



300 W 22ND STREET
OAK BROOK ILLINOIS 60523-8842 USA
communications@lionsclubs.org
lionsclubs.org

Lions Clubs International Hosts 37th Annual Lions Day with the United Nations

MARCH 7, 2015, OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS, USA – Lions Clubs International hosted its 37th annual Lions Day with the United Nations at the U.N. Headquarters in New York City. Nearly 500 Lions from over 30 countries traveled to New York to meet with U.N. leaders for the day-long summit.

“Lions have worked alongside the United Nations for seventy years to promote the health, safety and well-being of people around the world,” said Lions Clubs International President Joe Preston. “I’m happy that we can come together once again to discuss solutions to the challenges we’ll face as we work toward a brighter future.”

As a part of this year’s theme of Children in Need, Lions and U.N. leaders addressed issues affecting youth around the world. From drug prevention education, to vision health and access to education in times of crisis, Lions joined together to discuss ways to positively impact some of the most vulnerable populations on the planet.

“The United Nations stands with [Lions] as you work to improve the lives of young children,” said Cristina Gallach, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information at the U.N. “The world faces multiple conflicts ... but ours is also an era for a safer, more prosperous, equitable and sustainable future for all.”

Lions also discussed strategies to continue championing important humanitarian causes in support of the U.N.’s Millennium Development Goals. Additionally, Lions were joined by more than 20 U.N. ambassadors, including the Honorable Macharia Kamau of Kenya, who led a discussion on civil service’s role within the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals of ending extreme poverty by 2030.

“I have worked with UNICEF around the world, and everywhere and every time we work, there are Lions,” said Ambassador Kamau. “The work Lions do, the effort that comes together to transform the lives of people around the world, particularly the most vulnerable, is wonderful.”

To cap off the event, Lions announced the winners of this year’s Lions Peace Poster and Essay Contests. Wei Jin Qian, a 13-year-old girl from Liaoning, China, captured the grand prize in the Peace Poster Contest, while Jalen Ballard, a 12-year-old boy from Toledo, Ohio, USA, took home the top prize in the Essay Contest. Both grand prize winners receive US\$5,000 and will be honored in June at the Lions Clubs International Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.



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Lions' collaboration with the United Nations dates back to 1945 when Lion leaders were asked to help develop the non-governmental charter for the U.N. Since then, Lions have collaborated on many successful humanitarian ventures, including the SightFirst program, which has helped restore sight, prevent blindness and provide vision services to millions of people worldwide. The Lions Day with the United Nations is an annual opportunity for Lions, U.N. leaders and key partners to assess challenges facing the global community.

Lions Clubs International is the largest service club organization in the world. Our 1.35 million members in more than 46,000 clubs are serving communities in more than 200 countries and geographical areas around the globe. Since 1917, Lions clubs have aided the blind and visually impaired, championed youth initiatives and strengthened local communities through hands-on service and humanitarian projects. For more information about Lions Clubs International, visit lionsclubs.org.

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Media Contact

Chris Bunch
630-468-6827
christopher.bunch@lionsclubs.org