



Lions Clubs International **FOUNDATION**

6th February 2013

Dear Fellow Lions

A background to LCIF and some ideas on how to raise funds for the Foundation

More than four decades ago, LCIF helped people in need for the first time by bringing some relief to flood victims in South Dakota, USA. Since then, through the support of Lions and our partners, we have been able to expand our service work in scope and reach and become an internationally-recognized humanitarian organization. The Foundation has been there for people experiencing hardship all around the world through awarding US\$811 million for restoring sight, providing disaster relief, supporting youth and serving humanitarian needs.

LCIF not only provides essential grant funding to Lions so they can carry out ambitious and compassionate service projects, but we also seek out unmet needs in the world and create programming to meet them. Through programs like Sight First, Lions Quest , Opening Eyes, and Measles Campaign. The Foundation has worked to take action to improve millions of lives.

— Read stories from people directly involved in our work.

Lions celebrate the joy of giving

Although they live in different parts of the world, Kristinn and Dagny Hannesson (Mosfellsbaejar Lions Club, District 109B, Iceland) and Ron and BJ Finlay (Huron Shores Lions Club, District A9, Ontario, Canada) came up with the same idea to support LCIF and Campaign Sight First II (CSFII). They all decided to use special personal celebrations to honour LCIF.

“Being a CSFII coordinator (2005 – 2008), I realized how great LCIF is. That’s also when I decided that I would not have a party for my 50th birthday. Instead, the estimated cost of that party would go to LCIF marked for CSFII, so in late August 2007, I donated US\$17,000 in my club’s name,” explained Kristinn Hannesson. Hannesson inspired his wife Dagny Hannesson to have a CSFII “moneybox” at her 50th birthday party. She was able to donate US\$3,470 in her club’s name following her party in 2008.

Around the same time but over 2,000 miles away, Ron and BJ Finlay celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends. Their commitment to LCIF took centre stage, as BJ Finlay explains: “to make it even more special, we asked for donations to CSFII instead of any gifts. We were amazed at the amount donated, and with the help of then-International Director Beverley Stebbins, we proudly presented three Melvin Jones Fellowship recognitions to deserving Lions.”

Lions excel at finding creative and special ways to raise funds for LCIF. When people like the Hannessons and the Finlays forgo gifts, and even a party altogether, at special milestones in their lives so that they can show their support for LCIF, it shows just how generous and dedicated Lions everywhere are. And Lions can feel good knowing that they are giving many gifts to people in need around the world with their donations. “LCIF has always appealed to us because we are able to do so much for so many and every cent we send to LCIF goes to doing just that,” BJ Finlay said.

There are a number of Clubs in our District 410 A that have not as yet supported LCIF. Remember for an Excellence award this is a requirement.

Be creative to raise funds. --**-- What good ideas can you formulate in your Club to support LCIF.

I say thank you to the Clubs and Lions that have donated, continue to do so for the most important Project in Lions

PDG · Wolsley

DC - LCIF