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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."*

SERVING TOGETHER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lions Planted Ginkgos in 2009-10



President Eberhard J. Wirfs and Margit are entertained by children at a tree planting ceremony in District 411-A in Kenya.

The marvelous ginkgo tree can live for 1,000 years or more. It is an apt symbol of heritage, adaptability and utility—which is why I chose it as a symbol of my presidency. Lions, I have served as your international president for just one year. But I believe that in 2009-10 Lions worldwide have embraced my theme of Move to Grow and we've moved our association forward with great success and much hope for continued growth and success.

Lions have planted ginkgo trees to strengthen and develop our association in many ways. We've served our communities with great energy and innovation, started new clubs and inducted new members, and showed the public who Lions are and why we're absolutely vital.

The number of new clubs is up 12.5 percent from last year, the best we've done in a dozen years. The latest figures show that our overall net growth is 24,079 members, compared to 17,058 the previous year. China has 113 new clubs and Africa has 46 new ones. The Global Membership Team and Lion leaders deserve a round of applause.

Lions have stepped forward for leadership training, a prerequisite for any organization with grand goals. Nearly 450 Lions representing 302 districts graduated from the Senior Lions Leadership Institutes. Applications for this program exceeded program capacity by 26 percent. Additionally, 45 Regional Lions Leadership Institutes are being held this year and 3,800 Lions will be trained, a 36 percent jump from last year.

Two initiatives I personally championed did very well. The Lions in Sight Campaign was held in January to raise awareness of Lions. Districts from every constitutional area participated and local media covered the events. The Global Youth Music Competition proved to be popular and representatives from each constitutional area will compete in Sydney at the international convention.

The list of successes goes on. The Leo program was rebranded and rejuvenated. Our e-Clubhouse (a Web site template) grew to 2,300 sites. Lions Quest marked its 25th anniversary and expanded its presence; it now operates in 57 nations.

This year Move to Grow has been a constant reality and an overarching guide to Lions. It's been my great privilege to serve as your international president, and Margit and I are immensely grateful for the kindness and hospitality shown to us. We wish you well and, for the last time, express our deep appreciation and admiration for the invaluable service you give to your community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eberhard J. Wirfs".

Eberhard J. Wirfs
Lions Clubs International President



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

PAST PRESIDENT BANKER DIES

Past International President Donald E. Banker, who served as the association's 75th president, has passed away. A resident of Rolling Hills, California, he was elected president at the 74th annual international convention held in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, in 1991. A life member of the West Torrance Lions Club, Past President Banker visited Lions in 52 countries and geographic locations in 1991-92. A Melvin Jones Fellow, he received a Key Member Award, 12 International President's Awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor granted by the association to its members. Under his leadership, the first Lions float was entered in the New Year's Tournament of Roses Parade and continues as an annual tradition.



KELLER, JONES APPEAR IN ARIZONA

A club in Arizona recently hosted two distinguished guests: Helen Keller and Melvin Jones. No, it wasn't a séance. Barbara Dienes and Jim Heig of the Sun City West Sunrise Lions entertained their club in a 30-minute skit and hope to take their

impersonation show on the road. "A lot of people don't know the story of the Lions and we can help recruit new members," said Dienes, who recruited Heig as Jones (the Arizona native who founded Lions Clubs) because "he looked the most like him." Already, a local association for the blind has asked the two to perform. A Lion since 1994, Dienes writes historical scripts and impersonates figures such as Martha Washington. Heig first joined the Lions in 1960 and later rejoined in 1968.



Helen Keller and Melvin Jones, aka Barbara Dienes and Jim Heig

WANGARI NAMED HUMANITARIAN

Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai of Kenya will receive the 2010 Lions Humanitarian Award. Maathai is the founder of the Green Belt Movement, a grassroots group that reduces poverty and protects the environment. In 2004, she became the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace. Maathai's en-

vironmental efforts have resulted in women planting 40 million trees on community lands since 1977. She was instrumental in peacefully restoring democracy to Kenya in 2002 and then served in the Kenya parliament from 2002-2007. She will accept her award at the International Convention in Sydney.



USA/CANADA FORUM SET FOR SEPTEMBER

Reduced registration fees are still available until June 15 for the 34th annual USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum. The forum is Sept. 23-25 in Milwaukee. The forum features 2010-11 International President Sid Scruggs III, other inspirational speakers and more than 70 seminars. The registration form, Forum newsletter, seminar list, information on tours and other material can be found at www.usacanadalionsforum.org.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

Helen Kingdom, 81, is a new Lion, but the Lions aren't new to her. A retired postal worker, the Surfside Beach, South Carolina, resident attended meetings with her husband for years. But after he passed away, Kingdom decided she wanted to join the Lions and continue the projects he was involved with. Richard Phenegar, the secretary of the Myrtle Beach Socastee Lions Club, said Kingdom is a great addition to the club.

"I was very pleased to see that Helen continued to attend club functions and exceptionally pleased when she indicated she would like to become a member of the club," Phenegar said.

LION: Helen Kingdom, 81

CLUB: Myrtle Beach Socastee Lions Club, South Carolina

FAVORITE FOOD: Plain American food. I was raised on a farm where we always had good home cooking with plenty of fresh vegetables and meats.

FAVORITE TV SHOW: Sports programs, especially baseball because I am an avid Atlanta Braves fan.

WHY I BECAME A LION: My late husband was a member of the club for 15 years. I attended many Lions events with him and witnessed firsthand the good work that Lions do. When he died of cancer in May of 2009, I felt I wanted to continue my close association with the Lions and continue the good work he had done as a Lion.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Georgia. Members of my family live in these areas and I always enjoy visiting them.

MY CLUB DOESN'T KNOW: My husband and I won the Pennsylvania lottery before we moved to South Carolina. We won \$1.25 million paid out over 20 years, minus taxes, of course. We traveled to Hawaii and Nevada, toured the East Coast by bus and went on an Alaskan cruise and our home is paid for. We also donated to our church and purchased a pew. The payments have long stopped and even though we moved here in 1993, most people are just now learning about our lottery winning. I wanted people to know me before they know we won the lottery. We live just like regular people.



Helen Kingdom with her late husband, Robert, who introduced her to Lions.

Welcomed a new Lion into the club who you think deserves a bit of recognition? E-mail us a brief description of your Lion and the reason you're nominating him or her at lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org. Please include "Welcome to the Club" in your subject line.

HUMANITARIAN DIES

Dr. Arnall Patz, the Lions Humanitarian Award winner in 2005, died March 10 at his home in Pikesville, Maryland. Patz, 89, was an ophthalmologist whose research in the 1950s saved countless babies from blindness. He discovered that high doses of oxygen given to premature infants caused a form of blindness called retinopathy of prematurity. Clinging to the standard medical practices of the time, many doctor and nurses initially fiercely rejected his findings as unproven. The Humanitarian Award is Lions' highest honor. In 1956, when he received a research award, he met a woman who greatly inspired him. "Helen Keller's eyes were so sparkly," he once told a reporter. A former director of the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins University, Patz received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, in 2004.



Helen Keller presents an award in 1956 to Arnall Patz.

Photo courtesy of Wilmer Eye Institute

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

CLUB OF THE MONTH

GROESBECK LIONS CLUB, TEXAS

FOUNDED: 1924

COMMUNITY SERVED: Groesbeck and Limestone County, Texas. The combined population served is about 20,000.

MEMBERSHIP: 39, with members ranging in age from the 20s to 80s.

MEETING MATTERS: At noon every Wednesday at Mi Rancho Mexican Restaurant in Groesbeck. The club has a tradition of voting a resounding “yes” when a new member is proposed and then a resounding “no” in the same vote. New members are always warned of this tradition beforehand so they won’t be alarmed or upset and can have fun with it.

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS: The club has four annual fundraisers. The largest is the Groesbeck Lions Club Car Show in the Groesbeck City Park in May. This year was the 12th annual show. The Kosse Leo Club provides concessions. The show usually features between 65 and 85 cars and has a reputation as one of the best because of the abundant shade trees and relaxed atmosphere in the park.

SERVICE PROJECTS: The group is most closely associated with projects benefiting children, including purchasing eyeglasses for students in the Groesbeck school district whose parents cannot afford them. The club generally purchases between 20 and 25 pairs of eyeglasses per year. The club also awards two \$1,500 scholarships to graduating seniors, purchases school supplies for needy children and supports a plethora of Lions- and community-based programs assisting children in need.

WHY BE A LION? “We have great fun, whether we are meeting or working a project. There is always a lot of laughter! We have the best programs hands down. We have a great mix of Lions that reflects our community and who are interested in giving back — especially if it benefits children.” Lion Jan Bohls, immediate past president.



Groesbeck Lions Club Car Show Chairman Lion Cody Campbell (in left photo) discusses the car show entries with Lion Jim Bohls.

OVERHEARD

“I am thankful to see flowers blooming. I am thankful for the small things—to see the sunlight, see the rain, experience life.”

— Monica (who did not want her last name used), a Texas woman after a spinal tap procedure following a Lions vision screening that revealed a swollen optic nerve. On WFAA TV in Dallas/Fort Worth.

“Everybody needs somebody to do something and it seems to be the same people all the time who go from hockey to soccer to maybe the Lions club.”

— Werner Heine, a manager of a youth soccer association in British Columbia, Canada, decrying the lack of volunteers. From the 100 Mile House Free Press.

“Merlin’s got an attitude.”

—Kym Thompson, owner of the pig not chosen as a prognosticator for the Groundhog Day celebration of the Cottage Grove Lions in Wisconsin. From the Wisconsin State Journal.

NEXT MONTH’S LION

Meet our new international president, Sid L. Scruggs III of North Carolina, and learn how he will urge Lions to let their service shine and be beacons of hope.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

BY THE NUMBERS

0

Dollars lost when the honesty box at the vegetable stand of the Temuka Pakeke Lions Club in New Zealand was stolen. Lions had emptied the box the day before.

102,000

Vitamin-fortified casseroles prepared by Kids Against Hunger and sent to an orphanage group in Haiti. The Willmar Noon Lions in Minnesota helped prepare the packages.

150

Veterans served at a thank-you dinner by the Lynden Lions in Washington.

6,500

Energy-efficient light bulbs Balla Balla Lions in Australia expect to swap for regular bulbs in local homes and businesses. Lions earn \$2 for each bulb replaced.

40

Length in feet of a tractor-trailer filled with eyeglasses collected by Lions in New York. About 100,000 eyeglasses were recycled.

4,500

Food items for pantries collected at a high school football game by Defiance Lions in Ohio in partnership with two school districts.

100

Age of Lash Field at the birthday party for him by Jamestown Lions in Pennsylvania. A Lion since 1948 and a charter member, Field is a former Lion of the Year.

51 YEARS AGO IN THE LION JUNE 1959

Lions International advertised its latest Lions wear in advance of the international convention in New York. The zelan sport jacket was \$5.50; club lettering on the back was an extra 50 cents.



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BIG IMPACT WITH LIONS CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS

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SERVICE IDEA LEARNING BRAILLE



The class works on Braille books for blind children in Mexico.

Braille Classes Blaze New Trails

Established in 1778, Brookfield's earliest citizens proved to be hardy pioneers as they built their town into a thriving Connecticut community that now has more than 16,000 residents. More than two centuries later, Brookfield's citizens are pioneers of a different sort. Brookfield High School teacher Kathy Sudol started teaching Braille to sighted students along with their blind classmates two years ago. It is the only program in the state—and perhaps the country—to teach the sighted the same skills as their blind school colleagues. When Brookfield Lions learned about the class, they enthusiastically supported these efforts to provide “teachable moments” to teenagers.

Twenty-five sighted students learned Braille along with other abilities the visually challenged must learn, including walking corridors with a white cane. The class proved so popular with students that Braille II and III courses were added for advanced learning. At completion of the entire program and testing, students can be certified by the United States Library of Congress as transcribers. The need for transcribers is expected to triple in 10 years.

Brookfield Lion Richard Cronin recalls why Lions were quick to support Sudol's efforts. “Her feeling was that sighted students could gain an appreciation and sensitivity of what blind colleagues have to experience and endure in their daily

lives,” he says. “We donated a ‘talking’ computer, Braille typewriter, electric keyboards, a toaster oven and a crock pot to enable blind students to learn how to cook.”

Blindfolded students learn proper manners while eating, counting money and folding bills so that the denomination is obvious and other life lessons not so easily learned when sight isn't an option. “Lions take students for walks around school and let them feel things they learn about in biology class—grass, moss, pine needles and the difference between dirt and gravel.” Club members also plan to help Sudol's class prepare and publish a cookbook in Braille.

Cronin continues, “Some of the work students do is hand-making Braille books that have tactile [raised] illustrations for the alphabet, numbers and everyday objects. Some examples are a tactile shape of a rabbit, and glued on it is a fur-like material. On the page is a Braille description of what the blind person is feeling. Another is the cover of a basketball cut into a small circle so a person can feel a round bumpy object with a seam.” The books include a CD in Spanish recorded by Brookfield's blind students. They are sent to Casa Hogar, an orphanage in Oaxaca City, Mexico.

Students also experience non-sighted life outside the classroom. On a field trip to the Bronx Zoo, “The sighted students were challenged to describe what they saw. How do you explain the difference between a tiger, leopard, panther, or even more basic, what is a lion—besides a person who is service-oriented?” he points out.

Some of the students have become so involved in the program that they plan college studies to prepare for careers working with the blind. Sudol says the “reverse inclusion” classes have changed the lives of both sighted and non-sighted classmates. “They're not just ‘the blind kids’ anymore [to the sighted]. They're all friends.”

To show their appreciation for the financial, material and emotional support the club gives the program, the class invited Lions to a breakfast they prepared. “The only problem was that the invitation was in Braille,” says Cronin. “So there we were sitting in front of the classroom decoding all the bumps in the invitation card while the students smiled at us. By the way, the breakfast was delicious.”

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A black and white photograph showing the silhouettes of a line of military personnel in uniform, standing against a bright blue sky with wispy clouds. They are holding rifles, and the scene is backlit by the sun, creating a strong silhouette effect.

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IDEAS THAT ROAR

BIG IMPACT WITH LIONS CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS

RECOGNIZE AND REWARD

Recognize hardworking Lions with a “shout out” at your next meeting to let them know they’re appreciated.

Two Languages Deliver the Message

Members of two Massachusetts Lions clubs are reaching further to educate the public about eye disease—using dual languages to deliver a message with punch. The Boston Chinatown Lions Club in Massachusetts originally wanted to initiate community outreach programs and partnered with the New England College of Optometry (NECO) Lions Club to bring professional input to their presentations. Recognizing that many elderly in the community understand and speak Chinese far better than English or have no English language comprehension at all, Chinatown Lion Donald Canton translated the presentation.

“The majority of meeting participants are elderly and happy to have such an educational opportunity held at their regular, familiar gathering places,” Canton explains. Since many of them can’t travel far from their homes on their own, Lions bring the program to them.

Chinatown Lions started the program in 2007 as part of the Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP), an initiative of LCIF. About 20 members from both clubs helped create the presentation and additional materials. Lions purchased a portable projector to use. “The usual turnout at each meeting is about 50, mostly elderly. On average, there are about 15 to 20 questions,” says Canton. The majority are related to glaucoma and cataracts, diseases particularly common in the elderly population.

“The service is in high demand,” says Dr. Steve Tam, president of the Boston Chinese Catholic Community or-

ganization. During the past two years, eight presentations were made in local venues to packed rooms.

Lion Eugene Cheng, an optometrist at the New England College of Optometry, “answers questions on the spot,” explains Canton. “And although the presentation material designed by Dr. Cheng is in Chinese, it can be translated easily to other languages for use by different-language speaking communities,” he adds. Lions also partner for a twice-yearly community sight screening, averaging 90 people in six hours. Canton says the screenings not only are beneficial to residents, they also “provide a great learning opportunity for the students to screen a lot of eyes under supervision. We do our best to overthrow as much as possible the incorrect myths and assumptions on eye diseases and eyesight protection in the minds of our listeners.”

SERVICE IDEA HELP ELDERLY



NECO Lion Millie Mui takes questions from the audience while the screen shows the presentation both in Chinese and English.

JUST ASK

If you don't ask someone to join your club, you'll never know if you missed an opportunity to share your commitment to service.

PLAN EFFECTIVE MEETINGS

If you have an agenda, stick to it but also allow for a free exchange of ideas.

BE APPROACHABLE

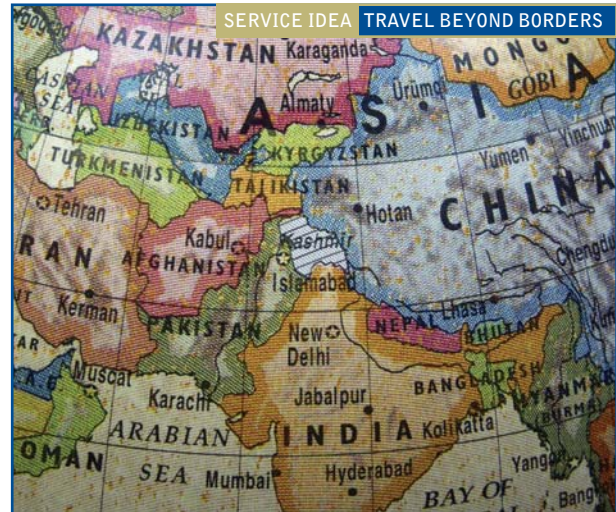
Be as responsive to the membership as you would be to any member of the community.

Distance No Barrier to Service

Lonaconing and LaVale Lions in Maryland don't believe that miles should be a barrier to helping others. They go the distance—even if it's thousands of miles—to help others. That “extra mile” they recently went to deliver medical equipment actually turned out to total 6,503, says Stephen Finger, who explains that's the mileage between the Port of Baltimore, Maryland, and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Lions collected 413 pieces of serviceable equipment previously destined for recycling to ship overseas. The surplus canes, crutches, walkers, commode chairs and wheelchairs went to Kyrgyzstan on an international mission of mercy supported by Lions and other charitable organizations. In addition to the medical equipment, a church donated clothing, toys and stuffed animals for recipients in that former Russian state. There are 5.3 million people who live in Kyrgyzstan and almost half live below the poverty line, says Finger, a LaVale Lion and District 22-W second vice district governor.

Many clubs in District 22-W keep a supply of donated medical equipment to loan to community members in need. Finger says the shipping project came about when he heard a representative of the non-profit Orphan Grain Train, which helps people in need in developing nations, speak at a Lions club meeting in Frostburg. “When he mentioned the need for convalescent medical equipment, I immediately realized that like our own Lions club, many clubs have convalescent equipment that has accumulated over the years from donations, adding new supplies and receiving equipment phased out by medical supply companies. Instead of recycling the surplus equipment, it made sense to send it to some place where it is truly needed,” he says. Orphan Grain Train transported the equipment to Kyrgyzstan by cargo ship.



Mountainous Kyrgyzstan is bordered by the much larger China to the east and Kazakhstan to the north.



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Marilyn Winograd demonstrates how to teach hydraulics with syringes attached together.

Kenyan Blind Finally Can Study Science

Science teacher and Hopewell Valley, New Jersey, Lion Lillian Rankel was shocked to learn that blind students are not allowed to study chemistry or physics in Kenya. It didn't take long before Rankel and Marilyn Winograd, a teacher of the blind and visually impaired, set out to change minds. They not only changed minds, they also helped to change the rules.

The pair, along with husbands, Andy and Roy, traveled to Kenya to present a one-week workshop for science teachers at Thika High School for the Blind in August 2009. Rankel says, "By the end of the week, teachers, administrators and government officials all agreed that you don't have to rewrite the curriculum, you just have to figure out a way to adapt the materials."

The two couples didn't travel lightly. They carted along eight suitcases, 560 pounds of teaching materials to donate to the Thika school. Included were balances, talking thermometers, magnifiers, plastic syringes, Braille labelers,

CD players and 350 pairs of magnifying eyeglasses. All the items were purchased for the blind and visually impaired students in Kenya with funds supplied by Lions in District 16B in central New Jersey. Rankel says the goal was "to teach the teachers" how to help their blind students learn science in labs. The four paid for their own airfare, ground transportation, hotels and food.

The collaboration began with a chance meeting in Kenya a year earlier between the school's principal with Rankel and 16 students who were there to deliver school supplies. One of the students, Trevor Saunders, is blind. After seeing how he used his adaptive technology to learn in a lab, Kenyan instructors were

amazed. Rankel, and Winograd, another of Saunders' instructors, extended an invitation to the school's principal to visit their school to personally witness how visually impaired students can learn in a laboratory. Several months later he flew to New Jersey to visit Hopewell Valley Central High School. He learned more about teaching laboratory science to the blind, and was eager to institute a similar program in Kenya and asked for help.

The two American teachers welcomed the opportunity to provide training to Kenyan teachers so students could have hands-on lab experience. "A core group of 14 teachers came every day to our workshop," Rankel says. In addition to the teachers, local officials also observed their techniques.

"The High School for the Blind in Thika has many needs and few resources," Rankel says. "It is a highly competitive academic school and the only high school for the blind in eastern Africa. There are few opportunities for the blind in Kenya. Being able to take laboratory sciences may help some students to go on to study at a university and become employed and self-sufficient."

LIONS ON LOCATION

YOUR GUIDE TO THE GREAT WORK WE'RE DOING AROUND THE WORLD

1 EUROPE GERMANY

German Lions Will Drink to That



Lions pluck grapes in a vineyard. (Right) The labeling is distinctive.

Each year German Lions in an all-female club gather at a vineyard to pick grapes, a strenuous task. But the result is a crisp, pleasant, award-winning Riesling, sold to fund the club's project to help preschool children read.

The Wiesbaden An Den Quellen Lions have collaborated for three years with the well-known Georg Müller Stiftung winery in Hattenheim. The second vintage was particularly successful. It won a silver medal at the Hessian State Wine Awards, another silver at the Austrian Wine Challenge in Vienna and a bronze medal from the Federal Department of Agriculture. The club typically produces about 2,000 bottles of a vintage.

The 31-member club makes sure the labeling matches the quality of the wine. A graphic designer creates the distinctive labels, and each vintage is given a slogan. The first vintage was dubbed Euterpe, the muse of song. The second was Thalia, the muse of comedy, and the third Terpsichore, the muse of dance.

Besides backing the Stepping Stone to Reading project, the club supports Lions Quest.

2 ASIA THAILAND



Photo courtesy of Greg Price

Something to Smile About

Lions in Bangkok, Thailand, entertained passersby with performances by a young dance troupe and also provided free dental care under tents.

LIONS ON LOCATION

YOUR GUIDE TO THE GREAT WORK WE'RE DOING AROUND THE WORLD



THE PRESTATYN AND RHYL
LIONS CLUB IN ENGLAND
DONATED THEIR MINIBUS,
WHICH WILL BE USED TO
TRANSPORT SICK CHILDREN
IN UGANDA TO HOSPITALS



The homes built by Lions are sturdy.

The children enjoy the playground.

Domínguez hands out rolls of cloth.





THE ST. KITTS LIONS CLUB IS HOSTING A DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR MANAGERS TITLED LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY.



LIONS CLUB WINDHOEK ALTE FESTE IN NAMIBIA DONATED MORE THAN \$11,000 TO THE SCHOOL FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED IN KHOMASDAL.



THE COWRA LIONS CLUB IN AUSTRALIA DONATED A PORTABLE CLASSROOM SOUND SYSTEM TO HELP CHILDREN WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS UNDERSTAND LESSONS.

3 ASIA SRI LANKA

Lions Village in Sri Lanka Prospers

Five years after the tsunami devastated their area, the children of a village in Hambantota district in Sri Lanka sprinted toward their new playground. They sailed in the air on the swings and flew down the slides. “What can I say about happy children? I will leave it to your imagination,” said International Director Luis Domínguez of Spain, who took part in the dedication in Singha Village (“Lions Village” in the native language).

Domínguez recently visited Sri Lanka to monitor the progress of the Lions village and to provide additional assistance from Spanish Lions. Besides the playground, Spanish Lions also dedicated a community center, several shops and public bathrooms. Partnering with LCIF, Lions in Spain built 100 homes and gave nearly 40 sewing machines to jumpstart economic recovery.

Accompanied by local Lions, Domínguez spent three days visiting residents at their homes and assessing current needs. “It was nice to see how some of the families have progressed very well,” he said.

By the end of his visit, Lions distributed 27 more sewing machines, 55 rolls of cloth and 136 barrels of paint for the homes. Lions also agreed to fund another sewing machine, scholarships for children and a wheelchair.

“We basically gave them necessary things to help them make a better future. In other words, we bought the ‘fishing rod,’ ” Domínguez said.



The sewing machines provide economic stability.



4 ASIA JAPAN

Growing a Green Mentality at Schools in Japan

A “green curtain” drapes the outside walls of Suwa Elementary School in Japan. Lions with green thumbs and a desire to nurture green thinking in youths made possible the green wall.

Yokosuka Lions donated morning glory seeds, planters and nets to Suwa and six other elementary schools in Yokosuka and supervised the planting at two of them. The climbing plants serve as a blind for the windows and also cool the building.

The vines have reached the second floor at Suwa. Fourth graders water the plants during the school year and summer.

“We only planted morning glories this year. But if we mix in some moon flower seeds, we can enjoy the flowers the whole day long,” said Hiroshi Kuga, a Lion who runs a landscaping and nursery business.

The club learned from its mistake the first year of the project, when summer watering was not scheduled and the plants dried out. As a further improvement, this year the club gave the schools not only seeds for the Japanese morning glory but also for the Seiyō (Western) morning glory, which blooms later and will beautify the school until October.

Located in Kanagawa, Yokosuka is a city of 425,000. The club’s goal is to install green curtains in the city’s 50 elementary schools.

Schoolchildren water the plants





In a ceremony to hand over recycled eyeglasses, Jack Morris shakes the hand of cruise ship captain Christopher Turner.

Travel Tales

While On the Road, Lions Make Friends And Make A Difference

by Jay Copp

A few months ago a Lions recruitment team entered a bank in Centerville, Virginia. The assistant branch manager jumped out of his chair and fixed his gaze on one of the Lion's lapels. "I know that pin," said Syed Hussain.

In 1987 Hussain was a young father in Pakistan. Lions Clubs International President Brian Stevenson of Canada was visiting Karachi. Hussain's 2-year-old boy was desperately ill. He needed open heart surgery, not available in his own country. So, heart racing, Hussain wrote a letter to Stevenson and tracked him down. That started the wheels turning. The boy was flown to the United States and the surgery was successful. Today, he is in the United States with his family, studying to be a cardiologist. His father, the assistant bank manager, is helping to charter a club.

So it goes with Lions. Stories abound among Lions of coincidences and connections across borders. Maybe the average club cannot match the drama of a boy whose life was saved through an encounter with a Lion. But one of the perks of being a Lion is finding instant comrades in yellow vests far from home. Membership has its privileges: Lions gain access to people and places closed to ordinary travelers. These experiences frequently involve more than just hospitality. Lions who travel often travel well, reaching out in service and friendship.

Sun, Sand, Service

On their latest cruise retirees Jack and Freda Morris enjoyed sumptuous food, saw historic sites and, oh yeah, delivered 600 pairs of eyeglasses to the needy in Panama.

Members of the Loomis Lions Club in California, the Morrises combined pleasure with service.

The couple worked with Lions in District 4-C5 and the Folsom Project for the Visually Impaired (inmates refurbishing eyeglasses) to hand over the eyeglasses in a ceremony on the dock in Cristobal. Holland America Line set up a white table cloth under a tent (it was the rainy season) and the ship's captain, chaplain and hotel manager attended along with 15 Lions from Panama. "We were all there in our vests and pins. We looked like generals. There must have been a 1,000 people there [disembarking from the ship]," says Jack Morris. " 'OK,' somebody said, 'I give up. What are you Lions doing?' I told him and the people applauded. It brought a tear to my eye."

At dinner passengers also were eager to learn more about the dockside event. "Everybody wanted to hear about this Lions thing. People said, 'You gave up your day.' Well, what did you do today? It was very rewarding what we did," said Morris, who actually was given a guided tour of the city by Panama Lions.

Morris learned of "a dire need" for eyeglasses in Panama through his role as district chairperson of international relationships. The glasses were not heavy; he and Freda were able to fit them in two boxes, taped together to form one piece of luggage.

Morris is no stranger to foreign adventure. After working in intelligence for the California Attorney General, he moved to Brisbane and became the highest ranking, non-federal intelligence director in Australia. But any Lion taking a trip likely can duplicate what he and his



Lions in Gary, Minnesota, partnered with Norwegian Lions to replace huts in India with concrete homes.



wife did, he says. “The captain of the ship said Holland America wants to be part of any Lions program such as this,” Morris says. “It was very inexpensive, just a great approach to delivering eyeglasses.”

A Visit by a Dad

Everyone in Gary appreciated Nils Christian Fossum, a high school exchange student from Norway. His demeanor was friendly. His heritage matched the Norwegian background of many in the small Minnesota farm community. His basketball skills greatly improved the high school squad. Then when his father came from Oslo to visit, Lions in Gary found another reason to like him. Per Fossum was a Lion.

Fossum’s visit to a club meeting was why a family in India, previously living in a hut made from sticks, clay and cow manure and regularly overrun by snakes and scorpions, dwell in a solid concrete home with a kitchen and toilet.

During his visit, Fossum chatted amiably about the weather, the old country and his club’s projects. Fossum’s club supported Nadhal, a tiny village of 158 near Numbia, India. Life is hard there. Families’ plots are too small to farm, so villagers earn about \$1 per day working on big farms. Seasonal rains routinely destroy the rickety homes. The village’s well is contaminated; influenza, tuberculosis and diarrhea are common scourges.

After they heard Fossum, the Lions of Gary didn’t need to be asked. They also recruited Lions in nearby Ada and Fertile to lend a hand to the Oslo Lions. So when June rolled around, the pancakes and sausages sold at Gary Days ended up partly funding a home in Nadhal. Then Edna Rude, wife of Gary Lion DeFloren and a regular visitor to Norway, hand delivered \$1,500 to Oslo Lions.

“We’re a wealthy farming community. It’s hard for us in a modern farming community to realize how needy people are,” says DeFloren Rude, a retired high school principal. “We thought our clubs can do our little part.”

Have Vest, Will Serve

A retired high school principal in Minnesota, George Davis and his wife, Cecilia, are frequent travelers. They hitch their camper to their pickup and hit the open road. “My neighbor jokes that we’re not home enough to qualify for the homestead [exemption],” says Davis. They know what to pack—including George’s Lions vest and pins.

A few years ago, on their fourth trip to Alaska, the Davises attended a bluegrass festival sponsored by the Anderson Clear Lions Club. The couple also lent a hand. George worked security from midnight to 2 a.m. In the morning, not to rest on their service laurels, both George and Cecilia (though she’s not a Lion) helped out at the pancake breakfast run by the Fairbanks Midnight Sun Lions.

The Davises routinely look to bump into Lions while traveling. In fact, they stay at campgrounds run by clubs when they can find one. “They’re not easy to find. I try on the Internet,” says George, a member of the Brandon Lions Club. “We figure why not support people we know.”

Before returning from Alaska last time, a Lion there gave Davis a list of names on the route home and said they could help them if they had any problems along the way. That got him thinking. He knew about the Good Sam Club in which volunteer Standby Sams can recommend a mechanic, restaurant or campground. Why not a Lions Helping Fellow Lions Club? He approached the district office but nothing came of his idea. But that won’t stop him from pitching in when on the road. “It’s just a lot of fun and you meet new people,” he says.

Roots of Service

After her brother died unexpectedly last year in India, Deepti Singh Suri traveled from her home in a Chicago suburb back to her native country. She spent time at an ashram to “get my sanity back,” she says.

India was where she grew up, became a successful businesswoman and a committed Rotarian, and befriended and admired many Lions, one of whom established an orphanage. India also was where the inequality of girls was especially visible and poignant. When Suri re-



Deepti Singh Suri (back row, far left) spent a month teaching these children of staff of an ashram in India “to think and plan to grow bigger than their small hamlet they lived in.”



Though a Minnesotan visiting Alaska, Davis works the pancake breakfast run by the Fairbanks Midnight Sun Lions.

turned to her home and her husband and two girls, she was ready to do something about the plight of girls.

Shortly after her return a friend from Sunday school told her she was starting a Lions club. “It all came together,” says Suri. “Her first question to me was, ‘Will you become a member?’ Then she asked if I’d be president.”

Chartered last September, the Flossmoor Roshni Lions Club is dedicated to helping girls who are orphans or otherwise are less privileged. The club already has arranged with an NGO in Himachel Pradesh, a state in India, to provide financial support for two girls so they can live with their extended families. Otherwise, they’d be sent to an orphanage and likely be poorly educated and fare poorly. “Boys are taken care of by their extended families if needed. Girls are given away to orphanages,” says Suri.

Many of the club’s members work at South Suburban College near Chicago where Sangeeta Kumar, Suri’s friend, is a librarian. The online club is nearly all women of multiple ethnic groups. Two members, Kumar’s sister and a friend of hers, live in India. The plan is to find members worldwide to better further the club’s mission.

The club will hold a fashion show both to raise funds and to showcase the work of local college students. A designer of fashion and jewelry, Suri says she’d like the club to form relationships among design students, corporate

buyers and owners of small businesses in India and other nations. The networking can help young people here and girls abroad.

The trip to India triggered Suri's volunteerism. But, ultimately, her own home fuels her altruism. "I have two daughters. I relate to girls being a woman," she says.

Twinning Travel

Club twinning is not unusual, but Lions in Pennsylvania and Italy chose to formalize their relationship in person. Springfield Lions hosted Casoli Val Di Sangro Lions, who initiated the twinning via e-mail and have family in the Springfield area and on the East Coast they wanted to visit as well. So in December 2008, 27 Italian Lions and family flew to the United States and sat down with more than 80 Lions, Lionesses and Leos connected with the Springfield club.

The Lions exchanged friendship banners and gifts. The Italian Lions received replicas of the Liberty Bell. The Springfield Lions received a hand-painted commemorative plate. The Casoli Lions ran a film about their region and the Springfield Lions showed a PowerPoint of their activities.

More than just an ocean separated the two clubs. Chartered in 1948, the Springfield club has 90 members. The club is well-known in town for its sponsorship of an adult night school and the town's Fourth of July celebration. Begun in 2007, Casoli has 30 members. The club has assisted the needy in Ethiopia and contributed to Campaign SightFirst II.



Club president Nicola Belfatto of Italy presents a friendship banner.

The Italian Lions spoke enough English to keep the evening on track. The only hiccup was when the Springfield Lions attempted to give red carnations to the Italian women, who refused them. "We didn't know that the color is a sign of back luck," says Jim Harrington, a past district governor from the club.

But warm feelings predominated. A Lion is a Lion, no matter country of origin. "Everybody had a great time. I think it was the fraternity of Lions that was the bond," says Harrington. "They wanted us to reciprocate [the visit]. That's on our list."

No Degree of Separation

Mary Krogh knew as a Lion and then as a district governor she'd meet new people and enjoy new experiences. What she didn't know was that Africa and Africans would loom so large. Her story is one of connections and coincidences, too.

Krogh joined the East Hampton Village Lions Club in Connecticut in 1988. Seven years later her club agreed to co-host a Special Olympics delegation from Tanzania. Initially "a little leery" because she knew no Africans, her concerns quickly vanished. "The minute I met them I just fell in love with Africa and its culture," she says. "I realized that they have very little material items. But the warmth and love they share with each other is unbelievable."

Krogh bonded with Adeline, the head of the delegation. She later visited her in Tanzania and they went on a safari. The two became "like sisters," says Krogh. Adeline was able to stay in a lodge normally closed to Ugandans. "You showed me the United States and now you showed me my own country," she told Krogh.

A couple of years later Krogh began to make plans to return to Tanzania when she received a postcard. Adeline had died of AIDS.

Flash forward to 2003 when Krogh was district governor. Luckily, her twinning governor happened to be from Uganda. Polly Karimari Ndyarugahi and Krogh bonded through e-mail and then at a luncheon for new district governors. He later visited her in Connecticut.

The next year Krogh and her husband, Ted, a Lion, hosted his teen-age son, Jerome, as part of a Lions ex-



Mary Krogh bonds with Special Olympics athletes from Tanzania. Her friend, Adeline, is in the foreground.

change program. Initially leery because he had never been around children with cancer, Jerome agreed to volunteer as a counselor at Camp Rising Sun. He liked it so much he entered a work exchange program at the camp's parent camp. Jerome is now studying electrical engineering at Boise State University in Idaho.

Krogh's involvement with the Ndyarugahis did not end there. A friend of Krogh's, Linda Howard, was traveling to Uganda, so Krogh had Ndyarugahi meet her. He brought along Lion Jane Irene Twinomujuni, who instantly bonded with Howard, who invited her to visit her back in the United States. (Twinomujuni's husband, Lion Amos, incidentally, is a high-ranking judge in Uganda.)

But before Twinomujuni's trip to the international convention in Chicago in 2007 and then to Texas to see Howard, Howard died unexpectedly. So Ted and Mary Krogh hosted the three Ugandans (Ndyarugahi, his wife, Night, and Twinomujuni) on a whirlwind visit to the Connecticut area. The Ugandans took in a baseball game, went whale watching and saw the Kennedy compound. "I have seen other governors twin with others but their relationship mostly remains on paper," Ndyarugahi told Krogh in an e-mail. "Ours is more than a friendship. It is a family."

These days Krogh reflects back on the friends she's made and the various Lions she's met in Africa. Each year she chairs the Special Olympics Opening Eyes program in Connecticut. "I look forward to those two days in June," she says. "I think I do it in memory of Adeline."

Hospitality Advice from a Lion in 1965

Visiting clubs is ingrained in Lionism, so much so that in 1965 LION Magazine was compelled to run a story on it. In the slightly melodramatic style of the time, the headline was: Welcome Strangers, How Your Club Cares For A Guest Determines Whether He'll Be a Lion Friend or Club Enemy.

Written by Lion Glenn Kerfoot of Lexington, Kentucky, the story contains a lot of straightforward advice: "Every club should maintain a special greeter committee made up of handpicked Lions noted for their friendliness and ability to make others feel at ease. ... Every club should review its own hospitality proceedings periodically to make sure guests are being welcomed properly. ... A visiting Lion should always be introduced to the group during the meeting and, if time allows, he might be asked to say a few words." (The article long predates the acceptance of women as members, hence the use of "he" and "his.")

Kerfoot warns Lions to "be aware of practical jokes." A visiting Lion who had his tie cut in half "became so upset that he left in a huff, vowed never to visit that club again and didn't." Showing that common sense never goes out of style, Kerfoot concludes his story by invoking the Golden Rule. "Treat your visitors the way you like to be treated when you are a guest. You could still go wrong, but it won't easy."

Family to Family

THREE GENERATIONS OF LIONS HELP FAMILIES IN NEED

As a caseworker for Child Protective Services in Phoenix, Elizabeth Michaelis, 26, has seen more than her share of heartache. The current economic situation has only made her job more frustrating. The number of children in need keeps growing, as parents lose their jobs or fall behind in their mortgage payments. At the same time, cash-strapped local governments are cutting their budgets, leaving Michaelis and her co-workers with fewer resources to help out.

One case in particular hit her especially hard. Two teenage brothers had spent years shuffling between family members, finally ending up with their great-grandmother. She meant well, but could only provide the barest necessities on her limited income. Michaelis knew that if the boys' basic needs weren't met, she would have no choice but to move them into foster care.

"When I heard they were sleeping on the floor, I called my mom the same day," Michaelis said. In less than a week, Michaelis's mother and her friends had bought and delivered beds, bags of groceries and clothes. The boys were especially thrilled to receive laundry carts and detergent—everyday items the rest of us take for granted. "They're pretty much raising themselves, and they just wanted to have clean clothes for school," says Michaelis.

Michaelis's network of friends and family also happened to be fellow Lions, members of the multigenerational Phoenix Adobe Mountain Lions Club in Arizona. When Michaelis heard one of her co-workers talking about a family with five children ages 6 and under all sleeping in the same bed, she brought it up at the club's next meeting and the members went into action again.

"We decided this would be our focus," says Michaelis. "As a social worker, I see a lot of people struggle. With Lions, I feel like I'm able to make a difference."

The Phoenix Adobe Mountain Lions Club may be a relatively new, relatively small club; it chartered in March 2008 and currently has 23 members. But this family club is a tightly knit group whose members believe strongly in their core mission: to help other, less fortunate families. For many, it's the culmination of life experiences that have brought them face-to-face with the needs of their com-



(Right) The Phoenix Adobe Mountain Lions Club delivers goods to local firefighters to help families in need.

(Above) Ty Wayne Stephens, whose grandmother is a Lion, pitches in.

munity. Now, their passion and determination have convinced their spouses and children to join them.

Take Mary Michaelis, 55, Elizabeth's mother. As an outreach worker at a public school for homeless children in Phoenix, she helped families find places to stay, maintained a clothing room so that students could have something clean to wear, provided transportation and coordinated public services. "The job was all encompassing," she says. At the invitation of Dr. Art Parker, one of the school's founders, she visited a Lions club in Phoenix and eventually became its first woman member.

But it wasn't a perfect fit. Michaelis realized she and a few other members wanted to focus on more direct, more hands-on service. They also discussed how they had the most fun on club trips, when their families came along.

"My daughter lives 40 miles to the east of me, and my son lives 30 miles to the west," says Barrett. "The club has brought us all together."

by Elizabeth Blackwell



What if every meeting could have that same spirit? And so the Adobe Mountain Club was born.

"We didn't really know what we were doing, but we went ahead and did it anyway," laughs President Terry Barrett, 72. A retired college professor and former school superintendent, he spent his career mentoring students. "My work with Lions is a continuation of what I've done all my life," he says.

Barrett and his wife, Sandy, have brought their children, Sean and Shannon, into the club as well, along with their spouses and children. "My daughter lives 40 miles to the east of me, and my son lives 30 miles to the west," says Barrett. "The club has brought us all together." Though Sean and Shannon are too busy with work and family obligations to attend most meetings, the whole

family gets together for club activities. Barrett's four grandchildren, ranging in age from 6 to 1 and-a-half, even helped put together care packages for troops overseas. "We're grooming the next generation," Barrett says.

Both Barrett and Michaelis say the club is richer now that both their spouses are members rather than occasional guests as club functions. "Even though they weren't members of a club before, their input is just as important," says Barrett. "Maybe more important, because our ideas are getting old!"

For years, Mary Michaelis juggled volunteer work with the demands of raising three children. She still remembers how hard it was to tell them she would have to miss one of their activities, and she feared that her husband didn't always understand her sense of mission,

“Meeting people who are persistent and encouraging makes you want to get involved. They know I have a busy schedule, so they allow me to participate at the level I’m able.”

either. Now that Stan, 57, and her daughter are fellow members, volunteering and family time aren’t mutually exclusive. Before meetings, Elizabeth often joins her parents at their house for dinner so they can all catch up.

“I used to rope Stan into things,” says Mary. “Now, he’s more apt to step up and take action. He’s more open to people in need. He used to be very conservative when it came to discussions of the less fortunate, but not long ago I watched him hand money to a woman with several children who was a few dollars short at the grocery store.”

While a family club can open up everyone to new experiences, members have to make allowances for the needs of different ages; not everyone can or should be held to the same inflexible standards. “Attendance at meetings is very different for the younger generation,” says Barrett. “My children have very busy lives. They’re really interested in community service, but sitting in meetings is not their forte.”

While at least one member from each family is usually present at meetings, it’s understood that not everyone will make it (especially those with small children). The club also makes allowances for members who are out making a difference in the issues they care about, even if that means they attend only sporadically.

Attorney and politician David Lujan, for example, is the minority leader in the Arizona House of Representatives and recently formed an exploratory committee for a possible run for state Attorney General. He joined the club because its mission is especially close to his own heart: he is the staff attorney for a non-profit organization that helps children who have been victims of abuse.



Club members build a home with Habitat for Humanity for a woman who is blind.

“They are incredibly passionate about their work,” he says of his fellow members. “Meeting people who are persistent and encouraging makes you want to get involved. They know I have a busy schedule, so they allow me to participate at the level I’m able.”

The club also hopes to attract more young members by reaching out to local universities and community colleges. Martha McDaniel, 57, is the club’s membership chair; her husband, Bill, and son Alec, 23, are also members. “This is the best opportunity to teach our children the responsibility of giving back,” she says. “We’re growing our own.”

The McDaniels run their own business, which sells highway signs and traffic safety supplies. Their own giving has inspired others to step up. When Martha was buying supplies for the two boys living with their great-grandmother, one of the employees suggested making street signs with the boys’ names as a surprise gift. The McDaniels have even adopted a new Christmas tradition:

they enjoy dinner together but all the money they would have spent on gifts for each other goes to buy presents for a needy family.

The club's focus on meeting specific needs is what makes it work, says McDaniel. "In my lifetime, I've given away so many dollar bills to people standing on a street corner, only to see the same person sitting there the next week," she says. "I'd rather give things that help them get back on their feet, things to make living a little bit easier. If you can give a child a new backpack and school supplies, some clean clothes—those sound like small things, but that's what helps build their self worth."

Giving to those in need is a worthy goal, but Phoenix Adobe Mountain members want to make a difference for the long term. Mary Michaelis knows firsthand how challenging it can be to change the course of troubled lives. Now a new clubs extension consultant for Lions Clubs International, she travels frequently out-of-state. Recently, she spotted a young man she knew from her days at the high school for homeless teenagers working at the airport Starbucks.

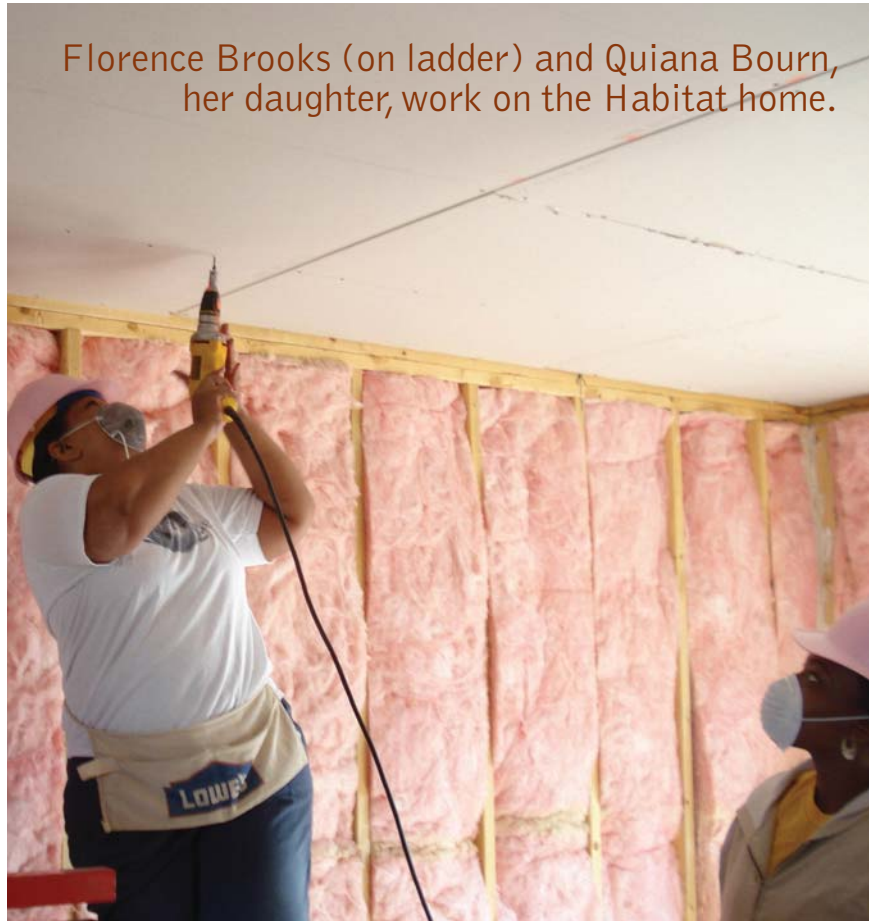
"I felt being happy to see him working and off the streets, then a bit sad because he could do so much more," she says. "We actually tried to give him a scholarship to a private school. He was so bright and really had an opportunity to break his family's homeless cycle, but we can't fix home issues that parents don't want to fix."

There may be no easy solutions, but Phoenix Adobe Mountain members have seen how seemingly simple items—new clothes, a bed, even laundry de-

tergent—can improve a child's life. Just as members of nurturing families are there for one another through good times and bad, club members hope they can offer ongoing support to the children who need them. Such work has brought them closer to their own loved ones and each other. "It doesn't seem like a club," says Barrett. "It feels like a family."

As for Mary Michaelis, she plans to stop by that airport Starbucks again, hoping she can convince the young man to apply to college or a trade school. "It takes more than money to help a child in need," she says. "It takes our time, which is even more valuable."

Florence Brooks (on ladder) and Quiana Bourn, her daughter, work on the Habitat home.



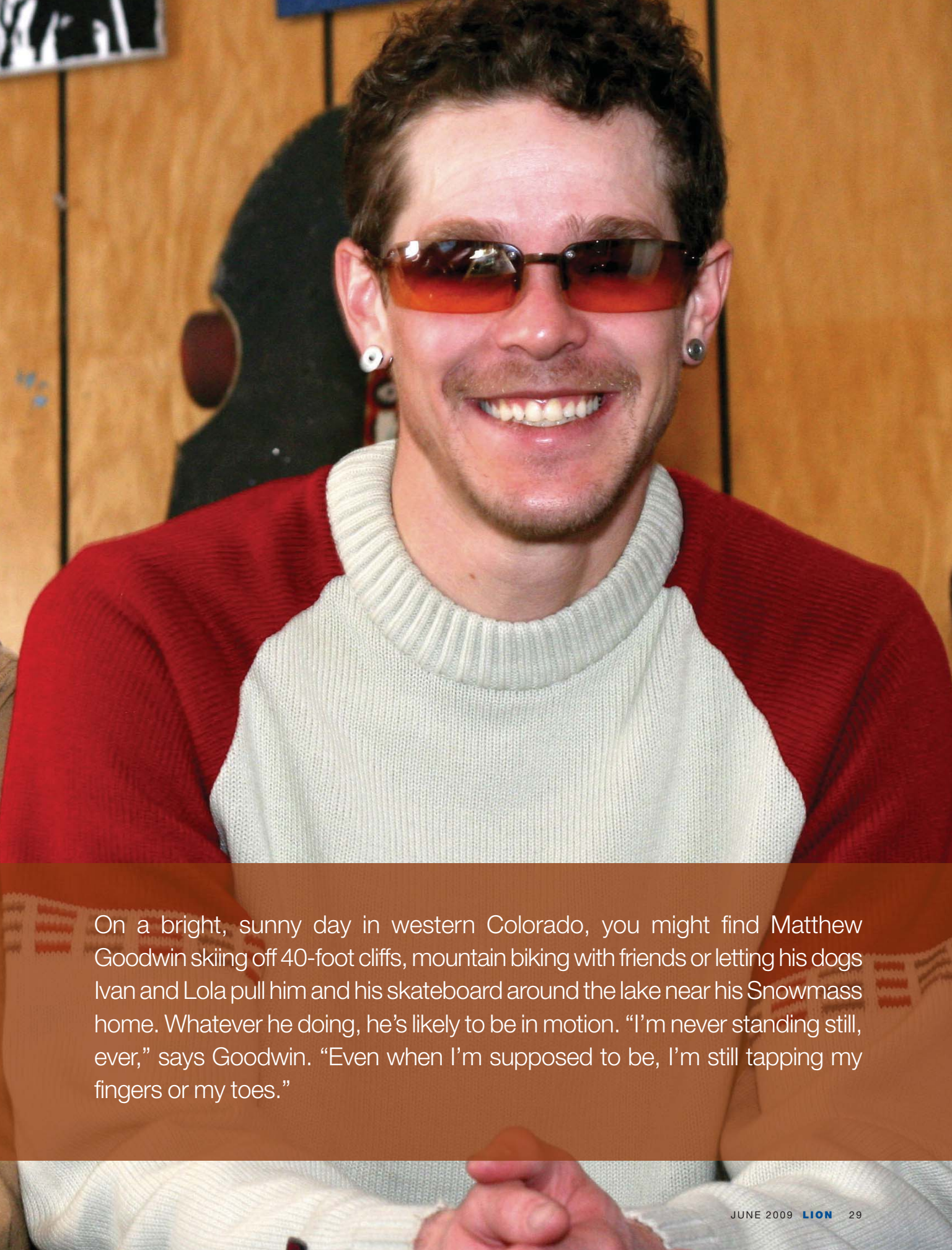
Goodwin chats with Peter Larrowe, 96, one of his benefactors.



Brink of Blindness

Told he'd have to go blind before qualifying for aid, a 27-year-old skier from Colorado turns to Lions for help

by Maria Blackburn



On a bright, sunny day in western Colorado, you might find Matthew Goodwin skiing off 40-foot cliffs, mountain biking with friends or letting his dogs Ivan and Lola pull him and his skateboard around the lake near his Snowmass home. Whatever he doing, he's likely to be in motion. "I'm never standing still, ever," says Goodwin. "Even when I'm supposed to be, I'm still tapping my fingers or my toes."

"As Lions, eyesight is our main focus, whether that means glasses or eye exams or a corneal transplant," says Spencer.

However, just more than one year ago, the 27-year-old cook was so immobilized by pain that he couldn't even look at the mountains surrounding his home, much less ski down them. An eye disease called keratoconus, diagnosed when he was 15, was causing corneal infections that were so painful and made his eyes so light sensitive that he had to call in sick to work and take refuge in the bathroom, the darkest room in his home, for days on end.

More significantly, keratoconus was robbing Goodwin of his eyesight. By October 2008, vision in his right eye had so deteriorated that he could see only a half inch in front of him without his hard contacts. His right eye would no longer tolerate a contact lens. His left eye would soon follow. Without corneal transplants, Goodwin would go blind.

But he had no insurance. And his \$24,000 annual salary wouldn't come close to covering the cost of the two \$15,000 surgeries. Overwhelmed with the searing pain and worried about the future, he curled up his bathroom floor in a quilt and cried himself to sleep.

Just when he thought his situation might be hopeless, Manuel Gomez of the Basalt Lions Club invited Goodwin to his next meeting. Gomez, a family friend, thought the Lions could help. Goodwin knew nothing about the Lion's mission to be "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness," but he agreed to go to tell his story. "I was hoping for the best but not really expecting anything out of it," says Goodwin.

Little did he know at the time how much this decision would change his life.

Facing Blindness

Goodwin was in his first week of his freshman year of high school when he realized that he was unable to read the trombone sheet music on his music stand. An optometrist diagnosed him with astigmatism, or irregularly shaped corneas, and fitted him with glasses. Six months later, the 15-year-old returned to the optometrist. The correction in the lenses was no longer working and his eyesight had gotten markedly worse. "It was like I was looking through the dimpled glass of a shower door," he explains.

That's when a specialist in Denver diagnosed keratoconus, a thinning of the cornea which causes the eye to be-

come cone shaped. The condition affects about one in 2,000 people. Goodwin was told that the disease may be caused by environment or genetics. He also learned that while wearing hard contact lenses would help correct his vision, there is no cure for the degenerative disease and one day he might need a corneal transplant.

Goodwin is a slightly built young man with a mop of curly hair and intense blue eyes. He faced the diagnosis with his usual optimism. "I thought if they keep coming up with new and better contact lenses then I can just keep wearing contacts and won't have to have surgery," he says.

Despite the diagnosis he was captain of the wrestling team, played in the band and edited the literary magazine at Basalt High School. After graduation, he traveled, got a job as a cook and became a sponsored skier. But his keratoconus was always a major factor. Every time his corneas changed, Goodwin needed a new pair of \$250 hard contacts. He went through about two dozen pairs through the years, racking up medical bills that he paid with his mother's help and by working extra shifts.

Beyond the expense, the pain and irritation were constant. Frequent eye infections made the contacts too painful to wear and he had to stop driving. At the restaurant, he accidentally burned and cut himself in the kitchen because of his lost depth perception and near blindness in one eye. Proud of his self-sufficiency, he hid his disability from everyone but his family and closest friends. "I didn't want anyone to feel sorry for me," he explains.

In June 2008, Goodwin's optometrist told him that his right eye would no longer tolerate a contact lens and that he needed a corneal transplant. The news was devastating. "I was really scared," he says. "I had no idea how I was going to pay for it."

His job at the pizzeria didn't provide health insurance, and no insurer would cover his vision because the keratoconus was a pre-existing condition. That summer he applied for Medicare/Medicaid. He was told he would have to first go blind, be unable to work for one year and be termed disabled before he could begin the process of applying for transplant surgery. It could take two years, a timeline he found unacceptable. "There is no reason why in a first-world country that someone in their 20s should have to put their life on hold for a surgery," he says.

"I wanted to continue to work and contribute to society."

Lions to the Rescue

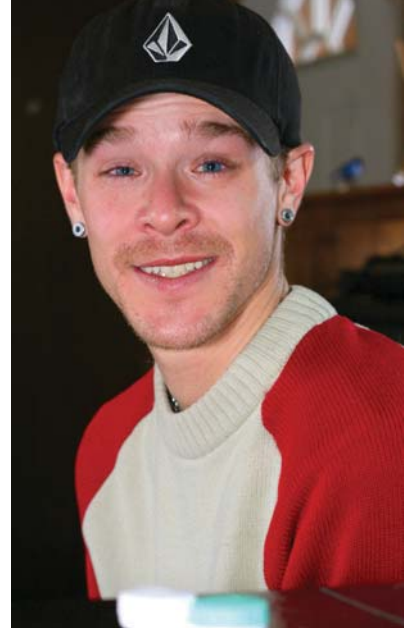
On a Wednesday evening in November of 2008, Goodwin went to a meeting of the Basalt Lions Club at St. Vincent's Catholic Church to tell his story. Suffering from an eye infection and unable to wear his lenses that day, he needed help from his mother and girlfriend in picking out his clothes, navigating the stairs of the church and making his way through the crowd. He wore dark glasses and shuffled tentatively through the dozen or so Lions who had gathered. When it was time, he stood up and shared his story. Although he only spoke for five minutes, his words resonated with the group. "We all realized he is someone who definitely needs help," says John Spencer, a past district governor and a Lion for more than 34 years.

The Basalt Lions Club, which was chartered in 1957 and has 27 members, was more accustomed to filling such needs as providing eyeglasses for low-income children in the small, closely-knit bedroom communities near Aspen. But that didn't prevent members from wanting to get involved. At its next meeting, the club voted unanimously to help Goodwin get the surgery he needed. "As Lions, eyesight is our main focus, whether that means glasses or eye exams or a corneal transplant," says Spencer. "Our club had never had an opportunity like this before, but we knew this was something we had to do. He didn't have to wait for social services and jump through hoops because the

Lions organization has the wherewithal to make these things happen. When you are talking about a young man's eyesight and you have the ability to do something, then shame on you if you don't."

Spencer had spent 13 years as a trustee of the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute and knew exactly what to do. That night he e-mailed the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank, which agreed to be part of the effort and gave Spencer the names of five local ophthalmologists to contact. The eye bank would provide the donor tissue for free and match the funds the Basalt Lions Club raised, but it was up to Spencer to find a surgeon who was willing to perform the surgery at Medicare rates, about half the fee paid by private insurance. When the first surgeon who saw Goodwin was unable to reduce his fee sufficiently, Spencer had to start over and find a new doctor. Before long he located Dr. Jay Hoffman, an ophthalmologist in Grand Junction who was willing to perform the transplant.

Already stunned by how much the Basalt Lions Club was doing for him, Goodwin was also impressed by how quickly and diligently the Basalt Lions worked on his behalf. One Sunday morning in late June while working his volunteer job managing the Basalt Farmer's Market, Goodwin noticed a man he didn't know setting up a table and went over to introduce himself. The man told him he was from the Basalt Lions Club and was selling raffle tickets to raise money for a local man who was facing blindness without a corneal transplant.



Goodwin now has reason to smile.

"Would you like to be the first person to buy a ticket?" he asked. Goodwin looked down at the pamphlets on the table and saw his photo and a brief story about himself headlined "Basalt Man Faces Blindness." He laughed.

"Well, I better buy some seeing as I'm the guy on the pamphlet," he told the seller.

Moved to Tears

On July 21, 2009, less than eight months after he first spoke to the Basalt Lions Club, Goodwin received a corneal transplant. During the 90-minute outpatient procedure, Hoffman excised the diseased cornea in Goodwin's eye, replaced it with a healthy cornea from a donor and sewed it into place with 32 tiny stitches.

Goodwin began noticing an improvement in his vision within a few hours of the surgery. Earlier that morning on the two-hour drive to the hospital, his mother asked him if he could see the white tractor trailer driving right in front of their Jeep. He could not. That afternoon just a few hours after surgery, she asked her son from across the room, "How many fingers am I holding up?"

Continued on page 52



Every parent needs a break from the demands of raising children. Do dads owe a debt of gratitude to Lions for Father's Day?

Did a Lion Begin Father's Day?

by Kelly Janowski

It's the time of year where we thank our dads for the endless hours of catch, the lessons in changing a flat tire and the mysterious answer to why the downstairs toilet won't stop running.

While we take time to give our dads a big thank you, it's possible we all have a Lion to thank for Father's Day.

According to multiple Web sites, Harry Meek, the president of the Chicago Lions Club, celebrated the first Father's Day in 1915 with Lions. He wanted to create a day that commemorated the contributions of fathers and chose the date closest to his own birthday for the holiday. As the story goes, to show its appreciation for this act, the Lions Clubs of America presented him with a gold watch inscribed with the phrase "The Originator of Father's Day" on his birthday of June 20, 1920.

You'll find this story on www.Fathersdaycelebration.com and many other Web sites. At first glance, the tale seems plausible because of Lions' close association with families and communities. But is it true? The LION Magazine set out to determine the accuracy of the Meek story.

A search of our database at international headquarters showed no record of a Harry Meek. That isn't surprising since records from that era can be spotty, and some details from the Father's Day story may have changed through the course of time. The International Association of Lions Clubs did not officially form until 1917, two years after the holiday supposedly began. Yet dozens of Lions clubs were operating in 1915.

One of the oldest clubs, the Chicago Central Lions Club, dates back more than 100 years. Lions Clubs International founder Melvin Jones was a member of the club and was its president in the early days of Lions. Much of the club's records were lost in the '40s, but secretary Richard Carlson has notations about the club's presidents since 1908. According to his records, Meek was not the club's president, which conflicts with the story presented on several Web sites.

"There could have been another organization called Lions of America," Carlson said.

Indeed, before chartering with the Lions, the Chicago Central Lions Club was known as Chicago Business Circle. It's possible that Meek was part of another Chicago-based club with a similar name.

Next, we searched old editions of LION Magazine, which date back to November of 1918. If the Lions did present such a lavish gift to Meek, one would think it would have been featured in a magazine. But the story, as well as Meek, is not mentioned. Even books detailing the history of Lions made no mention of Meek. One of the book's authors, Robert Kleinfelder, the former longtime editor of the LION, said the story doesn't ring a bell.

But that doesn't necessarily mean the tale was fabricated. In fact, American folklore expert, author and professor Linda S. Watts of the University of Washington said any number of stories about the origin of Father's Day could be simultaneously true.

Lions Celebrate Dads

Father's Day is an important holiday for Lions across the world. Many clubs take advantage of this time of year and create activities, festivals and dinners that people can enjoy with their fathers.

- In Montana, the Ennis Lions Club hosts a fishing derby on Father's Day at the Lions Club Park. Kids younger than 12 fish with coaching from their dads. They also enjoy a free barbecue after the Fishing Derby.
- Each year, the Lions Club of St. Thomas in Ontario, Canada, hosts an Autofest on Father's Day weekend. The club has an evening drive on Nostalgia Night, which is Saturday evening, along with a static car display, food, music, 50/50 draws and door prizes.
- The Mattituck Lions Club in New York began their annual Strawberry Festival on Father's Day weekend in 1955. This year's festival is June 18-20 and features fireworks, rides, a Strawberry Queen pageant, crafts, presentations and lots of foods in which the strawberry is the star.
- The Didsbury Lions Club in Alberta, Canada, holds a popular Soapbox Derby on the Saturday of Father's Day weekend for kids ages 8 to 17. The group also puts on a Construction Clinic and Brake and Steering Clinic, which gives kids the opportunity to learn more about building the ultimate ride.
- The Midvale Lions Club in Utah has an Annual Charity Breakfast on Father's Day. From 7 to 10 a.m., families can feast on all their favorite breakfast foods and no one has to do the dishes.



Dads can gorge on strawberries at the Mattituck Lions Club's festival.

"There were efforts at several locations at about the turn of the century to declare a day that honored fathers because Mother's Day was already in place," Watts said. "It is very difficult to try and tease out the absolute origins of these holidays."

In any case, it's one of many such stories kept alive by the continuous recounting of the tale, and more recently, the proliferation of chain e-mails and easy-to-build Web sites.

"I think that there can be several forces at work — one is the power of storytellers," Watts said. "They can take liberties that are taken literally. You can even hear them tell the story several times and it will get a little bit bigger each time."

"I find it interesting that yet another thing is attributed to the Lions. That would be great if we did in fact start something like that."

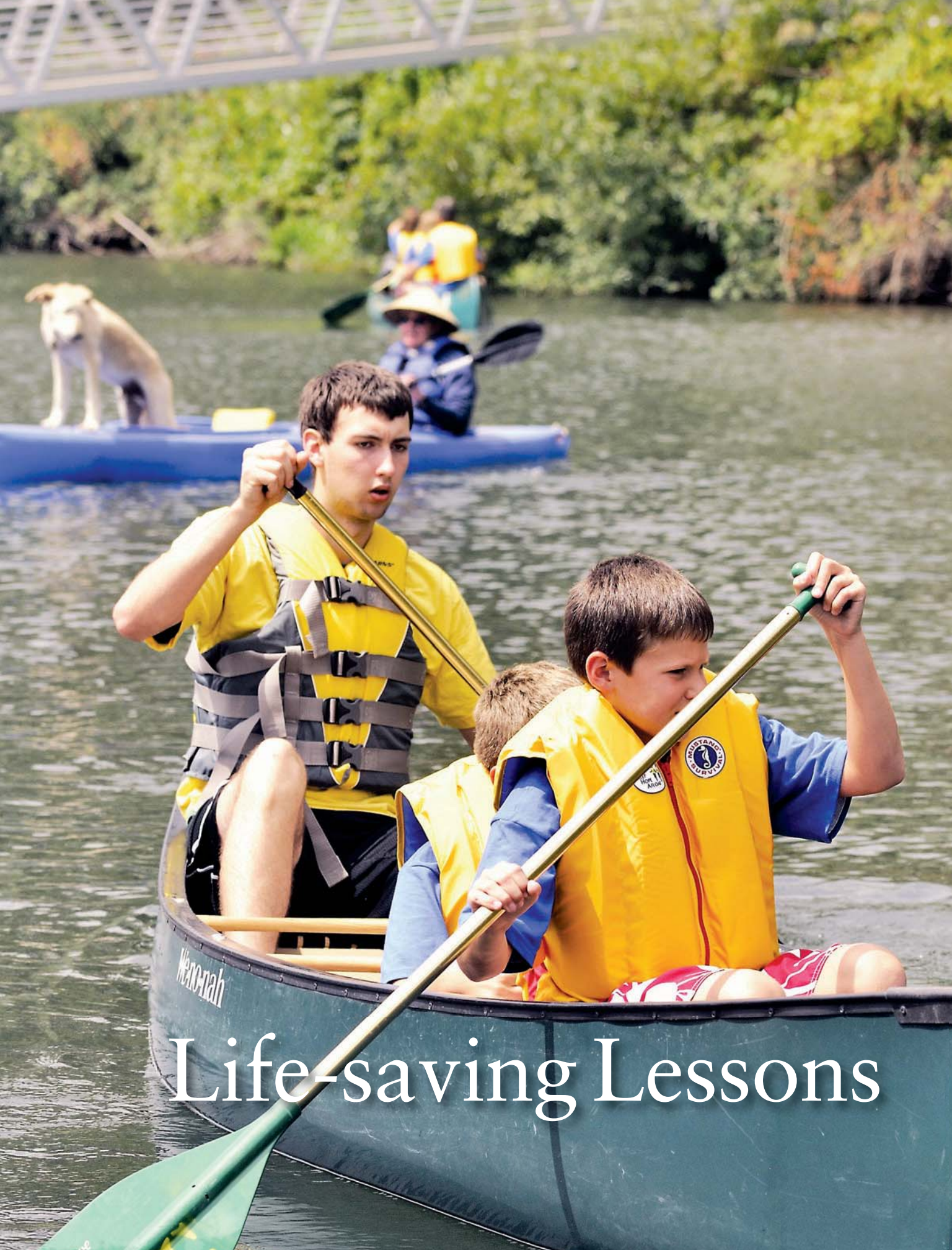
As could be the case with this story, Watts said that often when a tale is heard that seems credible and is in line with a person's beliefs, it is retold again and continues to grow. Because of Lions' reputation as an organization that embraces families and recognized people for the altruistic work they do every day, it's not surprising that listeners would lend the story credence.

"If there's a story that's compelling that taps into fears or common emotions or interest and it just gets retold, not by formal storytellers but by those who have heard it, it moves like a game of telephone," Watts said. "It's very difficult sometimes to tell where an urban legend truly began because the origin point is obscured by the many times and tellers."

Ed O'Farrell, the president of the Chicago Central Lions Club, said he hadn't heard the tale before.

"Anything's believable; in the past somebody had to found all of this stuff, it didn't just turn up over night," O'Farrell said. "I find it interesting that yet another thing is attributed to the Lions. That would be great if we did in fact start something like that. We could use all the press we can get."

So just as Chicagoland is home to tall tales such as Resurrection Mary, Lions may be the recipient of a fabulous fable about the origin of Father's Day. Or the truth may be stranger than fiction.



Life-saving Lessons

(Previous page) A Boy Scout lends a hand.

Photos by Mike Anderson



Lion Ron Adams supervises the children.

Rivers run through it, so Oregon Lions teach kids about water safety. Located near Portland and known as the “city of trees, hills and rivers,” West Linn is flanked by the Willamette and Tualatin rivers. Families enjoy kayaking, canoeing and boating. West Linn Lions organized a daylong event to instruct 65 children in boat safety, rope tying and water-related safety topics such as hypothermia. The children gulped down pizza, rode a sheriff’s marine boat, marveled at an antique wooden boat and went home with donated life jackets. Besides the Lions, teaching the children were members of the county sheriff’s marine department, a fire and rescue unit, the Coast Guard and Boy Scouts. “It was a most successful project not only to teach the kids about water safety but to ensure they acted as ambassadors to tell others how important water safety is,” says the aptly named Mike Waters, a Lion.



The children take to the water to learn about boat safety.



A volunteer and his furry companion help out.



A boy learns how to tie a knot.



Patrons of the low vision clinic are delighted at the expansion.

High Hopes for Low Vision Clinic

Heather Frank, executive director of the Society for the Blind in Sacramento, California, says she admires Lions so much she became one of them. She joined the Sacramento Senator Lions Club one year ago. “I wanted to give back to the group that gave us so much,” she says. In April, the Society for the Blind opened a new multi-million dollar Low Vision Clinic after a four-year fundraising effort that Lions helped spearhead.

California Lions have been involved in helping the society for more than 40 years, beginning in 1967 when Sacramento Lions helped purchase a lot and build a 4,200-square-foot facility for the society to operate a Low Vision Clinic. Past International President Kay Fukushima (2002-2003), a Sacramento Senator Lion, says the sum of \$1 was charged “in exchange for them to provide the badly needed services to help the visually challenged people with their daily living skills.

“Over the years, other Lions clubs within District 4-C5 helped to equip and maintain the upkeep of the facility used to teach, train and help conduct many of its services from the six- to seven-county area around Sacramento.”

After four decades, it became obvious that the clinic had outgrown its old quarters. Fukushima says Lions were enthusiastic about supporting an expansion effort. “It piqued the interest of everyone concerned when a local philanthropically-minded developer purchased a 20,000-square-foot, two-story building at a downtown location.” More conveniently located, “This building would provide four times the space and accommodate

many more people in need. Since it’s close to public transportation, interest quickly grew.” The developer offered the society the building at two-thirds of its market value for a new clinic.

Lions received a \$200,000 Core 4 Grant from LCIF to help renovate and supply the new clinic, and Fukushima represented Lions as a group spearheading the total \$5 million investment in the building. A local foundation gave a \$1 million lead gift and the developer helped with financing and gave other assistance. Building suppliers, tradespeople and professionals donated “in kind” support as the new clinic took shape.

“Many Lions clubs and individual members made donations as well as personal pledges to support this worthy project,” Fukushima says. “Lions clubs are now recognized as one of the top contributors of this wonderful establishment.”

The building’s interior previously functioned as office space and had to be gutted to be turned into a space suitable for rehabilitative teaching. Minor changes to the exterior were needed, including accommodations for service dogs. The 42-member staff is assisted by 400 volunteers who serve more than 3,000 clients each year. More than 600 of those clients need intensive and individualized rehabilitative services.

The Low Vision Clinic quadrupled not only in size, but in opportunities for the visually impaired. A space for a youth program will help young blind people develop their skills, learn more adaptive technology and socialize with their peers or mentors. Technology is a key



Visitors visit the clinic at its dedication.



learning tool today, and the new clinic now features a library dedicated to computers, scanners and other high tech tools not available—or affordable—to clients.

Frank says, “At first, we won’t see much expansion in the number of clients we serve, but we hope to double the number of clients we see one-on-one within the first few years. After that, there is room to triple and possibly quadruple the number of clients we serve. Our main advantage right now, however, is that the quality of each class has gone up. Instructors are no longer required to teach in crowded spaces and noisy conditions. Each has an office with a door that can shut, which allows their students the benefit of quiet and concentration.

“Apart from financial and volunteer support over time, Lions have recently helped us to acquire equipment for our new Living Skills Kitchen. Now we can teach our clients the basics of cooking, cleaning, labeling, sewing and household repair with sturdy, modern equipment.”

She points out how vital the learning process is to people whose sight deterioration has taken away their independence. “We have a client with macular degeneration. In the past few years, we’ve taught her safe kitchen techniques. She can continue preparing meals for her large family, and new labeling methods help her to continue dressing in style. She recently saw [clinic director] Dr. Ingman, who tried out a new optical device on her.

“She could suddenly see his face. She hadn’t been able to see a face in nearly five years. Each of her grandchildren and great grandchildren has made a trip to Grandma’s house over the past few weeks so she can see their faces—some for the first time.” Frank expects such small victories to be repeated often. “Our new facility will help us find many more stories like this.”

Peace Poster Winner Shocked and Happy

The news she had won came when she was in school. "We were in our history class when the teacher told us I won the grand prize," said Yu-Min Chen, referring to her twin sister, Yu-I, who also participated in the Lions International Peace Poster contest. In shock, Yu-Min sat in silence while her sister and classmates screamed and cheered for her.

Yu-Min Chen is an eighth-grader from Multiple District 300 Taiwan. The Taichung Kuang Hua Lions Club sponsored the contest at Wu Chun School.

As the grand prize winner, Yu-Min was flown with her parents and the sponsoring club president to Lions Day with the United Nations in March in Vienna, Austria. Yu-Min's parents brought along her twin sister and older sister, Yu-Hsin. It was their first time traveling abroad and their first flight.

At the event, International President Eberhard J. Wirfs presented Club President Chin-Ming Tsing with awards for his club and the school. He also presented Yu-Min with an award and encouraged all clubs to "be in sight" by sponsoring the contest in their communities.

Yu-Min, the first grand prize winner from Multiple District 300 Taiwan, spoke to attendees about the importance of the contest. "I sincerely hope every person will respect all others. The rainbow in my drawing is a magic bridge that connects the countries of the world and all countries become a big family with no hate or conflicts," said Yu-Min. "I would like to share my honor with my family and all the people of the world."

An estimated 350,000 children ages 11 to 13 from 70 countries participated in this contest. Yu-Min's poster was chosen for its originality, artistic merit and portrayal of this year's contest theme, "The Power of Peace." As the grand prize winner, she received the local equivalent of US\$2,500.

In addition to the grand prize winner, 23 merit award winners were named. The merit winners are from the Bahamas, China, China Hong Kong, the Dominican Republic, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malta, Mexico, the Philippines, Russia, Switzerland and the United States (Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota and New Jersey). The merit winners each received US\$500 and a certificate of achievement.

Whether this is your first time or your 23rd time participating in this program, the Peace Poster Contest will help your club forge relationships in the community and attain local publicity while fostering a spirit of peace and international understanding and promoting creativity in young people. Visit the Peace Poster section at www.lionsclubs.org to view this year's finalists and the grand prize winners, send Peace Poster e-cards, order a kit and learn how your club can participate in this fun and rewarding program.



Yu-Min Chen and Chin-Ming Tsing stand next to a replica of St. Stephen's Cathedral next to the cathedral in Vienna.



CONVENTION CALL

In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the International By-Laws, I hereby issue the Official Call for the 2010 International Convention. Our 93rd International Convention will be held in Sydney, Australia. It begins at 9 a.m. June 28 and ends July 2. The purpose of the convention is to elect a president, first vice president, second vice president and 17 members of the International Board of Directors and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

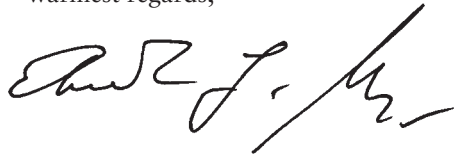
Sydney is a world-class city, a “dream destination” with a distinct culture, customs and cuisine. The “Lions Precinct” at the convention will place Lions in the midst of a vibrant and fascinating cosmopolitan area. Sydney will be a spectacular setting for fun, fellowship and learning.

During Convention Week Lions will participate in helpful seminars. They will witness the installation of a new president, the presentation of the 2010 Humanitarian Award to Noble Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai of Kenya, an inspiring speech by pilot-hero Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger, the enjoyable and newly installed Global Youth Music Competition, the World Ginkgo Awards, the ever-popular flag ceremony, outstanding entertainment and our festive parade.

The Lions of Multiple District 201 will welcome their visitors and ensure their stay is enjoyable, productive and comfortable. It will be my pleasure to share with you a year where Lions Moved to Grow and moved our association forward in new and fruitful ways.

Signed by me at Oak Brook, Illinois, United States of America, this 10th day of May 2010.

Warmest regards,



Eberhard J. Wirfs, International President
The International Association of Lions Clubs



Candidates for Second Vice President

As of press time, there were four candidates for international second vice president. The election will take place July 2 at the 93rd International Convention in Sydney, Australia,



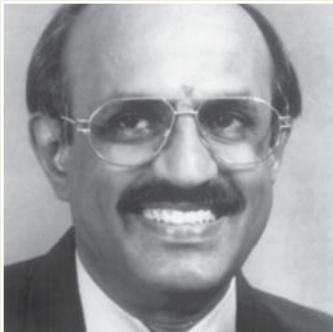
Michael P. Butler

Past International Director Michael P. Butler lives in Kerrville, Texas. A Lion since 1974, he is a member of the Kerrville Host Lions Club. He served as an international director from 1984-86 and as a board appointee in 2006-07.



Wayne A. Madden

Past International Director Wayne A. Madden lives in Auburn, Indiana. A member of the Auburn Lions Club since 1984, he served as international director from 1999-2001.



G. Ramaswamy

Past International Director G. Ramaswamy lives in Coimbatore, India. A member of the Annur Town Lions Club since 1985, he served as an international director from 1996-98 and as a board appointee from 2005-07.



Scott A. Storms

Past International Director Scott A. Storms lives in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. A member of the Windsor Locks Lions Club since 1973, he served as an international director from 2001-03.

Lions Quest, 25, and Still Growing

by Alecia Dimar



Gearing up for another day are kindergarten students at Brookside Place Elementary school in Cranford, New Jersey, a Lions Quest school.

The Lions Quest program had a banner year. With the conclusion of a milestone celebration, continued growth worldwide and securing a grant and recognition, the future has never looked brighter.

Lions Quest, a program of Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), increases service among youth and Lions in communities around the world. The program develops youth of all ages into strong, healthy citizens.

“We believe by using the program, our school is a safe and caring environment,” said Margaret Urlich, a principal in New Zealand, “Students learn skills and strategies to make them acceptable community members.”

Lions Quest has been celebrating its 25th anniversary this past year. In June at the international convention in Sydney, Q Bear, the program’s mascot, will be at the Foundation’s booth. Lions who donate to the program can be in a photo with the mascot. In addition, a life-size Q Bear will be auc-

tioned off to the Lions Quest supporter with the highest bid.

Lions Quest is experiencing significant growth worldwide. Three new countries, Bulgaria, Mauritius and the Philippines, were added in January at the Lions Quest Advisory Committee meeting. Twelve grants totaling US\$506,450 were approved. This brings the program closer to International President Eberhard J. Wirf’s goal of being in 60 countries worldwide by the end of this year. The program also surpassed the half million mark, having trained more than 500,000 educators to implement Lions Quest programs.

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) exemplify the growth of Lions Quest. CPS has introduced Lions Quest at eight schools to develop students’ social-emotional learning (SEL).

The program’s positive presence in CPS recently led to a \$10,000 grant from Bank of America. The funds will be used to train 36 teachers and provide Lions Quest curriculum materials to 500

students at Edward Tilden Career Community Academy High School. Tilden has a high drop-out rate and a low graduation rate; the majority of its students come from low-income families.

“Youth in Chicago are some of the most at-risk in the U.S.,” said Al Brandel, chairperson of LCIF. “But the Lions Quest program aims to provide these youth with the life skills they need to develop into healthy adults and build stronger communities.”

Lions Quest is a leading proponent of SEL, which is attracting positive attention. A recent congressional hearing cited SEL for its links to academic gains. CNN’s *American Morning* profiled a suburban Chicago school that embraces SEL.

Unprecedented opportunities exist for the Lions Quest program. Through support from LCIF and Lions, the program will continue to achieve great success. Join the Foundation in its commitment to supporting youth and ensuring a better future for tomorrow.



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**

Ten Years of Saving Sight

The numbers tell the impact: 178,000 athletes screened, 85,000 prescription eye glasses distributed, more than 12,000 Lions clubs members recruited and more than 11,000 vision care professionals trained. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Opening Eyes, the partnership between Special Olympics and Lions Clubs International to provide free vision screenings and glasses to Special Olympics athletes.

"It is important that each of the intellectually disabled people find their dreams and wants to be part of this important program. We have achievements that will continue forever in our lives," said Ariel Ary, an athlete at the 2010 Special Olympics Latin American Regional Games.

LCIF has awarded more than \$11 million to support Opening Eyes in more than 80 nations. In February, LCIF Chairperson Al Brandel and his wife, Dr. Maureen Murphy, joined nearly 100 Lions who screened 1,200 athletes from 34 countries at the Latin American Regional Games in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

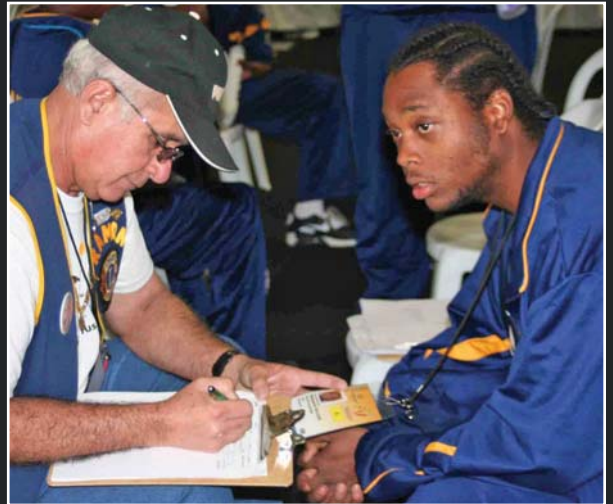
A large number of athletes had never had a comprehensive eye exam. Roberto Oliver Guillen, a 24-year-old from San Salvador, was screened and provided with free frames by Safilo, S.p.A and fitted with prescription polycarbonate lenses by Essilor International. Essilor of Puerto Rico cut the lenses on site, enabling Roberto to receive his new prescription glasses before leaving the screening. Essilor and Safilo provide in-kind product donations

for Opening Eyes, further leveraging Lions funding.

"This is a great example of the impact we can have when we join hands," said International Director Eugenio Roman Jr., who coordinated Lions involvement at the Latin American Games. "This partnership gives our clubs a wonderful way to serve, while really serving to better ourselves."

Lions in Puerto Rico are establishing new Lions clubs in support of Special Olympics and those with intellectual disabilities. Similarly, other special interest Lions clubs are being formed in California, Minnesota and Sydney, Australia. "The formation of Lions clubs dedicated to supporting those with intellectual disabilities in Special Olympics is a wonderful development for our partnership," said Brandel.

Said David Evangelista, director of the partnership for Special Olympics International, "As a Lion myself, I have experienced firsthand the transformative nature that service can have on individuals, and the way it becomes a positive, contagious force. It is exciting to see this energy of service for those with intellectual disability."



Lions assist in patient registration and vision testing during Opening Eyes.

More than 100 Opening Eyes programs are scheduled to take place this year at Special Olympics Games including in Warsaw at the Europe Eurasia Regional Games, in Lincoln, Nebraska, at the USA National Games and in Athens at the Greece National Games. Plans are also under way for a 10th anniversary celebration and screening event in Osaka, Japan, in October as part of Lions World Sight Day.

Lions' involvement in the partnership is critical. Lions help coordinate the screenings and volunteer during the events. Lions are encouraged to visit the Opening Eyes demonstration screening at the International Convention in Sydney, Australia. More information is available at www.lcif.org.



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**

Unlock Recruiting Success

Host an Open House for Potential New Lions

An open house can pique the curiosity of potential buyers. The same kind of event can boost your club's recruiting efforts.

Richard Smith, a past district governor in Oregon, said an open house is a great way to get people in the door, as long as you give guests a reason to attend.

"The hardest point of planning is deciding what specifically would get people to come," Smith said. "The open house is a way of informing people and making them aware of what we do and how we improve the quality of life in our community."

The retired superintendent of schools knows that people have less time these days and need to be compelled to attend. For example, if you'd like to recruit younger Lions, perhaps an event that is attractive to children will bring their parents along as well. Smith said one of the most successful open house-style events has been a Harvest Festival held around Halloween. While kids enjoyed games, prizes and candy, each parent walked past several tables about local Lions clubs and what they do for the community.

"People are reluctant to come to something just to hear someone drone on about what it's like to be a Lion," Smith said. "You have to provide an incentive for people to give up their time."



Smith said open house events can range from a potluck dinner with an invited speaker to a wine tasting and take about three months to plan. Other ideas include hosting a forum or getting your local Leos, service organization or Boy Scouts involved by having a musical event or demonstration.

"It's really dependent on what the club wants to do. It's an opportunity to be creative in how you get people to attend," Smith said.

Likewise, the costs will vary depending on how elaborate of an open house a club

wants to host. Smith said for a successful open house, you should invite about 50 people because about half will attend. Mail out invitations two to three weeks in advance.

"If we don't get a response, because we do ask for an RSVP, we call them maybe a few days out. You give them a second invitation if they don't respond," Smith said.

Once in the door, make sure your guests get a friendly welcome and you have information about both your club and Lions Clubs International.

"We invite them to a club meeting and usually the invitation includes paying for their lunch," Smith said. "We provide them with a membership application if they're interested. Provide them with all the information that informs them about what Lions is all about and what you do for the community."

Crafting Success

Build a Profitable Expo by Organizing, Delegating and Participating

In today's economy, people are cutting back. Couples are going to restaurants less and families are staying close to home for vacations.

But St. Joseph, Michigan, Lion Vern Breuker has a not-so-secret method to getting customers to open their wallets. By staying organized, delegating tasks and encouraging participation, the 2009 Arts and Craft Fair generated a profit of nearly \$10,000 for the St. Joseph Lions Club. That's an increase of 30 percent from the previous year. The money played an important role in sprucing up the local beach in May, when Lions repainted pavilions, grills and playgrounds to get the area ready for community use.

The club collects an average of \$60 from exhibitors for each booth. Lions ask for a \$1 donation at the door and they also hold a raffle with donated items, host a bake sale and provide concession stand food throughout the day-long event as other sources of revenue.

Organize

Breuker, a CPA who has been a Lion since 1981, said the craft show has evolved during the six years the club has coordinated it. The year-round planning for the expo makes the fieldhouse at the local high school the place to shop come the first Saturday in November.

"We have a committee and we start about August and meet about once a month until the month before and then we meet more frequently," Breuker said. "That might involve attending other craft shows, interviewing other crafters. We try to select the best we can."

And with space for 118 arts and craft booths, Breuker said he has to be selective. After the 2009 show, 36 crafters



immediately committed to the following year. The key to this retention, Breuker said, is that his club translates the We Serve motto to the expo, making sure Lions are on hand to move exhibitors' possessions from their car to the booth. They also have an exit survey, asking each booth what they liked about the show and what they would like to do differently next year.

"We constantly get comments that it is the most well-organized craft show that they've been to," Breuker said. "It's a meaningful compliment to me and our group."

Delegate

Certainly, Breuker couldn't do it all himself. Breuker has a board of nine people to assist him in the undertaking.

"I put someone in charge of concessions and it's an area I don't have to worry about for the whole session," Breuker said.

By delegating and assigning tasks such as unloading supplies, setting up the facility and coordinating the raffle, Breuker can make himself available for anything that might come up.

Participate

The craft show takes three days to set up and coordinate. In 2009, 51 out of 65 Lions assisted in some way. The Lions also accept a helping hand from anyone including the local football team, students that need community service hours or family members who are available.

"We call it a mandatory participation but that's only as good as everyone's availability," Breuker said. "We try to get everybody involved."

Taking the Heat *and* Staying in the Kitchen

They may not be professional cooks, but Monticello Lions in Iowa make some of the most sought-after sandwiches in the state. The club operates a food stand every year at the Great Jones County Fair, the third largest such event in Iowa. Originally starting in a tent 60 years ago with borrowed planks for seating and tables from a lumberyard, the stand is a top club fundraiser.

"It can be a bit of fun watching us."

There's no secret to their success, says Phil Larabee—just great food at reasonable prices. Plus, he adds, "Where else can you find people who aren't in the industry working food service? It can be a bit of fun watching us." Things may indeed get a little hectic back in the kitchen, but Lions don't mind the heat. They manage to feed thousands of hungry people; overall fair attendance was between 80,000 and 100,000 visitors for the five-day 2009 event.

Everybody pitches in for food stand duty, says Larabee. "All able-bodied Lions work two five-hour shifts during the week. We also have about 300 hours of labor donated by local people since the stand is a fair staple."

Lions sold 2,160 burgers, totaling 540 pounds of meat; 800 pounds of roast beef, 840 pounds of French fries, 600 hot dogs and 986 pork tenderloin sandwiches. The club netted \$13,000 and all excess food was donated to Camp Courageous of Iowa.



They can't wait—two little fairgoers try to sneak a peek at Lions as they juggle their kitchen duties at the food stand.

Photo by Phil Larabee

TV Tradition Connects Community

Hendron Lions in Kentucky know how to get their community's attention. A 15-year tradition of sponsoring a December auction televised on a cable channel for three nights has captured viewers with the banter and lively interaction Lions show on camera. "We joke and carry on about local businesses and those who call in and donate," says Larry Hopper, president of the 14-member club. "It's fun and the local people look forward every year to calling in and supporting our efforts." The 2009 auction made \$13,700, which will be distributed back to the community as Lions give funds to local high schools for "lock ins" on graduation nights and provide eyeglasses for those who ask for help, Hopper says.

Beginning in October, Lions start canvassing local businesses for donations. "Business owners understand they will be mentioned on the air a minimum of three times and they must donate items or services of \$25 or higher," he explains. "We have new recliners, college basketball tickets, items from golf courses such as new drivers, fishing trips—you name it, we have collected it."

Lions discovered an even more novel way to continue the fundraising, Hopper points out. "We auction off the Santa hats we wear to make it a contest between the Lions on TV to see who can get the most for their hat. We've never failed to get a minimum of \$500 for what we call 'the' hat," he says proudly of their efforts. Lions also have corporate sponsors, who pay \$500 to have their businesses advertised all three nights, which significantly boosts revenue.

The audience shares in the onscreen fun. "We have five live phones and friends, wives, Boy Scouts all volunteer to answer them. Our grandkids join in as part of the program—everyone helps," Hopper says. Lions believe in keeping things lively, and that helps spread the fun, which in turn leads to more people tuning in and picking up the phone to place bids.



Hendron Lions keep busy on auction night showing off the merchandise and juggling the phones. Local scouts and volunteers pitch in to help.

New Tools Save Lives

Firefighters in Temagami, Ontario, Canada, have a better chance of saving lives now that Lions have given them new and improved tools. "The new tools, designed to tackle the stronger, lightweight metals found in newer cars, will dramatically improve rescue services provided to residents and visitors traveling through the Temagami area," says Temagami Lion Ed Riopel.

Located in northeastern Ontario, the region is a wilderness vacation destination. Fishing and hunting are popular outdoor activities with many of the region's tourists visiting Lake Temagami and Caribou Mountain, swelling the seasonal population.

"When club members learned of the fire department's aging, temperamental extrication equipment, the club committed to purchasing new, heavy hydraulics rescue tools," he explains. Lions approached the municipality with a plan for \$30,000 worth of rescue equipment to be given to the fire department at a special dealer's cost of \$18,000. The municipality agreed to fund the original purchase and Lions committed to paying back \$3,000 per year for the next six years to fund the donation.



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CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNIVERSARIES JUNE 2010

85 Years: Clarksville, Ark.; Redlands District, Fla.; Tuckahoe Eastchester, N.Y.; New Philadelphia, Ohio; Coquille, Ore.; Paducah and Anson, Texas; and Seattle Ballard District, Wash.

80 Years: Weiser, Idaho; Wakefield, Mass; Potosi, Mo.; Mc Clusky, N.D.; Saltsburg, Penn.; Rochester Northside, N.Y.; and Bridgeport and Rainelle, W.Va.

75 Years: Leesburg, Fla.; Boise Host, Idaho; Jerseyville, Ill.; Wamego, Kan.; Grenada, Miss.; Mount Holly and Sanford, N.C.; Aiken, S.C.; Carthage, Texas; Lawrenceburg and Woodbury, Tenn.; and Bedford Host, Va.

50 Years: Phoenix Valley of Sun, Ariz.; Pawnee, Ill.; Florien, La.; Kansas City Red Bridge, Mo.; Gurley, Neb.; La Moure, N.D.; Swan River, Manitoba, CAN; and South River, Ontario, CAN.

HIGHER KEYS AUGUST 2009

International Key (200 Members)

- Lion S. Palanivelu, Salem Melvin Metro, India

Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion Jerry Sherwin, Cuba City, Wisconsin
- Lion James Ryan, Alum Creek, West Virginia
- Lion Savinder Rekhi, Chembur, India

Senior Master Key (25 Members)

- Lion George Saadeh, San Diego Host, California

- Lion Starlene Bui, Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee
- Lion Mike Magnusson, Ardmore, Tennessee
- Lion Larry Bottom, Columbia Township, Indiana
- Lion Ron Kletke, Trochu, Alberta, Canada
- Lion Clayton Chong, Hilo, Hawaii
- Lion Atiq Ur Rahman Ch, Isamabad Sunshine, Pakistan
- Lion Dr. D. E. Kotalawala, Avisawella Seethawake, Rep. of Sri Lanka
- Lion Choon Mong Tay, Singapore Beverly Hills, Singapore
- Lion Dr. M. A. Razzaque, Dhaka Chawk Bazar, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Kamal Kishore Mantri, Calcutta New Alipore, India
- Lion Tapan Roy, Katwa, India
- Lion Rakesh Kumar Mishra, Ara Aranya, India
- Lion Mohamed Yusuf Sabugar, Himatnagar, India
- Lion Dr. Prem Tak, Ajmer, India
- Lion K. A. Jalaludeen, Madras Mylapore, India
- Lion S. Duraiswamy, Tirupur Central, India
- Lion K. Dhanasekaran, Komarapalayam Diamond Jubilee, India
- Lion Miriyala Rao, Vijayawada Jubilee, India
- Lion M. George, Cochin Crown City, India

HIGHER KEYS FEBRUARY 2010

Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion Muhammad Asad Ashraf, Peshawar Gul Bahar, Pakistan
- Lion Dr. Datuk Nagarathnam, Malacca, Malaysia
- Lion Rajeev Chhajed, Ahmedabad Rajinagar, India

INFORMATION

Senior Master Key (25 Members)

- Lion Richard Proud, Buchanan, Michigan
- Lion Steven Sherer, Dover, Ohio
- Lion Robert Robinson, Athens Heritage, Georgia
- Lion Lois Sokol, Valentine, Nebraska
- Lion Anton Wong Lim, Manila Achievers, Philippines
- Lion Mayden Carino, Baguio Magnolia, Philippines
- Lion Rajesh Aggarwal, Delhi Aman, India
- Lion Vijay Pal, Dehradun Shiwalik, India
- Lion Narendra Sarin, Roorkee, India
- Lion Gurinder Bhatia, Amritsar Vishal, India
- Lion Rajiv Kukreja, Tanda Gourav, India
- Lion Surjeet Gulani, Kotkapura Royal, India
- Lion Dr. Manmohan Kaushal, Mandi Gobindgarh Supreme, India
- Lion Hardeep Singh, Kalunga, India
- Lion Jayaram Shetty, Bombay Vijay Nagar, India
- Lion Chandrahas Shetty, Pune 21st Century, India
- Lion N. Balakrishnan, Tirupur Dollar City, India
- Lion S. Mani, Ayothiappatnam Rice City, India
- Lion N. Ramanaiah, Nellore, India
- Lion J. R. Raghu, Bangalore Aishwarya, India

Because of early publication deadlines, LION Magazine does not include the most current list of Higher Keys. To view the most current list, search for Membership Key Award Program at www.lionsclubs.org.

IN MEMORIAM

Past International Director Ross F. DiMarco, of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, has passed away. A 57-year Lion, he was a member of the Uniontown Lions Club and was elected to serve on the International Board of Directors at the association's 62nd annual convention held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, in 1979.

Robert W. "Bob" Thoman, who served as an International Director during 1987-89, has passed away. A charter member of the Upper Valley Lions Club in Oregon since 1971, he was a resident of Hood River and a retired lieutenant colonel of the United

States Air Force as well as a retired teacher, coach and administrator.

FOR THE RECORD

As of March 31, 2010, Lions Clubs International had 1,343,007 members in 45,740 clubs and 743 districts in 205 countries and geographic areas.

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Continued from page 31

“Three,” he declared.

“I think we both started crying,” Joni Goodwin says. “It was just so exciting.”

In October of 2009, Goodwin returned to the Basalt Lions Club. This time, he didn’t need anyone’s help to select his clothes, climb the stairs or identify faces in the crowd.

When he got up to speak, he could see the faces of the Lions he was addressing. He told them about how the transplant made it possible for him to wake up in the morning, open his eyes and see his alarm clock across the room without having to first feel his way to the bathroom and insert his contacts. He told them about his new job as a sous-chef at an Asian restaurant and how much he loves the responsibility of running a kitchen. Mostly he told them how grateful he was.

“I just let them know how life changing this whole situation was and how much this surgery meant to me,” says Goodwin, who will undergo a corneal transplant on his left eye with Dr. Hoffman later this year that will be also be paid for by the Basalt Lions Club and the Lions Rocky Mountain Eye Bank. “I must have said ‘thank you’ like a hundred times.”

By the time he finished talking, a handful of the people gathered in the church were in tears. “The Lions who work on projects like this become Lions deep down in their hearts,” says Eileen Sanderson, a Lion who is on the board of directors of the Lions Rocky Mountain Eye Bank. “Once you’ve been involved in restoring someone’s sight you don’t forget it.”

And perhaps the next time someone who needs a corneal transplant comes to the Basalt Lions Club, Goodwin might be one of the Lions working so hard to make the surgery happen. “It’s absolutely in the plans for me to become a Lion one day,” he says. “Definitely.”

THANK YOU

THE LIONS CHANGED MY LIFE

A New Perspective

Michigan native **Stacey Weiss**, 40, said she can’t remember a time when her vision wasn’t impaired.

“I started wearing glasses between kindergarten and first grade,” Weiss said. “Every nine to 10 months, I’d have to get an up on my prescription.”

Weiss, who has 11 siblings, half-siblings and step-siblings, got contact lenses in eighth grade. By then, prescriptive lenses were a necessity.

“I was hitting the bedside table before I could even get out of bed to get my glasses,” Weiss said.

Four children and years later, the waitress’s vision had taken another turn.

“By the time I was 35, it was like I was looking through a white sheet all the time,” Weiss said. “I was working a job that I ended up losing because I couldn’t read the tickets anymore.”

And that is when the Canton Lions Club intervened. The club coordinated transportation for Weiss to a facility where they performed two separate surgeries to fix the cataracts that obstructed her vision. Through a chance encounter, Weiss’s life has been forever altered by the generosity of Lions.



Q&A: Stacy Weiss

LION Magazine: How did you come into contact with the Lions?

Stacy Weiss: I didn’t really know much about the Lions club. I never knew anyone they actually helped. I was at work and there was a fundraiser going on. I had a hard time reading the tickets and was squinting to make out the orders. The man that was sitting at my table said, “You shouldn’t do that; you’ll ruin your eyes.” He was the president of the Canton Lions and within two weeks they had me in to see a specialist. Every single place that I called couldn’t help me unless I paid them first. The surgeons would put me on a payment plan for six months and I couldn’t afford it. This surgery was out of my reach without the Lions.

LM: How has your life changed since the cataract surgeries?

SW: I literally saw the world for the first time. My eyesight was so distorted and compromised so young in life I never really got to see anything. I notice how much more beautiful my girls are; they were pretty before but now they’re drop-dead gorgeous. I’m a testament to all those little donation boxes and what they can do for people like me. I didn’t know how to see until I met the Lions.

Lions: have you heard from a beneficiary or a recipient of your kindness, service or charity? Tell us about the feedback you receive from those whose lives you’ve changed for the better. E-mail a brief description of your correspondence to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org. Please include “Thanks and Appreciation” in the subject line.

CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Epsom-Chichester Lions Club in New Hampshire teamed up with the Chichester Fire Association to provide an all-you-can-eat breakfast to raise money for the Chichester Food Pantry. The event raised \$1,300.

The Leo Club of Polgasowita in Sri Lanka celebrated Valentine's Day with underprivileged children as part of their One Heart, One Challenge project.

The Lions Club of Mombasa Bahari in Kenya organized a free health fair at a local hospital. A doctor flew in from London and performed about 70 minor and major surgeries ranging from repairing cleft palates to fixing limb deformities caused by snake bites during the three-day event.

The Arlington Lions Club and the Arlington Prairie Snowmobile Club in **Wisconsin** joined forces to donate \$1,000 to the Poynette Food Pantry in Poynette.

The Chilliwack Lions Club in Canada had more than 4,700 participants in their local talent show, which has been their largest service project for more than 60 years. The participants ranged from age 6 to 21 and dance styles ran the gambit from ballet to hip-hop.

The Pinehurst Lions Club and Pinecrest High School Leos Club in North Carolina held a food drive at a local home improvement store. The shoppers donated food valued at more than \$3,000.

The Warren Lions Club in Ohio partnered with three eyeglass companies and Central Optical of Youngstown to provide 150 pairs of glasses to residents of Kyrgyzstan.

The Lions of District A3 in Ontario, Canada, have united for a yearlong fundraising project called Together We Can. They hope to raise \$250,000 for the redevelopment of Kingston's university hospitals with the aid of an LCIF matching grant. By February, they already raised \$100,800 with just 21 of the district's 48 clubs participating.

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Lions Clubs International was one of the largest non-profit organizations that participated in a health-care expo in **Washington, D.C.** More than 200 healthcare providers and businesses attended. Districts 22-C and 24-A provided a large number of volunteers and District 22-C used the Mobile Health Unit for adult vision and hearing screenings and preschool vision screenings. They also partnered with the Washington Hospital Center to perform glaucoma screenings.

ON THE WEB

Lions are all over the world and all over the Internet. If you're looking for a centralized place to keep up with the latest news from Lions Clubs International, look no further than www.lionsclubs.org. Search "Lions on the Web" to connect with all the social networks Lions are involved with including Twitter, Facebook, MySpace and LinkedIn.



Official Notice

2010 International Convention, Sydney, Australia

The following proposed amendment to the International Constitution and By-Laws will be reported to the delegates for vote at the 2010 International Convention. This amendment requires a two-thirds affirmative vote for adoption.

ITEM 1:A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER THE INTERNATIONAL DUES PROVISION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CONSTITUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL BY-LAWS.

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That Article IX, Fees and Dues, of the International Constitution be transferred in its entirety to the International By-Laws as a new Article XII.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the remaining Articles of the International Constitution and International By-Laws be renumbered accordingly.

23rd Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest



Encourage the youth in your community to express their feelings of peace, while gaining exposure for your club. Participate in this year's Lions International Peace Poster Contest.

Start now. Purchase a 2010-11 Peace Poster Contest Kit (PPK-1), which contains all the materials needed to sponsor one contest.

Kits are sold through the Club Supplies Sales Department, January 15 - October 1, 2010, at International Headquarters. A kit must be purchased for each contest sponsored. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery; outside the U.S. may take longer.



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To order online visit the Lions Store (Item Search: Peace Poster Kit) at www.lionsclubs.org or download the order form (PR-785).

DONOR PROFILE



Club Name: Chicago Punjabi Lions Club
Chartered: 2008
Members: 17

How would you describe your club members and their Lions service?

"Our club members are very hardworking and aggressive in the community," says Lion Harkirat Singh, club secretary. "We are a new club and our members are part of other organizations. Working together, we organize Punjabi cultural and sports activities throughout the year in addition to our Lions activities."

How did the club raise funds for LCIF's Haiti relief?

"We set up a booth at our Sikh Religious Society, and we raised \$3,100 for LCIF's 'Hope for Haiti' relief efforts. We were not sure how we would do, but it was a great success and our community showed great support to our club as we acted to help overcome the disaster at Haiti."

Why did your club members decide to send designated aid to LCIF for Haiti rather than to another organization?

"As a Lions club, we believe that LCIF is the safest and the fastest way to support these types of relief activities. I have known of Lions Clubs since I was a child. Now being active, I feel very proud that we are members of Lions Clubs. Every single penny raised will help people in need in Haiti."

Will your club hold similar service activities for LCIF in the future?

"Yes, it is very important for the club, as well as for the members. Our members feel very proud of what we were able to do and we are financially, emotionally and physically ready to help and support these projects in the future. It is an honor to be a part of the relief efforts in Haiti, and our ability to help through LCIF as members of the world's largest service club organization shows that Lions make a difference everyday."

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LAST ROAR



FLYING LION

Mary Delk jumps feet first into Lions accompanied by Jim Wallace, a professional skydiver. Delk agreed to skydive as part of her initiation as a Manhattan Beach Lion in California. Delk's cousin, Past District Governor Merle Schulze of the Hemet Breakfast Lions Club, sponsored her and suggested the "leap" into Lions. The jump was held in conjunction with the Multiple District 4 convention in February.

WE GIVE HOPE

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