

# LION

MARCH 2019 LIONMAGAZINE.ORG

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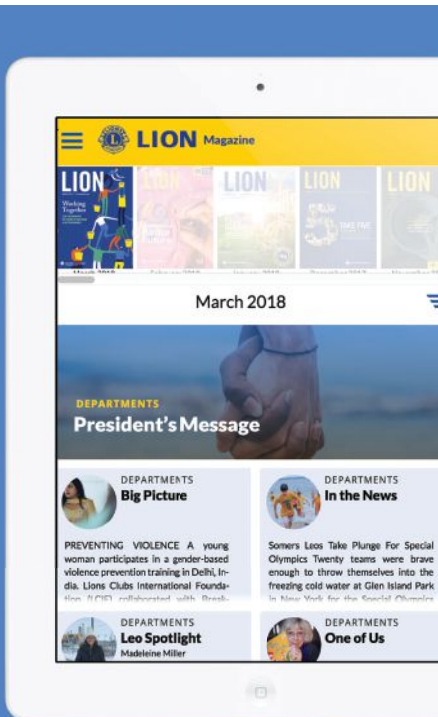
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Does your club have a unique tradition? Write to us at [lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org](mailto:lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org) and tell us about it. Use "Tradition" in your subject line.



## VIDEOS

### MAKING ICELAND GREEN AGAIN

Lack of vegetation caused by human activity on Iceland's volcanic land meant much of the soil was just blowing away. See how Lions in Iceland have helped reverse the effects of deforestation and become one of the most environmentally friendly nations in the world.

### KEEPING GREENLAND CLEAN

Lions in Greenland challenge their youth to help clean up the environment.



## PDFS

### EXTRA CONTENT

A special message from International Director Rodolfo Espinal on CIRCOLAC



## THE VAULT



### MARCH 1979 HELP MAINTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

International President Lynam discusses the urgent need for Lions to become involved in protecting the environment, making it one of the main objectives of his presidential program.



### NOVEMBER 1985 ARE WE TURNING OUR CLIMATE UPSIDE DOWN?

This article discusses potential climate changes that at the time were believed to be hundreds of years away.

## HIGHER KEY AWARDS

Lions honored for sponsoring members.

## WE SERVE

### MISSION STATEMENT OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL:

To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

### CONTACTING THE LION

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## Planting Trees, Planting Hope

Hello, Lions!

**W**hen I was a child I planted trees with my family at our summer cottage, and later my children did the same. My son wasn't always happy about it, being out there, digging holes. He saw a whole lot of small trees that didn't mean much to him. But now he's all grown up and so are the trees. More than 4,000 trees brim with life, rustle in the wind, and give us shelter on our walks. He understands now, the promise of planting trees. He understands that planting something—anything, but especially trees, which take so long to mature—is an act of hope.

As Lions, we are ever hopeful. And I see that every day in the work that you do. Clubs across the world are planting trees as a symbol of that hope and as a concrete way to fight the effects of climate change. We do so many meaningful things as Lions, but none of them matter if we lose the one place we all call home.

I challenge you to look at your community and seek out ways to help fight for our planet. Partner with your local government to find a spot in need of reforestation. Get a group together to pick up trash at the beach or along a favorite hiking trail. Take some school children to a forest preserve and teach them about nature.

As adults, we tend to care about the things we loved as children. I loved the trees I planted with my parents, I passed that on to my children, and they are passing it on to theirs. Let's teach the new generation the beauty of our natural environment so they will grow up to be protectors of the world we all depend on.

Yours,

*Gudrun Yngvadottir*

**Gudrun Yngvadottir**

International President, Lions Clubs International



We Serve.



## See You Later Seaweed

On Saturday, November 17, 2018, more than 100 Hawaiian Leos, Lions, and friends partnered with the Malama Maunaloa non-profit to pull nearly 6,000 pounds of invasive alien algae from Maunaloa Bay in east Oahu. The seaweed, called gorilla orgo, out-competes native algae and coral leading to shifts in the ecosystem and habitat loss, greatly affecting recreational and commercial fishing industries. All the seaweed was donated to a local organic farm for composting.



# The Purrfect Place

The East London Port Rex Lions in East London, South Africa, donated a fully-furnished cabin to homeless cats at Pet Pals, a local animal rescue. The “house” has everything a pampered feline might need, including upholstered chairs, cushions, baskets, mounted ledges, a patio with a hammock, and a small, colorful garden.







**BIG PICTURE**





# Reading Reaches New Heights

A kite soars above the Rocky Mountains, a symbol of one Cedar City, Utah child's reading accomplishments. The Lions in the small mountain town have put a price on reading, encouraging kids to keep their noses in books for a few months in exchange for a colorful, high-flying kite. See story page 36.



## Bryan Adams Thanks Lions

Musician Bryan Adams publicly thanked the Lions club in Ottawa, Canada, for bringing his family Christmas dinner when he was a child in the '70s. His name is added to the list of celebrities—including Stevie Wonder—impacted as children by the many kindnesses of Lions.

PHOTO BY CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY IMAGES FOR THE INVICTUS GAMES FOUNDATION

## Looking Ahead

### April

Environmental Awareness Month

Leo Club Awareness Month

**Earth Day**  
4/22



What does your club have planned? For service ideas, check out archived issues of LION Magazine at [lionmagazine.org](http://lionmagazine.org).

SUN	MON 1	TUES 2	WED 3	THURS 4	FRI 5	SAT 6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

# April 2019



## Following the Melody

Lions Clubs International rocked during the 2019 Rose Parade in Pasadena, California. International President Yngvadottir and her husband were joined on the float by the husband and daughters of late International Director Karla Harris, who was featured in the video that inspired this year's float theme, "Rockin' The Vest".

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Braille Institute of America, three of its students also joined the Lions on the float. The students are all part of the Institute music program, aligning with the 2019 parade theme, "The Melody of Life."

# L IN THE NEWS

## OVERHEARD

“It’s only when we acknowledge the fact that we’re part of the environment that we can begin to discover what needs to change.”

— **Donald Pease**, professor of American literature and Dr. Seuss biographer at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. See story page 20.

“My life goes straight. Then it’s full of ups and downs but sooner or later, it’s back to normal.”

— **13-year-old Mark Barniville**, described his life in a school project. See story page 32.

“You do not need a diploma to make a difference; everyone is qualified to save the environment.”

— **Wangari Maathai**, founder of the Green Belt Movement and the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.

## 40 YEARS AGO IN THE LION



### March 1979 Help Maintain Environmental Quality

International President Lynam discusses the urgent need for Lions to become involved in protecting the environment, making it one of the main objectives of his presidential program.

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 12

Millions of pounds one giant Sequoia may weigh in Calaveras Big Trees State Park in California

# 780

Number of people who gathered with Lions to create an aerial image of a rhino for World Rhino Day

# 38

Feet in height of totem pole Na-Wak-Wa carved by Lions at Wisconsin Lions Camp for kids

# 6,000

Pounds of invasive algae pulled from the water in Oahu by Hawaiian Lions, Leos, and friends.

# The Story of a Pin

BY DANIEL ELKINS

From the moment I received my first non-traditional Lions Club pin, I knew that one day I would want to design one of my own. My first pin was a gift from Lion Harry Grandel, a Claymont [Delaware] Lion with 60 years of service who loves collecting pins—and their stories.

I promised him that if I ever got any good pins with stories I would give him one.

This is the story of my pin.

My club, the Bellefonte [Delaware] Lions, are an extremely diverse group of service-minded individuals. Because we come in all shapes and sizes, the pin contains a triangle, a circle, and a square. Even though we are unique, we all share a common purpose of serving our community, and so the different shapes are all unified into one connected whole.

In addition to this, the phrase “squaring the circle” is often used to describe a task perceived as impossible—exactly the type of



endeavors the inspiring Lions I serve with seem to do on a daily basis.

The compass and the square are tools used by masons to ensure that the buildings they create are structurally sound. Since the Bellefonte Lions seek to build community, it is important to make sure our foundation is built properly.

At the center is the Eye of Providence, the all-seeing eye of God who watches over us in all that we do.

On the outer edges of the triangle are the words “Hope, Inspiration, Goals, & Humility.” These are the words that have come to define my experience as a Lion. The Lions serving today are the Hope for the future of our international association; I find Inspiration in their journeys of service; it is important to set and choose our Goals wisely because there is so much work to be done; and we should have Humility in all that we do because our true strength comes from our service to others.

The final phrase I chose for my pin, “Illuminate Community,” is both a mission statement and a description



of those that I serve with. As Lions we are bringing the light of service to our community. Also, an Illuminate is another word for a spiritually enlightened individual. I have met so many inspiring and loving Lions who have deep spiritual and religious perspectives that I feel that we are truly an Illuminate community that seeks to illuminate community.

I was blessed with the opportunity to share both my pin and its story with Lion Harry. He placed it in the one binder of Lions Clubs mementos that he is keeping as he leaves behind a lifetime of collecting Lions memorabilia and moves from his home into assisted living. I am truly grateful for his friendship and for his initial gift of a pin that started my collection.

# Support our global causes in style

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new line of global cause items!





# LCI Forward

UPDATE



**The world is hungry for good news.** That's why media-savvy Lions in Latin America and the Caribbean are putting their experience to work to tell the stories and elevate the Lions brand.

## Professional communicators partner to promote Lions.

Lions in Latin America and the Caribbean realized that something was missing. We have incredible service stories to tell, but Lions often struggle to get the word out in the media. And so the Circle of Lions Communicators of Latin America and the Caribbean (CIRCOLAC) was formed.

This initiative is an online consortium of Lions who are associated with the media field in a personal or professional way, bringing experienced communicators together to develop better communications programs that would help share Lions' stories with a broader audience.

The current goal of CIRCOLAC is to leverage the skills of Lions who are professional communicators to develop media-ready stories based on real service success and then use their skills and connections in public relations and media to get these stories in local news outlets.

This type of high-impact, highly specialized approach speaks to the innovation happening in Lions. Clubs are finding new ways to tell their service stories and raise their community visibility, and specialty clubs—which bring men and women together to serve around a specific cause, culture or profession, like media—give Lions new ways to serve their communities.

*Read the digital March edition for a special message from International Director Rodolfo Espinal on CIRCOLAC.*



### Share Your Story

Looking for resources that can help you promote your club in the community? Then check out some great social media tips at [lionsclubs.org/3FacebookTips](https://lionsclubs.org/3FacebookTips).

### USA

# Among the Giants

Taller than Cinderella's castle, wider than a city street, the Sequoias of California are among the largest trees in the world and more than 3,000 years old.

Every year about 200,000 people stroll in their shadows at the Calaveras Big Trees State Park in California, and roughly 8,000 children visit with school groups to learn about them.

But for the blind and visually impaired, discovering the grove of giants and being among their beauty is a different experience. Many have visited the Three Senses Trail designed for the blind and disabled since it was developed 42 years ago. But over the years the trail had fallen into disrepair, and it needed to be restored to meet Americans with Disabilities standards.

Arnold Lion Rod Smith, who is also president of the Calaveras Big Trees Association and a dedicated docent in the park, saw the need for help. Led by Smith, the Lions in California's District 4-A1, along with LCIF and the Arnold Lions, took on the US\$225,000 job to repair the trail as a Centennial Project in 2015. Over three years, the work continued, and in October, the ribbon was cut and the trail opened by 9-year-old Ryder Sitch, who was blinded by cancer.

Sitch and Stockton San Joaquin Lion Jennifer Gass, who was introduced to the trees when she was just 7 or 8 and visiting the forest with her family and her Girl Scout group, helped the Lions and park staff understand what had to be done to improve the trail.

Gass was wearing glasses as a child when she visited the forest and enjoyed the trail where she could reach into boxes to touch and identify the pieces of nature inside. Now 45 and blind, she and Sitch told Lions how to improve the trail with an even rim for canes to follow, improved Braille signs, and more.

"I loved it then, not knowing I would come back as an adult with no vision, but this is wonderful now," says Gass. "They've made it open to people with all abilities."



Light breaks through the giant Sequoias at Calaveras Big Trees State Park in California.

A bench is a welcoming place to rest along the park's Three Senses Trail, designed for the blind and disabled 42 years ago and recently restored by Lions.



The trail has been widened, and five new benches and viewing platforms make a place for visitors to sit and enjoy the birds and the creek that flows through the forest.

Platforms with interpretative signs in print and Braille, and 11 new sensory stations are in place, one with brass images of the park's birds that can be touched. And by summer a revised trail guide with a tactile map, a sensory garden, and an app offering an audio tour of the park will be available.

"What Rod did and what the Lions did was very forward thinking," says park superintendent Greg Martin. "This is the only California state park created to protect the giants."

Smith, whose wife, Vaughn, is also an Arnold Lion and a volunteer park docent, says, "Once you make a trail for the blind, you actually make it better for everyone."

## NEW ZEALAND

# Free Fruit



The Ngongotaha Lions Club in New Zealand has given a barren roadside a whole new purpose.

In 2016 the club donated more than 400 fruit and native trees to the Rotorua Ngongotaha Rail Park. Lion Ross Thompson, organizer of the event, said funding from the city council enabled them to add fruit trees to the mix of native species they had planned for the roadside.

"We have positioned 25 fruit trees along the road so the

local kids can walk by and grab a piece of fruit on the way to school," he told the New Zealand Herald. He said they wanted to make the area nice for visitors and give the public access to fruit.

"Hopefully the native trees that we have planted will be there for hundreds of years to come," said Thompson.

Community members including children joined the club in the planting effort. Bonnie Hutchings took her two daughters along to help plant the trees. "My girls loved it. My youngest heard about it through school and she really wanted to go," she told the Herald.

"Lots of kids that were there will be able to go back and see the trees that they helped grow in years to come," said Thompson.



### SOUTH AFRICA

## Showing up Big for Rhinos

The Mafikeng Lions care about rhinos. And they want the world to care, too. While they celebrate World Rhino Day every year, this year they tried something special.

They partnered with the International School of South Africa and recruited 780 staff, students, and Lions and Leos of the Mafikeng club to come together on the school's cricket oval to form an aerial image of a rhino.

According to Mafikeng Club President Rusty Hustler, the biggest challenge was figuring out how to transfer the image of the rhino in order to accommodate the 780 people. This was done applying GPS coordinates to an image and then plotting the coordinates on the ground. "We then had to join them up and adjust so that we didn't have a robotic rhino," says Hustler. It took several days of plotting and readjusting, and they were still adjusting it one hour before they were about to start, according to Hustler.

The resulting rhino covered an area of 720 square meters.

The project was part of the Multiple District 410 awareness campaign Lions4Rhinos and the Mafikeng Lions hope that spreading the video and the pictures of the event will raise awareness of their plight. "My dream is that our International President will some day present the plight of our rhino during our United Nations Day, and encourage the United Nations to take up the challenge and assist in combatting the poaching," says Hustler.

## USA

# Hides Make Happy Campers

When deer hunting season begins each fall the Wisconsin Lions send out their message: We want your hide.

The sale of deer hides is helping Lions send kids to summer camp.

Through the bulk sale of hides donated by Wisconsin archery and gun sportsmen, Lions have raised more than US\$1 million to support the 440-acre Wisconsin Lions Camp for kids with disabilities.

The camp, with a 40-acre private lake, nine cabins, and a lodge was started in Rosholt, Wisconsin, 63 years ago when Lion Ray Hempel heard a blind girl say, “Blind kids can’t go to camp,” recalls Past District Governor Bernie Stuttgart.

Stuttgart is a 52-year Thorp Wisconsin Lion who started the deer hide collection 30 years ago to financially support the camp.

Now Wisconsin Lions Camp entertains about 1,300 campers a year for free with boating, swimming, crafts, a climbing wall, zip line, staffed nurse’s station and more. The 12-week camping season includes designated weeks for children with sight or hearing impairment, the deaf or hard of hearing, those with intellectual disabilities or educational autism, and those with diabetes. There is also a week for blind or visually impaired adults, and a week for adults who are deaf or hearing impaired.

The camp operating budget of about US\$1 million a year is supported by individual and club donations—and the deer hide collection.

Stuttgart says the Thorp Lions collected 58 deer hides the first year of their efforts, netting them US\$399 for camp. Soon hunters realized that although a hide might get them a few dollars (generally US\$4 to \$13), the profit will grow in value and multiply when the hides are sold in bulk. The collection of hides branched out to become a zone project and eventually grew statewide.

Now about one-third of the state’s clubs are involved, and Stuttgart hopes to see the number increase every year.

“Not in my wildest dreams did I think this would grow to more than three or four clubs involved,” he says. In 2017, 10,667 hides were collected statewide, raising more than US\$87,000 for the Wisconsin Lions Camp for kids.



A landscape of tree stumps and exposed roots under a dark, stormy sky. The foreground is filled with a dense network of gnarled, dark tree roots that have been exposed after the trees were cut down. Several tree stumps of varying sizes are scattered across the scene. The background shows a horizon line with more stumps under a heavy, grey, and dark sky with some lighter clouds. The overall mood is somber and desolate.

# WE SPEAK FOR THE TREES

LIONS MOBILIZE TO STAUNCH THE  
LOSS OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS

BY JOAN CARY AND ERIN KASDIN

With more than 1.4 million members, Lions have a powerful voice. And around the world, Lions are using that voice to raise awareness about climate change and mobilize. In 2011, then International President Wing-Kun Tam challenged Lions to plant 1 million trees. They responded by planting 15 million in every inhabited continent and have continued to plant millions more since.

With tree cover currently disappearing at a rate of 73.4 million acres per year in 2016 (51 percent higher than the previous year), the question remains, is it enough?



## FROM FABLE TO FACT

In 1970, Theodor Geisel and his wife, Audrey, left their home in La Jolla, California, to vacation at the posh Mount Kenya Safari Club, located at the base of Mount Kenya in Africa. Geisel—better known to the world as Dr. Seuss—spent one breezy afternoon during this vacation writing the bulk of the manuscript for what would become one of his most popular (and controversial) books, "The Lorax."

The fable, told in typical, sparse Seussian rhyme, pits consumerism against ecological health and sustainability. It's the tale of the Once-ler who exploits the yarn-producing Truffula trees to knit and sell thneeds. The Once-ler depletes the forest, devastating the wildlife that depend on the trees, but he cares only about his profits. The Lorax—a small, orange, mustachioed ball of fluff with a long grimace—begs him to stop, saying he speaks for the trees. He tries to show the Once-ler that an entire ecosystem depends on these trees. The admonitions go unheeded and the story ends with the Truffula Tree and the surrounding ecosystem on the brink of extinction.

Written when the environmental movement was just picking up steam, "The Lorax" has resonated with readers then and now. But despite the fanciful nature of his illustrations, in a recent study published in the journal *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, researchers suggest the story might not be purely a figment of Geisel's imagination, but actually based on what he saw on his trip to Kenya.



As it turns out, Mount Kenya is prime habitat for the patas monkey—a small, orange primate with a gloomy countenance that depends on one specific species of spindly tree, called the whistling thorn acacia.

Is it possible that the iconic environmental children's tale is based on a real-life monkey and its habitat, which is still in peril today?

Nearly 50 years after its first publication, Kenya is fighting a battle for its environment that eerily parallels Geisel's fable. Over the past half century charcoal and timber production, unregulated logging, and urbanization have eroded Kenya's lush and diverse landscape. By the mid-80s more than 70 percent of Kenya's original forests were gone.





The whistling thorn acacia supplies 80% of the food to the patas monkey. The pair (monkey and tree) is thought to be the inspiration for "The Lorax", a popular environmental fable written by Dr. Seuss.



Is the patas monkey the inspiration behind the Dr. Seuss character the Lorax?

The loss of Kenya's forests has had far-reaching effects on its population. Kenya relies on the mountains and forests to act as natural "water towers," catching and preserving rainwater during the rainy season and providing naturally filtered water to the aquifers and streams during the dry season. What's more, the loss of these mountain forests also leads to flash floods, as the rainwater isn't captured by debris and absorbed by the roots of trees.

As a consequence, Kenya is plagued by drought and flooding, and the arid conditions are making it harder and harder to farm successfully, creating a large population that is struggling for food and water. While the patas monkey is not yet listed on the endangered species list, its population is in decline, largely due to habitat loss. It seems that Geisel's fable is turning into reality.

But don't despair.



PHOTO BY MICHELE D'AMICO/GETTY IMAGES

(Above) Dead Acacia trees float above the surface of Lake Nakuru, in Kenya, after water levels rose in 2010. Deforestation in the country has led to both drought and flooding.

## THE ANSWER IS IN THE TREES

“The more trees you have, the less flooding you have, the fewer extreme weather events, the more stable, healthy environment you live in,” says Murphy Westwood, global tree expert at the Morton Arboretum outside Chicago, Illinois.

The most recent report from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) wrote “Our planet’s future is inextricably tied to the future of its forests.”

This is good news. Because, as Lions know, trees can be planted. Forests can be reborn. The damage can still be undone, but it won’t be easy.

“Innovation is a function of con-

straints,” said James Shaw, the New Zealand minister for climate change, during the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco in September of 2018. “When things really get constrained, that’s when you get creative.”

What better group of innovators than Lions?

## LIONS TAKE ON TREES

To combat the effects of deforestation and climate change, Lions around the world are finding a wealth of reasons to begin planting forests.

In Iceland, the members of the Asbjorn Lions Club near Reykjavik, have planted so many trees that Lion Halldór Kristjánsson says it’s sort of become a habit.



To fight the effects of deforestation, Lions in Kenya have partnered with global and local foundations to plant more than 10 million trees over five years.



Each year the Asbjorn Lions—a club of about 38—plant up to 200 Icelandic birch, pine, fir, and Alaskan poplar on a 125 to 250 acre area they began converting from barren rocks and moss to a picnic grove in 1984. The land belongs to the town of Hafnarfjorour but was unused due to poor drainage. It was always wet, sitting in snow. Asbjorn Lions, says Kristjánsson, first dug a ditch to channel the water away and planted grass on a wide stretch to control erosion. Then they began planting trees to provide shelter from the wind.

From the grove picnickers now look out on Mt. Helgafell, or “holy mountain,” an area steeped in Icelandic folklore.

Many children of the Lions have not only learned about their environment but met and made friends through the planting of 2,000 or more trees at the scenic spot. And it’s also there where Asbjorn Lions have welcomed Lions International presidents, planting trees in their honor to create a presidential grove.

In 1999 IP Kajit Habanananda visited Iceland, and Kristjánsson, then

council chair for MD109, had the idea to ask the president to plant a tree in their grove, encouraging care for the environment. The president accepted, and since then all but one of the international presidents have come to Iceland and planted a tree in the grove. IP Yngvadottir is expected to add her tree this spring.

Near the picnic grove, the Lions in 2011 created a Peace Path in memory of a young club member who died of cancer during his tenure as president. The path features sitting areas and bronze plaques with poetry where visitors can pause. The trail of forest and moss culminates with a view of scenic Hvaleyrarvatn Lake where Kristjánsson says visitors get yet another reminder of all nature has to offer.

## GROWING MEMORIES

In Canada, Lion-created memorial forests support the environment and Lions Foundation of Canada, including the foundation’s Canada Dog Guide Program. After visiting the Lions Foundation of Canada Memorial Forest in Breslau, Ontario, where the first trees were planted in 1999, the Regina Beach

Since 1984 the members of the Asbjorn Lions Club in Iceland have planted 2,000 or more trees to convert a barren, windy spot into a picnic grove. They have revitalized nature, educated their children, and created a Lions presidential forest along the way.

and District Lions Club started the Lion Jim Sinclair Memorial Forest in Saskatchewan. That forest now includes more 1,750 trees of four or five species that are tended by Regina Lions.

Another forest in Quebec includes more than 600 trees planted since 2012, and Lions say there are at least 20 or more other memorial forests that have been planted in their country. They expect further expansion of the project as the Canada Lions approach their centennial in 2020.

“It’s good,” says Past District Governor Ken Peters. “It’s good that a memory lives on and grows.”

And in Kenya, Lions Clubs are working hard to avoid imitating the story their land inspired. In 2013 they partnered with global and local foundations to plant more than 10 million trees over five years.

## A SHADED PLACE TO SIT

But it doesn’t have to be millions of trees. Forests are rebuilt one seed at a time. A community may not need a new forest, but just a tree for people to rest under, shaded from the sun.

When the Franklin Park-Manila Lions Club in Illinois asked their community what they could do to help, the first thing the community members said was “plant a tree.”

So the Lions worked with their village officers and planted two white oak trees outside their local police station, and celebrated with a ribbon cutting and a plaque as you might commemorate the opening of a new store or a community center, recognizing the value the oaks brought to the village.

## UNLESS

At the end of “The Lorax”, as the Lorax leaves the now barren land, he says to the Once-ler, “Unless.” And that’s when the Once-ler finally realizes what the Lorax meant. He tosses the last Truffula seed to the unseen listener of his story.

“But now,” says the Once-ler, “Now that you’re here, the word of the Lorax seems perfectly clear.

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” 🗣️

Four benches at the Lion Jim Sinclair Memorial Forest in Saskatchewan, Canada, give visitors a place to rest. Regina Beach and District Lions tend to more than 1,750 trees in the growing forest.



See how Lions in Iceland have helped reverse the effects of deforestation and become one of the most environmentally friendly nations in the world.



Get started with our Environment Service Planners at <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-global-causes/environment>.

# how much is a tree worth?

You love it for the shade it gives, the way the fall color matches your front door, the limb that perfectly supports your baby's swing.

## but what is it really worth?

Location: Suburban Chicago, Illinois  
Species: Swamp White Oak  
Tree condition: Good (Healthy)  
Trunk Diameter: 25 inches  
Sun exposure: Full sun

Value: US\$215 per year

(Calculations courtesy of the Tree BenefitCalculator at [treebenefits.org](http://treebenefits.org))

## how?

By intercepting approximately **3,336 gallons** of storm water per year, raising the property value by **US\$38** a year (if planted in the front yard), conserving **302 kilowatt hours** of electricity for cooling, reducing consumption of oil or natural gas by **45 therms**, and reducing atmospheric carbon by **907 pounds**.

And you thought it was just for the shade.

For tips on planting trees in your areas visit [lionmagazine.org](http://lionmagazine.org).

# the value



## Trees Make Communities Healthier.

Children who live in neighborhoods with more street trees are less likely to have asthma. People who live in areas with plenty of greenery are less likely to be overweight or obese.



## Trees Clean the Air We Breathe.

Urban trees capture fine particles from the air as well as carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrous dioxide and other pollutants. Scientists estimate the value of this pollution reduction in the U.S. at US\$7 billion a year.



## Trees Save Energy.

Trees shade buildings to reduce the need for air conditioning. Evergreens that block winter winds can save on heating.

# of trees



## Trees Shelter and Feed Wildlife.

Birds and other wildlife live and find food in trees. The flowers of trees provide pollen and nectar to feed bees and other insects we depend upon to pollinate plants in our gardens and farms.



## Trees Naturally Manage Storm Water.

Trees collect rain on their leaves and channel heavy rainwater to the soil. Together a community's trees reduce the water that flows into storm sewers. The USDA Forest Service estimates 100 mature trees intercept about 250,000 gallons of rainfall per year.



## Trees Increase Property Values.

Homes in neighborhoods with mature trees sell for 3.5 to 10 percent more than the neighborhoods without trees.

*Courtesy of the Morton Arboretum, a 1,700-acre living museum in Illinois, dedicated to the scientific study, conservation, education, and outreach on behalf of trees.*



Lions fill the succulent bowls.



Children help fill the raised garden bed.



In just three weeks Lions converted an empty patio space into a vibrant educational garden.

# PLANTING SEEDS IN THE HEART

## LIONS INVEST IN THE FUTURE THROUGH EARLY EXPOSURE TO NATURE

BY JOAN CARY

You don't have to plant a forest to save the environment. Simply planting the seed for a love of nature in the younger generation may ensure they will grow to love and protect the natural world.

### NATURE IN EVERY NOOK

Sarah Panganiban, the mother of two preschoolers in California, posted a message on a neighborhood website looking for helpers. She wanted to transform her San Diego library's rocky open patio space into a garden where children like hers could learn about nature.

Panganiban had US\$100 for the project and not much time if she wanted to offer a summer nature education program for young children like her own.

Take on a project with no money and little time? The San Diego United Lions jumped right in.

In a few weeks they could beautify their community and give children a place to joyfully learn how to care for the Earth.

The Lions quickly organized, planned, and made a budget.

They transported 265 five-gallon buckets of compost and garden soil from the back of a truck to the future garden over one hot and humid day. They gathered in multiple homes to cut wood and build raised vegetable beds, hitting bumps and thumbs along the way. They assembled a children's playhouse with 96 screws. They built, painted, and made trips to the hardware store again and again.

Neighbors and friends were invited to join them, and when the work moved onsite, children were given plastic shovels and pails to help with the "heavy lifting." They learned how to plant flowers and vegetables, and then how to take care of them.

Finished in time, the new outdoor area soon included raised garden beds stocked with fruits and vegetables, a sensory garden, an outdoor sink and garden hose, recycle bins, a bird bath, wind chimes, and benches for reading and reflection.

Over three weeks' time an unused patio became a beautiful educational area where all ages could learn, have fun, and rest.

"It was done totally out of love for the earth," says library branch manager Ina Gibson. "The Lions have worked very hard to create a garden. I know what it used to look like and I know what it looks like now. It provides a focal point for our library, a pleasant place to sit and read, or for rambunctious kids to get a little energy out. It's charming and lovely."

Panganiban grew up in the Mira Mesa neighborhood and has been visiting the library since she was 7. Now a library volunteer, she leads the children's Green Thumbs Garden Club where she reads a story, leads a craft, and then helps the children water, pull weeds, and talk about what's happening in the garden.

"It's been a wonderful experience," she says.



## OUTDOOR EDUCATION

In Sutton, Massachusetts a 1.5-mile nature trail behind the schools is much more than just a way to traverse the swamp.

Since its construction in the 1970s Cedar Swamp Nature Trail became a natural setting for science classes focusing on pond life, swamp habitat, and forests, but also for creative writing classes seeking inspiration in nature, and for the students in history who used it to study survival shelters in their lessons about early man.

The problem, though, was that as years passed the trail was neglected and became overgrown with pricklers and small trees. Large trees had fallen and blocked areas, and in sections that extended over the water the wood had become rotten and unsafe.

It was a treasure that was slowly disappearing.

But when a teacher at the nearby Sutton Middle School brought it to the attention of the Sutton Lions, they stepped right up, and so did Boy Scout JP Capuano who was hoping to fulfill his Eagle Scout requirements.

Together the Lions and Capuano agreed that Lions would provide the manpower, funding, and technical knowhow to restore the trail. Capuano would coordinate help with high school students and other scouts to clear the trail and remove debris.

Their project began shortly after Labor Day and was completed by early December. Sutton Lions constructed 12 8-foot-long bridge and boardwalk sections. Twelve yards of crushed stone were delivered to be spread along the trail and stabilize ground conditions.

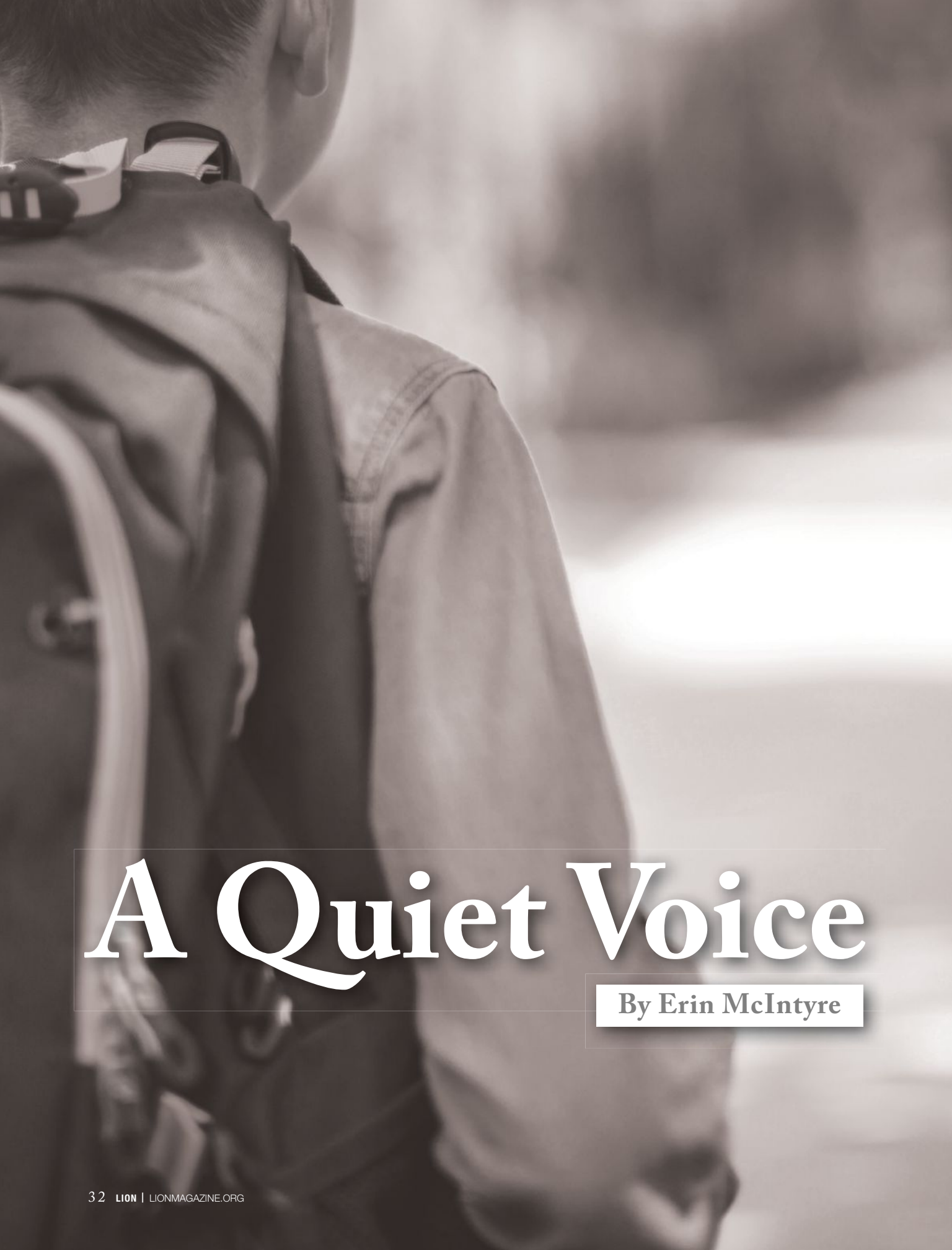
Over a three-month period of spending weekends on the trail, about 30 Lions donated more than 100 man hours in service and US\$1,300 for materials. Boy Scouts contributed about 80 hours. And soon after completion, classes started using the trail again.

Science teacher Deborah O'Neil wrote to thank Lions and the Boy Scouts for restoring the area.

"It's a wonderful resource for me as I teach Biology and Environmental Science," she said. "This is invaluable because I am able to get the students outside and pique their interest in nature, which is missing from many of their lives now."

Students make notes as they cross a newly constructed boardwalk along the Cedar Swamp Nature Trail.





# A Quiet Voice

By Erin McIntyre

In a poster he created for a literacy class assignment, Mark Barniville shared all about himself, just like the teacher wanted. It was one of those get-to-know-you types of activities for the beginning of the year.

He drew a bike, because he liked riding bikes. He advertised his love for steak and pizza, and wrote that he wanted to be a chef someday. He drew music notes floating to show he enjoyed playing in band, a book to illustrate his love of reading, and the names of his brothers and family.

At the bottom of the poster, under the bubble letters spelling out MARK, he drew a yellow ribbon.

Winding through the letters, he drew a road carrying a message.

“My life goes straight. Then it’s full of ups and downs but sooner or later, it’s back to normal,” he wrote. Some of his classmates did the bare minimum, just coloring in their names, but Mark put a lot of work into the poster and included that statement, which made his teacher think.

“It was that word ‘normal’ that got me,” said Bev Bussey, his eighth-grade teacher at Orchard Mesa Middle School in Grand Junction, Colorado.

She assumed the yellow ribbon was in honor of a grandma, an aunt, or uncle who had undergone cancer treatment. After all, it seemed like everyone knew someone with cancer at one time or another.

“It really didn’t occur to me,” she said, later.

Bussey quickly learned that Mark was a voracious reader and was reading more difficult books than most of his 13-year-old peers. He got along with everyone, didn’t complain, and seemed hungry for knowledge. He was glad to

be there, something she wasn’t accustomed to encountering during her 22 years of teaching at Orchard Mesa Middle School. He was small for his age, a “little pixie,” Bussey called him, with a sense of humor evident in the way that he wore a shirt with a camel on it every Wednesday to celebrate hump day.

About a month into school, Mark stopped coming. He was absent a lot. Bussey didn’t know where her eager student had gone.

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**“Push him, Miss Smith. Because he doesn’t want special treatment. He needs a challenge.”**

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A few weeks later, she found out. Mark had cancer and a grim prognosis with only weeks to live. He hadn’t wanted anyone to know, and he had refused treatment in June, when it was clear that the disease had returned a third time. He had battled Ewing’s Sarcoma twice and didn’t

want to go through it again. He’d been fighting since he was 9 years old, when it was found on his L3 vertebrae after they thought it was just a pulled muscle. He just wanted to enjoy life and be normal.

His literacy teacher the previous year, Tanya Smith, knew Mark was in remission, but it was only because his father told her at parent-teacher conferences the first year he attended the school. She asked how to help at the time and his father said, “Push him, Miss Smith. Because he doesn’t want special treatment. He needs a challenge.”

Mark’s father, Mark Barniville II, nodded his head and sniffled as Smith recounted that story in tribute to his son, at a ceremony in the school courtyard dedicating a memorial to Mark.

Though some days Smith could tell Mark wasn’t feeling up to participating and had dark rings under his eyes, he still wanted to be there at school, doing what he loved.

She didn't know the cancer had returned over the summer. No one did, really.

That's because Mark was the kind of kid who didn't complain and was grateful for what he had.

Even when the family was living down by the river, without a home, Mark accepted the challenge of completing a community service project for school, picking up trash, his dad said. He was happy to be able to do the work, he said, and to be enjoying his life away from a hospital room.

"He was grateful because that's all he had," his father said.

Most of the school community didn't know about Mark's hardships because he didn't let them wear him down. He wasn't bitter, he wasn't angry.

"He had a lot of suffering in his life, but he never focused on that," said Principal Cheryl Vana. She called him "the kindest, most gentle soul that ever walked these sidewalks."

Mark had a rough life, and not just because of being sick. His dad brought him back to the Grand Valley after his second fight with cancer, back to where he grew up and his family lives. They had been living in Kentucky, where the family owned a taxi business and the family received a lot of support from the community that came out of the woodwork after Mark's diagnosis. But things fell apart with Mark's parents when they came here, without steady work or a place to live, his dad said. Then, the cancer returned. He went to school as long as he could, until he couldn't. He died on October 1, 2016 with his family where they were staying, at the Rio Rancho Motel.

Through all of it, Mark never asked for a Make-a-Wish trip, no Disneyland or meeting a famous athlete or celebrity.

"His Disneyland was to sit in a classroom," Smith said.

He just wanted to read books, learn, and be like the other kids. He didn't care about cellphones or designer clothes or the drama of who likes who in middle school, he just wanted to be normal.

"He taught me that normal is beautiful," Bussey said before she invited Mark's father to unveil the memorial after school as staffers, a few students and members of the Orchard Mesa Lions Club, which paid for the memorial, observed.

As soon as he saw the carved books with Mark's smiling face beaming from the front of the memorial, tears ran down his face and he crouched down, overcome with emotions.

A small treasure chest sat atop the memorial, just like the one Mark filled with found objects, the one that was at his funeral.

"It blows me away," his father said, overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from the staff at the school. Before he left, he bent over to kiss Mark's smiling face on the memorial, and said, "See you later."

The way this boy handled his too-short life was an incredible example to not only his peers, but also adults, his teachers said. In less than two years on the campus, he made an impact, though he wasn't a sports star or the most popular kid, and just getting to school some days was hard.

His absence this year is palpable. Some of his teachers miss him so much they can still feel him there at school, late at night when they're grading papers or on weekends when the halls only have empty echoes. It just doesn't seem normal without him, Smith said. "He was a quiet voice, but he was heard." **L**

(Right) Orchard Mesa Lions commissioned the memorial for Mark, showcasing his favorite books, which he would read during lunch under a tree.



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“His Disneyland  
was to sit in a  
classroom.”

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Cedar City residents prep their kites.





# Making Reading a Breeze

## Utah Lions give students a lift for reading

BY JAY COPP

Lofted by lusty winds with the majestic Rocky Mountains as a backdrop, an airborne parade of colorful kites fills the skies of Cedar City one day each April. Handed out to children, the nylon kites soar high. But the Lions of this city in Utah want the youths who wield the kite strings to reach new heights as they mature and move on in school and life. Reading—the Cedar City Lions believe—is a powerful tool for self-realization and achievement.

For 15 years, the club has passed out reading charts to the nearly 4,500 schoolchildren in the school district, and, three months later, rewarded those who read a set number of minutes with a kite, a book, or movie passes. Parents are grateful that the incentives to read result in hour after hour spent by their children curled up with books. “It’s such an important life skill,” says Juliann Wilson, who has three younger children. “Video games have taken away time from reading. Kids have lost the love of reading.”

Situated at nearly 6,000 feet, Cedar City otherwise is a typical small city with 31,000 residents. There is some poverty, some well-off families and a whole lot of folks getting by. Farming and ranching are main sources of employment. Southern Utah University also is a major employer as well

as an impetus for culture and engagement with the broader world. Education—and reading—is seen as a necessity for getting ahead or, at least, not falling behind. “Reading is everything,” says Lion Mark Nelson when asked why his club chooses to support reading as its main project, aside from its backing of the many events on the Fourth of July.

A mainstay for 87 years, the club has 51 members. A member a few years back was the school superintendent, which helped lead to the reading program with the Iron County School District. Students record the minutes they read on the special charts given to them. Older children need to read more to qualify for a prize. Kindergartners and first-graders must log 70 minutes a week reading, while second-graders and third graders must tally 85 minutes and fourth to sixth-graders 125 minutes weekly.

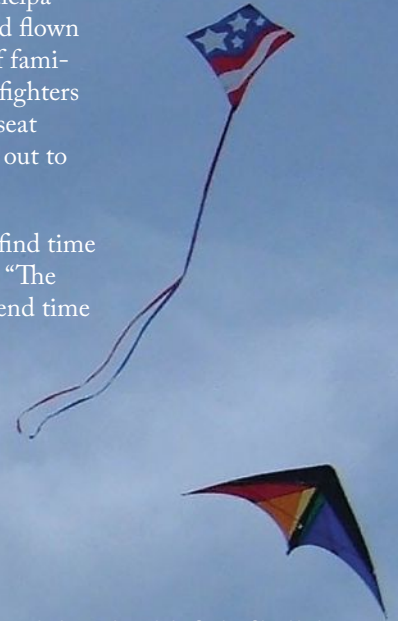
About 900 students, or 20 percent of all students, usually reach the goal and merit a prize. The contest is purposely held during the latter part of the school year when interest in academics fades a bit. “The kids are losing interest and school and reading then,” says Nelson, who coordinates the project for the Lions.

“It’s really a great project for us because it doesn’t really take a huge amount of time,” says Nelson. The Parowan Lions Club helps Cedar City Lions with the project. Wilson’s three children mirror the overall disparate attitudes toward reading among schoolchildren. “My older boy has to be forced to read. My daughter loves to read. She does double the minutes needed. My youngest can’t read on her own, so we read picture books together,” she says.

For the project, Lions recruit sponsors—local businesses and other organizations whose names and logos appear on the reading charts. The revenue is donated to the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) at the school (Wilson is president of the PTA.) The club has donated as much as US\$15,000 in one year to the PTA. Last year the funds were used for supplies for art and science teachers and for Chromebooks.

Reading is a solitary endeavor, but a significant benefit of the reading project is the social engagement. Lions throw pizza parties for the classes with the highest participation. And the kites are given out and flown in conjunction with a whole slate of family-friendly activities. Police and firefighters teach safety techniques such as car seat safety, and wooden toys are handed out to build and paint.

“It’s hard these days for families to find time to do things together,” says Wilson. “The Lions are encouraging people to spend time together outdoors.” **L**



Kites soar through the spring air in Cedar City, Utah; symbols of the reading accomplishments of the town's school children.



Lions watch the children enjoy the fruits of their efforts.



# New Voices

## International Women's Day



International President Yngvadottir strikes the pose that marks this year's International Women's Day theme—Balance For Better.

### How Lions Celebrate

As part of the call to promote gender parity and increase the number of women in leadership positions, Lions Clubs International launched the New Voices Initiative, which is celebrating the contributions of outstanding women in its ranks.

On March 8, 2019, Lions will be joining the global conversation about gender parity on International Women's Day. Here's a look at how some clubs have celebrated in the past.

#### Empowering Women

Last year the Lions Club of Mattanur celebrated International Women's Day by partnering with the Cannanore Obstetric and Gynaecological Society to host a series of programs aimed at empowering women through education, employment, and enterprise.

"Every woman should develop the self-confidence and belief to stand on her own feet by learning and earning," says PDG Suchitra Sudhir, a New Voices Constitutional Area Speaker, and member of the Mattanur club.

In 2018, 450 women and girls attended the event at Pazhassi Raja N. S. S. (PRNSS) College in Kerala, India.

#### CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

There's no better time to celebrate the women in your club than International Women's Day on March 8. Here are some great ways your club can get involved.

1. Go to the New Voices website for resources to celebrate women Lions.
2. Post a selfie on Facebook in support of women everywhere on March 8.
3. Share a story of an incredible woman in your club on social media.

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

Effective public speaking classes, how to start cottage industries suitable for women, and teaching a trade were some of the programs offered. The Gynaecological Society gave a talk called "Save the Girl Child," which focused on the importance of girls in society and how to prevent sexual abuse.

Lions promoted diabetes awareness and screened approximately 400 women—a whopping 20% of whom were found to be diabetic or prediabetic. Lions gave tips on how to prevent and control the condition. They then held a Zumba class to show that exercise could be a fun way to help combat high blood sugar.

"At first only a few ladies agreed to dance," says PDG Sudhir. "They were given free t-shirts. Then as the catchy music started playing, all the 400-odd women donned the shirts and started doing the steps. It was a super success!"

The club plans to hold a Zumba session weekly to encourage women to keep exercising.

#### Supporting Pregnant Women and Girls

In Australia, the Nunawading Lions Club celebrated the 2018 International Women's Day with a dinner fundraiser in support for the Babes Project, which assists pregnant women and girls who have no one else in their life to support them.

The night raised \$3,000 AUD (US\$2,140) for the Babes Project.

# Lions Celebrate 20 Years of SightFirst in Madagascar

BY JAMIE KONIGSFELD

Cataracts are the number one cause of blindness. Moved to change the reality for those affected, more than 20 years ago, Lions in Madagascar started a SightFirst project to address the issue. Since then, the Lions have gone on to do so much more.

“When we see the smiles of the people we help, it goes straight to your heart. No riches in the world can buy the feeling of happiness that comes from helping others,” says Lion Anja Ramilison of Antananarivo Lions Club.

Lions SightFirst Madagascar (LSFM), a program supported by Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), recently marked its 20th anniversary restoring sight and expanding comprehensive eye care services across Madagascar.

Approximately 1.3 billion people worldwide live with some form of vision impairment, according to the World Health Organization, be it a refractive error, cataracts, or another eye condition. However, close to 80 percent of all vision impairment is avoidable. Many times, a pair of glasses is all that one needs to see clearly. Despite this, millions are seeing their lives through blurry eyes.

In Madagascar, almost 80 percent of the population lives on less than US\$1.90 per day and cannot afford an eye exam or glasses. So, in

addition to a major cataract problem, Madagascar has many people living with uncorrected refractive errors. Many parents who lost their vision are no longer able to care for their family. They cannot work, so they cannot earn a living. In addition to a problematic economic situation, blindness and visual impairments lead to other health issues and a shortened life expectancy.



Recognizing an enormous problem, Lions of Madagascar opened the SightFirst Madagascar Eye Center, which is open every day of the week to provide eye care to those who need it. The eye center is committed to improving access to comprehensive eye care, including treatment of uncorrected refractive errors, and has affordable eyeglasses made onsite. In addition, the center trains physicians to perform screenings and cataract surgeries that restore vision to people who were once blind.

In LSFM’s 20-year history, the center has made great strides against visual impairment and blindness. It has:

- Performed 77,794 cataract surgeries
- Distributed 101,644 pairs of eyeglasses
- Diagnosed and treated 602 cases of diabetic retinopathy
- Trained 60+ physicians

These accomplishments would not have been possible without LCIF and the support of 53 Lion and Leo clubs. Overall, LCIF has awarded seven grants to LSFM, totaling US\$4,144,623.

To celebrate their 20th anniversary, LSFM Lion and Leo Clubs organized a parade and held a massive ophthalmic screening. Later that day, LSFM employees received medals from the Malagasy Government for their outstanding contributions.

Visit [LCIF.org/BE100](https://www.lcif.org/BE100) to learn how Campaign 100 will lead the charge to rid the world of infectious blindness, reduce avoidable blindness and visual impairment, and improve overall quality of life of those with blindness or visual impairment.

# Playtime is Better Together!

BY CASSANDRA ROTOLO

In Tennessee, the Lions-Anthem Foundation Healthy Heroes initiative helped to fund and build the All-Inclusive Playground at the Karns Lions Club Community Park, in the spring of 2017. The playground serves more than 3,500 families each year and is the only one in all of Knox County that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The playground features a musical garden, modern accessible play structures and much more. Thoughtful and inclusive design are key. There are no hills, mulch or rocks. This artificial turf provides a soft, even surface on which all children can walk, run, and even fall safely.

For 5-year-old Natalie Barham, that means more confidence. Natalie's difficulty with balance used to keep her from exploring other playgrounds freely. Amy, Natalie's mom, explains, "We never spent much time at parks before because it was just too difficult for us." Natalie is an outgoing and friendly child, playing happily with new friends of all abilities she meets at the playground.

Perhaps as important, the playground is not only accessible, but inclusive. "Accessible" playgrounds are built exclusively for children with disabilities, whereas "inclusive" playgrounds are built for children of all abilities. For 7-year-old Addie Humphreys, who has cerebral palsy, this distinction is vital. Design elements like extra handrails and low transfer points on slides give Addie the opportunity to connect with other children. Disc-shaped swings provide Natalie the exhilaration of swinging alongside friends.

For Addie's mom, Rachel, the Karns Lions playground offers peace of mind. Addie lacks the core control to safely navigate traditional playground equipment, which often means she plays with her mom instead of other children. The innovative equipment lets Addie interact without her mom hovering too close. "Thank you so much, Lions and Anthem," says Rachel. "You see so far outside of yourselves. This is a gift for the kids, for the parents and for the entire community."



Natalie (above) gets some help on the climbing wall from her mom.

Addie (L) and Natalie (R) enjoy the music garden at the Karns Lions All-Inclusive playground.



The project reflects Lions Clubs International Foundation's and Anthem Foundation's shared vision of health and wellness for all. Since 2015, Healthy Heroes projects have directly benefited more than 200,000 lives across eight states, through disability inclusive projects, food banks, shelters, and more.

"The Anthem Foundation remains committed to ensuring families across the country have access to programs and resources that improve the health and wellness of our communities," said Lance Chrisman, executive director of the Anthem Foundation. "Our collaboration with the Lions to support the All-Inclusive Playground is another example of how together we are working to ensure all children have access to safe places and opportunities to live active lifestyles."

Monica Dailey, a local former special education teacher, advised the Lions on their new playground. Inclusivity is paramount for her. "Separating children from each other isn't the answer," she says. "Inclusion teaches compassion and acceptance. And everyone benefits from more of that."

Visit [lionsclubs.org](http://lionsclubs.org) to learn how Campaign 100 supports the work of Lions to help people with disabilities lead more independent, productive and fulfilling lives.

## CLUB NEWS



Summerside Lions in Prince Edward Island, Canada, provide an afternoon of good food and holiday tunes for residents in a senior housing complex.

The **Simcoe Lynn Valley Lions** in **Canada** contributed CAN\$500 (US\$379) to the Children's Aid Society for their Foster Children's Holiday Party. The club also sponsored three families, supplying them with food and gifts.

In **Michigan** the **Sandusky Lions** dedicated a digital sign to the Sandusky City Library and donated a Lion's drinking fountain for the city playground.

WWII veteran Hubert Garland Edwards, his family, and his fellow **Western Harnett Lions** in **North Carolina** celebrated Hubert's 100th birthday with a cake and the presentation of a plaque, a club t-shirt, and an honorary lifetime membership. Edwards is a decorated veteran having served in the 17th Field Artillery Battalion. He noted at the celebration that one highlight of his career was a personal conversation he shared with Generals Eisenhower and Patton.

In a small rural town in the **Missouri** Ozarks, the **Mountain Grove Lions** have purchased a spot vision screener and a hearing screener and screened more than 3,000 children for vision. Hearing screenings will follow. The club pursued grants for the purchase of the equipment, but members donate their time and personal expense money to reach out to students in a 30-mile radius of the small town where financial resources for the schools are limited.

**In Memoriam:** Past International Director Aimo N.K. Viitala died on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2018, in Helsinki, Finland, at the age of 91. A Lion since 1953, he was president of the Lions Europa Forum in Helsinki in 1963 and was one of the organizers who contributed to the strong growth of the Lions organization in Finland. Lion Viitala served as International Director from 1981 to 1983 and received numerous awards including the 65 Year Monarch Chevron and the Ambassador of Good Will, the highest honor granted by the association to its members. He was also the first to receive the highest honor of the Finnish Lions Federation, the Grand Rose Nr. 1. He earned a Master of Law degree from Helsinki University and had a successful career in construction, the manufacturing industry, and commerce.

The **Crest Hill Lions Club** in **Illinois** presented the Will County Children's Advocacy Center with more than 120 fleece tie blankets they made to comfort sexually abused children who come to the center to find hope, healing, and justice. Lions are thankful for strong community support of the project.

In **Kentucky** the **Berea Lions Club** completed a fundraiser to purchase a lensometer for reading the prescription of used eyeglasses. They have processed several thousand pair and sent their first shipment of 1,000 to a mission team bound for Mexico. The club is preparing for other planned trips to Peru, Uganda, and Haiti.



Crest Hill Lion Nathan Schad and his son Noah make a blanket for the Will County Children's Advocacy Center in Illinois.

The **Iraan Lions Club**, a small 85-year-old club in **Texas**, contributed to flood relief for Junction, Texas and Sonora, Texas where devastating flash floods overcame communities with loss of lives and properties.

The **Maywood Nebraska Lions Club** celebrated their 70th anniversary and honored member Robert "Bob" Furrow who helped found the club in 1948. Furrow, 98, remains an avid golfer and active and proud Lion. He remembers back to when the Lions in Maywood would paint the stripes down the center of Main Street for the community.

**In Memoriam:** Colonel Arsene M. Millim, International Director from 1989 to 1991, died on December 22, 2018. He was 90 years old. A member of the Luxembourg International Lions Club since 1973, Past Director Millim served in many offices and was recognized with many honors including four International President's Awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor granted by the association to its members. Past Director Millim served as an expert for the disarmament matters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a counsellor to The Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations in New York. He was a military career officer and dedicated to supporting peace and ending human suffering. Past Director Millim was respected for his flawless commitment to the values of Lions and the development of Lions clubs in Luxembourg, and will be remembered as an exemplary leader and honest, sincere friend.



The **Brookfield Lions** in **Connecticut** recently screened their 10,000th child. One of the Brookfield Lions, Fraij Yapoujian wondered if the service was available in his ancestral home in Armenia, so the Brookfield Lions got to work, made plans, and traveled there, hosted by Armenian Zone Chairperson Mkrtych Sargsyan. They anticipated screening 800 to 1,000 children but actually screened 2,003 and have plans to go back and offer screenings in other parts of Armenia.

Children in Armenia show off their Lions Kid Sight Pediatric Screening stickers they received when the Brookfield Lions in Connecticut traveled to their country to conduct vision screenings.

**In Memoriam:** Past International Director Helmer N. Lecy, 87, died at home in Arkdale, Wisconsin where he was born. A Lion for 46 years, he was a charter officer of the Roche-A-Cri Lions Club, served as president of the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, was a national/multinational coordinator for Campaign SightFirst, and completed more than 35 mission trips to Mexico. He is a multi-level Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and received many Lion awards. PID Lecy served in the US Army and was involved in many community organizations including 4-H Clubs of America and Boy Scouts. He owned and operated Lecy Construction from 1956 to 1967 and during that time built 19 post offices throughout the state of Wisconsin.

**In Memoriam:** Past International Director Dr. Rointon Khambatta, 94, died on December 19, 2018. A Lion since 1956 and a member of the London (Host) Lions Club, he served as International Director from 1962 to 1964. He was a Key Member and received numerous Lion awards including two International President's Awards and the Ambassador of Goodwill Award, the highest honor the association presents to its members. A respected cardiologist, the Past Director was a past president of the Pakistan Medical Association and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London and Edinburgh. Dr. Khambatta was also a District Grand Master of Pakistan for UGLE and Worshipful Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, the premier lodge of Masonic research.



# The Service Journey



Diabetes



Environment



Hunger



Vision



Childhood Cancer



Our long-standing mission has an exciting new face.

Explore it today at [lionsclubs.org](http://lionsclubs.org)



**Lions Clubs International**

# Voting at 2019 International Convention

## Voting for Executive Officers and International Directors

Every Lions club in good standing can participate in the election of executive officers and international directors and can vote on amendments to the association's bylaws by assigning delegates to represent the club at the international convention.

At the International Convention certification and voting will occur at the same time in the convention Voting Area. As soon as you are certified, you will receive a ballot and will be able to vote immediately. Certification and Voting days and times are:

- Sunday, July 7, 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM (12:00 – 17:00)
- Monday, July 8, 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM (12:00 – 17:00)
- Tuesday, July 9, 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM (7:30 – 9:30)

## Assigning Club Delegates

Club Delegates for the International Convention of Lions Clubs can be assigned by the club president or secretary, using one of the options below:

- Log on to MyLCl >>> My Lions Club >>> Conventions
- Submitting the Club Delegate Form to LCl headquarters, at the address below.

Clubs using MyLCl can assign their club delegates at any time between January 1 and July 2, 2019 11:59 PM CST.

Clubs using the [Club Delegate Form](#) to assign their delegates will need to mail the form to International Headquarters by May 1, 2019. If you are not able to mail the form by May 1, 2019, bring the signed form to the convention site. The form will also be available online.

For more information on voting at the International Convention go to:

<http://lclcon.lionsclubs.org/experience/certification-voting/>

Lions Clubs International  
Member Service Center  
300 W. 22nd Street  
Oak Brook IL 60523

email: MemberServiceCenter@LionsClubs.org  
fax: 630-571-1687  
phone: 630-203-3830

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### International Convention Club Delegate Entitlement Table

Membership	Delegates Entitled	Membership	Delegates Entitled	Membership	Delegates Entitled
1-37	1	438-462	18	863-887	35
38-62	2	463-487	19	888-912	36
63-87	3	488-512	20	913-937	37
88-112	4	513-537	21	938-962	38
113-137	5	538-562	22	963-987	39
138-162	6	563-587	23	988-1012	40
163-187	7	588-612	24	1013-1037	41
188-212	8	613-637	25	1038-1062	42
213-237	9	638-662	26	1063-1087	43
238-262	10	663-687	27	1088-1112	44
263-287	11	688-712	28	1113-1137	45
288-312	12	713-737	29	1138-1162	46
313-337	13	738-762	30	1163-1187	47
338-362	14	763-787	31	1188-1212	48
363-387	15	788-812	32	1213-1237	49
388-412	16	813-837	33	1238-1262	50
413-437	17	838-862	34	1263+	See below*

Delegate count is based on the club's membership as shown by the records of the international office on the first day of the month last preceding that month during which the convention is held. See Article VI, Section 2 of the International Constitution and Chapter XVII – Membership, Board Policy Manual.

\*Delegate entitlement is one delegate for every 25 members or major fraction thereof.





## Club Delegate Form

Club Delegates for the 2019 International Convention of Lions Clubs can be assigned using one of the options below:

- Log on to MyLCI >>> My Lions Club >>> Conventions
- Submitting this form to LCI headquarters, at the address below.

Confirmation of the Club Delegate assignment will be emailed to the Club Delegate. When the email address of the Club Delegate is not available, the Confirmation will be emailed to the club officer.

Club Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate Name: (first middle last) \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate Preferred Ballot Language: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorizing Club Officer: (select one)  Club President  Club Secretary

Officer Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Officer Name: (first middle last) \_\_\_\_\_

Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form by May 1, 2019 to:

Member Service Center – Lions Clubs International – 300 W. 22nd St. – Oak Brook, IL USA 60523  
[MemberServiceCenter@lionsclubs.org](mailto:MemberServiceCenter@lionsclubs.org) Phone 1-630-203-3830 Fax 1-630-571-1687

Clubs using this Club Delegate Form to assign their delegates must mail the form to International Headquarters by May 1, 2019.

If you are not able to mail the form by May 1, 2019, bring signed form, along with your government issued photo I.D. to the convention site.

Clubs using MyLCI must assign their club delegates by July 2, 2019 (11:59pm CST)



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# PEACE

## IMAGINE

600,000 children sharing their visions of peace

## INSPIRE

Youth to showcase their talent

## CREATE

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Don't miss your opportunity to sponsor the **32nd annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest!**

Give kids in your community a creative way to express their visions of what peace means to them. The theme for the 2019-20 Peace Poster Contest is *Journey of Peace*. Order your Peace Poster Kit to play a key role in engaging young people and promoting peace around the world. Get complete contest details at [lionsclubs.org](http://lionsclubs.org).

The *Journey of Peace* begins with you and your club.

Order your Peace Poster Kit today!

[lionsclubs.org/peaceposter](http://lionsclubs.org/peaceposter)  
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# LION



Lions Clubs International

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# LANNIVERSARIES

## MARCH 2019

**100 Years:** Fort Smith Noon, Ark.; Hot Springs, Ark.

**95 Years:** Cottage Grove, Ore.; New Braunfels, Texas; Salina, Utah; Portsmouth, Ohio; Meadville, Pa.; Walnut Creek Host, Calif.; Mount Vernon, Iowa; West Palm Beach Wellington, Fla.

**90 Years:** Mt. Lebanon, Pa.; Hobart, Ind.; Broken Bow, Okla.; Alexandria, La.; Elkhart, Kan.; Snohomish, Wa.; Clifton, Texas; Celina, Ohio; New Canaan, Conn.; Arcanum, Ohio; Sour Lake, Texas; New Ulm, Minn.; Port Neches, Texas; Garwood, N.J.; Hubbard, Texas; Sterling City, Texas; Florence, Ariz.

**85 Years:** Mount Prospect, Ill.; Doylestown, Ohio; Bon, Va.; Texas City, Texas; York Springs, Pa.; Flemington, N.J.; Mount Dora, Fla.; Cortland, Ohio; Gananoque, Ontario, CAN; New Kensington, Pa.; Ames, Iowa, Fullerton Host, Calif.; Easley, S.C.; New Oxford, Pa.; Centerville, Iowa, Kissimmee, Fla.; Oak Lawn, Ill.; Tarentum Area, Pa.; Upper Adams County, Pa.; Elba, Ala.; Brockville, Ontario, CAN; Corinth, Miss.; Rocky Mount Evening, N.C.; Conway, S.C.; White Hall, Ill.; Hatch, N.M.; Arvin, Calif.; Allentown, N.J.; Bemidji, Minn.

**75 Years:** Marissa, Ill.; Britton, S.D.; Garner, N.C.; Almont, Mich.; Rippey, Iowa; Greencastle, Pa.; Gainesville, Fla.; Rockford, Wa.; Ramsey, Ill.; Abbotsford, British Columbia, CAN; Asheboro, N.C.; Agawam, Mass.; Denton, N.D.; Gloucester City, N.J.; Bethel, Ohio; Maple Shade, N.J.; Uptown Long Beach, Calif.; Sundridge, Ontario, CAN

**50 Years:** Delta, Calif.; Fairwood, Wa.; Swink, Colo.; Westfield, Wis.; Kirkfield District, Ontario, CAN; Sawyer, N.D.; Victoria IMPerial, British Columbia, CAN; Chadbourn, N.C.; Dubois, Wyo.; Brechin District, Ontario, CAN; Elba Township, Mich.; Naples Nites, Fla.; Clay Battelle District, W.V.; Temecula, Calif.; Brandon, Minn.; Plantagenet, Ontario, CAN; New Richland, Minn.; Lubbock Redbud Square, Texas; Kismet, Kan.; Central Saanich, British Columbia, CAN; De Pere, Wis.; Slatedale Emerald Area, Pa.; Spartanburg Evening, S.C.; Okotoks, Alberta, CAN

**25 Years:** Mayfield, Utah; Poland, Ohio; Jeffers Community, Minn.; Block Island, R.I.; Ostrander, Minn.

*Anniversaries are based on the official records of Lions Clubs International. The recorded charter date at LCI sometimes differs from local club records.*

