

LION



Lions Clubs International

WWW.LIONSCLUBS.ORG DECEMBER 2009

Special Youth Issue



Helping Youth Soar

Teenagers at 10,000 Feet
Above Sea Level at a
Youth Camp in Hawaii

Found! The Last Morgan Silver Dollars

Amazing Discovery Hidden in Midwest Farm Cellar

Indiana. A farmer in America's heartland recently cashed in his long-forgotten savings, hidden away for decades in a dusty crate in his cellar—a hoard of the last Morgan Silver dollars minted by the U.S. Treasury before they ceased production for good, in 1921.

Originally purchased from a local bank for face value, the farmer had tucked them away for his retirement. Now these glittering chunks of nearly uncirculated silver history, are being released to the public by GovMint.com. While they last, you can acquire these brilliant, lustrous silver coins for as low as \$29.50 apiece. Twenty-coin Bankers rolls and 10-coin Half Rolls are available.

Survival Against All Odds

By all rights these silver dollars should have been destroyed decades ago. Government silver melt-downs, including the 1918 Pittman Act, which alone destroyed 270 million Morgans, have decimated supplies. Millions more were called in by the government and melted for their silver content between 1921 and 1965. Today private hoards account for virtually all the surviving coins. And of those, only a fraction survive in the Virtually Uncirculated condition so coveted by collectors.

Prized Last Year Coins

These last year 90% pure silver beauties still dazzle with their Mint luster and heft. Weighing in at 26.73 grams and a diameter of 38.1 mm, they are the largest American silver coins ever to circulate. Struck from silver mined from the western Mother Lode, they are the legendary coins that built the West. Master engraver George T. Morgan fashioned a radiant profile of Lady Liberty and a majestic eagle as symbols of our nation's strength and prosperity. Today, the long-gone Morgan silver dollars are among the most sought-after coins in America.

Hot Silver Market, Hot Silver Value

Silver prices have jumped over 140% in the last two years fueling the frenzy among avid collectors, investors, and the 130 million new collectors created by the U.S. Mint's highly successful state quarters program.

Today, the market is hot for Silver coins in any condition. This same 1921 Morgan Silver Dollar currently sells elsewhere in the same grade condition for \$55 apiece.

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Lions: Protectors of Children

SERVING TOGETHER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



President Wirfs
rewards participants
at a Special Olympics
competition.

In Germany we call them Kinder. In Mexico we say los niños. In Korea it's 아동 (ah-dong). And in the United States and Canada we refer to them as children. Whatever the nation, children are the world's most precious resource. And throughout our 92-year history Lions have nurtured them, cared for them and protected them. We save them from blindness, keep them healthy, build them schools, teach them life skills, feed and clothe them, host them at camps, introduce them to other cultures and model service for them. Yes, we are Knights of the Blind. But we also are Protectors of Children.

This special issue focusing on Lions and children is our holiday gift to you. Take pride in what Lions do for kids. You have helped make it possible. Your service makes it possible for the world's children to grow up healthy with choices and opportunities. We know that life is a wonder of nature every time we see a baby, and whether we are parents, uncles and aunts, or community members who care deeply about others, we know that growing up healthy and well-adjusted is amazing in itself, especially in places of poverty and want. In October in Prague in the Czech Republic, where Lions World Sight Day was held, I attended numerous successful eye screenings among schoolchildren. But Lions are committed to helping children not just with their sight but also with their education and health care.

Enjoy the holidays and begin the New Year with a continued resolve to bring our service to those most in need.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Eberhard J. Wirfs'.

*Eberhard J. Wirfs
Lions Clubs International President*

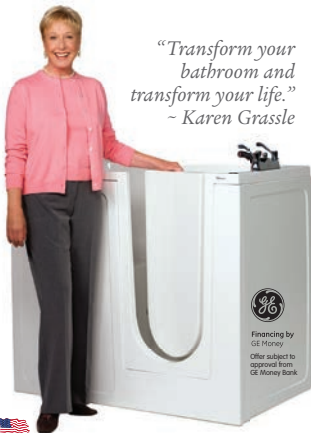
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On
the
cover



Helene Iversen (from left) of Norway, Monika Hulewicz of Poland, and Katarina Michalusova of the Slovak Republic soar during a visit to the summit of Maui's Haleakala National Park, more than 10,000 feet above sea level, at the 2009 Hawaii Lions International Youth Camp.

Photo by Mark Mizuno

Sydney, Australia

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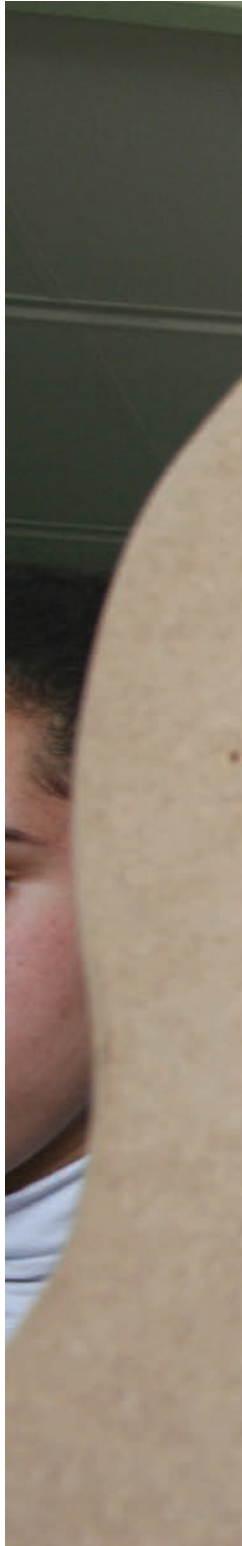


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Here, There, Everywhere

In Argentina Lions rehabbed a daycare center. In Zambia Lions expanded a school for the blind. From A to Z, across the world and in your community or one nearby, Lions serve youths. We may be separated by borders, languages and customs but we share a passion for helping children overcome disease, poverty and neglect and to reach their full potential. We witness the effect of our service: a bright smile, a trusting gaze, sometimes a warm hug. But we know the real effect is in the heart. Someone cared. Someone stepped forward. Someone loved. The child we serve skips away into the future with a lighter heart and an inner strength. The circle of caring rolls on.

An infant in Iran undergoes an eye screening.



A child at a Lions-supported
school for the deaf in Istanbul,
Turkey, works on an art project.
Photo by Dan Morris







Johnson & Johnson Vision Care have collaborated to screen more than 10 million children in 10 nations.

Troubled youths learn job skills at the Albatrossen Center in Bergen, Norway.





A Lion in South Africa feeds a hungry child.

Photo by Dan Morris



Lions and LCIF built a home for needy boys in Argentina.





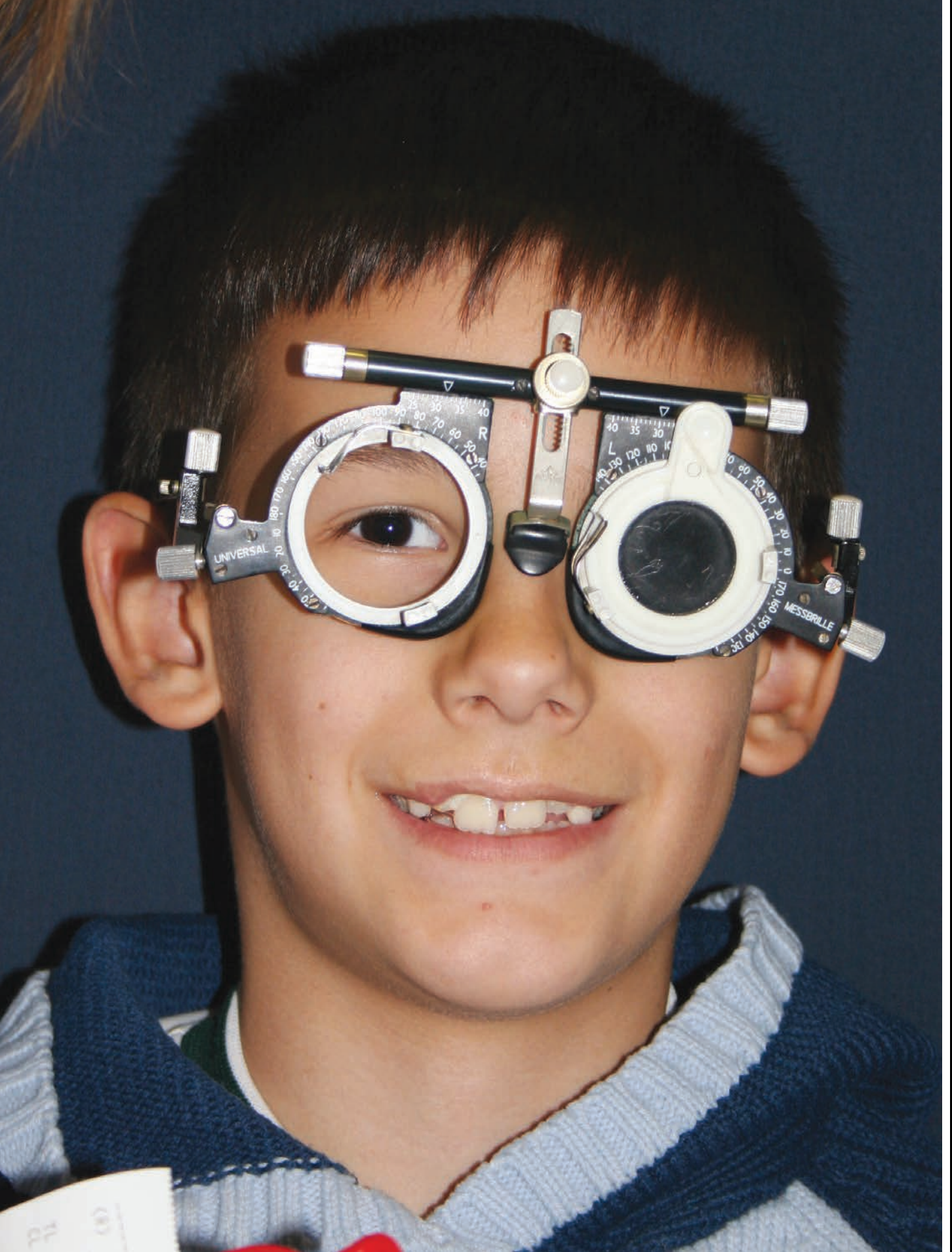
Children with vision impairments enjoy the great outdoors at Camp Dogwood in North Carolina.

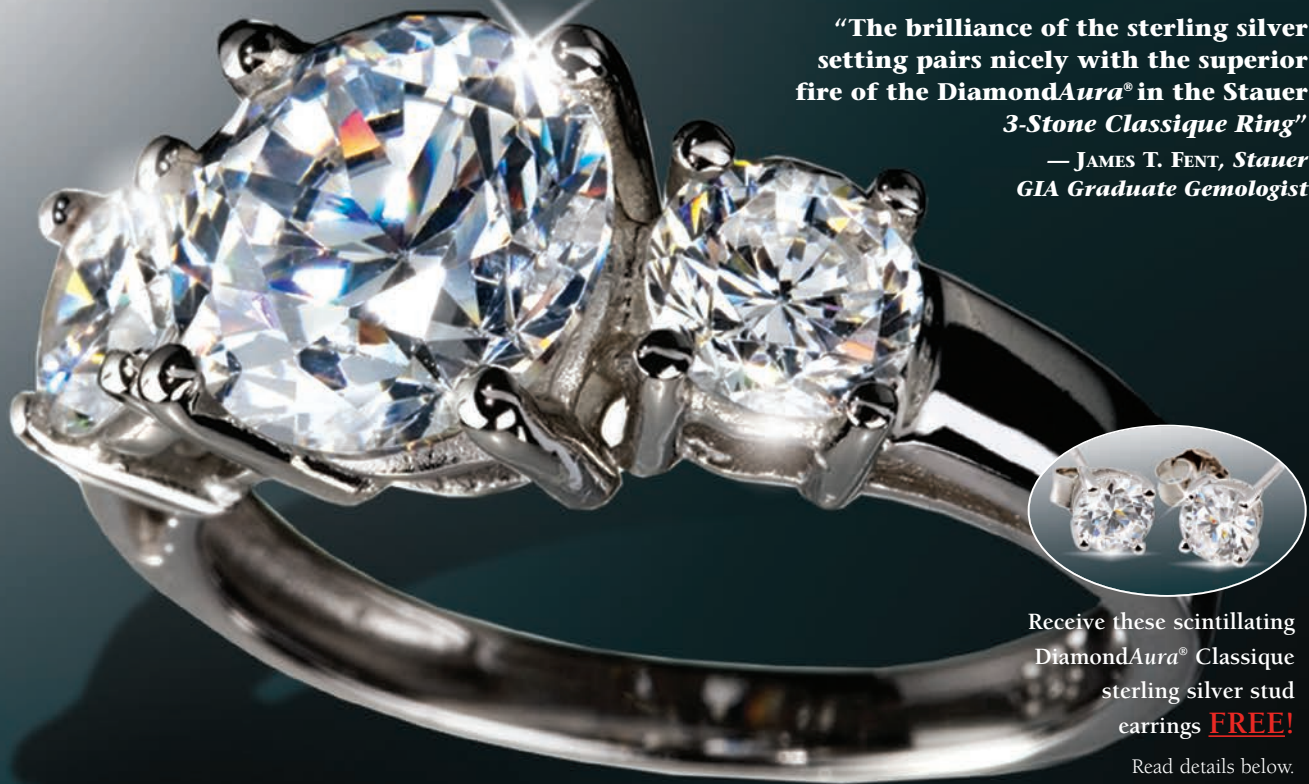
Michigan Lions traveled to Latvia to provide eye screenings.





A cleft palate camp in Mexico gives children a new lease on life.





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Clarity	"IF"	Clear
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scientific process, but will only say that it involves the use of rare minerals heated to an incredibly high temperature of nearly 5000°F. This can only be accomplished inside some very modern and expensive laboratory equipment. After several additional steps, scientists finally created a clear marvel that looks even better than the vast majority of mined diamonds. According to the book *Jewelry and Gems—the Buying Guide*, the technique used in DiamondAura

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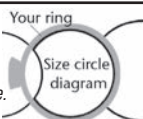
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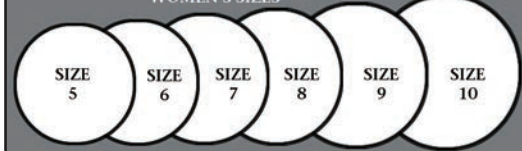
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WOMEN'S SIZES





Triple Play

An integral part of their community, Lions clubs reach down into the lives of youths by sponsoring three of the most popular activities of U.S. youth: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Little League.

The Boy Scouts of America always have been closely aligned with Lions. As far back as 1923 Melvin Jones, the founder of Lions Clubs, declared that Scouting was the “single greatest undertaking of local clubs.” Scouting remains very popular. Lions sponsored 2,702 Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops and Venture crews as of December 2007, making Lions a close second to the American Legion among civic and fraternal groups that sponsor Scouting. The Lions and Scouting are a natural fit: both promote service as well as international cooperation, citizenship and leadership. Many Scout leaders join a Lions club, and membership rolls of Lions clubs are filled with grown-up Scouts. Packs and troops often support Lions’ projects such as eye-glass collection. Scouts and Lions are two venerable community groups that often march together in service.

Girl Scouts has 2.7 million girls as members in more than 90 nations, and Lions clubs sponsor many troops. Girl Scouts develop leadership skills, strong values, a social conscience, and a confidence in their own potential and self-worth, traits Lions are pleased to promote. The connection between Girl Scouts and Lions is personified by Magdaleena Sorel of Ware, Massachusetts. A former Girl Scout and troop leader, she led the Lions' eyeglass campaign in her town and volunteers in the schools and with a social services group. "I think if you want the next generation of volunteers among kids you have to lead by example," she told a local newspaper.

Courtesy of the Girl Scouts of the USA



Kids hit home runs to win games and gain confidence. Or they strike out with the bases loaded and discover the world has not ended. For generations **Little League** has let kids enjoy the thrill of organized sports and the camaraderie of team sports, and thousands of teams have roared out of the dugout with the name of a sponsoring Lions club on their uniform. Youth sports is not about winning or losing but about leadership, effort and fun. Lions are glad to be angels in the outfield for youth sports.

Courtesy of Little League International, South Williamsport, Pennsylvania

A Noble Quest



Students in Rockland, Maine, are well-armed to clean up their playground as part of a Lions Quest service project.

No one ever said growing up is easy, and Lions know kids can face some pretty difficult obstacles—peer pressure, bullying and drugs and alcohol among them. That's why Lions and the **Lions Quest** program are empowering youth to make positive life decisions for 25 years and counting. The schools-based life skills program has been teaching students from kindergarten to 12th grade to make responsible decisions, communicate effectively and avoid drugs and violence—changing lives one classroom at a time. For educators using the program, the magic is in the method: Lions Quest curricula use individual and team-based learning modules, self-evaluation tools and community service projects to develop skills, build self-esteem and promote an environment of social and cultural understanding. Lions Quest is currently active in almost 50 countries and program materials have been translated into 24 languages.

From the Mouths of ... Everyone

“In my 26 years in the education field, this is the absolute best curriculum, producing the best students and teachers I have ever seen. Not only did the training transform students with the life-long skills, it transformed the teachers as well.”

—Dr. Brenda Eisenhauer,
Montgomery County
Public Schools, Maryland

"I feel blessed to have been a part of this training. The leadership and guidance given made me, as a new counselor, feel empowered."

—Sara McLean, Cumberland County Schools, North Carolina



Proof is in the Pudding

How do you qualify the results of Lions Quest for students? Ask the students themselves.

In 2006, Knox County, Maine, had the highest prevalence of youth arrests in the state. Sociological studies showed county youth had the highest prevalence of risk factors, the second-lowest prevalence of protective factors and the second highest prevalence rate for substance use for youth among the state's counties. After one year implementing the Lions Quest program, here's how 300 students in Maine School Administrative District 5 (MSAD 5) rated their own experiences, compared to before the program's implementation.

	Pre-Lions Quest	Post-Lions Quest
Positive School Environment	30%	60%
Positive Peer Environment	49%	63%
Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use	Same	Less



"(Lions Quest) Skills for Action is my preferred recommendation to schools that are interested in bringing service learning to the secondary level. There is no better set of materials pedagogically, and I have found teacher and student response to be outstanding."

—Maurice J. Elias, Rutgers University Director, Developing Safe and Civil Schools

The Benefits of Being There

Kids are sponges. The people they meet and places they go leave an indelible mark. That's why the **Lions International Youth Camp and Exchange Program** is so precious. With their host family, youths soak up another culture and realize differences among peoples are superficial. At a Lions international youth camp they laugh, play and share small talk with peers worldwide. The exchange changes them and stays in their hearts when they return home. Forty nations hold exchange programs and 38 nations host 112 Lions camps. The camps cater to all kinds of kids including a Sound of Music Camp in the Swiss Alps, a service-oriented camp in Uganda and the sun-splashed Hawaii Lions International Youth Camp (cover photo). Lions are proud of their international character, and the experiences overseas sow international good will and understanding.



Two dozen campers from 21 countries enjoyed boating and fishing at a youth exchange camp in Moss, Norway.

Ruya from Istanbul, Turkey, plunges off the rocks at Lake Jocassee at a youth exchange camp in South Carolina.



Leos: The Roar of the Young

One of the best ways Lions serve youth is to let them serve. Long before AmeriCorps and even before the Peace Corps, Lions have channeled the enthusiasms and energies of young people into fellowship and service. **Leos** collect food for the hungry, befriend the elderly, clean roads and forests, raise awareness of diseases such as diabetes, plant trees, paint and repair homes, and provide clothing and supplies to victims of disasters. The range of activities is as wide as the imagination of youth and the depth of their impact is as profound as the richness of their hearts. First begun by a Pennsylvania Lion in 1957 and officially adopted by Lions Clubs International a decade later, Leos now number nearly 145,000 in 142 nations. Alpha Leos from 12 to 18 years old and Omega Leos from 18 to 30 have a blast with one another, do good in the community and learn the value of service.



Swedish Leos escort orphans and abandoned children from Lithuania and Poland at a summer camp in Sweden.



Leos in Alberta, Canada, gamely get their heads shaved to raise funds.



And, yes, some do choose to become Lions, either through the Leo to Lion program or down the road a bit when they've settled firmly into their adult life and fondly recall the thrill of serving those in need in fellowship with others. In the circle of life, Leos are our cherubs with tons of energy and the not-so radical belief that the world can be transformed.

Leos in North Carolina sort donated glasses.
Courtesy of Ken Bucher and Penny Rummel



Leos in District 25B raised \$120,000 through bake and candy sales for family rooms at the St. Joe Regional Burn Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Sydney Australia



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The Giant of Good

It takes more than volunteers. It takes more than vision. Often it takes plentiful resources to prevent blindness in children, provide food, clothing, shelter, job skills and life skills, and build and equip schools, youth camps and pediatric clinics. **LCIF** helps Lions help kids—in a big way. LCIF partners with Lions on problems and projects too large for a single club to handle. In a world roiled by war, poverty and pestilence, LCIF stands as a rock-solid bulwark for the most vulnerable among us. LCIF and Lions give children good health, a quality education and the opportunity to reach their full potential and one day to give back to society. Lions are a worldwide organization and it's often hard to grasp or appreciate the range and depth of Lions' service. But LCIF's accomplishments shine a bright light on the tremendous collective achievements of Lions in improving the lives of youths.

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These children in China are among the 10 million children in Asia screened through Sight for Kids by Lions in partnership with Johnson & Johnson Vision Care.



The Lions Clubs International-Special Olympics Opening Eyes program has screened more than 150,000 athletes and given prescription eyewear to nearly 45,000.

Rallying Against Illness

Maybe it's the blatant injustice of it. Or the realization of a child's utter vulnerability and the consequent responsibility of a community to respond when a personal crisis erupts. But when disease or an accident afflicts a child, Lions jump to the forefront. We build ramps and buy vans for kids disabled in car crashes and football games, hold benefit dinners for kids stricken with cancer and rare diseases and purchase sophisticated, expensive devices for children with long-term health problems. When tragedy occurs, Lions are there to provide life-saving aid, lessen the pain and inconvenience, and offer the comfort that comes from unsolicited, unflagging community support.

Often it doesn't take huge financial support to make a big difference. Logan Moran was born with a host of health problems including a seizure disorder and two cataracts. Delivered in an emergency caesarian section after a doctor discovered he was no longer moving, he did not open his eyes for two months. Even after cataract surgery, he was in danger of not ever seeing. Tiny, handcrafted glasses were needed to stimulate his vision and preserve his sight.

The Fall River Carousel Lions Club in Massachusetts provided the special glasses last year to the family when Logan was five months old. Teresa Pimentel, his

mother, noticed the difference in him as soon as he wore his glasses. "He was a totally different baby. He was moving a whole lot more. It was a whole new world for him," says Pimentel.

Doctors still can't say whether Logan, who turned 2



Logan Moran, then 10 months old, has been a "totally different baby" since wearing glasses. He's with his father, David Moran, and mother, Teresa Pimentel.

Photo courtesy of Herald News/Dave Souza

last month, will have normal vision or low vision. His overall long-term prognosis also is uncertain. But the seizures are under control and he's more active, grabbing at a toy that produces a drum sound. "I could listen to that beautiful sound all day," raves Pimentel.



Hayley Pelletier, 8, was born essentially blind. The optic nerves of the suburban Chicago girl were undeveloped. Her left eye saw only light. Her right eye could see objects at 20 feet that other children could see at 2,200 feet. So she was learning to read Braille and use a cane.

Then her mother, Heather, a 911 dispatcher, learned of a stem cell treatment in China that might help. (The stem cells were taken from umbilical cords after healthy births, hence these were not the controversial embryonic stem cells.)

A year ago Hayley was treated in Hangzhou, China. Today she can read large type and even tie her shoelaces. Among many other supporters, the Chicago Montclare Elmwood Park Lions, along with the Chicago Logan Square Lions, contributed support. "It's been incredible," Heather told the Pioneer Press. "Basically, her whole quality of life was just bumped up 110 percent. She's so much happier."

(Top) Hayley Pelletier practices printing after treatment in China.

Photo by Rob Hart/
Pioneer Press



Hayley thanked the Lions in person.

Photo courtesy of
Rich Polanek

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Emblems of Service

Rebecca Pickrell, 30, is living a full life. Blind since birth, she was given a Braille printer and a Braille 'n Speak (a portable PDA) by Lions, attended a Lions Youth Exchange in London as a teenager and received two Leader Dogs. Today a systems engineer for Northrop-Grumman in Virginia, she is married with a 2-1/2 year old daughter. She believes in giving back—even as a 10-year-old when she accompanied her father to a Lions meeting to demonstrate the positive impact new technology could have for the blind. As a Lion, Pickrell sets an example for her daughter Melanie that “giving your time is a good thing,” a lesson she learned from her own parents. She explains, “What I hope to do now is show Lions that if you put the right technology at the right time into someone’s hands, you can change a life. It’s allowed me to be competitive in every aspect of my life—being part of my community and as a wife, mom and at work.”



Pickrell and her daughter Melanie enjoy a day at a pumpkin farm.

LION Magazine would like to recognize every Lion and club that has helped youth and tell the tale of every young person helped. That's impossible, of course. But we can relate three stories representative of individual Lions, clubs and beneficiaries.



The Aloha Spirit of “sharing goodness” and treating people with care and respect moves Mark Mizuno of Hawaii. He and his wife, Eloisa, president of the Haleakala Lions Club, began opening their home a decade ago as hosts in the Hawaii Lions Youth Camp program. Mizuno is a strong believer that world peace can be achieved if people just get to know one another. “Technology has brought the world closer but it cannot take the place of true social interaction,” he says. “For one week each year we become tourists in our own home and we get to share our paradise.” One of Mizuno’s two daughters, Marissa, 18, dances Hawaii’s world-renowned hula with guests. “I won’t forget that I danced a hula on a volcano—there aren’t many people in Poland who do that!” says 2009 camper Monika Hulewicz.

Mizuno poses with campers at Haleakala National Park.



Cubsight saves vision and perhaps even lives.

The Metairie Airline Lions Club in Louisiana has a history of enthusiastic support for children, beginning with their steadfast support of the Louisiana Lions Camp outside Leesville. The club sponsors the attendance of youngsters with developmental and physical challenges, diabetes and pulmonary disorders for an eight-week stay every year. Couple their camp support with the club’s Scouts partnership, and it’s obvious their interest in youth runs deep.

But no one accused the club of being a two-trick pony. Airline Lions are also heavily involved in the Louisiana Lions CubSight program, a statewide effort to screen children ages one to five. Airline Lions have screened thousands of children since the early 2000s. The CubSight program itself has screened more than 77,000, but one child—Brenden Maestri—stands out in particular.

The club had the reward two years ago of seeing just how much their CubSight efforts mean when Jan

Maestri, the mother of 15-month-old Brenden Maestri, decided on a whim to have the youngster’s vision screened at a CubSight screening at his Alpha Montessori school. “I didn’t think about it that much until that day,” Maestri said. “Then I figured, ‘Why not? What’s the harm? All they do is take a picture of his eyes with a special camera.’ So I signed the slip.”

The picture of Brenden’s eye showed a retinal blastoma, a rare tumor that can cause vision loss and lead to brain cancer if not detected early. Treatment was successful, Brenden kept his eye, and doctors continue to work to improve his 20/100 vision. “You don’t know what could’ve happened if they didn’t screen Brenden,” Maestri says. “The cancer could have moved to his brain. That vision test might have saved his life.”



**93rd Annual Lions Clubs International Convention
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Deadline for Advance Registration is May 1, 2010. See <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/news-and-events/international-convention/for-attendees/news-conv-register.php> for details.

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

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CHILD: First Name _____ Last Name _____ Age _____
CHILD: First Name _____ Last Name _____ Age _____

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

- ☐ Before December 31: Reservation in delegation hotel
☐ After December 31: ☐ I prefer my delegation hotel
☐ Prefer hotel based on: ☐ room rate of _____ ☐ location near convention center

Arrival date _____ Departure date _____
Number of Guests in Room: _____ Number of Beds Needed ☐ 1 ☐ 2
Special Requirements ☐ Non-smoking ☐ Wheelchair Accessible ☐ Other _____
Indicate special needs _____ Subject to hotel availability.
* Hotel deposit is not the rate but reserves the room. Deposit will be credited to hotel bill at checkout.

PACKAGE B: ☐ NO ROOM REQUIRED.

OPTIONAL TICKETED EVENTS I/we are registered above and request tickets to the following event(s):

EVENT	DATE/TIME	FEE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT DUE
Membership Key Award Ice Cream Social (key holders only)	June 29/ 14:00-16:00	US \$20	_____	\$ _____
Melvin Jones Fellow Luncheon	June 30/ 13:00-15:00	US \$60	_____	\$ _____
The Ginkgo Awards Banquet	July 1/ 18:30-22:30	US \$120	_____	\$ _____

Meal Preference: ☐ None ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Indian Vegetarian ☐ Diabetic ☐ Gluten Free

PAYMENT • Full payment is required with this form. • US currency only. Checks and money orders must be drawn on US banks.
Credit card must be in the name of the registrant. • Contact LCI for wire transfer instructions.

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Credit Card and Bank Transfer Payments can be faxed to: (1-630) 571-1689 (If you fax, please **do not mail original**)

- Allow 4 weeks for processing and mail delivery of your confirmation.

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



Join Lions Quest in Celebrating 25 Years

For 25 years, Lions have been helping youth grow into solid citizens through Lions Quest. Now in 50 countries, more than 11 million students have learned skills for life through the program. This year, donate \$25 to Lions Quest to provide the program to two students, and receive an "I support Lions Quest" button. Enter the "Heroes in the Community" contest.

View www.lions-quest.org throughout the year for more information on events to celebrate 25 years.

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