

# Sight & Sound

Volume II, Issue 2



Lions Clubs International

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## Sharing the Vision Campaign – an Update

In October, dedicated Lions worldwide participated in 983 “Sharing the Vision” projects, provided vision-related services to more than 700,000 people and collected nearly 22,000 eyeglasses. Total volunteer hours were 79,801.

Project sample: The Concord Lions Club (District 31-E, North Carolina) held a free vision screening at the Rowan Cabarrus Community College. The college provided space in the parking lot for the North Carolina Lions Vision Van as well as Spanish interpreters. Three doctors from Concord volunteered their time and screened over 70 adults. 50 persons were referred to local eye doctors for additional services. 15 had never had an eye exam.



*Concord Lions Club participated in October’s “Sharing The Vision” campaign*

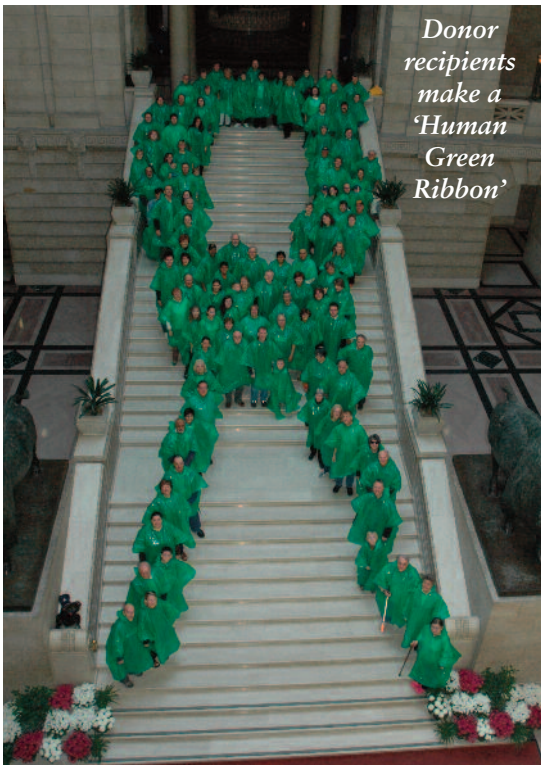




### Lions Eye Bank News

Your club can help save a person’s sight when you share information with your community about eye donation and the services that your Lions eye bank provides. Various countries have a designated day, week or month for emphasizing eye donation. In the US, for example, March is "Eye Donor Awareness Month" and in Canada, the last full week in April is designated as National Organ & Tissue Donor Awareness Week.

- Lions from Manitoba and Northwest Ontario are very involved in promoting eye donor awareness. (Districts 5M-10, 5M-11 and 5M-13)



In April 2010, the Lions Eye Bank of Manitoba and Northwest Ontario organized their annual donor recipients’ formation of a human green ribbon (symbol for organ and tissue donation) on the granite steps of the legislature building in Manitoba. Canada’s Minister of Health was present for this event. Elly Prendergast, executive director of the Eye Bank, emphasized the effectiveness that the recipients’ participation has in sharing the importance of donor awareness.

Each year in January, Lions and other volunteers participate in “Journey for Sight,” a week-long eye donor awareness event and snowmobiling fundraiser for the Lions Eye Bank of Manitoba and Northwest Ontario. Starting in November, Lions begin to gather pledges and promote the upcoming Journey by providing colorful event placemats for restaurants, offering special event shirts, hoodies and hats, getting the word out through local newspapers, and “best of all by word of mouth.” (Lion Cheryl McKittrick, DG 5M-13).

Riders start from the northernmost part of Manitoba, and Northern Ontario, as well as points east, west and south of Manitoba. Throughout the Journey area, people look forward to the arrival of the riders and give their donations to them. Support vehicles travel with the riders, and along the way, Lions clubs host them, providing meals, lodging and encouragement. It is a very exciting time when after travelling 600-800 miles, the riders arrive in Brandon on the final day to celebrate the success of this project.

Since the event began over 25 years ago, Lions have raised over \$1 million (Canadian). Each year, raffle ticket sales for a donated current model year snowmobile contribute to the grand total. In 2010, overall funds raised cleared \$92,000 (Canadian). The “Journey for Sight” continues to grow, thanks to the enthusiastic support of Lions, other volunteers, and the community – all dedicating their efforts to the sight-saving programs at the [Lions Eye Bank of Manitoba and Northwest Ontario](#).

- In October, the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey held its inaugural “Celebration of Sight” – an exhibit of photography, art and crafts. All of the works were done by corneal recipients.

*“There is something truly incredible about visual art that is created by someone who can now see because of a donor’s generosity,”*

Margaret Chaplin, Executive Director of the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey.

- In celebration of December’s annual [Lions Eye Bank Week](#), the [Lions Eye Bank of Puerto Rico](#) held a Gala event to raise funds for corneal transplant procedures for needy patients.





### China Lions Learn About Sight Service from Indiana Lions

During a recent visit to Lions Headquarters, China Lions traveled to Indiana to learn about the successful Lions Operation KidSight program which screens preschool children with the use of a PediaVision screening device. China Lions also visited a regional eyeglass collection center sponsored by District 25A and located at the Westville Correctional Center. They observed the various procedures necessary to prepare recycled eyeglasses for mission use.

*Indiana Lions give Lions from China hands-on experience at a pediatric vision screening*

### Spotlight on Hearing

- The South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind (SCSDB) is a major project for the **Spartanburg Lions Club (District 32-A, South Carolina USA)**. Each year the club hosts a Christmas party, providing every student with a Christmas gift. Lions are entertained by the students during the school's Christmas luncheon. The club responds to various special financial needs of the school, and annually they provide a scholarship to a deserving SCSDB student to attend Spartanburg Technical College.
- Texas state law requires children in Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd and 5th grades to have vision and hearing screening. Two clubs in **District 2-S3 (USA)** teamed up to provide screening to the two school districts in their county: **New Braunfels Lions** performed vision screenings; and **Garden Ridge Lions** performed hearing screenings. Garden Ridge Lions received training from the State of Texas and became certified to perform hearing screenings in the schools.

The **Lions Children First Program** for clubs provides [information on organizing a hearing screening](#).



*Multi-handicapped student Meghan Stample curiously feels Santa's beard during the 76th year of holiday cheer brought to the school by the Spartanburg Lions Club*



*Lion Jim Newbold screens a student's hearing*

*Hearing Screening Garden Ridge*

## Lions Eyeglass Recycling News

Congratulations to all of the LERCs for their many accomplishments! We share two of their stories:

- The Canadian Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centre (CLERC), together with the Calgary Correctional Centre (CCC), celebrated the processing of their three millionth pair of eyeglasses. On October 20th, 2010, CLERC and CCC held a special event to recognize sponsors and others who provided support over the past 14 years. On November 19th, 2010, PDG Bernie Gribben, CLERC Chairman, and Rick Forti, Corrections Officer for CCC, provided that three millionth pair to give the gift of sight to Juan Navarro Castellanos of Jamay, Mexico.
- As part of the Australia Day celebration in Queensland, the Department of Community Safety presented the Caboolture Lions Recycle for Sight Australia, Inc., with an Appreciation Certificate that reads: In recognition for the delivery of a supportive and worthwhile community service project since August 2006, providing skill based work to offenders by resizing lenses and repairing glasses frames that are sent to developing countries.”



*It was an emotional moment when Juan Navarro Castellanos (center) received his glasses. Pictured with him are Rick Forti (left) and PDG Bernie Gribben (right)*



## Seattle Convention – Opportunities for You

The 2011 International Convention will be held in Seattle, Washington USA (Monday, July 4 – Friday, July 8, 2011). A line-up of service activity seminars and events are being planned for you, including:

- Showing of the inspirational and captivating film, “Going Blind”
- Sight Programs: From Saving Sight to Serving the Blind
- LCI Sight and Diabetes Partnerships Can Impact Your Service Projects
- 6th Annual Convention Strides Walk for Diabetes Awareness

Watch [for more details!](#) We hope to see you there!

## We Welcome Your Suggestions

We want to provide you with information and ideas you can use in your community outreach. Please let us know if you have suggestions or a topic you would like to see addressed in a future newsletter. We [welcome your comments.](#)

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