



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**



410 A - NEWS LETTER JANUARY 2015

As we start the last six months of this fiscal year, I encourage you to think of all the lives you can impact now and the years ahead.

This week, we celebrate the birthday of Melvin Jones, founder of Lions Clubs International (LCI). It has been nearly 100 years since Melvin Jones first encouraged people to address the needs of their communities and the world, and I know he would be proud of what Lions have accomplished.

What is LCIF Week?

LCIF Week is an annual event that gives clubs and districts an opportunity to publicize the Foundation. Many clubs and districts plan special events for the week in January, which is the birthday month of LCI founder Melvin Jones. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss how LCIF supports the humanitarian efforts of Lions as they serve their local and the global community in the life-changing work you and your Foundation is doing every day listed hereunder.



Having awarded more than US\$900 million in grant funding, LCIF has realized many accomplishments toward our mission of supporting Lions' community and global service. We're proud of these big numbers, but we're more proud of how we've reached people in need and created real change. With help from Lions, donors and partners, we hope to continue to add much more to our record of humanitarian community achievements. Here are just a few ways in which the Foundation has impacted people in need all around the world:

Sight Achievements

- Awarded 1,163 SightFirst grants in 102 countries for a total of more than US\$305.4 million
- Restored sight to 7.7 million people through cataract surgeries
- Prevented serious vision loss for more than 30 million
- Provided over 271 million treatments for river blindness
- Built or expanded 660 eye hospitals/clinics/wards
- Trained 681,000 eye care specialists
- Conducted more than 20 million vision screenings for children through Sight for Kids
- Launched the world's first-ever initiative to combat childhood blindness in partnership with the World Health Organization, establishing or strengthening 34 pediatric eye care centers
- Provided management training for 276 facilities
- Raised more than US\$200 million for Campaign SightFirst II, making it the greatest fundraising effort in LCIF's history

Disaster Achievements

- Awarded a total of more than US\$100 million in disaster relief
- Mobilized US\$15 million following the South Asia tsunami in four countries, US\$5 million for Hurricane Katrina projects in four states, US\$3 million for the China earthquake, US\$6 million for the Haiti earthquake and US\$21 million for the Japan earthquake and tsunami

Youth Achievements

- Engaged more than 13 million students in the youth development program Lions Quest
- Trained more than 550,000 educators to implement Lions Quest in school and community settings
- Implementing Lions Quest in 85 countries
- Curriculum translated and adapted into 36 languages

Humanitarian Efforts Achievements

- Provided vision screening for more than 350,000 Special Olympics athletes from 85 countries through Opening Eyes
- Provided vaccinations to 41 million people in Africa for the Lions-Measles Initiative pilot project

I have heard it said “ WHY SHOULD WE SEND MONEY OVERSEAS “

Since the inception of LCIF our District 410A has received US \$ 544,500-00

Multiple District 410 has received from LCIF US \$ 2,889,440-74

These amounts far exceed what we in South Africa have ever donated.

Up to the end of December 2014 - 14 Clubs have donated \$ 4,675-24 to LCIF.

This represents only 29.17% of our 48 Clubs in the District and hopefully the 34 Clubs that have not as yet will donate soon to our organisation.

Clubs must be reminded that for an Excellence Award a donation to LCIF is one of the requirements.

I Thank the Clubs that have donated this fiscal year and request the 34 Clubs to follow their example and thereby assisting LCIF to help in areas where it is most needed worldwide

"You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else" - Melvin Jones

Best Regards

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