



## Adopted Service Programs of Lions Clubs International

In 1917, Melvin Jones introduced the “We Serve” concept. Today, 1.3 million men and women in more than 44,000 clubs worldwide serve their communities as Lions.

In 2003, Lions Clubs International approved **seven categories** of Lions Adopted Service Programs. These programs fulfill the following criteria:

- exemplify the Lions “**We Serve**” motto and are relevant to Lions clubs internationally
- meet an important community or humanitarian need
- achieve measurable outcomes which benefit service recipients
- provide “hands-on” involvement by Lions
- include leadership roles for Lions
- promote public awareness of the Lions service mission
- are sustainable.

Adopted Service Program publications, PowerPoint presentations, awards, and resources are available through the Lions Web site: [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)

Or, contact: Lions Clubs International  
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**1. Community Services** range from delivering meals to homebound citizens to sponsoring an arts festival.



- **Building Homes for Persons who are Blind or Disabled with Habitat for Humanity** with financial assistance from a Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) grant.
- **Lions Community and Culture Program** encourages clubs to foster art, music, dance, literature, theater, sports, food, and history.
- **Lions International Performance Festival**, held during the annual Lions international convention, provides talented Lions and Leos with an opportunity to share their culture.

**2. Diabetes Awareness** can help prevent diabetic retinopathy, the leading cause of blindness in people between the ages of 20 and 74. November is Lions Diabetes Education Month.

- **Community Education** includes distributing printed materials and organizing health fairs or diabetes seminars.
- **Strides: Lions Walk for Diabetes Awareness** is an active way to educate the public about diabetes.
- **Diabetes Screening** can be accomplished through cooperation with local health officials.
- **Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP)**, the main SightFirst-funded initiative in industrialized nations, emphasizes prevention of eye diseases.
- **Recreational Camps for Persons Who Have Diabetes** Lions clubs can organize a camp, volunteer for a camp, or provide financial support.

**3. Environmental Services** aim to preserve the flora and fauna of the planet. June 5 is UN Environment Programme (UNEP) World Environment Day.

- **Lions Environmental Photo Contest** illustrates the beauty of nature. Lions submit photos to their club-level contest. One photo per club advances to the district, multiple district, and international competitions.



**4. Hearing and Speech Action and Work with the Deaf** is a challenge presented to Lions by Helen Keller in 1925.

- **Communication Aids / Assistive Devices** include Sign language classes, hearing aids, and the training of hearing dogs.
- **Hearing Aid Recycling Program (HARP)** encourages Lions to donate used hearing aids.
- **Hearing Ear Dogs** alert their owners to sounds. Lions clubs can support schools that raise and train service animals.
- **Hearing Screenings** for the public can be arranged in collaboration with medical personnel.

- **Recreational Camps for Persons who are Deaf or Hearing Impaired** often receive support from Lions clubs.
- **Support Services for Persons who are Deaf or Hearing Impaired** include: temporal bone banks, scholarships for hearing impaired students, and theaters for the Deaf.

**5. International Relations** fulfills the First Purpose of Lions Clubs International: *To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.*

- **International Club Twinning** is a voluntary and mutual agreement of friendship between clubs in different countries.
- **Lions International Relations Month** is October in celebration of United Nations Day on October 24.
- **Lions Day with the United Nations (UN)** is held annually to celebrate the historic relationship between Lions and the UN.
- **Lions ALERT Program** encourages development of a pro-active plan in the event of a local emergency.
- **Lions Emergency/Non-Emergency Assistance** is an online location for the exchange of volunteer services and materials for emergency and non-emergency Lions projects.
- **Stamp Collection and Exchange** occurs among members of the Lions International Stamp Club (LISC) who donate used stamps to charities.
- **World Peace Day** on January 24 provides Lions with an opportunity to promote world peace according to local customs.

**6. Lions Opportunities for Youth** committees at the club, district, and multiple district levels includes chairpersons from all Lions youth programs.



- **Leo Club Program** provides youth with an opportunity for development and contribution, individually, and collectively.
- **Lions International Peace Poster Contest** is a Lions-sponsored art contest for youth, ages 11-13.
- **Lions International Youth Camp and Exchange Program** is a cultural opportunity for young people.
- **Lions Quest** life-skills curricula teach young people about character education, drug abuse prevention, and service-learning.

- **Lions Services for Children** encourages Lions to help children and young adolescents in adverse circumstances through health and education services.
- **Lions Young Leaders in Service** encourages 12 to 18-year-olds to perform volunteer community service.

## 7. Sight Conservation and Work with the Blind

In 1925, Lions accepted Helen Keller's challenge to become *knights of the blind in this crusade against darkness*. Today, Lions clubs implement sight-related projects.

- **Assistive Devices** such as Braille books, translation software, beep sports balls, and magnified reading glasses aid persons who are Blind or visually impaired.
- **Education for Persons who are Blind** includes the Hadley School for the Blind that provides free distance education for 10,000 students in 100 countries who are blind or visually impaired. [www.hadley.edu](http://www.hadley.edu)
- **Eyeglass Recycling** occurs through 17 official Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers. May is Lions Recycle for Sight Month.
- **Helen Keller Day** is June 1. Around the world, Lions implement sight-related service projects on this day.
- **LCIF's Children's Eye Photoscreening** detects amblyopia (lazy eye), the leading cause of blindness in one eye among persons less than 20 years of age.
- **Lions Eye Banks**, established in 13 countries, provide eye tissue for cornea transplants and research. Lions Eye Bank Week is the first full week in December.
- **Low Vision Projects** can include eye exams, transportation assistance, large-print reading materials, rehabilitation/vocational training, or guide dogs.
- **Recreational Camps for Persons who are Blind or Visually Impaired** often receive support from Lions clubs.
- **SightFirst** is the Lions global initiative to prevent blindness. Campaign SightFirst II aims to fund expansion of the initiative.
- **Special Olympics-Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes Program** provides free vision screenings, eyeglasses, and sports goggles to Special Olympics athletes.
- **Support Services for Persons who are Blind or Visually Impaired** include providing handicap accessibility in public buildings; donating Braille and large-print books to libraries; and providing scholarships for visually impaired students.

- **Vision Screenings** are often organized in cooperation with local eye care professionals.
- **White Cane Safety Day (USA)**, October 15, celebrates Lion George A. Bonham of Peoria, Illinois, USA's 1930 invention which is used by Blind or visually impaired persons.



- **World Sight Day**, the second Thursday in October, provides Lions with an opportunity to educate the community about preventable blindness and sight preservation.

## Cooperative Alliances

- **AMD (Age-related Macular Degeneration) Alliance International** is a global coalition of vision and seniors' organizations dedicated to raising awareness of this vision impairment. [www.amdalliance.com/](http://www.amdalliance.com/)
- **American Diabetes Association (ADA)** aims to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of people affected with diabetes. [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org)
- **American Optometric Association (AOA)** is a federation of US state, student, and armed forces optometric associations that aims to improve the quality and availability of vision care. [www.aoa.org/](http://www.aoa.org/)
- **Canadian Optometric Association (COA)** is a federation of ten provincial associations of optometrists. [www.opto.ca/](http://www.opto.ca/)
- **Give the Gift of Sight Foundation** provides free vision care and eyewear to underprivileged individuals in North America and developing countries. [www.givethegiftofsight.org](http://www.givethegiftofsight.org)
- **Hadley School for the Blind** is an accredited international learning center that provides free distance education for blind adults, families of blind or visually impaired persons, and professionals working in the blindness field. [www.hadley-school.org](http://www.hadley-school.org)
- **Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)** provides grants to Lions districts for humanitarian projects. [www.lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org)
- **(US) National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP)** works with (US) government and private agencies to improve the treatment and outcomes for people with diabetes. [www.ndep.nih.gov](http://www.ndep.nih.gov)
- **(US) National Eye Health Education Program (NEHEP)** established the LCIF-funded Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP). [www.nei.nih.gov](http://www.nei.nih.gov)

- **United Nations (UN)** is a global organization that provides humanitarian aid. [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)
- **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** addresses human rights, narcotic drug, and environmental protections. [www.un.org/esa/desa/](http://www.un.org/esa/desa/)
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** promotes education, science, and culture. [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)
- **United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)** is a global environment organization. [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)
- **UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund) School-in-a-Box** includes materials for educators in areas where wars or other calamities have halted teaching. [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)
- **Scouts**-the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of America, and Scouts Canada. [www.scouts.org](http://www.scouts.org)
- **Swiss Federal Institute for Environmental Science and Technology** developed a simple, inexpensive water disinfection method called SODIS. [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)
- **VOSH International** (Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity), a division of AOA, facilitates the provision of vision care to people who cannot afford or obtain such care. [www.vosh.org/](http://www.vosh.org/)
- **World Health Organization (WHO)** is the United Nations (UN) agency for health. [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)
- **Youth Service America (YSA)** promotes Global Youth Service Day. [www.ysa.org](http://www.ysa.org)



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