Lions Clubs International (LCI) is the world’s largest service organization with more than 1.3 million members from 205 countries and geographic regions. Founded in 1917, the mission of Lions has remained steadfast – “To empower volunteers to serve their community, meet humanitarian needs...” These needs are never more challenging than in the days, months and years following a devastating natural disaster.

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) has an impressive history of assisting communities with both the immediate and long-range rebuilding efforts following a calamity. Our members are local leaders within the impacted communities, allowing the Foundation to respond quickly, efficiently and in the most appropriate way. Because of this unique position, Lions Clubs International was listed as the #1 NGO with which to partner in a 2007 Financial Times survey.
Lions Hope for Haiti

Within hours of the earthquake that devastated Port-au-Prince and the surrounding area, Lions were in action. Contact was made with local club members to assess the scope of the devastation and how Lions, both locally and worldwide, could most appropriately assist. Within days, a response team was in Haiti to deliver aid and strategize with Haitian club members on how to provide the greatest impact.

Within the first 30 days, through the efforts and generosity of Lions and other donors around the world, LCIF has:

- Mobilized more than US$2 million
- Provided semi-permanent shelter to homeless through the procurement of 200+ tents; in cooperation with the World Food Program and Maersk, an additional 240+ tents will be supplied to offer shelter at schools and medical care locations
- Established three Lions’ “tent cities” in the Port-au-Prince neighborhoods of Delmas, Blanchard and Carrefour-Feuille, each supplying approximately 1,000 individuals with food, security and basic aid

While devoted to helping provide stability in the initial months, LCIF is committed to long-range initiatives which may include the establishment of:

- Schools, hospital and eye-care facilities
- Job training programs
- Disability rehabilitation
- Permanent housing

Our History in Disaster Service

Lions have noteworthy experience in responding to disasters. Whether aid is needed for a small number of families impacted after a tornado or thousands displaced due to a natural disaster, Lions are called to serve.

Each year, LCIF awards approximately US$2 million for emergency grants to areas effected by disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes and earthquakes. Since 2001, LCIF has provided more than US$25 million for relief efforts in areas suffering from catastrophic disasters. The Foundation sets itself apart from other relief organizations by its long-term commitment to reconstruction efforts and the fact that 100 percent of every donation goes directly to these projects (administrative costs are paid by interest earned on investments).
Lions in Action
In recent years, Lions have helped bring stability and hope to a number of regions following a disaster. A few examples include:

**Earthquake in Sichuan Province, China**
- Only volunteer service club organization recognized by Chinese government
- 80 homes were handed over to families during a ceremony in October 2009, a part of a two-phase project to construct more than 150 homes
- Rebuilt three schools in the same area

**Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf States, USA**
- Mobilized US$5 million for immediate and long-term reconstruction in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi
- An estimated 3 million people benefited from Lions’ efforts
- Funds helped rebuild and equip schools, rebuild or establish Lions eye clinics and eye banks, provide assistive and rehabilitative devices for disabled and numerous other projects

**Tsunami in South Asia**
- Awarded more than US$15 million for long-term reconstruction efforts in Thailand, India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka
- Rebuilt more than 4,000 homes and constructed community and health centers, schools and orphanages
- Tsunami reconstruction efforts are now complete in Indonesia and Thailand; projects are expected to be completed within the year in Sri Lanka, and are ongoing in India

**Terror Attacks of September 11, 2001, USA**
- Allocated US$3.2 million for immediate relief and long-term programs
- Purchased needed rescue tools; shipping containers to provide sleeping and warming center for workers; established communications network for e-mail, phone and Web site; held several camp retreats for families of victims
Lions and Partners
Our greatest asset is our 1.3 million members. Through this extensive human resource network, Lions comprehend the community needs better than many external organizations and are able to appropriately respond.

Our mission to serve others makes us an attractive partner. Corporate and global leaders interested in leveraging the strengths of both organizations look to Lions for assistance in:

- Rebuilding of homes, school and clinics
- Distribution of medicine, water and food
- Construction of well and water purification
- Training the area youth in permanent vocations

If you are interested in discussing a potential partnership in these or any other areas, please contact the LCIF Development Department at 630-468-6839 or lcifdevelopment@lionsclubs.org.