

L I O N



M.D. "A" Edition May/June 2015

www.lionsclubs.org

We Serve

LCIF supports
Lions Humanitarian Award

to be presented to

**"Save the
Children"**

at the 98th International Convention in
Honolulu, Hawaii



See pages 4 and 8 for details

To: All Lions Club Presidents

We are pleased to be able to offer the Lions Club of Ontario a comprehensive insurance plan at a very competitive price.

At PGP, we understand and appreciate the valuable community service work you do. This protection plan will allow you to pursue this good work under the umbrella of an annual policy covering all eligible events you stage.

New for 2014 — 2015

- Reduced premiums by 10%
- Commercial General, and Directors and Officers liability can be purchased separately

Key Coverages Include

- Commercial General Liability limits up to \$5,000,000 including **Host Liquor Liability Coverage**
- **Directors and Officers Liability** coverage up to \$5,000,000 including **defence costs**
- Crime and Contents coverage
- Annual policy – no need to arrange individual event coverage as they come up
- Package premiums start as low as **\$1200 Annual**

Simply call me at 416-805-1477 or 1-844-805-1477 or visit www.pricegp.com and download the application form to receive at quotation.

Thank you for allowing PGP the opportunity to service your insurance needs. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Don Price, FLMI, FCIP, RIBO
President



Lions Members Home and Car Program

Remember to tell your members about our new Group Home and Car program with discounted rates for Lions Club Members.

**Simply call in for your Quote or to Register your expiry date.
1-866-247-7700**

Each call generates a \$5.00 Donation to the Lions Club!!

Go to www.pricegp.com for more information.

416-805-1477 • 1-844-805-1477 • don@pricegp.com • www.pricegp.com

On the cover:
Once near death from malnutrition, 2-year-old Saguirou from Niger drinks the fortified milk supplied by Save the Children

See page 8 for more.



We Serve

*W*elcome to the May/June Edition of *The Lion*.
To submit stories, photos, comments or suggestions, please contact your District Reporter (Pg 26) and please remember to check your camera settings to ensure highest resolution pictures.

Contents

M.D. "A" Edition

May/June 2015

Ajax Lions Club	25
Bancroft Lions Club	25
Blyth Lions Club	22,23
Cambridge Leo Club	25
Chesterville and District Lions Club.....	23,24
Club Lions de Knowlton	25
Desboro Lions Club	24
Elmira Lions Club	23
Elmira Lions Club	19
Fergus Lions Club.....	22
Finch and District Lions Club.....	23
Finch and District Lions Club.....	23
Gananoque Lions Club.....	26
Guelph Lions Club	22
Keene Lions Club.....	19
Lions Club of Bowmanville	26
Long Point Lions Club	24
Marmora Crowe Valley Lions Club.....	23
Marmora Crowe Valley Lions Club.....	8
Napanee Lions Club	25
New Hamburg Lioness Club.....	24,26
Perth Lions Club.....	23
Peterborough Lions Club	25
Ridgeway Lions Club.....	22
Royal City Lions Club	22
Seeleys Bay Lions Club.....	26
U of G Campus Club.....	19
Unionville Lions Club.....	23
Vankleek Hill & District Lions Club.....	23
Westport Lions Club	18,23,26

President's Message	4
Convention Call.....	4
Official Notice - Amendments -2015 International	
Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA	5
Field of Dreams Built for Those with Disabilities.....	6
MDA Council Chairs Year End Report	6
Street Children in Mumbai Get a Second Chance..	7
Disaster Relief for Nepal	7
Candidates for Second Vice President	8
Humanitarian Award to Save the Children	8
Lions and Little League	9, 11
Lions on Location	12
The Very Best of 400,000 – Lions International Peace Poster Contest.....	13
The Wide – and Wonderful – World of Lions.....	14
Let the Games Begin	15, 16
A Road Show for Recovery	17, 18
Lions Ease Terrible Suffering of War Refugees.....	19
Mobile Eye Clinic	20, 21
Lions Quest Canada – Recognized Leader in Child and Youth Development	22
MDA Directory Information	24
Important Dates	24
Resource Centre Website	26
District Reporters.....	26
Moving Soon?.....	26
Lions Project Pride	IBC

The LION Magazine, official publication of Lions Clubs International, is published by authority of the board of directors in 20 languages - English, Spanish, Japanese, French, Swedish, Italian, German, Finnish, Korean, Portuguese, Dutch, Danish, Chinese, Norwegian, Icelandic, Turkish, Greek, Hindi, Indonesian and Thai.

Management Committee Lion Magazine
Lion John Stewart PDG
Lion Dave Hewitt PDG

Agreement Number is:
41805020*



POSTMASTERS
If unclaimed, email us at:
mdathelionmag@hotmail.com

GOVERNORS' COUNCIL 2014-2015

- Council Chair
Bob Tanner (Gail)
3848 Petrolia Line
Petrolia, Ontario N0N 1R0
519-882-0765; 519-339-6606(c)
mailto: councilchair@mdlions.org
- A1 John Johnston
45842 Truman Line, R.R. #1
Belmont, ON N0L 1B0
519-644-0157
mailto: lionjohnjohnston@gmail.com
- A2 Bill MacKenzie (Deborah)
6 Stone Quarry Road, Box 5212
Townsend, ON N0A 1S0
519-587-5558(h); 905-536-0839(c)
mailto: b.mackenzie@a2lions.org
- A3 Linda Duffie (Mense 'Jim' Prenger)
22 Morgandale Crescent
Bowmanville, ON L1C 3N2
905-623-8780(h); 905-435-8780(c)
mailto: linda.duffie@bell.net
- A4 Richard McCauley (Judy)
506 Blue Heron Lane, R.R. #5
Perth, ON K7H 3C7
613-267-4187
mailto: mccauley_rick@hotmail.com
- A5 Harold Huhtanen (Martha)
67 Pennala Street
Sudbury, ON P3G 1K2
705-522-8114
mailto: lionharold.huhtanen@gmail.com
- A711 Donald Bissonnette (Dawn)
29 Erin Heights Drive
Erin, ON N0B 1T0
519-833-9469
mailto: don030@sympatico.ca
- A9 Hank Van Moorsel (Barb)
47 Carter Drive
Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C6
519-832-6944(h); 519-386-5954(c)
mailto: hvanm@eastlink.ca
- A12 Barb Ennis (Dave Hewitt)
18-4182 Muskoka Road 169
Port Carling, ON P0B 1J0
705-765-6092(h); 705-706-2525(c)
mailto: lakejoemuskoka@hotmail.ca
- A15 Tim DeBlock (Jane)
3034 Road 168, R.R. #2
Staffa, ON N0K 1Y0
519-229-8405(h); 519-301-2135(w)
mailto: DG@a15lions.org
- A16 Eleanor Colwell
5 Lorraine Court
Bowmanville, ON L1C 3L5
905-697-4821(h); 905-914-4821(c)
mailto: colwell.williamspoint@sympatico.ca
- Secretary John Stewart PDG
Treasurer Dave Hewitt

- EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**
President Joseph Preston, Dewey, Arizona, United States;
Immediate Past President Barry J. Palmer, North Maitland, Australia;
First Vice President Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada, Minokamo-shi, Gifu-ken, Japan;
Second Vice President Robert E. Corlew, Milton, Tennessee, United States
Contact the officers at Lions Clubs International, 300 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, Illinois, 60523-8842, USA.
Second Year Directors
Fabio de Almeida, São Paulo, Brazil; Lawrence A. "Larry" Dicus, California, United States; Roberto Fresia, Albissola Marina, Italy; Alexis Vincent Gomès, Pointe-Noire, Republic of Congo; Cynthia B. Gregg, Pennsylvania, United States; Byung-Gi Kim, Gwangju, Korea; Esther LaMothe, Michigan, United States; Yves Léveillé, Quebec, Canada; Teresa Mann, Hong Kong, China; Raju V. Manwani, Mumbai, India; William A. McKinney, Illinois, United States; Michael Edward Molenda, Minnesota, United States; John Pettis Jr., Massachusetts, United States; Robert Rettyb, Neuchatel, Switzerland; Emine Oya Sebük, Istanbul, Turkey; Hidenori Shimizu, Gunma, Japan; Dr. Steven Tremaroli, New York, United States.
First Year Directors
Svein Øystein Berntsen, Hønefoss, Norway; Jorge Andrés Bortolozzi, Coronda, Argentina; Eric R. Carter, Auckland, New Zealand; Charlie Chan, Singapore, Singapore; Jack Epperson, Nevada, United States; Edward Farrington, New Hampshire, United States; Karla N. Harris, Wisconsin, United States; Robert S. Littlefield, Minnesota, United States; Ratnaswamy Murugan, Kerala, India; Yoshinori Nishikawa, Himeji, Hyogo, Japan; George Th. Pappas, Limassol, Cyprus; Jouko Ruissalo, Helsinki, Finland; N. S. Sankar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India; A. D. Don Shove, Washington, United States; Kembra L. Smith, Georgia, United States; Dr. Joong-Ho Son, Daejeon, Republic of Korea; Linda L. Tinscher, Indiana, United States.

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



Joseph Preston
*Lions Clubs International
President*

“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 the 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

It's a Lions World—And We're Glad for That

It was a privilege to serve as your international president in 2014-15. I mean that sincerely and literally. It was a privilege to visit a school in India run by Delhi Lions for 52 years, a privilege to be at a Lions-sponsored facility in France that conducts important research on gene therapy for rare diseases and a privilege to observe classes for children who are deaf and blind in Turkey. Traveling the world allowed Joni and me to see firsthand how Lions worldwide improve their communities and embrace the spirit of service.

For 98 years Lions have grown stronger, and this year was no exception. In 2014-15 Lions showed that Melvin Jones' vision of like-minded people joining

together to help their neighbors continues to resonate across borders and in our contemporary, fast-paced modern culture.

My theme was Strengthen the Pride. My pride in Lions especially was strengthened this year. Thanks to the leadership of club presidents and district governors and the individual efforts of members, we saw solid gains in membership, a very successful start to our Centennial Service Challenge, strong participation in new initiatives such as the Worldwide Week of Service for Children and continued support for established projects such as the measles campaign.

Joni and I wish to thank all the Lions who were so hospitable to us this year, and we also thank all Lions

for their magnificent service. Before becoming president, I thought I had a good grasp of Lions' commitment to service. But the depth and range of our activity is astounding. I look forward to meeting many of you at conventions and other Lions' events and eagerly anticipate our huge centennial celebration in 2017 in Chicago.

Joe Preston
Lions Clubs International President

Convention Call

In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the International By-Laws, I hereby issue the Official Call for the 2015 International Convention. Our 98th International Convention will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, United States. It begins at 9:30 a.m. June 26 and ends June 30. The purpose of the convention is to elect a president, first vice president, second vice president and 17 members of the International Board of Directors and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Hawaii is a fantastic setting for our convention. From the soaring cliffs of the Napali Coast on Kauai to the fiery glow of Kilauea Crater on the slopes of Mauna Loa on the island of Hawaii, Hawaii boasts incredible natural beauty. The Hawaii Convention Center is a worthy counterpart to the outdoor charms. The

remarkable facility includes tinkling waterfalls, serene fish ponds and attractive courtyards.

The five days will feature renowned speakers, first-class entertainers, native music, dance and food, and, of course, Lions' convention traditions such as the grand parade, the swearing-in of the new international president and three plenary sessions that demonstrate the amazing range and scope of Lions' service. Tim Shriver, the chairman of Special Olympics, will give the keynote address, and Save the Children will receive the 2015 Lions Humanitarian Award. Another highlight is the announcement of the Peace Poster and Essay Contest winners.

The international show features soft-rock star Kenny Loggins, Mickey Thomas of Jefferson Starship and Steve Augeri of Journey. The entertainment at the

plenary sessions includes a lavish “Lion King” production, a Hawaiian show and an exuberant disco dance party.

Convention Week is a splendid, memorable experience packed with fellowship, fun and learning. The Lions of Hawaii will warmly welcome their visitors with the spirit of aloha. I strongly encourage you to Strengthen the Pride by joining thousands of your fellow Lions in Hawaii.

Warmest regards,

Joe Preston
Lions Clubs International President



Official Notice



2015 International Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

The following proposed amendments to the International Constitution and By-Laws will be reported to the delegates for vote at the 2015 International Convention.

ITEM 1: A RESOLUTION TO REVISE THE COMPOSITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO REALLOCATE REPRESENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORS BY DECREASING USA DIRECTORS BY 3 AND INCREASING ISAAME DIRECTORS BY 2 AND OSEAL DIRECTORS BY 1 OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD. (THIS AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION REQUIRES A 2/3 VOTE TO ADOPT)
SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That, effective beginning with the 2016-2017 year, Article V, Section 3, second paragraph, of the International Constitution shall be amended by deleting the existing language in its entirety and substituting the following:

In each even-numbered year, seventeen (17) directors shall be elected, consisting of three (3) from clubs in India, South Asia, Africa and the Middle East; one (1) from clubs in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Islands of the South Pacific; three (3) from clubs in Europe; three (3) from clubs in the Orient and Southeast Asia; one (1) from clubs in South America, Central America, Mexico and Islands of the Caribbean Sea; and six (6) from clubs in the United States of America, its affiliates, Bermuda and the Bahamas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That effective beginning the 2017-2018 year, Article V, Section 3, third paragraph, of the International Constitution shall be amended by deleting the existing language in its entirety and substituting the following:

In each odd-numbered year, seventeen (17) directors shall be elected, consisting of two (2) from clubs in India, South Asia, Africa and the Middle East; one (1) from clubs in Canada; three (3) from clubs in Europe; four (4) from clubs in the Orient and Southeast Asia; one (1) from clubs in South America, Central America, Mexico and Islands of the Caribbean Sea; and six (6) from clubs in the United States of America, its affiliates, Bermuda and the Bahamas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That effective beginning the 2018-2019 year, Article V, Section 3, second paragraph, of the International Constitution shall be amended by deleting the existing language in its entirety and substituting the following:

In each even-numbered year, seventeen (17) directors shall be elected, consisting of four (4) from clubs in India, South Asia, Africa and the Middle East; one (1) from clubs in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Islands of the South Pacific; three (3) from clubs in Europe; three (3) from clubs in the Orient and Southeast Asia; one (1) from clubs in South America, Central America, Mexico and Islands of the Caribbean Sea; and five (5) from clubs in the United States of America, its affiliates, Bermuda and the Bahamas.

ITEM 2: A RESOLUTION TO REINSTATE THE POSITION OF THIRD VICE PRESIDENT (THIS AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS REQUIRES A 2/3 VOTE TO ADOPT)

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That the International Constitution and By-Laws be revised to reinstate the office of International Third Vice President beginning with the 2016-2017 term as follows:

Article V, Section 1 of the International Constitution shall be amended by inserting the phrase "third vice president" following the phrase "second vice president".

Article V, Section 3, of the International Constitution shall be amended by replacing the phrase "first and second" with the phrase "first, second and third".

Article II, Section 1 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by inserting the phrase "third vice president" following the phrase "second vice president," and replacing the phrase "and first vice president" with ", first vice president and second vice president".

Article II, Section 2 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by replacing the word "SECOND" with "THIRD".

Article II, Section 2.(a) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by replacing the word "second" with "third".

Article II, Section 2. (a) (4) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by replacing the word "second" with "third".

Article II, Section 2. (b) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by adding the phrase "only a club member who has served in the office of third vice president may be elected to the office of second vice president," following the phrase "Except in the case of a vacancy in an office

which shall be filled under the provisions of these by-laws or constitution,".

Article II, Section 4.(a) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by replacing the word "second" with "third".

Article VI, Section 3 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by replacing the phrase "first and second" with the phrase "first, second and third".

ITEM 3: A RESOLUTION TO RENAME THE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE TO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. (THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That Article IV, Section 1(f) of the International By-Laws shall be amended by inserting "Development" after "Leadership".

ITEM 4: A RESOLUTION TO REQUIRE PAYMENT OF DELINQUENT DUES AT LEAST 15 DAYS PRIOR TO THE CLOSE OF CREDENTIALS AT DISTRICT CONVENTIONS. (THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That effective July 1, 2016 Article IX, Section 3 of the International By-Laws shall be amended by replacing the phrase "at any time" with the phrase "up to fifteen (15) days" after the word "acquired".

ITEM 5: A RESOLUTION TO AMEND REDISTRICTING PROCEDURES. (THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE TO ADOPT)

SHALL THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED?

BE IT RESOLVED, That Article VIII, Section 3 of the International By-Laws be amended by deleting the first paragraph in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

"Any single district which desires to be a multiple district or any multiple district which desires to add one or more sub-districts thereto or otherwise change one or more existing sub-districts shall submit to the International Board of Directors a redistricting proposal approved by a majority vote of the convention of the respective single or sub-

districts that have 35 clubs and 1,250 members and the multiple district. Any multiple district which desires to consolidate one or more sub-districts of which one or more sub-districts have fewer than 35 clubs and 1,250 members shall

submit to the International Board of Directors a redistricting proposal approved by a majority vote of the convention of the multiple district.”

For more information on any of the above amendments, please refer to the LCI website at lionsclubs.org or contact the International Office at 630-571-5466.

LCIF

Field of Dreams Built for Those with Disabilities

LCIF

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 18-1** 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

MDA Council Chairs Year End Report



Bob Tanner
MDA Council Chair

It has been an honour to serve as MDA Council Chair for 2014-2015 with so many inspiring Lions! This Governor's Council has left a legacy of innovation and team work.

We started the year, at the International Convention in Toronto, hosted by our own MDA Lions. With 800

volunteers, helping us host the world.

Within our committees we added a Literacy committee to promote the "Reading Action Program" and to tell our Lions about the Scholastic Book Program for Canada. We also added 2 Centennial Co-chairs to promote the Lions 100th anniversary in 2017.

Many clubs have already received their first 4 diamond patch for participating in the four service categories, you have until June 30th to complete your reporting.

Our Council was quoted on the floor of Provincial Parliament, when a request was made to have a tri-party review on taxing volunteer organizations. A single Lion spearheaded a campaign to obtain a settlement for every club in Canada from Hershey's Chocolate Company part of a class action lawsuit that benefitted the Lions Foundation of Canada. Please consider donating your proceeds.

The Governors participated in monthly GoTo meetings via computer to share ideas, successes and challenges. The Governors Communication Challenge was created, to encourage all districts to increasing all avenues of communication, to our clubs and communities.

Our day with the Toronto Argos was a success, and the proceeds have helped make Lions Quest Canada become debt free.

The CNIB agreement has been improved and expanded thanks to the work of the Sight Conservation Committee. It will allow any Lion to serve our blind one on one. Talks have begun with Special Olympics Canada which will give us more ways to "Strengthen the Pride."

I hope everyone left the MDA Convention in Kingston "Inspired" as we finish this Lions year and move into a new year.

Last I must thank my three partners who made this year special. Thanks CS John, CT Dave and my wife Lion Gail!

To all of the Lions of MDA thank you for the privilege to serve you as the MDA Council Chairperson this year. You all have left a lasting legacy for our future generations.

Sincerely

Lion Bob Tanner
MDA Council Chair 2014-2015

by Cassandra Bannon

Mumbai, the glittering capital of Maharashtra, is the wealthiest city in India. With a population of 18.4 million people, Mumbai is home to more millionaires and billionaires than any other city in India. Yet the metropolis suffers from widespread abject poverty and entrenched unemployment, and public health services are lacking for those who need them most. Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and Lions in India are taking giant steps to aid those in need.

For nearly 30 years, the **Lions Nirman Health Center** has offered consultation and treatment in the specialties of ophthalmology, gynecology, dentistry, pathology and physiotherapy to hundreds of lower- and middle-income families. The **Lions of District 323-A3** were recently awarded a US\$30,000 LCIF Standard grant to provide equipment to the Lions Nirman Health Center in Mumbai. The center is owned and operated by the **Versova Lions Club**. Thanks to LCIF and local Lions, the center will be able to help even more people with faster, more modern technology.

Aside from the lack of access to health care in Mumbai, homelessness is also a major social problem.

The **Lions of District 323-A2** are working with the Samatol Foundation, a non-governmental organization that aids street children, to care for homeless and runaway children who are loitering at train depots or on the streets.

Until recently, Lions had nowhere to take them for rehabilitation. Now, Lions have received an LCIF Standard grant of US\$26,822 to establish a home for street children. This grant allows local Lions to expand the partnership with Samatol Foundation to continue to provide vital services to the children who need them most.

Six times annually, street children are picked up at train stations and taken to a rehabilitation camp at the home, where they receive food, shelter, counseling and medical care in a structured setting. The goal of the camp is to reunite the children with their families. If that is not possible, the children are placed with organizations that can provide long-term assistance such as vocational training. Either way, the camp aims to keep children from returning to the streets. The camp serves more than 240 children each year.

LCIF and local Lions are actively working to improve access to quality health services and social supports for disadvantaged youth in and around Mumbai. For information on how your Lions club can apply for an LCIF Standard Grant, visit lcif.org.



A young boy receives medical treatment at a Lions Nirman Health Center clinic near Mumbai

Disaster Relief for Nepal

Lions Clubs International Foundation is accepting donations from Lions Clubs, Lions & Friends for disaster relief for Nepal.

Individual donations from Lion Club Members and friends of Lions should be sent to the following:

Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF
c/o PDG Stan Durward
50 Southern Court, P.O. Box 38
Sunderland, Ontario
L0C 1H0
(705) 357-2115
s.durward@sympatico.ca

Donations in the amount of \$20.00 or greater shall be issued an official tax receipt.

Please Note: You do not need to be a Lions Club Member to donate to this fund & 100% of the donated funds goes directly to the disaster relief fund.

Club Donations should be sent to the following:

Lions Clubs International Foundation
300 W. 22nd Street
Oak Brook, Illinois
60523-8842 USA
(630) 468-6901

On-line donations are being accepted at Lions Clubs International Foundation – Oak Brook, Illinois.

The Government of Canada is providing matching funds for donations received from private individuals to eligible charities.

Private Individuals – Lions and friends of Lions – can contribute to the Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF and the Canadian Government will match these funds. Donations by Corporations and organizations such as a Lions Club do not qualify for matching funds for any of the eligible charities. Donations by individuals and Lions Clubs will be recognized as Melvin Jones Fellowship eligible.



Candidates for Second Vice President

We Serve

As of press time, there were seven candidates for second vice president. The election is scheduled for June 30 at the 98th International Convention in Honolulu.

Naresh Aggarwal

Naresh Aggarwal of Delhi, India, an international director from 1998 to 2000, is a leader in business and philanthropy. A Life Member of the Batala Smile Lions Club for 41 years, he has been a board appointee and group leader three times. He has served in many leadership positions including as a GLT Constitutional Area Leader and is a recipient of the Ambassador of Goodwill Award and 21 Presidential medals. He is a major lead gift donor and a Humanitarian Partner of LCIF.



Philippe Gerondal

Philippe Gerondal of Brussels, Belgium, a Life Member of the Gembloux Lions Club, a former university professor and an honorary lawyer and judge. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, Gerondal served on the international board of directors from 2000 to 2002, has been a board appointee, and a Campaign SightFirst II sector coordinator and a Major Donor. He received the Ambassador of Goodwill Award and 15 presidential awards. Fluent in four languages, Gerondal has been an LCIF multinational coordinator since 2008.



Patricia 'Patti' Hill

Patti Hill of Edmonton, Canada, is a psychologist and a member of the Edmonton Host Lions Club. An international director from 2007 to 2009, she has been a committee member of the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, a multinational coordinator for Campaign SightFirst II, a past director of the Lions Eye Research Institute of Northern Alberta and a presenter at multiple forums and conventions. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and GLT Constitutional Area 2 Leader, Hill received the Inspiring Woman Award and is active in many professional and community organizations.



Rosane Teresinha Jahnke

Rosane Teresinha Jahnke served on the international board of directors from 2008 to 2010. A member of the Jaraguá do Sol Lions Club in Brazil, she was a teacher and is a lawyer. A Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and a Helen Keller Knight of Sight recipient, she has participated in 18 international conventions and 13 FOLAC forums. Active in many community and professional groups, Jahnke promotes the rights of children with special needs and cancer prevention awareness.



Salim Moussan

Salim Moussan of Beirut, Lebanon, served as an international director from 1997 to 1999. A member of the Beirut St. Gabriel Lions Club, he has twice been a board appointee and group leader, and has chaired several leadership forums. He is fluent in three languages, has visited 91 countries and has attended 27 consecutive international conventions, 62 area forums and more than 40 regional conferences.



Phil Nathan

Phil Nathan of Earls Colne, England, has been a Lion since 1982 and is a charter member of the South Woodham Ferrers Lions Club. He served as an international director from 1999 to 2001. A stockbroker and director of a company, Nathan was president of both the 2006 and 2014 Europa Forums. He has been recognized by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with an MBE, Member of the British Empire, for his service achievements.



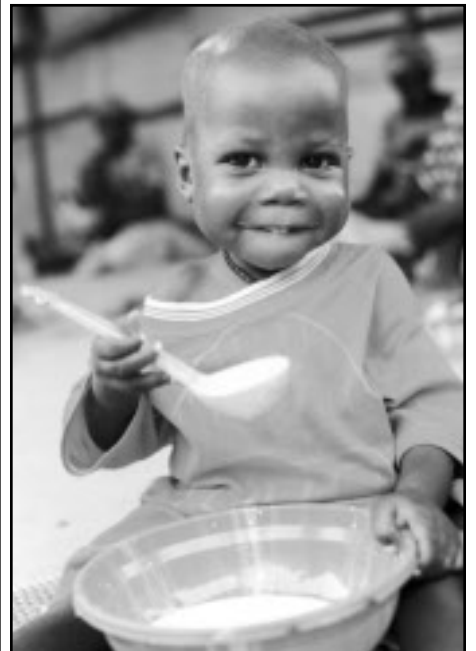
Steven D. Sherer

Steven D. Sherer of New Philadelphia, Ohio, has been a member of the Dover Lions Club since 1980. A licensed public accountant and the finance officer/CFO of New Philadelphia Public Schools, he is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and has received numerous Lions and professional accolades. Sherer served as an international director from 2006 to 2008 and was a GMT area coordinator for four years.



Humanitarian Award to Save the Children

Celebrated for saving and improving lives, Save the Children will receive the 2015 Lions Humanitarian Award at the international convention in June in Honolulu. The charity, based in Fairfield, Connecticut, has greatly reduced newborn and child mortality. Its award-winning literacy initiatives have boosted literacy rates. It also helps children when disaster strikes, and in the United States it supports preschool programs as well as afterschool and summer programs to strengthen academics, increase physical activity and promote nutritious diets. More than 14 million children benefited from its hunger programs in its last fiscal year, and it treated 3 million children for lethal diseases such as measles, pneumonia and diarrhea. Save the Children was begun in 1919 in the aftermath of the ravages of World War I. A \$250,000 grant from LCIF accompanies the award.



Once near death from malnutrition, 2-year-old Saguirov from Niger drinks the fortified milk supplied by Save the Children

Marmora Crowe Valley

District A3 Governor Lion **Linda Duffie** and PDG **Earl Oliver** (on right) hold cheque with Marmora Crowe Valley Lions President Lion **Stew Fisher**. The Club donated \$1,000 toward purchase of a new van for handicapped at Lions Dog Guide Centre in Oakville, Ontario. Treasurer Lion **Russ Mitchell** is on right with mic.



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**.



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

'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 phenomena of 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 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.



Stotz was quiet by nature but loquacious when promoting Little League

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 GIs 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.



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

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.

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 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 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 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 hardscrabble 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.



Top: Mo’ne Davis throws hard at the 2014 Little League World Series. Centre: Rhode Island Manager Dave Belisle drew plaudits for his upbeat pep talks. Bottom: Australian players celebrate a pivotal play

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."

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

Digital LION

Read the 1951 LION story on Little League at lionmagazine.org.

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

Lions on Location

Lunch Tradition Dates From 1988

Austria – When **Rudy Reiter** lets family or friends know he'll be at lunch—and it's a Wednesday—they know exactly where to find him. He's eaten weekly at the historic Café Landtmann in the heart of Vienna since Aug. 16, 1988. And he's broken bread with thousands of Lions friends, many of whom he's met for the first time.

Reiter, 88, a former zone chairperson, gives new meaning to "let's do lunch." A frequent business traveler before retiring, Reiter often had looked up local Lions and gained new friends and insights into fundraising. Knowing that his city was a crossroads for travelers, he began Vienna's Lions-Luncheon. Since then, 1,360 lunches have hosted 14,000 Lions from 36 nations on five continents.

A typical lunch serves 15 to 20 Lions. Many are from the **Wien Ostarrichi Lions Club**, Reiter's club, or nearby clubs. Visitors are introduced, given a certificate and banner, and photographed for the guest book. Occasionally, a district governor or other Lions leader will speak or funds will be solicited for a Lions' cause.

But the event is held for Lions to casually chat while getting to sample the café's delectable Viennese cuisine and distinctive coffees. Founded in 1873, the café has served such notables as Sigmund Freud, Paul McCartney, Hillary Clinton, Burt Lancaster and Marlene Dietrich.

Reiter initially publicized the lunch with stories in various LION magazines and through a sign printed in eight languages in front of the restaurant. Fliers and emails sent to clubs and districts as well as word of mouth keep the visitors coming. Five international Lions presidents have been among the visitors.

The lunch has been cancelled just once: a terrible storm occurred on an Austrian holiday. An unlucky U.S. Lion who showed up at the café left his name and address, and Reiter later met him at the international convention in St. Louis.

In 2013, the café owners had a giant tart made for the 25th anniversary of the lunch. The lunch shows no signs of slowing down: last year 954 Lions from 11 nations attended.



Rudy Reiter has eaten lunch in Vienna with thousands of Lions worldwide

The retired owner of a plastics company, Reiter says he has "attended 92 percent" of the lunches. Most Lions order a two-course meal. Reiter opts for a bowl of soup, brown bread and a cappuccino.

President Embarks on Journey to Guide Dog School

France – 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 dog guide 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.



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

Hungarian Lions Roll Out Vision Van

Hungary – Lions held 41 vision screenings within a year after receiving a vision van and ophthalmic equipment from German and French Lions. "We were able to reach very poor regions and the boonies too," says **Peter Koleszar**, zone chairperson for District 119 in Hungary.

With doctors doing the screenings, as required by

law, Lions held screenings typically in cultural centers in villages and in retirement homes in cities. Eye health care is available in urban areas, but senior citizens and those with disabilities often are overlooked. In rural areas people cannot afford to travel to clinics to get their vision tested and their eye conditions treated.

The vision van included a slit lamp and ophthalmoscope for eye exams, a lensmeter to verify a prescription, a visual acuity chart projector and a tonometer to measure pressure inside the eye to check for glaucoma. Hungarian Lions helped pay for the equipment. The van and equipment cost 41,500 euros (US\$51,000).

Led by **Szombathely Savaria Lions**, the first screening was held in conjunction with Worldwide Day of the Elderly in October. Sixty-three patients were screened. Thirty-nine needed glasses or a new prescription, and nine needed follow-up care.



Dr. Klara Kery, a Gyor First Lion, screens a patient

Lions in Japan Get it Write

Japan – As in the United States, teachers in Japan bemoan an unfortunate consequence of the ubiquity of smartphones and computers that shows up most obviously in the classroom: the decline in penmanship. The neatness and precision of students' writing, often problematic even years ago, have taken a decided turn for the worse as students endlessly use their fingers punching keypads.

Noagata Lions' novel approach to bad penmanship centers on a traditional practice thousands of years old: calligraphy. For five years the club has sponsored a calligraphy competition at a community center in the city of 60,000. Last year 176 students from third to eighth grade wrote calligraphic letters on official calligraphic paper with large traditional ink brushes. The best work was on par with that of accomplished adults, according to the Japanese LION.

A senior citizens group that practices calligraphy has helped the Lions with the competition, first staged in 2010 to mark the club's 50th anniversary. The event was originally held only for younger students. Lions expanded it when students in junior high told them they missed practicing the ancient art.

The competition is helping fuel a growing interest among youths in calligraphy. The high school calligraphy club displays its work at a local crowded shopping mall, where the art from the Lions' event also

can be found. The lasting visibility of the Lions' project has pleased Lions, who sometimes find that their activities fall into a "pay and forget" rut. The colorful, complicated art leaves a solid impression.



Students in Noogata take part in the calligraphy competition

Club Hits Benchmark in Style

New Zealand – 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.



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

Lions Rescue A School Without Water

Nigeria – **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 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.



The water tanks provide water at last for Lea Primary School

Recycling With a Twist

Peru – 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 clubs' 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.



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

The Very Best of 400,000

Peace takes work. It has to be built, piece by precious piece. That's the motif of the grand prize winner of the 27th annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest. The artist is Wei Jin Qian (pictured), a 13-year-old girl from Dalian, China. More than 400,000 students worldwide, ages 11 to 13, submitted posters. Qian received US\$5,000 and appearances at Lions Day at the United Nations in March in New York City and the 98th International Convention in June in Honolulu.

Digital LION

The contest's 23 Merit Award winners are from China, Colombia, Finland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Multiple District 300 Taiwan, Philippines, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand and the United States



(Hawaii, Idaho, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio and Virginia). See the Merit Award posters and the artists at lionmagazine.org.



The Wide – and Wonderful – World of Lions

One of the cool things about belonging to a Lions club is that a club can do its own thing. And clubs do just that—service takes innumerable forms. It's as variegated as the world itself.



Australia: Mossman Lions check the eyes of a girl in Australia. *Photo by Dan Morris*



Kenya: A Lion plants one of the 11,000 trees that were planted in a single day. Lions and partners will plant 15 million trees in Kenya by 2018.



Peru: Trujillo Armonia Lions distribute scarves and gloves to the elderly.



Italy: Certosa di Pavia Lions admire a tactile display for the blind made possible by their club.



Multiple District 300 Taiwan: A **Tzu Tsai Lion** entertains a disabled child.



Brazil: A Lion tests a child's vision.



Croatia: Vukovar Lions hold a dart tournament for the blind.



India: Kaylan Lion dramatize the dangers of drugs and alcohol for schoolchildren.



Arizona: A **Tucson Downtown Lion** screens a child with special needs.



Thailand: A child has her vision tested through LCIF's Sight for Kids.

Let the Games Begin

A club dedicated to Special Olympics athletes is helping stage the mammoth 2015 Special Olympics Summer World Games in Los Angeles.

by Katya Cengel

Lion **Ron Copley** bends to hug Sarah Noonan. At 6 feet 7 he is a giant of a man. And Noonan is a wisp of a young woman.

“How’s my girl?” Copley asks Noonan at the recent annual awards ceremony for Special Olympics athletes in Southern California.

He doesn’t expect a verbal answer, and Noonan doesn’t give him one. But she smiles. In a month Noonan will be 30, a birthday she will celebrate with a trip to Disneyland, like so many of her previous birthdays. Noonan has intellectual disabilities and mild cerebral palsy. She knows she is different. But when she takes part in Special Olympics, a global program that provides training and competition for athletes with intellectual disabilities, she fits in and can be herself, says her appreciative mother, **Jill Wall**.

“Nobody’s looking at her,” says Wall. “She’s just one of the athletes, which is a good place for her to be.”

This summer, when the 2015 Special Olympics Summer World Games is held in Los Angeles, Wall and Copley will be among the Lions helping out. Some 7,000 athletes and 3,000 coaches representing 177 countries will gather in Los Angeles from July 25 to Aug. 2, making it the largest sports and humanitarian event anywhere in the world in 2015.

But unlike many of the other volunteers lending a hand, Copley and Wall will continue serving Special Olympic athletes long after the games are over. Both belong to the Whittier Special Olympics **SOLA Lions Club** (SOLA). The club is exclusively devoted to supporting Special Olympics athletes, holding competitions for them and raising money for their programs.

Having the World Games in its own backyard is a momentous occasion for the club. SOLA’s 50 or so full and associate members are so excited about helping that SOLA President **Steve Nichols** says he has had to “pull in the reins a bit.”

In the few years since the club was chartered many members have matured from knowing relatively little about Special Olympics to being robust champions of the athletes.

Copley admits he knew little about the organization when he and fellow Lion, **Elisa Roche**, were tasked with establishing the service club in 2009. “I thought they [the athletes] were kids,” says Copley, 75, a member of the Whittier Host Lions and an affiliate member of SOLA. “But they’re not.”

Although Special Olympics athletes can begin competing at age eight, the program is for adults as well as children. Copley was not the only local Lion who lacked knowledge about Special Olympics. Before he joined the club, Nichols was unaware how many special needs athletes there were in the



Bowling and other sports provide a big emotional boost for those with intellectual disabilities

Photo by Wayne Martin

community, even though he spent years working as a deputy sheriff. “I was out there on the streets every day; I should have known,” says Nichols.

The subject might have been unfamiliar to Copley and Nichols, but the relationship between Lions and Special Olympics is not a new one. Since 2001, the Lions Clubs International Foundation has helped fund the Opening Eyes Program, which provides eye care to Special Olympics athletes around the world. In addition to the financial support—more than \$13 million—Lions clubs provide volunteers who have helped test 350,000 athletes. Eye care is just one component of Opening Eyes; Lions have also helped with the free health exams offered through the Lions and Special Olympics partnership.

The link between the two service organizations extends to service clubs such as SOLA. There are about a dozen or so Champions Lions Clubs worldwide that serve those with intellectual disabilities. Some include Special Olympics athletes (SOLA does not).

Copley remembers being asked to form the club during a Lions convention in Fresno, California, in 2009. Then Lions Clubs International President **Al Brandel** asked Copley and Roche to “see if you can’t carve out a Lions Club then and write a model for the rest of the world,” says Copley. The club was chartered and held its first event the same year, with Copley serving as the Guiding Lion.

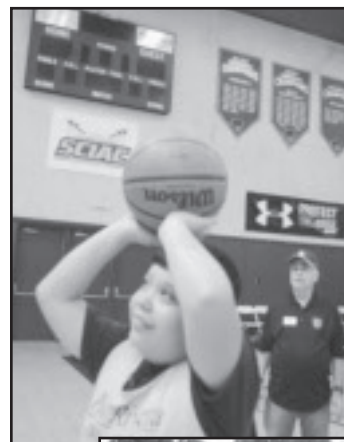
Although he knew little about the athletes, Copley knew quite a bit about Lions, having been a member of the Whittier Host Lions Club since retiring as manager of a flour plant in the late 1990s. Both his father and father-in-law were longtime Lions, maintaining perfect attendance during their respective 50- and 60-plus year memberships. His wife, **Carol Copley**, serves as SOLA’s treasurer.

“We always wanted to give back,” says Copley. “Life’s good.”

It is a phrase he often repeats, and one the athletes

help him remember. Their joy at living and positive attitude is infectious, Copley says. Nichols uses similar language when describing the athletes’ enthusiasm: contagious. “It’s like everything they do—they’re hitting a home run,” says Nichols, 62.

Nichols knows a bit about having fun. He makes his living building outdoor playgrounds and putting together indoor playground displays for stores like Costco. He got involved with Lions after donating leftover playground parts to a friend in the **Whittier Host Lions Club**, an all-male club in the city of Whittier, about 20 miles east of downtown Los Angeles. The friend invited Nichols to a meeting and next thing he knew he was a member. When SOLA formed, it was a natural fit.



Special Olympics athletes compete in a multitude of sports thanks to Lions. That’s Lion Dean Crowley offering basketball tips

Photos by Wayne Martin

“Our sole purpose is to support these athletes and that’s what we do. We fundraise. We put on events, and it’s an absolute blast,” says Nichols.

At a baseball competition where he served as an announcer, Nichols says the athletes got so involved they gave themselves nicknames, as they had seen competitors do on television. The competitions, he says, draw them out of their shells and help build their confidence.

A few of the Southern California area athletes the club serves have been selected to compete at the Summer World Games, an international competition held every four years. When L.A.-area athlete Destiny Sanchez, 16, learned she would be running in the 100 and 200 meter races she was speechless. “Everyone she meets now, she’s so happy that she tells them,” says her coach, Amber Morales.

The World Games will take place at USC and UCLA. Around 30,000 volunteers are expected to help out during the nine-day event, including many Lions. Copley estimates that as many as 200 clubs from four districts could get involved. SOLA in particular is “taking a major lead,” says Eloise Crawford, regional director of Special Olympics Southern California. Along with other Lions, SOLA members will staff the hearing and vision clinics of the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program.

SOLA members and other Lions also are helping to coordinate the lodging and transportation of athletes as well as organize activities for them. SOLA’s special responsibility are 117 athletes from Macao in China.

Copley is working with Leos on a wristband initiative. Leos will sell the wristbands for \$5 at high schools in Southern California, helping to spread awareness about Special Olympics as well as giving students attending the competition another incentive to cheer on the athletes. The “Fans in the Stand” program is part of the special positive atmosphere of a Special Olympics event.

The club is used to putting on their own events and holds four competitions a year: softball, swimming, basketball and bowling. “It’s just a unique partnership,” says Crawford. “We’re very fortunate it’s in our backyard so we’re able to help support all these athletes.”

While none of the events SOLA organizes are as big as the World Games, it doesn’t seem to matter to the athletes, says Nichols. When they dance at the holiday party it’s like they are on the television show “Dancing with the Stars,” he says.

It was at the holiday party four years ago that Cristina Sanz, 25, and Angel Callahan, 23, met. The young couple have been inseparable since. “Me and her, we always stick together,” says Callahan.

They play on the same Special Olympics basketball team and at the most recent party they were rarely apart. During dinner, Callahan placed a napkin on Sanz’s lap and pushed in her chair. When it came time to dance, Callahan was the only one gracefully twirling Sanz on the floor. The event was a chance for other



Special Olympic athletes Christina Sanz, 25, and Angel Callahan, 23 (above), and Maria Luksetich, 24, dance at an annual awards ceremony for the athletes

Photos by Katya Cengel



friends to catch up as well, and soccer teammates Courtney Qualmann and Colin Garcia, both 24, exchanged high fives before the main meal. Playing in the World Games would have been the perfect birthday present for Garcia, who celebrates his birthday around the same time as the games. But their team will not be competing. Fellow athlete Cindi Nardi also will not be taking part, but she is a regular at the local competitions and familiar with Lions. “I love how they help out,” says Nardi, 48.

Wall, the mother of Noonan, was impressed by SOLA members’ dedication, noting how they would arrive at six in the morning to help with a softball tournament and stay until three in the afternoon. “They really, really love the athletes,” says Wall, “something you can tell because they get all choked up.”

But it was the fact that few members have Special Olympic athletes of their own that really convinced her and her husband, **John**, to join the club. “I think that’s what really did it for us,” says Wall. “They just do it out of the love of their heart.”

Wall’s daughter, Noonan, is an “honorary member” of the club. At the holiday party she helped in the kitchen alongside her mother and stepfather, a role the family performs each year. She wore jeans, a SOLA shirt and a necklace with a charm shaped in the American Sign Language hand signal for “I love you.” It is the same sign she tries to make with her hands in post-competition photos. Wall says her daughter’s behavior immediately improved after she began taking part in Special Olympics events in 1996. Being physically active, being involved in something and being just like everybody else all played a role in making her more patient. As for Noonan, she loves to

show off the dozens of medals she has won in Track & Field over the years.

“She’s got them in her backpack, hanging in her room, at her dad’s, at her grandpa’s— they’re everywhere,” says Wall.

Her favorite medal, says Noonan, is “gold”.

An affiliate member of SOLA, **Wayne Martin** is “tickled” Special Olympics is showing off the abilities of athletes like Noonan. A quiet man with a white mustache, Martin is in charge of the SOLA newsletter and website, something he is “having a ball” doing. Martin is retired now, but the 73-year-old spent almost 50 years teaching special needs children and views SOLA as a nice extension of his work. Unlike Whittier Host Lions Club, to which he belongs, Martin feels SOLA members are closer and more affectionate. And no matter how much or how little you do for them, the athletes are guaranteed to remember your name, he said.



SOLA Lions such as Jeff Martin help the competitions run smoothly

Photo by Wayne Martin

Rosa Masterson knows this well. In addition to holding competitions, raising money and volunteering at events, SOLA members also take individual athletes shopping for sports-related clothing and equipment. A few years ago Masterson took a swimmer shopping for a new bathing suit. After trying on several suits, the swimmer, a young woman in her early 20s named Candice, settled on a black one. Later, when Candice spotted Masterson around town, she shouted her name and hurried to greet her.

“When I walk through Whittier, wherever I go, this young lady will always remember my name,” says Masterson.

A petite cosmetologist, Masterson’s reason for joining SOLA is poignant. Her only child, Gary Wiggins, a deputy sheriff, was killed on a charity motorcycle ride in 2005. After his death, Masterson and her husband **Jerry**, both now 68, wanted to keep his memory of community service alive and find a way to distract themselves from their loss. When friends suggested joining SOLA, they saw it as an opportunity to do both, and to remind their grandson, Garrett, about the service to which his father dedicated his life.

“It’s been a really loving, caring experience,” says Masterson. “And the best way to keep my son’s spirit alive.”

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 irretrievable 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 them 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 will meet with a mother and son. The mother will effusively thank him for all his help and tell him how the magnifying machine has changed her life. The son, loving but misguided, will ask 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. 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



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



The road show displays hundreds of tools for those with vision loss in four for those over 85. With 78 million Baby Boomers to hit 65, the number of people with macular degeneration is expected to double by 2014 to a staggering 80 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 monitor 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 eyeing. "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 Thakkar, 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 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," she 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 a 10-year-old who is blind to self-help groups. "There's no bitching that day. 'What can I complain about when I didn't lose my vision until I was 78?'"



Lions provided the Chicago Lighthouse van

Digital LION

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

Watch an interesting video on the Chicago Lighthouse.

Westport Lions Club

We are proud to announce that the Westport Lions Club Chili Fest Team is the 2015 Judges Choice Commercial!

At the recent Rideau Vista School ChiliFest the Westport Lions Club took first prize. The cooks were, left to right, Lions **Bob Weir, Mike McIntyre and John Rempel**. Lion Bob was the head chef and tried a new recipe which proved successful. This event was a fund raiser for the local school and the turn out from the community made the event a success.



Lions Ease Terrible Suffering of War Refugees

by Jay Copp

A Lion from Norway, **Einar Lyngar** encounters abject misery among shivering Syrian war refugees in crude, crowded camps in a mountainous region in Lebanon. Living in a makeshift hut, a sleep-deprived grandmother looked after her two disabled grandchildren. Their parents died in a bombing in Aleppo. "I do not want to live anymore," she told Lyngar, who escorts deliveries of relief supplies from Norwegian Lions.

A father who lost his leg told Lyngar his children were starving and one son, wounded in the war, was in so much pain he could not sleep. Mothers who see Lyngar arrive run toward him with outstretched arms. "I am ashamed to do this. The war makes us beggars," one mother told him. "I had a good job and nice home. Now my life and family is in ruins, and we have no future."

Lyngar gave a winter coat, shoes and wool socks and a sweater to a boy about 10. "He stretched out his hands and gave me a wet kiss on the cheek and a long hug," says Lyngar, a retired journalist and a Ringsaker Lion since 1974.

Partnering with Lebanese Lions, Norwegian Lions have delivered 14 truckloads of clothing for refugees—enough for 60,000 children, says Lyngar. Food and medicine are sparse in the camps. Many children walk barefoot in the snow. The huts, often framed with plastic or tarp with soil floors covered by a blanket, are unbearably cold. "On Twitter I saw pictures of three children in Arsal [camp] who died of the cold before we could get our clothing there," says Lyngar.

Led by the **Ringsaker** and **Skudeneshavn Lions Clubs**, about 100 Lions clubs and 1,000 Lions in Norway have aided the refugees. They and Lebanese Lions also have provided school supplies to begin several schools in the camps. **Amine Hacha**, president of the **Beirut Downtown Lions Club**, says the school-in-a-box kit they gave to refugee children was inspired by a similar learning tool he discovered at the Lions Day at the United Nations.



Children in the refugee camps lack warm clothes for the frigid weather



Amine Hacha of the Beirut Downtown Lions Club comforts a father whose son was shot in the stomach near Damascus. The father had no medicine and no money

getting the trucks through guarded checkpoints. One Arsal man who helped Lyngar "gave me a big hug and kiss on the cheek when I first met him," he says.

Lyngar and Norwegian Lions often rush to help disaster victims or ease great hardship. They treated children who survived the Dubrovka Theater hostage crisis in Moscow to a relaxing holiday, established a cancer center for children after the Chernobyl nuclear accident and organize a Christmas delivery of goods for African children. His trips to Lebanon make his wife and children particularly uneasy. The Islamic State has taken Westerners hostage and beheaded them. Lyngar happens to wear orange clothes. "The security is not good in the camps. My family does not like to see me in orange," he says.

Nearly 120,000 refugees are in camps scattered in or near Arsal, located close to the Syrian border. Complicating the relief—and making it dangerous—is the nearby military activity of the Islamic State.



Einar Lyngar puts socks on a boy

"It's dangerous. We're maybe less than a mile from the war zone," says Hacha. "Only myself and Einar are with the trucks distributing the goods—we don't want others in the unsafe area."

Syrian planes drop bombs, and 10 Lebanese soldiers were killed in Arsal the day of a Lions' delivery, says Lyngar. Lebanese Lions have good relationships with government officials, who help facilitate aid. Lebanese assist Lions in navigating the uncertain roads and



The arrival of the aid trucks from Lions once caused a near panic. "People fainted and shouted. It was terrible to see and hear," says Lyngar

Keene Lions

Photo of the new electronic scoreboard/clock, installed in March 2015, to which the Keene Lions contributed significantly to assist the Township of Onabee South Monaghan in this unforeseen expenditure.



University of Guelph

In early April, the U of G Campus Club held a Bake Sale to raise funds to sponsor a Dog Guide team.



Peace Poster

Lion/Lioness **Janet Dawson Brock**, Peace Poster Chair for District A 15 is presenting a cheque for \$250.00 to Lydia Wilson, Winner of A 15 Peace Poster Contest.

Lydia attends Park Manor Public School in Elmira. She was sponsored by the **Elmira Lions Club**. Lydia is the daughter of Lynda and PCC Lion **Todd Wilson**.



Mobile Eye Clinic

Moving to the Next Step: Comprehensive Eye Exams in Schools

Written by Megan Graham, M.A., and Christine Aubin Liu, O.D.

Children's eye care is often neglected. According to the National Coalition for Vision Health (2010), nearly 1 in 4 children have one or more vision problems, and six out of ten children who experience reading difficulties are struggling with uncorrected or undetected vision problems. The most perceptive parents and teachers can miss a problem in a child's vision and often children do not report vision difficulties because they may not realize that there is a problem or have the language to express complaints. If left undiagnosed, vision problems will negatively impact learning and literacy, as well as self-esteem and overall quality of life (Maples, 2000).

The Canadian Council of the Blind and Lions of District A4 established the Mobile Eye Clinic (MEC) in 2013, visiting schools in Ottawa and the surrounding region. MEC brings comprehensive eye exams by an optometrist into schools. Annual comprehensive eye exams for children are covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP), yet many parents do not bring their children for regular check-ups. MEC offers exams to any student 19 years of age and under whose parent consents to the exam, provided the student is covered by OHIP and that he/she has not had an eye exam within the last 12 months. Pertinent patient and family history are obtained from parents through a consent form. The exam consists of a colour vision test, stereopsis, visual acuity measurement, assessment of refractive status and ocular motility, as well as an ocular health examination. The program offers professional eye care on-site and ensures continuity of care after the examination. By sending letters home to parents with the results of the exam and the optometrist's contact information, MEC creates a dialogue between caregivers and parents, resulting in more educated parents and, as a result, lifetime recipients of eye care. When necessary, prescriptions for glasses are included in the report, along with recommendations for use and an explanation of the refractive disorder(s). Referrals to local optometrists and ophthalmologists are also made at the time of the exam, when indicated. The program eliminates logistical barriers that are often cited as the main reason for parents not seeking vision care for their children, and it provides results and follow-up instructions from an optometrist that parents take more seriously than vision screening results (Freedman, 2008; Graham, 2014).

Lions volunteers from District A4 are an integral part of the Mobile Eye Clinic team. These Lions come from the **Navan Lions**, and **Cornwall Seaway Lions**, as well as from Ontario clubs in **Vankleek Hill, Cumberland, Gloucester North, Gloucester, Barrhaven, Manotick** and **Russell**. An hour before the start of the school day, a group of 3 to 5 Lions arrives at schools with the CCB team to help prepare for the day. While the optometrist sets up the exam equipment and the CCB team sets up the technology and last minute scheduling for the clinic, the Lions volunteers set up the pre-testing stations. The mobile eye

clinic requires two light conditions: a lit area for the Lions, and a dark area for the optometrist. While this can take some creative engineering, the Lions often need to set up their stations in a separate part of the library or in an adjoining or adjacent room. Provided with a day sheet of students and classroom numbers, the Lions collect students from their classes in groups of 4 or 5 and bring them to the pre-testing area where the Lions measure visual acuity, stereopsis (using the Titmus Fly Stereotest), and colour vision (using the Ishihara Colour Test). Many of the Lions volunteers have backgrounds in education which enables them to pre-test children in an efficient and engaging manner. Students enjoy going through the pre-testing stations and talking with the Lions. The experience is overwhelmingly positive. We have also found that students voiced concerns about their vision to the Lions during pre-testing and the Lions diligently note remarks on the pre-testing form for the optometrist to read.



The Mobile Eye Clinic Vision Van in Ottawa, Ontario. From left to right: Lions Hal and Christine MacPherson, from the Navan Lions Club PDG Lion Andy Etherington, from the Cumberland Lions Club & Project Chair and Judy and John Proulx from the Gloucester North Lions Club.

As of March 2015, MEC has performed eye exams on 751 children (383 boys, 368 girls, average age 8.3 years old) across 12 schools on a total of 25 clinic days. Of these children, 140 (19%) were diagnosed with one or more significant refractive errors (e.g., astigmatism, myopia, hyperopia, and/or amblyopia), and in some cases were also diagnosed with another ocular condition (e.g., intermittent strabismus, paresis accommodation, or keratitis). Each one of these 110 children was issued a prescription for glasses at the time of the examination and this prescription was sent home in the letter to parents along with recommendations for use and an explanation of the refractive disorder(s). Of those children requiring professional intervention, 16 children examined were diagnosed with colour vision deficiency and parents were given a letter detailing the condition and its implications. Further, 87 (12%) children examined required a follow-up appointment with an optometrist or a referral to an ophthalmologist. Reasons for follow up included convergence insufficiency (6 children), ocular health issues (6 children) or a cycloplegic exam. A cycloplegic exam is when drops are instilled which prevent the child from accommodating, or changing focus, allowing for a more accurate

determination of refractive error.

Statistics for children who "failed" vision screening vary. Lions volunteers with whom we work reported that they have seen schools where as many as 40% of children failed the vision screenings. Research studies have reported that 40-67% of children who fail a vision screening do not receive the recommended follow-up care by an optometrist or eye care specialist (National Commission on Vision and Health, 2003; University of California San Diego (UCSD) EyeMobile, 2015). With comprehensive eye exams, the Mobile Eye Clinic program has found that on average nearly 30% of children have a vision problem that required professional intervention. With the optometrist on-site, we are able to provide that professional intervention immediately.

Vision screenings are efficient at detecting conditions such as myopia and astigmatism which result in decreased visual acuity; however, screenings are unable to detect convergence insufficiency, or refractive disorders which result in clear, but uncomfortable vision. Ironically, these are also the conditions which are often confused with learning or behaviour problems. Moreover, screenings are not equipped to deal with ocular health issues. Receiving a "normal" letter from a vision screening, although unintentional, often leads parents into a false sense that all of their child's eye care needs have been met, when this is in fact not the case. The Canadian Association of Optometrists (2015) noted that a screening "failure" indicates a need for further evaluation and care: "Vision screenings are only able to detect a small percentage of those children needing professional care." Screenings can create a false sense of security for children who "pass" the screening, but have a vision problem that a comprehensive eye exam would detect. Additionally, screenings are not expected to thoroughly assess overall eye health and visual abilities.

Comprehensive eye exams in schools provide an entry point to a lifetime of eye care by facilitating communication between parents and an eye care professional and increasing ease of access. This allows for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of vision problems which would otherwise interfere with learning. The following cases from the MEC program illustrate the importance of comprehensive eye exams in schools. It is important to note that these are not isolated cases, but represent groups of children who risk going undetected in vision screenings.



Photo credit: John Lucio, parent of school children visiting the mobile eye clinic in Cornwall, Ontario

Selected Cases

Amblyopia Requiring Patching Therapy

On June 16, 2014, a 6 year old girl took part in the MEC program. When the girl visited the optometrist for her comprehensive eye exam, it was found that her distance acuity was actually 20/20-4 in the right eye and 20/100 in the left eye. The optometrist identified slight hyperopia in the right eye, and both high hyperopia and astigmatism in the left eye. The large and unequal amount of refractive error (glasses strength) in eyes meant that the child had amblyopia, or the loss or lack of development in central vision in one eye which is unrelated to any health problem and not correctable with lenses. Hyperopia results when the eyeball is too small and therefore does not have enough optical power to focus light on the retina. When you are farsighted, your eyes have to exert effort to keep things in focus. When that effort becomes too great, it can cause blurring of vision, eyestrain, headaches, or fatigue after prolonged close work. Children who are far sighted may have a poor attention span. Astigmatism is an optical defect that interferes with the eye's ability to focus sharply both in the distance and at near. It occurs because the cornea, the clear focusing surfaces that overlies the coloured iris is not perfectly round, but more oval. Symptoms of astigmatism are blurred vision and sometimes, headaches. At the time of the exam, the optometrist referred the girl to a local optometrist for a cycloplegic exam. During this exam, glasses and patching therapy were prescribed and amblyopia was successfully reversed. Patching therapy is when the stronger, or non-amblyopic eye, is occluded with a patch to force the child to use the weaker amblyopic eye. Over time, this leads to significantly increased visual acuity in the weaker eye in young children. The girl's mother has since told us that the girl is performing well in school, she is able to read, and her printing has improved since patching therapy.

Convergence Insufficiency Requiring Vision Therapy

On May 28, 2014, MEC met a 7 year old boy whose consent form did not note any significant vision concerns or conditions from his parents. The optometric assessment found that while there was no refractive error, the boy had convergence insufficiency. Convergence insufficiency occurs when your eyes don't turn inward properly while you're focusing on a nearby object. When you read or look at a close object, your eyes should converge (turn inward together to focus) so that they provide binocular vision and you see a single image. Convergence insufficiency is a common binocular vision disorder that is often associated with a variety of symptoms, including eyestrain, headaches, blurred vision, double vision, sleepiness, difficulty concentrating, movement of print while reading, and loss of comprehension after short periods of reading or performing close activities. The optometrist issued a referral for a follow-up appointment at a local clinic to initiate vision therapy. The parents had read, but misplaced the report from MEC. Months later, they were prompted to visit the optometrist in clinic because teachers had noted that the child was having trouble focussing when reading and seemed distracted. Vision therapy is being pursued.

Keratitis Requiring Referral to Eyelid Specialist for Surgery

On October 22, 2014, an 8 year old boy visited MEC. His consent form did not indicate any outstanding vision conditions or present concerns. The optometrist diagnosed the boy with entropion leading to keratitis. In this condition, the lower eyelashes turn inwards resulting in corneal abrasions from the eyelashes scraping against the front surface of the eye. At the time of the exam, the optometrist issued a referral letter to an eyelid specialist for surgery.

Brothers with Risk Factor for Glaucoma

On February 4, 2015, two brothers aged 6 and 7 years old, in grades 1 and 2 (respectively), visited MEC. Neither of the boys' consent forms mentioned any past or present eye conditions. The optometrist found that both boys had large cup to disc ratios which is a risk factor for glaucoma. After speaking with the boys' mother on the phone (to reassure her that we were referring to a specialist as a precaution), the optometrist referred both boys to a local ophthalmologist for a glaucoma work-up. Regarding the boys' condition, both letters sent home to the parent stated, "At this time it was found that [the patient] requires a more in depth assessment of his optic nerves. Further to our telephone conversation I will be referring [the patient] to [a local optometrist]. We will contact you with a date and time for this appointment as soon as we become aware of it. At this appointment, drops will be instilled in [the patient's] eyes, causing his vision to be blurry, especially at near, for the rest of the day. Light sensitivity will also be increased."

Ocular Health Issue Requiring Follow-Up

On February 5, 2015, an 8 year old girl in second grade visited MEC. The consent form did not mention any past or present eye conditions or vision concerns. The optometric assessment identified a white growth inferior to pupil pushing on posterior surface of iris in right eye, as well as hyperopia and amblyopia (both defined above). The optometrist phoned the girl's mother using the number provided on the consent form. The mother said that the child was followed by an eye doctor from six months of age until two and a half years and was told that everything was stable at that time, but had not had an eye exam since. The optometrist told the mother that the girl should continue with regular health checks to monitor for change. A letter was sent home requesting follow-up be done as soon as possible to assess ocular health and attempt to correct hyperopia and amblyopia.

Hyperopia Detected at Exam and Glasses Prescribed

On February 5, 2015, a 13 year old visited MEC. The consent form only indicated that she had an asthma pump and was allergic to penicillin. There was no reference to any eye conditions or vision concerns from her parents. The comprehensive exam revealed that the girl had hyperopia (defined above) and glasses were prescribed as they provided a subjective improvement in visual comfort at near. Parents were advised that glasses were optional now, but should be worn if headaches or eyestrain occur. A follow-up was recommended in 1 year.

Future Directions

The Canadian Council of the Blind and Lions of District A4 are very pleased with the progress of the mobile eye clinic program. Principals, parents, and children are grateful for the on-site services they receive and always have wonderful things to say about the program. As the above cases illustrate, the combination of pre-testing and comprehensive eye exams in schools is an effective means to ensure early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of refractive errors and ocular health issues. Undetected vision and eye health problems impact children's safety, academic potential, and self-esteem. Too often, children with undiagnosed vision problems are labeled as having attention difficulties or behavioural issues simply because their eye sight cannot support their focusing on daily school work. The mobile eye clinic program is a step forward in delivering comprehensive eye exams and vision care to children. Together, we are working to reduce the number of children who suffer unnecessarily with undetected vision problems. In the future, we hope to see the program expand and deliver exemplary mobile eye care to communities across Canada and around the world.

References

American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (2015). Vision Screening. Retrieved from: <http://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/107>

Canadian Association of Optometrists (2015). Comprehensive Vision Examination of Preschool Children. CAO Policy and Advocacy: Position Statement. Retrieved from: http://opto.ca/sites/default/files/cao_position_statement_-_comprehensive_vision_examination_of_preschool_children.pdf

Freeman, P.B. (2008). Vision screenings versus comprehensive eye examinations for children. *Optometry*, 79(10):537-8.

Graham, M. (2014). Mobile Eye Clinic Pilot Study: Follow-Up Responses from Parents of School-Age Children in Four Eastern Ontario Schools. Ottawa, Ontario: Canadian Council of the Blind. Published online: <http://www.ccbnational.net/Wuzzy/index.php/ccbpub/studies>

Maples, W.C. (2000). A comparison of visual abilities, race and socio-economic factors as predictors of academic achievement. *Journal of Behavioural Optometry*, 12, 60-65.

National Commission on Vision and Health (2003). Vision Exams for Children Prior To Entering School. Retrieved from: <http://www.visionandhealth.org/documents/FactsheetVisionexams123008MAS26.pdf>

The National Coalition for Vision Health (2010). Vision loss in Canada 2011. Retrieved from: <http://www.visionhealth.ca/news/Vision%20Loss%20in%20Canada%20-%20Final.pdf>

University of California San Diego (UCSD) EyeMobile (2015). Fail to Receive Follow-Up. Retrieved from: <http://eyemobile.ucsd.edu/fail-to-receive-follow-up/>



Patricia Howell-Blackmore

Lions Quest Canada – The Centre for Positive Youth Development is committed to making Canadian communities the best place for children and youth to live.

As a national leader in support of current research and resources in the area of Positive Youth Development,

Lions Quest Canada is providing consulting services to YouthREX – Research and Knowledge Exchange, a project of the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services. The mission of YouthREX is to make research evidence and evaluation accessible and relevant to Ontario's youth sector through knowledge mobilization, capacity building and evaluation leadership (www.youthrex.com).

Director of Communications and Programs Patricia

Howell-Blackmore recently provided an overview of the evolution of Positive Youth Development in Canada via webinar to the YouthREX network which includes representatives from networks housed at York, Carleton, Laurentian and Lakehead universities in addition to the University of Western Ontario.

Providing presentations and consulting services to groups like YouthREX is just one of the ways Lions Quest Canada is committed to building the capacity of professionals and other caring adults in our communities. The participants in the webinar are currently working in grassroot projects and initiatives for children and youth in Ontario. We look forward to strengthening these connections while creating a greater awareness of the efforts we are currently working with in many communities across the province.

The continued support of the Lions Clubs of MDA has enabled Lions Quest Canada to extend our reach from the school into the community. We are encouraged

by the number of Do Your Part Community Workshops supported by Lions Clubs hosted recently in communities like Bowmanville, Sharon, Fergus, Barrie (Foster Parents), Brampton, Lucan and Sioux Lookout. By utilizing the connections we are making at the Community Workshops and linking them to participants in sessions held for groups like YouthREX, Tim Horton Children's Foundation, Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies and other agencies, we are strengthening our network of support for children and youth.



Joanne McQuiggan

For more information about Lions Quest Canada visit www.lionsquest.ca or contact Joanne McQuiggan at 1-800-265-2680 ext. 107 or by email at joanne@lionsquest.ca

Ridgeway Lions Club

On September 21, 2014, the Ridgeway Lions Club organized a golf tournament at the Fort Erie Golf Club. The weather was very encouraging with 78 golfers participating, 30 hole sponsors with an additional 25 individual sponsors. Then at the following BBQ, which was attended by many, there was a 50/50 draw and an auction of donated items.

\$5,934.59 was raised with the Ridgeway Club contributing an additional \$4,065.41. Then when our Zone Chairman, Lion **Flo Fraser** made her official visit to the Ridgeway Lions, she was presented a cheque in the amount of \$10,000 to be presented to the Lions Foundation of Canada, in her capacity as secretary of Lions A-2 Charities. These monies are to be used for a special needs dog for someone in the Niagara area.

At our Zone Advisory of Dec. 1/14, she presented Lions **John Lubberts**, **Eddy Feiertag** and **Ferd Fonfara** with a letter of recognition and a pin on 45 years of service with the Ridgeway Lions Club. Lion **Owen Schweyer** was also recognized on 56 years with the same Club. That is a fantastic 191 years of continued service by these 4 Ridgeway Lion volunteers.



Lions Flo Fraser, John Lubberts, Eddy Feiertag, Owen Schweyer and Ferd Fonfara

Blyth Lions Club

When District Governor **Hank Van Moorsel** (A9) visited the Blyth Lions Club he was anticipating making a presentation to the organization about how to improve the quality of the Lions organization. He did not expect to leave with a cheque in the amount of \$8,581.55 to help his Cycle Recycle program purchase containers to ship bicycles to Africa where they will help enrich the lives of the people there. Thanks to a contribution from the Bicycles for Humanity Huron group, which raised money and collected bicycles in the past for the same goal, Governor Hank will be able to purchase two shipping containers each of which will hold 500 bicycles. Shown during the special cheque presentation are (left to right) Bicycles for Humanity Huron organizer **Sylvia Nonkes**, Governor Van Moorsel, Blyth Lions Club President **Mary Lou Stewart** and Bicycles for Humanity Huron organizer and Blyth and Brussels United Church Minister **Gary Clark**. The Blyth Lions Club has collected 22 bicycles to date.



Royal City Lions Club

For the last dozen years or so our club, The Royal City Lions Club of Guelph, has participated in the Lions Vision Screening Program. The Royal City Lions Club along with The **Guelph Lions Club** and The **Fergus Lions Club** offer vision testing to every kindergarten student in schools from the Upper Grand and Wellington County Catholic School Boards in the Guelph and Fergus area. This year the three clubs will test about 3000 students, with our club doing about 1200. Each student is screened using three tests, which are:

1. Visual Acuity: This test determines the ability of a child to identify symbols on the 20/30 line of a vision chart from a distance of 10 feet, with each eye.
2. Auto Refractor: This machine provides a measure of the ability of the eye to focus, an indication of the shape of the eye and an indication of how well the eyes work together.
3. Stereo Acuity: While wearing 3-D glasses the student's ability to identify 3-D images from a sample book is determined.

The parents/guardians of any student who does not meet the minimum criteria for the above tests is referred to seek the professional help of an optometrist as soon as possible. Parents/Guardians of students who pass the three tests are encouraged to have their children see an optometrist within 6 months. We remind them that the cost of these examinations is covered by OHIP. Also we are ready to help with the cost of glasses, should that be a burden for a family.

Our vision team, consisting of 6 regular members and 4 alternatives, is very proud of this program and will collectively volunteer about 300 hours.

Melvin Jones Award

Lion **Richard Couperus**, who has been a Lion for 38 years, was presented the Melvin Jones award by Lion Governor **Rick McCauley** on March 4, 2015. Lion Richard is married to Rose-Anne and has to adult children Patrick and Catherine. Lion Richard was a charter member of the **Unionville Lions** on November 1, 1977. He transferred to the **Vankleek Hill & District Lions Club** in the spring of 1978.

Lion Richard served in all officer positions. Lion Richard assumed multiple positions at the same time. Lion Richard served as treasurer from 1979 to 1986 and again from 1997 to 2004. He served as president for a total 12 years. In 2010 Lion Richard was acting as President, Secretary and Treasurer due to the Secretary/Treasurer taken seriously ill. As treasurer Lion Richard reorganized the club's finances, budget and legal papers.



Marmora Crowe Valley

Marmora Crowe Valley Lions Past President Lion **Kevin Roy** received a certificate from International Lion President Joe Preston, presented by President Lion **Stew Fisher**, in recognition of the Club being a "Together We Can Grow" winner - a top-performing club in A3

District achieving largest membership gain (by percentage) between January 1 and July 31, 2014. List of winners will be on 'Together We Can Grow' web page.

Second photo is of award being presented to President Lion Stew Fisher by PDG Lion **Russ Mitchell** congratulating and encouraging past and present club presidents to work together.



District A15

Lion/Lioness **Janet Dawson Brock** receiving an Award from the International Director **Yves Leveille** and Governor **Tim DeBlock** at the Recent District A 15 Convention held in Stratford, Ontario.

Janet received the International President's Award of Appreciation, (President **Joe Preston**) for all the work she has done for Lions and Lioness in the past 33 years.



Elmira Lions

January 21st.. Current Council Chairman **Bob Tanner** from Petrolia Lions was on hand at the Elmira Lions Hall, regular Club Meeting to present an award to Lion **Art Woods**. The award, the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Art for his role as LCIF co-ordinator for Multiple District "A". MD "A" has led all other multiple districts in donations. Congratulations to Lion Art.



Westport Lions Club

Pictured is Lion **Pat McGinnis** of the Westport Lions Club receiving his Life Membership. The Life membership was present to him by Lion President **Don Baker** on the left and past President Lion **John Rempel** on the right. the presentation took place at the Westport Lions Christmas Ladies night.



Finch and District Lions

On January 22, 2015 Lion **Dalton Ouderkirk**, of the Finch and District Lions Club, was presented with the Lions Lifetime Membership Award. The award was presented by (from left to right): District A4 Governor, Lion **Rick McCauley (Perth Lions Club)**, Lion **Dalton Ouderkirk** (Charter Member of Finch and District Lions Club), Lion **Carl Robinson** (Treasurer and Past-President of **Chesterville and District Lions Club**), and Lion **Ernest Coumont** (President of Finch & District Lions Club).



Finch and District Lions

In recognition of their many years of volunteer service members of the Blyth Lions Club (A9) received Ontario Volunteer Service Awards from the Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration & International Trade at a ceremony held in Stratford. (left to right) **John Stewart** - 40 years; **Don Stewart** - 30 years; **Steve Howson** - 25 years; **Alex Blair** - 25 years. Absent - **Ken Stewart** - 25 years.



New Hamburg Lioness

The New Hamburg Lioness hosted their Spring Fashion Show and had Guide Dogs walk the runway. With the money raised, we were able to purchase a hearing Guide Dog and await its graduation ceremony this April.



The New Hamburg Lioness hosted a bake table for guests at the Interfaith Silent Auction. All types of baking were provided and pie slices with whip cream was our best seller. Over \$1,000 was raised for Interfaith Community Counselling.



The New Hamburg Lioness hosted their "Welcome Home Tour" of seven homes in their town. Over 350 guests toured the homes on a sunny Saturday, and we raised \$7,590.00 for two charities in our community. www.welcometour.org



MDA Directory Information

Council of Governors' Meeting Dates

- Council Meeting Convention - May 21-24, 2015

Chesterville and District Lions Club

On Saturday April 25, 2015, the Chesterville and District Lions Club held their first "Dining in the Dark" event at the Chesterville Legion. While they ate their dinner, half of the participants were blindfolded in order to get a better understanding of what it like to be visually impaired. Those who were not blindfolded were the blindfolded person's "eyes", getting understanding of what it would be like to live with someone who is visually impaired. Over five hundred dollars was raised, and all proceeds from this event are going to CNIB Lake Joe, a camp for the visually impaired.



Long Point Lions Club

Wednesday April 22, 2015 Long Point Lion Peter Brenner and his wife Lioness Brenda presented President and CEO of Kodiak Group a special Eagle trophy. This was emblematic of the many years (2001 - 2013) of the Kodiak Company's sponsorship of the Lions Car Show. This monetary assistance each year helped to build the show on a strong footing and cement its continued

success today into a quality car show. The trophy shown is a replica of the large trophy given to the Best of Show each year. The event is truly a Long Point Lion's family event with the Leos selling ice cream and the Lioness running the kitchen and snack bar.

Good corporate citizens like Mr. Huckle continue to help with many Lions events. This year's car show is June 21, 2015.

Desboro Lions Support Youth Sports

One of the main mandates of Desboro Lions is to support local youth sports leagues and sponsor teams including Junior Boys & Girls Broomball, Minor Softball, and Minor Hockey.

We are especially proud of our "Desboro Lions Club Atom C Rep Team" who won the Provincial Championship, on April 14, 2015!

A quote from the team's coach (Joe Rutter):

"Overall, they were undefeated in league play, won the Stratford Festival Challenge Cup and Silver Stick tournaments, and capped off their season with a Provincial Gold title. In the end, the most lasting memories will not be the wins and championships, but the friendships made because of the opportunities they have had this year. Lions Club sponsorship of our hockey team has created memories and futures for our girls." *submitted by Lion Bruce Gardner*



IMPORTANT DATES

MDA Convention

2014/15	Ambassador Hotel & Conference Centre, Kingston, ON	May 22 - 24, 2015
2015/16	North Bay, ON	May 26 - 29, 2016

International Conventions

98th	Honolulu, Hawaii	June 26 - 30, 2015
99th	Fukuoka, Japan	June 24 - 28, 2016
100th	Chicago, Illinois, USA	June 30 - July 4, 2017
101st	Las Vegas, Nevada, USA	June 29 - July 3, 2018
102nd	Milan, Italy	July 5 - 9, 2019

USA - Canada Forums

Sept. 17 - 19, 2015	Grand Rapids, Michigan
2016	Omaha, Nebraska

Napanee Lions Club

The Napanee Lions Club recently promoted literacy and reading by adding books to the libraries of two local public schools. This program is part of the Lions Clubs International Reading Action Program. The Southview Public school and the Prince Charles School benefited from this program by each of the schools receiving a donation of books worth over \$600, a total for our community of over \$1200.

The photo shows a group of students at Prince Charles School who are displaying a look of appreciation while showing off their new collection of books. They are left to right, Kiana Maracle – Tapping, Gavyn Goodberry, Jonah Googe and Lillian Alkenbrack.

In the back row are Lion **Harvey Gere**, project chair, **Miriam McKeown**, school librarian and Christine Desbiens, school vice-principal.



Peterborough Lions Club

Peterborough Lions Club held a BBQ May 9th for the local ALS Walk. Over 350 registrants participated and over \$62,000 was raised.

A highlight was when one of the Lions joined the walk with his wife who was diagnosed with ALS last year. Club members stopped their work and applauded them as they walked by.

This was true Lionism at work - Lions Pride, Lions Fellowship in a Lions Club.

PDG **Gil Constantini**, as a member of Peterborough Lions Club, bbqd at the May 9th Peterborough ALS Walk where 350 registrants participated and over \$62,000 was raised. PlusOptix screener; \$35,000 is being raised to this end.



Club Lions de Knowlton

Vente de garage communautaire du Club Lions de Knowlton

De nouveau cette année, le Club Lions de Knowlton tiendra sa vente de garage communautaire. Depuis 2004 plusieurs individus et groupes ont contribué au succès de l'événement par des dons d'objets, de temps et de services.

La vente aura lieu le samedi le 6 juin de 8:00 à 14:00 heures sur le site du Dépanneur Rouge au 483 Chemin Knowlton à Knowlton. Les dons seront acceptés à notre remorque située sur le stationnement du Dépanneur Rouge le 29 mai de 14 à 20 heures de même que le 30 mai et les 4 et 5 juin de 10 à 16 heures (S.V.P. pas de livres, d'équipement de ski, téléviseurs, de divan-lits, de vêtements ou de gros appareils ménagers). Sur demande nous irons chercher les gros items. S.V.P. appeler avant le 4 juin.

Pour information : **Nicole Fréchette** (450) 243-6935



Apperçu de la vente de l'an dernier

Cambridge Leo Club

On Saturday April 4th the Cambridge Leo Club held a charity bake sale to raise funds for the replacement of a mobility van that was stolen from Community Living Cambridge. The event was a huge success as they opened at 8am and were sold out by 11:30 am. The Leos were very appreciative of all of the people that donated items to be sold. This in conjunction with the Galt/Cambridge Lions joint fundraiser with Community Living Cambridge will help with the replacement of the mobility van which will assist our residents that need this service.



From left to right Leo's Josh Noble, Dylan Schlauch, Luke Paulitzki (Lion svit) and Breanne Reeve-Dunn

Ajax Lions Club

The Ajax Lions Club presented members of Herizon House with a check for 1,000 dollars that was raised as part of a Victorian Tea that was held back in November.

Herizon House is a shelter for abused women and their children.

Herizon House serves the Durham/Clarington Regions, which includes Ajax, Bowmanville, Brooklin, Courtice, Oshawa, Newcastle, Pickering, and Whitby.

They offer free confidential services 24 hours a day and provide a place of safety, support and empowerment for abused women and their children. They are committed to ending the cycle of abuse and violence in the community.

Tonight we had the honor to hear from two representatives of Herizon House. They told us about what they do for the women and children they house and how donations, like ours, support what they do.

Pictured here is Lion **Debra Kelly** (on the left), two of the Herizon House staff (Names withheld for privacy) Lion **Heather Chitussi**, and Lion **Micheline Lush** (on the right).



Bancroft Lions Club

In the attached photo, Bancroft Lions Club incoming president **Scott McArthur** conducts a refraction test on a local grade one student, as part of the District A3 vision screening program.

Lions clubs throughout A3 share diagnostic equipment over the school year in order to cover schools throughout the District. A district project this year is to replace aging refractors with a new PlusOptix screener; \$35,000 is being raised to this end.

submitted by Lion Wilma Bush



Lions Club of Bowmanville

Lions Club of Bowmanville members were at Bowmanville Hospital to see the patient chair and cataracts tray that the club has donated. Shown are: Lion Bill Heuther, A3 District Governor Lion Linda Duffie, Lion Courtney Stevens, and Lion Dianne Short.



Lions Bonspiel

Enclosed is a picture of the winners of the annual District A 4 Zone 30 Lions curling event held in Gananoque Ontario. The winners left to right Zone Chair Lions **Al Stewart, Seeleys Bay Lions Club, Lion Roger Gollogly, Gan Lions Club** and Lion **Don Baker, Westport Lions Club** with trophy presenter Lion **Rick Fleming of Gananoque Lions Club**. A fun day was had by all.

Photo by S. Tunncliffe



New Hamburg Lioness

The New Hamburg Lioness hosted 60 guests at our Festive Gathering for Aldaview and members of the community with a development disability. Chris Riccomini and his guide dog played Christmas Carols for all to sing and of course, the hit of the evening was Santa who presented our guests with a bag full of treats assisted by Lioness **Janet Dawson-Brock**, Lioness A15 District President.



HOW TO GET INTO THE LION Contact your District Reporter

We have appointed District Reporters for the Lion Magazine. Their job is to assist the Magazine Editor and you the Lions. Their job is to collect new photos with stories, anything that you would like to submit to the Magazine for consideration. Please be aware anything for the Magazine should now go to the District Reporter in your District as follows:

Please remember when sending your articles to your Reporter to indicate if it is for the Governors District Newsletter or the Lion Magazine.

Lion John Daniels, Editor Lion Magazine email: mdathelionmag@hotmail.com

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|---|
| A1 | Lion Barb Tuxford | email: lionbarbtuxford@gmail.com |
| A2 | Lion Wayne Scott | email: w.scott@a2lions.org |
| A3 | Lion Wilma Bush | email: wilma.bush@sympatico.ca |
| A4 | Lion Sandra Baldwin | email: slbaldwin@rogers.com |
| A5 | Lion Liam Brennan | email: lembrennan@hotmail.com |

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

District Reporters

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|---|
| A711 | Lion Ilkka Ahola | email: iahola02@gmail.com |
| A9 | Lion Al Leach PDG | email: adleach@hotmail.com |
| A12 | Lion Michelle Heyduk | email: fredheyduk@hotmail.com |
| A15 | Lion Bob Rutter | email: lionmagcor@a15lions.org |
| A16 | Lion Shekhar Bhalla | email: sbhalla@rogers.com |

MOVING SOON?

To ensure that the next MD "A" Lion magazine reaches your new residence, please complete this form and MAIL ENTIRE FORM TO:

Circulation Manager, LION Magazine

300 W 22nd Street

Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842

or e-mail your information to: stats@lionsclubs.org

**Attach Your Address Label or
Print Your Old Address Here:**

(include all code numbers)

New address will be (Please Print):

Name (print): _____

New Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____ PC: _____

Club #: _____ Member #: _____

Date of Change: _____

WE AT THE LION CANNOT CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CLUB SECRETARY TO HAVE YOUR ADDRESS CORRECTED AT LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

MD "A" Lions Resource Centre Website

The "MD 'A' Lions Resource Centre" website is available for your use. Its goal is to provide a "one-stop-shopping" website for Lions resources, ideas and tools in all aspects of Lionism, including recruiting new members, keeping the members we already have, revitalizing clubs, fundraising ideas and club and district operations.

The MD 'A' "Lions Resource Centre" website may be viewed by going to the MD 'A' website at www.mdalions.org and clicking on "**Lions Resource Centre**" on the left side of the page.

D

DARLINGINSURANCE

"Proud of Our Past, Positive About Our Future"

LIONS CLUB INSURANCE PRODUCTS

- ✓ We now offer better rates and improved coverage!
- ✓ Our program offers an all in one policy with a variety of coverages!
- ✓ We have been providing *Insurance Protection* to Lions Clubs since 1991



For more information on any of these products,
Please call us at: 1-(800) 387-1627
lions@darlinginsurance.net www.darlinginsurance.net

Our program is now sponsored by

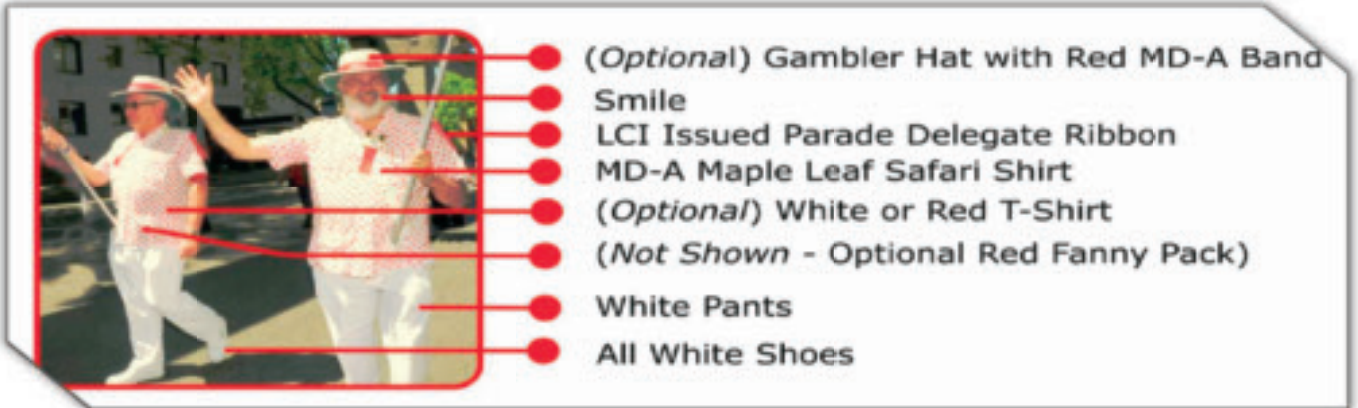


ECCLESIASTICAL

INSURANCE YOU CAN BELIEVE IN

A leader in Non-profit and Club Association Business

Lions Clubs International Convention MD-A Delegate Parade Dress



MD-A Promotions Committee – ORDER FORM

Item	Men's Sizes	Cost (tax in)	Quantity	Size	Total
Safari Shirts	S - M - L - XL XXL - XXXL	\$52.00 ea.			\$ _____
Safari Shirts	XXXXL Special Order** **advance payment required	\$52.00 ea.		Chest: _____ inches Length*: _____ inches *Note on Length: Measure down from neck to a comfortable length.	\$ _____
2014 MD-A Convention Trading Pin		\$5.00 ea.			\$ _____

Available for pick up at the March Council Meeting
and/or the MDA Convention

TOTAL ORDER \$ _____

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Town: _____

Postal Code: _____ Club Name: _____

Method of Payment: Cheque \$ _____ (Make Cheques Payable to MD-A Treasurer)

Visa
 Master Card
 American Express
 (Check One - ✓)

Card # _____ CCV # _____

Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____

Agreement Number is:
41805020*

FORWARD COMPLETED ORDER TO:

Canada Post: PDG John Chilvers,
Manotick, ON K4M 1G2

E-mail: chilversbb@rogers.com

Phone Inquiry: (613) 692-3731