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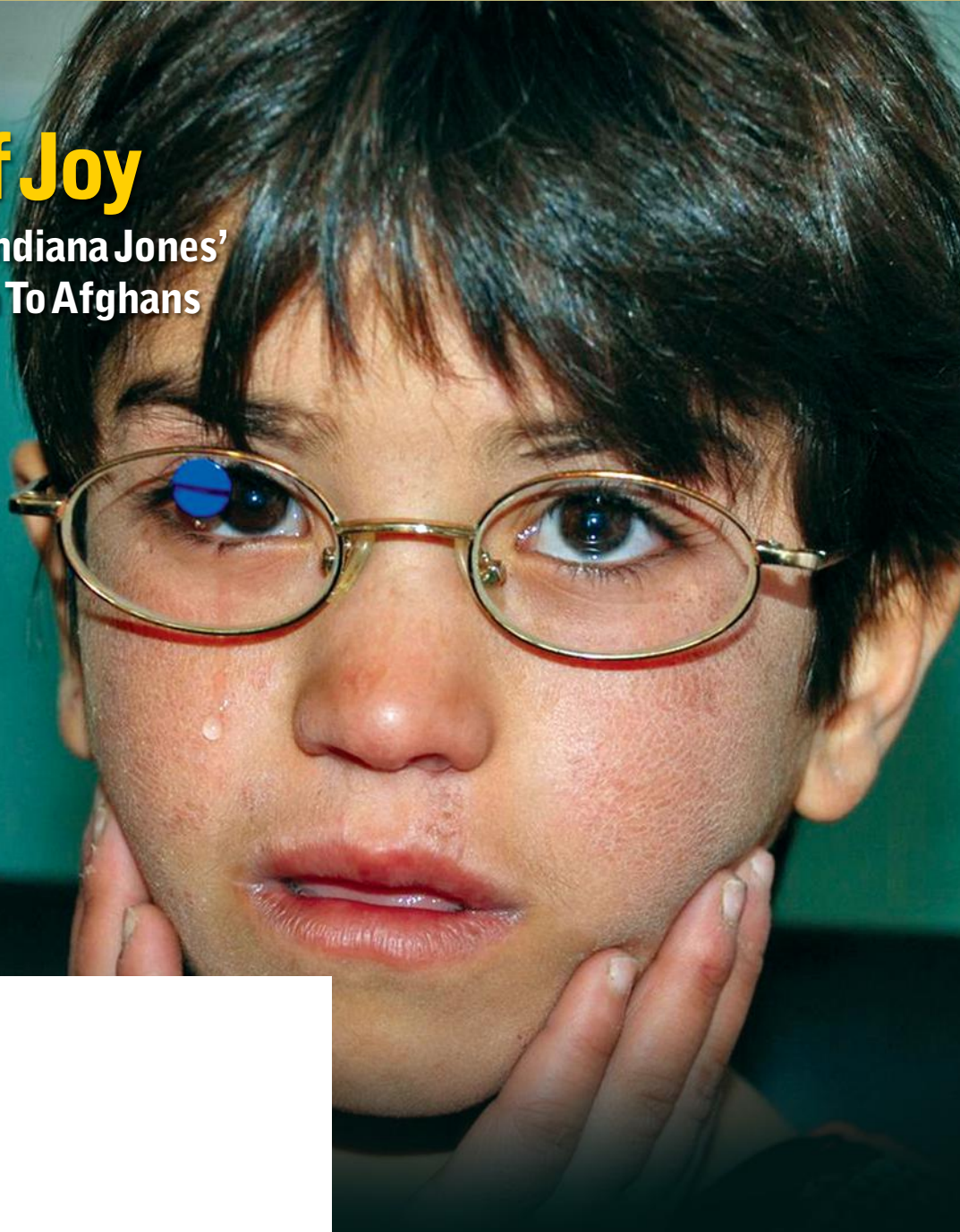


Lions Clubs International

WWW.LIONSCLUBS.ORG MAY 2011

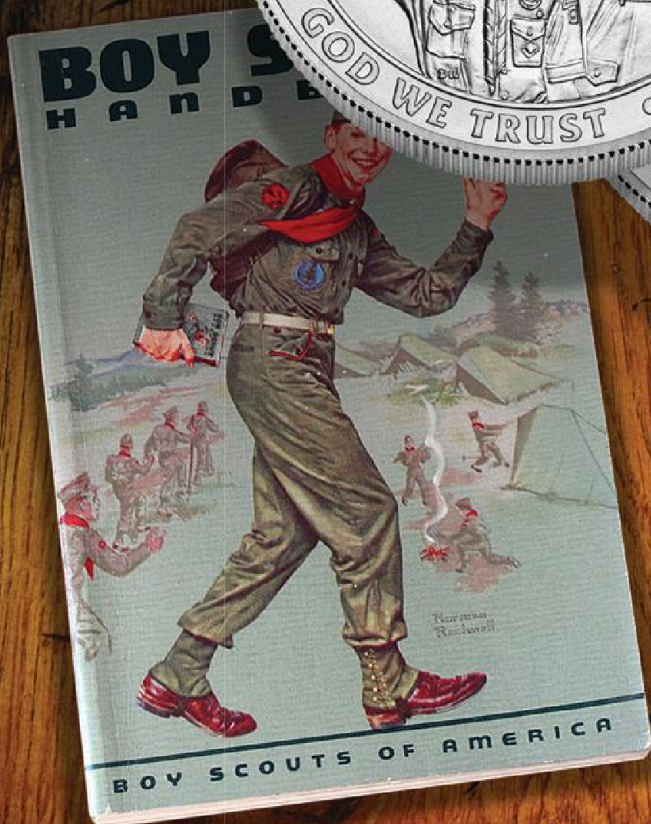
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Brings Vision To Afghans



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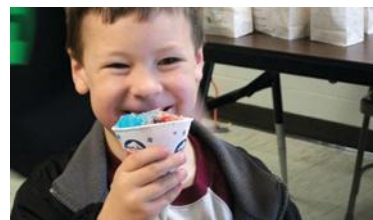


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*"To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace
and promote international understanding through Lions clubs."*



SERVING TOGETHER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

They Only Remember the Winners



Participants at the Lions' VIP Fishing Tournament on the Outer Banks of North Carolina experience the joy of accomplishment and feel like winners.

It is hard to believe that the month of May has arrived so quickly. Next month we will begin to make final plans for our trip to Seattle for the international convention. As I reflect on this Lions year I am reminded of the words of my high school track coach: "Son, it is not how you started, it is how you finished. They only remember the winners."

Our goal this year was to re-engage Lions in service to be a Beacon of Hope. As you look to complete your year as a Lion, I hope you will finish strong. My track coach had me train at a distance 10 percent longer than the race so that I was still going strong as I crossed the finish line. With the global action campaign completed for this year we must continue to make sure our community service continues strong across this year's finish line. The people we help will always remember us as the people that helped them be winners!

There are almost 1.4 million of us, and if each Lion did one act of meaningful service each month, it would amount to 17 million acts of kindness in a year. If our service was one act a week, we would celebrate more than 73 million instances of Lions making a difference in the lives of others. As you look over your life's accomplishments, I believe you will agree that the most memorable events are those times when you made a difference in someone's life. I've read that what we make is a living, but what we give away is what makes a life. To meet the need of someone else is indeed being a Beacon of Hope.

I thank you for your service and ask you to continue to serve with passion.

Sid L. Scruggs III
Lions Clubs International President



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

LIONS HELP REDUCE NUMBER OF BLIND

A recent World Health Organization study showed that blindness was reduced globally by 9 percent since 2004. An estimated 39 million people were blind and 247 million had moderate to severe vision impairment in 2010. The numbers in 2004 were 45 million and 314 million. The progress occurred despite a 14 percent rise in the number of people over 50—the age group most affected by visual impairment. The service of Lions has been a major factor in the reduction of blindness. Through SightFirst, Lions are investing US\$415 million to fight the leading causes of blindness. “Lions have long been champions for the blind and visually impaired, and we are proud of helping reduce this global burden,” said LCIF Chairperson Eberhard J. Wirfs. “However, we must continue and redouble our efforts. Eighty percent of the incidences of visual impairment could be cured, treated or prevented in the first place.” The top three causes of blindness in the 2010 estimates are cataract, glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration, while uncorrected refractive errors are the main cause for moderate to severe visual impairment. Funded by Campaign SightFirst II, Lions are increasing programs to fight emerging threats to sight while supporting new projects aimed at research and rehabilitation.



Cataract patients in Nepal await treatment at a Lions' clinic.

LCIF DEBUTS WEB SITE

A new Web site for Lions Clubs International Foundation will debut in May. The Foundation now will have its own separate site from Lions Clubs International. The site can still be accessed at lcif.org. Easier to navigate, the site includes more stories of individuals helped and more information on partner organizations and donors. A map on the site shows where LCIF is active. Also, the site incorporates the updated brand design of the Foundation.

SOCIAL NETWORKING FEATURED IN SEATTLE

Lions attending the international convention in Seattle in July can arrive as social networking novices and depart as enthusiastic users of Twitter and Facebook. Lions Clubs International is hosting free social media classes at the convention. Lions also can learn to set up accounts on Twitter and Facebook by sitting down with technology experts at a bank of computers on the convention floor, use the social networking lounge to communicate with Lions who speak a different language and take home a “best practices” guide on social networking. LCI’s goal is to teach Lions how to promote their club and interact with Lions online as well as connect with friends and family. Won’t be in Seattle? The best practices guide and video tutorials on Twitter and Facebook will be posted online after the convention.

LOST CHILD BROUGHT HOME

Lions in India helped reunite a 20-year-old man with his parents 15 years after a train carried him away. Shameem Bhai of Andhra Pradesh was playing hide-and-seek with friends in a railyard when the train car began moving and he ended up at Chennai central station, according to the India Times. Authorities sent him to a juvenile home when he could not provide details of his family and he became a tailor. When memories of his childhood suddenly occurred, a friend put him in touch with Lions, who quickly located his mother and father. His parents instantly recognized him because he was born with two left thumbs.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW

Bob McDougall says he doesn't like to "blow his own horn." In fact, the retired owner of a well drilling company was shocked when fellow club members wrote to LION Magazine singing his praises. McDougall is the only remaining charter member of the Lucerne Valley Lions Club in California. He joined in 1947 and has seen the group more than double, from 34 members to 90 members today. His wife, Gert, is also a member. She joined in 1989 - two years after Lions Clubs International opened its doors to women. At 88, McDougall jokes he and Gert are the "antiques" of the club, but says he won't quit while there is still work to be done.

WHAT'S KEPT YOU IN LIONS FOR 64 YEARS? The community needs us. This is a very small community, and it's a rural area. At the time that we started the Lions club, we were the only entity that did things for the community. For example, we were instrumental in getting a fire department established here. It was a volunteer fire department for several years, mostly comprised of Lions.

WHAT WISDOM HAVE YOU GAINED OVER THE YEARS? It just seems like I'm a Lion and keep going and doing the things that need to be done. I don't really look back except to some very fond memories of the things we have done and the people that I knew.

WHAT'S YOUR BEST MEMORY? The most meaningful moment for me was when we were able to buy our 80-acre property and have something we could say was our own and build from to generate money to help the community. We have target shooting on the 80 acres. It's open to the public, and we have a skeet range and a rifle range. We also lease the range to two different groups to generate money. It's the primary way our club raises funds right now.

EIGHTY ACRES SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF WORK. WHAT'S BEEN YOUR INVOLVEMENT? Yes, in the 1970s, we were able to buy the property and then we improved it. I drilled two wells so we'd have water there. We had a generator for power

until we finally got the power company to run electricity to us at a nominal cost. It's been an uphill battle. We were meeting in a double-wide mobile home, but our club outgrew it. I was the building chairman for our new building. We did the flooring, tile, everything. It's a complete building with restrooms, a kitchen.

YOU'VE SEEN YOUR CLUB DO SO MUCH. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE THEM TO TAKE ON IN THE FUTURE? I'm so proud of our Lions club up here. There's a program called Lifewater where people in the well drilling industry go to countries where people have contaminated water and drill wells and teach people how to use them. Being in the industry, I'd like to see our club get involved with this program too.

Aiming to Aid: The Lucerne Valley club's target shooting range is the main way the group raises money.



Know a Lion who you think deserves a bit of recognition? E-mail us a brief description of your Lion and the reason you're nominating him or her at lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org. Please include "Someone You Should Know" in the subject line.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

CLUB OF THE MONTH

BASYE-BRYCE MOUNTAIN LIONS CLUB, VIRGINIA

FOUNDED: 1983

COMMUNITY SERVED: Basye and southern Shenandoah County, Virginia

MEMBERSHIP: The club's 63 active members are mostly retired professionals enjoying resort-style living in picturesque Virginia. They meet at Bryce Resort, which offers everything from golf to skiing. Club President Fred Wynn says that members have a strong history of achievement, service and initiative. With members representing a spectrum of professions from business to science and technology, no project is too complex.

FUN-RAISING: Since the majority of club members love to step up to a tee, it's no wonder their largest fundraiser is a golf tournament that draws 80 players and 90 sponsors. When they're not on the course, club members enjoy the sweet life—running a pie and ice cream booth at the Shenandoah Valley Music Festival and an ice cream stand at the Fourth of July BryceFest.

WHEN THE [GOLF] GLOVES COME OFF: Club members get down to business. Members distribute food baskets to local needy families at Thanksgiving and Christmas and test about 1,950 students per year through their sight and hearing mobile screening unit. They also donate more than \$14,000 annually to 26 local and Lions' agencies. For local residents, the club operates a medical equipment loan closet and provides transportation services. Members volunteer at the local elementary and middle schools as teacher's assistants, library aides and ESL tutors. During the holidays, they ring Salvation Army bells.

WHY BE A LION? "Our goal is to give what we can to help make this wonderful community an even better place to live and grow," says Fred Wynn.

The members of the Basye-Bryce Mountain Lions Club serve – and swing – with a smile.



OVERHEARD

"These kids have been told so many times. 'You can't play. You're handicapped.' Or, 'you can't run. You're in a wheelchair.' Now we tell them, 'You're up!'"

—David Runyon of the Troy Lions Club in Alabama. Runyon's son, Julian, who has cerebral palsy, played baseball at Miracle Field, created by the Troy Lions for children with disabilities. From the *Troy Messenger*.

"They appreciate it, which is important because when you are out of work you don't feel appreciated. I feel lost but I know I have to keep going forward."

—New Lion Elizabeth Bell on volunteering with the Agawam Lions Club in Massachusetts after losing her long-time job at Goodwill Industries. From *BusinessWest*.

ON THE WEB

There's an app for everything these days. Yes, "we serve" iPhone users now. Get all the latest news from Lions Clubs International by downloading our new Lions Clubs application. With the app, you'll get daily updates from Lions Clubs International on Twitter, videos from Lions around the world, a link to the LCI Facebook page, photos on Flickr, Lions Quarterly Video Magazine podcasts, the Lions Clubs International Web site, club locator and more. Download the free app from iTunes to your iPhone or iPod touch (2nd generation).

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

BY THE NUMBERS

90

Price in cents for a pancake breakfast of the Sterling Lions Club in Colorado in celebration of its 90th anniversary.

23

Clocks created by local artists for a silent auction of the Vergennes Lions Club in Vermont.

298

Pigeons that raced in the Woodville Lions Flight for Sight in Washington.

20

Surveillance cameras donated by Food City supermarket for Fountain City Park in Tennessee. Fountain City Lions are caretakers of the park, marred by graffiti and broken light poles.

400

Volunteers, including Lions, who script, read, operate the control

board for daily broadcasts and otherwise make possible the Connecticut Radio Information System, the state's "talking newsstand for the blind and print handicapped."

50

Gently used gowns collected for prom night for girls who could not afford a new dress by the Bushkill Smithfields Lions Club in Pennsylvania.

300

Fish placed in the Somersworth Lions Club pond by its namesake club in New Hampshire for the Somersworth Lions Club Youth Fishing Derby.

1,900

Gently used shoes bound with rubber bands and transported to a facility in Iowa by Marshall Lions in Minnesota. Soles4Souls delivers shoes to people primarily in developing nations. Marshall High School students spearheaded the shoe drive.

56 YEARS AGO IN THE LION MAY 1955

A suburban Chicago Lions club encouraged safe driving by erecting a billboard near the town's border.



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IDEAS THAT ROAR

BIG IMPACT WITH LIONS CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS

KEEP MOVING FORWARD

Successful clubs keep moving forward. They try new and different activities to relate to changing times.

Lions Let the Good Times Roll—Downhill

SERVICE IDEA SOAPBOX DERBY



A racer leans forward to keep momentum going as his car launches from the lift.

Some call it the Gravity Gran Prix, but no matter what you call it, the soapbox derby remains a favorite American tradition for boys and girls who build their own 200-pound cars from scratch or a wooden kit. In Owensboro, Kentucky, it's such a popular event that Lions sponsor it five times a year and built a new 1,000-foot track at a state park that will open in June.

John Austin, a Lion since 2004, says, "The Soapbox Derby was a huge event in Owensboro in the 1950s and '60s. Like it did in many small towns, the event slowly faded as more appealing entertainment options evolved." Located along the banks of the Ohio River, Owensboro is Kentucky's third-largest city with a population of nearly 55,000. Lions revived the derby in 2001 after a 36-year absence amid a nationwide resurgence. "Like most of our members, I began working the race as a volunteer in what I considered an obligatory opportunity to serve," Austin explains. He does admit to an error in judgment. "What I discovered was that the derby was pretty demanding, but a very fun event to stage."

Lions soon realized that a new venue was needed and began campaigning for a permanent track at Ben Hawes State Park. "Our basic track design coupled with the location in a shady park setting will make for one of the country's premier gravity-racing venues," Austin says. "One benefit of the permanent track is the elimination of the track set up and teardown. The track includes a large, heavy wooden starting ramp along with the judge's stand, finish line, course barriers

[bales of straw] and other equipment required to conduct the race." The two-lane asphalt track also features a natural incline.

There are three divisions for kids from 8 to 17 to enter. The Owensboro Lions Soap Box Derby also includes a Super Kids Division for children with disabilities or challenges. Each division winner qualifies to compete at the All American Soap Box Derby Nationals held in July in Akron, Ohio. In 2010, more than 500 kids from around the country and New Zealand participated in the 73rd race, which a 12-year-old girl won.

Building a permanent track quickly became the club's chief fundraising goal. "We netted \$20,000 one year and have averaged \$10,000 per year for the past 10," Austin says. Lions are still actively engaged in their other activities such as paying for eye care needs in the community, providing scholarships and helping local charitable agencies.

He believes Lions caught a lucky break when the city assumed ownership of the park from the state early in 2010 and the building process was sped up considerably. "The budget for our new track seemed to be growing as the project progressed. We began with a budget of \$142,000 and it grew closer to \$180,000 due primarily to changes and challenges to the site," Austin says. Lions kept moving forward with funding from several different sources, including the county, the city, private donors and even from a club yard sale.

DONATE TO LCIF

Set aside a portion of your fundraising profits to donate to LCIF. Keep the foundation strong to meet the world's critical needs.

INVOLVE ALL CLUB MEMBERS

Each Lion should have a role in project planning. Participation as a group is what fuels a feeling of camaraderie.

PARTNER WITH OTHERS

Partnering with other community groups expands your scope of service.

Medical Mission Leads to Eye Bank in Vietnam

SERVICE IDEA MEDICAL MISSION



Eye surgery performed in Vietnam during a medical mission by California Lions has led to the establishment of an eye bank in that country.

Lions in San Diego, California, have made it possible for people in Vietnam to receive the gift of sight. A joint medical mission to Vietnam three years ago by members of the Executive and Vietnamese American Lions Clubs has led to the establishment of the first eye bank in that country. It opened last month in Ho Chi Minh City. Rose Tran, a Vietnamese native and president of the Vietnamese American Lions Club, asked the help of Executive Lions because they had conducted several medical missions in other countries. The two clubs then united for a medical mission to the Philippines and Vietnam.

Corneal tissue was previously hand carried by members of the American team, who volunteered to coordinate efforts to establish a local eye bank after learning how greatly one was needed. Before their arrival in Vietnam, Lions and medical personnel stopped in the Philippines to perform eye surgeries and distribute more than 1,000 eyeglasses.

The 2008 trip was the first visit to Vietnam for California club members since the fall of Saigon (now called Ho Chi Minh City) in 1975, says George Folwarski, a San Diego Executive Lion who was on the mission team and has been back twice since then. A second trip the next year prompted Executive Lion Tim Mendez, a surgical technician, to coordinate free specialty training by the San Diego Eye Bank to three ophthalmologists from Vietnam. Mendez, a retired Navy Corpsman, is also affiliated with the San Diego facility.

"We learned that a long list of patients in need of cornea transplantations exists. This great demand for donor tissues pointed out the need for a local eye bank in Vietnam," Folwarski says. Lions arranged free lodging and hospitality for the trio of doctors as they received training in San Diego early last year. When the doctors completed their training and received certificates, Lions hosted a dinner celebrating their achievements. All equipment was provided by the Vietnamese government, which is funding the entire venture with no cost to Lions. Members from both clubs were on hand to witness the "historic occasion of the gift of sight—a Vietnamese eye bank—being operated within Vietnam," he says.

"The people have been very kind, courteous and openly supportive of us as we walk the area in our Lions vests. They are especially appreciative of the support offered to relieve the pain and suffering of those who need health care," Folwarski explains. More than 300 cataract surgeries and corneal transplants were performed in Vietnam on Lions' missions. That number will increase significantly now that the new eye bank is open.

IDEAS THAT ROAR

BIG IMPACT WITH LIONS CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS

START A LEO CLUB

If your Lions club doesn't sponsor a Leo club yet, consider starting one to give youth an opportunity to learn firsthand about community service.

Project Lifesaver Casts a Safety Net

Search and rescue missions for lost or missing persons are getting a helping hand from Lions in District 13B, Ohio, who have embraced Project Lifesaver. In the 11 years since Project Lifesaver (www.projectlifesaver.org) was established, the organization has helped public agencies find 2,191 missing people in the United States, Canada and Australia. Average location time using the electronic tracking device is 30 minutes. Now Lions will make possible such fortunate outcomes in Ohio. They raised more than \$10,000 to pay for watch-size transmitters that attach to the arm or ankle of adults or children with impaired cognitive ability, and antenna-like receivers to help locate them.

When Polk Lion Patty Moorman learned of the program, she knew Lions could lend a hand to this community service effort. "All the clubs are excited about this program and committed to making it a success. It's a combined project for clubs in Zones 7 and 8," she says. The search and rescue locator equipment, a hand-held receiver, remains with the Ashland County sheriff's department while Lions handle the inventory of transmitters, wrist bands and batteries. Each transmitter/bracelet a client wears has its own frequency.

"Lions work directly with people wearing the transmitters and the caregivers conducting interviews and changing batteries monthly. A person contacts me and fills out an application stating that they care for a person with autism, dementia, Alzheimer's or some other cognitive disease that places them at risk to wander," Moorman explains. "A photo is taken, along with a list of medications, places they're likely

SERVICE IDEA PARTNER WITH OTHERS



Polk Lion Janet Hoffman receives training from police.

to head off to and things that frighten them, such as sirens, loud noises or dogs. Autistic children often have a fascination with water, for example."

All documentation is entered on a national Web site that can be accessed by the sheriff's department or other law enforcement agencies. Lions also prepare a binder for police with pertinent information and client photos to help with searches. "Lions in Ashland County will find the funding, find the clients and handle the paperwork," Moorman says. "It's a very simplistic system. Lions were able to use the equipment during a training program to understand what we were paying for and how well the program works.

"My grandmother had dementia and I have a niece with autism. I understand how caring for a loved one with one of these conditions can be a life-changing experience. I have had caregivers tell me that this bracelet gives them peace of mind from the constant worry of having a parent or child wander off."

SERVICE IDEA REWARD READING

A warm smile meets a cool snow cone at the East Dubuque Elementary School's reading carnival.

Photo by
Casey Klein



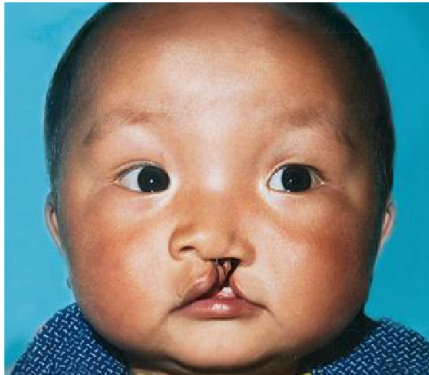
Boosting Love of Books

Every year that the East Dubuque Elementary School in Illinois sponsors its reading carnival for hundreds of children, Lions join in the fun. East Dubuque Lions rent a snow cone machine and purchase the ingredients to serve the frozen treats to hundreds of students.

Lions have become experts at handling the snow cone maker since they rent it for other community events. They hope to someday buy their own machine since it's become such a popular attraction for both kids and adults, says Casey Klein. More than 500 students were served.

Pick One. Just One.

Save Their Life For \$250. You'll End Up Smiling Too.



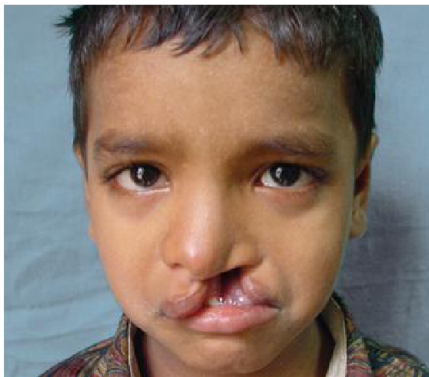
Ming, 6 months, China



Shiva, 1 year, India



Mot, 13 years, Cambodia



Durgap, 5 years, India



Funmi, 8 years, Nigeria



Salazar, 5 years, Philippines

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LIONS ON LOCATION

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



THE CALNE LIONS CLUB IN ENGLAND DONATED TWO APPLE TREES, TWO PLUM TREES AND TWO PEAR TREES TO A LOCAL SCHOOL TO PROMOTE HEALTHY EATING.

1 ASIA JAPAN

Putting Their Best Foot Forward

It's the shoes.

Students graduating from elementary schools in Japan no longer need the shoes they keep at school. Hill Tribe children in Thailand are often too poor to afford shoes. So Kagamihara Clover Lions in Japan collected 2,000 pairs of shoes from the 17 schools in their city for the Hill Tribe kids.

Lion Takumi Onogo of the club had once stayed with a Hill Tribe family. Subsistence farmers, the Hill Tribes live in a heavily forested area in northern Thailand.

The Japanese Lions didn't just collect the shoes. They inspected them and ultimately settled on 750 shoes in good condition. They took the shoes to a center for people with disabilities and helped wash the shoes side-by-side with the center's clients. Then two Kagamihara Lions traveled to Thailand and, escorted by a Chiang Rai Lion from Thailand, passed out the shoes to beaming children in two villages.

Lions help wash the donated shoes.





IN LIBERIA, THE CAPE MESURADO LIONS CLUB PROVIDED READING GLASSES TO 500 PEOPLE AND CONDUCTED DIABETES AND BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS.



THE SAULT LIONS CLUB IN ONTARIO, CANADA, CONDUCTED A VISION SCREENING AND DISCOVERED 40 PERCENT OF LOCAL KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS HAD VISION PROBLEMS.



MEMBERS OF THE KYIV LIONS CLUB IN UKRAINE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FOR ORPHANS AND STREET CHILDREN BY SUPPORTING FRIEND'S HOUSE, A LOCAL FOSTER HOME.

2 EUROPE NORWAY

Can't Tell the Players Without a Lion

As skiers raced on the slopes at a World Cup Biathlon competition in March in Oslo, members of the Oslo-Røa Lions Club raced among spectators—hawking event programs.

For three years the Norwegian Lions have gathered photos of the athletes, compiled summaries of the teams, laid out graphics, sold ads, printed the program and then sold it to fans. How did club take on the role of official program publishers?

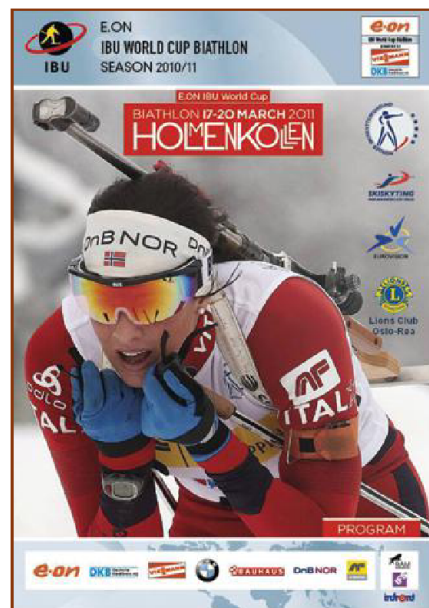
They asked.

Club members approached officials of the Norwegian Association of the Biathlon. “They said, ‘Fine, go ahead. Just coordinate it with us,’ ” recalls Lion Jon Sigurd Vangsøy.

Vangsøy sells ads for the Norwegian edition of LION Magazine, so he handled the ad sales for the biathlon program. After contacting more than 100 companies, he locked up eight who took out full-page ads. The ad revenue and the approximately US\$3 for each program sold produced a net profit of more than US\$7,000 in 2010.

The club emblazoned the cover with the Lions logo and printed a full-page summary of their club’s projects on the inside.

Mindful of the large numbers of rabid German fans in Oslo for the competition, the program also included two pages in German. “You know the Germans are even more crazy than Norwegians about the Biathlon,” says Vangsøy.



Lions in Oslo produced a program for a World Cup Biathlon competition.

3 EUROPE FRANCE



Forty-eight artists, painters and sculptors used their talents to raise funds for an Alzheimer's day care center supported by the Saint Bernard Val-de-Saone Lions Club in east-central France.

Alzheimer's Aid in France

France is a world leader in care for those with Alzheimer's disease. The federal government has earmarked billions of euros for research, patient care, and social and family support. French Lions have been ahead of the curve, offering aid to families since 1995. Lions have supported 150 day care centers for people with the disease.

The facilities ease stress on caregivers at home, provide a social environment for those with Alzheimer's and delay the need for around-the-clock care in an institution. The day care centers are particularly important in France, where 90 percent of elderly people live at home until age 85.

Lions have provided more than 4 million euros (\$5.4 million) for the centers. “We will not remain indifferent to the hidden suffering of the sick. This initiative concerns us all and serves the spirit of Lionism,” said Gerard Lacourt, a Lions Alzheimer coordinator.



THE VALENCIA LIONS CLUB IN INDIA DONATED A WATER PURIFYING SYSTEM TO A PRIMARY SCHOOL, HOSTED A DIABETES WORKSHOP AND GAVE MEALS TO THE POOR.

4 ASIA PHILIPPINES

Mission Causes a Commotion

Barangay Ilang Ilang in the Philippines is tucked away in a remote area with narrow, rutted, sometimes impassable roads. The main bridge to town was closed the day members of Malolos Lions Club visited to conduct a vision screening. Lions traveled an extra 12 miles to reach the town market.

A crowd had already gathered by 7:30 a.m. Lions suggested the people return at 9 a.m. when the vision screening was set to begin. "They just stood their ground causing traffic almost to a standstill. We were forced to immediately open the gates because some of our members couldn't reach us due to the commotion," says Roy Pablo, club president.

Many Malolos Lions are successful businessmen and entrepreneurs. They work for banks, television networks and in the transportation industry. In contrast, the village residents struggle to make a living. Healthcare is not readily available. The village has a population of 3,500, and Lions screened nearly 1,000 people. They handed out 366 pairs of glasses and arranged for 15 people to receive cataract operations.

Pablo, 33, is a university graduate who runs a liquefied petroleum gas business. One of the women he met was a grandmother in her mid-80s. "Good morning, I hope I may

help you," he said. The grandmother teared up. "Just hearing you say that is help enough. I can't remember the last time someone said that to me," she told Pablo.

Pablo knew what he had to do when he returned home. "I called my own grandparents to say I loved them," he says. "Till the day I get old, I will never forget to ask anybody if I can help them in my very little way. This event defined for me why I became a Lion."



Villagers were eager to receive the glasses.

5 ASIA INDIA

Exploited Women Start Anew



Women now are driving taxis instead of working the streets.

Lions clubs in Mumbai are steering women away from prostitution by training them to drive taxis.

Lions provide three months of training to prostitutes referred to them by the Rescue Foundation. The women learn driving skills, traffic rules, driving etiquette and even self-defense techniques such as martial arts, according to *DNA (Daily News and Analysis)* in India.

The program is called Veera, Sanskrit for "courageous women." The goal is to train 500 women by 2012.

"I've been through a lot and now I hope my life takes a turn for the good," Sudarshana, 22, told *DNA*. "Driving gives me a sense of control. It's like I'm controlling my life and giving it direction with the steering wheel."



THE MZUZU LIONS CLUB DONATED SUGAR, SOAP, COOKING OIL AND MAIZE TO THE EKWENDENI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND IN MALAWI.



THE LYNN LIONS CLUB IN THE UNITED KINGDOM PARTNERED WITH A LOCAL ROTARY CLUB TO PURCHASE A SPECIALIZED CAR SEAT FOR A YOUNG GIRL WITH CEREBRAL PALSY.



THE MOMBASA LIONS CLUB IN KENYA DONATED A BOREHOLE TO PROVIDE CLEAN WATER TO RESIDENTS OF A REMOTE VILLAGE.

Work Kits Given

Lions in Orissa, India, distributed self-employment kits to 500 poor, rural women. The kits included sewing machines, leaf plate machines and computers. "With this, we hope the poor women who have no capacity to purchase such machines will be benefited," 322 C-2 District Governor Gopinath Mohanty told a local newspaper.



Karl Dreyer is a pancake veteran at age 13.

A Pancake Whiz Kid

Karl Dreyer is only 13 but he has prepared enough batter in the past two years to make more than 8,000 pancakes for his father's Lions club. On the days the club in Johannesburg, South Africa, sells the pancakes at various events, he begins working at 5 a.m.

"We are sure that in the years to come, Karl will head up many more pancake stands for the Lions and in the future become a committed member of the Lions," says Johan Dreyer, his father and a member of the Johannesburg The Wilds Lions Club since 1974. "We need more children to be aware of the needs of poorer people, and we believe that Karl is a true example of a teenager who cares."

Dreyer adds that his son seems to be taking after his grandfather, a Swiss confectioner.



LEO TO LION PROGRAM:

A New Pathway to Lion Membership

Attracting dedicated new members can be a challenge. Start simple by asking former Leos to join your club.

By recruiting graduating Leos as new members, you gain fresh, youthful ideas for activities and increase hands to do more service projects. Former Leos are already dedicated to making a difference in their local, national and international community. Encourage Leos to become Lions and bring new energy and diverse skills into your club.

Help renew Leos' lifetime commitment to service by inviting them to become Lions.

Visit www.lionsclubs.org and search "Leo to Lion" for more information.

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Bowersox explores Badakhshan,
Afghanistan, in search of gemstones.

Afghanistan's Treasure

Lion Gary Bowersox has spent his career gem hunting in Afghanistan. Now he's a precious connection for thousands of Afghans in need of vision care.

by Vanessa N. Glavinskis

Lion Gary Bowersox has unearthed millions of dollars worth of gems, explored terrain that the U.S. military won't enter, advised the CIA, dodged bullets and brought humanitarian aid to a region most volunteers won't touch.

He was even compared to Indiana Jones on *Good Morning America*.

All because of the 40 years he's spent exploring Afghanistan's mines as an international gem dealer.

At 70, the years have thinned his hair and turned his beard more salt than pepper, but there's still a vigor about him—and a yearning that continually calls him back to Afghanistan, no matter the danger.

"I'll retire the day I can't lift a one-carat stone," he jokes.

Bowersox, a member of the Kamehameha Lions Club in Hawaii, continues to go back to the unforgiving mountains of Afghanistan to train local miners in exploration, extraction and marketing of gems, providing an economic boost for the troubled nation.

"I teach them marketing of the gem materials," Bowersox says. "It builds a business rather than just giving aid money... you know the saying, 'teach them how to fish.'"

Without proper training, mining is not only frustrating and dangerous, but often fruitless. Bowersox equates it to buying lottery tickets for a living.

"Gary helps the miners get more of the potential of what they mine and educates them on what they do and the value of the items," says Bowersox's friend and fellow Lion Jim Bryan. "That's a big part of his whole humanitarian mission—let these people realize their own potential."

It's also his job; he turns a profit. But it's the humanitarian aspect that has grown in importance to Bowersox over the years, and that ultimately led him to Lions. Now,

when he returns, it's not just to buy gems – but to bring eyeglasses to those who need them most.

Becoming a 'Gem Hunter'

Bowersox hasn't always lived the globetrotting life of an international gem dealer. He started out in Kalamazoo, Michigan, with an apple-pie upbringing.

"I went to Western Michigan, and went into the army from there," he says. "I came out a major after Vietnam, and I decided to go back into civilian life."

His last assignment was in Hawaii, which is where Bowersox settled and started several businesses.

"I started a tax and bookkeeping service, and went on to buy a jewelry store in Waikiki," he says. "That's what

got me into the gem business. But after three years of working 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., I got the urge to travel, so I sold the store and went into the jewelry wholesale business."

The decision changed his life. He became certified in gemology and began traveling to buy stones. One key trait defined him: he's not afraid of risk.

Fast forward to October 1979. Bowersox had taken a risk that led him to Kabul, Afghanistan, to buy lapis lazuli, an exquisite blue stone that has been mined for 7,000 years.

He was almost 10 years into traveling the world, spending months on horseback and hiking high into the mountains to buy rough gemstones directly from Afghan miners. He then sold the stones at a discount since he had fewer middlemen than a less intrepid dealer.

Several years earlier, he had brought his former wife and 2-year-old daughter to Afghanistan and things had gone smoothly. Not this trip.

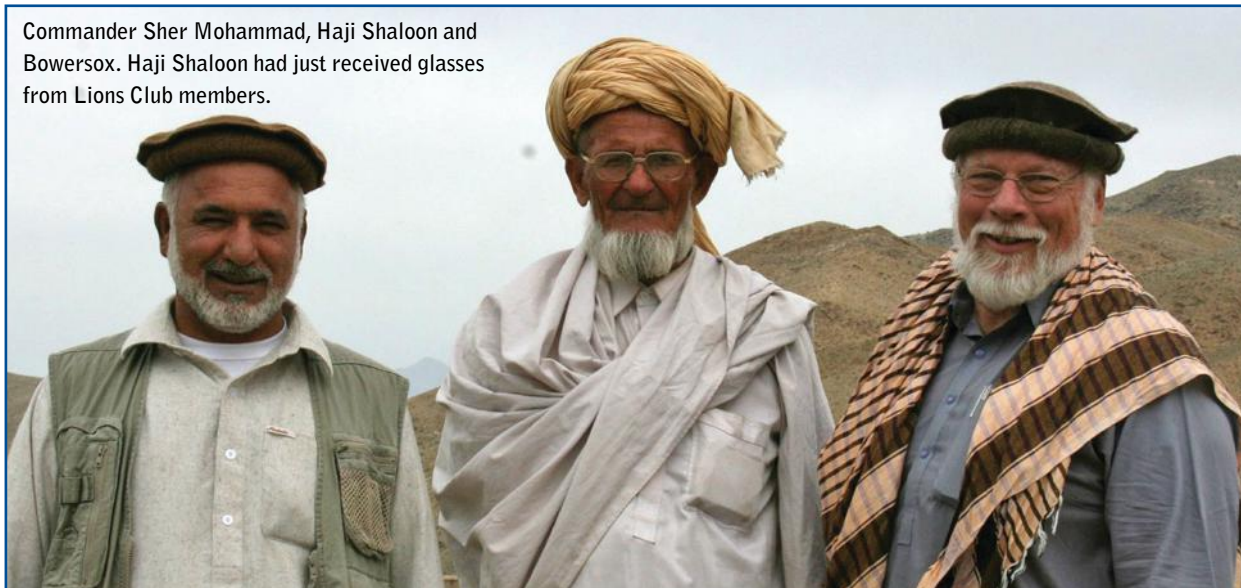
His first night in Kabul, Bowersox awoke to automatic weapon fire.



Bowersox, in turban, purchases Kunzite crystals from villagers in Bajour on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

“Despite all the hardships and dangers, I’m always aching to return and happy when I’m back.”

Commander Sher Mohammad, Haji Shaloon and Bowersox. Haji Shaloon had just received glasses from Lions Club members.



He recounts the scene in his autobiography, *The Gem Hunter—True Adventures of an American in Afghanistan*.

“Rat-a-tat-a-tat-tat! More gunfire! Automatic weapons—closer this time—no more than a block from our building. Another loud KABOOM resonated through the dark night, followed by a red glow that lit up the streets of the city.”

The Soviets were battling the Afghans.

By morning things had calmed down, but Bowersox quickly realized why he had been called to Kabul. He was there to buy lapis, and the foreign currency he offered would be used to finance the resistance against the Soviets, who officially invaded Afghanistan two months later and took over for a decade.

Things got dangerous under Soviet and later Taliban rule, yet Bowersox managed to make the right friends, sidestep politics and get back into the country time and again to buy gems.

“Despite all the hardships and dangers, I’m always aching to return and happy when I’m back,” he says.

Sept. 11th

No matter who’s been invading Afghanistan, “Mr. Gary” has remained consistent. The locals trust consistency, and in return, have protected him with their lives.

One legendary Afghan became of particular importance to Bowersox. In 1989 he met General Ahmed Shah Massoud, leader of the Northern Alliance. Massoud

fought against the Taliban, and was credited in the *Wall Street Journal* as the “Afghan who won the Cold War.” Massoud had a gem hobby and liked Bowersox because he provided jobs for his people and the profits helped to keep his resistance movement going.

“He walked six inches above the ground,” Bowersox says, who felt the loss personally when General Massoud was assassinated just days before Sept. 11, 2001.

The terrorist attacks of 9/11 shifted everything for Bowersox.

“I was doing 60 gem shows a year and every one canceled after 9/11,” Bowersox says. In 10 days, his business came to a screeching halt.

Yet another door opened. Bowersox was tapped by the U.S. Department of Defense for information about Afghanistan. He was one of few Americans who knew the topography of rural Afghanistan firsthand and had spent years mapping mines in the region.

“Gary would be one of the first people they’d pull in to identify where Bin Laden was when he’d appear on those videos,” says Bryan.

Bowersox had been contacted by the CIA throughout the years, but this was different. “They had me fly home and get my photos and my maps of Afghanistan,” he says. Bowersox briefed U.S. Defense Intelligence on General Massoud and his commanders. He gave his take on who the “good guys” were and the current political situation.

Then, Bowersox did what he always did. He returned to Afghanistan about three months after 9/11.

A Turning Point

After 9/11, areas where locals rarely see an outside visitor or aid worker became even more closed off, but Bowersox always returned.

Children run to greet him and people line up for him to a look at their stones and tell them their worth, says Bryan. Strangers have taken him into their homes, allowing him a night's rest and food.

"They view a visitor as a gift from God," explains Bowersox.

It was in his interactions with locals that a dire need caught his attention.

"I work up into the mountain areas, where they don't have any access to eye care. Someone would tell me, 'I have the perfect emerald,' and I'd take my glasses off and give them to him," he says.

The need haunted Bowersox. He was already a Rotarian and regularly distributed supplies to Afghanistan schools through his Rotary club. Who could help him with vision care?

Back in Hawaii, Bowersox called Jim Bryan and asked if he were still a member of a Lions club.

"Gary said, 'Aren't the Lions involved in eyeglasses and the blind,' and I said, 'Sure, what can I help you with?'" recalls Bryan.

Bowersox approached the

Kamehameha club about organizing and funding an eyeglass program for the people of Afghanistan. It wasn't an easy task.

"Basically, it was that Lions didn't want our members to get killed somewhere they shouldn't be," says Bryan about trying to get Lions Clubs International or LCIF to support the project. "Even our district couldn't endorse it at first."

Regardless, club members took on the project and collected 5,000 eyeglasses for the Afghan people and shipped them to Bowersox's contact in Kabul. Then came the problem of distribution. Volunteers needed to be on the ground to give out glasses in rural regions. There were no Lions in Afghanistan to partner with.

It seemed the project might stall, but Bryan started thinking.

"I'm a film producer and writer, and I thought going [to Afghanistan] could be a story of a lifetime," he says. He had just one stipulation. Bowersox had to join his Lions club.



An Afghan girl reads letters on an eye chart before receiving her eyeglasses.

Mateen Khan Jegdalek and Jim Bryan (right) of the Kamehameha Lions Club distribute eyeglasses in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's Treasure



Bowersox and Lion Shahiq Habibi, both members of the Kamehameha Club, pass out eyeglasses in Khenj village, Panjshir Valley, Afghanistan.

An Afghan man tries on eyeglasses.



"I said, if I'm going to die over there, I'm not going to die with a Rotarian, so you have to become a Lion," Bryan says, laughing. "I sponsored him into the Kamehameha Lions Club."

After six months of getting immunizations and paperwork together, the Lions set off.

A Project for the People

"The State Department told us this is totally out of the bounds of what we want Americans doing over there," recalls Bryan.

According to Bryan, the remaining Taliban fighters don't want the West to "look good" to the Afghan people, so westerners who arrive on a humanitarian mission become targets.

"The military said you guys are on your own, you're going into villages and areas where our troops never go," Bryan says. "You have to trust the local militia to take care of you."

Bowersox wasn't worried.

There's no question that he would not have survived in Afghanistan without his many strong relationships. When the turmoil was really bad, friends would help him get into Afghanistan "through the backdoor," covertly crossing the border from Pakistan. He even crossed the border in a woman's burqa once to avoid detection. For him, the trip was one of the easier ones.

Indeed, Bowersox's contacts came through and shuttled the Lions from the Kabul airport to their compound in an old pickup truck. The glasses had been shipped and stored safely. All that was left to do was to map out a distribution strategy based on which villages were safe.

Of course they hadn't advertised the eyeglass distribution, so Bryan

began to wonder how they'd find the people who needed help. Turns out, he didn't have to worry.

"You won't believe how word spread," says Bowersox. "Villagers would come out of nowhere," echoes Bryan.

Over the next four weeks, the Lions drove into a village, set up where they could, often in a clinic abandoned by another aid group, hung an eye chart and started fitting glasses on people's heads.

"We do basic trial and error over there," Bowersox says. "We just keep trying the different intensities. That's why it would be great to get an eye doctor to go with us."

"Many times we'd get in and start distributing and we'd get word that the Taliban was near and we'd pack up and have to go," recalls Bryan. "We were hop-scotching all over."

Along the way, they slept in barns or goat houses or bunkers.

Today, Bowersox estimates that about 10,000 eyeglasses have been shipped to Afghanistan. The problem of distribution still exists, but was ameliorated when the military began helping to give out glasses.

Bryan, a district officer, also inducted 10 of Bowersox's Afghan contacts into the Kamehameha Lions Club. They continue to distribute glasses sent to them by the Hawaiian club.

Looking back, Bryan is still amazed that his Lions club was able to pull off an eyeglass distribution project in rural Afghanistan.

"Here we are, this little speck of dirt in the ocean, and all the way around the world we have 10 Lions working for us in Afghanistan," says Bryan. "It's a great Lions story, but you need a Gary Bowersox to get the door open for you."



Today, Bowersox estimates that about 10,000 eyeglasses have been shipped to Afghanistan. The problem of distribution still exists, but was ameliorated when the military began helping to give out glasses.



LEOS WE LOVE

Who's faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound? That's easy. Your average teenager with his or her peers after a full night's sleep. More than half a century ago Lions concocted a brilliant scheme: direct the energy and idealism of young people toward service. We ask Leos to bend a knee to service and they often overwhelm us with a full-body leap into selfless volunteerism.

Here are nine Leos who personify service. OK, we stacked the deck just a bit. They happen to be the 2010 Leos the Year from North America. But we are confident that most Leos are similarly motivated and passionate in embracing a generous spirit. The nine may not be supermen and superwomen, but they are super.

Interviews by Cliff Terry



Georgiana Salant, 18

Encinitas, California

Encinitas Carlsbad Leo Club

Freshman at Williams College, Williamstown,
Massachusetts

Your favorite club project?

Surf for the Blind. The club and our local Lions teamed up with schools for the blind and sight-impaired and a surf school team, and taught the kids how to surf. Some are really good. It's a great, fun experience. One team in the water sends them off, and another gets them when they come to shore.

Any others?

We collected Beanie Babies, stuffed animals and toys and shipped them to our troops, so when they went into Baghdad they were able to connect with the Iraqi children by giving them these gifts.

Why do you serve?

I really like to help people. If anybody needs help with their homework, or if they're feeling down or anything, I just want to be there. So giving back to the community is a great way to work on my qualities.



Career plans?

I'm thinking of majoring in either biology or chemistry. I'm not sure whether I want to be a doctor, but I'll probably go into scientific research or work in a pharmaceutical lab.

Interests?

Playing golf. I'm on the college team. I also like to sing—pretty much anything. I did speech and debate at La Costa Canyon High School. And I like to cook. Yes, Italian food!

A favorite quote?

"Laugh, and the whole world will laugh with you." Because I have a positive outlook on life. My friends say I laugh at everything, that I'm always giggling. Which is true (laughs).



Laurel Dispenza, 17

Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Students Sharing Hearts Leo Club

Senior at Leo High School, Ft. Wayne

You're a real "Leo" person!

Yes, I'm in the Leo Club, I go to Leo High and I live on Leo Road.

Describe your club's Burn Room Project.

We talked to different Leo and Lion clubs, and

usually left with a check. The Burn Room at St. Joseph Hospital is kind of like Ronald McDonald House. If a patient is in the hospital for an extended period of time, the family has to pay for hotels. A lot of people were staying instead in the hospital lobby and on the floor. So this is a place where we can put up two families, for free, and they

have beds and showers, and a computer for updates.

What about that snowstorm?

I was asked to do a Burn Room presentation about an hour and a half away—longer in a snowstorm! I was 15, so my mom was driving. There was some kind of advisory, but I said we'd go. We almost blew off the road a couple times, but we made it, and left with a check. It was very scary.

Future plans?

I'd like to study intercultural studies in college.

A defining anecdote?

I was at the front of a cross country race, and a girl accidentally tripped me. I fell down, and five people stepped on me with their metal spikes. I went to the hospital, and now I have a scar on my arm and a scar right under my collarbone. After I fell, I waited until everyone passed me, got back up and finished with my best time to that point. So no matter what happens, just get back up and keep going.

Joli Cannon, 17

Anchorage, Alaska

Anchorage Mid-Town Leo Club

Senior at Service High School, Anchorage

Your Leo projects?

We serve lunch to the homeless at the Beans Café. However, the most rewarding for me is the food bank. We're the paperwork people. There are some families of 8 or 9. It's sad when you see children. But we know we've helped.

Are you afraid of burning out?

Sometimes, especially in the winter when you wake up and it's raining and you have to drive to the opposite side of town. But then you feel rewarded. And I'm ready for the next week.

College plans?

I'm thinking of the University of Alaska Anchorage. It has a phenomenal nursing program.

Role models?

The women in my family like my mom and my cousins. They showed me what a strong, independent woman is, and that I can accomplish whatever I want by myself.

Do you have a favorite saying?

"I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul."



Describe yourself.

Optimistic. Funny. If I'm ever disappointed, it's only going to be for a second, and I get right up again.

An important anecdote?

I used to be very shy. I was afraid to voice my opinions, even to my own family. My grandmother changed that when I was 8. We were shopping at JC Penney, and she asked me if I liked an outfit. I said, "It's OK." She told me, "If you don't speak up, we'll never go shopping again." From that moment, I've been very vocal about my opinions. My grandmother she said she created a monster!





Aaron Beaman, 19

Thornton, Texas

Kosse Leo Club

Freshman at Texas A&M

You have “goats” in your e-mail address. How come?

I showed lambs and goats in livestock shows, but mostly it's because our high school mascot is a goat, believe it or not. We're “The Goats.” Kind of ridiculous. We get made fun of a lot.

Talk about a Leo project.

We worked at a Boy Scout camp in Kansas that had been hit by a tornado. It was called the “Stars of Hope” program, and it may sound cheesy, but we cut out about 150 or 200 big wooden stars, and the Scouts wrote an inspiring word on them like “Hope” or “Love.” Then when people drove through they wouldn't feel down, that things were getting better.

A defining anecdote?

I was getting ready to go into the livestock show ring with my goats and lambs, and a girl needed help in making her animal act right. So I showed her, and it ended up that she beat me! But I had no problem with that. I just looked at it like I was a good teacher. It's like I've never expected anything in return when I do community service.

Your most significant decision?

To stay with the Leos. There was a time when I was on and off. But everything I've done with the program has helped me tremendously personally, like improving my interviewing skills.

Your biggest regret?

Not sticking it out with high school football after I injured my ankle. All the coaches and players were really upset. They said, “You seriously could have made a difference.”

Olivia Dalrymple, 18

Eldersburg, Maryland

Century Knights Leo Club

Freshman at Drexel University in Philadelphia

What were some Leo projects?

We held a car wash at a local restaurant, and gave a lot of the \$500 donation to Leader Dogs for the Blind and to the Wounded Warrior Project for veterans and their families. We also held a canned food drive for Food Sunday and Neighbors in Need.

Do you plan to continue service in college?

Yes. I'm in the nursing program at Drexel. (I'd like a career as a nurse practitioner in pediatrics.) We have a Student Nurses Association of Pennsylvania chapter. They do a lot of volunteering in hospitals and other places. And I'd like to do Habitat for Humanity in our Maryland community over spring break and a Doctors Without Borders program next summer.

Your proudest achievement?

Mostly it was giving back with the Leos. We would go Christmas caroling in nursing homes and you could just see the reaction on their faces as to how excited they were. I really embraced that kind of thing.

A revealing anecdote about yourself?

I definitely had some rough patches in my childhood. My parents had a messy divorce. There was a long custody battle. It was one of those things where I could have thrown up my hands and thought, “This is too hard.” We moved a lot and everything. But my older sister always supported me, and I stuck with school and it's great where I landed. I love Drexel and am very excited about my future. It's like overcoming my past.

Shi Hyun (Fran) Lee, 17

Vancouver, British Columbia

Vancouver West Leo Club

Grade 12 at Saint George's School, Vancouver

How did you get your nickname?

My baptismal name is St. Francis. I really wanted a unique name. I didn't see a lot of "Frans" around me. And it's not always a girl's name.

You grew up in Korea. Problems acclimating to Canada?

No. I think it's because I was the one who wanted to come to Vancouver to study. A cousin lived in Toronto, and talked about the wonderful opportunities in Canada. I came here in grade 7, and first joined a soccer camp to become involved.

Describe a Leo project.

A car wash raised \$800. It took quite a bit of time to get organized. We worked hard to coordinate with the venue, a grocery with a parking lot. Actually, washing the cars was the fun part!

Why do you like to serve?

Because we are the future leaders. So it's important that we learn how to serve others, especially because the world is becoming more and more materialistic.

Future plans?

A university in Canada or the States for business or engineering. And I'll definitely become a Lion.

Biggest regret?

I'd take a little more time with my friends. Sometimes I overload myself with work.

Favorite saying?

It's the motto of my life: "Dream lofty dreams, and as you dream, so shall you become."

Interests?

I play timpani and percussion with the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra. We were in the Vancouver Olympics closing ceremony. It was a phenomenal experience. And seeing people united as one country. You don't often see that in Canada.



Matt Metzger, 18

Monessen, Pennsylvania

Monessen Leo Club

Freshman at St. Francis University,
Loretto, Pennsylvania

What were some of your Leo projects?

We helped out at the local food bank. Families would come up and we'd get their food in order and put it into their cars or whatever they had. We did it for two years, and there was an increase in people coming in because of the economic hardships. Some people told us they thought they'd never have to go to a food bank. We also volunteered with the Salvation Army. We rang the bells around Christmastime, outside of Wal-Mart and K-Mart, and collect donations. It was fun ringing the bell.

Why do you like to serve?

I love the feeling of giving rather than receiving. It's more in my heart. I'm actively involved here at St. Francis with an organization that helps build leadership skills. I also want to start Invisible Children, which collects donations for Uganda, where there's been poverty and a 20-year civil war. We'd sponsor fund-raising dances and other activities. I'm excited about it.

Career plans?

I'm majoring in physical therapy. I'd love to work with the elderly, whether in a private clinic or in a hospital setting. My mom's been a nurse for 30 years. She's inspired me. I'm also considering doing a minor in art. It's a little hobby of mine. When I graduate, I'd like to illustrate my own medical books, like physical therapy books for kids.

How would you describe yourself?

I'm humble. Personable. Motivated. Determined.



A portrait of a young woman with long, dark, wavy hair, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a grey cardigan over a dark blue top with a white floral pattern. The background is a brick wall with some greenery visible on the left.

Luhan (Tracy) Zhou, 18

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

SALSA (Serve and Learn Student Association) Leo Club

Freshman at the University
of Rochester (New York)

Did you have trouble acclimating when your family moved from China to South Dakota?

I was only 3, so it wasn't difficult. Because I was young, I picked up English quickly.

Your most memorable Leo project?

We cleaned out things at the Heartland House, a shelter for people who recently lost their houses. Heartland has programs to help people get back on track, find jobs again, things like that. I got to know the core of what Leos is, and it just stuck with me.

Your thoughts about the Lions?

It's an amazing organization, but it needs to be more exposed to youth. I went to the Lions' youth exchange summer program in Italy. You stay with host families and get immersed in the culture. My Lions paid for half of my plane ticket. It's a great experience for those who are growing, developing and trying to figure out who they are in the world.

Career plans?

I'm potentially majoring in psychology at the University of Rochester, going into pre-med. I want to get into Doctors Without Borders, which is great for cultural learning while helping out others.

Role models?

My dad and my mom. Our life is very family-centered. I honored their traditional Chinese standards by not working in high school because they didn't want me to.

When did you get your nickname?

When we moved to the U.S. It was part of fitting in. We picked Tracy from a name book. I do like my original name, Luhan, which means "graceful." Tracy is "courageous" and "brave." I think of myself as a mixture of both.

Cleveland J. (C.J.) Jackson, 18

Donalsonville, Georgia

Seminole County Leo Club

Freshman at North Georgia College &
State University in Dahlonega

Your club volunteered at nursing homes?

We'd read books and draw with them. Some of our Leos were initially apprehensive. But I'm a certified nursing assistant, and I'd worked in nursing homes. So to me, these were my friends. I know how these older individuals act—sometimes just as weird as young people do! But we'd walk in and the residents had smiles on their faces. That's one reason I've done so much with Leos. To see those smiles.

What would you like to be doing 10 years from now?

I'm chemistry major, and plan to go to medical school and become an orthopedic surgeon, but still help as many people as I can. The only legacy I want to leave is that I helped as many as possible and never asked anything out of it.



Interests?

Music. I was the drum major in our high school band. I'd watch drum majors in college—you know, the way they lift up their knees—and I'd think, "I want to do that. But I don't want to break something!" Also, I love the outdoors. The start of the Appalachian Trail is close to our college. I've hiked some of the trail, and I'd like to do the whole thing.

Your favorite quotation?

"Carpe diem." Seize the day. I live my life that way.

Is there something you'd like to do but haven't yet?

I've always dreamed of having a record deal—you know, being a rock star.



I can accomplish
whatever I want
by myself

Town, Club Mourn Lions Couple

by Jay Copp

The call from the sheriff came on Ash Wednesday, 21 days after Lions Richard and Gladis Russell went missing from their farmhouse in Bellefontaine, Ohio.

"It was the call we were waiting for. We want Gladis back home, too," said Susan Coder, a niece of Richard.

The sheriff told Coder he believed Gladis' remains were found in a cornfield in Georgia. The body of Richard, 84, was found in late February in Tennessee. Police are questioning a Bellefontaine man in their deaths.

The Russells were well-known and well-regarded in Bellefontaine, a town of 13,000. Richard "Dick" Russell raised Hereford cattle and helped build homes as a carpenter. "They were just wonderful—very caring people," says Tom Chapman, president of the Bellefontaine Lions Club.

Russell was a member of the Bellefontaine Lions since 1970. Gladis officially joined in 1999 but was involved in club activities for many years prior to that. "They were the main people in the club. Almost everyone in the club came in after them," says Chapman.

Asked about Russell's Lions activities, Chapman says, "You name it, he did it. He could probably tell you the constitution and bylaws by heart." Russell, a past district governor, had PDG13E as his license plate number; he was a past district governor of District 13E. The Russells hosted a gala picnic every summer at their farmhouse for Lions from Bellefontaine and elsewhere.

Chapman's wife, Meredith, is a great niece of Dick, and Chapman is the seventh person connected to the Russell family to be a club president. The Chapmans stayed at the Russell farmhouse after the couple went missing to answer the phone and do what they could. "We were get-

ting calls from Florida, California, all over—people who knew them as Lions," he says.

The Russells had not attended the club meeting in January because of an ice storm. Lion Mike Coder stopped at their home after the meeting to drop off medicine. That was the last time he saw them.

"They wanted to know what happened at the meeting. They were very involved in Lions," said Coder, Susan's husband. "The Lions, especially the older ones, are taking this very hard. They're feeling very vulnerable, less secure."

The Russells had no children but were friendly with young people and others in town. One woman in her 60s reminiscing about Dick Russell with Coder recalled how he kidded around with her when she was a teen-age waitress at the local diner. "They were just very friendly people," says Coder.

Police are questioning Samuel Littleton, 37, of Bellefontaine in the Russells' deaths. They went missing the day a 26-year-old woman was found dead in a home the Russells sold to Littleton in 2009, according to news reports. Littleton was charged in her death. His pickup truck was found near the Russells' farm, and his name and cell number were discovered on a pad in the Russell home. The Russells car was missing, and in late February police arrested Littleton in West Virginia after finding the Russells' vehicle.

The Bellefontaine Lions held an impromptu meeting to share information after the Russells went missing. The club is considering a scholarship fund to honor their memory. A Lions' memorial service was also planned. "Dick had told Gladis that's what he wanted," Chapman says.

Lions in Japan Plan Long-term Recovery

by Jay Copp

Many Lions in Japan witnessed firsthand what the rest of the world saw only on television: the twisted landscape, the tattered homes and the mass of swept-aside cars, boats and everything else grotesquely upended by the earthquake and tsunami in March. Despite the horror of the disaster and their own personal losses and worries, Lions in Japan undertook relief efforts within a day of the calamity.

“What the tsunami brought made me speechless,” said 330-C District Governor Motohiro Oono. “When I called District Governor [Eigo] Tabata, his parents and relatives were missing. But his first comment to me was, ‘I must do something before many members give up being a Lion.’ ”

That didn’t happen. Lions throughout Japan collected and distributed large amounts of food, water and supplies. Clubs sent tons of rice and tens of thousands of dollars worth of baby formula and partnered with the Red Cross on blood drives. The resolve of Japanese Lions in the face of heartache was unstinting.

“I believe that Japan has the power to stand. I also believe Japanese Lions are sturdy. Japanese people can work together in this terrible time,” Past International Direc-



Lions created a map of clubs in Japan and worked with the government officials and staff of other NGOs to respond quickly and effectively to the disaster.



Natori, Miyagi lies in ruins.



tor Jitsuhiro Yamada wrote in a report to International President Sid L. Scruggs III a few days after the disaster.

The Japan Lions Office in Tokyo served as the emergency relief headquarters. Lions in Japan used social media to help manage relief efforts, and Japanese Lions huddled with government officials and leaders of NGOs shortly after the disaster to coordinate assistance.

Working through LCIF, Lions throughout the world will help Japan recover. LCIF mobilized US\$6 million as of press time (late March). That includes US\$3 million Lions in Japan expect to raise and US\$1.25 million in LCIF grants.

As Lions elsewhere have responded to other major disasters, Lions in Japan will embark on a long-range plan to recover and rebuild. Japanese Lions themselves have experience in disaster recovery. Following the Kobe earthquake in 1994, Lions helped rebuild a home for mothers and children, developed a guide dog center and provided other substantial assistance.

Japan has 107,000 Lions. The largest city affected by the quake, Sendai has 31 clubs. To distribute aid effectively, Lions quickly set up four relief aid warehouses in the affected areas. Multiple District 330 coordinated relief efforts across the eight multiple districts in Japan. LCIF dispatched 100 relief tents.

Lions in Japan helped in multiple ways. In devastated Miyagi, Lions served homemade potato stew to 100 senior citizens. In District 330-C, Lions provided bath service for 3,000 evacuees in Saitama Super Arena. Many of the evacuees were from Fukushima near the damaged nuclear plants. Thirty Lions staffed four hot springs facilities. "The evacuees' faces before and after they enjoy a hot bath look completely different. They say they now feel alive again after a relaxing bath," said Yasuhisa Nakamura, second vice district governor of 330-C.

Members of the Sabae Ohzan Lions Club donated 250 sets of cardboard dividers to provide a measure of privacy for evacuees in gyms and community centers. The club decided to act after seeing the condition of evacuees on TV; members used the Internet to find evacuees in need. Five Lions drove a truck nine hours to deliver the dividers and other supplies to Tamura City Lions in Fukushima.

Kinomoto Lions from District 335-C collected and delivered a 10-ton truckload of emergency supplies to the district governor and Lions of District 332-D in Fukushima. The truck included 3,500 servings of instant noodles, 2,400 two-liter bottles of beverages, 5,000 diapers, 1,650 boxes and 1,000 pocket packs of Kleenex, 1,500 disposable hand warmers, 400 cans of food, 300 servings of

Lions in Japan Plan Long-term Recovery



The Tendo Maizuru Lions Club distributed Japan's traditional potato stew to evacuees in Shiogama, Miyagi.

instant miso soup and 12,000 pairs of disposable chop sticks. Also in the truck were buckets, blankets, kerosene and other goods.

In Tachikawa, 36 Lions stood outside the train station to collect donations from commuters. The club gathered 3 million yen (US\$35,000) in eight hours.

Lions in Japan collaborated on LionNet Japan to send 6,000 two-liter bottles of water and packs of energy-supplement food to Hitachi City. The main donor was LionNet member Takao Kotani of Hokkaido, who owns a mineral water company.

The death toll from the disaster was expected to exceed 18,000. More than 400,000 people were left homeless. The televised scenes of destruction moved Lions worldwide to collect funds to aid in the recovery. In Mayne Island, British Columbia, Canada, Lions felt particularly close to the disaster because of the club's connections to Japan. One member is from Japan. The Japanese son-in-law of Lion John Glover lives in Japan. The club maintains a Japanese garden near Glover's home. "My wife and I go there almost every day to sit and contemplate life. Now we have a double reason to do this as we ponder the welfare of the people of Japan," Glover said.

Glover, who once worked for Atomic Energy of Canada, also was particularly concerned about the dangers posed by the spread of radiation from the damaged nuclear power plants. "I know the details about radiation issues," he said. "I plan to think positively and hold up the survivors of this dreadful disaster in my prayers. And lament the loss of life."

The disaster also hit close to home at LCI headquarters. Japanese translators have family in Japan. Also, LCIF's Norio Tanabe, who normally raises money for disaster relief around the world from Asian countries, grew up in Kesennuma in Miyagi Province. He told a local news crew, "I saw my town, where I was born, and (there was a) big fire. ... I think surely everything is gone." Tanabe still has family in Kesennuma but was unable to reach them. He does not plan to return to his hometown. "I want to remember it the way it was," he told a TV station in Chicago.

For Lions in Japan, the assistance from members worldwide was heartening. "The full support from Lions Clubs International and our friends all over the world encourage me a great deal. Thank you very much," said Tsugumichi Hata, a past district governor from Sendai City.

Kinomoto Lions collected and delivered a 10-ton truckload of emergency supplies.



Lions in New Zealand Buffer the Shock

After a massive earthquake shook the city in February, Lions in Christchurch went door to door with food, water, vouchers and even bakery treats. Faced with damaged homes, lost jobs and uncertain futures, residents gratefully accepted the donated goods and welcomed the chance to vent and share their story.

"When you don't have running water or a toilet and the portaloos [portable toilets] are few and far between, tempers do get thin," says Raewyn Clearwater, 202 E district governor in Christchurch, New Zealand. "People were very appreciative of what we were doing. ... People just want to talk. They've been stranded with no one to talk to and feel alone."

The 6.3-magnitude earthquake devastated Christchurch, the nation's second-largest city with 400,000 residents. At least 150 people were killed and hundreds more injured. Thousands were homeless.

Lions and Lions Clubs International Foundation have been providing relief. LCIF awarded US\$110,000 to aid Lions in their relief efforts. US\$10,000 was used for immediate emergency relief supplies and a US\$100,000 major catastrophe grant was approved to aid longer-term efforts.

LCIF Chairperson Eberhard J. Wirfs visited Christchurch in March to express support and assist relief efforts. He also met with Red Cross officials. Lions in New Zealand and the Red Cross are partnering on Operation Suburb to canvass neighborhoods to assess need and provide supplies.

Lions in New Zealand served in multiple ways following the earthquake:

- Staffed water stations
- Delivered 500 portable toilets to households in the eastern suburbs
- Volunteered at welfare centers in Christchurch and Timaru
- Created "Adopt-a-Lion" program to call and visit Lions and community members in need
- Raised \$34,000 during a weekend fundraiser
- Delivered meals through a food caravan in Christchurch and donated food for cooking
- Delivered a 40,000-liter tanker of fresh water to the suburbs
- Provided weekend breaks to families to escape from the city for two days

Lions from outside Christchurch traveled to the city to deliver food, assist cleanup operations and hold dinners for displaced families.



Lions serve after the earthquake.



LCIF Chairperson Eberhard J. Wirfs stands outside a damaged building in Christchurch.

From Despair to Progress

Massachusetts Lion-Doctor Sees Improvement in Haiti

by Jay Copp

A year after he spent two weeks in Haiti treating wounds, helping patients with horrific injuries that required amputations, and navigating a crisis of chaos and despair after the earthquake, Dr. David Mudd returned to Haiti with a sense of dread. “I was expecting things to be grim,” said Mudd, president of the medical staff at Good Samaritan Hospital in Brockton, Massachusetts.

Mudd returned to Sacre-Coeur, a charity hospital 70 miles north of Port-au-Prince, in January. He was astonished. New solar panels powered the water purification systems and oxygen concentrators for operating rooms. An empty lot near the hospital now housed a prosthetics lab ingeniously built from shipping containers. Mudd’s former translator, Patrick, now directs the lab and the Haitian is “incredibly proud” of the more than 100 sophisticated prosthetic limbs the lab has made.

Just two of the 360 patients who had been at the hospital a year ago remained as patients. A cholera epidemic was sweeping the country in January, but only 20 of the hospital’s 1,100 cholera patients died.

Haiti remains appallingly impoverished. People live in one-room cinderblock homes with dirt floors and open-air windows. Sewage flows in makeshift culverts along dusty roads. Haitians scramble to feed themselves; scrawny vegetable plots grow outside many homes. Jobs are few. Each day a hundred people or so ask the hospital director for work.

But the deluge of volunteers and monetary aid has made a difference. Lions have been part of the massive relief effort. Mudd is a member of the Easton Lions Club. He brought medical and surgical supplies with him to Haiti and items such as clothing, toothpaste and soap. His club donated some of the items and provided funds for supplies.

(In addition to the aid provided by Lions clubs and individual Lions such as Mudd, LCIF has provided large-scale relief to Haitians including building provisional houses for 600 families.)

A Lion for five years, Mudd initially resisted the invitation of longtime Lion Lee Williams to join. “I told him, ‘I’m a doctor. I don’t have the time.’ He said, ‘If we see you once a year, that’s OK,’ ” recalls Mudd.

Dr. David Mudd meets a woman he treated a year ago who had been near death after being trapped in rubble for seven days.



The more Mudd learned about the club the more joining appealed to him. The club's impact on Easton was broad and deep. Its 169 members did everything from building an ice skating rink to holding a holiday festival to running an auction on television. In 2008, the club was named the outstanding Lions club at the international convention in Bangkok. "I have never encountered a group of people like this. They have no ulterior motives," said Mudd. "There were a lot of high-powered people in the club—business owners, lawyers. If they could do it, why couldn't I?"

Last January Mudd spent two weeks in Haiti shortly after the earthquake, which killed an estimated 300,000 people and left more than 1 million homeless. The scope of the devastation was almost beyond comprehension, says Mudd. "It was all-encompassing. When an earthquake hits somewhere, the rest of the country is intact. The army and medical places are still functioning. This was as if the whole country was decimated," he says.

Sacre-Coeur hospital is run by the Crudem Foundation. Dr. Peter Kelly, an ophthalmologist from Wilbraham, Massachusetts, heads the foundation.

Literally overnight, thanks to MASH tents, volunteers transformed the 70-bed hospital into a 350-bed trauma center. A war-time atmosphere gripped the hospital. Helicopters ferried in scores of patients in danger of dying. The medical teams amputated 350 limbs and saved many lives

"It was like the *MASH* TV show. When you heard the choppers, you had five minutes to get the landing field," says Mudd, who toiled for 18 to 20 hours a day with short breaks for



Helping in Haiti were (from left) Caroline Mudd, Gusty Saintiche, David Mudd and Jeremy Mudd, David and Caroline's son.

meals. "It was the closest anyone can get to being a Civil War doctor. The conditions were primitive."

Mudd returned to Haiti with his wife, Caroline, a nurse practitioner; his son, Jeremy, a pre-med student at Harvard; and a Haitian nurse practitioner student.

The condition of many patients was "heartbreaking," says Caroline Mudd, an OB-GYN nurse. "The women are severely malnourished. There was a woman with a little tummy. There was no way she was seven months pregnant [but she was]," says Caroline Mudd.

Patients must be treated without procedures common in developed nations such as mammograms and pap smears. When sophisticated equipment is available, it often can't be used because lack of upkeep or supplies. "There was an ultrasound machine. We couldn't use the probe because

there were no wrappers. It wasn't sterile," she says.

The Haitians awaiting treatment sit for hours in the hot sun without complaint. "They are the most gracious, patient, uplifting, spiritual people I have ever met. They are just so kind and sweet and appreciative," she says.

Dr. Mudd's best moment came when he met a woman he had treated a year ago. She had been crushed under a building for seven days and was near death. Her horribly mangled leg had been amputated. When Mudd first saw her again, she walked into the clinic on a new prosthetic leg. She smiled from ear to ear at him.

"That was one of the highlights of my life," says Mudd.



Tom Peoples (left) and Vic Crabtree demonstrate an old-time apple press during the 2010 apple festival in Versailles, Missouri. The cider-making demonstration is an annual project of the Gravois Mill Lions Club.

To Serve and Protect

Clubs Preserve History by Safeguarding Landmarks, Saving Memories and Cherishing the Past

by Lauren Williamson

Reel History

Neil Ashbaugh sat down with his wife, Jill, to watch some old films of their town commissioned by the Butler Lions Club between 1939 and 1940. They expected a quiet evening of nostalgia, but what they got was far more meaningful.

“Oh my God,” Jill said. “That’s my great-grandfather.”

The 10 reels had been stored in Lion Jim Sweezy’s attic for decades, pulled out and occasionally played piecemeal for church functions or other community events in the Pennsylvania town. But after Sweezy passed away, the Butler Lions Club took ownership of the films. On his first viewing of them, Ashbaugh immediately knew what a treasure the club had.

“The idea of this history sitting in someone’s house, let alone someone’s attic is just silly,” he says. “I wanted to get [the films] out.”

Along with the surprise scene of Jill’s great-grandfather, the films show city police parading down the street on their motorcycles, streams of people leaving church on Sunday

morning and striking shots of the Pullman car factory that was once central to Butler’s economy. Jill’s great-grandfather wasn’t the only family member to make an appearance—she also saw her grandmother as a child leaving school.

There’d been talk in the past about copying the reels to VHS, but the cost was always prohibitive. Now, cheaper technologies, however, finally put the cost of the project within reach. Ashbaugh, along with fellow Lion John Herzog, worked with local film-transfer business Frames & Pixels in 2009 to digitize, edit and copy the films to DVD. Elderly Butler residents who lived in town during the time, including a woman who was the main contributor to the Butler Blind Society, narrated the footage with their memories. Ashbaugh and a few other Lions dressed up in fedoras, trench coats and skinny ties to film an introduction and conclusion to the film. Once complete, the club sold the two-and-a-half-hour-long DVD, “Butler 1940: The Lions Club Films,” as a fundraiser. The cost was \$25.

The response couldn’t have been better.

“We’ve gotten letters saying, ‘If you want to see history, that’s the way to get it,’” Ashbaugh says. “It’s a real American pie story.”

One day Ashbaugh hopes to expand the project beyond the original films to a 50-year retrospective of life in Butler. And he knows there’s a market for it because the first film captivated two of the harshest critics.

“My 12- and 13-year-old boys were mesmerized,” he says.

Back to School

As a child, Yellow Springs Lions Club President Mike Main just missed out on the chance to attend the old two-room school in Yellow Springs, Maryland. It closed in 1942, the year before he started elementary school, which meant the town instead bussed him to a larger school in Frederick.

But in a reversal of history, Main is now a regular visitor to the schoolhouse, which rests on 23 picturesque acres. The Lions club bought the school from the Yellow Springs Community Association in 1960, transforming it into a clubhouse for their monthly meetings.

Aside from adding a kitchen and tearing down the wall that separated the schoolhouse into its two rooms, the Yellow Springs Lions have almost entirely preserved the school's appearance. It looks very much like an old schoolhouse with red brick, stone steps and compact schoolrooms. Built in 1885, the building housed classes for second and third graders in one room and fourth, fifth and sixth graders in the other.

"[The club] decided years ago to restore it and keep it as much like the original as they could," says Main, noting that some club members took out mortgages on their own homes to buy the schoolhouse.

The school can hold about 100 people, which comes in handy for the weekly Bingo games the club hosts to help fund the building's upkeep. Other groups can rent the schoolhouse or a neighboring pavilion, which also helps cover building maintenance.

Whether it's mowing the lawn, painting a windowsill or doing some carpentry, Lions complete most of the building maintenance themselves. The club also hosts an annual clean-up night when everyone pitches in on routine care. The next major project will be a new roof.

"Not too many Lions clubs have their own facility," Main says.

"We're really lucky to have a nice facility right here."

Still Chugging Along

In the late 1940s the Freedom Train crisscrossed America. Millions gaped at original versions of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. In 1975 and 1976, to celebrate America's Bicentennial, the American Freedom Train toured the country. This time the train also displayed America's cultural heritage: Dorothy's dress from the *Wizard of Oz*, Joe Frazier's boxing trunks and the pulpit of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

One of the cars from the second Freedom Train now serves as a clubhouse for a Lions club. In Canada.

The Squamish Lions Club in British Columbia bought the car in 2000, housing it in the town's West Coast Railway Heritage Park. The Freedom Train's hospitality car, built in 1922, had served as the office for AFT foundation executives. The foundation sold the car to the

BC Rail (formerly known as the British Columbia Railway) in 1978, where it continued to ride the rails for another couple of decades—and even make an appearance in a 1996 episode of the TV show, *The Sentinel*.

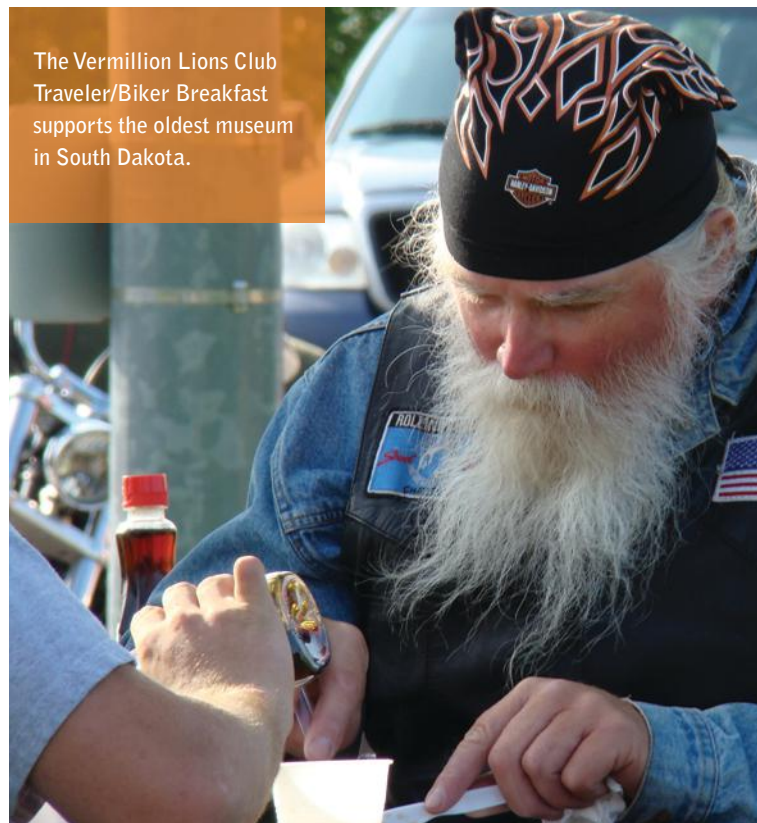
Aside from changing the outside paint colors and adding air conditioning and heat, two-time past club president Dave Thethi says the car's appearance is virtually identical to its mid-70s heyday.

The car is still fully functioning, though it is no longer in active service. Instead, it serves primarily as the meeting place for the Squamish Lions, who repaint it every two years and hope to build a cover to protect it from the elements.

Visitors to the railway park can arrange for guided tours. The park frequently serves drinks from the bar-equipped car during special occasions.

Though it has been in Canada for more than three decades, fans in the U.S. still dream of the car returning to its roots. Canadian Lions aren't selling. "Some people from the U.S. are interested [in buying it]," Thethi says. "But we want to keep it for the Lions club. It's pretty hard to get a unique car like that."

The Vermillion Lions Club
Traveler/Biker Breakfast
supports the oldest museum
in South Dakota.





Lions in Pawling, New York, sold chickens to transform a farm into a park.

Sweet Secret

The Gravois Arm Lions Club has a secret. Each year at the Olde Tyme Apple Festival in Versailles, Missouri, the club sells about 140 gallons of cider it gets from Stephenson's Apple Orchard in Kansas City. While that cider is delicious, it's not the best cider available.

The best batch is squeezed from an antique mechanical apple press the club received as a gift from the late Charlie Page, an international director from 1969-71. Every year the club hauls the press to the apple festival to demonstrate the old-fashioned mechanics. But because the fresh-pressed cider doesn't meet the area's health codes, the club can't sell it. Members quickly squirrel it away in jugs underneath the table where they can sneak a few sips for themselves.

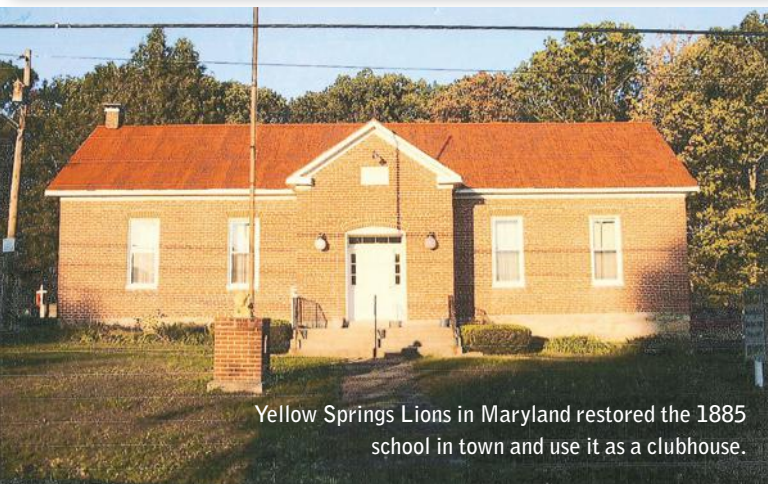
But the club members aren't the only ones who know it's there.

"A 95-year-old lady came up to the table one year and said, 'Where's the good stuff?'" says club spokesperson Elaine Rankin. "We told her we couldn't sell it. Then she slapped down \$10, reached under the table and grabbed a jug."

Lion Tom Peoples stores and maintains the press. Most of the year it rests dismantled into dozens of pieces. The weekend of the apple festival, which usually falls in late September, Peoples loads the press into his trailer and drives it to Versailles for the 5 a.m. set-up time.

Member-at-large Bill Dolstein has his own 1800s-era apple press that he and his wife, Marian, bought at an auction decades ago. For the past 18 years, he's brought his hand-crank press to the festival as a companion to the mechanical one.

Peoples and Dolstein drive to Stephenson's the day before the weekend-long festival to pick up the cider the club sells, as well as the 10 bushels of apples that they use to demonstrate the press. Even though the club can't sell the cider produced by the press, members make sure the other parts of the apples don't go to waste. Crushed apple cores are used to feed deer.



Yellow Springs Lions in Maryland restored the 1885 school in town and use it as a clubhouse.



Butler 1940: The Lions Club Films



Digitally Re-mastered From The Original 16mm Films
Approx. Feature Running Time 2 Hours 30 Minutes



The Butler Lions' film of their town 70 years ago captures the precious past.

The press has become a crowd favorite at the festival, which attracts more than 30,000 visitors each fall. Rankin says men and children in particular get a kick out of the bone-rattling noise the press makes when its up and running.

“It’s a man thing,” a laughing Rankin says.

Iron Will

One morning last year, drivers passing by city hall in Bonners Ferry, Idaho, encountered a perplexing site. Overnight, as if by magic, a two-ton iron wheel appeared where only a few concrete pillars stood the day before.

Sitting off to the side of the road, members of the Bonners Ferry Lions Club could only laugh—not just at the drivers’ bewildered expressions but also out of pure joy over the massive task they’d just completed.

The 1906 Pelton wheel, a water turbine that helped power the first electric plant in Bonners Ferry, had lain rusting and neglected in a city yard for nine decades. But the wheel got a second lease on life in the spring of 2010

when club secretary Cal Russel, seeking a new Lions project, approached the Bonners Ferry city council. Ten years ago, the club built a heliport for the local hospital. Club members were now itching to tackle another highly visible, large-scale project.

The council told Russel about the wheel’s history—how it came to Bonners Ferry in 1906, first generating electricity and later powering running water into town—and he was sold.

“The fact that the city had saved it for nearly 100 years was pretty amazing,” he says. “Somebody had some forethought. That spurred me into action.”

The club started the project in May 2010, with the finishing touches put into place at the end of September. Twenty-two people—mostly Lions—volunteered a total of 192 man hours digging the foundation, pouring concrete and hauling the colossal wheel, which is 10 feet in diameter. Trucks from Russel’s own tractor company did the excavation and heavy lifting of the wheel.

All the hard work paid off with a dedication ceremony in October. The wheel now marks the gateway to Bonners Ferry. “The first electricity in a town is a milestone, and this wheel was the means for [the electricity’s] generation,” Russel says. “Now all these talents came together—everybody’s tickled at the result.”

Pancakes for Preservation

There aren’t too many pancake breakfasts that end with a tattoo-counting contest. But that’s exactly what happened at the last Vermillion Lions Club Traveler/Biker Breakfast, held the same August weekend as a popular motorcycle rally in Sturgis, South Dakota.

The annual fundraiser, in its fifth year, supports Vermillion’s W.H. Over Museum, the oldest museum in South Dakota. The state stopped funding the museum in 1997, leaving the board of directors responsible for drumming up the cash to maintain the irreplaceable collection. The museum houses one of the best collections of Native American artifacts in the world, as well as a learning center dedicated to explorers Lewis and Clark.

“Chief Flipper” Sid Davis devised the plan for the breakfast and works the griddle. The club hauls all of the supplies for making pancakes, plus sides such as bacon and orange juice, to a rest stop off of Interstate 29. There



A car from the American Freedom Train serves as the clubhouse for a Canadian Lions club.



A 1906 water turbine greets visitors in Bonners Ferry, Idaho.

they serve more than 400 pancakes a day over the course of the four-day rally weekend. This year the club raised \$2,000 for the museum, which also serves as the club's meeting space.

"It's really a heartwarming experience," says Vermillion Lion Maxine Johnson, a member of the museum's board of directors.

The breakfast has become a standing destination for many rally-goers, some traveling from as far away as Poland. One couple said it's the only time they eat pancakes all year.

Last year the state tried to halt the breakfast, but the Lions launched a letter-writing campaign until they reinstated the appropriate permissions. With moxie like that, the Vermillion Lions might just be tougher than the bikers who enjoy their breakfast—tattoos or not.

Investing in the Past

Legendary journalist Edward R. Murrow covered the bombing of London during World War II and then later helped discredit Sen. Joseph McCarthy. He's remembered in Pawling, New York, where he lived and died in 1965—thanks to determined Lions who sold barbecue chickens by the side of the road years ago.

Lions dedicated Edward R. Murrow Park on May 23, 1965, less than a month after he died. The club had raised money to purchase the historic 80-acre Burr Farm and turn it into the town's only park.

The Lions first began raising money by sitting tirelessly by the side of the road, Sunday after Sunday, selling half-chickens at \$1 a pop to passersby. But there was still a long way to go, and the Lions were starting to give up hope.

Ralph Lankler, the minister at the local church, gave the club the push it needed to continue.

"He said, 'You have a chance to change history,'" says John Thomes, former president of the Pawling club.

Thomes, whose father was president of the club in the mid-1960s, used to listen in on meetings while doing his homework. He recalls that minister's speech to the club in 1965 as a turning point for the project.

The club took out a mortgage to buy the \$40,000 farm. Shortly thereafter, as if by a miracle, an excavation on the property uncovered a natural spring filled with gravel. A local contractor agreed to dig a pond for swimming and ice-skating—a highlight of the park—in exchange for the gravel. Murrow's widow also donated \$1,200 to help fund the project.

The park was popular from day one. Pawling's townspeople put on clambakes in the summer and rode sleighs across the fields in winter. Hikers off the Appalachian Trail would rest at a lean-to on the property where they could shower for 50 cents and get a steak dinner in exchange for doing the dishes. Several Lions lived in a historic barn on the property, serving as the park's caretakers.

Pawling bought the park from the Lions 12 years ago on one condition—that the Lions would always have a place to meet. A red brick pavilion built 45 years ago for the Pawling Lions' meetings remains the club's home today.

"Most of those men [who created the park] are gone now," Thomes says. "But those who are still here can be very proud of the sacrifices the men made to buy this property."

Generous Lions Make LCIF A Global Leader

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is a global leader in humanitarian service, awarding more than \$708 million since its founding in 1968. Lions around the world enable LCIF to improve the lives of millions. Lions are inspired to donate to LCIF different reasons, but they share a spirit of generosity and service. Here are a few Lions who have made contributing to LCIF an important part of their lives. We thank them, and we thank you—Lions who have given. Donations to LCIF rose by nearly \$2 million over the last year.

Ron & Betty Jean (BJ) Finlay: Giving is Better Than Receiving

Huron Shores Lions Club
District A9, Ontario, Canada

When Ron and BJ Finlay celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends, their commitment to LCIF took center stage. “We asked for donations instead of any gifts. We were amazed at the amount donated, and we proudly presented three Melvin Jones Fellowship recognitions to deserving Lions,” BJ Finlay said. “LCIF has always appealed to us because we are able to do so much for so many and every cent we send to LCIF goes to doing just that.”

Isamu Arino: Giving Back After Regaining Sight

Miki Chou Lions Club
District 335-D, Japan

About 15 years ago, Isamu Arino was relaxing at home when suddenly his eyesight became blurry. He was diagnosed with a cerebral hemorrhage caused by diabetes. After spending a year without sight and enduring two operations, he regained his vision. Filled with appreciation, Arino wanted to share his gratitude and help others, so he became a Lion.

Arino participated in many Lions’ activities and after visiting LCIF-funded earthquake recovery projects in India, he decided to donate \$1,000 to LCIF every month until he reaches the top level of the Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship of \$100,000.

How does he do it? “I do my monthly PMJF donation by scrimping on my salary. Growing up, my family was poor and I was not able to go to high school. I am now happy that this once poor boy can now help people in need through LCIF!”



Isamu Arino personally visited several projects LCIF and Japanese Lions have supported in Asia, which has compelled him to donate \$1,000 monthly.



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**

Carlos Justiniano made several trips to Haiti to help oversee relief efforts.

**Carlos Justiniano:
Lions are Family**
Mayaguez Lions Club
District 51-O, Puerto Rico

After many years as a Lion, Carlos Justiniano became familiar with LCIF's work while serving as district governor and as international director. "During a visit to Kenya, I saw with my own eyes people who walked 20 to 30 miles to get assistance at the Lions hospital there. The gratitude in their smiles convinced me of the importance of LCIF."

Inspired to do more for LCIF, Justiniano became a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow (PMJF). After giving an initial \$1,000 donation to become a Melvin Jones Fellow, Lions can extend their commitment with additional US\$1,000 PMJF gifts up to \$100,000.

Because he wants other Lions to join the three generations of his family who are now MJFs, Justiniano has even helped several other Lions reach this goal by donating \$200 toward their MJFs. "I believe that a Lion is a more complete part of the Lion family when he or she is a Melvin Jones Fellow," he said.

**Milagros Fiorela Sanchez
Mogollon:
A Young Lions Leader**
Chiclayo Los Parques Leo Club
District H-1, Chiclayo, Peru

"I believe that each one of us can make a contribution if we put our mind to it. It is up to each of us who is able to contribute for those who cannot," says Leo Milagros Fiorela Sanchez Mogollon. Currently studying to become a dentist, Mogollon managed to save enough of the tips she earns at her job to make a \$1,000 donation to LCIF and become a Melvin Jones Fellow (MJF). She proves



that no matter what age or where in the world Leos and Lions live, they can help sustain LCIF's work. "I would like to challenge all Lions to contribute to LCIF. If I can gather enough money for a donation, anyone can."

**Gabriele Sabatosanti
Scarpelli: Bringing Fun and
Service Together**
Genova Porto Antico Lions Club
District 108-IA2, Italy

With the goal of raising \$200 million, Campaign SightFirst II (CFSII) was Lions' most ambitious fundraising campaign ever. Scarpelli's Lions club was up for the challenge. In true Lions fashion, his club found ways to have fun while giving to those in need. Club members worked together to organize a Mediterranean cruise, two regattas, card tournaments and lotteries. The club raised \$42,000 and recognized each club member with a MJF.

Scarpelli and his fellow Lions know that their hard work to raise funds will help many people; on average, just \$6 results in someone having their vision restored. His club plans to continue its efforts to support LCIF. "Through LCIF it is possible to realize large-scale service and achieve goals that were unattainable with the individual resources," he said.

**Joe Gragg: A Humble Man
Makes a Lasting Tribute**

Sometimes generosity outlives the Lion. In August 2010, the world lost Joe Gragg, a member of the Palestine Lions Club in Texas. His dedication to helping others will carry on far into the future with the gift of his estate to LCIF.

Gragg, an electrical engineer, was a model Lion and citizen. He quietly left his estate of more than \$3 million to LCIF, with no recognition requested. He knew his hard-earned assets would be used solely for others; every dollar donated to LCIF goes toward a grant. Millions of people will have Gragg to thank for their sight, shelter, health and many other gifts.

There are multiple ways to give to LCIF, and if Lions choose, they may make a bequest, beneficiary designation or endowed gift. Although LCIF cannot thank Gragg personally, LCIF will honor him with every dollar that goes to someone in need.

Lions are united in their common bond of reaching out to help people, whether they are next door or halfway around the world. Lions' donations to LCIF go where they are most needed, to help the most people. There are many ways to give; please visit LCIF's new Web site at www.lcif.org to find out more. Or contact the LCIF Donor Services Department at donorassistance@lcif.org or (630) 468-6872.

Ten Questions for Philanthropist Aruna Oswal

With the largest, single personal donation in LCIF's 40-year history, Aruna A. Oswal and her family have the potential to save the sight of as many as 500,000 people. In April 2008, she pledged \$3 million to Campaign SightFirst II in order to help continue and expand the SightFirst program. This year, she gave more than \$1 million toward that commitment. Additionally, she gave the largest individual donation for Haiti disaster relief and other disaster relief donations. A past district governor, Oswal is a member of the Lions Club of Juhu in Mumbai, India.

Why is LCIF important?

I have been a Lion for 21 years, and I have observed Lions activities globally, including disaster relief for the tsunami, Pakistan and many more. I am very much convinced that the Foundation is carrying out excellent services. I look at LCIF as being associated with the Lions, and I am very impressed with the activities of LCIF.

Why did you contribute to LCIF?

I gave my donation to Campaign SightFirst II when I was serving as a coordinator for CSFII. I had the opportunity to work with Lions leaders and business corporations. I relayed to them the importance of donations, and they came forward immediately for this noble cause. I convinced them that LCIF is working only for humanity with no administrative costs. I was able to collect US\$4.6 million with the help of my Lions leaders.

How has your donation inspired others to give?

The donation of \$3 million came from my family, and this inspired all of India.

I am very happy to currently serve as an LCIF coordinator so that I can help to contribute even more through my time and increasing awareness.

How has your philanthropy inspired your family?

My daughter and husband in their own way have been inspired. They have adopted some poor rural villages—providing education and medical facilities, meeting needs of daily life, giving them food, providing a better life. In every area Lions are also doing the same work. My daughter is doing a lot of activities. Apart from Lions, I am also doing a lot of other activities in other communities. We are building shelter homes, homes for mothers and hospitals. We have been doing this for so many years. Many in my family are Lions also.

What other projects have you supported?

I have supported many disaster relief efforts such as in Haiti and Pakistan. Following the typhoon in Orissa, my family personally helped them for more than one year. We provided people with food, clothes. We adopted so many orphanages, and rebuilt schools and colleges.

What projects are you most passionate about?

Women empowerment programs, help for widows, SightFirst activities, help for children. Aside from Lions, I am associated with other efforts.

What projects would you like to see LCIF develop?

I am most interested in programs to address hunger. Whatever programs the



Aruna Oswal addresses other donors at the LCIF Donor Reception at the international convention.

Foundation will take up in the future, I will look into them and I am sure we will be most interested to associate ourselves with them.

Why should Lions support LCIF?

Involvement and participation are most important, and we must continue to partner with corporations. I would like to help the Foundation associate with more corporations.

What would you say to corporations to encourage them to partner with LCIF?

Lions are in more than 200 countries with a very large network. We are dedicated and devoted to the cause of service. Lions carry out a lot of activities. Being in the corporate section, they can do justice with their funds.

Why are you proud to be a Lion?

Passion for service has made me join Lions, and it must be continued. We can all be proud of that service.

Ireland

12 Days

Travel with other Lions departing September 8, 2011

from **\$1558***

Visit the best of Ireland on this comprehensive tour of both Northern and Southern Ireland, visiting all the major highlights.

Start in Dublin with an included city tour including Trinity College (housing the Book of Kells), Dublin Castle, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rock of Cashel, Cork, Blarney Castle, Blarney Stone, Killarney (boat cruise), Kenmare, and Tralee. Drive the "Ring of Kerry" and tour the restored Guinness Mansion, and Bunratty Castle, built in 1425. Travel the coast of Galway, tour the Bunratty Castle (built in 1425), Limerick, visit the Cliffs of Moher, Kylemore Abbey, and Sligo. Tour Belleek Pottery, Enniskillen, Ulster, Belfast, The Giant's Causeway and more. Fly home from Dublin. Includes 16 meals.

Greece & the Aegean Islands

13 Days

Join other Lions departing September 14, 2011

from **\$1458***

Designed for the first time visitor – see all the highlights in one vacation! Start in ancient Athens; visit the Parliament, Hadrian's Arch, Parthenon, Acropolis, Corinth Canal, Epidaurus, Olympia, and village of Mystras with its Byzantine citadel. Tour colorful Greek villages like Tripoli and Sparta. Explore the Olympia Archaeological Site, Temple of Zeus, Olympic Stadium, and museum of Olympia. Drive along the Gulf of Corinth to Delphi (tour museum) and visit the Temple of Apollo and Doric Temple and Theatre.

Sail to the three incredible islands of Mykonos, Delos, and Santorini, complete with quality hotels and lots of sightseeing.

New Mexico Hot Air Balloon Fiesta + Arizona

14 Days

Join other Lions departing October 4, 2011

from **\$1448***

Start in Phoenix, AZ and take the scenic drive north to Sedona, Oak Creek Canyon and Flagstaff. Tour the Grand Canyon, Painted Desert, Petrified Forest, and spend two nights in Albuquerque. Witness the famed hot air balloons' "Mass Ascension" opening Albuquerque's Hot Air Balloon Fiesta, plus the evening's "After Glow", and spectacular fireworks. Next, tour more of New Mexico including Pueblo archeological sites; Manhattan Project's Los Alamos; Santa Fe; Roswell; the International UFO Museum & Research Center; Carlsbad Caverns National Park; Ruidoso; Alamogordo; White Sands National Park, Missile Range and Museum; and Las Cruces, NM. Travel east, back into Arizona, and visit Wyatt Earp's Tombstone (see the OK Corral), and spend a night in Tucson touring the Mission as part of your city tour. Travel back to Phoenix for your final two nights, and city tour, and optional Hot Air Balloon Ride or visit to the famed Desert Botanical Garden.

Hawaiian Kings Tour

15-Days

Join other Lions departing November 3, 2011

from **\$1768***

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!

Rose Parade Tour + Vegas

10 Days

Travel with other Lions departing December 30, 2011

from **\$1298***

Get away from the colder weather during the first week in January, avoid the post-holiday blahs, and enjoy the best New Year's Eve and New Year's Day you have had in years! Start in Los Angeles (4 nights) with a city tour of L.A., Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and an exclusive, pre-parade, after public hours, float building and viewing at the Floats and Flowers Expo. Watch the artists put the finishing touches on the floats unencumbered by public crowds! On Monday, January 2, 2012, enjoy your **reserved grandstand seats at the Rose Parade!** On Tuesday, January 3 depart for Laughlin for two nights. On Wednesday take the included YMT tour to the **Grand Canyon** with included lunch. Spend your final three nights in Las Vegas at leisure with optional tours to Death Valley and/or Zion National Parks. This unique tour includes baggage handling, motor coach sightseeing first class hotels, and taxes.

*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

How to Attract More Women into Lions

In fact, in the name of public relations, Krumrey may even break down and wear that yellow vest one day.

From Applicant to Approved

Take the Guesswork Out of Getting an LCIF Grant

It happens when you least expect it. You and your fellow Lions are listening to a presentation at a club meeting and something strikes members as a project that would be of great benefit to the community. Club members agree it's a great idea, yet there's a catch. There's no way to raise enough money to execute it.

That's when someone suggests getting a grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation. Now what? Tennessee Lion Brad Baker has helped to author and administrate more than \$1.1 million in grants, including matching funds. We asked him to share his perspective to help fellow Lions take the guesswork out of getting an LCIF grant.

When should a club or district consider applying for an LCIF grant?

LCIF grants aid Lions worldwide in humanitarian efforts too large for individual clubs or districts to fund alone. One hundred percent of every dollar donated to the Foundation goes directly to a project. There are several different types of grants, but standard grants are the most common type awarded. Standard grants are approved for large-scale Lions' humanitarian projects. Standard grants provide matching funds of up to \$75,000 and generally provide capital funding for major equipment and infrastructure needs.

What do you mean by major equipment and infrastructure needs?

Typical standard grant projects include new buildings, renovations or expansions.



It needs to be a big project.

Right, and funding is for a specific project, not general operating support. The project must address an important humanitarian need and serve a large population. At least two clubs must be involved and local Lions have to raise at least half of required local matching funds. Standard grants may be applied for by a district or multiple district. A district level application needs to be endorsed by the district cabinet and a multiple district level application needs to be endorsed by the multiple district council. Also, the project must have a strong Lions identity and Lions involvement.

Once you fill out the application, then what?

Applications are due 60 days prior to international board meetings but I recommend getting everything in 90 days ahead. LCIF staff pre-reviews applications and may ask that clarifications or changes be made. Then the Foundation's executive committee reviews applications before the presentation to the trustees. A significant amount of the matching funds should be in hand at the time of review.

Clubs and districts need to have their fundraising strategy in place before applying?

That's the biggest challenge most districts face when requesting a grant – raising the matching funds. If you are requesting the maximum amount from LCIF, which is \$75,000, then obviously you have to raise that amount. Once you get pledges from clubs and/or other local groups, you can submit your LCIF grant application. Make sure that you follow the submission guidelines on the form closely and answer all questions in detail.

What's the best part?

Once you've been approved, the project is completed and people in your community are being helped ... there's just no greater feeling than that. Make sure you keep receipts and copies of checks, and take pictures of every phase of the project to file a final report with LCIF. When finished, club members have a concrete example of what it means when Lions say "We Serve."

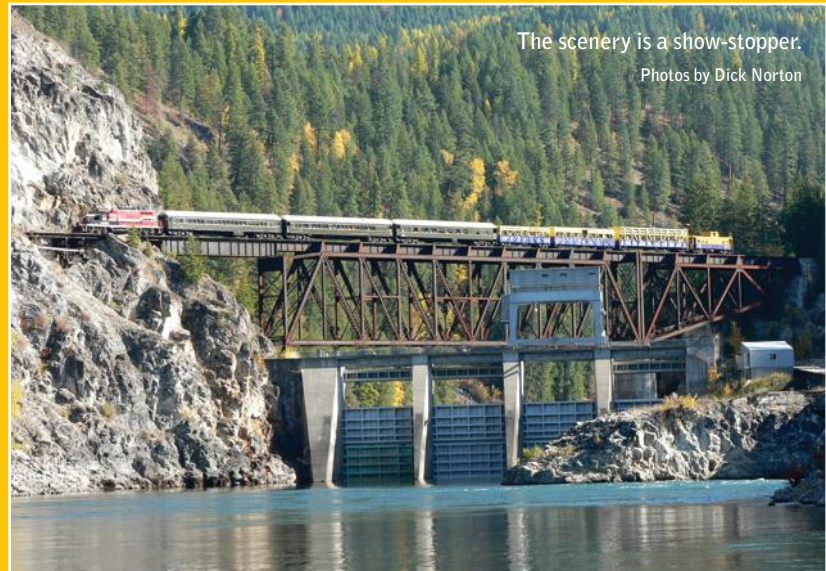
Go to www.lcif.org
for grant applications
and criteria for other
types of grants.

Riding the Rails for Fun and Profit

Pend Oreille County in Washington contains some of the most beautiful land in the country. Pronounced “Ponderay,” it’s in the far northeast corner of the state with Canada to the north and Idaho to the east.

“The name comes from the early French fur traders who came to this area. The indigenous people living here had ornate decorations hanging from their ears. This is what ‘Pend Oreille’ means,” explains Marita Norton, president of the North Pend Oreille Valley Lions Club. “Around the turn of the 20th century, the area was flourishing with steam boats on the Pen Oreille River and people moving in to work the mines and in the logging industry. Small towns were created and then disappeared as the work disappeared. Now there are only three towns in north Pend Oreille County—Ione, Metaline and Metaline Falls.”

The 54-member club is located in Ione but serves the other two communities as well. “Although the area is beautiful, it is remote and is sometimes very difficult to make a living here,” Norton says. The club is thriving, however, and recently approved 11 community projects totaling \$32,000. The biggest fundraiser Lions sponsor is a train ride through the scenic countryside, complete with a gang of “robbers” from a local theater group who entertain passengers on a stop during the 20-mile round trip. The event has grown since the first ride in 1981, which consisted of 50 passengers sitting on benches perched on a flatbed trailer with wire fencing so they wouldn’t fall out. “Our train has now grown from that one flatbed car to three Pullman cars, three open cars and a caboose,” she points out. “And instead of 50 peo-



The scenery is a show-stopper.

Photos by Dick Norton

ple per ride, we can accommodate up to 350.”

Train rides are \$12 for each adult and \$8 for senior citizens and children. The train is operated by the Pend Oreille Valley Railroad, but Lions are responsible for helping passengers safely board and disembark at the Ione depot. Lions also have a “host” stationed on each car to answer questions from riders, and other community volunteers sell tickets, confirm reservations, direct parking and sell souvenirs. “It takes at least 20 volunteers per day to make the ride possible,” Norton points out. “The wonderful thing about this fundraiser is that it’s very popular with people all over the Northwest as well as Canada. We have many people come back every year and bring their entire families.” Last year, more than 10,000 passengers took the trip.



The Cutter Gang strikes again!

The train runs several times a year in the summer and fall, taking an hour and a half as it meanders along the Pend Oreille River. “Our train goes through two tunnels and across a trestle [built in 1910] with views of the Box Canyon Dam,” Norton says. The train winds along cliffs 100 feet above the river, where elk can be seen grazing by the river. The route is dotted with apple trees, a natural result of long-ago rail workers tossing their apple cores onto the ground as they traveled the tracks.

Lion Inventors Take a Swing at Success

Two members of the Raleigh Downtown Lions Club in North Carolina, Don Fish and Terry Miner, share not only a love of golf, but a desire to help Raleigh Lions Clinic for the Blind (RLCB) employees stay busy and raise money at the same time. "Last year we discussed an initiative on our own to improve the quality of life for the blind and visually impaired," Fish says. "While getting some exercise one morning on a walk, we started seriously thinking about a potential plan.



A golfer putts while the Hy 'N Dry® made by the Raleigh Lions Blind Clinic holds another club off the ground.

"Terry and I have gotten a tremendous thrill for years from purchasing Christmas gifts on behalf of the Raleigh Downtown Lions Club for every child attending the Governor Morehead School for the Blind. The two wanted to do even more, though.

Miner adds, "We talked about a number of possibilities. We both love to play golf and started thinking about how we hated to lay our nice clubs on the ground or sometimes inadvertently leave our clubs on the course." And that's how the pair of novice inventors came up with the Hy 'N Dry® golf club holder, now manufactured by RLCB.

Originally created in a partnership between the Raleigh Host Lions Club and the North Carolina Division of Services for the Blind in 1966, RLCB now employs 284 people, 81 percent of whom are blind or visually impaired. As well as making the machine that fashions the device, RLCB staffers also handle and ship the product. A percentage of the profits are donated to the RLCB Foundation. The product sells for \$19.99 and is available online (www.hyndry.com).

"We went home and fashioned our concept out of a wire clothes hanger," Fish explains. "We took it over to the Raleigh Lions Clinic for the Blind for their help and it wasn't long before our golf holder was a reality. We've been amazed not only at the quality of work done by the blind and visually impaired employees at the clinic, but also at the pride they take in their work."

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CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **North Smithfield Lions Club** in **Rhode Island** purchased a vision screening machine for the local school district.

The **Farragut Lions Club** in **Tennessee** has given 871 people eye exams or glasses over the past two years. Club member Dave Crawford runs the club's vision program and was recently honored with the "Vision Award."

The **Cabell Midland Leo Club** ran a booth at the Lions Arts and Crafts Fair in **Huntington, West Virginia**. The Leos held raffles and sold fruit-cakes and apple butter for the Barboursville Lions Club. Proceeds of about \$300 were used to buy canned food and gifts for needy students at Christmas.

The **Sanibel Captiva Lions Club** in **Florida** held a fish fry for 600 people. Proceeds benefited Southeastern Guide Dogs, an organization that trains dogs to be service companions.

Grand Junction Lions in **Colorado** awarded a \$15,000 grant to the local botanic gardens to fund a new heater for the rainforest plants. The club gave \$100,000 toward the original creation of the rainforest exhibit.

The **Portland Downtown Lions Club** bought a \$2,500 portable, digital microscope to help veterinary staff perform eye exams on nearly any species at the Oregon Zoo.

The **Chester Lions Club** in **New Jersey** donated \$500 to CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocates, of Morris and Sussex County. CASA members speak up for the best interests of children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect.

The **Pottsville Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** contributed \$30,000 to build an amphitheater in a local park.

INFORMATION

Higher Keys Issued During January 2011

Key of Nations (100 Members)

- Lion C.L. Vanover, Colleyville, Texas
- Lion Rajesh Gupta, Mandi Gobindgarh, India

Key of State (75 Members)

- Lion Manibhai Patel, Vijapur Kantha Vistar, India

Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion M. A. Rashid Shah Samrat, Dhaka Greater, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Jitendra Jain, Digvijaynagar, India

Senior Master Key (25 Members)

- Lion Neville Mehta, Bombay Babulnath, India
- Lion Remedios Deramos, San Diego Classic, California
- Lion William Simon, Baton Rouge East Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Lion Greg Firth, Longview Pioneer, Washington
- Lion Thomas Cochrane, Chetek, Wisconsin
- Lion Nina Loaiza, Hallandale Hollywood Professional Pembroke, Florida
- Lion James Wilcox, The Dalles, Oregon
- Lion M. A. Rashid Shah Samrat, Dhaka Greater, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Manju Saxena, Lucknow Surabhi, India
- Lion Jaideep Aggarwal, Batala Gaurav, India
- Lion Anugraha Banerjee, Panighata, India
- Lion Trilok Kumar Rajgaria, Calcutta Jorasanko, India
- Lion Kajal Sinha, Farakka, India
- Lion Debanandan Majumdar, Malda, India
- Lion M. K. Jain, Mumbai Kandivili Thakur Complex, India
- Lion Jitendra Jain, Digvijaynagar, India
- Lion Rajkumar Agrawal, Korba, India
- Lion Arun Sheth, Pune Vijay Nagar, India
- Lion Rajeev Goyal, Indore Utkarsh, India
- Lion Dr. Arun Chaturvedi, Nagpur Harmony, India
- Lion G. M. Rathnam, Madras Chepauk, India
- Lion Chetan Marwah, Nagpur, India
- Lion K. Devadasan, Tirupur, India
- Lion Suba N. Subramanian, Coimbatore Cosmos, India
- Lion N. Ganesh, Madurai Alavai, India
- Lion A. B. Kuppuram, Hyderabad Ankit, India
- Lion Victor D'Souza, Assagao, India
- Lion Clement Ndala, Bwila, Malawi

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.

24th Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest

Children Know Peace



Sponsor a Lions International Peace Poster Contest and join clubs worldwide in sharing children's visions of peace with your community.

How the Contest Works

Lions clubs sponsor the contest in a local school or organized youth group. The contest is open to students 11-13 on November 15, 2011. Participating students are asked to create posters visually depicting the contest theme, "Children Know Peace."

One winner for each contest sponsored by a club is chosen to advance to the district governor for judging. On the district level, one winner is selected to go on to the multiple district competition and from there one winner is forwarded to International Headquarters for the final judging. Entries are judged at all levels on originality, artistic merit and portrayal of theme.

During the final judging, 23 merit award winners and one grand prize winner are chosen to represent the many entries submitted from around the world.

Awards

Artists of posters advancing to the final international judging are recognized as follows:

- **International Grand Prize Winner** receives a trip to the award ceremony at Lions Day with the United Nations (subject to change). At the ceremony he/she will receive a cash award of US\$5,000 (or local equivalent) and an engraved plaque. Two family members (one being the winner's parent or legal guardian) and the sponsoring Lions club president or a club member (as designated by the club president) will accompany the winner to the award ceremony. The award ceremony is scheduled for March 2012.
- **23 Merit Award Winners** each receive a cash award of US\$500 (or local equivalent) and a certificate of achievement.

Mail or fax your order to: LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL
CLUB SUPPLIES SALES DEPARTMENT, 300 W 22ND ST.
OAK BROOK IL 60523-8842 USA; Fax 630-571-0964

Peace Poster Contest Kit (PPK-1) _____ Qty. @ US\$9.95/each \$ _____
Language Required _____ Tax \$ _____
(Available in all official languages.) Postage & Handling \$ _____
Total \$ _____

Method of payment (select one):

A. Club/District Acct. # _____
Lions Club Name _____
Officer's Signature (Required) _____

B. Visa/Mastercard # _____ Exp. Date _____
Cardholder's Signature (Required) _____

How to Enter

Lions clubs must order a Peace Poster Contest kit from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters. Available in all 11 official languages, it costs US\$9.95, plus shipping, handling and applicable taxes. Each kit contains everything your club needs to sponsor one* school or organized, sponsored youth group:

- **Official Club Contest Guide & Rules**
- **Official School or Youth Group Contest Guide & Rules**
- **Participant Flyer** may be duplicated and given to each participating student to take home
- **Sticker** to place on back of winning poster
- **Certificates** for contest winner and school or youth group

**Clubs can sponsor more than one contest in either the same or multiple school(s) and/or youth group(s) by purchasing more than one kit. Clubs will send one poster per each contest sponsored to the next level of judging.*



Kits are available January 15 – October 1, 2011.
Purchase your kit early to allow adequate time for shipment and contest planning.

To order the Peace Poster Contest kit (PPK-1) submit the form below, order through the online Lions Store (Item search: Peace Poster Kit) or call Club Supplies at (630) 571-5466 or (800) 710-7822 (U.S., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and Canada only).

Visit www.lionsclubs.org for more contest information, deadlines, to send a Peace Poster e-card and view past finalists' posters.

Ship order to:

Name _____

Address (No P.O. Boxes) _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Zip Code _____ Country _____

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E-mail Address _____

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Sales Tax:

We are obligated to charge sales tax in Illinois and Canada.

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

WMMR Continues to Evolve

You may have already seen it with the new service activity report or the new district officer home page. Suggestions from club secretaries, district governors, international directors and even International President Sid L. Scruggs III are being incorporated into the WMMR and are helping us to make it a tool that's easier to use and more relevant to club and district officers around the world.

Here are highlights of the exciting new features coming in May 2011:

- ✓ Register for your own password (Figure 1)
- ✓ View statements and make payments online (Figure 2)

PASSWORD REGISTRATION - MEMBERSHIP VALIDATION

To register for your online access, enter your LCI membership number.

Member Number:

Type the characters you see below.

Try another cue

Word verification:

Letters are not case-sensitive.

Figure 1

Club Statements

Summary

(All amounts in USD)

Last Statement Balance	1,000.00
Payments Received	(500.00)
Current Charges	250.00
Current Balance as of April 30, 2011	750.00 Pay Now

[Help](#) [Payment Instructions](#)

Financial Statements

	July, 2010 - June, 2011		July, 2009 - June, 2010		July, 2008 - June, 2009	
	Opening Balance	Payments	Charges	Closing Balance	(All amounts in USD)	
Statement for March, 2011	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00		View/Print
Statement for February, 2011	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00		View/Print
Statement for January, 2011	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00		View/Print
Per-Capita Invoice for January, 2011			250.00			View/Print

Figure 2

Also coming later in 2011:

- ✓ New home page for officers at every level
- ✓ Improved support for visually impaired officers
- ✓ Control your own address and e-mail preferences
- ✓ Stay informed with our new status bar (Figure 3)



Figure 3

INFORMATION

ANNIVERSARIES MAY 2011

90 Years: Bartlesville, Okla.; Boone, Iowa; Charles City, Iowa; Fargo, N.D.; Jackson Host, Mich.; Le Mars, Iowa; Macon, Ga.; Marion Host, Iowa; Marshall Town Noon, Iowa; Newark, N.J.; Newton, Kan.; Paris, Tenn.; Paris Founders, Texas; Sheridan, Wyo.

85 Years: Aitkin, Minn.; Blytheville, Ark.; Detroit Northwest, Mich.; Englewood, Colo.; Homer, La.; Macksville, Kan.; Manhattan Beach, Calif.; San Diego North Park, Calif.

80 Years: Garden City, Kan.; Portland Parkrose, Ore.; Harrodsburg, Ky.; Beckley, W.Va.; Sainte Genevieve, Mo.; Port Hope, Ont., CAN; Paullina, Iowa; Louisville, Colo.; Lakeport, Calif.

75 Years: Dayton, Tenn.; Forsyth, Ga.; Greenville, Mich.; Kaplan, La.; Kaukauna, Wis.; Martinsburg, W.Va.; Monmouth, Ill.; Muncie, Ind.; San Leandro, Calif.; Scobey, Mont.; Springfield, Tenn.; Steeleville, Ill.

50 Years: Athens, Ont., CAN; Brooklyn Park, Minn.; Carn-duff Dist., Sask., CAN; Cumberland-North Yarmouth, Maine; Deer Valley, Ariz.; Dexter, Mo.; Iron City, Tenn.; Knightdale, N.C.; Lower Lehigh, Pa.; Mayfield, Pa.; Monroe, N.Y.; North Ridgeville, Ohio; San Fran-

cisco Nikkei, Calif.; Town of Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; Wake Community, N.C.; Wilcox, Neb.; Windsor & Dist., N.S., CAN; Winnebago, Ill.

25 Years: Belton Bel Ray Sunrise, Mo.; Binscarth & District LC, Man., CAN; Conifer, Colo.; English Harbour East, Nfld., CAN; Falcon Heights Lauderdale, Minn.; Lake Don Pedro Gold Chain, Calif.; Lintlaw & District LC, Sask., CAN; Lodi Mexican American, Calif.; Middleton, Wis.; New York Metropolitan, N.Y.; Sheridan, Ind.; Stromsburg, Neb.

Editor's Note:

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

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Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842

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(Include All Code Numbers)

Name (print) _____

New Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date of Change _____

Club _____

THANK YOU

THE LIONS CHANGED MY LIFE

Hope for Gracie and Marcy

Marcy Mercer and Gracie Reid have a lot in common. They're from the same town in Canada, were born only six months apart, and both suffer from Persistent Hyperplastic Primary Vitreous. That's a rare eye condition that occurs when the blood vessels that provide nutrients to a developing eye in utero don't disappear. Instead, a membrane forms on the eye, potentially causing glaucoma, cataracts and blindness. Since birth, both mothers have had to drive their girls seven hours to Halifax to get their eye pressure tested regularly. That is, until the Grand Falls-Windsor Lions Club stepped in and purchased a "tonopen" device for the local ophthalmologist. Now, the drive for an eye pressure check is 10 minutes. Not only that, but the club surprised the moms by setting up a long-term fund to cover future medical costs for both girls. We caught up to Laura Janes, mother of 7-month-old Gracie.

Q & A: Laura Janes:

Lion Magazine: How will this help your family?

Laura Janes: It's unbelievable both financially and emotionally what they've done. We had approached them to get this equipment because we had to travel seven hours each way for appointments in Halifax. Gracie is one of a twin, so I have to take her twin sister with me too. They've saved us a lot of heartache. There are not enough words to describe what they've done for us.

LM: We understand the Lions surprised you with the fund?

LJ: Yes, we went in for the meeting to talk about the tonopen, and we assumed they were only going to talk about that. We all got ready to leave and they started talking about a fund they had agreed to set up for Marcy and Gracie and, heaven forbid, any other children in the area with an eye disease. The fund will cover medical travel and other medical costs for the girls. They went above and beyond.

LM: How does the fund work?

LJ: The local Lions club will donate a percentage of the money they raise at their fundraisers to this fund for the girls.

LM: What is the prognosis for Gracie?

LJ: She's eventually going to lose sight in her right eye. She developed glaucoma because of her surgery. So, long-term it's pressure checks, surgeries, trips to Halifax to see specialists, therapy with eye patches, glasses, contacts and medication. There's no cure for the glaucoma so it could spread to her good eye. You can control it with medications and surgeries. If we keep it under control, it shouldn't affect her good eye. We're on standby now for her second surgery.

Marcy (left) and Gracie (right) have both suffered from a rare eye condition since birth.



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.

INFORMATION

CALENDAR

2011 UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

RECYCLE FOR SIGHT MONTH

MAY 1

Deadline for international convention regular registration fees

Deadline for advance convention registration and hotel room requests to be received

Deadline for International Friendship Banner, Newsletter, Trading Pin and Web site contest entries to be received at International Headquarters

MAY 11-17

White Cane Week

MAY 14

SightFirst grant application for review at the August 2011 SAC

MAY 15

Annual Leo Club Officers and Membership Report Form (Leo-72) due

Deadline for filing Officer Reporting Form (PU101)

MAY 16-19

Executive Committee Meeting

OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS

CORRECTIONS

The January issue incorrectly said that the NEADS Director of Dogs spoke on disability awareness to fourth-graders in Harvard, Massachusetts. Kristen Hartness Law, executive director of Canines for Disabled Kids, gave the presentation.

The Stockton Host Lions Club in California celebrated its 90th anniversary in August 2010.

LION Magazine regrets the errors.

IN MEMORIAM

Past International Director Dev Kapoor, of Arusha, Tanzania, has died. He joined the Arusha Lions Club in 1968 and was elected to serve a two-year term on the International Board of Directors at the 1984 San Francisco, California, convention. He was a retired acting judge of the High Court of Tanzania and involved in many community and professional organizations.

FOR THE RECORD

As of February 28, 2011, Lions Clubs International had 1,347,322 members in 45,867 clubs and 743 districts in 206 countries and geographic areas.



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LAST ROAR



Photo by TSR Photography

LIP SERVICE

Do fairy tales come true? The queens of the Rayne Frog Festival in Louisiana have not yet been able to summons a prince. But they do get acquainted with service: frog queens take part in Lions' service projects including assisting at a camp for children with disabilities. The Rayne Lions are longtime sponsors of the Frog Derby Queen's Contest.

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