



FAMILY VOLUNTEERING & FAMILY MEMBERSHIP DUES

- A GROWING TREND -

At the 2006 International Convention the delegates passed the Family Membership Dues Rate.

Lions Clubs International recognizes that the changing dynamics of family life, as well as new economic realities, have made it difficult for many families to be able to commit time to traditional civic organizations and service clubs. Volunteering together allows families to share precious time with each other and to pass down values of giving back to the community from one generation to the next. Children raised in a volunteering environment tend to continue the practice into their adult years.

Worldwide studies are showing family volunteering is shaping volunteering programs through out the world. The following excerpts from various research studies show the tremendous benefits of family volunteering:

Benefits to the Family and Community

- Family volunteering encourages responsibility in children through community service. It provides children with an opportunity to develop civic responsibility, good citizenship and caring for others.
- The connections made between youths, families and their communities creates a strong social consciousness, which enables youths to make positive choices.
- Meaningful community service has proven to be a powerful way to help young people improve their academic and social behavior while increasing their confidence.

Why Lions?

Lions clubs provides a structure for volunteering in one's community. Research supports the functions that Lions clubs perform; providing a natural way for families and young people to respond to the following needs:

- Young people today are much more globally aware than previous generations. They are interested in significant volunteer work that is directly connected to the mission or cause. ¹
- Young people like collective action. They enjoy working collaboratively with all ages, but they also like to be treated as equals in the group. ¹
- Young people need relationships with caring adults to assist them with the transition to adulthood.

- Young people prefer activities they feel they can wrap their arms around and be involved in the entire project. They will bring additional resources to the project if they feel fully engaged. ¹

Statistics Show....

- A youth with a parent that volunteers is nearly three times more likely to volunteer on a regular basis. The power of a mentor (parent or other significant adult) to influence volunteering has been confirmed in a variety of studies. ¹
- That teenage volunteering is very high: 39% of teenagers are regular volunteers; 35% are occasional volunteers; and 27% are periodic volunteers. The trend towards short-term, periodic volunteering is consistent across a variety of age groups. ¹ This provides a great opportunity for Lions.
- That 64% of organizations find that most families continue to volunteer after being involved in an event/activity. ² Also, the reliability of volunteers increases when the family is involved.
- A husband and wife is the most common partnership in volunteering.
- Volunteering with a family member is more common among young adults between the ages of 18-24.
- Once established, family volunteering becomes a tradition, children continue to volunteer when they have their own families.

1 The Corporation for National and Community Service As part of the *Youth Helping America* series November 2005

2 Gallup Survey 1994

3 University of Illinois at Springfield, Sarah Megginson (April 2003) – *“Student council, volunteering, basketball, or marching band: What kind of extracurricular involvement matters?”*

4 Human Resources Development Canada The 2002 Family Volunteering Study

5 Aid Association of Lutherans 1998