

# LION

**MISSION 1.5**  
SPECIAL EDITION

**WINTER 2024** LIONMAGAZINE.ORG

## LIONS ARE ON A MISSION

Lions set out to reach 1.5 million members and serve more people than ever before.



**Lions International**



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## WE SERVE

### LIONS INTERNATIONAL MISSION

To empower Lions clubs, volunteers and partners to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian service and grants that impact lives globally, and encourage peace and international understanding.

#### CONTACTING LION MAGAZINE

For change of address, non-receipt of the magazine or other subscription issues, call 630-468-7070 or email [MemberServiceCenter@lionsclubs.org](mailto:MemberServiceCenter@lionsclubs.org). To share a story idea for consideration, email [magazine@lionsclubs.org](mailto:magazine@lionsclubs.org).

#### WANT MORE LION STORIES?

Read the stories in this issue and more online. [Lionmagazine.org](http://Lionmagazine.org)

Order more print copies of this issue in our online Lions Shop. [Lionsclubs.org/shop](http://Lionsclubs.org/shop)

Visit our Lions Video Center to watch inspiring videos. [Lionsclubs.org/video](http://Lionsclubs.org/video)



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# NEW PRESIDENTIAL LCIF SUPPORTER PINS

Your generosity changes lives and LCIF wants to recognize your gifts. Donors who make a one-time donation of at least US\$50 this Lion year are eligible to receive International President Dr. Patti Hill's Presidential LCIF Supporter pin, which is only available this year.

## Gold Pin

US\$200 and above



## Silver Pin

US\$100-\$199



## Bronze Pin

US\$50-\$99



Donate today and receive your pin. | [lionsclubs.org/Donate](https://lionsclubs.org/Donate)



## Rising to the Challenge

Dear Lions,

As we prepare for a great 2024, Lions remain committed to *MISSION 1.5* — our drive to reach 1.5 million members and increase our capacity to serve those who need us. The need to grow is urgent, and I'm genuinely inspired by the way you are rising to meet this challenge.

More members will allow us to do more service over the coming years, and the momentum we create will have a powerful ripple effect into the future. As we grow, our stories of service will increase, our collective voice will get louder, and we will inspire even more people to serve with us.

The mission is bold, but so are Lions. Now is the time to be brave. Don't be afraid to invite people to join your club. Some will say "yes" and some will say "not now," but don't be discouraged. "No" doesn't necessarily mean "never." I didn't become a Lion the first time I was asked because the timing wasn't right, but when I did, it changed my life. You have the power to change someone's life, too. All you have to do is ask.

Growing our membership and increasing our service in pursuit of our *MISSION 1.5* goal — this is how we are Changing the World, together.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Patti Hill*

Dr. Patti Hill  
International President, Lions Clubs International



We Serve



## Celebrating Lions' Symphony of Service

Every New Year's Day, nearly 700,000 spectators line the streets of Pasadena, California, and millions of viewers tune in from around the world to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Rose Parade. Lions International has taken part in the tradition the last 33 years by decorating a 55-foot float with tens of thousands of flowers, beans and seeds to put global service on display.

The 2024 float reflected Lions' take on the parade theme — *Celebrating a World of Music: The Universal Language* — by sending the message that when you join your local Lions club, you join a global ensemble of more than 1.4 million people working to create a more harmonious world through humanitarian service.

## Lion Leaders Visit Kenya for Week of Service



International President Dr. Patti Hill and several executive officers and members of the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors headed to Kenya for a week of service in October 2023.

It was an inspiring and productive week for our international leaders as they rolled up their sleeves and joined projects focused on empowering youth, feeding the hungry and preserving our environment.

Here are some of the incredible outcomes from Kenya:

- 50 solar cookers presented to local families
- 50 families received food rations
- 350 people screened for diabetes
- 450 children received dental screenings
- 500 trees planted in the newly established Lions Forest in the Nashulai Conservatory to help preserve the environment
- 600 girls at Sekenani Girls School presented with feminine hygiene packs
- 1,100 primary school children fed
- 1,100 children received vision screenings

## Brazil Leo Club Wins Video Contest

The 2023 International Leo Day Video Contest invited Leo clubs to share what steps they're taking to go green.

Many clubs answered the call to share how they're positively impacting the environment, but the Leo Club of Monte Azul Paulista II won the grand prize with its video, "Green Roots: The Legacy of Leo Club Monte Azul Paulista II."



Watch the top videos at [lionsclubs.org/leo-video-contest](https://lionsclubs.org/leo-video-contest).

## Promote Your Club with LION Magazine

LION Magazine is a great way to showcase the positive impact of Lions in communities worldwide.

Here are a few ways to use the magazine as a promotional tool for your club:

1. **Use as a giveaway at a local event.**  
Offer a copy to visitors to your table or booth, or include in goodie bags.
2. **Keep a few on hand when serving.**  
You never know who will approach and want to know more about being a Lion.
3. **Inspire people while they wait.**  
Give some copies to your local library and local businesses with waiting rooms.

Magazine copies are available for purchase through Lions Shop in bundles of 10. To order, visit [lionsclubs.org/shop](https://lionsclubs.org/shop) or scan the QR code on the right.



Lion Marsha Sullivan of the High Springs Lions Club applies promotional stickers to copies of LION Magazine for distribution at their Second Annual Bike and Car Show.

Order today and receive a free pack of customizable stickers!



## Elevate Your Club Marketing with Branded Templates

You don't need to be a professional marketer to create professional-looking promotional materials.

Our Brand Advance and social media kits offer a wide variety of Lions International-branded templates in various sizes you can customize with your own content and use to promote your club.

- Brochures and postcards
- PowerPoints
- Signage



- Social media graphics and templates
- And more!

Visit [lionsclubs.org/brand](https://lionsclubs.org/brand) to access the kits today.

## IN THE NEWS

### Kicking off Kindness

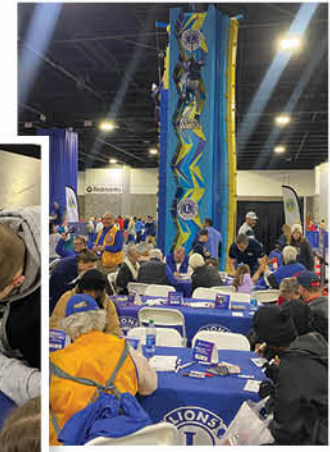
Lions International suited up as an official sponsor of the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl.

The festivities on December 30, 2023, began with the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl Parade presented by Lions Clubs International. LCIF Chairperson Brian Sheehan served as grand marshal, leading the procession of floats, marching bands, cheerleaders, mascots and a unit of marching Lions through downtown Atlanta.

The fun continued at FanFest where football enthusiasts got a taste of what it's like to be a Lion by participating in a service project. Fans of all ages wrote and decorated inspirational postcards to bring a little cheer to members of Atlanta's most impoverished population.



Fans also had an opportunity to talk with Lions and learn how they can get involved before heading to the stadium to watch Ole Miss best Penn State in four quarters of exciting football action.



### Did you know?

The Peach Bowl was started by the Lions Club of Atlanta in 1968 as a fundraiser for the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation. While management of the bowl changed hands in 1986, it continues to be the most charitable bowl game in the country, and Lions continue to be part of the action.

### Get Ready for Earth Day 2024

Earth Day is April 22.

This annual global event is a reminder that our actions today help shape the world for tomorrow. So get your club together and start planning your Earth Day service project today.

Here are a few projects to consider:

- Plant trees.
- Clean up a local park.
- Organize a community recycling drive.
- Create a "green living" tip sheet and share it in your community.

Find more ideas at [lionsclubs.org/environment](https://lionsclubs.org/environment).



## IN THE NEWS

### OVERHEARD ON SOCIAL MEDIA

"When you give freely, the amount you get back far outweighs any monetary value. My group of Lions is there for me always."

— Lion Lesley Ward

I am happy when I serve others and see happiness and gratitude on their faces. I see it as an investment in myself to stay socialized and valuable throughout my life.

— Lion Teuta Sulstarova Shehu

"I absolutely love wearing my Lions vest. It is a long-time symbol to the public that a Lions club is present at whatever activity is happening. We refer to it as our billboard. Great branding and advertising."

— Lion Pat Raecher Strong

"Creating and fostering a spirit of understanding among the people of the world is my favorite Lions purpose because it is so needed."

— Lion Garry Bates

Follow @lionsclubs



### BY THE NUMBERS

# 79

Years is how long Lions International served as a consultative non-governmental organization (NGO) to the United Nations. Lion leaders were asked to help develop the NGO charter in 1945.

# 250

Meals were prepared by members and prospects of the Seafont Lions Club and distributed to the homeless in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

# 18,000

Toys were purchased with funds raised during the 75th CTV Lions Children's Christmas Telethon and distributed to families across northeastern Ontario, Canada, during the recent holiday season.

# 160,000

Students in Alaska received vision screenings through the Alaska Lions Clubs Care-A-Van for Vision program over the past decade.

# Golden Playdates

Babies bring joy to seniors in retirement homes.

By Joan Cary

A friendly visitor is always a welcome sight for those living in retirement homes. But when tiny visitors are strolled in with their rosy cheeks, infectious smiles and bubbly personalities, the residents know they're in for a special treat.



In Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, the Circle of Life program is bringing seniors and babies together for stories, songs and socialization. Once a month, volunteer moms, caregivers and their little ones are greeted by a room full of seniors anxious to meet their new little friends.

Lion Allie Boyd of the Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Lions Club started the program in 2022. The idea came while she was working in geriatrics and pregnant with her second son. "The older women always wanted to talk about babies," she says. "Remembering their experiences of raising their children seemed to brighten their days."

The timing to launch such a program couldn't have been better. COVID-19 restrictions had just been lifted and many people were craving meaningful connections. "The seniors had been isolated for so long," says Boyd. "Being with the babies and talking with the moms brings them so much joy."

The club manages the Circle of Life – Little Lions Facebook page, which is where interested parents can find out how to get involved. Even though the program is still in its infancy, the program model has become so popular that it is now offered by eight Lions clubs in the province.

When asked what babies and seniors like to do together, 95-year-old Helen "Nell" Spurrell who lives in Bishops Gardens Senior Living, says, "Well, you just take them up in your arms. That's what you do with babies."

**"The seniors had been isolated for so long. Being with the babies and talking with the moms brings them so much joy."**

**-Lion Allie Boyd**

While there is plenty of time for cuddles, the residents also recite nursery rhymes and sing songs they sang with their own children many years ago. "Daisy, Daisy" and "You Are My Sunshine" are two of the favorites, says Stephanie Neville, a recreation therapist at Bishops Gardens.



The visits provide a special level of comfort for the seniors with dementia. Seeing the young mothers with their babies and hearing the familiar old songs connects them with happy memories. Family members have reached out to praise the program, saying their loved one is more alert and engaged after the babies visit.

"It's so wonderful to see the joy on the seniors' faces," says Boyd.

For the young mothers at home or on parental leave, the gatherings also help relieve their own feelings of isolation, allowing them to meet other moms and hear the stories of the experienced moms they visit.

But Spurrell says the seniors don't give much advice to the new moms. "They're doing their best. And the kids are so cute. I say, 'Enjoy it while you can. You can see how fast time goes by.'" 



## GLOBAL SERVICE

### AUSTRALIA

## Off the Grid

Lion-owned wilderness camp helps children and the environment.

After a week at Lions' Licola Wilderness Village in the high country of Victoria, Australia, campers go home with more than increased confidence and fun memories with new friends. They also take with them a feeling of pride from living off the grid and helping the environment. But that wasn't always the case.

The township of Licola, about 250 miles (254 km) east of Melbourne, is owned entirely by the Lions Clubs of Victoria and southern New South Wales. Occupying most of the land is the Licola Wilderness Village, where Lions have run summer camps for special needs, refugees and disadvantaged children ages 8 to 11 since 1973.

**“The camp is a life changer for the children. It gives them all the confidence in the world.”**

- Lion Cynthia Sederino

In 2019, the Lions invested AU\$860,000 to switch the camp from diesel generators to solar power. Six hundred solar panels now harvest sunlight from the roof of the stadium and the side of a hill, and two large shipping containers hold the batteries. It's the only town in the state that generates its own power, pumps and treats its own water, and handles its own waste management.

“It's one of the best things we've ever done,” says Licola Board Chairman Lion Denis Carruthers.

The camp saves roughly 135,000 Australian dollars a year in fuel costs and the Lions expect to recoup their initial investment after eight years. More importantly, the camp has cut carbon emissions — a primary cause of global climate change — by 65%.

The township has come a long way, not only in the past few years, but in the past half century. The 34-acre property was originally a bush village with a sawmill operation. Workers lived in the 16 washboard houses that are now cabins for



campers, and there was a small general store, post office and gas station. In 1966, the mill burned down, and the town was put up for sale. Despite marketing the sale worldwide, the land sat idle, and its only visitors were vandals and a few roaming sheep.

Two Lions saw the beauty in the land and the opportunities it offered and shared their vision with their fellow Lions. In 1969, they bought the town for AU\$20,000 to establish a wilderness camp for kids. Lions from all over Victoria spent weekends rehabbing and building the camp, and in 1973, it opened.

Today, Lions sponsor children, covering all costs and transportation. Individual Lions clubs in Victoria also sponsor the cabins, hosting “working bees,” or club workdays followed by a cookout to help with maintenance and show pride in their piece of Licola.

With a small staff and an acute shortage of volunteers since the coronavirus pandemic, life at camp is still challenging at times, says camp manager Trevor Carstein. But now they appreciate reliable power. Campers no longer fall asleep to the hum of generators, and instead awaken to the songs of the birds.

“The camp is a life changer for the children,” says Lion Cynthia Sederino, a dedicated camp volunteer. “It gives them all the confidence in the world.”

Visit [licola.org.au](http://licola.org.au) to learn more about the camp.

## GLOBAL SERVICE

### USA

## A Fresh Start

New program helps clubs welcome refugees.

In New Jersey, the Edison Visionary Lions Club has been busy putting out welcome mats for their new neighbors, two refugee families from Afghanistan.

They are the first club to participate in Lions International's new service opportunity, Engage to Change, a pilot program co-sponsored by Welcome.US that helps clubs partner directly with a local resettlement agency in welcoming and supporting refugee families as they start anew.

Mahesh Chitnis, club president and past council chairperson, says the club worked closely with staff at Church World Service in Jersey City, securing permanent housing for the families by providing three months' rent through a resettlement grant, and helping with groceries and furnishings.

For the first family to arrive, a family of seven, it is the first time in more than three years they are living together under one roof, or even in the same country.

“The club's mission is to work on causes relevant to families,” says Chitnis. “We worked on getting them the support they need — not just from us, but by making them self-sufficient in our communities, making sure that they belong here.”

Many Lions in the club are immigrants and have experience working with other immigrants. They understand the logistical needs of moving to a new country and appreciate the importance of acclimating to a new culture.



After welcoming the first family, the Lions learned about extended family members, also from Afghanistan, being resettled in the Edison area. Recognizing the importance of having family nearby, they opened their arms as a co-sponsor, welcoming the two parents and three young children.

Organization was key to the Lions' success. A team of six to 10 Lions acted as key liaisons between the refugee affiliate, the club and family, says Chitnis. Using a shared online app, club members defined roles and delegated tasks.

They also leaned on one of their biggest assets as a local Lions club — their community connections. Working with a variety of local leaders, including the city council and school board, the Lions offered a support network for the family as they set down their own roots.

“It is a collaboration,” Chitnis says. “It has been a good experience for us so far, and this is just the beginning of the story.”

“The reason most of us join any of the service organizations is for that fuzzy feeling in the heart — we are doing something for someone. This is probably the peak of that feeling that any one of us would ever get.”

### Engage to Change

Lions International is proud to serve as a leading partner of Engage to Change — a pilot program led by Welcome.US that supports the growth and sustainability of refugee resettlement. The program provides a groundbreaking service opportunity for Lions clubs across the United States.

Here's how it works:

- Clubs are matched with a local resettlement agency to co-sponsor a refugee family for a period of 3-10 months.
- Lions receive training and guidance to provide services such as airport pick-up, home setup, job support, finding English classes and more.
- Clubs may apply for up to US\$15,000 in grant funding to help cover resettlement costs.

Learn more at [lionsclubs.org/lionswelcome](http://lionsclubs.org/lionswelcome).

BRAZIL

# Clean Water Year Round

Lions take action to protect and conserve local water source.

BY ROSANGELA DE SÁ

The village of Barão de Guaicuí, located in Gouveia, a neighboring municipality of Diamantina, Minas Gerais, Brazil, is a place of scenic beauty with waterfalls and mountains that attract visitors for hiking and outdoor sports.

In 2013, the water source supplying the area was nearly dry during the time of greatest need. Village residents approached the Diamantina Lions Club with an action plan to protect and conserve the source by planting native seedlings.

The club agreed to lead the "Replantar" project in the areas surrounding the Sentinela and Cristais waterfalls in Diamantina, and in the village of Barão de Guaicuí. They partnered with the State Forest Institute (IEF-MG), which provided seedlings and labor; EMATER-MG, which transported the seedlings and assisted in the work; and the Major Agenor Scout Group, whose members helped with planting.

The execution of the project, the dates, the responsibilities of each party and post-planting actions, such as raising awareness among residents about caring for the seedlings and preventing fires and destruction, were negotiated with a group of village residents and the manager of the Biribiri State Park, where the waterfalls are located.

The Lions traveled in a van to carry out the effort with their partners. IEF employees dug the holes, while the others fertilized and planted the seedlings. In Barão de Guaicuí, some residents joined the group and planted around the water source and in the local square.

Despite the installation of protective fences, some trees around the waterfalls did not survive due to the weather and soil conditions. However, the trees that thrived now enhance the landscape, provide shade for visitors, and feed birds and wildlife with their fruits. The seedlings around the water source grew and fulfilled their purpose to protect and ensure a continuous supply of clean drinking water.

"We have a lot to thank the Lions club for the recovery and preservation of our water source and for planting seedlings of native species," says resident César A. Barroso Maciel. "I and other residents seek good quality water from the source for our families' consumption. The initiative to plant trees in the square has also made us aware of the importance of caring for and beautifying our place."

"We have a lot to thank the Lions club for the recovery and preservation of our water source and for planting seedlings of native species."

- César A. Barroso Maciel



# LIONS ARE ON A MISSION TO GROW.

*MISSION 1.5* is the drive to reach 1.5 million members worldwide so we can better meet the growing needs of our communities.



## THE WORLD NEEDS LIONS LIKE NEVER BEFORE.

For more than a century, Lions have stepped up in their communities — giving, supporting and serving. Each Lion matters to the people who depend on us. And every club is doing their part to make their communities stronger, healthier and kinder places for all.

But as we strive to increase our service and extend our helping hands far and wide, the needs of our communities — and our world — are growing beyond our reach. To ensure we can be there, when and where we're needed, we must also grow.

**That's why Lions are taking action now.**

## THE MORE WE GROW, THE MORE WE CAN GIVE.

More Lions = more service. The equation is simple, but the challenge is bold. **MISSION 1.5** is our drive to reach 1.5 million members worldwide by July 1, 2027. It will help us meet the growing needs of our communities. It will help us serve more people than ever before. And it will help make our clubs, our communities and our service stronger than ever.

**That's why Lions are rising to the challenge.**



# YOU ARE VITAL TO THIS MISSION.



There's never been a challenge too big for Lions. Now is the time for Lions to step up. Now is the time to redefine the future of service. Now is the time to grow. And we all have role to play.

That's why your fellow Lions need you to join the mission.

**Because together,  
we are unstoppable.**

# ACHIEVE ROCKSTAR STATUS

The ultimate prize for reaching our **MISSION 1.5** target will be the lasting effect our growing membership has on our capacity to serve. But there are also opportunities to be celebrated for being a membership rockstar along the way.

High-performing clubs can earn signature pins, plaques and banner patches. And every Lion can earn special recognition for inviting a new member.



Learn more at  
[lionsclubs.org/mission1.5-awards](https://lionsclubs.org/mission1.5-awards).

## GEAR UP FOR THE MISSION

Show your commitment  
with this exclusive  
**MISSION 1.5** T-shirt.

Get yours today at  
[lionsclubs.org/shop](https://lionsclubs.org/shop).



# 10 TIPS FOR GROWING MEMBERSHIP

- 1 "Make sure your club is open to accepting new members and the new ideas they bring."  
*Lion Robin Woolmer, British Columbia, Canada*
- 2 "Be enthusiastic when you talk about being a Lion. When you're excited, your enthusiasm will transfer to the person you're talking to."  
*Lion Vicky Dulin, Texas, USA*
- 3 "Invite friends, co-workers and peers to participate in activities and experience the joy of serving your community firsthand. Side effects include bonding, team building, learning and having fun."  
*Lion Christin Jentzsch, Berlin, Germany*
- 4 "We do our routine service projects and get the news of those projects published in local newspapers and on social media."  
*Munish Mehta, Jalandhar, India*
- 5 "You can never invite enough people or ask them enough times to be a Lion. I've met people who were asked five times before they accepted. They joined when they were ready."  
*Lion Dan O'Reilly, Illinois, USA*
- 6 "A compelling story is our most powerful tool for attracting new members. Incorporate personal stories highlighting the impact of your club's work to connect with potential members and inspire a sense of belonging and purpose."  
*Lion Dipendra Aryal, Nawalparasi District, Nepal*
- 7 "Service, service, service. Your club can grow by engaging prospective members through service."  
*Lion Augusto Valera Jr., California, USA*
- 8 "Celebrating your success is important. Promote the service you provide and the number of people you help. Tell your stories to make your community aware of everything your club does to improve the lives of others."  
*Lion Len Day, Ontario, Canada*
- 9 "We print lots of trifold brochures (downloaded from the Lions International website and tailored to our club) that include an application on the back. We bring these to every event and hand them out to all interested parties!"  
*Lion Carol Jeane Miller Mitchell, Texas, USA*
- 10 "There are so many people around us who want to join us but may think it's not their thing. It's up to us to inform them that this is our thing. We all have a duty to make a difference in our communities."  
*Lion Dans Naturinda, Uganda*

**BONUS TIP**

Find out what a prospective member is passionate about and offer being a Lion as a means to that end. Opening our clubs to new members means opening our minds to new ideas and new ways to serve.

*International President Dr. Patti Hill*

# FIVE WAYS

## Your Club Can Rise to the Challenge

Tap into our global network for information, resources and inspiration as you work toward your club's *MISSION 1.5* goals.



## MISSION 1.5 MOMENT

### Phoenix Asian American Lions Club

# 1 2 3 4 5

### Find information and resources online.

Learn more about the mission and find information and resources to help you create and activate your club growth plans.

[lionsclubs.org/mission1.5](https://lionsclubs.org/mission1.5)

### Connect with the Global Action Team.

Tap into your local network of Lion leaders for ideas and support to help your club grow and be successful.

[lionsclubs.org/gat](https://lionsclubs.org/gat)

### Use a proven process.

Our Global Membership Approach provides a process and resources for all clubs and districts to achieve growth.

[lionsclubs.org/global](https://lionsclubs.org/global)

### Recruit and celebrate on social.

Download ready-to-use, customizable social media graphics to help you recruit and celebrate new members. Be sure to include the #MissionToGrow hashtag.

[lionsclubs.org/socialkits](https://lionsclubs.org/socialkits)

### Get recognized.

*MISSION 1.5* is your chance to make history as a Lion — and your dedication will be recognized. You can earn signature pins, plaques and banner patches for reaching specific milestones and achievements.

[lionsclubs.org/mission1.5-awards](https://lionsclubs.org/mission1.5-awards)

### THE MISSION:

*MISSION 1.5* is the drive to reach 1.5 million members so we can serve more people than ever before.

### CHALLENGE ACCEPTED BY:

Phoenix Asian American Lions Club (PAALC)

### LOCATION:

Phoenix, Arizona, USA

### SUMMARY:

The PAALC is the largest club in Arizona with 92 Lions, 14 Leos, 10 Cubs — and growing.

### ABOUT THE CLUB:

Chartered in May 2015, the PAALC is Arizona's pioneering family club primarily made up of working couples and their children. Since inception, its membership has spanned a wide range of professional backgrounds and included more than 10 nationalities. The club regularly celebrates cultural diversity by hosting potluck socials with themed cuisines like Vietnamese, Filipino, Mexican and Ukrainian.

While the PAALC's diversity and family-friendly nature play significant roles in attracting new members, founders Ethel Luzario and Ron Smith believe their greatest appeal lies in their frequent and varied service. The club completes over 20 projects a month focused on hunger relief, pet rescue, youth engagement and active military personnel support, to name a few.

The PAALC isn't just dedicated to growing their own roster, they also help keep membership strong in the surrounding area. By inviting nearby clubs to serve with them, they're keeping Lions in smaller clubs active and engaged, and creating more fellowship opportunities for all. The PAALC enacted a strict policy of not accepting transfers from within the Phoenix metro area, which helps to encourage clubs' participation and alleviate any fears of losing members.

**READY TO JOIN THE MISSION?**

Visit [lionsclubs.org/mission1.5](https://lionsclubs.org/mission1.5).

## Phoenix Asian American Lions Club's five tips for club growth

- 1 Diversify your service.** Offering a variety of service projects ensures there's something for everyone.
- 2 Make it family-friendly.** The only thing better than having a new member join your club is welcoming an entire family.
- 3 Fuel the passion.** Members who are passionate and proud to be Lions will invite others to join.
- 4 Keep meetings fun and productive.** When members enjoy going to meetings, they'll want to bring friends and family with them.
- 5 Create a plan for engaging new members.** Having a plan in place for involving new members is as important as inviting them to join in the first place.



**THERE'S NEVER  
BEEN A CHALLENGE  
TOO BIG FOR LIONS.**

**BUT WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT**

**YOU.**

*JOIN THE MISSION.*



[LIONSCLUBS.ORG/MISSION1.5](https://LIONSCLUBS.ORG/MISSION1.5)



# ***BREAKING BARRIERS***

***Pioneering Black Lions club emerges  
during Civil Rights Movement***

*By Joan Cary*



The Capital City Lions celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2017.



*“They had never seen a Black Lion from the United States. But they got educated, we adapted. It was all fine.”*

**-Lion C.W. McClure**



Charter member Lion Paul Bailey with Lion Devine Loving



Past International Director E.B. “Tex” Mayer

In the early 1960s, C.W. McClure, the principal of a school for Black children in Eagle Lake, Texas, was in the five-and-dime buying school supplies for his students when the white store owner approached him.

“Do any of your students need glasses?” he asked McClure. “I’m an officer in the local Lions club and if they need glasses, you get me their names, their parents’ names, and we’ll get glasses for them.”

McClure, who passed away shortly before this magazine went to print, never forgot that day or the kindness shown. But it wasn’t the first he had heard of Lions clubs. As a college student, he worked evenings and weekends as a waiter at the prestigious Commodore Perry Hotel in Austin. Lions would

frequent the restaurant and he’d often overhear them discussing their service projects. “I thought that was pretty good,” he said.

He and his college friend and fellow educator Charles Akins were also intrigued by the numerous signs they saw posted in small towns promoting local Lions clubs. However, they couldn’t envision ever being welcomed into a club in their segregated world.

Across town, then-District Governor E.B. “Tex” Mayer was thinking differently. Several years before serving as a Lions Clubs International director from 1970-72, Mayer was developing plans to diversify his district. He began meeting with Black businessmen and educators to talk about the importance of Lions’ service in the community.





## East Side Lions Club Chartered

A new Lions Club — the Capital City Lions Club of Austin — has been formed, and its charter will be presented Aug. 12 at the Huston-Tillotson College Student Union Building.

Lions from other Austin clubs and from clubs throughout Zone 2-S3 will be present at 7:30 p.m., along with more than 50 members of the new Austin club, for the charter presentation.

The Capital City Lions Club of Austin is sponsored by the West Austin Lions Club. It was organized June 9.

Guest speaker will be E. B. (Tex) Meyer, La Grange, past governor of Zone 2-S3.

the new club is lawyer;

## A NEW CLUB IS BORN

In August 1967 — eight months before the Civil Rights Act of 1968 was signed into law — the Austin Capital City Lions Club held their first meeting on the campus of Huston-Tillotson University, a private historically Black university and Austin's first institute of higher learning. More than 50 men, including McClure and Akins, attended. The club, which they believe to be the first predominantly Black club in the United States, continues to meet on the historic campus to this day.

The new Lions immediately forged ahead with vision projects, helping families, supporting schools and proudly adding a bench to the bus stop on the east side of town where there had never been one before. While they seamlessly settled into their roles as Lions in their communities, their presence sometimes left other Lions surprised. McClure's yellow vest bears pins from the various international conventions he and Akins attended, reminding him of when Lions would ask what country they were from. "They had never seen a Black Lion from the United States," he said, chuckling. "But they got educated, we adapted. It was all fine."

## LIONS LEAD THE WAY

Many early Austin Capital City Lions became well known in Austin, admired for their achievements and leadership.

Lion Edna Rhambo was the first African American to graduate with a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1958. Collegiate life wasn't easy for her, but Rhambo remained committed to her studies and stayed strong through harassment from fellow students. It was not just for herself, she says, but to set an example for her three younger siblings. With her bachelor's degree in education, she went on to earn a master's degree from Wichita State before returning to Austin to teach in K-12 schools.

Akins, who died in 2017, worked 44 years in education and was the first African American teacher at an integrated Austin Independent School District high school after desegregation. He recalled the mornings of meeting the bus as it pulled up to the school to handle conflicts between students who had never been together before. In 2000, W. Charles Akins High School in Austin was named for him.

The list of accomplishments of club members goes on.



Lion Edna Rhambo



Article from the Aug. 5, 1967 issue of the Austin American-Statesman.





Lion Trevor McLean with his daughter Kaire K.L. McLean



## BUILDING ON A RICH HISTORY

Lion Trevor McLean believes it's important to know the club's history. "You can't know where you're going if you don't know where you came from," he says.

McLean joined the club in January 2023 when then-club president David Bell reached out on LinkedIn and invited him to a meeting. Inspired by the club's history and impressed by their service, he soon became the diabetes awareness chairperson for District 2-S3 and took on the role of tail twister in his club.

At his first meeting, McLean says, "I was immediately taken by how open and transparent everyone was with their opinions. Everybody's voices were respected and honored. And the most senior members are our pillars, always welcoming and encouraging us to take a leadership position."


In 2022, the club celebrated its 55th anniversary. While the majority of their 39 members are Black, "It's not a one size fits all club. It's a multicultural club and everyone who wants to serve is welcome," says McLean, 38. Men and women in their 20s through their 90s are on the roster, including charter members McClure and Lion Paul Bailey, a retired college administrator.

And the historic club is showing no signs of slowing down. Their service projects are frequent and varied, including vision screenings, planting a garden with middle school students, helping with a fan drive to

provide heat relief to the elderly, raising funds to offer scholarships to students and dedicating a bench at Austin's historic Bethany Cemetery, just to name a few. In addition, they have welcomed more than 20 new members in the past two years, and they go to great lengths to ensure all members feel valued and proud to be Lions.

***"I get to show my daughter that I am active in the community through Lions. I want her to care more about the world than just the world inside her home."***

**-Lion Trevor McLean**

What makes McLean most proud to be an Austin Capital City Lion, he says, is that "I get to show my daughter that I am active in the community through Lions. I want her to care more about the world than just the world inside her home." 



Lions and Leos are serving their communities in nearly every country on Earth.

Join us for a quick trip around the globe to check out some of their service.



### Fontana, California, USA

North Fontana Centennial Lions Club

The Lions Diabetes Camp of Southern California hosted a family camp for families of children with type 1 diabetes. It was a fun and educational weekend filled with informational sessions, crafts and physical activities. The Fontana Lions started the camp in 2017 with the mission to provide diabetes management while emphasizing independence, peer learning and relationship building.



### Midland, Ontario, Canada

Penetanguishene Lions Club and Ukrainian Support club branch

Lion Randy Hargrave was approached by a community member about helping to settle a Ukrainian family into their town just months before the family's expected arrival. Time was of the essence so he suggested they start a club branch — and thus, the Penetanguishene Huronia Ukrainian Support Lions Club branch was formed. The new Lions raised \$25,000 for the family and helped them find housing. The club branch continues to grow and has since sponsored an additional family.



### San Lorenzo, Paraguay

Lions Clubs Asunción Villa Morra, Caraguatuy Unidos Capiatá and Salto del Guairá

Lions in Paraguay have a long history of working with General Pediatric Hospital Acosta Ñu. When the hospital was lacking space to treat its pediatric cancer patients, the Lions wanted to help find a solution. They raised the necessary funds to qualify for a US\$100,000 LCIF Matching Grant, which they used to support the construction of a pavilion devoted to ambulatory chemotherapy. Now, the hospital has adequate space to receive and treat the children and their families.



# SERVICE AROUND THE WORLD

## Service the world counts on

These are just a few of the many stories about the positive impact Lions around the world are making. From helping one person in need to helping an entire community, each and every act of your service matters.

Be sure to report your activities each month so we can effectively measure our impact, grow our membership and share our stories with the world.

Visit [lionsclubs.org/service-reporting](https://lionsclubs.org/service-reporting) to learn more.



### Marrakech, Morocco

*Marrakech Atlas Lions Club*

The Marrakech Atlas Lions Club created the Malaika Centre for Children with Down Syndrome to help families of children with disabilities. The center provides speech therapy and helps children develop their fine motor skills, as well as provides special education and vocational training — all free of charge.



### New South Wales, Australia

*Lions Club of Terrigal-Wamberal*

The Terrigal-Wamberal Lions hosted their Free Trade Day service event, an annual event founded by Lion Ryan Wilson. Free Trade Day brings together skilled workers who offer their services free of cost to help people in their community. Wilson is looking to expand the reach of the project by giving more trade workers the opportunity to register their services with the club so it can connect them with people in need.



### Beirut, Lebanon

*Beirut Lotus Lions Club*

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Beirut Lotus Lions purchased five oxygen cylinder devices thanks to financial assistance from the Bern-Kirchenfeld Lions Club in Switzerland. This enabled the Lions to provide care by delivering the machines directly to people's homes when local hospitals were at full capacity, helping to alleviate the suffering of more than 300 individuals. Today, the club continues to provide this free service in their community and has added another 15 oxygen machines.



### Bougainvillea, Malaysia

*Lions Club of Ipoh  
Bougainvillea City and  
Leo Club of Ipoh Unity*

The Lions and Leo clubs in Bougainvillea, Malaysia, teamed up to visit children at a local hospital. The Lions were in charge of administrative activities such as liaising with the hospital to set the date and time, and the Leos led the marketing efforts and prepared goodie bags for the children. Both clubs participated in the hospital visits. The experience helped the clubs establish a closer relationship.



### Budleigh Salterton, England

*Budleigh Salterton Lions Club*

The Budleigh Salterton Lions team up with students at St. Peter's Primary School to pick up litter in their community. A St. Peter's teacher says the project has provided a wonderful experience for children to play an active part in looking after where they live and they really enjoy knowing they're helping to keep wildlife safe. This is just one of a number of projects the club has led with the goal of involving young people in environmental activities in a sustainable way and inspiring them to make a difference.

Scan to watch  
a video about  
this club.





# Princess POWER

Young girls and police officers dance their way to stronger community relations.

BY BRETT ARMSTRONG



LIONS INTERNATIONAL

## PEACE POSTER

### Host a Peace Poster Contest in your area.

Give youth in your community the opportunity to share what Peace Without Limits means to them by hosting a Peace Poster Contest. Head to the Lions Shop to explore our Peace Poster collection, where you'll find Peace Poster Contest kits and collectible items to show your support.

**Items include:**

- Official 2024-2025 Peace Poster Contest kit
- Winning 2023 Peace Poster print
- Peace Contests plush dove
- Peace Poster button



Scan me with your mobile  
device's camera!





The Edgemoor neighborhood of Wilmington, Delaware, is a community challenged by violence, especially due to the prevalence of guns, gangs and drugs — which often enter from the outside. Committed to serving their community, the Bellefonte Lions Club is doing its part to turn the area around.

The club's involvement started with a chess club for kids. Then they created a bike club. When kids wanted to ride bikes, but didn't have them, they secured some through donations. The Lions also involve the kids in some of their service, like picking up trash around the community. Through these activities, the children get to experience how good it feels to volunteer.

#### **CREATING CHANGE**

As the club became further integrated into the community, Daniel Elkins, club president, past district governor for District 22 and board appointee to the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors, met Sergeant Tracey Duffy of the

New Castle County Police Department, who was serving on foot patrol in Edgemoor. Elkins and Duffy quickly bonded over their dedication to creating change in the community, and soon, he recruited Duffy into their club.

Duffy's passion for service wasn't the only thing she brought to the club. She also brought a vision for an event that could make a significant impact in the community — and she needed the help of her fellow Lions and other community groups to bring it to life.

That vision was the Police and Princess Ball. Young women in the Edgemoor community would be invited to a special event, where they would be treated like princesses for the evening. In formal dresses, they would take a party bus to an upscale venue, and enjoy dinner and dancing — all alongside area police officers and other local law enforcement. The event would be largely covered through donations and run by volunteers, including the Lions.

“This is about building relationships and breaking down barriers,” says Duffy. “When we show our face in the community, we want the young women and their parents to recognize us as people who keep others safe.”

## BIGGER THAN ONE EVENT

The Police and Princess Ball has grown quite a bit since it began in 2018, and its reach supersedes the immediate community. On November 8, 2023, 120 girls from across the state — most in the 6-13 age range — attended the event. Police officers from New Castle County, the University of Delaware, the city of Wilmington, the Delaware State Police, and Delaware Probation and Parole all participated. The theme was, *Stepping into Positivity* and included a performance by iSTEP, Delaware State University's award-winning step team.

"This event is bigger than me," says Duffy. "Each individual agency or officer who attends is developing a relationship with these girls. They are creating an understanding that police are human. We laugh and cry and dance just like everyone else."

The young women entered the event escorted by a member of law enforcement, stopping briefly to pose for photographs. Lions lined the entryway to offer each girl a white carnation — a seemingly simple gesture that carries a lot of significance.

"I don't think that we as Lions fully understand the impact of that," says Duffy. "The act of giving these girls a flower as a token to welcome them to the event, without asking for anything in return, is so much greater than anything else in the world."



LION SERGEANT TRACEY DUFFY

"This is about building relationships and breaking down barriers. When we show our face in the community, we want the young women and their parents to recognize us as people who keep others safe."

- LION SERGEANT TRACEY DUFFY

## OPENING DOORS FOR NEW LIONS AND LEOS

For Lion Michelle Dobson and her daughter MacKenzie, residents of Edgemoor, the evening is a magical experience. Michelle, who runs a community house in the area, plays a key role in spreading awareness of the event and distributing donated dresses. MacKenzie, age 15 and a Leo, has attended the event every year since its inception.

"When my mom told me about the ball the first year, I said, 'Ehh ... I'll try it out,'" says MacKenzie. "But then I got there. I felt like a princess. I felt like I could do something for once. I felt really excited because we don't usually get to do things like that."

Michelle is dedicated to the event because of the impact it has on the children. "It really builds trust with law enforcement because a lot of kids are afraid of them," she says. "It closes that gap, and helps the kids see them as real people."

As a Leo, MacKenzie is an active volunteer in her community, helping to mentor younger children. Through the Police and Princess Ball, she has seen her neighborhood grow in its trust of Lions and Leos, allowing them to offer additional youth programming, including homework help and painting.



"It really builds trust with law enforcement because a lot of kids are afraid of them. It closes that gap, and helps the kids see them as real people."

- LION MICHELLE DOBSON

## Bellefonte Lions' Tips for Success

The Bellefonte Lions have had a lot of success inviting community members to join their club.

Here are their top five tips:

- 1 Have conversations, not elevator speeches. There's a difference between talking to and talking with someone.
- 2 Find out what a potential Lion is passionate about and learn what gifts and talents they have. Everyone has a skill that could help increase your club's capacity to serve.
- 3 Listen to their story, tell them how Lions' service can connect with their interests, and then ask them to join the family.
- 4 Build partnerships with other organizations in your community to create more service opportunities. The more you serve, the more members you will gain.
- 5 Always be ready to recruit — don't leave home without a membership application.



LEO MACKENZIE DOBSON & LION MICHELLE DOBSON

For the Bellefonte Lions, the Police and Princess Ball has not only brought a change in attitudes toward law enforcement, but has also exposed their mission of service to new audiences, which is helping to diversify clubs throughout the Delaware Valley.

“Early on, I felt a little like I was on the outside looking in,” says Duffy. “I was like, ‘Oh, my gosh, all those things my fellow Lions are doing are amazing.’ As I got more involved, I realized, ‘Hey, I am one of those Lions, and this feels amazing.’”



LIONS GREET ATTENDEES WITH A WHITE CARNATION.

# PAWS OF COMFORT

Lions and their dogs bring comfort to those in need.

BY ANNEMARIE MANNION





**D**riving through North Attleboro, Massachusetts, Deborah Horner, district governor for District 33-S, came to a stop when she spotted a young woman training a dog.

“I pulled into her yard and I said, ‘Hey, are you a dog trainer?’” recalls Horner. “She said ‘yes’ and I gave her the spiel about Lions.”

That spiel was not only about Lions, but about Southeastern Mass Paws of Comfort, a specialty club formed in 2020 that brings trained dogs, known as comfort dogs, to schools, nursing homes, hospitals and on visits with people who’ve experienced tragedies.

Today, the young woman is a lead trainer and secretary for the comfort dog specialty club, which Horner believes to be the first of its kind in the nation.

### SERVING UP COMFORT

Horner’s involvement with comfort dogs goes back many years to when she and her previous dogs, Brandy and Ruby, began visiting people who needed a four-legged friend to hug or pet.

In 2019, she and another Lion and their dogs visited a school to provide solace after a young boy, who along with other family members, was killed in a car

crash. As students entered the room to have their turn with the special visitors, Finnegan, a golden retriever, immediately went to work.

“With each new group, he would circle the room and find a specific person to cuddle up to,” says Horner. “I learned later that every child he put his head on was close to the boy who had passed away.”

Horner says dogs are very intuitive and it’s not unusual for them to sense who needs them most.

### A SPECIAL KIND OF SERVICE

According to Horner, visits like these are often heart-warming, but heart-breaking at the same time. They also opened her eyes to how much this type of community service is needed. Already a Lion, Horner was privy to the power of service-minded individuals banding together. She pursued the idea of starting a comfort dog specialty club.

Horner co-founded the specialty club with Lion Monique Tedino who says the club, which now has 29 members and 17 dogs, has taken off because it attracts new members who share a bond — a love of dogs.

“It’s a way to bring in people who have a common interest and to use that interest to benefit both the community and Lion projects,” Tedino says.



## COMFORT DOGS VS. SERVICE DOGS

**Comfort dogs** have received the Canine Good Citizenship (CGC) award from the American Kennel Club (AKC) for completing a 10-skill test, which includes accepting a friendly stranger, sitting politely for petting, walking through a crowd and sitting down on command. Dogs can be trained by their owner or through formal CGC classes.

**Service dogs**, according to the AKC, are dogs specially trained to perform a task or tasks to assist a person with a disability or impairment. A service dog must be with its person at all times and has special access privileges in public places.



Paws of Comfort Club founders District Governor Deborah Horner and Lion Monique Tedino



## WHAT'S A SPECIALTY CLUB?

A specialty club is a Lions club formed around a specific hobby, profession, culture, cause or any other shared passion. There are more than 7,200 specialty clubs around the world ranging in focus from disaster relief and vision support to sports and the arts. Chartered in the same way as traditional Lions clubs, specialty clubs are a great way for members to pursue their passion while serving their community.

Learn more at [lionsclubs.org/specialty](https://lionsclubs.org/specialty).



### BRINGING HEALING TO SANDY HOOK

Tedino first witnessed the power of canine comfort while traveling with Horner and her dogs to Connecticut for a playground dedication honoring one of the Sandy Hook elementary school students killed in the 2012 mass shooting.

Witnessing a boy laying with his head on a dog's warm belly and hearing him talk about how he missed his brother and then seeing him get up and join his friends to play was all she needed to understand the impact dogs can have on a person coping with grief.

"From that moment on, I was a believer in the power of the paws," Tedino says.

**"It's a way to bring in people who have a common interest and to use that interest to benefit both the community and Lion projects."**

**-Lion Monique Tedino**

### VISITING HOSPITALS

The club regularly visits Sturdy Health, a hospital in Attleboro, Massachusetts, where Sandy Carrier, a volunteer coordinator, is happy to welcome four-legged friends.

"Both patients and staff are so excited to see the pups. It really brightens their day," she says.

Carrier says the hospital, which requires comfort dogs to be vaccinated and their human handlers to be immunized,

works with the Lions because it is a trusted entity.

"We know they are able to meet our requirements," Carrier says.

### ATTRACTING NEW LIONS

To help spread the word about Paws of Comfort and attract new members, the club distributes baseball cards featuring


**"Our members go above and beyond. They work so hard to train their dogs and then go out and do so many wonderful things for the community. It's just an amazing club to be a part of."**

**-District Governor Deborah Horner**

the pooches, which come in a variety of breeds and sizes, and information about each of them such as "I like to chase a ball" or "I like to make people happy," Horner says. They're also creating a calendar featuring photographs of the dogs that they'll sell to raise money for the club.

Horner would like to see this type of specialty club replicated elsewhere. Already, the Cape Cod Paws of Comfort is being organized and is getting advice from the Southeastern Mass Club about how to be successful. Horner has had contact with numerous other Lions about how to get a club like this started in their areas.

And while the dogs are often the stars of the club, Horner could not be prouder of her fellow human Lions.

"Our members go above and beyond," she says. "They work so hard to train their dogs and then go out and do so many wonderful things for the community. It's just an amazing club to be a part of." 





## Nurturing Hearts and Minds: The Lions Quest Journey at Lincoln Elementary School

BY SHELBY WASHINGTON

“When we provide programs like Lions Quest, it’s something our children will carry for the rest of their lives,” says Dr. Tamara Young, director of student services at Lincoln Elementary School in Calumet City, Illinois. “One day they are going to be the leaders of our community, so we want to invest in our students and understand the type of curriculum that can be supportive of building their character.”

In March 2020, the school implemented the Lions Quest social and emotional learning (SEL) program using a Lions Quest Community Partnership Grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) in the amount of US\$8,676. As a comprehensive and universal, evidence-based SEL program, Lions Quest helps children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

“Lions Quest is a gift of hope. It is a program that gives students the skills they will need to be successful in any environment.”

-Lion Dr. Tamara Young

“We were able to utilize that money to build our program to start the foundation of our Lions Quest curriculum, which helps us develop responsible citizens and grow our community,” she says.

Dr. Young loves her job. Early on, she found her passion while working with special needs students. Through her career, she progressed from being a case manager to her current role, and her background in social work has shaped her approach to SEL. She believes in understanding her students and teaching them to be understanding of each other, which is one of the reasons she is such a strong supporter of Lions Quest. She says when you work with children, “You’re not dealing with a piece of a child but the whole child.” Moreover, she uses Lions Quest to help students embrace each other’s differences, whether those differences are cultural, racial or related to their home lives.



Samantha Surges, a teacher at the school, says the students have taken the lessons they’ve learned through this program and are applying them in their lives. “I really have seen the kids be able to identify how they’re feeling and then act appropriately,” she says. Building a child’s emotional intelligence is very important and helps them thrive in all aspects of their lives, including in school. Lions Quest and Lincoln Elementary School are taking steps to ensure students’ emotions are being properly nurtured.

The program was particularly helpful throughout the global pandemic, when students and administrators had to shift to online learning. They ensured that the students continued to receive their Lions Quest lessons throughout their remote learning. When schools reopened for in-person learning after several months away, the school implemented Lions Quest programming to help returning students and students who had never been in a classroom adjust to the new setting. Even today, the school continues to prioritize Lions Quest in the curriculum.

“Lions Quest is a gift of hope,” Dr. Young says. “It is a program that gives students the skills they will need to be successful in any environment.”

Visit [lions-quest.org](https://lions-quest.org) to learn about Lions Quest, LCIF’s signature youth program, offering students a social emotional learning curriculum to build the skills needed to navigate life and prevent bullying and substance abuse.

## Riversyde 83: Easing Food Insecurity with Support from LCIF

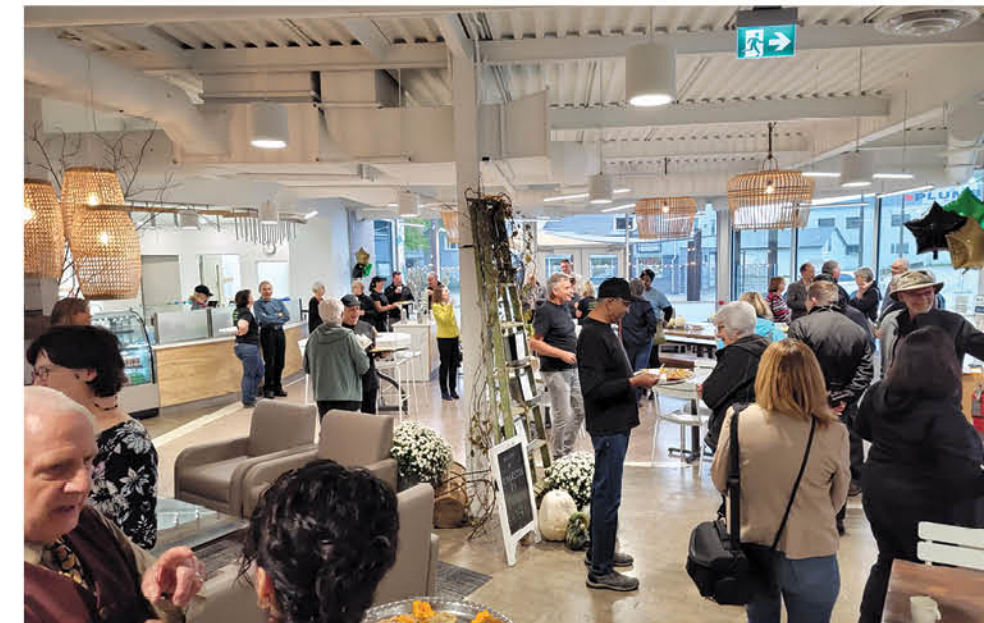
BY SHELBY WASHINGTON

Being able to fully grasp how deeply hunger affects lives can be difficult if you have not faced it yourself. Almost 1 billion people worldwide experience food insecurity and in Haldimand and Norfolk County, Canada, one in nine households are food insecure due to poverty.

Addressing the issue of hunger, however, is not just about numbers. To truly make a difference, hunger relief must be approached with empathy and innovative action. For Lions around the world, this means building effective partnerships with organizations like Riversyde 83 Community Food Hub. Riversyde 83, in West Haldimand, Ontario, is Norfolk County’s new food-focused community center, and it is changing lives.

This center includes an area for at-risk youth to learn cooking skills and receive certifications to boost their job-hunting opportunities. Plus, there is a budget bistro providing those who are homeless or struggling financially with free or affordable meals from food grown in five community gardens and donated by local businesses and farmers. As the community was rallying around this innovative approach to hunger relief, the Lions in District A-2 knew they wanted to contribute.

Nine local Lions clubs including Simcoe Lynn Valley, Simcoe, Waterford, Port Dover, Jarvis, South Brant, Vittoria, Hagersville and Townsend helped fund this project. Also, with LCIF Coordinator Bob Townsend, Treasurer Pam Ballah and District Governor Geoff Crane working together, the Lions were awarded a Hunger Grant of US\$16,275 from Lions Clubs International



Foundation (LCIF). Their efforts paired with the LCIF grant helped bring the project to life. This grant purchased furniture for Riversyde 83 including restaurant-grade tables and chairs. They were able to help furnish the Teaching Kitchen, the Budget Bistro, the Trendy Café and provide places for the volunteers who prepare food hampers and frozen meals to sit and relax.

This donation is more than just furniture; it is a step toward easing food insecurity in Norfolk County. Today, Riversyde 83 is serving up 300 fresh meals, 100 frozen ones and 140 food hampers for those in need. With LCIF’s grant, Lions believe Riversyde 83 will reach over 10,000 people annually.

The LCIF Hunger Grant Program empowers Lions to back school-based feeding programs, food

banks, feeding centers and comparable facilities, ensuring food reaches those in crucial need. Lions’ districts can access grants ranging from US\$10,000 to US\$100,000. Hunger Grants support infrastructure and equipment acquisition for Lions’ projects focused on alleviating hunger.

In the midst of a global challenge where nearly one billion people are dealing with hunger and food struggles, the Riversyde 83 Community Food Hub project shows resilience and creativity. It goes beyond just statistics, embodying empathy and proactive transformation. The Hunger Grant from LCIF expanded their reach. Lions, through LCIF Hunger Grants, empower their communities to innovate in the battle against hunger and contribute to sustainable solutions.

Visit [lions.org/hunger](https://lions.org/hunger) to learn more about LCIF Hunger Grants.

# Uncovering a Legacy

New Lion discovers vintage memorabilia and a way to honor his grandfather.

By Hannah Zettl

Elmo Kelley of Fontana, California, never imagined a day of spring cleaning would uncover a bridge from the past that would lead him into his future. Tucked away in storage and preserved in pristine condition was a bright purple and yellow Lions hat adorned with colorful pins — a time capsule of Kelley's grandfather, Felix Justo Lopez, who served as a Lion in Cuba in the 1950s through the early '60s.


"My grandfather was president of the Matanzas, Cuba club," says Kelley. "When he escaped Cuba, along with my grandmother and my mother, after Fidel Castro took power, he continued on as an active and well-respected Lion in Miami, Florida."

The first Cuban Lions club was chartered in Havana in 1927. By the early 1940s, the club had 900 members, making it the largest in the world at the time. The country also produced an International President, Dr. Ramiro Collazo, who served in the role from 1945-46. Lions International no longer has active clubs in Cuba.

In July 2023, Kelley shared photos of his grandfather's memorabilia on Facebook along with his desire to find a club. Lions from around the world were delighted to hear his story and leaders from the North Fontana Centennial Lions Club invited him to their next meeting. Kelley attended that meeting and quickly realized it was the club was for him. Just three months after his Facebook post, the teacher and published poet was inducted as a Lion.

"The Lions legacy is about the story told to you and the gift to the world that your grandfather, grandmother, father, sister, etc. has given through the years," says District 4-L5 GET and GLT Coordinator Lidia Petrov-Jones. "When we hear stories like Elmo's, we should be proud of our heritage and how we are impacting our families and the world."

While Kelley wishes he could have heard directly from his grandfather about his journey as a Lion, he's glad he's found a way to feel closer to the man whose bravery decades ago paved the way for him to have the life and opportunities he has today. Serving as a Lion is one way Kelley can honor his grandfather and carry on the tradition of service — and it's a tradition he hopes to pass down to his own children one day.

"I felt I was called to become a member and carry on the tradition my grandfather started," said Kelley. "It feels great to be a member and I am looking forward to serving my community. I know my grandfather would be very proud of me." 





Okauchee Lions Park in Wisconsin has a new bike rack.

The Okauchee Lions Park in Wisconsin has a new bike rack, thanks to the determination of the Okauchee Lions and the talent of some Waukesha County Technical College welding students. It all started when an avid bike rider mentioned to his former neighbor, a Lion, that they needed a bike rack at the 13-acre park, and donated money so they could get one. But research didn't turn up any Lion-shaped racks, so the school was contacted. Three students took on the challenge as their senior project, designing and constructing a stainless-steel Lion bike rack that the Okauchee Lions will be proud of for years to come.

For the second year in a row, the Lions Club of Washington, Illinois, has made a US\$750 donation to the Washington Public Library for the purchase of books to help those with sight impairments. In 2022, the money was used to purchase large print books and in 2023, the donation was used to buy audio books.

Hundreds of American flags lined the sidewalks of Oak Harbor, Washington, on Veterans Day, thanks to four teams of Oak Harbor Lions who met before sunrise to post hundreds of flags throughout town. As the sun set, the flags slowly disappeared, taken home until the next of 12 holidays when the Lions' flags adorn the town again.

Aurora Lions Club members in Illinois served free cups of coffee at Aurora's Veterans Day procession.

The Easton Lions in Massachusetts helped residents rid their homes of junk during Easton's Hazardous

Waste Collection Day and the club's Junk & Recycle Day. Lions accepted everything from old sports equipment and toys to appliances and mattresses, some for free and some for a fee of US\$5-\$35. The money raised supports student scholarships, youth groups and service organizations.

The Eagle Lions Club in Wisconsin collects donations to support veterans.



Eagle Lions in Wisconsin collect donations for veterans in need.

The Licking Valley Lions Club of Ohio assisted the Hebron Lions at the Millersport Sweet Corn Festival. They turned 2,600 pounds of potatoes into french fries while also serving corn dogs and cheese-on-a-stick.



Dixon Noon Lions in Illinois rebuilt the town's welcome planter.

In Illinois, the Dixon Noon Lions in conjunction with Boy Scout Troop 85 rebuilt the welcome planter in their town. A time capsule filled with items of the day and letters from scouts and Lions was added for a future generation to discover.



Heritage Lions in Indiana sold peanuts to support emergency services.

In Indiana, the Heritage Lions sold peanuts. All profits went to local emergency medical services, fire departments and food banks.

The Signal Mountain Lions Club in Tennessee worked all summer to gather funds to give away. In addition to putting on two holiday barbecues and selling raffle tickets, the club helped fund McCoy Farm and Gardens, and provided a free shred day for the community. The Lions take pride in their scholarship fund, financing 16 four-year college scholarships.

The North Aurora Lions Club in Illinois donated coats to keep the Emergency Management Association team warm and dry.

In California, the Lemon Grove Lions Club participated in the annual Lemon Grove Trunk or Treat night with a cemetery-themed trunk display.



Lemon Grove Lions in California took part in Trunk or Treat night.

The Broadalbin-Perth Lions Club in New York

spent an autumn morning offering refreshments and snacks to the players and parents of the Broadalbin Youth Commission's fall soccer program. In the afternoon, they gathered at the Perth Town Hall to dedicate a wishing well made by Lion Tom Kevlin.



The Broadalbin-Perth Lions in New York dedicated a Lion-made wishing well at the Perth Town Hall.

Erman Ueland was named Lion of the Year by the Fertile Lions Club in Minnesota. Ueland, who has been quietly serving as a Lion for 59 years, declined the plaque for the award, so the club donated US\$50 to his favorite charity, the Lions Diabetes Foundation.

# CLUB NEWS

In **Illinois**, **Joe Kryszak**, longtime **Elburn Lions Club** member, led the way in ensuring that a carnival day specifically for special needs kids with sensory issues remains a huge part of Elburn Days. He was recognized for his efforts during a Kaneland School District 302 board meeting.

With the help of a generous bequest from the late Lion Dorothy Little, the first female member of the **Lions Club of Middlebury, Connecticut**, the club was able to present a new gazebo to the town.



Lions of Middlebury, Connecticut, gave their town a new gazebo.

The **Kendallville Lions Club** in **Indiana** provided vision and hearing screenings for all incoming 2024 kindergarten students, and offered shots, dental exams and physicals. The annual project has been held free of charge for decades.



Johnstown Lions in New York built a wheelchair ramp.

The greater **Johnstown Lions** in **New York** worked with the **Broadalbin-Perth Lions** to build a wheelchair ramp for a senior in need.

The **Hot Springs Village Evening Lions** in **Arkansas** celebrated their club's 50th anniversary in grand fashion by building a park. Lions donated a third of the US\$40,000 needed, and then raised the remainder of the funds. After 18 months, Balboa Park and Playground was dedicated and open for fun.

The **Albion Lions** in **Indiana** raised thousands of dollars for a community skate park.

The **New Hampshire Hampstead Lions'** first fundraiser for Make-A-Wish New Hampshire drew 100 attendees and raised US\$10,000, and it has grown bigger and better every year. The 2023 event included more than 300 attendees and raised US\$38,100, bringing the total to US\$111,000 over five years.

For 67 years, the **Manassas Host Lions Club** in **Virginia** sponsored a Groundhog Supper on the first Saturday in February. But COVID-19 put an end to their public gathering, so they found a new way to serve. Lions organized a Groundhog Food Drive at a food store on the Saturday of Super Bowl weekend. At their fifth semi-annual event, Lions collected more than 1,600 pounds of non-perishable food items as well as US\$332 in cash and grocery store gift cards to be shared among four local food pantries.

The **Burnsville-Savage Lions Club** in **Minnesota** partnered with school districts to ensure students have vision care, with Sleep In Heavenly Peace to make sure they have a bed to sleep on, and with the city to strengthen and serve the community with events like the International Festival that unites them.

The **Ridgefield Lions** in **Washington** set a club record, awarding US\$27,000 in scholarships to support post-secondary educational goals for students from the community.

In **New York**, the **Plainview-Bethpage Lions** collected more than 1,000 pairs of eyeglasses over the summer.

For the third year, the **Corte Madera Lions Club** in **California** paired up with electric car dealers and private classic car owners to create a unique car show featuring electric cars and classic cars, drawing 3,000 guests and raising money for local charities.

Since 2015, the **Denton Triangle Lions Club** in **Texas** has been delivering "Little Kids Kits" to the children of North Texas Health Services. With the help of the club, Friends of the Library and the ladies of Asbury Methodist Church, the Lions have provided more than 1,176 kits to children in Denton. A kit contains a book, a blanket, a stuffed animal and more.

The **Columbus Texas Lions Club** observed its 80th anniversary and kicked off the celebration at their installation of club officers and awards banquet.



Rockford Lions in Minnesota led fundraising for the Veterans Memorial.

In **Minnesota**, the new Rockford Veterans Memorial is one of the first in the country to recognize and honor military serving in the U.S. Space Force. This sixth military agency was authorized by Congress in December 2019. The **Rockford Lions Club** spearheaded fundraising and community support in collaboration with the city of Rockford. The memorial is a community cornerstone for reunions, reflection and remembrance.

The **Colts Neck Lions** in **New Jersey** are excited about their newest project, Braille Trails in the Monmouth County Parks. A Braille trail is a walking path or hiking trail accessible to those who are visually impaired. The club previously worked with the parks department to create a Sensory Den where the playground includes equipment for all senses. Proceeds from the club's annual pancake breakfast supported the project.

The first ever Fun Fall Festival put on by the **Powers Lions** in **Oregon** was a big success. The activities included a bounce house, pumpkin

painting, bike races, music, relays, volleyball, basketball, corn hole, bingo and karaoke.

The **McKeesport Lions** in **Pennsylvania** thanked those who attended summer concerts at Renziehausen Park where the city updated the Lions Bandshell built by Lions in 1953. Lions purchased and placed a new Lion drinking fountain near the bandshell and their next big project will be raising funds to build a handicapped accessible viewing platform and a paved walkway to the restrooms.

The **Emmaus Lions** in **Pennsylvania**, with a matching grant from the Pennsylvania Lions Foundation, donated US\$16,250 to the Borough of Emmaus Police Department for the purchase, kenneling and training of Leo, an Emmaus Police K9. The Lions have helped the Emmaus Police Department K9 program for more than 30 years.

The **Hebron Lions** in **Connecticut** partnered with the Nutmeg Jeepers Jeep Club and Wishes on Wheels to host the third annual Connecticut Go Topless Day. Jeep clubs rolled into the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds from Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New York with their tops down. The event was open to the public raised more than US\$11,000 for Wishes on Wheels to help grant the wishes of ill children.

In **New York**, the **Lockport Lions Club** donated US\$4,500 to the Dale Association's Vision Assistance Program for 2024. The money will support social and educational programming for the visually impaired as well as pay for low vision assistive devices. The club has supported the program for Niagara County residents aged 60 and older since 2007.

## CLUB NEWS

In **Washington**, the **Longview Pioneer Lions** developed a "Lions Roaring for Reading" Book Give Away for the students at Columbia Heights Elementary School. With help from the school librarian, Lions scheduled the free book event and ordered books through the Scholastics Literacy Partnerships. Pioneer Lions provided funding for the free book distribution, one per student each time they met, and the children got to choose a book to keep for themselves. There are two book giveaway days each school year, and Lion volunteers read a book to students in kindergarten through third grade.



Longview Pioneer Lions in Washington "Roar for Reading."

For the sixth year in a row, the **Emporia Lions Club** in **Kansas** led its Random Acts of Kindness project. The first 15 Lions to sign up were given a US\$100 bill to perform a random act of kindness in the community during the holiday season. The idea is to let each member choose how some of the money they helped raise is donated in their community. Since the program began, the Emporia Lions have distributed US\$9,000.

The **Lemon Grove Lions Club** in **California** offered nachos and hotdogs to attendees at the Lemon Grove Community Bonfire.

In **Kansas**, the **Robinson Lions'** 55th melodrama was a success. "Mystery at Uncle Fuzzy's or Dancing in Geezer's Grave" was written and performed by Lions. The show is the club's major fundraiser. The proceeds were used to support Brown County schools and the Hiawatha Genealogy Club, and to buy fireworks for the Fourth of July.



Somerset Lions in Massachusetts gave treats to more than 450 children.

The **Somerset Lions Club** in **Massachusetts** had a trick or treat booth at the town's open air market, welcoming more than 450 children. Their donation box collected over US\$100 for childhood cancer research.

In **Michigan**, hayrides, crafts, gifts, refreshments and a visit with Santa were highlights of the **Adrian Breakfast Lions Club's** annual "An Evening with Santa" tradition, a free family event.

In **Oklahoma**, the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians named the **Tulsa Downtown Lions Club** as the winner of its 2023 Apollo Award for service. The award is given to a person or civic organization that does exceptional work to improve the vision health of Oklahomans. The Tulsa Downtown Lions Club oversees the Sight Conservation program that connects patients with doctors who perform free vision care services.

In **Texas**, the **Rowlett Lions Club** raised US\$11,000 in the quarter ending December 31, 2023, and donated it to various organizations including the Texas Lions Camp for Children with Disabilities, Rowlett Needy Children's Fund, Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Rowlett, and First Christian Church of Rowlett's Hope in Hand Food Pantry.



Goodman Armstrong Creek Lions support their local highschool's Tech-Ed department.

In **Wisconsin**, the **Goodman Armstrong Creek (GAC) Lions** gave US\$2,000 to the GAC Fire and Rescue organizations for equipment and expenses, US\$1,400 to the GAC High School for the purchase of an air compressor and more for the Tech Ed department, US\$500 to the local food pantry and US\$1,100 to the town of Armstrong Creek for the maintenance of its community center.

In **Oklahoma**, a cavalcade of cars filled with winter coats for Brad Edwards' Warmth 4 Winter were unloaded at the Legacy Cleaners in Edmond. The **Lions Club of Mustang** collected 287 winter jackets on the heels of a Siberian cold front. "Little Lions" volunteered with the Mustang Lions and their parents. All the coats were cleaned by Legacy



Little Lions helped their parents in the Lions Club of Mustang collect coats for those in need.

Cleaners then delivered by Two Men And A Truck to the Salvation Army to be distributed to Oklahomans in need.

In **Virginia**, the first Waggin Winter Wonderland Dog Walk sponsored by the **Rivanna Lions Club** included a costume contest, prizes and treat bags. All proceeds benefitted Leader Dogs, an organization that raises and trains dogs to assist those with vision impairment.

The **Orland Park Lions Club** in **Illinois** kicked off its holiday season by selling live Christmas trees, wreaths, and reindeer and snowmen made from wood.



Berlin Lions in Connecticut displayed 2,300 luminaries honoring veterans.

The **Berlin Lions Club** in **Connecticut** sponsored its fourth annual Veterans Luminary Display on Veterans Day at Veterans Park in Berlin. The event featured more than 2,300 luminaries displayed throughout the park and the surrounding streets. The glow lasts throughout the night with many patrons touring the display path on Veterans Day. The event raised US\$13,000 for veterans in need.

The **Heritage Lions** in **Indiana** donated US\$500 to adopt a family in need from Heritage High School.

The **James City Lions** in **Virginia** manned the Salvation Army's Red Kettle at a local department store for three days.



James City Lions manned the Red Kettles.

In **Pennsylvania**, the **Columbia Lions** and the Northeast Pennsylvania Lions Service Foundation teamed up to purchase a US\$13,000 Cubby Bed for an 8-year-old boy living with Dravet syndrome who experiences seizures. The specially designed bed has padded walls, securable doors, soothing circadian light and calming sounds to help him enjoy longer, more restful sleep. It also includes a camera so his parents can rest easy.

The **Thurmont Lions Club** in **Maryland** is selling homemade gourmet chocolate bars to raise funds for community needs. The 14 varieties of candy bars with custom-printed wrappers are a hit across District 22W.

# PARTING SHOT



## Double the Good

Najlaa and Nada Hamdaoui are twin sisters and members of the Casablanca Doctors Unité Lions Club in Morocco. The club, made up of doctors and medical students, organizes medical caravans to rural areas of Morocco that have little to no access to medical care, and provide health exams, medicine, books and food to those in need. Being Lions allows Najlaa and Nada to serve their community while spending more quality time together.

# LION

Lions International

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