chain, police department, and college they could find across the country. They went from collecting 35 glasses per year to collecting between 30,000 and 40,000 per year, with about 25 percent of those collected locally and the remainder gathered from across the U.S.

Buoyed by the success of their new strategies, the club set a goal of collecting half a million eyeglasses. By early 2019, they had collected 504,548.

While this may not be the most any club has collected, this is an example of one club deciding that “good” was actually not good enough. They challenged themselves to think creatively to find new sources for their program, enhancing their service impact.



Share Your Story

Has your club found innovative ways to improve membership value and increase membership, reshaped public opinion and visibility, or enhanced their service impact in a notable way? Tell us at magazine@lionmagazine.org.



Mechanicsburg Lions delivered gifts to the schools in Pennsylvania's Cumberland Valley.

The **Stillwater Noon Lions** in **Oklahoma** checked the vision of 1,249 pre-K through second grade students in Stillwater schools, and this year included students of all ages in private schools and home schooled.

The **San Antonio Founder Lions Club** in **Texas** participated in the Elf Louise Christmas Project, a county-wide event providing gifts to children, and Lions donated US\$5,000 to the Lighthouse for the Blind.

In **Louisiana** the **Alexandria Lions Club** has a long history of supporting Louisiana Lions Camp. The club received a US\$15,000 grant from Pathways Management Group for camp scholarships.

The **Stafford Township Lions Club** in **New Jersey** loans their Vision Enhancer machine to people with low vision, macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, glaucoma or cataracts, enabling them to read and write, and helping them regain their visual independence.

In **Colorado** the **Sterling Lions Club** shipped their one millionth pair of eyeglasses in a program they started in 2001. Glasses are collected all over their state as well as in parts of Wyoming for various charities including Feed The Children, church groups, and individuals worldwide. Inmates at the Sterling Correctional Facility process about 1,500 eyeglasses per week for the Lions.

For the third year in a row the **Mechanicsburg Lions** in **Pennsylvania** delivered gifts to children in five schools for the Cumberland Valley School District's Angel Tree program.

The 75-year-old **Brookfield Lions Club** in **Massachusetts** held its 30th annual ice fishing derby with more than US\$10,000 in cash prizes.

In **Michigan** the **Memphis Lions** are proud of Lion Mike Manchik who leads the group in actively helping the visually impaired veterans at John Dingle Veterans Administration Hospital. Manchik, with the support of the club, held a raffle to support the disabled veterans of southeast Michigan.

Eight members of the **South Carroll Lioness Lions Club** in **Maryland** were recognized at a club meeting, and three—Judy Champ, Barbara Drought and Linda Smith—received Diamond Centennial Award pins. The award honors Lions who recruited new members who have remained in the club for at least three years and a day.

The **Shillington Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** donated \$1,000 to Governor Mifflin School District's 10th Annual Mini-Thon based off the Penn State THON, a 12-hour dance marathon. Students are expected to raise funds to participate, and the Lions' donation will support those students not able to meet fundraising goals to participate in the dance.

The **South Carroll Lioness Lions Club** in **Maryland** sponsors the American Heritage Preservation and Patriotism Essay contest designed to sharpen creative writing skills and strengthen understanding of American heritage. There are five contest levels from elementary to adult, as well as a category for Lions and Lionesses. Winners receive a certificate and US\$50.



Summerside Lion Keith Small organized the club's bowling night with the visually impaired on Prince Edward Island, Canada.

The **Summerside Lions** on **Prince Edward Island, Canada**, enjoyed their annual White Cane Week night of bowling with the visually impaired in Summerside and Charlottetown, although the Lion team lost the trophy to their guests.

In **New Jersey**, the **Haddonfield Lions** and **Haddonfield Memorial High School Leo Club** were honored by the district governor for efforts that included the Senior Center Valentine Dance, and the annual Holiday Shopping Spree for Children with Visual Disabilities.

The **Eynon Archbald Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** held their eighth annual Snowflake Gala benefitting Leader Dogs for the Blind.



The Avon Grove Charter Middle School Leos spent a day at the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware touring the house and making snacks for the residents.

Fifty seniors taught the teens how to salsa, do the cupid shuffle and electric slide at their prom sponsored by the Haddonfield Memorial High School Leo Club in New Jersey.



Lions Quest Students Partner with Leos to Protect the Environment

BY JAMIE KONIGSFELD

Ganesha is the Elephant God, the remover of obstacles, the patron saint of arts and sciences, and the deva of intellect and wisdom. As no Hindu event starts without first invoking Ganesha, Lions Quest students and Leos find great importance in finding a way to honor Ganesha, and in an environmentally friendly way.

Every year during August or September, the birth of Ganesha is celebrated with the Hindu festival, Ganesh Chaturthi. During this time, participants worship Ganesha idols for 10 days and then immerse them in the sea or in other pools of water. Many of the ingredients to create the Ganesha idols are pollutants, and when millions of these idols are immersed into local seawater, lakes, ponds, and wells, the water becomes polluted with toxins and kills marine life, year after year, causing great damage to the underwater ecosystem.

To change this practice, middle school students in Bangalore, India are creating environmentally friendly clay idols as part of a Lions Quest service project led by Leos. Lions Quest is Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)'s social and emotional learning curriculum. The pre-kindergarten through grade 12 program promotes positive behavior; anti-bullying; drug, alcohol, and tobacco awareness; character education;



A traditional Ganesha idol is immersed into the sea.

and service learning all while building a connection to school. Skills for Adolescence, the Lions Quest curriculum for grades 6, 7, and 8, promotes positive student behavior that will lead to greater academic success. Students develop the knowledge to say no to negative peer pressure and make healthy choices that will follow them outside the classroom into their community.

One aspect of the program that Lions and Leos can especially connect with is service learning. At a nearby high school, there are Leos in each grade level who are part of the Someshwarapura Legacy Leo Club. Their primary role is to promote Lions Quest and to lead service projects with their classmates and other area schools. The Leos recognize the local water pollution as a big problem and want to make a difference.

Each year, a month in advance of the celebration, the Leos guide students through making their own environmentally friendly clay Ganesha idols. They take time to show the students how to carefully sculpt each part of the



A Program of Lions
Clubs International
Foundation

idol. They also visit other schools, colleges, and temples to spread the word and teach others. Each year, the Leos teach a new class of students how to make their own clay Ganesha that will not harm the earth, a skill the students can pass along to their family and friends.

When the students finish creating their Ganesha, they proudly take it home, worship it for 10 days, and then immerse it into a bucket full of water. Afterward, the bucket of water, which has no pollutants, only clay, is used to water plants. Year after year, the students learn taking care of the environment can be easy and they are proud to be contributing toward a healthier environment for their city and homes. By working to change a centuries-old tradition, the students' service is promoting a healthier environment for generations to come.

Visit LCIF.org/BE100 to learn how Campaign 100 will protect the environmental health of our global communities, generating long-term, positive ecological impact.



Leo Yashas teaches the schoolchildren how to make environmentally friendly clay Ganesha idols.



Two students present their versions of the environmentally friendly clay Ganesha idols.

LION



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JUNE 2019

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95 Years: Bristol Host, Va.; Steubenville, Ohio; Garner, Iowa; Fulton, Ky.; Guthrie Center, Iowa; La Porte City, Iowa; Chambersburg, Pa.; Rocky Mount, Va.

90 Years: Redwood Falls, Minn.; Whiting, Ind.; Talihina, Okla.; Brillion, Wis.; Camden, Maine; Edmonton Host, Alberta, CAN; Burlingame, Calif.; Kingsville, Texas; Santa Cruz Host, Calif.; Manawa, Wis.

85 Years: Iraan, Texas; Kona, Hawaii; Tilbury, Ontario, CAN; Parkesburg, Pa.; Gainesville, Ga.

80 Years: Rowland, N.C.; Titusville, Pa.; Three Oaks, Mich.; Oradell, N.J.; Union City, Pa.; Canal Winchester, Ohio; Kutztown, Pa.; Jasper, Ga.; Wood Ridge, N.J.; Franklin, N.C.; Tionesta, Pa.; Leonia, N.J.; Winfield, Ala.; Meridian, Calif.; Bradford, Ohio; Hamilton, Ind.; Wrightstown, Wis.

75 Years: Anchorage, Alaska; San Francisco Park Presidio, Calif.; Waverly, Iowa; Mason, Mich.; Bala Cynwyd Narberth, Pa.; Northport Centerport, N.Y.; Milford, Ind.; National City Host, Calif.; Somerset, Mass.; Clawson, Mich.; Minden City, Mich.; Edwardsville, Ill.

50 Years: Roseville Sunrise, Calif.; Elk Rapids, Mich.; Warwick, Quebec, Can; Angelica, N.Y.; Narragansett, R.I.; Graham Evening, Texas; Greater Pine Island, Fla.; South Portland Thornton, Maine; Fernie, British Columbia, CAN; West Boylston, Mass.; Lincoln and Area, New Brunswick, CAN

25 Years: Sinton Nite, Texas; San Antonio Alamo Postal, Texas; Chilliwick Dogwood, British Columbia, CAN; Addison, Ill.; Lakeville Lakeside, Minn.; Bloomingdale-Gobles Kal Hav, Mich.; Lascassas & Milton, Tenn.; Salem Hanging Rock, Va.

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



Prickly Partner

Fifth grade students enjoy a full day of outdoor learning and exploration in the Sonoran Desert at Camp Cooper in Tucson, Arizona. Thanks to the generosity of Camp Cooper and the South Tucson Cyber & Lions Club, school children get hands-on learning about how to live more lightly on the earth.

Fall Into Service.

We Serve. It's a simple yet powerful motto that Lions adopted in 1954 after an international contest among members. And today, it still inspires us. Celebrate our global service with a "We Serve" item.

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