

LION



Lions Clubs International

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KNIGHTS of the **BLIND**



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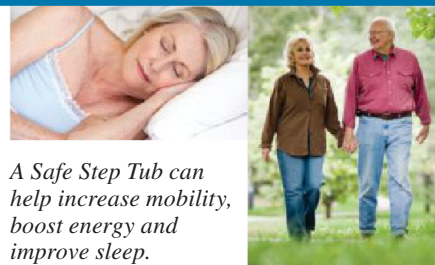
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A Message From Our President



Barry J. Palmer
Lions Clubs
International President

We're the Bright Knights of Light

Our reputation precedes us. Neighbors, friends and relatives of Lions bring their old eyeglasses to us when paying a social call. A magazine writing about a stylish eyewear company in New York that donates eyeglasses headlined the article with “One Part Boutique, One Part Lions Clubs.” Google “Lions Clubs and sight” and you get 15,700,000 results. “LensCrafters and sight” yields a relatively paltry 146,000 results. And think of the advertising budget of a huge company like that!

We are Knights of the Blind and proud of it. We've taken on that mission since 1925 when Helen Keller spoke at our 9th International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, and eloquently asked us to be the Knights of the Blind. True, clubs complete all kinds of service

projects, and some clubs don't focus on sight. That's perfectly fine. But our history and identity are rooted in helping the blind and preserving vision. *It's a glorious, beautiful, magnificent mission, and every Lion can rightly take pride in what we do.*

In this special issue we take a look—pun intended—at the various ways Lions preserve and restore sight. In these few pages we can only gaze at the tip of the iceberg. But we know so much more is unseen. We know that many clubs—probably yours—toil quietly as unsung heroes in the battle against blindness. I tip my Lions hat to you for all you do.

We often don't receive thanks for what we do. That's OK. We know in our hearts the impact of our service. But occasionally someone brightens our day with an acknowledgment. It happened to Sue Nixson of the Commerce Lions Club in Texas weeks after a vision screening at a school. Wearing her new glasses, a young girl happened to enter Nixson's workplace with her parent. “*That's the lady from the Lions club!*” she shouted. Then she joyously hugged Lion Sue.

I can't reach out and hug each of you for your service. So consider this special photo issue a grateful acknowledgement of what you do. It's a holiday gift for you. Anne and I send our very best wishes in this holiday season to you and hope next year is full of laughter, love and, of course, more glorious service to improve vision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Palmer'.

Barry J. Palmer
Your Lions Clubs International President

Watch a video on how Lions changed a boy's life with a Braille e-reader.



A tableau familiar to Lions: Fred Johannson and Ray Kowalski of the Sylvan Lake and District Lions Club in Alberta, Canada, test the vision of students.

Photo courtesy of Sylvan Lake News

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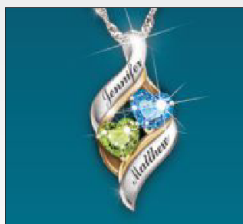
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POSTMASTERS

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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Knight Lights

Lions shine in people's lives, giving them not only sight but also a renewed spirit.

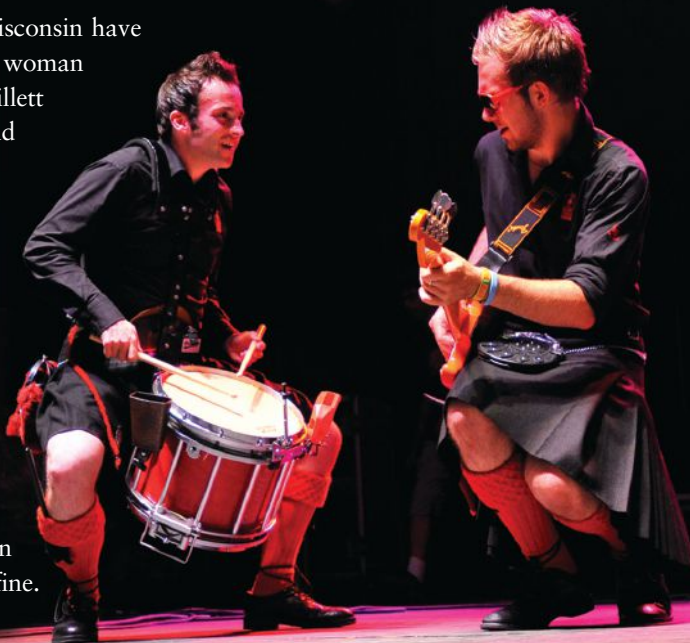


A Gift that Kept Giving

Lions gave 43-year-old office manager Greg Steinmetz of California a double dose of life-changing confidence. After he lost most of his sight from retinitis pigmentosa, Lions provided him with a guide dog in 2004. "There's the independence and confidence you get from going from a white cane to a guide dog. You feel empowered," he says. Then he joined the Camarillo/Somis Pleasant Valley Lions Club. He shucks corn for the club's fall festival, hands out tickets for parking at a county fair, and, in a productive presidency last year, helped raise money for two guide dog puppies, establish a Leo club and begin a project to recycle technological aids for the visually impaired. "One of the dark sides of vision loss is people might be shut-ins. They're afraid to leave their comfort zone. I got involved with the community, and that was a real confidence builder," he says. "You never know by helping one person how many lives you affect."

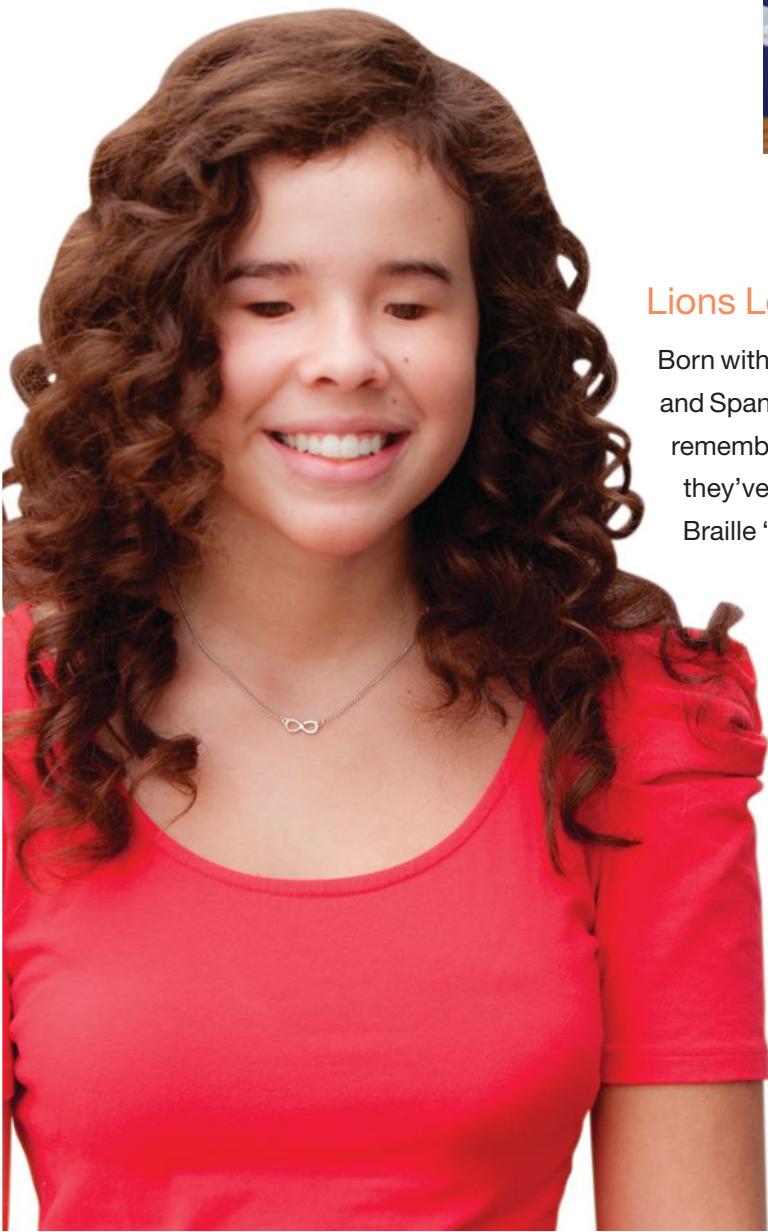
The Road Rises Up to Meet Her

For the past four years Wauwatosa Lions in Wisconsin have brought the gift of music to one very happy blind woman from Anchorage, Alaska. Lions pick up Susan Gillett from the airport, drive her to a hotel and then spend the day with her escorting her from stage to stage at the popular Irish Fest in Milwaukee. A medical transcriptionist at a hospital, Gillett is a huge fan of Irish music. Lions had been her lifelong benefactor, providing a book reader and making possible eye surgery. Desperate to attend the festival in Milwaukee, she emailed Wauwatosa Lions out of the blue, and they came through. Each year Gillett gratefully sends the club a Christmas card. The trips have been "a liberating experience," Gillett, who now calls herself "Cruisin' Susan," told Lions in an email. "I was scared to death. But it went just fine. I know now I can travel anywhere by myself."



A New Connection to the World

Blind since birth, 34-year-old Tammy Labshere lives with hearing impairment, chronic kidney disease and PTSD. The foster parents who raised her passed away. But Labshere is perpetually upbeat. At Riverbrook Residence, a home for women with developmental disabilities in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, she brightens up each day with her bubbly personality and beautiful piano playing. Lately, she has had even more reason to smile. Labshere had been using a 50-year-old Braille until District 33 Y Lions gave her a new digital Perkins SMART Braille through their Emergency Sight and Hearing Foundation. She got down on her knees and hugged it. “I love it!” exclaims Labshere. “I use it to write letters, and it would be fun to learn French.” Labshere’s world is opening up in other ways too: a teacher at a school for blind children invited her to teach students how to use the Braille—her very first job.



Lions Look Out for Her

Born without eyes, Marissa Hirschman, 18, studies psychology and Spanish at Central College in Pella, Iowa. She doesn’t quite remember when the Fort Madison Lions began helping her—they’ve just always been a part of her life. They gave her a Braille ‘n Speak machine in elementary school, an accessible laptop in high school and then a college scholarship. The Lions’ unwavering moral support had a big impact. “Knowing I could count on the Lions made me feel confident,” says Hirschman, who is poised and spirited. While maintaining a 3.8 GPA in high school, she managed the cross country team and volunteered as a Big Sister. She adds, “As I’ve met students who didn’t have the support system I’ve had, I’ve really realized how lucky and grateful I am that the Lions have always been there for me.”

Watch a video of Marissa Hirschman
thanking Lions.



Reborn to be Wild

Gene Wild's favorite thing to do is hop on the motorcycle he lovingly restored, a 1983 Honda Saber, and ride for hours up the California coast on fabled Highway 1. It's great—the clean air, the purple mountains, the glimmering ocean, the Lions. Yep, Lions made it possible. "They're awesome," says 40-year-old Wild, who works at a processing plant for oranges and grapefruits. "I wouldn't even be working without them." About 15 years ago, when he had little money, the Porterville Breakfast Lions made arrangements to fix his cataracts. Though he was young, he was nearly blind. Lion Steve Graybehl, his former high school teacher, set the wheels in motion. Now Wild and his wife, a fellow rider, are living at full throttle.

A Lion Tells Her Story

(Opposite) Cathy Dolles, 40, says she was humiliated when she had to depend on others after she lost vision in her right eye while living in Columbia, Missouri. "For eight years, people had to help me move around rooms and objects. They had to help me dress, and they helped me eat," she recounted to The Standard newspaper. She received a corneal transplant 15 years ago and only learned months later that Columbia Lions had paid for it. "To repay the Lions, I traveled around and spoke with groups about my story and how the Lions gave me the gift of sight," she said. Now a Washington Terrace Lion in Utah, she's still a road warrior out promoting sight awareness by speaking about how Lions stepped in to give back her sight.



Courage Comes in All Sizes

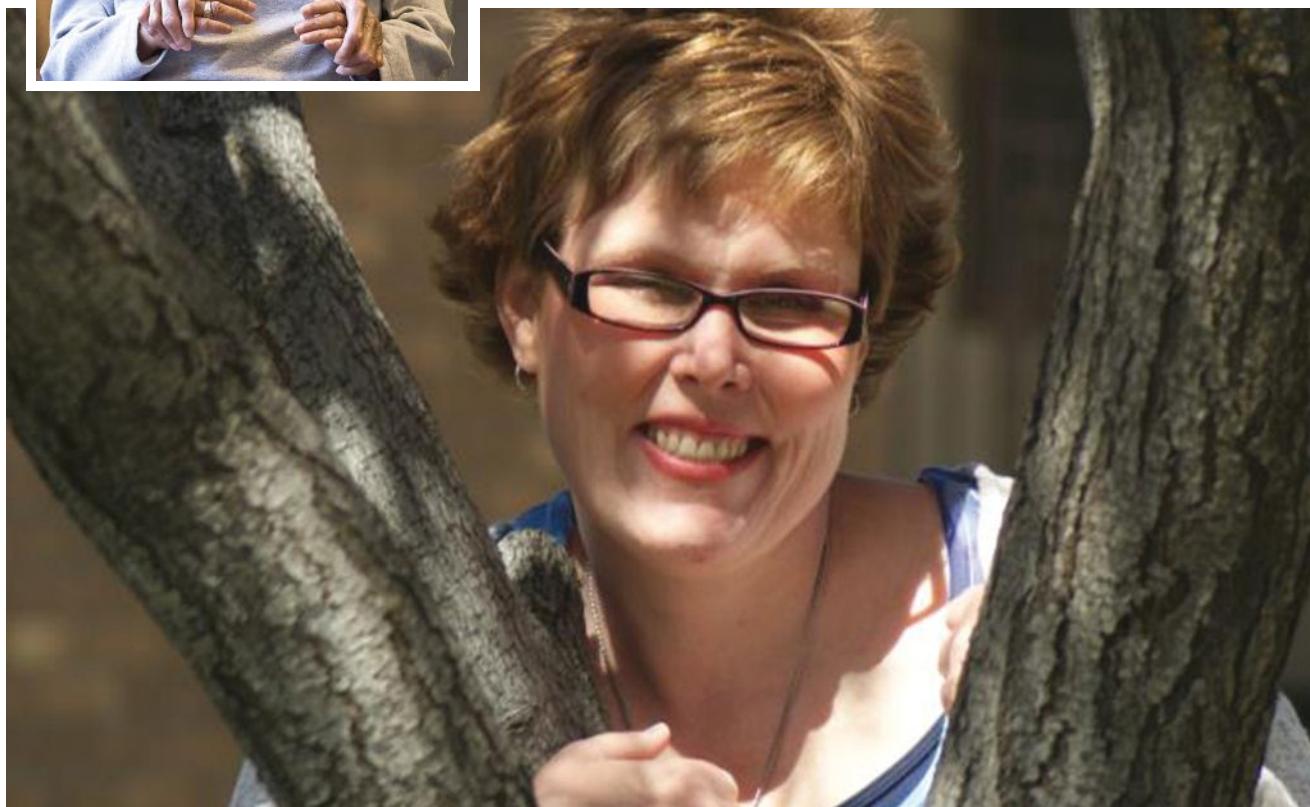
Maddie Wesolowski is a spunky 7-year-old with long, beautiful, bouncy red hair and a big personality. Born with glaucoma and cataracts, she's had so many surgeries already that her mother Theresa says, "I lost count at 35." Lemont Lions in Illinois buy her the new prescription lenses she needs every few months as she grows. Thankfully, says her mother, they also buy Maddie harder-to-break sports glasses so she can wrestle around and play with her older brother. She loves to dance, too, but her favorite possession is the iPad Lions gave her. She rarely puts it down. "It's done wonders for her. Her learning has grown by leaps and bounds," says her mom. Maddie may be small but her smiles and cheerfulness in the face of hardship have earned her the first Lemont Lions Courage Award.

Photo courtesy of Wesley Beeson/The Sanford Herald



Love Blossoms at Camp

Thirty-five years ago a Lion at Camp Dogwood for the blind and visually impaired in North Carolina casually mentioned to Nathaniel Hawkins that he might want to take the open seat next to a fellow camper. Nathaniel and Blondine Hawkins have been a couple ever since. "He asked me my name. I asked him his name. We had supper," says Blondine, 66, who married Nathaniel, now 78, in 1986. Each knows the challenges of vision loss. Blondine had failing eyesight when she met Nathaniel and years ago lost her vision completely from glaucoma. Nathaniel's sight improved in recent years after cataract surgery. Both have attended Camp Dogwood since the early 1970s. "You meet a lot of people. You do a lot of activities—bowling, boating, movies," says Blondine. One of their favorite camp pastimes, as when they first met, is sitting side by side in rocker chairs on a porch.



Serving Day and Knight

Creative, kind and tireless, Lions thwart blindness in endless ways.

The World at the Fingertips

It weighs a third of an ounce and measures less than three inches long and an inch wide. But it powerfully opens the world to the visually impaired. “It lets you read your email, shop online, surf the Internet. At the library you can check out a digital book and store it,” says Amy Adams (photo), who developed the USB device that uses a speech synthesizer to communicate what is on the screen. Software that works similarly exists. But Adams, a member of the Floyd Lions Club in Virginia, says her device has the distinct advantages of being portable and affordable. Adams, who has provided computer tutoring for the visually impaired, runs digitalkingbooksusa.com. She has given away several dozen of the devices to the visually impaired, sold a few to Lions clubs for \$99 and has approached libraries about it.



A Dream Fulfilled, and Then Some

When blind social worker Marjorie McCune had a dream, she knew where to turn for help. McCune told the Lions of western North Carolina about the deplorable living conditions of blind people. The Lions of District 31 A sprang into action and built the Marjorie McCune Memorial Center in 1979; they still own and operate the 64-resident assisted and independent living facility in beautiful Black Mountain. “When you walk in, you feel welcomed. The center is warm, bright and full of life,” says Administrator Frances Coates. Residents walk in the sensory garden, listen to audio books, celebrate weddings and toss water balloons on “crazy hat day” (photo). The Lions are also there planting flowers, bringing holiday gifts and even cutting a rug at parties. “How many living facilities can say that their board members dance with their residents? Everything special and ‘extra’ comes from the Lions. They really care,” says Coates.





Bringing Technology Within Reach

When Ron Reph discovered that a visually impaired widow in his Minnesota town had to choose between buying groceries or paying the \$55 monthly rental fee for her desktop video magnifier device, he was concerned. When he discovered that these machines—which enlarge small print and photos for those with limited vision—could cost as much as \$3,000, he was shocked. Then he got to work. Convinced he could use his mechanical engineering background to build an affordable version, he brought the idea to his Nisswa Lions Club, which quickly green-lit the project. The Nisswa Lions sight machine costs just \$350. The savings come from Reph assembling the lens system and other Lions building its cabinetry, then wiring the device to a TV. “Retail units are more versatile and look better, but ours performs,” Reph says. Fifteen people are benefiting from the sight device. Reph is happily busy building the next one.

Blind Make Bold Moves

“This is awesome!” exclaimed 16-year-old Liz Hahn (photo) as she whizzed by her mom, Kathy Shimek-Hahn. Visually impaired since birth, Liz was trying out single blade ice skates for the first time thanks to the Southeastern Wisconsin Lions Blind Outdoor Leisure Development (BOLD). Sponsored by Districts 27 A1 and 27 A2 for close to four decades, BOLD volunteers provide free activities for 220 participants that build skills and confidence, ranging from horseback riding to museum outings. “We would never get to do these things on our own. BOLD enables Liz to try new things and be independent. Most importantly, she gets to socialize with the group,” says Shimek-Hahn. Coming up next on the activity calendar are bowling, a holiday party and a day of downhill skiing. Liz can’t wait, and her mom will be there cheering her on. Shimek-Hahn stresses, “It’s a lifeline. A whole new world has opened up.”



Photo by Kristyna Wentz-Graff/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Watch a video on visually impaired surfers.



Zeke, the Amazing Dog Guide

Karen Laite is diabetic, and Zeke, her 4-year-old Golden Retriever/Lab dog guide, jumps up and exuberantly licks her face when her blood sugar is dangerously high—even when she sleeps. He backs off only when he sees her take her insulin. Amazingly, Zeke was not even trained to scent changes in a diabetic. Matched with Laite by the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides in Oakville, Ontario, Zeke has changed her life. When she first became blind, “I was devastated, always sitting in a chair,” Laite told *The Packet*. “I can go where and when I please.”

Watch a video on baseball for the blind.

Fun in the Sun

Howling monkeys and roaring lions are two reasons why the new jungle-themed Lions Water Adventure Park in Kinston, North Carolina, is a cool place to visit on a hot day. But what distinguishes it from other water parks is that it was built to accommodate those with vision impairments. Design input came from visually impaired employees of Lions Industries for the Blind (LIB) in Kinston, which financially supported its construction. Tactile and auditory prompts are everywhere. A giant fiberglass lion named Swimba announces special safety features. A slide carries swimmers through a massive lion’s mouth that emits a jungle-worthy roar just before they’re about to hit the water. Chattering monkeys screech more water warnings. Paw prints embedded into the concrete guide the blind, and the concession stand has Braille menus. “It’s a wonderful, safe place for me and my family,” says Oscar, a blind LIB employee. “We can all be together and have a good time.”





Service by and for the Blind

The popular fish fry of the Seal Beach Host Lions in California raises funds for the blind, and this past summer several visually impaired Leos worked the fundraiser with other Leos. They took tickets, served drinks and grilled hot dogs. “They fit right in seamlessly. You have to see it. They use their other senses to overcome their handicap,” says Scott Newton, the club’s vice president and adviser to the Braille Leo Club, also affiliated with the Braille Institute, which offers services for the visually impaired. The Braille Leos made an impression on the other Leos there. “It’s a great benefit to the sighted kids. It makes them want to give more and serve more,” says Newton.

Planting the Seed of Literacy

If he could catapult right off the cover, The Cat in the Hat would surely tip his famously high hat to Debra Bonde for making beloved childhood books like his own available to visually impaired and blind young readers. Through the nonprofit Seedlings she established in 1984 in Livonia, Michigan, more than 370,000 books have been transcribed into Braille for young readers. That equals 17 million Braille pages created by Bonde, a small staff and volunteers. Lions have been among her biggest supporters. She says, “This has made it possible for us to provide free and low-cost Braille books to children like Adrianna and Evan [pictured with Bonde].” One Lions’ donation helped Seedlings purchase an expensive dot matrix printer to make “Print & Braille” books so blind and sighted family members can read together. Livonia Lions teamed up recently for a Seedlings Bowlathon. “We raised \$2,350. Every \$10 raised means another Braille book is manufactured,” says Matt Collins, president.





97th Annual Lions Clubs International Convention
Friday, July 4 – Tuesday, July 8, 2014 • Toronto, Ontario, Canada
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Deadlines

- **May 1, 2014:** Deadline for advance registration and hotel reservation. Registrations after this date will be processed in Toronto.
- **May 1, 2014:** Deadline to receive a refund for a registration cancellation. • **May 16, 2014:** Deadline to receive a refund for a hotel room cancellation.

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COMPANION: First Name _____ Family (Last) Name _____ Badge/Call Name _____

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

CHILD: First Name _____ Family (Last) Name _____ Age _____ ☐ Alpha Leo

CHILD: First Name _____ Family (Last) Name _____ Age _____ ☐ Alpha Leo

☐ This is my/our first LCI convention. ☐ Not my first convention, I've attended _____

☐ Letter of Invitation (If a visa is required for your country of origin) [Club number must be provided above to verify membership]

The plenary sessions are presented in English with simultaneous translation Will you require a headset? ☐ No ☐ Yes

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

☐ Before January 10, 2014: Reservation in delegation hotel

☐ After January 10, 2014: ☐ I prefer my delegation hotel

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

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

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

• The Hotel deposit is US\$225 for a standard room and US\$350 for a suite. The hotel deposit is not the rate but reserves the room. Your deposit will be credited to your hotel bill at checkout.

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

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

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>AMOUNT DUE</u>
Membership Key Award Ice Cream Social (Key holders only)	July 6/ 15:00-17:00	US \$25	_____	\$ _____
Melvin Jones Fellow Luncheon	July 7/ 13:30-15:00	US \$60	_____	\$ _____
District Governor/Past District Governor Banquet	July 7/ 20:00-22:00	US \$100	_____	\$ _____

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

- Only Visa, MasterCard, American Express & Discover cards accepted. • Contact LCI for wire transfer instructions.

REGISTRATION FEES

	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Child (17 and under)</u>
Early (before 10 January, 2014)	US\$110	US\$10
Regular (11 January through 31 March, 2014)	US\$150	US\$10
Late (1 April, 2014 – onsite)	US\$170	US\$10

Package A:

Registrations: US\$ _____
 Ticketed Events: US\$ _____
 Hotel Deposit: US\$ 225.00

OR

Package B:

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

Total Due: US\$ _____

Total Due: US\$ _____

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

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

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

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LIONS AND SIGHT: A WORLD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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through cataract surgeries

Provided management
training for 265
eye care facilities

Through Opening Eyes, screened
more than 325,000 Special Olympics
athletes and gave prescription
eyewear to more than 100,000 athletes

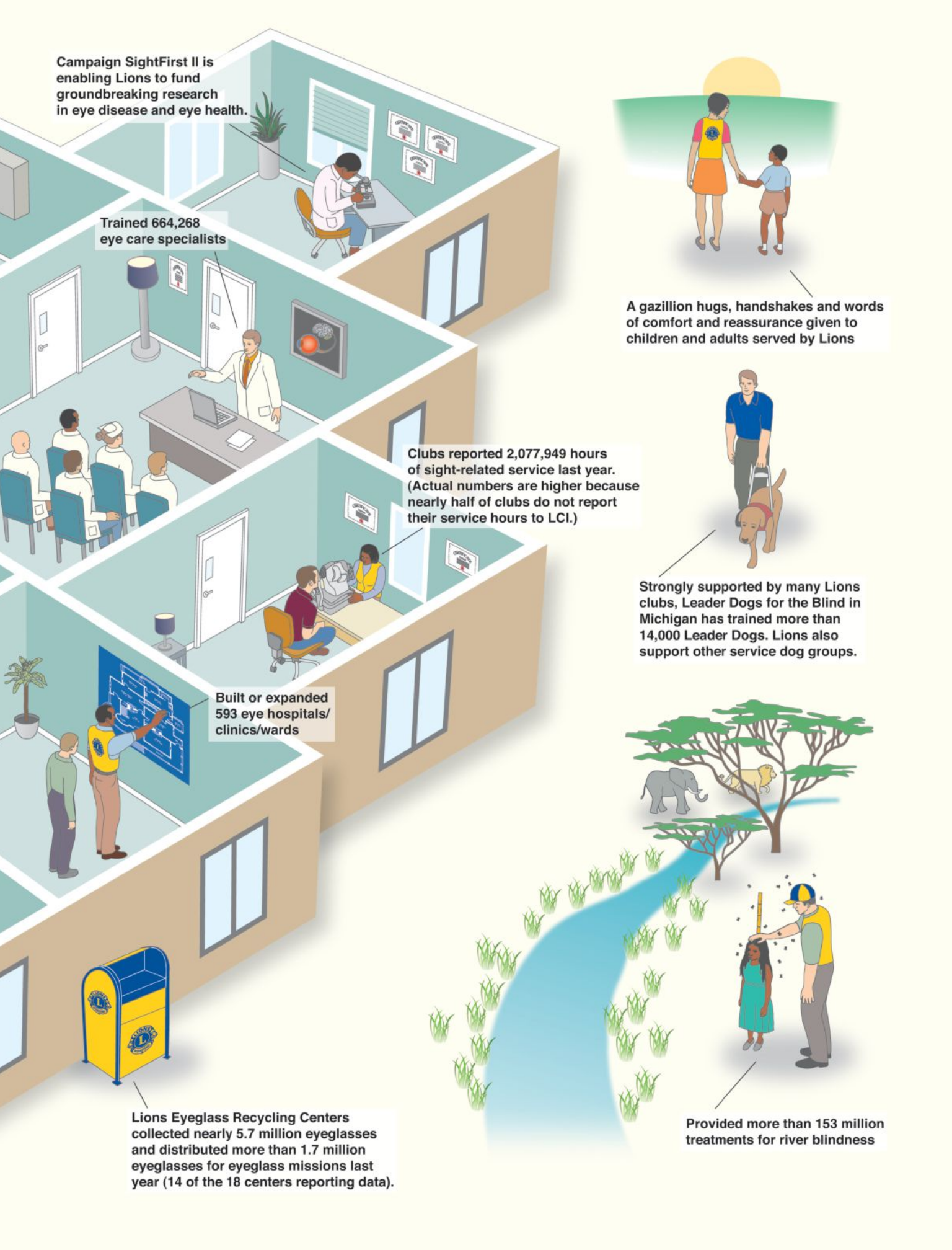
SightFirst restores a
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prevents blindness at
an average cost of \$6

Completed more than
17 million vision screenings
for children through
LCIF's Sight for Kids

Lions Eye Banks used 25,436 corneas
for transplants and provided 14,280
eyes for research and education (39 of
55 eye banks reporting data in 2011-12).



PLANET EARTH
LIONS CLUB



Campaign SightFirst II is enabling Lions to fund groundbreaking research in eye disease and eye health.

Trained 664,268 eye care specialists

Clubs reported 2,077,949 hours of sight-related service last year. (Actual numbers are higher because nearly half of clubs do not report their service hours to LCI.)

Built or expanded 593 eye hospitals/clinics/wards

Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers collected nearly 5.7 million eyeglasses and distributed more than 1.7 million eyeglasses for eyeglass missions last year (14 of the 18 centers reporting data).

A gazillion hugs, handshakes and words of comfort and reassurance given to children and adults served by Lions

Strongly supported by many Lions clubs, Leader Dogs for the Blind in Michigan has trained more than 14,000 Leader Dogs. Lions also support other service dog groups.

Provided more than 153 million treatments for river blindness



Good Knights of the Round Globe

We are Knights of the Blind. At least that's how we are known in English-speaking nations. In France, we call ourselves the Chevaliers des Aveugles. In Latin America, we are Paladines de los Ciegos. Chinese Lions understand themselves as 盲者之武士. Knights ride under a multitude of flags, speak many languages and practice different customs. But in whatever nation or culture, Lions ferociously battle blindness and kindly help those with vision impairments, often thanks to SightFirst.

California, United States

People with good vision learned how people with vision impairments safely navigate through life at a White Cane Safety Day held by the Tustin Host Lions Club. People admired guide dogs, wore goggles that simulate vision problems and heard from the White Cane Marching Society members on marching in formation. "Anything you can do to educate the public about white canes, the better off we are. People need to watch out for people with the white cane," says Lion Walt Sulent, who formed the marching society that has taken part in the Rose Parade. Amy Levinson (photo) helped a young child walk with low vision simulator goggles. "I had sunglasses on so people couldn't see my tears. It's just so impressive what we do for people," Levinson says.





North Carolina, United States

For five years the 14-member Lincolnton Lions have traveled to schools to do eye screenings for young children. “It’s unbelievably rewarding,” says Past President Charles Stevens (photo), a retired Methodist minister. “When you go back, the kids say, ‘I got my glasses because you came.’ Or teachers say the kids are doing so much better [because they have glasses].” The children read eye charts set up in the school, and those with potential vision problems take more sophisticated tests inside the mobile screening unit of the North Carolina Lions. Operational since 2012, the 60-foot trailer does hearing screenings as well. Lions in North Carolina used a van for screenings from 1999 to 2012. The two mobile facilities have enabled Lions to screen more than 200,000 people.

Mexicali, Mexico

(Opposite, top) Lions received a standing ovation from Mexicans waiting for vision exams when the Lions arrived for a day of screening. “Wow. You know you’re doing good when that happens,” says Past Council Chair John Hart of Tucson, Arizona. Eleven Lions from Arizona and California, as well as Mexicali Lions, screened 794 patients, made 76 eyeglasses at their on-site optical lab and distributed 675 recycled eyeglasses over two days. Nearly 70 people needed follow-up such as cataract surgery, glaucoma treatment or repair of a retinal detachment. Local Lions handle the follow-up care. Led by Dr. Brian Van Dusen of the California Lions Friends in Sight, the missions began several years ago. Pictured is Karen Pryce of the Phoenix Metro Lions Club.





Durania, Colombia

Like countless other small clubs, the 16-member Durania Lions Club brings the gift of sight to large numbers. Here a Lion screens impoverished children.



Kaoma District, Zambia

Astonishingly—and horrifyingly—nearly one in three children in this district has trachoma, a dreadful blinding disease rarely found in developed nations. Lions Aid Norway has succeeded in distributing Zithromax, a medication that wards off the disease, to 84 percent of the population. A routine eye exam showed that Chipango, 12, (left) and Kamana, 8, had trachoma, and they received Zithromax.



Sava Region, Madagascar

The Lions SightFirst Madagascar Eye Clinic provides a wide range of services including vision screenings, eyeglass distribution and cataract surgeries. Without the clinic, hundreds of thousands of people would have no hope to detect or correct vision problems.





Hamburg, Germany

Where Lions gather, sight service happens. A Special Olympics athlete peers at his new free glasses after a vision screening at the 96th International Convention.



Växjö, Sweden

Alarmed by the pollution of its lake, the city of 60,000 turned heads in 1996 by eliminating the use of fossil fuels by 2030. Lions in Växjö are eliminating poor vision. Växjö Dacke Lions has been collecting eyeglasses for eight years. This year the 27-member club collected, cleaned and sorted 1,500 eyeglasses for its partner Vision for All. The eyeglass recipients live in South America, Africa and Asia.



Photo courtesy of Per-Erik Sandebäck, Smålandsposten

Barcelona, Spain

Lions in Spain collect eyeglasses from bins at pharmacies and opticians and send them to their recycling center in San Vicente de Raspey. "It generally sends shipments to Africa and countries without financial means or where there has been war or conflict," says José M. Pérez Soler, zone chairperson. María Rosa Conte (photo) of the Barcelona Layetano Host Lions Club prepares to ship thousands of eyeglasses.



Lille, France

(Left) The French government pays for medication to treat macular degeneration, and Lions in France regularly screen for the age-related eye disease. Lions in Lille, a city of 225,000 near the Belgium border, test a middle-aged woman for the disease.



Faisalabad, Pakistan

(Right) A familiar scene takes place worldwide: people in need line up for Lions' free eye screenings and eyeglasses. It's no different in Faisalabad, Pakistan's third largest city. On this day the Faisalabad Star New Century Lions provided eye screenings to more than 2,000 youths and provided eyeglasses for 600.



Pollachi, India

Bollywood loves the temperate climate and colorful markets of Pollachi, a small city of 95,000. More than 1,500 movies have been filmed here. But the engaging scenery masks the huge gaps in eye healthcare, a problem endemic to the impoverished nation. Nearly one in five of the world's 39 million blind people live in India, which also counts 63 million people with vision impairment. The 406-member Pollachi Liberty Lions Club regularly does vision screenings. "We Lions know that eyesight is more important than any other thing in the world. So we give it preference as 'sight first' in our service," says P. Prabu, club secretary. Here the club does eye exams at the Sri Ramu College of Arts and Sciences.



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جو اللہ کے موموں کو ہنگامہ لگاتا ہے اللہ اس کے کاموں میں لگاتا ہے

یہ خاکی اپنی فطرت میں نہ تو ری ہے نہ تازی ہے

جنت بھی جہنم بھی





China

Cataract, easily fixed in minutes in a country such as the United States, remains a scourge in developing nations. Cataract is responsible for approximately half of China's blind—2.5 million people. The good news is that Lions and LCIF have made great strides in reducing blindness in China. The Sight-First China Action program has made possible 5.1 million cataract surgeries as well as establishing surgical eye units in 104 rural counties that previously had none and creating secondary eye care units at hospitals in 200 underdeveloped regions.



Multiple District 300 Taiwan

(Left) Another typical day in Lionism: Lions in Multiple District 300 Taiwan help schoolchildren eventually see the blackboard (well, probably their iPads), do well in school and grow up to take their place in society—by checking their vision and then providing eyeglasses, if needed.

Malaysia

(Opposite) LCIF is partnering with the World Health Organization to establish or strengthen pediatric Lions eye care centers around the globe. These centers will deliver preventative, therapeutic and rehabilitative eye care services for 121 million children, including this young boy.



Rupandehi District, Nepal

(Above) When rural people can't get to an eye clinic, Lions in Nepal take an eye clinic to them. It's not a fancy vision van, but an eye chart affixed to a post is sometimes the first step for Nepalese Lions in determining and correcting a vision impairment.





Watch a video on a fishing outing for the visually impaired in North Carolina.

Manila, Philippines

(Above) Children remain at great risk of blindness. On average, a child goes blind every minute. The awful totals: 1,440 a day, 43,200 a month and 518,400 a year. If you've been fortunate to reach the age of 50, nearly 26 million children have lost their sight during your lifetime. Lions in the Philippines pay special attention to children and provide early screenings to prevent blindness.

Australia

Lions Recycle for Sight Australia marshals volunteers of all ages to collect old eyeglasses to be redistributed to those in need.



Seoul, Korea

All 41 members of the Seoul Dongnam Lions Club are optometrists. So it's easy to understand the kinds of service the club does. Here a club member screens a boy's vision at a reformatory school, an under-served population.

Tokyo, Japan

(Below) Eyeglass recycling has been growing among Japanese Lions; Tokyo Sangen-jaya Lions diligently pack eyeglasses for recycling. The club partnered with ZOFF, a nationwide eyeglass retailer, to ship 7,200 eyeglasses to Australia. "Most eyeglasses are in very good shape," a businessman told the Japanese LION. "Seeing Lions work in packaging these eyeglasses, I realize how much we consume and throw away that is still in usable or even perfect condition. These eyeglasses will change someone's life somewhere in the world."



Watch a video on a school for the blind and deaf in Argentina.



A Family Finds Friends in Lions

First Suzanne Denis' son Daniel started losing his vision to Leber's Disease, which primarily afflicts boys. Then tragedy struck twice.

Teen daughter Melissa was diagnosed with the same blinding degenerative condition. Orléans Lions in Ottawa, Canada, gave Melissa an \$18,000 check for experimental treatment that shows promise in slowing Leber's progression. "I'm a single mom with three kids. I'm the only person they can count on," Denis told Orléansonline.com. "At first I thought I was totally on my own, but the Lions have shown me I'm not. I have the whole community behind me." Lions gave Daniel, now legally blind, a laptop. Lion Gerry Carisse says meeting the family "deeply moved me." He and his wife remain close to them, monitoring youngest child, Sarah, for any sign that Lebers will strike the family a third time.

LIONS

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February 15, 2014

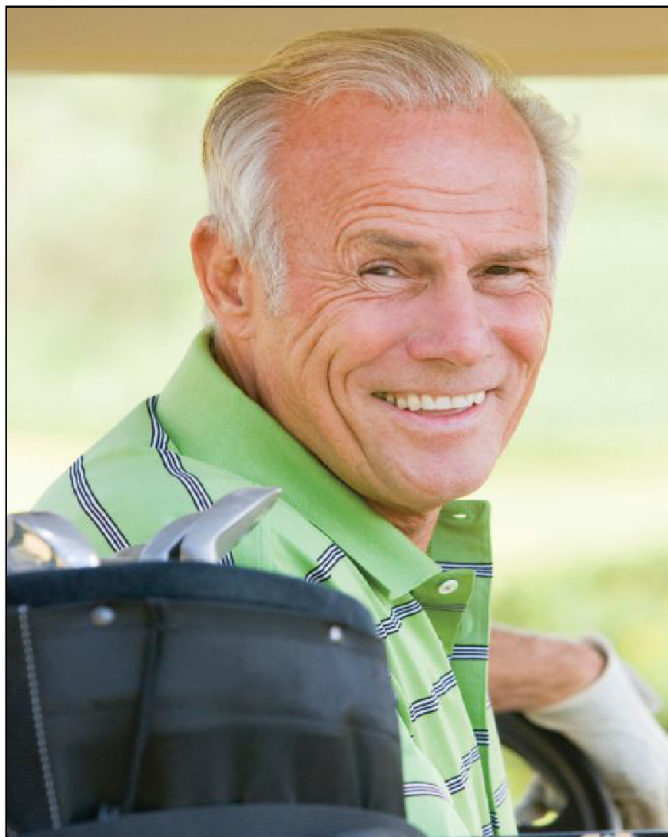
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UPCOMING IN THE LION

The LION talks with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter on the success of Lions and The Carter Center in reducing blindness. Lions and The Carter Center have collaborated for years on curbing onchocerciasis, commonly known as river blindness, and trachoma in Latin America and Africa. Carter is a long-time Lion.



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11 issues published yearly by Lions Clubs International
300 W 22nd St. Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842
(630) 571-5466 / Fax: (630) 571-8890
lionmagazine@lionsclubs.orghttp://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 20 languages—English, Spanish, Japanese, French, Swedish, Italian, German, Finnish, Korean, Portuguese, Dutch, Danish, Chinese, Norwegian, Icelandic, Turkish, Greek, Hindi, Indonesian and Thai.

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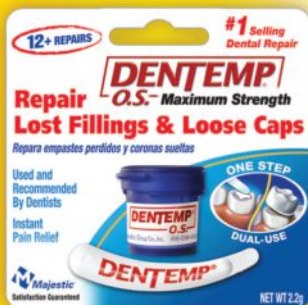
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