

Children in Focus

Volume I: Issue 1



Lions Clubs International

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“Move to Grow”

The theme of International President Eberhard Wirfs’ presidency is “move to grow,” with the ginkgo tree and leaf as its symbol. He encourages Lions: “We must stretch – stretch in our dreams, our plans, and our ACTIONS. If we don’t, we will perish.” As an association, we are the global leader in humanitarian and community service. The association’s programs offer many opportunities for community service. Learn more about [planning projects](#).

Program Mission: Lions Services for Children



The mission of the Lions Services for Children Program is: *“to improve the lives of children and adolescents in adverse circumstances through health and education services, locally and internationally.”* Lions help in various ways by providing: food, shelter or clothing; access to healthcare, vision and hearing screenings, immunizations, assistance to children with illness or disability; literacy programs, and much more. Please visit the Web site for [more information](#) about this program.

Program Updates

In November, 2009, a special packet containing program resource materials was sent by mail to all district and multiple district Lions Services for Children chairpersons. This information can help you establish new initiatives or strengthen existing programs in your district and multiple district to address the health and education needs of disadvantaged children. If you have additional questions, please [contact us](#).

New Program Component: “Lions Children First” is in development and will be available this fiscal year. Resources will include an activity guide, program brochure, sample press release and project idea sheets for Lions’ use in implementing turnkey service projects for children in four core areas:

- Health Care
- Education/Literacy
- Nutrition
- Shelter

Stay tuned for further announcements.



Important Dates

March 1, 2010: [Lions Services for Children symposium funding](#) which has not been allocated for specific constitutional areas will become available to all qualifying district and multiple district applications that are approved on a first-come, first-served basis. Please consider organizing a children’s symposium in your district or multiple district to address the needs of children in your area and to explore further service opportunities for Lions who want to help. Symposiums must be held on or before June 30, 2010 to qualify for expense assistance in fiscal year 2009-2010.

Please direct any questions to the Health & Children’s Services Department.

New UNICEF Child Mortality Statistics: Recent UNICEF data (September 2009) shows that global child mortality continues to fall. The rate of deaths of children under five years of age continued to decline from 13 million in 1990 to 8.8 million in 2008. This trend has been attributed to increased use of important health interventions, such as immunizations, including measles vaccinations, the use of insecticide-treated bed nests to prevent malaria, and Vitamin A supplementation. Still, 24,000 children die each day from preventable causes, such as pneumonia and diarrhea.

“Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development.”

Kofi A. Annan

Spotlight: District 410-A Lions Services for Children Symposium

“Children the Most Vulnerable” In April, 2009, District 410-A (South Africa) Lions hosted a symposium to highlight the issues endangering children in two residential communities. Presentations were made by



symposium attendees listen intently to presentations

community leaders such as the police captain, and experts on substance abuse, attention deficit hyperactive behavior, and the effects of poverty, abuse, drugs, violence, and HIV-Aids on children and families. The event was well

attended by 150 strategic community role-players who deal with issues surrounding disadvantaged children.

Lions in District 410-A support a number of child and youth programs, including Lions QUEST, Children’s Christmas Party, Scholarships, and services for sight, hearing and diabetes.

Spotlight on Lions Service Activities for Children in Need:

**Lions give children who cannot see a place to hear laughter.
Lions give children who cannot hear a time of warm smiles.
Lions give children with diabetes a chance to be included – without limitations.**

Lions service through special needs camps

Lions are willing to do whatever it takes to make our communities better places to live. That’s why Lions provide support to recreational camps that meet the needs of children:

- with diabetes
- who are blind or visually impaired
- who are deaf or hard of hearing
- who have other special needs

With input from experts – physicians, nurses, dietitians, departments and ministries of health or local associations for persons with special needs – Lions have organized recreational camp opportunities for children.



Here are just a few reports about Lions service to children through special camp programs:

- Starting at 12, Kate, who is blind, attended the Allen H. Stewart Lions Camp, a Wyoming Lions project, where over the years she acquired skills for daily living, mobility, crafts, physical activities, Braille, computer and use of power tools in the wood shop. Her parents credit the Lions camp in helping their daughter to become independent. Kate graduated from her high school with honors, and was the first blind student to receive a degree from Brigham Young University in broadcast journalism. Among her accomplishments are the development of a Braille menu for area McDonald's restaurants; full production of a feature story placed on the Associated Press wire; and presenting to the Lions attending the TTT Development Team meeting in Salt Lake CITY on the theme "Lions: Never Give Up the Challenge." At the 2009 cabinet meeting at the camp, Kate's mother addressed the Lions, thanking them for all that has been done for Kate. See the complete article in the February 2010 LION Magazine (Headquarters Edition).

- Parents learn from one another through interactive seminars at the Lions sponsored **Diabetes Kids Camp in Galston, Australia (District 201-N5)**. Meanwhile their children, aged 4 – 9 enjoy fun activities such as a petting zoo. The camp served 54 children with diabetes. The next camp session is scheduled for March.



- The mission of the **PA Lions Beacon Lodge Camp (Pennsylvania, USA)** is "to provide all individuals with special needs, the opportunity to enjoy a camping experience encompassing recreational, educational, and personal adjustment. Special emphasis is placed on stimulating interests and appreciation for recreation and learning, and to encourage attempting new challenges." The Camp's most important goal in every aspect is to motivate each camper to focus on what they can do, not what they can't. The Children's Village is for campers age 6-17.

Camp Information is Needed! Lions Clubs International is updating its listing of camps that are affiliated with Lions in their service to children and/or adults who are blind or visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, physically or mentally challenged, or who have diabetes. Please check the [listing that is currently posted](#) and [provide additions, updates or corrections to us](#).

Lions help children see and hear to learn

- **District 2-T2 (Texas USA)** Lions partnered with the local Optometric Society, Lubbock Children's Health Clinic, and the Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling (TLERC) Lab to provide eyeglasses to area school children.
- Thanks to the **Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center of Northern Virginia (Virginia, USA)** and the Virginia Hospital Center Medical Brigade, a toddler in Honduras can now see. The child had received surgery for strabismus; however, only when he was fitted with the appropriate pair of strong prescription glasses, was he able to see clearly. Lions' community collections have a direct impact on the strength and success of the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Program and sight-saving service to children in need.
- The **Whittier Host Lions Club (California USA)** for more than 40 years has provided support to the Oralingua School for the Hearing Impaired, located in Whittier. The club has provided scholarships and donations to fund a new play area and improvements for storage, and for the school's infant hearing evaluation center.

Lions serve as Knights of the Blind

The Hadley School for the Blind is a [Lions partner organization](#) that offers no-cost, distance education to over 10,000 students in more than 100 English-speaking countries. [Learn more](#) about Hadley's programs and resources that can benefit children and youth, such as:

- Family Education Program
- High School Program (USA)
- Bookshare – the world's largest digital library, offering more than 38,000 books and 150 periodicals in downloadable digital and refreshable Braille formats to qualified members



The Hadley School for the Blind



Did you know...?

- There are 1 million children and youth worldwide who are deaf-blind
- There are 6 million children who are blind or visually impaired
- Less than 10 percent of these children attend school
- Every minute one child in the world goes blind
- At least 60 percent of those children die within one year of going blind

(Perkins School for the Blind – International Program)



For more stories about Lions service to children in need, view [Lions Quarterly \(LQ\)](#) and [Lions in Action](#).

Lions-UNICEF School-in-a-Box Program

By donating to the Lions-UNICEF School-in-a-Box Program, Lions can help children in areas where school has been disrupted by war, disaster and other emergencies. The box and its contents are adapted to each region’s specific needs and language. Teachers can establish temporary classrooms almost anywhere, thus ensuring children’s access to educational services in times of crisis. Each box costs approximately US \$257, and donations may be sent to: Lions Clubs International Foundation, 300 W. 22nd Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842, USA.

For donations totaling US \$500 or more in one fiscal year, a Lions or Leo club, district or multiple district will be recognized with a **School-in-a-Box Banner Patch**. For more information, refer to the [fact sheet](#) and [banner patch application](#); or contact the [Health & Children’s Services Department](#).



Chairperson Awards

International Headquarters provides district governors and council chairpersons with the Lions Services for Children Certificate of Achievement. On behalf of the association, these officers may present the award to the Lions Services for Children chairperson in recognition of outstanding leadership in the district or multiple district to improve the lives of children living in adverse circumstances. Read more about the [criteria for these awards](#).

Lion-2-Lion: Resource Assistance Database

Lions, would you like to request or offer assistance for a Lions humanitarian project? The [Lion-2-Lion Database](#) has been recently updated. Formerly known as the Lions Emergency-Non-Emergency Database, Lion-2-Lion offers Lions the opportunity to connect with Lions around the world, to help those in need. Lions can indicate their need for volunteers or supplies; or Lions can offer to donate services or supplies, all through on-line postings. We encourage you to visit the LCI Web site to become familiar with this helpful resource.

Lions 93rd International Convention: Sydney, Australia

The Convention will be June 28 – July 2, 2010.

- A Lions Diabetes Camp Workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 29, 2010. Learn how you can get involved in service activities to help children living with diabetes.
- A Lions Services For Children seminar is being planned for the 93rd International Convention in Sydney, Australia on Wednesday, June 30, 2010. Learn about turnkey projects for your club’s service to children in need.

For more information visit the Convention pages on www.lionsclubs.org.

We want to hear from you!

Please be sure to let us know how your club or district is serving children in need. As always, we welcome your suggestions and ideas, and we ask you to send information and photos about your service activities to:

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