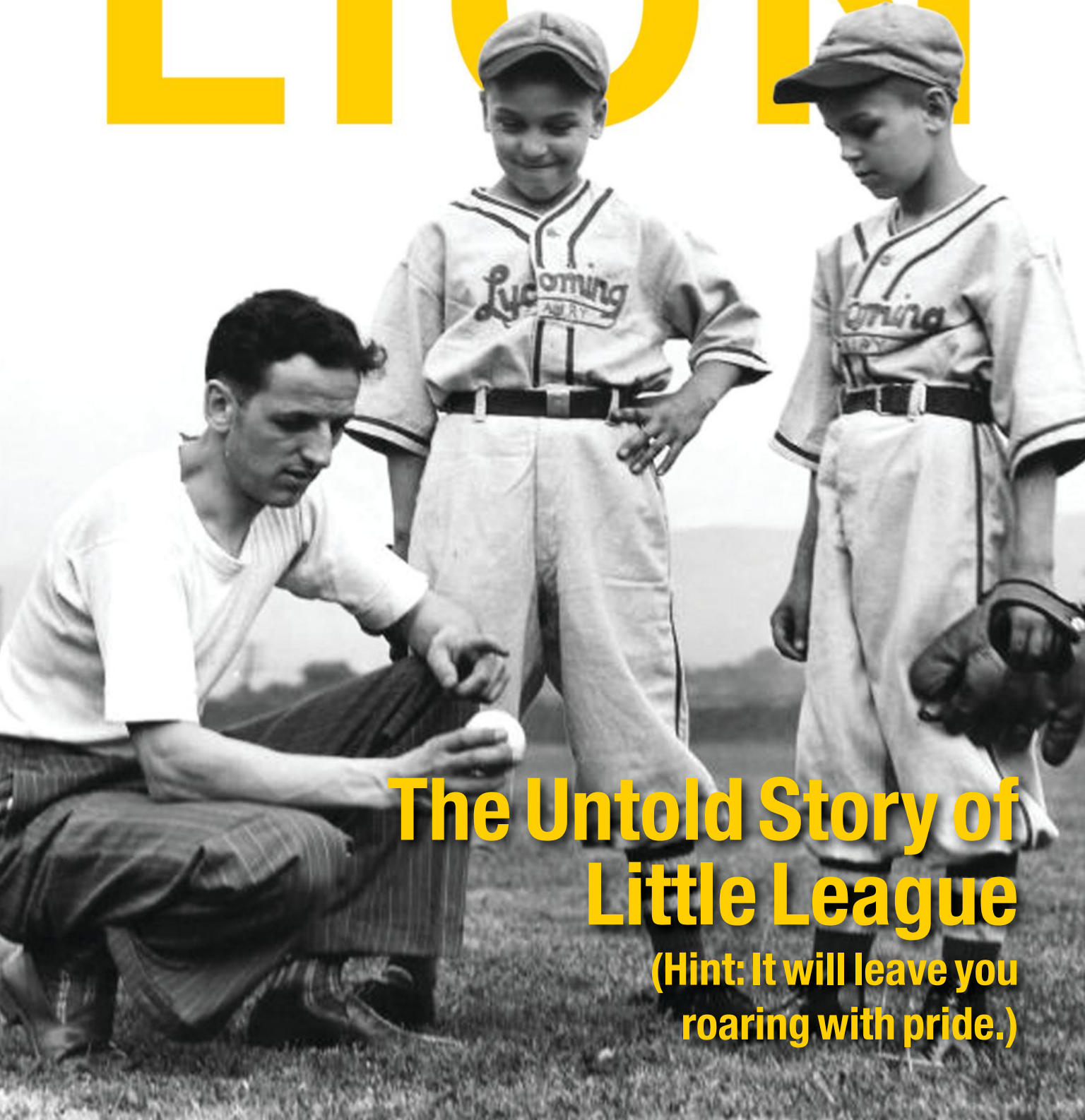


LION



The Untold Story of Little League

(Hint: It will leave you
roaring with pride.)



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Little League founder Carl Stotz of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, instructs his nephews, Jimmy and Major Gehron, who inspired him to begin his organized league for youth and played in the first Little League game.



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**98th Lions Clubs International Convention
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
Friday, June 26 – Tuesday, June 30, 2015**

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volunteers to serve
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meet humanitarian
needs, encourage
peace and promote
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through Lions
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My Granddaughter...

I Love You to the Moon and Back

Diamond Pendant

The love you have for your precious granddaughter reaches to the sky! Tell her exactly how you feel with a gift that shines as brightly as the love in your heart. Our "I Love You to the Moon and Back" Granddaughter Diamond Pendant is a glittering symbol of the never-ending joy she brings to your life!

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Beautifully Engraved

*Exclusively Designed...
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Shown actual size

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The Chanis Lions Club in Panama provides medical care. Service is what Lions are all about.

Lions' Three Most Important Words: Service, Service and Service

"Strengthen the Pride through service for causes so worthy and just." That is the opening line in my theme song. The key word in the sentence is "service." Service is the cornerstone of my program. All other concerns such as membership, leadership and club operations ultimately support, enhance and further our service to others. As Lions, service is our identity, and service is our mission.

As I travel around the world, one of my greatest joys is seeing and learning of clubs' success in serving. It is also rewarding to see clubs bringing in new members and developing their leaders. More members give us more hearts and more hands, which should lead to more service. And better-trained leaders will surely help us to be more effective and efficient in the way that we deliver that service.

There is no boilerplate plan for success, but I hope that you will find the stories in this issue of the LION to be inspiring. Within these pages are clubs that accomplished great things—that were not preordained. Clubs took the initiative, took a chance and performed service that took families and communities to a far better place than they were. Their success can be yours too. Whether it's improving a service project, starting a new one or recruiting and retaining members, it's entirely in your power to be successful.

Success is what Lions are all about. Clubs have embraced the Centennial Service Challenge to help 100

million people. Clubs are reporting service at record levels. This is generating a lot of positive energy and enthusiasm. We care, we share and we do.

Thank you for all you have done to Strengthen the Pride. Our recently announced Centennial Membership Awards program recognizes Lions and clubs for adding members and starting clubs. I am confident that you will put that same "can-do" spirit into making it successful.

Here is something that I composed on an airplane that sums up how I feel: Our efforts are not over/our journey far from done/lift up your hearts rejoice/ we've only just begun.



Joe Preston
Lions Clubs International President

Watch a video on Preston asking Lions to take part in the Hawaiian shirt challenge.

Doctor **Designed.** Audiologist **Tested.** FDA **Registered.**

Affordable **New** Digital Hearing Aid **Outperforms** Expensive Competitors Delivers **Crystal - Clear** Natural Sound

Reported by J. Page

Chicago: Board-certified physician Dr. S. Cherukuri has done it once again with his newest invention of a medical grade ALL DIGITAL affordable hearing aid.

This new digital hearing aid is packed with all the features of \$3,000 competitors at a mere fraction of the cost. Now, most people with hearing loss are able to enjoy crystal clear natural sound — in a crowd, on the phone, in the wind — without suffering through “whistling” and annoying background noise.

After years of extensive research, Dr. Cherukuri has now created a **state-of-the-art** digital hearing aid that's packed with the features of those expensive \$3,000 competitors — at a **fraction of the price.**

New Digital Hearing Aid Outperforms Expensive Competitors

This sleek, lightweight, fully programmed hearing aid is the outgrowth of the digital revolution that is changing our world. While demand for “all things digital” caused most prices to plunge (consider DVD players and computers, which originally sold for thousands of dollars and today can be purchased at a fraction of that price), yet the cost of a digital medical hearing aid remained out of reach.

Dr. Cherukuri knew that many of his patients would benefit but couldn't afford the expense of these new digital hearing aids. Generally they are not covered by Medicare and most private health insurance.

The doctor evaluated all the high priced digital hearing aids on the market, broke them down to their base components, and then created his own affordable version — called the MDHearingAid® **AIR** for its virtually invisible, lightweight appearance.



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from Domestic & Imported Components.



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Ecstatic Users Cheer

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— Dennis

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“As a retired advanced practice nurse, I purchased the MDHearingAid AIR after the Wall Street Journal review. I am so pleased with the quality. You are providing a real service to our affordable health care.”

— Ned Rubin

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[The Big Picture

A Grand Stand for Youth Baseball



Little League founder Carl Stotz (center with ball) visits one of the earlier teams. Stotz later became a Lion, and Lions clubs helped popularize Little League (story on page 24).

[The Big Picture



Melvin at the Bat



Maybe our founder Melvin Jones had a premonition that a Lion would establish Little League (story on page 24). Or maybe just about any picnic in 1914 included a few innings of the national pastime. The picnic at Dellwood Park in the Lockport area near Chicago was for members and family of the Business Circle in Chicago, which Jones led and became part of Lions Clubs when it began in 1917. That's Melvin in the batter's box and on the mound, women competing in a nail hammering race and Business Circle members, well, standing in an uneven circle.

OHIO BOY WINS ESSAY CONTEST

Jalen Ballard, 12, of Toledo, Ohio, is the grand prize winner of the 2014-15 Lions

International Essay Contest for visually impaired youths. Jalen, who will receive \$5,000, will be honored in June in Honolulu at the international convention. The contest's theme was "Peace, Love and Understanding."

Jalen's essay includes: "Being blind myself, some people may feel sorry for me and think that I can't do basic things on my own such as getting dressed, cutting my own food, opening water bottles, walking from Point A to Point B and so on. But very few people realize that I am a fully-functional human being, aside from my limited vision. ... If we as a society can become understanding of others' differences, everyone will feel more valued, and this will help create a more peaceful world." The Sylvania Sunrise Lions Club sponsored Jalen. The award was announced in March in New York at Lions Day with the United Nations.



Watch a short video on the essay contest.

U.N. DAY FOCUSES ON SIGHT, YOUTH

A tradition for 37 years, Lions Day at the United Nations was held in March in New York. Among the highlights: International President Joe Preston and Macharia Kamau, the Kenyan Ambassador to the U.N., reviewed the progress of the Millennium Development Goals and explained the Sustainable Development Goals. A panel including two Lions and two U.N. officials discussed the needs of the world's children. LCIF Chairperson Barry Palmer detailed the successes of SightFirst, and Dr. Silvio Mariotti of the World Health Organization discussed the Lions/WHO childhood blindness centers. More than 500 Lions, Leos and guests attended. Lions and the U.N. share a longtime relationship. In 1945, Lions helped formulate the non-governmental section of the U.N. charter.



Macharia Kamau, the Kenyan Ambassador to the United Nations, speaks at the Lions Day at the United Nations while International President Joe Preston looks on.

SECOND CENTENNIAL VIDEO PREMIERES

The second centennial video, a brief recounting of the impact of Lions Clubs' founder Melvin Jones, is part of the latest LQ, the Lions Quarterly video magazine. The video describes Jones' relentless passion to grow Lions Clubs. He often traveled 200,000 miles a year, by train, airplane and even by burro, to start clubs. Upcoming centennial videos will focus on Lions as Knights of the Blind, expansion of Lions, peace/international understanding and other themes. The first centennial video, a five-minute story on the founding of Lions Clubs, was part of the January 2015 LQ.

Watch the centennial videos.



"Ugh, no—nobody wants your Google Glass."

CARTOON, SHMARTOON!

This clever cartoon appeared in the online New Yorker. But why not a Lions logo on the collection box? "I was not aware that was a Lions' thing," the cartoonist Emily Flake, 38, of Brooklyn, told the LION. "But I'm very glad to hear of your good work. I'll be sure to drop off my (super-strong coke-bottle) glasses with you when it comes time for a new pair!"

PRIZED MINIATURE CAR STOLEN

Nashville is a small, trusting town in Indiana. "Ninety percent of the people here don't lock their doors," says Larry Hanson of the Brown County Lions Club. But that sense of community didn't stop a thief from stealing the club's prized miniature parade car. Lions had stored the one-man, gas-powered car in an unlocked area at a flea market owned by a Lion after a crash two years ago in which a Lion was injured. (He's OK.) The police are investigating but "there is no hint, no clue" as to its whereabouts, says Hanson. Lionized with the club's name and yellow and blue paint, the car was used in the club's Spring Blossom Parade. The club bought the car in the 1970s. "It's been part of the club longer than most members," says Hanson. "We're one of the biggest clubs in the state in one of the smallest towns." The club has 82 members and draws heavily from Nashville, population 800.

Brown County Lions hope to recover their stolen car.



WORLDWIDE WEEK OF SERVICE FOR CHILDREN SET FOR MAY

Lions Clubs International has designated May 16-22 as a Worldwide Week of Service to help children in need. Feed a child. Read a book to a classroom. Paint a playground. There are innumerable ways to help children. The service will count toward Lions' centennial goal of serving 100 million people by 2017 if it is reported via the Service Activities Report on the online MyLCI system (mylci.lionsclubs.org). Clubs that report their centennial service activities will be awarded a banner patch based on their participation. Questions? Contact LCI at CSC@lionsclubs.org.

Charles “Spider” Jones

Pickering, Ontario, Canada

Former heavyweight boxer Spider Jones has sparred with Muhammad Ali, George Chuvalo and other boxing greats. He’s a member of the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame. However, his favorite achievements are mentoring youths, motivating others and serving as a member of the Durham Region Community Lions Club in Durham, Ontario. Jones reflects on a career that led him to a nobler calling.

Jones won three Golden Glove Championships; boxer George Chuvalo is a close friend.

He wrote the book “Out of the Darkness” about his youth in the streets.

He speaks at corporations, schools and churches, telling others to follow their dreams.



With a strong voice and natural stage presence, Spider Jones has served as an announcer or emcee at many boxing events and sports dinners.

10-year-old Hustler

I had a learning disability. I dropped out of school in fifth grade. But I could hustle in the streets with the kids in Detroit, steal and run numbers. I had two first cousins and close friends murdered, and my brother was shot. He still has the bullet in his back.

Becoming a Man

Boxing was something that came naturally to me. In the 1960s, I went to Toronto and started working out at Sully’s Boxing Gym. Muhammad Ali trained there, and I got to practice with him. He let me pound on him. He had red leather gloves that would whip at you, like *flash*—it was his speed that surprised me.

Music in the Soul

I loved music, especially Motown.

Ali encouraged me to host a radio show someday. I wasn’t sure. There were racial barriers in the ‘60s. But Ali told me, “When I fought Sonny Liston, nobody thought I would win. But I didn’t listen to them. I knew what I could do.” I learned from him that you don’t need other people’s approval to be successful ... just your own.

College Bound

For years, I sang in a band that opened for acts like Roy Orbison, Percy Sledge and the Rascals. I also emceed boxing matches. In 1978, I met up with Ali at a sports dinner. He said, “Have you gone to broadcasting school yet?” And I said no. He said, “I ought to whoop you. You’re good.” So in 1979, I went to college. It was frightening, but my professors helped me. I graduated

and got my own radio show. I interviewed Bill Clinton, Nelson Mandela, James Brown, LL Cool J and so many other celebrities.

Passing on the Inspiration

I give motivational speeches at Lions clubs, and I founded a non-profit, Believe to Achieve, for kids 8 to 16. We help them with homework, teach them music, keep them engaged. I tell kids and adults what Ali told me: “Everybody wants to get to heaven, but nobody wants to die.” I challenge them: “How much will you sacrifice to be what you want to be?” It makes you feel good when people come to you 20 years later and say, “I’ll never forget when I heard you speak. You changed my life.”

Do you know a Lion who you think has a great story or deserves a bit of recognition? Email us a brief description of the Lion and the reason you’re making the nomination to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org. Please include “One of Us” in the subject line.

"I love you, Grandpa."

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Moving Forward on Membership

An ace recruiter who has brought in more than 50 Lions, Eddie Marshall of the Joanna Lions Club in South Carolina responds to your questions.



How do we get 18- to 29-year-olds to join the Lions?

—Dan Kallbrier, Carlinville Lions, Illinois

Young people like to get involved and find their place rather quickly. Invite them to come and participate in a project to allow them to see firsthand what a difference we make. It is also important to involve their families in meetings and activities. If you can get the family involved, they will want to stay and feel that everyone is benefiting.

Also, share the online courses that are available from Lions Clubs International on leadership development and other skills that Lions need. Technology is the new wave, and many people like online meetings and communicating via Web tools. This may be something that many are not comfortable with but to continue to grow and gain younger Lions we are going to have to “get on board.”

How do you answer a prospective Lion who says “Why should I join Lions and have to pay dues, when I can volunteer anywhere I want free of charge?”

—Jim Noll, Brussels Lions, Wisconsin

I feel that we need to make sure that prospective Lions realize that Lions Clubs is not just another volunteer organization. We are an organization that is at the forefront of humanitarian service worldwide. We need to let them know what we have achieved and the difference we are making. Many times when a person has to give a small amount of their own contributions, then they will be committed to the mission and values of the organization.

When a person questions the small amount of dues for an entire year, then I question whether this person would make a quality Lion.

We don’t just need the numbers—we need the commitment and the hands to serve.

I am membership chairman of our club. How do you manage to recruit so many?

—Roger Wagstaff, Golden Lions, Colorado

The simplest but most difficult thing for Lions to do is “JUST ASK” a person to come to a meeting of a club. If we spent half the time asking and inviting prospective Lions to our meetings as we do complaining and coming up with excuses as to why they won’t attend, we would be a lot farther along than we are right now. I think many people are afraid of rejection. We have to be willing to accept that not everyone wants to be a Lion, but be passionate enough about what we do to continue to just keep asking one more and so on.

Increases in membership begin with an individual Lion’s attitude, passion and enthusiasm about what we do. If you are excited and share what we do with others, then they will be inclined to want to find out more and want some of that excitement. Once you invite a prospective member to a club meeting, then we need to follow up with them to see if they have questions and see what they think about serving beside us in the community. Henry Ford once said, “Whether you think you can or you think you can’t, you’re right!” We need an “I Can” attitude about membership.

How do we get our Lions to follow the simple suggestions of our current and immediate past international presidents to “Just Ask” and “Ask One”?

—Rick Pressly, 32 D District Governor, South Carolina

We can’t make volunteers do anything because they are volunteers, but we can do a few things to assist along the way. First, we have to lead by example and make sure that they realize that we aren’t asking them to do anything that we are not going to do ourselves. As a club president, if you are going to ask your members to bring in new members, then you be the first to bring in a new member. We also need to think about how we communicate with our Lions. Do we use the correct words, tone and so forth when asking them to help us reach our goals? Our use of words can many times be a hindrance rather than helpful.

Finally, we need to always be encouraging. Many things in life can get us down, but with the difference that we are making in our communities and around the world we have no reason to be down. We are a family and we want more members in the family. Let’s share what we are about so our numbers will grow and we’ll continue to make a difference in our world.



Next Ask a Lion

Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada
For the next Ask a Lion we turn to First International Vice President Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada of Japan, who

will become international president in June. Email your questions for him to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org or call the LION at 630-468-6805.

Wow! A Simple to Use Computer Designed Especially for Seniors!

Easy to read. Easy to see. Easy to use. Just plug it in!



"I love this computer! It is easy to read and to use! I get photo updates my children and grandchildren all the time."

– Janet F.

Have you ever said to yourself "I'd love to get a computer, if only I could figure out how to use it." Well, you're not alone. Computers were supposed to make our lives simpler, but they've gotten so complicated that they are not worth the trouble. With all of the "pointing and clicking" and "dragging and dropping" you're lucky if you can figure out where you are. Plus, you are constantly worrying about viruses and freeze-ups. If this sounds familiar, we have great news for you. There is finally a computer that's designed for simplicity and ease of use. It's the WOW Computer, and it was designed with you in mind. This computer is easy-to-use, worry-free and literally puts

the world at your fingertips. From the moment you open the box, you'll realize how different the WOW Computer is. The components are all connected; all you do is plug it into an outlet and your high-speed Internet connection. Then you'll see the screen – it's now 22 inches. This is a completely new touch screen system, without the cluttered look of the normal computer screen. The "buttons" on the screen are easy to see and easy to understand. All you do is touch one of them, from the Web, Email, Calendar to Games— you name it... and a new screen opens up. It's so easy to use you won't have to ask your children or grandchildren for help. Until now, the very people who could benefit most from E-mail and the Internet are the ones that have had the hardest time accessing it. Now, thanks to the WOW Computer, countless older Americans are discovering the wonderful world of the Internet every day. Isn't it time

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By the Numbers

20 Temperature at the start of the Snowball Open, a golf tournament run in January by the Orono Lions in Minnesota that brought out 480 golfers and raised more than \$10,000.

79,200
Pull tabs from aluminum cans given to Michigan City Lions in Indiana by Jack Benning, co-pastor of God's Grace Ministries.



30
Blind and sight-impaired people who learned golf fundamentals from a PGA professional at the annual Cucamonga District Host Lions Club Golf Challenge in California.

12

Length in inches of a pipe bomb in a parked vehicle disabled by the Penn State Bomb Squad that forced evacuees from more than a dozen homes to take shelter at the Ferguson Township Lions' clubhouse in Pine Grove Mills, Pennsylvania.



15

Gallons of spaghetti sauce prepared by Michael Quinn for the Elfinwild Lions' biannual pasta dinner in Pennsylvania.

90

Length in miles of a two-day "side-walk sale" in 12 towns along historic Route 66 in northern Illinois during which Braidwood Lions sold brooms.



Overheard

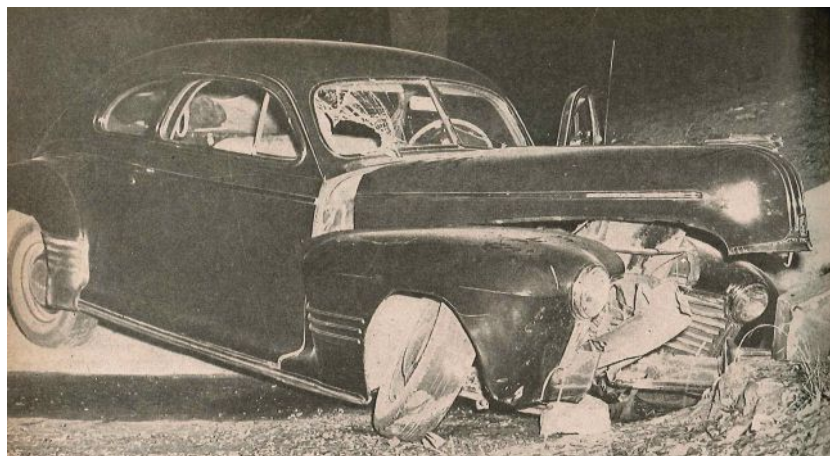
"It's good exercise, and I'm really, really happy when I find one."

—Justin Hoving, 7, who sells lost golf balls he finds at a golf course and gives the funds to Sycamore Lions in Illinois to buy eyeglasses for the needy. From the Daily Chronicle.

"Even the biggest, meanest guys cry when their puppy leaves."

—Joe Polson, an inmate at the Newton Correctional Release Center in Iowa, commenting on the Lions' Prison Puppy Program that raises Leader Dogs. From the Newton Daily News.

69 Years Ago in the LION



MAY 1946

Lions support a traffic safety program in the United States and Canada led by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. More than 28,500 people died in auto accidents in 1945 and one million were injured. Police say many cars, not properly maintained, are mechanically unsound. The highway carnage had another cause: "The police are certain that during the war years drivers became rusty. Then with the end of the war and the abolition of gasoline rationing they cut loose."

Read the complete story about the traffic safety program (May 1946 LION).

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Music Inspires and Entertains

All Lions tend to sing the praises of their clubs, but one Lion in Grenada, Mississippi, composed an entire concert—all to raise money for Leader Dogs for the Blind. Morris “Moe” Hubbard penned the lyrics and music for a performance Grenada Lions co-sponsored with the First Presbyterian Church, where the concert was staged. The 17 religious songs raised both spirits *and* money; only one, the 23rd Psalm, wasn’t composed by Hubbard.

“It was a wonderful surprise when donations turned out to be over \$1,500. Every penny was donated since there was no admission charge,” says Mary Stoker, president. The largest contribution was \$500, given by a woman who told Lions she’d once worked next to a school for the blind and saw firsthand how guide dogs serve.



Singers including Lion Pamela Hubbard (center) perform to raise money for guide dogs.
Photo by Buddy Thompson

Volunteer musicians and singers from the community performed, including Hubbard’s wife, Lion Pamela, a professional singer. Two of the couple’s musician friends played bass and acoustic guitars. Hubbard, playing piano, was accompanied by drummer Bill Daley, another member of the club. “Moe’s spent his life in a tuxedo playing the piano as a professional musician and arranging music for bands and vocalists. He’s really happy to find a way to incorporate his music into Lions’ service,” Pamela Hubbard says.

Hubbard began his musical association with Lions early in life. A member of the Mississippi Lions All

State Band as a teenager, he played the trumpet while marching in two international conventions in the 1950s. “When I semi-retired from my music career and moved back to Grenada, I was asked to join,” Hubbard says of the club where his father had been a longtime member. “I’m a Leo who just turned 80,” he says with tongue firmly in cheek.

“My wife and I have always loved dogs, but we had a hound dog puppy show up in our backyard. He refused to go away, and we got attached,” Hubbard says. The puppy, aptly named Lucky, was the catalyst for the concert benefiting other dogs—those who serve the blind.

Caring for Kids in Transition in Alaska

Nancy Norton had an “aha” moment two years ago. It wasn’t merely a moment, though, since her inspiration is still changing lives. “I’m ashamed to admit that I’ve never given much thought about foster care or the kids who are affected, but I guess that’s because it’s never involved me,” says Norton, who with her husband, Mike, is a member of the Juneau Mendenhall Flying Lions Club in Alaska. When she discovered that children were being shuffled off to foster homes with just a plastic bag holding their meager possessions, she immediately understood what a tough transition it must be for them.

Asking the state’s Office of Child Services (OCS) how Lions could help,

she learned they could provide backpacks filled with a few comforting items. “We advertised on social media and approached businesses for donations. Every dentist in town gave us toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss,” Norton says. A local Moose Lodge gave “Tommy the Moose” stuffed animals to the club. Lions shopped at thrift stores for “gently-used” backpacks and received books from Friends of the Library. Hotels donated sample-sized bottles of shampoo, conditioner and lotion.

Lions also staffed donation tables at a shopping mall. People dropped off more than 100 new and nearly-new backpacks, 600 stuffed animals, nearly 300 shampoos, 263

toothbrushes, soaps, coloring books, toys, books and more. “Little kids even showed up with their stuffed animals to pass on to make other kids happy,” says Tom Dawson.

One backpack Lions received really stood out. “We don’t know who donated it, but tucked inside was a note that read, ‘This pack is a good companion. It made it to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro,’” says Norton. Lions laminated the note and placed it inside a pack pocket. “Maybe the teen boy who received this backpack will find value in what this other person went through and realize that as bad as this moment may be for him, all things are possible,” she says.



Re-enactors portraying British soldiers at the Battle of Stoney Creek in Ontario, Canada, fire their weapons.

Battling Hunger on the [Faux] Front Lines

Map lines might look very different today had not the 700 British soldiers in Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada, successfully fended off approximately 3,000 American fighters during the War of 1812. The Battle of Stoney Creek was pivotal in the defense of Upper Canada. Since 1981, however, the battle still rages on as historical re-enactors portray soldiers and civilians on the actual site of the fighting. Lions may not wield muskets and hatchets, but they are widely acclaimed for their culinary skills with spatulas and skillets.

“Stoney, as we’re called in the re-enactment community, is known by all for providing the best breakfast at any re-enactments,” says Stoney Creek Lion Alison Lennox. Last year, the battle’s bicentennial drew the largest crowd ever for the weekend event. Lions served 1,200 eggs, 600 heaping servings of homemade fries, 1,200 sausages, 1,200 slices of bread and 1,200 slices of bacon. To warm up the crowd on cold mornings, they dispensed more than 2,000 cups of hot coffee. While the breakfast was paid for entirely by the club, Lions did receive some help from members of PAWS, a youth group sponsored by the club. For their generosity, Lions were honored with a plaque recognizing their years of fueling battlefield participants with hearty meals.

The re-enactment is performed twice a day followed by a fireworks show. “The re-enactors come from as far away as Ohio, Michigan, Winnipeg, New York, Pennsylvania and Ontario to participate. They bring 1812 alive,” Lennox says. Costumes, living quarters, cooking utensils and artillery are all handmade and provided by the actors to lend authenticity.

“The makeup and costumes are accurate for that era,” she points out. “Seeing the babies and children dressed up in their long dresses and bonnets and carrying their handmade plates and cups in a basket is just really exciting.” Held on the grounds of the 200-year-old Gage family homestead, Lennox says that the hundreds of white tents complete the “surreal and tranquil” image. A real re-enactment fan, she’s happy that Lions are involved. “This is so different than the usual way we serve the community,” she explains.

Life Lessons for Bike Safety

There may have been a few wheelies popped and a bit of hot-dogging, but Lions and volunteers good-naturedly put enthusiastic children back on the right path to bike safety. “Oh, yes, I’ll say those kids were excited,” emphasizes Larry McGuire, a Chester Lion in Illinois. “They were whooping and hollering, riding fast and showing off.”

At the suggestion of local bike enthusiast Tom Welge, Chester Lions sponsored a bike rodeo in an elementary school parking lot. Thirty children from 6 to 9 learned how to safely navigate the streets from Lions, police and hospital personnel. Bicyclists steered around an obstacle course while learning



Chester Lion Troy Knoke encourages a young rider as he navigates obstacles.

from police what traffic signs indicate and how to obey state bicycling laws. Hospital staff showed the children how to stretch without injury before riding their bikes.

Everything was free for children—and for Lions, too. “We spent no money,” points out McGuire. A program called Helmets First provided free helmets and drinking water and hydration bottles were contributed. Six bicycles were donated as prizes by local shop CycleWerx, which also had one of its bike mechanics at the rodeo to give free tune-ups and inspections before riders hit the streets.

Leos See the Big Environmental Picture

Hannah Leff tackles graffiti removal as routinely as she cleans local beaches. Like the rest of the members in the Soquel High School Leo Club in California, she's encouraged by the school to participate in community service. Painting over graffiti is just one part of why she likes being a Leo in her community located near the Pacific Beach shoreline. "Each thing we do, whether it's graffiti removal, a beach cleanup or anything along those lines, is just a little piece in the big picture," says Leff, a sophomore.

Her club is sponsored by the Cabrillo Host Lions Club. Lions and Leos also regularly plan cleanups of a mile-long stretch of beachfront. Adviser Krista Brassfield says, "You wouldn't believe what we find—mattresses, old barbecue grills, tires. The kids come and go as they graduate. But no matter who's in the club, they all want to focus on the environment."

A community center donates paint to cover the graffiti. The cans are collected at the Santa Cruz County landfill and mixed together for enough to cover the "art" of taggers who use the underpass to show off their work. "This helps to recycle the paint and save the program money on the cost of new paint," explains Larah Connell, the county graffiti coordinator.

"It's kind of a cat-and-mouse game," says Brassfield. "The underpass gets covered up with graffiti. Then we paint it, and a few weeks later it's back to square one." She says that not all the graffiti is unsightly. "Some if it's almost beautiful, sort of like murals. The kids feel kind of bad covering it up, but we figure it's giving the graffiti artists a fresh canvas to use."



Vinton Lion Gary Marlow heaves a wheelbarrow into a scrap metal bin for recycling.
Photo by Julie Zimmer

Trash Equals Cash

If it was metal, it was wanted. Old crutches, walkers, pots, pans, grills, fencing, lawnmowers, car parts, electric motors and even a small boat were hauled out and recycled in Vinton, Iowa. Lions sponsored a scrap metal recycling project that made residents dig deep down into basements, kitchens, sheds and garages to toss out 22.5 tons of scrap and another 19 tons of appliances for recycling. Lions not only made \$3,800, but also helped dispose of unwanted and unused items cluttering property in their town of 5,200.

"About half of our 80 members were involved. Donors with trucks full of scrap metal were there way before our advertised 8 a.m. start time," says Julie Zimmer. Three appliance dealers also donated nonworking trade-ins.

Lion Pat Lyons offered his business property for two semitruck trailers and several large roll-out containers. He also arranged for five employees to safely run forklifts and operate other equipment.

"One of the strangest things was the cab frame from a pickup," says project chair Rick Ohrt, who adds that it was quickly disassembled into smaller pieces with a cutting torch. A common item destined for the scrap heap was exercise equipment. Curbside pickup was available at no charge for disabled or elderly residents unable to haul their own scrap metal. Lions received help from members of a Boy Scout troop they sponsor.

Funds earned from selling the donated scrap will help support Boy Scouts, a literacy program, college scholarships, vision testing for preschoolers and the Iowa Lions Foundation.

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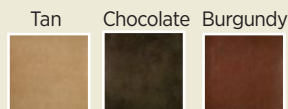
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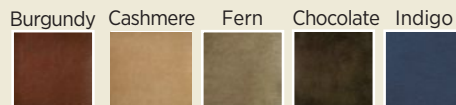
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President Joe Preston meets with trainers at a guide dog school in France.

FRANCE

President Embarks on a Journey to Guide Dog School

Vive dog guides! International President Joe Preston recently toured the Lions-supported Guide Dog School in Eze, France. “The staff at the school are warm and friendly. It was obvious they loved training the dogs and working with the visually impaired people who receive the dogs,” says Preston.

The school is located on the top of a mountain overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Preston attended a Lions dinner also attended by a person who had just received a dog. “It was a wonderful experience for all, as we could see the full circle of Lions, puppy raising, training by the school and issuing the dog,” he says.

Wearing a blindfold, Preston let a guide dog lead him through an intense course, up and down stairs and around obstacles. “The dog did great. I did, too, once I relaxed and gave control over to the dog,” he says. “It really brought home how important the trust factor is between the dog and the visually impaired recipient.”

He also watched the dogs when not working. “It was good to see them allowed to run and have fun. These dogs know when it’s time to work and when they can let loose,” he says.

NIGERIA

Lions Rescue A School Without Any Water

Abuja Metropolitan Lions reviewed the needs of seven schools and decided to upgrade Lea Primary School in Lugbe. Its 589 students didn’t get a new school, but it’s definitely a new and better era at Lea.

Incredible as it may sound, the school had no access to water. Lions were especially concerned about students’ health because of an Ebola outbreak. So Lions drilled a borehole, with water pumped by electricity or solar energy, provided two 250-liter water tanks and set up nine water taps. The club also added a new spacious school building and painted and renovated classrooms.

Students honored Lions at a reception. “One of them told us their



The water tanks provide water at last for Lea Primary School.

school is beautiful, and it compares to any school in the area. The teachers are very pleased and say they pray for us,” says Owulo Stanely Ochi, club president.

ARGENTINA

Dilapidated Medical Center Resuscitated

Located in a poor neighborhood on the outskirts of Cipolletti, the Community Health Center is a lifeline for residents. Each day about 60 children and adults use its services. Health care professionals provide immunizations, treat minor illnesses and offer workshops and guidance on hypertension, smoking and obesity.

The 31-member Cipolletti Lions Club, chartered in 1966 in the bustling city of 75,000, made sure the center could continue its mission. Lions fully renovated the aging facility. Members improved the masonry, replaced the roof, upgraded its electrical and water systems, painted the exterior and interior and completed a host of other jobs. The work, valued at US\$25,000, took four months.



Celebrating their 50th seat, placed on Mt. Fyffe, are charter members Lloyd Johnston (left) and Bryan Seddon.

NEW ZEALAND

Fifty-Year Club Hits Benchmark in Style

Hikers who climb the 5,200-foot Mt. Fyffe are rewarded with a spectacular panoramic view of the Kaikoura peninsula. Thanks to Lions, now they also can relax and get a load off their feet.

Kaikoura Lions erected a long bench at the summit. It was the 50th seat in the region built by the club over the past 10 years to mark its 50th anniversary in 2014.

Hikers in good shape can reach the summit in under four hours. Six Lions made it to the top to build the seat. Charter members Dr. Lloyd Johnston and Bryan Seddon and Lion Kevin Smith flew up in a helicopter. Three other members, Tony Davis, Digby Parkin and Past District Governor Melville Syme, adventurously rode up halfway on quad bikes and then hopped in the chopper.

The seat on Mt. Fyffe was donated by Smith, whose late father owned 6,300 acres on the mountain. Using a good pair of binoculars, Smith, who lives nearby, has seen hikers resting on the bench.

The 28-member club delivers firewood and meals to the elderly, holds a fishing contest, and, in keeping with its promotion of the great outdoors, creates boardwalks on picturesque routes used by walkers and cyclists. Club members didn't forgo fun while serving. When the club improved a picnic area, Johnston left behind some goldfish in the fountain. "They didn't last long," he recalls with a smile.



Cesar Luis Sevillano Palacios poses with a girl drinking from one of his club's glasses.

PERU

Recycling With a Twist

Lions recycle glass bottles—not an unusual activity. But what sets apart this club is that it turns the bottles into drinking glasses with the Lions logo.

Members of the San Borja Papa Juan XXII Lions Club also refurbish and affix a Lions logo to vases, lamps and other decorative items. The objects are donated to the needy to spruce up their homes.

The items are donated to the club from treasurer Cesar Luis Sevillano Palacios, who owns a sanitation company. Palacios' expertise comes in handy for the club's main project: recycling. The club recycles paper, cardboard and plastic, and the funds generated pay for food and milk for soup kitchens and nursing homes.

Lions and Little League

The big-time support of Lions clubs helped a Lion popularize a new phenomenon called Little League.

BY JAY COPP

Dark braids flowing down her back, Mo'ne Davis fires a blazing fastball. The batter swings futilely and trots to the dugout—striking out in Little League is no reason for not hustling. The crowd of thousands at the Little League World Series in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, roars. Within days Mo'ne will grace the cover of *Sports Illustrated*, shimmy with Jimmy Kimmel on late-night TV and become a national sensation.

But watching Mo'ne pitch last August was not what drew crowds to South Williamsport, nor is the prospect of fame or athletic excellence the reason parents sign up 2.6 million children each year for Little League. The world's largest organized youth sports activity, Little League has entrenched itself into the landscape of community life, as predictable in the spring and summer as grass growing and flowers budding. Boys and girls relish wearing their brand-new uniforms, thwacking the ball past fielders and clapping teammates on their backs.

Parents look forward to seeing their children test their skills in an arena larger than their backyard, and, during the lulls of a normal game, trading small talk in the stands with other parents, soon to be friends. A game is more than a game. "Little League itself represents an essence of America," intones venerable baseball broadcaster Vin Scully in a 2014 documentary on Little League.

Hustling about the Little League complex this day are Williamsport Lions George and Joe Girio, brothers and former Little League parents, managers and players. Their memories and experiences of the game stay with them. "I remember the flannel uniform, the maroon trim. Our sponsor was Mosser's Leather Company. Our wool hat with leather shrunk in the heat," recalls George, a 66-year-old who helps run his family's insurance and real estate companies. "After the game we might get together at someone's house. Have hot dogs. Made a lot of friends that way. I had lots of friendships through baseball."

Like George, Joe coached his son. "It was something we could share, something we could do as a family. He was a good player—a lot like me, not big. I remember a good game he pitched once."

The Girio brothers take two weeks off from their businesses each summer to be at the World Series. They're not spectating; they volunteer as "team uncles," making sure their assigned team knows where to go, what to do, when

to get their headshots for ESPN. They even collect the players' uniforms for laundry, sometimes working until midnight.

The Girios have a combined 44 years as team uncles. Other Lions have also served in that role or volunteered as ushers or security at the World Series. The Girios and other Lion volunteers are proudly following in a tradition. Lions clubs helped support and popularize Little League since its first days in 1939.

In fact, the central role of Lions in Little League is as solid as the life-sized statue that stands outside Howard Lamade Stadium. Memorialized in marble is the founder of Little League, Lion Carl Stotz.

'Wee Wizards'

It's hard to imagine today, but after World War II Little League was mostly unknown. The idea of boys in uniforms playing on manicured diamonds with umpires, managers and a scoreboard was preposterous. Kids played sandlot baseball on scruffy fields with torn gloves and lumpy baseballs. The better diamonds, usually taken by men's leagues, were outsized for boys in any case. Baseball was the national pastime but organized baseball smacked of privilege and spare cash, a luxury for most families. "We played baseball all day," says George Girio. "It gave us something to do. People didn't have money. They didn't have computers or an iPhone. It was a struggle to get a few bucks to go to the movies."

By 1949, since begun in Williamsport a decade before, 300 Little Leagues were operating in 11 states. Americans were beginning to notice. The *Saturday Evening Post*, then the preeminent magazine at a time when magazines loomed much larger than television, dispatched a wide-eyed Harry Paxton to report on the new phenomenon: organized youth baseball. "Williamsport has started something pretty remarkable in the way of baseball for small boys," Paxton reported. "It is known as Little League baseball, and it is a scale model of the major league game. In the Little Leagues, teams of 8-to-12-year old players compete with all the atmosphere and trappings of the big time."

The lengthy story included six color photos, one of which showed an especially small player signing his autograph for smiling minor leaguers. "It is probable that the



Carl Stotz (left) speaks at the 1965 Little League World Series. With him are a player and legendary broadcaster Mel Allen.

surface still only has been scratched, for the Little League idea seems to fascinate both boys and adult sponsors wherever it is introduced," Paxton presciently observed.

The article includes a photo of Stotz, who smiles a bit guardedly. Stotz, 39, is still slight of build. Those who knew him best—his daughters, the players on the early teams he managed, volunteers from Williamsport who helped get Little League off the ground—described him as naturally quiet but fiercely determined and at ease around boys. "Stotz is no hot-eyed zealot," wrote Paxton. "He is unassuming and amiable of manner. But the hot-eyed characters have a way of burning out. Carl Stotz has the patience and persistence to stick with his dream, day in and day out, year after year, until, little by little, it became real."

The GLs who returned from World War II had defeated Germany and Japan. Now they had to build a nation. Housing tracts sprouted. Schools and malls opened. Parents joined PTAs, volunteered at church ministries and founded Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs. Baseball, a wholesome, outdoor game, was part of the new society, too. The LION Magazine noticed—and urged Lions to follow the lead of Stotz, a fellow Lion, to enable boys (and eventually girls) to grow into solid citizens by playing an organized sport.

In 1951, Bill Kehoe, the sports editor of GRIT, penned a lengthy feature story on Little League for the LION. By then Stotz had expanded his Little League to 37 states. Nearly 2,800 teams played in 650 leagues. Lions clubs sponsored 69 teams. But that figure grossly understated the importance of Lions to Little League. As Kehoe explained, many clubs contributed funds, labor and materials essential for equipment, playing fields, publicity and organization.

The LION article included action photos of the "wee wizards" in uniforms sliding into bases and dashing around

the field. But the article also was intended as a call to action for Lions. Kehoe pointed out the many reasons clubs should support the "small-fry teams." The expense was relatively minor. "What does it cost? It's an unbelievably low figure—\$800 for the entire four-team league." The rewards for the boys were priceless. The managers, chosen on the basis of character, "exert a great amount of influence upon the lives of youngsters whose habits and intellects are in their most formative stages. Therein lies the secret of success of the Little League as an outstanding project for a Lions club. With the proper type of men as leaders no greater achievements could be scored in the boys and girls activities field."

In an era where the ranks of teenagers swelled, as did fears of hooliganism, the LION offered further evidence of the value of organized sports. "Lions clubs and other sponsoring groups have recognized Little League as a powerful force in fighting juvenile delinquency," Kehoe wrote.

The Lilac Bush

Karen Stotz Myers, 72, Carl's younger daughter, still lives in Williamsport. Near her home is the field her father and others built. Little League was a genuinely grass-roots operation. "My family was there every night," she says. "The men put up the fence, improved the field, installed the bleachers. My mother painted the fence."

After Little League was established in Williamsport and neighboring towns, Stotz had hit the road, like Johnny Appleseed, spreading the gospel of youth baseball. He went to Lions meetings, school boards, Sunday school classes, YMCAs and other groups that gathered together fathers and their boys.



Stotz was quiet by nature but loquacious when promoting Little League.

Myers was 10 or 11 when her whole family went west to California in 1952 or 1953 on a “family vacation.” She recalls, “People would come within a 30-mile radius. Whether it was Lions or Rotarians, they made arrangements at a hotel or other place. There was a meeting at lunch, then in the evening, sometimes at breakfast.” Her father passed out the rules and regulations, detailed the fees and told of the joy boys found in Little League. “He was on the quiet side. But when it came to Little League, he could talk,” says his daughter. “He had no notes. He knew the subject. He spoke from the heart.”

A clerk at Pure Oil Company when he began Little League, Stotz played baseball as a youth—but not as much as he liked. He was maybe 150 pounds at 5-8. Older, bigger boys in church leagues dominated games. It was likewise in track in high school. “He had to wait for the stars to graduate so he could run,” says his daughter. Stotz knew what it was like to be outside the lines, to be willing to play but not given a chance.

A lilac bush was the inspiration for Little League. It seems like a founding myth story, a made-up tale. But it’s true. One August day in 1938 Stotz tossed a baseball around with his nephews, Jimmy and Major Gehron, in the yard of his home. Stotz chased after an errant toss and scraped his ankle against the sharp stems of a lilac bush. He limped to a porch, and suddenly an idea burst into his head. He called his nephews over and, as he recounted innumerable times, proposed to them: “How would you like to play on a regular team, with uniforms, a new ball for every game and bats you could really swing?” His nephews didn’t need to think about it. “Who would we play? Will people ever come to watch us? Do you think a band could ever come to play?”



Stotz never forgot the joy he had playing baseball as a boy. Here he chats with the Hampton, Virginia, team during the 1954 Little League Baseball World Series.



Australian players (above) celebrate a pivotal play. Mo'ne Davis (right) throws hard at the 2014 Little League World Series. Rhode Island Manager Dave Belisle (below) drew plaudits for his upbeat pep talks.



Stotz gathered a core group of volunteers to get the league going, and the Gehrons played on one of the first three teams, Stotz's Lycoming Dairy Farms team. He had gone to 56 businesses to seek a sponsor before the dairy assented. The idea was so unheard of—and times so hard—that it took herculean persistence by the mild-mannered clerk to get business owners to pony up.

Little League was a homegrown affair. Stotz carved the first home plate from rubber he found in his father's basement. His sister made the other bases from scratch using white canvas filled with wood shavings.

For years Little League was run on a shoestring—Stotz's shoestrings. Out of his own pocket he paid \$3.67 for a catcher's mask and 12 baseballs and 82 cents for

LIONS AND LITTLE LEAGUE WERE A PERFECT MATCH: VOLUNTEERISM IS AT THE HEART OF BOTH.

postage. (Myers has saved her father's ledgers, which occasionally are displayed at the Little League Museum in Williamsport.) "My dad took home \$80 a week. \$40 went to Little League," she says. Stotz economized at home to pay bills. He walked to work, saving his gas coupons to run the lawn mower to cut the baseball field.

Stotz created a baseball league tailored to the age of his players. He experimented with varying lengths to first base. Using a stopwatch and wadded-up newspapers as bases, he set the length to give a fielder a decent chance to throw out a runner on a cleanly fielded play and to give the batter the opportunity to reach first safely on a slow roller.

A clean-cut man from a church-going family as well as a father who did not drink or smoke, Stotz conceived of Little League as a moral exemplar. "The umpires had to wear collars. The managers had to set an example. The boys could not act in a way not considered morally right," says his daughter.

Stotz, who had considered the ministry when younger, had found his calling. He was selfless and giving. Art Kline, who played in the Stotz's first league and later worked for Little League, recalled trying out for a team and playing the outfield with a first baseman's mitt. A man at the tryout gave him a mitt for \$5, since he said he knew his dad, and told him he could pay him back 25 cents a week. The benefactor was Stotz. "Carl was probably as good with young children as anyone you could meet," says Kline in "Play Ball, the Story of Little League Baseball."

Such kindness was typical of her dad, says Myers. "He was hands-on warm. If he was with a boy, you'd see him with his hands on his shoulder," she says.

Chartered in 1923, the Williamsport Lions Club was a vital part of the town by 1938, and individual Lions presumably supported Stotz early on. No doubt understanding the value of becoming a member himself, Stotz joined the Williamsport Newberry Lions Club in 1949. He now had at his back the fastest-growing service club in the nation. He remained a Lion until at least 1957, a period of time in which Little League—and Lions Clubs—grew rapidly.

Lions and Little League were a perfect match: volunteerism is at the heart of both. Volunteers have sustained Little League through its 76 years. Today 1 million volunteers support it. The whole story of Little League—its hard-scrabble start, its reliance on volunteers, its ethos of fair play and sportsmanship, its roots in community—speak to a predominant theme. "It really is an American story," says Myers.

The Summer Sport

History matters. Today is a culmination of yesterdays. But Little League is a lived experience, a ritual repeated each spring in thousands of communities. Such as in West Windsor Township in New Jersey. A prosperous place with tree-lined streets and well-tended homes, the town of 27,000 sits near Princeton, where the train takes an hour to reach New York City.

The West Windsor Lions Club purchased the uniforms for the new Little League in town in 1956. Little League has been a town staple since then. Nearly 450 boys and girls played on 60 teams last year. Rimmed by a row of trees and attractive homes and not visible from the road, the sprawling R.J. Ward Complex is the pride of the West Windsor Little League. It's all here—three fields with lights, covered dugouts, a press box, manicured grass and large crowds on game nights.

The league has had its share of accomplished players and successful all-star teams. But it sustains itself by how it bonds parents with children and then families with other families. "My husband and I spent a lot of time at games," says Ellen Vogt, the league president whose three boys played in the league. "We'd be there with our other kids. It was a way for us to be together. It was a way for us to be close not just with our family but our community."

The Vogts moved to West Windsor from the Chicago area in 1999, so Little League was a natural port of entry into the community. "My husband and I made many friends through many nights spent together in the bleachers. A group of us still get together once a month. We call ourselves the MOB, or mothers of boys," says Vogt.

For the Vogt children, joining had been a no-brainer. "When we moved here the first thing my son said was, 'When can I sign up?'" says Vogt.

Little League gets a grip and doesn't let go. One son of Vogt's, Andrew, didn't leave Little League when he aged out. He umpired, managed the concessions and coordinated T-ball before he left for college.

In the rhythm of the life of a community, Little League flows somewhere down a middle passageway. "Playing baseball is a kind of a rite of passage," says Vogt. "One interesting thing about our league is that if you come to our field in the evening you see kids too old to play hanging around the fields when there is a game on. It's a quintessential feeling—baseball under the lights. It's a safe place. It's a good place to be."

Read the 1951 LION story on Little League.

Watch short ESPN videos on Little League featuring former U.S. President George W. Bush and major leaguers CC Sabathia and Mike Mussina and a video on the founding of Little League.

A baseball diamond remains a good place to be, and multitudes of Lions clubs continue to sponsor teams in Little League, maintain or own the fields or raise funds for equipment, scoreboards and operating expenses.

Lasting Charisma

In South Williamsport last summer, George Girio was the team uncle for the Rhode Island squad, which suffered a heartbreaking one-run loss to Chicago Jackie Robinson in being eliminated. The Rhode Island coach drew widespread praise among sports commentators for his graceful pep talk to his players afterward. “The way he talked to the kids was impressive. I was with the kids the whole week and didn’t have a single problem,” Girio says.

Despite the image of Little League as a sandbox for loud, aggressive parents and overbearing coaches, the reality is far different, says Girio and many other parents. He fondly recalls his own experience. “My manager was a disciplinarian. The coach was soft-spoken. It was a good combination,” he says. “They taught us how to work together, how to be successful. If you lose a game, it’s not the end of the world. At the same time you strive to win. And know how to accept losing.”

His brother, Joe, has similarly pleasant memories. Carl Stotz, a passionate Yankee fan but consumed with his Little League duties, managed to get to one game at Yankee Stadium in his lifetime. Joe did that as a Little Leaguer. “My manager, Mike Casale, said if we won the championship he’d take us to Yankee Stadium. We did, and he chartered a bus,” says Joe. But shepherding a gangly crew of 12-year-olds to New York was the least of his contributions. “He was a good manager. He never yelled. He was firm—he wanted to win. But he set a good example. He didn’t criticize you if you made a mistake,” he recalls.

As team uncles, the Girios are mostly worker bees, buzzing about making sure players have what they need. Every so often they are thrust near the rim of the spotlight. Last summer George coordinated a phone call from the Boston Red Sox manager to the Rhode Island team. When Joe guided a team from Louisville, the captain of a nuclear sub, a Louisville native, called to wish the team well. National security mandated that, as he let Joe know, the origin of his call was “an undisclosed location.”

The Girios keep busy but every year make it a point to offer a word or two of advice. “We try to emphasize to the coach to enjoy the experience. You came here as champs. No matter what happens here, you will leave as champs,”

says George. Adds Joe, “The tears come right after the game. Then they go away. The kids don’t dwell on it.”

For the Girios, as well as many other families, Lions and Little League offer striking parallels, an intertwining of family, community and service. Their father, Art, is a longtime Lion and a past district governor who started the business they run and attended the baseball games they played and managed. Their family story follows the pattern of so many others. “My dad was a World War II vet, European theater. He had four kids and went to school on the GI bill,” says George.

Now every summer for two weeks solid the Girios are

together at Williamsport, not on the field or in the dugout but behind the scenes making things work. In a typical day at South Williamsport the Girios pass the statue of Stotz multiple times. Stotz died in 1992. His relationship with Little League had been strained for decades. The fallout began in the early 1950s when Little League incorporated. The U.S. Rubber Company, Little League’s chief sponsor, decided Stotz needed help and appointed a board of directors with a commissioner. As board president, Stotz often clashed with the board on strategy. He believed Little League was moving away from its small-town roots, becoming too corporate. In time, there were lawsuits, counter suits, padlocked doors, court orders and a slew of negative publicity.

The dispute ended in 1956 when Stotz gave up the fight, settled his dispute with Little League out of court (without gaining money) and walked away from the organization.

For years he was whitewashed, Soviet-style, from the official Little League history until, thanks mostly to his daughter, his role was properly recognized.

Droves of baseball fans in Williamsport for the World Series made a pilgrimage to Stotz’s home in his later years. He welcomed them into his home and pulled out the first home plate, old scorebooks and even the remnant of the lilac bush. He never tired of telling stories of the early days of Little League. “He kept a lot of papers,” says Myers. “He met a man once and then pulled out some papers. ‘Look, you were the batting champ that year!’”

Stotz did not get his due while alive. Part of that was because of his own modesty. “He always used a lot of ‘we’s.’ Those should have been ‘I’s,’” says his daughter. But he always treasured his ability to relate to Little Leaguers and their desire to dip their toes into the wider, more challenging world of adults. “We went to this state tourney once. Here was this shriveled old man,” says his daughter. “He was surrounded by boys. He could still get their attention.”



(From left) Joe, Art and George Girio, a Little League family as well as a Lions family, stand at the statue of Carl Stotz at the Little League complex in South Williamsport.

A ROAD SHOW FOR RECOVERY

The Chicago Lighthouse takes to the road and displays its low vision tools, devices that help people reclaim their lives.

BY JAY COPP

Escorted by a friend, Mary Parenti, who keeps her white hair closely cropped, traveled to a sprawling retirement center near Chicago. She ambled past the center's busy, noisy common room jammed with booths and tables of hospitals, pharmacies and dental practices touting their services for seniors. Her main destination at the annual wellness fair at Friendship Village in Schaumburg was the low vision road show of the Chicago Lighthouse.

A few years ago Parenti woke up to go to her longtime job at IHOP and, to her shock, discovered she could barely see. She had to quit her job. Macular degeneration was the culprit. Now she can't see out of one eye, and her vision in the other is terribly blurry.

Parenti has moved beyond dismay, anger and resignation. She is making do. The magnifying machine she owns allows her to read and perform simple tasks like writing checks. But the machine is cumbersome, and she struggles to write neatly with it.

Parenti walks without assistance, but at the low vision road show today are a brigade of walkers and wheelchairs, a tableau of snow-white hair, wrinkled faces and hearing aids. Demure and docile, grateful for attention, the seniors are here for what is not visible at all—their vision loss. It's a loss that has led to other losses—connections with their normal lives, once taken for granted but now part of an ir-retrievable past.



The room reserved for the Chicago Lighthouse showcases hundreds of items to make life easier for those with low vision. There are talking watches and meat thermometers, recordable labels that can be attached to food containers, CDs and clothes, and ergonomic pens that make wide, black lines. The prices are reasonable, the variety, design and utility impressive.

Arrayed along two walls are the most useful and more expensive lifelines to the wider world: magnifiers, both desktop and portable. The fancier models, which cost thousands of dollars and like the other tools are not covered by Medicare, convert text to speech, smooth, mellifluous speech that enables users to read the newspaper, a novel, even a soup can or pill bottle. Low vision is disorienting, maddening and distancing, disconnecting people from normal routines, habits and other people. Low vision not only steals sight but also robs people of the vibrancy and richness of everyday life.

Parenti huddles at a magnifying machine with Tom Perski, the Lighthouse's amiable, low-key dean of rehabilitation. He knows Parenti is well beyond the denial stage. She's here. Others probably should be. Or will be. "My dad has two close friends who now have low vision," says Perski. "They're depressed. They're angry. He told them, 'Call my son. That's his whole career.' But they're so depressed and angry they can't reach out. Not yet."

Many people diagnosed with low vision have a hard time accepting their predicament. "I understand the stages. They do 'doctor shopping.' They say to themselves, 'Maybe if I go to another doctor, I'll get a better answer,'" says Perski.

Their families grasp at straws, too. "One of the first things the family does is buy a huge TV. But it's better to sit real close to a smaller TV," he says. Families often struggle with acceptance longer than patients. On this day Perski meets with a mother and son. The mother effusively thanks him for all his help and tells him how the magnifying

machine has changed her life. The son, loving but misguided, asks Perski "whether something could be done" to help her regain part of her sight.

Retina specialists in or near Chicago routinely tell their low vision patients about the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind and its resources. But patients steer clear of it for a while. "People have a stigma about blindness," says Perski. "They'll say, 'I'm not blind.' Our actual name is the Chicago Lighthouse for People who are Blind or Visually Impaired. They say, 'I'm not going there.'"

Even when they finally muster the will to visit the Lighthouse or one of its road shows they're often not ready to concede they need help. "They see a machine and say, 'I'm not buying that. It's too big.' They push it away. They aren't ready for the technology. By the second visit you see progress. On the third visit they have their checkbook out, and they're ready to buy."

Four staff members of the Lighthouse made this trip to Schaumburg. The Lighthouse did 33 low vision road shows last year. As many as 100 people attended. The Lighthouse also dispatches occupational therapists to homes to teach people how to use their tools and to suggest changes or improvements to make homes safer such as getting rid of throw rugs.

But the center of activity is the Lighthouse itself. The 110,000-square-foot complex in Chicago includes a vision clinic where patients receive exams, psych-social support services and occupational therapy. Each day 250 clients visit. Many others call its toll-free national help desk or listen to the weekly Beacon Show, a one-hour radio show for people with disabilities. A regular segment, "Tom's Corner" features, of course, Tom Perski, who discusses his favorite gadgets and new tools.

The Lighthouse staff drove to Schaumburg in a van purchased by District 1A Lions. Lions are huge supporters of the Lighthouse. The committee that directed the opening of a retail store for low vision tools at the Lighthouse a decade ago was named after a Lion. The (Bill) Strickfaden Committee, its name a testament to the influence of Lions, still helps oversee the store in Chicago as well as a new one in the suburb of Glenview.

For longtime Chicagoans, Schaumburg is an ironic place to hold a low vision fair. A far northwest suburb, it was mostly undeveloped until the 1970s. Popular journalist Bob Greene poked fun at it as the "land beyond O'Hare [Airport]." Lots of young adults, including flight attendants and pilots, lived there and enjoyed the single life.

Demographics have shifted not only in Schaumburg but nationwide. "The National Eye Institute calls it [macular degeneration] an epidemic," says Perski. One sixth of the population over 65 has macular degeneration. It's one in five for those over 75 and one in four for those over 85.



Tom Perski (left photo) demonstrates a Prodigy, a digital magnifier for which he provided input as it was developed. Perski counsels Ellen Lukey (center photo) and Mary Parenti (right photo), who suffer from vision loss.



The road show displays hundreds of tools for those with vision loss.

With 78 million Baby Boomers to hit 65, the number of people with macular degeneration is expected to double by 2050 to a staggering 22 million.

Those numbers have created a huge market. Perski attends an annual trade show in which companies display their low vision tools. The market is growing so fast that companies from Asia and Europe are now well-represented at the fair. A well-known expert, Perski served for three years as a consultant to the creation of the Prodigy, a state-of-the art, text-to-speech digital magnifier with a detachable tablet.

The Schaumburg road show is busy enough today that Perski delays eating his sack lunch to attend to visitors. Gifted with a comforting manner, Perski quickly approaches visitors to quietly offer his assistance. When

asked if they carry this or that, he ushers them to the table with the right device and shows the visitor how it works, answers questions and offers reassurance.

Most visitors to the road show are from outside Friendship Village. Unfortunately, since the Lighthouse is selling products, a town statute prevents it from stuffing the mailboxes of Friendship Village residents. Ellen Lukey, a sprightly 90-year-old, is a Friendship Village resident. She's interested in a magnifier.

"Do I have to move the newspaper?"

"The tray," says Perski, deftly showing her how.

“Is this the brightest it can go?”

"No, you can't make it brighter."

"Will it last for a while?"

"It will last a long time. These

bulbs are LED bulbs. They don't get hot. They're supposed to last 100,000 hours."

“Why is this one only \$900?”

"It's a used model. It's two years old."

Perski does the opposite of a hard sell. Customer satisfaction means all. "Try it for three weeks. If you like it, you can keep it. You have 30 days to decide."

Lukey decides to buy a magnifier, and a Lighthouse staffer will carry it to her room today and explain again how to work it.

The average person with low vision will need six or seven tools—from handheld magnifiers to talking blood glucose monitors to CCTVs or desktop magnifiers, says Perski. “I ask people what are the most important things you want to do. I call it the top 10. Sew? Read the Bible? Read the newspaper?” he says. “I ask them to make a list when you wake up in the morning. Is it putting toothpaste on your toothbrush? Do you have a problem punching the numbers on the microwave? They might come up with 40 things. We’ll narrow it down to 10. With our resources we can deal with 8 or 9 of the 10.”

Bernice McBride, 65, of nearby Arlington Heights, wants to be able to read more easily. She's not happy with her magnifier. "It's a pain in the neck. You have to keep folding the newspaper. You can get only one column at a time."

McBride once fixed her machine. She did it the old-fashioned way. "It was hard to read. I punched it. It's been fine," she says.

McBride's children have told her repeatedly that she deserves better. "They've been after me to do something," she says without rancor. Today she's only window-shopping and leaves without a purchase.

Lavonne Verkade, sharp and alert at 93 and dressed in green with a jaunty St. Patrick's sign on her walker, has come to see what's available as well. "I can't afford it," she says of the fancy portable magnifier she is eying. "I don't play the lottery."

Verkade uses a magnifier to read books and to peek at her recipe when baking cookies. It “takes twice as

long” to make cookies now with her magnifier. But she likes to bake. As she sees it, she needs to bake. “I have a friend who drives me around. I pay him in cookies.”

Parenti, the former IHOP employee, leaves with a promise from Perski to mail her a handheld magnifier. “How much?” she asks. “No charge,” he replies. Perski was able to surmise she was of limited means, and the Lighthouse has a small fund to occasionally assist patients.

Among the last visitors of the day are the Thakkars, a father and daughter. The daughter translates for her father, who is from India. They flit from display to display, and Perski duly follows them and answers her queries. The father once tried glasses with a telescopic lens but would get a headache within five minutes of wearing them. “He can’t see faces. He wants to see faces,” the daughter tells Perski. There are no other options, he tells them.

She asks about watching TV. Perski says he does it by sitting very close to the screen. She doesn’t understand. Perski explains he had lost so much vision he had to give up driving when he was 25. He can see shapes. Now 62, he’s been legally blind for more than three decades. “I guess he shouldn’t feel so bad,” she says, motioning to her elderly father.

An inherited eye condition took Perski’s sight. “I went through all the stages—anger, denial,” he says later. His

vision loss enables him to empathize with his patients. “I have a master’s in counseling. I do undercover counseling,” he says with a smile. “I have a huge advantage. I can say things maybe a counselor can’t. I can say, ‘I know how you feel.’”

Perski often does not tell road show visitors about his blindness. Some never catch on: he’s that adept at moving around, handling objects and interacting with people. But he’ll volunteer it if he perceives it will help reassure or comfort a person.

Perski understands that blindness is real but disability is relative. People who one day feel sorry for themselves may one day realize that’s not productive. He’s seen that realization happen in an instant. He’s invited to self-help groups a 10-year-old who is blind. “There’s no whining that day. ‘What can I complain about when I didn’t lose my vision until I was 78?’”

Read how the Lighthouse assisted the father of a well-known Hollywood actress.

Watch an interesting video from the Chicago Lighthouse.



Lions provided the Chicago Lighthouse van.



JAPAN TSUNAMI UPDATE

FILLING A BREACH

Japan was not prepared to help survivors traumatized by the Great Eastern Japan Disaster, and Lions are supporting counseling for post-traumatic stress.

BY MIKIHIRO SUNAYAMA

Typhoons, torrential rain, flooding, landslides, tornadoes, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and, perhaps most frightening of all, tsunamis: the fragile islands of Japan suffer devastating natural events on a yearly basis. Since time immemorial the Japanese have said that “no sooner do we forget of the last disaster that the next one will strike.”

The magnitude 9 earthquake that shook northeastern Japan and unleashed a savage tsunami on March 11, 2011, killed more than 18,000 people. Most died by drowning. It was fourth most powerful earthquake since modern recordkeeping began in 1900 and the most powerful one to hit Japan.

Survivors still live in temporary housing units, and lives remain in shambles. Psychiatric care for victims is still woefully inadequate. Bodily injuries have healed but mental trauma persists, among many families not even addressed yet in any way.

Lions in Japan have offered many kinds of aid. They've made a difference particularly through counseling. Helped by Lions worldwide, who made donations to LCIF, Lions in Japan are enabling traumatized people to regain their mental bearings and put their lives back together.

JAPAN TSUNAMI UPDATE

When the earthquake and tsunami struck, there were hardly more than a handful of post-traumatic stress disorder experts in Japan. One of the few PTSD specialists, Hidefumi Kotani, a professor of clinical psychology at International Christian University (ICU), traveled to the disaster-stricken area in May 2011. While lodged in a childcare center owned by a friend, he visited disaster areas along the coast including Sendai.

The downtown of Sendai had been largely spared, but the damage to its outlying areas was a different story. Vast swaths of land along the coast had been inundated. Debris from thousands of homes lay everywhere. Journalists dispatched to report on Sendai struggled to describe the devastation but often resorted to “apocalyptic.”

Convinced of the necessity for adequate mental health care, Kotani met with To-moaki Adachi, a researcher at Miyagi Women’s College in Sendai. In September 2011, ICU and Miyagi Women’s College started the Disaster Relief Clinical Psychology Center (EJ Center) in Sendai to provide clinical counseling to disaster victims.

The Japanese are well aware of PTSD. Media reported on case after case following the Kobe Earthquake in 1995 and the Sarin gas attack in the Tokyo subway that same year. Untreated PTSD was blamed for attention-deficit related traffic accidents, truancy, isolationism, domestic violence and even suicide.

Psychiatric care in Japan is much less developed compared to that in other advanced nations. Cultural awareness for mental health issues is discouragingly low in Japan, and few patients know who or where to go to receive counseling or treatment. Mental disease is also largely brushed under the rug by the education and social welfare system.

PTSD is insidious. Immediately after a tragic disaster, most people quickly try to bounce back and find a new rhythm. Yet psychological distress can remain deep in the person’s mind, and initial symptoms often arise many months and years after the actual trauma. Symptoms include dizziness, nightmares, insomnia, emotional detachment and respiratory distress.

The disaster’s impact is reflected in the rise of social maladies in the Miyagi Prefecture where Sendai is located. The reported incidence of domestic violence has increased by 33 percent since the disaster. Child abuse has risen by 34 percent. Truancy, delinquency and traffic accidents all have increased as well.

LCIF Provided \$21 Million in Aid

Counseling for survivors was one of many ways LCIF partnered with Lions in Japan after the tsunami. LCIF’s relief efforts focused on replacing healthcare equipment that was damaged or destroyed and on supporting economic revitalization projects. LCIF mobilized and disbursed \$21 million for Japanese Lions after the disaster. LCIF provided \$1 million in Major Catastrophe Disaster funds, and Lions worldwide contributed \$20 million to LCIF for relief in Japan.



(Opposite) The earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011, resulted in an “apocalyptic” landscape. (Above) Japanese prefer to talk about their experiences in group sessions at the EJ Center in Sendai.



The Mental Care for Kids clinic in Rikuzen Takata was built thanks to support from LCIF.

The Sendai EJ Center has served 1,770 patients through December 2014. Many of the patients are professionals working in the disaster-stricken areas: students, medical professionals, caregivers and teachers. The founding premise of the EJ Center is that taking better care of the caregivers will have a trickle-down effect to the disaster survivors.

Healthcare professionals often downplay their own misfortune and stress. “My experience during the crisis was not so bad. I have no right to complain compared to people who lost children, spouses and parents. I got off easy” is a frequent reflection. Many of the professionals insist that they simply don’t have the time to take care of their own health. They repeatedly internalize their stress, which eventually manifests as physical ailments.

One psychiatrist reported that after hearing countless stories of personal loss and suffering from disaster victims, he subconsciously formed memories of being directly affected in the disaster, even though he had not been. His own health became compromised. In some cases the internalized trauma became tragic: incidents of healthcare workers committing suicide at the workplace.

The EJ Center duly provides individual counseling. But officials also developed a unique workshop therapy. Most people in Japan simply will not open up and talk about what they went through. Group workshops have been effective in giving people the freedom to speak out.

In the workshops, participants with similar experiences are divided into groups of about 10 people. Depending on the situation, various therapeutic approaches are used. In one method a participant reads a children’s picture book in a loud voice. That’s a first step in creating a comfortable environment before transitioning into actual therapy.

Another method borrows from a strategy that works with children, who often have difficulty verbally expressing

their emotional troubles. Adults in the therapy session recall deeply hidden memories from the disaster by using building blocks as a visual aid. They build pieces of furniture or houses only to later knock them over as if they were recreating the earthquake.

Though seemingly simplistic, the building block strategy has proven effective. One survivor had participated in many sessions but not spoken about what had happened to him for two years. Then, in tears, he related his story: “On 3/11, I was in my apartment. The furniture and everything else fell over. I was unable to get out of the apartment for two days. I was so scared.”

The EJ Center has become a much needed lifeline for medical professionals. EJ Center Director Adachi says, “Disaster victims’ experience is varied. It is difficult to quantify the therapeutic time and effort needed to help each individual patient. However, after a two-year treatment course of bimonthly workshops [6 hours per session], most patients report remission.”

Lions have played a crucial role in supporting the workshops. In 2013, the Sendai Aoba Lions Club, the Shizuoka Aoba Lions Club and District 332-C provided aid. In 2014, the same two clubs were able to supplement the operation of the EJ Center with funds from LCIF. The Kyoto North Lions Club began contributing in 2015. Appropriately, the EJ Center is known as the “Lions Clubs Mental Health Reconstruction Project.”

Recently, other institutions have begun to request workshops. The center has started providing monthly dispatch therapy sessions off-site as well. Lions help cover staff transportation costs.

In the nearby city of Rikuzen Takata in the Iwate Prefecture, all clinics and pharmacies were demolished on March 11. Just five months later, a new consolidated clinic

with internal and surgical medical treatment was opened. Lions clubs used the LCIF 3/11 Disaster Fund to purchase medical equipment and to erect temporary clinic buildings including one set aside for mental health care for middle school-aged children and younger.

Therapy also is provided for high school ages and above. The middle school and younger patients are seen by psychiatrists; older patients are seen by psychosomatic specialist physicians. The psychosomatic consultations for patients in high school and older have been provided every week without fail thanks to the Japan Society of Psychosomatic Medicine, the subspecialty's regulating body.

Dr. Keiko Yoshida, the chief of child psychiatry at Kyushu University Hospital, has visited Iwate often since 2011 to treat children. Until recently patients seeking psychiatric care in Rikuzen Takata have been few, she says. However, people are finally beginning to open up and talk about the 3/11 disaster and aftermath.

Yoshida expects the number of patients to seek care will increase but many "shadow patients" exist. Disaster survivors often hide their traumatic past in an effort to forget the painful memories. Others convince themselves that "I couldn't possibly be sick." Shadow patients' mental injury becomes deeper and more internalized. The more deeply they hide these injuries, the greater the potential for violent outbursts later on.

Lions of Japan will continue to support counseling and offer other aid. Disasters in Japan are a way of life, and Lions know their service will remain crucial for years to come.

A version of this story appeared in the Japanese LION.

Japan recovers from the tsunami with the help of Lions and LCIF. (May 2013 LION).

JAPAN TSUNAMI UPDATE

DESPAIR AND HOPE

Some adult survivors are unable to find closure yet children are showing signs of recovery.

BY HIDEAKI SUZUKI

The waves unleashed by the tsunami easily topped the seawall protecting Otsuchi, a small beach town of 1,300. Nearly one in ten residents perished within moments.

Dainen-Ji is the only Buddhist temple in Otsuchi that survived the disaster. It serves as a final resting place for the cremated remains of the disaster victims. Since all of the other temples were destroyed, Dainen-Ji accepts remains of all religious denominations. Today, four years after the disaster, there are still 80 reliquary boxes resting in the main worship hall of the temple alongside the spirit tablets of the temple's parishioners.

"Regardless of whether they were parishioners or not, many of the deceased persons' graves were swept away in the tsunami," says temple abbot Shuichi Ogayu, a member of the Otsuchi Lions Club since 1989. "We are responding to the wishes of surviving family members, and we offer a final resting place where the town can be viewed. There are still more than 40 boxes that are yet unidentified."

Ogayu says he will never forget the looks of distress and abandonment of the surviving family members who

came to the temple to find their loved one's remains but left empty-handed. "It was so hard to watch," he says. Determined to help them find a sense of closure, he made rounds to the parishioners living in temporary housing.

"For the families with children, they have to keep on chugging along for the sake of the kids. But for those individuals who lost their entire families and now live alone. ... Some of them are just living every day in destitution," says Ogayu.

In Otsuchi, interviews for those wanting public housing have begun. The reality in the community is that not everyone in need is stepping forward. As the construction has not even started, people are pessimistic about how long they will have to wait and when they will actually be able to move in.

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster nearly everyone shared the same predicament, forging a strong sense of camaraderie and mutual support. But four years have passed, and the survivors' emotions have diverged. Some are coping well and others are struggling terribly. The

burden on those who are helping is growing. Their challenges seem insurmountable.

“The longer people stay in temporary housing units, the further they sink into despair. This is the moment of truth. The deciding factor is going to be how well we can help heal hearts and minds,” says Ogayu.

Youth’s Resiliency

The elementary school building in Otsuchi remains in shambles. Truancy after summer vacation at the middle school was rampant again this year. The disaster has weighed heavily on children. The feelings they hold inside come spilling out in anger on occasion. Yet rays of sunshine burst through the dark times, says Ogayu.

Before the disaster, the Dainen-Ji temple held storybook readings at the request of the elementary school, adjacent to the temple. The readings have restarted. The student choir once again is practicing at the temple. Normalcy has made a comeback.

The schoolchildren are benefiting from a variety of programs and projects. A nonprofit in Tokyo has sent university students to tutor the children affected by the disaster. Counselors are available at schools for one-on-one sessions. Hiroshi Sado, a world-famous conductor, and other world-class musicians have performed for the community and held hands-on musical workshops.

“Since the disaster, the kids have been exposed to so many rare experiences. They have been able to meet famous people from Japan and abroad,” says Ogayu’s wife, Lion Miyako, who helps run the storybook reading and chorus practice. “The exposure to these kinds of once-in-a-lifetime experiences has increased dramatically post-disaster. Their perspective has broadened. They have more ambition. Many lost parents and are suffering greatly psychologically. But it hasn’t been all doom and gloom for these kids.”

Adds her husband, “I think that it’s safe to say that there is a lot of hope for the children right now. Hope that they can and will turn out to be strong adults. Personally I really feel that the children and the youth in general have a renewed sense of love and pride for the community.”

Looming ahead, however, is the cutoff date for government recovery funds. The clock strikes midnight in April 2016 for many of the most beneficial programs.

The Lions clubs of Japan have a longstanding reputation for supporting children in need, and communities will count on the continued support of Lions.

In Otsuchi there is a small island off the coast called Horai-Jima, which served as the inspiration for “Hyokkori Hyotan-Jima,” a famous children’s

puppet theater TV show from the mid-1960s. The loudspeakers in Otsuchi play the Hyokkori Hyotan-Jima theme song at noon each day. (Every town in Japan plays a midday chime and a 5 p.m. melody on massive PA systems.) Serendipitously, the song’s lyrics seem to capture the feeling of hope and recovery:

*Sometimes it’s gonna be rough
Sometimes it’s gonna be sad
That’s why we gotta keep hangin’ on tough
We don’t like to cry, we just laugh it off.*



The Dainen-Ji temple includes the reliquaries (the containers shrouded in white) of victims of the disaster as well as tablets (above) to memorialize the departed spirits of parishioners.

(Opposite) Women from three generations of a family sit in the former bathroom of their home in Otsuchi, most of which was flattened by the tsunami.





12-Year-Old Makes A Braille Printer From A Lego Kit

BY ANDREA APPLETON



Isaac Newton had his falling apple, Benjamin Franklin his kite and key. Twelve-year-old inventor Shubham Banerjee's "aha moment" came as a result of a flier on his doorstep. The flier requested donations to help the blind.

Shubham Banerjee holds the Braille printer he built from Legos.

"I saw it and asked my parents 'How do blind people read?'" Shubham recalls. "They told me to Google it, and that's how I found out about Braille and how much Braille printers cost." Braille printers, known as embossers, are pricey. They start around \$2,000. Shubham was preparing for a science fair at his San Francisco Bay Area school, so he decided to try to invent a cheap embosser. He started tinkering with a LEGO Mindstorms EV3 robotics kit.

About a month later—after numerous false starts and some moments of despair—Shubham had a working model on his hands. He dubbed it Braigo. The machine was slow; it took 10 to 15 seconds to produce each raised character, and the results were printed vertically on a roll of calculator paper. A single word might span several inches of paper.

Braigo proved impractical for everyday use. But with a \$350 toy kit and some dedication, a 7th-grader had slashed the price of the cheapest consumer Braille printer by more than 80 percent. Shubham's invention highlights the fact that there is plenty of room for improvement in Braille printing technology.

"I've been in the industry for 15 or 20 years," says Jim Denham, director of Assistive Technology for Educational Programs at the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, Massachusetts. "And embossers haven't changed a whole lot in those years." The chief difficulty, he says, is the limited market. According to the World Health Organization, about 39 million people in the world are blind. But only a tiny subset of this population reads Braille. "If these small companies [that produce embossers] can sell a thousand of their product, that's considered a great success," Denham says.

Ike Presley, national project manager for the American Foundation for the Blind in New York, agrees that demand is the key to the problem. "I still find it fascinating that we have companies willing to make stuff for our population," he says.

And though they may advertise themselves as cheaper or more portable, new products do not always produce readable Braille, Denham says. "You really want good firm dots and the alignment to be good. There's a lot that goes into good-quality Braille."

Shubham, with financial backing from Intel—his father is a director there—hopes to overcome these hurdles with his new consumer product, Braigo 2.0. This version, which should hit the market this year, is a quantum leap from his initial LEGO product. Powered by Intel's Edison chip, Shubham says it will be "the world's cheapest, lightest, quietest, IOT-enabled Braille printer." (IOT stands for "Internet of Things," allowing for connection with the Internet and other devices.)

Experts in the field have a healthy skepticism of new products, and Shubham's is no exception. "We're often asked by a new inventor, 'What do you think about this?'"



Shubham plans to sell his Braigo 2.0 to consumers.

Presley says. “I always play devil’s advocate. What happens is they go and put all their time, energy and resources into developing this thing and they didn’t look at the market and realize, ‘Okay, how many of these am I going to be able to sell?’”

But, Denham says, the need is there. “It would be great if it [Braigo 2.0] produced good-quality Braille,” he says. “We’re always looking for less expensive and portable solutions for our students.”

Braigo 2.0 will have features other printers do not such as the ability to print out CNN headlines every morning. But among the visually impaired, as in the sighted world, reading is increasingly a digital activity.

“People make a decision about what they want in hard copy versus electronic,” Presley says. “Blind people do that in a very similar way. Now, do *you* want to print out your CNN newsfeed every day? No.” Computerized devices featuring refreshable Braille have become common. Small, round pins, made of plastic, rise and fall in response to an electronic signal, forming the dots of a Braille cell. On what is known as a Braille notetaker, users can download files like e-books from a computer, access features like calendars, and in some cases, connect to the Internet. Apple’s

iDevices have also become popular among Braille readers. With a refreshable Braille display attached, blind users have access to nearly the same world of information as the sighted.

Most of these setups, however, cost at least \$2,000. And if Shubham’s invention lives up to its promise, it could be a boon for the blind in other ways. Some Braille readers prefer paper Braille. And refreshable Braille currently only displays one line of text at a time, which is a problem when it comes to representing images like charts, graphs or, say, complex math problems. “Paper Braille is still really valuable,” Denham says.

For Shubham’s part, success with Braigo 2.0 would be icing on the cake. Not long ago, he says, “I didn’t even know there was a thing called Braille.” Now he runs his own Braille printer company and has been featured on media outlets ranging from CNN to “The Queen Latifah Show.” But his most shining moment came last June at the White House. Shubham sounds like a Silicon Valley executive when he talks Braille printers, but on the subject of meeting the president, his tone is very much that of a 12-year-old: “Barack Obama’s funny,” Shubham says, “and really awesome.”

GREEN FIELDS GROW IN ICELAND

BY JAY COPP | PHOTOS DAN MORRIS

Mile after mile of lovely green grass carpets the southern coast of Iceland. Formerly barren, the rich land represents 47 years of revegetation by a small Lions club, able to reverse 1,000 years of environmental degradation and inspire land reclamation nationwide.

The 18-member Sudri Lions Club has spread grass seed and fertilizer in its rugged coastline area for nearly half a century. More than 150 kilometers (93 miles) of grass have taken root.

After being settled in the 9th century, Iceland eventually lost 97 percent of its forest. Erosion has been intensi-

fied by harsh weather and periodic volcanic eruptions. The environmental decay is dismayingly ironic considering the small island nation near the Arctic Circle is a popular destination for tourists drawn to its magnificent, unspoiled volcanoes, lava fields, glaciers, geysers, waterfalls and black sand beaches.

“The single most important environmental issue Iceland has faced for many centuries is soil erosion and lack of vegetation, caused by human activity,” says Adalsteinn Sigurgerisson, the research director at the Icelandic Forestry agency.

Sudri Lions have planted grass along 93 miles of coastland in Iceland.







The grass project has been labor intensive for 45 years.

Lion Einar Þorsteinsson, a farmer and expert on soil conservation, led the revegetation effort. He's 87 now but remains active in the project. "The other members [of the club] are a bit out of our element, but we're good for carrying the necessary material to the site," says Ásgeir Magnússon.

Sudri Lions live in Vik, a coastal windswept village with 282 people. "Sudri" means southern, and the Lions club is the southernmost one in Iceland.

The project has been fraught with challenges. The grass sometimes does not take. "In many areas we have to go there again and again to stop the soil erosion," says Magnússon. Even more daunting, the mountainous landscape sometimes requires Lions to carefully maneuver a 4-wheel drive vehicle up a rough road and then ingeniously slide bags of fertilizer and seed down the side of the mountains.

The results justify the Herculean effort. "All up around the hill it was a wound, a red-black wound," says Þorður Tomasson, 93, referring to a jagged hill. "There was no grass. Lions did save it."

Other clubs have since followed the example of the Sudri Lions. Emulating Lions, farmers throughout Iceland have also reversed soil erosion.

Many clubs in Iceland also plant trees to battle soil erosion and to beautify the countryside. Hornafjardar Lions have planted trees for 44 years, and the all-women Gardabaejar Eik Lions Club have done so for 26 years. "We are responsible for the earth, and we should do everything we can to make it even better for our children and grandchildren," says Past District Governor Halldor Kristjánsson of the Asbjorn Lions.

Watch a brief video on the Lions' revegetation.



Lions planting grass use a 4-wheel drive vehicle to reach the top of hills. The road to the top of 1,110-foot Reynisfjall mountain was built by U.S. soldiers during World War II to spot German U-boats.



Schoolchildren in Nepal at a Lions Quest school work on an assignment. Lions Quest is present in 85 countries and program materials have been translated into 36 languages, engaging more than 13 million students.

Lions Quest Promotes Dignity for NYC Students

All children deserve dignity—especially those in the heart of Brooklyn. Only 30 percent of public school students there meet academic standards, according to recent state assessments. So when officials at P.S. 233 Langston Hughes decided they wanted to better serve students’ emotional needs by improving behavior and reducing suspensions, Lions knew just how to help.

Lions and Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) have long promoted social and emotional learning through Lions Quest, a comprehensive youth development program that promotes character education, bullying prevention, drug awareness and service learning. After the state of New York enacted the Dignity for All Students Act,

seeking to provide students with a supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation and bullying, Lions Quest was deemed a good fit for the state and for P.S. 233.

In addition to the introduction of Lions Quest, Lions also observe classes at P.S. 233 to identify and address the unique needs of that school. Because all schools in New York are required to provide K-12 instruction in character education, civility and citizenship, Lions statewide are involved in sharing Lions Quest’s value and the need for it in their schools.

New York Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci has seen the value of Lions Quest in his district on Long Island. “The support and lessons learned through the Lions Quest ini-

tiative ensure the long-term success of our schools, and most importantly, our students,” says Lupinacci. “I want to thank the Lions Club and its members for their support, which is critical to providing teachers with the resources necessary to help their students thrive.”

As with all Lions Quest programs, local Lions are an integral piece of the puzzle. Throughout the state, Lions are expanding the partnership with their local schools, forging new relationships with people in their communities and raising awareness of what it means to be a Lion.

Lion Ralph Gonzalez has seen the program benefit not only students but also Lions as well. “Bringing Lions Quest to New York City has really energized our Lions,” explains Gonzalez. “Lions are now bringing vision screenings into schools. The Laurelton Lions Club awards annual scholarships and even hosts student talent shows.”

The Queens Pride Lions Club and District 20 K-1 secured the first Lions Quest grant to bring teacher training to New York. Previously, Lions Quest was only in two schools in New York, one upstate and one in Long Island. Lions Quest is now in 11 schools in New York City. At the request of the New York Department of Education, Lions are active in every phase of Lions Quest programming.

With the support of local Lions, Lions Quest is expanding at an incredible pace in New York City. The success of Lions Quest relies on the Lions who champion the program in their own communities. To find out how your club can bring Lions Quest to your local schools, visit lions-quest.org.

Field of Dreams Built for Those with Disabilities

Chris Branan played Little League baseball as a child and later coached a Little League team. His 10-year-old son, Jake, loves baseball and plays as well. Like father, like son?

Well, not exactly. But well more than close enough.

Jakes uses a wheelchair. He didn't play organized baseball until Lions helped build City Pond Park in Covington, Georgia. The park is designed for players with physical and mental disabilities. The game is a little different from a standard Little League game, but the feelings of pride and satisfaction for players and parents are the same. With the new field, Branan feels like he and his son are carrying on a family tradition. “This is a dream come true,” says Branan.

Making dreams come true is the stock-in-trade of the Miracle League. Founded in 1997 in Georgia, the Miracle League has pioneered baseball for youths with disabilities. The game is played on an adapted, accessible field. Community members serve as “buddies” to assist the players. Every player bats once each inning, reaches every base safely and scores a run before the inning is over. And every team and every player wins every game.

The Lions of District 18-I were awarded a US\$75,000 Standard Grant from LCIF to assist with the construction of the Miracle League Field at City Pond Park. Lions have been actively involved in many aspects of the project, from fundraising to marketing, and have even supplied professional labor and construction materials. The park officially opened in April with 100 players on eight teams.

Before the field at City Pond Park, the nearest Miracle League was in a neighboring county. That's where Morgan, a 6-year-old with spinal muscular atrophy type II, was forced to play for two years. The drive was worth it. His older siblings played sports, and he felt left out on the sidelines.

Morgan now plays for the Phillies, and his family cheers him on in his hometown. “Having a Miracle League

field so close to home means we have a place to call our own and makes baseball more accessible to local kids,” says Tangi Forman, his mother.

Lions supported the field because they know that sports play a significant role in the development of children. They teach motor skills, teamwork and sportsmanship and can help lay the groundwork for a healthy life. And aside from that, playing sports is a heap of fun.

Mickie Bradley and her son, Taylor, are also thrilled that Miracle League has come to Newton County. Taylor had played with the Miracle League in nearby Conyers for 12 years, and his family has seen his confidence build immensely. Watching Taylor play is a great experience for his family and friends. “How you view the simple things in life will be forever changed after you witness these athletes with the biggest smiles and squeals of laughter from hitting that ball and hearing everyone cheer for them,” says Bradley.

With the help of local Lions and LCIF, no one in Newton County is left out of the great American pastime. Play ball!



Miracle Field is a place of joy.

Photo courtesy of the Miracle League of Newton County



Want to get social?

Watch for the next Facebook and Twitter question on May 5:

Do you know a Lion who has dealt with a disability or illness in a unique or inspiring way? Has your Lions club done a special project to help someone who is disabled? Please comment and tell us about your experiences.



A Powerful Piece of Plastic

The Lions of Virginia in District 24-D have created a special tool for hospital patients with low vision: a plastic card with a 5X magnifying lens. The size of a credit card, it was the idea of Lion Timothy Marinelli, who had a heart attack and was rushed to a nearby hospital. Because he didn't have his eye-glasses, he was unable to sign important medical documents. He has since recovered, and the Lions of Virginia distributed more than 2,000 magnifiers to emergency rooms in the region. Each one bears a QR code that, when scanned, takes readers to the Lions of Virginia website.



Find it at lionsclubs.org

Now is the time to get excited—and informed—about the upcoming 98th International Convention in Honolulu. LCI's website is your one-stop-shop for all things convention. Get the lowdown on airport ground transportation, local attractions and pre- and post-convention tours. Find the exhibitor schedule, seminar materials, the plenary speaker lineup, parade details and much more. Also visit the convention's Facebook page for the latest updates at facebook.com/lcicon.

Smile and Snap a Selfie

SMILE (Social Media including Lions Everywhere), an initiative by a team of Lions aiming to gather and centralize social media information and support Lions clubs in their social media efforts, wants Lions to have some "selfie" fun. Take a photo of yourself, along with some Lions friends if you like, during a club project or event and post it to Facebook or Twitter with the hashtag #lionsclubselfie. Be creative and join this worldwide effort—the only requirement is to include a Lions logo in the photo. Find out more at lionssmile.org/lionsclubselfies.



Connect with Us Online: lionsclubs.org/web

Email us at lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org to submit a comment or make a story suggestion for our editors.

Building Bridges in Cyberspace: How to Court the Millennials

Eighty million strong, the Millennials—young adults born between 1980 and the early 2000s—are now the largest generation in the United States. Since this “plugged-in” group stays in touch through texting and social media, digital marketing is more crucial than ever to your club’s growth. Here are some tips to help you shine online:

- Keep feeding your Facebook page. In the world of “likes,” “shares” and “tags,” one cute photo from your club’s event can take the world by storm quickly. “Photos ... beget more photos, which beget still more photos,” says Professor Brett Kolles, adviser to the Dakota County Technical College (DCTC) Lions Club in Rosemount, Minn. His club of 20- and 30-somethings has 11 members, three pending and another 40 on a routing list (interested either in joining or in volunteering at events). “When a photo is ‘tagged,’ it becomes shared on the wall of each [tagged] user, thus opening up the potential of hundreds of new ‘friends’ who might be interested in joining the Lions,” Kolles said.
- Younger adults prefer to pass on information about a cause rather than an organization, noted “The 2013 Millennial Impact Report,” a survey of 2,665 millennial-aged people. So showcase your causes often and creatively. For example, build pages on your website about your vision screening, clothing drive and charity bazaar. Add some photos, a brief sentence or two and a few “buttons” saying “Get More Info,” “Donate Here” and “Join Us.” Then add “sharing” buttons for social media (like Facebook and Twitter). You’re apt to show up in search results and get some shares.
- Millennials like to try things out on a smaller scale before committing, the 2013 report said. So create some one-day events where guest volunteers can help (for example, handing out water at a charity race, cleaning up a playground or passing out holiday gifts to children). Send out texts and post the invitation on your website and social media (don’t forget e-Clubhouse).
- Build a YouTube channel, which can generate wide interest. It’s easier than you might think. The Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Inc. has a YouTube channel devoted entirely to its summer camp for children that has amassed 8,500 video views. “Having these social media outlets is super important for allowing potential members to stay connected,” says Cecily Filtz, WLF public relations manager. “We get a ton of interaction with potential and current club members, young and old (mostly young).”
- Remember to keep “pitching” traditional media, such as newspapers, TV and radio. They share stories on their social media sites, too.



This photo of sunbathers on a frozen lake got lots of laughs—and “likes” (more than 600)—on Facebook for the Wisconsin Lions Foundation. WLF Summer Camp staffers (left to right) Ellyse Kulba, Andrea Yenter, Jamie Jannusch and Paula Lauer braved the winter beach to get youths psyched up for annual camp. More than 19,000 Facebook users viewed the post.

Bring in the Geeks

Millennials are heavy users of cell phones, tablets and other portable gadgets that let them connect to the Internet. It’s how they find restaurants, get directions, shop online and keep in touch. But if your website is hard to see on a tiny cell phone, they’ll “close the window” and move on. Get a Web developer to streamline your website for smaller devices. (This is called “responsive design.”) It’s a technical issue, but an important one.



Family (Still) Matters

The Wall Street Journal notes that Millennials are the first generation to have tech-savvy parents; some have running conversations with their parents all day through texting or online chats. The lesson? Don’t exclude “older” members (and friends) from your digital marketing efforts. They might share those texts or Facebook posts with their children.

Club News

The **Bergenfield Lions** in **New Jersey** took part in White Cane Day, entered a float in the community's Memorial Day parade, sponsored the Peace Poster contest in schools and helped out at a spaghetti dinner.

Ellenton-Parrish Lions in **Florida** donned neon vests provided by the county to clean up a roadside. The county also provides safety signs, bags and tools for the annual project.



Ranier Lion Linda Lazelle distributes dictionaries to schoolchildren. Lions gave dictionaries to 114 students in three schools in **Washington**. Lions have been presenting third-graders with dictionaries for the past 10 years as an ongoing project. The dictionaries also include Braille and sign language alphabets.

Leos at West Middle School in **Nampa, Idaho**, revamped and replanted decorative shrubbery in a school atrium in memory of a beloved librarian who died of cancer. The project's total cost was approximately \$1,200, which was entirely raised by Leos, who sponsored car washes and bake sales.

The **Plano Early Lions Club** in **Texas** joined volunteers from the Boys & Girls Club-Keystone Club to clean, sanitize and sort by prescription more than 1,500 donated eyeglasses. The work was completed in two hours, and the glasses were sent to the Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling

Center for missions to developing areas of the world.

The **Hartford Saint Lucian Lions Club** in **Connecticut** collected more than 10,000 items to be shipped to St. Lucia after a devastating storm. Included with recovery supplies were clothing, shoes, cleaning aids, medical equipment, food, water and backpacks filled with educational and recreational materials for children. Members of the **Pitons Lions Club** in **St. Lucia** then gave items to those in need.

The **Pierceton Lions Club** in **Indiana** give dictionaries to third-graders who return to school in the fall. It's an annual tradition for Lions to donate dictionaries as a literacy project.

The **Manila Divisoria Lions Club** in the **Philippines** regularly feed the hungry, especially schoolchildren, in a poor area of the city.

Lions in **Springfield, Pennsylvania**, served as ushers during a high school's Cavalcade of Bands performance as they have done for the past several years.

Irving Noon and Evening Lions in **Texas** joined together to conduct low vision screening for children. Lions paid for 50 pairs of prescription eyeglasses for youngsters who needed them.

Fillmore Lions in **California** recently distributed \$12,000 to 10 different community programs.

The \$800 raised by **Morinville Lions** in **Alberta, Canada**, who sponsored a "roast" of their community's former fire chief, will be donated to the local volunteer fire department to purchase safety equipment.

The **Coaticook Lions Club** in **Quebec, Canada**, paid for and shipped 200 pair of special sunglasses for albino children after receiving a request from a Lions club in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**.



Spring Township Lions in **Pennsylvania** renovated a popular park picnic facility. Lions and their families volunteered more than 1,000 hours of labor to remove old siding and install new siding with two coats of paint to preserve it. They also completely rehabbed the facility's interior and installed a new stainless steel grill area with added benches and storage cabinets. Lions spent \$5,150 on materials, more than twice their original budget.

The **Martinsville-Henry County Lions Club** of **Virginia** donated \$500 to be used to purchase audible beeping eggs for an Easter egg hunt for visually handicapped children. The children then exchange the eggs for candy treats.

The **Dalles Lions Club** in **Oregon** gave a donation to help obtain a diabetic-alert service dog for a 7-year-old boy.

The **Washington County Lady Lions Club** in **Texas** gave \$5,000 to the Washington County Healthy Living Association and another \$5,000 to the Texas Lions Camp. The funds were raised by a Lions calendar sale.

In **Massachusetts**, the **Acushnet Lions Club** built a handicap access ramp and planted eight new trees in a community park to someday grow tall enough to provide shade in a sunny area for park visitors.

The **Tunkhannock Lions and Falls Lions Clubs in New York** joined together to sponsor a blood drive that collected more than 50 pints of blood and plasma.

Before the Seattle Seahawks won Super Bowl XLVIII in 2014, the **Tacoma Southeast Lions Club in Washington** raffled a white football signed by Warren Moon and Steve Largent, both of whom are in the Seattle Seahawks Football Hall of Fame. Lions raised \$2,000, donated to a food bank.



In **Illinois**, **Aurora Noon Lion Joe Beary** (far right) and his **Four Inspirations band** entertained residents of a nursing home with a selection of songs including a popular oldie, the theme song from the **Mickey Mouse Club**. Lions also hosted a luncheon.

The **Roanoke Lions Club in Indiana** gave \$500 to the public library and distributed funds to other community groups. Lions raised the cash from an annual sausage sandwich sale.

Members of the **Brockport Lions Club in New York** built a wheelchair ramp for a woman when they learned she was homebound because she was unable to access stairs.

In **California**, **Higgins Diggins Lion Donna Prince** developed a reading contest to promote literacy at two schools during which 660 students read more than 2,200 books. The **Woodland Host and Penn Valley Hi-Graders Lions Clubs** were inspired to adopt a similar literacy project to reach hundreds more students in their own communities.

Park Rapids Lions in Minnesota purchased 19 screen vision magnifiers for sight-impaired community residents. Each \$350 magnifier can be attached to a computer monitor or television screen.

The **South Carroll Lioness-Lions Club in Massachusetts** collected money and pet goods for the Humane Society of Carroll County as the club's Make a Difference Day project last October. They held their collection drive at a veterinary hospital.

The **Lions Club of Bridgeport, West Virginia**, donated a defibrillator to the local high school.

In **Wisconsin**, members of the **Seeley Lions Club** donated more than 50 hours of labor to clean up trails used by hikers and mountain bikers after severe storms swept through their area and felled large trees and branches.

Humble Noon Lions in Texas donated \$1,000 each to three local community agencies that help the homeless and people in need.

The **Arkona Lions and Lioness Clubs in Ontario, Canada**, donated \$1,000 each towards the ReGreen Rock Glen Conservation Area campaign to purchase and plant native trees in a popular recreational area that lost shade trees to disease.

Goshen Lions in Pennsylvania donated funds to Cradles to Crayons, which provides homeless and low-income children with essential items they need at home, school or play.

More than 350 story and activity books were collected and donated to a center for deaf children by the **Georgetown Perdana Lions Club in Malaysia**.

In **Kentucky**, the **Washington Lions Club** raised more than \$20,000 from its 20th annual Antique and Craft Expo. A total of 150 vendors displayed their wares to an estimated

5,000 visitors. All money is recycled back into community service projects including scholarships, vision screening and winter clothing for families in need.

The **Lions Club of Leduc, Alberta, Canada**, gave a CAD\$300,000 donation to the city of Leduc to help pay for a dual-purpose skating rink the municipality built. The rink can be used as a basketball or lacrosse court in warm weather. Because of their generosity, the rink was named after Lions.

Selma, Alabama, Lions collected between 1,000 to 1,500 pounds of canned goods by requesting that children bring an item to donate on Kids Day at the Central Alabama Fair. A trailer load of collected items was then donated to a food bank.

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Marshall Weselowsky and his father, Lance, show their appreciation at the Lions' gift presentation ceremony.

Heartwarming Help

Five-year-old Marshall Weselowsky loves to play with toy cars and planes, watch his favorite Disney movies until they're memorized and use his newly-found sarcastic wit to amuse his parents, Laurie and Lance.

The residents of Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Canada, are resting easier now that Marshall has an internal pacemaker. Marshall was just 6 days old when he underwent his first of several heart surgeries. Born with a rare combination of three distinct heart abnormalities, his heart has three chambers instead of four, the pulmonary valve and artery leading to his lungs were nonexistent and his heart is positioned as a mirror image of a normal heart. The family has endured several scares, including cyanotic episodes that caused him to turn blue due to lack of oxygen.

After the last episode, doctors determined that Marshall urgently needed a pacemaker. "We had been unaware that during rest Marshall's heart rate would drop to a dangerously low 30 beats per minute. It was like an overused rechargeable battery and is unable to ever fully recharge," says Lance. The Weselowskys were stunned to discover that Marshall first needed a \$3,000 dental surgery. The link between dental plaque and heart disease requires that patients have dental procedures completed before thoracic surgery.

When the Rosthern Lions heard about the family's pressing need, they quickly took action. Lance explains, "The fear and unbearable emotional weight that a parent of a chronically ill child endures is impossible to describe. I cannot express the feeling of that moment when we found out the Lions would cover the cost of the surgery. Thinking about it still brings tears to my eyes."

Lions, has your club heard from a recipient of your service or charity? Tell us about the feedback you've received from those whose lives you've changed for the better. Email a brief description to lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org. Please include "Thank You" in the subject line.

28th Annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest

Share Peace

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

Start now. Purchase a 2015-16 Peace Poster Contest Kit (PPK-1), which contains all the materials needed to sponsor one contest.

Kits are sold through the Club Supplies Sales Department, January 15 - October 1, 2015, at International Headquarters. A kit must be purchased for each contest sponsored. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery; outside the U.S. may take longer.



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

Information

In Memoriam

Past International Director Carter Everage, who served on the international board of directors from 1973 to 1975, has died. A Lion for 65 years, he was a member of the Versailles Lions Club in Indiana and was one of the founding members of Camp Woodsmoke for campers with developmental and physical disabilities. A graduate of Purdue University, Everage was a professor of agriculture, operated a farm and was a World War II Army veteran.

For the Record

As of March 31, Lions Clubs International had 1,396,932 members in 46,622 clubs and 755 districts in 210 countries and geographic areas.

Convention Countdown

2015	Honolulu, Hawaii June 26-30
2016	Fukuoka, Japan June 24-28
2017	Chicago, Illinois June 30-July 4
2018	Las Vegas, Nevada June 29-July 3
2019	Milan, Italy July 5-9

Correction

Beverley Berger's dog guides (March LION) were provided by the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. The foundation provides service dogs in six programs to Canadians with mental and physical disabilities at no cost to clients. The LION regrets the error.

View the Higher Key Awards

Travel with other LION Members!



Transatlantic Voyage with France & Spain 23 days from \$1999*

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*PPDO. Based on inside stateroom, upgrades available. Plus \$299 tax/service/government fees. Add-on airfare available.



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*PPDO. Plus \$159 tax/service/government fees. Add-on airfare available.



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[Anniversaries

MAY 2015

95 Years: Cedar Rapids Noon, Iowa; Everett Central, Wash.; Fort Collins, Colo.; Loveland, Colo.; Mason City, Iowa; Mayfield, Ky.; Saginaw Downtown, Mich.; Toronto Central, ON, CAN; Trinidad, Colo.

90 Years: Chinook, Mont.; Jefferson City Host, Mo.; Montebello, Calif.; New Holland, Pa.; Sandusky, Ohio

85 Years: Harrisville, W.V.; Pleasant Lake, Ind.; Zionsville, Ind.

80 Years: Bessemer City, N.C.; Buena Vista, Va.; Burgettstown, Pa.; Marlin, Texas; Pittsburgh North Side, Pa.; Red Bud, Ill.; Winnsboro, S.C.

75 Years: Aberdeen, Wash.; Atlanta, Texas; Calvert County, Md.; Canyon, Texas; Columbus Southeast, Ohio; Dawson, Texas; Ephrata, Wash.; Falls Church, Va.; Federalsburg, Md.; Gonzales Noon, Texas; Grayslake, Ill.; Greeneville, Tenn.; Greenwood, Miss.; Groveport Madison, Ohio; Houston, Mo.; Logan, W.V.; Lost Creek, W.V.; Minneapolis Northeast, Minn.; Neosho, Mo.; Princeton, W.V.; Scarborough Central, ON, CAN; Tygart Valley, W.V.; Vandergrift, Pa.; Westwood, Mass.

50 Years: Amherst, Neb.; Ashkum, Ill.; Bouctouche, NB, CAN; Buffalo, S.D.; Carolina Oscar Millan Rohena, P.R.; Craik District, SK, CAN; Lannon, Wis.; Port Edwards, Wis.; Sheldon, N.D.; Souhegan, N.H.; Stockbridge, Mass.; Tidioute, Pa.; Windham, Maine

25 Years: Eagle Pass Border, Texas; Guadalupe, Ariz.; Marion County Camp Taloali, Ore.

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

Roar of Approval

After a typhoon hit the Philippine Islands in 2013, Harbor Beach Lions **Bob** and **Sherry Swartz** in Michigan initiated a community campaign that collected nearly \$4,000 to purchase nonperishable food and medical supplies. Funds and clothing were also donated to Lions to pay for the shipment of 42 cartons containing food, clothing, blankets and medical supplies to various small outlying islands that received no other assistance.

Bill Stancombe of the Indiana Lions Club in Pennsylvania was named 2014 Male Civic Leader of the Year for his many contributions to Indiana County. He's been a Lion for more than 20 years and is involved in several organizations including the county Humane Society.

Two Norton Lions in Virginia are still showing what big hearts they have—six decades after joining the club. Lions **Glen Teasley**, 84, and **Glenn Hill**, 95, have been working hard for the club's Big Heart Project since it first began 64 years ago providing clothing, toys and food for families in need in Norton and surrounding communities. Last year, the club helped more than 200 families.

Boyd Baker, 88, a member of the Katy Lions Club in Texas since 1983, was profiled in an issue of Katy Magazine for another longtime collaboration—his 66-year marriage to his wife Emily, whom he met in 1941. The happily-married couple share 5 children, 9 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Baker, a pastor and author, says of his 86-year-old wife, “It was love at first sight.”

The Medway Lions Club in Massachusetts now has two sets of two-generation female Lions with the recent induction of **Andrea Faust**. She joins mom, **Diana**, a 15-year Medway Lion. The other pairing is Immediate Past President **Dawn Rice-Norton** and her daughter, 19-year-old **Kelsey Norton**, the club's first Leo to Lion. The club was among the first in its district to accept women. Its membership is about 44 percent female.

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Hound of Heaven

Pope Francis blesses Francesco, a dog guide named after the pope, in St. Peter's Square in Rome. Holding the puppy is his trainer, Maurizio Familiari, and to his right is Lion Giovanni Fossati, president of a Lions' dog guide program in Limbiate, Italy. The dog will be given to a blind person in Rome. St. Francis had a special rapport with animals, of course. The blessing was "an extraordinary event that has spiritually unified the pope with the history of the dog guides and has given social relevance to our service for the blind," according to a statement by the Lions' office in Italy.



Lions Clubs International
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