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## **Lions Clubs International Awarded by Council of the Schools for the Blind**

Oak Brook, Illinois, USA, October 10, 2012 – Lions Clubs International (LCI) is the recipient of the Champion Award from the Council of Schools for the Blind (COSB). The first award of its kind, LCI received this honor for its impact on each of COSB's 46 member schools. The award recognizes LCI for its support of COSB schools helping to further their mission to provide students with full literacy, independence, employment, self-sufficiency and community integration.

"We are proud to be honored with the first COSB Champion Award recognizing Lions commitment to people with visual impairments," said Wayne A. Madden, Lions Clubs International President.

"Having visited a majority of schools for the blind nationally and many internationally, I have noticed Lions clubs' positive marks— including the universally recognized and often prominently displayed Lions We Serve logo—announcing a meaningful relationship with the school," said Michael J. Bina, Ed.D., president of the Maryland School for the Blind.

"At the local levels, individual Lions volunteer their time, efforts and talents. And, the Lions clubs have been widely recognized for their financial donations for dormitory equipment, playgrounds, low vision clinics, eye examinations and glasses, glaucoma and pre-school vision screenings and camps for children with visual impairments. Internationally, Lions commitment is even more far reaching, including eye glass collection, vision and ophthalmic surgical teams and eradication of river blindness."

The Council of Schools for the Blind is a national association of 46 state and privately funded schools that provide quality education to students (infant to age 21) who are blind or visually impaired, including those with multiple disabilities.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization with 1.35 million members in more than 46,000 clubs in 207 countries and geographical areas around the world. Since 1917, Lions clubs have aided the blind and visually impaired and made a strong commitment to community service and serving youth throughout the world. For more information about Lions Clubs International, visit [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org).

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