

LION



Lions Clubs International

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LCIF's year
of growth and
partnership
































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*"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

Never Give Less Than You Can



The Scruggs visit the Daegu Rehabilitation Center in Korea.

First let me say “thank you” to each of you who sent cards, letters and e-mail greetings during the recent holiday season. With our extensive travel we have finally opened our holiday mail. Although you may not have received an acknowledgment from us, I want you to know how much Judy and I appreciate hearing from you and receiving your good wishes.

Recently, Judy and I had the privilege of visiting the Daegu Rehabilitation Center in Daegu, Korea, which was founded by the local Lions. The center opened in 1984 as the first center for the disabled in Korea, and it now helps more than 283,000 people a year. The center is very special as it is a place where individuals with special physical and mental challenges can be with peers who have similar challenges. The acts of kindness by Lions in supporting the center help many children and adults avoid a life of dependence and empower them to lead a more productive life.

The effect of our service is not always as obvious as it is at the Daegu Center, but we must remember that any act of kindness can make a world of difference. An Eastern philosopher once wrote, “Never give less than you can because you never know how much the other person needs.” This advice is at the heart of our service philosophy and is the center of my presidential theme to be a Beacon of Hope. I again encourage all Lions to embrace service as never before and to take part in our global service action campaigns. In April we will conclude our global service campaigns by shining a light on the environment. If you missed an opportunity to participate in one of the earlier service initiatives please take an opportunity to make a difference in these specific areas before the end of this Lions year.

Sid L. Scruggs III
Lions Clubs International President



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

LIONS JOIN WITH GATES TO PREVENT MEASLES

Lions are partnering with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to protect 41 million African children from measles. The goal of the Lions-Measles Initiative is to vaccinate at least 95 percent of children aged 9 months to 47 months old in Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mali and Nigeria. LCIF and the Gates Foundation are jointly funding the \$750,000 program. Vaccinations began in October. Lions in Africa are publicizing the measles campaign, mobilizing people for vaccinations and working closely with government health officials. Measles is the leading cause of vaccine-preventable death in children. It also can cause blindness. UNICEF estimates 1.7 million children could die from the disease in the next three years if vaccination efforts subside. The Lions' effort is part of the Measles Initiative, which has led to more than 700 million children being vaccinated since 2001. The Measles Initiative is supported by UNICEF, WHO, U.S. Centers for Disease Control, American Red Cross and the United Nations Foundation.



A child in Madagascar is vaccinated against measles thanks to the Lions-Measles Initiative.

A LION FOR 77 YEARS

He is one in a million. More precisely, Glenn Ratliff of the Monahans Lions Club in Texas is one in 1,342,901. With 77 years of service, he is the Lion with the longest tenure. Ratliff joined on Aug. 1, 1933, in Eldorado, Texas, where he helped his father with his dry goods store. He transferred to the Monahans club in 1940. Until recently, Ratliff, 100, attended every weekly club meeting. He still drives himself to church on Sunday and until last year played nine holes of golf every morning—walking, not with a golf cart. Ratliff and his late wife, Ophelia, raised four sons, all of whom are Baylor University graduates. He sold brooms and roses for the Lions, worked the golf tourney and in 1935 attended the international convention in Mexico City, where Lions slept in Pullman train cars. When his club honored him for 75 years of service, he told his colleagues he was “overwhelmed.”



PAST PRESIDENT DIES AT AGE 95

Newly elected to serve as the 50th president of Lions Clubs International in 1966, Edward M. Lindsey, of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, was very aware of the responsibility. Standing onstage at Madison Square Garden in New York City, he said, “Forty-nine men have preceded me to this podium; 49 men of vision, courage and humility.” Lindsey, who died in January, spent his 65 years as a Lion always mindful of what he regarded as the privilege to serve others, first as a member of the Lawrenceburg Lions Club and then as international director (1960-62) and ultimately as president. Well-suited for leadership, he also was a former mayor of Lawrenceburg. Lindsey was especially active in work for the blind. He was president of Ed Lindsey Industries of the Blind and president of the Lawrence County Lions Nursing Home and the Lawrenceburg Lions Home. He said his forthrightness came from being the son of a father who was a defense attorney and a prosecutor. He was legendary in his determination—long remembered at his high school for being the only football player confined to his bed with an injury who demanded homework instead of trying to be excused from studying.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

Jackie Royse has been volunteering with her grandfather's Lions club since age 12. When he asked her to join the Granbury, Texas, club at age 18, Royse accepted – even though she's decades younger than her fellow Lions. "I think that's a good thing in the end," she says. "Maybe I can help in ways that other members can't." Royse is a senior in high school and plans to attend Dallas Christian College in the fall to study music. Royse hopes to stay committed to the "We Serve" motto and parlay her love of singing and piano into a career as a music therapist, using music to calm those with disorders like Down syndrome and Alzheimer's disease.

YOU ARE MUCH YOUNGER THAN THE TYPICAL LION. HOW DID MEMBERS REACT WHEN YOU JOINED? I love going to the club, and the guys are very funny. They gave me a lot of grief when I joined. There's one guy who said, "Don't we get to vote?" When they said, "All who oppose," he said "I," and then "All who are for it," and he said "I" again. But my grandparents were very proud, and the rest of the Lions said that it was about time.

ARE YOU ABLE TO MAKE MANY MEETINGS, SINCE YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL? We meet every Tuesday at noon. I go to a charter school that gets out at noon, so I'm usually late, but I get there.

DO YOUR FRIENDS KNOW WHAT LIONS IS? WHAT DO THEY THINK OF YOU JOINING YOUR GRANDPA'S CLUB? Some expected it since I've been helping for so long. Some were Leos when my grandma and I started a Leo club at my school [now defunct.] But most of my friends wouldn't want to join. They are seniors and busy working on college stuff.

IF MOST OF YOUR FRIENDS AREN'T INTERESTED IN LIONS, WHY ARE YOU? I have been helping my Lions club since I was 12 so it seemed like a natural thing to do. I've helped put out flags on the five holidays that we do that, like the 4th of July. I've helped in the parades that we have in Granbury. I ride the float and help Simba, our club mascot, wave to the children. Simba is my grandpa – he's the one who is usually inside the lion costume. He goes to schools and gives gold dollars for perfect attendance, helps in parades and at our pancake dinner. I like helping him greet the children.

HOW DO YOU THINK LIONS CAN BE POSITIVE ROLE MODELS FOR PEOPLE YOUR AGE? I think that just by going out and helping ... showing kids that it's good to help others and do something productive. The best way is just to lead by example, by being visible in the community.



Royse and her grandfather, James Royse.

TENT CITY ERECTED IN NEW YORK

One year after the deadly earthquake in Haiti a tent city arose near Suffern, New York. The Rockland County Haiti Relief Campaign put together the makeshift city to dramatize living conditions in Haiti. One of the tents was the same kind of tent Lions Clubs International sent to Haiti in the weeks and months after the earthquake. Lions established three tent cities that 2,500 people still call home. Lions and LCIF currently are building provisional homes for 600 families. The Lions tent near Suffern, located close to New York City, included materials on Lions, and Past International President Al Brandel of New York spoke about Lions' efforts in Haiti. An estimated 20,000 Haitian-Americans live in Rockland County, and many residents lost relatives in the earthquake.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

CLUB OF THE MONTH

NEW YORK COSMOPOLITAN LIONS CLUB

FOUNDED: Though originally founded in 1980 as the New York Chinese American Lioness Club, the club re-chartered as a Lions club in 1987.

MEMBERSHIP: The club is made up of 32 members; the youngest is 40-something and the oldest is 92.

COMMUNITY SERVED: Lower east side of Manhattan, including Chinatown

NAME-CHANGER: Founding member Helen Chong says, "We wanted to be a Lions club in 1987 because we were already doing what Lions were doing." It's no coincidence that the change happened the same year Lions clubs started allowing female members. The name change came about during the re-charter to better reflect the true identity of club members. Though the club serves Chinatown, members are of varied nationalities.

TRUE TO TRADITION: To celebrate Chinese New Year, club members give out fruit and red envelopes containing a dollar bill at a senior center in Chinatown. The custom is meant to bring peace and happiness in the new year.

HEALING AFTER 9/11: "Since Chinatown is like the backyard of the World Trade Center, it suffered tremendous losses in its local businesses, loss of income due to unemployment, property damage and the well-being of its residents," club president Mike Bhuiyan says. Club members volunteered many hours at a family center established by the Red Cross where residents filled out forms for governmental assistance. Lion volunteers monitored long lines and helped with translation since many community residents do not speak English. Club members also obtained \$70,000 in grants from LCIF. The money benefited a local clinic as well as the Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc., an Asian social services organization.



OVEHEARD

"We're all about community and you build your community by making sure that all the components are working properly. This is a way we can make a difference."

—Jim Schutz of the Madison Central Lions Club in Wisconsin at an eye screening in a Head Start classroom. From WKOWTV.com.

"We would not let a little thing like a tornado stop us."

—Jim Norris of The Plains Lions Club in Ohio after a twister delayed its 28th annual Indian Mound Festival featuring a classic car cruise. From The Post.

"I came kicking and screaming. Honestly, it's awesome. If you had mom's Sunday roast next to it in a blind taste test, you couldn't tell the difference."

—Mark Hershner, a patron of the Danville Lions Club's 66th annual Raccoon Dinner in Ohio.

ON THE WEB

The Lions Club Service Activity Report, which is part of the Web Monthly Membership Reporting (WMMR), now allows Lions to share the story behind their service projects. The redesigned report is a place for clubs to share activities, upload photos, track goals and designate signature activities. Lions may also download custom reports and access project planning tools. To find the report, search for "service activity report" on www.lionsclubs.org. If a problem arises, contact the WMMR Support Center by phone at (630) 468-6900 or by e-mail at wmmr@lionsclubs.org.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

BY THE NUMBERS

11,771

Items of new clothing sent to wounded soldiers in Germany since 2004 by the Ocean City Lions in Maryland.

4

Kidney patients provided dialysis each day at BT Savani Kidney Hospital thanks to the Rajkot Lions in India.

252

Holes of golf played in less than 12 hours by Brian Belz, 16, at a golf course in Arizona to raise money for families of killed or wounded soldiers. The Diamondhead Lions donated \$500, and Jim Wills, club president, gave Belz a six-pack of Gatorade at the end of each round.

600

Size in square feet of the five bus shelters for students to be built by Gonzales Noon Lions in Texas.

1,100

Bikes repaired and then donated to needy children since 2000 by Marion Blank and other members of the Yakima Lions in Washington. Many of the bikes are unclaimed property of the Yakima Police Department. Blank, 75, usually rides the bikes after he fixes them "to make sure they work right."

43

Snowmobiles that took part in the 160-kilometer (99 miles) Pasadena Lions Snow-a-Rama in Newfoundland, Canada.

400

Dollars raised through a donation jar that Lion Eileen Pilkington, a Christmas enthusiast, puts out for visitors to her lavishly decorated home. The funds went to Cowichan Lake Lions Club in British Columbia, Canada.

150

Barrels used to collect toys for children during the holidays by eight Lions clubs in the Grand Valley area in Colorado.

45 YEARS AGO IN THE LION MARCH 1966

International Second Vice President Jorge Bird (left) of Puerto Rico meets U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren at the White House Conference on International Cooperation. Civic, religious and government leaders met for four days to further world peace.



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IDEAS THAT ROAR

BIG IMPACT WITH LIONS CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS

DOCUMENT CLUB PROJECTS

Take photos of service and fundraising projects. Document your club's efforts and keep a scrapbook or album showing how Lions are helping their communities.

Lions Link History & Community

by Tammy Thielman

Its name sounds like an exotic zoo animal. The recently completed 2,400-square-foot log structure is known as the “muzebo,” a joint project between the Enderby, British Columbia, Canada Lions Club and the Enderby and District Museum Society (EDMS).

Enderby, home to the 59-member club, is a small town located in the interior of western Canada. Appropriately, the muzebo is situated in Barnes Park, the heart of the small town. The park is also where the community swimming pool, water park, skateboard and bike park and play area can be found — all previously built by Lions. The newly built muzebo, more formally known as the Museum in the Park, is easily visible and accessible from the highway. A 20-foot by 60-foot section of the structure is used for housing large museum artifacts, such as an antique fire truck, while the rest is open for public use like community celebrations and picnics.

Lion Nick Shatzko, a 38-year member, oversaw the project from planning to completion. The idea for a covered, open air place to house vintage artifacts was inspired by Shatzko's travels and trips to museums across Canada. He wanted to see antiques stay in town where both residents and tourists could appreciate them. “A lot of artifacts were being sold off, out of town,” he says. “A lot of people will now stop to see the history of the area.”

Enderby Lions had already completed a 4,000-square-foot structure

SERVICE IDEA

LINK HISTORY



Enderby Lions (from left) Al Schulte, John Pavelich and Vic Aube were “hands-on” volunteers.

Photo by Grant Russell

now used for club and community functions at nearby Riverside Park in 2003. The Barnes Park muzebo is a mirror image of the larger one right down to its forest green roof. Part of the job was contracted out but much of it was done by Lions, including Shatzko, a former contractor who helped finish the concrete floor and put up ceiling boards.

For EDMS, the completion of the Museum in the Park fulfills the need for an outdoor display building. Curator Joan Cowan credits the Lions for the building. “We were just totally incapable of doing it ourselves. Our board didn't really have the expertise for the design or building of it.”

She likes Shatzko's idea to display museum artifacts in a secure fenced area while also leaving space for com-

munity gatherings. “The Lions are an amazing group. We couldn't get the funding or the help we needed until they came along. We gave some money for the project, then Lions matched it and came up with all of the volunteer labor.”

The city of Enderby owns the muzebo while EDMS is responsible for maintaining the artifacts. Lions recently helped oversee the delivery of a 1930s fire truck and a circa-1936 antique butter churn. The fire truck, Enderby's first, was built by a local man who added wooden ladders, a pump and a siren to a 1929 Chevy truck. The wooden barrel-model butter churn produced 12,000 pounds of award-winning butter at a time.

KEEP LCIF AT THE READY

Donating a percentage of profits to LCIF keeps the foundation ready and able to meet human needs when a crisis arises.

INVITE POTENTIAL MEMBERS

Interested community members who attend an open meeting are more likely to become Lions when introduced to men and women who already give their time.

FRIENDLINESS COUNTS

Potential members are interested in joining as much for the camaraderie as for the service opportunities. Community work should inspire friendships as well as good works.

Eyeglasses for Africa

A recent shipment of 5,000 pairs of eyeglasses will help people in need throughout Mozambique, Lesotho and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Africa. The glasses were sent by the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation in partnership with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) and Idaho Care Center.

Lions clubs in Multiple District 39 have been sending eyeglasses overseas to people in need for more than 20 years, but the recent shipment of 5,000 glasses represents the largest number sent in a single shipment, says Curt Kelley of the Boise Bench Lions Club.

Henry Cardinale, also of the Boise Bench club, says, "We've been doing this for many years. We've supplied some local missions with a couple of hundred pairs in the past, but never this many."

The collaboration with MAF began last year when advocate Tom Porter spoke to the club about the organization's medical and relief work in remote areas of the world. Porter agreed to partner with Lions, who collect the glasses that MAF representatives fly in to remote locations then distribute.



Boise Bench Lions Liz Cardinale and Bill Hallock sort some of the 5,000 pairs of eyeglasses prior to shipment.



SERVICE IDEA ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Ice Cream Social a Treat

Members of the Berkeley Heights Lions Club in New Jersey treated patients at the Runnels Specialized Hospital of Union County to an old-fashioned ice cream social. Patients at the facility need either long-term nursing care or a short rehabilitation stay.

The annual ice cream party is complete with entertainment. Runnels recently honored the 62-year-old club for Lions' 45 years of volunteer service at the facility.

Patient Elaine Peterson gets ready to dig into an ice cream sundae made with all the trimmings by Patricia Scott, a member of the Runnels staff, and Lion Adrian Basili.

INVITE A GUEST SPEAKER

Consider inviting guest speakers to keep meetings lively and interesting. It's also a good way to learn more about other community groups.

How Does Their Garden Grow? Very Well, Thank You

The 14 members of the Lions Club of Whitefish, Montana, may just have the greenest thumbs in the state. The organic garden they operate harvested about 15,000 pounds of onions, potatoes, cucumbers, squash, zucchini and radishes. The produce is donated to the local school district to provide fresh vegetables and healthy lunches to more than 700 children. All Lions receive is a small payment to cover their costs.

Lions are not only saving taxpayers money, they're also hoping to instill healthy eating habits in students. Lion Greg Shaffer told the *Whitefish Pilot* newspaper, "We wanted a legacy project that we could hang our hats on that would be around for years to benefit the community." By teaching kids to include nutritious vegetables in their diet, Lions are hoping to help them avoid diabetes and related complications. Nearly 48,000 Montanans already live with diabetes and that number is expected to rise. "Diabetes is a major cause of eyesight problems and we wanted to do something about it," Shaffer relates.

Nestled in the Flathead Valley against Big Mountain with the mountains of Glacier National Park providing a scenic backdrop, Whitefish has a population of around 8,300 and is 55 miles from the Canadian border. Growing conditions are ideal, but the 50-by-300-foot garden does take a lot of work. The entire area is about four acres, so the garden can be expanded as needed. Shaffer says they do much of the labor themselves weekly, and some

other volunteers also help with the never-ending weeding and mowing around the fields. Donations are also accepted to keep the garden growing.

The garden was made possible through the generosity of others. The owner of Don K Chevrolet, where Shaffer is employed as service manager, allowed Lions to plow a nearby vacant hay field he owns; another nearby local business gave the club permission to use a well for an irrigation system and yet another company helped install it. Some of the heavy equipment needed to plow the fields was supplied by a local rental business.

Whitefish School District nutrition director Jay Stagg, who plans lunches that cost less than \$1 a serving, told the *Pilot*, "I'm really getting into using local produce as much as possible."

The bountiful harvest from Lions helps offset costs and Stagg says the excess from a crop of potatoes last year was traded for other fresh produce at a local garden co-op.

"Our soil preparation starts in April and then comes plowing and tilling, tree and shrub maintenance," Shaffer explains. "Planting starts the first of May and ends by the 15th. Harvest is throughout the summer and into fall as vegetables ripen for use. The school district has refrigeration to keep vegetables fresh for use." In the fall, Lions get busy as the harvest is ending and they clean the fields for the approach of winter. Autumn does, however, bring something more than the additional workload, he's quick to point out. "It's time for celebration of a successful season."

SERVICE IDEA GARDENING



Lion Gabe Hawman hoes a row in the club's organic garden.



1 EUROPE GERMANY

Sight for the Poorest of the Poor

For more than a decade, the Democratic Republic of Congo has endured a horrific war. Without money or resources, the refugees flee to Kinshasa, the capital city, where social services are largely absent. The country is the second poorest in the world.

In the Masina neighborhood, teeming with refugees, German Lions helped open a teaching hospital for eye care professionals. At last, the poor are having their sight saved or restored.

The Lions' partner on the hospital is Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM), an international Christian group that

serves those with disabilities and with little income. German Lions have partnered with CBM since 1992. In Africa and India, they've built, renovated or expanded more than 40 eye clinics. Through financial support of 16 million euros (US\$21 million), Lions have helped innumerable poor people with dire vision needs. "The results of our successful cooperation to improve the quality of life for poor people in developing regions made us German Lions feel proud and have encouraged us to do more," said 2009-2010 Council Chairperson Helmut Marhauer.



District governors in Germany get an idea of what it's like to navigate the world without sight. The exercise took place at a meeting where they planned further collaboration with Christoffel-Blindenmission.



2 OCEANIA NEW ZEALAND

Earthquake Shatters Homes, Not Resolve

The quake that struck New Zealand's second largest city in September was eerily similar in scope to the one that devastated Haiti last year. The fault line for the 7.1 magnitude quake that damaged Christchurch was 10 kilometers under the earth's surface and 30 kilometers from the city center. The Haitian earthquake, a 7.0 quake that killed at least 230,000 people, occurred at a depth of 13 kilometers and 25 kilometers from the city center.

Remarkably, all 400,000 residents of Christchurch survived the earthquake. The city learned a lesson from a 1931 earthquake that killed 256 people. Most New Zealand homes are constructed around light timber frames; rigorous building standards in New Zealand are too expensive for countries like Haiti.

Yet the quake in Christchurch disrupted lives and imposed hardship. More than 100,000 of the region's 160,000 homes sustained damage. The repair bill is estimated to be more than \$1 billion dollars, making it the country's most costly natural disaster. A number of Lions lost their homes or many of their possessions. Yet Lions sprang into action to speed the recovery.

Members of the Temuka District Lions Club, an all-women's club, and members of the Geraldine Lioness Club drove two hours to staff a shelter for 250 displaced people at Addington Raceway. "The sight of rows and rows of people sleeping on mattresses on the floors over two floors of the raceway building was a sobering sight and one I don't think we will ever forget," says Sally Woodhead, welfare center coordinator of civil defense for the club.

Added Woodhead, "People were very vulnerable and fragile and often the frequent aftershocks would have them sitting up in their beds. It wasn't made any easier at Addington by the norovirus [a gastric virus] that spread through the place."

Many other Lions and clubs responded to the disaster. The Nelson Pakeke Lions bottled 100 jars of jam and fruit and delivered them to Kaiapoi Lions, located in a heavily damaged area, for distribution to food banks. Rangiora Lions assisted the Kaiapoi Community Support in re-packaging and delivery of bulk food.

Three weeks after the quake, Wigram, Pegasus and Halswell Lions helped staff a TV station's breakfast for more than 5,000 people in Christchurch's Cathedral Square. Pe-



Kaiapoi Lions (from left) Fred Uhrle, Rosalie Holmes, Heather Courtier and Richard Holmes help out a fellow club member who lost his six-year-old house by uplifting paving stones to be put into storage.

gasus Lions ran a sausage sizzle at a local hardware store and contributed proceeds to the Red Cross Earthquake Appeal. Christchurch Lions arranged holidays for families out of town and away from the aftershocks.

Close to the quake's epicenter and dealing with personal losses, Rolleston Lions still took care of others. To revive people's spirits, the club held a Family Fun Day at a community center. Clowns, magicians and buskers entertained.

Lions in New Zealand donated more than \$100,000 to an earthquake relief fund. LCIF provided a US\$10,000 grant. "We don't really know what will be needed until things are cleaned up," said Beverly Dubar of the Kaiapoi & Districts Lions Club. "We've been approaching schools for lists of needy families."

The women of the Temuka District Lions Club found an innovative way to boost the Lions' earthquake fund. They bared all for a "Calendar Girls" project. The \$10 calendars quickly sold out.

"There are animal scenes, Halloween, fishing and shooting. Every club member is involved – grandmothers and all," said Woodhead. "But it's an illusion that we are wearing nothing."



THE LIONS CLUB OF DAR ES SALAAM (HOST) IN TANZANIA ORGANIZED A FREE HEART-SCREENING CAMP.



THE BAHIA MAZARRÓN LIONS CLUB IN SPAIN DONATED TWO MATTRESSES, TWO SHOPPING CARTS AND 200 CHILDREN'S GIFTS TO THE MAZARRÓN TOWN HALL.



THE ROSSLAND LIONS CLUB IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, PROVIDED HAND CONTROLS TO ADAPT A CAR FOR A LOCAL WOMAN WHOSE LEGS WERE TOO WEAK TO USE THE PEDALS.

3 ASIA KOREA



Work Without Pay-But Nobody Complains

Lions in Korea put on their vests, roll up their sleeves and aid the less fortunate. Pusan Sasang Lions (above) did laundry for senior citizens and donated blankets. Sogwipo Jung-Bnag Lions (below right) repair a roof for an elderly woman in Hahodong. Club members also remodeled four homes for needy families. Yae Cheon Lions (below left) cleared roads of snow the old-fashioned way—sans snow blowers.





2 EUROPE IRELAND

Teen Suicide Spurs Short Film

Leo Shane O'Brien, 19, lives in a sparsely populated rural area of Ireland but he knows of 10 suicides in the last five years within a few miles of his home. His Leo club has responded by producing radio shows on mental health, a magazine, and, most recently, a short video to be used as a movie trailer and shown at schools.

"Suicide remains a huge problem. I think it's fair to say all of us have known people who have taken their own lives and everyone knows someone who has a mental illness," says O'Brien, who lives in County Roscommon. "These projects are a practical solution of fellow young people."

The Roscommon Leos wrote and edited the 2 1/2-minute video. The 18 Leos also handled the directing, camera work, storyboarding and lighting after a week of training from the North West Film School. Three Leos acted in the film, and the other parts were filled by local residents who auditioned. Lions took care of legal matters.

The film shows several teens troubled by the voices of angry, unsympathetic parents. It ends with a text address for teenagers seeking support and advice.

Clara Hester worked on the film. "Fun? It was amazing. How many 16-year-olds can say they've been a part of a making a real film? The Leo club has given me huge opportunities and so much knowledge not only on mental health but also on the media," says Hester, the club's public relations officer.

The film cost 5,000 euros (\$6,550) paid for by Leo funds as well as a grant from a local social service agency.

The Leo magazine, called *4U* and produced about three times a year, includes stories on local concerns as well as articles on mental health. Leos distribute the magazine to schools in the county and to waiting rooms at doctor offices and hairdressers. The 10 Friday night radio shows produced by the Leos include music, celebrity interviews, talk and information on mental health.

Being a Leo is fun but also immensely rewarding, says Hester. "Although we tackled a very sensitive and tough subject we had great fun doing it and are all very passionate about our work," she says.



Roscommon Leos in Ireland film a video on mental health.

U.S. + Canadian Rockies

14 Days

Travel with other Lions Departing July 13, 2011

from **\$1548***

Begin in Denver; travel through Colorado to Cheyenne, Wyoming and 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), Columbia Ice Fields, and take a sno-coach ride over a glacier. Cross 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 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.

The Best of Italy + Austria

15 Days

Join other Lions departing Sept. 7, 2011

from **\$2298***

Enjoy three days in Rome with an included city tour of Ancient Rome and tour of the Vatican and Sistine Chapel. Two nights in Sorrento allows included sightseeing of the excavations of famous Pompeii and a tour of the beautiful coastal drive of Amalfi and the cliffs. Your next two nights are in the Tuscany region with included sightseeing in Florence, Pisa and Verona followed by two nights in Venice with sightseeing. Next, Austria with two nights in Mozart's birthplace Salzburg with a "Sound of Music" excursion and two nights in Vienna with a city tour & Danube River Cruise. Includes 22 meals and English-speaking escort.

North East Tour + French Canada Cruise

***Autumn Colors in...* New York – Cape Cod – New Hampshire – Vermont – Montreal – Quebec – Maine – Boston**

14 Days

Travel with other Lions departing October 9, 2011

from **\$1698***

Start in New York City (two nights) with an exhilarating city tour and Harbor cruise. Travel via your comfortable motor coach to "Old Cape Cod" with "sand dunes and salty air." You'll also visit Chatham & Provincetown and overnight in the Hyannis area. Next, a scenic drive to Montreal via New Hampshire and Vermont with vibrant fall colors, apple orchards and cider mills, pumpkin patches, and spectacular views in the mountains. There's two nights in Montreal with a full day city tour including the cosmopolitan downtown as well as "Old Montreal" with cobblestone streets, charming shops and imposing Notre Dame Cathedral. Then travel beside the St. Lawrence River to Quebec City. Your city tour includes "Old Quebec City with its remaining fortified city walls and a visit to the Château Frontenac. On Saturday October 15, board the modern MSC Poesia for a seven day cruise during fall peak color season. Sail through the scenic Gulf of St. Lawrence, Saguenay Fjord, and stop in the ports of Saint John, New Brunswick, Bar Harbor, Maine; Boston, MA; and New Port, RI. Disembark in New York for your flight home.

Ancient Egypt

10 Days

Join other Lions departing October 30, 2011

from **\$1830***

Tour Cairo (city tour); visit the Egyptian Museum; explore Giza; the Pyramids of Giza, Sphinx, the Great Pyramid and Memphis, Sakkara, and more. Fly to Aswan, then take a 4-day Nile Cruise aboard the *Jazz Jubilee*. Visit temples at Kom Ombo, Isis, Osiris, cross the locks on the Nile in Esna, and sail to Luxor. Visit the West Bank, Thebes, Karnak area, and stay at a Hurghada beachfront resort on the Red Sea. Spend your final night in Cairo for a last day of shopping or sightseeing before your return flight home from Cairo. Includes 18 meals and English-speaking escort throughout.

Hawaiian Kings Tour

15-Days

Join other Lions departing November 3, 2011

from **\$1728***

Visit all four main islands with included escorted sightseeing on every island on the most affordable two-week, four-island vacation you'll ever find. Start in Waikiki with sightseeing including Honolulu & Pearl Harbor. After five nights, you'll transfer to the garden Isle of Kauai for three nights where you'll take a riverboat cruise up the Waialua River. Next is Maui for two nights where your Hawaiian escort will take you on the Iao Valley excursion and to the old whaling capital of Lahaina. On to the "big-island-of-Hawaii" for a night in Hilo visiting an orchid nursery, and Rainbow Waterfalls. Finally, the scenic day's drive to the sleepy fishing village of Kona for three nights. En-route you'll see a giant fern tree forest, black sand beaches, Volcanoes National Park, Thurston's Lava Tube, a Kona Coffee Plantation and more! Includes a flower lei greeting, 14 nights in quality hotels, baggage handling, taxes, interisland flights, and escorted sightseeing on every island!

*Prices per person; double occupancy; includes taxes; airfare is extra. Lions Clubs International not responsible for losses incurred.



Call for details and itinerary 7 days a week:

1-800-736-7300

2009–2010: A Year of Growth and Partnership for Our Foundation



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

Last year, Lions around the world continued our unparalleled giving of aid, time and heart to our global and local communities. As the official charitable organization of Lions Clubs International, the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) supported Lions' great work by awarding \$24.36 million in grants for 426 projects focused on preserving sight, serving youth, providing disaster relief and combating disabilities.

Examples of our impact:

- ❖ 12 million youth served through Lions Quest, a life skills program present in 60 countries around the world.
- ❖ 1.7 million people can see better thanks to 37 SightFirst Grants totaling \$10.28 million.
- ❖ 23,569 people have clean water due to 36 International Assistance Grants totaling \$445,210.
- ❖ Millions of people have benefited from improvements to schools, equipment for hospitals, construction of disabled playgrounds and hundreds of other projects made possible with 127 Standard Grants totaling \$5.07 million.
- ❖ Lives of countless others have been improved through 35 additional grants for \$3.9 million.

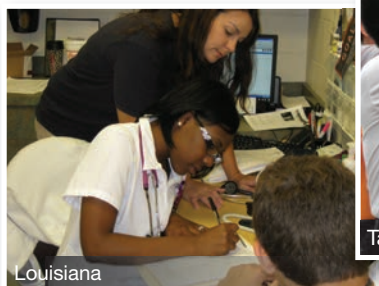


As you read through the following highlights of the many life-changing and meaningful projects from the past year, remember that these accomplishments were made possible thanks to us—the 1.35 million Lions who know that our contribution matters.

We Care. We Serve. We Accomplish.

Providing Disaster Relief

When disasters strike, Lions are committed to being there to offer help, often first on the scene and last to leave. In 2009-10, 118,050 people received disaster relief through 161 LCIF Disaster Grants totaling \$1.55 million. Through the efforts of LCIF and Lions worldwide, communities affected by disasters have a renewed sense of hope for a brighter future.



Louisiana



Taiwan

Hope Regained

“The Lions helped us regain our hope,” said Immacula Simeon. “We were sleeping under sheets, which were protecting us from the sun and the wind. We didn’t have much money, no food and no water. It was very hard. Then the Lions Clubs arrived and everything changed.”

Lions are mobilizing more than \$6.1 million to provide relief for the people of Haiti through Lions’ generous support. Lions established three tent cities in Port-au-Prince. Simeon’s family of seven was among the 2,500 who were provided with shelter. The first project to build provisional housing for 600 families began in October 2010, and additional projects are currently underway. LCIF remains committed to rebuilding

Haiti with these new projects beginning in 2011:

- When the earthquake destroyed the National Nurses School of Port-au-Prince and killed more than 100 students and teachers, Haiti’s shortage of healthcare professionals became a crisis. LCIF is helping to rebuild, equip and operate the school so that students can fulfill their dreams of becoming nurses and begin helping their fellow citizens.
- Additionally, Lions are partnering with HumaniTerra International to construct a medical center to bring together logistical aid, training, medical expertise and medical supplies to the people of Haiti.



“The Lions helped us regain our hope.” —Immacula Simeon

Other Relief

- Following the earthquake in China in May 2008, contributions from Lions around the world enabled LCIF to provide more than \$3 million for both immediate relief and long-term reconstruction.
- A much-needed health clinic opened at Chalmette High

School in Louisiana, following Hurricane Katrina. Daily, between 50 and 60 students receive free services and health education programs.

- In 41 years, an estimated 1.9 million people have benefited from our Disaster Grants.

Preserving Sight

Improved Vision for 30 Million People...and Counting

Launched in 1990, in 2010 the SightFirst program celebrated 20 years of saving sight and preventing blindness on a global scale. Through two fundraising campaigns, Lions are investing \$415 million in the SightFirst program. On average, nearly every \$6 in donations has resulted in a person with vision restored or saved from blindness.

Trees for Grant

Last year, Grant Rustan, of Iowa, became the 1 millionth child screened through the Vision Screening program, an LCIF Core 4 supported program from 2001-2009. Four years old at the time, Grant was referred for follow up screenings and found to have vision problems that could lead to amblyopia, the leading cause of blindness in children. After putting on his new glasses and seeing needles on a pine tree for the first time, Grant said, "Mommy, the trees have prickly things on them!"

- Handapangodage Don Rusiru Harita Perera in Sri Lanka became one of the 10 million children helped through the Sight for Kids program. Since the end of fiscal year, another 2 million children have been screened.



Rustan family, Iowa

- The new Centre Ophtalmologique Masina in Democratic Republic of Congo opened in October 2009.
- Central African Republic and Burundi became the newest countries participating in SightFirst.
- Ecuador became the second nation in the Americas to halt the transmission of onchocerciasis, or river blindness. The Foundation has supported 137 million Mectizan® treatments worldwide to control and eliminate the disease.

Serving Youth

Celebrating 25 years of Youth Development

In 2010, Lions Quest celebrated 25 years of providing **12 million students** across 60 countries with essential life skills that support character development, social and emotional learning, civic values, violence and substance abuse prevention and service-learning.

Excellence for Ivan

Ivan Villaverde was a poor student. He was disobedient and rarely paid attention. Now, thanks to Lions Quest, Ivan and hundreds of other students in Paraguay are excelling in the classroom. Lions Quest brings schools, communities and families together to benefit youth.

"He's an excellent example of parents who've gotten involved and are very active in their child's education," said Lilian Montania, Ivan's Lions Quest teacher.

- Thirty Lions Quest Core 4 Grants totaling \$2.44 million are reaching 200,000 youth, including those in countries new to the program: Bulgaria, Mauritius and the Philippines.
- A \$10,000 grant awarded by Bank of America is supporting growth of Lions Quest in public schools in Chicago, Illinois.
- The highest possible marks were awarded to Lions Quest in Norway by the Director of Education and Training under the Ministry of Education for preventing problem behavior and improving social skills in children.



Lilian and Ivan, Paraguay

"Lions Quest has given students a better sense of community at our school, taught them skills to handle anger more effectively and to get along better."

Angela Troppa, Lions Quest Educator Award grand prize recipient



Combating Disabilities, Growing Independence



LCIF continued to help and empower the disabled in 2009-10. The Foundation provides funding for programs that improve education, provide job training and opportunities, increase independence, and provide support for emotional and physical well-being.

Gold for Kate

“When Kate went through the Opening Eyes program we discovered she had the wrong prescription – she was in fact long-sighted, not short-sighted as prescribed. Opening Eyes has been so important to our family,” said Greg Simmons, Kate’s father. Since Kate received new glasses, she has won one gold, two silver and two bronze medals in tennis and swimming.

A 16-year-old from Australia, Kate is one of 200,000 athletes across 85 countries who has improved vision due to Opening Eyes, a partnership with Special Olympics entering its 10th year. With the help of Lions volunteers around the world, Opening Eyes provides vision screenings and eyeglasses or follow-up care for Special Olympics athletes. As of last year, LCIF had provided \$11 million in funding for this program, and in October 2010 an additional \$1 million was approved to continue this partnership.



“We have never had a more significant partnership in the history of Special Olympics than the partnership we have today with the Lions Clubs.”

Dr. Timothy Shriver, chairman & CEO of Special Olympics International

Cultivating Collaboration

Much was accomplished last year, but as always, there is much yet to be done. Creating partnerships is the most effective way to leverage Lions' efforts and deliver on our mission. LCIF continues to join with new partners to bring hope and change lives around the world.

Correcting Pediatric Cataract

- The Bausch + Lomb Early Vision Institute and LCIF are partnering on the Pediatric Cataract Initiative to identify, fund and promote innovative methods of overcoming this condition for the long-term benefit of children, their families and their communities. Bausch + Lomb granted LCIF \$350,000 for the pilot year, during which the program will focus its efforts in the People's Republic of China where at least 40,000 children are estimated to suffer from pediatric cataract. This initiative is also funding research on the causes and treatment of pediatric cataract. In December 2010 two research projects were selected out of 16 grant applications; each will receive a grant of \$50,000.
- LCIF is launching a new partnership with Essilor International to support comprehensive uncorrected refractive error services. Essilor will provide access to low-cost equipment and staff expertise, with pilot programs over the next year in select African countries.
- The Foundation has joined the Clinton Global Initiative, which convenes global leaders to devise and apply innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges. Through this partnership, Lions Quest will be implemented in one U.S. school district by 2013.



"Through the Pediatric Cataract Initiative, Bausch + Lomb and Lions are going to make a difference in the lives of children, their families and their communities. I can think of no better partner in our mission in helping these

children... because their vision is our vision."

Paul H. Sartori, corporate vice president of Public Affairs and Human Resources, Bausch + Lomb



Read the complete annual report online at www.lcif.org. You can help support LCIF with a donation at www.lcif.org/donate.

Message from the Chairperson

Creating Miracles for Millions

I'd like to thank all of you who supported Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) this past year. It was another year of great success and milestones, but more importantly, we created miracles for millions of people around the globe. After reading this magazine story, I know you share my pride in what we've accomplished together by working as a team.

Thanks to our individual donors and members, LCIF was able to maximize our humanitarian service in 2009-10. The Lions' many exceptional partnerships—both long-standing and new—with companies, local governments, organizations, corporations, ministries of health and education and other local groups, thrived throughout the year.

Our members and partners share a spirit of giving and a dedication to improving lives. In fact, you helped propel LCIF to be named the #1 non-governmental organization worldwide to partner with, according to a *Financial Times* independent survey.

LCIF looks forward to continuing to support and expand the invaluable work done by the network of Lions and partners in 206 countries and regions around the world. I hope I can count on you to continue supporting our Foundation and making even more miracles a reality for people around the globe.

Together "We Serve,"

Al Brandel
2009-2010 LCIF Chairperson



LCIF is providing shelter for families in Haiti.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2010

All Figures Shown in U.S. Dollars

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$12,191,302
Receivable	7,703,963
Pledges Receivable, Net	972,940
Accrued Interest Receivable	551,802
Inventory	692,198
Marketable Securities - Investments	256,563,948
Property and Equipment, Net	126,820
Total Assets	\$278,802,973

Liabilities & Net Assets

Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$328,629
Grants Payable	36,360,714
Charitable Gift Annuities	289,507
Total Liabilities	\$36,978,850

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$120,215,559
Temporarily Restricted	121,108,564
Permanently Restricted	500,000
Total Net Assets	\$241,824,123

Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$278,802,973
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Revenue and Expenditures

Year Ended June 30, 2010

All Figures Shown in U.S. Dollars

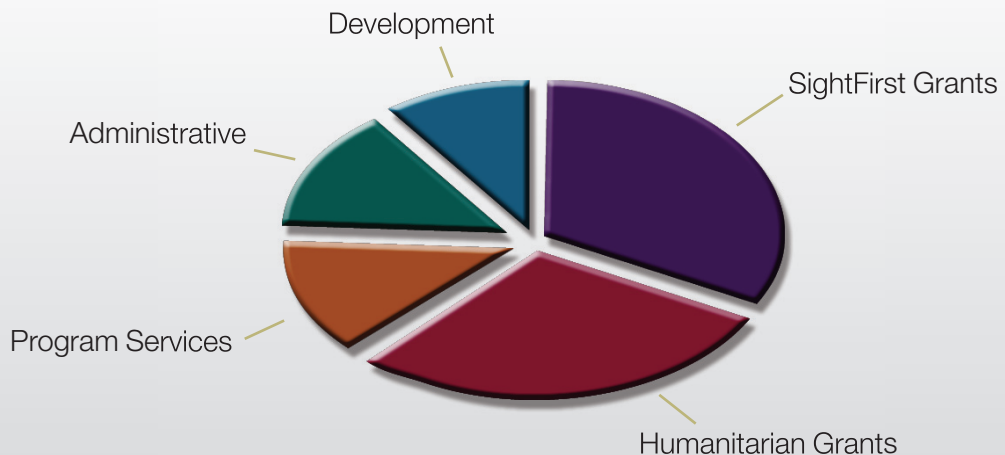
Revenue

Contributions	\$34,343,310
Lions Quest, Net	529,690
Investment Return	26,756,508
Net Gain on Currency Exchange	208,273
Total Revenue	\$61,837,781

Expenditures

SightFirst Grants, Net	\$10,275,656
Humanitarian Grants, Net	12,932,605
Program Services	4,649,195
Administrative Expenses	5,091,174
Development Expenses	3,749,236
Total Expenditures	\$36,697,866

Expenditures 2009-2010



Once Served, Now Serving

by Anne Ford

Some people join Lions because they are invited by a co-worker or friend. Others become interested after attending a fundraiser. And then there are those who join because their lives were permanently changed by Lions. Meet five of them.

Mike Nieman (right) is grateful to Ryan Dott, clinical manager, and the South Dakota Lions Eye Bank for his corneal transplants.



Mike Nieman Sioux Falls, South Dakota

After Mike Nieman underwent two corneal transplants using tissue from the South Dakota Lions Eye Bank in 1998-1999, it took some time for his eyesight to improve. Born with Fuchs' dystrophy, a hereditary disease that results in dimmed, blurred vision, he patiently waited the months it took post-surgery to stop feeling as if he was constantly "looking through a foggy windshield."

But there was one immediate discovery that helped him stay positive throughout his recovery: "One of the things I noticed right away is that my son had freckles on his face, and I'd never known it."



That was just the first of many improvements. Nieman can now drive, use a computer, read a newspaper—all the functions of daily living, and all because, he says, “someone had the foresight and generosity to donate their tissue so I could have a better life.”

The experience caused him to rethink a decision he’d made several years earlier. While living elsewhere in South Dakota, Nieman had considered joining Lions. He says, “I went to one of the Lions meetings. I walk in there, and I’m the youngest guy there by 50 years. The first thing they did was start singing. I’m sitting there, 22 years old, going, ‘Man, there’s no way this is for me.’ ”

But “through the experience with the eye bank and then learning more about what Lions are all about,” he says, he joined the Sioux Falls Downtown Lions Club about a year after his second surgery.

The largest Lions club in the state, it raises more than \$50,000 annually for the hearing- and vision-impaired through its main fundraiser, Pancake Days. “It’s got a lot of community and business leaders,” Nieman says. “It’s had several women presidents. There’s a lot of age diversity. I just reached my 10-year anniversary as a Lion, and that’s because of our mission of sight and service for the blind.”

"I didn't know anything about the Lions, so I started asking questions. We didn't have a club where I live, so I decided to start my own."

Domingo Bermudez **Hermitage, Pennsylvania**

The year 1995 brought two wonderful developments for Domingo Bermudez: a degree in respiratory therapy and a baby daughter. Unfortunately, the Nicaraguan immigrant didn't get much time to enjoy either.

"I graduated in June," Bermudez remembers, "and my daughter was born in October, on a Wednesday. By Saturday, I was in the hospital with renal failure"—a consequence of his juvenile diabetes.

It was the beginning of a 12-year period of major illness for Bermudez, who would undergo years of dialysis, two kidney transplants, a pancreas transplant and, most devastating of all, the loss of most of his vision.

After his health finally stabilized in 2007, Bermudez began working as a receptionist for the Keystone Blind Association, a social services organization for the blind in Sharon, Pennsylvania. It was there that he met a species of people he'd never encountered before—Lions.

"They were donating vehicles to Keystone, vehicles that were used to transfer me [and others] to things like doctor's appointments," he says. "I didn't know anything about the Lions, so I started asking questions. We didn't have a club where I live, so I decided to start my own."

Now, as president of the 23-member Hermitage Lions Club of Pennsylvania, Bermudez organizes fundraisers to provide eye exams and eyeglasses to people in the community. Through his involvement with the Lions and his work at Keystone, he's able to provide encouragement to other people who have lost their vision.

"Now, when I see people who are going through that and feel depressed, I tell them, 'You're lucky, because there's a lot of aids now. It's not like it was years ago, when people had nothing. You're not in the dark, you know?'"



Bermudez works as a receptionist at a group that assists the blind.

**Judy Davis
Rochester, New York**

Thirty years ago, the Irondequoit Lions Club helped Bill and Judy Davis purchase a Visual Tech magnifier for their visually impaired son, Scott, and an uninformed school district tried to take it away.

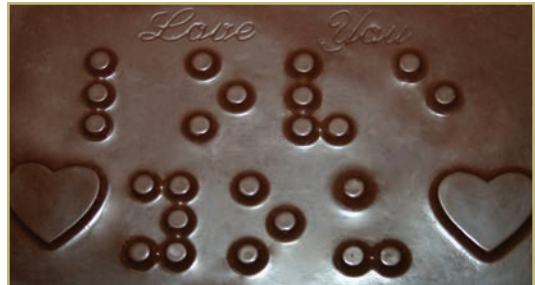
“When Scott went to school, the school said, ‘We need that Visual Tech,’ ” she remembers. “Well, we were green—we didn’t know anything. So we brought it to school, and we called the company and asked to buy another machine. The salesman said, ‘Are you kidding? You need to educate yourself with the laws for the disabled. You get that machine back. Your school district has to buy one for Scott.’ So we went over to the school and took the machine home.”

Experiences like that nudged the Davises into becoming advocates for the blind and visually impaired. A large part of that advocacy has taken place through the Irondequoit Lions in Rochester, New York, which all three Davises eventually joined.

The Davises’ work for the blind extends beyond their Lions activities. Scott works for the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired Goodwill Industries, while his mom runs an online candy business that makes chocolate bars with sayings such as “Happy Birthday” in Braille.

Their most effective advocacy work may be the kind that takes place everyday, as they demonstrate to others that Scott—and other blind or visually impaired people—lead active, independent, fulfilling lives.

“He goes all over the place,” his mother says. “Everybody says, ‘How does he do it? It’s just amazing that he can walk down the street with a cane.’ I say, ‘He better! He’s had a cane since he was eight years old!’ Their mindset is that a person who’s blind can’t do anything. They can do things—in a different way.”



Judy makes candy bars with messages in Braille. Bill and Judy Davis and their son, Scott, joined the Lions after a club gave them a magnifier.





Andrea Yenter shares a fun moment with a boy who is imitating her at the Wisconsin Lions Camp.

Andrea Yenter Rosholt, Wisconsin

As operations manager of the Wisconsin Lions Camp—a camp for children who are blind, visually impaired, deaf, hard of hearing, mildly cognitively disabled or diabetic—Andrea Yenter takes a lot of phone calls. Some are from parents who are worried that their kids are homesick; some are from Lions clubs whose members want to tour the facilities.

Her favorite call? “When a new family finds us and asks what the fee is,” she says with a smile in her voice.

That’s because families of campers pay no fee at all. The \$600 it costs to host a child for a week-long stay at the camp is entirely covered by the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, camp fundraisers, grants and private donors.

Yenter, who is hard of hearing, takes special pleasure in welcoming campers because she started as one herself. Introduced to the camp at age 9, she loved it immediately. “It was like a door opened into a second home,” she says. “They saw me, not the hearing aid. As we tell our campers, when everybody has the same issue, it’s no longer an issue.”

Centered on a private lake, the camp offers all the usual activities—swimming, boating and more. “We wear them out,” Yenter says. For many children with disabilities, who might not be expected to participate as fully in physical activities, that’s a new and welcome experience. “For the most part, campers can handle a lot more than they think they can, and a lot more than their parents think they can,” she adds.

Yenter herself became a member of the Rosholt Lions just a few years ago, in part to thank the club for all the camp has done for her and her campers. “We just completed a brand-new health lodge two years ago,” she says. “We asked the Lions for it at their state convention in May, and it was completed the following summer. How can you not be a Lion after that?”

“To own something — yeah, okay, it’s nice,” she says. “But to be able to bring joy and comfort to somebody else, that’s what makes life worth living.”

Susan Lee Giles Loomis, California

Susan Lee Giles still has no idea who those men were. She just knows that 58 years ago, they brought food to her, her mother and her three little sisters at a desperate time.

“We were in a little house with no electricity,” she remembers. “My father had pretty much deserted us. I don’t know if it was church people or a club, but somehow word had gotten out about this woman and her four little girls. Two or three men came to our door and brought us food. That has never, ever, left me.”

Nearly half a century later, Giles joined the Newcastle Golden Spike Lions Club of Newcastle, California, in hope of repaying that long-ago kindness. Her first opportunity arose in an unexpected way. She became the club’s contact person for its twin club, the Karachi Airport Lions of Pakistan.

“Soon after I started corresponding with them, they had a flood. So I raised some money from our club to send to Pakistan. They didn’t ask for it. It just felt like the right thing to do to cement that relationship,” she says.

A few years later, the Karachi Lions invited Giles to visit them in Pakistan. There she saw for herself “the impact that Lions are having on the planet,” she says. “I toured some of their facilities where they do cataract surgeries. They’re really helping the poorest of the poor.”

Now, closer to home, she continues to help with her club’s activities. When the opportunity arises, she joins her fellow Lions in delivering food and toys to families in need. “To own something — yeah, okay, it’s nice,” she says. “But to be able to bring joy and comfort to somebody else, that’s what makes life worth living.”

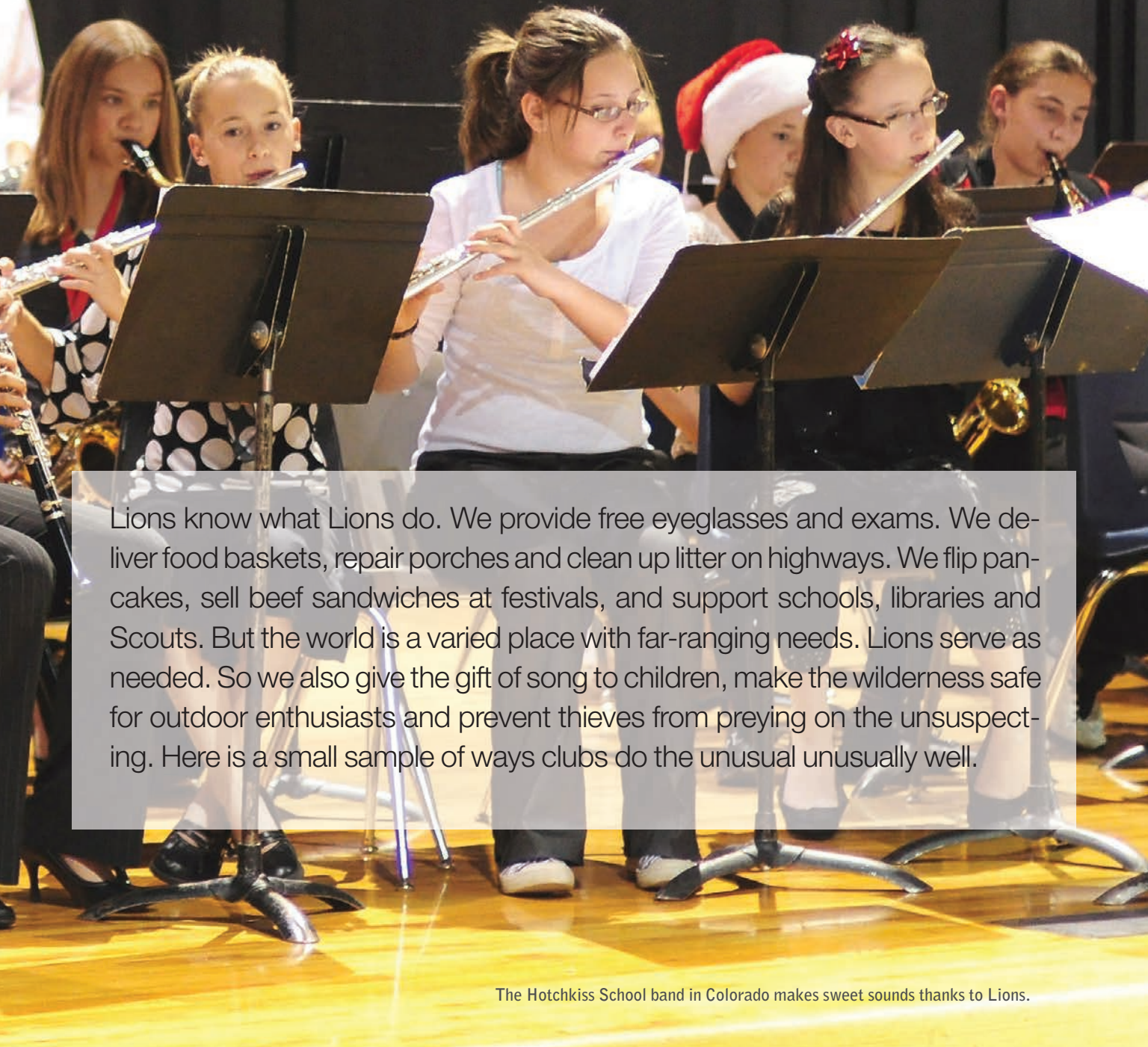


Susan Lee Giles delivers food to a needy family.



What a Difference

Unusual Service Makes a Huge Impact



Lions know what Lions do. We provide free eyeglasses and exams. We deliver food baskets, repair porches and clean up litter on highways. We flip pancakes, sell beef sandwiches at festivals, and support schools, libraries and Scouts. But the world is a varied place with far-ranging needs. Lions serve as needed. So we also give the gift of song to children, make the wilderness safe for outdoor enthusiasts and prevent thieves from preying on the unsuspecting. Here is a small sample of ways clubs do the unusual unusually well.

The Hotchkiss School band in Colorado makes sweet sounds thanks to Lions.

Music Makers

Lynea Schultz-Ela's children grew up in Texas years ago but she and other Lions attended the holiday concert of the Hotchkiss School band in Colorado. She tapped her toes to "Good King Wenceslaus" and hummed along to "Jingle Bells." But her favorite moment was when students who played instruments provided by her club, the Hotchkiss Lions, raised them triumphantly in the air as a tribute to the Lions.

"That was just beautiful. That was exciting," says Schultz-Ela.

The small club of less than 10 members provided more than 20 instruments to loan to students. The club solicited a couple of instruments after placing a newspaper ad and secured the rest after getting a \$17,000 grant from a nonprofit.

Under financial pressure, many schools are cutting back on the arts. Not so at Hotchkiss School, where band is compulsory for all sixth- to eighth-graders. But the school had a limited amount of equipment to loan out. Some students had to pay as much as \$100 a month to rent an instrument; others found a subpar instrument.

Schultz-Ela and her children played instruments growing up. "I know how important music is to kids. The process of learning music engages a part of the brain that is different from when you learn language, math or science," she says. "Secondly, in a small town, there are not a lot of activities other than sports to get kids involved in."

The club purchased flutes, clarinets, bells, a saxophone and other instruments. Schultz-Ela had heard the band play before receiving instruments from Lions. "It was such a big change. The sound was so much bigger," she says.

She and her fellow Lions hope the club's contribution is music to the ears of parents and teachers when the club soon has a membership drive.

Clearing a Path

Tom Piippo began skiing when his daughter was two. Not content to sit inside all day as temperatures reached 30 degrees below zero in frigid Michigan, he purchased used skis and took to the great outdoors.

"Too many people sit on the couch all winter," Piippo said. "Just because it's cold and snowy out there, it doesn't give you any reason to just sit there."

Now, Piippo's daughter is grown and he's spent more than two decades maintaining trails so that others in his community can share his passion. As a member of the Rudyard Lions Club, he and others clear and maintain the Rudyard School Farm Trail Network, which has six loops that range from a half-mile to 4 and ½ miles.

"In the fall we have a work day and we go and clear out the trails," Piippo said. "It takes about three hours to do a trail."

During the winter, volunteers drive a snowmobile with a drag behind it to create fresh pathways once per week. The snowmobile Piippo uses was a fortuitous acquisition. As a mechanic, he bartered carburetor work on



Lynea Schultz-Ela distributes band instruments to young musicians at Hotchkiss School.



Tom Piippo takes a turn on the "Trail Tamer" of the Rudyard Lions Club in Michigan.

a vehicle for the snowmobile, which a resident had in several pieces in his garage.

"It took me two trips to get all the parts and pieces," Piippo said. "It's been repainted and I put the big Lions clubs sticker on it."

Because of budget cuts on the state level, the club now also tends to six miles of Department of Natural Resources trails as well.

"We have a donation box at the trail head," Piippo said.

About 50 people use the trail per week, often multiple times. Piippo said that while it's a large project, he's happy to be a part of it. It's tough work, especially after a snowstorm, which may require Piippo to move branches and clear brush.

"I take off my gloves and jacket and I'm down to a T-shirt sometimes," Piippo said. "We like to ski on fresh trails, too, and we're not afraid to work for it."

Lending a Seat

When Rebecca Panton's clients need a wheelchair, shower seat or walker, she knows exactly where to go. As a home health occupational therapist, she has looked to the Bellingham Central Lions Club's Al Boe Lions Wheelchair Warehouse in Washington for the past 18 years as the premier source of free medical equipment.

"I work with people in their homes, and I work with a lot of people that don't have insurance that covers equipment," Panton said. "The lending bank helps those people who don't have insurance and those who need it to be safe. It basically means safety and also independence."

Al Boe, the club's president in 1992-1993, began a humble project to lend wheelchairs to those in need. Since his death, the project has grown to include a former three-car garage stuffed to the rafters with carefully cataloged medical equipment available to those in need. Lions re-

“Having a power chair is the difference in being a shut in and being able to visit their neighbors and go to the senior center.



Lion John Bradshaw adjusts the wheel lock of a wheelchair.

pair, clean and refurbish equipment in an addition to the garage.

“It’s free of charge and it’s a great recycling project in a sense,” said Dan Cantrell, president. “We have about 17 guys that three days a week or more are there working, repairing, cleaning up and giving out the different pieces of equipment.”

The warehouse also assists those with temporary needs, such as items needed to recover from surgery or assist a guest from out of town.

“We have about 950 wheelchairs and powerchairs and we have about 745 checked out now,” said Charles Nelson, a Lion who donates his time

at the warehouse. “The number that we have out to the public is currently growing at a rate of 10 to 15 per month. We’re also getting donations of equipment at about the same rate.”

The Lions created a basic contract that lends four-wheel walkers, two-wheel walkers, knee scooters, low-vision equipment, canes, crutches and accessories for bedroom and bathroom to residents for three months. If the need persists and they are unable to purchase the equipment, the club will loan it out on an indefinite basis.

“We do a very brisk business,” Nelson said. “Having a power chair is the difference in being a shut-in and being able to visit their neighbors and go to the senior center. They use our chairs as a bridge when they reach this point in life.”

Indeed, Panton said that while the items themselves are very ordinary, the effect they have on her clients’ lives is nothing short of extraordinary.

“It enables them to get into the shower when before they may have only been sponge bathing,” Panton said. “They really appreciate it because of the safety and independence it affords them and not having to rely on anyone else for those personal care issues.”

Plate Protection

The economy is tough everywhere. So tough that thieves in Australia began stealing license plates from cars, then using them when they would drive off without paying at fuel stations. The Werribee Lions Club took action.

Lions partnered with the police department to start Operation Safe Plate. The project coincidentally helped the Lions raise their profile in Werribee, said Ian Joss, the club’s secretary.

“On the day of the event we had 20 Lions working in three shifts from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.,” Joss said. “It will be done at least once a year. Our branch club, Point Cook, recently ran a very successful workshop.”

For a donation, Lions remove the original license plate and refit them with one-way screws, which makes it nearly impossible for would-be thieves to pocket the plates.



During the workshop, Lions fitted about 150 cars with the new screws.

“It certainly lifted the profile of Lions and also created an awareness of the problem of stolen license plates and other thefts from cars,” Joss said.

Setting Sail

Generations ago, the waters near Deal Island off the coast of Maryland were dotted with skipjacks, single-sailed wooden boats designed for harvesting crab. Their white sails soared above the murky waters as commercial fishermen made a living. Today, there are just a handful of these boats in existence, but the Deal Island-

Chance Lions Club works to keep this part of their island’s history alive.

“We’re down to about probably commercially 10 or 12 boats all up and down the bay,” said Thomas Ford, the club’s president. “There may be as many as 20 that are actually left. Some are boats that are used for educational purposes and sailing parties.”

Almost 1,000 people call the island home, most of whom are still “watermen,” or people who are employed in commercial fishing, crabbing, oyster harvesting and charter fishing. Yet the annual Skipjack Race and Festival, now more than 50 years strong, attracts about 3,000 people to the island each Labor Day weekend.

Last year, 12 skipjacks competed in the races, along with a “bug eye,” which is a double-mast wooden oystering vessel. Harold Whitelock has been a Lion for five years, but has attended the skipjack festival for 49 of the last 51 years.

“I’ve been involved with it for every year that I’ve been able to be there,” Whitelock said. “This is our history and our heritage.”

The course is between five and six miles and the fastest vessels complete it in just more than an hour. The money raised by the festival and races are integral to the community, Ford said.

“In this area, there are a lot of low-income people and we’ve got a lot of seniors here on the island now,” Ford said. “Whatever need comes up, we help out.”

But beyond the fun and the fundraising, Whitelock says this festival helps keep the past alive in the hearts and minds of the community members.

“I think we need to save as many of the skipjacks as we can,” Whitelock said. “Our younger generations need to know about our heritage. I think it’s very important.”

Members of the Werribee Lions Club in Australia replace license plate screws to deter thieves.



The Deal Island-Chance Lions Club Skipjack Race and Festival showcases single-sailed wooden crabbing boats and attracts nearly 3,000 spectators.

Statue of Limitations

Lions Erect Replica but Pine for the Original

by Jay Copp

In 1964, Italian fisherman from Fano, a small, sea-side village, accidentally dredged up from the Adriatic a precious haul: a life-sized bronze statue from ancient Greece. Today, after a series of disputed events, the "Victorious Youth" statue remains a prime catch of the J. Paul Getty museum in Los Angeles, where it is displayed.

Many Fano residents, including Lions, want to see the original statue returned to the village, its rightful home, they say. Proud of their heritage, the Lions club in Fano even erected a replica of the statue at the port entrance.

The Getty Bronze, as the statue is also known, depicts an athlete crowned with an olive wreath. Scholars at first attributed it to Lysippos, the renowned personal sculptor for Alexander the Great. Though scholars now believe it dates from the second or third century B.C., it is still regarded as one of the finest surviving Greek bronzes.

For Lions and others, the statue embodies the town's ancient heritage. A newspaper, a local sailing race and several local businesses are named after Lysippos. In 2009, as a legal hearing over the statue's ownership at an Italian courthouse near Fano was under way, a group of protestors gathered to demand its return.

"The club decided to make a copy of the statue in order to provide the city of Fano, waiting for the return of the original, with a sign of what was stolen—and to leave a testimony of the treasures the

Adriatic still holds," says Franchini Giuseppe, 2009-10 president of the Fano Lions Club.

The statue was most likely lost at sea on its way to Italy long ago after being looted from the Greeks. The Getty Museum purchased the statue in 1977 for nearly \$4 million and, according to Getty lawyers, the deal was done through proper channels and with a clear title. However, Italian prosecutors contend that the statue was smuggled out of Italy after a clandestine plot in which it was buried in a cabbage patch and later hidden by a priest and that the museum failed to exercise due diligence in determining its ownership.

In February 2010, an Italian judge ruled that the museum was negligent in duly acquiring the statue and ordered its seizure. But the statue is not going anywhere until a U.S. court agrees to enforce the seizure order, an unlikely prospect, according to legal experts.

In the meantime, Lions and others in Fano believe that the statue belongs in Italy. Lion Alberto Berardo was one of the early proponents of the statue's return. In an e-mail, Giuseppe carefully detailed the long sequence of events of the statue's history from its discovery in the sea to its sale to Getty and concluded, "It is certain, therefore, that since no authorization to export it exists, the work left Italy illegally, in other words, through smuggling."

The replica stands
at the port in Fano.



A Cool School

Pennsylvania Preschool Mixes Children of Different Abilities

by Jed Duvall

It's a typical morning at Abe's Cub House, a preschool in Lancaster, except it's a few days after Halloween and the children are still buzzing about what they wore and what they got. The eight children all have their moments of piping in and being noticed. This time it's Derek Mercer, who shares a silly Halloween rhyme. His classmates chortle along with Derek.

"He fits right in. He's developing along with the others," says Jennifer Eaton, a teacher and a Lion.

Derek is blind. Other students have various disabilities or behavioral issues and some have none. Supported by Lions, the special preschool in Pennsylvania is a "reverse mainstream" classroom. The students learn skills routinely taught to three to five year olds, but mixing typical children and children with challenges also teaches a broader lesson that everyone deserves respect and dignity.

When Missy Kurtz began to think about a preschool for her son, Josh, there was only one place to go. She says she "didn't really look at any place else because I really like the



Children of different abilities learn together at Abe's Cub House.

Photographs by Lili Duvall

Without the school, “there was always going to be a gap in the education process for the kids.”



District Governor Jim Bolin reads to Elijah.

idea” of mixing children of various abilities. “Josh doesn’t see anybody as different,” Kurtz adds.

If at age three a child learns that there are other children with different abilities, working at different speeds, perhaps as they grow older they will not ridicule or abuse those kids, but accept them as they are, say school officials.

The classroom is part of the Susquehanna Association for the Blind and Vision Impaired (SABVI). Founded in 1926 (under a different name) as a small workshop to teach the blind basket-making and chair-weaving, the association now operates a 60,000-square-foot facility and three satellite locations. Those with vision impairment are taught independent living skills, provided jobs and offered eye care services.

“My baby is doing so well! When he got here he was completely non-verbal. By the time he left he was talking non-stop.”



Josh and Mercy color together.

Lions in District 14-D have supported the association since 1930. They volunteer, provide financial support and serve on the board of directors.

Planning for the preschool began in the 1990s because “vision-impaired kids were not having their needs met and parents were not happy,” says Lion Kay Macsi, vice president for Rehabilitation and Education for SABVI. Without the school, “there was always going to be a gap in the education process for the kids,” she says.

Lion Abe Shrom, a SABVI board member then and a past district governor, also saw the need when he visited local classrooms. “It scared me. Not just children with low vision, but with other problems. People with needs touched me.”

Macsi had joined Lions to further her work among the vision-impaired. At the time, she was the only teacher in the SABVI preschool. With a degree in elementary education of



Kay Macsi, a Lion who helped design the preschool program, talks to a student.

A Cool School

visually-impaired children, she helped design the preschool, taking into account such details as the kind of lighting ideal for a classroom with typical children and children with disabilities.

Lions raised \$350,000 for the preschool. In a nod to a driving force behind its creation, “Abe’s Cub House” was inscribed on a school wall when it opened six years ago.

With a class in the morning and one in the afternoon, Abe’s Cub House needs roughly \$250,000 annually. Much of that comes from the industrial operations located in the same building. The business generates nearly \$2 million for SABVI to spend on programs. The 65 blind and visually-impaired employees work in cutting, assembly and packaging jobs, mainly on U. S. Government contracts.

The preschool’s first graduates are now 11 years old. Stephen Patterson, senior vice president at SABVI, says, “Generally, they do well. We stay in touch with them, with their families.”

Michelle Shirk’s son, Benny, spent four years at the preschool. He suffers from ocular albinism, has endured seven operations and takes eight medications daily. Benny is now a first-grader.

“My baby is doing so well! When he got here he was completely non-verbal. By the time he left he was talking non-stop,” says Shirk, a single mom who is self-employed while studying for a degree in human resources.

Shirk’s two healthy twins, Emma and Ethan, currently attend the preschool. “I wanted them to come here to know that Benny was not the only one” with different abilities, she says. The twins enjoy school. “They were sick last week and they were both crying because they couldn’t come to school,” she says.

The children go on a field trip.



Derek walks on the memorial bricks at the school.



A Cool School

Two children of Michelle Risser already graduated from Abe's Cub House. Her son, Spencer, now attends, and Piper will start next year. Risser says, "My kids have their own differences since three of them have been adopted from different cultures and races. We chose this preschool because our children would be introduced to a wide variety of children. Since being in preschool they have learned how to help others, and to be accepting of others despite their differences."

Those testimonies reaffirm the original vision of Macsi. "The whole process of preschool is socialization, learning how to be with other children," she says. Typical children can "learn to accept the visually-impaired and the disabled without any judgments."



Teacher Jennifer Eaton, a Lion, and Derek examine Braille on a name tag.

Martha Hoover does her job at SABVI.



'I Made This Dress'

Martha Hoover is one of the 65 workers in the industrial facility at SABVI. The association helped her find her way. As a four-year-old in an Old Order Amish family, she wore clunky "heavy glasses." In public school, having vision problems meant being labeled as developmentally delayed. As she grew older, she had more and more trouble seeing until she totally lost her sight at 23.

Hoover then turned to SABVI: "They gave me a job! Put me on a sewing machine, which I was very scared of at first." But she grew to like it. Standing in the shop in a pretty blue and white outfit, her dog, Artie, at her side, Hoover proudly says, "I made this dress!"



**94th Annual Lions Clubs International Convention
July 4 – 8, 2011 • Seattle, Washington, USA
Convention Registration and Hotel Reservation Form**

Deadlines

- **May 1, 2011:** Deadline for advance registration and hotel reservation. Registrations after this date will be processed in Seattle.
- **May 1, 2011:** Deadline to receive a refund for a registration cancellation. • **May 27, 2011:** Deadline to receive a refund for a hotel room cancellation.

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

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Badge/Call Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State/Province _____
 Postal Code _____ Country _____
 Daytime Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

☐ **Lion: Club No.** _____ **Membership No.** _____ District _____ Title _____ ☐ Leo ☐ Lioness

COMPANION: First Name _____ Last Name _____ Badge/Call Name _____

☐ **Lion: Club No.** _____ **Membership No.** _____ District _____ Title _____ ☐ Lioness ☐ Guest

CHILD: First Name _____ Last Name _____ Age _____

CHILD: First Name _____ Last Name _____ Age _____

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

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

Arrival date _____ Departure date _____ Number of Guests in Room: _____ Number of Beds Needed ☐ 1 ☐ 2

Special Requirements: ☐ Non-smoking ☐ Wheelchair Accessible ☐ Other _____

• *The Hotel deposit is US\$200 for a standard room and US\$350 for a suite. The hotel deposit is not the rate but reserves the room. Your deposit will be credited to your hotel bill at checkout.*

PACKAGE B: ☐ NO ROOM REQUIRED *(Registration only for each person listed above.)*

OPTIONAL TICKETED EVENTS *I/we plan to attend the following event(s): (Must be registered to attend)*

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>AMOUNT DUE</u>
Membership Key Award Ice Cream Social (Key holders only)	July 5/ 14:30-16:30	US \$20	_____	\$ _____
Melvin Jones Fellow Luncheon	July 6/ 13:00-15:00	US \$60	_____	\$ _____
Global Youth Music Competition	July 6/ 19:30-22:00	US \$20	_____	\$ _____
District Governor/Past District Governor Banquet	July 7/ 20:00-22:00	US \$100	_____	\$ _____

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

PAYMENT: Full payment is required with this form. • US currency only. Checks and money orders must be drawn on US banks.

- Only Visa and MasterCard accepted. • Contact LCI for wire transfer instructions.

REGISTRATION FEES

Adult

Child (17 and under)

Early	(before 31/Dec/2010)	US\$100	US\$10
Regular	(1/January through 31/March/2011)	US\$130	US\$10
Late	(1/April/2011 – onsite)	US\$150	US\$10

Package A:

Registrations: US\$ _____
 Ticketed Events: US\$ _____
 Hotel Deposit: US\$ 200.00

OR

Package B:

Registrations: US\$ _____
 Ticketed Events: US\$ _____

Total Due: US\$ _____

Total Due: US\$ _____

☐ Check ☐ Bank transfer/deposit (copy must be attached to this form) ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Your name as it appears on the card _____ Credit card **must** be in the name of the registrant.

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ Security code (3 digits) _____

Signature _____

Mail form and payment to: Lions Clubs International Attn: Convention Division • 300 West 22nd Street • Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA

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

Questions? email us: registration@lionsclubs.org

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

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

CRHF2011.EN 9/10



Lion Michael Merrett understands the challenges of severe vision impairment.

A Curse and a Gift

Vision-Impaired Lion Writes Book to Share Ordeal

by Elizabeth Blackwell

“Rage against the dying of the light.”

While poet Dylan Thomas was writing about death in his famous poem “Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night,” the line easily applies to anyone facing vision loss. As light fades to black, anger is an understandable response.

Lion Michael Merrett of Lynn, Massachusetts, has felt that rage. Diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa and macular degeneration in his 20s, he was told he would likely be blind by the time he was 40. Over the following years, failing vision took its toll on his career, his personal relationships and his independence. But he did not go gentle. He fought each new loss, all the time wondering, “why me?”

At 56, he hasn’t found an answer to that question. But he is grateful for the minimal vision he still has; he can use a computer (equipped with magnification software) and is able to get around in familiar surroundings without a cane. As he came to peace with his new life, he began wondering if his experience might somehow help others.

The result of that soul-searching is Merrett’s self-published memoir, *Slipping Into Darkness*, a no-holds-barred account of his struggle to rebuild his life. His goal is to help readers understand what it means to lose your sight, from the embarrassment of walking into objects you don’t notice to the crushing toll it takes on a person’s confidence.

“The theme of the book is not to give up,” he says. “I wanted to make it as open as I could. People were surprised at how honest I was, and I’m glad they walked away feeling something. That means I succeeded.”

Raised in a family of 13 children in Everett, Merrett had a childhood he describes as “joyous.” He grew up wearing thick glasses, but his less-than-perfect vision seemed little more than an inconvenience. As he got older, however, he started having trouble reading street signs, and a near head-on collision while he was driving led him to the office of a highly regarded eye doctor.

There, he was given the staggering diagnosis. Even worse news was to come: four of his five brothers shared the same genetic defect and faced the same grim prognosis. (His sisters were not affected). Merrett says his mother, the woman he credits as his inspiration and guiding light, spent the rest of her life burdened by the guilt of what she had passed down to her children.

As years passed, Merrett’s worsening vision wreaked havoc on every aspect of his life. He left his career as an insurance adjuster—a job he liked and excelled at—when he could no longer read quickly enough to keep up with the workload. Although he had been a passionate member of a local drum corps since high school, he had to stop working as a teacher and judge because he couldn’t see the marchers clearly on a field. Eventually, depression and low self-esteem even pushed him to leave his marriage, a decision he later regretted.

A Curse and a Gift

“There aren’t any tools to make the emotional devastation go away,” he says. “Blindness can back you into a very dark room. You feel out of place in the world. People make observations, and you feel disconnected from them. You start to withdraw.”

Although Merrett had family members facing the same challenges, he didn’t talk to his brothers about what they were going through. “Like typical males,” he writes, “we rarely discussed our emotions amongst ourselves and especially not with others. Instead, we buried our feelings deep within us, and like stoking a furnace, they would eventually threaten to consume us.”

For Merrett, giving up his car keys was even more gut-wrenching than leaving his job. “Driving is really about freedom and independence,” he writes. “While I was eternally grateful to all the people in my life who were so forthcoming with offers to help, I nonetheless began to resent my inability to drive and come and go as I please. There was no escaping the harsh reality of the situation. Unless the medical community came up with a miracle cure, life as I had known it would never be the same again. My cruisin’ days were over.”

For two years, Merrett lived on disability payments and numbed himself with drugs and alcohol. Then one day, trying to recover from another round of partying, he literally looked into a mirror and was horrified by what he saw. He thought of his mother and how much he was disappointing her. It was enough to get him out of the house and back into the world. For a few years, visual aids allowed him to go back to insurance work; later, he ran concession stands at military bases and government buildings through a federal employment program for the blind.

But Merrett’s story doesn’t have a simple happy ending. Life rarely does. Throughout his memoir, Merrett is honest and unflinching in describing his setbacks, not hesitating to call out dysfunctional co-workers by name and

revealing the corruption he said he witnessed at the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind. “I needed to bare my soul,” he says. “That way, I never have to complain about it again.”

Since finishing the book, Merrett has made a conscious effort to stay engaged with the world. Thanks to his large family and a network of long-time friends, he says his phone rings often and he goes out to eat up to six days a week. A Lion since 2001, he joined the Wyoma Lions Club a year ago and found it was a good fit for his skills and interests. Already, he’s been asked to take on the role of secretary, a sign of how highly he’s regarded by fellow members.

“Mike is very consistent and very caring,” says Tom Savage, club president. “He’s one of the guys I can count on.” The club itself is celebrating a resurgence, doubling its membership to 40 within the past few years. New, committed members like Merrett are helping fuel that growth, says Savage. “Mike puts in the time and effort to learn,” he says. “I wouldn’t be surprised if we see him as president in a few years.”

As a young man, Merrett had hoped to be a journalist. (His book includes a funny chapter on his decision to enlist in the Army, thinking it would be a good way to get

Merrett with three of his brothers (he is on the far right; four of his five brothers share the same genetic defect), as a snare drummer with his school band and as a worker at a concession stand.



"If not for everything I went through, I might never have been able to fulfill my dream of writing these books."



free journalism training, an adventure he describes as "woefully under-researched and misguided.") Now, without a full-time job or family responsibilities, he has time to devote himself to writing. He has completed a science-fiction book, *Klaatu's Return*; an action-adventure novel, *The F.O.G.*; and a collection of essays titled *Musings for the Common Man*.

"If not for everything I went through, I might never have been able to fulfill my dream of writing these books," he says. He's even expanded into songwriting, producing demos with a computer program that adds musical accompaniment to a vocal track. "It's a lot to learn," he says. "But the harder something is, the more rewarding it is once you're done."

He is realistic about what the future holds. His vision gets steadily worse, as the blind spots that scatter his field of vision expand. In the book, he writes about facing the prospect that one day, his world will go completely black: "I have made a personal commitment to myself that when that terrifying moment comes to pass, I will deal with it in a mature, calm, dignified manner. It is far more likely that I will react by falling to the ground, pounding my fists and cursing the day I was born. But then, nobody's perfect."

When he feels himself struggling with anger or resentment, he remembers a question his mother used to ask: What did you do today to justify your existence? "Blindness has taken so much from my life, but in a bizarre twist, it has allowed me to follow these creative outlets," he says. "I'm not going to sit here each day watching TV. I want to feel productive."

Slipping Into Darkness, as well as Merrett's other books, are available on his Web site, www.thefog.com, in both paperback and e-book format. Merrett plans to donate the proceeds from sales of the memoir to Lions Clubs International. "I will get more satisfaction knowing the proceeds will go to eye research than to line my own pockets," he says. "The more I can get it out there, the more good it can do."



Grooming Leos to Be Lions

Recruit from Thousands of Service-Minded Young People

When 18-year-old Miranda Brown made the leap from Leo to Lion, her club gave her a standing ovation.

"It was exhilarating," remembers Brown, a member of the Beverly Lions Club in Ohio.

Yet it's not always a smooth road for the 144,000 Leos around the world to become Lions club members.

A lack of information muddled the journey for 23-year-old Jim Greene, a Lion in Oak Lawn, Illinois.

"You never see kids that are 19 or 20 years old in Lions, so I thought you had to wait," Greene explains.

However, losing the community service aspect of his life after high school bothered Greene. He approached his Leo club adviser, who educated him that the minimum age to become a Lion in the United States is 18 and ultimately sponsored him as a Lion.

How do Lions create more Leo to Lion success stories like these?

"Invite Leos to more Lion functions," says Brown. "I think a lot of Leos don't join Lions because they are intimidated. They think it won't be as fun because the members are older." Brown says she got to know the Lions who sponsored her Leo club very well during high school, and that helped her feel comfortable joining the club at age 18, even though other members are in their 40s and 50s.

Brown also took advantage of the Leo to Lion program, which allows current and former Leos an entrance fee waiver and the opportunity to pay only half of the Lions Clubs International dues when they join any Lions club. Former Leos are also encouraged to charter a new club and recruit other young adults, who receive the same benefit of discounted dues through age 30.

While incentives help, Greene says he was adamant to join the 150-member Oak Lawn Lions Club right after high school because he had a good relationship with his Leo club adviser.

"George became my mentor," Greene says. He also notes that it was easy for him to join his sponsor club because he stayed local. However, he suggests that graduating Leos who move away for school or job opportunities be put in touch with Lions in their new community.



There are 144,000 service-minded Leos around the world just waiting for an invitation to become a Lion.

Though Greene has brought other young people into his club, he acknowledges that it is sometimes difficult to be one of the youngest members, and Sarah Ashley Tweedale echoes his sentiment. Tweedale joined the Richfield Lions Club in Wisconsin after being a Leo in high school.

"The most difficult thing has been reminding members of my own club now that I am a Lion, even if they originally knew me as a Leo, and even if I am younger than most of them... I am a Lion," Tweedale says, adding that it can sometimes be hard to integrate her perspective as the youngest member. Al Blumenberg, a Lion in St. Louis who speaks about generational differences, suggests clubs with a wide age gap find common ground by recognizing and appreciating the contributions made by each member, regardless of age.

"Whether learning and appreciating the excitement about past activities or history of a club relayed from an older member, or listening to new, innovative ideas from a younger member ... both have a place in our clubs," Blumenberg says. "Both have a place in our lives."

Successful Committees = Successful Club

Five Tips to Work Better Together

We've all heard the jokes about committees.

A committee is best composed of three people, with one who is always sick and another who is always absent.

A committee is composed of people who individually can do nothing, who come together and conclude that nothing can be done.

While these descriptions are pretty funny, too often they are also on target. Yet it doesn't have to be that way.

Consider these tips to create more effective committees in your club.

1. Ban committee work from the regular meeting.

Used properly, committees save time at the general meeting. Matters should be discussed outside of the meeting, with recommendations reported to the board of directors. Committee work done during regular club meeting time generally results in long, boring meetings. What if all the committees decided to do their work during the regular meeting? Very little would ever get accomplished.

2. Appoint the right chairperson and prepare them for the job.

Proper preparation enhances success no matter how difficult the task. The chair of the committee must realize that the leadership of that committee rests squarely upon his or her shoulders. The chair's basic role is to understand the purpose and goals of the committee and guide members to the completion of those goals in a timely and harmonious manner. Manuals, goals, deadlines, budgets, past meeting minutes and training by the outgoing chair all help prepare a new chairperson.

3. Keep members involved and motivated.

Once a committee establishes goals, consider assigning more experienced members the complex tasks and less experienced members the easier tasks. Always match a member's task with his or her skills and interests. Have the committee participate in setting the rules, such as the meeting time and communication method. Allow the group to decide on their voting method. Is it majority rule? Pros and

cons? If disruptive behavior occurs, the chair should talk to fellow committee members about how to handle it.

4. Say thank you.

Recognize and celebrate individual and group successes with a letter of recognition, verbal kudos at the meeting or just a simple thank-you note.

5. Make every meeting count.

Not every decision requires a meeting. A good chairperson will call a meeting when necessary and use e-mail for sharing information and feedback. Before the meeting, the committee chair should decide the meeting's purpose, format, length and agenda. Refreshments don't hurt, either. Always appoint someone to take notes and someone to keep time. The chair should open with a short summary of the purpose of the meeting and agenda. Don't leave without summarizing what has been accomplished, establishing deadlines and talking about next steps.

Adapted from a presentation by Past Council Chair Harvey F. Whitley at the 2010 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Celebrating a Century of Cars

Not many good ideas continue for a century, but in a tiny town in Indiana, the Newport Antique Auto Hill Climb is still going strong. The first climb was recorded in 1909 when all early model vehicles had left-hand steering wheels. Since the hill topped out at 140 feet in height with a 26 percent grade in steepness, it took more than simple perseverance to tackle the climb. There had to be some good luck for drivers who wanted to hurdle the peak.

Warner Ward, the Newport Lions Club's historian, points out in a book published about the climb that the first near-tragedy almost occurred when one participant nearly overturned his "big touring car" trying to avoid a flock of chickens. The fate of the chickens was not recorded, but it's known that driver Otto Newman's vehicle suffered mightily. A tire was torn off and thrown 50 feet into a cornfield, where it was later found by another competitor. For those drivers who finished the climb, a 50-cent dinner of pie, pickles and beans awaited them at the town's leading hotel. There was trouble, though, when an unruly driver had to be forcibly ejected when he demanded meat with his meal after being fed seven pieces of pie.

One hundred years later, tenacious drivers are still trying to top the hill. Some chug along on only one cylinder, but the thrill of potential victory keeps them charging upward and onward. There may still be pie sold somewhere, but Lions now offer much more. Last year, 30 classes of cars competed—the oldest a 1906 Stanley Steamer and the newest, a relative term, after all, in a classic car competition—a 1955 Studebaker. In 2010, 700 antique autos were

registered for the hill climb and show.

Newport's population of 500 swelled for the three-day event when as many as 150,000 spectators came to watch antique vehicles attempt the climb. There were also 150 flea market stands, 45 food vendors, 400 show cars on display, a parade and a pageant.

Lions took over sponsorship of the hill climb in 1968 after other groups passed on what was becoming a burgeoning local attraction and is now internationally acclaimed. In 2008, a driver and his car from Melbourne, Australia, won the long-distance trophy. Lions roasted 11 hogs and cooked hundreds of gallons of ham and beans to serve at their new community center, built with the profits of past hill climbs. They're now working on restoring an old gas station at the bottom of the hill to create a museum and tourist center.

Ward has driven up the hill in his two Model T Fords, one built in 1914 and the other in 1923. "A Model T only has two horsepower, which is about the same as a riding lawnmower," he explains. "The car weighs nearly 2,000 pounds. About two-thirds of the way up, I'll be in low gear. Just before the shift point, there's a small place in the road that isn't as steep. I can almost feel the car take a big breath there before it gets steep again."

"Imagine in 1909 when around 6,000 people rode their horses, walked or took a train to attend," he says. "Most had never even ridden in a car. The cars had to have a running start. One of those first cars had a 90 horsepower engine. As the driver flew by throwing gravel and dust, the women probably screamed, babies cried and the men were probably speechless."



A 1906 Stanley Steamer is the oldest and also most cheered car on the hill climb.

If You Can't Lick 'Em ... Celebrate 'Em

The name may sound a little fishy, but the Carp Carnival, run by Michigan Center, Michigan, Lions, is the club's biggest and longest running fundraiser. Members aren't exactly sure when they began sponsoring the carnival, but most think it was around 1966. Before the carnival, the club held several smaller fundraisers, including a wrestling match in 1959 and a car wash that made \$80 for the local Little League. Last year, Lions made a net profit of \$48,000.

Carnival chairperson Tim Horsch says, "Of course, we still hold fundraisers during the year to support our numerous other charitable giving programs, but each summer's Carp Carnival remains the granddaddy of them all. All our proceeds go back into the community for sight conservation, cataract surgeries, eye exams, eyeglasses, food baskets, school and sports scholarships and Bear Lake Camp for special needs children."

When the carnival began in 1957, which is, coincidentally, the same year the club was chartered, it was sponsored by a clean water association to raise money for weed control in area lakes to help eradicate the "nasty bottom-feeding carp" that vied for food needed by the desired bass, muskie, walleye and perch. The carnival's name is a light-hearted acknowledgement of the area's unwanted carp population, which Horsch explains, "crowd out all the good fish." Fishing contests ("We try to get rid of them anyway we can," he jokes) for kids and adults, carnival rides, games, vendors and live entertainment all add to the three-day event's attraction to visitors.

Horsch took over five years ago as carnival chairperson, a role his father, Jerry, previously held for six years. He estimates that he spends at least 400 hours annually designing each year's event to be bigger and better than the last. His hard work is paying off since Lions annually increase their profits by a few thousand dollars and lessen expenses.



Visitor Kelly Schuler and granddaughter Olivia give the carnival's fun factor a "thumbs up."

Riding his Harley to visit other carnivals and festivals in the area, Horsch is always looking for new ideas and vendors to invite to participate.

"The carnival has grown from a Michigan Center summer specialty to a regional destination, drawing visitors from all over southern Michigan and throughout the Great Lakes states and beyond," he says. Between 30,000 and 35,000 people attend the event and Horsch believes the reason is "because we have so much to offer families. It's very near to our hearts to get the community together to share what's important and create lasting memories."

200,000 Athletes Screened

Tomasz Banas arrived early for the 2010 Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia Regional Games. He was excited to compete with “Team Poland,” but he was also excited to have his eyes checked for the first time during the Opening Eyes screening. What 17-year-old Banas didn’t know is that he would become the 200,000th athlete to benefit from this program.

Working with partners, Lions helped to screen 900 athletes over five days in September in Warsaw. Banas was one of the 288 athletes who received free glasses during the event.

A global partnership among Lions, LCIF and Special Olympics, Opening Eyes is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

LCIF Chairperson Eberhard J. Wirfs and Special Olympics International Chairman and CEO Tim Shriver cut the ribbon to launch the anniversary screening event. More than 200 clinical volunteers, coaches and athletes joined them.



An athlete is screened at the Opening Eyes event in Warsaw, Poland.

“This partnership is a natural for Lions, given our mission of saving sight and helping the disabled. It is truly a collaboration of shared mission,” said Wirfs.

LCIF has a long history of supporting initiatives to help disabled populations. Lions’ support of Opening Eyes is crucial to the program’s success. At Special Olympics games, Lions assist with registering athletes, conducting vision screenings and fitting glasses. More than 12,000 Lions have volunteered in the Opening Eyes program.

The partnership is made possible through Core 4 grant funding from LCIF. In October, LCIF awarded an additional \$1 million to continue and expand this partnership. Since the partnership began in 2001, LCIF has contributed a total of \$12 million. Athletes in 85 countries can see better and have a brighter future as a result of this collaboration.

Lions do more than provide glasses. The partnership is helping to train additional vision care specialists on how to provide better vision care to this population. More than 10,500 doctors have been recruited and trained. Many eye care professionals who participate in Opening Eyes say that it represents one of their most gratifying professional experiences.

The need is great. Among Special Olympics athletes, 68 percent have not had an eye examination in three years, 37 percent are in need of eyeglasses and 18 percent wear clinically incorrect eyeglasses.

“We have never had a more significant partnership in the history of Special Olympics than the partnership we have today with the Lions Clubs,” said Shriver.

Optic industry leaders also support Opening Eyes. Essilor International is the global exclusive supplier of lenses, and Safilo, S.p.A serves as the exclusive supplier of ophthalmic frames and sunglasses.

A badminton player, Banas’ new glasses helped him win gold in doubles badminton and silver in singles badminton.



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Fanwood Lions Club** in **New Jersey** held its annual Christmas Tree Sale in December. Proceeds from the spirited sale benefited local charities and scholarship funds.

It may be cold, but when summer comes, the children of **Gander, Newfoundland, Canada**, will squeal with delight that **Gander Lions** donated US\$60,000 to open a "splash pad" at the Lions Central Playground. Last summer, about 300 area children splashed daily.

Members of the **DuPont Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** filled a tractor-trailer with donations – from office furniture to flower pots – for the PA Lions Beacon Lodge, a 583-acre retreat established in 1948 to be a summer camp for the blind. Today, it's a camp for both children and adults with special needs.

The **Herbert Lions Club** of **Saskatchewan, Canada**, held a benefit for a young woman with multiple sclerosis. Nearly bedridden, she wished to go to Poland for a treatment unavailable in Canada. The club held a brunch in her honor, and was overwhelmed when 350 attendees contributed US\$29,600. The woman underwent the operation successfully, and is learning to walk again.

The **West Valley Lions Club** in **Utah** produced a four-minute CD about the Revolutionary War and creation of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution as a tool for area teachers to use when teaching students about the U.S. government.

Audiences ooh'd and ahh'd at the song and dance routines performed at the 55th annual talent show put on by the **Oakmont Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania**.

The **Fort Kent Lions Club** in **Maine**, along with its district, donated a 6,000-square-foot, open-air pavilion valued at more than \$250,000 to the town of Fort Kent. This month, the pavilion will be used as an entertainment venue when the town hosts the 2011 Biathlon World Cup.

Lions in **Elkhart, Indiana**, dedicated a flagpole to honor area veterans who have died. The flags rotate to memorialize both the person and his or her branch of service.

The **Roanoke Rapids Lions Club** in **North Carolina** performed visual screenings on approximately 1,250 students from area schools. The club then assisted those who needed glasses but were unable to afford them.

The **Stayton Lions Club** in **Oregon** began making personal hygiene kits out of old eyeglass cases by inserting a toothbrush, toothpaste, Band-Aids and hand sanitizer. The kits were then distributed to the area's homeless population. Before the club began recycling the cases, they were thrown away during the Lion's eyeglasses collections.

The **Boise Bench Lions Club** in **Idaho** donated \$14,200 to the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Sight and Hearing Foundation. The foundation is an outstanding provider of sight and hearing assistance.

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Cokato Lions - Minnesota
West Plains Lions - Missouri
Fallon Lions - Nevada
Malone Lions - New York
Candler - North Carolina
Korner Lions - North Dakota
Dover Lions - Ohio
Cantue Lions - Oklahoma
Klamatah Falls - Oregon
Bristol Lions - Pennsylvania
Magic Miles - South Dakota
Decherd Lions - Tennessee
Livingston Lions - Texas
Pleasant Grove - Utah
White River Lions - Vermont
Daytonbridge Lions - Virginia
Lake Chelen - Washington
Junior Lions - West Virginia
Rice Lake Lions - Wisconsin
Mauston Lioness - Wisconsin
Pinedales Lions - Wyoming

INFORMATION

CALENDAR

2011 UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

EYE DONOR AWARENESS MONTH

MARCH 1

Deadline for multiple districts to submit a single Lions Environmental Photo Contest entry to International Headquarters

MARCH 11-14

Faculty Development Institute – the Orient and Southeast Asia

SAPPORO, JAPAN

MARCH 18

Lions Day with the United Nations

NEW YORK, NEW YORK, USA & NAIROBI, KENYA

MARCH 31-APRIL 3

Mediterranean Conference

TRIESTE, ITALY

IN MEMORIAM

Past International Director Daizo Okamoto, of Tokushima, Japan, has died. He joined the Tokushima Bizan Lions Club in 1960 as a charter member, and was involved in many professional and community service organizations.

FOR THE RECORD

As of December 31, Lions Clubs International had 1,331,626 members in 45,977 clubs and 743 districts in 206 countries and geographic areas.

CORRECTION

The Lufkin Lions Club in Texas celebrated its 90th anniversary in October 2010. The LION apologizes for the error.

24th Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest

Children Know Peace



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

Start now. Purchase a 2011-12 Peace Poster Contest Kit (PPK-1), which contains all the materials needed to sponsor one contest.

Kits are sold through the Club Supplies Sales Department, January 15 - October 1, 2011, at International Headquarters. A kit must be purchased for each contest sponsored. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery; outside the U.S. may take longer.



CALL 1-800-710-7822

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

ANNIVERSARIES MARCH

95 Years: Little Rock Founders, Ark.

90 Years: Chicago Uptown, Ill.; Ennis Host, Texas; Harrisburg, Pa.; Keokuk, Iowa; Miami, Okla.; New Brunswick, N.J.; Pomona Host, Calif.; Scottsbluff-Gering, Neb.; South Bend, Ind.

85 Years: Bristol, Conn.; Coopersburg, Pa.; Haynesville, La.; McPherson, Kan.; Ocala, Fla.; Saint Clair, Mich.; Stevens Point Noon, Wis.

80 Years: Boonsboro, Md.; Forrest, Ill.; Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.; Monroe City, Mo.; Paris, Ky.; Syracuse, Kan.; Winchester, Ky.; Paris, Ontario, CAN; Simcoe, Ontario, CAN

75 Years: Brookhaven, Miss.; Drumright, Ok.; Du Quoin, Ill.; Erie, Colo.; Freeport, Ill.; Greenfield, Ind.; Greenfield, Mass.; Menasha, Wis.; Neenah, Wis.; Northampton, Mass.; Pinckneyville, Ill.; Poplar Bluff, Mo.; Clinton, Ontario, CAN

50 Years: Berthold, N.D.; Epsom, N.C.; Frystown, Pa.; Gainesville University City, Fla.; Hull, Mass.; Marietta, Miss.; Morristown Cherokee, Tenn.; North Fairfield, Ohio; Silver Run Union Mills, Md.; Southampton-Warminster Area, Pa.; Van Buren, Maine; Baie Comeau, Quebec, CAN; Lumsden District, Saskatchewan, CAN; Pier-son, Manitoba, CAN

25 Years: Fairview, Ala.; Hamilton City, Calif.; Lyons, Wis.; Mexico, Ind.; Plentywood, Mont.; Sander-son, Texas; Southlake, Texas; Waldo, Wis.; Wellington, Fla.; Westby, Mont.; Burton, New Brunswick, CAN; Peace Arch Monarch, British Columbia, CAN

HIGHER KEYS ISSUED DURING NOVEMBER 2010

International Key (200 Members)

- Lion Joe Picone, Brenham Evening, Texas

Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion Vijay Patil, New Bombay Koperkhairne, India
- Lion Sudhir Baheti, Nagpur Central, India

Senior Master Key (25 Members)

- Lion Daniel O'Reilly, Stickney Forest View, Illinois
- Lion Andy Rodriguez, Gonzales Noon, Texas
- Lion Arlyn Rudel, Rapid City Rushmore, South Dakota
- Lion Omar Rogers, Bowling Green Technical College, Kentucky
- Lion Dilip Samanta, Burdwan, India
- Lion T. M. Gunaraja, Madras Metro Central, India
- Lion K. G. Raja, Kallakurichi, India
- Lion K. Subramaniam, Tirupur, India
- Lion Veerasundary Palanisamy, Dharapuram Town, India
- Lion Dr. Ravulapalli Sudhakar, Vuyyuru, India
- Lion Badrinath Puvvada, Hyderabad Sanatnagar, India
- Lion Dhananjai Samudrala, Deverkonda, India

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

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THANK YOU

THE LIONS CHANGED MY LIFE

A Change of Tune

Sometimes the right people cross paths at just the right moment. Georgia Lion Pete Stamsen happened to notice the word “blind” on Nancy Jones’ T-shirt while shopping at the local Walmart. After striking up a conversation, Stamsen learned that Jones’ 17-year-old son, Timothy, was blind. The meeting resulted in a friendship, and Stamsen asked if his club could help her son in any way. About a year later, Jones mentioned her son needed an upgrade to his PAC Mate computer and a talking scientific calculator to help him with his studies. Stamsen asked the six Lions club in his zone to split the cost to provide the items to her. Additionally, when Stamsen learned that Timothy is a talented pianist, he connected him with clubs who hired him to play at their holiday parties, and is working on booking him for the state convention.

Timothy Jones plays piano at a Lions Club’s Christmas party.



Q & A: Nancy and Timothy Jones

Lion Magazine: How did you feel when the Lions asked if they could help your son?

Nancy Jones: I was kind of leery because most materials for the blind are so expensive. We didn’t even have a computer for the blind when he started school. We found a used one. We were using that, and Timothy kept having trouble because it was an older operating system. So we really needed to upgrade, and that was about \$600. Another thing we were beginning to need for his math was a scientific calculator. Finally, after researching, I gave those two options to the club. I thought they’d pick one or the other; I was floored when they picked both.

LM: How have these items helped you, Timothy?

Timothy Jones: I’ve noticed very few troubles with the PAC Mate, much less than I had before. I use it for tak-

ing notes and for e-mailing with friends from a music camp I attended. The calculator will be a very helpful tool for my algebra. It even has sign, cosine and tangent –all the things that you use in trigonometry.

LM: You’ve also gotten some piano gigs through Lions, right?

Timothy Jones: Yes, I’m not only grateful that God provided for me to not only receive those items from the generous people at the Lions club, but I’m also very glad that I had the privilege to play for them as well. It was real treat to get up there in those nice places and play, and on top of that they even gave my mom and me food.

LM: Nancy, when did you know Timothy was such a gifted pianist?

Nancy Jones: Because Timothy has been blind since birth, we had a lot of music developmental activities and toys. We’d also play Twila Paris all the time, and one of the sweetest songs she sings is “Lamb of God.” I went in the living room, and with two fingers he was picking out that tune. He was less than two years old. I got him into Kinder musik, and we did that until he outgrew it. When he was about 5, I started looking for a teacher. She trained his ear and taught him scales and chords.

LM: Is there anything else you’d like to say to the Lions who helped you?

Nancy Jones: I’m just overwhelmed by their generosity and kindness. It just about makes me want to cry. There have been those incidents in the past where I’ve hit roadblocks trying to get what I need for Timothy, so when someone reaches out, it’s just wonderful.

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: Seiki Yamaura, International Director
Club: Tokyo Shinjuku Lions Club, District 330-A, Japan
Years as a Lion: 38
Profession: CEO of Tokyo Fuji Color

LION Magazine: You are a Humanitarian Partner, but how else do you and your Lions club support LCIF?

Seiki Yamaura : Our club became a 100% Melvin Jones Fellowship Club in 2008 for the first time: all club members became Melvin Jones Fellows. Our club also donated US\$1,000 for every member from the club's collective budget. So we have a blue club banner, which is very rare and many clubs are not able to achieve this or recognize this banner.

LM: How is this generosity to LCIF possible?

SY: Our club has a strong tie with Shinjuku Station, the busiest train station in Tokyo, and the station allowed us to create and place a Lion statue at the West Gate of this train station. The Lion statue has a donation mouth. When a coin is put into the mouth, the statue roars. As you can imagine, our club gets a large amount of donations from this statue.

LM: How much does the club receive from this roaring statue?

SY: Generally, 50,000 to 60,000 yen per month, which adds up to approximately US\$10,000 per year. During Campaign SightFirst II (CSFII), our club put half of the proceeds to the campaign and LCIF's efforts to fight blindness.

LM: Was that enough to fund your club's \$1,000 per member club donation to LCIF?

SY: No, it was not enough. But as one of the national coordinators in Japan for CSFII, I and my fellow club members knew the importance of CSFII and my responsibility, so the club offered lots of help.

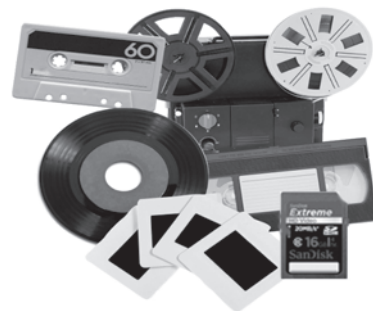
LM: What does LCIF mean to your club?

SY: Our club's dream is visiting developing countries and doing hands-on projects like building schools. But in reality, we are busy, we do not speak the language, and we are unable to travel away from work. We know we can't do it ourselves, but LCIF can do it for us. So we continue supporting LCIF to make this dream and passion for service a reality.



International President Sid L. Scruggs III poses with International Director Seiki Yamaura at the roaring Lion statue near Shinjuku Station. The sign reads: "This statue collects coins (200,000 yen) and raises awareness and funds for the Tokyo Shinjuku Lion Club's generous support of LCIF."

PRESERVE MEMORIES



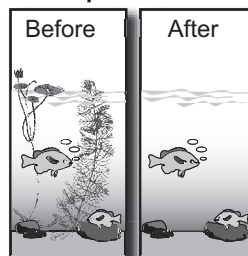
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LAST ROAR



DUCK AND COVER

"Dressed up" as duck hunters, Temuka District Lions Club members bared all—sort of—for a "Calendar Girls" fundraiser after an earthquake struck Christchurch, New Zealand's second largest city. (See story on page 12).

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