



Fact Sheet on Lions/LCIF and Hurricane Katrina

- Lions and LCIF continue to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina on a large scale. Lions worldwide donated money to LCIF, gathered and sent goods and donated their services. Lions in the affected areas are assessing community needs, and reaching out to schools, organizations for the disabled and Lions service programs.
- LCIF collected more than US\$5.1 million for its Hurricane Katrina from Lions around the world. LCIF awarded a Major Catastrophe Grant for US\$200,000 and 15 Emergency Grants totaling US\$150,000.
- It is conservatively estimated that to date 3 million people have benefited in some manner from the Lions' efforts through the emergency and evacuee assistance grants, screening services, grants to fund Lions' programs, in kind donations and twinning opportunities.
- LCIF established a Web site designated to Lions' relief efforts at www.lions-katrina.org. The site included a Club Twinning page to assist in connecting clubs worldwide that wanted to aid clubs in the Gulf Coast. Within two days, 21 clubs made arrangements to help.

LCIF Grants

- LCIF arranged for a mobile eye van to provide vision exams and dispense eyeglasses along the Gulf Coast. Vision Service Plan (VSP) provided optometrists to staff the van (in addition to volunteer Lions), and the University of Alabama-Birmingham provided the necessary equipment. LCIF paid the remaining expenses. Nearly 10,000 people were screened and 9,600 pairs of eyeglasses were distributed.
- LCIF and Lions provided children in Mississippi whose schools were destroyed with a “school in a box,” a UNICEF kit with 39 school materials and supplies. Lions delivered 25 kits, each of which serves 80 children.
 - ✓ \$10,000 grant to fund local Lions “Coats for Kids” Project, which at schools in the affected New Orleans parishes.
 - ✓ US\$240,000 grant to help buy 40 school buses through a matching grant program with FEMA.
 - ✓ \$14,920 grant was approved to purchase computer/projector equipment and school uniforms for two LA schools.
 - ✓ \$39,000 grant was approved to purchase 300 computers for the St. Bernard Parish Public Schools. This was a FEMA matching grant project.
 - ✓ \$150,000 grant was made to the Lions of Mississippi/Lions Sight Foundation in support of their camp, eye bank, vision, and hearing programs.
 - ✓ \$10,000 grant to complete the funding required to establish a handicapped playground in Biloxi, Mississippi, which will provide displaced children with a recreational outlet.
 - ✓ \$180,000 grant for Wilkes Youth Camp in Biloxi, Mississippi. These funds will cover repairs to buildings and equipment damaged by the hurricane.
 - ✓ US\$24,000 grant to replace the electronic video library educational materials at five schools within Bay St. Louis-Waveland School District, MS.

- ✓ \$10,698 grant was approved for the Mississippi Lions Eye Bank to purchase a generator to safeguard temperature-sensitive corneas in the event of future power outages.
- ✓ \$39,000 grant was approved to continue repairs to the warehouse facility that the Lions have been using to receive, store, and distribute relief items.
- ✓ \$200,000 grant was awarded to the Louisiana Lions Eye Foundation, to fund their free eye care service program with Louisiana State University Eye Center.

Lions Involvement

Hundreds, if not thousands, of clubs collected and transported goods, provided services for evacuees, raised funds and even traveled to the Gulf Coast to lend a hand.

Future Outlook

One year later, there is still much work to be done. Lions plan to continue to focus on supporting longer-term projects within the affected communities. Local Lions have been charged with the task of further investigating options by directly contacting school districts, agencies serving the disabled, medical facilities and programs, and FEMA, which has numerous programs in place that offer matching funding programs, where a 10 percent contribution is combined with their 90 percent funding match. The Hurricane Katrina Steering Committee is very interested in matching fund opportunities because of the greater financial yield.

Currently, there is a great demand for post-Katrina counseling services, shelter for relief workers, programs for the disabled, and education and recreation projects for the 500,000 youth displaced as a result of the hurricane.

Contacts

Shortly after the disaster, a steering committee headed four leading Lions from the four states most affected by the tragedy was created to serve as liaisons between LCIF, Lions in the disaster areas and Lions who want to help.

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