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Lions Clubs International

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LION

STAFF

Editor-in-Chief: Peter Lynch
Managing Editor: Dane La Joye
Senior Editor: Jay Copp
Associate Editor: Pamela Mohr
Assistant Editor: Vanessa Glavinskas
Graphics Manager: Connie Schuler
Graphic Designers: Lisa Smith, Christina Jacobs
Production Manager: Mary Kay Rietz
Circulation Manager: Troy R. Jewell

ADVERTISING SALES

Chicago

Mary Kay Rietz, Adv. Mgr.
LION, 300 W. 22nd St.
Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842
(630) 468-6880
Fax: (630) 706-9234

East Coast

Robert Bernbach
Robert Bernbach Advertising
Representatives, Inc.
677 Commerce St., STE 200
Thornwood, NY 10594
(914) 769-0051 / Fax: (914) 769-0691

Central US

Pat Rickert
Rickert Media, Inc.
5401 Northwood Ridge
Minneapolis, MN 55437
(612) 861-1991 Phone/Fax

West Coast

Melissa Austin
Melissa Austin Associates Media
2600 Ladybird Drive, Calabasas, CA 91302
(818) 225-0466 / Fax: (818) 225-0675

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS (2010-2011)

President Wing-Kun Tam, Unit 1901-2, 19/F, Far
East Finance Centre, 16 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong,
China; Immediate Past President Sid L. Scruggs III,
698 Azalea Drive, Vass, North Carolina, 28394,

USA; First Vice President Wayne A. Madden, P.O. Box
208, Auburn, Indiana 46706, USA; Second Vice
President Barry J. Palmer, P.O. Box 24, North Maitland,
NSW 2320, Australia.

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Watawala, Negombo, Sri Lanka.

AUTHORS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Address manuscripts and other material to Senior
Editor, LION, 300 W 22nd St Oak Brook IL
60523-8842. The LION accepts no responsibility for
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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

The Year of One Million Trees



Fethiye Mugla Lions Club members in Turkey plant trees and establish the Fethiye Lions Club Forest.

We are Lions because we are good-hearted and want to do good. We realize that by joining with like-minded people we can accomplish great things. This year I am asking Lions worldwide to join together on a project that can help save our earth, contribute to people's emotional well-being, solidify our clubs and make Lions clubs more attractive to young people and others.

I am asking Lions to plant 1 million trees this year. We want to wrap the earth in a canopy of greenery. From Argentina to Zambia, we want Lions to put on their work gloves, pick up their shovels and beautify their community.

This will be a great public service. Trees are not just pretty; they are vital to the health of our planet. Trees save soil by reducing erosion, provide habitat for wildlife and, most importantly, take in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen. Trees improve our air, protect our water and save energy.

Planting trees is a project that will unite club members in a common purpose. We also can invite members of the community to join us in planting trees. This is an ideal way to become more visible in our communities. We will replenish our membership ranks as we replenish the earth.

Planting trees also is a great tool for partnering with other community groups. We will sow the seeds of success for future collaborations.

We want Lions to rally around our tree project. Each month we will report the number of trees planted on the LCI Web site. Lions can get artwork from LCI headquarters to create buttons that say "I planted a tree" or to design signs and certificates. This will be a fun, rewarding project in which Lions can take great pride.

It's also an entirely achievable project. One million trees is less than one tree per Lion. When we accomplish this goal, it will prove once again that when Lions unite we can do good on a grand scale—as we have done with SightFirst and disaster relief. I believe we can do it. It will take courage, commitment and action. It will take all Lions working together. So, Lions, start planning and start planting!

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink on a dark blue background.

Wing-Kun Tam
Lions Clubs International President



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

PALMER OF AUSTRALIA ELECTED 2ND VP

Past International Director Barry J. Palmer of Berowra, NSW, Australia, was elected international second vice president July 8 at the 94th International Convention in Seattle, Washington. Palmer will become international president in 2013-14 following Wing-Kun Tam of Hong Kong, China, this year and Wayne A. Madden of Auburn, Indiana, in 2012-13. A member of the Hornsby Lions Club since 1976, Palmer has received several honors from Lions Clubs International. A volunteer at the Sydney Olympics, he is a real estate company director. Get full coverage in the October issue of the LION.



Lions elected Barry J. Palmer as international second vice president.

LCIF, BAUSCH TARGET CATARACT

LCIF and Bausch + Lomb awarded Tianjin Eye Hospital in China a \$150,000 grant to finance a specialized, pediatric cataract training program. The grant is made possible through the Pediatric Cataract Initiative (PCI). The grant will help train pediatric and cataract ophthal-

mologists, educate parents about pediatric eye diseases, fund education for Tianjin's pediatric cataract surgeons, purchase equipment and train medical staff to screen for pediatric cataract. "Every aspect of a child's life—from learning ability and classroom performance to friendships and self-confidence—is affected by their vision. Through this partnership, we hope to be able to provide the treatment and follow-up care necessary to prevent infant vision loss or blindness caused by cataracts and to better the lives of China's children and their families," said Dr. Tang Xin, president of Tianjin Eye Hospital. PCI will continue to fund additional cataract-focused research projects and vision research initiatives worldwide.

HYMN PREVENTS VISION LOSS

A nickel or a dime at a time, a church music director from Delaware has helped Lions prevent blindness or restore vision for more than 900 people. Bob McAlpine, music director at a United Methodist church in Wilmington, wrote the hymn "Praise God" in 1990. He has sent the \$5,558 in royalties to LCIF for vision grants. More than 90,000 copies of the hymn have sold. McAlpine receives 10 cents for each sale; for years he received a nickel for each copy sold. LCIF saves sight or staves off vision loss at an average cost of \$6. McAlpine, who modestly calls himself a "one-hit wonder," says he was on vacation when the words and music began running through his head. He was a Lion for 40 years.

LION FOILS CARTHIEF

His Lions club mates now call him "Rambo." John Milne, 78, of Cambridge, New Zealand, jumped in the back of his car after a would-be thief grabbed his keys and got into his car after a Lions club meeting. As the man took off at high speed, Milne held on tightly. "He was all over the bloody road," Milne told the Waikato Times. Milne, a Lion since 1968, took hold of a glass lamp on the seat. "I'll smash it over your head," he warned the driver. After a few minutes, the driver returned to the clubhouse and, after apologizing to Milne, fled the scene. Police later arrested a 17-year-old man.

FOURTH SHOW ATOP 10

Folks in Bozeman, Montana, like the Lions' Fourth of July fireworks so much that they succeeded in getting a \$10,000 corporate grant to help pay for the show. Bozeman was one of 10 cities nationwide to win the grant from Liberty Mutual Insurance, based in Boston. Online voting determined what cities received the grants. The Bozeman Gallatin Empire Lions Club has put on the free show for more than a decade.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

ONE OF US

When Shannon McCracken moved to Paris, Ontario, Canada, she took her young son to Lions Park almost every day. One day, she headed to a park in neighboring Oakville, and was blown away by the equipment available. "Lions Park is an 80-year-old park. I started talking to my neighbors about getting the equipment I saw in Oakville." A neighbor told her if she was going to "fool around with Lions Park, she had to fool around with the Lions." In January 2009, McCracken joined the Paris Lions Club and became the park and pool chair. That's when an idea to buy new playground equipment blossomed into a \$3 million, edge-to-edge renovation of the park. Now, McCracken dedicates her days to fundraising and planning the new Lions Park. At night, she works at a long-term care center taking care of its elderly residents.

HOW WILL YOU FIND \$3 MILLION DOLLARS? Oh, we're going to raise it! A lot is just finding different funding opportunities. We look at the municipal level, federal level and then at private donations. We've already gotten many in-kind donations. And we had a community build day last year. Kool-Aid sponsored it and we got the community together to assemble some of the new playground equipment.

TELL ME WHAT THE PARK WILL LOOK LIKE WHEN IT'S COMPLETED. There's already new playground equipment, and a sensory area for visually impaired and autistic children. Today, I worked on a grant for an accessible ramp into the park. We completed the other side last year, but need funding to make it totally accessible. Corrine Hunt, the designer of the Vancouver Olympic medals, is designing a 50-foot community totem pole with input from local children.

ARE YOU DOING ALL THIS ON YOUR OWN? No, no. I have a team of 12 in the community—five Lions and other community stakeholders. The group is called "Community Miracles."

WHY NOT LEAVE THE PLANNING TO THE CITY? WHY IS THIS PARK SO IMPORTANT TO YOU? I believe in the importance of family, in the way people teach their children and the areas that they have for them to learn. At this park, we wanted to maximize learning and fun and make it accessible to all.



Photo by Mike Machado

Shannon McCracken hopes to turn her local Lions Park into a "destination park."

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

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

CLUB OF THE MONTH

NIANTIC LIONS CLUB, CONNECTICUT

FOUNDED: 1949

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS: With 71 members, ranging in age from the 20s to the 80s, the Niantic Lions Club has no shortage of volunteers and has won several membership growth awards.

EAT, CRAFT, FUNDRAISE: Lobster, chicken and crafts come together in the name of fundraising once a year at the group's annual Lobsterfest and Chicken BBQ event. The fundraiser draws thousands who come to eat and make crafts with their families while supporting the club. When they aren't selling lobster, they also sell another favorite food: their "famous" kettle corn.

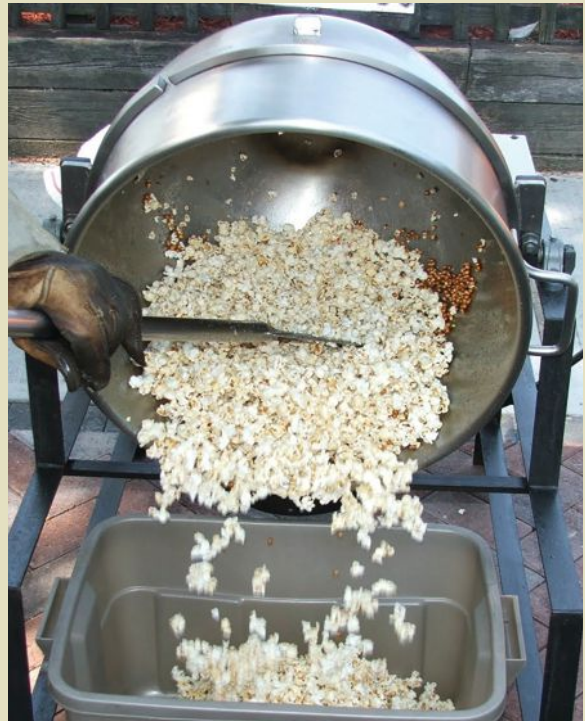
DRIVING FORCE: Club members are a driving force in the community—literally. Members give rides to locals who have no other way of getting to appointments and other places. They call the program "Driving Miss Daisy."

LEADING LEOS: Niantic Lions sponsor one of the most thriving Leo clubs in Connecticut with 122 members, 37 of whom were presented with the Lions International Young Leaders in Service Award.

WHY BE A LION? "I got to go out to dinner twice a month with a bunch of men." —Lion Terry Carucci, the club's first female member.



Quite a handful: Niantic Lion Ed Parke holds the goods at the club's annual Lobsterfest fundraiser.



Pop, pop, pop: When they're not eating lobster, Niantic Lions also sell kettle corn.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

BY THE NUMBERS

13,700

Articles of clothing sent by the Ocean City Lions in Maryland to wounded veterans. The club also has donated more than \$132,000 in gift cards to them.

1,600

Miles traveled on a motorcycle in 33 hours by Lion Ross Hunter and Jim Frank to raise funds for Devils Lake Lions Club in North Dakota. Stopping only for fuel, the two rode in pouring rain and temperatures in the 40s.

115

Names submitted by schoolchildren in the Name the Lions Club Lion contest of the Palos Lions in Illinois. The winning name was Alpha, meaning "a Lion's purpose helping all."

12

Members of the Merrill Lions Club in Oregon who went door to door

distributing fliers to inform residents when the water would be safe to drink again.

2,348

Keys collected by Grand Terrace Lions in California to melt down for scrap metal with proceeds to benefit needy children and the blind.

21

Bike racks installed in downtown Paso Robles, California, by the Paso Robles Lions.

3,200

Apple dumplings sold by the Lisbon Lions in Ohio at the Johnny Appleseed Festival.

22

Cobs of corn devoured by a patron at the annual corn feed of the Alvarado Lions in Minnesota.

44 YEARS AGO IN THE LION September 1967

Famed violinist David Rubinoff plays a benefit concert arranged by the Plainview Noon Lions for the Lions Crippled Children's Camp in Kerrville.



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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

ON THE WEB

Have you visited the new Lions Clubs International Foundation Web site yet? LCIF.org is live in all languages.

To visit the new site, click the LCIF button in the top right corner of www.lionsclubs.org or go directly to www.lcif.org. Be sure to bookmark it!

OVERHEARD

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."

—Dave Denine, provincial minister for Intergovernmental Affairs and the Volunteer Non-Profit Sector, honoring volunteers at a ceremony in Botwood, Newfoundland, Canada. From *The Advertiser*.

"I think there is community involvement in all of us. It just needs to be groomed."

—Ernest Schade, 2010-11 president of the Sag Harbor Lions Club in New York. From *The Sag Harbor Express*.

"We bought her some groceries, cash and Christmas presents. She sent us a wonderful thank-you card, which brought tears to my eyes. That's what got me hooked on the Lions club."

—Ron Thompson, a Lion for 50 years and a member of the Henderson Lions Club in New Zealand, referring to a mother of three whose husband had drowned. From *The Western Leader*.

NEXT MONTH

Lions worldwide gathered in Seattle to elect a new president, learn from one another and enjoy fellowship.

Advertorial

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FELLOWSHIP IS FUN

Having fun together while sharing a common goal of humanitarian service is a strong foundation to strengthen club bonds.

Beating the Drums for Northwest Hospitality

There are many reasons why the Birch Bay Lions Hostel and Guest House in the coastal community of Blaine, Washington, two hours north of Seattle, is so popular. It offers much more than merely economical lodging.

It is, in fact, an opportunity to raise funds to support Lions activities such as Camp Horizon for special needs children and adults. Sponsored by 60 clubs in District 19-H, the campgrounds are located near the hostel as part of the sprawling 68-acre Bay Horizon Park. The former site of the Cold War-era Blaine Air Force Station for radar and communications defense systems, the park is now a vibrant and integral neighborhood success story.

Volunteer Linda Diane Taylor estimates she's spent about 1,000 hours in the last year helping Birch Bay Lions operate the hostel and guest house (www.birchbayhostel.org), which accommodates as many as 40 people at one time. "Hostel management and volunteers are often called upon to paint, clean and set up. Lion Ken Lord [hostel manager] spent many hours painting and repairing electrical systems."

Serving as a community park for around 5,000 residents, the grounds are filled with native plants, and Lions and volunteers are planting even more along trails to show off the area's natural beauty. "The Semiahmah people called Birch Bay 'Hole in the Sky,'" says Taylor. The park was the winter camp for these indigenous people. Now it's a temporary home to an eclectic mix of tourists, students, families, groups and

individuals who like its casual, homey and creative atmosphere. Lions are currently making plans for volunteer artists to create a mural honoring the Semiahmah in the hostel's dining room.

When Hostelling International ceased management of the facilities in 2003, Lions stepped in. It was a natural fit since Lions already managed Camp Horizon. "The hostel is leased from Whatcom County Parks for a modest annual fee," says Kathy Berg, chairman of the hostel's board of directors and facilities manager for Camp Horizon. "Frankly, without the \$1 million liability insurance from Lions Clubs International, we couldn't even have attempted this project."

The hostel unofficially serves as a clearinghouse and community center, of sorts, for finding items needed by

local agencies or individuals. Lord has delivered several mattresses to families in need, and Lions accept donations intended for the local food bank in the hostel's lobby, along with donations of eyeglasses and hearing aids. Local musicians entertain on weekends. After investing time and money, the hostel is now profitable.

The Thursday night drum circle is a big draw. Locals and guests are equally drawn into participating as they sit around a fire pit beating out rhythms on an assortment of drums. The warmth of this welcoming environment is exactly what travelers and locals together find when they visit the Birch Bay Lions Hostel. "I came for a retreat and to work on a creative writing project," said guest Mary Bootman. "I was welcomed and before I knew it, I was drumming."



Visitors enjoy a drum circle every Thursday night. Hostel manager Lion Ken Lord (third from right) leads a group gathered around the fire pit.

Photo by Linda Diane Taylor

SAVE SPARE CHANGE

If each Lion throws spare change into a jar at club meetings, the amount will quickly become a sizable contribution to LCIF.

Comforting Kids on the Move

When Mary Lorenz learned that children in her Northern California community who were removed from their homes by Child Protective Services carried their belongings from home in plastic trash bags, she was moved to tears. Then she was moved to action. “It had to be demoralizing for them,” she reasoned, “showing up with their few personal possessions stuffed into a trash bag. It’s a very difficult time in their lives.” Lorenz, 2010-11 president of the Fairfield and Suisun Travis (F.a.S.T.) Lions Club, began a branch of the organization Kases 4 Kids, which supplies suitcases for kids’ possessions.

“I changed the program in our area to backpacks so the kids can use them for school as well,” she points out. In six years, Lorenz and Lions have provided more than 3,500 backpacks for children in emergency situations in Solano County. “There are over 500 children removed from their homes each year in Solano County alone. F.a.S.T. Lions want to give these children a little something more dignifying, which will hopefully lessen the pain of this experience.”

The club now reimburses Lorenz \$200 a month for the purchase of backpacks, which are then filled with toiletries, school supplies and a stuffed animal. “Of course, they get a soft, cuddly stuffed animal to hold onto,” Lorenz adds. Backpacks are tagged with identification cards and then between 30 and 40 are delivered to Child Protective Services in Solano once a month.

CPS employee Susan Dolan sees how children react when they’re given



Lions pack bags with assembly-line precision.

“Lions want to give these children a little something more dignifying, which will hopefully lessen the pain of this experience.”

their own backpacks filled with items they can keep as their own. “The Lions have been a God-send. This is a wonderful program and is so appreciated. The kids love them,” she emphasizes.

The club has expanded its backpack project to include children who attend the local Head Start program, delivering as many as 100 each year to children from low-income families. Others have been donated to a women’s and children’s shelter and some have been given to after-school programs and learning centers for kids in need.

Lions not only obtain and fill the backpacks, they often reach deep into their own pockets to do so. “Lion Jim Prigmore, a local dentist, generously donates toothbrushes and toothpaste whenever needed. Other members of the club bring back any hotel toiletries they collect during their travels,” says Lorenz, whose granddaughter Kara also volunteers assembling the packs when she’s home from college. “Members of the Lions club never see the children who receive the backpacks, but we continue delivering them, knowing it’s the right thing to do.”



1 ASIA JAPAN

Volunteers Take Stock of Park

Akashi Park in Japan is famous for its radiant cherry blossoms. Lions found a novel way to get Japanese to literally invest in preserving its beauty.

Lions in Akashi sell “stock” in the park. For 500 yen (US\$6), a person becomes part of an environmental club that gathers at the park several times a year to plant trees, gather acorns, pick weeds and clean the grounds. More than 1,000 stockholders exist. Since 2001, they’ve planted 9,300 oak trees at the park.

The environmental club is called “Hyogo Acorn Woods of Thousand Year People.” Chihiro Sadohara of the Akashi Hyogo Lions Club explains, “It takes 10 years to build a landscape, 100 years for the environment, 1,000 years for climate. Buying stock and helping repair the climate that is essential for our survival is a far-reaching dream for us.”



“Stockholders” beautify Akashi Park.

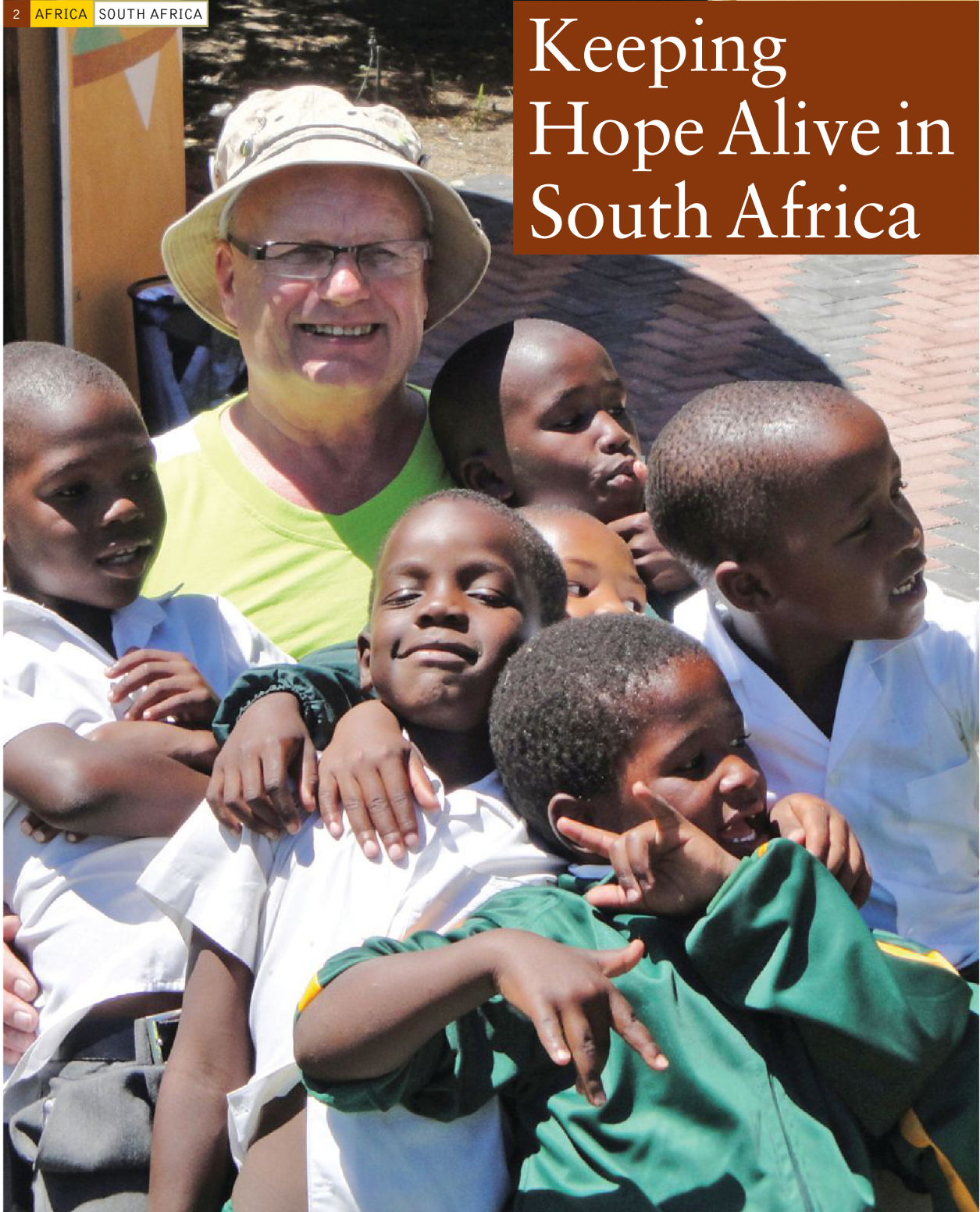
LIONS ON LOCATION

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



The **Ashikaga Lions Club** in **Japan** donated surgical equipment to the Tibetan Delek hospital in **Dharamsala, India**.

2 AFRICA SOUTH AFRICA



Keeping Hope Alive in South Africa

Lion Per Døving frolics with schoolchildren in Cape Town.



In **Alberta, Canada**, the **Vermilion Lions Club** hosted a walk to raise money for guide dogs in memory of a club member who had passed away.



The **Coventry Godiva Lions Club** in **England** donated £1,000 (US\$1,598) to a hospital's stroke unit.



In **Australia**, the **Ambarvale High School Leo Club** raised AUD\$1,100 (US\$1,156) for flood victims in Queensland.

After apartheid crumbled in South Africa, iThemba Labantu (“Hope for the People”) swung open its doors in Cape Town. Owned by three Lutheran churches, the community center offered child care, a kindergarten, job training, a soup kitchen, vegetable gardening and even a marimba band. For downtrodden people desperate to pull themselves out of poverty, the center became wildly popular—and unable to meet demand for its services.

Since 2008, Lions in Norway have come to the rescue, pumping in hundreds of thousands of dollars to finance expansion. The center had been able to start an auto mechanics and solar technician curricula and continue computer classes. The Lions are satisfying a burning hunger for self-advancement. “Lions in Cape Town tell us they’ve never seen more hard-working students,” says Per Døving, 2010-11 president of the Haslum Lions Club in Norway. “That’s not unique for this school. When young people from a poor environment get a chance, they grab it and do well for themselves and their families.”

The support for iThemba is a District 104-H project. Nearly 100 Norwegian Lions and family members have toured the center to meet its beneficiaries. The initiative grew out of a four-month volunteer stint in 2007 at the center by Bjarte Nygaard Bjørndal, past president of the Haslum Lions, and his wife, Marit Lise. The Tokai Lions Club in Cape Town, Haslum’s twinning club, helps monitor the initiative.

Lions are one supporter among many for iThemba. Volkswagen, for example, provided auto repair equipment.

Norwegian Lions plan to support the center for another three years. By then they expect the vocational schools to become self-sufficient by charging customers for work and through some government support.

Lions’ extensive support has proven to be life-saving by freeing up resources for iThemba, now treating people with HIV/AIDS. “Before people went to a hospice to die. Now they come for treatment and medication and the social support,” says Døving.



Students at iThemba Labantu learn how to fix cars.



Lions visit iThemba Labantu.



A marimba band at iThemba Labantu plays with gusto.

LIONS ON LOCATION

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



In Spain's Canary Islands, Tenerife Sur Lions provide vacations for underprivileged and special needs youth.



Pretty in Pink in Germany

The first all-women Lions club in Germany paddles in pink to battle breast cancer. Members of the Hofheim Rhein-Main Lions Club take to waterways in a pink dragon boat and pink paddles to raise awareness of the deadly disease.

Now a worldwide movement, the “pink paddlers” initiative began in 1996 in Canada when researchers discovered that repetitive rowing reduces the chance of lym-

phedema, a frequent side effect of radiation therapy for breast cancer. A build-up of tissue and fluid retention cause arm, breast and chest swelling.

Chartered in 1992, the Hofheim Rhein-Main Lions Club primarily helps women and children in need. The club partnered with government health officials on the breast cancer project.



Above:
The all-female club raises awareness of breast cancer.

Left:
The club uses customized equipment.



The **Forest Hill Lions Club** in **Australia** raised \$4,500 (US\$4,900) at a concert for flood and earthquake relief.



In **Northern Ireland**, the **Armagh Lions Club** pledged £4,000 (US\$6,600) towards music therapy for disabled children.

Food and Gifts for the Poor

Lions in Quezon City, Philippines, fed 250 street children and their mothers and also distributed gifts. Working with the Lions Service Foundation in District 301 D-1, the Lions have done the project for nearly a decade.



4 ASIA PHILIPPINES

5 ASIA INDIA

Planting Seeds of Success

The Guwahati Care Lions Club in eastern India distributed 6,000 saplings of fruit-bearing plants to 600 families in Borka, a rural village. Lions also are setting up a nursery in the village and working with the villagers on modern agricultural techniques.

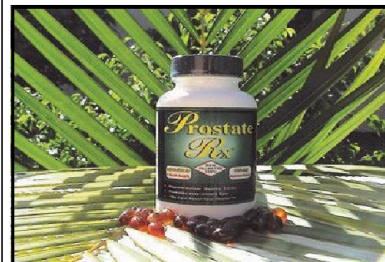
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Made in USA



Sept. 11, 2011

Commercial airliners don't crash into towers. People don't jump from the top floors of skyscrapers. A nation's heart can't be broken by a small band of fanatics.

How wrong we were. How innocent the days before 9/11 seem. How lasting and irreversible was a mournful morning a decade ago.

Sept. 11 was a defining moment for Lions, too. The international brotherhood that bonded Lions was always present but 9/11 brought it to the forefront. Lions worldwide grieved. Heartfelt messages of condolence from overseas landed digitally in the homes of U.S. Lions and at headquarters. Lions opened their pocketbooks. Funds poured into LCIF.

Lions and LCIF aided victims on a massive scale. Sadly, the know-how and organizational tools summoned after Sept. 11 were needed again after the tsunami in South Asia, Hurricane Katrina and, most recently, the earthquake/tsunami in Japan. Embedded in communities like no other group, Lions proved they could and would meet the challenges unleashed by horrific disasters.

We can't commemorate Sept. 11 here. Words on a few pages can't capture what was lost. But we can tell a few stories of how people in shock stayed true to their service mission. How good arises out of the starkest brutalities. How ideals, righteousness and compassion bloom from dust, ashes and tears.



The Tribute in Light Memorial beams in 2006 in downtown Manhattan, commemorating the destruction of the Twin Towers.

On the cover: Firefighters and police officers gather at the reflecting pool at Ground Zero during a 9/11 memorial ceremony on Sept. 11, 2009.



Remembering Sept. 11

by Jay Copp

Ed Plaughter, Arlington Fire Chief

In 2001, Arlington Fire Chief Ed Plaughter was in Fairfax applying for a loan when he heard about a fire at the Pentagon. He sped down I-66 in his Crown Victoria to the Pentagon and quickly found Arlington Assistant Fire Chief James Schwartz. He let Schwartz continue as the incident commander. Plaughter thought he could be more helpful in another way. He hurried over to a U.S. Park Police helicopter and pointed to the words “FIRE CHIEF” on his white hat. “You’re working for me. I need to go up,” he told the pilot.

Plaughter was able to assess the scope of the fire, the extent of the damage and the possibility of further collapses, information he relayed to Schwartz. “It was quite the brilliant move on his part,” Schwartz told the *Washington Post*. “What you got from where I was standing, while it was awesome in scope, you couldn’t see the whole thing.”

In the ensuing hours and days, Plaughter briefed the media on breaking developments and worked out terms of access to the Pentagon with military leaders, who wanted its people back in even as fires raged. One general “appre-

ciated Plaughter’s military-style command presence. The fire chief gave orders calmly but decisively, knew how to ask for what he wanted and was obviously comfortable being in charge,” according to *Firefight: Inside the Battle to Save the Pentagon on 9/11*.

A member of the Arlington Host Lions Club since 1996, Plaughter, 64, retired as chief in 2004 and is now a director with the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Last summer he traveled to Sierra Leone on a church mission to help the blind and he is planning a volunteer effort in Appalachia. “I’m sure that 9/11 events are an overriding factor in my life decisions: a desire to fix the world and everything in it that hurts,” he says.

Michael Hingson, Blind Hero

Blind since birth and working on the 78th floor of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, Michael Hingson has a unique perspective on the tragedy. A computer sales manager in 2001, he felt the building shake and heard a muffled explosion when the plane hit the other side of Tower One 18 floors above him. “We knew something had happened but no one knew what,” he says. Fire and smoke could be seen outside the window and panic began to take hold. But Roselle, Hingson’s guide dog, was calm. “That told me we had time. We could evacuate in an orderly fashion,” says Hingson, who calmly led his six workers down the stairs.

When Hingson reached the 30th floor, a firefighter told him he’d send someone to rescue him. “He was insistent. I was insistent, too. I had walked from the 78th floor and didn’t need someone who was needed elsewhere,” says Hingson. Shortly after he made it to the street, Tower 2 crumbled. “It’s coming down,” a police officer shouted. “I was 100 yards away from a 400-yard-tall building that was falling,” says Hingson, hit by debris as he ran with Roselle.

Fire Chief Ed Plaughter briefs reporters at the Pentagon on Sept. 12, 2001.



Department of Defense photo by R. D. Ward



Michael Hingson and Roselle led workers to safety on Sept. 11.

Hailed as a Sept. 11 hero, Hingson, 52, is now a motivational speaker for the Guide Dogs for the Blind, based in San Rafael, California. That organization, supported by Lions, trained Roselle, now 13 and retired but still with Hingson. Incidentally, Hingson received a Braille type-writer from Lions when in grade school and then a college scholarship from Lions. He has spoken at meetings of Lions clubs and districts.

Hingson's story is often prefaced with the remark that he led people to safety "despite his blindness." That perception led to his 9/11 perspective: "Just because I was blind doesn't mean I couldn't function. That I was helpless or not adequate," he says. "The handicap is not my blindness but the attitude and misconceptions about blindness. Most people think sight is the only game in town. There are lots of other ways to get information."

Dr. Maureen Murphy, Ground Zero Volunteer

On Sept. 14, Lion Maureen Murphy, a medical doctor, volunteered at a triage center in a firehouse across the street from the destroyed World Trade Center. Unstable buildings flanked the firehouse, and rescue workers told her to run

for safety out the back of the firehouse if a horn blew three times. The doctors and nurses waited to treat injured people pulled from the rubble. "No one was brought in," she says.

So the medical personnel treated rescue workers cut from debris and rinsed their irritated eyes with eyewash. Murphy made herself useful in other ways, too: delivering bottled water to workers, finding a sweatshirt for a worker in need and helping to assemble wheelbarrows, used to haul away debris. The "pile" of twisted steel and massive debris was a gruesome sight. "In the military I trained for disasters. As a doctor I've seen some terrible stuff come in the ER. But this was way beyond my wildest imagination," she says. "I'm sure the police and firefighters had thought they had seen it all. The enormity of it was beyond anything any of us could ever have imagined."

Murphy is married to Past International President Al Brandel, who helped coordinate Lions' recovery efforts and as a police officer took missing persons reports. The couple lost five friends on Sept. 11. This year a friend invited them on a cruise that begins Sept. 10. They decided not to go. "I'm sure there will be memorial services on Long Island and in New York City. It's important for us to be in town," she says.



Dr. Maureen Murphy (center) huddles with other volunteers at Ground Zero.



Even amid the gloom after Sept. 11, a firefighter found a moment of levity with Grossman.

Joyce Grossman, Warehouse Volunteer

Long before Sept. 11, Joyce Grossman was well-acquainted with suffering. For years she comforted critically ill children at Lions-supported Camp Sunshine in Maine. She confronted sudden loss as head of the claims department at an insurance company. Sept. 11 redefined tragedy. For months after 9/11, Grossman drove 20 miles from her home in New Jersey to work at the Lions warehouse 15 blocks from Ground Zero. There she sorted the clothes, gloves, batteries and other items needed by recovery workers.

Grossman visited Ground Zero. The sense of loss was overwhelming. "I cried a lot. But never at the warehouse, never when other people were around," says Grossman, who still gets emotional talking about those months.

On weekends Grossman took on another role. The warehouse received package after package of candy and stuffed animals. The gifts were sent to New York "by children, out of love," says Grossman. Postal authorities sent them to the warehouse. Grossman grew up in the Bronx and she and her husband, Marty, belonged to the Bronx Lions Club. On weekends the couple, their daughter and son-in-law stopped at the 26 firehouses in the Bronx to deliver the gifts.

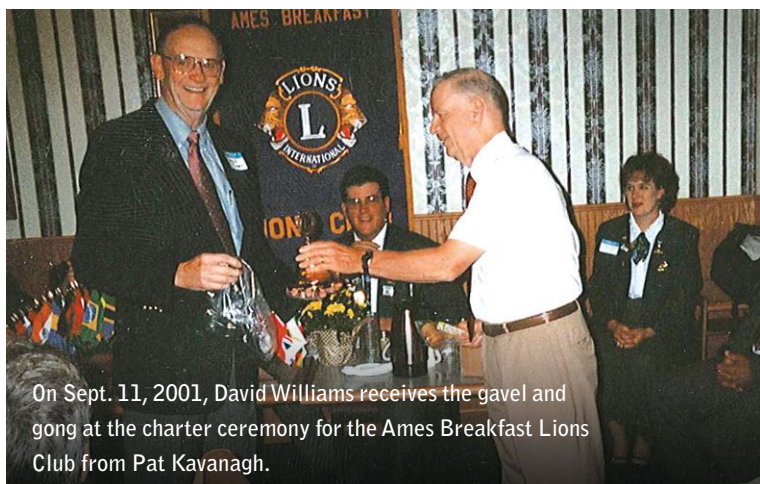
Outside each firehouse were shrines for the lost firefighters, their photos engulfed by flowers and stuffed animals. At one firehouse was a single firefighter, his comrades gone. "I'll never forget him. He was in tears," Grossman says.

Sept. 11 will be a quiet, reflective day for her. "I'll pray to myself. I'll hope it never happens again," she says.

David Williams, New Lion

A professor at Iowa State University in Ames, David Williams entered his classroom at about 9 a.m. on Sept. 11. His students had heard the news. Preparing for class, he had not. "We spent some time talking about it and what people had heard," says Williams. After class, Williams had a decision to make. It was the charter night for the Ames Breakfast Lions Club, and he was the charter president. "We debated on whether to go ahead with it but it was too late to contact people," says Williams, now retired. A Lion who was a minister said a prayer for the Sept. 11 victims at the meeting at a restaurant.

Since then, the club's membership has held steady at 25 and the club has stayed busy with vision screenings for children, sending children to diabetes camp and sponsoring guide dogs for training at prisons. Williams was president once again in 2010-11, and the club's 10th anniversary celebration on Sept. 11 will include a moment of silence or



On Sept. 11, 2001, David Williams receives the gavel and gong at the charter ceremony for the Ames Breakfast Lions Club from Pat Kavanagh.

other appropriate remembrance. A decade ago its members decided the best way to respond to the attacks was to forge ahead with American-style volunteerism. "It didn't slow us down a bit," says Williams. "Volunteering is important. It sends a message that we care."

Robert Klein, Steering Committee Chair

A retired staff director for a teachers union in 2001, Robert Klein of New York knew or knew of six people who died on Sept. 11. One was a Lion who was a firefighter. Another

was the wife of the owner of a pizza place he frequented. “She went off to work and didn’t come home,” he says. A past international director and a recent district governor, Klein was asked to lead the 9/11 Central Steering Committee that directed Lions’ relief efforts and disbursed the \$3.2 million mobilized by LCIF from Lions worldwide.

Klein attended countless meetings for nearly four years. “I’m a Lion. I was doing the work of a Lion. I had a lot more to do after 9/11. But it was Lions’ work,” he says. Klein met person after person whose haunting story or compassionate outreach has stayed with him. A woman at a Lions’ bereavement retreat told him how she had her children look at pictures of their father each night so they did not forget him. On a trip to Germany to visit relatives, Klein met with Lions there who had raised \$25,000 for the family of a firefighter. “You could just feel,” he says, the heartache they felt for the family. A woman who lost her firefighter-husband told Klein, “It was the most unbelievable day. He left home for work and I never saw him again.”

Steering committee members felt a deep responsibility to scrupulously oversee the allocation of funds. “We had heard stories how people [given aid] had used money for other purposes,” says Klein. “We wanted to do two things: control the money so it went to the best possible places and supervise how it was used.” Lions’ 9/11 service “worked magnificently,” he says.

Glenn Ryburn, Retreat Coordinator

Glenn Ryburn, a retired army colonel working for a defense contractor, drove toward a Pentagon parking lot for a mid-morning meeting when he had to turn around. “I saw smoke, noise. I knew something had happened,” he says. He learned of the attack on his radio and set to work: he was governor of District 24-A, which includes the Pentagon. Within a few hours he and other Lions had purchased a vast assortment of gloves, masks, batteries and other items needed for rescue operations. That day he made connections with the Salvation Army, which promptly delivered the goods.

Assisted by LCIF, Ryburn and other Lions decided to help the airline workers, taxi drivers and others economically impacted by Sept. 11. They received checks to tide them over. Not long ago, a Lion-friend in Tucson, Arizona, sent Ryburn a newspaper story profiling a local man who



Robert Klein (second from left) congratulates Lions on providing a retrofitted shipping container at Ground Zero. Recovery workers used the units as offices, warming centers and sleeping quarters.



Children at a Lions’ Sept. 11 camp in West Virginia

relocated from Washington after the terrorist attack. “He talked about how he was able to get on his feet because the Lions helped him with his bills,” says Ryburn.

Ryburn also helped organize three bereavement retreats for Pentagon families and the Pennsylvania plane crash families at a resort in the West Virginia woods. The camps helped families deal with their grief. Says Ryburn, “One elderly lady told me it was the first time she was able to have closure with the loss of her son. ‘Everyone else was trying to tell me this is how you are supposed to feel. No one told me that here.’ ”

In the last decade Ryburn and his club have hosted several memorial services at a 9/11 memorial gazebo erected by Lions and at a high school. This year will be no different. “I’ll do something,” he says. “It’s not an easy task. There are a lot of emotions involved.”

Sept. 11, 2011

Nancy Yambem and her son, Santi, memorialized Jupiter with art at Camp Sunshine.

Finding Peace After Loss

Lions' Camp Helped New York Widow Regain Equilibrium

by David McKay Wilson

A decade after Sept. 11, Nancy Yambem of New York remembers her husband, Jupiter, with a shrine in her living room. Patterned after an Indian tradition, it includes a picture of him; candles that get lit on his birthday, full moons and the anniversary of his death; a snow globe of the Twin Towers; and an urn containing what's left of his ashes.

The rest of his ashes were carefully scattered around the world—at the headwaters of Ganges River in India, in the Himalayan Mountains where he attended high school; Lake Loktok in India; along the Hudson River in New York; and in the Grand Canyon, where Jupiter dreamed of one day vacationing.

“My life is moving ahead, but I will always miss him,

always talk about him, always try to incorporate those memories into my life,” says Yambem. “It never really leaves you.”

Jupiter was a banquet manager on the 106th floor of the World Trade Center. He'd arrived at work the morning of Sept. 11 on his new daytime shift, negotiated a few weeks earlier so he could spend evenings with his wife and five-year-old son.

Jupiter never came home, and suddenly, Nancy Yambem became the tragic face of 9/11 in Dutchess County, in the northern outskirts of New York City, 75 miles north of Ground Zero.

“I couldn't even go to the grocery store without

hearing the whispers,” says Yambem, 49. “I was so tense. I couldn’t let down my guard.”

The deep pain associated with 9/11 is mostly gone, helped in part by a Lions Clubs International program at Camp Sunshine in Maine. Yambem attended with her son over four summer weeks from 2002 to 2006. She has since remarried, and moved into a new home in Wappinger Falls up the hill from the Hudson River, with her husband, Jerry.

Those summer sessions at which she shared her pain with other widows were so helpful in her healing process that Yambem is now helping others dealing with loss through a biweekly bereavement group at Christ Church United Methodist Church in Beacon.

“Nancy talks about rearing a son without a father and how much the Sunshine program meant to her,” says Bonnie Lahey of Beacon, who has been coming to the group for three years. “She helps us understand that it’s normal to have bad days and not to feel guilty about having good days. She applauds us. She encourages us. She inspires us.”

While Yambem has made great strides in moving beyond those horrific days in 2001, the events of Sept. 11 still reverberate. In early May, the killing of Osama Bin Laden rekindled feelings about that fateful September morning.

The morning after the raid by Navy SEALs, Yambem fielded calls from journalists in her hometown as well as from her husband’s native land of India, with writers looking for the 9/11 widow’s take on Bin Laden’s assassination. Then she headed to her son’s high school, where she feared Bin Laden’s death may have sparked turmoil inside him. Her maternal intuition was right.

“They’d been talking about it in a class, and he came down to the guidance office with tears in his eyes,” says Yambem. “It was totally personal to him. This was a very hard day for him.”

The Pakistani raid and the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks are the latest milestones in Yambem’s journey to resume her life while never forgetting the deep love she shared with her husband.

They were an unlikely couple, who met at the State

University of New York at New Paltz in 1981. A native New Yorker from Syracuse, Yambem arrived in the Hudson Valley to discover the healing power of sound in the study of music therapy. He was an Indian, from the northeast state of Manipur, who had come to the United States in 1981 to work at a summer camp in Vermont. He fell in love with this country, and began the process of settling here by matriculating at New Paltz that fall. They

were married in 1991 and had their son in 1996.

As a banquet manager at Windows on the World—the function hall on the 106th and 107th floors of the World Trade Center’s North Tower—Yambem for many years worked late hours, catering for the corporate events that filled the sprawling complex. His son, Santi, called the venue “Poppa Up In The Sky.” But then he became assistant coach on Santi’s soccer team and wanted to spend more time with his growing boy. So he switched to the morning shift, so he could get home to be with Santi. “He was so passionate about being with his son,” recalls Yambem.

The first year was especially hard for Yambem, as she dealt with her husband’s violent death and helped her son



Yambem and Santi are moving forward with their lives after their loss.



Santi launches a "wish boat" at Camp Sunshine in Maine.

"This was a huge thing—to learn that we could have fun, that we could let loose and enjoy ourselves, outside the fishbowl of our communities."

come to grips with the harsh reality that his loving Poppa was gone. In New York City, grieving families provided support for one another in myriad programs, but in the mid-Hudson Valley, Yambem was mostly alone.

Then she learned of the Ray of Hope Week, sponsored by Lions Clubs International and UJA-Federation of New York at Camp Sunshine in Casco, Maine.

In 2002, Yambem and her six-year-old son were among 28 parents and more than 60 kids—mostly younger than 10—who came for a week of spirited play, heartfelt sharing and much-needed healing that emerged from sessions of bereavement counseling.

For the children, there was swimming, boating, rock climbing and crafts—a real summer camp experience at a sleep-away camp that typically serves children with serious illnesses. The families performed rituals to mark those who they lost on Sept. 11. They sent tiny "wish boats" into Pleasant Lake with candles to the sounds of Elton John's "Circle of Life." They also sent helium-filled balloons aloft with messages to their lost loved ones.

"It was an expression of letting go, while also maintaining contact with our loved ones," Yambem says.

Yambem and the other 9/11 widows were able to relax outside the media glare—and the pitying looks of people who knew of them in their hometowns. They had time set aside to talk to each other about how to move forward, and they discussed such topics as when it might be appropriate to start dating. These conversations continued for the ensuing three summers as the families returned, renewed their bonds, shared how they had healed and found time to experience joy without guilt.

These experiences moved Yambem deeply. And she rediscovered how music could touch her heart.

"This was a huge thing—to learn that we could have fun, that we could let loose and enjoy ourselves, outside the fishbowl of our communities," says Yambem. "It was also the first time I sang again. I remember singing Van Morrison's 'Moondance.' I finally felt comfortable enough to sing again. And I started to heal."

Lions, LCIF Brought Hope, Healing

Sept. 11 left children without parents, parents without jobs and families without means to cope with their grief. Lions and LCIF leapt into the breach, providing short-term financial assistance; offering critical services such as job training, mentoring for children and assistance for the disabled; and sponsoring bereavement retreats. Lions brought health, hope and healing to tens of thousands.

The assistance was made possible by the Sept. 11 Disaster Relief Fund. Lions worldwide sent donations to LCIF, which mobilized \$3.2 million. Representing Lions from the six states directly impacted by the tragedy, the 9/11 Central Steering Committee allocated the funds.

Immediately after Sept. 11, Lions worked directly at Ground Zero, staffed a warehouse that supplied rescue workers with tools, equipment and clothing, retrofitted shipping containers that served as offices and warming centers, and, at the Pentagon, gave recovery workers supplies. Lions then worked with community centers in New York such as the Henry Street Settlement, Tuesday's Children and September Space on emotional, mental health and employment needs. Lions also partnered with groups such as the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation on retreats to help people cope with their loss.

LCIF's 40-page Sept. 11 report can be downloaded from www.lionsclubs.org.

The members of the 9/11 Central Steering Committee were Past International Director (PID) Robert Miller of Multiple District (MD) 14; PID Stanley Grossman, Past District Governor (PDG) Elsbeth Moore and PID Chuck Wiemer of MD 16, PID Robert Klein, Chair, PID John Rabideau, Past International President (PIP) Robert J. Uplinger and Past Council Chair (PCC) John Wargo of MD 20; PIP Clement Kusiak, PDG Robert Muchow, PCC Deborah Thompson and PID Darley Travers of MD 22; PCC Krish Nanavatny and PID Scott Storms of MD 23; PCC Glenn Ryburn and PID Roy Wilson of MD 24; and PID Charles Kostro of MD 33.



This QR (quick response) code will take you to the 9/11 report. After downloading an app (there are many to choose from), your smartphone can scan the code.

Sept. 11, 2011

United in Grief

Fatherless Children Mentored by Man Who Lost Brother

by Jim H. Smith

When Jim Giaccone arrives at Nicole Reda's house in New Hyde Park, a bedroom village 15 miles east of New York City, Reda's boys are waiting excitedly. Nicholas, 12, and Matthew, 10, played baseball this morning, showered and wolfed down lunch. They haven't seen Giaccone in a month and they know he will take them to a field to launch the rockets they built together.

Over the past four years Giaccone has engaged in all kinds of activities with the boys. They go to movies and baseball games and hike and fish together. They've done ice-skating, kite-flying and lots of other things boys do with an "older brother," the role Giaccone says he tries to play in their lives.

"Jim's a fun guy for them to spend time with and they really look forward to his company," says Nicole, who lost her husband on Sept. 11. Giaccone volunteered to mentor 9/11 children through Tuesday's Children, founded to help families after Sept. 11. Lions were a major funder of Tuesday's Children. Lions' 9/11 Central Steering Committee gave \$100,000 to Tuesday's Children and \$100,000 to each of five other groups assisting 9/11 victims.

The grants enabled people to find jobs and receive job training, child care and counseling. Families picked up the shattered pieces of their lives and moved on. The programs connected families with compassionate experts and hidden resources. Some, like the Reda family, bonded with volunteers nursing their own 9/11 wounds and eager to help others while dealing with their own loss.

In 2001, with two little boys, Nicole Reda had her hands full. It was Nicholas's impending arrival that had spurred Nicole and her husband, Greg, a vice president and systems analyst with the prominent professional services company Marsh and McLennan, to move in 1999 to the more spacious new home Nicole was still decorating.

Greg had gone to work early on Sept. 11 to attend a budget meeting. Nicole was a stay-at-home mom who had taken a leave from her job as a speech therapist in the New

York City Board of Education public schools. Nicole was preparing a bath for Matthew when a friend called.

An airplane, the friend said, had just hit the World Trade Center, where Greg worked. Nicole's first thought was that someone piloting a small plane had probably suffered a heart attack. But when she turned on the television it soon became clear that something far worse had happened.

In Queens, just a few miles away, Giaccone, a plumbing contractor, was working on a construction site that morning. His cell phone rang at about 9 a.m., too. His wife told him something had happened at the World Trade Center. There was a fire.

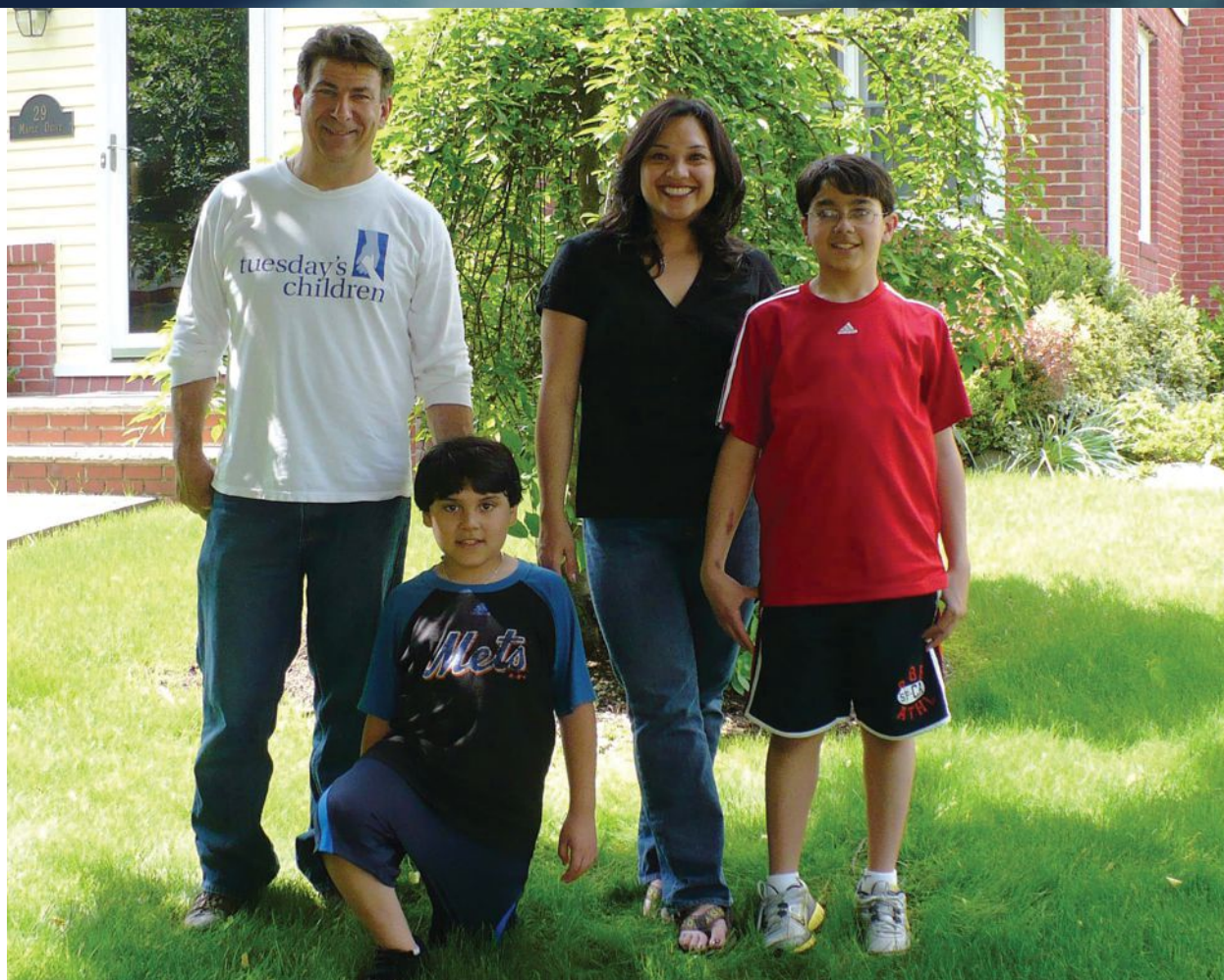
Down in the shadows of the construction site, Giaccone couldn't see Manhattan, and his cell reception wasn't great, either. So he climbed up higher to look across the East River at the two tallest buildings in the city. "I expected there'd be some smoke," he recalls. But he wasn't prepared for the huge black plume he saw.

Greg Reda worked on the 95th floor of the North Tower, just above where American Airlines Flight 11 had collided with the building. Jim Giaccone's brother, Joseph, was director of global infrastructure with the international financial services company Cantor Fitzgerald, a few floors higher. They—and 657 other people at Cantor, 364 others at Marsh—were trapped by the inferno below.

Reda was fortunate to have a tightly knit family and friends who supported her and her sons. Still, she quickly realized she had to be strong for the two little boys depending on her. "They lost their dad," she says. "I wasn't going to let them lose their mom, too."

Two months after 9/11, *Time* magazine published a story about her and how she was coping with her terrible loss. For better or worse she became a face for the grief that, to some extent, nearly all Americans were sharing.

Another woman who had lost her husband read the article and got in touch with Reda. They became friends and



Jim Giaccone, who lost his brother on Sept. 11, has mentored Matthew (kneeling) and Nicholas, sons of Nicole Reda, whose husband, Greg, also died at the World Trade Center.

found solace in each other's company. Eventually they joined one of the many support groups that spontaneously emerged to help the survivors. In 2002 Reda resumed her speech therapy career.

Giaccone describes himself as a "hands-on, blue-collar guy." The idea of a support group didn't appeal to him. He drew closer to his wife and two teen-age children and to Joseph's family. But he missed his brother acutely and he needed some way to cope more productively with the anger and sadness he felt.

Giaccone came across some promotional literature for Tuesday's Children. The group was looking for volunteer mentors. "My most valuable asset is my time," he says. "I felt like there wasn't a better way for me to honor my brother."

After completing a rigorous screening process that included an extensive application, interviews, and a thorough criminal background check, he underwent training. "We don't try to replace those who were lost," says Sara Wingerath, director of family programs at Tuesday's Children. "What we aim to do is help kids live the lives they

would have lived if 9/11 hadn't happened. Mentors need to be able to communicate with children openly and non-judgmentally, and they need strong listening skills. Beyond that, we try to match kids with mentors who share their interests."

Reda had heard about Tuesday's Children not long after it began but she waited a while to contact them. In the aftermath of 9/11, she says, "I was very protective of the kids. I felt like, 'This is what I have left.' The idea of letting them go anywhere with a stranger was completely out of the question."

But as Nicholas grew older, she realized there were things she simply couldn't provide for him. So she reached out to Tuesday's Children and Nicholas was matched with Giaccone in 2007.

"We took baby steps at first," Giaccone says. "I met with Nicholas and Nicole and the first few times I got together with Nicholas were at their home. The first thing we did outside the house was bowling at a nearby alley."

Giaccone soon became a trusted friend of the family and a year and a half later Reda asked him if he would mentor Matthew, as well.

A flag towers over Redding, California.



Lions Show Pride on Sept. 11

A huge American flag has waved over Redding, California, since exactly one year after Sept. 11. The Enterprise Lions Club has seen to it that it will fly in perpetuity thanks to a \$150,000 endowment fund.

The club erected the 30-foot by 60-foot flag on a 120-foot flagpole in 2002 and raised money for the endowment fund partly through drive-through fundraisers. An estimated 15,000 vehicles on Interstate 5 pass the flag each day. The flag site costs \$6,000 annually to maintain.

Other Lions clubs commemorate the day by displaying flags and banners with names of the victims of the terror attack. The White Sulphur Springs Lions Club in West Virginia started the patriotic tribute on an interstate overpass on Sept. 11, 2002. Now also displaying flags on Sept. 11 are Lions from clubs in Conway, Georgetown, Little River, Lori, Mullins and North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Calabash, North Carolina; and Belfast, Maine.

Snohomish Lions in Washington hang nearly two dozen flags downtown in September, and the Plainville Lions in Massachusetts are planning a black granite 9/11 monument with images of the Twin Towers etched on the front, Shanksville, Pennsylvania, on the side and the Pentagon on the back.

Sept. 11, 2011

"I get together with the kids a couple times a month, and I let them play a big part in deciding what we're going to do," Giaccone says. "Sometimes I help them with homework. Sometimes we play catch. Sometimes we just talk. Often, for me, the most powerful time is when we're going to and from events and talking in the car."

Nicholas plays with a rocket Giaccone helped him build.



He's also the ideal teacher for two youngsters who, like lots of boys, love tools. In Giaccone's workshop they've build birdhouses that are occupied by songbirds in their front yard. And last year they made the kind of Christmas gifts for Nicole—ornaments and a picture frame—that express their love the way no gift purchased in a store could.

Giaccone has participated in some very taxing outdoor adventures including dogsled racing and rock climbing. He's run three marathons in which he has raised thousands of dollars, through sponsorship, for Tuesday's Children. But it's his time with others that is the most beneficial. "It's very rewarding spending time with Nicholas and Matthew," he says. "I feel better about myself when I'm able to do something for others. Life is a lot more precious for me now."

Reda, too, has tested herself physically. She did white water rafting and rock climbing with other widows in Colorado on an Outward Bound trip. But it's the personal connections that have boosted her spirits.

"When you go through a tragedy you have to be really strong," she says. "Before Greg died I never thought I'd be able to do all of the things I've had to do to keep my family together. You can work so hard at being strong and independent, though, that you may forget it's OK to lean on other people sometimes."

Lions' Commemorative Coin Proposed

How much is a Lions' silver dollar worth? About \$8 million. That's how much Lions Clubs International hopes to raise for LCIF if Congress passes a commemorative coin bill honoring the centennial of Lions in 2017.

Getting Congressional approval is not automatic. Congress passes only two commemorative coin bills each year.

But many Lions including past international presidents, past international directors and other members have lobbied or will lobby their congressional representatives to pass the bi-partisan legislation.

One side of the coin will display the LCI logo. LCI has not decided yet what will be on the other side of the coin, but the design most likely will involve something representative of Lions such as We Serve in Braille.

If approved, the U.S. Mint will produce as many as 400,000 coins and set a price of around \$45, depending on the price of silver. (Coin dealers later will charge more.) After the U.S. Mint recovers its cost, a \$10 surcharge for every coin sold will go to LCIF and its programs for the visually impaired, those with disabilities, youths and victims of natural disasters.

The commemorative coin idea originated with two members of the Sandy Spring Lions Club in Maryland. Brother Meredith Pattie, a past district governor, and Alan Ballard were at a luncheon for Melvin Jones Fellows when they began to brainstorm ways to support LCIF. "Our first idea was a coin for the 50th anniversary of the death of

Melvin Jones [in 1961]. But we realized we were too late for that," says Pattie.

Pattie and Ballard, who has a modest coin collection, put together a thick notebook on commemorative coins. They eventually formed a nine-person Lions' committee from District 22 C that includes Past International Director

Joseph Gaffigan, who, as LCIF chairperson for the district, was the main speaker at the luncheon.

Co-sponsors of the Lions Clubs International Century of Service Commemorative Coin Act, H.R. 2139, are Rep. Peter Roskam, a Republican whose district in Illinois includes Oak Brook and LCI headquarters, and Rep. Larry Kissell, a Democrat from North Carolina who is a Lion. Senator Jerry Moran, a Republican from Kansas who is a Lion, introduced the bill, S. 1299, in June in that chamber. The legislation needs 290 co-sponsors in the U.S. House and 67 co-sponsors in the U.S. Senate to pass.

Lions are asked to write or call their representatives to

urge them to co-sponsor H.R. 2139. The LCI Web site (www.lionsclubs.org/coin) offers tips on contacting lawmakers and includes a regularly updated tally of number of co-sponsors.

Pattie is convinced the coin will be minted. "I think it's a slam dunk. Lions are an organization with good standing," he says. But he and his committee, as well as LCI, encourage Lions to call or write their legislator to urge co-sponsorship.



Walking outside of the Senate Chamber on Capitol Hill in Washington, Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas, who is a Lion, introduced the commemorative coin bill in that chamber. AP Photo/Harry Hamburg

Inspire and Involve:

Serving Together is All in the Family

by Pamela Mohr

Lis DaCruz, a single mother in Newport, Rhode Island, considers herself lucky that she got to know members of the Newport Lions Club through their monthly meetings at the hotel she manages. Since her 13-year-old son Chandler participated in the club's soap box derby races, she also saw Lions as they interacted with kids at the races. "They were all so warm and helpful. I was able to see firsthand how nice they are. Chandler was very shy, but he's opened right up." Declared the Rhode Island champ two years ago, Chandler continued on to the national finals in Akron, Ohio, where he placed ninth in the country.

DaCruz says she decided to join the Newport Lions Club in part because she could bring Chandler and her daughter, Alexis, to activities and meetings as part of the Lions Family Cub Program. "It's so good for them to be around people. I don't have to worry about them at home and they can mingle with Lions. They're able to volunteer at school and learn how to give back to the community. The Lions have really embraced my children."

More families are being inspired to serve together. Lions are introducing their kids to volunteerism through the Cub program or by including them in family-centered club activities. Unlike the dues-discounting Family Membership program that's aimed at adults, there's no charge for starting a Cub program or simply involving children in Lions activities. A growing number of parents are now heading out to club meetings with a child in tow.

Newport Lion Helen Steeves credits the Lions Web site with helping her club begin a Cub Program. "We are constantly trying to grow our club and thought it was a great idea to allow families with children to become a part of Lions. The program also allows children to take part in serving their community and learn to help others. There are tons of projects suggested by the Lions Family



Cubs Chandler and Alexis, with mother Lis DaCruz, wear the pins designed by Helen Steeves at their induction.

Cub Program pages located on the Lions Web site and they break it down according to a Cub's age." Activities are geared toward three age groups: kids ages 3 and younger, 4 to 7, and 8 to 12. This special program for kids is designed to instill a lifelong commitment to service. She advises Lions to take advantage of the provided guidance. "Check it out—it is terrific!"

Steeves, 2010-11 club president, says that Lions first invited cubs Connor and Wyatt Rogers to meetings so their parents, Colonel Brian and Elizabeth Rogers, could attend meetings. "We had Lion volunteers hang out with them and play games and provide snacks for them. The children were very young when their parents joined, maybe 4 and 8. They were so cute, we couldn't resist having them as our first cubs. They were thrilled to be in the St. Patrick's Day parade, too," she points out. The pair

Pomona Host, California, Lion Amanda Gonzales gives a little instruction to daughter, Zoe.

Photo by Gil Smith



Lion Ray Maeda shows daughter, Marissa, how to release the ball during the Pomona Host Lions Club's Bowl-a-thon.

Photo by Gil Smith



Lion Matt Michels gives his mother, Robin Smith, in costume as Chester the Lion, a ride to a Lions event on the back of his Harley.

rode in a soapbox derby car promoting Lions' sponsorship of the event. The family moved to Kentucky after Rogers was transferred, but Newport Lions continued the Cub program.

When DaCruz was inducted in a fall meeting, the kids were also inducted as Cubs. They were given specially designed paw-print pins with their names by Steeves, a graphic artist. They're already helping with the club's "Support our Troops" project by involving their 6th and 7th-grade classmates at Joseph H. Gaudet School. Students are writing letters of appreciation and collecting goodies to be sent to soldiers stationed in a remote area in Afghanistan.

"We really like being Lion Cubbies," Chandler says. "We get to write letters to soldiers in the Armed Forces and collect canned food for the needy." Club meetings now open with Chandler and Alexis leading the pledge of allegiance, which DaCruz says the kids really enjoy. The Cub program has made community service a DaCruz family focus and further strengthened their bonds.

Next Generation Service

Pomona Host Lions in California sponsor an annual bowl-a-thon that raised more than \$10,000 last year. Thanks to family involvement, Lions boosted their charitable giving. Lions didn't bowl, but their kids and family members did after gathering pledges based either on their bowling score or a set amount.

Lions are committed to bringing in younger members as part of their "Remaking the Club for the Next Generation" campaign. "We are continuing to add new

members in their 20s, 30s and early 40s, and some have small children," explains Barb Smith. "Some of our activities, like the bowl-a-thon and a recent Quakes baseball game, include children, and we hope to have more activities for entire families." Older Lions are encouraged to bring their adult children or grandchildren to these activities.

"The new manpower has allowed us to become even a stronger force in the community. We are especially excited about our new student literacy project, working one-on-one and in small groups to develop reading and writing fluency with struggling students," explains Smith. "The Pomona Unified School District is a low-achieving and low-wealth district, with 79 percent of the students qualifying for federal poverty levels. About 50 percent are second-language English learners and 10 percent are homeless."

Smith continues, "Much of our community service work centers around the schools because the children have such deep and genuine needs. Our club built a vision and hearing clinic that is manned by optometrists from the Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry, one of our service partners.

"We purchase \$5,000 to \$6,000 worth of eyeglasses every year for needy students who otherwise can't afford vision correction, we hold a Sight for Success campaign to raise money for children's eyeglasses, run the hearing clinic at the Kid's Fair and help support the REACH program at the University of LaVerne for at-risk, but talented high school juniors."

She emphasizes, "The goal of our 'Remaking the club for the Next Generation' campaign is to recruit enough new members so that we can meet the many needs of our community." Since many current and potential members

Cubs Connor and Wyatt Rogers promoted Newport Lions in a St. Patrick's Day parade.



have young families, they are obviously concerned with issues that affect children.

Amanda Gonzalez, a Lion since 2006 and membership chairperson for the past few years, says the bowling activity did more than raise money. Her two young children bowled, and despite a hard rainstorm that hit Pomona that evening, “It was an amazing turnout! I really enjoy getting my children involved in giving back. Incorporating fun into fundraising encourages them to want even more to help those who are less fortunate. We have purchased backpacks and school supplies for kids and typically purchase presents during the holiday season. I think parents need to instill the idea of giving back when their children are young.”

Youth Volunteers Increase

A nationwide study commissioned by The Volunteer Family showed that 73 percent of young people ages 12 to 17 have served as volunteers. The Massachusetts-based non-profit organization matches families with volunteer opportunities in their own neighborhoods. As indicated by respondents, the most popular endeavor (29 percent) was helping children in need. Following that were environmental projects and assisting the elderly, sick or disabled.

Mikaela Smith, 12, of Chesterton, Indiana, is one young person who didn't have to look beyond her own doorstep to find opportunities for community service. Her mother, Robin, was 2010-11 Chesterton Lions Club president at the same time her father Mike was District 25-A governor. Mikaela has grown up with Lions. “It's Lions all the time at our house,” she says with a good-natured laugh.

She is sometimes asked her opinion by club members. “I like that. I feel like I'm being included. I wish more clubs would include kids—if not all of them. Kids have a lot of ideas. If adults listened, they could learn, too.”

Mikaela helps count ticket money at the annual Harvest Fest. “I like doing that. And it's not only because they sell really good fudge there,” she quickly points out. She considers herself a Lion-in-training. “When I'm old enough, I'll join the club, too.”

“Families are first in our club,” says Robin Smith. Parents are encouraged to bring their kids if they can't find someone to watch their children at home. “We want them to attend meetings or activities even if they can't find a sitter. It wasn't planned, but it has just evolved that way,”

GUIDING KIDS TO SERVICE

Finding family-friendly projects that involve the kids isn't hard. Many activities can inspire children to become involved in volunteerism.

- Plant trees and flowers to beautify the community
- Organize a bicycle safety program
- Recycle
- Collect gently used clothing for people in need
- Support your local food pantry by helping to collect food and stock its shelves
- Visit nursing homes and hospitals
- Collect toiletries and items for soldiers serving overseas
- Rake leaves or do light household chores for elderly residents
- Bake cookies to deliver to senior citizens
- Volunteer at an animal shelter
- Make hand-crafted cards to deliver to nursing homes at the holidays

Visit <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/common/pdfs/mpfm33.pdf> or the Lions Web site and search “Family Cub Program” to see all the Lions Family Cub Program Activity Guide has to offer.

she explains. “We try to gear our activities to families that are a little ‘out of the box,’” she says. “Once a month we'll try to do something a little fun and different. We're trying to attract young people with families to join. We tell them, ‘Bring your child—we'll find something for them to do.’” The club sponsors annual Easter egg hunts and a turtle derby over the Fourth of July holiday.

One of the Chesterton Lions' most popular events has been the Sweetheart Swirl, a dance for young girls and their fathers or guardians. Other siblings are also welcome to attend, and hundreds of kids have participated. “It was Mikaela's idea,” says Smith. “She had attended another dance with her father and asked me why the Lions don't do the same thing. We decided, ‘Why not?’”

The move to build a family-friendly Lions club is already working. Smith's adult children Matt Michels and Jennifer McCormick have become Chesterton Lions. Michels turns out to be a fast learner—he's already brought his 10-year-old stepson Antonio to club events. “We think it's good for Lions to be mentors to kids, to show them how to do something for somebody else,” she says. “By bringing them to activities, we're showing them, ‘It's not about me.’ Everybody wins.”



FOURTH OF JULY
IN EXETER
SPONSORED BY
EXETER LIONS
1999

"LION"
JOHN SCHULTZ
COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS (1946-1996)
OF EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO THE
PEOPLE OF EXETER AND SURROUND-
ING COMMUNITIES FOR HIS OUTSTAND-
ING LEADERSHIP AS CHIEF PYRO-
TECHNICIAN AT THE ANNUAL LIONS
CLUB FREE 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS.

KERBY 1999

Creating Community

From fireworks to festivals, the Exeter Lions Club shapes the character of a small California town

by Lauren Williamson

Nestled in the San Joaquin Valley in California, at the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, sits the small town of Exeter. Most of the 11,000 residents are farmers, cultivating navel oranges, nectarines, plums and peaches, as well as grapes for both wine and table. It's a little bit of Eden, 25 miles west of the great redwoods of Sequoia National Park.

Like many towns across the country, this little enclave was shaken during World War II when its young men enlisted in the military and were sent to fight in battlefields half a world away. For those who returned, it wasn't easy to regain the sense of comfort and stability they left behind. The Lions club made their transition to life back in Exeter a little bit easier.

In 1938, before the war shuttled them away, a small group of young men formed the Exeter Lions Club. It plugged along while they were gone and greeted them when they returned. During the years following the war, the club's membership surged to 70, and that's about where it has remained ever since.

Treasurer Mickey Hirni was just a boy when the Exeter Lions Club came into being, but he remembers those days well.

"When these guys came back, they went to work and went on with their lives," says Hirni, a consultant to

banks on agricultural loans. "They established businesses or farmed, but the Lions club was important to them."

To this day, the Lions club remains at Exeter's core. It counts the mayor, police chief and three city councilmen as members. The club sponsors many of the annual activities central to Exeter's character, including the Fourth of July fireworks, several parades and, most anticipated, Brewfest, a beer-tasting extravaganza that draws about 2,000 guests each March.

"If you don't think you know us, think again," 2010-11 President Jack Allwardt says of Exeter residents who might be unaware of the Lions' impact. "We're really involved in the community, and if you're active in the community, you know us."

The club also extensively supports the area's youth, sponsoring athletic programs and a Boy Scout troop, while donating money to local charities and individual families who are struggling.

"Anyone who was ever in need always went to the Lions club," Hirni says. "It's still that way."

John Schultz, a bomber pilot during WWII, was one of the men who helped strengthen the club after the war and worked to create a rallying point for the people of Exeter. Schultz, who was also one of California's first licensed pyrotechnicians, convinced the Lions to host a free fireworks display on July 4, 1946, a tradition that has continued ever since. Every year, the club donates \$10,000 to purchase the fireworks, which Schultz personally ignited for 50 years.

Club officers Gary Mussen (left) and Mickey Hirni carry on the tradition of service set by Exeter Lions such as John Schultz, who ignited the town's fireworks display.



The “Lions Limousine” helps commemorate Exeter’s centennial.

“Anybody in town, if you said John Schultz, they always put ‘Lion’ in front of it,” Hirni says.

These days Lion Paul Evans maintains the ritual, lighting roughly 200 mortars each Fourth of July, Hirni says.

“It’s a big draw for the city,” Allwardt says. “The whole community comes out. People come from miles around and park on the hillside to watch it. It’s one of the few fireworks displays left in the area.”

Exeter memorialized Schultz in a 14-by-12-foot mural in 1999 for his decades of service to the town. In the painting, Schultz stands proudly below a dramatic firework display, wearing, of course, his Lion’s vest. The mural is one of 30 that grace buildings along Exeter’s streets, supporting a robust tourist business as visitors de-

tour from the redwood forest to see the town’s famous paintings.

In addition to sponsoring the Schultz mural, the Lions club funded another painting that features a mountain lion, titled “Rocky Hill Guardian.”

Lions believed it was important to sponsor the murals because of what they’ve done to help spur Exeter’s economy, says longtime secretary Gary Mussen.

In 1990, a freeze ruined the citrus crops that are crucial to Exeter’s economy, devastating farmers such as Mussen.

“It just worked its way down to every business in town,” Mussen says. “But we bounced back. The murals created a lot of interest. People have something to look in on and be proud of.”

Also integral to the community's pride are events such as Exeter's centennial celebration, which Lions commemorated with a parade in March.

For years, Mussen has chaired the parades, organizing the floats and bands and emceeing the events from a large trailer downtown.

In preparation for the centennial parade, Mussen created a gigantic pair of glasses to perch upon the "Lions Limousine"—a 24-foot contraption the Lions made from two welded-together Volkswagen buses. The limo appears in the fall parade, as well, and drives around town decorated with lights at Christmas.

"You have to live in a small town to understand the importance of these events," Allwardt says. "[When you live in a big city], you have to understand, you may have a block party one or two times a year. Every time there's an activity [in Exeter], it's like a town block party. So we focus our activities in town. It's important for us."

The club raises about \$100,000 each year, with one unspoken rule: It must all be spent by the end of the year.

While it does much to help underprivileged families, particularly around the holidays, the club also promotes leadership opportunities for youth. It helps Boy Scouts complete projects to earn the Eagle Scout rank and supports teens who want to attend leadership conferences and participate in sports.

Recently, a student who traveled on a two-year mission trip to Southeast Asia with the Lions' help returned and gave a presentation about what he learned. Lions re-

quire similar reports from any student to whom they give money.

"It's important to know how the money works," Hirni says. "We don't just give money out."

The main fundraiser each May is Brewfest, held in a grassy five-acre park near the Veterans Memorial Building. During that single event, Hirni says the Lions raise about \$65,000 to fund their projects.

Microbreweries from across the West Coast donate beer, which patrons sample from about 20 tasting stations. People line up for a special spicy sausage made by a local butcher and named for the Exeter Lions Club.

The day is a proud one for the Lions, who unite to celebrate with the 1,500 to 2,000 guests who pass through Brewfest's gates.

That time of year, the days in Exeter are usually beautiful, with temperatures hovering around 70 degrees and not a cloud blemishing the sky.

A few years ago, ominous weather threatened Brewfest. In California, even a few drops of rain can cause serious flooding. The weathermen predicted a downpour. Mussen says that he feared no one would show up.

The rains commenced, but so too did the revelers.

"Everyone that had a ticket came. Fifteen hundred people, meandering in the rain," Mussen says.

It's that spirit of the Lions and of the people of Exeter that beyond the citrus groves, beyond the great Sequoias, makes Exeter such a rare and lovely place to live.



Perched on a hill where mountain lions are seen, this 48-foot by 14-foot mural called Rocky Hill Guardian was sponsored by Lions.

Special Needs, Special Gifts

Connecticut Club for People With Special Needs Prospers

by Lary Bloom

It's a Lions' pancake breakfast. But it's not just another pancake day. Lion Shannon Reynolds, 27, helped plan the fundraiser and came up with the idea for a basket raffle. "I like to help other people," she explains. She declares that common sentiment with the authority of a young woman who knows about misfortune. Years ago classmates taunted Reynolds as "a retard." The Plainfield T.C. ("Tender Care") Lions Club in Connecticut was chartered for people with special needs and their supporters in June 2010.

As membership chairperson, Reynolds tells prospective members her club is the first of its kind in the state. She can tell them that she, like many of them, felt like an outcast from her earliest years. But it's not something she likes to expound on: "I'm still shy," she graciously explains.

Reynolds' mother, Sharon Griffin, club president, does talk freely about her daughter's struggles, the significance of Lions in their lives and the sense of belonging and satisfaction her daughter now derives from doing good deeds for others.

Shannon Reynolds has found satisfaction in helping others.



Griffin recalls that Reynolds, the oldest of her three children, had significant hearing problems as a toddler. Doctors in South Carolina, where the family lived at the time, didn't diagnosis the condition until she alone among neighborhood children her age was not speaking. After tubes were inserted to drain fluid, her daughter's hearing improved, but Griffin says, "She was still behind other kids, and lacked confidence." Her speaking came so slowly and was at first so soft that it was reflected in the Native American name (the family is Scaghticoke) suggested for Shannon by her grandmother: "Whispering Fawn Honey Rose."

Tests indicated that Reynolds was also mentally challenged, but many of her classmates proved unsympathetic in a community that didn't have a separate school for children with special needs. As she recalls, "I did not have many friends, and other kids made fun of me. I'd get very upset. And I took it out on my mother. I didn't know who else to take it out on, and wouldn't talk to her about it." She certainly couldn't talk to her father—he had left the family years earlier.

Griffin remembers that almost every afternoon when her daughter got off the school bus she became violent: "Once she bit me in the stomach, and ripped the watch off my wrist. A neighbor called the police." The result was that at 9 years old Shannon was in danger of being institutionalized. Doctors grimly told her mother that she would be severely limited in what she could do in her lifetime—that she would never ride a bike, or even be able to tie her shoes.

Instead of sending her to an institution, however, Griffin asked her mother in Connecticut if her granddaughter could live with her and enroll in a special needs school there. This, in time, made all the difference.

At the Ripton School in Shelton, Reynolds learned alongside others who needed extra academic help. She developed motor skills and life skills such as how to do laundry, cook, clean and read the phone book. Reynolds began aiding those whose handicaps seemed to her more severe than hers.

She pushed wheelchairs and helped kids put the basketball through the hoop, giving them the sense of accomplishment she so dearly needed herself. And though she never exceeded a fifth-grade reading level, she worked hard to earn a degree and the right to attend Derby High, the local high school. There, at age 21, she was called into the principal's office. As she remembers it: "He told me, 'I have good news for you. You'll walk across the stage and get your diploma.' I said, 'Really?' I didn't believe him. But he said it again, that I'd earned enough credits. I'll never forget the graduation. It was outside, and when they called my name, ready to hand me my diploma, it started to pour. I got soaking wet. But I was so happy."

Even now, Reynolds retains vivid and joyful memories of the end of a school career that had started so painfully. She even attended two proms—one at Ripton and one at Derby, where a friend escorted her in her baby blue dress. Astonished classmates gawked at a girl who usually refused to remove her New York Yankees cap ("I love Derek Jeter") look so grown-up.

In the years that followed Reynolds became much closer to her mother, who moved north. She learned, against all odds, to ride a bike. She became a greeter at Wal-Mart and also worked in the shoe department. In the last few years she's prepared food and waited tables at the Victorian, a restaurant in

"A lot of the community looks at handicapped kids and puts them aside. We want to show just how much they can do not only for themselves but for all of us."

Plainfield, where fellow Lions club member Kristy Hess, who was born with Down's Syndrome, also has a job. Hess, 47, who looks to Shannon as if she is a big sister, washes dishes and fills the jelly and sugar containers. Hess lives with her brother Bob, and Reynolds occupies the apartment behind her mother's house.

At Lions meetings, they and other special needs members are major contributors to the club's inventory of beaded bracelets and other goods that the club sells in the community, the proceeds of which are donated to charities. As Angelo Miceli, a past council chairman and the club's Guiding Lion, says, "Kristy can make a bracelet so fast it will make your head spin."



The Plainfield T.C. Lions Club includes (front row from left) Howard Carlson, Kristy Hess and Shannon Reynolds and (back from left) club adviser Ruth Bergeron, Guiding Lion Angelo Miceli, Sharon Griffin, Evelyn Reynolds and Sandy Bernhart.

AP Photo/The Norwich Bulletin, Aaron Flaum

Indeed, it was the vision of many longtime Lions members such as Miceli that people who seemed to have severe limitations also have skills that, if given the chance to develop, can demonstrate how talented they are.

Bill Allen, a past district governor, says, “A lot of the community looks at handicapped kids and puts them aside. We want to show just how much they can do not only for themselves but for all of us.”

Adds Miceli, “I have been in Lions for 40 years. When I was approached by the [already existing] Plainfield Lions Club to help establish a special needs club, I felt there would be a great satisfaction in doing it. Through

my family, I have known such situations personally. It was amazing how the community got behind this. At the charter celebration more than 100 people attended. And this club has raised considerable sums through its hard work. The club made a donation of \$300 to Camp Rising Sun, which hosts kids with cancer.”

Says Griffin, “These kids have the biggest hearts in the world.” Which is why she now is the proud owner of a new iPod, given to her by her daughter, who also provided tutorials on how to use it. The little girl who seemed to have no prospects for success has become a whiz at modern technology.



LIONS INTERNATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST RULES

Contest is open to students who are considered visually impaired according to their national guidelines and will be 11, 12 or 13 years of age on November 15, 2011.

Only a Lions club can sponsor the contest. The contest may be sponsored in a local school(s) or organized, sponsored youth group(s), or individuals may be sponsored as well. *A Lioness club can sponsor the contest through its sponsoring Lions club.*

The contest theme is "Children Know Peace."

Essays must be no longer than 500 words in length, submitted in English, type-written in black ink and double-spaced.

Each essay must be submitted with a completed entry form. Essays submitted without completed entry forms will be automatically disqualified.

Only one entry per student per year, and each entry must be the work of only one student.

Essay entries cannot have already been published.

Any essays found to be plagiarized will be automatically disqualified and the student will be prohibited from entering any future Lions competitions.

One grand prize winner will receive an award and US\$5,000. The winner will be notified by February 1.

The postmark deadline for a club to send one winning essay to the district governor is November 15.

Note: A participating club should notify its district governor in advance of sending an entry.

A club not belonging to a district must send its entry directly to the Public Relations Department at Lions Clubs International (to be postmarked by December 1).

The postmark deadline for a district to send one winning essay to the multiple district council chairperson is December 1. A district not belonging to a multiple district must send its entries directly to the Public Relations Department at Lions Clubs International (to be postmarked by December 1).

The postmark deadline for a multiple district to send one winning essay to the Public Relations Department at Lions Clubs International is December 15.

Multiple districts (and clubs not belonging to districts and districts not belonging to multiple districts) may send their essay entries and forms to: Essay Contest, Public Relations Department, Lions Clubs International, 300 W. 22nd Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842. Entries and forms may also be sent to Lions Clubs International Headquarters by fax at 630-571-1685 or e-mail to pr@lionsclubs.org (the words "Lions Essay Contest" must appear in the Subject Line of the e-mail).

Participants accept all responsibility for late, lost, misdirected or illegible entries. Entries sent with insufficient postage will be disqualified. Entries cannot be acknowledged or returned; they become property of Lions Clubs International upon receipt. Essays cannot be published without written permission from Lions Clubs International. However, sponsoring clubs, districts and multiple districts have permission to publish their sponsored essays.

In consideration for the opportunity to enter the Lions International Essay Contest, participants agree to allow Lions Clubs International to use their names, photographs and essays for promotional and publicity purposes. An international grand-prize winner is not eligible to receive subsequent prizes in future Lions International Essay Contests. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these rules and the decisions of the judges and Lions Clubs International.

Lions Clubs International may cancel the contest without notice at any time. The contest is void where prohibited, taxed or restricted by law.



LIONS INTERNATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Please type or print clearly. All information and signatures are required.

I. Student Information

Winner's Name _____

Essay Title _____

Age _____ Birth Date _____ Check One: Male _____ Female _____
Day/Month/Year

School _____

Grade _____ Home Phone Number* _____

E-Mail _____

Student's Street Address (No P.O. Boxes) _____

City, State, Country _____ Postal or ZIP Code _____

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature _____

II. Lions Club Information

Club Name _____

Club Number _____ District Number _____

President Name _____

Cell (or Home) Phone* _____ Work Phone* _____

E-Mail _____

Street Address (No P.O. Boxes) _____

City, State, Country _____ Postal or ZIP Code _____

Club President Signature _____

III. District Information

District Governor _____

Cell (or Home) Phone* _____ Work Phone* _____

E-Mail _____

District Governor Signature _____

IV. Multiple District Information

Multiple District Council Chairperson _____

Cell (or Home) Phone* _____ Work Phone* _____

E-Mail _____

Council Chairperson Signature _____

*Include area code in the U.S. or country and city codes outside the U.S.

Veteran Repays Favor From 1944

by Jay Copp

Dick Beym was an anxious 22-year-old soldier in the Army in 1944 when his troop train stopped in Ada, Ohio. His unit was on its way from Camp Roberts in California to Norfolk, Virginia, where it would join the fight overseas.

In Ada, several gray-haired women handed him and other soldiers an ingenious toilet kit that folded out to create a pouch for the razor, shaving cream, toothpaste and toothbrush. Strings enabled the soldiers to tie the kit like an apron around the waist.

The kit proved useful and durable in the steamy heat of Ceylon (now known as Sri Lanka), but it was the gesture of friendship and support that stayed with him years later. “We were on our way to an uncertain future. It was the warmth of the ladies who befriended us. It was a warm, wholesome thing to do,” says Beym, 89, of San Diego, California. “My conscience was getting to me. I wanted to find out who gave these kits out.”

So Beym, a Lion since 1973, wrote a letter to the Ada Lions. The search was on. The benefactors couldn’t have been the VFW Auxiliary. That formed in 1967. Nor was it the Ada Junior Civic League, founded in 1948. The oldest members of the Ada American Legion Auxiliary said the troop trains were before their time, but it could have been Legion women. Or maybe it was a church group.

In any case, Beym had cherished the toilet kit. Soldiers with ordinary kits found that the leather cracked within a few days in the searing heat. Beym served in a signal service battalion in Ceylon and then as a motor messenger in China. After the war, he was a foreign service officer, traveling to Egypt, Ecuador and Argentina. He later became a professor of Spanish and linguistics, most recently at California State University, Dominguez Hills. He married and raised a family.

Beym once grew a mustache but quickly shaved it when it came in red. “I was tow-headed as a youngster, then brown and now gray,” Beym says. As for the toilet kit, he is not sure what became of it. “It was one of those things that got left behind,” he says.

But it exists in his memory. And he wants folks in Ada to know the small act of kindness gladdened him. So he recently sent a check to the Ada Lions to use in service of others. His gesture of friendship and support was “my thanks from some 60 years ago.”



Beym says he was reminded of the kindness of strangers every time he shaved during the war.

Lions Bring Relief to Japan, New Zealand

by Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt

Several months have passed since devastating natural disasters in Japan and New Zealand, and Lions have been hard at work, tirelessly providing steadfast support and endless compassion to victims. Thousands of Lions—including those who were victims themselves—have stepped up to help those whose lives were turned upside down.

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) has worked closely with Lions to quickly deliver funds where they are most needed. Thanks to generous Lions and donors around the world, immediate and long-term aid is helping disaster victims resume their normal lives and rebuild their communities.

Japan Earthquake

No one in Japan, including the 107,000 Lions who reside there, was prepared for the 9.0 magnitude earthquake that struck off the eastern coast on March 11. The most powerful earthquake to ever hit Japan killed more than 15,000 people and destroyed or damaged more than 150,000 buildings. Hundreds of thousands were left homeless, and millions had no electricity or water.

LCIF is mobilizing \$18 million in aid to address victims' needs. Lions are now working with partner organizations, such as the Japan Red Cross, on mid- to long-term reconstruction plans. Lions are also helping young people become employed. After finding out that many recent graduates no longer had jobs because of the destruction, Lions began networking to find job placements. Thanks to Lions, many recent graduates have begun working in their communities.

"When I called District Governor Tabata, his parents and relatives were missing, but his first comment to me was 'I must do something.' I felt a rush of emotion that I can hardly describe," said Motohiro Oono, 330-C district governor in 2010-11. "In the middle of the devastation, the Lions I met with there are standing with dignity and ready to help people in the worst condition. We should support these Lions with all our strength."

New Zealand Earthquake

On February 22, a magnitude 6.3 earthquake devastated Christchurch, New Zealand, killing more than 180 and injuring hundreds more. More than 10,000 homes were destroyed. Clean drinking water was in short supply.

Lions and LCIF raised \$625,000 in disaster relief, supplied large quantities of bottled water, provided counseling services, delivered meals and staffed relief centers. Efforts continue to rebuild homes, provide equipment for people with disabilities and offer social services.

"Within two hours [after the earthquake struck] I had received an e-mail from LCIF saying that an emergency grant of \$10,000 was available immediately," said Past International Director Ron Luxton of Temuka, New Zealand. "Within 48 hours LCIF made a major catastrophe grant of \$100,000 to the Christchurch earthquake recovery. Within 72 hours LCIF had opened a Christchurch Earthquake Recovery appeal that Lions, clubs and districts could make donations to. The result was hundreds of thousands of dollars being available for recovery projects by Lions in the city of Christchurch."

No matter where disasters occur, Lions and LCIF are there, both in the immediate aftermath and for long-term reconstruction. Lions will continue to be there for those in need when the unexpected happens.

Donations are still needed for these and other disasters. It is only through Lions' generous support that LCIF is able to provide help following disasters. Make a contribution or find out more about LCIF's disaster relief efforts at www.lcif.org.



Ishidoriya Lions Club members unload vital goods after the Japan earthquake and tsunami.



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

SightFirst Makes Strides in Africa

by Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt

Jacqueline, a 17-year-old living in the western region of Burundi, Africa, had been blind for one year. Doctors attributed her loss of sight to diabetes, which she was diagnosed with at age five. Since losing her sight, Jacqueline had become disengaged from life and stopped managing her diabetes, which rapidly worsened. Jacqueline had lost hope.

Thanks to a recent Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) SightFirst project in eastern Africa, an ophthalmologist examined Jacqueline and discovered that her blindness was not due to diabetes but instead she actually had bilateral cataract. The very next day, she received cataract surgery and her sight was restored. In that instant, Jacqueline's life turned around, and she regained the hope that she had lost.

Jacqueline is one of thousands of people in eastern Africa who were screened, sent for follow-up treatment and provided with cataract surgeries since the SightFirst Regional Training and Capacity Building Program at the Kilimanjaro Center for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) Eye Department began in 2008. The three-year project is building capacity in 10 eye care facilities in the region through training, outreach to rural areas, facility improvements and research. Coordinated by KCCO, the project is supported by the Lions of Switzerland with local support by Lions in Tanzania. Countries included in this effort are Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. An LCIF SightFirst grant of \$1.5 million is supporting this wide-reaching project.

This endeavor helps Lions to address the VISION 2020 goals to eliminate the main causes of avoidable blindness by the year 2020. VISION 2020 is a joint program of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness and the World Health Organization. The former's membership includes NGOs, professional associations, eye care institutions and corporations. SightFirst is a leading partner of VISION 2020.

Burundi, as does each country involved in this project, has great needs in eye care capacity. According to the World Health Organization, cataract constitutes close to 50 percent of the cases of blindness in Africa. Yet in 2008 in Burundi, just 342 cataract surgeries were conducted by the only two surgical ophthalmologists for the entire country's population of 8.5 million people. In 2010—thanks to Lions and SightFirst support—2,650 cataract surgeries were completed. This number will continue to increase as further steps are taken to improve eye care in the region.

Those directly involved in the project are seeing the lasting effects of the groundwork being laid for the future of eye care in the region. "Eye care has moved from being an abstract idea to being a viable national program. By building local capacity and careful planning, Burundi is now well on its way to achieve VISION 2020," says Dr. Paul Courtright, co-director of KCCO.

With the support of Lions, SightFirst will continue to build comprehensive eye care services around the world. Lions have contributed \$415 million to fund the SightFirst program and bring the gift of sight to millions. Please visit www.lcif.org to learn more about SightFirst initiatives or to support the program.



Join the Crowd

Host a Big Event To Get Your Club Noticed

The Shelby Township Lions Club outside Detroit, Michigan, isn't afraid to make headlines.

"We usually get attention from our events," says Joe Burke, chair of the club's largest fundraiser—a cage fighting match that raises money to "knock out blindness."

Why cage fighting?

"We had done boxing for almost 15 years, and we weren't drawing the crowds like we did in the past," explains Burke. "We switched to cage fighting, and attendance increased by 30 percent. Cage fighting is the second most popular thing watched on cable TV after poker."

For the past three years, the club has hosted an elaborate dinner before turning the crowd's attention to amateur fighters from around the country who box and wrestle in a cage for a good cause.

This year, a whopping 500 people showed up paying \$100 to \$150 per ticket. The event raised thousands of dollars and created enough buzz that the local media covered it, giving the 90-member club a major public relations boost.

"We've gotten some new members from this," Burke says. "We're always looking to do something unique."

Having grown men fight in a cage is one way to get attention. The Paducah Lions in Kentucky get the word out by taking over the airwaves. Since 1956, the club has run a 15-hour telethon on an NBC affiliate station that reaches four states.

"Growing up as a child here, it was a big deal," remembers Lion Deborah Bland. "We'd have sleepovers to watch it and eat pizza, popcorn and ice cream... it was the thing to do."

From 10:30 p.m. on a Saturday night until the following Sunday, the Paducah Lions are on air to raise money for Easter Seals. With local talent, soap opera stars and country music greats like Collin Raye performing, club members raise \$500,000 to \$700,000 annually in personal and corporate donations.

But it's the name recognition for the Paducah Lions that's proved to be priceless—it's kept the 90-year-old club going strong.

"Everyone knows our club," Bland says proudly.



Popular events such as cage fighting matches increase a club's visibility.

Five Things Every Club President Should Know Before Taking Office

Read this first.

Think about your club. Can you remember some presidents who did the job really well? What about the ones who didn't do it so well? Do you remember why he or she was ineffective?

Chances are, he or she didn't embrace one or more of the following five tips many Lions wish their club president knew.

Find Passion Points

Presidents who take the time to find out the individual passions and hobbies of members often have a much better chance for success. Every individual has a passion or desire. If you can determine what it is and channel it into your club, that member is more likely to follow your lead and make sure his or her project is successful. Be supportive and compassionate to the members in their personal endeavors and they will support you. Always remember that they are volunteers, too.

Become a Servant Leader

It's easy to get someone to follow you into a restaurant if you are going to buy him a steak. It's not easy to get someone to give up a holiday weekend to work at a Lions' project. To inspire others to serve, club presidents must lead by example. Members are watching how you conduct yourself, and taking cues from you.

Never Take Sides

Listen to controversy and try to resolve it. Remain open-minded on all subjects, even if you do not agree.

Recognize Others

Everyone enjoys recognition. It does not have to be expensive or elaborate. Print a member's name in the bulletin for every-



one to see or give him or her a certificate for helping at a project. Those recognized will work harder and their success will help your success.

Prepare, Prepare, Prepare

The more preparation done before becoming president means more success during your presidency. The confidence attained climbing the ranks and learning from others will show as you lead the club through your year. Yes, YOUR year. No one else can claim the victory or the agony of defeat. The buck will stop with you. It's also a year of tremendous personal growth. Enjoy the ride.

Adapted from a presentation by Past International Director Lowell Bonds at the 2010 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Great (Oops, Make That Grape) Big Bunches of Fun

Photo by Jim Taylor



Chris Thomas (foreground) works to fill up his five-gallon bucket.

The fertile soil of southern Illinois grows a number of crops, but grapes do unusually well because of the area's high concentration of limestone. The soft limestone soil allows for good drainage and retains moisture in periods of drought. Many vineyards have taken root in southern Illinois, and members of the Christopher Lions Club, about 80 miles from St. Louis, have learned that while money may not grow on trees, grapevines are an entirely different story for those willing to work hard.

Lions picked an unusual—and unusually physical—way to raise money for their club. Members, their families and friends harvested tons of grapes grown by the nearby Thomas Vineyard in a weekend project. Jim Taylor says, “The weekend was a successful harvest for both the vineyard and the Lions. The money earned from picking the grapes will help a lot of people.” Vineyard owner Scott Thomas,

whose brother is 2010-11 club president Chris Thomas, presented the idea of Lions harvesting grapes in exchange for a \$1,000 donation.

The work was physically demanding. Taylor says Lions had fun anyway while painstakingly plucking clusters of grapes from the vines. “Stories were told—some of them true—and songs were sung. Some weren’t bad,” he jokes.

After a little instruction, Lions and their helpers got busy. “The pickers would fill five-gallon buckets of grapes. As the buckets would get full, ‘bucket runners’ would bring empty five-gallon buckets and take the full ones to the grape bins,” Taylor explains. “The goal was to fill all of the bins. On Saturday there were 15 bins and on Sunday, there were 15 additional bins. We were able to fill all the bins as well as all the buckets. The amount for all the bins was 13 tons, or 26,000 pounds of grapes. That should make a lot of wine!”

Oktoberfest Celebrates Community Volunteerism

Celebrating Oktoberfest in Chester, New Jersey, means heaping platefuls of authentic German food—bratwursts, smoked pork chops, potato salad, plum cake and apple strudel. Kegs of specially brewed Oktoberfest beers are also on the menu at the celebration Chester Lions have sponsored for 12 years.

The good food isn't the only draw, says Lion Phil Savell. There are inflatable rides, ponies, a climbing wall, sand art and a classic car show. One of the most attended activities was a demonstration by puppy raisers for The Seeing Eye, which has a kennel in Chester. "The dogs created a great deal of excitement, generating endless questions," he says. "I'm sure it raised the level of awareness in attendees."

Savall adds, "Over the club's 41 years, I would estimate that we've given approximately \$4 million to numerous causes." That amount includes \$40,000 to diabetes research, \$50,000 to a local hospital for cardiac research, \$40,000 to LCIF for Hurricane Katrina and a similar donation when a tsunami struck parts of Southeast Asia. Lions have also donated to a domestic violence shelter and police and fire organizations.

"A woman called to see if she could reserve a table because the family wanted to celebrate her father's 81st birthday at the event," says Savell. "A local celebrity who has appeared on *Saturday Night Live* and is on the comedy club circuit bought a fistful of tickets and distributed them to a gaggle of kids. We ran out of bread and worse yet, we ran out of beer. It was a wild event. I think we'll do it again."



Puppy raisers from The Seeing Eye demonstrate obedience training.

Photo by Casey Klein



Oh, So Good!

East Dubuque Lions in Illinois just may have found the key to happiness in a bottle of barbecue sauce. Working with other local groups, Lions have participated in Wingfest, sponsored by the East Dubuque High School Warriors Booster Club, for the last six years. Lions return all profits from their booth to the booster club to promote school sports and other activities.

The competition is fierce at Wingfest, with chicken wing sauce heat ranging from mild to "Are You Insane?" More than 30,000 chicken wings were sold during the all-day festival.

Trey Culbertson enthusiastically enjoys his Wingfest meal.

Faire a Walk through the Ages



Jousting matches are a top draw.

It's not a typical day in New Jersey as the sun beats down on armor-clad knights and ladies in waiting in elegant costumes, but it is a profitable one for the 32-member West Windsor Township Lions Club. Since 1999, the club has brought history to life during its weekend Renaissance Faire, featuring jousting, archery, magnificent horses and all things medieval as more than 9,000 visitors descend on Mercer County Park. By charging a \$7 admission fee for adults and \$3 for children, the faire nets \$15,000 a year, says Lion Jim Hynes.

"Several groups have helped us over the years," he explains. "Jousters come with their horses. Battle re-enactors and musketry demonstrators, as well as archers and fencers, perform periodically throughout the two days. Falconers and their birds walk among the crowd and give demonstrations." Many of the re-enactors are members of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., a non-profit organization devoted to studying the Middle Ages.

On the "Medieval Midway," vendors sell glamorous costumes, swords and pretend items from toy swords to children's period attire. While hot dogs and chips may be popular, the combo can't beat more traditional fare of old. "One vendor specializing in roasted turkey legs is always the first to sell out," Hynes points out. A knight does, after all, have to be ready for action by keeping one hand on the sword at all times.

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Club _____

CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Rolla Lions Club** in **Missouri** hosted its 76th annual Lions Club Carnival on July 4th. It was a four-day event including games, rides and two nights of firework displays. Club members also raffled off a 2011 red Ford Mustang.

The **Conway Noon Lions Club** in **Arkansas** joined together with other community organizations, including the local Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, on the construction of a new sign welcoming visitors and residents to Conway.

The **Lansing Lions** in **Illinois** gave \$3,500 to Camp Quality, a summer camp and support organization for children with cancer.

More than 100 Lions members marched down Constitution Avenue in **Washington D.C.** with their purple banners held high for the National Memorial Day Parade. It is the third year Lions have participated in the parade. In past years, more than 200 Lions from **Virginia, Maryland, Delaware** and the **District of Columbia** have marched.

The **West Salem Lions Club** in **Wisconsin** purchased a portable automated external defibrillator for the West Salem Police Department.

The **Cheyenne, Wyoming, Frontier Lions** collected 913 pairs of eyeglasses and 39 used hearing aids in one day for recycling. Twenty-three of the hearing aids were donated to the local public school district to be distributed to hearing-impaired students. The others will be sent for recycling.

The **Leesville Lions Club** in **Louisiana** raised more than \$20,000 during its annual telethon.

The **Auburn War Eagle Lions Club** in **Alabama** contributed to a project that provided Braille flags for visually impaired veterans.

The **Hudson Lions** in **New York** held their 10th annual blood drive.

The **Woodbury Lions Club** in **Connecticut** donated \$3,000 to the Youth Work Force Program.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2011 UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT. 9-11

ANZI Forum
GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA

SEPT. 13-16

Senior Lions Leadership Institute,
Constitutional Area VII – Australia,
New Zealand, Papua New Guinea,
Indonesia & Islands of the Pacific
Ocean

GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA

SEPT. 22-24

USA/Canada Forum
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, USA

SEPT. 22-25

Senior Lions Leadership Institute,
Constitutional Area VI – India,
South Asia, Africa, Middle East
PUNE, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

SEPT. 23-26

Senior Lions Leadership
Institute/Australia, New Zealand,
Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and
Islands of the Pacific Ocean
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

SEPT. 30

Deadline for the Club and District
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24th Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest

Children Know Peace

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

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

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



CALL 1-800-710-7822

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

INFORMATION

ANNIVERSARIES SEPTEMBER 2011

95 Years: Beaumont Founders, Texas; Dallas Founder, Texas; Fort Worth, Texas; Oklahoma City Downtown, Okla.

90 Years: Bismarck, N.D.; Charleston, W. Va.; La Junta, Colo.; Long Island City-Astoria LC, N.Y.; Marion, Ind.; Rochester Downtown Host, N.Y.; San Diego Host, Calif.; Springfield Host, Mo.

85 Years: Downers Grove, Ill.; Honolulu, Hi.; Quarryville, Pa.

80 Years: Barrie, Ont., CAN; Easton, Mass.; Edgar, Neb.; Foxboro, Mass.; Gig Harbor, Wash.; Glade-water, Texas; Marshfield, Mo.; Peebles, Ohio

75 Years: Albany, Ind.; Arcadia Host, Calif.; Breese, Ill.; Brenham Evening, Texas; Chalfont, Pa.; Fort Mill, S.C.; Galena, Ill.; Genoa, Neb.; Middletown, N.Y.; Ogallala, Neb.; Ottawa, Ill.; Potsdam, N.Y.; South Charleston, W. Va.; University City Host, Mo.; Vinalhaven, Maine

50 Years: Bloomingdale, Ill.; Boldo, Ala.; Fort Quappelle District, Sask, CAN; Johnstown, N.Y.; Trois Rivières, Quebec City, CAN; Watertown Magic Mile, S.D.

25 Years: Lethbridge West Lethbridge, Alb., CAN; New Baden Camp Creek Evening, Texas; New Maryland, N.B., CAN

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.

Rose Parade Tour

5-Days *Join other Lions departing December 30, 2011* from **\$848***

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! Spend four nights in Los Angeles 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 home.

Save on this Repositioning Cruise

Caribbean & Mediterranean Cruise

Plus... Italy Tour

22-Days *Join other Lions departing March 17, 2012* from **\$2447***

MSC Cruise Lines has to get the new "state-of-the-art" MSC Poesia from Ft. Lauderdale, to Italy. Launched in 2008, it weighs in at 92,000 tons, a perfect size for this trans-Atlantic cruise.

Start in Ft. Lauderdale, have 2 days at sea; first port: San Juan, PR. Escape the last of winter in the warm Caribbean waters. Stop in Phillipsburg/St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles plus St. John Antigua and Barbuda before the transatlantic crossing on this elegant ship. On March 28, visit Funchal (Madeira), Portugal. Three Spanish ports include: Malaga, Alicante, and Barcelona. Disembark in Genoa for your five-day tour of Italy including Genoa, Pisa, Montecatini, Florence, Orvieto, Rome, and Vatican City. Sightseeing includes Leaning Tower of Pisa, Tuscany region, Ancient Rome, Roman Forum, Coliseum, Vatican Museum, St. Peter's Basilica, Sistine Chapel and more! Fly home April 7.

Romantic Rhine River Cruise

14-Days *Join other Lions departing April 11, 2012* from **\$2598***

Enjoy the YMT chartered, 4-star ship, the "TUI Allegra"! Cruise from Frankfurt to Amsterdam... PLUS tour Germany!

Start in Berlin, Germany for a 4-day tour including east and west Berlin; Checkpoint Charlie; Potsdam; Dresden; Weimar and Frankfurt. You'll tour the Rococo Castle (Sanssouci), drive the German Autobahn, and visit many historic sites. Your cruise includes the Rhine's highlights including Rudesheim, the Loreley passage to Cologne, Dusseldorf, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Nijmegen, and Bonn. Your tour will continue for two more days and nights visiting Heidelberg and Munich, with included sightseeing, before flying home from Munich. Your "brand new" ship the *TUI Allegra*, constructed in 2011, offers a state-of-the-art, experience! Price includes upgraded Middle Deck staterooms with French Balcony and double bed convertible to twin beds.

***Price per person, based on double occupancy. Airfare is extra. Lions Clubs International not responsible for losses incurred.**



Call for details & itinerary 7 days a week:

1-800-736-7300

INFORMATION

Higher Keys Issued During May 2011

Universal Key (300 Members)

- Lion S. Palanivelu, Salem Melvin Metro, India

Key of State (75 Members)

- Lion Shu-Huey Jenner, New York Cosmopolitan, New York

Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion Arnold Tolentino, Quezon City Bahaghari Executive, Philippines
- Lion Felix Hady Marthadiantara, Bandung Merdeka, Indonesia

Senior Master Key (25 Members)

- Lion Kay Glaves, Garrotte, California
- Lion Steven Lesetz, Plainview Bethpage, New York
- Lion Rajinder Bansal, Rohtak Bright, India
- Lion Shiv Kumar, Ghaziabad Senior, India
- Lion Dr. Kwaja Mudassir, Tarapur, India
- Lion Nemichand Jain, Indore Arihant, India
- Lion Ramesh Sharma, Nagda Dhar, India
- Lion Jithendra Garlapati, Hayathnagar, India
- Lion Delia Kaweche, Jacaranda, Zambia

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

IN MEMORIAM

Lloyd H. Hansen, who served as an international director from 1997-99, has died. A member of the Brookings Noon, South Dakota, Lions Club since 1966, Past Director Hansen was a member of the V.F.W., American Legion and a member of the Brookings Area Transit Authority as well as being involved in many other civic, community and Lions activities.

Past International Director **Harold Keely**, of Centralia, Missouri, has died. He was elected to serve from 1989-91 at the association's 72nd international convention in Miami Beach, Florida. A Lion since 1973 and a member of the Mexico Lions Club, he was a member of several professional organizations and a member of the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation Board of Governors.

Past International Director **Americo Pigna Santamaría**, who served on the International Board of Directors from 1975 to 1977, has passed away. A member of the Caracas El Valle Lions Club in Venezuela, he received many awards and also served as director of the National Youth League of Baseball.

FOR THE RECORD

As of May 31, 2011, Lions Clubs International had 1,363,032 members in 46,332 clubs and 743 districts in 206 countries and geographic areas.

CONVENTION COUNTDOWN

- | | |
|------|------------------------------------|
| 2012 | Busan, Korea, June 22-26 |
| 2013 | Hamburg, Germany, July 5-9 |
| 2014 | Toronto, Ontario, Canada, July 4-8 |
| 2015 | Honolulu, Hawaii, June 26-30 |
| 2016 | Fukuoka, Japan, June 24-28 |
| 2017 | Chicago, Illinois, June 30-July 4 |

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THE LIONS CHANGED MY LIFE

A Boost Up

It started like any other Saturday morning. Laurie Reese wanted to move an old country outhouse to her garden, where she'd re-invent it as a decorative piece. Using a skid-loader, her husband began moving it while she walked alongside. When the machine hit a bump, the outhouse tipped over, crushing Reese and causing a spinal injury that left her paralyzed from the waist down. Nearly four years later, Reese has difficulty doing therapeutic exercises because she needs help to get up. That's when the Winona Sunset and Pine Island Lions Clubs got involved. The two Minnesota clubs raised \$542 to purchase Reese an adjustable table that allows her to transfer herself from her wheelchair and back.

Q & A: Laurie Reese

Lion Magazine: Explain how this table will help you.

Laurie Reese: Because I'm sitting in my wheelchair all the time, the muscles in my hips are tight. Even just lying on my stomach helps to loosen them. I can adjust the table to the height I need and transfer myself to it so I can lay down on my own.

LM: I understand the Lions surprised you with the money needed to purchase this equipment?

LR: Yes, I had no idea they were raising money for me. A gal I work with, her dad belongs to the Winona Lions. I've written a book about the whole incident that I'm trying to get published. This gal had seen the book, then her mom and dad read it. Her dad told my co-worker to ask me if there

was anything I needed. I said that a mat I could lay on without help would be wonderful. My physical therapist recommended one that would be good for me.

LM: Do you remember anything from the accident?

LR: Yes, I was conscious. Once my husband was able to get the outhouse

off of me, he said, "Get out of there!" I said, "I can't move." I managed to army-crawl out and roll over, though I don't remember that part. One of the worst parts was that my oldest was pregnant with my first grandchild at the time. But I still have my arms, so I can hold him. That's what I focus on now.

Though paralyzed, Laurie Reese is able to do therapeutic exercises on her own thanks to an adjustable table that local Lions bought her.



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.

LAST ROAR



SIGN OF GRATITUDE

A tribe in West Papua, Indonesia, thanks the Apple-MAC Users of QLD Lions Club in Australia for providing medical supplies after a series of natural disasters. The club runs the Lions Aid & Relief Centre, which collects and distributes health and education-related equipment and supplies.

Photo courtesy of David Phillips

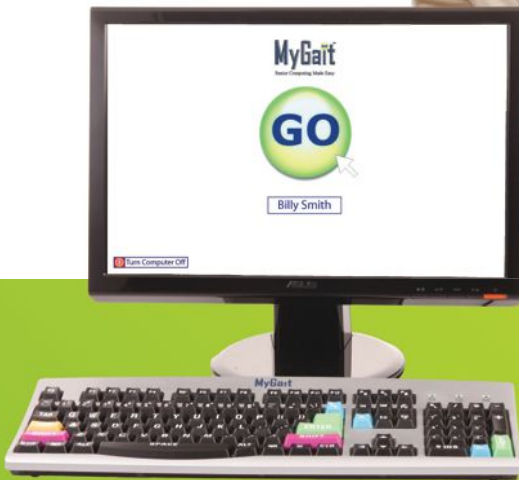
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