

# LION



Lions Clubs International

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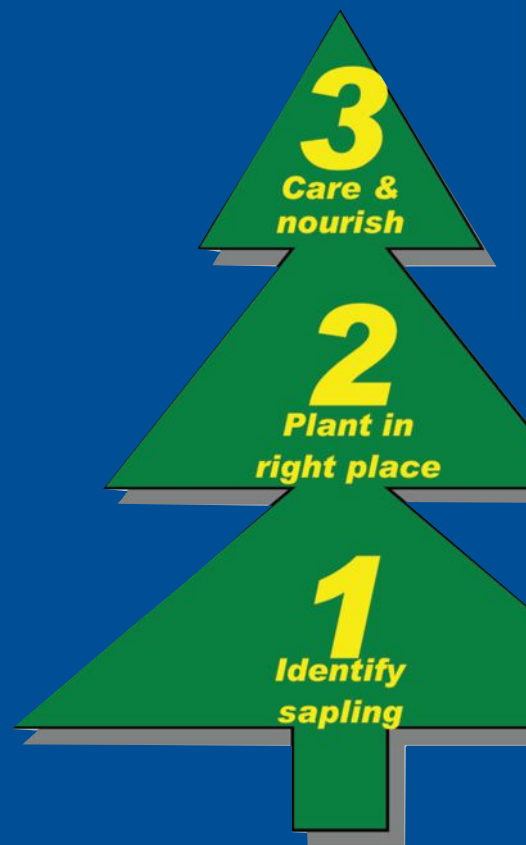
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## MISSION STATEMENT OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL:

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





# SERVING TOGETHER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



## ***Do You Believe?***

***If we believe  
steps 1-2-3 are  
achievable,  
certainly  
step 4 is too***

## Go Green in April

So have we planted any trees? As you know, I asked Lions this year to plant 1 million trees. Basically, Lions said, “No problem. Consider it done.” To date, we’ve planted more than 7 million trees.

In the northern hemisphere, spring is just around the corner and I want to continue to encourage Lions to be green. In April, as the last of the four Global Service Action Campaigns, Lions are encouraged to complete an environmental project. Clean rivers or roadsides. Recycle cell phones, properly discard prescription medications or sponsor an environmental contest for schoolchildren. Resolve to treat our precious earth with utmost care.

Or plant a tree. This can be done in three easy steps: identify the sapling, plant it in the right place and then care for and nourish it. Do you believe steps one, two and three are achievable? I know I heard you say, “Yes!” Then we can also easily achieve step four: care for and nurture our members.

My point is that planting trees is not only great for the environment but the project also offers us a model for successful membership growth. To help clubs grow, we must identify a prospect, someone willing to serve. Step two: plant the prospect in the right place. In other words, find a club suitable for him or her. Then, most importantly, take the final steps of caring for and nurturing the member. Make the member a part of the family. Give them a place at the table and a role they can relish and show them you care about them.

This year I have emphasized the importance of believing in our service mission and the importance of Lions to be family-like. These two concepts are central to any environmental project. Preserving our resources represents a belief in the future. We take action now so that our children and grandchildren may benefit. We believe in their future.

We also believe in the human family: our actions to protect the environment show a loving concern for all who inhabit our planet. So be a true Lion in April by serving our earth. Your belief in the power of service and everyone’s future will result in immeasurable good for millions of people worldwide.

Wing-Kun Tam  
Lions Clubs International President

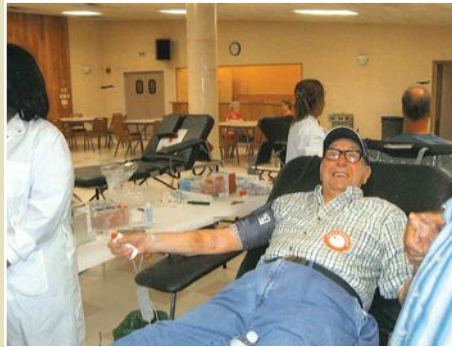
# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

## AGE NO BARRIER TO GIVING BLOOD

The Red Cross has 13 active blood donors 96 years of age or older, and two are Lions. Myron "Mike" Rhea, 99, of the Yates Center Lions Club in Kansas began donating blood in the 1920s while in high school when his sister developed leukemia. He joined the Lions in 1948. Conrad "Babe" Lederer, 96, of the Brandywine Lions Club in Maryland gave his first pint in 1956 when he became a Lion. Held six times a year, the blood drive of the Brandywine Lions is coordinated by Bill Teslik, 87. A Lion since 1954, Teslik has donated more than 20 gallons of blood through the Red Cross. "Hey, you can't manufacture blood," he says.

Conrad Lederer, 96, finds himself in a familiar position: the longtime Lion has donated blood for 56 years.



## RIVER BLINDNESS ON THE RUN

Colombia has eliminated onchocerciasis ("river blindness"), making it the first country suffering from river blindness in the Americas to do so. Mexico, Guatemala and Ecuador also have broken the cycle of transmission of river blindness, according to public health officials. Officials attribute the Latin American successes to a public-private partnership that includes LCIF/Lions, The Carter Center and national health ministries. SightFirst provides funding, and Lions help distribute medication and educate communities. Starting in 2012, about 80 percent of the half-million people in the Americas previously at risk will no longer be in need of treatment for river blindness. The two remaining affected countries in the Americas, Brazil and Venezuela, will continue treatment in hopes of also interrupting transmission by the end of next year.

## PHOTO EXHIBIT IN WASHINGTON

Lions Clubs International recently staged a weeklong photo display about Lions in a U.S. Senate office building in Washington, D.C., to build support for a commemorative coin. LCI is lobbying the U.S. Congress to authorize a Lions' commemorative silver dollar to celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding in 1917. LCI needs 290 co-sponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives and 67 in the Senate to pass the legislation. To date, there are 163 sponsors in the House and 28 in the Senate. Congress approves only two commemorative coins each year. LCI will collect \$10 for each coin sold, which typically sell for around \$30. The estimated \$8 million to be raised by the sale of the coins will help LCIF aid the visually impaired, youths and others. The staff of Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas, a Lion who introduced the bill in his chamber, helped install the display in the rotunda of the Senate Russell Office Building. The LCI Web site has information on the silver dollar campaign ([www.lionsclubs.org/coin](http://www.lionsclubs.org/coin)) as well as tips on contacting lawmakers.



Photos displayed in Washington show the service of Lions.

## PUNISHMENT FITS THE CLUB

A 22-year-old man who broke into a Lions' clubhouse and spent the night drinking the club's liquor was ordered by a judge to an addiction recovery home, one of the good causes supported by the club. The offender raided the liquor supplies of the Sussex Lions Club in New Brunswick, Canada, and "walked around town drinking the booze he collected in a backpack after repeated trips to the Lions club over the course of the night," according to the *Telegraph Journal*. The offender told police that he acted out of anger toward an unfaithful girlfriend.



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

## ONE OF US

The Whistler Lions Club in British Columbia, Canada, received a burst of welcomed energy when it elected 29-year-old Tristan Galbraith as its new president last summer. Based in a mountain resort community, the club had been struggling to find new members. But Whistler Lions are now benefiting from Galbraith's enthusiastic and youthful attitude—and aptitude with online resources. Galbraith created a club blog and is leading the way in starting a Facebook page. He plans to use other digital tools to improve the club's recruitment efforts and operations. This outdoor enthusiast and owner of an eco-friendly pest control business loves his beautiful mountain home, and he has been diving right in to help the Lions make Whistler an even better place to live and visit.

**HOW DID YOU COME TO BE A LION?** I had a friend who was a Lion and he inspired me with the great volunteer work I knew he'd done. He asked about joining and I agreed right away. It was easy to convince me; I was pretty excited to take part. I didn't know a lot about Lions work but got the basics quickly.

**ARE YOU THE YOUNGEST MEMBER IN THE CLUB? WHAT IS THAT LIKE FOR YOU?** I'm one of the youngest club members ever. It's good! At first I did a lot of listening, but now I have more confidence and I'll be taking more on.

**HOW DID YOU BECOME CLUB PRESIDENT SO QUICKLY?** It was the idea of a few of the other club members that it would be great for me to be president. I couldn't say no!

**WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS AS PRESIDENT?** We have a small club, so I hope to at least double the size by next year. I hope to do this partly through connecting with other service organizations in town. I want to build more of a presence in our community by wearing our Lions gear and having our logo visible when we're helping out at an event.

**HOW DO YOU HOPE THAT USING ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLS WILL HELP YOUR CLUB?** About 75 percent of residents here are using social networking, blogging or other online tools, so, for us, incorporating these is a requirement to recruit new members. Because we are in a resort community, there is a young average age in Whistler. The technological tools will help us improve our status and visibility with young people and help us to communicate our activities and events more clearly.

**WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT LIVING IN BEAUTIFUL WHISTLER?** The outdoors—there are so many outdoor things to do. It's very scenic here. Skiing and biking are the big things to do. We have such a nice community here in Whistler. It's a pretty slow pace of life here with just 10,000 residents. But on weekends and during Christmas there can be 100,000 people here!



Standing by a newly-installed sign, Tristan Galbraith shows that the residents of Whistler co-exist with bears just fine—as long as they don't feed them.

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

## CLUB OF THE MONTH

### ALUM CREEK LIONS CLUB, WEST VIRGINIA

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 1961

**MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS:** The 39 members include a university administrator, barber, funeral director and pharmacist. The club has begun each meeting since its founding with singing "Home on the Range."

**HEART OF THE COMMUNITY:** The club improves its community of 1,700 not only through service but also through bringing vital infrastructure to residents. The club began out of the community's need for a public water system—a goal they successfully achieved. Other "firsts" include building the first community center, developing the first park and bringing the first fire department here. The Lions also created the town's first public library and helped construct a new library in 1988. The Lions are known as the "go-to" club when help is needed in this historical mining community.

**CREATIVE COOKING:** Lions hold the Critter Dinner each December to raise funds for holiday supplies and dinners for more than 100 needy people. The food served at the event is grown or hunted by those in attendance and includes elk, venison, squirrel, pheasant and rabbit, as well as regional specialties like "leather britches" (an Appalachian tradition of preserving green beans by air drying, then re-hydrating and cooking slowly), pork 'n bean cake and pawpaw (a native fruit) cake.

**IN STITCHES:** When they had the chance to be a part of a 20-state walking and driving tour of large quilt squares, Lions eagerly joined a group that created a quilt design and then installed it outside the library. The "Quilt Trail" encour-

ages people to appreciate the countryside and the history of the region. Lions shared their deep pride in their home while highlighting a traditional American art form.

**WHY SERVE?** "To be a part of an organization that touches the community on a daily, weekly and monthly basis and improves the quality of life for everyone." —Past Council Chairperson Paul Wheeler



Lions proudly stand with their community's Quilt Trail contribution displayed outside the public library that the Lions helped build.

## OVERHEARD

"It was almost like Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney getting together and saying, 'We've got a place. I've got some costumes. Let's put on a show!' Before we knew it we had people donating items and we didn't have anywhere to store them."

—Steve Tyra of the Fayetteville Lions Club in West Virginia on an auction and flea market held by his club to benefit a four-year-old boy with an inoperable tumor. From the *Fayette Tribune*.

"I know that as a Lion I can go to any corner of the world and know I'll have a friend there."

—Craig George, 27, of the Highland Heights Lions Club in Ohio in the *Sun News*.

"I now spend time with Leos while my Mark's improving yards. I'm the best friend you could have. But don't play me in cards."

—A clue to the identity of Leo club adviser Linda Ahronian, and her husband, Mark, of the Hollistan Lions Club in Massachusetts. From a column in the *Hollistan Patch* that teases readers to guess the name of a resident.

## ON THE WEB

Would your club like to have its own Web site but you're not sure how to get started or what it will cost? With the Lions e-Clubhouse, Lions have a great resource to help you get online easily and at no charge. Visit [www.e-clubhouse.org](http://www.e-clubhouse.org) and follow the simple steps to creating a club Web site. Once your site is created, remember to update it frequently to help keep members connected, promote your club's activities and recruit new members.



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

## BY THE NUMBERS

1

Price in cents of a pancake for one day at Colonial Café in Crystal Lake, Illinois, where the Cary Lions meet. Diners were asked to share their savings with an autism center. The club partnered with the restaurant on the project.

2,500

Loaves of bread baked for needy families by Lions and other service club members of the Cornwall and District Service Club Council in Ontario, Canada.

129

Height in feet of a sycamore near Jeromesville, Ohio, recognized as the world's largest hardwood tree. Lions highlighted the tree, whose circumference is 35 feet, as part of their annual Jeromesville Sycamore Festival.

60,000

Cans and bottles collected in one month for recycling by the Medway Lions in Massachusetts. In 15 years the club has raised more than \$300,000 from the monthly collection.

870

Stamps donated to VOSH, a non-profit vision care group, by the Top-ton Lions in Pennsylvania.

4

Times a year Plumville Lions in Pennsylvania obtain the schedule of hymns at a local church, enlarge the text and create a special hymnal for Lion Stan Sipes, suffering from macular degeneration.

6

Bowling lanes at the North Rustico Lions Club in Prince Edward Island, Canada, resurfaced from donations by the club and other sources.

38

Teams from across the country that competed in the Slidell BBQ Challenge, held by the Slidell Noon Lions and Rotarians in Louisiana.

## 69 YEARS AGO IN THE LION FEBRUARY 1943

Lions in Salt Lake City, Utah, install five pick-up stations to help soldiers get to military camps.



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### STAY STRONG

Ensure your club's growth to stay strong in the face of increasing challenges. New membership means new options for service.

## Serving Reservation Population in Nevada

Las Vegas Summerlin Lions in Nevada realized a sad fact last year, says John Wayland. "We discovered that Native Americans have a 2.2 times higher rate of diabetes than any other ethnicity in the United States. Approximately 40 miles outside Las Vegas lies the Moapa Indian Reservation. We reached out to them regarding a vision screening to determine if they were interested and they said 'Yes!' to us without any hesitation. We were welcomed with open arms."

The Moapa and Snow Mountain Reservations are home to the Paiute tribe. "Most people have the wrong impression of Native Americans. Some reservations in other states with those mega-casinos might be the exception, but Native Americans residing on reserva-

tions in Nevada live very simply and rarely seek outside help for assistance," Wayland explains.

"We found out that we could fit and distribute used prescription eyeglasses on tribal land, just like we do in Mexico and other countries." Lions plan to expand the screening and bring more eyeglasses for fitting in the future, but Wayland stresses, "Lots of planning will be needed and a lot more support."

In addition to the screening, Lions distributed wooden toys they help make in the "Toys4Smiles" project. More than 84,000 toys have been made by Lions and other volunteers for kids in need since Summerlin Lion Rex Doty established the nonprofit project in Las Vegas in 2006.

Lions brought with them a large selection of free sunglasses for eye protection.

Photo by John Wayland



SERVICE IDEA    FILL A NEED



#### EVERY PICTURE DOES TELL A STORY

Appoint a club photographer who can take a good, high resolution digital photo of Lions in action and submit that photo with news of your club's service activities to LION Magazine.

#### DONATE TO LCIF

Set aside a percentage from every fundraiser to donate to LCIF. Keep our foundation strong and ready to assist when urgent need arises.

#### BE CREATIVE

Try new ideas to be relevant in the community. Inspire and challenge your members to reach beyond the usual projects and fundraisers.

## Wheelchair Ramp Opens World

All it took was some wood and carpentry skills, but Chester Tuszynski has regained his independence. Blind and confined to a wheelchair, he had been housebound for more than a year when Rensselaer, Indiana, Lions learned how they could help him regain some mobility. Lions paid for the materials and three members spent the day building a ramp to his front door so that his family may easily transport him.

Rensselaer Lions (from left) Allen Mushett, Alan Fleming and Phillip Evers work together to build a front door ramp.



SERVICE IDEA

WORK WITH OTHERS

## Lions Lend a Helping Hand

Spring Lake Park Lions in Minnesota pitched in to provide classroom supplies for 370 students at a local elementary school, approximately half of whom are classified as low-income. "Even though teachers are required to teach certain curriculum in a certain way, they may have to go out and pay for supplies out of their own pockets," explains Debbie Roberge, the Lion who spearheaded the effort. "A few of the members in our club do work for the school district and I approached them about the need."

Woodcrest Elementary School principal Judi Kahoun says Lions are providing a much-needed ongoing service. "As long as I can remember, teachers spent at least \$500 a year of their own money buying things for their classrooms. Our school budgets are becoming more limited with today's economy. Now we've had to prioritize and we might not get everything right."

Roberge started the project by requesting a school supplies list and a teacher's "wish list," consisting of additional supplies teachers would like to have for their classrooms that weren't included in the school budget. These supplies included disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizers, folders and tag boards. The requests can be as unorthodox as Target gift cards for photo processing or frosting ingredients for teaching math equations. Roberge then distributed the list to

Lions and encouraged members to pick up a few items when they saw them on sale.

Martha Sinko, an administrative assistant at the school, says she was moved to tears after Lions brought their first donation to the school. "Periodically throughout the year, they just brought us boxes of supplies for our classrooms. It was like Christmas every time they walked in with a box. We were a little shocked."



SERVICE IDEA

FOCUS ON KIDS

School supplies are necessary to help students attain academic success.

# LIONS ON LOCATION

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



AS PART OF THE SHARING THE VISION GLOBAL SERVICE ACTION CAMPAIGN, THE BERGVLIET LIONS CLUB IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA ORGANIZED VISION SCREENINGS FOR 50 RURAL CHILDREN.

1 JAPAN EAST ASIA

## A Raft of Fun in Japan

Eight or nine to a raft, the Japanese schoolchildren paddled down the flowing river to the wide ocean. It was an idyllic summer adventure. But they earned their water revelry.

The 100 schoolchildren had gathered months before to cut down 400 bamboo trees at a nearby mountain. Supervised by Lions and others, they then painstakingly built the sea-worthy rafts.

The Kashima Lions Club and Sada Community Hall in southern Japan sponsored the “The Kashima Great Adventure from the River to the Ocean.” Since 1996, the club has held the event, which also includes lessons on the history of the area and the environment and concludes with a cleanup of a stretch of the coastline.

Two other Lions clubs in southern Japan also teach an appreciation of nature. For 28 years, the “Ocean and Mountain Youth Exchange” has exposed mountain children to the ocean and seaside kids to the mountains. This past year children sponsored by the Amakusa Hondo Lions Club, located in a coastal town, enjoyed hiking and other outdoor activities for three days near Mt. Aso, where members of the Kikuchi Lions Club live. Next year the mountain kids will spend time with Amakusa Lions at the ocean.



Children from the coast discover it's too cold to swim in mountain water.

The schoolchildren play Tug of War in the ocean.



Japanese schoolchildren paddle to the ocean on a raft they built.







**THE CALAMBA HOST LIONS CLUB IN THE PHILIPPINES PLANTED 150 MAHOGANY TREES.**



**THE DORCHESTER LIONS CLUB IN ENGLAND HELD THE 29TH ANNUAL "SWIMARATHON" WHERE 28 TEAMS SWAM TO RAISE FUNDS FOR LOCAL CAUSES.**



**THE BHADRAK LIONS CLUB IN INDIA PLANTED 200 COCONUT TREES AT TWO SCHOOLS.**

2 INDIA SOUTH ASIA

## Millions of Trees Planted—In One Day

All by themselves, Lions in southern India shattered International President Wing-Kun Tam's goal of planting 1 million trees this Lions year. They met that threshold three times over—in a mere 12 hours.

Lions in Multiple District 324 planted 3.4 million trees on one day in August. Into the ground went row after row of aini, aangili, arjun and axlewood saplings. Not to mention babul, bakul, bamboo, benteak and bijasal. Slightly more than 100,000 Lions from 2,855 clubs planted three dozen kinds of trees in protected Forest Department woods, on school campuses, at private farms and along major roads. In an understatement, Past International Director G. Ramaswamy, the project leader, said, "We did our best."

Lions in India conceived the project in 2009 when then-Second Vice President Tam revealed his goal at the Lions Day with the United Nations in Nairobi, Kenya. On the day of the epic planting Tam was in Chennai, India, and district governors updated him on their progress during a video conference.

Lions recruited plenty of help. Planting trees alongside them were nearly half a million family members, friends, students, corporate volunteers, police department workers and Forest Department employees.

Lions prudently chose planting locations in which the saplings can be maintained for at least two years by students and others interested in protecting the environment. Lions obtained some saplings for free from the Forest Department or paid from 25 to 57 cents per sapling.

Elite World Records and other organizations certified the massive planting as a world record. The project "was not merely an act of service," says Ramaswamy. "It was much more. It was an act of keeping Lions together."

Ramaswamy encourages Lions elsewhere to be inspired by Lions in India. "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is now," he says.

As of December, Lions worldwide had planted 7 million trees since July 1, 2011.



Members of the Trivandrum Diamonds Lions Club and students plant trees on Aug. 25.



TO HELP PROMOTE A WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL PROGRAM THEY SUPPORT, **NERANG HIGHLAND PARK LIONS IN AUSTRALIA** CHALLENGED THE **ASHMORE LIONS CLUB** TO A WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL GAME.

3 RUSSIA ASIA/EUROPE

## Russians Warm to Idea of Service

The service rendered by Russian Lions to schoolchildren caused quite a stir. Sochi Sunny Lions gave needy students at School No. 87 in Sochi pens, stationery, clothes and other items. "Children and parents were very satisfied. Adults even cried," says Past District 123 Governor Elena Karaseva. "In the history of the school such an event [charity] had never happened."

School officials were impressed, too. The headmaster and social worker decided to set up lectures on Lions. Ten older students requested information about joining Lions. Everyone wanted to know more about who Lions are and what they do.

Lions clubs in Russia are still relatively new. The first club was founded in Moscow in 1990. The idea of community service through a club of like-minded people is an unusual concept for many Russians. "Lionism in Russia is still a young movement. We need to do much to popularize it," says Karaseva, the director of a travel agency whose husband is a Lion.

While district governor in 2010-11, her district chartered two clubs. Three clubs twinned with clubs in Israel, Poland and Germany.

Lions in District 123 provide hearing aids for deaf children, organize festivals for those with disabilities, plant trees, care for sick children and buy supplies for needy elderly. Russia has 22 clubs with 343 Lions.

A resort city on the Black Sea 1,000 miles directly south of Moscow, Sochi will host the Winter Olympic Games in 2014. The Sochi Sunny Lions Club was chartered in June 2011. It has 23 members: 22 women and one man.



Alla Galoyan befriends a student from School No. 87 in Sochi.

### A Truckload of Care

Children are riding bikes and those with disabilities are getting around in wheelchairs and walkers in Vilnius, Lithuania, thanks to Lions in Norway and Vilnius. Each year Lions in District 104-K in Norway load a truck with the aforementioned donated goods as well as toys, clothes, school supplies and even appliances such as refrigerators. Lions in Vilnius distribute the items at nursing homes, senior citizen homes and schools.





THE HYDERABAD EAST LIONS CLUB IN INDIA HELD A MEGA HEALTH CAMP DURING WHICH MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS CONDUCTED EXAMINATIONS AND HEALTH SCREENINGS FOR 900 PEOPLE.



THE BA LIONS CLUB IN FIJI PROVIDED VISION SCREENINGS FOR 800 PEOPLE, WITH MORE THAN HALF OF THEM RECEIVING EYE GLASSES.



IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, THE KILKENNY LIONS CLUB HOSTED A WINTER WINE FAIR FUNDRAISING EVENT.

4 THAILAND SOUTHEAST ASIA

## Malaysian Lions Act Neighborly

Three months of heavy rain this fall killed more than 500 people in Thailand, destroyed vast tracts of farmland and forced tens of thousands from their homes. Several feet of water swamped entire neighborhoods of Bangkok, the country's capital.

Living about 100 miles from Thailand, members of the Bayan Baru Lions Club in Malaysia saw the misery on television and dug into their own pockets as well as pleaded for funds from family, friends and the public. In a little more than a week the club raised US\$25,000. Members then loaded eight boats and 1,000 food parcels onto three 30-foot trucks. The parcels included bottled water, noo-

dles, biscuits and diapers. The convoy was met across the border by Thai soldiers, who transported the goods to Bangkok along with a US\$10,000 check for relief supplies.

Chartered in 2004, the club has 36 members. The relief was "a small effort to give a helping hand to our neighboring Thai brothers and sisters who are suffering tremendous stress and despair," says Tan Chee Bin, secretary. "We give hope to people who are facing great difficulties."

Lions in Malaysia prepare food packets for flood victims in Thailand.



The 95th Lions Clubs International Convention

**BUSAN, KOREA**

June 22 - 26, 2012



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# LIONS ON LOCATION

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



THE ASHBURTON COUNTY LIONS CLUB IN NEW ZEALAND RAISED \$13,000 FOR A RESCUE HELICOPTER SERVICE THROUGH A HUMOROUS "MISS ASHBURTON" PAGEANT IN WHICH MEN WERE CONTESTANTS.

4 AUSTRALIA OCEANIA

## Lions Show Their Mettle

Down Under they prefer to call it a ring-pull, and they dump them into skips. But whatever the terms used, Lions in Australia are raising funds for finding a cure for spinal cord injury.

Over 18 months, Australian Lions collected 3,300 pounds of pull tabs, which filled 2 ½ skips (large metal bins). The scrap metal brought in nearly US\$2,700.

Lions partnered with Sims Metal on the project. Through Sims, Lions also recycle practically any old metal including old cars, bikes, pots and pans, copper tubing, farm machinery and more.

Funds are donated to the Spinal Cord Fellowship, which supports scientists and clinicians studying the repair of spinal cords. Australian Lions have supported the organization since 1999.



Lion David Oakley empties ring-pulls into a skip.

# Romantic Rhine River Cruise

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

**14 Days** Join other Lions departing July 15, 2012 from **\$2398\***

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 (very limited) outside Porthole. \*Add \$300 per person for French Balcony.

## Canadian Rockies + Vancouver Tour

**Plus "Rocky Mountaineer" Rail Trip & Olympia Nat'l Park**

**14 Days** Travel with other Lions departing July 27, 2012 from **\$1948\***

Start in Seattle; after a morning city tour, take a scenic drive to Spokane and visit **The Grand Coulee Dam** and **Dry Falls**. Travel through "The Big Sky Country" of Montana then visit **Glacier** and **Waterton Lakes National Parks**. Your tour in the heart of the Canadian Rockies will include Banff (2 nights), **Banff National Park**, Glacier fed Peyto Lake and **Lake Louise**, a "snow coach" ride onto Athabasca glacier, Jasper and **Jasper National Park** (1 night). Continue your drive along the Icefields Parkway and visit Yoho National Park, cross the Continental Divide, and traverse the Canadian Rockies' western slope. In Whistler, board the **Rocky Mountaineer** train for **Vancouver** and travel through breathtaking scenery of waterfalls and mountains unavailable by other travel modes. Next, a ferry trip to **Vancouver Island** with a night in the capital, **Victoria, British Columbia**. Ferry to Port Angeles, WA; tour **Olympic National Park** and end back in Seattle!

## Ireland Tour

**Visit the best of both Northern and The Republic of Ireland!**

**12 Days** Join other Lions departing August 2, 2012 from **\$1598\***

Start in historic Dublin with a city tour including The Bank of Ireland and St. Patrick's Cathedral (the largest church in Ireland). Travel to Cork, stopping at the Rock of Cashel and Cobh along the way. Then visit Blarney Castle and perhaps kiss the Blarney Stone, Woollen Mill and Muckross House & Gardens en route to Killarney. Drive the "Ring of Kerry" offering spectacular scenery of lakes and rivers, tour Bunratty Castle & Folk Park, built in 1425. Visit the Cliffs of Moher, Galway, the Connemara region, Kylemore Abbey and the Bundoran area. Enjoy a guided tour of Belleek Pottery, visit Ulster American Folk Park, view Dunluce Castle & explore "The Giant's Causeway" with remarkable rock formations. Finally take a sightseeing tour of Belfast plus the Titanic Quarter and the impressive Parliament buildings. Includes 16 meals.

## Rocky Mountain Tour

**Plus Yellowstone National Park!**

**14 Days** Travel with other Lions departing August 15, 2012 from **\$1648\***

Your tour begins in the "Mile High City" of Denver, followed by Cheyenne, WY. The next two days you will visit Fort Laramie; Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota. Then return to Wyoming with a stop in Deadwood, continuing through the Black Hills to Little Big Horn Battlefield and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. Then you will depart for Yellowstone National Park (2 days) with extensive sightseeing, including Old Faithful and Hayden Valley. Your journey continues to Grand Teton National Park with spectacular landscape; Jackson Hole, WY; Salt Lake City, UT with a city tour including the Great Salt Lake and opportunity to witness the Tabernacle choir rehearsal. Then travel West visiting the Utah Field House Museum; Dinosaur National Monument and explore the vast variety of fossils and Rocky Mountain National Park including a drive through the park on Trail Ridge Road.

## Best of Italy & Austria Tour

**15 Days** Join other Lions departing September 12, 2012 from **\$2398\***

Enjoy three days in Rome with an included city tour of Ancient Rome and tour of the Vatican and Sistine Chapel. Two nights in Sorrento allows included sightseeing of the excavations of famous Pompeii and a tour of the beautiful coastal drive of Amalfi and the cliffs. Your next two nights are in the Tuscany region with included sightseeing in Florence, Pisa and Verona followed by two nights in Venice with sightseeing. Next, Austria with two nights in Mozart's birthplace Salzburg with a Sound of Music excursion and two nights in Vienna, Austria with a city tour and Danube River Cruise. Includes 12 breakfasts, 9 dinners & English-speaking escort throughout.

**\*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:**

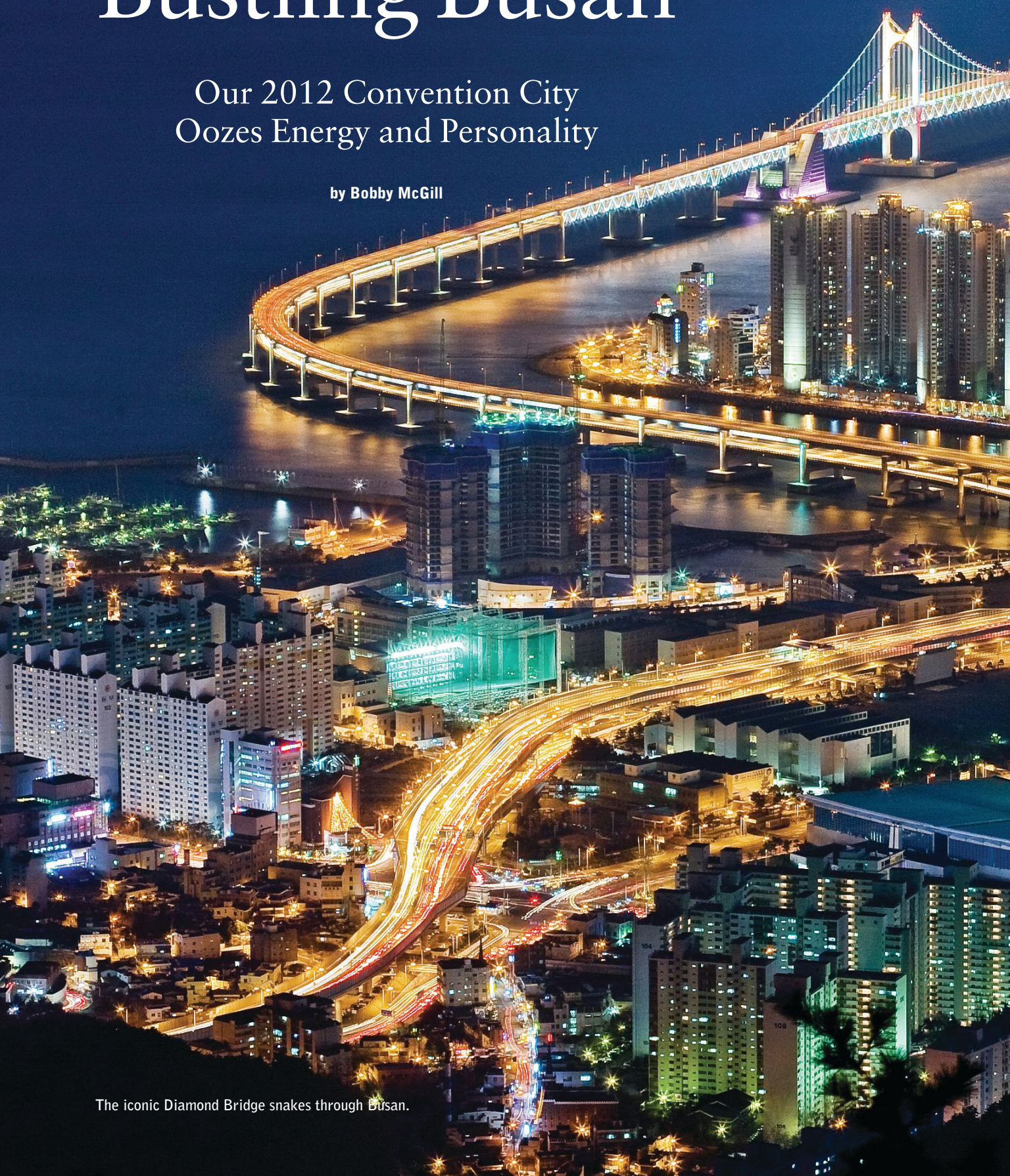
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# Bustling Busan

Our 2012 Convention City  
Oozes Energy and Personality

by Bobby McGill



The iconic Diamond Bridge snakes through Busan.





In a word, Busan is...busy.

Stand on the early morning streets of this prosperous seaside city and you quickly sense a surge of activity: massive ports being opened, enormous bridges being spanned and world-class architects flying in on retainer. Not until late into the evening does the din begin to recede as Koreans lay down their heads in Asia's highest-reaching apartments.

The voice of Busan and its 3.5 million people speak in a rhythm of vast movement, ascending well above the pitch of the average metropolitan hum. Though Korea's second-largest city has been around for 17 centuries, it has only recently found itself in the crosshairs of world travelers. The city is a wonderful venue for an international association whose members thrive on busy civic engagement. Busan will host the 95th International Convention June 22-26.

Lions' roots in Korea are deep and broad. The first club was chartered in Seoul in 1959. More than 85,000 Lions now hail from Korea, and tens of thousands are expected to attend at least part of the convention. Among them will be 2003-04 International President Dr. Tae-Sup Lee of Seoul.

Long a flyover city for people going to the capital city of Seoul and with many of its own citizens going in the same direction, Busan looked to tourism to bring more than just ships to the world's fifth-busiest port. They did so by building a teeming infrastructure to complement an area rich with history, endless servings of seafood, a potent local drink and gorgeous views of the sea.

And, of course, there are the mountains, which cover 70 percent of the Korean Peninsula. Busan means "kettle mountain," and from the valley floor in the center of town one gets the feeling of being surrounded. Yet unlike most places along the Korean coast, the valley here manages to find its way to the sea on either side of a large outcrop of pine-covered peaks; one side leading to the port, the other leading to the beaches. Most people are headed for the beaches.



## Bustling Busan

For the vast majority of travelers, after landing in Gimhae International Airport, all roads lead to Haeundae—Busan’s beachside center of tourism and conventions. Haeundae ranks as one of Asia’s richest residential communities as well as being home to Asia’s largest film festival every October. In short, Haeundae is the jewel in Busan’s aged and once weary crown.

Being a port city in a country sandwiched between the much larger powers of China and Japan, Busan has had a hard go of it over the centuries. Sixty years ago, during the devastating Korean War, Busan (also known as Pusan) was turned into an immense refugee camp while troops fought to defend what was the last remaining piece of the newly formed South Korea. The soldiers holed up in an area simply dubbed, the “Pusan Perimeter.”

The “second city” in the 14th-largest global economy has come a very long way over the years.

Interestingly, the 30-minute ride from the airport to Haeundae cuts a historical cross section right through the city, charting the light-speed economic growth of Busan. As your taxi leaves the airport, it first traverses the southern region’s widest valley before crossing over Korea’s longest river, the Nakdong.

Leaving the scenic beauty of the riverside marshes, a bridge takes you over to the Busan side of the Nakdong’s banks. There begin the endless rows of modern high-rise apartments followed by intermittent clusters of tightly compressed housing tracts. In the 1970s, when packing people into the valley would no longer suffice, they started erecting everything upward. The Nakdong river area, along with Haeundae, is the city’s most recently developed.

A few miles further on, weaving in and out of traffic in some of Asia’s most frenetically-driven cabs, you pass through Mandeok tunnel under the famed Geumjeong mountain before emerging into the heart of Busan and the area’s oldest settlement, Dongnae. This is an area you want to return.

In the light of day, looking over to your left after leaving the tunnel, you might just spot a bright red and yellow gondola gliding its way up on a cable to the top of the mountain through which you just passed.

The Geumjeong mountain range, running north and south through the city, is dotted with Busan’s history and enduring culture, including large stone fortresses, idyllic Buddhist temples, natural hot springs and funky little hidden valley villages that serve delicious meals of barbecue black goat along with Busan’s sweet, yet deceptively powerful brew of fermented rice, called Makolli.

A few miles on, as you continue heading east, there begins the gradual ascent onto Busan’s iconic landmark, the Diamond Bridge. As you cross over, nearly a mile inland, running parallel to the bridge, you’ll spot the city’s second most popular beach, Gwangan. Unlike Haeundae, just a 10-minute drive away, it offers a completely different feel, with seemingly endless cafés, bars and restaurants, all offering the best view in town of the bridge spanning the horizon, especially at night.

Passing through the bridge’s second tower, with the west-bound traffic buzzing overhead, you begin to see the bottom half of what appears to be a deployment of giant, gleaming missiles. Fear not, they are the recently completed 70-story I’Park condos with the most expensive view in town.



Haeundae Beach is immensely popular with Koreans and tourists alike.



## Beomeo Temple



U.N. Memorial Cemetery and Peace Park



## What To Do

We've provided the names of places in Korean so a cab driver will know where you want to go.

**Beomeo Temple** (범어사), Geumjeong-gu Cheongryong-dong, 051-508-3636, [www.beomeosa.co.kr](http://www.beomeosa.co.kr)

Founded in 678, Beomeo Temple ("Temple of the Nirvana Fish") is nestled in the foothills of Geumjeong mountain. The immense and wonderfully serene temple complex is a great reprieve from the hustle and bustle of Busan life. Book a temple to live as a monk for 48 hours, no head shaving required.

**Haeundae and Gwangsan Beach** (해운대 and 광안리 해수욕장), [www.suyeong.go.kr](http://www.suyeong.go.kr)

Haeundae Beach gets all the attention, but when the sun goes down, head over to Gwangsan Beach, home of Busan's iconic Diamond Bridge. There are countless cafés and restaurants, each with a great spot to sit and take in Busan's most famous view. On the east end of the beach is the Millak Fish Center, where you can experience the sights, sounds and, of course, smells of a Korean fish market.

**Boat Tours of the Coast**, [www.coveacruise.com](http://www.coveacruise.com), 051-742-2525

Several tours leave from morning until early evening from ports around the city. Tours range from your basic tooling around to luxurious dinner cruises. A great inexpensive tour leaves every 40 minutes from the Haeundae terminal at the east end of the beach, taking you past the breathtaking cliffs of Igidae and then out to the Oryuk-do islets.

**Nampo and Jagalchi Markets** (남포동 and 자갈치시장), Jung-gu Nampodong 4-ga 37-1, 051-245-2594

Nampo Market is shopping central in Busan, from the upscale boutiques around Lotte Department Store to the endless maze of independently run shops and stands. Once you've had your fill with shopping, walk over to Jagalchi Fish Market for excellent seafood including crabs, barbecue shellfish and turtle soup.

**U.N. Memorial Cemetery and Peace Park** (유엔기념원), Nam-gu Daeyeon 4-dong, 051-625-0625, [www.unmck.or.kr](http://www.unmck.or.kr)

The 35-acre cemetery was established by the U.N. command in 1951. It is the final resting place for over 11,000 soldiers, including 34 Americans, who served during the Korean War. Open daily from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free admission.

**Geumjeong Mountain Fortress** (금정산성), Geumjeong-gu Geumseong-dong, 051-514-5501

The fortress was the scene of an epic battle 300 years ago between an outmanned and outgunned Korean force defending Busan from a Japanese army bent on clearing a path to China. The 10 miles of the original wall is still mostly intact. Standing on the walls, looking out over the valley nearly 3,000 feet below, offers stunning views of the city.



## Where To Eat

**An Ga** (부산 해운대구 중동), 1276-1 Jung-dong, Haeundae-gu, Busan, 1276-1, 51-742-7852

An Ga ("comfortable home") serves up the best meat in town in a warm, cozy atmosphere. When we say "serve up," the caveat with all Korean barbecue is you have to cook it yourself. But that's part of the fun! Order a bottle of Baek Se Ju (백세주), a sweet fermented rice drink that literally translates to "100-years wine." Legend has it that Baek Se Ju's ginseng and 11 other herbs will help you live 100 years. The hangover doesn't last nearly as long.

### Mipo Raw Fish Area

A trip to Busan wouldn't be complete without digging into a healthy serving of Korea's spin on sashimi. Pulled fresh right out of the sea, it's served with traditional Korean side dishes along with a boiling hot bowl of Maeuntang (매운탕), a spicy fish soup boiled with red chili paste and vegetables.

**Shinsegae Food Court** (부산 해운대구 우동 1495 B1 층), Shinsegae Department Store, B1, 1495 U-dong, Haeundae-gu, Busan, 1588-1234, department.shinsegae.com

You might think it odd to recommend a "food court," but this is nothing like the mall fare back in the States. Located in the world's largest department store, the sheer variety of selection is worth the trip. Sample traditional Korean cuisine, spicy Chinese noodles, baked goods, sushi and even a decent hamburger or pasta. It's conveniently located across the street from the convention center.

**Sharky's Bar** 1124-2, Jung-dong, Heaundae-gu, Busan 2nd floor, Pale De CZ

If you're longing for a little taste of back home during your stay in Busan, the American-run Sharky's is the spot for your homesick tummy. Winner of the Best Burger in Busan 2011, the bacon avocado cheeseburger is served with a side of garlic mashed potatoes and a salad. Wash it all down with Red Rock beer, the most popular Korean brew among Busan's expat community. It's located on the second floor of the Palace De CZ Building, next to the Paradise Hotel on Haeundae Beach.



Jagalchi Market offers excellent seafood.



An Ga features Korean barbecue.

Shinsegae features an array of traditional Korean cuisine.

## Bustling Busan



Seomyeon Street is one of many commercial centers.

Next thing you know, you are in Haeundae, and quite literally, you've gone through centuries of Korean history. From the peaceful natural setting of the nation once known as "The Land of the Morning Calm" to the now bustling area of the first settlement and then on to the gleaming, modern era that is Haeundae.

When entering Haeundae, suddenly the sky opens up, there is space, wide sidewalks laid of brick, not concrete, and a far less crowded feel than the 30 minutes of road you just traversed. You pass over a small river and see rows of trees popping up on grassy, manicured medians. There are life-size sculptures of killer whales (which is about as close to a whale you will see, other than your plate) and mermaids riding dolphins. Then you will spot Shinsegae, the world's largest department store. Right next door is Busan's film center, with the largest cantilevered rooftop in the world.

The Busan Exhibition and Convention Center is just around the corner, with a number of nice hotels nearby. Several upscale waterfront hotels line Haeundae Beach—hotels with names like "Paradise" and "Grand" and the city's most exclusive, Westin Chosun (where George W. Bush stayed), named for the last ruling dynasty in Korea.

There is enough going on in Haeundae to keep you busy for awhile. There are, of course, the sun and the sand but also thriving night life and foodie scenes to walk

around and take in. Just be ready, most everything is spicy and the service intent and deliberate.

During the day, nearby Dalmaji Hill makes for a moderately paced walk up from the beach area on a lovely tree-lined wooden sidewalk or a parallel forested trail, both leading to the top, where there's a wealth of independent art galleries, quaint cafés and several local artists setting up tables to sell their artwork. It is the furthest reaches on the border of Busan, and some say the home to the city's most abundant charm.

The government slogan for the city is "Dynamic Busan." And more and more it's living up to the name by adding a gleaming infrastructure to what once was utilitarian, industrial blah. Gone are the 1970s and late 80s when the manufacturing sector thrived, when Busan was the "shoe capital of the world," home to the first mass-produced Nike shoes along with 80 percent of all the world's footwear.

What you now bear witness to is a city reinventing itself, while trying to hold tight to its traditions. Busan is the very definition of an emerging modern city. Be prepared for a shy, kind hospitality. Sometimes Koreans will still stop and stare, maybe even giggle, and give their best English a try.

And then of course there is you, in the middle of it all, taking in one of the most transformed cities in the world.



## Tours

Open Bus Tours, [www.citytourbusan.com](http://www.citytourbusan.com), 1688-0098

If the weather is nice, climb aboard Busan's open air buses and take in the city sights. Hop on at either the Busan or the Haeundae train stations. We recommend the Taejongdae tour, which runs every 40 minutes throughout the day starting at the Busan Train Station and includes a stop at the giant Jagalchi Fish Market. The fare is 10,000 Korean won or about \$9.

## Work the Web

Busan Haps Magazine, [www.busanhaps.com](http://www.busanhaps.com). This English magazine features articles about Busan, food and nightlife listings along with maps and recommendations.

Korea Bridge, [www.koreabridge.net](http://www.koreabridge.net). The longest running English Web site in Busan, Korea Bridge has a great forum section so you can get the picks and the pans of all things Busan.

Busan City Web site, <http://english.busan.go.kr>. The official government web site is a little tricky to navigate but is a great resource for things to do and to see.

## If You Have the Time

- Hop on the train, and head 90 minutes north to the historic city of Gyeongju (경주시). Spend the day walking around the area known as the "Museum without Walls."
- Board a jet-engine ferry for a two-and-a-half hour ride to Japan. You can't beat the price. Two days and one night will run you about \$200. It's so close to Busan, you might as well go, and Americans don't need a visa.
- Take the 200 mph bullet train to Seoul in just over two hours and check out the nation's capital and its abundance of cultural offerings.

*A journalist from San Francisco, Bobby McGill is the founder and editor-in-chief of Busan's only expat-produced magazine, Busan Haps ([www.busanhaps.com](http://www.busanhaps.com)).*

# BUSAN KOREA

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Members of the Dogye Lions Club deliver briquettes to the needy. Lions in Korea often perform hands-on service.



**95th Annual Lions Clubs International Convention**  
**Friday, June 22 – Tuesday, June 26, 2012 • Busan, Republic of Korea**  
**Convention Registration and Hotel Reservation Form**

**Deadlines**

- **May 1, 2012:** Deadline for advance registration and hotel reservation. Registrations after this date will be processed in Busan.
- **May 1, 2012:** Deadline to receive a refund for a registration cancellation. • **May 15, 2012:** Deadline to receive a refund for a hotel room cancellation.

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

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family (Last) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Badge/Call Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

COMPANION: First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family (Last) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Badge/Call Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

CHILD: First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family (Last) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD: First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family (Last) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ Before December 31: Reservation in delegation hotel

☐ After December 31: ☐ I prefer my delegation hotel

☐ Prefer hotel based on: ☐ room rate of \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ location near convention center

Arrival date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure date \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Guests in Room: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Beds Needed ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3

Special Requirements: ☐ Non-smoking ☐ Wheelchair Accessible ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>AMOUNT DUE</u>
Leo Lion Summit	June 22/ 10:00-16:00	US \$60	_____	\$ _____
Membership Key Award Ice Cream Social (Key holders only)	June 23/ 14:00-16:00	US \$20	_____	\$ _____
Melvin Jones Fellow Luncheon	June 25/ 13:30-15:00	US \$60	_____	\$ _____
District Governor/Past District Governor Banquet	June 25/ 20:00-22:00	US \$100	_____	\$ _____

Meal Preference: ☐ None ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Indian Vegetarian ☐ Diabetic ☐ Western Cuisine Only

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

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

**REGISTRATION FEES**

	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Child (17 and under)</u>
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Regular (1/January through 31/March/2012)	US\$130	US\$10
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# Sight Savers

## Lions Preserve Vision Through Screenings

by Jay Copp

It's point, shoot and keep the children steady. "A lot of kids fidget," says Jack Beckfield, who has screened Colorado schoolchildren for vision problems for nearly 15 years. "We tell them to look at the red dot. We tell them that's Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. That gets their attention."

Lion Sharon Beckfield, his wife, also often works the screenings. "We work as a team. Sometimes she holds their hair up to keep it out of their eyes. She may even hold their heads up," says Beckfield, 75.

Lions in Colorado have had plenty of experience in becalming and testing preschoolers. Their KidSight program began in 1999. Last fiscal year, Lions in the state screened nearly 31,000 children.



Vision problems often are not detectable with the naked eye.

## Sight Savers



Gary Jennings of the Durango Lions Club in Colorado tests the vision of a Bryson Quimby, 3.

Photos courtesy of *The Durango Herald*/Jerry McBride

The digital screeners detect possible instances of farsightedness, nearsightedness, amblyopia (“lazy eye”), astigmatism, unequal refraction and misaligned eyes. Vision problems, if not treated, can slow learning and development. Some conditions, if left alone, can lead to irreversible vision loss and even blindness.

One in every 20 preschool age children in the United States has a vision problem that, if left uncorrected, could lead to permanent loss of sight, according to Prevent Blindness America. Half of all cases children with amblyopia are diagnosed after the age of five when therapy may not be as effective.

With no point of comparison and lacking verbal skills, children are unable to communicate a vision problem. The Lions’ screenings require no verbal input from the children. The test results often shock parents, unaware of a problem, and jolt them into action.

“We get all kinds of testimonials. We’ve got hundreds of letters [from parents] saying we saved their children’s sight,” says Beckfield, vice chairperson of KidSight after serving as chairperson for seven years. Lions display the thank-you letters at meetings of Lions and groups such as nurses associations. They also show the letters when approaching a school district without a Lions’ screening.

Schools in Colorado administer eye tests, says Beckfield. But many schools simply plop a patch on an eye and ask a student to read an eye chart, an unsophisticated, inadequate test.

Last year the Lions’ screenings indicated 10.5 percent of the children needed to see an eye care professional. A vision problem indeed was present 80 percent of the time, says Beckfield.

Lions in Colorado now also are screening kindergarten students. Indicative of the tough economy, many children skip preschool.

KidSight is one of the most popular programs among Lions in Colorado. Eighty-nine of the state’s 120 clubs and 550 Lions participate. “I hear comments all the time, ‘Oh, Jack, this is such a great program.’ It gets Lions involved,” says Beckfield, who retired two years ago from a company that supplied the heavy-duty truck industry. “We think it helps membership.”

The Lions have 54 screeners, which cost \$5,500. The training is minimal. “It takes about half an hour or 15 minutes. We had a new club take it on. One of the Lions got used to it right away. He was having a ball,” says Beckfield.

Says Mary Richards of the Durango Lions Club, “It’s a great time with the kids. ... It’s easy. You have to get the right distance—14 inches from the front of the screener to the child’s eye. There’s a video that comes with it [the screener] and a cheat-sheet, too.”

Lions Clubs International Foundation provided a \$200,000 grant in 2001 for Lions in Colorado to improve and expand KidSight. Altogether, LCIF grants to Lions in 17 states, the District of Columbia and Multiple District 300 Taiwan made possible screenings of more than 1 million children.

Begun in 2004, Lions of Michigan Project KidSight has tested nearly 30,000 children at 1,735 screenings. “Every year it’s more,” says Linda Bosma, executive director.

As with Lions in other states, Lions in Michigan in recent years switched from MTI photoscreening cameras to digital machines. Previously, parents received a letter in the mail weeks later with the test results. With the new equipment, the screenings cost less, and the results are immediate, allowing Lions to encourage parents, if needed, to take their child to an eye doctor.



## Sight Savers

The program recently partnered with the Michigan Department of Community Health. Screening results will be shared with health officials to ensure follow-up. Says Dr. Jack Baker, the medical director of KidSight in Michigan and an ophthalmology professor at Wayne State University School of Medicine, “Having a child screened and the parent being told that the child needs an eye examination has absolutely no value unless the child actually has an eye exam.”

A Lion since 1960, Bill Kowalski of Portage, Michigan, can attest to the value of the screenings. Five years ago he screened a two-year-old girl. Her mother, a nurse, had no idea there was a problem. A specialist discovered a tumor behind the left eye. An operation was done that day to save the sight in that eye.

Each year since, Kowalski drives 40 miles on Friendship Day to deliver a dozen roses to Victoria, now 7. (Area Lions sell roses.) “I’m a retired Marine,” says Kowalski. “But when she put her arm around me and told me she loves to read, that brought tears to my eyes.”

Screenings are important even for children who receive top-notch medical care. Parents wrongly assume pediatricians rigorously check for vision problems. Says Janice Chapman, executive director of Operation KidSight in Indiana, “Most pediatricians have only limited training in identifying vision problems.” In fact, a Lions screening Chapman worked happened to screen the son of Chapman’s own pediatrician.

Operation KidSight has screened 70,000 children since December 2003, and the program may do as many as 25,000 in the current fiscal year. KidSight is a partnership of Indiana Lions and the Indiana Lions Eye & Tissue Transplant Bank and the Indiana University Department of Ophthalmology.

Typically, Lions continue to head the children’s screening programs begun with LCIF funds. In Rhode Island, the state leads the screenings with Lions’ help. In Missouri, the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation directs screenings with more than 200 Lions assisting. In still other states, not part of a statewide or district effort, scattered clubs hold children’s vision screenings.



Jennings and Dan Ammann, also a Durango Lion, keep the screenings moving at a brisk pace.

The numbers of children screened and those saved from vision loss grow each year. In Missouri, more than 215,000 have been screened since 1995 and officials expect to screen 40,000 this year. Based at the Ross Eye Institute in Buffalo, Lions in New York have screened 13,000 children since 2008. Some 430 Lions and Lionesses from 100 clubs in Multiple District 22 (Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia) have screened 44,300 children since 2003.

In Tennessee, Lions from 248 clubs have screened more than 360,000 children since 1997. Lions there partner with the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt University to form the Tennessee Lions Eye Center. Lions in Louisiana have screened nearly 180,000 children since 2001 through their CubSight program. Each year, from 225 to 300 Lions in about 80 clubs volunteer.

In Iowa, initially helped by LCIF and partnering with the University of Iowa, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Lions screened 220,886 children from May 2000 to September 2011. Iowa KidSight screened 32,164 children last fiscal year. Nearly 150 clubs and more than 400 Lions participate.

Iowa’s follow-up is “phenomenal,” says Tammy Johnson, who started the Lions’ vision screening in Tennessee, trained state coordinators in states that received LCIF funds and now directs Florida Lions’ KidSight, which is new. In Iowa 76 percent of children referred for further care do indeed see an eye care professional, and 91 percent of those do have a vision problem.

# Lions Celebrate World Sight Day in China

When the bandages were removed from the eyes of Ge Sang, she was moved to tears.

"Thanks for curing my eyes," the 77-year-old exclaimed. She is one of 5 million people who have Lions to thank for improved eyesight because of SightFirst Action China.

To help even more people, Lions launched SightFirst China Action (SFCA) Phase III during Lions World Sight Day in Shenzhen, China, in October 2011. Events included the inauguration of a low vision clinic, launching a trachoma elimination program and vision screenings. Attending were representatives from the Chinese government, the China Disabled Persons' Federation, the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization, Lions' partner organizations in China, Board of Trustee members and Lions throughout China and Hong Kong. To support these programs, SightFirst awarded an initial grant of US\$2.67 million.

It is believed that more than 20 percent of those blind from cataract in the world live in China, and every year there are 400,000 new cases. Many township/county hospitals do not have ophthalmology clinics. They also lack manpower and equipment.

"I am proud of our successes in China, which build upon our long-term commitment to reduce blindness globally. With funds raised through Campaign SightFirst II, we are now able to continue and expand our vision programs to help even more people," International President Wing-Kun Tam says.

SightFirst funds will be used to help the Chinese government eliminate blinding trachoma as a significant health problem by 2016. Trachoma is a leading cause of preventable and reversible blindness. During Lions World Sight Day, Lions' executive officers joined representatives from the Chinese government and the Ministry of Health in signing the formal agreement to launch this program.

Lions also inaugurated the Shenzhen Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Center. A low vision training program will serve several counties in Liaoning Province. Additionally, Lions and eye care professionals provided vision screenings and eyeglasses to hundreds of children and elderly. Lions, government officials and community members planted 26 trees throughout Lions Lotus Hill Park in Shenzhen.

SFCA was formed as a partnership between Lions Clubs International and the government of the People's Republic of China. LCIF has awarded two SFCA grants for more than

US\$30.8 million, matched with more than US\$200 million from the Chinese government.

World Sight Day is an international event, which Lions launched in 1998. Typical events include eye screenings, eyeglass donations and other local projects.

In Haiti, Lions and Leos screened 130 senior citizens and provided free eyeglasses. Lions in Guyana held a screening for primary school students. Lions also donated nine white canes for the blind. Students and teachers were screened in Malaysia, with Lions donating eyeglasses to those in need. Throughout all 15 districts in France, Lions screened 3,778 people.

Beyond eye screenings, Lions in the Philippines checked about 300 people for blood pressure, diabetes and other health issues, distributed eyeglasses and delivered a presentation on eye care. Similarly, Lions in Belize conducted screenings for eye health, blood pressure and blood sugar for residents of Belize City.

Collecting eyeglasses is also an important activity of World Sight Day. The Barrie South Lions Club in Canada collected more than 420 pairs of eyeglasses and provided education about the importance of eye health. More than 200 pairs of eyeglasses were collected in the United Kingdom, where a group of Lions walked to raise awareness about eye health and the difference that donated glasses can make to those who are less fortunate.

Jodhpur Marudhara Lions Club members in India organized a World Sight Day project during which they provided 82 pairs of eyeglasses to children.







# What Will They Think of Next?

by Pamela Mohr

Ask a person on the street about Lions and he or she will likely say, "Yeah, I know who they are. They collect eyeglasses." Having an identity is a good thing. Of course, clubs do much more than recycle glasses. Clubs are free to serve their community as they see fit. And serve they do in multifaceted ways. The Annual Service Activity Report (pages 36-37) details the wide variety of service in 2010-11. But behind every black and white number is a rich, colorful story. Here are a few.



Sister Johanna Trembl sweeps items into her cart to load up on groceries for the food pantry supported by St. Celestine Church.

## Grocery Dash Helps the Hungry

District 1 A Lions in Illinois like the challenge of sponsoring new projects. In an effort to put a new spin on helping to feed the hungry, they sponsored a first-time Grocery Dash that helped fill community food pantries. Raffle tickets sold for \$10; winners received timed shopping sprees in a grocery store. Lions expected winners to stock up on groceries for their own families, but two of the winners shopped for food pantries while the third donated his ticket to a church that has a food pantry. More than \$5,700 in food was collected by three participants, the cost of which was covered by ticket sales.

The first place winner had eight minutes to fill his cart; second place was allotted six minutes and the third was given four minutes. Lions and others urged “dashers” on to victory.

The third place ticket was bought by the Montclare Elmwood Park Lions Club and donated to the Salvation Army. Even with the shortest time limit of four minutes, Salvation Army runner Joseph Mata collected the highest amount in free groceries—\$2,200.

“The outcome was outstanding,” says chairperson Lion Ralph Zarada. “The entire experience was very uplifting and a lot of fun for all who participated and organized the event.” It was also fun for those who watched the mad scramble down the aisles. Cheering was non-stop as carts careened around corners to beat the clock. The dash was so successful, says Zarada, another one is planned.

Sister Johanna Trembl, who ran the grocery dash when a winner donated the ticket to her church, says, “I had such a good time! Lions are great—I got everything I needed for the food pantry. I was able to feed 27 families from that night.” She shops at the store regularly, and laughs that she’s become a bit of a local celebrity since her mad dash for groceries was publicized in the local newspapers. She’s already strategizing her moves in case she gets another chance. Next time, she vows to dash even faster and use a wider sweep of her arms to get more groceries off the shelves and into her cart.

Sister Trembl was already acquainted with Lions in the community because they had previously given a \$1,000 donation to her church’s food pantry as well as two others. “Sometimes I think people don’t know how many people care about them, but the Lions really do care. It was just a wonderful experience.”



# Prison Partnership a Vision for Success



Two inmates show Lions Les Copass (left) and Bob Slonecker the first stage of the eyeglass recycling project at the Sterling Correctional Facility.

A partnership between Lions and the Sterling Correctional Facility, 120 miles northeast of Denver, Colorado, is bringing a new purpose not only to old eyeglasses, but also to the inmates who process them. They learn a useful trade and participate in a project that helps others and in turn, helps them to interact with others—both important steps to their eventual integration back into society.

Prisoners clean and determine the prescription of donated eyeglasses, sometimes processing as many as 2,000 per week after being trained by Sterling Lion Todd Wolfley, an optometrist. Eyeglasses collected by Colorado Lions are first sent to a nearby adult daycare center where they are sorted and then taken to the prison.

The project was the idea of Myron Graybill, who read about a similar partnership between a prison and Lions in Canada in *LION* Magazine. “If it works in Canada, why wouldn’t it work in Colorado?” he asked his wife, Carol, also a Sterling Lion.

The eyeglass recycling program has been operating continuously at the prison for 12 years except for a brief time in 2010. “The project faced an obstacle that couldn’t have been foreseen,” says Carol Graybill. “The Sterling Correctional Facility, which had been termed ‘non-escapable’ because of its series of fences, one of which is lethal, had an escape.

“The inmate, who had escaped from four other prisons, was soon

captured, but the prison was under lockdown for several weeks during the investigation. During that time, no eyeglasses could be processed.” Graybill says neither male nor female Lions fear for their safety, and were eager to get back to the facility.

The prison houses more than 2,500 inmates who have been convicted of non-violent and violent crimes. A modern, sprawling facility on a 765-acre site, it’s the largest prison in Colorado. Inmates are paid a small stipend for their work with Lions, and guards are usually stationed inside the room.

More than 500,000 people have been fitted with corrective lenses from the program. In addition to Afghanistan, Ukraine, Fiji, Ghana, Haiti and a host of other countries, glasses have also been given to the Colorado Migrant Program.

Inmates wash the glasses, read the prescriptions with a lensometer purchased by Lions, print out prescriptions on labels and insert the glasses into bags ready for distribution. They also determine which glasses might have gold content for sale to a company in California. “Sterling inmates are extremely accurate in locating these glasses. During the 11 years of the project, the income from the gold sale has financed the majority of the common expense,” Graybill points out.

Prison staff member Maj. Don Barnes says the program has been a “win-win-win program” for everyone. Inmate Rayce Daves agrees. “It’s a good feeling to see the many pictures we receive and actually see the people being examined, fitted and wearing the glasses we process.”



The crowd cheers on the live turtles at a past derby.

# Technology Knocks Real Turtles Out of the Race

Using imported mechanical “turtles,” Lions in Johnson City, Tennessee, have given a high-tech boost to a 58-year tradition. When Lions decided last year not to use live turtles for their annual turtle race, the decision may have spared club members from a few frayed nerves. “Four years ago, the live turtles we were using—we ordered 150 of them—got out of their boxes in the Memphis airport during a plane change,” recalls Lion George Winton. “It took every available agent to get them back into their shipping containers. They all arrived in good shape, but only just in time for the race.”

The mechanical green turtles raced without incident, raising more than \$25,000. The turtles are sponsored by individuals and local businesses for \$50 each. The track is set up in a gymnasium at East Tennessee State University and attracts a cheering crowd of kids and adults in the hundreds.

“We were a little worried that the kids would prefer the real turtles, but if they did, it didn’t show. They en-

joyed being at the head of the track at start time when they were released, as they used to years ago before health department regulations prohibited it,” says Winton. “In fact, I think the parents preferred mechanical turtles since they didn’t have to go home and discourage their kids from trying this at home without supervision or worry about ‘hands into mouth’ after handling live critters.”

Lions plan to continue their derby tradition with mechanical turtles. “We’ll use them as long as we can get them,” he predicts. “These toys start by moving a switch forward and setting them down onto the track. No windup is needed and the batteries last a great while. The live turtles we used in the past had to be returned to Louisiana where they came from because they’re apparently slightly different from Tennessee ‘red-eared pond sliders,’ according to Wildlife Agency regulations.” And the best thing about using toy turtles? They never make a mad dash for the door and Lions rest a lot easier.





# Families Save with Uniform Swap

Mothers and children check the sizes of school clothing in the high school gymnasium where the uniform exchange is held.

The cost of getting kids ready for school keeps rising, but many parents are seeing their paychecks get smaller or even become non-existent. Members of the Horizon City Lions Club in El Paso, Texas, know the challenges that families face in their community. They established an exchange program for school uniforms three years ago and have since been joined by other volunteers and Lions clubs in the area.

Most El Paso County public schools require “uniforms” of khakis and plain white or colored shirts with collars to promote positive behavior, pride in appearance and bridge socioeconomic, racial or ethnic tensions between classmates. A selection of new outfits averages about \$150 for each child.

Parents can exchange outfits that their children have outgrown for used, cleaned clothing at no cost. Last year, more than 500 kids received new uniforms in the exchange; each family is allowed several as needed. Drop-off locations make it

convenient for parents to donate, and some area businesses offer Lions free storage.

Lion Linda Miner says the program informally began when she and two other “crazy moms,” Eva Valles and Vicki Hernandez, approached Horizon City Lions for their support of a uniform swap program. They believed recycling instead of discarding expensive school clothing was a smarter decision.

“Everyone loved the idea. In fact, the club was so helpful they got five new Lions because of it,” she says with a laugh. Shortly after Lions pledged their assistance, Miner, Valles and her husband, Zhamir, and Hernandez and her husband, Marco, joined the club.

Parents who need school uniforms but don’t have them to exchange can volunteer during the event to earn their outfits for their children. “A Kiwanis club gave us \$300 for school supplies and a builder gave us a \$500 donation, asking if that was enough,” Miner says.

Lions and other individuals also dig deep into their pockets to purchase supplies and backpacks for students. Still, she adds, “Every year buys less.”

People continue to give to Lions in other ways, too. “Volunteers put new zippers in slacks, make shorts out of a pair of slacks with blown-out knees or repair torn hems,” Miner explains. “We use everything. We can still use a uniform in poor condition. We do what we can to fix it and give it to the school nurses to use in case of emergencies.”

“I’ve seen mothers crying their eyes out because they’re so grateful for the help. This is so easy to do and it’s helped so many people,” she emphasizes. “It’s a green project, too—we’re recycling and helping save the earth. We take all the money we raise and put it right back into the kids in the community. Why wouldn’t anybody do this if they could?”

# Cyclists Thrive on Challenging Course

Fairbanks Goldstream Valley Lions in Alaska may not be able to move mountains, but they can easily move big mounds of dirt. With the support of the community and the National Park Service (NPS), Lions built a “pump and skills” park for BMX-style bike riding. Also known as a BMX mountain bike track, it’s constructed so that cyclists ride over terrain dotted with “real-life” natural obstacles—moose not included, even though they’re known to wander through Fairbanks looking for plants to munch.

Built-up banks of soil and narrow wooden platforms create a challenging course for riders. By “pumping,” forward momentum keeps riders going without pedaling, which helps build upper body strength to increase mountain biking skills.

Built on the grounds of the Lions-owned and operated community center, the bike park was a two-year collaborative effort between Lions, the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) and state and local parks agencies. The Goldstream Valley community of 27,000 people, with more than 6,000 families, is just outside downtown Fairbanks. The bike park, the only one in Alaska, is already getting a heavy workout from biking enthusiasts.

The park service gave the 30-member club a \$15,000 grant and Lions and the community contributed more than \$54,000 in cash

and in-kind donations to build a 150-by-30-foot section of the park, says Heather Rice, of the NPS. She calls John Hiltenbrand a “Lion extraordinaire” for his dedication to getting the word out to the community, finding grant funding and securing in-kind matches.

Steve Carter, who joined the Fairbanks Goldstream Valley Lions Club in 2002, agrees with Rice. “John came to the club with a vision of the pump park. He’s an avid mountain biker and we all bought in on the project. Lions own the property. However, the playground, ball fields, picnic grounds and pump park are all maintained by volunteers,” he points out. “Goldstream Valley has the best support of any community I know.” Lions believe the bike park will get kids to get up off the couch and keep moving.

A three-day workshop by noted Utah cyclist Ben Blitch led to building

the track. “The workshop’s goal was to give club and community members the knowledge and skills needed to design, construct, maintain and manage a safe pump park and skills course,” explains Rice.

“More than 70 people of all ages and backgrounds attended the workshop. The in-kind match offers went wild!” Rice says of the project, to which supporters contributed more than 770 hours of labor. “Volunteers helped construct the park with heavy equipment, chain saws, table saws and compactors, as well as hand tools including shovels, tamping plates, rakes and picks,” she adds.

The NPS has since approved another grant to Lions to pay a contractor to increase the track to 600 feet and feature even more challenging berms, ladders, jumps and log beams.



Neighborhood kids pitched in to help Lions build the track’s adventurous twists and turns.

Photo by National Park Service/L.R. Holzappel



Dennis Brining reads a Dr. Seuss book to students at Mosby Woods Elementary School in northern Virginia.



## Joy in Whoville as Cat in the Hat Comes Calling

Dr. Seuss may be one of the world's most beloved children's authors, but a favorite narrator of his books in northern Virginia may just be a Lion named Dennis Brining.

Brining, 2010-11 District 24 A Governor, and his wife, Linda, both members of the Fairfax Host Lions Club, brought the fantastic writings of Dr. Seuss (otherwise known as Theodore Seuss Geisel) to life while celebrating reading last year. Wearing oversized "Cat in the Hat" red and white striped caps, the pair read Dr. Seuss books to school kids. The occasion was National Read Across America Day on March 4, two days after what would have been the famed author's 107th birthday. He died in 1991.

The Dr. Seuss reading by the Brinings was part of Get Focused on Reading, an initiative of Fairfax County Public Schools, the Fairfax Education Association and the Lions of Northern Virginia. The effort promoted literacy and collected eyeglasses for Recycle for Sight. Mosby Woods School librarian Kimberley Adams says

students were so thrilled about the event they performed a skit for a morning news report. "It's exciting to have our students and schools participate in this unique recycling program in conjunction with Lions clubs. This program has allowed our younger students to participate in a civic cause and will teach them that even little things like collecting eyeglasses can have a local and global impact," she says.

Students in 36 schools received publicity fliers and collection envelopes to help Fairfax Host Lions collect glasses. More than 1,000 pairs were collected from classrooms. "We had as much laughs as the students when we came into the library wearing our Cat in the Hat giant hats," says Dennis Brining. "But the mission is so much more. Encouraging students to participate in eyeglass recycling teaches them good lessons about being good citizens and good stewards." The Brinings plan to go back to school in March as Lions unite again with the Fairfax Education Association to promote reading and eyeglass donations.

# Special Day Celebrates Special Kids

Lions clubs in California's District 4-3 may each sponsor different projects in their communities, but for one day each year they all get together to support Special Kids Day. Hundreds of Lions and volunteers hosted approximately 2,000 disabled children and adults at the DeLuna Ranch in Brentwood, a popular venue for events and weddings. Owned by Brentwood Lions Maggie and Rene DeLuna, the 10-acre property was offered by the couple when the celebration outgrew

its previous location after more than two decades.

Motorcycle rides, clowns, face painting, a petting zoo, games, hayrides, a bounce house and other attractions are all part of the fun planned by Lions, Lionesses and Leos. Children and adults with emotional, developmental and physical disabilities and their guardians and families are invited to the annual event at no cost. Private donations and Lions clubs help defray the ex-

pense of hosting the annual celebration.

Crockett Lion Maureen Powers says that while many Lions were repeat volunteers, new club member Dan Robertson "experienced the joy that all of us know as Lions. Our club tried for many years to recruit him. He finally took the plunge and joined this year."

Robertson, who publishes *The Crockett Signal*, recalls his amazement at what he saw that day. He explains that he entered the ranch grounds "not knowing where I'm going. As it turns out, I'm going to a whole new world. I see kids everywhere. They're petting little chickens and goats, getting their faces painted, tumbling around in a jump house."

Many of the children look "ecstatic, delighted, entranced," he says. "Some of the kids stop walking and just stand there, wide-eyed, turning around and around, as if they're seeing everything for the first time."



A visitor experiences nature close-up.

Photo by Dan Robertson



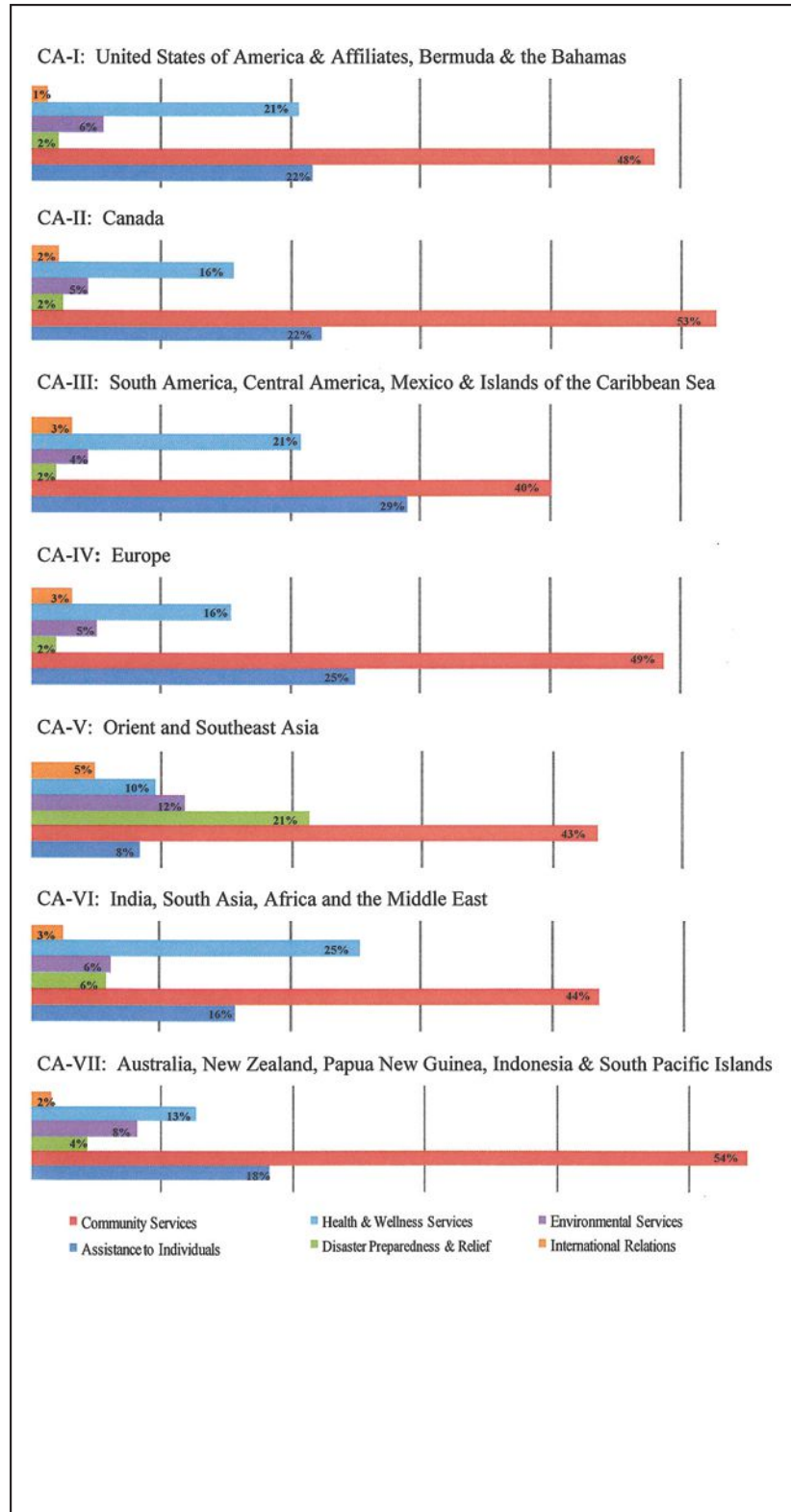
# Service Takes Many Forms

Think you know what Lions do? The Annual Service Activity Report for 2010-2011 shows that many clubs are engaged in typical Lions' service work such as eyeglass recycling while many others devote themselves to less stereotypical activities such as civic services and sports/recreation.

In the United States, its affiliates, Bermuda and the Bahamas, civic service is the top reported activity (besides these three broad categories: other community and cultural activity, non-LCIF donations and fundraising). As an example of civic service, West Jackson Lions in Georgia honored first responders with a dinner. The next most commonly reported activities after civic service were eyeglass recycling, aid to the vision or hearing impaired, aid the elderly and disabled, other assistance to individuals and vision screening.

The most common activities differ in Canada. The top reported activity (again besides non-LCIF donations, other community and cultural activities and fundraising) is aid to the elderly and disabled followed by sports/recreation, other assistance to individuals, civic services and eyeglass recycling.

The annual service report is based on the clubs that reported their activities to Lions Clubs International. Forty percent of clubs worldwide (more than 18,000) reported to LCI last year. Participating clubs reported nearly 350,000 service activities that assisted more than 160 million people. Lions logged more than 15 million service hours.



## Service

### 2010-2011 Service Activity for Constitutional Area I (United States of America, Its Affiliates, Bermuda & the Bahamas)

	Activities	Lion Hours
<b>Assistance to Individuals</b>	<b>19,984</b>	<b>17,288</b>
Aid to disadvantaged children	1,911	1,757
Aid to homeless	982	882
Aid to the elderly/disabled	5,487	4,651
Aid to the vision/hearing impaired	6,929	6,049
Other assistance to individuals	4,675	3,949
<b>Community &amp; Cultural Activity</b>	<b>44,100</b>	<b>35,289</b>
Art/cultural event	3,570	3,038
Assistance to school	2,538	2,307
Civic services	7,623	5,836
Drug awareness	202	199
Education/language/literacy	2,941	2,509
Facility improvement /construction	1,522	1,420
Food /clothes /toy drive	3,554	3,164
Food bank/food distribution	2,335	2,111
Other community & cultural activity	16,184	11,468
Sports /recreation event	3,631	3,237
<b>Disaster Preparedness &amp; Relief</b>	<b>2,042</b>	<b>1,973</b>
Blood collection	1,029	1,005
Disaster preparedness planning	162	149
Emergency health services	160	154
Other disaster preparedness & relief	470	450
Physical reconstruction	44	44
Shelter services	177	171
<b>Donations</b>	<b>18,527</b>	<b>11,413</b>
Donations to LCIF	2,704	2,266
Non-LCIF Donations	14,000	7,431
Scholarship	1,823	1,716
<b>Environmental Services</b>	<b>5,226</b>	<b>4,928</b>
Clean up	2,231	2,108
Environment preservation services	155	145
Environmental awareness /education	204	197
Other environmental services	364	340
Recycling	2,065	1,934
Tree Planting	173	171
Water/sanitation services	34	33
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>16,129</b>	<b>13,535</b>
Fundraising Event/Campaign	11,347	9,529
Other fundraising	4,782	4,006
<b>Health &amp; Wellness</b>	<b>19,006</b>	<b>17,730</b>
Diabetes awareness /education	927	860
Diabetes screening	273	242
Eye banks	562	531
Eyeglass recycling	7,212	7,008
Guide dogs	380	360
Health education	253	245
Health/support services	1,821	1,672
Hearing aid recycling	551	544
Hearing ear dogs	37	36
Hearing screening	383	340
Medical mission	190	178
Other health & wellness	2,392	2,118
Strides Walk	105	102
Vision screening	3,920	3,494
<b>International Relations</b>	<b>1,339</b>	<b>1,126</b>
Club twinning	401	336
Other international relations	938	790
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>126,353</b>	<b>103,282</b>

### 2010-2011 Service Activity for Constitutional Area II (Canada)

	Activities	Lion Hours
<b>Assistance to Individuals</b>	<b>2,884</b>	<b>2,391</b>
Aid to disadvantaged children	331	299
Aid to homeless	78	71
Aid to the elderly/disabled	1,076	859
Aid to the vision/hearing impaired	481	401
Other assistance to individuals	918	761
<b>Community &amp; Cultural Activity</b>	<b>6,762</b>	<b>5,479</b>
Art/cultural event	742	615
Assistance to school	330	304
Civic services	708	577
Drug awareness	37	37
Education/language/literacy	333	294
Facility improvement /construction	435	400
Food/clothes/toy drive	311	264
Food bank/food distribution	208	195
Other community & cultural activity	2,678	1,979
Sports/recreation event	980	814
<b>Disaster Preparedness &amp; Relief</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>310</b>
Blood collection	144	139
Disaster preparedness planning	27	27
Emergency health services	36	34
Other disaster preparedness & relief	84	78
Physical reconstruction	12	12
Shelter services	20	20
<b>Donations</b>	<b>3,951</b>	<b>2,224</b>
Donations to LCIF	471	408
Non-LCIF Donations	3,292	1,633
Scholarship	188	183
<b>Environmental Services</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>542</b>
Clean up	230	213
Environment preservation services	21	21
Environmental awareness/education	24	23
Other environmental services	28	28
Recycling	232	213
Tree Planting	32	32
Water/sanitation services	12	12
<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>3,855</b>	<b>2,948</b>
Fundraising Event/Campaign	2,315	1,791
Other fundraising	1,540	1,157
<b>Health &amp; Wellness</b>	<b>2,011</b>	<b>1,835</b>
Diabetes awareness/education	161	142
Diabetes screening	14	14
Eye banks	22	20
Eyeglass recycling	653	644
Guide dogs	175	162
Health education	20	20
Health/support services	260	226
Hearing aid recycling	35	34
Hearing ear dogs	4	4
Hearing screening	9	9
Medical mission	15	15
Other health & wellness	521	428
Strides Walk	6	5
Vision screening	116	112
<b>International Relations</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>238</b>
Club twinning	76	67
Other international relations	206	171
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>20,647</b>	<b>15,967</b>





Wm. Murr  
BELL



G.L. Richardson  
GUY



W.F. Lane  
CHALKY



E.H. Moffitt  
E.D.



Rev. N. Bertrand  
FATHER



H.P. Smith  
Hi POWER



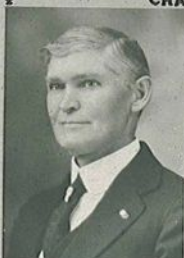
A.R. Ward  
SEEDY



E.D. Blodgett  
Woolie



S.R. Berger  
GLASSY



C.L. Dixon  
DICK



A.L. Stone  
AUDRE



Rev. Edgerton  
EDGE



F.D. Price  
PAINTER



W.O. Elliott  
WALT



J.E. Ro  
JIM



V.C. Garmis  
Vic



R.C. Martin  
CLYDE



J.J. Vandemoer  
VAN

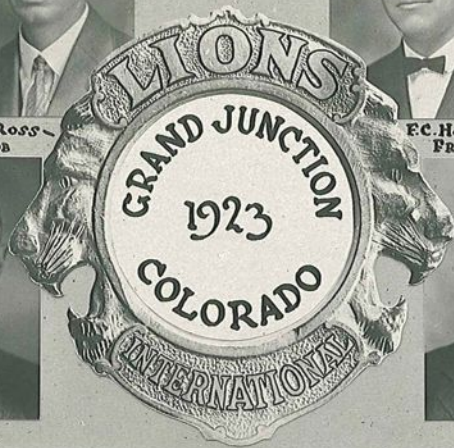


H.A. Kissinger  
ABEY



R.A. Ross  
Bob

DEAN STUDIO



E.C. Hogue  
FRED



C.E. Adams  
Ad



S.O. Harper  
HARP



J.C. Glassford  
JESS



S.L. Smith  
SILMON



R.F. Jay  
Rod



B.C. Folsom  
BEMAR



A.M. Schmidt  
LON



A.J. Castell  
AL.



Wm. Ricks  
CAPPY



B.M. Bengt  
FLANKY



H.E. Burnett  
HARRY



C.A. Hillyer  
PROF.



W.J. Schaffer  
SHAFF



D.H. Day  
WASHIE



M.T. Brown  
MIKE



Ted Winterburn  
TED



P.H. Dean  
PREDDY



J.W. Milne  
JIM



R.M. White  
WHITTY



J.E. Bell  
JIM.



D.B. S.  
DEMP

\*Grandpa





# Carnival

## *—and Lions' Spirit—*

# Endure

by Priscilla Mangnall

When I was growing up, a photo hung above our staircase. It was a photo taken in 1923 of 66 men. They were dressed up, as most men did in that day, and they all had their names and “nicknames” under their photos. One of those handsome men was my grandpa, Milo “Mike” Brown. The other men were my grandfather’s friends and colleagues. My dad would point and explain who this guy and that guy was. They were prominent and important people in our town. They were the Grand Junction Lions Club, and my grandfather was one of the founding members. My dad was so proud of that. And me—I’m more than proud of being a member of the Grand Junction Lions Club than anything else I do for my community.



## Carnival—and Lions' Spirit—Endure

When Milo Brown helped charter the club back in 1921, one of their main projects was to raise money to start Grand Junction State Junior College, which later became Mesa Junior College and is now a four-year institution, Mesa State College. That happened in 1925 with 42 freshmen.

Begun in 1929, the annual carnival of the club is its signature event. Since that time, the event has raised a whopping \$4 million. That money has also been put right back into our community, providing funds for a variety of good causes.

I believe the Grand Junction Lions Club raises more money with one single event that any other Lions club in the world. That's the one good reason why we work so hard and act so crazy for six weeks selling raffle tickets, planning an over-the-top parade and inviting people to come enjoy our little carnival.

The carnival, preceded by a parade, is always held on the weekend after Valentine's Day. According to Brian Mahoney, a past president and club historian, this is why: Lion Posey Watson, who had a greenhouse, donated all his leftover flowers to the carnival. We still have a flower booth, and the flowers are now donated by Lion Scott Miller and his wife, Melinda, of Amber Floral.

But what did those first carnivals look like? They were originally held in the decrepit Lincoln Park Barn. Dr. Matoroli was manager of the cake booth, the most popular booth. People would stand in line to get a chance at the cakes.

Lions would start building the booths the week before the carnival. Booths were made from scrap lumber saved all year by Henry Faussone of Independent Lumber. City manager Jim Wysocki would patrol the barn to make sure no one ever nailed lumber to the basketball floor and to keep an eye on John "Sparky" Kendall, who was busy voluntarily wiring the barn so they could have lights, sound and music

and accommodate the hot dog cookers.

The men built and manned the booths and hung out in the boiler room. Located underneath the stage, the room had a coal bin and a boiler. A bar was set up as well as the make-up station complete with cold cream for removing make-up. Lions went down there during the carnival for a break. Pete Beroni was the "Bartender for Life." He ordered the booze and stayed in the boiler room to make the drinks and make sure everyone was happy. Then he'd throw the Lions out at midnight.

Rex Howell, owner of a TV station, was also a club member. All the skits were done live on KFXJ. Doing the Lions skits live ended after the plucking of a chicken on air.

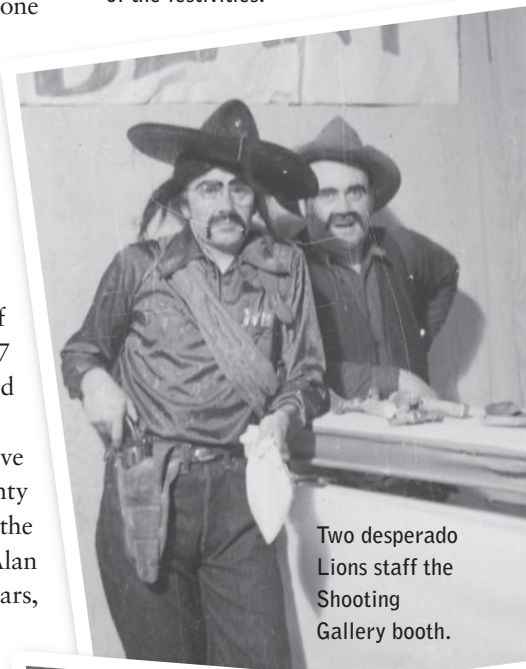
Themes for the carnival are up to the president. Last year it was Out of this World, as it was in 1962. In 1957 it was Gay Paree. I've seen Disco, Wild West and the Roaring '20s.

As you see, Lions do what we have to do for our community. The mighty Lions roar for one notorious day of the year as we have for over 80 years. Alan Workman has cross-dressed for 30 years, and we still have a boiler room. We'll spin our ancient bicycle wheels and the citizens of the Grand Valley will throw money at us and walk away with arms full of groceries, flowers and dolls. We don't mess with tradition.

This year my grandson, Milo Haberkorn, will be in the parade and hopefully win a cake at the carnival. His great-great grandfather, Milo Brown, has no idea that what he started so many years ago has endured in his own flesh and blood. And it will endure.



Lions from the earlier years of the carnival dress up for the Follies, part of the festivities.

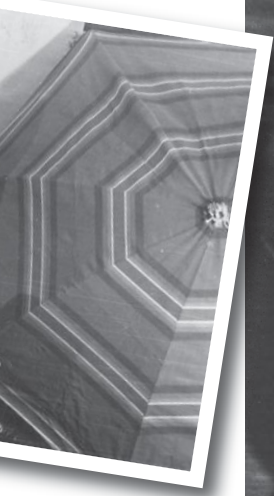


Two desperado Lions staff the Shooting Gallery booth.



Decades ago, Lions work the World Famous Enstrom Candies Booth. Some of the wheels in the booth, made from bicycle wheels, are still in use today.

Tickets, tickets! Since 1929, Lions have not been shy about hawking tickets for the carnival.





# A Life Reclaimed

## The Redemptive Power of Love and Service

by Jay Copp



Joseph Griggs and Rosemary Kish shared a love of service, having fun by dressing up in period costumes, and most of all, for each other.

If you make Cadillacs, can you make a life? Joseph Griggs wasn't sure. The evidence was mounting against him. In the 1970s, he was a frustrated painter, a renegade son and a midnight rambler. But mostly he was an auto worker without a hunch what tomorrow might bring. Day after day, bleary-eyed, he punched the clock at the historic Fleetwood factory in Detroit.

Griggs, who could read haltingly and struggled even more to write, painted cars at the hulking, shrill plant that spanned eight blocks. With 13 others, he crammed into a hot, suffocating booth detailing the gleaming vehicles. His father had worked at GM, too, after dropping out of school before 10th grade. That's about all he ever was able to share with his father. Not that he had done much better in family life. At the age of 26 he had given up on a marriage for a second time.

Maybe life turns on the slightest decision, the chance encounter, the shrug of the shoulders that says "well, I have nothing better to do." So one memorable day, Griggs' brother told him about a young woman from a

theater group. She needed someone who could read blueprints and work with his hands. That was him. So Griggs went at midday and met Rosemary Kish. He was instantly smitten. She was everything he wasn't. She was educated, refined, pretty. She knew about restaurants, literature, history. She was going places.

The two chatted amiably about the play. They ate lunch. They sat on a stoop to continue to talk. Their encounter lasted 12 hours. Nothing if not honest, Griggs bared his soul. Eyes downcast, he confessed to her, "I'm a loser." She fixed her eyes on him with a steel resolve: "Joseph, you are a husband in training." Before they parted the stoop that night she told him she would marry him.

You can learn a lot about a person in a dozen hours. But can you see the future? Can you trust someone to help you grow, stick by you when times get tough, guide you to a new and wonderful life? What if your lot is suffering and irreversible physical decline and someone sweeps you off your feet with his charm, potential and aching need? What if your history is failure and your destiny appears

fragile and broken and she promises a life of fulfillment and achievement, putting others before self?

Griggs and Kish met in 1979. Five years later they exchanged wedding vows. In sickness and in health? Why was there so much of the former? Where to start? How about with his demise or what nearly was so. Last winter, Griggs was laid up yet again. "He nearly died. He lost two-thirds of his blood. He just about bled to death," said dear friend John Daoud, past district governor of 11 A-1 in Michigan.

That was only the latest episode. Not long before that harrowing experience, Griggs had danced the tightrope between life and death. "I made it. They gave me 20 minutes to live when I got to the hospital. I've been dead seven times. I think God has more work for me," he says.

Griggs has come so perilously close to his final breath that he can joke about it. After attending the Lions' international convention in Bangkok in 2008, the West Nile virus knocked him nearly into eternity. He was one of six people in his region struggling with the disease. Doctors and nurses grimly informed him when each of the other five passed. "OK, stop calling me," he told them with a smile.

His immune system was shot, so at one point the doctors quarantined him on the fifth floor of a hospital. There he was, alone and deathly ill. The disease gripped him like a crazed tiger. Paralyzed for a year, he recovered. But he had to learn anew how to talk and walk. His intellect abandoned him, too: his memory faded out before coming back in small jigsaw-puzzle pieces. For two and a half years, he required around-the-clock care.

The odd thing about his grueling ordeal was that in his mind it paled in comparison to what Kish endured. He sowed his oats in a wild, reckless youth. She learned early on that the body could be a punching bag. Her steadfast courage in the face of woe steeled him. "I wouldn't have had the will to live without her. Thank God for Rosemary," he says.

When Griggs first met Kish, her physical presence was overwhelming. "She was like a model," Griggs says. Her

beauty was in spite of her unusual proportions. "Her hands and legs were deformed. Her hands could fit into my palm," he said. He learned her story. Walking home from school when she was 9, she stopped, plopped down on the sidewalk, cradled her head in her hands and bawled. The screeching pain had begun. She had rheumatoid arthritis. The doctors gave her medicine to ease her torment, and in high school she underwent a terrible regimen of joint replacements and reconstructive surgeries.

Playing at the park or enjoying the outdoors was not possible. Parties, dances and outings with friends were out. Sequestered at home, Kish became an avid reader and a stellar student. She longed to teach, to be a guide and mentor to children. When Griggs met her, she was a 27-year-old graduate student at Eastern Michigan University.

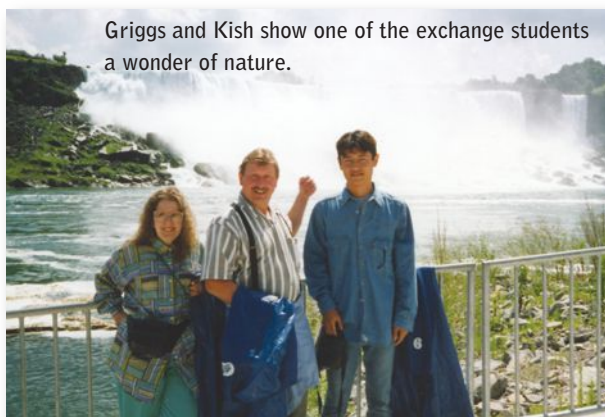
Kish snagged her dream. She taught school. And she taught Griggs. They spent Friday nights at five or six restaurants, sharing one item and rich conversation at each place. She inexorably bent straight his crooked ways. She insisted he stop smoking and he did. She demanded his attention and regard, and Griggs meekly complied. "You had

to look her straight in the eye or she would not talk to you," he recounts.

Kish did things her own way. She even kissed to her own liking. "When she kissed me, she sucked the air out of me. I said, 'Why do you do that?' She made me promise to save her the last kiss," Griggs says.

Griggs comes off as gregarious and likeable. His personality blows hot and hotter. He meets someone and instantly befriends them. Until he met Kish, he also was a lout. She kindly secured an apartment for him and then one day she caught him with another woman. She forgave him. "After that I knew after we got married I could not cheat on her," he says.

Griggs was unschooled but gifted. At GM, he spent his breaks and lunchtime meticulously drawing on a pad he tucked in his back pocket. After work he painted—landscapes, portraits, co-workers' cars, whatever friends and colleagues asked him to paint. His paintings sold for as much as \$3,000. Griggs may have been Kish's sponge but



Griggs and Kish show one of the exchange students a wonder of nature.



# "Lions are the best thing in the world. The best thing I ever did as a person and a husband was to become part of a community service group."

he was a sort of super sponge. "Rosemary was a teacher so she could get things down on paper. He thinks with the other side of the brain," says Daoud. "He can see things others can't. He might not be able to read a book as well as most. But he can see the diagrams or pictures and put it together."

GM management saw Griggs' ability, too, and put him in charge of finding jobs at the company for those with disabilities. The one-time detail man became an effective advocate for workers starving for advocacy. At home, realizing he was dyslexic, Kish patiently drilled him with handwritten word lists. At her urging, at age 36, he took classes at night to earn his high school degree. "She showed him the other side of life: etiquette, fine restaurants, proper communication skills," says Daoud. "He was the wild child. She reined him in. Most wild men will find a woman who will tame them."

Griggs trusted her to take him where he needed to go. "She wanted to make me successful," he said. "I was her last student. I didn't know it. She did."

Kish believed in giving back, so she encouraged Griggs to join the Lincoln Park Lions Club after they saw a public service announcement on TV on the Lions. Membership unveiled more hidden talents within Griggs. His outsized personality, his willingness to be a leader and his big heart endeared him to Lions. "I took the class to be a Guiding Lion," says Daoud. "He asked me to teach the next class. 'What do you mean? I just took the class.' But he recognizes talent in people and gives them the faith that they can succeed. He tapped me to be his vice district governor. 'Don't I have to do this and this first?' 'Oh, I'll help you.'"

For the first time in many years, membership rose in the district because of Griggs' efforts. "He would get excited and rally the troops. He got 50 Lions to show up to revive a club in Detroit," Daoud says. For Griggs, Lions helped revive him. Says Griggs, "Lions are the best thing in the world. The best thing I ever did as a person and a husband was to become part of a community service group."

Kish cheered him on, even as her health declined. Three years into their marriage both her knees and hips were replaced. She was increasingly fragile. She had to give up teaching. By the early 1990s Joseph was her caretaker. He cooked dinner, cleaned the house, washed the

laundry. Kish spent more and more time in bed. The pain often was excruciating. One day Griggs, aghast at her suffering, wept. Kish was furious. "I want a divorce," she bellowed. "I don't want a man who is weak."

Despite her infirmity, Kish had joined the Lincoln Park Lions in 1993, just a few years after women could become Lions. She was the first woman in the club, and some Lions quit. Kish more than made up for their absence. She wrote the club newsletter. She took over the answering service for the district, talking to people in need and directing them to the right club or service. She did paperwork for Meals on Wheels, helped with the Leader Dog program, served as the district's diabetes chairperson. At one point she handled four different newsletters, doggedly typing with two pencils and two fists because of cartilage deterioration in her hands.

"I was her hands and feet and she was the communicator and voice when people needed food, clothing and shelter," Griggs says. Says Daoud, "Rosemary was the doer. He was the visionary. They were phenomenal together." The two attended district conferences. With limited mobility, Kish spent most of the time in the hotel room. Griggs fed her information and escorted Lions-friends into the room for quick chats. "When they saw her, they realized they can overcome anything," Griggs says.

Griggs and Kish always did one other thing together as Lions: they hosted students through Lions' youth exchange. Sixteen students from Japan, France, Peru and nations in Africa stayed with them and traveled with them, too. With Kish gamely gutting it out, the two took the students on whirlwind vacations all over the country. Griggs was a doting, avuncular host. He kept snapshots of the students in his wallet and temporarily baffled countless waitresses and sales people when he flashed them the pictures "of my kids."

The two were happy. They were fulfilled. They bravely talked about going to Paris for their 25th wedding anniversary. She would wear a red dress and try to dance with him. That was the plan. They counted down the days, fearful of a worsening of her health. Griggs took on more and more duties at home. He also was busy outside the home. One day in 2006 he left the house to fix a refrigerator at a store down the street. She frantically called



Kish inspired Lions Park in Lincoln Park.

(Inset) Griggs restored the "Doll House" for Rosemary and wants to further improve it for Lions.



comes from her," Griggs says. "I know I was kissed by an angel. She never gave up. I learned that from her."

Griggs battled depression after her death. Then the West Nile virus attacked him. Helping others was impossible. After he fought back to regain his health, helping others without Kish at his side seemed pointless. Daoud appealed to his better self: "I'd say to him: 'Is this what Rosemary would want?' He'd say, 'She'd want to finish this project.'"

Griggs pulled himself out of his funk. Hobbling with a cane and walker, he guided the renovation of the Lions' state office and hung one of his paintings there. He and Kish had lived in a 1908 farmhouse, or the Doll House, as they fondly called it. He directed its restoration. The interior is finished and he wants to put on a spacious deck,

which he envisions as an ideal spot for Lions' functions.

Most importantly, Griggs remembered how Kish could not play at parks as a child and as an adult liked to sit in the car outside a park and watch children scamper around. Inspired by Kish, the Lincoln Park Lions raised more than \$70,000 for a new park in Lincoln Park. Several Lions and others installed about \$350,000 in handicapped-accessible recreational equipment at Lions Park in 2010. A sensory garden and Braille walk will be dedicated in her memory.

For Griggs, the park represents Kish but does not tell her story. Or tell his. "I feel I care about other people. I don't lie or cheat. I care about others. She taught me what you need to know about life. All I care about now is people being happy and living life to the fullest. I want people to care about life and love.

"I think she really wanted her life to count for something. She never gave up. She never lost hope. We have to give people hope. I have to make sure the people who come after me have hope."



# U.S. Army Turns to Lions Quest

by Allie Stryker

At seven years old, Jackson Gross has experienced the deployment of his father four times already. Jackson is hardly alone: nearly 2 million military children in the United States have had a parent deployed multiple times. The resultant emotional stress can cause ongoing academic and behavioral problems. Even after the parent returns home, these difficulties can continue.

To help address these problems, the U.S. Army turned to Lions Quest, LCIF's youth development program, because of its proven track record of improving academic and behavioral issues.

A pilot program at the Army/Air Force Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state uses Lions Quest in the curriculum. Last August, 31 teachers and staff learned how to better meet military students' needs during a Lions Quest training. LCIF collaborated with the Army's Child, Adolescent & Family Behavioral Health Office on the initiative. This training and pilot are the first for LCIF and Lions Quest at a military base.

Deanna Nuttbrock-Allen, who attended the training, said that Lions Quest was "an effective, comprehensive approach to addressing the growth and development of our children."

Other military-related groups are also recognizing Lions Quest's effectiveness. The Penn State University Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness recognized the middle school program as "promising," and the U.S. Army's Surgeon General has cited Lions clubs as a positive example of a community collaborative partnership.

"The foundation and evidence behind Lions Quest make it a no-brainer to use. Any human being, big or little, can benefit from learning healthier ways to interact with the people in their lives," says Mona Johnson, director of School Behavioral Health for the U.S. Army Medical Command. "The unique issue for [military children] is the stress that comes with multiple deployments."

Lions have a long-standing commitment to improving the lives of youth, so this collaboration is a natural opportunity for partnership. Only seven military bases worldwide currently have school behavioral health programs in place. Implementing Lions Quest in more of these communities could help in many ways.



Sandi Vest, a social worker for the U.S. Army, uses problem-solving techniques learned in Lions Quest training at a military base in Washington with Jackson Gross, 7, whose father has been deployed four times.

"All of our military children and families experience similar hardships at one point or time. The need for support is ongoing ... to foster resilience, a sense of belonging and overall well-being," says Michele Gross, Jackson's mother.

Lions Quest also is piloting an Out-of-School-Time (OST) in six community schools in Chicago public schools in partnership with the YMCA of Greater Chicago. Begun last fall, the program is reaching about 300 children.

OST works with existing before- and after-school programs for middle schoolers. This pilot marks the first step in bringing Lions Quest to community centers, after-school programs and other organizations—the very places where Lions help youth every day.

New community partnership grants are available from LCIF for Lions to begin or expand Lions Quest programs across the country. A how-to brochure offers a step-by-step guide to getting started.

LCIF is eager to partner with Lions clubs to expand these new initiatives. Learn more about Lions Quest and download materials at [www.lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org) or [www.lions-quest.org](http://www.lions-quest.org).



**Lions Clubs International**  
**FOUNDATION**

# Expect the Unexpected

## New Lions Can Be Found Anywhere

by Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt

Minnesota Lion Terrie Moen rarely misses an opportunity to talk about her beloved Burnsville Lions Club, and she often doesn't hesitate to invite people to join. "It's simple, but it seems to be the best way to recruit new members," Moen says.

But even the most recruiting-savvy Lions may miss out on opportunities to invite new members. Potential Lions are everywhere, and by taking simple steps to find them, your club can grow more easily than you ever imagined.

### Don't Make Assumptions

Sometimes it's easy to assume that people who don't fit the "typical" Lion profile wouldn't be interested in joining, or that some people wouldn't have the time to devote to Lions. But you might be surprised; even Moen, who considers herself an avid recruiter, can be caught off-guard.

Moen's club was volunteering at a cancer Relay for Life when the city's cancer-survivor mayor, Elizabeth Kautz, stopped to thank the Lions for supporting the event and began asking questions about the Lions. Moen was excited to speak with her, but she assumed the mayor was too busy to become a Lion. When Kautz asked if she could join, Moen was pleasantly surprised. Moen took this as a lesson: "I later told her that if I'd had any idea she was interested in becoming a Lion, I would have asked her myself a long time ago."

### Be Flexible

One reason Moen was able to "seal the deal" with Kautz is that her club was flexible with the mayor's schedule. Since the Burnsville Lions don't require 100 percent attendance at meetings and events, Kautz felt confident that her demanding schedule would be accommodated, while still being a contributing member.

Moen believes in assuring potential members that the club will fit into their schedules and will support their individual interests and strengths. "People often say they don't have the time, but I always say we welcome what they are willing to do. Plus, some people have a passion for one or two things and it's those one or two things that we want them to nurture."

### Be Prepared

You may be on vacation, in line at the post office or at a party when someone notices your Lions pin or overhears you talking about Lions. Are you prepared to answer their



New Burnsville Lion Mayor Elizabeth Kautz receives a pin from proud sponsor Terrie Moen during her induction ceremony.

Photo by Mark Moen

questions? Plan what you would say to the curious so that they not only walk away understanding who Lions are, but also may just want to become a Lion themselves. Beverly Pittman was on a cruise when she befriended some Lions who were well-spoken about how Lions serve. Inspired, she became a Lion upon returning home to New York.

### Share Your Story

By simply telling others about what Lions do, great things can happen. Chris McGann's road to becoming a Lion began unexpectedly in a local bar when he met some Lions from Millersburg, Pennsylvania. After hearing about the Lions' efforts to help area flood victims, he agreed to their suggestion for him to write a local newspaper story. Moved by what he had learned, McGann inquired about joining and soon became a member.

And yet another touching surprise occurred for McGann at his first meeting when a thank-you card from a flood victim was passed around. He says, "I was almost in tears when I saw the card was from my godmother. Yes, I will serve."



# Club Twinning Creates Dynamic Duos

by Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt



Belize City Lions Club President Dr. Chris Bennett enjoys the park bench donated by his club's twin. As a gesture of friendship, Fenwick Island Lions provided the bench when the Belize City Lions renovated a park.

Did your club enjoy meeting Lions from another part of the world at the International Convention and you'd like to continue the friendship? Or did you visit another country and meet Lions there who you'd like to get to know better? Through the International Club Twinning program, Lions have a way to form long-distance camaraderie and make our 208-country community feel more connected.

Twinning is a way to formalize an international Lions or Leo club-to-club relationship. Since 1960, 5,150 clubs have taken part in twinning; Lions and Leo clubs in 62 countries are currently participating. There isn't a blueprint for how to go about twinning, but the intent is to expand your club's cultural horizons and make lasting Lion friendships.

## Find Your Twin

Although you may have a club in mind, that isn't a requirement. Lists of interested Lions and Leo clubs are on the LCI Web site—could your club be the twin they're waiting for? Lions may also receive assistance in finding a twin from a Lions international relations chairperson or district governor.

After learning that their two cities were developing a formal friendship, Lion Henrik Thode of the Lake of the Woods Lions Club in Virginia found his club's twin, the Schwetzingen Lions Club in Germany, through the LCI online Club Locator. One e-mail was all it took to get the ball rolling.

## Develop the Relationship

As with any new relationship, it's important to take the time to connect and build the bond. Initial communication can be e-mail or "snail mail" with introductions, descriptions of club activities and features about your community. When they began corresponding, the Fenwick Island Lions in Delaware and the Belize City Lions in Belize sent each other photos, videos, newsletters and pins.

Language differences need not be a barrier. Lions may even have a chance to work on language skills. Explains Lake of the Woods Lion Thode, "We had a concern as to language, but it turned out OK—I wrote in German and they answered in English!"

## Make it Official

Once the two clubs have established a friendship (usually over several months or a year) they may complete the International Club Twinning Agreement and will then receive banner patches. A signing ceremony can add depth and meaning. The Fenwick Island Club sent a video of their ceremony to the Belize City Lions. Representatives of the Lake of the Woods and Schwetzingen clubs signed their agreement in person in Virginia.

## Staying in Touch

How the relationship progresses is up to you. "Ongoing communication is very important. Each club must appoint an effective and dedicated club twinning liaison officer," stresses Lion Chris Bennett, president of the Belize City Lions Club.

Belize City and Fenwick Island Lions have ongoing communication that includes sharing ideas and encouragement for fundraising and projects. When Belize City Lions transformed a park, Fenwick Island Lions donated a park bench, and Fenwick Island Lion John Miles visited the park to see the project in person.

If twinning sounds right for your club, why not give it a try? You may even have the experience that the Fenwick Island and Belize City clubs had when they first came into contact. Says Bennett, "It was like love at first sight."

Visit [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) and search for "club twinning" to find guidelines, lists of interested clubs and program forms.

## The Show Goes On ... And On

When members of the New Bloomfield, Pennsylvania, Lions Club were bitten by the acting bug, they probably didn't realize that the stage would be their springboard not just to fame, but to their most lucrative, long-running fundraiser.

With a population of around 1,000, the small rural community of New Bloomfield is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its community theater. Lion Norman Harrison founded the Lions Community Theatre. "During the first year, he was a one-man show," says Lion Carson Holman. "He acted onstage, he built the set, collected props, did the advertising and sold tickets." That wasn't all. "In addition, he directed the local high school stage band at a dance after the show for theatre-goers."

Harrison, a former teacher with a theater background, is modest about his accomplishments. "Doing what I did that first year was relatively easy compared to the effort needed to produce one of our productions now," he says.

Grease paint now runs heavily through the veins of Lions and community volunteers. The pit orchestra averages 19 musicians from the community with a retired music teacher as director for productions, staged in a high school auditorium. Holman says in the decades since the theatre made its debut, more than 1,240 people have appeared onstage and 3,500 have helped put on productions. Lions have made a net profit of nearly \$245,000 from the sale of 51,700 tickets through the years. Shows have included *Send Me No Flowers*, *High Society*, *Once Upon a Mattress* and in 2011, *On Golden Pond*. "Every penny has gone to sight projects or has gone back to the community," says Holman.

"The Lions Community Theatre brings the thrill of Broadway to those who cannot get to 'the Big Apple.' Not a single person is paid for his or her work in the theatre. All are volunteers, and most of them are Lions.

"We've had a number of professional people among our ranks: a lawyer, dentist, chief nurse, assistant high school principal, several teachers including music teachers, band direc-

tors, a private school president, Pennsylvania state representative, pharmacist, Ph.D. candidate, National Guard general, Protestant minister, Catholic Brother and an Army colonel. We even had an obstetrician pull the stage curtains, although he got called away during one performance to deliver a baby." Emergency deliveries notwithstanding, the show must go on.



Norm Harrison (from left), Chris Stambaugh and John Sanderson take center stage during a production of *Kiss Me Kate*.





A light snowfall and 20-degree weather don't discourage this boy from trying his skill at the fruitcake toss. Sue Laskowski provides some helpful hints before he winds up his pitching arm and gets ready to throw.

## Fruitcake Toss a Winner

Lions in Laona, Wisconsin, a small town of around 1,200 near the Michigan border, are confident of two things. Winter brings snow—a lot of snow, in fact—and nearly everyone hates fruitcake. Sue Laskowski says Lions didn't have much going on after the holidays and were looking for something to perk up the interest of the community. They also wanted to raise money for the local food pantry. "The economy in northern Wisconsin is really bad now. A lot of people rely on the timber industry for jobs, and people

aren't building houses like they used to so they have to use the food pantry to provide for their families," she says.

People donated unwanted holiday fruitcakes to Lions and Laskowski says she bought the remainder at a discount store. More than \$100 was raised by Lions, who charged \$1 for each fruitcake tossed. Not only did Lions help raise money for people in need, they also put the fruitcakes to good use afterward by using them in birdfeeders.

## Vintage Rules at this Race

Drivers of vintage snowmobiles have found a home on frozen Long Lake in New York—at least for one day each winter when Lions sponsor races for machines older than 20 years. The club's signature 100-mile lap around the lake was discontinued eight years ago after a long, snowless stretch of unseasonably warm weather and unsafe ice. Drivers now race on a quarter-mile ice oval. "It was the longest snowmobile race at the time in the northeast United States," says Lion Carl Turner. "Now we just plow and maintain the ice oval on the pond, collecting admissions for Lions programs. This is a good project for our club, with easy set-up and takedown and little monetary investment." Racers and spectators pay \$10 each for admission and children are charged half that amount. While the weather remained cold enough for the ice to be safe, Turner says it was still mild enough for a crowd to gather for the event.

Lions donated \$2,300 to the Long Lake Volunteer Fire Department, a critically important part of the small, rural community, says Turner. "It was their 75th anniversary and they're actively raising funds for a new firehouse. Long Lake is located near the geographic center of the Adirondack State Park. Basically, we're about two hours away from cities and shopping malls. Cell service will hopefully be here before next summer. It's a seasonal tourist destination with about 800 year-round residents. Summer arrives and the population surpasses 3,000." He points out that the winter economy depends on snowmobiling between towns via

lakes and trails to support the few businesses that remain open during the cold.

Long Lake Lions, however, are active all year long. Lions serve barbecue lunches during events sponsored by the tourism bureau, sponsor an Easter egg hunt and conduct other service projects. Chartered in 1957, the club has a long tradition of supporting the community. "We're an aging club," Turner says of the 20 members. "Most members are over age 65. The club's challenge now is recruiting younger members. Society and times have changed. Families are working multiple jobs to make ends meet."



Revvng their engines, snowmobile drivers get ready to race.

# CLUB BRIEFINGS

## ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Kalamazoo Downtown Lions Club** is using a new state-of-the-art digital camera to provide vision screenings to children ages one through five in **Southwest Michigan**.

The **Bonita Springs Lions Club** in **Florida** donated \$40,000 to assist with building a new playground.

Working with the **Hammonton Lions Club** in **New Jersey**, high school graphic arts classes designed abstract posters representing Lions clubs.

The **Barasoain Host Lions Club** in the **Philippines** launched the Watch Your Health program, which provides public health education and preventative medicine.

The **Churchville-Chili Leo Club** in **New York** prepares a monthly dinner at the Ronald McDonald House and works with students at the Batavia School for the Blind.

In **West Virginia**, the **Princeton Lions Club** held a yard sale to raise funds to purchase eye glasses and other eye health-related services for those in need.

The **Westbank Lions Club** in **British Columbia, Canada**, donated more than \$2,000 to local charities raised from a weekly summer outdoor market. They also held their second annual Fifties Night fundraiser for local charities.

The **Salem Lions Club** in **Illinois** hosted a 75th Charter Anniversary

Luncheon, during which they recognized the club's many service projects including helping establish a local hospital, donating emergency equipment to the fire department and providing annual hearing and vision screenings.

The **Elkhart Community Lions Club** and other area clubs in **Indiana** dedicated a water fountain in a downtown park in memory of Lion leader Luella Karay.

In **Florida**, the **Clermont Minneola Lions Club** hosted a blood screening and is selling first aid kits throughout the year.

**New Baden Camp Creek Lions** in **Texas** are singing a new club song composed by one of their members.

## 25th Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest



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

Start now. Purchase a 2012-13 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, 2012, 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](http://www.lionsclubs.org) or download the order form (PR-785).



# CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Carlos Lions Club** in **Minnesota** hung new "Welcome to Carlos" signs adorned with the Lions logo around their community.

The **Lakemont Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** raised close to \$5,000 for Leader Dogs for the Blind through its Dogs Helping Dogs walk.

The **Boardman Lions Club** in **Ohio** donated 1,400 pairs of eyeglasses and 150 pairs of sunglasses to LensCrafters for distribution in developing countries.

The **Mer Rouge Lions Club** in **Louisiana** provided vision screenings for 230 Head Start preschool children.

**Quezon City Katarungan Central Lions** in the **Philippines** provided food and gifts to 300 people in need at a homeless shelter.

In **Kenya, Africa**, the **Mombasa Bahari Lions** observed World Service Day by providing hot meals to 1,800 children.

The **Lincoln Hill Lions Club** in **California** is helping to support a therapeutic horse riding program for children.

**25 Years:** Balltown, Iowa; Guelph Royal City, ON, CAN; Lake Charles Mid City, La.; Oshawa West, ON, CAN; Palo Cedro, Calif.; St-Luc, QC, CAN; Terrenceville, NL, CAN; Troy & Area, Vt.; Watson, Ill.; Wildwood Sumter County 44, Fla.

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.

## HIGHER KEYS ISSUED DURING OCTOBER 2011

### Key of Nations (100 Members)

- Lion Eugene Spiess, Spartanburg, South Carolina

### Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion Rakesh Bansal, Jagabhri River Bank, India

### Senior Master Key (25 Members)

- Lion Alvin Andrews, Spring Valley Lake, California
- Lion Edward Santiago, Riverside, Manitoba, Canada
- Lion James Pritchett, Brush Creek, Tennessee
- Lion Jack Schimmel, Bushy Run, Pennsylvania
- Lion Edgar Cuevas, Paterson Simon Bolivar, New Jersey
- Lion Richard James Von Siegel, Phoenix Mid-County, India
- Lion Gene Wills, Narragansett, Rhode Island
- Lion Ajay Sengar, Indore Happy Couple, India
- Lion R. Raj, Perambalur, India
- Lion Dr. Y. Krishnakanth Phani, Rajahmundry Samskruthi, India
- Lion Rashmi Kooverjee, Kirstenbosch, Rep. of South Africa

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](http://www.lionsclubs.org).

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## ANNIVERSARIES FEBRUARY 2012

**95 Years:** Texarkana, Ark.

**90 Years:** Colorado Springs Downtown, Colo.; Grand Forks, N.D.; McKeesport, Pa.; New Haven, Conn.; Norfolk Host, Va.; Parkersburg, W. Va.; Tekamah, Neb.

**85 Years:** Fort Erie, ON, CAN; Fowler, Calif.; Jackson, Calif.; La Crosse, Kan.; Magnolia, Ark.; Merrill, Wis.; Sacramento Fort Sutter, Calif.; Smackover, Ark.; Souderton, Pa.; Smithville, Texas

**80 Years:** Bennington, Kan.; Canton, Texas; Delphos, Kan.; Kingfisher, Okla.; Miltonvale, Kan.; Monticello, Ark.; Provincetown, Mass.; Vinton Host, Va.

**75 Years:** Argos, Ind.; Macon, Mo.; Nash, Okla.; Ponce, P.R.; Seymour, Texas

**50 Years:** Bethel Island, Calif.; El Dorado Springs, Mo.; Lubbock Industrial, Texas; Menlo Park Live Oak, Calif.; Merritt, BC, CAN; Middlesex County, Va.; North Coast, Ohio; Parowan, Utah; Riverside Area, Pa.; Southampton, Mass.; Town of Woodbury, N.Y.; Trujillo Alto Dr. Luis F. Sanche, P.R.; Tumwater, Wash.; Valleyfield, QC, CAN; West Corners, N.Y.

# ROAR OF APPROVAL

The sole remaining charter member of the Baxter Springs Lions Club in Kansas, **Keaton McCallister**, 99, attended the club's first meeting—on Dec. 8, 1941. The main topic of conversation that evening was not Lions. To this day, McCallister's service as a Lion is tied to his patriotism. The World War II veteran sells U.S. flags for the club to businesses, and the club often donates flags to the Little League, a veteran's memorial and history museum. Last year McCallister's flag sales topped \$5,000.

Lion **Ken Mitchell**, superintendent of the South Orangetown School District in New York, tackled and wrestled a weapon away from a gunman who entered a middle school. Mitchell is a member of the Blauvelt Lions Club. No one was injured in the incident.

It's 100 candles this month for **Hetty Rinker** of the Tioga-Nichols Lions Club in New York. A member of the Nichols Area Rainbow Lioness Club since 1978, she became a Lion in 2007.

**Nicanor Bartolome**, a past president of the Manila Bantayog Lions Club, was named chief of the Philippine National Police. While president, his club donated an electric jeep to the Philippine government; the jeep transports impoverished people.

**Lloyd "Bud" Jenkins** of the Boardman Lions Club in Ohio was honored with the planting of an Ohio Buckeye tree in recognition of his 32 years of perfect attendance, sponsorship of 11 new Lions, dedicated service and inspiring leadership.

A Lion since 1955, **Russell Soderquist** of the Grand Junction Lions Club in Colorado was profiled in an online newsletter of the University of Iowa, where he received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering 60 years ago.

**Nick Gambino** of the Spring Valley Lake Lions Club in California has volunteered for more than 200 community service projects including removing graffiti and repainting fire lane curbing. Along with his wife, Annie, Gambino donated 500 Beanie Baby toys to children with cancer. At 80 years "young," Gambino has continued to serve despite undergoing open-heart surgery and cancer treatment.

Married couple **Vernon and Kathleen Teichroew**, both of the Minneapolis Fort Snelling Lions Club, were credited with saving the life of an elderly man who suffered a stroke. While delivering newspapers, a job they've done since 1985, they alerted police when they noticed lights on, doors open and papers not picked up at the home of an 88-year-old man.

# CALENDAR

2012 UPCOMING EVENTS

## FEBRUARY

### FEB. 1

International Peace Poster contest winners will be notified on or before this date

### FEB. 3-6

All-Africa Conference

### FEB. 8-11

Faculty Development Institute, Africa (Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo)

Senior Lions Leadership Institute, Africa (Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo)

### FEB. 13

Standard, Core 4 and IAG grant application deadline for review at the April 2012 board meeting

### FEB. 17-20

Faculty Development Institute, Constitutional Area IV – Europe (Copenhagen, Denmark)

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# THANK YOU

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## One Week Makes A Big Difference

Jenny Wagner's son, Brad, was diagnosed with severe autism at age five. His autism involved physical aggression, limited ability to communicate and difficulties with being in public and with people. Jenny and her husband Gerard struggled too; the daily challenges put stress on their marriage and created an ongoing sense of defeat.

When Brad's teacher's aide, Lion Wendy Hartman, began encouraging Jenny to apply for the Wisconsin Lions Camp (WLC), Jenny was skeptical that Brad would be successful. The WLC serves nearly 1,500 children and adults with special needs yearly, and Hartman's club, the St. Nazianz Lions, has supported the camp since it opened in 1956. Hartman, along with fellow Lion Jerry Post, provided the Wagners with the reassurance they needed to take a chance.

For three years, WLC has not only provided Brad with a chance to be a kid and have fun, but also has contributed to the great progress this 14-year-old has made at home, school and in life.

## Q&A: Jenny Wagner

**LION Magazine:** Why were you hesitant to send Brad to the Wisconsin Lions Camp?

**Jenny Wagner:** Over the years, our family has attempted countless activities to help Brad have fun and improve his social and emotional skills. When he would start a new program, we would hear, "No problem, Brad will be fine." But within an hour we usually received a call from a frantic person saying, "We can't handle your child. You need to come and get him now." That made us hesitant to involve Brad in any activities.

**LM:** Did you and Brad feel welcomed at the camp?

**JW:** The immediate vibe we got from WLC was one of acceptance and positive energy. Their confidence made us less tentative to leave Brad for the week. Still, my husband

and I waited for the calls of panic from the counselors. The calls never came in. On pickup day, we anxiously awaited comments of frustration from the personnel. But the counselors started with the positives and ended with, "We can't wait to see Brad next year."

**LM:** What effect has the camp had on Brad?

**JW:** Brad's experience at camp has been phenomenal. Swimming, mud pits, crafts, archery and campfires are all things children do at camp; but WLC modifies it so this population will be successful. Also, Brad's social skills, peer interactions and independent skills back at home have improved. He's involved in sports and is on the honor roll. He fits in with his classmates and is just like everyone else—which is really the only thing a parent with a special needs child hopes for.

**LM:** Does going to camp for just one week a year really make a difference?

**JW:** One week a year may not seem like much time, but it's approximately two percent of the year. The camp, coupled with other interventions, has contributed to his continued success. The week also allows Gerard and me to rejuvenate and focus on our relationship, all the while knowing that Brad is in good hands. This break makes me a better mom, wife, daughter, sister, aunt, employee and friend. Everyone deserves to "fit in" and feel normalcy in their life. For one special week a year, WLC gives that feeling to so many individuals and families.



Brad Wagner takes a break during outdoor activities on a beautiful summer day at the Wisconsin Lions Camp.

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

# INFORMATION

## IN MEMORIAM

Past International Director **Galvin Machado Guimarães** of Recife, Brazil, passed away at the age of 96. He was a charter member of the Recife Centro Lions Club in 1953 and personally worked with founder Melvin Jones to expand Lions clubs in Brazil.

Past International Director **Dr. Chi-Eng Lee**, of Taipei, Taiwan, 96, has died. A Lion for 55 years, he served on the international board of directors from 1982-84 and was successful in helping to raise more than \$5 million in District 300 during Campaign SightFirst.

## FOR THE RECORD

As of November 30, 2011, Lions Clubs International had 1,358,385 members in 46,434 clubs and 747 districts in 208 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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# LAST ROAR



## A GUIDE DOG FOR A BLIND DOG

Lily, 6, lost her sight at 18 months and since then fellow Great Dane Maddison, 7, has voluntarily served as her guide dog, steering her left and right with a nudge and alerting her to danger. A couple in Crewe, England, recently took in the dogs after their prior owner left them at an animal shelter.

Photo by Ross Parry

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