

LION



Lions Clubs International

WWW.LIONMAGAZINE.ORG NOVEMBER 2012

Nursing Haiti Back to Health



Chicago Doctor Invents Affordable Hearing Aid Outperforms Many Higher Priced Hearing Aids

Reported by J. Page

CHICAGO: A local board-certified Ear, Nose, Throat (ENT) physician, Dr. S. Cherukuri, has just shaken up the hearing aid industry with the invention of a medical-grade, affordable hearing aid. **This revolutionary hearing aid is designed to help millions of people with hearing loss who cannot afford—or do not wish to pay—the much higher cost of traditional hearing aids.**

"Perhaps the best quality-to-price ratio in the hearing aid industry" – Dr. Babu, M.D. Board Certified ENT Physician

Dr. Cherukuri knew that untreated hearing loss could lead to depression, social isolation, anxiety, and symptoms consistent with Alzheimer's dementia. **He could not understand why the cost for hearing aids was so high when the prices on so many consumer electronics like TVs, DVD players, cell phones and digital cameras had fallen.**

Since Medicare and most private insurance do not cover the costs of hearing aids, which traditionally run between \$2000-\$6000 for a pair, many of the doctor's patients could not afford the expense. Dr. Cherukuri's goal was to find a reasonable solution that would help with the most common types of hearing loss at an affordable price, not unlike the **"one-size-fits-most" reading glasses** available at drug stores.

He evaluated numerous hearing devices and sound amplifiers, including those seen on television. Without fail, almost all of these were found to amplify bass/low frequencies (below 1000 Hz) and not useful in amplifying the frequencies related to the human voice.

Inspiration from a surprising source

The doctor's inspiration to defeat the powers-that-be that kept inexpensive hearing aids out of the hands of the public actually came from a new cell

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phone he had just purchased. "I felt that if someone could devise an affordable device like an iPhone® for about \$200 that could do all sorts of things, I could create a hearing aid at a similar price."

Affordable Hearing Aid With Superb Performance

The high cost of hearing aids is a result of layers of middlemen and expensive unnecessary features. Dr. Cherukuri concluded that it would be possible to develop a medical grade hearing aid without sacrificing the quality of components. The result is the MDHearingAid PRO®, starting well under \$200. **It has been declared to be the best low-cost hearing aid that amplifies the range of sounds associated with the human voice without overly amplifying background noise.**

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*"I have a \$2,000 Resound Live hearing aid in my left ear and the MDHearingAid PRO® in the right ear. **I am not able to notice a significant difference in sound quality between the two hearing aids.**" — Dr. May, ENT Physician*

*"We ordered two hearing aids for my mother on Sunday, and the following Wednesday they were in our mailbox! Unbelievable! Now for the best part—**they work so great, my mother says she hasn't heard so good for many years, even with her \$2,000 digital! It was so great to see the joy on her face.**" —Al Peterson*

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A Message From Our President



Wayne A. Madden
Lions Clubs
International President

More Members Means More Service

When I was boy I played on a beautiful Little League field. I was only 12 but I felt like a major league ballplayer. Our park was so clean, neat and well-groomed. The Lions built that ball field. That field was important to the Lions, many of whom had boys who played baseball, and it was important to the entire town, where baseball was popular. The Lions in my town had no trouble getting members because they responded to the needs of the community. They *were* the community.

Probably the greatest challenge of our clubs today is attracting new members. To do

that, we need to be as appealing as possible to those around us. We need to adapt ourselves to the present population. That means doing projects important to the community. That means holding meetings that respect people's schedules and preferences. That means continuing to embrace our heritage but also being open to new ways of doing things. We need to be agents of change and be willing to set aside or downplay old-time practices if people are not enthusiastic about them.

We're not a top-down association, so headquarters does not dictate how clubs should go about their business. Lions know best what works for their clubs. But the key is to do some self-analysis and reflection. I have been strongly encouraging all clubs and districts to make four "pit stops" throughout the year. Pit stop checklists are available on the LCI website. Take the time for a good, long look at your club. Take pride in your accomplishments but also assess how your club can do better.

I am tremendously proud of our service. No association can match what Lions do and have done for nearly a century. Yet we need to not only serve in our clubs but grow membership in our clubs. All of us have a stake in our future. Every member you add, especially someone younger than you, is a way to perpetuate our service for years to come. In a World of Service, we multiply the good we do when we add to our membership.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne A. Madden".

Wayne A. Madden
Lions Clubs International President



Lions in District 301-A1 in the Philippines provide disaster relief after a monsoon. Lions must meet the needs of their communities as they arise.

Contents

November 2012 • Volume 95 • Number 4

Features

16 Hurricane- Proofing Haiti

Fortified nursing school to make a powerful impact in Haiti.

22 10 Things Guaranteed To Make You Smile

Lions make the world a better place in surprising and uplifting ways.

28 Out But Not Down on Lions

Survey of former Lions shows most had a positive experience.

34 We Serve

A second helping of Lions' foods loved by the public.

Photo by Swoan Parker



Also Featured

31 Fighting Measles

32 An Amazing Light Bulb

42 Football and Lions

44 Photography for the Blind

On the cover:

Fabienne Desilleu, a student at the École Nationale d'Infirmières de Port-au-Prince nursing school, comforts a patient in the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince.



WE SERVE

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."

CONTACTING THE LION

Have a story idea or photo? Want to comment on a story or make a suggestion for LION editors? Contact the LION at lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org or at 630-468-6909 or 630-468-7023. For change of address, non-receipt of the magazine and other subscription issues, contact 630-468-6982 or stats@lionsclubs.org. For all other inquiries call 630-571-5466.

POSTMASTERS

Periodicals postage paid at Oak Brook, Illinois 60523 and additional mailing offices. Subscription price, US\$6.00 year, US\$12.00 year mailed outside North America; Single copies, US\$1.00.

Send notices of undeliverable copies on form 3579 to LION, 300 W 22nd St Oak Brook IL 60523-8842. "Canada Post Publications Mail No. 40029736 Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: LIONS 2835 Kew Drive, Windsor, ON N8T 3B7."



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What's In This Issue

1 President's Message

Departments

4 News

10 Ideas That Roar

14 Lions On Location

46 Visionary Work

55 Thank You



48

News You Can Use

47 Raising Funds

49 Club Improvement

Miscellaneous

50 Club Briefs

52 Anniversaries/Key Awards

53 Roar of Approval

56 Last Roar

Convention Countdown

Hamburg, Germany
July 5-9, 2013



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

LION COMPETES AT PARALYMPICS

Lion Kimie Bessho of Japan competed in table tennis in the recent Paralympics in London. A member of the Akashi Uozumi Lions Club, Bessho, 64, won a match and lost a match and did not medal. She began playing table tennis nearly 20 years ago after a bone tumor forced her to use a wheelchair. Last year she won the U.S. Open.

GOOD VIEWING ON LIONS QUARTERLY

In the October issue of Lions Quarterly (LQ) video magazine, watch how Lions feed and clothe the people in need; support a special school for deaf and blind children; combine fun, fitness and health with community fundraising; and provide handcrafted toys to children during holidays and birthdays. LQ also features the 10th anniversary of Sight for Kids and the Lions' global Reading Action Program.

Champions of Change

Watch a video on Lions as champions of change.

Watch a webcast on Lions honored by the White House.

View photos of Lions recognized by the White House.



A patient tests his blood sugar during an LCIF Core 4 diabetes screening event in Turkey.

LCIF COUNTERS DIABETES

LCIF recently awarded SightFirst grants to provide laser treatments for diabetic retinopathy patients in Brazil, to train ophthalmologists at a Lions' eye center in Prague to treat diabetic retinopathy patients and to support eye screenings to detect diabetic eye disease in Turkey. Since 1995, LCIF has awarded \$2.8 million for 22 SightFirst grants benefiting diabetic retinopathy patients in Brazil, India, Spain and other nations. These grants focus on training personnel, purchasing equipment and treating diabetic retinopathy, an eye disease resulting from long-term diabetes. LCIF also funds large-scale Lions' efforts to expand diabetes education, prevention, screening and treatment projects through its Core 4 diabetes program. Since 1999, LCIF has awarded \$2 million for 24 Core 4 diabetes projects, including \$500,000 this year for projects in Belgium, France, Korea and the United States. Learn more at www.lcif.org.



LION EDITORS MEET

Twenty-four editors of the official editions of the LION magazines around the world met in Brussels, Belgium, in September to exchange ideas and discuss best practices in meeting the needs of their readers. The editors learned about digital magazine formats, photography, infographics and reader surveys. Ken G Kabira, group manager for Membership, Programs and Communications at Lions Clubs International (LCI), reported on social media as well as on Project Refresh (see page 28), an LCI global membership study. International President Wayne A. Madden encouraged editors to stress the importance of clubs making themselves appealing to the general population. Hosted by LCI in conjunction with the Europa Forum, the two-day meeting is held every three years.

Herve Vizzolini, editor of the French LION, makes a point at the editors' meeting in Brussels.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

BY THE NUMBERS

51

Consecutive years a star has shone on Mt. Battie from Thanksgiving until New Year's Eve, courtesy of the Camden Lions in Maine. The star is affixed to a stone tower that commemorates WWI veterans.

1,200

Pounds of chestnuts roasted by Leavenworth Lions in Washington for the annual Leavenworth Christmas Lighting Festival.

5

Donation in dollars required for a light bulb to decorate the Memory Tree displayed on a float in the Brookneal Town Christmas Parade in Virginia. Brookneal Lions sponsor the tree.

200

Christmas hampers given to needy families by the Grand Cayman Tropical Gardens Lions.

1,000

U.S. flags retired in a Veterans Day ceremony hosted by the Mishawaka Lions in Indiana.

4,500

Visitors to the Perth Lions Garlic Festival in Perth, population 6,000. VirtualTourist.com ranks the festival in Ontario, Canada, as the world's fifth-best garlic festival.

800

Pounds of Fuji apples picked in the Lions Club Apple Project, organized by Olympia Host Lions and involving Lions from many clubs in Washington. The sales of the apples benefit Camp Leo, held for children with diabetes.

400

Hours of labor expended by Ironton Lions and volunteers in Ohio to repair the club's Haunted Tunnel, damaged by vandals.



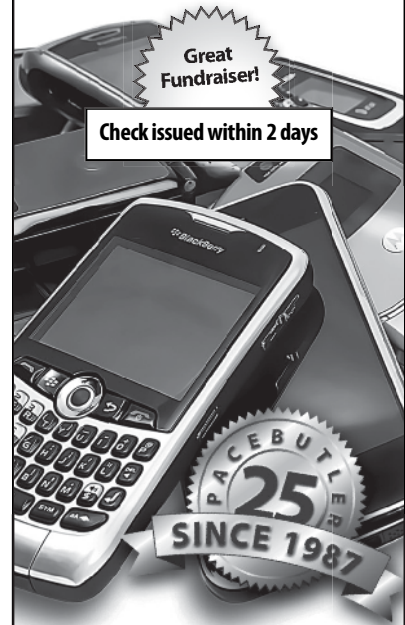
72 YEARS AGO IN THE LION NOVEMBER 1940

The Lawrenceburg Lions in Tennessee won \$5 from LION Magazine for the month's best activity photo, taken of their Poultry Festival parade.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

ONE OF US

To say that Dan Cunningham loves Christmas would be an understatement. Each holiday season, this affable Narragansett Lion helps hundreds of people in Warwick, Rhode Island, catch the Christmas spirit. But he doesn't have to leave his home to do it—from Thanksgiving to January, Cunningham transforms his garage into a late 1800s "Christmas village" with 250 miniature houses, toy trains and even a moving amusement park. Visitors revel in the charm and cheer of Cunningham's creation, and he's there every evening to bask in their smiles and looks of awe. From visitors' donations (ranging from pocket change to \$20 bills), Past District Governor Cunningham makes contributions to Lions-supported charities, proving to himself each year that it is in fact better to give than to receive.

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



Cunningham, shown with just part of his 250-house holiday village, holds the Providence, Rhode Island, Ronald McDonald House cookbook. Visitors who make donations receive a copy.

HOW DID THE CHRISTMAS VILLAGE PROJECT BEGIN? It all started in 1989 when my wife bought me five little ceramic houses. From there, I started buying more houses, and it went from a display just for family on a card table to taking up half of the garage to the whole garage.

HOW DID THE VILLAGE GROW SO MUCH? The word obsession comes to mind. Also, it took on a life of its own. For example, after an article ran about the village in the paper, a lady called me and said she had 40 houses I could have. I don't know where I'm going to put them, but I'll figure something out!

HOW DID THE PROJECT BECOME A FUNDRAISER? During one Christmas party years ago, the display was open just for friends and family, and a guy walking by asked if he could bring his kids to see it. I said sure. He did come back, and he asked if he could give me something for it. I thought hmm...maybe I could make some money for charity out of this.

WHAT CHARITIES DO YOU SUPPORT? The money goes to a couple of charities important to the Lions, the Rhode Island Lions Cancer in Children Fund and the Ronald McDonald House in Providence. I raise \$1,000 to \$2,500 each year.

SETTING UP THE VILLAGE MUST BE QUITE A PROJECT. I set it up differently each year. There's no rhyme or reason to my madness. But I do have some help, in addition to my son—through the high school's community service program, the football team helps bring the boxes up from the basement. It used to take my son and me three days to do this, but the kids do it in about 17 minutes!

AND YOU'RE THERE EVERY EVENING THROUGHOUT THE HOLIDAYS TO GREET VISITORS? It's a task, but it's a labor of love. Before the holidays, people start asking me when I'm going to put it up. And my wife is my support system—she makes me coffee to keep me going!

A white dress shirt with a colorful geometric patterned tie. The tie features a repeating pattern of small squares in various colors (red, blue, green, yellow, black) arranged in a larger square grid. The shirt is laid flat, showing the collar, buttons, and a cuff with the letters 'PFS' printed on it.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

CLUB OF THE MONTH

ABINGTON LIONS CLUB, PENNSYLVANIA

YEAR FOUNDED: 1949

COMMUNITY SERVED: Clarks Summit

MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS: The 35 Abington Lions gather at monthly dinner meetings. Each meeting includes a guest speaker presenting on topics such as recycling and transportation. The Lions hosted a representative from the Northeast Pennsylvania Lions Eye Bank to better understand what happens with the eyeglasses they collect.

CREAM AND SUGAR? One of the Lions' biggest fundraising projects is hosting a "coffee stop" during major holiday weekends. The Lions set up shop at an interstate rest stop and give away coffee, hot chocolate and baked goods to weary travelers and accept contributions in a donation jar. Even with harsh weather, time passes quickly with lively discussions—and a friendly rivalry about which Lion makes the best brownies.

HE'S MAKING A LIST... The Lions' favorite project is coordinating visits from Santa to the homes of area children—sometimes as many as 450 in a season—for the past 49 years. The lengthy planning process involves purchasing toys, mapping driving routes and recruiting volunteers. For several nights multiple Santas and helpers navigate roads to visit unsuspecting children. Santa has been chased by dogs, stopped by police, braved blizzards and faced crying babies. The payoff: seeing the faces of children light up, enjoying the friendship and sharing heartwarming, sometimes hilarious, memories.

SUPPORTING YOUNG SCHOLARS: The Lions help young people achieve their dreams of attending college through scholarships. Each year two students are selected based on an anonymous point system. A connection is forever formed between the students and Lions—one student even later joined the club.

TIME FOR FUN: Service is top priority, but the Abington Lions know it doesn't hurt to have fun. Social outings to the horse races, hockey games and wineries build camaraderie and help retain members.

WHY SERVE? "Being a Lion has given me a sense of who I am and why I am here. There always have been and always will be people who can use a helping hand, and by giving one to them they will be able to offer that same helping hand to others." – Lion Joe Skinner



Lion Joe Skinner and Santa plan their route for the evening.

Photo courtesy of The Abington Journal/Alex Seeley

OVERHEARD

"It's like they can see the flag again."

—June Spooner of the Auburn War Eagle Lions Club in Alabama on the Braille U.S. flags presented to vision-impaired veterans. From *The Auburn Villager*.

"We've been born with sight. We have all our senses. But there are people out there that never get to see the beauty that God has put out here for us, and if we can help them in one little way that's what it's all about."

—Ron Diem of the Salisbury TWSP Lions Club in Pennsylvania at District 14-D's Ride for Sight. From WPMT-TV.

"One of the children ran up to his mother and said, 'Mummy, it's the real Santa because he speaks Russian!'"

—Nick Townsend of the Buxton & District Lions Club on a child from Belarus who met with a special Father Christmas as part of the Chernobyl Children's Project, a three-week holiday in England. From the *Buxton Advertiser*.

ON THE WEB

Do you feel like doing some Lions' shopping from the comfort of home? Visit the LCI store at www.lionsclubs.org and browse through the wide selection of Lions merchandise. Find the expected such as banners, plaques, awards, vests and clothing. But also find some surprises such as temporary tattoos, folding dog bowls, rain gauges and embroidered golf towels. Check the store for special offers, shipping information and order tracking.



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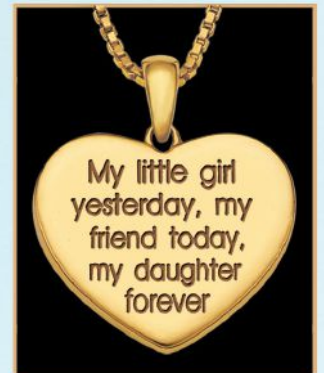
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IDEAS THAT ROAR

BIG IMPACT WITH LIONS CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Show your commitment to community service by inviting more people to join your club. Sponsor an open house to showcase Lions' activities and membership.

Rebuilding Homes and Renewing Lives

SERVICE IDEA WORK TOGETHER



It may have looked like an episode of “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” ...but host Ty Pennington and his crew were nowhere in sight.

Crockett Lion Stu Griffith (foreground) and Ben Barrientos of the Livermore Lions Club repair a broken chain link fence.

It may have looked like an episode of “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” was filming last year in a neighborhood of Richmond, California, but host Ty Pennington and his crew were nowhere in sight. Hundreds of Lions, Leos and community volunteers instead went to work to repair homes and remake lives. Spearheaded by 2011-12 District 4 C3 Governor Cathy Hudson, Lions collaborated with the nonprofit organization Rebuilding Together, which helps repair low-income homes in need of repair or modification like installing wheelchair ramps. District 4 C6 Lions provided food for the volunteers and health screenings for home owners. Those needing eyeglasses were referred to the Lions Sight Savers program for free eye exams and eyeglasses.

Six homes on one block received attention. Repairs would have cost between \$4,000 to more than four times that amount per home if not made by volunteers. Rehabbing efforts included painting, electrical, plumbing, roofing, maintenance, landscaping, building a wheelchair ramp and yard work. All homes received smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Ron Hudson, Cathy's husband and a member of the Dawn Breakers Lions Club, says the huge turnout helped speed repair efforts, which otherwise might have taken anywhere from two weeks to two months to complete. “There were at least five Leo clubs helping, along with a foreign exchange student from Germany,” he points out.

Long-time Berkeley Lion and project chair Michael McDowell is a general contractor and a member of Rebuilding

Together. “I deliberately chose what I thought was the toughest neighborhood, known as the Iron Triangle, in a city that has the most violent reputation in our district and the San Francisco Bay area,” he says. “As one of our recipients, homeowner Cheryl Vaughn, said, ‘From watching the television news, you’d think that every time I stick my head out the front door, there would be bullets whizzing by.’”

“I’m sure that more than a few Lions expected there would be a drive-by shooting on the work day,” reminisces McDowell. “What they found was a block where hard-working people like themselves care deeply about their children, their homes and their neighborhood.”

If Lions were apprehensive, it didn’t show. More than 250 volunteers came together on January 16, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, for Rebuild Richmond. District 4 C3 Lions contributed more than \$92,000 worth of service and goods to complete repairs and beautify the neighborhood. A community garden replaced a garbage-strewn, weed-infested vacant lot and a creek was cleared of debris.

Homeowners worked alongside volunteers. “We owe our success to the fact that the neighbors on this block had been working together to create a vision of where they wanted to be. When I contacted them, they had just completed a tree planting project with the city and literally, all parties were wondering how to take the next step. We were the next step because they were already primed for change,” McDowell says.

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IDEAS THAT ROAR

BIG IMPACT WITH LIONS CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS

PARTNERSHIPS WORK

Partner with other local organizations when needed to increase helping hands at a community event. More people helping means a greater number of people are reached.

A Dash of Red Brightens Holidays

SERVICE IDEA REMEMBER OTHERS



More than a decade ago Lions in Natoma, Kansas, started a tradition that continues brightening the lives of senior citizens who might otherwise be forgotten during the holidays.

They personally deliver greeting cards and bright red poinsettia plants to current and former Natoma residents who are 80 or older. The distribution has expanded to cover three counties—and reaches even further. For those who have moved far away, Lions send a cheerful card reminding them that they are remembered during the holiday season.

“The project idea came from Lion Arthur Hachmeister more than a decade ago,” says Laah Tucker, who helped deliver the plants to homes. “At 92, he continues to be an active member and helps organize the current listings and addresses [of recipients].”

“Our membership is diverse in age with a spread of about 60 years, from the 30s to the 90s. We continue to persevere in this tiny rural community in the heartland.”

Natoma Lion Laah Tucker gives a poinsettia to Thurlene Ruggels of nearby Russell, Kansas, who was one of 40 senior citizens to receive a plant.

Santa Arrives in Style

Chartered in 2010, the Lincoln Hills Lions Club in California didn’t wait for an invitation to get started on community service. In fact, Lions from the 31-member club were off and running immediately, collecting for a toy drive to benefit kids whose parents are members of the armed forces. The toy drive began when a local softball player in a senior league heard that many service men and women who were deployed had so little money that their families didn’t receive Christmas gifts.

Lion Robert Olin explains what happened next. “He made a call to Beale Air Force Base, which is located 10 miles from us, and found out about a toy drive at Beale. This was the beginning of our connection to Beale.” Another member of the softball group, Karl Wenzler, who with his wife, Marlene, is also a charter member of the Lincoln Hills Lions Club, believed a partnership between the two groups would result in a sizable collection of toys for the base’s children.

Last year, the two groups received some help from a third source—the California Highway Patrol. “The California Highway Patrol in Newcastle helped with the toys since someone broke into a container that was to go to Beale from our ‘Toys for Troops’ Kids’ drive and stole and destroyed the toys,” Olin says.

Every member of the club participates in the toy drive and most help out at a party sponsored by Lions and softball

players, held inside a giant hangar on base. Santa, a volunteer who starts growing out his beard in April, arrives as a passenger in a sleek U-2 aircraft, a high-altitude reconnaissance plane—to the delight of the cheering crowd of children, parents and volunteers.

SERVICE IDEA HOLIDAY FUN



A bounce house set up in the hangar was a big hit with children waiting to see Santa Claus.

Watch a video on Lions and the Memorial Day parade in Washington.



The MOST DANGEROUS room in your home... the bathroom

According to The New York Times, the bathroom can be the most dangerous room in the home. Hundreds of thousands of falls and accidents happen each year.*

FACT: 1 in 3 adults 65+ fall each year, and falls are the leading cause of injury death as well as the most common cause of nonfatal injuries and hospital admissions for trauma.**

*BAKALAR, NICHOLAS. "Watch Your Step While Washing Up." New York Times 16, Aug. 2011, New York Edition ed., Section D sec.: D7. Web **CDC - Center for Disease Control and Prevention



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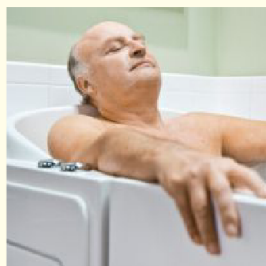
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***On uninstalled tub, actual height may vary based upon installation

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IDEAS THAT ROAR

BIG IMPACT WITH LIONS CLUB SERVICE PROJECTS

FEED THE HUNGRY

Programs that feed the hungry are among service endeavors that bring the most personal satisfaction, Lions and Leos report.

Santa Serves, Too

SERVICE IDEA FEED THE HOMELESS



Lion Bob Cushman, dressed as Santa, helps distribute food and fun with Lion Celia Santiago as part of the Golden State Lions Club's efforts to feed the homeless and hungry during the holidays.

Bob Cushman is the kind of guy who believes in the spirit of giving all year long. As a member of the Sacramento Golden State Lions Club's outreach efforts in California, he wore a Santa suit last year while handing out meals to the homeless. He laughs at the response he received from one young man—"When he saw Santa carefully pulling up and illegally stopping his 'sleigh' over the sidewalk, he blared out: 'Santa's here! Santa's in the hood!'"

Community service personally delivered, whether by sleigh or SUV, is the main reason that Cushman and his wife, Nerissa Fox, joined the club nearly two years ago. The couple recently became charter members of the new Sacramento Ambassador Lions Club, which they helped organize to increase Lions' efforts to help the city's growing homeless population.

Fox initially began a Thanksgiving food distribution program in 2010 with a few friends and Cushman. "We were inspired, energized, humbled and gratified!" she says of the recipients' reactions. Her friend, Carmie Smith, and her husband, Dr. Greg Smith, who were among that small group,

were already Golden State Lions. They made 250 bag lunches for people living on Sacramento's streets. Informally calling themselves "Friends Feeding the Hungry and Homeless," the group continued serving lunches to homeless people.

Golden State Lions quickly adopted the feeding project and expanded it to include distributing outerwear and personal hygiene products. In Sacramento, the rainy winter months can also bring temperatures in the 50s. Fox says the goal is to "let the less fortunate know that they are not forgotten, especially in these tough economic times when so many have experienced the devastation of losing not only their jobs, but also their homes."

"Even though they live under such dire consequences, they're all so polite to the point that the men give way for the women to be served first, a touch of kindness that doesn't go unnoticed," Cushman says. As many as 300 people are served each time Lions distribute their food containers, usually holding sandwiches and soup, or spaghetti.

LIONS ON LOCATION

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



MEMBERS OF THE HORANA METRO LEO CLUB IN SRI LANKA TRAVELED TO NEPAL AND JOINED THE BUTWAL, BUTWAL SHIDDHABABA AND SIDDHARATHNAGAR LEO CLUBS, ALONG WITH THE BUTWAL LIONS CLUB, FOR INTERNATIONAL LEO DAY. THE CLUBS VISITED AN EYE HOSPITAL, HELD A JOINT MEETING AND LIT 500 CANDLES FOR WORLD PEACE.

4 AFRICA SOUTH AFRICA

Santa Flight Takes Off

More than 60 children in South Africa took to the skies during a carefully-orchestrated holiday event to treat them to, as one child described — “the most amazing thing I’ve ever done in my life!”

Santa Flight is an annual party that Lions help plan that focuses on giving kids in need an exciting and memorable holiday complete with a visit from Santa Claus. Members of the Eden and George Lions Clubs and Holy Cross Leo Club unite with five other community groups to bring Santa to the kids, and the kids to the skies. Each child receives a 15-minute plane ride to see the sights of their area from far above — a heady experience topped off with refreshments and a visit from Santa and his elves, who distribute gifts to each excited child. Four pilots volunteered their time, planes and fuel for the party, held free of charge at the George Airport.

Children eagerly await their take-off time to cruise the friendly skies of George, South Africa, during the Santa Flight.



Digital LION Exclusives

LIONS ON LOCATION

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



FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS, THE CALICUT EAST LIONS CLUB IN INDIA HAS SUPPORTED A SCHOOL WITH UNIFORMS, BOOKS, CHAIRS AND DESKS. LIONS LED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING.

1 OCEANIA AUSTRALIA



Ho, Ho, Ho in Australia

Gods do not answer letters, John Updike once noted about very accomplished, highly respected people. But the jolly man in the white beard and red suit, although quite busy at the North Pole especially in December, certainly does. How could Santa not respond to the children who adoringly write to him?

That's what Forest Lake Lions in Australia asked themselves. Each year as many as 120,000 Australian children write to Santa at the North Pole, according to the Australia Post. Since Santa is so busy, someone has to help process the letters and ensure a reply. The elves in the Forest Lake Club are up to the task.

Being an elf is not easy but it's not exactly hard either. Alison Lamb and other Lions get to read the children's letters. "I always knew that you were real," wrote Peter, 9, of Brisbane. He asked for a scooter because "all my friends have one." He also requested a size-14 Melbourne Storm jersey "with the number 1 on the back." But Peter did not push

his luck: "If you want you can get me both, but you don't have to." Peter also remembered to ask Santa to bring his sister some puzzles and Legos. "I love you Santa," he added.

Eazther, 5, wants a Barbie doll and dresses. "I will wait for you on Xmas night," she alerted Santa. Adrianna, 11, wants clothes, coloring books, toys and a bike. Maybe she felt that was a lot to ask for because she closed with "I will leave some cookies and milk for you."

Last year the Lions received letters from children whose homes in Brisbane were ravaged by floods. Thomas told Santa, "I want an Xbox 360 because during this year's floods my Xbox 360 was taken away from me. From that moment I was unhappy and had nothing to play with."

In the past the Lions gave the children only letters from Santa but this year decided to include small gifts as well. "We expect to get many requests from families and children due to the decline in the economy," says Hayley Grady, president. No elf worth his name could turn a cold eye to that.

2 AFRICA SOUTH AFRICA



Carols by Candlelight

Near Christmas each year since 1994 the Ramsgate Lions in South Africa have celebrated the season with song on a popular beach. Residents pack an amphitheater for Carols by Candlelight. The event is free, but many make a donation for the club's charitable projects.



THE MOMBASA BAHARI LIONS
IN KENYA HELD A FIVE-DAY
MEDICAL CAMP. APPROXIMATELY
1,200 PATIENTS RECEIVED
HEALTH SCREENINGS AND
DOCTORS PERFORMED 92
OPERATIONS.



IN MALAYSIA, THE PERAK
SILVER STATE, IPOH MANDARIN
AND **IPOH EVERGREEN LIONS**
CLUBS HELD AN ECO WEAR
FASHION SHOW FEATURING
RECYCLED MATERIAL CLOTHING.



MACEDONIA DISTRICT 132 LIONS
ARE WORKING TO REPLENISH
TREES DESTROYED IN WILD-
FIRES BY PARTICIPATING IN
THE SEMI-ANNUAL TREE DAY.
MACEDONIANS HAVE PLANTED
37 MILLION TREES.



3 EUROPE SWITZERLAND

Lions build a "summer igloo."

Children's Home Gets Makeover

Lions in Switzerland worked so underprivileged children could play.

Members of the Basel Dreiländereck Lions Club put in more than 800 hours improving indoor and outdoor spaces dedicated to play at the Basel Children's Home. Members reconfigured an indoor area to provide separate spaces for watching movies, reading and "chill-out" corners.

In the garden area Lions cleared away mounds of weeds and brush before making a "summer igloo" with tree branches. They also constructed a sturdy pingpong table.



The pingpong table nears completion.

Supported by the club and other groups, the project cost 25,000 francs (US\$23,000). Chartered in 2009, the Basel club has 22 members.

Watch a video on Lions and LCIF in Haiti.

Hurricane-Proof Nursing School to Make a Powerful Impact in Haiti

by Susana Ferreira

Photos by Swoan Parker



A student at the Ecole Nationale d'Infirmie-res de Port-au-Prince nursing school listens while attending a class lecture in downtown Port-au-Prince. LCIF helped make possible the new school.

“We need some victims!”

Professor Patrick René bellowed over the chatter of his 100-plus classroom of first-year nursing students—all female, but for the lone male looking on from the back.

It was just past 3 on a recent afternoon, and the students had changed from the formal navy uniforms they normally wear on campus into jeans and comfortable tops. René clapped his hands for order while a group of volunteers spread several blankets in the center of the classroom.

“What are the three parameters of life?” René asked. On cue, the students responded in unison: “Consciousness! Respiration! Circulation!”

René nodded with approval and outlined the day’s training scenario: it was the scene of a terrible traffic accident. Six “victims” took their places, laying face up, on the blankets. Six first responders approached, assessing the scenario.

First-year nursing student Indji Tadgrin knelt over her victim, a slim girl wearing bright blue plastic earrings, and

began clapping and shouting, “Madame! Madame! How are you? Can you hear me?” Her victim was unresponsive. She passed a hand over the woman’s face to check breathing, reaching for the victim’s pulse with her other hand. Tadgrin moved her hands quickly from the victim’s face to the rest of her body, looking for bleeding and injuries, then turned her carefully over to her side—taking care to keep her spine straight and her airway open.

“Good!” said René. “Now you can see that the victim has blood on her back. What do you do?”

René looked on as his young nursing students treated their patients for broken bones, head injuries, shock and hypothermia—scenarios they are likely to encounter on a regular basis, considering the high number of tragic collisions in Haiti every day. In a country that suffers from rampant malnutrition, high maternal mortality, tuberculosis, skin disorders and a cholera epidemic that has killed more than 7,000 people, these future nurses will certainly have a lot of work to do.

Nursing school students listen to a class lecture at the school in downtown Port-au-Prince.



Nursing students check on a patient while making rounds in the hospital.



One of Haiti's few nursing schools, the École Nationale d'Infirmières de Port-au-Prince collapsed in the devastating earthquake in 2010 that killed more than 300,000 people.

"We lost 90 people that day," said Marie Yolande Nazaire, the school's director. "Eighty-nine students and one professor."

Picking up the pieces of the devastated school in the long, difficult months that followed was a test of Nazaire's—and the students'—will. Though they were grieving their profound losses, they knew that their work—caring for Haiti's sick and injured—was important. At first they made do with tents they pitched near the Faculty of Science. They sat for lectures and held makeshift labs in the heat, the rain and the mud.

Earlier this year, two years after the earthquake destroyed their building, the nursing school finally moved into its new home on the grounds of the General Hospital. Here, some 350 first-, second- and third-year students take classes and attend lab and practicum sessions.

Desilieu speaks with a doctor.



The prefabricated buildings are hurricane-proof, neatly arranged around a broad square that is nearly always bustling with nursing students dashing to a course, to a practicum session in the practice room or off to change into their crisp white frocks for shifts at the hospital. One building houses a library and archive, where the few salvaged copies of medical texts and records now sit. Other books, sporting smooth new covers, have been donated: pediatric nursing, ophthalmological surgery, tuberculosis and a dictionary of therapeutic medicine.

Rumors of a potential future dormitory elicit cheers from the student body. Classes and internships are held six days a week, and students who stay as late as midnight often try to catch a few hours of sleep in empty classrooms.

This campus was built in partnership with Humanterra International, a non-governmental organization

(NGO) founded by a group of French Lions. Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) contributed \$381,421 of the total \$1.36 million project cost.

Across the square is Nazaire's office, abuzz with activity. Just outside of her door, a copy of the Nurse's Prayer is pinned to a bulletin board. "My God," it begins, "make it so that I may see you in the person of my patient"—a call for patience, humility and compassion, even under duress. It's been her creed since she first attended nursing school in the 1960s, and today it is taught to young would-be nurses at the school.

Fabienne Desilieu and Johanne Jean Charles, two third-year students, smile broadly when asked why they want to be nurses. It's not an easy job, they explain, but it's a calling.

A student prepares an injection for a patient.



“It’s a noble profession,” Desilieu says warmly, her voice soft. “It’s a chance to help people, to care for them.”

Jean Charles nods. “We help people reconnect with a sense of esteem that may be lost when they’re ill,” she says.

There is a major human component to their work. Beyond simply dressing wounds or administering medication, they try to engage with each of their patients, and take care not to get discouraged if a patient reacts negatively or presents difficulties. Sometimes, they say, taking close care of someone who is in pain can present other sorts of emotional strains.

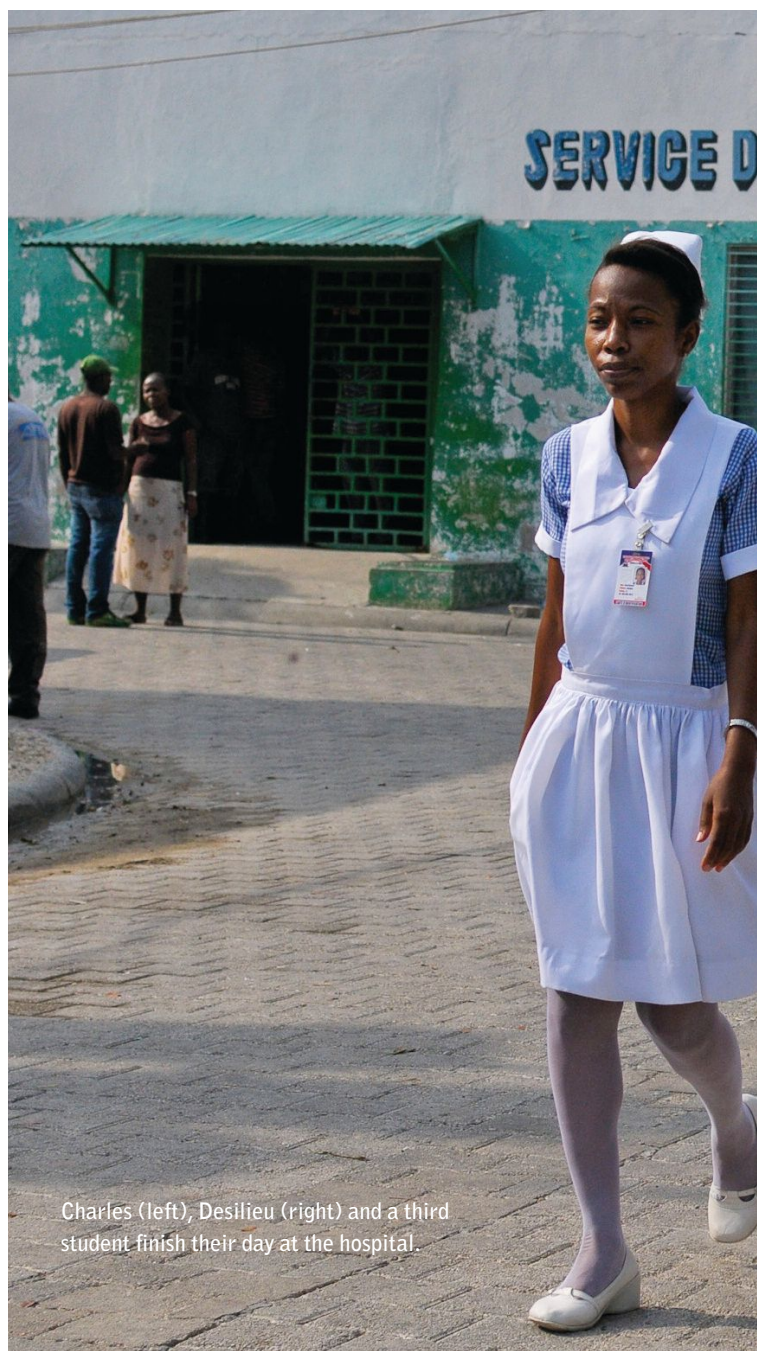
“I’m looking after a patient who has sores all over her body,” says Jean Charles. “When I go to change her bandages, it’s hard! When you’re trying to care for someone, and you’re still not able to ease their suffering, that really hurts.”

When they graduate at the end of this year, both Jean Charles and Desilieu say they hope to be placed in a setting where there is the greatest need. “I would go to the provinces, to places that are really isolated,” Jean Charles says. “There’s a lack of medicines, a lack of material. There’s an enormous need there, even just on the level of health education.”

Prevention, says Desilieu, is the most important cure. “If you can keep someone from getting sick, that’s far more effective than any treatment.”

Haiti has roughly two nurses for every 1,000 people, with most personnel concentrated in the capital, Port-au-Prince. (The United States has more than four times as many nurses with 8.5 registered nurses for every 1,000 people.) The nursing school tries to remedy this by dispatching mobile clinics to the provinces. One clinic trip, planned for Hinche later this year, already has 74 students signed up.

Pierre Richard Duchemin, a consultant and member of the Haitian Lions’ reconstruction committee, has watched the nursing school program come together from day one.



Charles (left), Desilieu (right) and a third student finish their day at the hospital.

“And we’re not finished yet,” says Duchemin, citing plans by Humaniterra to have several leaky roofs repaired ahead of the storm season. “As a Haitian, I want to see that Haiti’s nurses can find at least the minimum conditions to study.” Duchemin is still working closely with the school administration and the Ministry of Health to oversee the management of the school’s curriculum, its administration, and timely communication with other Haitian health bodies.

The number of Lions clubs in Haiti has more than doubled since 2010, and Lions are involved in projects throughout the country. Apart from the nursing school, LCIF and German Lions from Multiple District 111

worked with HELP, an international NGO, to build homes for 600 Haitian families. More homes, as well as latrines, will be built through HELP. Another 400 homes are being built in partnership with Food for the Poor, along with a community center to provide vocational training.

Lions are helping to rebuild not only vital facilities in Haiti but also its sense of community.

“I believe there is a sense of connection, an ethic, that can be re-established in this country,” says Duchemin. “A sense of civic duty can be found again, and with that, we can build a new environment, a new reality.”



“It’s a noble profession...
It’s a chance
to help people,
to care for
them.”

Desilieu (left) and Johanne Jean Charles check on a newborn infant in the maternity ward.



10 Things Guaranteed To Make You Smile

by Jay Copp



It Takes a Lions Club to Raise a Prodigy

1

Next time you tap your toes to “Superstition” or sing along to “You Are the Sunshine of My Life,” give a shout-out to Lions.

Born in poverty in Saginaw, Michigan, Stevie Wonder lost his sight soon after birth. His blindness heightened his sense of hearing. But he had to make do with toy musical instruments bought by his absent father. So his barber gave him a harmonica. His church choir director let him use the piano. Lions heard him beating a drum and gave him a drum set. Motown propelled him to stardom in the 1960s and he’s been on the charts since. Lions helped sign, seal and deliver this superstar.

2

What A Deal!

Some folks like to sit down and play poker. Others enjoy the sun and outdoors on personal watercrafts. Then there are those who do both at the same time. For two years Clayton Lions in New York have sponsored a personal watercraft poker run. Participants pick up playing cards at five different points—four boats at anchor and a dock—along a 35-mile stretch of the scenic St. Lawrence River. Last year the winner took home a \$400 prize. The real winners were the children who benefited from the club’s eye disease detection program.



3

Firefighters Can Stay Put

Yes, Darien Lions near Chicago cook pancakes, staff grills and run the cloakroom at an auction, but their service is anything but typical. The 148-member club often serves on behalf of the Giant Steps school for children and adults with autism. Lions' help at school events allows school staff to spend more time with parents and students.

Lions also serve up smiles and a friendly demeanor at Giant Steps. "They treat our kids as if they were absolutely typical. That's such a sign of respect—the understanding that these are just kids. That to me is the coolest thing about them," Bridget O'Connor, executive director, told the *Lisle Patch*.

Lion Steve Hiatt has a stepson with autism but says other Lions also invariably approach the students in the right way. "You start with a smile. You make eye contact. You let the parent steer the interaction. Just take it slow and don't hurry them," he says. Still, Hiatt adds that praise for Lions is "very humbling. The staff shows us such gratitude for what I consider minor participation. We're putting in a few hours and they're working 50 to 60 hours a week." But O'Connor will have none of that. "For the first time, I feel like my hair's not on fire when I'm running an event," she says.



Build a Golf Course, Alter History

African Americans were barred from golf courses throughout the South in the Jim Crow era. At best, black caddies could play on certain days or black golfers could play at designated times. The first desegregated municipal course south of the Mason-Dixon line was founded by Lions. In 1951, two African American youths walked onto the Lions Municipal Golf Course in Austin, Texas. Mayor Taylor Glass received a phone call telling him about the presence of the youths on the course. "This was before there was any mixing of the races in restaurants, schools or anywhere," said Glass in a 1974 interview that was not discovered until 2008. "I don't see why it ought to bother anybody, and I'm for leaving them alone and not even calling the newspaper and see what happens. We went on and [let] them play and never heard a word."

Lions founded the course in 1924, and they transferred the lease to the city a dozen years later. The University of Texas, which currently owns the land the course sits on, voted to let the lease expire in 2019 and may develop the land. The course, known as Muny, is the most popular public course in Austin with 54,000 annual rounds, and the Save Muny campaign hopes the course can be designated as a National Historic Landmark.

4



Bullying is Not Cool at All

Actors Quinton Aaron, who played Baltimore Ravens offensive tackle Michael Oher in “The Blind Side,” and Eric Martinez of ABC’s “Scoundrels” mingled with Lions at the Hudson-Keenesburg’s charter night in Colorado in February. Then the actors made the rounds at local schools to speak out against bullying in a campaign organized by the new club. Not a bad start for a club founded to assist youth and raise awareness of bullying. Many members are parents of small children and some are teachers. Despite his size, Aaron confided to the students that he was picked on constantly. Martinez shared how he shunned kids unlike him until a friend called him out on his behavior.



6

Bow Wow—Emphasis on the Wow

We love our pets and know what they mean to us. But can we even imagine how precious a Leader Dog is for a blind person? Legally blind since birth, Nicole Liebl of St. Paul, Minnesota, had two pet dogs and worked for 21 years managing gift and snack shops and vending machines. The economy doomed her business. Age and disease claimed her beloved Lacey Louise, a poodle, and Rufus James, a Portuguese Water Dog.

Liebl, 44, turned to Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester, Michigan. The school’s application asked what breed and gender were preferred. “I left that line blank because I wanted to receive the dog that God had in store for me,” she says. Liebl went to the school for evaluation, to ensure the dog selected would be a good match. She waited in her room for the trainer and dog. There was a knock on the door, but Liebl could not answer it right away. “I was so nervous I was using the restroom,” she told the trainer, who was not with a dog. “Your dog must be nervous, too, because she is doing the same thing,” the trainer replied.

The dog was a yellow female Labrador. The dog’s sister, also donated to Leader Dogs, was named Thelma. This was Louise. “The name was perfect. God took part of Lacey’s full name and knew it would not be too difficult for me to handle,” says Liebl. Louise’s personality also jibed. “She loves people, children and other animals. She’s just like me,” says Liebl.

Currently studying social work at the University of Indianapolis, Liebl hopes to use her degree at a church or hospital. She lives in a dormitory with Louise, who has literally and figuratively opened new doors for her and taken her to new places. But, as with Lacey and Rufus, the deepest journey has been inward—straight toward the heart. “She gives me loyalty, devotion and unconditional love, the greatest gift of all,” she says.

One-Man Recycling Bicycle Industry

Marion Blank, 78, is not a bicycle repairman. That's just the role he plays for the Yakima Lions Club and children in the Washington city of 90,000. He's fixed up 1,190 bikes since 2001 in his garage and backyard, and the club gives them to a church youth program, foster programs and the Boy Scouts, who need mountain bikes for their outings. The club gets the bikes from Yakima police when stolen bikes are unclaimed or from people who donate their old bikes. Once a year Blank and several other Lions spend the day with youth served by the church and fix their bikes on the spot. "The majority of them say thank you. It's gratifying," says Blank.

Blank sold paint and spray equipment for heavy-duty industrial uses, so he's mechanically inclined. He always puts in two new inner tubes and often replaces brake cables, grips and kickstands. Bikes too far gone to fix are cannibalized for parts. The club buys bicycle parts at a discount from a local shop. An avid rider until knee problems sidelined him, Blank still takes each repaired bike out for quick spin to test it out.

Blank puts a serial number on each bike he has fixed, and through the years only a dozen of the bikes he's repaired were stolen again and once more handed over to him. So apparently his pride in craftsmanship had led to a clutching pride of ownership.



7

Smile some more by watching a video on a Lions' disco.



Toys for Kids, Membership for Maria

8

Times were tough for Maria Medwedrich when she was married with four young children. With Christmas fast approaching, she swallowed her pride and showed up for a Toys for Kids giveaway. She had to wait in line two hours in the bitter Canadian cold before entering the hall. It was worth the wait. Bags for her were filled with toys, books, socks and mittens. She also went home with candy canes and oranges.

Years later, Medwedrich was chatting with a friend, Joanne, who was a Lioness. "What do they do?" she asked. Joanne responded. "I froze," says Medwedrich. "Everything happens for a reason." Overcoming her shyness, Medwedrich went to the Lioness meeting, then joined the Sooke Harbourside Lions Club in British Columbia eight years ago and has not missed a Toys for Kids day with the Lions since. "It's my favorite day of the year. As long as there is a breath of air in my body, I will be there with bells on. I love Lions," she says.

The cycle of giving goes on: Medwedrich has gifted her family to Lions. Joining have been her mother, husband, son and daughter, and her son's girlfriend. Her young granddaughter is "in training" to be a Lion.

Pet Project

9

St. Joseph Island Lions in Ontario, Canada, hold a pancake breakfast, award scholarships to worthy students—and run a pet cemetery. Since 2003, the club has managed the William Wright Memorial Pet Cemetery after its owner donated it to the club. Each year between 25 to 30 pets are buried there. The cemetery's revenues help fund the club's projects. "We're pet lovers, so it's kind of close to our hearts anyway," Lion Sue Kerr told *The Sault Star*. The club plans to expand the cemetery this summer by opening a "cats only" section complete with a "no dogs allowed" sign.



Can't Keep a Good Man Down

10

His accident happened 16 years ago this day, but Kevin Spalding just shrugs his shoulders and says he won't commemorate it in any way. "It's just another day," remarks Spalding, 45, of Winona, Minnesota. Not hardly. Everything changed on that day that he fell off his roof trying to adjust his TV antenna. His traumatic brain injury led to weeks in a coma. "I was supposed to be a vegetable. I was supposed to have total memory loss. I was supposed to never walk again," he says.

Spalding uses a cane only when walking long distances or over unfamiliar ground. His memory loss is limited to a few weeks before the accident and six months afterward. Before his accident, he was a force of nature. He juggled work and volunteering for three rescue squads, two fire departments, shifts as a bartender and janitor and stints milking dairy cows. Now he stays busy helping others—collecting pop tabs and box tops for schools and serving as a Winona Lion. "I love it [being a Lion]. I love doing things for other people," he says.

Spalding knows how tenuous life can be. His fall off the roof was the last in a long line of accidents and misfortune. A barn roof collapsed on him. He fell through the ice while fishing. He was involved in a car accident that killed his sister. Helping others is a bulwark against life's vicissitudes. He does what he can, selling Lions' brooms by keeping the price list in his pocket and buttonholing people he meets. "I sell more this way than others do door-to-door," he says with a grin.

Springtime in Italy Tour

11 Days

Join other Lions departing May 2, 2013

from **\$1798***

Fly into the historic city of Rome starting YMT's new Classic Italy Tour. The next two days you will spend sightseeing this Eternal City including the Colosseum, Basilica Santa Maria Maggiore, The Vatican City and Sistine Chapel. Travel North and ride up to the ancient town of Orvieto followed by Montecatini Terme, Florence and Pisa where you will see the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Continue East to Ravenna, the city of mosaics and the amazing city of Venice, with a sightseeing tour where you will see the Grand Canal. You will then head to Verona, best known as the setting for Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet; Lake Garda, Italy's largest lake and Lake Maggiore, with an included scenic lake cruise. Your journey concludes in Milan, with highlights including the Piazza del Duomo and La Scala Opera House. ***Includes nine breakfasts and six dinners.**

DENALI NATIONAL PARK

Alaska Tour & Cruise

12 Days

Travel with other Lions departing June 11, 2013

from **\$1998***

Fly to Anchorage to start your land tour of the **"best of Alaska's interior!"** Tour includes the Iditarod Headquarters; Talkeetna (made famous in the TV show *Northern Exposure*); Scenic drive to Denali; Denali National Park and Preserve; city tour of Anchorage; and the scenic drive to Seward. Board your state-of-the-art ship the 5-STAR **Celebrity Millennium** for your seven-day Alaska cruise from Seward, through the Gulf of Alaska, to Hubbard Glacier (the largest tidewater glacier in North America); located on the edge of Mendenhall Glacier, the state capital of Juneau; Skagway (where the gold rush began); uniquely Alaskan, Icy Strait Point; and the fishing village of Ketchikan. You'll disembark in Vancouver and take the picturesque drive to Seattle for one-night, then fly home.

Rocky Mountains & Western Frontiers

Plus...Yellowstone National Park

14 Days

Join other Lions departing June 12, 2013

from **\$1658***

Your tour begins and ends 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** (two days) with extensive sightseeing, including Old Faithful and Hayden Valley. Your journey continues to Grand Tetons 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.

Ireland Tour

12 Days

Travel with other Lions departing July 11 2013

from **\$1598***

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Survey Shows Former Lions Still Like Us

by Jay Copp

A survey of former Lions shows that three of four had some issue with their club yet 80 percent still described their experiences as Lions as positive and more than half would consider rejoining.

The survey of 1,559 former English-speaking Lions in 32 countries including the United States and Canada was part of Project Refresh, a comprehensive global membership study by Lions Clubs International. The survey was done because of membership stagnation: three of five Lions clubs did not grow in 2010-11 and a third had no new members.

Fifty-two percent of former Lions surveyed described their overall experience with Lions Clubs as very positive and 28 percent said slightly positive. Eleven percent said it was slightly negative and 9 percent very negative.

Why are they no longer Lions? Seventeen percent said there was a lifestyle change such as a job switch and 8 percent said they had no issues with Lions. Forty-seven percent said their leaving was because of both a lifestyle change and issues with their club and 28 percent said they left purely because of issues with Lions.

The top five reasons why Lions said they quit were: unproductive meetings, 43 percent; not enough younger members, 42 percent; meetings not enjoyable, 33 percent; “felt like I did not belong,” 33 percent; and “the club felt too political,” 32 percent. The next five reasons: Lions were “too old-fashioned and stodgy,” 30 percent; “like the club but there were personal lifestyle changes,” 30 percent; not enough focus on helping the community, 30 percent; “not the types of services for the community that in-

terested me,” 28 percent; and “not enough opportunities to serve the community,” 25 percent.

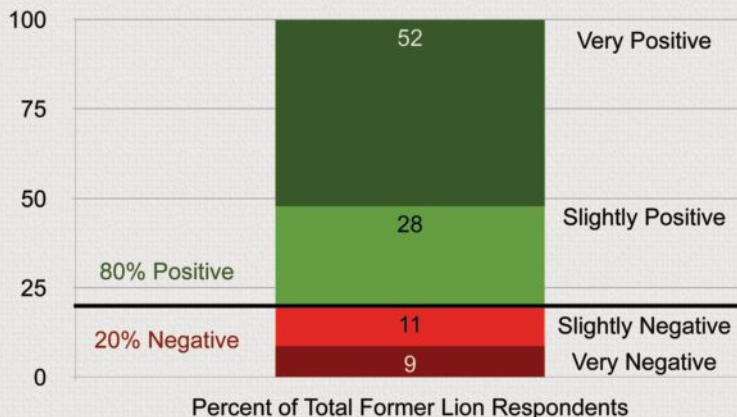
“There are three main points here,” says Shad Thomas, president of Glass Box Research Company in Chicago, which undertook the survey. “They talk about not enjoying meetings, where a Lion spends a lot of his or her time. There is the club atmosphere. It’s too political, old-fashioned or marred by cliques. And there’s the service aspect: there aren’t enough opportunities to do the service they wanted to do.”

The former Lions who quit for lifestyle reasons and those with issues with their club describe their experience in starkly different terms. Ninety percent of those who left for lifestyle reasons said their club provides valuable services that directly help others while just 51 percent of those with issues with Lions said their clubs provide such



Most Respondents Had a Positive Lions Experience

Q2. In general, how would you describe your overall experience with Lions Clubs?



services. Seventy-four percent of the former Lions who left for lifestyle reasons said their club encouraged members to take a leadership role compared to 40 percent of those with issues with Lions.

The numbers are similar for aspects of club culture: 85 percent of former Lions who had lifestyle changes said their club was very welcoming compared to 36 percent of those who had issues with Lions. Opportunities to socialize: 77 percent compared to 34 percent. Welcomes diversity: 78 percent compared to 41 percent. Embraces technology: 53 percent compared to 22 percent. Too many cliques: 12 percent versus 47 percent.

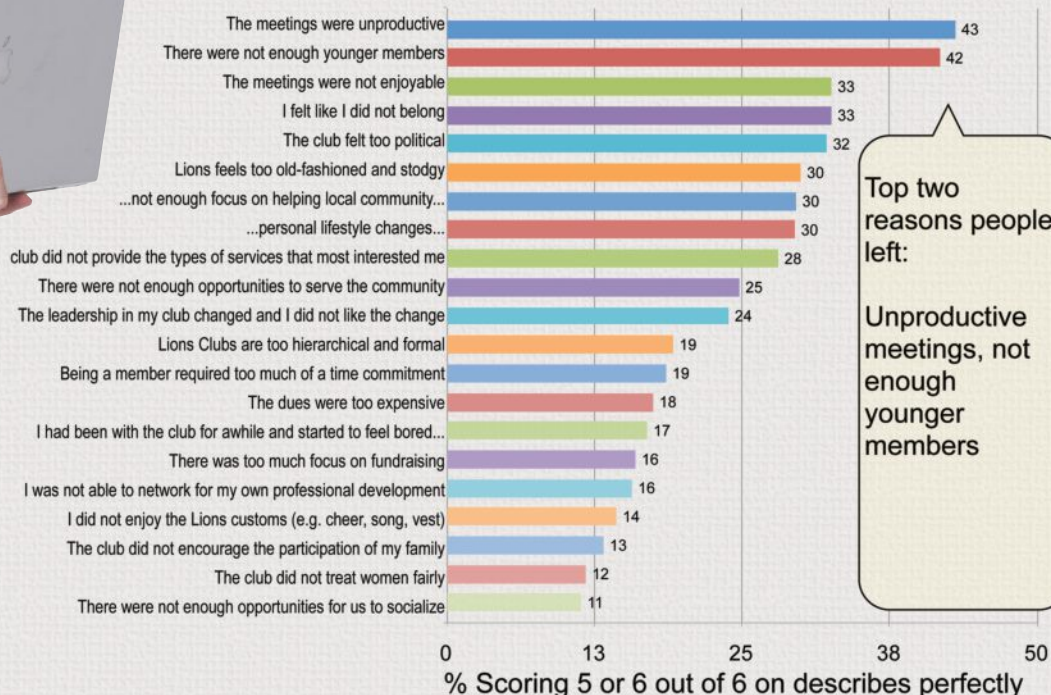
“I think the data says clubs really have to look at the quality of their meetings. Do members feel they are productive and worth their time?” says Ken G Kabira, group manager for Membership, Programs and Communications at LCI. “What is the club atmosphere? Is it welcoming? What about the service projects? Are they what the members feel strongly about?”

Clubs need to think about membership in new terms, says Kabira. “We clearly have an opportunity to improve retention, but retention is an outcome. We should focus on what clubs do. Think of it in terms of member engagement or club experience. What needs to be done so that members are engaged and satisfied?”

Don’t put the cart before the horse, he advises. “Focus on the club experience such as meetings, atmosphere, and service projects—not the numbers. If we focus on member satisfaction, then they will stay and your retention figures will improve,” he says.

President Madden has encouraged Lions to do four “pit stops” this year to assess their club and set goals. That’s a valuable way for clubs to improve the club experience and fuel membership growth. Clubs can also visit the LCI website to for advice on using membership tools such as “How Are Your Ratings,” a member satisfaction survey tool, and the Community Needs Assessment, both which are downloadable from LCI’s website. Clubs can also take advantage

Reasons the Former Members with Lions Issues Left



Former Members with Issues with Lions Have Many More Wishes/Frustrations

Nearly half wish that their club had more members. About a quarter desire more help/support from district leadership and transparency around club funds and election.

Q4. How much do you agree that the following statements describe any wishes or frustrations that you may feel toward your former Lions club? (% Scoring 5 or 6 out of 6)

	Issue with Lions	Purely Life Change
I wish our club had more members	49	19
I would have liked for the District leadership to provide more inspiration for our club	27	4
More openness and transparency need to be in place to ensure that club funds are used properly	27	2
I would have liked for the District leadership to better support our club	24	2
More openness and transparency need to be in place to ensure that club elections are run fairly	22	2
I would have appreciated having my sponsor or mentor help me	17	2
I would have liked for our club to more equally involve both men and women	16	4
Our Guiding Lion focused too much on recommending how our club should be run	16	3
I wish that I had been more knowledgeable about the services that other Lions clubs are providing around the world	16	3
I wish that the leaders of my club would have allowed me to be more active in the club	16	1
I wish that I had been more knowledgeable about Lions Clubs International structure	14	4
I wish that our club was more fair in allowing women to serve in leadership roles	10	1
I wish our club had fewer members	4	1

Legend: Significantly Higher Lower

Source: Project Refresh Phase 5 Survey of Former Lions

of webinars and online training tools that LCI makes available to develop action plans to improve members' experience.

The good news is that the survey showed former Lions are receptive to rejoining. Thirty-two percent said they were slightly likely to join and 20 percent said very likely. Clubs are encouraged to invite former members to rejoin. "Reach out to them. Ask them what their grievances were. Personalize it by having a friend contact them," says Kabira.

Project Refresh also included a survey of non-Lions (October LION). Survey results pertaining to reasons why Lions are satisfied or dissatisfied will be detailed in an upcoming issue of the LION.

Likelihood of Rejoining Lions

Q19. How likely would you be to join a Lions club at some point in the future?



Lions United Against Measles in Uganda

by Allie Stryker

When Uganda's Ministry of Health recently reported more than 500 cases of measles across the country, local Lions wanted to help. In May, Lions in Uganda united against measles and joined LCIF's effort to help eliminate measles worldwide by participating in a country-wide vaccination campaign.

Ugandan Lions worked with the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization and UNICEF to coordinate a targeted vaccination effort. As a result, a three-day campaign was created and a goal was set to vaccinate 6.9 million children.

Lions played a key role in the vaccination campaign. Working with business contacts, they purchased radio, television and newspaper advertisements to raise awareness of the vaccinations. They even used a "town-crier" truck with loudspeakers that drove up and down streets announcing the campaign to everyone within earshot. Lions also ordered T-shirts for health workers and created posters and banners for vaccination sites. Their efforts spread awareness of the importance of routine immunizations, potentially preventing future measles outbreaks in the country.

All 20 of Uganda's Lions clubs came together to work alongside community health workers for three days to support the measles vaccination campaign. The clubs held ceremonies to launch the campaign, inviting local leaders to take part. Each Lions club worked with one or two vaccination posts to ensure that children were reg-

istered and other needs were met at each site while health care workers administered vaccinations.

"I asked the Lions I encountered who had worked tirelessly in the heat for the entire weekend if their three days of volunteerism had been worth it," says Benjamin Futransky, an LCIF staff member who participated in the vaccination event. "The answer I heard over and over from each Lion was a resounding yes. The small part they played in immunizing each child filled them with joy because they knew one

less child was at risk of sickness or even death from measles."

When LCIF joined the Measles & Rubella Initiative in 2010, officials knew Lions would want to help children in countries where measles is a heavy health burden. More than 41 million children have been vaccinated against measles. This year, LCIF is working with measles partners to vaccinate 157 million children against measles.

Together, we can help eliminate measles. Just ask the Lions of Uganda.



Health workers at a vaccination post in Uganda prepare to vaccinate more children against measles.



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The Bulb That Would Not Die

by John Hale

I remember 1990. My stepdaughter, Elizabeth, a spunky 16-year-old rebel, sported orange hair. Outside her bedroom on the second floor, 30 photos of my father hung on the wall. My mother made the collage to remember my father, who had died a few years earlier. When I stood at the base of the stairs, I'd say, "Good night, Elizabeth." Then I'd flick the switch for the bulb and the upstairs hallway went dark.

That was the year I bought a newfangled CFL bulb for that hallway. I remember that clearly. I also am certain I never changed that bulb. It never failed to turn on, even as Elizabeth changed her hairstyle from orange to burgundy to red and then completely shaved her head. It stayed lit even as she moved to Boston, where today she is an aspiring photographer.

Last March, the 15-watt bulb I bought from the Monmouth Lions in Maine finally burned out. I think I paid a whole \$5 for it.

When I tell people about my super bulb, they are amazed. But they sometimes shake their heads a bit and smile wryly. I am a frugal New Englander. My 1996 Saturn wagon has 175,000 miles on it. I have a stack of records from Harry Belafonte and Burl Ives that date back to the 1940s.

But 22 years for a light bulb used a lot? Our master bedroom is upstairs, too, so the super bulb was turned on and

off at least twice a day. Most conventional incandescent light bulbs burn out in a matter of months, sometimes only weeks, in our house. Changing bulbs in awkward places sometimes seems like a full-time job to me, a 66-year-old retired newspaper reporter.

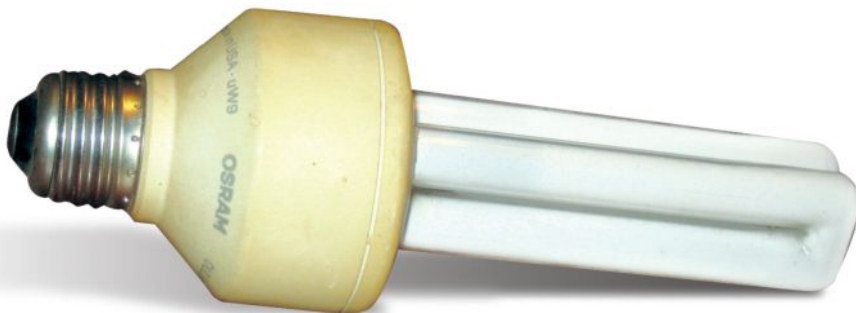
We hear that we live in a "throwaway society," which carelessly discards disposable razors, microwave food containers, aerosol cans and used-up batteries. It's rewarding to find a product that lasts and lasts.

"What you experienced is really phenomenal," Alfred LaSpina, product manager for CFL lighting for OSRAM Sylvania's North American operations, told me.

OSRAM manufactured our bulb before it acquired Sylvania's lighting division in 1993. "You have a really amazing story there. You got the maximum lifespan of the bulb. CFLs as products are only 25 years old. You've really got a great lamp there," LaSpina said.

Frank Whittier, a salesman at the Lighting Concepts store in Lewiston, said of our bulb, "I've heard of some that have lasted eight to 10 years with minimal use, but none that lasted as long as yours did."

The world in 1990 was a different place. The average cost of a gallon of gas was \$1.34 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average ended the year at 2,633. Cell phones were still in their infancy, East and West Germany merged into a single Germany and the Detroit Pistons, the "bad boys"



of the NBA, won their second straight NBA title. Saddam Hussein's Iraq invaded Kuwait, which eventually led to the Gulf War.

Don Ham, 94, a Monmouth Lion, said the local light bulb sale ran from about 1960 to 1998. Lions went door-to-door in pairs, selling the light bulbs after dividing the town into sections.

"The last year we did it, we raised around \$2,400," said Bill Mann, club treasurer. "That used to be our primary fundraiser."

The light bulb revenue was used to pay for student scholarships, Christmas baskets and a free Thanksgiving dinner for seniors, says Lion Archie Wing, who knows a few things about durability. He joined the club in 1953.

Wing said in the early '90s the Monmouth club offered customers a choice of either conventional bulbs or the more expensive CFL bulbs. "Some took one kind and some took the other," he said.

"I never heard of one lasting as long as yours did," he added. "I put some of them in and I don't remember ever replacing any of them. It's unusual for them to last that long."

Curious, I did a little research. Our light bulb was made in the United States by OSRAM, a German-based company that bought Sylvania in 1993. Last year, OSRAM Sylvania, based in Danvers, Massachusetts, manufactured the last conventional bulbs in the United States under federal energy policy. When the conventional bulbs have all been sold, consumers' only choice will be CFL bulbs.

CFL stands for compact fluorescent lamp. It is lighted by a combination of phosphors and mercury vapor inside a glass tube. There are two basic types: the tubular type, which we had, and the spiraling helix tube. Our bulb was a 15-watt light, but it gave off the light of a 60-watt bulb.

CFLs cost more than incandescent bulbs, but they use less energy and they last longer. In fact, CFLs can save five times their purchase price over their lifetime. Conventional light bulbs have a life expectancy of 750 to 1,000 hours of use. CFL bulbs have a life expectancy of 6,000 to 15,000 hours.

It's too bad Lions no longer sell the bulbs because Karlene, my wife, and I would surely buy another. But we do patronize the Monmouth Lions' Hunter's Breakfast. We fill up on scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries and pancakes. It's not the same as 22 years, but my guess is that we hardly eat for two days after the annual breakfast.

This CFL light bulb, sold by the Monmouth Lions Club to Karlene and John Hale in North Monmouth, Maine, served faithfully for 22 years before finally burning out last March.



Photo by Joyce Grandin



We Serve

Lions grill, bake, roast, steam and fry foods that locals crave and devour year after year. Any way you slice it, the food fuels deliciously important causes.

by Jay Copp

Watermelon

Sunland-Tujunga Lions California



Mark Twain once remarked that when you've tasted watermelon, you know what the angels eat.

He could have said once you've been to the Sunland-Tujunga Lions Club Watermelon Festival in California you know how religiously obsessed people can be about watermelons.

Admission to the festival, begun 51 years ago, is discounted for people in watermelon costumes, so you may see a guy with a hollowed-out melon as a helmet. Or three friends standing side by side with T-shirts that form a large melon slice.

Vendors sell watermelon lemonade, deep-fried watermelon and ribs with slices of watermelon. The watermelon recipe contest features watermelon chili, watermelon gazpacho and a sunland summer salad. At another booth, a culinary instructor explains how to make pickled water-

melon rind and Pico de Gallo Watermelon, a salsa.

You can ogle the Watermelon Queen or King, spin the Melon Wheel for a prize, view the watermelon carving demonstrations or greased watermelon races, and listen to bands play on the Melon Stage. Or wander over to a long, red vinyl tarp where fairgoers pucker their lips and spit seeds. The record is 69 feet. Competitors who break that mark can win \$500.

The human tricks are funny but perhaps the most intriguing sight is the WatermelonOmatic, a slicing machine introduced two years ago by Lion Ara Zeithlian, a bakery owner. The machine creates uniform slices of watermelon at the speed of 40 slices per minute. Melon lovers grab the slices right off a conveyor belt and munch away. The machine is the greatest thing since, well, sliced bread.

Apple Butter

Monett Lions

Missouri

People in southwest Missouri can't get enough of the Lions' apple butter.

For the uninitiated, apple butter can be confusing. It contains no butter. It's been described as a cranked-up apple sauce. But unlike apple sauce it's not usually eaten by itself. Instead, it's typically used as a spread on bread, biscuits and pancakes. Some people swirl it into ice cream or even use it in lieu of barbecue sauce when grilling pork. Basically, foodies use any excuse they can to consume apple butter, applesauce that is slowly cooked until it thickens into a glossy, caramelized spread.

Held in October, Apple Butter Makin' Days in Mount Vernon in southwest Missouri is perhaps the premier event of its kind, and the Monett Lions are one of only two vendors there. Last year, the club used 6,000 apples to produce three 180-gallon batches of apple butter. Pint bottles cost \$5. Lions sold \$35,000 of apple butter. "We give out samples. Lot of people will say, 'Never tried it.' They end up getting a bottle," says Lion Steve Wise.

Decades ago and even today making apple butter is a family event, given the amount of labor required. Apples are peeled, cores removed and seeds flecked off before cooking. Until a few years ago the Monett Lions did all those laborious steps with Jonathan apples. Now they buy Northern Spy apples from Wisconsin that are pre-cut. "We were very careful about finding an apple with the same flavor as Jonathan. You can't tell the difference," says Wise.

The ingredient list is short: apples, sugar, cinnamon and water. Lions cook their sauce for 13 to 14 hours in four 40-gallon copper kettles and one 50-gallon stainless steel kettle. The club uses propane burners and a mechanical stirrer. The Lions' apple butter has to pass a thickness test before considered done. "We get a plate, put some on it and turn the plate upside down. It won't fall off," says Wise.

Some of the apple butter is made without sugar. "My wife uses that in her cheesecake recipe. It works," says Wise.

Apple butter is far from the only food item sold by the 58 members of the Monett Lions Club. They barbecue 1,400 chicken halves on the Fourth of July, and also sell rib eye steaks and strawberry ice cream on other occasions. Once a month they staff the kitchen at a church and feed the needy. But apple butter has been their calling card since 1982. "It tastes like what grandma used to make," Wise says proudly.



OK, some fairgoers in Bremerton, Washington, can't resist pulling out their smartphone and making an obvious wise-crack. But they don't bite into their phones. They save their appetite for the real thing. The Blackberry Festival on Labor Day weekend celebrates edible blackberries. You can buy wines, sodas and pies flavored by the dark-purple berries.

You also can wolf down a slug. Or two, three or six. A slug is basically a donut stuffed with blackberry jam and

topped with powdered sugar. The Bremerton Central Lions have sold the slugs at the festival for more than 20 years.

Located on Puget Sound near Seattle, Bremerton is blackberry heaven. "If you disturb a piece of ground, you'll see a blackberry. They're ubiquitous," says Wyn Birkenenthal, past president.

Lions sell bag after bag of the popular slug. They buy the donuts and use their own special machine to, well, jam the jam into the donut. While the customers munch happily, Lions tell them of their big fall fundraiser, a seafood dinner and auction.

The slug is a calorie-rich pastry. But blackberries have antioxidants that are said to fight cancer. The ancient Greeks believed the berry cured diseases of the mouth and throat, and Blue and Gray soldiers in the Civil War agreed on momentary truces to forage for blackberries, an antidote to dysentery. But here's what's important about the slug. The Kiwanis club a few booths over sells a blackberry pie. Reach for a slug. "Oh, it's better," says Birkenenthal.



Somewhere deep inside the donut are healthy blackberries.

Lions Gene Knowles (left) and Terry Bennett steam the oysters.

Photo courtesy *The Fayetteville Observer*



Steamed Oysters Fayetteville Massey Hill Lions North Carolina

Oysters are often described as “an acquired taste.” They must be eaten or cooked alive. The writer Jonathan Swift said, “He was a bold man that first ate an oyster.” Willie Chason of the Fayetteville Massey Hill Lions Club in North Carolina doesn’t disagree. “Some people think they are slimey,” he says.

But the 700 customers who come to the club’s all-you-can-eat steamed oyster roast in late January think differently. At least 400 are regulars who come year after year to the roast, which began in 1972. “They see me in the summer and say, can’t wait until the roast,” says Chason.

Many patrons bring their own knives, towel and glove to make the shucking easier. One man brings a customized, homemade knife made from flattened nails. The customers crowd around plywood tabletops that rest atop 55-gallon drums. The table has a hole in the middle for the shells. “People might not know each other but it doesn’t matter. They’re like family at the tables,” says Chason.

Fayetteville is about 100 miles from the Atlantic Ocean. But the club prefers oysters from the Gulf Coast, delivered

to the clubhouse on Friday night in 300 burlap sacks, 110 pounds each. Their feet protected by waders, Lions use high-pressure hoses to clean the mud-encrusted oysters.

Lions steam the oysters in four massive, gas-fired cookers, each capable of holding 30 steel containers. The high-volume production line separates the Lions from any competitors and makes the event the state’s largest of its kind. “The high school does one, the Chamber of Commerce. You eat a few and wait. We keep ours coming,” says Chason, one of 92 members in his club.

The cost to eat is \$30 at the door. Hush puppies, iced tea and cocktail sauce are available. The line begins to form nearly an hour before the doors open. There’s a line at the end of the day, too. Any oysters left are purchased, often for parties for the upcoming Super Bowl.

We Serve

For hundreds of years Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest centered their diet on the salmon that each year returned from the open sea to spawn in rivers. Anthropologists estimate that 60 percent of the nutrients consumed by the Native Americans in the region came from either salmon or steelhead trout.

The second oldest town in Washington, Coupeville sits on the sea on Whidbey Island. For years town leaders have honored the area's heritage and many current residents' ethnicity; a water festival features tribal canoe races and Native arts, crafts, dances and storytelling. Coupeville Lions decided to follow suit in 2006 by hosting a traditional salmon feast each September.

Lions cook the salmon over an alder wood fire, as Native Americans have done for centuries. The wood smoke

imparts a rich flavor. The Lions use a steel-grated barbecue pit, not wooden planks as the Native Americans do. But overseeing the grill has been Billy Bailey of the Samish tribe. Fellow tribe member Rosie James has prepared traditional fry bread, similar to a funnel cake. James also entertains patrons by singing Native American songs.

Last year the fish was ultra-fresh. A tribe near Olympia caught the salmon for the barbecue the day before the event. Other than olive oil to prevent sticking and light sprinkles of sea salt, the fish was grilled as was. "Just fish—good fish," says Lion Bob Johnson.

Mel Rogers and Tom Eller (background) cook the salmon.





Barbecue Mutton

Mokane Lions, Missouri

Past District Governor Bryan R. Rogers and Lois Spencer grasp the appeal of a barbecue mutton sandwich.

Mutton gets no respect. A troll in *The Hobbit* whined: “Mutton yesterday, mutton today, and blimey, if it don’t look like mutton again tomorrer.” The gentle Gandhi, a resolute vegetarian, became riled at the thought of eating mutton: “If anybody said that I should die if I did not take beef-tea or mutton, even under medical advice, I would prefer death.” Modern New Yorkers also take their shots against mutton. On “Seinfeld,” Jerry dated a girl whose specialty was mutton. Not liking it, Jerry secretly stuffed the mutton in the pockets of a coat that Elaine later wore and the unwitting Elaine was tailed by a pack of snarling dogs. When she found out, she shouted at Jerry’s girlfriend, “Thanks for mutton!”

Mutton does get respect in a small rural city in Missouri. In Mokane, population 300, Lions have served up barbecue mutton sandwiches at the Mokane Lions Club Fall Festival since the 1960s. The sauce is a secret recipe

of the Taylor family, whose members have been Lions.

Mutton is meat from sheep at least two years old. The Lions’ mutton is made in a huge cooker—“like a crockpot blown up a hundred times,” says Dee Pfeiffer, past club president. A Lion stirs the meat with “a stick like a boat paddle,” she adds.

Pfeiffer knows a thing or two about mutton. Her girls raised sheep as part of 4-H, and her family made their own mutton. She’s even eaten mutton in Ireland. The Lions’ mutton passes the test. “It’s good,” she says. “It tastes like barbecued beef. I can’t really tell the difference. The young people say they can, but I think it’s just their imagination.”

Aye, there’s the rub. Even in Mokane mutton doesn’t get its due. The younger folks generally don’t order mutton sandwiches. “We’ll always have it but we might have less of it,” says Pfeiffer. So the club will also continue to sell its barbecued beef, hamburgers and hot dogs.



Smelt are small but plentiful in Parkers Prairie.

So small they are often used for bait, smelt once swam in abundance in Lake Superior, and in the 1960s and 1970s netters easily hauled home buckets of the fish. Smelt fries were part of the Minnesota lifestyle. Then lake trout preyed on smelt, and smelt runs and smelt fries dwindled.

But the annual smelt fry of the Parkers Prairie Lions in central Minnesota remains popular. The lore surrounding the fish fry is nearly as inviting as the main entrée. Come for the fish, stay for the fish stories.

The fry began in 1964, a few months after the club was chartered. Lions not only caught the smelt in local rivers, but they were so happy with the turnout they immortalized the results in ink on the wooden posts at the fire department where they held the event. The firefighters didn't object, so Lions for the next dozen years or so similarly posted the final tallies until the club finally committed them to paper.

So the club knows exactly how they've done: they've served 45,114 pounds of smelt to 50,127 customers. In recent years, they've drawn nearly 1,500 patrons, not bad in a town of 1,000.

Of course, immortality can be a fleeting thing, even for a fire house, which exploded and burned down in the mid-1990s. So the club now holds the fish fry at the town's \$1.5 million community center, which the club spearheaded in 2007. The Parkers Prairie Event Center is a large, modern building—again, not too shabby for a small town. Both the all-male Parkers Prairie Lions Club and the all-female Parkers Prairie Pride Lions Club meet there. Right, two clubs and 67 Lions in a little town—not bad at all.



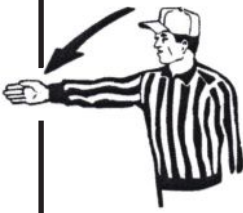






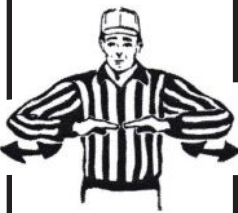

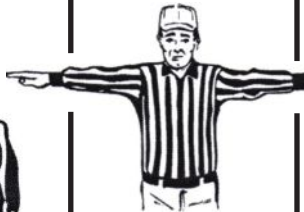









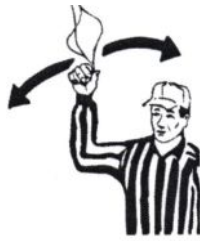


That's what customers say about the smelt. The fish are pulled from Lake Michigan just a day or two before the Lions get them. They douse them in a secret coating before dumping them in the deep fryer, full of beef tallow. The plate of fish comes with French fries. Anyone dieting is free to load up on the cole slaw.

Part I of "We Serve" ran in October.

Visit www.lionmagazine.org to read Part I.

A Football Fan's Guide to Lions

Sure, we love our club but don't you just wish sometimes when someone talks too long or belabors a point you could ... throw a penalty flag for delay of meeting? It occurred to us at the LION that football has got it right. You commit an infraction and an official throws a flag. So here are official's signals for clubs suitable for many occasions. Of course, we know *your* club will never need these!

 <p>Personal Foul Negative Talk About A Member</p>	 <p>Delay of Game Get to the Point!</p>	 <p>First Down Progress Made on Fundraiser</p>	 <p>Illegal Use of Hands No Personal Displays of Affection</p>	 <p>Village Trustees Hot Under Collar</p>	 <p>Time Out Bathroom Break —At Last!</p>
 <p>False Start No One Said It's Time to Eat!</p>	 <p>Touchdown Win LCI Award!</p>	 <p>Budget Belt Tightening</p>	 <p>Illegal Use of Lions Logo</p>	 <p>Ineligible Speaker Too Controversial</p>	 <p>Unsportsmanlike Conduct No Furthering One's Business!</p>
 <p>Hands Tied by Lions Bylaws</p>	 <p>Interference Darn Rotarians Already Reserved the Hall</p>	 <p>Official Review Do We Really Want That on YouTube?</p>	 <p>Tripping Tailtwister is Out of Control!</p>	 <p>Start Recruiting Cycle</p>	 <p>Illegal Use of Hands Doubledipping Nacho Chips!</p>
 <p>Off Sides Sit Where You Always Sit!</p>	 <p>Illegal Motion Follow Robert's Rules of Order!</p>	 <p>No Catch Committee Spot Still Unfilled</p>	 <p>Penalty Declined That's OK—I Once Overslept, Too, On Our Pancake Day</p>	 <p>Holding Hey, Are You Memorizing It? Gimme that LION Magazine!</p>	 <p>Intentional Grounding Kill the Project— Nobody Wants to Do It Anymore</p>

Abby Griffith and instructor Gary Scott talk about a photo that Griffith took during a photography class at Washington State School for the Blind.



Photo by Randy L. Rasmussen/*The Oregonian*

Images from the 'Mind's Eye'

by Kristine Guerra

Abby Griffith has always wanted to make pictures. Every time she smelled flowers or heard the sound of flowing water, she felt the urge to capture them.

She didn't believe it would ever be possible. Griffith is blind.

"I was always wondering how to take pictures," she said. "I want to take pictures of everything, but I don't know how."

Griffith went blind at age 8, when she was living in a small town in Ethiopia. One day, while playing with her friends by the river, a snake spit venom in her eyes. Then, it was all black.

Griffith, now 18, and her two younger brothers live in Vancouver; they were adopted by an American couple four years ago. She will never regain her eyesight. But she can make photographs.

An after-school program at Washington State School for the Blind has taught Griffith and several other students how to capture images without seeing them.

Lion Gary Scott, a longtime photographer, came up with the idea. Last summer, he started a six-week, hands-on photography class that gives blind and visually impaired students a chance to create photographic art by using their "mind's eye."

"When a person is blind, they rely on their hands, their intuitive sense of orientation, hearing and other senses that are working on a greater skill level than what we have," Scott said. "I communicate with them using those other senses."

Scott's technique is pretty straightforward. In Griffith's case, he describes the environment in front of her. It can be a tree, a rock, leaves, a chair or a person. Griffith tells Scott what she wants to capture. She uses her available senses—touch, smell, hearing—to get an idea of what's in front of her. She decides what angle and perspective she wants.

Scott then places her behind the camera's viewfinder. The result, Scott said, is an "interpretive representation."

"I'm just the conduit. I let them take the pictures," Scott said. "We're extracting visuals from their limited or non-visual world. They have visuals in their minds, but they just don't know how to express them."

Scott uses a slightly different approach with students

who are partially blind, like 15-year-old Heather Simmons. He holds the camera up to their eyes, assists them in operating it and gives suggestions.

Born with underdeveloped eyesight, Simmons is blind in her right eye and cannot fully see through her left eye. But she can now take photos on her own.

"This class made me be more creative and take more pictures and explore the world," Simmons said.

Simmons' mother, Mary Burdick, who attended classes with her daughter, found watching the students in action inspiring.

"Anyone can take pictures," Burdick said. "It doesn't matter how well you can see."

The class is offered for free to the school's students. All the equipment and supplies are donated by the Vancouver

Lions Club (Scott's club) and the Washington State School for the Blind Foundation. The first batch of photography students finished the class in July. Their work is now on display at the Casey Eye Institute on the Oregon Health & Science University campus.

Scott, who volunteers his time to teach the class, said he simply wants to give back.

"There's a point in your life when you want to give back to society," said Scott, who's legally blind in his right eye. "I get nothing out of this other than the satisfaction of helping the kids

"We're extracting visuals from their limited or nonvisual world. They have visuals in their minds, but they just don't know how to express them."

express themselves."

On Tuesday, the last day of the class this fall, Scott's 12 students picked their favorite photo and talked about what the class meant to them.

For Griffith and Simmons, the class gave them a powerful sense of accomplishment.

"I thought before only sighted people can take pictures," Griffith said. "I'm proud because blind people can take pictures, too."

The next class starts in the summer. Griffith said she'll keep at it until she can make a picture by herself.

"I want to show my mother what I did."

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SightFirst Prevents Blindness in New Ways

by Allie Stryker

Lions are leaders in sight. From funding cataract surgeries and diabetic retinopathy projects to providing medication for river blindness and trachoma, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) has been preventing avoidable blindness on a global scale for more than 20 years through the SightFirst program.

As announced during Campaign SightFirst II, SightFirst seeks to combat existing and emerging threats to sight through research initiatives. In August, the first SightFirst research grants were approved. By focusing on priority eye diseases (cataract, trachoma and uncorrected refractive error), SightFirst will evaluate eye care delivery and needs, blindness prevention strategies and barriers to services through these grants.

“Funding research priorities related to operations and evaluative components will add significant value to all of the future SightFirst projects,” says Dr. Gullapalli N. Rao of the LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India, and a member of the LCIF SightFirst Advisory Committee. “These research projects will provide better evidence on which future projects can be formed and built.”

One of the first LCIF research grants focuses on trichiasis, an eye disease that turns the eyelid inward, causing the eyelashes to painfully rub the eyeball and scar the cornea, potentially causing blindness. To combat this disease, the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine will evaluate the safety and effectiveness of a new, post-surgery medication to treat people in Ethiopia who undergo surgery for trichiasis; the medication should help reduce the risk of disease recurrence. The first of its kind, the study is highly relevant to global tra-

choma elimination efforts. It is closely linked to SightFirst investments in trachoma surgeries and potentially groundbreaking in its attempt to improve trichiasis surgery for patients.

Continuing efforts in trachoma research, a second LCIF research grant examines methods of finding and encouraging patients with trachoma to undergo trichiasis surgery in Tanzania. This will improve access to care for those in need. The study, led by Johns Hopkins Dana Center for Preventative Ophthalmology, will also examine if the methods for finding trachoma patients will help eliminate the backlog of trichiasis surgeries in areas of Tanzania.

Two other projects funded under SightFirst’s research program are rapid assessment of avoidable blindness (RAAB) initiatives. These RAABs will help Lions and their partners properly plan and implement future SightFirst projects by determining the prevalence

and causes of eye health issues and the barriers patients have to accessing eye care.

As part of the two grants awarded for RAABs, the Centre for Eye Research Australia, in partnership with Sudirohusodo General Hospital and Hasanuddin University, will conduct a RAAB in Indonesia to provide information on the causes of vision loss in Sulawesi. In Bolivia, the Instituto Nacional de Oftalmología Bolivia, Sociedad Boliviana de Oftalmología and other organizations will complete a RAAB to define the eye care needs in Cochabamba, La Paz and Santa Cruz.

By researching vision loss and eye care needs in these regions, SightFirst and LCIF will have a better understanding of eye care needs and priorities. Together with the trachoma research initiatives, these grants will lead to more effective treatment and blindness prevention in the future.



A woman in Ethiopia has her eyes screened for trichiasis.

Keeping Kids Warm

Lions in Boardman, Ohio, learned two things from their third Coats for Kids Project, says club secretary Judy Jones. "As we received applications for the coats program, we were amazed about the depth of need in our community. We heard about lack of health insurance, evictions, foreclosures, no child support, reduced wages, job loss, cars repossessed and minimum wage jobs. These are hardworking people who have fallen victim to the economy. Our Boardman families are hurting."

Jones says that she and other Lions also discovered a second fact—how generous people are to others when they're in need. "Children find it difficult to concentrate when their families are in such distress," Jones points out. "We do what we can to support them." The Coats for Kids project was begun in Boardman after project chairperson

Laura Hancock read about a similar project in LION Magazine.

"We began with families from Boardman Center because of our long partnership with that school. Due to the overwhelming response, we extended the program to any student who lives in Boardman," she explains. A total of 52 children from 26 families received new outerwear. "We were thrilled with the generosity of the Boardman Center staff and parents. This gave us hope that not only is there a need, but there are also many people who wanted to help us with this project."

Lions designated money for the project and also received many donations from the community. "We continue our fundraising efforts, so that no family will be turned away due to lack of funds," Jones says.



The children are all smiles after picking out their own new warm coats.

2013 CALENDAR

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Lions, Kids and Santa = Happy Holidays

When it comes to spreading holiday joy, one Lions club in northern California is finding that they can get the job done with a minimum of members and a maximum of community support. McKinleyville Lion Cyndi Bainbridge says Lions began sponsoring the Winter Express in 2008 after another community group stopped doing so. “At the time, we had six members. Since then, two of our longtime members have passed away, but we’ve gained three new members—two of whom joined because of their involvement with Winter Express,” she explains.

More than 600 kids in kindergarten through third grade are allowed to choose four gifts for family members or themselves, have them wrapped by volunteers and even sit on Santa’s lap where they can have a chat and receive a candy cane.

Lions spend approximately \$2,500 a year on the program. Last year, Lions received a \$500 grant from a community organization, all of which was used to buy gifts. The majority of the funds are raised by yard sales, and Bainbridge says some individuals and community organizations also donate money. Two local businesses also volunteer as drop-off locations so that people can leave gift items year-round. Members of the nearby Trinidad Lions Club, with whom McKinley Lions have occasionally partnered on other projects, also volunteer on the Winter Express.

Lions ask for a \$2 donation per child, and Bainbridge says kids sometimes bring extra cash to pay for students who can’t spare the money. No child is turned away, and each is given a “Santa buck” at the door and a hand



Photo by Andrew L. Jones

Fifth-grader Elizabeth Wainwright helps a first-grade student choose the perfect wrapping for her selected gift.

stamp that lets them shop for presents. She says it’s often the most impoverished kids who give a little bit more at the door. “Most of it is in dimes, nickels and pennies, and their group takes longer to choose gifts because they want to make sure that they choose the most perfect gift,” Bainbridge points out.

Not all presents are new, but they’re cleaned and repaired before being displayed for selection. “This is the only way that we can keep expenses within our budget,” Bainbridge explains. “Each item that is donated means that one less needs to be purchased. We do not turn away any donation.” Some don’t make it to the gift tables, but Lions save them for yard sales they conduct to raise money for Winter Express. “Committee members are always shopping for

bargains. Some of them hit yard sales every weekend during the summer, and we hit the chain stores after Christmas to get gift items and supplies at a discount for the next year,” she says. “A lot of times yard sales and businesses will drop the price of items since they know they’re for Winter Express.”

Lions get plenty of thanks from the kids who participate and their parents. “One thanked us and told us that this was the nicest thing that anyone had ever done for him and his mom,” Bainbridge says. And that’s why when Winter Express arrives again this year, Lions and volunteers will be happily waiting for that little boy and many other children like him.

Give Your Club a Boost Next Summer

Participate in the Lions International Youth Exchange Program

When she returned to school this fall, 17-year-old Susanna Jaaskelainen had a few stories to tell her classmates about her summer. She had traveled from her home in Finland to California, where she went whale-watching, saw the desert for the first time, visited Disneyland and fulfilled a lifelong dream to go to a horse race. “I fell in love with California! Now the U.S. isn’t just the place where all of the best movies are made—it’s also a place I would love to live someday. I can’t say thanks enough for this opportunity to live in such a different kind of culture for a few weeks,” says Jaaskelainen.

Jaaskelainen had an eye-opening time of her life that she will keep with her, thanks to the Lions International Youth Exchange program. Each year students ages 15 to 21 from approximately 60 countries participate in the program in which youths stay with host families. Some attend camps located in 45 countries. Lions clubs participating as sponsors or hosts consistently report having rewarding and inspiring experiences with the energetic young people, who arrive ready to learn all they can about the local culture.

When Jaaskelainen’s host, Ontario-Upland Lion Martha Hebert, was asked by a friend to become her district’s Youth Exchange chairperson five years ago, she didn’t know much about the program. But after attending training, she knew enough to get started. “The first year we hosted just two students because I was still learning. We gradually increased the number, and last summer we hosted eight students. We might have 12 or more next year—I’m already looking forward to it!” says Hebert.

Throughout the year Lions prepare for the summer by reviewing and selecting applicants, raising funds and planning activities. Lions are responsible for all expenses during the students’ visit, but budgets don’t need to be a fortune. “We have a small budget, but we do pretty good. For our kayak class, the kayak company donates everything, and we also have a free tour of Big Bear Lake,” Hebert points out.

When it comes to determining the day-to-day schedule for the students’ two-week stay, Hebert’s committee plans a variety of activities to expose the youths to the beauty, culture and fun of southern California. “We plan something for



Youth Exchange participants show their enthusiasm.

almost every day, but we keep the schedule flexible,” says Hebert. Sometimes the best moments are the unexpected ones. “Susanna’s dream was to go to a horse race. When we got there, she was so excited, I couldn’t believe it. One year I hosted a boy who had never seen the ocean. When he walked out on the pier while the sun was setting, he was overwhelmed. That’s what makes me feel good—that I’ve shown them something they’ve never experienced.”

Youths like Jaaskelainen enjoy every part of their stay, even from the moment they first arrive. From the Ontario-Upland Lions’ experience, the students have no problem making themselves comfortable in their host’s homes. Hebert notes that hosts learn from their guests and enjoy the experience just as much. “After one host couple had two girls stay with them, the husband told me that his wife just came alive and became bubbly with the girls around. Since their kids were grown, he said he hadn’t seen her like that in a long time!”

—Jennifer Gilbert Gebhardt

Find out how to get involved at www.lionsclubs.org (search for “Youth Exchange”) or email YouthExchange@lionsclubs.org.

CLUB BRIEFINGS

ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Spring Green Lions Club** in **Wisconsin** joined with Boy Scouts to plant 2,500 trees on Earth Day.

In the first quarter of 2012 the **Highland Village Lions** in **Texas** collected 744 pairs of eyeglasses/sunglasses and 274 eyeglass cases.

The **Boardman Lions Club** in **Ohio** observed Arbor Day by giving tree seedlings to fourth-graders as part of the Fourth-Grade Foresters program.

The **Aurora Noon Lions Club** in **Illinois** held its annual picnic for 55 hearing impaired students, their families, interpreters, counselors and audiologists who work with the youths.

Members of the **Key Peninsula Lions Club** in **Washington** designed and constructed four wheelchair ramps at the home of a family in need.

The **Shillington Lions** in **Pennsylvania** held a Lions Give Back Day event during which they educated the public about what the Lions do and provided vision screening for children. Community organizations shared information as well as services such as hearing testing and children's activities.

The **Granger Lions Club** in **Washington** donated \$300 to a high school for a Lions Club athletic banner.

The **Lansing Lions** in **Illinois** cooked and served more than 1,300 hot dogs and beverages to participants of the Lansing Good Neighbor Parade.

Bailey's Crossroads Host Lions in **Virginia** worked with a middle school to begin creating a school garden by planting 16 tree seedlings. The school donated a bench and plaque to acknowledge the Lions.

Cecilton, Maryland, Lions have collected and donated more than 6,000 pairs of shoes so far to people in developing countries. Members of the **Perryville Lions Club** recently gave 127 pairs of shoes to Cecilton Lions for shipment.

The **Grand Coulee Dam Lions** in **Washington** received first place for their "kayak" float in the Colorama Festival parade.

In **Florida**, the **Sarasota Lions Club** held its first free glucose screening event with 53 screening recipients.

The **Natoma Lions Club** in **Kansas** surprised three high school graduates during commencement with \$250 scholarships.

The **Cameron Lions** in **Texas** held their 47th annual fundraising auction. Through radio call-in and Internet bids, the club raised \$20,600 for community projects. The Lions used some of the funds to install new playground equipment in the city park.

Seventeen Missouri Lions clubs partnered with the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation's Children's Vision Screening program to provide 2,555 screenings in one week.

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CALENDAR

2012 UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

LIONS DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

NOV. 1-4:

Emerging Lions Leadership Institute – Constitutional Area II: Canada (Toronto, Ontario, Canada)

NOV. 1-5:

Board of Directors Meeting (Indianapolis, Indiana, USA)

NOV. 8-11:

OSEAL Forum (Fukuoka, Japan)

NOV. 11:

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

NOV. 14:

World Diabetes Day

NOV. 15:

Postmark deadline for a club to send one winning peace poster (per contest) to the district governor

Top Ten Youth Camp and Exchange Chairperson Award applications (YCE-110) due

Annual District/Multiple District Youth Camp and Exchange Activity Report (YCE-1450) due

Leo October Membership Growth Award nominations due

NOV. 21:

Lions Quest grant application deadline for review at the January 2013 board meeting

NOV. 30:

Deadline for Family Membership Certification Forms

INFORMATION

IN MEMORIAM

DR. HAROLD RICHARD OTT, who served on the International Board of Directors from 2007 to 2009, has passed away. A member of the Harris Township Lions Club in Pennsylvania since 1980, Dr. Ott was involved in many community and civic organizations as well as serving on the local, national and international levels of the association.

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1. Publication title: THE LION.
2. Publication No. 508-190.
3. Date of filing: September 11, 2012
4. Frequency of issue: Monthly-Except Bimonthly July/August
5. No. of issues published annually: 10.
6. Annual subscription price: \$4.75
7. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: 300 W 22nd Street, Oak Brook, DuPage County, Illinois 60523-8842.
8. Complete mailing address of the headquarters or general business offices of the publishers: 300 W 22nd Street, Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-8842.
9. Full names and complete mailing addresses of publisher, editor, and managing editor: Publisher, Peter Lynch, 300 W 22nd Street, Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-8842; Editor, Jay Copp, 300 W 22nd Street, Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-8842; Managing Editor, Dane La Joye, 300 W 22nd Street, Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-8842.
10. Owner: The International Association of Lions Clubs, 300 W 22nd Street, Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-8842.
11. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: None.
12. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes: Has not changed during preceding 12 months.
13. Publication name: THE LION
14. Issue date for circulation data below: September 2012.
15. Extent and nature of circulation:

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Number of Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	378,809	370,886
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	321,190	314,783
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS	52,459	52,604
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	5	5
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	373,654	367,392
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside- County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	885	882
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	149	139
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	139	142
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))	1,173	1,103
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	374,827	368,495
g. Copies Not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	3,892	2,391
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	378,809	370,886
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	99.7%	99.7%

(Signed)
Dane La Joye, Managing Editor

INFORMATION

ANNIVERSARIES NOVEMBER 2012

90 Years: El Dorado, Ill.; Garden Grove Host, Calif.; Newcastle, Wyo.; Pine Bluffs, Wyo.; Reedley, Calif.

85 Years: Chattanooga, Tenn.; Greenville, Pa.; Ossining, N.Y.; Paden City, W.Va.; Santa Barbara Host, Calif.; Weslaco, Texas

80 Years: Tupelo, Miss.

75 Years: Ava, Mo.; Beech Grove, Ind.; Cashmere, Wash.; Colon, Mich.; Graceville, Fla.; Lanai City, Hawaii; Little Rock Pulaski Heights, Ark.; Midland, ON, CAN; Port Perry, ON, CAN; River Falls, Wisc.; Springfield, Vt.; West Kauai, Hawaii

50 Years: Andalusia, Ill.; Angus District, ON, CAN; Annandale, Minn.; Barrington Area, NS, CAN; Eagle River, Alaska; Freeport, Fla.; Paris, Ill.; Pickering, Mo.; Sandstone, Minn.; Touchet Gardena, Wash.; Valdosta Evening, Ga.; Warrenton, Mo.; Waupun, Wisc.

25 Years: Lyman-Dayton, Maine; San Jose Sampaguita, Calif.; Sidney, Ind.; Stockton Delta, Calif.; Wall Lake, Iowa

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 JULY 2012

Key Of Nations (100 Members)

- Lion Henry Chang Jr., Oakland Chinatown, California
- Lion Robert Jenkins, Sterling Heights, Michigan
- Lion Prabhatsinh Baria, Godhra, India

Key Of State (75 Members)

- Lion Prabhatsinh Baria, Godhra, India

Grand Master Key (50 Members)

- Lion M.D. Heavilin, Indianola, Iowa
- Lion Prabhatsinh Baria, Godhra, India

Senior Master Key (25 Members)

- Lion Cameron Case, San Rafael Las Gallinas, California
- Lion Rob Murry, Clayland, Ohio
- Lion Luis Diaz Hernandez, Penue-las, Puerto Rico
- Lion Peter Lamb, Mandurah, Australia
- Lion M. Shahiduzzaman Rubel, Dhaka Green Rajdhani, Rep. of Bangladesh
- Lion Rajwant Singh Gulati, Medchal, India
- Lion Pratap Kumar Rout, Chandwa Abhijeet, India
- Lion Rajesh B. Singhvi, Surat Parle Point, India
- Lion Anil Lanjewar, Nagpur South Nagpur, India
- Lion M.S.G. Manoharan, Tirupur Central, India
- Lion Emmanuel Chunda, Kitwe, Zambia

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

CORRECTION

The Wilson, North Carolina, Lions Club celebrated its 90th anniversary in September 2012. The club's anniversary did not appear in that issue of the LION. We regret the error and congratulate the Wilson Lions on their anniversary.

ROAR OF APPROVAL

When planning a visit to Zimbabwe, Hooksett Lion **Melody Whitcher** reached out to the Mutare Lions Club there. Whitcher brought with her 50 pairs of eyeglasses and 300 hand-knit dishcloths from New Hampshire to present to Lions and others. After their warm greeting and time together, the two clubs are now enjoying a twinning relationship.

Spring Lake Park, Minnesota, Lion **Mel Hartman** has led a volunteer effort to make wooden toys for children in need for more than 20 years. In 2011 Hartman's TLC Toys made and distributed more than 29,000 toys, bringing the grand total to 273,000 toys since 1990. Children

from New Orleans to Haiti to Iraq have had special presents to open at the holidays thanks to this program.

Paige Sheffield of the Wewoka Lions Club in Oklahoma traveled to Pasadena, California, to help decorate the 2012 Rose Parade Donate Life Float. The float serves as a memorial to organ and tissue donors and helps inspire the world to give the gift of life through donation. An image of her son, Jayce Ray, who was a heart valve and cornea donor, was featured on the float.

Bella Vista Lions in Arkansas planted a pink dogwood tree in honor of Past International Director **Donald McGee**.

Retired lawyer **William Cline** recently celebrated his 101st birthday. Except for a brief separation due to World War II, Cline has been a Lion for more than 70 years. During his military service, Cline successfully defended baseball great Jackie Robinson in a military court martial case; a television movie about the case was broadcast in 1990.

Knowlton Lions Club member **Charles Weldon** in Quebec, Canada, donated 10 acres of forested land as well as a conservation servitude that spans 59 acres to the Mount Echo Conservation Association, ensuring the protection and care of the property.

Continued on page 54



LION ON THE BEACH

Dave Hollyoake of Arnes, Manitoba, Canada, 5M 11 district governor, catches up on Lions' news while vacationing in Santa Clara, Cuba. A Lion even while on holiday, Hollyoake brings school supplies, work gloves and other needed items to Cubans in need. He also spreads the word about Lions by leaving behind the LION.

Planning a vacation and want to be in the LION? Just send us a photo of you with the LION, whether it's at the pyramids in Egypt, the Great Wall of China or simply a café or street scene somewhere overseas or even an interesting location close to home. Send the picture along with your name, Lions club, hometown and photo description to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org.

(Editor's note: Canadians do not have travel restrictions to Cuba.)

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ROAR OF APPROVAL

Continued from page 53

Hardy Powell, a Bedford Lion in Nova Scotia, Canada, received the Caring Canadian Award for his contributions to his community and humanity through his 52 years as a Lion. The Governor General of Canada, representative of Queen Elizabeth II, presented the award.

Jefferson Lion **Gertie L. Beauford** celebrated her 100th birthday. She and her late husband, Leonard M. Beauford, were instrumental in launching and supporting the Louisiana Lions Camp.

Rural Valley, Pennsylvania, Lions **Bonnie and Elwood Thomas** are enjoying training Gracie, the third dog they have opened their home to for the Leader Dogs for the Blind program.

Shortly after joining the Jurupa District Lions in California, **Essie Fischer** pledged to collect 1,000 pairs of eyeglasses in August 2011. Fischer surpassed her goal and turned in 1,200 pairs. She also initiated a club newsletter and yearbook.

Elkton, Michigan, Lion **Floyd Farver**, 101, recently helped deliver food baskets to those in need.

Dick Walworth has been a proud charter member of three Lions clubs: Orange, Valley Center and Encinitas (his current club), all in California. Walworth's contributions to the Lions include the establishment of the Richard Walworth Leo Club Scholarship.

LION

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11 issues published yearly by
 Lions Clubs International
 300 W 22nd St.
 Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842
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 http://www.lionsclubs.org

(ISSN 0024-4163) (R-124397233)
 (PRINTED IN U.S.A.)

Official publication of Lions Clubs International. Published by authority of the Board of Directors in 21 languages—English, Spanish, Japanese, French, Swedish, Italian, German, Finnish, Korean, Portuguese, Dutch, Danish, Chinese, Norwegian, Icelandic, Turkish, Greek, Hindi, Polish, Indonesian and Thai.

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THANK YOU

THE LIONS CHANGED MY LIFE

Watch a video about this musical gift.

An Instrumental Gift

At Caradoc Public School in Ontario, Canada, the instrumental band program was popular with students and valued by teachers and administrators. The only problem was there weren't enough instruments for the children to play. Students had to take turns playing instruments (with up to four students per instrument) or were turned away—something Principal Ron Van Belois and music teacher Julie Malcolm hated doing, but had no choice due to budget constraints. But when Mt. Brydges Lions Club President and musician Ron Madill stopped by the school to chat about the benefits of music education with Van Belois, things were about to change. The Lions responded to the school's plight with nearly \$9,000 in musical instruments and equipment. Caradoc's students are now happily playing away, discovering talents and skills that only music can bring.

Q&A: Ron Van Belois and Julie Malcolm

LION Magazine: How did the school react when you received the Lions' gift?

Julie Malcolm: Immediately the students were most impressed with the huge drum set! But as we got into classes, they were relieved with how many opportunities and choices they had. It was really nice to be able to hold an assembly and bring all the students



Caradoc School band members express their gratitude by performing at the Mt. Brydges Lions' Christmas party.

together to celebrate. And the younger students are excited about instrumental music now!

LM: What instruments did the school receive?

JM: We received a collection of flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, trombones and more. The nonprofit Music Aid helped out with a drum set, and they engraved "Mt. Brydges Lions/Lionesses" on each instrument. In my entire career, I've never seen or heard of a community contribution so generous.

LM: Why is music education important to your school?

Ron Van Belois: Music is such a big part of our lives. Students deserve a well-rounded education, and that includes music. These instruments have brought about change in students' behavior and attitudes toward learning, especially in some who were disengaged before having this opportunity.

JM: Learning an instrument is like learning how to speak in a completely new language. Students call upon so

many important skills they've learned in school and put it all together for themselves and as part of a team. The chance to be creative in a different setting is such a valuable part of school life.

LM: What does this gift mean for the students?

JM: We know that not every child learns in the same way. A music program may be just the experience someone needs to fit into the school environment and feel they're making a contribution.

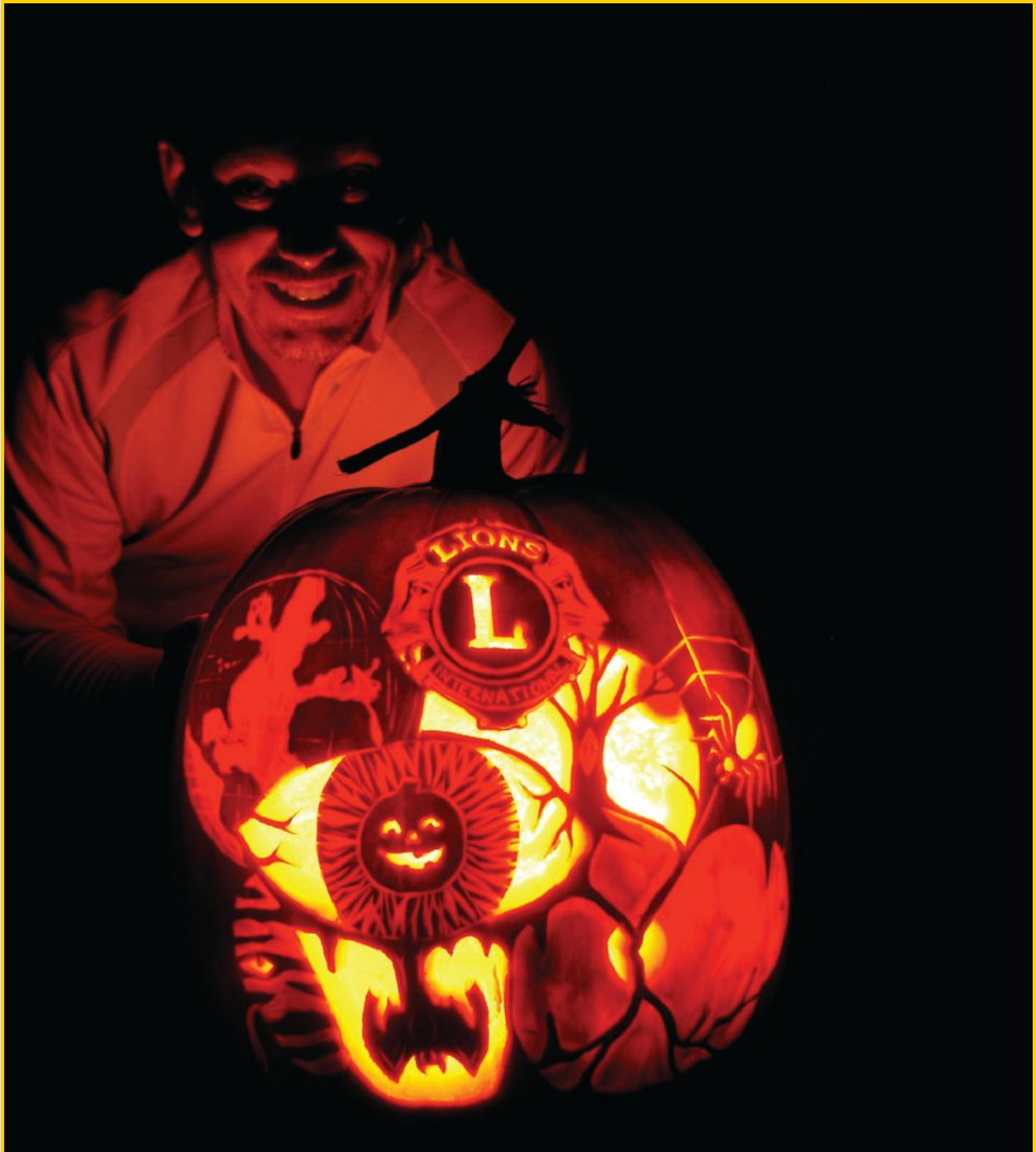
LM: Did the students have a chance to thank the Lions?

JM: We held a concert at Caradoc and invited the Lions and Lionesses. We also played at the Lions' Christmas party. That was a great team building and social activity for the band!

RVB: We will continue to thank the Lions and Lionesses for their contribution, not only for the great gift that it was, but to instill a legacy of giving back in the students.

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. Email a brief description of your correspondence to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org. Please include "Thanks and Appreciation" in the subject line.

LAST ROAR



SURGICAL PRECISION

Dr. Erick Bothun, a pediatric ophthalmologist and surgeon in Minnesota, carved this pumpkin. But his carving skills are not an idle hobby. The giant pumpkin was auctioned to benefit the Minnesota Lions Fund to Prevent Blindness in Infants and Children. The initiative of the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank raised \$3 million to advance research, education and patient care at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Bothun is a member of the Minneapolis Ambassadors Lions Club, composed of faculty, staff, students and friends of the University of Minnesota.



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