

LION



Lions Clubs International

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Cowboy Comfort

Texas Lions Cheer Up
Military Families



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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

Dare to be Great



The Cebu Centennial Lions Club in the Philippines provides a delicious meal of rice porridge for 120 children.

“Everybody can be great because everybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.”

—Martin Luther King Jr.

“Greatness comes not from prizes won, but from lives changed.”

—Anonymous

I fear that few people when asked to give a definition of greatness would speak of service to others. This month our magazine features great clubs that have excelled in service to others. They are not just another volunteer group in their community, but they are at the center of community life, turning clusters of homes into true neighborhoods where people care about and look after one another. Their service shines a powerful beacon of hope that has created a momentum of positive change.

Yet what’s interesting about these clubs is that they are really not much different than any other Lions club. Perhaps they have a core group of members with extra motivation, passion and leadership that lifts up the other members. But one thing is clear: these clubs have decided to take “that Lions’ Spirit” to new levels of service. These clubs are true Beacons of Hope and they know that, as Helen Steiner Rice wrote, “Time is not measured by the years that we live, but by the deeds that we do and the joys that we give.”

Shining a beacon on certain clubs in no way diminishes the service of any club. Every act of service is a great deed, and every club deserves praise for improving their community. As we share the deeds of some clubs, let each of us encourage one another to be all that we can be. Being beacons of hope takes energy, commitment and an untiring selflessness. Please take full advantage today, and then tomorrow, and the day after of the opportunities and responsibilities of being a Lion. Our loving service can shine a light on people that will change their lives, for the better, forever.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, reading "Sid L. Scruggs III".

Sid L. Scruggs III
Lions Clubs International President



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

LIONS QUEST NAMES WINNER

Angela Troppa, a social worker in an Illinois school, was named as the Lions Quest Educator Award grand prize winner. Troppa, employed at Fairview Elementary School in Springfield, was selected for her successful implementation of Lions Quest. On a weekly basis, Troppa teaches Lions Quest Skills for Growing lessons to students in kindergarten through fifth grade. The Educator Award was established to celebrate the contributions of U.S. educators toward positive youth development. Lions Quest is a program of Lions Clubs International Foundation.



Angela Troppa teaches Lions Quest.

GUIDE DOG ATTACKED

A guide dog in a city in Ontario, Canada, was attacked by two large dogs while being walked by an adult family member. A black lab, Scotland is a companion to Caden McQuade of Oshawa, 9, who is autistic. Scotland suffered minor injuries and continues to assist Caden, said a spokeswoman for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

DONATION CAUSES BOMB SCARE

A package of hearing aids left near a Lions' drop off box in Indiana led to a bomb scare. After receiving a report of a suspicious device left in a building corridor near a bank in Rossville, the Indiana Police Bomb Squad responded and determined the package was not an explosive, according to WLFI.com. But the contents were destroyed, and the person who left the package came forward and said the hearing aids were left near the box because the bank was closed.

LIONS, NEED YOUR HELP

LION Magazine needs input from Lions for upcoming stories. Please let us know of Lions who meet these descriptions: 1.) Lions who are especially thoughtful, reflective and articulate. Lions who can tell a good story and value their membership. 2.) Lions couples: a husband and wife who are deeply committed to Lions. 3.) Lions whose club is like an extended family: Lions who derive a great benefit from the social connections of membership. If you know of Lions that meet any of these descriptions, please e-mail magazine@lionsclubs.org or call Jay Copp, senior editor, at 630-468-6805. Thank you for your assistance.

WATCH LQ

In the October 2010 edition of LQ-Lions Quarterly video magazine, view New Zealand Lions' creative approach to turn trash into fashion, watch as Lions in California have fun taking steps to raise awareness of diabetes, learn how Lions Quest is making a big impact in Tennessee and take a look inside a Lions Dog Guides Training Center near Toronto, Canada. Watch LQ online at lionsclubs.org.

A screenshot of the Lions Clubs International website. The header includes the Lions Clubs International logo and navigation links: Find a Club, Shop, Submit Reports, Contact Us, Donate, and Search. Below the header is a yellow navigation bar with links: About Lions, Becoming a Lion, The Foundation, Our Work, Our Impact, News and Events, and Member Center. The main content area is titled "LQ - Lions Quarterly" and features a video player for "LQ - July 2010 15 minutes". To the right of the video player is a sidebar with a "FEATURED RELEASE" section titled "LQ - Lions Quarterly" and a "Videos" section titled "2010-11 International Theme: A Beacon of Hope". The video player has a red background with the "LQ" logo and "Lions Quarterly" text. The sidebar features a thumbnail image of a group of people and a video player for "2010-11 International Theme: A Beacon of Hope".

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

Life has been good to Carla Wilkinson, 34. The Tennessee resident is an MBA student and independent sales consultant, but felt the need to give back to her community. After working at the Mt. Pleasant Lions Club horse shows, Wilkinson decided to join the club about a year ago. Since then, Wilkinson said she's met friendly Lions and performed rewarding service projects.

NAME: Carla Wilkinson, 34

CLUB: Mt. Pleasant Lions Club

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR CLUB: Dynamic. As needs arise, the club ensures each need is met. We have a great group that serves the community with pride as Lions. The members of our club are quick to volunteer for projects and events. We look for chances to make a difference in our community.

FAVORITE FOOD: Dark chocolate – a woman's best friend.

FAVORITE TELEVISION PROGRAM: *The Young and the Restless* and *The Good Wife*. They are just fun to watch.

THE LAST GREAT BOOK I READ: *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff*. The book helped me put things into perspective.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The Smoky Mountains because they are beautiful. It's just such a peaceful place.

WHY I BECAME A LION: The Lions club helps me to fulfill my desire to help others in need. It's the greatest blessing you can give. Humbling yourself to help others in need will bless you as well. The smiles on the faces of the lives you have touched will give you such a feeling of joy.

WHAT MY FRIENDS SAID WHEN I JOINED: My parents were excited because they are Lions as well. They have been Lions for about four years. Both of my parents just like to help people and they both like to be involved in the community. They have a will to want to give back to a community that gave to them. My friends just asked, "What is the Lions club?" Hopefully, they will join, too.

PROJECTS I'D LIKE TO SEE MY CLUB TAKE ON: A festival for children with games and fun activities. I would also like to involve the Leo club with some of our events.

FAVORITE PROJECT AS A LION: We do the horse shows and we always have an abundance of kids there, but I love doing the Christmas shopping for the kids. During the holidays, we support as many families as we get funding for. Generally as a club we know people who need help. We go shopping and make sure the kids have a really good Christmas.

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.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

CLUB OF THE MONTH

PERTH LIONS CLUB, ONTARIO, CANADA

FOUNDED: Nov. 11, 1953

COMMUNITY SERVED: Perth, Ontario, Canada. It's a town of about 6,000 people located on the Tay River about 50 miles southwest of Ottawa.

MEMBERSHIP: 43 Lions, four of whom are women, with the average age somewhere in the mid-60s.

MEETING MATTERS: The club meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Monday of the month at the Perth Lions Hall. Each meeting is a dinner meeting and they host guest speakers whenever possible.

FUNDRAISERS: The club recently wrapped up its second-annual Garlic Festival the second weekend of August. The first year, the event raked in \$22,000. Another popular fundraiser is the club's Yellow Car Project. The club has a donated car, which was painted yellow. Those who make a donation can sign their name on the car. When the car is full, a local business repaints the car yellow free of charge. The vehicle is taken to events for display. Recently, proceeds from the car raised more than \$3,000 for three teenage girls who were orphaned.

CLAIM TO FAME: Through the years, the club has donated more than CAN\$1 million towards numerous causes both in their community and worldwide. The club raises money for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) each year by taking a weekend and collecting money from motorists. The club is also heavily involved in the local Santa Claus Parade, providing the float for Santa and collecting toys and money for the Salvation Army at the event.

PROUDEST MOMENT: The club donated \$125,000 to their local hospital during the last several years.

WHY BE A LION: "I joined the Lions because I wanted a vehicle for which I can donate my time. I like that my club supports the programs in which I'm interested, especially the CNIB because I have a legally blind teenage grandson. To be part of serving our community in whatever way I can is what I consider a privilege." – Yvonne Connaty-Mahoney, president

Lions pose with the namesake of the club's popular Yellow Car Project fundraiser.



OVERHEARD

"I remember going to a Lions club Christmas party and getting a gift. It was pretty cool and I never forgot it."

—Ginny Stensrud, a volunteer for a charity based in Burnsville, Minnesota, that hands out Christmas gifts. From the Star Tribune.

"The Lions gave out Christmas baskets to the poor during the war. They gave me a lion that roared. I still have it. And in the basket was my first Santa."

—Annie Figueroa of Gardnerville Ranchos, Nevada, who has more than 1,400 Santas in her collection. From the Record Courier.

"People told Knapp they were having her buy their Lions club tickets next year."

—Referring to Toma Knapp, a teacher's aide in Cody, Wyoming, who won a truck in a Lions club raffle after winning \$6 million in the Colorado lottery. From the Cody Enterprise.

ON THE WEB

Adding the Lions Clubs International logo to your club's stationery, Web site or banner is a professional touch that sets your club apart. If you'd like to obtain logos and art for your club's use, check out www.lionclubs.org. Just enter "logos and art" in the search box at the top of the page and you'll have access to art in different colors and sizes. You'll also find information for proper logo use and color guidelines.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

BY THE NUMBERS

22,800

Ears of corn sold by the Indianapolis Washington Township Lions Club at the Indiana State Fair this year.

44.5

Temperature in Celsius (112 degrees Fahrenheit) the day the Nagpur South Nagpur Lions Club in India distributed sunscreen lotion and goggles to traffic police.

3

Sets of brides and grooms whose scheduled weddings were affected when a driver crashed a motor home into the Willow Point Lions Den in British Columbia, Canada.

46

Years of perfect attendance (1964 to 2010) to date for John William Turner of Twin City Lions Club in Georgia.

110,000

Eyeglasses collected in three years by the Rocklin Lions Club in California for the Folsom Project, a recycling program at the prison

8

Types of wine available at the Flavors of France, a wine tasting benefit of the Adams Lions Club in Massachusetts.

17

Hunters who took part in the annual turkey hunt for disabled persons at the Mark Twain Lake in Missouri. The Paris Lions Club and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sponsored the hunt.

1

Price in dollars of a Scout cabin and surrounding property sold to the Souderton Borough in Pennsylvania by the Souderton Lions Club, which built the cabin in the 1950s and had maintained it.

40 YEARS AGO IN THE LION NOVEMBER 1970

Sarge Helton (left), the founder of a School for Tailtwisters during state convention week in South Carolina, sadly forks over a dime for interrupting a class at the school.



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IDEAS THAT ROAR

BIG IMPACT WITH LIONS CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS

DONATE TO LCIF

LCIF received more than US\$2 million in donations a month after the Haiti earthquake. Immediate aid was available because the foundation remains strong and viable thanks to Lions who support it.

Keeping Kids Healthy in Nicaragua

Lack of vitamin A is one of the six leading causes of blindness in children. Wisconsin Lions are trying to combat those shocking figures by bringing doses of vitamin A to children in Nicaragua in alliance with the Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of the Americas, Inc. (W/NP), a humanitarian assistance program that dates back to the years of U. S. President John F. Kennedy.

Willard “Bill” Davidson, 83, a past district 27-E2 governor and Eau Clair Seymour Lion, is also a member of W/NP. He helped spearhead the Lions Nicaraguan Vitamin A Project in 1997 that has so far distributed more than eight million capsules. Wisconsin Lions, who have received two separate LCIF grants to help purchase the dosages, contributed \$170,000 to keep the program going. “This represents 100 percent of the children up to age 1 and 47 percent of children from age 1 through 5,” he says. “Lack of vitamin A is known to cause nutritional blindness in children. Children deficient in this vitamin are more vulnerable to complications from diarrhea, respiratory infections and measles, which can result in death.”

Nicaraguan and Wisconsin Lions and other humanitarian partners have helped administer the doses to 700,000 children. “We’ve got lots of watchdogs,” Davidson says. “We

know these capsules are getting to the kids.” One innovation Lions started is to give parents cards to record vitamin dosages so children can’t be overdosed.

He emphasizes, “Increasing vitamin A intake is now recognized as one of the most cost-effective interventions for child survival and nutritional blindness. When we started the program, the vitamin A deficiency was 31.3 percent, according to a blood sampling tests. In 2007, another test revealed that the percentage dropped from that number to only 1.8 percent.”

He has gone to Nicaragua with Lions on five missions to provide this critically important vitamin to children. According to UNICEF, Lions are fulfilling the longest-running commitment to provide vitamin A to youngsters in that country. Davidson says one of the ways Lions raise money is by passing around a container marked for vitamin A project contributions at club meetings. “Originally, members would drop a dime in. Now it’s gone from dimes to quarters, to dollar bills,” he says proudly.

Lions are also now bringing donated and pre-sorted eyeglasses on their visits to that country, combining two urgent missions into one. Last year, Lions brought nearly 6,000 pairs of eyeglasses to Nicaraguans. The trip included a stop on the island of Ometepe, which has a population of about 37,000. Discussing the trip with a local reporter, Davidson said, “They don’t have any money, and they can’t afford to get glasses. We hopped through the rainforest and brought the eyeglasses to them. It was beautiful.”

Since the project started, it’s estimated that Lions have helped save the lives of 10,500 children and prevented blindness in thousands of others.



SERVICE IDEA KEEPING KIDS HEALTHY

START A LEO CLUB

If your club doesn't already sponsor a Leo club, think about giving youth in your community an opportunity to learn by your example and serve others.

RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT

Look at how Lions have made a difference and renew your commitment to continued local and global service efforts.

RECORD YOUR EFFORTS

Appoint a Lion whose tech-savvy as official club photographer. A good, high resolution photo helps tell your club's story in LION Magazine.

Book Drive Stocks School Libraries

When the KIDS Foundation in the Philippines put out the call to raise one million books for children in that nation, a group of Lions and Leos in Arizona were listening. Emma Rosales, president of the Phoenix Phil-Am Lions Club, and her daughter, Frances, a Leo, thought this would be an ideal project to help Filipino children in need. In addition to her role as club president, Rosales also served as an adviser to the Leo club in which her daughter was president.

In less than one month, more than 1,000 books were collected and shipped to the Philippines. The two clubs are planning another joint book drive in the community to continue supplying books to schools that can't afford to stock libraries for Filipino students. The book drive was originally a Leo club project, but, explains Rosales, it's now a joint ongoing effort between Leos and Lions. "The more libraries we can help, the more children will learn," she says.



Phoenix Phil-Am Lions and Leos continue collecting books for school libraries in the Philippines.

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CONTRIBUTE TO LCIF

Set aside a percentage of your net proceeds to donate to LCIF. When global need arises, LCIF is ready to respond immediately because Lions keep their foundation strong.

Lion Invents an American Tradition

The Christmas tree standing tall on the White House lawn is a national treasure every holiday season, but few people know what it takes to harvest the tree and set it in place undamaged for its grand lighting ceremony. Bottom branches span at least 30 feet wide and each chosen tree measures between 60 and 70 feet tall.

The amazing ability to cut and transport them unblemished to the country's capitol is because of one Michigan Lion's remarkable achievement. Stephenson Lion and Past District 10 Governor Don Wojakowski personally helped harvest several White House trees. His father, Casimier, a member of the Bark River Lions Club who is now deceased, invented a cutting and transportation method that allowed for a perfect tree to be displayed. In fact, the White House Architectural Team still follows Casimier Wojakowski's teachings. Alan M. Hantman, Architect of the Capitol, expressed his appreciation to Don Wojakowski: "Your father's methodology is still used for harvesting, loading and transporting very heavy trees from our national forests. I am most grateful to your father for his gift to the United States Capital."

Seven of the White House lawn's trees were harvested under his father's direct supervision in the 1980s. "Once these trees were on the ground, it took a crew of six people, per side, about eight hours to bundle the tree. They weigh



SERVICE IDEA TREE TRADITION

The national Christmas tree lights up the night.

between four and five tons and most are white spruce," Wojakowski explains. After the tree is loaded in a semi, it's cushioned with the boughs of a similar tree.

"I asked my father many times why he continued to donate his time and expertise for this venture, and he was often vague in his response. When he approached his 90s, I asked again," Wojakowski says. This time he learned why. "It was his way of thanking America for letting his parents settle in this country."

LIONS ON LOCATION

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



THE MATARA MILLENNIUM LADIES LIONS CLUB IN SRI LANKA PROVIDED FREE TRANSPORTATION AND MEDICAL PROCEDURES TO 25 PEOPLE WHO NEEDED EYE SURGERY.

1 EUROPE FINLAND

Finnish Home Finish

Pekka and Pirjo Hämäläinen retired a decade ago and moved to their summer cottage after some financial reverses. After enduring a typically cold Finnish winter, they began building a cottage with heat. The construction went slowly. “Don’t worry,” Pekka reassured his wife in March. “I come from a family who lives to an old age.”

The next day Pekka, 66, died of a heart attack.

That’s when Lion Tomi Junnonen, a former neighbor of the Hämäläinens and a friend of Pirjo since childhood, stepped in. Junnonen manages his own construction company in Imatra. Situated on top of a hill, the cottage was half done. “I promised her then that we would finish the construction,” said Junnonen. “I would not charge for work. The company would provide the tools, and the family’s son, Juha, would help with the construction. The family would provide the building materials.”

Friends and former co-workers of Hämäläinen picked up hammers and saws. So, too, did members of the Imatra Lions Club. The home was finished before the cold arrived.

“I’m glad that I have been able to do such a service for a great neighbor and at the same time show respect to my friend Pekka’s memory. I’m also very grateful to all the people who have helped with the work,” said Junnonen.



Hämäläinen walks near her new cottage.

Lions cutting the wall boards are (from left) Reino Miiikki, Kari Manninen, Juha Hämäläinen (Hämäläinen’s son), Tomi Junnonen and Petri Lammi.





THE IKEJA PEARL LIONS CLUB IN NIGERIA IS MAKING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT AND BETTER HEALTH WITH A SCHOOL PROGRAM TITLED TIDYING UP FOR HEALTHY LIVING.

2 ASIA NEPAL

School is a Lifesaver

Several of the 50 female students at the boarding school in Odari, Nepal, clamber out of bed at 5 a.m. to fix breakfast with the school's cook. The rest of the girls awake one hour later to tidy their rooms, strengthen their hands and wrists through exercises, do yoga and then attend hours of sewing classes as well as instruction in English.

It's a long, tiring day but the students welcome the rigor. "This is like paradise," says Puja. "We are able to learn so much here."

The skills they learn could save them from a life of prostitution or, at least, destitution. Lions in Sweden founded the school in 2007 after Lions visiting Nepal realized that girls without education often faced a bleak future.

"The goal was not to change the country, but to educate the children and give the next generation a chance to develop their country," says Lion Claes Lofstedt, 64, a tour leader for a travel company. He first visited Nepal in the early 1990s and shortly thereafter began collecting funds to help promising youths in Nepal receive an education.

The Lions' school in Odari has trained 700 students from ages 4 to 16 and many now work as seamstresses or in other jobs. Being educated also raises their status and enhances their marriage prospects, says Lofstedt.

The Huskvarna Lions Club, Lofstedt's club, spurred the school project, and District 101 SV joined in. LCIF also contributed \$75,000, and individual Swedes pay the US\$40 monthly boarding cost for each student.

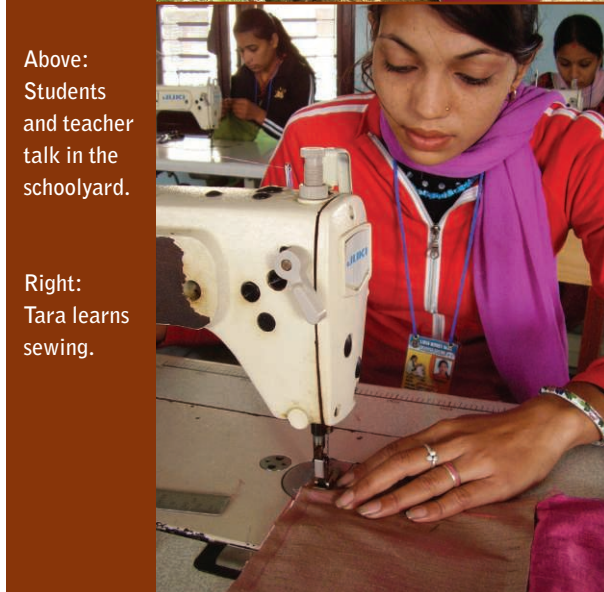
Most of the girls come from desperately poor homes; the nutrition they receive at school is far superior to what they would get at home. Since the school has limited space, girls who can make it home within one hour on bike borrow a school bike and commute.

"The school is a miracle," says Bo Sigebäck, a Lions adviser to the school. Besides an education, the girls "also get increased self-confidence and they develop female empowerment," he adds. The school's other Lions adviser is Anette Axelsson, who had made the crucial trip to Nepal several years ago with Lofstedt when the idea to open a school was hatched.

The Swedish Lions say they want to do much more. They are looking into providing training on operating machinery. Girls also have dire personal needs. Sigebäck met a girl named Basanta in Odari who was born with her feet upside down; her toes face inwards. "To walk barefoot and keep her balance on the slippery snow was hard and cold," he says. "We have promised her a visit to the doctor."



Above:
Students
and teacher
talk in the
schoolyard.



Right:
Tara learns
sewing.



MORE THAN 600 RESIDENTS IN **UGANDA** HAVE RECEIVED FREE TREATMENT FROM THE KAMPALA LIONS CLUB.



THE **MORPETH LIONS CLUB IN ENGLAND** BROUGHT NINE CHILDREN FROM CHERNOBYL INTO THEIR COMMUNITY FOR A MONTH TO ALLOW THEM TIME AWAY FROM THE RADIATION-POLLUTED AREA.




THE **MITTAGONG LIONS CLUB IN AUSTRALIA** PURCHASED FOR A LOCAL HOSPITAL A NEW KIT OF ORTHOPEDIC EQUIPMENT VALUED AT \$22,000 (US\$19,700) WITH THE HELP OF AN LCIF MATCHING GRANT.

3 LATIN AMERICA

Doing What's Needed When Needed

Lions in Latin America have been busy feeding the hungry, providing healthcare and helping disaster victims. (Right) The Arequipa Armonia Lions in Peru display the solar ovens that need only sunlight to cook food. Lions taught villagers how to build the ovens. (Right, second from top) San Borja Lions in Peru conduct a health campaign in Pucusana for people with limited access to medical professionals. (Bottom) Chame Lions in Panama distribute school supplies to needy students. (Right, bottom) Pena Blanca Lions in Chile pass out bedding to victims of an earthquake.





Mother and child enjoy a
quiet moment together on
an amusement ride at
Southfork Ranch.

Cowboy Comfort

Texas Lions Cheer Up Military Families

Story and photos by Allen Crenshaw

The 1,400 parents and children mingled with Dallas Cowboys and watched real cowboys buck broncos and wrestle steers. They toured the Southfork Ranch where the *Dallas* TV series was filmed and tapped their feet as actor Gary Sinise jammed with his band.

For four days, the guests laughed, cried and remembered. “We read many signs of welcome, but the best one was ‘Our Hero, Your Dad.’ I poured out my tears,” said Bernadine Suplee, the widow of Daniel Suplee. He served in Afghanistan with the Florida National Guard. “My daughter, Jen, said, ‘Mom, this is the first time I feel like crying.’ It got to her also.”

The Suplee family was in Dallas last December as guests of Snowball Express, a non-profit group formed in 2006 to “provide hope and new memories to the children of military fallen heroes who have died while on active duty since 9/11,” according to the group. The annual Snowball Express event includes chartered flights for families and then days of entertainment, food and encounters with celebrities.

Lions from District 2 X1 in Texas helped make the families feel at home. More than 100 Lions supervised and led the registration teams, loaded and unloaded luggage on busses, chaperoned their guests to hotels and generally helped the event run smoothly.

“This is one of the best things we’ve ever done as Lions,” said Past District Governor Carolyn Dorman. “You could see the joy it brought to each of the children, especially when you hear a child ask if you knew what his daddy’s name was. He could not remember it since he was a tiny baby when his daddy was killed. All you could do was stand there with tears in your eyes.”

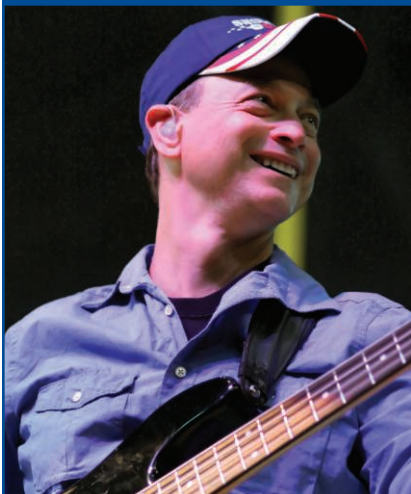
Lions were eager volunteers. Six months before the event, Dorman introduced Micki Sander, the board chairperson of the Dallas-based Snowball Express, and her husband, Bob, at a cabinet meeting. The couple told an auditorium filled with Lions how they desired to hold an event so that the widowers and children would discover that they weren’t alone. Hands of volunteers shot up throughout the room. Lions made a three-year commitment to host the Snowball Express.

The planes that escorted the families to Dallas were decked out for the holidays with tinsel and snowflakes hanging everywhere. Flight attendants and pilots wore antlers, Santa hats and abundant smiles. Instead of orange directional pointers, the landing crew waved the planes to their designated gates with small American flags. Families were greeted at each gate by well wishers carrying signs and waving flags. “Despite their loss, they were laughing and enjoying the camaraderie,” said Zone Chairman John McGinnis.

Cowboy Comfort



Patriot Guard motorcyclists who escorted Snowball Express guests applaud the families upon their arrival.



A fleet of 42 buses carried the families to the Southfork Ranch for seven hours of entertainment, games and food. Leaving the ranch, almost 100 Patriot Guards on flag-adorned motorcycles led the entourage; the city of Dallas closed two major freeways at rush hour to honor the families.

The rodeo was a private riding and roping event. Each guest was given a white Stetson hat. The rodeo's highlight was when 100 children chased down two feisty calves while trying to grab a ribbon.

Day Three included the Walk of Gratitude's parade in downtown Dallas. Lions gave marchers small flags to wave and the fire department arched the walkway with two hook and ladder trucks hoisting large banners

Actor Gary Sinise and his Lt. Dan Band plays for a cheering crowd.

Cowboy Comfort

announcing the event. A sea of American flags also lined the parade path. At the Dallas Convention Center, Neiman Marcus set up a store where children selected a free gift to give to surviving parents on Christmas Day. “It was surprising to see the number of children who lost a mother,” said District Governor Mark Dean.

On the fourth day, families enjoyed a Texas-style brunch and 165 Patriot Guards led a motorcade to Arlington’s \$1.2 billion Cowboy Stadium for a luncheon, concerts and autograph signings. Cowboy football players, cheerleaders and Sinise met the guest and signed autographs. Sinise and his Lt. Dan Band (named for his Forrest Gump character) entertained while Lions waited tables and served lunch.



A Lion chats with a little girl clutching the American flag she was given during the parade.



The rodeo captivates families in the stands.

Cowboy Comfort



Above: Kids will be kids as they chase around the rodeo arena.

Left: Former Cowboy star Russell Maryland signs an autograph.

Below: The children get a little excited at seeing the Cowboys players.



"We hosted more than 700 children, but there are more than 8,000 kids who've lost parents since 9/11," said Dorman. "So many of them are being raised by grandparents because both parents were in the military. This was their vacation, their time to heal."

The letters of thanks began arriving for Lions soon after families returned home. "My children were laughing, smiling and interacting with other children," read one. "I haven't seen them that happy in a long time. Thank you so much for the gift of their laughter."

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Past District Governor David Court of the Lakeville Lions welcomes visitors to the club's Toys for Tots drive.





Great Clubs

by Elizabeth Blackwell

Any club that serves its community deserves praise. But some clubs stand out. They get things done. No matter what the challenge or how daunting the task, members work together to better their community. Some outstanding clubs are large and some are small. They are rural and urban, full of younger people or predominantly retirees. What they share in common is they matter to their community. They are not a “nice addition” to the community or merely a community asset. They help form the community and make it what it is. Their service helps bind the community together and connects people. The help is transformed into hope, or the shared conviction that problems can be solved and solutions are as close as the next Lions meeting.

When a need arises, Lakeville Lions find a way to meet it.

Lakeville Lions Club, Indiana Small-Town Club, Big-Time Impact

Walk down a street in Lakeville in north-central Indiana and you're likely to bump into a Lion. The town has 600 residents, 96 of whom belong to the Lakeville club.

"There are a lot of giving people here," says President Dave Grenert, who runs an auto-repair business that's a town hangout. "Our club is a conduit for the community. People rely on us and come to us."

When a need arises, Lakeville Lions find a way to meet it. When they saw that children receiving Thanksgiving food baskets were thrilled just to get Spaghetti-Os, they partnered with Toys for Tots to give Christmas gifts as well. Realizing that families went hungry once the holidays were done, they joined with local churches to distribute food packages year-round.

Earlier this year, when preschool teacher Teresa Eggebrecht feared she wouldn't be able to join a three-day breast cancer walk because she hadn't raised enough money, the Lakeville club came to the rescue. "If it weren't for the Lions, I wouldn't have been able to do it," she says. With only six weeks notice, the club organized a concert showcasing local musicians and raised \$1,600. "It felt like the whole community was behind me," she says. "We all pulled together to achieve this goal."

Lakeville's current vitality is the result of some soul searching. Through the years, the club had gotten stagnant, with the same few members working at the annual Good Friday fish fry or the food booth at the county fair. A few determined members decided to shake things up.

"Almost everybody tends to resist change," says District Governor Paul Russell, a member. "Some of us were not easily discouraged and started pushing for new ideas." Thanks to the club's success with new projects, "we've seen a huge resurgence in enthusiasm," says Russell—as well as 15 new members in the past year. One strategy that has worked particularly well is to pair new members with long-time Lions as project co-chairs. Grenert also strives to keep older members involved by tailoring their responsibilities to their current abilities, rather than expecting them to perform the same tasks year after year. "Now they've seen our success and embraced it," he says.

Not long ago, Grenert had an experience that renewed his own enthusiasm. Working the food booth at the county fair, during the last hour of a nine-day stretch, he was exhausted and frustrated by rude, messy patrons. "A woman walked up who was visiting from Africa," he remembers. "She saw our logo and she told me Lions had come to her village and eradicated river blindness. She thanked us, and my whole attitude changed. I remembered why we do this."

Haddonfield Lions Club, New Jersey A Positive Bounce for an Entire Town

The squeak of sneakers and the roar of a crowd is a sign that the Haddonfield Lions are busy again. Every spring, the New Jersey club hosts the Lizzy Haddon Invitational Basketball Tournament, a weekend-long competition that attracts almost 100 teams from three states. The basketball extravaganza raises money and spirits, enabling Lions to lift up their community.

Some 3,000 people descend on the town for the tournament, says Karen Ressler, club secretary. "They have such a good time, they keep coming back. We ask the girls to bring used glasses with them, and that carries our message to the players and their families." The tournament has been such a success that the Haddonfield Lions now share the wealth by paying local booster clubs and other Lions clubs to help staff the gyms.

The tournament was started by a local parent, Sam Donnellon, as a way to raise money for his daughter's team. When it grew too big for him to handle, he suggested the Lions take over. "Even though there is no trophy at the end, people fight to get in," says Lion Chris Clancey, who chairs the tournament. "We have really good customer service, and we've created a product people want."

Initially, some of the club's older members wondered how girl's basketball would fit in with their mission. "It's been fun to watch these guys get a look at the future they didn't know existed," says Donnellon. "They've become our most devoted followers."

The tournament brought in a profit of \$23,000 for the 60-member club this year.

Great Clubs



It also had an invigorating effect on the town of Haddonfield. Local businesses pay to sponsor official T-shirts (which always feature a Lion logo), and competitors have to pick up their shirts in one of the stores, guaranteeing foot traffic and sales. “It’s a bigger shopping weekend for our downtown than Christmas,” says Clancey.

The weekend has a celebratory feel that’s about more than basketball. In the center of town, a DJ plays music, and girls begin spontaneously dancing. “There are so many unintended but delightful offshoots of the tournament,” says Donnellon. “Our family will always feel like it’s a part of us, but it ended up going to people who can handle it better than I ever did.”

The basketball tournament raises money and spirits.

Grand Rapids Lions Club, Wisconsin Leveraging 30 Acres of Green Space

All clubs look for certain qualities in prospective members, such as an interest in helping the community or the ability to get along with others. At the 42-member Grand Rapids Club in central Wisconsin, it also helps if you're handy with a hammer and lawnmower.

That's because the club owns a 30-acre park, a valuable resource that requires a lot of upkeep. The park, which has a clubhouse, outdoor pavilion and four-acre pond, rents for \$1,000 per day and brings in the majority of the club's revenue. But the club also donates use of the park for a number of different annual events, including a spring Easter egg hunt, Cub Scout retreat, youth leadership camp and fundraiser for the local fire department.

"The grounds are phenomenal," says Scott Burnett, the town's fire chief. "We bring in close to \$30,000, and there is no way we could put on such a successful event anywhere else. Being the chief of a volunteer fire department, I understand how hard it is to get people to volunteer their time, so my hat goes off to them. Their members are very dedicated."

In the summer, each member assists with events at the park two weekends a month. "You have to be willing to work," says President Donna Smrz. "We have too much to take care of." Fortunately, the club has a few advantages: half its members are in their 40s or younger, and many have practical mechanical skills (members include an electrician, a pipe fitter and a plant manager at a local hospital).

Grand Rapids Lions fund a program that donates bikes to children who serve on school safety patrols and another that gives out gift cards for food and clothing to



Lions hold a fishing derby at Grand Rapids Lions Park.

families in crisis. They are also active in a Wisconsin-wide Lions initiative that gathers used fire equipment and delivers it to towns in Mexico.

"The key to attracting new people is to publicize what you do and have people see you in action," says Keith Luebke, the immediate past district governor. During the winter, the club donated use of the park for a Polar Plunge that raised \$40,000 for Special Olympics—and brought in three new members. "People in the community see these things and are supportive of what we do," says Luebke. "Our younger members have turned out to be a blessing."

Riverside Lions Club, Minnesota Caring at a Time of Dying

Thirteen years ago, Lion Ginny Paulson was at the point of collapse. A member of the Riverside club in western Minnesota, she was trying to care for her desperately ill husband while working a full-time job. She resisted all suggestions of hospice care, thinking it would mean she

Maine Lions recently joined together to support a cause that benefits the whole state.

had given up. She finally realized she had no choice—and immediately wished she had called sooner.

“All I had to do was support my husband, and they supported me,” she says. “I thought death would be painful and fearful, but for him, it wasn’t. When the time came, he was relaxed, and I hadn’t anticipated that. It was very comforting.”

So when she heard that a local healthcare agency, Lakeland Hospice & Home Care, was planning to open a residence for hospice patients, she was determined to support it, even though it came with a daunting \$2.7 million price tag.

“I’ve never been a good fundraiser, but I believed in hospice,” she says. “So I kept going to meetings and telling my story.” Jim Arvidson of the nearby Pleasant

Prairie club soon joined the cause. As he rose to vice-district and then district governor, he made the hospice a district-wide project.

“We put on presentations for clubs, zone meetings, and community groups,” says Arvidson. “We kept pushing. I tell people I’m not brilliant, but I’m determined.” Minnesota Lions raised a total of \$75,000 to the project, and LCIF added a \$153,000 donation.

The Lions’ strong support convinced other groups to get involved, and the hospice opened one year ago. The bright, light-filled building can house up to eight patients at a time and includes a kitchen, children’s playroom and suite for family members to stay overnight.

“People in their last days deserve a place like this, where they can feel at home,” says Arvidson. “I was there from the first shovelful to the opening, and to see the end product was wonderful. It was a great day to be a Lion.”

The Lions’ commitment didn’t end when the building opened. The Riverside club now holds its meetings at the hospice, and Lions from other area clubs cook meals for families, sew quilts, clean and help with gardening. Lionism got such a boost from the project that a new club was chartered in Fergus Falls, where the hospice was built.

Lions Clubs of Maine Food for the Hungry

Maine conjures up images of pristine waterfront vacation towns such as Kennebunkport. But beyond the picturesque coastlines, it’s a place with rising unemployment and poverty. Maine Lions recently joined together to support a cause that benefits the whole state.

While setting up a new club in the town of Auburn last year, Past International Director Lewis Small and then-District Governor Roger Blackstone toured the Good Shepherd Food Bank, a massive storage facility that supplies food pantries and social-service agencies throughout the state. The 53,000-square-foot warehouse holds 1 million pounds of frozen food alone.

Ginny Paulsen chats with Jim Arvidson at Lakeland Hospice & Home Care. The two helped spur Lions’ support for the hospice.



From the beginning, it's clear that a Bonita Springs Lion is expected to be involved.

When they heard the food bank had no backup generator, they were astonished. One stretch of nasty weather—common enough during a Maine winter—and all that food would be lost. “A generator is like insurance,” says Small. “It shouldn’t be a luxury. It’s a necessity.” Building one would cost \$151,000. Small vowed to have one installed in one year, and proposed making it a district-wide Lions project.

“When it came to fundraising, a new generator never made it to the top of the list,” says Rick Small, the food bank’s director (and no relation to Lewis). “To have someone say, ‘We’ll do it’ has been a blessing. Lewis is a perfect example of a loyal Lion. He’s very gracious and very determined.”

Blackstone hit the road to promote the project. “It was almost a no-brainer,” he says. “Clubs have seen the effect of the food bank in their own areas.” Of 81 clubs in the state, 71 made contributions, and LCIF added a \$50,000 grant.

“This project hits at the core of the need in Maine,” says Small. “It has made more people aware of Lionism and what we do.” When Blackstone recently attended a dinner for the food bank’s supporters and volunteers, he

was amazed how many people came up to him and thanked him for what the Lions were doing. “A lot of people around the state know about us now,” he says. The food bank director was so impressed that he became a charter member of the new Auburn club.

Bonita Springs Lions Club, Florida Whirlwind of Service

Some Lions clubs can brag that they’re big; others can boast of being active. The Bonita Springs Club is both. The 125-member club, made up mostly of retirees, is an impressively devoted group. The club raised \$300,000 last year, and 80 percent of its members volunteer on Lions projects at least once per week.

There are plenty of projects to keep them all busy. Since the 1970s, the club has run its own thrift store, staffed entirely by volunteer Lions. Not only is it a major source of revenue, the casual conversations that spring up between shoppers and volunteers has also resulted in new members. The club also runs two successful farmer’s markets, Saturday morning pancake breakfasts and an annual bluegrass festival.

“Most of us are retired, so we can give more time,” says Betty Harkins, membership chair. “You can’t sit back and fold up the tent.” The club brought in 24 new members last year, and Harkins makes sure each signs up for a project at their orientation. From the beginning, it’s clear that a Bonita Springs Lion is expected to be involved.

One of the club’s most important recent initiatives is its Eye Clinic, which opened in 2008. During the past year, 1,200 medically needy patients were treated for free (more than half were also given reading glasses), with that number expected to grow by at least 50 percent next year. The club is hoping to expand the clinic so surgeries can take place on-site.

Dr. Howard Freedman, the clinic’s medical director and president of the Naples Lions Club, says patients come from throughout southwestern Florida. “The need is huge,” he says. “I’ve seen people who were formerly em-



Lions provided a backup generator for the massive Good Shepherd Food Bank.



Marge Shivel works the jewelry counter at her club's thrift store in Bonita, Springs, Florida.

ployed, but are now desperate for help. It is so gratifying to come and see dozens of people and not have to worry about fees or charges. It makes me proud to be a Lion.”

The club supports a foundation for the developmentally disabled, a literacy program and baseball tournaments for the visually impaired. People who have received help from these groups are regularly invited to meetings. “It brings what we’re doing home to the members, much more than writing something in a newsletter,” says President Robert Hilliard. “It makes us all feel like we’re part of something.”

The Bonita Lions also know how to have fun. The club hosted a spaghetti dinner and fashion show featuring women’s clothing from the thrift store. The twist was that all the models were male Lions. “Some of the wives really went all out with their husbands,” laughs Hilliard. “With the makeup and wigs, we didn’t even recognize them!”

Alhambra Lions Club, California Supporting Our Worldwide Foundation

For Lions, becoming a Melvin Jones Fellow is a proud accomplishment. But boasting about it won’t get you any extra points at the Alhambra club. All of its 19 members

are Melvin Jones Fellows, making one of only two clubs in the country to reach that goal last year. The Fellowships support Lions Clubs International Foundation, of course.

The Alhambra Club is also notable for another reason: the majority of the members are Chinese or Chinese-American. “We also have a few American members who are interested in Chinese culture and arts,” says King Lam, club secretary. “When a new member joins the club, we expressively advise them that our goal is for all members to become Melvin Jones Fellows. Everyone has to participate in raising funds for charity.”

Most members are professionals. The club roster includes lawyers, financial advisers, bankers, advertising professionals and entrepreneurs.

In addition to the usual Lions projects—such as White Cane Day, collecting eyeglasses and holiday food drives—the Alhambra Lions also organize events with an Asian twist, such as mahjong games and karaoke parties. They regularly donate to disaster relief efforts, sending money to the victims of the Sichuan, China, earthquake in 2008 and the Haiti earthquake in early 2010. They also support causes closer to home such as blood drives and an Asian-Pacific center for abused children.

A karaoke and dance party raises funds for the Alhambra Lions Club.



“Despite our small size, our members are energetic, generous and eager to support the community,” says Lam. “Everyone shares in the duties and participates.”

Edmonton Host Lions Club, Alberta, Canada Dedication and Innovation

The Edmonton Host Lions Club may have celebrated its 80th birthday last year, but the club hasn't let age slow it down. Tour the town of Edmonton, Alberta, and sooner or later you'll come across proof of its members' dedication.

There's the recently renovated Central Lions Senior Recreation Centre, with its modern fitness studio and busy schedule of activities and meetings. The outdoor skating rink that Lions helped rebuild and upgrade in a inner-city neighborhood. Or the state-of-the-art surgical suites at Stollery Children's Hospital, which Lions' fundraising helped make possible.

“I think our club epitomizes what Lions is all about,” says Clint Mellors, first vice president. “We're a real service club, and we've got a lot of hardworking people.”

While the Lions are experienced fundraisers, they donate their time to hands-on projects that help seniors, children and the needy. Some cook and serve a hot lunch at a local church once per month, feeding up to 1,200 people. (The church's pastor, the Rev. Jim Holland, was so impressed by the Lions' work that he became a member.) Others volunteer at a local school that uses the Lions Quest curriculum. Edmonton Lions also help manage and staff the Lions Villages, a group of three properties that provide affordable housing for seniors.

“It's a family,” says Lion Karon McGrath, who volunteers her time as the Villages' property manager and treasurer. Residents get together for coffee and outings, avoiding the social isolation that many seniors face. “It's very gratifying to see people talking as I walk through,” she says. “One couple told me they'd met more people here in a few months than they had in the condo they'd lived in for five years.”

The club has 76 active members, but Mellors says the leadership is looking at ways to bring in more. While the



One of three properties managed by the Edmonton Host Lions, Railtown has 60 units housing 80 seniors. Lions Villages houses 366 seniors, and plans are under way to build an additional 120 housing units.

club had traditionally held lunch meetings, a trial-run evening meeting at a local science museum had a good turnout. “We're going to try to mix things up,” says Mellors, appreciative of the club's willingness to stay flexible and be innovative. “A lot of us say, ‘Why not give it a try?’ ”

Think your club should have been included in this story? LION Magazine would like to hear from you. Write us at the LION, 300 W. 22nd Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 or e-mail magazine@lionsclubs.org.

No Ordinary Day at the Beach

It takes a hardy soul to dash into 35-degree water, dressed only in swimwear or a funny costume. When you have to push away chunks of floating ice to frolic, however, it takes hardiness to a whole new level. Add to the fun 999 additional men, women and children with the fortitude to spend a few minutes in near freezing water—and you have a successful fundraiser for the Olcott, New York, Lions Club.

They're built tough in western New York, and they prove it every year through some of the country's heaviest snowfalls. When spring comes and the snow and ice is still piled high on the shores of Lake Ontario, Olcott Lions sponsor the Polar Bear Plunge Swim for Sight. Lions have raised more than \$200,000 since 1998 when records started being kept, but the plunge has been a community tradition since 1968. That's when some patrons of a tavern owned by Lion Mike Rann challenged one another to hurl themselves into a nearby harbor of Lake Ontario. From that informal first jump by some seven [fool]hardy men, Olcott Lions helped turn a loosely-organized event into a three-day community tradition.

The 41st plunge this year recorded the largest number of participants—1,000 registrants—and thousands of warmly-dressed onlookers cheered onshore as the wind chill brought temperatures down to five degrees. Lions netted \$18,000, and expect to break records again next year, says project chairperson Bill Clark. In addition to the swim, food vendors, carnival amusement rides, "snowball" softball and volleyball tournaments are part of the weekend fun.

Many of today's participants are the sons and daughters, even the grandchildren, of those who swam back in the



Clowning around for a few minutes is part of the cold water challenge.

1970s and '80s. Some people will just run into the water up to their knees and then quickly get out; many others will frolic, float and splash around for 15 to 20 minutes. "NFL-style tailgating partying takes place throughout the day," Clark says. "Thankfully, the community is quite tolerant of all the crazy activity," he explains. One tradition is a Polar Bear Queen Contest, which Clark points out is definitely not a beauty contest.

"We tell the judge, who is always the District 20-N governor, to select a woman who best exemplifies the spirit and enthusiasm of Polar Bear Day. Every few years we can also convince the reigning district governor to go in the water with them!"

The King of Canemakers

Where do all those little white canes come from?
California club is an industry of one.

by Anne Ford

When Dale Butler joined the Monterey Park Lions Club in California about 25 years ago, he discovered two things right off the bat.

First, one of the club's main fundraising activities consists of manufacturing small white canes, miniature replicas of those used by many blind people as a mobility and safety tool.

And second, the Rube Goldberg-esque machine used to make the canes is not a contraption just anybody is allowed to fool around with.

"I stood next to this machine [bagging canes] for 10 years before I was even allowed to touch it," Butler remembers. "Nobody just walked down to the local Home Depot to buy this thing. You can tell that this machine was built in somebody's garage. And yet it works."

Works so well, in fact, that more than 50 years after its creation, the machine continues to churn out about a million miniature white canes each year. The Monterey Park Lions sell the canes at cost to other Lions clubs across the country, who in turn use them as marketing giveaways when soliciting donations for eye health programs. The canes are often handed out during either White Cane Week (the third week of May) or on National White Cane Safety Day (Oct.15).

"White Cane Days is the biggest fundraising program we have," says Lion Sandy Jeghers, administrator of

community Lions programs for the Northwest Lions Foundation, which buys thousands of the miniature canes from the Monterey Park Lions each year. And the canes are a big part of the program's success: "If you can give somebody something when they walk by, it tends to make them stop and say, 'Well, what's this all about?' It gives them a chance to learn what we do."

The Monterey Park Lions' machine would never have existed were it not for the efforts of another Lion decades earlier. In 1930, George A. Bonham, president of the Peoria Lions Club in Illinois, came up with the idea of a white, red-tipped cane that blind people could use both to identify themselves to others and to locate objects in their paths. His club distributed some canes to the local blind community, and the idea quickly caught on among other clubs throughout the United States. Around the same time, white-cane movements sprung up in other countries as well. Soon the white cane became an internationally recognized symbol of blindness.

In 1952, the Monterey Park Lions were looking for a way to raise money for their sight conservation efforts in the community. A member hit on the idea of bending white pipe cleaners by hand into miniature canes, dipping their ends in red ink and handing them out to people on the street during fundraising drives. In the years following, several dozen other local Lions clubs agreed to

do the same—as long as the Monterey Park club would supply the canes. Clearly, hand-bent pipe cleaners weren't going to cut it forever.

To meet the growing demand, Monterey Park Lions and automobile engineers Johnny Johns and Kenny Gribble used an old motor from a potato-chip factory and a custom-made, foundry-cast wheel to build a machine capable of producing 50,000 canes in an eight- to 10-hour day.

“When I first started, they used to run it 24 hours a day,” remembers club treasurer and past president Russell Haas, a member since 1954. “At the time, I had a restaurant, and I closed at 10:30 p.m., so I'd work [at the machine] from 12 to 3 in the morning. You get together with a bunch of guys, and it's fun.”

Now the canes are produced in the Monterey Park Lions' clubhouse about two days a month. It takes four Lions, working in two-hour shifts, to weigh, staple and

The canes have kept coming for more than 50 years.



stack the bags of canes as they're filled. "Those guys have a pretty good workout at the end of two hours," Butler says. Longtime volunteer Agnes Douglas oversees the orders and ships them to Lions clubs all over the United States. A bag of 1,000 canes costs \$43; a kit of 5,000 canes that includes other fundraising items such as bumper stickers, window signs, balloons and posters sells for \$500.

The Monterey Park Lions experienced a proud moment last December when then-International President Eberhard Wirfs stopped by to check out the machine while visiting California to appear in the Tournament of Roses Parade. "He took one look at the machine, and he couldn't believe it," Butler says. "He took 30 minutes to walk around it, trying to figure out how it works."

As Wirfs discovered, the machine works today in essentially the same way that it always has: White plastic cord is passed through a hot-water tank to become pliable. It's then wound around studs on a wheel and cut to form the canes. The canes drop onto a chain that dips their tips into a tank of quick-drying red paint and carries them to the chute where the bags are filled.

"Some of the members have added little innovations as time has gone by," says Gilbert Rodriguez, a club member since 1985. "Not too long ago, one of the other members came up with the idea of using a garage door opener with an electric eye" to automatically move the chute from bag to bag as they fill.

It all seems fairly simple, but as Butler can attest, operating the machine is trickier than it sounds. "It's so fine-tuned that if it's off an eighth

of an inch, you might as well throw the machine away," he says. "Every day I hope that a belt isn't broken. We don't put a lot of pressure on it. We don't run it real hard. Nothing gets really, really hot. We make sure that it rests."

The Northwest Lions Foundation, which assists individuals with sight and hearing problems in the Pacific Northwest, orders about 80,000 canes a year from the Monterey Park Lions. "We're one of their biggest customers," Jeghers says. The foundation distributes the canes to about 100 clubs in its district, who in turn donate the money they raise during White Cane Days—usually about \$200,000 all told—back to the foundation.

Dwindling membership numbers, as well as the home-grown nature of the cane-making operation, may soon put the supply of miniature canes at risk. The Monterey Park Lions have seen their numbers drop drastically in recent years—from more than 100 to about 25. And Butler, who has overseen production for the last decade or so, has had little luck interesting anyone else in learning how to operate the temperamental, one-of-a-kind machine. "Nobody else wants to touch it," he says. Moreover, "it would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to make a new machine."

If the Monterey Park Lions are forced to stop producing the miniature canes at some point, Jeghers says, "White Cane Days would continue. We'd figure something else out." But at the same time, he's very happy with the current arrangement.

"We spend about \$3,500 a year on the canes," he says. "I could probably go to China and get them



for \$2,500." So why doesn't he? "Because I know that the Monterey Park Lions use that money for the same thing we use our White Cane Days money"—preserving or even restoring the eyesight and hearing of people who would otherwise be unable to afford help. "It's an absolute win-win scenario."

To purchase canes from the Monterey Park Lions, call (626) 307-9569.

Dale Butler tends to the white cane machine.



The homemade machine churns out about 1 million miniature white canes each year.



Pedal Power

Pedal Joe encountered many challenges on his ride from Paris to Johannesburg including mines in the Sahara.



QUIRKY GO-KART TRIP ACROSS CONTINENTS COMPLETED
TO RAISE AWARENESS OF VISION LOSS

by Cliff Terry

During his two-year pedal go-kart trip through Europe and Africa, José Geraldo de Souza Castro—a Lion from Brazil—experienced extreme challenges, from problematic roads, blistering desert temperatures, malaria and multiple flat tires to snakes, scorpions, robbers, would-be kidnappers and pirates.

On a strange, toy-like but oddly functional contraption, he tirelessly pedaled his way from Paris to Johannesburg. He traversed France, Spain and Portugal, then took a boat across the Strait of Gibraltar to pedal through Morocco, Western Sahara, Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Namibia, Botswana and South Africa.

“Zé do Pedal” or “Pedal Joe,” as he is known, met scores of interesting people and avoided numerous dangers. But his most memorable episode happened one night in Ivory Coast.

“I didn’t have a place to sleep in a small community,” he recalled. “I saw a light on in a house and asked the mister if I could put my tent in his back yard. At 2 a.m., he woke me up to say that a daughter was just born. He said that morning I had brought happiness to their home. And he named the girl Josephine in my homage. That was my greatest moment.”

The adviser for the environment in District LC 12 and for the Vicosia Lions Club in Minas Gerais, Brazil, Pedal Joe started his 17,000-kilometer (10,563 miles) “Extreme World” trip in Paris in May of 2008. He finished this June in Johannesburg, South Africa, in time to attend the World Cup as an avid fan for his beloved Brazilian soccer team. (Alas, the mighty Brazilians fell in the quarterfinals to Netherlands.)

When the World Cup was scheduled for Africa, Joe decided he couldn’t miss it and that he’d give his journey a “social slant.” The objective was to raise awareness of two of the most serious problems affecting vision, especially children’s vision, in less developed countries: cataracts and glaucoma.

He dedicated his journey to SightFirst, started by Lions in 1989 to battle preventable blindness by supporting cataract surgeries, building or expanding eye

hospitals and clinics, distributing sight-saving medication and training eye-care professionals.

“I find it fantastic that for the equivalent of a pack of cigarettes and two cans of beer, the Lions Club is able to provide a cataract operation,” Joe said. “If people knew this, I am certain that every single day there would be many more donations. That is why I embarked on this journey—because I believe in peoples’ good hearts. My little grain of sand is being added to the construction of a more humane and just world. I hope everyone will do his/her part because somewhere on this planet,

several children are becoming blind—one child a minute—and they cannot wait.”

He was supported financially by contributions from “small partners.” Along the way Lions welcomed and assisted him.

“In July 2009, I had met him at a commissioning of an eye-care clinic built by our Lions club,” said Kwabe Opoku, past president of the Tema Lions Club in Ghana and a Melvin Jones Fellow. “He took lots of pictures he needed to upload onto the Internet, so I took him to my house where I had the necessary gadgets he needed. From there, we became friends and I offered to let him stay with me. I then got my club to put him up in a hotel for a few days because I had taken him

to a medical lab, where they detected that he had malaria parasites in his blood. I bought him some malaria drugs and some vitamins. He stayed for about five days in Tema, then felt it was all right to move on.

“We talked about environmental issues and how Lions could help reduce pollution and other problems in our world. He also talked about recycling plastics and other products. I felt that he had good ideas, and has a good heart.”

Pedal Joe, 52, is divorced and has one son, one daughter and a granddaughter, who follow his exploits. “I have a great support from all, and I’m happy for that,” he said. “My son is my greatest fan. I love it.”

And what have been reactions from people around the world? “Well, everything. Some call me ‘crazy.’ They do not understand how you can travel 17,000 kilometers on a toy. But most of the people encourage me to go on, and I just listen to those ones.”



Joe’s “children’s tricycle” pulled a trailer containing a tent, sleeping bag, clothes and spare parts.



His vehicle has been called, correctly, “a children’s tricycle.” The Dutch manufacturer, Berg Toys (www.bergtoys.com), makes outdoor toys for children. The specially-prepared Offroad Go-Kart was equipped with highly durable tires, polyethylene rims, armored transmission chain, torque bar, steel frame, seven gears, headlights, ergonomic seat, LED lights, rear-view mirror and odometer. The kart pulled a small trailer in which he carried “a tent, sleeping bag, clothes, spare repair parts—and, of course, a lot of dreams.”

“The kart is very strong and until now I just have had a problem with the chain, which broke two times,” he said in one of several intermittent e-mails. “But the manufacturer sent me replacements very quickly. Another small problem is the flat tire. I have had more than 20 so far.”

Joe averaged about 50 kilometers per day, depending on the conditions. The most he did in one day was 110 kilometers. “It was in the Sahara Desert—on a flat road, of course. Also, the wind was in my favor.”

Not unexpectedly, he stayed in some unusual places such as police stations. “The most crazy place I’ve slept was in a cemetery in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The biggest nightmare was also there. I also slept in a jail and a lot of bats flew around all night long. Sleeping in a tent under bridges has also been common. When the night fell, sometimes I didn’t have many choices.”

He endured various difficulties, even dangers. “Sometimes it was very hard to find a visa. For example, in Angola I waited 10 days to get one. And scorpions and snakes were constantly on the road. There were narrow roads in some countries in Africa like Namibia, where there are so many lorries [trucks] on those roads. And some border authorities and, sometimes, the police asked for money, gifts, etc. But crossing the Sahara was the most difficult leg. There were too many long distances with nothing around and, unfortunately, in some parts of the desert—principally the last 400 kilometers, until the border with Mauritania—on both sides of the road there were personnel mines along the road.” Fortunately, he escaped serious injuries—just a sprain of the right foot.

In August 2008, Joe was robbed in Gibralfé, Spain, a small village on the road to Seville. “During the night, an old man invited me to sleep at his house, and people emptied my trailer. I did not take care a lot of the things because I never imagined there would be a theft in a rural area.” Besides money, the thieves took a tool box, small video camera, tripod, replacement parts and other personal objects. Said Joe at the time: “I regret only the behavior of the police of Gibralfé, who did not even bother to register what happened.”

As for the challenges of nature, the rainy season caused bad roads, and there was mountainous terrain in

After reaching South Africa, Joe visited a school for special needs children sponsored by the Kimberley Lions Club.



Angola and Namibia. He had terrible weather crossing the Pyrenees mountains, where the rain was very cold. After that came extreme weather in the Sahara, where the night temperature can drop near freezing.

The leg of the trip from Dakar to Lagos was particularly difficult. "First, in Senegal, I rode on nearly 300 kilometers (186 miles) of dirt roads, I was 12 days in the dust and spitting brick." High temperatures were a constant in Mali. Arriving in Ivory Coast, he passed through an area controlled by rebel militia. Later came the rainy season, with showers at least five days per week. With the rain, mosquitoes also arrived.

The trek from Lagos to the end of Nigeria was the most difficult of all because of the lack of security. "When I was in Lagos, clashes between police and members of a radical Islamic, pro-Taliban sect spread throughout the region north of the country."

He also faced danger in Nigeria, especially in the state of Delta, where extremist groups opposed to oil exploration by Western companies use kidnapping to intimidate workers. "They request sums of money to buy weapons and maintain the troops. The really bad situation was that the Nigeria-Cameroon border was closed because of heavy rain and I needed to take a boat on a 100-mile journey. Pirates asked for money from every passenger. Fortunately, the crew collected the money [about \$15 per person]. I had luck, because if the pirates

Meeting Lions

Along his remarkable "Extreme World" journey, Pedal Joe encountered many Lions who assisted him. "In July 2009, José Sousa Castro called me to say he wanted to meet the Lions of Benin," said Mileny de Souza, president of the Cotonou Les Palmiers club there. "I invited him to stay at my home for one week and he could meet the presidents of our region and the zone of Benin. We then went to the national television station so he could give a press conference to explain his mission. And several articles were written in regional newspapers.

"His noble mission is very important in Africa, where cares about some illnesses are nearly non-existent and no changes are foreseen. Only those who have the means can make it. It is necessary that the Lions of Africa, with the active involvement of the governments, install subsidized eye-care clinics to allow the disinherited population to receive the same care as the most affluent.

"I suggested to him that my club set up a mobile medical vehicle to go into the villages' schools and diagnose the children who have eye illnesses. I have a dream that we will be able to achieve this one day if we have financing. And this idea is thanks to the ingenuity of Zé do Pedal."

Tiete Santos Costa of District 115 CS in Lisbon, Portugal, said that Joe stayed in a hotel in central Lisbon, paid by the Lions Club Lisboa Centro. "He toured the whole country with the help of Portuguese Lions. We talked about everything—global environmental issues, the love between people and Lions in general. He is a person with a huge heart, very friendly and very generous, a great communicator who aims to help the next person and who, above all, promotes the programs of the Lions."

Elizabeth Wilkie of District 410A Lions, South Africa, happened to run into Joe in central Namibia. "He is truly an inspiration to all of us," she said. "We exchanged contact details, and I presented him with the District Governor's collectors' pins [one for him and one for his DG in Brazil]."

had collected it, I would have had big trouble. I was the only white person on the boat, which means a good opportunity for kidnapping because they know white people work for a helicopter or petroleum company.”

Assaults on the road were another constant danger, and Joe twice experienced attempted robbery in Nigeria. “The first time people passing in a passenger bus real-

Lions. That’s why on my next project, in 2011, I will walk 9,000 kilometers (5,600 miles) through Brazil pushing a wheelchair in order to bring awareness to people about the hardest problems for disabled people such as architectural barriers. And I’m sure the Lions all over the world will be walking with me. Disability is another target of Lions clubs. The one-year journey also will be



ized that something was wrong and stopped and the robbers went away. The second time, a police car came by and I rushed to it.”

Along the way, Lions and others arranged press interviews. Usually, he asked the Lion members to join the interview because he wanted local people know how the Lions clubs in their communities work.

Asked what were the most important things he learned on his tour, he said: “Africans have had big problems of centuries of war and colonization, but they also have such solidarity. They never let you ‘fall down.’ They always have their hands out to put you up. And this is great. The most beautiful thing about Africa is their people—a people who suffer, but face every day with a search for happiness.

“You cannot make a better world if we do not care for their inhabitants. And there is, again, the work of

an important opportunity to ‘sell’ the work of Lions as a service club. In some areas, even in the United States, people do not know what we doing.

“Every day, the world has problems, including the environment. I think at least a portion of the solution is to begin work with the children at school. Those children will grow up with another vision of the environment and have the purpose to change it.

“When I visit schools, I tell the teachers to put out more information about the problem and call the children to help, to not throw garbage the streets, to not garbage the planet. And Lions clubs play a very important role in the solution of the problem. The environment is the most important part of this faith for a better world, and the Lions all over the world are pushing for a positive change.”

Soccer Kid

Pedal Joe is hardly the only Lions' connection to the World Cup. When the Australian team trotted onto the pitch to take on Ghana, Aldan Jackson, 7, accompanied them as an official players' escort. Aldan plays soccer for the Cherrybrook Lions club. He became an escort after completing a comic story about sportsmanship in a contest sponsored by McDonald's.



In 2007, Joe tried to cross the polluted Bay of Guanabara in Rio de Janeiro on a boat made of plastic bottles.

Joe's Past Trips

This year's "Extreme World" was not Pedal Joe's first trip.

In 1981, he left Rio de Janeiro to travel "for fun" to Seville, Spain, riding on a bicycle to see the Brazilian football (soccer) team play in the 1982 World Cup. Turns out the local police initially wouldn't allow him to enter the United Kingdom because he had been in Argentina, which at that time was at war with the UK about the disputed ownership of the Falklands.

In 1983, he undertook another bicycle journey—a four-year, 56-country trip through Africa and Asia to call attention to cancer. He also traveled in Japan on a very small child's kart ("to call attention to the children of Ethiopia") after which he flew to the 1986 World Cup in Mexico City, where Brazil lost in the quarter-finals to France.

In 1987, it was another bicycle odyssey, this time a Brazilian one, to bring attention to the children of the northeast of Brazil, suffering from extreme poverty, hunger and neglect. ("It became my worst project. I was caught by a policeman at a gas station who took me for a bandit, and hit me mercilessly, then I was spat upon

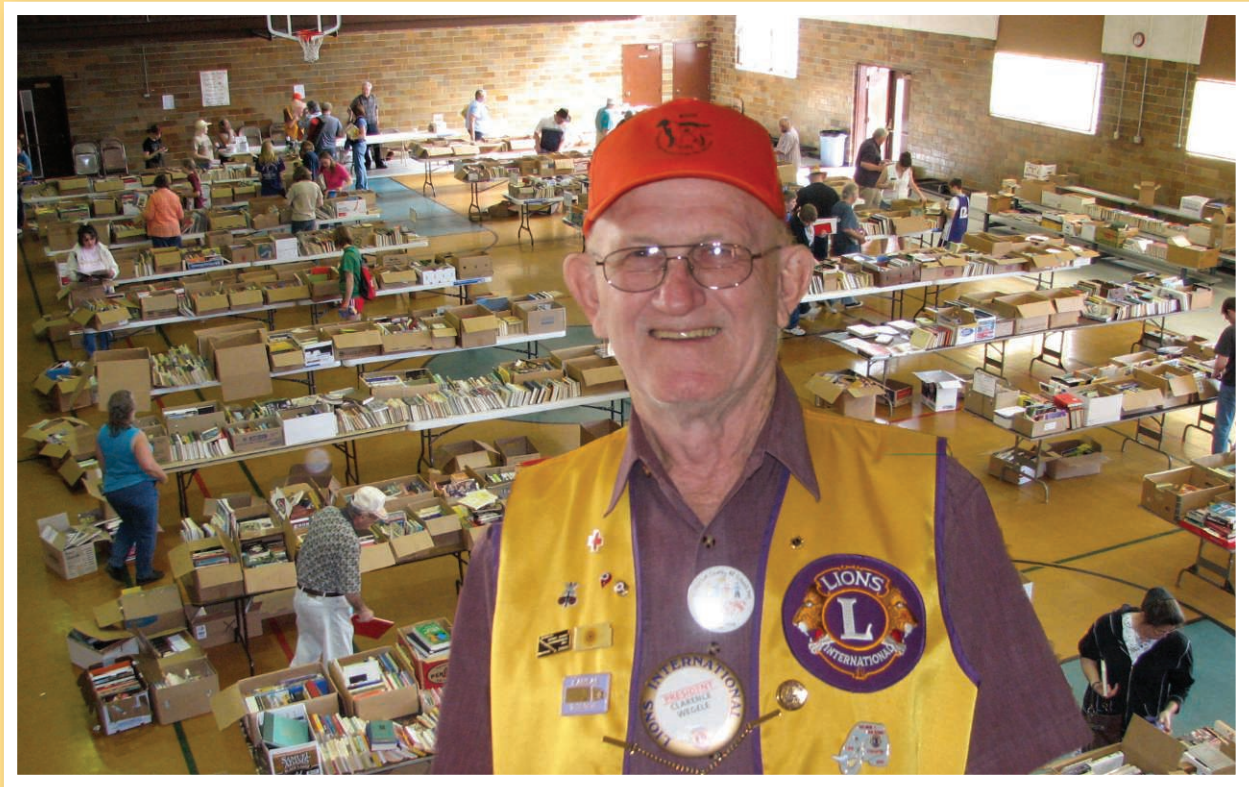
by passers-by. Worst, the northeast children remain forgotten today.")

That was the end of Joe's travel until 2002, again in Brazil, when he went from Três Marias, Minas Gerais, on a pedal boat on the Velho Chico river to the estuary of the river São Francisco on the Atlantic coast. The Velho Chico, he discovered, was heavily polluted. His objective was to educate the world on the importance of protecting the waters of the planet and other ecosystems.

Then, in 2004-2005, aboard a fiberglass pedal catamaran, he intended to voyage from the Statue of Liberty to Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio "to promote awareness about the necessity of maintaining clean rivers, lakes, oceans and, above all, springs." Unhappily, the boat was totally destroyed in Mexico, in 2005, by Hurricane Rita.

Undaunted, Joe made two attempts in 2007 to cross the Bay of Guanabara in Rio de Janeiro on a pedal boat constructed entirely with plastic bottles "to attract as much attention as possible to the effects of global warming, principally in Third World countries." On the first attempt, the boat's pulley broke, ending the project. Next try, though, despite strong wind and waves, he made it in just under three hours. He had chosen Guanabara because it was the most polluted bay on the Brazilian coast.

Photo Contest Winners Named



LION Magazine received hundreds of entries for its photo contest. The winning photo of the annual book sale of the McPherson Lions was taken by Ward Ferguson of McPherson, Kansas. The photo expertly captures the scope of the sale, the Lions' identity of the event and the pride of a Lion in being part of the fundraiser. Ferguson will receive a quality digital camera. The 10 runners-up will receive Lions polo shirts. LION Magazine thanks all Lions who submitted photos.

Anupam Singhania
Bhagalpur Royal
Lions Club, India

A doctor examines
a child at the club's
Orphanage Assistance Camp.



Allen Crenshaw
Carrollton Evening
Lions Club, Texas

Ivan Shomer
collects for White
Cane Day.

A**B****A:****Bob Garbe**

Blythwood Lions Club,
South Carolina

Taking a break from serving food at a farmer's market, Mary Moseley gets acquainted with a little friend she found at an exhibitor's booth.

B:**Jim Purton**

Greater Falls Run Lions Club, Virginia

Beau Chandler, 8 months old and the grandson of Lion Harriette Chandler, meets Louie the Lion at the club's pig roast to benefit guide dogs.

C**D****C:****Carlos Moncada Balarezo**

Pacasmayo Lions Club, Peru

A woman in Pacasmayo, Peru, learns of a medical mission of the Pacasmayo Lions.

D:**Bob Garbe**

Blythwood Lions Club,
South Carolina

Barbara Beckham, a past district governor, passes out a treat at the club's annual candy day.

E**F****E:****Rick Lush**

Ajax Lions Club, Ontario, Canada

A Lion helps sort some of the nearly 2,000 eye glasses to be taken to the District A 16 convention in Haliburton, Canada.

F:**Jim Taylor,**

Christopher Lions Club, Illinois

Chuck Culver helps fill a trailer in the club's Cans for Kids collection.

G**H****G:****Jack Berger**

Randolph Lions Club, New York

Gavyn See, 2, comes up for air at the club's spaghetti dinner.

H:**Linda Scham**

South Elgin Lions Club, Illinois

Lion Ray Bachewicz sorts eye glasses.

Abigail and the Horse

A Short Story Exclusive

by H. R. Williams

Harry “The Horse” Belsen parked his rented Chevy on the north side of Peabody Lane and sat for a long time, looking at the house. It lay far back from the street, fronted by a rolling landscape of manicured lawn and wisteria vines. A winding driveway, bordered by magnolias, led up to a columned entrance. The whole place looked like something out of *Gone With The Wind*. The Horse nodded his head in satisfaction.

He’d long enjoyed a reputation in the underworld that few burglars achieve. Among the criminal class, it’s usually bank robbers and other violent characters that gain notoriety. The second story men remain an unknown or disdained bunch. But this particular burglar was just too good to be ignored.

The Houston Museum people have reason to remember a visit from Harry. Their “Kunming Cup,” a Ming vase of inestimable value, now rests in the den of a Los Angeles land developer. Also, pricy antiques, fabulous jewelry, and irreplaceable art have changed owners because of Harry’s efforts. He once carried 12 oil paintings, still in their frames, out the studio window of an art dealer and down 14 flights of fire escape to a waiting van. And that’s when his associates began to call him The Horse.

Belsen had come to Memphis one month ago and checked into an obscure motel. Through methods perfected over a long career, he quickly ascertained who the wealthiest citizens were and where they dwelled, because he’d determined before coming here that this was going to be a residential job. However, Harry, being the pro he was, took his search past the point of where the rich

folks lived. He was looking for those known in Memphis as “old money,” cultured and often elderly people who kept much of their wealth at home. Abigail Wingate, resident of the mansion before him, was such a case.

Belsen decided two weeks ago that the Wingate mansion would be the target and he had monitored it ever since. Abigail employed a gardener and two house servants, but none were residents and they didn’t show up on weekends. Their employer also left each Saturday for some unknown destination and returned in the early afternoon, picked up and brought back by a limo driver. Last weekend, Harry had been tempted to follow her but decided to stay focused on the house. It was enough to know that Abigail was regular in her habits. For two Saturday’s running and for two long hours each time, the house had stood empty. This morning was the third Saturday. If the old lady left as usual, the Horse would go in.

Abigail Wingate sat by a front window and waited for her transportation. She always looked forward to these Saturday meetings at the Lions Club, which she and her husband had attended for years. Mr. Wingate was no longer living, but Abigail intended to keep showing up until she, herself, passed away. This was an easy commitment to keep because her fellow Lions always offered the most excellent food and companionship. At precisely eleven o’clock, the limousine, sent by the club and charged to Abigail, pulled up in the driveway. The driver whisked her to the downtown meeting room and she swept in to receive her usual gracious greeting from



Abigail and the Horse

Dr. Winston. The doctor was this year's club president and also one of Memphis's most eminent psychiatrists. Ms. Wingate was one of his patients, he'd seen her for years, and they'd grown quite fond of each other. Early on, the good doctor discovered that his patient was more than a little delusional, but harmless, and though her delusions appeared to be permanent, she handled them adequately and was able to function well enough in everyday society. She was cognizant of everything about her, but in her hazy view, the old world and the new existed at one and the same time. The bustling streets of modern Memphis and the sedate, carriage crowded avenues of an antebellum city were equally real for her. And Abigail Wingate looked upon herself as a southern belle of long ago, a vision not far removed from her actual childhood, which had been one of gentility and soft politeness and the seclusion afforded by southern wealth.

Now she was quite old and Dr. Winston held no illusions about treatment. His function, he realized, was simply to monitor her actions and look after her physical well being. He'd encouraged her journeys to the Lions Club because he felt it strengthened her hold on reality. And truth be told, he looked forward to these Saturday visits and her monthly appointments, and being a southerner himself, the role that he would play.

"Miss Wingate," he exclaimed, crossing the room with arms outspread. "Great honor, ma'am".

"Very kind of you to greet me, suh," she replied, fluttering a floral fan and extending a small wrinkled hand. "I so look forward to these occasions."

"The pleasure is entirely ours, *deah* lady," Winston murmured. "Shall we adjourn to your table?" And with that, the president escorted Abigail to a small table where they sat and chatted before the meeting began. She would occasionally return other member's greetings with a smile and a wave of her flowered fan. Every Lion here knew about "Miss Abby" and welcomed her with warmth and affection.

Harry the Horse watched the dark limo disappear in the distance before driving to the rear of the mansion. Getting through the back door was short work for a man of his capabilities, and in moments he was inside and standing in the dining hall. Belsen knew right away he'd hit pay dirt. Oil paintings hung on the walls, recognized instantly for their value, and he glimpsed other objects d'art in the hall. This was going to be the mother of all paydays. A stairway lay to his left and he sped up two steps at a time. As soon as his head cleared the landing, Harry saw the safe. It sat just in front of him, one of

those old fashioned ones with a large dial and long handle, and Belsen, with his professional eye, noted something he couldn't quite believe. The handle was in the down position. This old safe was unlocked. He pulled the heavy door open and peered in at what appeared to be all the money in the world. The upstairs hallway was unlit and without windows and he saw only oblong outlines in the safe's dark interior, but Harry knew what they were. Giving a sharp cry, he snatched a plastic bag from his pocket and, looking wildly about him, shoveled the greenbacks in. They were neatly stacked and bound and they made a satisfying weight when he hefted the bag. All thoughts of paintings and other valuables flew from Harry's mind. He wanted only to get out, to get away with this incredible find. He plunged back down the stairs and out the rear door.

Half an hour later, Belsen entered his motel room and locked the door behind him. He upended the plastic bag and watched the bundles of bills cascade onto the bed. Harry picked one up, ripped off the binder, and pressed the money to his lips. A pungent, musty smell entered his nostrils and Belsen held a bill up to the light and examined it. The first thing he noticed was the picture. This piece of currency did not portray the likeness of a Franklin or a Hamilton or even George Washington. Instead, Jefferson Davis's eyes held him in an indifferent gaze, and underneath this visage, the words: "Confederate States of America" burned into his brain. The Horse's jaw dropped and his face grew pale and slack. Then, he raised his eyes to the ceiling and let out a feeble groan. There'd been a fortune in artwork back there and he'd abandoned it all for this Dixie funny money. He couldn't go back, of course. There wasn't enough time and everything was blown.

Well, there was *one* thing to be grateful for. He had worked alone, as always, and nobody, but nobody, would ever learn what had happened here today. The Horse looked down at the bed, remembered how he'd raced wild-eyed from Abigail's house, and felt his lips twitching in a smile. Then, he fell face forward across the bundles of worthless paper, slapped his hands against the mattress, and gave himself up to loud and prolonged laughter.

H. R. Williams is a member of the Trumann Lions Club in Arkansas. He was a paratrooper in the Army and held about a thousand jobs (slight exaggeration) before coming to the conclusion that his only talent lay in writing. He has published two novels, a mystery and a western, and his short fiction and essays have appeared in many national magazines.

Dherai khusi lagyoy!

I can see!

by Joshua Friedman

Providing eye care in Nepal, a land-locked country in the Himalayas, is not an easy task. The mountainous north has eight of the world's 10 highest mountains including Mount Everest. In the most difficult regions, teams of up to 15 porters carry hundreds of pounds of equipment up steep mountain paths to reach the eye camp destination.

Nor is it easy for patients to reach the camps. After hearing of the camps on the radio, some patients walked as many as six hours to reach the campsite.

But the effort is worth it.

"I was helping remove the bandage from one elderly gentleman who just the day before was able to see only from one eye. I asked the patient how his vision was and he cried loudly, 'I can see better than in my sighted eye! Dherai khusi lagyoy [I am very happy], ' " recalled Girdhari Sharma, multiple district SightFirst chairperson. "I will never forget this experience for the rest of my life."

Nepal is a poor country. About half its people live below the international poverty line of \$1.25 per day. Where finances are scarce, so are health and eye care services. About 45 percent of Nepalese lack adequate eye care, and 80 percent of blindness is a result of cataract.

Since 1994, the Lions of Nepal have been working to reverse this trend by organizing annual cataract surgery campaigns. SightFirst has supported the efforts with 37 grants totaling \$9.7 million. As a result, almost one-third of Nepalese with cataract are receiving the surgery they need. Lions are one of the largest providers of eye care services in the entire country.

Lions play a key role in SightFirst projects. Lions from nearly 200 clubs publicize the projects and participate in the initial screening of patients at the outreach camp site. The Lions credit the visibility of their efforts to their recent membership gains.

Data shows that the Lions achieved a very high surgical success rate. The study also found that 53 percent of all operated patients were female. This is significant since equal access to eye care remains a challenge for females, and nearly two-thirds of blind people worldwide are female.



A patient receives screening through Lions outreach efforts.

Lions plan to publish their findings in a journal to show that service clubs can provide high-quality eye care.

The Lions of Nepal recognize the enormity of their task and realize the need to work collaboratively in the fight against blindness. They have partnered with the Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology, the Seva Foundation and Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh, well-known and respected eye care institutions and organizations.

With funding from Campaign SightFirst II, Lions worldwide are ensuring those most in need receive the eye care they need, regardless of location, gender, or other obstacles.



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

The Value of Giving

How much would you pay for a pair of shoes? Would you pay \$50? How about \$150? Before walking up to the cash register to pay, you may ask yourself a few questions: How often will I wear these shoes? Will they last? Do they match my navy suit or red skirt? We ask ourselves these types of questions in order to answer one question: What is the value of those shoes to me?

Now, let's consider the value you might place on helping someone. What type of questions might you consider if asked that question?

- Will my assistance really make a difference?
- What will happen if I don't help?
- What do I have to do?

When a Lion says, "We Serve," does that only relate to working on a community project or does that also extend to giving? Would you consider service as working an extra hour, if it supports Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and helps an individual receive cataract surgery?

Your donations to LCIF are extremely valuable to those served. A donation of \$20 helped Felecia Otero of Chiapas, Mexico, receive sight-saving cataract surgery. She now can see her grandchildren for the first time. Dan McCarthy of Iowa knows the value of this gift. His son, Tye, received glasses

through Opening Eyes, an LCIF partnership program with Special Olympics. The students at Liudvukas Stulpinas Basic School in Klaipeda, Lithuania, have seen their test scores improve and note a positive change since Lions Quest has come to their school.

These are only a few examples of what LCIF programs accomplish each day. With a small donation of only \$20, LCIF can save three people from preventable or reversible blindness, support a Lions Quest student or help provide aid to those affected by natural disasters.

November is Contributing Member month. All Lions are encouraged to make a donation of \$20, \$50 or \$100 to LCIF. By donating only \$20—less than the cost of dinner for two—you could have a life-altering impact on three individuals who would be facing a lifetime of blindness without your help. The cost is small, but the rewards

of supporting LCIF are great. For each level, there is a special annual Contributing Member pin.

LCIF Chairperson Eberhard Wirfs understands how important these donations are to those we serve. "Without the support of Lions, LCIF would not be able to help those in need," he said. "Contributing Memberships are an easy way to give to LCIF and to show your support to other Lions. I hope every Lion and club will consider taking part in the program this year."

Surveys have shown that "helping others" is the top reason for individuals to make a gift to a charitable organization. An independent group ranked LCIF as the No. 1 foundation with which to partner. So when someone tells you that \$20 cannot make a big difference, tell them about LCIF and the three individuals who had their sight saved. Tell them about the families in Haiti and Pakistan helped by LCIF. To them, \$20 is invaluable.

A competitor is screened at an Opening Eyes event.



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

Signs of Life

Your Guide to Waking Up Recruiting Efforts

Pick up the dry cleaning, clean the gutters and fill a prescription. A to-do list is often the precursor of a productive weekend. Make your club's recruiting efforts just as productive with a similar to-do list.

Gary Potter, a member of the Livermore Lions Club in California, has held almost every club office in his 16 years as a Lion and personally sponsored 12 Lions. Potter and speaking partner Dennis J. Grotrain, a 36-year Lion also of the Livermore club, charge that if your club isn't growing, it's dying. Here is their checklist for shocking you club's recruiting efforts back to life.

- **Be visible.** Ensure your club is present in your community and maintains its lines of communication. Keep your Web site current, update your club brochure each year and provide business cards for your officers with pertinent information. In addition, get out into your community for White Cane Days, community festivals and village meetings. Potential new members won't necessarily seek you out, but they might stop by your booth at a farmer's market or high school football game.

- **Be prepared.** Create a five-year plan with measurable, timely goals along the way. Maybe your club wants 85 members by its 85th anniversary. Break this down into smaller goals. Five new members for five years makes this a simpler, more achievable goal. Create an action plan for this goal by organizing breakfasts, membership drives and friendly competitions among Lions for new members.



- **Be organized.** Ask each member to gather the names of 10 people they think would be great Lions. The list could include co-workers, neighbors, friends or relatives. You could also raffle off a small item at a booth, then use the entries as potential contacts. The most important step in the process is to simply ask people you interact with on a daily basis. Open the lines of communication about

Lions and invite them to a meeting to learn more.

- **Be persistent.** Don't lose touch with potential new Lions. Send a letter of invitation within 24 hours of contact, then invite them to a meeting once per month. Create a phone tree, e-mail distribution list or form letter to keep potential Lions in the know about how your club is making a difference.

- **Be celebratory.** Much like in business, it's easier to retain Lions than it is to find new Lions. Make each new member feel welcome and valued. Send a welcome notice to your Lions and the community, and then make their first official meeting as a Lion something special. You may wish to create a certificate to commemorate the day and take photos. You could share stories of your initial impressions of Lions when you were in their shoes. Immediately expose new members to the outstanding programs, leaders and possibilities in your area and mentor new Lions throughout the process.

Adapted from a talk by Garry Potter and Dennis J. Grotrain at the 2009 USA/Canada Leadership Forum.

Making the Connection

Become a Part of Your Community's Landscape

Long lines form at Milford Fest because Lions ensure all the rides are free.



Ask your neighbor, cashier or dry cleaner what they know about your Lions club. Whether they have a vague idea or a sharp picture of your community involvement is entirely up to you.

In an Indiana community of 1,200 residents, the Milford Lions Club has taken great measures to make sure the community knows who they are. By resurrecting the annual one-day Milford Fest and offering free rides to children, the club has become linked to their community in a powerful and lasting manner.

"It just gives us some presence in the community, some publicity," said Jeri Seely, the club's secretary. "It gives us a lot of exposure. I don't know if it's brought us membership, but we certainly haven't lost any."

While the village had hosted similar events in the past, the festival was moved to the back burner until an intrepid young Lion transferred into the group. Tricia Gall moved to the community and enjoyed the friendship of the group.

"I worked at the local gas station as a second job when I first moved here and they would come and visit me," Gall said. "I actually bought my house from a Lion."

When Gall suggested the group bring back the festival, Seely said the club was inspired by her ambition.

"She said, 'Let's do the rides free so that kids have something to do and it doesn't cost people a lot of money to come,'" Seely recalls.

And in the first year, this meant Gall spent a decent amount of time visiting local businesses to get their support. It takes about \$6,000 in sponsorship each year to pull together the free event, which between 3,000 and 4,000 people attend.

"We went through the phone book and got a list of all the businesses in Milford," Gall said. "We worked super hard to get it all done."

The festival is now three years strong and features a beauty contest, pet parade, entertainment and a car show. Seely said the Lions-run festival has become part of the backdrop of their community.

"We raise no funds during that day. The only funds that come in at all are from a car show, and that goes back to prizes for those that enter," Seely said. "It's kind of turned into a Lions way of thanking the people for supporting all the projects we have the rest of the year."

Gall said she's been happy to be a part of an event that brings her town together and showcases the Lions spirit.

"Everyone pitches in and makes sure the town looks nice," Gall said. "Everyone goes out of their way to make sure everything is in order. People come in and think, 'What a great town' and I think that's a good thing."

Piano Prowess Helps Lions Help Others

If people are fortunate, they excel at one thing in their lives. Dolph Traymon, a charter member of the Kent, Connecticut, Lions Club is doubly fortunate and talented. At 90, he's still gracefully playing the piano, and he's still actively volunteering as a Lion. Those two traits have helped raise funds for Kent Lions through Traymon's Afternoon Concert series, which made \$5,400 in 2009. This year, although the program was slightly shortened, the club raised \$4,800.

Born in New York City in 1919, Traymon began studying piano at the age of 4 and attended the prestigious Julliard School of Music. After being called to serve his country in 1942, Traymon became a conductor for the Army band and performed on Armed Service radio shows. After his discharge in 1946, he was an accompanist for Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee, Dorothy Lamour, Joel Grey and Rudy Valee.

When the Kent Lions Club was chartered in 1977, Traymon served as the club's first president. Lion Mark Hamilton says that because of Traymon's musical contribution, the club was able to make several donations to community organizations, including the local library, a scholarship fund and the Kent Veterans Memorial.



Kent Lion Dolph Traymon began playing piano 86 years ago.

An 'Excellent' Reward



Snohomish, Washington, Lions know that the club's successful "Weenie Wagon" is sought after by area residents for its variety of meals on wheels. In addition to providing tasty treats, the club's food concession wagon topped other temporary area food establishments to be voted the best-rated for food handling and cleanliness. Lions earned Snohomish County's Annual Excellence Award as the top establishment out of a field of more than 900. Lion Sue Sullivan jokes, "I've been in the food business most of my life, so I AM the food police. The health department knows how well we run it. It's been an excellent money-maker and fun at the same time."

Lions operate the wagon on weekends at a member's nursery from April through September, prime planting season to maximize food sales. They've owned the wagon since 2001, but have sold food at various venues for 18 years. Since Lions purchased the trailer, they average \$20,000 per year selling snack food like hamburgers and hot dogs at the nursery and at various local events. Revenue is used to provide scholarships for high school seniors and help support the Boys and Girls Club, the Snohomish Senior Center and fund other Lions community projects.

Lions Morrie Sachsenmaier (left) and Dean Neary proudly display the Weenie Wagon's award for excellence.

Fun from Pigs to Pies

Buena Park Noon Lions in California know how to show 200,000 people a good time. They've had plenty of years to practice—53, in fact, since their Silverado Days celebration started as a much smaller event. During its three-day span, visitors can indulge themselves with an array of carnival rides, food vendors, games, arts and crafts booths and even a chance to laugh at their fellow citizens who are foolhardy enough to take one another on in the pie-eating contest. Or, if they prefer, they can wager on the speediness of a pack of little porkers racing each other during the pig races.

Lions put together a wide range of entertainment for the benefit of visitors of every age. They begin working on each year's Silverado Days the day after the current one closes. Lions began organizing the event after municipal leaders of Buena Park asked them to organize a city-sponsored event. "We pulled together as a club to make this our signature fundraising event each year," says Joe Rodehaver. The city provides police security and the parks and recreation department allows the event to be held in one of its largest parks for maximum attendance.

Lions gave more than \$35,000 directly to local organizations during a check presentation luncheon. In addition to direct contributions, other non-profit groups were able to boost their profits by operating craft booths, food stands and providing other services. Rodehaver says that \$100,000 in charitable funds were raised during Silverado Days. "Literally, thousands of hours are expended by Buena Park Noon Lions putting on this event."

Elvis 2.0 entertains visitors during Silverado Days.

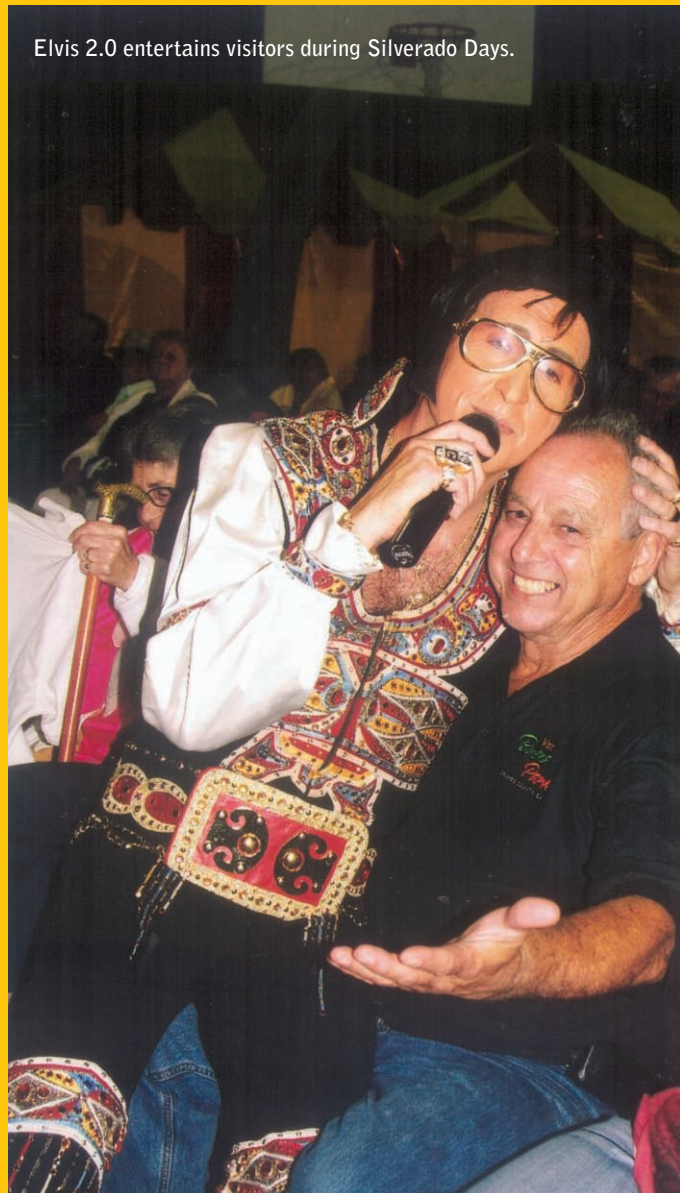


Photo by Loreen Berlin

CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Chester Lions Club** in **New Jersey** donated \$3,500 to an annual getaway for the disabled. The three-day trip is sponsored by Community Hope, an organization that provides housing and services for those recovering from mental illness and substance abuse.

The **Marlton Lions Club** in **New Jersey** sponsored a dinner honoring the Yellow Ribbon Club, which is a local group that has been creating care packages for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2005.

The **Rogers City Lions Club** in **Michigan** had a Garbage Bag Sale. The club sold 500 rolls of garbage bags at \$11 per roll, which raised \$5,500 for the Welcome Home for the Blind's Sight First Leader Dog School. The Leader Dog School has trained more than 11,000 dogs since 1939.

The **Brookside Lions Club** in **Delaware** tested the eyesight of 435 children at 22 different sites during the past school year. Equipment provided by the **Wilmington Manor Lions Club** allows each child to be tested in seconds.

The **Fox Lake Lions Club** in **Illinois** co-sponsored a Kids Training and Exercise Boot Camp Program with the Village of Fox Lake Parks Department. A total of 221 participants ages 6 to 12 took classes from professional trainers during the six-week class. There were two separate age groups along with a special needs class.

The **Park Ridge Lions Club** in **Illinois** is collaborating with a local resident to screen students in the Cook Islands and provide eyeglasses. Susan Koralik screened

638 students, 25 of whom needed glasses. Doctors in New Zealand agreed to examine the students and provide prescriptions, which the club will fund.

The **United Towns Lions and Lioness Club** in **Newfoundland, Canada**, held a year-end banquet, which nearly 100 Lions attended.

The **Berlin Lions Club** in **New Jersey** invited all volunteer firefighters and municipal VIPs to a pancake breakfast free of charge. First-grade students designed placemats and some children were recruited as servers for the event. Local businesses donated items and goods that were raffled off to the firefighters.

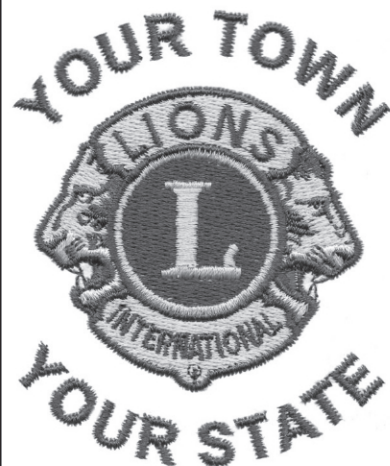
The **Boston Host Lions Club** recently donated 125 comfort animals and a check for \$1,000 to the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary's Pediatric Department. The comfort animals provide cheer and comfort to pediatric patients as they prepare for treatment and recover from surgery.

The **Lions Club of Madras Central** in **India** observed Helen Keller Remembrance Day on March 6 as they have for 11 years. Past International President Ashok Mehta attended.

The **Whittier Host Lions Club** in **California** awarded \$13,000 in scholarships.

The **Leesville Lions Club** in **Louisiana** raised more than \$24,000 during its 28th annual telethon.

The **Livermore Lions Club** in **California** donated \$24,580 to the local parks and recreation department.



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THANK YOU

THE LIONS CHANGED MY LIFE

Riding High

Minnesota mom of twins Carrie Kahl had a transportation dilemma most don't: it was an event just to get her two teenage boys in and out of her Buick. Andy and Harlan, 15, have muscular dystrophy and require the use of wheelchairs.

"We had to fold up the wheelchairs and transport the boys. Then when we got there, we start the whole process again," Kahl said.

When Kahl approached the St. Paul Newport Lions Club for assistance with a down payment for a new wheelchair-accessible van, she was hoping for a few hundred dollars to help with the purchase, which would run from \$29,000 to \$45,000.

Instead, the club procured a van for the family that was fully equipped for their needs.

"One of our members had one of his relatives that bought a used van and he only used it for half a year before he passed away," said Immediate Past President Howard Schnack. "It was in excellent condition and needed a few things."

The club used proceeds from an ongoing fundraiser to add new brakes and the mechanisms required for two wheelchair tie downs. A local business donated upgrades to the air conditioning system. Five weeks and \$9,000 of improvements later, the twins are enjoying their new wheels.



Andy and Harlan Kahl, 15, enjoy their new wheelchair-accessible van that was donated by the St. Paul Newport Lions Club.

Q & A: Carrie Kahl

LION Magazine: How did your sons react to the new van?

Carrie Kahl: It was great for them. I think we went out and got ice cream right away. They were so excited just to be able to get in and not to work to get into it. It's so easy and makes life so much simpler.

LM: What are car trips like now?

CK: Before, it took 30 minutes just to get ready to go somewhere. Now it takes 10. We can go grocery shopping or video game shopping without a lot of fuss. Before, they used up all their energy just getting into the car. Now they have energy to enjoy what they're doing. I took the boys to camp this year and it was a completely different experience. Before we had to pile everything practically on top of them to get to camp. Now we have room in the car for gear and even another passenger. They had more time to enjoy getting to camp.

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.

DONOR PROFILE



Name: Gabriele Sabatosanti Scarpelli, First Vice District Governor

Years as a Lion: 24

Profession: Engineer and CEO

Club: Genova Porto Antico, Italy

Can you tell us about your club?

"My club was chartered in 1998, and the number of members is 26."

Why did your club recently become a 100% MJF club?

"When I asked my club members to become a model club for Campaign Sight First II, the response was enthusiastic. My club made a great effort to support CSFII. We started to become a model club and we were able to raise \$42,000 with only 26 people. For this reason we decided to give an MJF to every member of our club."

How did your club raise the funds?

"The fundraising was done through various events. We organized a cruise in the Mediterranean Sea with the participation of nearly 300 people. There were two regattas with over 50 boats. We organized card tournaments and lotteries and other kind of activities. Only a small part of what we collected is due to individual donations."

How does your club feel about becoming a 100% MJF club?

"Our members are very honored and proud of the achievement, and I believe that this represents an incentive for greater efforts in future."

Why is LCIF important to you and your fellow club members?

"Through LCIF it is possible to realize large-scale service and achieve goals that were unattainable with the individual resources."

The **Springfield Lions Club** in **Massachusetts** held their sixth-annual Spring Scholarship Breakfast. The club served the morning meal to about 300 people and held a raffle with more than 100 prizes. With the money, the club provided six \$500 scholarships to high school students.

The **Uniontown Lions Club** in **Ohio** continues to donate eyeglasses to a doctor who takes mission trips to Latin and South America. The club meets two times per week to clean, repair and catalog glasses as they have for the past 10 years. They process almost 10,000 pairs per year.

The **Kenton Lions Club** in **Ohio** financed a \$2,900 surgery that restored a 25-year-old resident's sight. Angela Cattell has adult strabismus that was untreated since birth. Cattell can now read and hopes to obtain a driver's license.

The **Brea Lions Club** in **California** presented its 51st annual Brea Lions North/South All-Star Charity Football Game. The effort raises funds for the Orange County Youth Foundation, Western Youth Services and the Pediatric Adolescent Diabetes Research Foundation.

The **Lions Club of Narangi** in **India** organized a tree-planting program. In conjunction with the effort, they offered a health clinic at Bhabanipur High School for 450 people.

The **Fountain City Lions Club** in **Tennessee** continues to maintain one of the most popular parks in Knoxville. As part of its regular maintenance, the club recently added restrooms using donations from the community, which totaled at \$87,000 and covered most of the costs.



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17. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.		

(Signed)
Dane La Joye, Managing Editor

CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNIVERSARIES NOVEMBER 2010

85 Years: Petaluma Host, Calif.; Torrington, Conn.; Michigan City, Ind.; Maplewood, N.J.; Mount Kisco, N.Y.; Hellertown and Manheim, Pa.; Covington, Tenn.; Magna, Utah

80 Years: Colfax, La.; Elizabeth, Pa.; Dunbar, W. Va.

75 Years: Laurel, Del.; Queenstown, Md.; Clinton, N.C.; Phil So Phil, Pa.; Denmark and Walterboro, S.C.; Hartsville and Loudon, Tenn.; Oakville, Ontario, CAN

50 Years: Macon Rutland, Ga.; Fruitland and Marsing, Idaho; Ely, Minn.; St. Martin, Miss.; St. Louis Cheltenham-Chouteau, Mo.; Hysham, Mont.; Albuquerque Breakfast and Santa Fe Capital City, N.M.; Yorktown, N.Y.; South Iredell, N.C.; Jacksonville, Pa.; Luck and Waterford, Wis.; Buchans and New World Island, Newfoundland, CAN; Caledonia, Ontario, CAN

25 Years: Twins Fall Monarch, Idaho; Randall Cushing Area, Minn.; Maryville Pride, Mo.; Ripley, Ohio; Allentown Kuhnsville Area, Pa.; Spokane Suburban North, Wash.

HIGHER KEYS JULY 2010

Key of Nations (100 Members)

- Lion Engr Sheikh Rahman, Dhaka Dilkusha North, Rep. of Bangladesh

Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion Dilip Parmar, Bombay Mahanagar, India

Senior Master Key (25 Members)

- Lion Scott Evans, Stephenville, Texas
- Lion Amado Carrillo, Del Rio Host, Texas
- Lion Lajuana Newnam Leus, Floresville, Texas
- Lion Charles Smith, Killingworth, Connecticut
- Lion Ralph Groves, Scituate, Rhode Island
- Lion Yancy Watkins, Murray, Kentucky
- Lion Sandra Emery, Kenai Peninsula Racing, Alabama
- Lion Carlos Pichardo Vicioso, Guaynabo Garden Hills, Puerto Rico
- Lion A. N. M. Patoary, Chatkhil City, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Ashwani Sehgal, Jalandhar, India
- Lion Dr. Mahender Kumar Jain, Ahmedabad Host, India
- Lion N. Balakrishnan, Coimbatore Victory, India
- Lion Prema Kumar, Hyderabad Mega City, India

CALENDAR

2010 UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

LIONS DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

NOVEMBER 4-6

EUROPA Forum
BOLOGNA, ITALY

NOVEMBER 11

Lions Quest grant application deadline for review at the January 2011 board meeting

NOVEMBER 11-14

Senior Lions Leadership Institute/The Orient and Southeast Asia
GYEONGJU, KOREA

NOVEMBER 14

World Diabetes Day

NOVEMBER 15

Postmark deadline for a club to send one winning Peace Poster (per contest sponsored) to the district governor

NOVEMBER 15

Top 10 Youth Camp and Exchange Chairperson Award application (YCE-110) deadline

NOVEMBER 18-21

OSEAL Forum
KAOSHIUNG, TAIWAN

NOVEMBER 18-21

Senior Lions Leadership Institute/USA, Affiliates, Bermuda, the Bahamas and Canada
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, USA

NOVEMBER 30

Deadline for Family Membership Certification Forms

NOVEMBER 30

Leo October Membership Growth Award nomination deadline

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LAST ROAR



Photo by Laura Sinclair Photography

SHE KNOWS IT'S CHRISTMAS

Sara Gunville shows off her holiday nose at the annual Holiday Stroll in Rockland, Massachusetts. Chances are she wandered over to the hot chocolate and fried dough booth staffed by Rockland Lions.

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Mexican Riviera Cruise

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Start in San Francisco for two nights with included sightseeing. Travel south and visit Monterey, the 17 Mile Drive, and take California's scenic Highway One, along Big Sur. Tour the Hearst Castle and spend one night in the San Luis Obispo area. Visit the Danish Village of Solvang in route to Los Angeles. Take a city tour of Hollywood, Beverly Hills and L.A. Board the **NCL *Star*** for a 7-night Mexican Riviera cruise to Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, and Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Add only \$200 for outside or \$400 for balcony staterooms!

Northeast Cruise & Tour

15 Days

Join other Lions departing May 13, 2011

from **\$1898***

**NOVA SCOTIA – PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND – MONTREAL – QUEBEC CITY
NEW YORK CITY – MANHATTAN HARBOR CRUISE – CAPE COD – BOSTON**

Start in Boston for an included city tour including Boston common, Old North Church, and Bunker Hill; then board your deluxe ship, Holland America Line's ms Maasdam. Enjoy all the amenities HAL offers. Your exciting ports include Bar Harbor, ME; Halifax and Sydney, Nova Scotia; Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. You'll also cruise the scenic Gulf of St. Lawrence; Quebec City, and Montreal, Quebec. Next, YMT will take you on a scenic drive through "upper New York" to New York City (2 nights) for your city tour and cruise; then visit Cape Cod via Newport RI and Hyannis, MA.

Greece & the Aegean Islands

13 Days

Travel with other Lions departing June 1, 2011

from **\$1408***

Start in Athens, visit the Parliament, Hadrian's Arch, Parthenon, Acropolis, Corinth Canal, Epidaurus, Olympia, and village of Mystras with its Byzantine citadel. Tour the Temple of Zeus, Olympic Stadium, Gulf of Corinth, Temple of Apollo and museum, Delphi and Kalambaka. Sail to the islands of Mykonos, Delos, and Santorini, complete with hotels and sightseeing.

Alaska Cruise

And Pacific Northwest Vacation with Yellowstone National Park!

15 Days

Travel with other Lions departing June 18, 2011

from **\$2198***

Includes a 7-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with **Holland America Line** and a 7-day Pacific Northwest vacation with YMT. Your group will fly into Seattle for a night; then city tour of Seattle before boarding the five-star ms Oosterdam. Ports include: Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, spectacular Glacier Bay, and Victoria, B.C. After the cruise take a scenic drive across Washington State and Montana. Spend two days at Yellowstone National Park, visit Grand Teton National Park; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; and in Utah: the Great Salt Lake, Mormon Tabernacle, and more.

U.S. + Canadian Rockies

14 Days

Travel with other Lions Departing July 13, 2011

from **\$1548**

Begin in Denver; travel through northern Colorado to Cheyenne, Wyoming. Travel through the Black Hills of South Dakota to Rapid City. Visit Mt. Rushmore; Crazy Horse Memorial; Wild Bill Hickock's Deadwood, and Custer's Little Big Horn. Next, two days at Yellowstone Nat'l Park; see geysers, hot springs "Mud Volcano" and famous "Old Faithful." From West Yellowstone, take a scenic drive through Montana into Canada. Visit Lethbridge, Ft. Macleod, "Heads-Smashed-in-Buffalo-Jump," and Waterton Lakes National Park. Visit Calgary, Banff National Park, Banff town site (one night), Lake Louise, Bow Falls, Jasper National Park, Jasper town site (one night), The Columbia Ice Fields, and take a sno-coach ride over a glacier. Cross over the Continental Divide, to British Columbia, travel through Yoho National Park to Golden, BC. Visit the Radium Hot Springs at Kootenay National Park and travel down the western slope of the Canadian Rockies into Washington for a night in Spokane. Your last night will be in Seattle, and on the way, you'll visit The Grand Coulee Dam and Dry Falls before the scenic drive through the mountains to Seattle. Extend your flights by 1 or 2 days in Denver or Seattle free!

* Per person, double occupancy. Airfare is extra, call for details. Lions Clubs International not responsible for any losses incurred.

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