



LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION



"Millions of people can see today and can work to support their families because of the blindness prevention activities of Lions and Lions Clubs International Foundation."

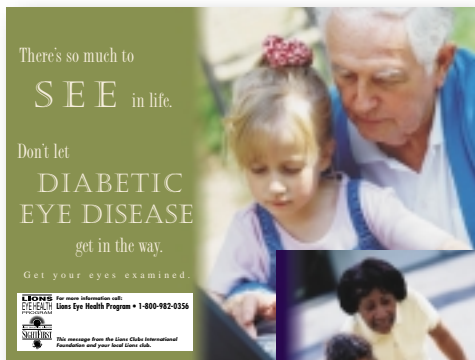
—Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter



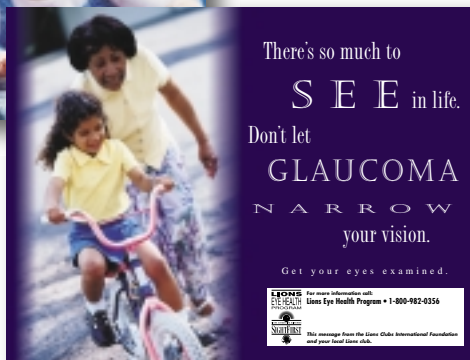
Bringing Sight
to Millions Worldwide!

SightFirst in Developed Countries

Diabetic eye disease and glaucoma are leading causes of vision loss in developed countries. The Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP) raises awareness about these two "sneak thieves" of sight in the United States, Australia, Japan, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and Turkey. LEHP has helped provide early warnings about eye disease and saved the vision of many.



The goal of LEHP is to educate the public about the importance of having regular dilated pupil eye exams and seeking treatment, if necessary.



How Grants Are Made Possible

Lions themselves donate an average of US\$23.5 million per year. Also, Lions raised US\$143.5 million during a three-year fundraising appeal to support large-scale blindness prevention projects.



James J. Plantner, Ph.D., is one of several LCIF-supported medical researchers studying diabetic retinopathy, a leading cause of blindness among diabetics.

"We see LCIF as one of the most influential and significant organizations that helps educate people at risk for eye disease. The Lions are valuable resources to other organizations because they know their communities and can help reach people with sight-saving information."

—Rosemary Janiszewski, Deputy Director, National Eye Health Education Program

Collaborating with Corporate Partners

LCIF partners with more than a dozen corporations in the fight against blindness. Thanks to these partners, LCIF has been able to expand programs, establish new initiatives and extend its service to more needy people.

LCIF has granted more than US\$310 million for humanitarian service projects to improve the quality of life for individuals and communities worldwide.

LCIF



Preventing and Reversing Blindness

In India, there are an estimated 15 million blind people, a tragedy costing the national economy approximately US\$10 billion yearly.

An estimated 45 million people are blind today. At least 80 percent of blindness is reversible or could have been prevented.

That is why Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), and 1.4 million Lions club members, are engaged in a global campaign to eliminate avoidable blindness.

In 1925, Helen Keller challenged Lions to become "Knights of the Blind." Through LCIF, Lions are fighting blindness and achieving tremendous progress. From China to Chile and Ethiopia to Ecuador, LCIF is making a difference, restoring sight and preventing blindness for millions.

The SightFirst Program

LCIF, the funding arm of Lions Clubs International, aggressively fights avoidable blindness primarily through its SightFirst program. SightFirst reaches millions who are needlessly blind and who otherwise would not have access to eye health care.

- Nine out of ten blind people live in developing countries; consequently, LCIF concentrates on regions where eye health care is inadequate or non-existent.
- Millions of people are blind from unoperated cataract, which is responsible for 50 percent of world blindness.
- In some Asian and African countries, the most pressing needs are for trained ophthalmic personnel, modern equipment and fully equipped hospitals.

To help meet these needs, LCIF has:

- Supported more than 3.5 million cataract surgeries
- Provided training for 13,000 ophthalmic personnel
- Financed new construction or upgrading of 136 eye hospitals.

"LCIF has been in an official relationship with WHO over a long period. With the launch of SightFirst, this partnership has been immensely strengthened...WHO values the ability of the Lions to mobilize innumerable dedicated members to work collectively, often in poor and difficult areas of the world."

—Serge Resnikoff, MD, Coordinator, Prevention of Blindness and Deafness/World Health Organization



Training of ophthalmic personnel is critical to reduce the backlog of patients awaiting cataract surgery. LCIF supports training for ophthalmologists, health care administrators, blindness prevention program managers and mid-level eye care professionals who can improve and influence blindness prevention activities in their countries.

Conquering Unoperated Cataract

The World Bank calls cataract surgery "**the single most cost-effective surgical intervention in the world.**" Why? Because high-quality cataract surgery can be performed in some developing countries for as little as US\$30. Through SightFirst, Lions are leading the charge against cataract, giving the gift of sight to those whose vision is terribly clouded or gone.

- LCIF has committed US\$32.5 million to eye health care in the People's Republic of China. So far, two million cataract surgeries have been done. Surgical eye units were begun in 104 rural counties that previously had none, and 12,000 eye care practitioners received advanced training.
- LCIF has undertaken cataract projects in dozens of countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia. The results are often astonishing. In Madagascar, cataract operations increased nearly sixfold. Said Lion Philippe Hein, the SightFirst administrator in Madagascar, "In some areas, it's not an exaggeration to say that cataracts equals Lions in public opinion."
- LCIF is especially active in India, the nation with the most blind people. SightFirst has supported more than 800,000 cataract surgeries, built or expanded more than 100 eye care centers and conducted invaluable efficiency training for 80 eye hospitals.



LCIF supports upgrading of hospitals and clinics as part of Lions' comprehensive blindness prevention strategy.

Lions' Partners in Humanitarian Work

- World Health Organization
- The Carter Center
- LensCrafters, Inc.
- Christoffel-Blindenmission
- National Eye Institute/National Institutes of Health, USA
- Special Olympics
- International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness
- American Diabetes Association
- Pfizer Inc.
- Ely Lilly and Company
- Merck and Co., Inc.
- Johnson & Johnson
- Kraft Foods International
- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Governments of many countries

LCIF's operational costs are less than 9 percent—an outstanding record among all charities.

"The manner in which [Lions'] resources were mobilized and the way in which sight has been preserved and vision restored in millions of persons, irrespective of color, creed or nationality, is an object lesson and a shining testimony of the Lions' motto, 'We Serve.'"

—R. Pararajasegaram, MD, Past President, International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

In every country where LCIF is involved, Lions are there dedicating many hours to implementing the project, safeguarding LCIF's and their partners' financial investment and conducting follow-up activities to ensure the best possible outcome.

Controlling River Blindness

An estimated 18 million people are infected with river blindness (onchocerciasis), a debilitating disease that afflicts 30 African countries. But a simple treatment can save their sight and control river blindness. It only requires that individuals take an ivermectin tablet once a year for at least 10 years.

Currently, LCIF and the Carter Center treat 8 million at-risk people **yearly** in Africa. But your help is needed to treat millions more in Africa who will undoubtedly become infected unless we intervene.



An ivermectin distribution station in Nigeria. Dosage is determined by height measured against a pole painted by sections.

Eliminating Blinding Trachoma

Eliminating trachoma, a leading cause of **preventable** blindness, is an LCIF priority in Sudan, Ethiopia and Mauritania. Trachoma is an eye disease common in developing countries marked by poverty, poor hygiene and overcrowding.

SightFirst is partnering with the Carter Center as well as with ITI, an initiative of Pfizer and the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, to eradicate trachoma. The hope is that the dreadful disease, a nemesis of humanity at least since the time of the pharaohs of ancient Egypt and a particular danger to mothers and young children, will be eliminated by 2020.



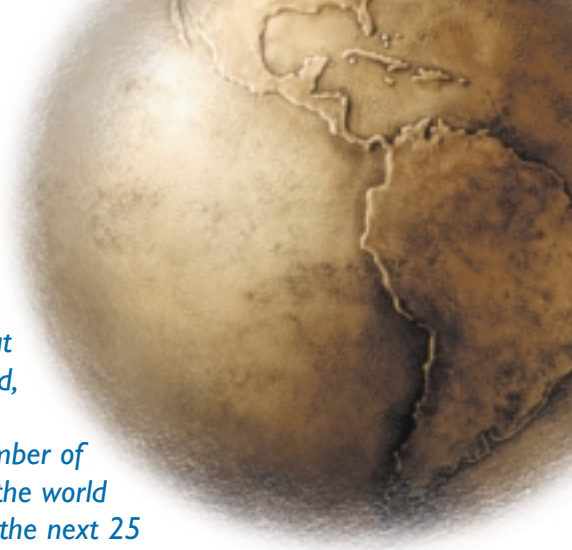
"Childhood blindness is often an avoidable tragedy that impacts the child, community and society. The number of blind people in the world could double in the next 25 years without increased intervention from organizations such as the Lions Clubs International and its foundation."

—Serge Resnikoff, MD, Coordinator, Prevention of Blindness and Deafness, World Health Organization

Saving the Sight of Children

Every minute in this world a tragedy unfolds: a child goes blind. Half of these cases could be prevented or treated. That means it is possible to save the vision of 250,000 children every year. LCIF has partnered with the World Health Organization to prevent blindness in children in 30 developing countries. Not only blindness will be prevented. Saving a child's sight means innumerable cycles of poverty and hardship will be broken and defeated.

In all likelihood, these children will be infected by the parasite that causes river blindness unless we increase our efforts to save them.



LCIF: A Top-Rated Foundation

- Charity Navigator, a New Jersey-based non-profit that analyzes charities' fiscal responsibility and financial health, gave LCIF a four-star rating (its top rating) in 2002.
- LCIF does not receive any part of club dues. Moreover, donations go entirely toward grants; all LCIF administrative expenses are paid from interest on investments.
- LCIF responds to the local needs of Lions and approves grants that serve community needs.
- LCIF represents health, healing and hope. Through LCIF, Lions ease pain and suffering and bring hope and happiness to all parts of the world.

Benefits to LCIF Partners

- You will benefit from the good will generated by the 1.4 million members of the world's largest service club organization.
 - Your support will be communicated to every Lion via the monthly *Lion* magazine, published in 20 languages.
 - Our partnership will be highlighted on LCIF's website with a link to your web page.
 - Opportunities will be offered to join with Lions and LCIF in global projects that benefit the world's most disadvantaged people.
 - Mutually-agreed upon ways for publicizing your support of LCIF will be discussed.



Please join us in the fight to save the eyesight of millions who will become blind or severely visually impaired without the help of LCIF and you.

For every LCIF dollar disbursed, local Lions invest time and often money far exceeding the value of the grant—stretching the impact of a partner's gift.



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Blindness statistics provided by World Health Organization.

Photo of Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter by J.D. Scott Photography. Other photos provided by Lions club members.