

LION

SUMMER 2024 LIONMAGAZINE.ORG

Make Your Mark

International President
Fabrício Oliveira is ready
to make a lasting impression
through service.



Lions International

Make a statement while you serve.

Bring some extra style to your next service event with the new *Lions Heritage collection*. This new product line features contemporary designs that stand out no matter where or how you serve. Choose from a variety of mixed-material items, including water bottles, trucker hats, decals and more.



Order yours from the Lions Shop at lionsclubs.org/shop.



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WE SERVE

LIONS INTERNATIONAL MISSION

To empower Lions clubs, volunteers and partners to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian service and grants that impact lives globally, and encourage peace and international understanding.

CONTACTING LION MAGAZINE

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MemberServiceCenter@lionsclubs.org.

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MAKING OUR MARK TOGETHER

With every life we touch and every community we serve, we make a mark that will endure.

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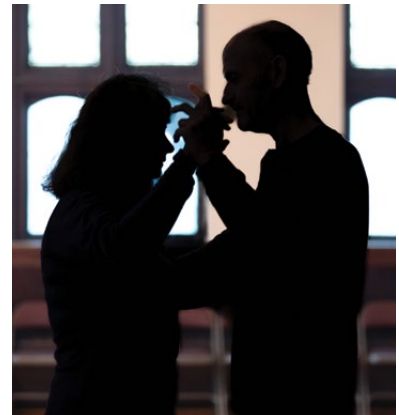
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LEAVE A LION LEGACY

Lions have been changing lives and improving communities in over 200 countries around the world since 1917. Every day, we are building on our legacy of humanitarian service by bringing possibilities to life for those in need. LCIF would like to thank those who remembered the global foundation in their estate plans, ensuring our legacy lives on for generations to come.

Learn how you can make a lasting gift at
lcif.myplannedgift.org



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

Make Your Mark

Dear Lion,

Growing up in Brazil as part of an entrepreneurial family, I learned how important it was to have a vision and a plan to achieve it. I also learned the power of community. Community has always been the bedrock of my journey, and the deep sense of belonging and the desire to strengthen it ignited my passion for service.

That's the spark that led me to Lions. I saw something special in this organization — an opportunity to give back to the community that had been so good to me. And I have as a Lion, just as you have in your own community.

When we serve, we make a lasting impression on the lives of the people we serve. It's the mark of compassion. It's the mark of kindness. It's the mark of a Lion.

That's why my presidential message for this year is "Make Your Mark."

Let's make our mark by inviting others to join our clubs, opening the doors to new friendships and new ideas. Let's make our mark by increasing our impact and serving more people than ever before.

Each Lion has a story to tell. I hope the stories in this issue will inspire you, motivate you and encourage you to share your own stories with your community.

It is my deepest honor to serve as your international president. Together, we will make our mark, every time and everywhere we serve.

At your service,



Fabrício Oliveira
International President, Lions Clubs International



We Serve



On Top of the World Down Under

Lions and Leos from around the world gathered in Melbourne, Australia, June 21-25, 2024, for the premier Lion event of the year. Attendees enjoyed five days of learning from one another, hearing from inspirational speakers, catching up with old friends and making new ones, and enjoying all that Australia's cultural capital has to offer.

Couldn't join us in Melbourne? No problem. We're taking this show on the road to Mexico City in 2025 and we'd love to see you there! Register today at lionscon.lionsclubs.org.





L BIG PICTURE

Grow the Good.





Lions Join the Global Conversation at LDUN Events



Hundreds of Lions and Leos attended this year's Lions Day with the United Nations (LDUN) events in New York, USA, and Vienna, Austria. Members had the opportunity to hear from speakers and discuss various global challenges.



To celebrate our long-standing collaborative partnership with the United Nations, Lions, Leos and diplomatic officials united under the theme of “World Peace and Environmental Stewardship.” Both events were a success, with 359 attendees in New York and 280 in Vienna.

A major highlight of the New York event was the announcement of a new partnership between LCIF and World Food Program (WFP) USA by 2023-2024 Lions Clubs International Foundation Chairperson Brian Sheehan. Through this partnership, LCIF and WFP USA pledge to support the United Nations World Food Programme’s homegrown school meals program in four countries, which ensures that more children receive the nutrition they need to thrive.

Learn more at lionsclubs.org/LDUN.

Stephen Lewis Foundation Receives 2024 Lions Humanitarian Award

During the 106th Lions Clubs International Convention in Melbourne, the Stephen Lewis Foundation was presented with the 2024 Lions Humanitarian Award for its dedication to humanitarian service and championing health and human rights to end AIDS.



Photo by Eric Miller

The Stephen Lewis Foundation partners with community-led organizations that empower women and girls, grandmothers, orphaned and vulnerable children, LGBTQ+ communities and people living with HIV. It delivers funds directly to these organizations at the forefront of supporting those affected in 14 countries across sub-Saharan Africa.



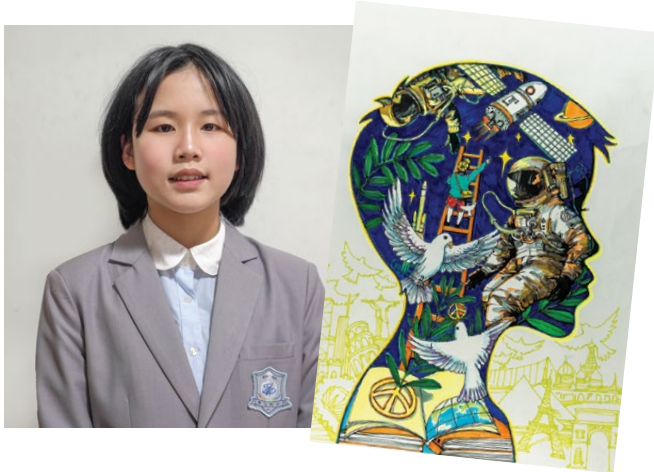
Photo by Neema Ngelime

"Working with, and learning from, African women leaders of grassroots organizations at the frontlines of the AIDS pandemic is what lies at the heart of the core values of the Stephen Lewis Foundation," said co-founder Ilana Landsberg-Lewis. "Our aspiration is to amplify their voices and expertise. We aim to ensure that they have support that responds to their own priorities and agendas, and that their advocacy, power, deep knowledge, resilience and persistence are recognized as an essential and transformative force."

Since 2006, Canadian, American, Australian and British grandmothers and "grandmothers" have joined African grandmothers in solidarity through the campaign. Thousands of members raise significant funds — US\$40 million — and awareness in support of grandmothers caring for children who have lost their parents to AIDS, and to claim their human rights. They rally behind the call, "We will not rest until they can rest!"

The Lions Humanitarian Award is the association's highest honor, given to an individual or an organization with exemplary humanitarian efforts. This award comes with a Lions Clubs International Foundation grant of up to US\$250,000 to a charitable organization for continuing humanitarian activities.

Peace Contest Winners Dare to Dream

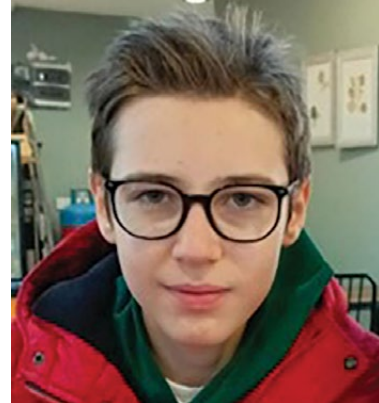


2023-2024 Peace Poster Winner

Fanjin Si // Age 11 // China

Si was awarded this year's top prize for her creative portrayal of the "Dare to Dream" theme. The Shaanxi Datang Lions Club sponsored the local contest that gave this young artist the opportunity to participate in this global event and share her vision with the world.

"Peace is not just about ending wars; it requires each of us to live with kindness, to solve problems and to influence those around us with our positive actions," said Si. "I think the Peace Poster Contest can be used to publicize the idea of peace through drawing and planting the seeds of peace in the hearts of children all over the world."



2023-2024 Peace Essay Winner

Yetka Yağiz Demirtas // Age 12 // Turkey

Demirtas takes on the "Dare to Dream" theme in his award-winning essay, "*Drawers of My Mind*," which illustrates the complex inner conversations we often have with ourselves about what is expected of us, and how we can be the best versions of ourselves. The Istanbul Altintepe Lions Club sponsored the local contest that allowed this talented sixth-grader to share his words of peace with the world.

"Peace is universal, it has no language, religion, race or nation. It's something everyone has in common," said Demirtas. "Life may not always offer you what you want, but it is necessary to take steps with determination and without getting tired."

Host the 2024-2025 Peace Contests in your area!

For peace to be anything more than a possibility, we need to make it a priority. This year, we're asking young people to use their creativity to explore the concept of Peace Without Limits.

Order your Peace Poster Kit by October 1!



lionsclubs.org/peaceposter

IN THE NEWS

OVERHEARD *ON SOCIAL MEDIA*

“Every person you positively affect will be grateful you were there to help. No matter how small, it matters.”

—Lion Jordan Haukos

“Becoming a Leo-Lion was a significant milestone in my journey. It symbolized not only my commitment to service but also my growth within the organization, taking on greater responsibilities and leadership roles.”

—Leo-Lion Juan Figueroa Rivera

“My mom convinced me to volunteer for the fun events her club was putting on. I was so drawn to the people I had to join the meetings! Thankfully they have just as much fun there. And we get to know we’re doing good for our community along with it.”

—Lion Kristin Michels

“Making new friends through service is one part of being a Lion. Usually, you start out as friends, and end up as family.”

—Leo-Lion John Mc Ray Chong

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BY THE NUMBERS

74

Years the Gallup Lions Club has hosted its rodeo in New Mexico, USA. The event is the largest fundraiser for the state’s largest club.

120

Students at a primary school were provided with a clean and safe drinking water source thanks to the Lions Club of Bangalore in India.

300

Mentally and physically challenged children and adults were paired with able-bodied buddies to participate in games and activities as part of a day-long annual event hosted by the Alberton Lions Club in South Africa.

\$45 million

In grant funding was awarded by Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) to empower the service of Lions and Leos last year.



AS A LION, ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS YOU CAN GIVE IS AN INVITATION.

Being a Lion is fun. It's rewarding. It's life-changing. And it's an experience meant to be shared. When you invite someone to join your club, you're offering something special. You're giving them a chance to see what it's like to do good — and just how good it feels to be a Lion.

READY TO SHARE THE JOY?

Tear out this invitation and use it to invite someone to join you for your next club event or service project.



◀ **Looking to invite more than one person?**
Scan this code to download the invitation template.

PERU

Healthy Foods for Stronger Children

Lions provide nutritious food and counseling.

In Lima, Peru, the Nuevo Milenio Lions stepped in to help when they learned that children in their community were silently suffering from the effects of extreme poverty and malnutrition.

A pre-school teacher in the town of Cielito Azul-Payet, where families have limited access to education and healthcare, informed the Lions about the prevalence of anemia in her young students, and asked if they might help getting nutritious food for them. Lions learned that about 40 children under age three were anemic, a disease of low-iron blood generally caused by hunger and malnutrition.

Soon after, the club began a service project, “Healthy Breakfasts for Children from PRONOEI (the program for children 0-3),” providing nutritious food so the children could maintain a balanced diet. Under the leadership of their club president, they worked with the Educational Management Unit of North Lima (UGEL), nutritionists, and the association of teachers and parents to coordinate and organize the project. With the help of community members and PRONOEI, they were able to distribute food and healthy breakfasts three times a week.

“The parents actively worked on preparing the breakfasts and also received nutritional knowledge that they used at home, which helped the project to be successful,” said Lion Beatriz Untiveros.

Nine months after the program began, the children’s blood tests showed overwhelmingly positive results. Lions learned that 98% of the children improved their health and were no longer anemic.

The club’s project has been ongoing for two years and is expected to continue, with children now receiving a healthy breakfast every day.

“We hope it continues,” said Untiveros. “But we also hope that parents acquire nutritional knowledge and [that] through productive workshops they can become self-sufficient in food.”

The Nuevo Lions received a 2023-2024 Kindness Matters Service Award given annually to select Lions and Leo clubs, and their dedication attracted the attention of community members, local media, schools and teachers. In addition, Untiveros said, families recognized how Lions are caring for their community.



Kindness Matters Service Award

The Kindness Matters Service Award is given annually to select Lions and Leo clubs for performing outstanding service in one of our global cause areas.

Nominated at the club level, this award serves as a challenge for Lions and Leos to develop exceptionally innovative and creative projects that positively impact their communities.

Learn more at lionsclubs.org/KMSA.

TÜRKIYE

New School, New Hope

Lions give children a place to learn and grow post-earthquake.

Like most of the world, the members of the Bursa Koza Lions Club were shocked by the magnitude of the earthquake that hit southern Türkiye and northern Syria on the morning of February 6, 2023. The quake was the deadliest to hit present-day Türkiye, killing over 50,000 people and leaving an estimated 1.5 million homeless.

The club witnessed essential aid like water, food and hygiene supplies coming into the area, and volunteers assisting with distribution. They immediately joined in to help, providing soup, blankets, scarves, beanies and gloves to 1,000 people in the earthquake zone.

But the Bursa Koza Lions also knew that the earthquake would have lasting effects — especially on the children’s education — and began looking into ways they could help. Because of their experience following the 1999 Gölcük earthquake, they were able to quickly organize their service project, “Let’s Give the World to Children.”

At the top of their list was finding a safe space where the children could learn and play. After investigating options, the Lions settled on a MiniKo container — a durable, affordable and portable large-scale container that is often used for temporary shelter or offices. The first one they purchased was for the children, and in little time the children’s new space was filled with books, benches and smiles. It had become a one-room schoolhouse where children could safely gather to laugh, play and learn.

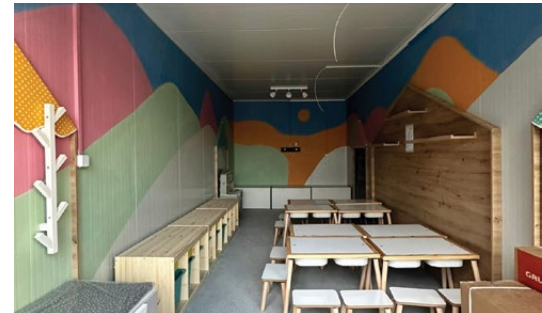
The Antakya Directorate of National Education assigned kindergarten

teachers to the disaster village on a rotating basis. The teachers were happy to be able to reach the children in the earthquake zone.

The Bursa Koza Lions received so much interest in the school and appreciation from the community that donations came in from families and Lions, and the club was soon able to purchase four more containers. They knew that more sustainable service projects could also be carried out in their communities, especially in terms of providing shelter, and began working with multiple district (MD) 118 and the Bursa Nilüfer Municipality to establish Tent City, an area where they could keep the containers for a longer time. Two of the four containers purchased with the donated funds were delivered to Mersin Metropolitan Municipality Lions Disaster Village, and the other two were sent to Lions Container City in Adiyaman.

“In Hatay and Adiyaman Cities, the largest and most affected cities in the earthquake area, people are still living in containers and there are some more container schools,” said Lion Ceren İplikçi more than a year after the earthquake occurred.

The Bursa Koza Lions were recognized with a 2023-2024 Kindness Matters Service Award for their efforts to quickly and effectively serve their community in the aftermath of a natural disaster.





MAKE YOUR MARK

Everywhere we serve,
every time we give, we bring
kindness and compassion,
change and hope.

And we make our mark on the
lives we touch, the communities
we serve and the world we share.



FABRÍCIO OLIVEIRA
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
2024-2025

Breathing Life into Service

Ask Fabrício Oliveira about his native Brazil, and he'll tell you it's the lungs of the world. An evergreen canopy rimmed in turquoise shoreline. He's from a small municipality there, the son of fabric merchants with entrepreneurial vigor in their blood.

By age 18, Fabrício was already part of the family business. He would focus on his studies during the week and travel dutifully for work over the weekends. For such a young man, Fabrício was driven and focused on results.

"I've always done things early," he recalls with a smile.

At just 22 years old, the spirited entrepreneur became a happily married man. He and his wife Amariles had both grown up in the village of Catolé do Rocha, where, despite the region's tropical climate, Fabrício Oliveira was proving to be a man for all seasons.

He was already having professional success—he had a number of business deals under his belt and more on the table. He was experiencing civic success—he had received several appointments to public office. Yet, something was missing for Fabrício.

Until one evening in 1985.

At the time, Fabrício and Amariles were part of a group of friends who would gather on weekends for different social events. Some of these friends were already Lions members and before long, they asked the Oliveiras to join their local club.

"We couldn't say no," he admits. "These were our close friends. And I saw something special in Lions, and an opportunity to give back to the community that had been so good to me."

It was a gesture as simple as an invitation that brought Fabrício Oliveira and his wife to Lions, once and for all.

"So I became a Lion. And that's how everything started," Fabrício recalls.

The call had been answered. A commitment to service set in motion. Now, it was time for the man from Catolé do Rocha to take what he'd learned so far from life and apply it to a new kind of work. His work as a Lion.



“I SAW SOMETHING SPECIAL IN LIONS, AND
AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK TO THE
COMMUNITY THAT HAD BEEN SO GOOD TO ME.”





The Art of Proactive Positivity

“We have natural beauty,” Fabrício says of Brazil. “And it’s extraordinary.”

But years ago, when he was just becoming a Lion, there were areas within his hometown struggling to get clean, usable water. So Fabrício and his club took action.

His very first service project focused on the fundraising required to purchase the handmade, ceramic filters needed to deliver fresh water to these local areas in need. These devices brought more than fresh water to these communities—they brought health, well-being and happiness to children and families who desperately needed it.

“It was phenomenal!” Fabrício remembers. “We saw the joy and the smiles they had when we brought the equipment. I really understood just how powerful service could be, and just how important we are as Lions.”

From that moment, there was no turning back. Only forward momentum. It was as if the gift of service had found him and not the other way around.

As a Lion, Fabrício puts his life experience and business expertise into practice every day. And he finds that he gets as much as he gives.



“I REALLY UNDERSTOOD JUST HOW POWERFUL SERVICE COULD BE, AND JUST HOW IMPORTANT WE ARE AS LIONS.”

“I learned a lot. And I am still learning,” he says. “Lions is my second university.”

But for the man from Catolé do Rocha, Lions have become a second family too, a global family with such incredible potential and rare positivity that he cherishes, a family he is honored to lead by proactive example.

“Lions have made such a big difference in so many communities, and in so many lives—including my own.”

That’s why Fabrício wants to focus on inviting new members and starting new clubs so even more people can experience the same satisfaction and the same sense of purpose that he has.

Fabrício Oliveira will always be a Lion. And he will always think like an entrepreneur. That’s why he believes that initiative comes to those who take it. That we not only have the power to achieve great things, but we also have the responsibility to achieve great things.

And when we apply our talents and skills to transforming our communities, we can leave a lasting mark—our mark—on the world.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE 2024-2025

Make Your Mark

There's a leader inside every Lion.

And leaders know that, through collective action and individual commitment, we can inspire and empower whole communities. Making them healthier and stronger than ever before. And making our mark in the process.

As leaders, we unite people through our clubs, and in our mission of service. We foster collaboration so we can do what others say can't be done. We embrace innovation so we can bring our bold service vision to life. We give caring people the chance to serve with us so they can lead with us as Lions. And with every new member we bring, we make our mark on the future of service.

Together, we reach out to the people who need us. We amplify voices that would otherwise go unheard. We change lives in ways that only Lions can. And with every life we touch, with every community we serve, we make a mark that will endure, and will never be forgotten.





Making Our Mark Together

Every day provides us with a chance to make our mark as Lions, so take action! Consider these global priorities and how we can all support them to help strengthen Lions and the communities we serve.

GROW TO GIVE MORE

As the need for service grows, we need to grow too. Let's invite new members and charter new clubs so we can meet our MISSION 1.5 goal, bringing more Lions and more service to our communities as we work toward serving one billion people around the world.

BE STRONGER TOGETHER

Our global foundation works to support our service so we can bring lasting change to the world. So let's support LCIF to ensure that we're ready to serve together, whenever and wherever needed.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Let's embrace our leadership potential to grow our clubs and our service, and to grow as Lions and leaders. Look for new opportunities within your club and community to lead our service forward.

CAPTURE YOUR COMMUNITY'S IMAGINATION

Our work as Lions is extraordinary. Great marketing and public relations can help you tell your story and capture the attention—and imagination—of your community. So promote your service to inspire others to join us as Lions.

TO A YOUNG
PERSON BATTLING
CHILDHOOD CANCER,
LION VOLUNTEERS
ARE REAL-LIFE
SUPERHEROES.





The Mark of Great Service

Lions lead by example. We always have and always will. These keys to success can help you unlock your true service potential and inspire the Lions around you to do the same.

STAY PROACTIVE

The needs in our communities are great, so don't wait to act. Seek out a need and take action. This is what allows us to be responsive to our communities – and what separates us from the rest.

BRING YOUR VISION TO LIFE

Where others see an obstacle, we see an opportunity. So build your service vision. Rally others around it. Then think boldly, act decisively and bring your service to life.

FOCUS ON POSITIVE OUTCOMES

When we focus on positive outcomes, we achieve the greatest results. Let's define the change we want to see in our communities so we can start building plans to make it a reality.





We Serve

MAKE YOUR MARK

SHAPE OUR FUTURE



lionsclubs.org/president

Two Generations One Mission



PID Dr. Jack Weber and **Leo-Lion Hilary Wickenhauser**
talk leadership, longevity and all things Lions.

In 1954, Dr. Jack Weber, a first-year Lion, attended the Lions International Convention in New York City where a crowd gathered around an elderly gentleman in a wheelchair. The man was Melvin Jones.

Weber waited his turn, then bent down to shake hands with the founder of Lions Clubs International. Upon learning Weber was new to the association, Jones offered him the advice that has inspired Lions for more than 100 years: "You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else."

Weber took those words to heart and over the course of his 71-year Lions career, which includes serving on the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors from 1984 to 1986, he has passed on quite a bit of wisdom of his own.

Now 100 years old and a resident of Westhampton Beach, New York, Weber recently sat down with Leo-Lion Hilary Wickenhauser, 26, of Waconia, Minnesota, to share some stories, advice and even a few laughs.

Wickenhauser began her service journey at age 12 as an Alpha Leo and at 18, she joined her parents as a member of the Cologne Lions Club. The 2013-2014 Constitutional Area I Leo of the Year is also a Leo club advisor, the Leo chairperson for her district and serves on the board of directors for the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation — and that's in addition to holding a full-time job while finishing her college degree in education.

The accomplished Leo-Lion was eager to discuss all things Lions with the living Lion legend.



H First and foremost, you've always been known as an energetic, busy man with your dedication to Lions, your dental practice, your family and your passion for golf. How have you kept up the enthusiasm and motivation as a Lion for so many years?

J Well, it's not difficult for me. I'm an enthusiastic person to begin with. As Lions, we have so much to offer, and for an individual to try to help their community be a better place to live, work and play is very, very important. There are so many things Lions clubs can do to benefit their communities, and I'm very proud of that.

H In your memoir ("Jack Weber, Here!"), you talk about the moment you first felt like a Lion. Can you tell me about that?

J I was only a Lion for one year when we were all paired up with a senior member to deliver food to families around Thanksgiving time. I knocked on my first door and a young woman with two young children pulling at her apron strings answered. As I handed her the basket of food, tears rolled down her cheeks as she thanked me profusely. I knew then that I was in the right organization. They were doing things for people, important things.

H You've seen Lions International evolve quite a bit over the past several decades and, during your time as an international director, you even championed some of the biggest changes to happen in the association. Which one would you say is most important?

J Welcoming women into Lions has by far been the most positive change I've seen in my years as a Lion. Where would we be today without the inclusion of women and all they bring to the association? As an international director, I supported and promoted it because I believed in it. Women have so much to offer and we have benefited immensely from their involvement and leadership.

H Over the years, we've seen Lions International expand its number of global causes to eight. Each is important and different in how we are called to serve. Is there a particular global cause closest to your heart?

J The environment has always been important to me. I know that if we don't take action to protect it, my grandchildren, my great-grandchildren and their great-grandchildren will bear the effects. I also believe the



environment cause is a great way we can recruit new Lions because it's such visible, hands-on service. Most people care about saving the earth but need to be reminded of ways they can help. If they see Lions out in their yellow vests planting a tree, the very least it can do is inspire them to get more involved. But hopefully it'll also encourage them to learn more about the club and what being a Lion is all about.

H Every club and every service project needs a leader. You've said that you recognize the importance of members' experience over age and seniority. What advice do you have for a younger Lion looking to take on a leadership role?

J I don't think young Lions should ever be fearful they're going to step on the toes of a more senior member and let that be a deterrent. If they are right for the role, they should pursue it. Senior members will still be there as advisors. At the end of the day, everyone has to work together.

H And for those who do step into leadership roles, what advice can you offer them?

J First of all, I think it's important for new leaders to learn the art of listening and truly listen to what others have to say. I would also encourage them to do what they believe is right. Give thought to what you want to do and don't rush into it. And if you truly think it's the right thing to do, don't let anyone talk you out of it.

H Well, no one has talked you out of dedicating your time to Lions, that's for sure. Shortly before turning 100 (on May 5, 2024) you became president of the Riverhead Lions Club in New York, a club you had just joined, and you keep up with what's happening with the organization at the international level. Not to mention you drive yourself to your frequent golf outings. What is the secret to your longevity?

J Good genes and "Don't let the old man in." 

Jack's

tips for making the most of your Lion experience

- 1.** Don't just have a drink at the bar, have dinner and go home. Get involved.
- 2.** Climb the ladder of leadership in your club. If time permits, become chair of a committee. That may lead to becoming a club officer.
- 3.** Perform hands-on service instead of just making a financial contribution.
- 4.** Expand beyond your club by attending district and multiple district (MD) meetings. If you can, go to your MD convention and try to attend an international convention.
- 5.** Volunteer to chair an important committee at the district and MD levels.



Jack flips pancakes with PDG Herb Swanson in 1984.



Jack gives a speech as outgoing district governor in 1970.



Hilary with Leo-Lion Liliane Farhart and Leo-Lion Rachel Moss during a Lions International headquarters visit in 2024.



Hilary prepares for a statewide used-book drive in 2013.

Hilary's tips for making the most of your Lion experience

- 1.** Don't be afraid to speak up. Offer suggestions, propose new ideas and projects, and make your voice heard.
- 2.** Find mentors. Young and more senior Lions are full of ideas and knowledge that can help you further your journey.
- 3.** Remember that age is just a number. We are all equally valuable as members and volunteers whether we are 26 or 86.
- 4.** Ask for help! Trying new things can be a challenge. Turn to your fellow Lions and even non-Lions for support.
- 5.** Keep service at the heart of all you do.



107TH LIONS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

MEXICO CITY

July 4-8, 2025

Get ready for a lively celebration of service.

Don't miss the most exciting Lion event of the year. Join us in vibrant and historic Mexico City to celebrate our service and connect with Lions and Leos from around the world.

- Experience the city's rich culture and history.
- Enjoy unique and colorful traditional music and dance.
- Indulge in culinary delights that will ignite your appetite with their bold flavors.
- Explore an extraordinary world of art, including works of the legendary Frida Kahlo.



Register today to receive the lowest possible rate!

lionscon.lionsclubs.org



Lions and Leos are serving their communities in nearly every country on earth.

Join us for a quick trip around the globe to check out some of their service.



Franklin, Indiana, USA

Franklin Lions Club

In an effort to bring some cheer to members of their community, the club created birthday cake kits, which included a disposable pan and lid, cake mix and frosting, lemon-lime soda and birthday candles, along with directions and a personalized note from the Lions. They worked with the InterChurch Food Pantry of Franklin to distribute the kits to community members who might lack funds for a birthday celebration.



Québec City, Québec, Canada

Lions Club of Granby

More than 100 students at l'Étincelle school have a newfound passion for reading thanks to the Lions Club of Granby. The club purchased and donated more than 60 books to help improve the students' reading skills, and students received training certificates and diplomas for their words-per-minute improvements. Thanks to the Lions, the reading tutors can continue to pass on the joy of reading.



Uriangato, Mexico

Uriangato AC Lions Club

The club hosted a "Blind Dinner," an innovative event to bring awareness to the daily challenges blind and visually impaired individuals face. Half of attendees were blindfolded throughout the meal and the other half acted as their guides to highlight the importance of knowing how to provide proper support. In addition, three blind individuals shared their personal stories, giving club members and participants even more insight, and the club donated canes to members of the community in need.





Bagsværd, Denmark

Gladsaxe Lions Club

The club gave residents of Cathrinegården, a facility for adults with disabilities, the opportunity to explore their creativity and express themselves through movement during a silent disco event. Participants sang, danced and laughed their way through the event, proving the powerful and therapeutic effects of dance.



China Hong Kong

Leo Club of Shatin Hong Kong

The club put students' art skills on display with its "From Heart to Heart, The Uniting Care" art exhibition. The Leos collaborated with Hong Kong Caritas Special Education Service to put on the event, which aimed to raise awareness of the artistic skills of students with special education needs and build "mutual sharing and mutual support." More than 800 art pieces were featured by artists from traditional local and international schools as well as from Caritas' seven special education schools.



Kathmandu, Nepal

Leo Club of Kathmandu Sauharda Lions Club of Kathmandu New Green City

The Leo and Lions clubs teamed up to host the National Level Open Speech Competition, a signature service project. Over the course of three months, more than 30 Leos and Lions worked together to plan the competition, with 196 young people across all Leo districts participating. The event offers opportunities for young people to grow crucial skills like public speaking, teamwork, communication and more.



SERVICE AROUND THE WORLD

Service the world counts on

These are just a few of the many stories about the positive impact Lions around the world are making. From helping one person in need to helping an entire community, each and every act of your service matters.

Be sure to report your activities each month so we can effectively measure our impact, grow our membership and share our stories with the world.

Visit lionsclubs.org/service-reporting to learn more.



Tongala, Victoria, Australia

Lions Club of Tongala

The Queensland Fruit Fly is a destructive problem for farmers in the Golburn Valley region of Australia. So much so that the Lions Club of Tongala participated in the “Bye Bye Fruit Fly” pilot program led by the Golburn Murray Valley Regional Fruit Fly Action Group. Lions visited primary schools to raise awareness and education about fruit flies. Nearly 400 homemade traps were created and decorated by the children. The project was so successful that it became an official district-level project.



Bwambara, Uganda

Bwambara Lions Club

The club provided much-needed support to a local woman, Precious, who is living with cerebral palsy. Members of the club visited Precious and her mother at their home, where they delivered supplies, including food, soap, mattresses and bedding, clothes and much more. The club also donated 100,000 Ugandan shillings and four goats to help the family.



ANSWERING THE CALL

Lion doctors provide lifesaving roadside service.

By Hannah Krzeminski

When a crash left two people seriously injured on a roadway in Dharan, Eastern Nepal, in early 2024, it was not emergency medical professionals or firefighters who jumped into action to save lives — but a group of Lion doctors that happened to be passing through at the right time.



(left to right) Leo-Lion Dr. Madhusudan Madhav, Lion Dr. Shrawan Kumar Mandal, Leo-Lion Dr. Rahul Raushan and Leo-Lion Dr. Shuvam Kumar Agrawal, MJF, with traffic police officers



A couple of tourists visiting from India were sightseeing via motorcycle when they skidded off the roadway. A group of Lions came upon the harrowing scene.

“Two individuals lay seriously injured and bleeding in the middle of the road, their bodies bearing the weight of multiple fractures, including those of the temporomandibular joint, tibia and fibula,” said Leo-Lion Dr. Shuvam Kumar Agrawal.

Dr. Agrawal along with Dr. Shrawan Kumar Mandal, Dr. Rahul Raushan and Dr. Madhusudan Madhav, members of the Lions Club of Dharan Ghopa United, were traveling to Golkhaadi for a day of relaxation and preparation for an upcoming health camp aimed to address critical issues like obesity, diabetes, hypertension, vision problems, oral health and cervical cancer in a remote village under Lions Club of Dharan Ghopa United’s “Lions’ Doctors on Doors” mobile health clinic project. The doctors noticed the emergency ahead and, with time ticking away and the lives of the injured hanging in the balance, jumped in to help without hesitation.

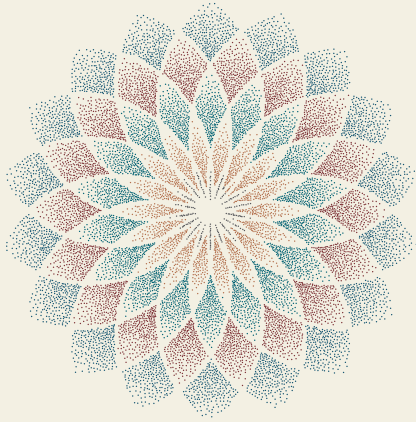
As every agonizing minute passed, with poor network connectivity and no sign of an ambulance, the doctors remained steadfast in their commitment to saving lives. They provided first aid to stop the bleeding, stabilized

dislocated body parts and took measures to prevent further injuries. Once the victims were in relatively stable condition, the Lions attempted to flag down passing vehicles to help transport the injured to the nearest medical center. Unfortunately, no one stopped.

More than an hour later, a group of police officers arrived and rushed the injured civilians to the B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences where they received the lifesaving medical care they required.

While the doctors were relieved the victims could finally be treated, they were disheartened by the lack of empathy and willingness to help displayed by bystanders on the roadway during the emergency. The group hopes their story will inspire others to step up in the face of crisis and offer whatever help they can.

“At Lions International, we often say, ‘Where there is a need, there is a Lion,’ and this event is a true representation of that statement,” said Dr. Agrawal. “Let us learn the importance of swift and selfless action in times of crisis, the value of compassion and solidarity, and the profound impact that even small acts of kindness can have on the lives of others.”



Numerous research studies have tried to prove what every person who has ever volunteered knows to be true — doing good feels good. So, what does that hit of dopamine do for a person’s overall health and well-being?

In a study published in *The Gerontologist*, older volunteers were less likely to have high blood pressure than their non-volunteer counterparts. Another study targeting a younger audience featured in *JAMA Pediatrics* had similar findings. High school students who volunteered had better markers for heart disease risk than those who didn’t. Research also suggests

FINDING **Balance**

**Six Lions share how they make
volunteering a priority in their busy lives.**

By Jenny Maxse

volunteering may help you live longer. A study in the *American Journal of Preventative Medicine* found that, over a four-year period, people who volunteered at least 100 hours per year had a reduced risk of dying compared with non-volunteers.

The positive impact extends beyond health. Volunteering provides opportunities to network and develop new skills and knowledge, fostering personal growth and lifelong learning. This not only enriches lives but can also enhance employability and adaptability in an ever-changing job market.

The benefits are clear, but incorporating this act of benevolence into your life requires time. So, who is making time to give of their own? According to United Nations Volunteers, around 57% of the world’s volunteering is done by women. And how do they fit volunteering into their calendars already filled to the brim with professional, family and personal commitments?

Let’s look to some of our female Lions to learn why — and how — they do it.

JOYCE Akpata



TOP TIP FOR FINDING BALANCE:

Prioritize self-care to recharge and refresh your physical and mental health. You can't give from an empty cup.

How did you get involved with Lions?

Prior to joining, I knew little about Lions. I was invited by a friend who knew of my interest in charitable endeavors, and together with other ladies in my neighborhood, we chartered a club.

Is there a particular service project or program you're most proud of?

One project that filled me with a profound sense of appreciation was helping with 25 cataract procedures to restore sight for individuals who would not have otherwise been able to obtain this treatment.

Why is it important to fit being a Lion into your life?

My service not only benefits those I get to help, it also enhances my own life. It allows me to enjoy valuable experiences outside my routines as a wife, mother to three young men (ages 18, 15 and 9) and working professional. It also acts as a stress release, providing a break from the demands of daily life, and gives me a sense of balance and gratitude for my many gifts.

Does your work as a Lion help you in your

professional life? Absolutely! It allows me to develop and improve a wide range of useful skills, such as leadership, communication, teamwork, problem-solving and project management. My reputation as a Lion has also enhanced my personal brand and values-driven approach to work, distinguishing me as socially responsible and ethical leader.

What would you say to a prospective Lion if they said they are too busy to join?

I would assure them that, while life can be hectic, being a Lion provides opportunities to contribute in meaningful ways that are adaptive based on each individual's interests and schedule. I would also emphasize that participation, no matter how modest, can make a difference in the lives of others while also bringing fulfillment.



Club:

Lagos Phoenix

Location:

Lagos, Nigeria

Number of years as a Lion:

10

Current

Lion role:

Global Leadership Team (GLT) district coordinator

Career:

Lawyer, international development professional

Hobbies:

Long-distance running and traveling





GIZEM „Özkazma Özen

TOP TIP FOR FINDING BALANCE:

Take part in
projects that
make you
happy.



Club:
**Istanbul
Cemenzar**

Location:
Istanbul, Türkiye

Number
of years
as a Lion
and Leo: **12**

Current
Lion role:
Club secretary

Career:
**Environmental
engineer**

Hobbies:
Pilates, dancing

How did you get involved with Lions?

What initially drew me to Lions was the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children, and throughout my journey, I've been fortunate to contribute to numerous meaningful projects. I was so encouraged by the support and camaraderie I experienced during my time as a Leo that I decided to become a Lion.

There are many ways you could volunteer — why do you choose to be a Lion?

Lions is a community where individuals gather without personal agendas, united by the shared goal of serving those who lack the same opportunities. And Lions holds a special place in my heart. Throughout my pregnancy, the Lions family enveloped me with support, treating the impending arrival of my child as if it were their own family member.

Is there a particular service project or program you're most proud of?

Last year, Türkiye was struck by a devastating earthquake, resulting in the loss of over 50,000 lives. The entire country faced a critical shortage of essential resources. Thanks to generous donations from my fellow Lions and the company where I am employed, a water purification device capable of providing 2,000 liters of clean water per hour was installed in one of the severely affected areas.

Why is it important to fit being a Lion into your life? Being a Lion is about embracing humanity and enriching one's sense of self. It allows me to live with integrity by dedicating myself to serving others while also managing my professional and personal obligations.

Does your work as a Lion help you in your professional life?

When I attended a presentation training where everyone had to prepare a sample presentation, it was easy for me because of the skills I have developed doing many presentations as a Lion. The only comment I received was, "Brilliant."

Have you encouraged any friends or family members to join?

My 8-year-old daughter attends services with us within the scope of the Cub program.



ANGELA Yuen

How did you get involved with Lions?

In 2013, I joined a youth service project organized by the Lions Club of Hong Kong Citizens and was touched by how Lions service could genuinely help others so I joined.

Is there a particular service project or program you're most proud of?

I remember a project where we invited children with special educational needs and their parents to join us to visit and chat with elderly people who live alone. Afterward, a child glanced at his mother and said with a proud smile, "Mom, I didn't realize I could help people! I feel so happy!" I was really touched by the remark and it made me realize that our actions have the power to impact people.

Why is it important to fit being a Lion into your life?

Life is never not busy — the key is prioritizing what is important to you. Participating in service reminds me to give love to our neighborhood, our community and our home, which brings me simple happiness and comfort in my busy life.

Does your work as a Lion help you in your professional life?

As a private banker, it is important to understand the nature and latest trends of different industries. Since Lions come from various backgrounds, it allows me to widen my social circle and my understanding.

Have you encouraged any friends or family members to join? I invited a Leo who also works in the banking sector to join as a Leo-Lion. I encouraged him to step out of his comfort zone to grow and work with people of a different age group. It has been very rewarding to see him gain confidence as he becomes more involved in Lions' life.

TOP TIP FOR FINDING BALANCE:

Review your personal growth and goals regularly so you remember your purpose.



Club:
Hong Kong Citizens

Location:
Kowloon, China Hong Kong

Number of years as a Lion: **10**

Current Lion role: **Second vice district governor**

Career:
Private banking professional

Hobbies:
Reading, dancing, running, yoga and hiking





**TOP TIP
FOR FINDING
BALANCE:**

Learn to say “no” sometimes. Give yourself time to think things over and turn down tasks from time to time. The important thing is to maintain the joy of volunteering.

KATHRIN Bechstein- Dietrich

**Club:
Netzwerk Süd**

**Location:
Private Lorch,
Germany**

**Number
of years
as a Lion: 15**

**Current Lion role:
Zone chairperson**

**Career:
Musical director
and professional
opera singer**

**Hobbies:
Exercising,
reading,
enjoying
cultural
life**



How did you get involved with Lions? After a musical production of mine, I was asked by a Lion to take part in a Lion event. One thing led to another. I was excited about the projects the club was promoting and especially about the idea of “we serve.”

Is there a particular service project or program you’re most proud of? I am most proud of being in charge of the European Lions Music Prize and Peace Poster Contest because it’s important to me to support and challenge young people. With the music competition, we support young professionals on their way into professional life, but also young musicians who have not yet considered a career in music. Through the Peace Poster Contest, we help young people ages 11-13, who are in an important stage in life, to visualize their dreams and hopes for a more peaceful world.

What is your favorite thing about being a Lion?
The friendship and community at Lions and the idea of being able to give something back to society.

Have you encouraged any friends or family members to join? My husband and I founded a club in the past. We informed the potential candidates about the Lions’ ideas and got them excited about them.

What would you say to a prospective Lion if they said they are too busy to join? I would say that being a Lion is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in important service projects that Lions supports and a great way to make new friends. I’m fully engaged in my professional life and also a wife and a mother, but it’s possible for me.

DR. SANGEETA Kumar

How did you get involved with Lions?

My interest in social causes led me to get involved. I found there to be a good synchronization of my interests with the mission of Lions. I also love the systematic approach of my club and its overall management.

Why is it important to fit being a Lion into your life?

I believe “where there is a will there is a way.” Although I have a busy life with my responsibilities as a daughter, wife and mother, and with my professional pursuits, being a Lion is a way I can give something back to society. I believe we all are indebted to society and I’ve found that being a Lion is the best way to serve the purpose of my life, and I love devoting time to it.

What is your favorite thing about being a Lion?

The true reward for me is being known for my selfless service and work to benefit society. In addition, the more I connect with others through service, the more I feel a sense of belongingness.

Does your work as a Lion help you in your

professional life? I am a corporate trainer, so I’ve found Lions is a great platform for networking, which is the best way to explore new ideas and find new ways of doing things.

Have you encouraged any friends or family members to join Lions?

Yes, I have encouraged my family members and my friends this coming year by raising awareness of how they can make a difference. I’ll be helping 10 new members to join the club.

TOP TIP FOR FINDING BALANCE:

Manage your time wisely. I strive to devote, at minimum, one hour of each day to my work as a Lion.

Club:

Bhopal Wing

Location:

Madhya Pradesh, India

Number of years as a Lion:

1

Current Lion

role: Active club member

Career:

Professor, entrepreneur, corporate trainer, author

Hobbies:

Traveling, writing, poetry, educating disadvantaged youth



DR. PATRICIA Grant

TOP TIP FOR FINDING BALANCE:

Involve your family. Doing service together as a family allows you to contribute while spending quality time with loved ones.

Club:
Chicago Central

Location:
Chicago, Illinois, United States

Number of years as a Lion:

3

Current Lion role:
Club president

Career: **Senior vice president of research, adjunct assistant professor**

Hobbies: **Reading the latest studies on nutrition and exercise; staying active through strength training, walking and bike riding; spending quality time with her pre-teen son and partner**

How did you get involved with Lions?
I had always wanted to be a Lion. Growing up, the Lions were active in my community, and my older sister and I were Leos. The memories of participating in Candy Day and pancake breakfasts, and of serving our veterans, always stuck with me. We even rode on the Lions float in my town's Fourth of July parade one year. Although we had a lot of fun, it was always clear that we were there for a greater purpose.

Is there a particular service project or program you're most proud of? My club is very active with The Chicago Lighthouse's Rise to Shine Race in Chicago.

I love this event because it promotes health, wellness and inclusion. Proceeds from the race benefit The Chicago Lighthouse and its programs that support people who are blind, visually impaired, disabled, and help veterans learn to work and live independently within our community.

Why is it important to fit being a Lion into your life? It's easy to get caught up in the daily grind but life is about more than just checking off boxes on a to-do list. Engaging with the Lions' mission helps me slow down and gain a greater sense of purpose and perspective beyond my own life and its daily demands. Also, as club president, it's my job to provide leadership in carrying out our service mission. It's important to me that I show up and honor this commitment.

Does your work as a Lion help you in your professional life? Yes, in many ways. It provides networking and learning opportunities, leadership experience and teaches compassion to name a few. Lions are also active in the vision field, which leads to many opportunities for support and collaboration.





MISSION 1.5

MOMENT



LIONS CLUB DRØBAK

THE MISSION:

MISSION 1.5 is the drive to reach 1.5 million members worldwide, so we can better meet the growing needs of our communities and serve more people than ever before.

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED BY:

Lions Club Drøbak

LOCATION:

Drøbak, Norway

SUMMARY:

Since January of 2023, this group of enthusiastic Lions has more than doubled its membership, and isn't showing any signs of slowing down.

ABOUT THE NEW CLUB:

Twenty new members in the last two years? That's what we call growth!

Meet Lions Club Drøbak, one of the most energetic, fun-loving and fastest growing clubs in Norway.

The secret to their success? Something they call Drøbak-modellen for medlemsrekruttering or "the Drøbak model for member recruitment."

To his fellow Lions Club Drøbak members, Ole Petter Skullerud is known as "the brain" behind the Drøbak model's systematic approach to growth, which is a model that:

- Prioritizes the organization of a membership committee or GAT team
- Emphasizes making the best use of each member's past experience and community affiliations
- Recognizes the importance of doing the kind of follow-up work that keeps new members coming back

Skullerud is a Lion with real passion and a knack for welcoming and retaining valuable new club members. A passion and proclivity that has inspired the rest of Lions Club Drøbak to really embrace his model, and the importance of membership growth efforts overall.

"The growth of membership helps us be stronger and more present in what we do," said Skullerud. "All organizations need new inspirations. And new members bring that. They are more open-minded for new opportunities and how we can develop our work."

The success Lions Club Drøbak has enjoyed using their structured Drøbak model is an awesome example that there's no one way to succeed with MISSION 1.5.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MISSION
at lionsclubs.org/mission1.5.

LIONS CLUB DRØBAK'S FIVE TIPS FOR CLUB GROWTH

1 Make a plan. Start by defining your membership growth goals. Then consider the best approach for achieving them based on the strengths and skills of your members.

3 Turn service projects into opportunities. There's no better time to meet potential Lions than when you're out doing work in your own community.

4 Form a membership committee, and let them make first contact. Not every Lion may be comfortable reaching out to prospective members.

2 Pump up the positive energy. Never miss an opportunity to talk up how Lions can contribute and serve both locally and globally.

5 Induct new members ASAP. The faster new members are integrated into your club, the sooner they'll begin to feel and serve like full-fledged Lions.

Dancing in the Dark

*Visually impaired dancers
connect through movement.*

BY JOAN CARY





For the students in the Haddonfield Lions' ballroom dance classes, the first lesson is important: Leave your troubles at the door and take your smile to the dance floor.

"Dancing is a time to relax and have fun," said dance student Nimit Kaur. "There's no time to think about your day or anything else. You're too busy thinking about your steps."

Kaur, 27, has been blind since birth, but that hasn't stopped her from learning to ballroom dance. For 10 weeks in the spring and 10 in the fall, she and other blind and visually impaired adults in the Haddonfield, New Jersey, area learn the waltz, foxtrot, tango and merengue, all thanks to their local Lions.

Photos by Debbie Troy Photography



Lion Joe Murphy

“If you want to enjoy life, there is nothing that beats dancing.”

Lion Joe Murphy

The First Steps

Lion Joe Murphy, a self-described dance fanatic, came up with the idea for his club to provide specialized dance classes after a guest speaker at a Lions club meeting told them about her two blind sons and how she wanted them to enjoy life, to thrive.

New to the club, Murphy thought, “Well, I don’t know anything about Lions yet, but I do know something about dance, and if you want to enjoy life, there is nothing that beats dancing.”

A ballroom dancer since 1998, he shared his idea with fellow Lions, then reached out to Bestwork Industries for the Blind, a nonprofit corporation in nearby Cherry Hill that provides training and employment for the blind. They helped him connect with employees interested in dancing.

Unsolicited financial support came in from private donors to start the program, and more generosity from others followed. Grace Episcopal Church in Haddonfield offered their social space with a wooden floor perfect for dancing, the Lions



Patti Cole, center



Gene LaPierre, center

volunteered to provide and serve refreshments at every class, and 25-30 volunteers, many of them Lions, signed up to drive the students to and from class.

Gene LaPierre, a dance professor at Rowan University and the owner of LaPierre Dance in nearby Glassboro, New Jersey, offered to teach the classes for free. A professional dancer for 34 years, he founded the nonprofit, Dance for A Better U, in 2015 to bring ballroom dancing to adults with special needs.

Murphy and LaPierre also offered a workshop so

other dance instructors could learn how to teach the visually impaired. Many attended and three come to class every week to assist LaPierre.

Making Connections

With all the pieces in place, Murphy welcomed his first seven students to the dance floor in May 2023, and one year later, weekly attendance was up to 15 or more.

Every class begins with the students and teacher in a circle on the dance floor holding hands and moving to the music.

According to LaPierre, this friendship circle creates a community of people who share a common goal, gain social skills, and build the mind and body coordination. It also helps them connect and feel the movement, hear the beat, shift the body weight and follow verbal directions. From there they form pairs to dance.

"Not only is dancing fun and good for your physical health in many ways, such as aiding in memory development, reducing depression and relieving stress, it also builds camaraderie," said LaPierre.

“It’s not about disabilities. It’s about abilities. We all have the ability if we have the resources, and we are all able in different ways.”

Gene LaPierre,
dance instructor

It provides an opportunity for people like Patti Cole, 65, to get out of the house for an evening. Cole, who has retinitis pigmentosa and has lost most of her sight, stays active by taking a walk every day. A woman along her route told her about the classes, and now in her third trimester of ballroom dance, Cole said, “I always wanted to learn to dance. Now we’re learning together. It’s fun. And the teacher is excellent.”

Understanding Challenges

The class schedule — from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. in early spring and early fall — was purposely chosen to accommodate not only the visually impaired, but also the volunteer drivers who prefer to not be out at night. Murphy says the transportation has been key to drawing students.

“I don’t know if I would have joined the class if they didn’t provide rides,” said Kaur, a social worker for the Camden County Health Department. “It would have made it more difficult for me.”



Lions not only help build up this population, but they understand some of the challenges people who are blind and visually impaired face. I appreciate it.”

Among those challenges is just getting out there.


“Ballroom dance is a great opportunity to try something different,” said Cole. “You can meet new people, and it takes you out of your comfort zone. I’ve never been a good dancer, but I think it’s a great program.”

From the beginning, the Lions wanted more than a program for the people

in their community, said Murphy. “We wanted a sustainable program that could be replicated by other Lions clubs, to see the blind and visually impaired enjoying a healthy pastime. That’s what I get out of it.”

One evening Murphy asked a dancer, a blind man from Philadelphia, what he would be doing that evening if he wasn’t at dance class.

“I would be home alone,” the man responded.

Said Murphy later, “You can’t ballroom dance alone.” 

“Lions not only help build up this population, but they understand some of the challenges people who are blind and visually impaired face. I appreciate it.”

Nimit Kaur,
dance student



Nimit Kaur

A Path to Restoration: LCIF's Response to Japan's Noto Earthquake

BY SHELBY WASHINGTON

On January 1, 2024, a massive earthquake ripped through the Noto Peninsula of Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan. This earthquake had a moment magnitude of 7.5 and a focal depth of 10 kilometers (6.2 miles), resulting in a massive trail of destruction that included 245 confirmed deaths and 1,298 injuries. At least 89,666 structures were damaged, including over 76,000 houses, leaving families stranded without a roof over their heads. People were forced to live in evacuation shelters for months and thousands of households went without running water.

"This is the most devastating earthquake we've seen in this area in eight years. Thousands of people's lives were torn apart from this catastrophe," said Lion Norio Kataoka of Kanazawa Kikusui Lions Club and zone chair of Shigeru Sugimoto.

This record-breaking disaster is the deadliest earthquake in Japan since the 2016 Kumamoto earthquakes and the largest earthquake to strike Ishikawa since at least 1885. After seeing how many lives this earthquake impacted, Lions quickly took action. Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) awarded US\$200,000 to Lions in Japan for disaster relief and an LCIF Rescue Committee was established.

"When disasters strike, Lions are among the first to respond to the needs of the people impacted."

-2023-2024 LCIF Chairperson Brian Sheehan

Lions used their LCIF grant to support the immediate needs of affected families. They distributed sanitary items, disposable heating pads, cardboard beds, water, bags of wash-free rice, vegetable juice, sandbags, oral hygiene products and diapers. However, providing these supplies was not easy.

The roads leading to the affected region were difficult for Lions to navigate, as the already narrow streets were cluttered with debris from collapsed houses. With transportation posing a formidable challenge, Lions purchased eight mini trucks to reach as many people as possible. Beyond these essentials, the grant also purchased tents for Lions to use as outdoor soup kitchens, where people could come together for



a warm meal and mutual support. These heartfelt initiatives were made in an effort to restore a sense of normalcy and connection among the victims whose lives were disrupted.

"It is hard to describe the fear and confusion that comes with a terrible disaster like this one, but we are resilient and together, we will rebuild," said District Governor Susumu Koide of District 334-D. "We are so grateful to LCIF for helping us through this tragic event. They are restoring the hope everyone thought they had lost."

Even under the toughest conditions, Lions are committed to helping communities recover from disaster with hope. LCIF Disaster Relief Grants enable Lions to look beyond the chaos of these catastrophes and focus on impactful community service. As the only global foundation serving Lions, LCIF is grateful to be able to provide a variety of grant opportunities to support different phases of disaster relief efforts made possible by the generous contributions of donors worldwide.

"When disasters strike, Lions are among the first to respond to the needs of the people impacted," 2023-2024 LCIF Chairperson Brian Sheehan said. "Our members live and work in the region and will remain poised to help communities continue to rebuild long after this tragedy. LCIF is proud to be able to support their efforts."

Learn more about LCIF Disaster Relief Grants at lCIF.org/disaster-grants.



Lions Quest: Empowering Youth Across the Globe

BY SHELBY WASHINGTON

Over the course of four decades, Lions Quest has made a profound impact on youth, experienced exponential growth and formed meaningful partnerships to help young people reach their full potential.

Lions Quest is Lions Clubs International Foundation's (LCIF) comprehensive and universal, evidence-based social and emotional learning program. This year marks the 40th anniversary of LCIF's first grant to what used to be the independent organization, Quest International.

Over the years, the two organizations grew closer, leading LCIF to purchase the program in 2002. To date, LCIF has awarded more than 360 grants for a cumulative total of more than US\$20 million to expand or establish Lions Quest programs across the United States and around the world. Exponential growth has been the natural result of this investment, with 20 million students reached in 40 languages across 110 countries.

Lions Quest's story began in 1975, when a determined teenager named Rick Little set out on a "quest" to help other young people develop the skills and strength of character needed to succeed as adults. Little started his journey by conducting a survey of more than 2,000 high school students to truly understand the issues that concerned them most. This initial success prompted expansion into programming for middle school students and the development of *Skills for Adolescence*, which pioneered a social and emotional learning program for young people before it was a trend.

With the same spirit of innovation, Lions Quest has undertaken a full-scale



revision of the curriculum, training and supplemental content. "Youth today are not like youth 10 to 15 years ago," said Alvin Atkinson of the Winston-Salem Twin City Host Lions Club. "Fortunately, because Lions Quest is evidence-based, it sees what works and what doesn't and evolves as technology and our lives evolve."

In the new curriculum, materials are being revised to be more dynamic and student-centered, while also being shorter and more streamlined. The goal is to make the lessons easier to use and more effective. Each curated resource works seamlessly to help children and young adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish positive relationships and make responsible decisions.

"I think the social and emotional learning pieces of the Lions Quest program are critical," said Chip Harris, trainer at Lions Quest. "They were critical when I started my career over 40 years ago, and they're equally, maybe more important today, largely because social and emotional learning brings people together, and allows them to be able to respect and appreciate each other."

Over the past 40 years, Lions Quest has shaped social and emotional learning for millions of young people around the world. As the program evolves, it will continue offering students curriculum and resources to build the skills needed to navigate life and prevent bullying and substance abuse. This proactive evolution will propel Lions Quest's legacy of innovation into the next decade.

Visit lions-quest.org to learn more.

WHAT'S YOUR LION STYLE?

Take this quiz to find out!



* Be sure to circle your answers so you can tally up your result at the end.

1. Choose your spot in your club meeting.

- A** Middle of the room, listening
- B** Up in front, leading
- C** Toward the front taking diligent notes
- D** Wherever I can find a seat, preferably by the snacks

2. What outfit best matches your Lion style?

- A** Simple Lions T-shirt
- B** Traditional yellow vest
- C** Business casual
- D** Trendy Lions-branded swag

3. It's time to elect club officers. What role are you going for?

- A** None, I just like to serve and help my fellow Lions
- B** Club president
- C** Club secretary
- D** Club membership chairperson

4. Which activity or event sounds the best to you?

- A** A joint tree-planting project with another local club
- B** Setting up a scholarship fund for youth in your area
- C** A fundraiser supporting one of our global causes
- D** Running your club's booth at a local farmer's market

5. Your district governor is visiting. What are you excited to share?

- A** Just that you're proud to be a Lion and love to serve
- B** How many new members you'll be inducting next month
- C** Your innovative new service project idea
- D** Photos from your last project

6. What item would be most helpful for your Lion role?

- A** Notebook
- B** Gavel
- C** Calendar/planner
- D** Smartphone with social media accounts

7. You get to your club's tree-planting service project. What tool do you grab?

- A** Shovel
- B** Megaphone
- C** Clipboard
- D** Phone to take photos and videos

8. You're registered for the upcoming international convention. What are you most excited about?

- A** Meeting with other Lions and Leos
- B** Hearing the speakers and watching world-class entertainment
- C** Learning something new in the seminars
- D** Collecting all the pins

9. Which color best describes your personality?

- A** Purple
- B** Green
- C** Blue
- D** Yellow

10. Which Lion social event sounds the most fun?

- A** Picnic
- B** Trivia night
- C** Dance party
- D** Sporting event

SCORING



Add up your total based on these point values:

A: 0 points C: 2 points
B: 1 point D: 3 points

Collaboration Hero (0-7)

You're the ultimate team player, always ready to collaborate with your fellow club members to get the job done. You understand that we're stronger together, and act accordingly to ensure your club's success.

Born Trailblazer (8-15)

You're a natural at getting people fired up. You have a vision for your club and you know how to bring it to life — in turn, inspiring all your fellow Lions to do their best.

Coordinator Extraordinaire (16-22)

When your club needs to make things happen, you're there making sure everything runs like clockwork. You have a knack for organization, and are always finding ways to bring club members together and get everyone involved.

Proud Promoter (23-30)

Your passion for Lions is infectious and you truly live out the values of your club. You're naturally gifted in the art of getting people interested and inviting them to join your club.



SHARE THE FUN!

Scan to access the quiz online and share the link with your Lion friends.

PARTING SHOT



Helping children with cancer see and be seen

The Cebu City Peltan Lions Club offers vision screenings and so much more to Everlasting HOPE Philippines, an organization that ensures children living with cancer receive proper medical, emotional and spiritual care.

Patrick Ian Jumamil, national director of Everlasting HOPE, is grateful for the Lions' support and encourages them to keep up their good work.

"Continue to do what you're doing and believe what you're believing because you never know how you will impact the next generation. By setting a good example, by extending compassionate care, you are not just providing help, but also inspiring children and families by talking to them and making time for them. It's really important. Keep up the good work."

LION



Lions International

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Lions International

Need more inspiration?

The powerful stories of Lions' service cannot be confined to these pages of LION Magazine. Head over to your favorite social media channels to see what Lions and Leos from around the world are up to. While you're there, do some inspiring of your own by sharing your club's stories.

Tag your post

#WeServe



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