

LION

JULY/AUGUST 2019 LIONMAGAZINE.ORG



**International President
Dr. Jung-Yul Choi**

Bridging Divides Through Diversity



Lions Clubs International



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

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FIGHT

the global epidemic
of diabetes

EXPAND

our global causes to
childhood cancer,
hunger, and the
environment

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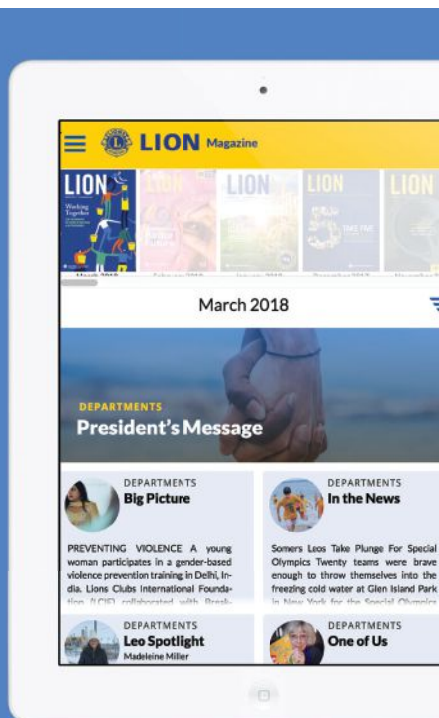
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VIDEOS

PAY IT FORWARD

International President Dr. Choi discusses the value of giving forward.

NEPALESE LIONS CLUBS GROW IN CALIFORNIA

San Francisco Bay Area Nepalese Lions clubs are rapidly growing in numbers and service, showcasing how specialty clubs can transform a community.



THE VAULT



February 1953

Pied Pipers of Cedar County

Lions do the dirty work of ridding a town of its rat residents.



January 1965

Welcome to Tiny Town

A tiny village in Denmark was built—and governed—by children.

HIGHER KEY AWARDS

Lions honored for sponsoring members.

WE SERVE

MISSION STATEMENT OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL:

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

CONTACTING THE LION

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

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Let All Our Lights Brighten the Darkness

Greetings Lions!

It is my great pleasure to address the Lion community for the first time as your International President.

As we enter a new Lion year I have high hopes for us. My focus during my presidency is on fostering diversity in service. After all, there are more than 1.4 million Lions around the world, and each of us is unique. And every one matters. This means that we have to do more than just recognize what makes us different. We have to embrace it.

There is a path I walk in my hometown of Busan, South Korea. I wake up early, before sunrise, and walk. It clears my head, and it's good for my spirit. I particularly enjoy watching the change from darkness to light. When I begin the day I am in the dark. As I walk, my mind clears and the sky brightens. Over the course of that walk, how I see the world is, literally, transformed.

It's always interesting to see something from another vantage point. Whether it's in a new light or from someone else's perspective. Often, you see things you couldn't see before. Let your fellow Lions and your community be the sun. Let them shine light on what you may not have seen. You may not agree with how they see things, but only by looking at things clearly in the light of day can we hope to find common ground.

And perhaps among all those points of view you'll be able to see solutions to issues your community faces that you hadn't been able to see before.

I truly believe that by embracing diversity we will grow—as Lions and as people.

Here's to the beginning of a new year of serving through diversity.

Sincerely,

Jung-Yul Choi

Dr. Jung-Yul Choi

International President, Lions Clubs International



We Serve.

School's In For Summer

For two years Shivani Sharma, 8, (in purple, raising her hand) has attended a Nepalese School started by Lions. The school is a place for her to connect to her roots and meet others with the same cultural background. Here she's learning how to combine the letters of the Nepalese alphabet to create words. Sharma can speak the language but finds writing it difficult. See story on page 30.





LION Magazine Reducing Print Issues

In April, the International Board of Directors voted to require all official editions of LION Magazine to print at least two issues per year beginning in July 2020, which means that LION magazines around the world will soon be printing fewer issues. We will print four issues of this edition during the 2019-2020 Lion year, and two issues beginning in July 2020.

The board considered that the original intent of LION Magazine, which began publishing in 1918, was to provide timely updates to members. Today, the board believes digital communication channels such as email, the lionsclubs.org website, the international blog, social media, and MyLion are better equipped to provide those updates.

LION magazine is committed to telling the life-changing stories of Lions and will continue to do so both in print and digital formats.



Looking Ahead

September

International Literacy Day
9/8

International Day of Peace
9/21

October

Vision Awareness Month

World Sight Day 10/10

United Nations Day 10/24

November

Diabetes Awareness Month

World Kindness Day 11/13

World Diabetes Day 11/14

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

How One Essay Inspired Texas Club to Quintuple Scholarship Funds

The original idea was that the Zapata Lions Club in Zapata, Texas, would fund three college scholarships worth US\$1,000 each to the winners of an essay contest for area Leos.

Then they read the essays. The Zapata Lions were so moved by Valedictorian Gerardo Gonzalez's essay about life as an immigrant and DACA student—fleeing violence in his home country and coming to the United States when he was just 5 years old only to watch his parents struggle to find work—that they knew they needed to do more for him and the other deserving students.

Club President Aurelio Villarreal turned to the community. In total, the club raised US\$4,500 themselves and received US\$9,000 in matching donations from universities, US\$3,500 from the 50-year Lion Member Guadalupe & Lilia Foundation, and US\$2,000 from private donors.

In total they awarded US\$19,000 in scholarships.

"To me, this puts life in perspective," says Villarreal. "If somebody asks me why I'm a Lion, I say it's because I believe we can make a difference. Our original goal was to give US\$3,000. Instead we gave out US\$19,000. I guess we did make a difference."



L IN THE NEWS

OVERHEARD

“I wanted a bright future along with other children. And if they only work in the field, the future wouldn’t be bright”

—**PDG Rajen Thapa**, on why he made it his mission to convince parents in his Nepalese town to send their children to school. See story page 30.

“The club president is the most crucial leadership position. We should serve them, help them achieve their goals.”

—**Incoming International President, Dr. Jung-Yul Choi**. See story page 28.

“Well, first there’s hanging with my Papa. He’s cool. And then there’s doing something good for somebody else. And I guess it’s exercise.”

—**Eleven-year-old Justin Hoving**, on why he likes hunting for lost golf balls and selling them to fund Lions’ projects. See story page 40.

BY THE NUMBERS

485

Umbrellas handed out to students by the Lions Club of Erode Midtown in India.

36

Desks placed in each shipping container repurposed as a classroom for refugee children in Turkey by Lions of Sweden and Turkey.

75

Minutes it takes to fry 40 pounds of French fries with the new custom trailer built and designed by the Mt. Washington Inc. Lions in Kentucky.

4,100

Pieces of chicken cooked and served for the 65th Annual Mount Pleasant Lions’ Barbecue in Mt. Pleasant’s Island Park, Michigan.

882

Bouquets of wild daffodils handed out to the homebound, hospital patients, and nursing and retirement home residents by Cecilton Lions in Maryland.



Making it Easier to Make a Big Impact

Global Action Team (GAT) Connects Lions Around the World

What is the GAT?

In the world of Lions there are three letters with the ability to significantly enhance your and your club's service impact: G. A. T. (Global Action Team). By now, you may have heard of the GAT, but maybe still don't fully understand exactly what it does or how it can make an impact on service outcomes. That's okay.

Simply put, the GAT is a global support team. It offers clubs and districts direct access to resources and tools from Lions International headquarters, so Lions can benefit from a wider network and, just maybe, accomplish a project they thought was out of reach.

You already know them

Each club president acts as the GAT chairperson for their club and each district governor acts as the GAT district chairperson. Do you have a big idea? Want to do something you aren't sure your club can accomplish alone? Talk to your GAT chairperson—your club president—and find out what resources LCI has to help.

Take a local project and turn it national

The power of the GAT is in the actions of many Lions working together. Through teamwork, big ideas can be brought to life, even if the club and its resources are small.

In Kenya, when the Ministry of Health made diabetes a national focus, GAT leaders saw an opportunity to expand the work Kenyan clubs were already doing to fight diabetes.

Lions leveraged professional expertise and partnerships with healthcare providers, Lions hospitals, and diabetes centers to provide comprehensive screenings, follow-up care and educational materials and resources to communities throughout Kenya.

With the help of the GAT, what began as Lions seizing an opportunity to meet community needs by providing diabetes education and care grew into a movement, serving nearly half a million people.

Activate the global Lion network

In Malaysia, Jayden, a young boy with a brain tumor was looking at a grim prognosis. His doctors in Malaysia, unable to provide the necessary sophisticated medical procedures needed to cure him, had almost given up hope after his initial treatments.

But then his parents heard about Lions.

GAT leaders from multiple countries arranged to meet at the international convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, to discuss how they could activate the global Lion network to help get Jayden treatment.

Less than a year since the initial meeting at convention, Jayden has been sent home cancer free.

Through the network that is the GAT, Lions from three nations came together to help get Jayden the treatment he so desperately needed to have a chance at life.

"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."

Reach out

Think you could use the help of the GAT? Find out more at lionsclubs.org/en/gat

As a Lion, you have more power than you think.

CROATIA

Smooth Sailing Service

Every spring Sea Cowboys, Awkward Turtles, Energy Pirates, Slovenian Sharks, and Hungarian Sea Lions line the coast of Croatia off the Adriatic Sea. These are just some of the creative names Lions have given their boats for the annual regatta organized by the District 126 Croatia Lions to raise money for prevention and rehabilitation programs for people with narcotics dependencies.

It began more than 20 years ago as an initiative from Lions clubs of Zagreb and Split. “The narcotics dependency in Croatia overall is possibly like in any other countries,” says PDG Drazen Melcic, who helps organize the event. “But this problem is bigger at the coast, where the economy is weak and relies heavily on summer tourism.”

Over the 21 years they’ve been doing the event, Melcic estimates they’ve donated between US\$150,000 to \$200,000.

For the first 16 years the regatta was limited to only Croatian crews. Five years ago they opened it up to crews in other nations, and in 2019 had 30 international crews from Albania, Austria, Bosnia & Hercegovina, England, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, and Sweden in addition to 20 crews from host District 126 in Croatia.

“We invite the crews to have symbolic, fantasy, and funny names for their crews,” says Melcic. And the crews don’t let them down. One crew was named “Ah Sofia” in reference to where the eclectic crew met—at the Advanced Lions Leadership Institute (ALLI) in Sofia, Bulgaria during the Europa forum in 2016. That particular crew was made up of Lions from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, and Slovenia.

“This big Lions event provides a perfect opportunity for many Lions from many countries to meet and serves at least two main goals: Promoting the fellowship of Lions and sharing our stories,” says Melcic.



TURKEY

From Boats to Blackboards

Shipping containers get second life as mobile classrooms for displaced people

When the Syrian civil war came to a climax toward the end of 2014, a surge of people began to flee the intense bombings in the region. Lions were ready. For more than three years Lions in Turkey have partnered with Lions in Sweden to provide aid to refugees in Turkey along the Syrian border. But it soon became clear that food and shelter wasn't going to be all that was needed.

"We started with the distribution of emergency aid goods in a village in Suruc, Turkey, which took in 250,000 [people] in one week," says PDG Nilgun Niord. As the number of refugees grew, Lions coordinated a partnership with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) so they could keep up with the growing need.

The food and other emergency items were life-saving, but as the days turned to months, a new problem arose. In the towns where the bulk of the refugees had landed, there was not enough room in the local classrooms for the influx of new children. It would be too difficult to add classrooms to existing schools, so Niord began working with the Ministry of Education in Adana, Turkey on other ways to increase capacity.

They decided to try shipping containers. The 40-foot containers create 300 square feet of internal

space each and can be outfitted to be suitable as classrooms and placed anywhere. In Adana they were placed in the school gardens.

Lions added blackboards, projection equipment, and air conditioning to make it comfortable. "We tried it out with just one classroom first," says Niord. Now they have 55. "It's like we've added two big schools," says Niord.

The success of the container classrooms got the Lions thinking about what else they could use them for. The portability of the containers means they are easy to place and can be moved elsewhere when no longer needed.

With funding from all Scandinavian countries in addition to the Mavi Halic and Resatbey Lions Clubs in Turkey, Lions have begun using the containers to host adult education classes, stage trauma centers, and multi-purpose meeting halls for refugees. They help parents navigate their new life in Turkey with information on legal services, and even provide practical information such as health and child-rearing methods.

The trauma centers help children deal with the violence they've seen, and adjust to their new life in Turkey. So far, they have provided group meetings and one-on-one therapy for more than 350 children



in just a few months of their pilot program.

When people are forced from their home country, their needs are many. Most will never return to their home country. The container classrooms are one of the many services Lions in Sweden and Turkey are providing to orphans and widows in need. "Children taken into the education system will grow up integrated into society," says Niord. And Lions will help them do it.

USA

Nothing Fishy About this Idea

The Lions in Mt. Washington, Kentucky, host more than 30 fundraising fish fries a year, selling more than 15,000 pieces of fresh fish.

For the people in their area south of Louisville that means there are multiple opportunities to get a good dinner while supporting a great cause. But for members of the Mt. Washington, Inc. club, every fish fry also meant several volunteers were needed just to haul fryers, product, and other equipment back and forth from the Lions' clubhouse to the event site. It could take hours.

Lions Donald Jessie and Scott Vincent came up with an idea to change that, modernizing and streamlining their operation. With the club's new custom-designed, all-in-one 26-foot cooking trailer,

two people can pick up, deliver, and set up for the fish fry in about 30 minutes.

Jessie and Vincent, lead volunteers on the project, located a trailer for sale in Georgia and hauled it home to Kentucky. Then each spent at least 80 hours embellishing it to meet all their club needs, aiming for not just a good-looking trailer, but a highly functional one. Several club members and local businesses pitched in to make the transformation a reality.

"The main thing was to try and use every square inch of it," says Vincent. "It's like anything you do. You envision it and it's great when you see it come to reality."

The new Lions trailer has four deep fryers, one full size chest freezer, two refrigerators, six 10-pound propane tanks, and a generator. Aluminum shelving with doors, designed for free by a local fabricator, keeps the weight of the trailer down and allows the Lions to organize and store everything

from warming lights to bread racks.

One key detail was making sure the trailer would fit into the club building, says Vincent. It did, but only by a few inches.

In addition to the Lions' monthly fries and their attendance at local events like the Mount Washington Spring Fest, every year the club holds a fish fry on-site at each of the eight area schools. Lions provide the fish and the trailer, and the students provide the volunteer help.

The Lions have also appreciated the support of the Lionesses of Mt. Washington who provide homemade pies and cakes at many of their fish fries.

On the back, the new trailer says "Follow Us To The Fish Fry." Why not? With the new setup they can have 40 pieces of fresh fish ready in five minutes.

That's at least enough to get the party started.



Lions Donald Jessie and Scott Vincent are the men behind their club's custom 26-foot cooking trailer.

USA

Paradise Is Not Lost

California's catastrophic Camp Fire in November burned more than 150,000 acres, killing 86 people and destroying close to 20,000 structures. Thousands of people fled for their lives.

It was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in the state's history.

But one thing remains unable to be destroyed by flames. That's hope, hope that altered lives can slowly be healed, homes can be rebuilt, and a devastated community can be restored.

The Lions of California Grass Valley Gold Country, about 80 miles south of the fire range, wanted to share in that dream. They designed a calendar to show what can be again.

"There is always hope that will rise from the ashes," says Club President Tom Parilo.

Their "Paradise is Not Lost" calendar fosters that hope, month by month, and through the sale of it the Lions have earned US\$11,500 to support the displaced families and businesses that are victims of the fire.

While the cover features dramatic images of the fire, a cleanup crew, and burning structures, the inside pages of the calendar reinforce the joy that has historically been a part of living in Paradise and the neighboring foothill towns of Butte County.

Lions worked with a photographer and the local newspaper to access archived photos of happier days including the winter ice rink, Paradise Gold Nugget Day, and swimming at Paradise Lake in Magalia.

Lion Ken Eslik, the project chair, says their work became a community effort with support from about 30 merchants, 12 Lions clubs, two newspapers, the local radio station, and a school.

"We wanted to do our part to help survivors recover, and this was just our little way of trying to help," says Eslik. "It's truly a community effort, and it's a reflection of the giving hearts of those we live among."



Lions Helping Lions

"How can clubs like the Paradise Host Lions keep going when it's taking 100 percent of their energy to help the community?" asks Jackson [California] Lions Club President Mike Bohl.

Well, the Lions will help them.

In June, about seven months after the devastating fire in northern California, members of the Jackson Lions drove 135 miles to treat the Paradise Host Lions and their hard-working community guests to a tri-tip dinner.

The restaurant where the Paradise club regularly met had burned to the ground, so they weren't sure where they would host the dinner. But the Paradise Elks, whose lodge had also been destroyed by fire, came to their aid. The Elks had leased a new building and were happy to allow the Lions to use it for an evening.

The Jackson Lions Club also led District 4A1's 55 Lions clubs in collecting funds to help seed the treasury for the Paradise Host Lions who have been unable to run normal fundraisers, said Bohl in early spring. They expected to surprise the Paradise club with US\$5,000.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Reykjavik, Iceland

April 3-6, 2019

AUDIT COMMITTEE

1. The committee will continue to monitor and follow up on action plans.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

1. Appointed International Director Dr. Datuk Naga to serve as the Coordinating Lion for the former District 301-A1 (Philippines) for fiscal year 2019-2020.
2. Approved the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Board Representation for fiscal year 2019-2020; established the objectives, duties, meeting schedule and budget for the ad hoc committee and authorized the international president, in consultation with the Executive Officers, to appoint one past international president or past international director from each constitutional area and Africa, with one of the members appointed to serve as the chairperson of the committee and that the ad hoc committee appointments will be effective upon confirmation by the international president and continue until the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year.
3. Authorized the General Counsel to grant a non-exclusive license to the Fondation Des Lions De France and the Lions Australia Fund for LCIF to use the name "Lions" and the association's emblem in accordance with the association's trademark policies. Further authorized the Lions Foto Club MD 108 Italy to use the name "Lions" and the association's emblem in accordance with the association's trademark policies contingent upon the removal of the term "club" from the name of the foundation.
4. Revised Chapter II, Paragraph C. of the Board Policy Manual to amend the charter of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee to include the committee's responsibilities related to governance and risk management.
5. Revised Chapter VII, Paragraph A.1., A.2., A.3. and A.4., of the Board Policy Manual to remove unnecessary language.
6. Revised the Standard Form District Constitution and By-Laws in the Board Policy Manual to correct an inaccurate reference in the Rule 6(d) of the Rules of Procedure – Special Meeting to Recommend a Lion for Appointment as First or Second Vice District Governor.
7. Adopted a resolution to be reported to the 2019 International Convention to amend Article 5, Section 3 of the International Constitution to add a new constitutional area of Africa and to add representation of one new international director to Africa in even-numbered years; rename the constitutional area of ISAAME to ISAME; and list the constitutional areas in numeric order.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

1. Selected Atlanta, Georgia, USA as the destination for the 2026 International Convention.

DISTRICT AND CLUB SERVICE COMMITTEE

1. Approved the Club and District Excellence Award requirements for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.
2. Granted relief for June 2019 Semi-Annual Dues Billing for the Palu Maleo Lions Club of District 307-B2 (Indonesia) and dues prior to the December 2018 Semi-Annual Dues Billing for the Juba Host Lions Club of undistricted South Sudan.
3. Granted the Republic of Bulgaria provisional region status at the close of the 2019 International Convention.
4. Approved the appointment of Coordinating Lions for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.
5. Approved the creation of district 301-A4 (Philippines).
6. Approved the appointment of district governors for the provisional districts for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.
7. Appointed Past District Governor Alf-Goran Andersson to serve as district governor for District 101-S (Sweden) through the close of the 2019 International Convention.

8. Revised Chapter VII, Exhibit A, Standard Form District Constitution, Article VI, Section 2 so that the district global action team coordinators and the LCIF district coordinator are non-voting members of the district cabinet.
9. Provided official name badges for past board appointees and board liaisons.

FINANCE AND HEADQUARTERS OPERATION COMMITTEE

1. Amended the Investment Policy Statement for the International Association of Lions Clubs General Fund with the revised Broad Asset Allocation.
2. Approved the FY 2018-2019 3rd Quarter Forecast, reflecting a deficit.
3. Amended the Investment Policy Statement for the Retirement Income Plan for the Employees of the International Association of Lions Clubs with the revised Target Allocation.
4. Revised Chapter V of the Board Policy Manual.
5. Revised Chapter XI of the Board Policy Manual.
6. Revised Chapter XXI of the Board Policy Manual.
7. Revised the B.2. Executive Officer Travel and Expense Reimbursement Policy.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Approved the curriculum plan and schedule for the 2019-2020 First Vice District Governors/District Governors-Elect Seminar.
2. Amended Board Policy Manual regarding the Emerging Lions Leadership Institute and the Regional Lions Leadership Institute to prepare for future modifications to these programs.
3. Amended Board Policy Manual to clarify the timing of certification expiration and the recertification period for the Lions Certified Instructor Program.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. Reviewed the status of existing and upcoming key LCI Forward initiatives: Rollout of global causes, Campaign 100, MyLion, new website and Learning Management System.
2. Recommended an amendment to the International Constitution establishing a new constitutional area designated as "Africa" be presented to the delegates for approval at the 2019 International Convention.
3. Discussed the overall board representation and recommended that further analysis regarding board representation be considered.
4. Reviewed club officer survey results which identified the need to assess clubs' evolving needs and opportunities and to inform future training programs.
5. Discussed in detail the current process of annual goal-setting by DGEs and possible ways to enhance effectiveness.
6. Reviewed the continuing growth trends of women membership worldwide.
7. Continued its review of the Long Range Planning Committee charter and adopted revisions to align with LCI Forward.

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Revised Chapter II, Paragraph J. of the Board Policy Manual to update the Marketing Communications Committee charter to better align with current and future association priorities.
2. Revised Chapter XVI of the Board Policy Manual to remove outdated information on LION Magazine.
3. Revised Chapter XVI, Paragraph B.1. of the Board Policy Manual to add Nepal as an official edition of LION Magazine, effective July 1, 2019.
4. Revised Chapter XVI, Paragraphs A.14. and B.3. of the Board Policy Manual to reduce the minimum required print editions of official editions of LION Magazine from four per year to two per year, and update reimbursement to official editions from USD \$4.00 per member to USD \$2.00 per member, paid bi-annually, effective July 1, 2020.

5. Revised Chapter XIX, Paragraph F. of the Board Policy Manual to designate the International President may distribute International President's Certificates of Appreciation to Executive Officers, International Directors, Past International Directors, Past International Presidents, and any other title designated by the International President, effective July 1, 2019.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Recommended that the Family Membership Pilot Program in Japan be discontinued in October 2019.
2. The 2019-2020 GAT operational plan and changes effective July 1, 2019:
 - Discontinuation of Vice Chairperson positions.
 - Consolidation of CA level GST, GMT, GLT positions to a single CA level GAT position.
 - Discontinuation of CA level Vice Chairperson positions.
 - Creation of GAT Regional Leader positions for some countries in OSEAL.
 - Consolidation of Area level GST, GMT, GLT positions to a single Area level GAT position. Reduction of overall number of area level positions.
 - All positions will be annual appointments.
3. Separated the Lioness Initiative from the Join Together Program and established the Lioness Bridge Program, which would expire on June 30, 2021.
4. Approved 8 Lions and 9 Leos as part of the Leo Clubs Advisory Panel for July 2019-June 2021 term, along with 6 alternate Lions and 5 alternate Leos.
5. Requested that all future references to the Leo Lion membership type be modified and designated as Leo-Lion.
6. Added punitive language to the Family Membership Program to prevent abuse or misuse of the discount for family members not living in the same household (with the exception of those members under age 26 if they are pursuing higher education or serving in their country's military) or to non-family members.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

1. Resolved to retire the Club Twinning program, effective July 1, 2019.
2. Resolved to retire the Children's Symposium program, effective July 1, 2019.
3. Voted on winners of the Partners in Service video contest.
4. Approved changes to service activity reporting, including the reinstatement of signature activities, reporting sub-categories, and the 3,000 cap on reported beneficiaries for each service activity. These changes will be incorporated when Service Activities Reporting transitions from MyLCI to MyLion on July 1, 2019.
5. Approved the Lions Clubs International and Wellness Initiative joint work plan.
6. Approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the American Association of Diabetes Educators.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

1. Established a Privacy Working Group that would report directly to the Technology Committee on GDPR topics. The Privacy Working group would act as the liaison between the GDPR Advisory Group and the Technology Committee. The international president would appoint members of the Privacy Working Group from Lions from Constitutional Area IV.
2. Approved the ERP finance implementation initiative with the understanding that the formal approval of the proposed division budget will take place in June 2019 at Milan.

For more information on any of the above resolutions, please refer to the LCI Web site at www.lionsclubs.org or contact the International Office at 630-571-5466.



We Serve

all people in all places. Lions are a shining example to the world of the good that can be accomplished by uniting in harmony. We're known for our strength and ability to help others—and this is only accomplished

Through Diversity.



Lions Clubs International



Diversity Bridges All Divides

Creating Harmony Through Service
With International President
Dr. Jung-Yul Choi

Hard work. The importance of giving your all with consistency, vision and passion. Never allowing someone in crisis to go unserved. These are the values passed on by a loving mother to her son—103rd International President, Dr. Jung-Yul Choi.

As a member of the Busan Jae-il Lions Club in the Republic of Korea for over 40 years, International President Choi leads by example. His career and life have been defined by the work ethic instilled in him as a child, along with a passion to bridge differences, connect people, and embrace diversity to create harmony for all.

As a young lieutenant in the military, he worked as a translator, empowering a greater understanding of other nations for his fellow soldiers and his country. As a business owner, he worked across borders, establishing trust internationally. As a husband and a father, he has been loving, strong and devoted. And now, as international president, Dr. Jung-Yul Choi is ready to help Lions come together in greater unity than ever before.

He will lead our Lion family with the same wisdom his mother instilled in her family: ***If you work harder than you're expected to, then extraordinary results will come.***





Diversifying Our Service

Uniting Clubs and Communities Around the World

The world is facing many challenges. Natural disasters, famine and disease. Conflict, prejudice and greed. The unfortunate reality is that there will always be difficulties for us as global citizens to overcome. Yet, history has also shown the potential for creative and peaceful solutions to these problems, a path to a more harmonious existence. While the problems may seem insurmountable when faced alone, we can all take comfort in our strength, our nearly 1.4 million Lions, and our incredible ability to engineer solutions.

Love. Compassion. Inclusion. Connection.

Only through a diverse group of perspectives, including people of all backgrounds and all places, can we realize our full potential as Lions and serve the diverse needs of our communities, and the world. There's a reason we've each chosen to be a part of Lions Clubs International. It's because we value the insight, the beliefs and the heart of others, and we realize the greater good that can only be achieved when we join together as one.

“

*Each of our 1.4 million members is different.
These very differences are what make us strong.
They make us great. They make us Lions.*

International President, Dr. Jung-Yul Choi

”

good is everywhere



the domino of good

Paying It Forward

The Moment that Launched a Lifetime of Service

It's morning in Busan, and a young Jung-Yul Choi sits and works. All is quiet, except for the typical sounds of an office—the clatter of typing, pages turning, drawers opening and closing.

But then something happens. There's a loud crash from the street below. At the window, Choi discovers what has happened: A milk delivery boy, no older than 18, has crashed his bike. Glass bottles are shattered and

milk is spilling across the sidewalk while the boy watches helplessly.

Choi rushes out and asks, "Are you okay?"

The boy says he's fine, but Choi can tell that all is not okay. Milk comes at a high cost, and this boy has just lost a lot of it. Surely he will lose his pay, and may even go into debt to pay for it.

And so Choi asks, "How much will this cost you?"

The boy is proud and humble, but he reluctantly replies, "300 dollars."

Choi takes out his wallet and hands the boy the money he's lost. The boy hesitates, but then takes it. "Thank you," he says. "How can I ever repay you for this kindness?"

"You cannot repay me with money," Choi says. "You can repay me by helping another person in need. You can repay me by working harder than you think you're able to, every day of your life."

The boy nods, then gets back on his bike and waves goodbye. The young Choi watches the boy ride into the city, wondering where he is truly going from here.

A Lion Is Born

The Importance of Sharing Our Service

In the Republic of Korea, there is a belief that resonates through its over 51 million citizens. It's the belief that all people should live with dignity and that each person should be provided with basic needs. There's an underlying idea that doing good is not a one-time act, but rather a vital part of everyday life.

Helping others live with dignity may be fundamental to Koreans, but this story is the moment Dr. Choi realized that service was more than a duty—it was his calling. And this story almost

went untold. That's because service is seen as a personal and humble experience in Korea, not something to be boasted about.

Dr. Choi, like Lions, didn't do the right thing for attention. He did it simply because it was the right thing to do. The story of selfless service is common among Lions. We are all connected to something bigger than ourselves. We've chosen to dedicate our efforts to the greater good. And the world is a better place because of it.

And while it's in his nature and the nature of many Lions to serve without bringing attention to their good deeds, it's also important that we share and celebrate them.

The story that sparked a lifetime of service in International President Dr. Choi is surely similar to that of many Lions around the world. It's important that we share our stories so we can spark the imagination—and the spirit of service—in our communities and around the world.

The Many Ways We Serve

This Year's Global Priorities

Specialty Clubs

While Lions serve a wide range of needs in their communities, more and more clubs are forming around a specific area of interest, a single cause or common background. Specialty clubs allow people to join a community focused on common pursuits and interests—growing membership and helping our organization do even greater good.

Members of All Ages

Our members represent every culture, background and generation. This year, we can strengthen our clubs—for today and tomorrow—by inviting young people and seniors to join us in service. This multi-generational approach is critical to unifying people, leveraging skills and experience, and making clubs a welcoming place for all.

Global Causes

Our new global causes give Lions around the world new opportunities to unite so we can address some of the most pressing issues facing humanity. This year, we're encouraging all clubs to expand their service and use the resources available to them to make an even bigger difference in their communities.

Service Journey

Learn, Discover, Act, Celebrate. These are the four phases of our new Service Journey, a comprehensive way for Lions to increase their service impact through access to resources surrounding our global causes. When we serve, we grow. And we were never meant to stop.

Supporting Our Foundation

Campaign 100 is a three-year effort by Lions Clubs International Foundation to raise \$US300 million, with the goal of empowering the service of Lions around the world. As we enter the second year of the campaign, we want to keep our momentum going by encouraging everyone to give what they can. Together, we can bring long-term change and lasting hope to the communities that need us most.



harmony of kindness

Lions Serve the World

Strengthening Our Clubs and Communities Through Diversity

Diversity is more than a defining characteristic for Lions. It's also the key to success. Here's how we can help diversify our leadership, membership and service so you can have a stronger club and make an even bigger impact in your community.

Leading by Example


Great leaders have always been at the heart of great success. This year, we want to make the development of leaders an even stronger focus. Every Lion is a leader, and we want to make sure that all members are given the opportunity to develop as leaders, and that each leader is trained and supported.

Our Members Are Our Communities

Each person looking to serve brings unique experiences, skills and perspective with them. And each new member can help us do even more good in our communities. Let's recognize the good in all, and make sure those who are ready to make a difference have an opportunity to serve as Lions.

Expanding Our Service

The needs of our neighbors, communities and the world are great. That's why we have set a goal of helping more than 200 million people per year, every year. So consider supporting one of our global causes or taking on a new project that serves a pressing need in your community.

hearts in rhythm 

Great service demands balance.
It takes the equal efforts of many
to improve the world. Every
person's perspective is required
for our success.





Diversify Your Service

There are many ways to do good.



Lions Clubs International



Join us in our Journey of

PEACE

IMAGINE

600,000 children sharing their visions of peace

INSPIRE

Youth to showcase their talent

CREATE

Stronger ties in your community

Don't miss your opportunity to sponsor the **32nd annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest!**

Give kids in your community a creative way to express their visions of what peace means to them. The theme for the 2019-20 Peace Poster Contest is *Journey of Peace*. Order your Peace Poster Kit to play a key role in engaging young people and promoting peace around the world. Get complete contest details at lionsclubs.org.

The *Journey of Peace* begins with you and your club.

Order your Peace Poster Kit today!

lionsclubs.org/peaceposter
[#peaceposter](https://lionsclubs.org/peaceposter)



A Duty to Give Back

International President
Dr. Jung-Yul Choi reveals a life
that shaped him to serve.

BY ERIN KASDIN

A man becomes a Lion

When International President Dr. Jung-Yul Choi was a young businessman, he helped a milk boy who had spilled his day's deliveries.

The boy asked how he would pay Dr. Choi back. "You don't need to pay me back directly," Dr. Choi told him. "You work hard, make more money, and then when you encounter someone in a crisis, you pay him back. Not me."

People often talk of the day they joined Lions and the moment when they became a Lion. It's recognizing the difference between being a member and belonging. The difference between something you do and someone you are.

"That is my moment," says Dr. Choi. "I started thinking, 'serving, it's so important. It makes me so happy.'"

Don't be ordinary

Dr. Choi wasn't always in a position to make a difference the way he did for that young boy. He grew up in the port city of Busan, in the Republic of Korea. His father passed away before he was one year old, and his mother struggled to support him and his three sisters. World War II was raging and Korea was occupied by Japan. When World War II ended, the Korean War followed quickly on its heels. "It was difficult," says Dr. Choi. "We were hungry. As a country, we were suffering."

His mother instilled in him the belief that if he worked harder than ordinary people, he could become successful. He could become extraordinary.

Love at first sight

On his way to becoming extraordinary, a young Dr. Choi was walking across campus when he passed a girl he had never seen before. "At first I just passed her by," he says. "But then I backed up. I thought, 'I really like her.' So I said, 'Hey.'" She agreed to a cup of coffee and it was after that first date that Dr. Choi told her he would marry her.

She wasn't so sure.

"She thinks I am a crazy man," he says. But five years later they married.



After decades of marriage, their bond is still strong. “She’s the most beautiful girl, still today,” he says.

Work harder. Study harder

As a young man Dr. Choi made it his goal to become financially successful so that his family wouldn’t struggle again.

He studied horticulture in college, but his real break came from the proficiency he’d gained in English. “At the time, the U.S. Military had 40,000 troops in Korea,” says Dr. Choi. “So, they needed interpreters.”

When he retired from the Army his English skills made him an attractive candidate for many international companies. After just a year and half at an export company, he decided to start his own business.

It was 1973 and at the time, Busan was exporting 85% of the world’s athletic shoes. Dr. Choi became one of the main exporters. And after a time, he achieved his goal of financial success.

Facing a new challenge

What would he do for the rest of his life?

Dr. Choi spent many years serving in various capacities. He was the vice president of his college alumni association and spent more than 12 years as director of the sports association bureau, which oversees amateur sports in Korea. Dr. Choi and his wife, Seong-Bok Yang, are avid golfers.

Though it wasn’t customary for women in Korea to play at the time, Dr. Choi enjoyed it so much that he bought his wife a set of clubs for her 40th birthday. She soon became much better than him. “She beats me, she’s so good,” says Dr. Choi.

But eventually, everything took a backseat to Lions.

Serving as a kind of religion

Dr. Choi remembers his club helping an orphanage many years ago. They visited the small, isolated island where it was located and

spoke with the children and the people running the facility. They saw that they were in need of sporting equipment and other items to give the children ways to learn and play and grow.

The club organized a large equipment and toy drive. “We asked our members to bring the things their children or grandchildren no longer played with. We told them soccer ball, volley ball, guitar—whatever they were not using, bring it!”

The children at the orphanage were very happy with the gifts and the Busan club began holding monthly meetings in the newly stocked library. The Lions played soccer with the children. Their wives made chicken ginseng soup.

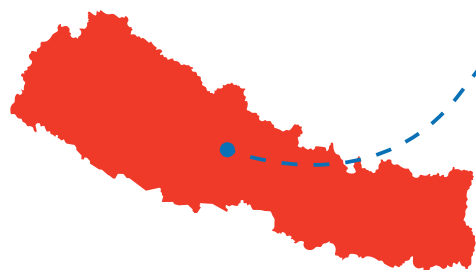
“I remember, it was a very meaningful service project for me,” says Dr. Choi.

When Korea was struggling as a nation Dr. Choi remembers receiving aid packages of corn and milk powders from the U.S and other countries. “We were served when we were so hungry,” he says. “Now it’s our turn to give back.”

Today, his work with Lions is his life. “I don’t have a religion,” he says. “Being a Lion is my religion.”

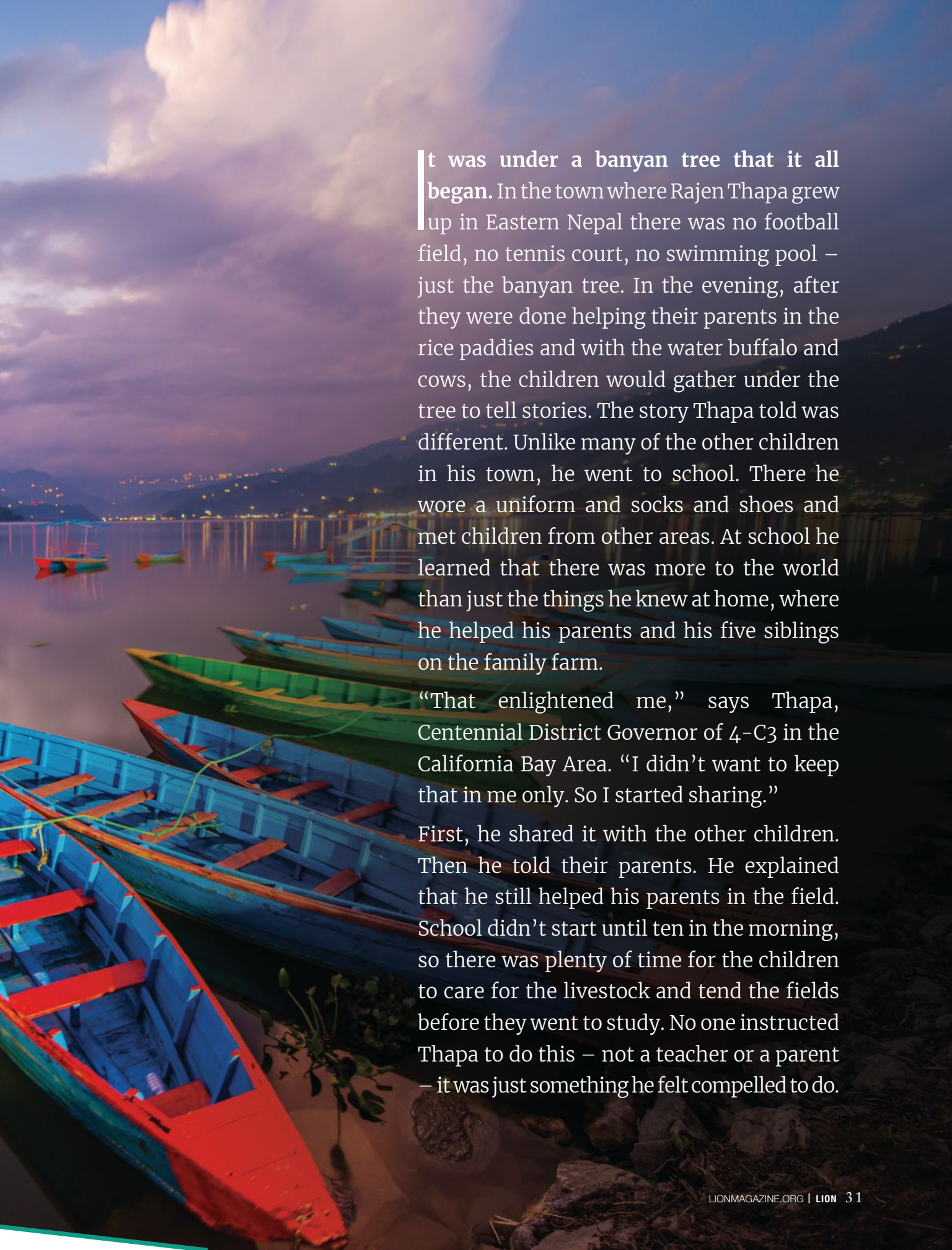
FINDING HOME

HOW A NEPALESE DIASPORA
COMMUNITY IN CALIFORNIA
FOUND THEIR ROOTS AGAIN
IN LIONS.



Written by:
KATYA CENGEL

Interior photos by:
KATYA CENGEL



It was under a banyan tree that it all began. In the town where Rajen Thapa grew up in Eastern Nepal there was no football field, no tennis court, no swimming pool – just the banyan tree. In the evening, after they were done helping their parents in the rice paddies and with the water buffalo and cows, the children would gather under the tree to tell stories. The story Thapa told was different. Unlike many of the other children in his town, he went to school. There he wore a uniform and socks and shoes and met children from other areas. At school he learned that there was more to the world than just the things he knew at home, where he helped his parents and his five siblings on the family farm.

“That enlightened me,” says Thapa, Centennial District Governor of 4-C3 in the California Bay Area. “I didn’t want to keep that in me only. So I started sharing.”

First, he shared it with the other children. Then he told their parents. He explained that he still helped his parents in the field. School didn’t start until ten in the morning, so there was plenty of time for the children to care for the livestock and tend the fields before they went to study. No one instructed Thapa to do this – not a teacher or a parent – it was just something he felt compelled to do.



“I wanted a bright future along with other children,” says Thapa, who is now 55. “And if they only work in the field, the future wouldn’t be bright.”

His community service and academic success earned him a scholarship at a Catholic high school in Darjeeling, India. He traveled by bus for 12 hours to reach the boarding school. At school he was served bulgur and yellow porridge donated by Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity. Every once in a while Mother Teresa could be seen in her blue and white sari being driven around the school grounds in a jeep. One day she called Thapa over. She asked him his name, how he liked school and what he wanted to do in the future. He did not say he wanted to be a doctor or an engineer. Instead he told her he wanted to work for the community, because that is where he came from. Decades later, sitting in one of five Bay Area Indian and Nepalese restaurants Thapa owns, he places his hand on his chest and says her kindness has stayed with him: “She’s in the heart.”

HE DID NOT SAY HE WANTED TO BE A DOCTOR OR AN ENGINEER. INSTEAD HE TOLD HER HE WANTED TO WORK FOR THE COMMUNITY, BECAUSE THAT IS WHERE HE CAME FROM.

A small man who wears a sapphire ring on his left hand and a cat’s eye ring on his right – an astrologer told him they would bring success – Thapa may just be the future of Lions. When he moved to the U.S. in 2003 there was one Nepalese Lions Club in the U.S. Today there are seven in his district and more than 19 around the country including in New York, Connecticut, and Texas. Thapa was the first U.S. District Governor from the Nepalese diaspora and is currently a Specialty Club Coordinator. At a time when Lions membership in the U.S. is declining, incoming International President Dr. Jung-Yul Choi believes specialty clubs like the Nepalese clubs offer an opportunity for growth.

“We serve through diversity,” said Dr. Choi during a 2018 interview at Lions headquarters. He noted that many recent immigrants do not speak the language of their new country when they arrive, yet they need community more than ever. “So, have them form their own club and then let them speak their own language. So, we can give them chance to serve, join



The Nepalese Language School was created by Lions to help children learn about their culture and build confidence. Volunteer teacher Sabitri Joshi, right, helps Sofie Ghimire learn the Nepalese alphabet.

our Association,” he said.

That is exactly what Thapa has done with the Nepalese diaspora. It is a natural fit. In Nepal former Prime Minister Matrika Prasad Koirala founded the first Lions club in 1971. Less than half a century later there are more than 800 Nepalese clubs. Thapa belonged to one of them, as did the man sitting beside him, Manil Shrestha. In Nepal, Shrestha was president of a club. His brother, father, and mother-in-law are all past presidents of Lions clubs in Nepal. Today Shrestha is a member of the first Nepalese specialty club Thapa founded in the U.S., Berkeley Annapurna, and a Zone Chair for District 4-C3.

“Our ancestors grew up giving back,” explains Shrestha, who is 46.

If you ask a Nepalese immigrant what their

father, uncle, or other relative did, they will likely say that their relative built a road or a well or a school, says Shrestha.

For Thapa it was a school. After completing university he returned to his village to teach in the primary school; he then started his own coed secondary school. Thapa made a point of encouraging families to send their daughters to his school, an uncommon occurrence at the time.

“I started to become more and more ambitious,” he says. “Not to make money, but to make an impact.”

Unfortunately the Nepalese civil war or Maoist insurgency interrupted his plans. The conflict lasted from 1996 to 2006 and left around 13,000 people dead and 200,000 displaced. Thapa remembers a time of torture, terror,

and kidnapping. When he came to the U.S. in 2003 he had “two shirts, two pants and two children and one wife.” He had no idea what he would do the next morning. Yet within two years he had bought his first restaurant. The following year he founded the Berkeley Annapurna Lions Club, a specialty Nepalese club. Community service was “in the vein” and he saw Nepalese Lions clubs as a way for the Nepalese to assimilate.

“We should say ‘hello’ to our American friends; we should say ‘we are here’, we should say ‘we want to collaborate; we want to partner in the community where we are living now’,” says Thapa.

Having a specialty culture club is a way to do this. Although the Nepalese diaspora are familiar with Lions, language barriers,

“IF YOU ASK A NEPALESE IMMIGRANT WHAT THEIR FATHER, UNCLE, OR OTHER RELATIVE DID, THEY WILL LIKELY SAY THAT THEIR RELATIVE BUILT A ROAD OR A WELL OR A SCHOOL,” SAYS SHREWSTHA.

inferiority complexes and cultural shock mean it is difficult for them to join existing clubs in the U.S., says Thapa. In their own clubs they are given the opportunity to hold leadership roles

through which they begin to interact with the greater Lions organization, thereby becoming more comfortable in their English language skills and in American culture. The confidence they gain means now instead of asking Thapa for a job in one of his restaurants they are working in banking, medicine and security.

“The horizon has opened,”

he says.

Nirmal Phuyal’s story mirrors Thapa’s words. In Nepal, Phuyal worked in social development, but when he came to the U.S. in 2009 he did not consider joining Lions until a Nepalese neighbor recruited him for a Nepalese club.



(above) Volunteer teacher Sabitri Joshi teaches the younger students the Nepalese alphabet. Here she is working on pronunciation.

(right) Sunday classes are a family affair and children too young to read and write sometimes come to class, too.



As a Lion he was recognized for helping to coordinate a successful campaign, which “encouraged me to think more about Lions,” he says. Now the 47-year-old is a Zone Chair for District 4-C3 and has gone from working in a gas station to working as a paralegal. He is also president of a new Nepalese club, Lions Club of Berkeley Laligurans. The club organized a workshop on how to be an MC and is supporting the filming of a Nepalese documentary about child brides.

Further southeast in Mountain View on a Sunday this January, families fill a building. Children barely able to walk toddle to a front room, while their older siblings scramble to another room, notebooks, pens, and pencils in hand. Prashan Thapa sits at a table with other middle school aged children. The 10-year-old boy turns to the back of his notebook, where he has written the Nepali alphabet. Then he flips back to the front of his notebook, where he is trying to write his name in Nepali.

“I just need to find the last letter,” he says.

Down the hall in another room Sabitri Joshi stands in front of a class of younger children sounding out letters in the Nepali alphabet. Joshi’s eldest daughter, Shreeya, who is 8, is the reason Joshi is here teaching at the Nepali language school, which is held every other Sunday afternoon. At home, Joshi speaks Nepali, but when Shreeya started school the girl told her mother she didn’t need to learn Nepali because they didn’t use it at school. Joshi considered teaching other children in her garage so Shreeya would be amongst her peers. Then she heard about the Sunday school. In addition to the language, children also learn Nepalese dances and songs. Shreeya recently performed one of the Nepalese songs at her regular school, something she would never have done before, says her mother.

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“Once we come here and start seeing so many other peers like her, I think they build their confidence and then they feel better about their Nepalese culture,” says Joshi.

The school is the vision of Narayan Khanal, Second Vice President of Sunnyvale Everest Lions Club. Khanal, who is 38, needed a place for the school. Hope Services, an organization that serves the

“SO IT’S DOUBLE BENEFIT,” SAYS KHANAL.
“WE CAN BRING THESE KIDS, THEY CAN
LEARN NEPALESE LANGUAGE,
AND AT THE SAME TIME WE ALSO
HELP THE COMMUNITY.”

developmentally disabled, agreed to let Lions use their building free of charge. That was how the Sunnyvale Everest Lions Club was founded in 2016.

“So it’s double benefit,” says Khanal. “We can bring these kids, they can learn Nepalese language, and at the same time we also help the community.”

This dual aspect is one of the reasons Thelma Batilo, District Governor of 4-C6, which includes Sunnyvale, is happy to have specialty clubs in her district. The Sunnyvale club has a clear mission, to have a place where they can teach their culture to the next generation, “so we want to encourage that and we also do community service.” Nearby, the Lions Club of Fremont Sagarmatha is using sports to both provide a service for the Nepalese community and to increase Lions membership. They started with a youth sports tournament in 2016. After partnering with the Bay Area Nepalese Community in Fremont in 2017 they decided to focus solely on soccer. Club President Raj Bhandari estimates that more than 300 people attended the two-day soccer tournament in 2018. Teams came from as far as Texas, but it was the Sunnyvale team that won the tournament. The captain of the winning team, Dharmendra Kc, is now soccer coordinator for the club. It was the soccer tournament that brought the 28 year-old to Lions.

“I’ve played in lots of places around the country, and this is the place to come,” Kc says of the tournament.



Instead of grass there is turf and there are always at least two referees for each game; factors that have attracted players who in



Rajen Thapa, left, with then Lions District Governor of 4-C2 Les Mize help out after the 2017 fires in Santa Rosa, California. As a young boy in Nepal, Thapa dreamed of getting all Nepalese children an education. After moving to the U.S. he's successfully started a Lions movement in the Nepalese community in California, where they've built schools to help children connect to their cultural roots.

turn bring their families and fans. The younger players bring their parents who are going to join or want to join Lions, club members theorize. The tournament also raises money for Lions projects in the U.S. and in Nepal through registration fees and a picnic.

But it isn't soccer or language classes that the Nepalese diaspora have brought to Lions, it is a mindset, says Thapa. In the U.S. there is a tendency to think that you have to wait until retirement to contribute to society. For the Nepalese it is different, he says. They come to the U.S. They save their money. They spend time with their families. And then, while they are still in their 30s, they decide they want to give back and join Lions. There is less of a rigid separation between work, home, and service.

For Thapa, work and Lions are literally in the same place. Many of the local Nepalese clubs hold their meetings at one of his restaurants.

In Mountain View, meetings are held at the same time and in the same building as language lessons. Also happening then is a gathering of elders. While the young learn the Nepalese culture the old learn how to live in California, talking about the difficulty of obtaining a driver's license when the written test is not offered in Nepali. The group has a name and a logo, an image of people sitting under a tree. The illustration is reminiscent of the scene where Thapa's story of service began: sitting under a banyan tree in Nepal, telling stories to children. 🕒

In BLOOM

BY JOAN CARY

Daffodil Day Brings Smiles with Spring





(Left) Rose Miller, making a bouquet with the volunteers, has helped her husband, Lion Jack Miller, run Operation Daffodil, for 20 years. (Right) Lions Jen Haley and Jack Miller on Daffodil Day.

For 56 years the Cecilton Lions in Maryland have marked the arrival of spring with Operation Daffodil.

Their only mission: To make people smile.

For the last 20 of those 56 years, Rose Miller and her husband, Cecilton Lion Jack Miller, have headed the project, monitoring the spring weather and driving down to the valley in Earleville, near Cecilton, where the daffodils dance in the wild, covering the land with a blanket of yellow.

When the Millers put out the news that it's time, the valley is in bloom, the Lions, their friends, and a growing number of the community's kind-hearted come to join in the fun of picking the flowers, then assembling bouquets to give away.

"It all depends on Mother Nature's timing," says Rose Miller. "We've done this in snow, rain, bitter cold, wind ... but this year it was beautiful."

This year it was mid-March when the flowers bloomed. About 150 Saturday morning volunteers picked 20,000 to 30,000 daffodils, laying them on cardboard trays to take to a barn where more volunteers arranged them in bouquets.

Lion Jen Haley, who volunteered this year to take over for the retiring

Millers, says 882 bouquets of 30 to 40 daffodils were delivered to the homebound, hospital patients, and nursing and retirement home residents in the area this spring.

The daffodils grow on land owned by the Upp family. Because this stretch of woodland is not farmed and remains undisturbed year after year, the plants keep spreading. No one knows for certain how they were started there, but Johnny Upp says they suspect someone planted a few in an old cemetery nearby and they grew. And they grew. Or maybe the birds and the wind took the seed, spreading the flowers through the wetlands near the Sassafras River.

"We don't really know but we do know that Mother Nature takes care of it," says Miller.

"People can come and go as they wish, but we don't give anybody a chance to sit down," says Rose Miller.

Organizing Operation Daffodil starts at least a month in advance with getting the plastic cups for vases, Lion decals, and vermiculite and sand to put in the bottom of the cups to keep them from tipping.

Hot dogs, hot chocolate, coffee, and sweets for volunteers are the other important components.

"People can come and go as they wish, but we don't give anybody a chance to sit down," says Rose Miller. "We work from six o'clock until noon. You stand next to somebody, and you talk, and you meet a lot of people. It's really fun and it's very rewarding."

Upp, whose father, the late John Upp, is credited with turning the small neighborly effort of sharing bouquets into a Lions club project 56 years ago, gives the volunteers rides down to the valley on his tractor trailer, and then back, laden with flowers when they're done.

"When I first became a [Lion] member I had no idea there were so many little pieces to this puzzle," says Haley. "It's fun. You never have the same experience twice."

At Calvert Manor, a long-term care facility in nearby Rising Sun, Activities Director Taylor Racine says their residents love daffodil day. Volunteers this year delivered 136 bouquets to the home, giving each resident an individual burst of spring.

"The staff appreciate it too," says Racine. "It's wonderful because it puts a smile on everyone's face." **L**



GOLF BALL RESCUERS

By Joan Cary

Four years ago, Justin Hoving posed a question to his “Papa.”

“What do you want to do today?”

“Well, we could hunt for golf balls,” Sycamore [Illinois] Lion Joe Woodward suggested. And so 7-year-old Justin and his grandfather walked along the fence that separates the Sycamore Park District baseball diamonds from the back nine of the golf course.

If a baseball came back there it would be a home run. But a golf ball means somebody hooked it, explains Woodward, a golfer. “And good luck jumping the fence.”

When the two had walked enough times to fill a 5-gallon bucket with balls, Justin had another question for his Papa.

“Now what?”

“Well, we could sell them,” Woodward suggested. Immediately, young Justin sat down and founded the business, “Justin and Papa—Golf Ball Rescuers,” naming himself president and his Papa as VP. In the garage they began to clean the balls and package them in egg cartons. And then Justin sold his first dozen.

“What are you going to do with the money?” the customer asked as he handed \$3 to the new company president. Papa expected to hear that they were saving for Legos or a new Nerf gun. But that’s when everybody got a surprise.

“I’m going to give the money to the Lions to help kids get glasses,” replied Justin.

“I’m going to give the money to the Lions to help kids get glasses.”



His company VP was proud.

No one, including the founders, would expect at that moment that US\$3 would turn into US\$3,500 for Lions, or that Justin, who is now 11, would still be rescuing balls with his Papa and hoping to hit the US\$5,000 mark by summer’s end.

A good day walking the fence line might net them up to 30 balls, says Justin. A not-so-good day? Only a few balls, or maybe none. “But I still get to hang with Papa,” he says. “So it’s good.”

The two estimate that they have found about 1,000 balls over four years, and another 8,000 to 10,000 have been donated to their nonprofit. They’ve also been given a ball washer and stacks upon stacks of used egg cartons.

Some of the Sycamore golfers started keeping a “Justin’s bag” on their cart, tossing in any balls they’ve found, and a grounds keeper from another course called to say that he had a garbage can full of balls he had to pick up when he mowed. He’d be happy to donate them.

With the help of Justin’s grandma, Heather Woodward, better known as “GaGa,” they have cleaned all the balls that have come in, and separated them by brand. Most are priced at US\$3 a dozen, but the most sought-after, the Titleist Pro V1s, go for \$6 an 18-pack, and balls that are not fit for resale will be donated. Justin and Papa have also sold their rescued balls at a MD1J

golf tournament and a Lions of Illinois Foundation tournament.

Justin, who occasionally golfs with his Papa, still prefers video games to the game of golf, but more than either one he says likes to hunt for lost balls. Typically the guys will call out their best finds as they walk.

“Got a Pro V1!”

So, what makes this so much fun that Justin has remained committed to it four years running? “Well, first there’s hanging with my Papa. He’s cool,” he says. “And then there’s doing something good for somebody else. And I guess it’s exercise.”

His Papa laughs. **L**



Sight for Kids, a Powerful Partnership

BY JAMIE KONIGSFELD

Ben was 3 years old. He should have felt happy, inquisitive, and brave. Instead, he always seemed to have an angry expression on his face. He rarely smiled. In addition, he had delayed motor skills and difficulty walking; he would frequently run into things. He was frustrated and expressed it through crying and tantrums. Confused by his behavior, Ben's parents were not sure how to help him. What they didn't know was that Ben was struggling to see the world clearly.

Ben's parent's suspected there might be something wrong with his vision, but couldn't afford to take him to the doctor. Then they learned about Sight for Kids, a school-based partnership program between Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and Johnson & Johnson Vision. Sight for Kids Kenya organized an outreach camp in Ben's home city of Kisumu in western Kenya. Though he was not yet old enough for school, Ben was brought in for a special evaluation. After some testing, doctors diagnosed Ben with a dense congenital cataract in his right eye, rendering him completely blind in that eye. He likely had it since birth.

Ben's parents brought him to the Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital for an operation at no cost to them. A surgeon removed the cataract from Ben's eye, taking away the dark cloud over his vision. After surgery, Ben needed glasses, which were also free of cost. When he

put on his glasses for the first time, Ben's angry grimace disappeared. In fact, he grinned. Then he started laughing. He was seeing clearly for the first time in his life.

"A lot of people just do not know what eye health is," says Dr. Tanvi Shah, Senior Optometrist and Sight for Kids Kenya Chairperson at Lions SightFirst Eye Hospital. "Children do not know what normal eye sight is, so a lot of these eye conditions go undetected due to lack of awareness and lack of access to treatment facilities and funds," she says.

Through the caring support from doctors with the Sight for Kids program, Ben's entire life changed. He went from being categorized



Lions and Johnson & Johnson Vision team members spend time with children at a vision screening in Kenya.

Nearly 19 million children are visually impaired globally. Of these, two out of three need access to simple eyeglasses.

as a "naughty" child with puzzling behavior to a happy, healthy toddler with the same capabilities as other kids his age. Dr. Shah even described him as "bubbly."

A Partnership for Kids

Sight for Kids is a community-based eye health education and vision screening referral program for children created through the partnership between LCIF and



Ben has fun playing in his new reality, thanks to Sight for Kids.

Johnson & Johnson Vision in 2001. The program mobilizes local eye care professionals, Lions, and volunteers to conduct vision screenings in low-income schools and provides teachers with eye health training. When a potential eye problem is detected, the program refers the student to a doctor for an exam and provides eyeglasses or other necessary treatment. Eyeglasses for refractive errors are the most common form of treatment from Sight for Kids, but the program also catches impairments that are more serious—like Ben’s cataract—that could lead to irreversible vision loss, missing developmental skills, and lost social opportunities.

Sight for Kids began with just a few program sites in Asia and a goal to provide schools with as much eye health care, education, and awareness as possible. In recent years, thanks to the global network of support between local Lions, LCIF, and Johnson & Johnson Vision, Sight for Kids has grown to reach new cities in China, Turkey, and Kenya. Today, Sight for Kids is believed to be the largest school-based vision screening program in the world.

Locally, Lions are critical stakeholders for the program. Lions recruit local eye care professionals and help engage and gain permission from health ministries, departments of education, and school leaders to turn teachers into champions of healthy eyes. They also help parents navigate the process of getting eye care for their children, easing their worries about cost and helping them gain access to experienced professionals.

Shared Values

Sight for Kids’ tremendous growth can be attributed to the shared values between Lions and Johnson & Johnson Vision. Johnson & Johnson Vision believes in improving local communities and global health through their vision “to help people see better, connect better, live better.” Lions are “knights of the blind,” dedicated to ending preventable blindness in underserved communities all across the globe.

“Sight allows us to uniquely connect with life’s moments—and with each other. At Johnson & Johnson Vision, we are connected by a powerful purpose—to change the trajectory of global eye health,” says Shlomi Nachman, Company Group Chairman for Johnson & Johnson Vision and Interventional Solutions & Specialty Surgery. “That’s why, every day, we work with eye care professionals to connect cutting-edge insights, science, and technology and increase awareness to solve a lifetime of eye health needs. From protecting and correcting vision to allow our youngest patients to grow, play, and learn; to enhancing and restoring vision to fully experience the lives we’ve built...we’re there every step of the way. Together, we are creating a world connected by sight.”

Through LCIF and Johnson & Johnson Vision’s commitment to healthy vision, Sight for Kids has reached more than 2 million children per year, and recently surpassed 30 million children total in its near 18-year partnership. Johnson & Johnson Vision’s support, both in charitable grants, as well as employee leadership and engagement, have helped local Lions put the necessary resources and expertise in place to create healthier communities that give kids a better chance at success.

Key Sight for Kids Impact since 2001

- 30 million children provided with eye health education and vision screening in 10 countries
- 170,000 teachers trained in the importance of eye health
- 600,000+ children treated through no-cost eyeglasses and other critical vision treatment
- US\$4.5 million provided by Johnson & Johnson Vision

Future Endeavors

So what is next after serving 30 million children in 18 years? Together, LCIF and Johnson & Johnson Vision aspire to double the number of children treated, surpassing 1 million treated globally, through Sight for Kids by 2021.



A Sight for Kids volunteer screens the vision of a young boy in Thailand.

CLUB NEWS



Seven-year-old Boy Scout Tayden Hagen, who won Best-in-Class at his troop's Pinewood Derby, was impressed by the pins on Tom Earley's Lion vest. Earley is a member of the **Dell Rapids Lions Club** in **South Dakota**, the charter sponsor of the Boy Scout derby.

In **Pennsylvania**, Boy Scout John E. Yaletchko III made wooden eyeglass collection boxes for the **Avon Grove Lions** as his Eagle Scout project. The boxes will be placed in various locations in the Avondale West Grove area to collect used glasses.

In **Michigan**, the **Almont Lions Club** sponsored two Almont girls in Lions' contests. Jenny Highberger's entry in the essay contest, and Megan Larkin's entry in the peace poster contest won at club, district, and state level, and both were scheduled to compete in Milan.

The **Petaluma Host Lions Club** in **California** held its 27th annual Food, Wine, and Craft Beer Festival benefitting the area's four high school graduation celebrations. This year's event raised more than US\$17,000 that was split between the schools for the Sonoma County Project Grad organization. Project Grad was founded in 1987 as a response to increased drug and alcohol use among students on graduation night.

The **Culpeper Mid-Day Lions** in Virginia donated more than US\$9,000 to the community in the last half of 2018. The Culpeper Food Closet received US\$1,800, and Lions raised more than US\$9,000 for their sight program, and more than US\$5,000 for the youth program. This is in addition to more than \$1,800 given to Team Jordan, a suicide prevention coalition.

Over seven years the **Early Bird Lions** of **Washington** have given away 12,000 saplings on Earth Day.

The **Summerside Lions** on **Prince Edward Island, Canada**, hosted a pancake breakfast with proceeds going to the Prince County Chapter for the Blind to help fund their summer games program.

In conjunction with the Inland Empire United Way, the members of the **Cucamonga District Host Lions** from **California**, along with the Boy Scouts and volunteers, put together 500 Easter baskets for low-income and disadvantaged children. Lion Vivian Shiffman, better known as the "Basket Queen," is shooting for 1,000 baskets next year.

The **Ashland Lions Club** in **Maine**, in an effort to replenish items at the local food pantry, held a six-hour food drive on the day before Easter. Shoppers at the local Market Basket donated 4,815 pounds of food that Ashland Lions collected and delivered to the pantry, where additional volunteers restocked the shelves.

In Illinois, the **Mascoutah Evening Lions Club** was given US\$1,000 to spend on a community project in memory of John Stepanek, a member of the Lions club for 50 years. With help from the community and other organizations, the Lions installed a Lion head water fountain in the children's area at Scheve Park.



Ahoy, children! A new playground welcomes the kids to Rockport Beach, thanks to LCIF and the **Rockport Lions Club** in **Texas**. The previous playground was destroyed by Hurricane Harvey in August of 2017.

In **Missouri**, Past District Governor Harley Morelock has not missed a Lions meeting in 50 years, so when he had surgery the club brought their meeting to him at the recovery center. "Lion Harley is not just our secretary. He is the heart and soul of the **Smithville Lions**," says club President David Borrowman.

In an effort to encourage reading and assist the homeless, the **Everett Central Lions Club** of **Washington** provides free reading glasses at the local library. The project has been such a success that it is being expanded to other libraries. Lion Art Ruben proposed the project after he heard stories of individuals looking for reading glasses in the club's eyeglass collection box.



The **Smithville Lions** in **Missouri** brought the meeting to Past District Governor Harley Morelock as he recovered from surgery.

Correction

In the article *We Speak for the Trees* in the March issue we incorrectly attributed the quote, "Our planet's future is inextricably tied to the future of its forests." That was from a letter written by 40 scientists in response to the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (incorrectly called the International Panel on Climate Change).

We regret these errors.

In Memoriam

Past International Director Robert G. "Bob" Smith died on March 30, 2019 following a six-year battle with Parkinson's disease. The late past director was honored by his club, the Sacramento Embarcadero Lions, in April at the Third Annual Walk to Cancel Out Parkinson's. Smith was a Lion for more than 37 years and held many offices within the association including Multiple District Centennial Coordinator. His numerous awards include the Ambassador of Good Will, the highest honor granted by the association to its members. The late past director served with the U.S. military in the 585 Ordinance Armory Recovery Unit in Stuttgart, Germany, and then with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department where he was first a patrolman, then a detective in the narcotics, burglary, and undercover divisions. Determined to serve even after his passing, and holding fast to his International Director theme, "Integrity A Way of Life," Smith's remains were donated to the University of California – Davis Research Center.

ANNUAL LIONS-ANTHEM VOLUNTEER DAYS SUPPORT HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Yarn has never served such a worthy purpose. Anthem Associates from southern California teamed up with the Camarillo Amber's Light Lions Club from Camarillo, California, to make Disney-themed, soft yarn wigs for children with cancer. The Alaska-based non-profit, The Magic Yarn Project, is transforming the way pediatric cancer patients manage hair loss and cope with grueling chemotherapy treatments.

"These soft princess wigs help bring some fun to little girls during difficult and sometimes scary times as they deal with cancer treatments," says Chris Graham, a Camarillo Amber's Light Lion, who notes that crochet skills are not required. "It is a heartwarming project that so many Lions can participate in. The smiles on the faces of these children just melt your heart. It's such a good feeling to know we can make a difference." Anthem Associates were so moved by this project they requested that Lions plan a second day of volunteering.

Nearby, approximately 100 Anthem associates gathered over two days to assemble more than 2,500 hygiene kits for displaced families of California's recent wildfires. With the recent California disasters, club president and PDG Manny Sanchez says his Montebello Lions took on the challenge of "where there's a need, there's a Lion," and chose to provide the kits as

a way to help. In addition, kits were delivered to the Long Beach Veterans Administration and Southern California Homeless Centers.



Further south, Anthem Associates in Las Vegas, Nevada, spent the evening of October 15, 2018 on a downtown Las Vegas street corner helping Lion Pam Phan and fellow Lions from the Las Vegas Vietnamese-American Lions Club distribute food to the city's homeless. On any given night in southern Nevada there are more than 6,000 homeless individuals on the street. Nearly 1,300 of them are unaccompanied minors. For this reason Anthem associates teamed up with Lions for two additional hunger related projects: serving meals at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission and building a chicken coop at Vegas Roots—a community garden that provides fresh food to low income residents, teaches community gardening, and promotes nutritional wellness.


Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and the Anthem Foundation have committed to improving the health and wellness of communities since 2015. Every fall, the Lions-Anthem Volunteer Days kick off a season-long community service program that takes place across the United States with support from an annual grant awarded by the Anthem Foundation. The 2018 partnership brought together Anthem volunteers and Lions in 31 cities across 21 states. Nearly 400 local Lions club members joined more than 1,500 Anthem volunteers in a total of 65 service projects that promoted happier, healthier communities.

For Janice Hutchings Wilson, Anthem Foundation Program Manager and Anthem Volunteer Days lead, being part of her community is not only fun but rewarding. “When you are a part of a team of volunteers that includes fellow employees, family members, along with community partners, it creates this special bond between everyone,” said Wilson. “These memories of knowing you made a difference are an important part of connecting with each other, whether it be at work or in your personal life.”

Seemingly small acts of service, conducted over just a few hours, make a big health and wellness impact on lives across the U.S. Other projects from this year’s Volunteer Days events included working in food banks, distributing donated mattresses to children who do not have a bed of their own, and beautification of domestic violence shelters to provide simple comfort to women and children escaping life-threatening circumstances.

The grant support from the Anthem Foundation to LCIF also spurs year-round, Lion- and community-led humanitarian and capacity building initiatives through the

Lions-Anthem Foundation Healthy Heroes initiative. Aiming to improve the health of communities across the country, the Healthy Heroes initiative awards grants to Lions clubs and districts with programs that support improved health outcomes. The goal is to build up local health and wellness capacities through projects like the establishment of accessible playgrounds or upgrades to critical clinics, hospitals, and community centers.

Since 2015, Lions-Anthem Volunteer Days and Lions-Anthem Healthy Heroes have contributed more than 25,000 hours of community service, benefitting more than 1.4 million people with improved health and wellness. U.S.-based Lions Clubs interested in hosting projects for the 2019 Lions-Anthem Volunteer Days season are encouraged to contact programs@lionsclubs.org. 

“

“I enjoy giving back because at one point in my life, I was on the receiving end of things, so whenever I can be of service to the community, I do that.”

Las Vegas, Nevada Anthem Associate

“The best thing about this project was meeting local people in need, listening to their struggles, and learning action steps we could take to help.”

Indianapolis, Indiana Anthem Associate

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Just For You

John Upp shares a little sunshine on Daffodil Day—the one day each spring when the Cecilton Lions in Maryland pick the flowers that bloom aplenty on his family farm, and share bouquets with the community’s shut-ins. Upp’s father is said to have started the Lion project 56 years ago, and this year Cecilton Lions and their friends delivered more than 800 bouquets in their community.

LION



Lions Clubs International

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LANNIVERSARIES

JULY 2019

100 Years: Quincy, Ill.

95 Years: Placerville, Calif.; Winchester Host, Va.; St. Louis South Side, Mo.; Hope, Kan.; Clintonville, Wis.

90 Years: Fredericksburg, Texas; Silver Spring, Md.; Belfast, Maine; Indiana, Pa.; Lubbock, Texas; South Buffalo-Lackawanna, N.Y.; Elburn, Ill.

85 Years: Carson City, Mich.; Williston, N.D.; Ellijay, Ga.; Hamakua, Hawaii; Front Royal, Va.

80 Years: Chicago Mount Greenwood, Ill.; Mooresville, N.C.; Dalton, Pa.; Adams, Mass.; Cynthiana, Ky.

75 Years: Enterprise, Ala.; Marshall, Ill.; Fairbanks Host, Alaska; Kansas, Ill; Rochester, Mich.; Centerville, Ind.; Dawson Vanderbilt, Pa.; St. Clair Shores, Mich.; Centerburg, Ohio

50 Years: Durand, Mich.; Bedford Township, Mich.; Geary, New Brunswick, CAN; St. Albert Breakfast, Alberta, CAN; Kamrar, Iowa

25 Years: Godley, Texas; Lincoln Scandia Valley, Minn.; Vancouver Oakridge, British Columbia, CAN

August 2019

100 Years: Jonesboro, Ark.

95 Years: Fairfield Host, Calif.; Petersburg, Va.; Snyder, Texas; Albion, N.Y.; Livermore, Calif.; Athens, Ga.

90 Years: Monterey Pen Host, Calif.; Shelby, N.C.; Chicago Chatman, Ill.; Hamlin, Texas; Lake Linden Hubbell, Mich.; Towanda, Pa.; Baker City, Ore.

85 Years: Ellsworth, Maine

80 Years: Lake Zurich, Ill.; York, Ala.; Grove City, Ohio; Everett, Pa.; Paso Robles, Calif.; Bonham, Texas; Osage City, Kan.; Coldwater, Ontario, CAN; Lake Placid, N.Y.; Calhan, Colo.; Appomattox, Va.; Lancaster, Ohio; Jacksonville, Texas; Bartlett, Ill.; Washington, Mo.; Waltham, Mass.; Itasca, Ill.; Concrete, Wa.; Armonk, N.Y.; Penetanguishene, Ontario, CAN; Saranac Lake, N.Y.

75 Years: Maplewood Hollywood, La.; Escondido Host, Calif.; Juneau, Alaska; Harlan, Ind.; Geneva, Neb.; Midville, Ga.; Osseo, Minn.; Century, Fla.

50 Years: Minot Magic City, N.D.; Monterey, Tenn.; Pierce, Neb.; Columbia, N.C.

25 Years: Vancouver Cambie, British Columbia, CAN; Richmond Chinatown, British Columbia, CAN

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

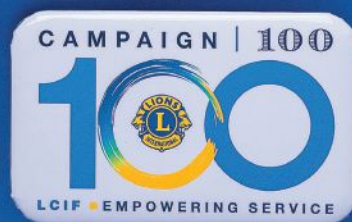
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