

# LION

SUMMER 2021 LIONMAGAZINE.ORG

## A Heart for Service

Meet Our New  
International President,  
Douglas X. Alexander



Lions Clubs International





Lions Clubs International  
**FOUNDATION**



# LCIF: Stories of Pride

Inspiration created by YOU

Lions and Leos worldwide have long told their moving stories of service. Now, it's time to see LCIF's impact on that service – the stories your donations make possible.

Experience and share the stories of pride **you** make possible. [lcifpride.org](https://lcifpride.org)

3 **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

4 **BIG PICTURE**

8 **IN THE NEWS**

11 **GLOBAL SERVICE**

42 **CLUB NEWS**

56 **PARTING SHOT**

## 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

For change of address, non-receipt of the magazine and other subscription issues, contact **630-468-6982** or [MemberServiceCenter@lionsclubs.org](mailto:MemberServiceCenter@lionsclubs.org). For all other inquiries call **630-571-5466**. Have a story idea or photo? Want to comment on a story or make a suggestion for LION editors? Contact the LION at [lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org](mailto:lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org) or at **630-468-6798**.

Subscription price, US\$6.00 year, US\$12.00 year mailed outside North America; Single copies, US \$1.00.

Canada Post Publications Mail No. 40029736  
Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:  
LIONS 2835 Kew Drive, Windsor, ON N8T 3B7.

## CONTENTS SUMMER 2021 • VOLUME 104 • NUMBER 1



IP Alexander with his partner  
in service, Shabiki Cazabon.

### 17 **A HEART FOR SERVICE**

Service from the heart  
will guide our way.

### 11 **KINDNESS MATTERS** KMSA winners and their stories.



### 32 **TWENTY YEARS LATER** Remembering 9/11 and the role Lions continue to play in moving forward.

### 38 **CHOCOLATE TATER TOTS AND BLUE FEET** Minnesota mom finds learning to live with blindness is easier with a sense of humor.

### 50 **LCIF: A FOUNDATION OF LIONS, A FOUNDATION OF SERVICE**

### 30 **FEEL GOOD MOMENTS** The new face of Lions is all about feeding your soul through service.







# Thank You For a Successful LCICon!

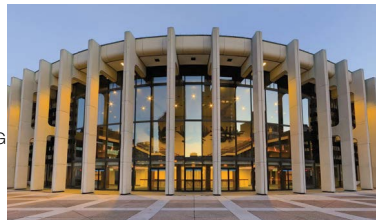
The biggest Lions event of the year wouldn't be possible without you proving that through it all, we are all connected through service. On behalf of Lions Clubs International, we extend our gratitude to all the Lions and Leos who helped make Virtual LCICon 2021 a success!



**Save the date:**

**104<sup>th</sup> Lions Clubs International Convention Montréal**

We look forward to seeing you at our next convention in Montréal, a vibrant city rich with culture. More information about LCICon 2022 will be available at [LCICon.lionsclubs.org](https://LCICon.lionsclubs.org), so check back often for updates.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### The Secret of Service

Dear Lions,

For my first message to you in LION Magazine, I want to talk about the small things. When Lions Clubs International was started more than 100 years ago, it was founded on the idea that those who can help, should. It was that simple.

I grew up with those same values. I was raised in Brooklyn, where most families worked hard and came home tired at the end of the day. But they saw the value in supporting one another. They knew they were stronger together. And they knew that as tired as they were, or as steep as their own struggle seemed, they still had something to give. So, they did.

It's so easy to make a difference. That's the secret that so many Lions already understand and what I wish more people knew. You don't have to end all suffering for humankind—not on your own. But you can ease one person's struggle. You can pick up their bag and carry it for a while. And when you think of service in little moments like this, it becomes easier to see just how many ways there are to give back. And it gets even easier when each one of us invites a new member to join our club. That gives us more helping hands. And more service from the heart.

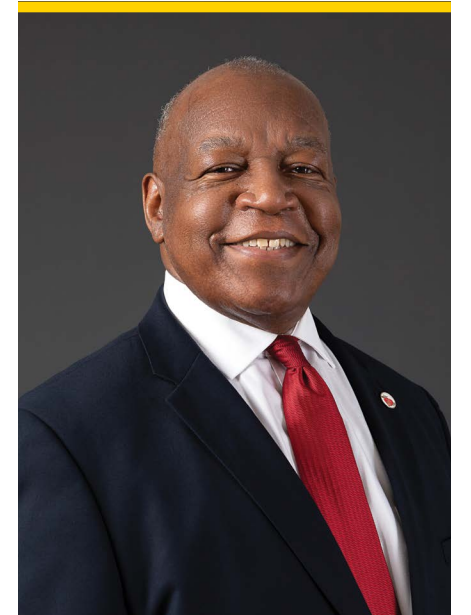
I know we are all busy, and we all have heavy loads—these days especially. But remember that the small things you do as Lions are as important as the big things. The way you serve may look different than how I serve or how your buddy down the street serves. And that's a good thing. That gives us balance and diversity. That makes us Lions.

I am honored to embark on the next year as your International President and look forward to serving from the heart with you.

Sincerely,

*Douglas K. Alexander*

Douglas X. Alexander  
International President, Lions Clubs International



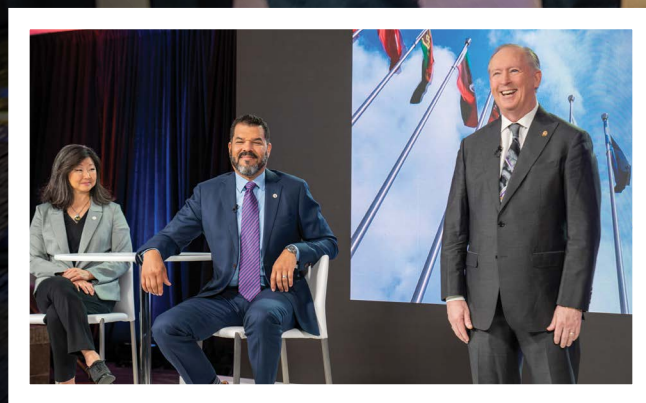
We Serve.



# Unconventional

**A peek backstage at the very first virtual LCI convention**

When the decision was made to go all-virtual for the 2021 International Convention, it was all-hands-on-deck. Staff mobilized to create a virtual stage at Lions Headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois. Presenters flew in from around the world to bring all the favorites from our in-person conventions right into the homes of Lions. It was a truly unconventional convention.





## Little Roarers

The Lions Club of the City of Adelaide in South Australia have a whole lot of pride for the cubs club they've sponsored. The Little Roarers chartered on February 19, 2019, and have 23 members. In addition to the many service projects they've worked on in the past two years (including making dog biscuits for puppies in training at the Australian Lions Hearing Dogs training center), they are currently busy working on a dance-a-thon fundraiser to help support the Ronald McDonald House.

Service comes in all sizes and ages. Hear them roar.





# LDUN Prompts Lion Sing-Along

Lions Day with the United Nations (LDUN) has been an important Lion tradition for 43 years, taking the opportunity to showcase Lions’ commitment to peace and service that transcends politics and borders.



This year was no different, even if it was just a little different. More than 5,600 Lions and leaders from 140 countries registered for the event to discuss this year’s theme “Connected Through Service.”

The weekend culminated in Lions and Leos joining together to virtually perform the Bill Withers song “Lean on Me”. You can see the video at [lionmagazine.org](https://lionmagazine.org).



# Pioneering Geneticist Named Honorary Lion

In a year of pain and heartbreak for many, the annual Lions Clubs Peace Poster Contest proves that peace does find a way. Despite global lockdowns, clubs organized and children created elaborate drawings, many featuring healthcare workers, to share their idea of peace with the world.



The 2020-2021 grand prize winner is Yue Zheng, 13 years old, from China and sponsored by the Dalian De Long Lions Club.



Joshua Wood, 13 years old, from Australia is the winner of the Peace Essay Contest for his essay titled “Peace Through Service.” He is sponsored by the Brisbane Camphill Carindale Lions Club.

You can read his essay at [lionsclubs.org/peace-essay](https://lionsclubs.org/peace-essay).

As part of their annual Tribute Day, Arthur Riggs, Ph.D was invited by the Lions Club of Montebello to be an honorary member for his extraordinary contribution and incredible advancements in the fight against diabetes.

In 1978 Riggs co-led the team that laid the groundwork for the development of the first synthetic human insulin with Diabetes. Currently the Samuel Rahbar Chair in Diabetes & Drug Discovery at City of Hope, a comprehensive cancer care center in California, Riggs has been working on better treatments for diabetes since joining the renowned cancer center in 1969. Ironically, “I did not intend to study diabetes,” Riggs admitted

in a 2018 interview. “The early work was an accident. Really, we were trying to make genes. We asked ourselves, ‘What useful gene can we make?’ The gene that we decided to make that we thought would be useful was human insulin.” Riggs' nomination was approved by the board of directors of the Montebello Lion Club and will be officially entered into LCI’s club roster as an honorary member.



## IN THE NEWS

### OVERHEARD

"Stepping up for those in need is what we do as Lions. It touched all parts of my life."

—**Gary Fellows**, Millington Lions Club in Maryland, on serving in the aftermath of the 9/11 terror attacks. See story page 32.

"Kindness is one of the few things that benefits both the giver and the recipient. It's a win-win for everybody. There's no downside to kindness."

—**Jamie Mask of the Orillia Lions Club**, in Orillia, Ontario, on the benefits of helping at-risk youth. See story page 13.

"People say I clean better now when I'm blind. Touch is my eyes. I can feel the dirt."

—**Heather Bitzan**, on going blind. See story page 38.

"People always say to me, 'you speak from the heart.' But this isn't about me. It's about us, and what we can do to make a difference in this world."

—**International President Douglas Alexander**, on being a Lion. See story page 30.

### BY THE NUMBERS

7

Tony nominations for the Broadway musical based on the story of the passengers stranded in Newfoundland and the Lions that took them in following the 9/11 attacks.

20

Feet in length of the new refrigerated box truck the Clarendon Hills Lions Club in Illinois can now use to more efficiently deliver food to those in need.

500

People attended The Hebron Lions in Connecticut's first Deck the Jeeps event.

120

Doodles promoting COVID-19 safety drawn by Takoma Park Lion Jim Jarboe.

## GLOBAL SERVICE

KINDNESS  
MATTERS

Presenting the  
2019-2020  
Kindness Matters  
Service Award Winners



# KINDNESS COMES NATURALLY TO LIONS

The Kindness Matters Service Award (KMSA) is given annually to a handful of Lions and Leo clubs for performing an outstanding service project in one of the global cause areas.

Intended to recognize and encourage innovative and creative service projects that leave positive impacts on their communities, KMSA recipients are clubs who have shown just how meaningful a Lion or Leo club can be.

## The 2019-2020 winners are:

**Sacramento Antelope Lions Club** | USA, California  
“Antelope Feeding Antelope and Beyond”

**Fraser River Valley Lions Club** | USA, Colorado  
“Diabetes Education Kitchen”

**Jericho-Brookville Lions Club** | USA, New York

**Seneca Lions Club** | USA, South Carolina  
“Golden Corner Food Pantry Emergency Generator Project”

**Fairfax Host Lions Club** | USA, Virginia  
“Food for Others — Mobile Emergency Food Pantry”

**Cyber Visionary Leo Club** | USA, New Jersey  
“Together We CAN Food Drive and Sculpture Competition”

**Orillia Lions Club** | Canada, Ontario

**Quilmes San Francisco Solano Lions Club** | Argentina  
“Por Una Vista Mejor — For a Better Eye Sight”

**Guarulhos Maia Lions Club** | Brazil  
“Construcao Centro Comunitario”

**Yaguarón Lions Club** | Paraguay  
“Calidad de Vida y Diabetes”

**Puira Ignacio Merino Lions Club** | Peru  
“Punta Arenas Recycling”

**Paramaribo Central Lions Club** | Republic of Suriname  
“Supporting Mangrove Project Weg Naar Zee”

**Mercato San Severino Lions Club** | Italy  
“Helping Families in Need for a More Free and Just Society”

**Adana Yuregir Leo Club** | Turkey  
“Pediatric Oncology”

**East Anglia New Century Lions Club** | United Kingdom

**Megusa Mesarya Lions Club** | Undistricted Cyprus |  
“Diabetes Activities: Strides for Diabetes, Blood Sugar Screening & Educational Awareness”

**Nishinomiya Ebisu Lions Club** | Japan  
“Diabetes Prevention Awareness Presentation to the General Public”

**Kuala Lumpur City Lions Club** | Malaysia  
“River of Life — Community Garden”

**Mangalore Tulunadu Lions Club** | India  
“Online Diabetes Awareness Campaign”

**Berekuso Ashei Leo Club** | Ghana  
“Type 2 Diabetes Awareness and Health Screening”

To read more about all the winning projects visit  
<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/kindness-matters-service-award>.

## KINDNESS MATTERS SERVICE AWARD WINNER

# Stepping Up During Shut Down

Orillia Lions help local youth center keep tabs on at-risk youth during lockdown

At-risk youth entered dangerous, uncharted territory when the world went into lockdown in the spring of 2020. Luckily, the Orillia Lions in Ontario, Canada, had their backs.

For more than 20 years the Orillia Lions have supported the local youth center through both financial and service support, but in the past few years they’ve become more involved. And when the pandemic shut things down and the center had to close, Lions knew it was time to up their involvement to keep those most at risk off the streets.

The Orillia Youth Center (OYC) is a drop-in facility for children ages 11 to 17. They offer at-risk youth meals, opportunities for social engagement, workshops to support self-esteem and build life skills, mental health support, arts activities, and much more.

During the shut-down, OYC staff were laid off, but they continued to do their jobs anyway, knowing how much they were needed. “The Orillia Lions felt the need to step up our support,” says Club Chairperson Denise Naughton.

The center set up weekly meals for kids and their families. The meals

were intended to provide food of course, but they were also a way to keep a watch over the kids they’d been working so hard to help.

“During the lockdown, these kids weren’t in school and they didn’t have a lot going on at home,” says

staff went and picked them up and got them over to Children’s Aid. As a former police officer and policy-maker for juvenile offenders, Mask knows how grave a situation they were in. “What could have happened to them down there?”

For many of these young people, the youth center provides the only guidance in their lives. And having the Lions involved lets the kids and their families know that the community really cares about them and is there to support them.

Naughton believes providing opportunities for young people will help foster partnerships between the community and its residents. And many of these same youth have already given

back to the community by donating their time to Lions activities, like roadside cleanups. “I’ve seen them slowly come out of their shells,” says Naughton. “Because they’re giving back. They’re doing something outside of themselves. It gives them a purpose. They feel proud to be out there picking up garbage and helping you out.”

The lesson? “Kindness is one of the few things that benefits both the giver and the recipient,” says Mask. “It’s a win-win for everybody. There’s no downside to kindness.”



Lion Jamie Mask. “We needed a way to keep tabs on them and make sure they were ok.” Lions and OYC provided enough meals for the kids and their families. Kids who didn’t show up had meals delivered to them.

Their efforts really paid off when, during the summer, two kids hadn’t been seen or heard from in a long time. During meal pickups, staff began asking other kids if they had seen the boys. “Turns out, they were living rough. They had found a tent somewhere outside of town and were living alone,” says Mask. OYC



## KINDNESS MATTERS SERVICE AWARD WINNER

# Cooking Up Kindness

Fraser Valley Lions finance a teaching kitchen for people with diabetes



If you're looking for majestic mountains, grand rivers, and lush valleys, Grand County, Colorado will not disappoint. Home of the Fraser Valley Lions Club, the natural beauty that defines the area can also hide underlying needs.

Like much of the United States, Grand County residents have been facing a growing diabetes epidemic. The Mountain Family Center (MFC) in Granby has been trying to meet the needs of those facing food insecurity since 1979, and Fraser Valley Lions figured they would be precisely the right folks to partner with to tackle diabetes in their community.

While the Fraser Valley Lions have been supporting MFC for a long time, recent plans to renovate a newly acquired building prompted the director to reach out to the club for help.

"As part of their renovations, they wanted to build a teaching kitchen

where they could show people with diabetes how to prepare more healthy meals," says club chairperson Greg Orzech. The club was eager to help. It fit two of Lions main causes – hunger and diabetes, and they had the resources to help make it happen.

With Lions in neighboring Jackson County on board, they were able to secure a US\$31,875 LCIF Diabetes Grant. The total cost of the project was more than US\$42,000, so the club kicked in the rest. Included in the cost was the training for three MFC staff to learn how to teach cooking for people with diabetes.

The center, which has grown since its inception in 1979 as the Fraser Valley Women's Resource Center, aims to help anyone who needs a hand up. "They try to work with people to ensure they can sustain themselves over some period of time," says Orzech. "The goal is to get them back on their feet."

The center provides a lot of food, medical care, and rental assistance to those who would otherwise have nowhere to turn.

The partnership between Lions and the center has enabled Lions to provide real aid to their community without requiring them to be social service experts. Orzech estimates they put about US\$150,000 back into their community each year. But if someone needs rental assistance, MFC is better equipped to help. "They know how to do the screenings and all that. They have all that expertise," says Orzech. "It's a great working relationship from that perspective. We can use their resources and put the money back into the community and know it's going to good use."

At the root of it all, says Orzech, is kindness. He firmly believes it drives what Lions do. "I think everything the club does up here is really just acts of kindness," he says. "Trying to help people who are in a tougher spot than you."



## KINDNESS MATTERS SERVICE AWARD WINNER

# Managing Mangroves

Cultivating these coastal trees could help save Suriname



Perched atop the Northern coast of South America, Suriname is the smallest country on the continent, yet the Lions there have taken on a big role in fighting climate change.

Loss of the natural mangrove forests has led to erosion of Suriname's muddy coastline. Fed by silt washed from the mouth of the Amazon, the land should be growing, not disappearing. But dikes erected in the 1960s to build a highway connecting the east and west coasts of the country cut straight through wetlands where fresh water and saltwater mix. The mixed water -- called sweet water -- is where mangroves thrive. Without the trees' roots to bind the silt, much of the fertile soil is washed away.

One of the most important and productive ecosystems on earth, healthy mangroves can not only provide coastal communities with a sustainable living, but they protect coastlines from natural disasters

and, according to the Mangrove Action Project, are capable of capturing more carbon per hectare than any other type of forest.

The Paramaribo Central Lions Club has been supporting the Mangrove Project of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname under the direction of the Hydrologist Professor S. Naipal since 2015.

"The erosion of the coastline infringes on the agriculture land," writes club chairperson Glenn Tewari. "Planting mangrove trees prevents the rich soil from being washed away by the oceans." Residents of Suriname rely on the fertile soil for agriculture to produce food, but the constant flooding due to erosion has made farming difficult.

Professor Naipal has been on a mission to save the coastline -- and thus preserve the livelihood of Suriname's resident farmers as well as the precarious ecosystem that depends on them. And Lions have stepped in to help. Naipal's rescue mission to repair the damage caused by human development involves constructing scaffolding in the muddy waters to trap sediment so that there is enough mud for the mangroves to take root. Once the newly planted mangroves are established, they prevent the ocean from washing away the soil.

The plants are grown in special greenhouses from seeds gathered along the coast. Once ready, the

seedlings are planted in the mud with splints to protect them from the waves.

Lions donated the specific kind of water-resistant wood required to build the scaffolding and ensure that it makes its way to the building site. They also donated the wood to build the greenhouses where the seedlings grow and assist in planting the mangroves. "We work with nature, for nature," writes Tewari. "The wood comes from the hinterland to help restore and protect nature in the coastal plain. The club is hoping their work will provide better protection for endangered species such as the Flamingo and Scarlet Ibises, birds that thrive in the brackish coastline waters.

Once the coastline is stabilized, the land can be farmed again, and the people of Suriname can have a more dependable local food source.

Lions of Paramaribo Central have taken on the project because they know how important a healthy coastline is to their community. More than 90 percent of Suriname's population lives along the coast. And they've partnered with many local organizations, including lumberjacks, in addition to the University in order to properly carry out the replanting.

"The only know-how is in constructing the infrastructure required for saving the soil," says Tewari. "Nature does the rest."



KINDNESS MATTERS SERVICE AWARD WINNER

## Canned Goods Make Great Sculptures

Leos envision project that brings people together

Your mother always told you not to play with your food. But today's youth clearly haven't gotten that message. In late 2019, Leos in New Jersey put a twist on an established service project by tasking participants to not just donate food, but to make art with it.

The New Jersey Visionary Cyber Leo Club based in Edison, New Jersey, had a vision to bring together like-minded local organizations to achieve the goal of providing nutritious food for all members of their community – all while encouraging young people in the visual arts.

Leos advertised to students in the community, asking them to collect food and bring it to the Edison, New Jersey, municipal council chambers where the sculpture competition would take place.

Local students then formed teams of two to six (ranging in ages from



kindergarten to college students) and used the food donations to assemble sculptures. There was no theme, just the collective goal of working together to do something unique and for a good cause.

“[They could build] anything they wanted to bring to life. Our main focus was the actual teamwork aspect of it,” says current leadership chairperson Ojas Chitnis. “We had all sorts of things, one of them was a football field, one group made an octopus, there were all sorts of things that revolved mostly around animals or sports.”

The sculptures remained on display for two weeks until the council's next meeting at which the winners were recognized. The food was then delivered to three different area food pantries.

The project brought together Lions, Leos, and other community groups to address a cause in a truly collaborative and fun way. In fact, one of the student organizations

they partnered with, the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), was so inspired by the project that they created the “Together We Can” initiative, a campaign to bring awareness to the issue of hunger and to promote student collaboration.

As it turned out, the idea seemed to be especially prescient.

“During the pandemic we saw that a lot of our Leos and Lions were struggling so much,” says Chitnis. “And in retrospect, that theme of bringing people together was so important.”

In this way, it seems the Leos are living up to their name. While they inherited the name from their sponsoring club, they are embracing their role as visionaries.

“We want to be the future of service,” says Chitnis. “We are an older district, but we want to be the next wave in service.”



## We Serve

We serve with love and compassion in communities around the world. The selfless giving of our time and effort is precisely what makes Lions so special. When we give, we expect nothing in return. Yet we gain so much. Our service offers hope and connection in the face of great need and also extends an invitation to the world to join us. We embrace the joy that comes with

**Service From The Heart.**



# A heart for service.

## International President, Douglas X. Alexander



Lions are a family. A very big, global family — one in which the only requirement is pure and simple: a heart for service. These are the feelings of our 105th International President, Douglas X. Alexander. And who better to lead our international family of service than a decorated Lion of 37 years, who just so happens to have eight siblings of his own?

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, International President Alexander has been serving his community as a member of the Brooklyn Bedford Stuyvesant Lions Club since 1984. Like many Lions, his love for service began at a young age. Working at a local grocery store, he would help community members before and after his shifts, earning no money but something far more valuable — their appreciation and respect. It was this selfless service that felt the most rewarding, and that led to a belief that he still holds closely today. Service from the heart, selfless and without expectation, offers humanity the greatest gift of all: The opportunity to make a difference in someone's life.

His journey from Lion Alexander to International President Alexander in many ways mirrors his success as an international businessman. Beginning his career in finance as a bank teller, he understood that if he was patient, worked hard and let his passion shine through, it would all work out in the end. Decades later, he retired as a vice president of J.P. Morgan Chase.

These same qualities — patience, dedication and passion — along with his family-first mentality have made him a remarkable Lion, and the right person to lead our great association forward this coming year.







## The heartbeat of service.

**Connecting to communities  
through impassioned giving.**

What makes our family of service so unique is that we never stop growing. Our door is always open, an invitation to those who want to be a part of it.

We are a place where people answer the calls of their hearts to serve and are welcomed with open arms. We offer everyone the opportunity to participate in something bigger than us all: the selfless service of others.

Yet, what is sometimes lost in our depiction of our international association are the individuals behind the collective. We are certainly proud of our 48,000 clubs and 1.4 million members, and we use these numbers to showcase the sheer magnitude of our service and global community.

This year, let's remember the most important element of our success: you. You, and each individual Lion, are absolutely critical to our

collective success. You are the heartbeat of service. This year's message, Service from the Heart, is a call to all districts, clubs and Lions to be sure we are always leading with what brought us to Lions International to begin with – our hearts. If we let our passion for service shine through, there is absolutely nothing we can't accomplish together.





# The heart of a Lion.

On becoming truly devoted to service.

Every life has its defining moments. Ask any Lion about when they became a Lion and more often than not, they won't tell you the date they joined a club. Instead, they'll tell you the time that service rooted itself into their heart for good.

In the late 1980s, a young and promising financial professional decided to join his local Lions club. He had been repeatedly invited by a coworker, and eventually decided to take part. He was a man of action and liked how Lions were actually making a real difference in the community. And so, month after month, he attended meetings and supported projects.

When November came and Thanksgiving neared, his club held its annual holiday food delivery service to local families in need. As he knocked on the doors, one after another, passing out baskets of food to neighbors, the smiles on their faces and the joy they experienced began to transform him in a way that felt both familiar and new.

And then it happened. He walked down the hallway of a neighborhood apartment building, food basket in hand. He knocked on the door. It opened to reveal a mother, nearly brought to tears by the gesture and the food being offered to her family by the Lions.

"No one has ever done anything like this for us," she said softly. "Thank you."

From then on, this man was still everything he was before that moment — a son, a brother, a father. But he also truly became a Lion. And now, over 30 great years of service later, he is our 105th International President, Douglas X. Alexander.





# Plan on success.

## Our 2021-2022 Global Priorities

### Membership growth and engagement

The growth of our association means we're always ready to serve. To grow, we must not only bring in new members, we must also keep our current Lions engaged and active. Every time we lose a Lion, we have to recruit two more people in order to grow. More importantly, we must engage every member so that each person is able to truly live out the service that's in their heart.

### Support our Foundation

We are in the final year of our most ambitious giving campaign ever, Campaign 100. The generosity and support of LCIF is empowering our service around the world, and bringing hope. Let's put our hearts into action by supporting our global foundation so we can achieve our goal of raising US\$300M.

### Compassionate service

As communities around the world seek to find a sense of normalcy once again, Lions have a new and great opportunity to lead by example. We can help the world recover in this time when so many are still struggling. We must keep up our innovative service efforts of the past year and expand on them to address the needs of our current situation, with the knowledge that things can change at any moment.

### Communication

Transparency and open lines of communication are essential to great service, and therefore have always been key to Lions clubs. We must continue to focus on our connections to one another, those we serve, and the organizations that support us. As Lions, we have a powerful and global community of peers we can learn from and assist. Now is as good a time as any to lean into our network of service.





# Our hearts will lead the way.

## Serving in this moment.

The world has been through a lot in the past year. As Lions, we helped communities find safe ways to serve in unprecedented times. Just as we've always done, we acted as beacons of hope for countless people and communities in need, responding with new and innovative ways to serve.

As the world continues to change, we must learn from our recent past. We've experienced firsthand the importance of placing the health and safety of our members and those we serve above all else. But last year also showcased the ingenuity and innovation within our clubs. Virtual meetings, webinars, safe service and so much more — Lions spent the past year

developing new ideas and ways to connect. Let's continue to serve safely, but let's also continue to use the innovations and new technologies that can help us achieve stronger connections and greater success.

**Lead with Heart.** If each of our more than 1.4 million Lions recruited just one person a year to join us in service, we could do more than just double our membership in a single

year. We could double our impact too. While that's an ambitious goal, it all starts by engaging each and every club member. This means offering opportunities to lead and contribute in meaningful ways. When members are happy, they'll want to invite others to be a part of it. Our Lions come to our association with a passion and fire within them to serve. Let's do everything we can to keep that passion for service burning strong for years to come.



Service from  
**the heart**  
will guide our way



**Lions Clubs International**

# Connect with Young Lions

Expand your potential to meet the diverse needs of your community with multi-generational clubs and districts.

We are stronger when we serve together.



*"Young Lions want to volunteer more than anybody. Share, partner, build with them, because when you do, you are building the future of Lions."*

**-International Second Vice President  
Brian E. Sheehan**



*"We need all our diverse lenses and perspectives to see and respond to the different needs in our communities. Our strength is in our diversity."*

**-International Third Vice President  
Dr. Patti Hill**



Find helpful tips in our Connecting to Young Lions guide and learn about the many options available for Young Lions to serve in our organization at **[lionsclubs.org/young-lions](https://lionsclubs.org/young-lions)**.



**Lions Clubs International**

For more information about Young Lion programs contact **[membership@lionsclubs.org](mailto:membership@lionsclubs.org)**



## The New Face of Lions Is All About Feeding Your Soul Through Service

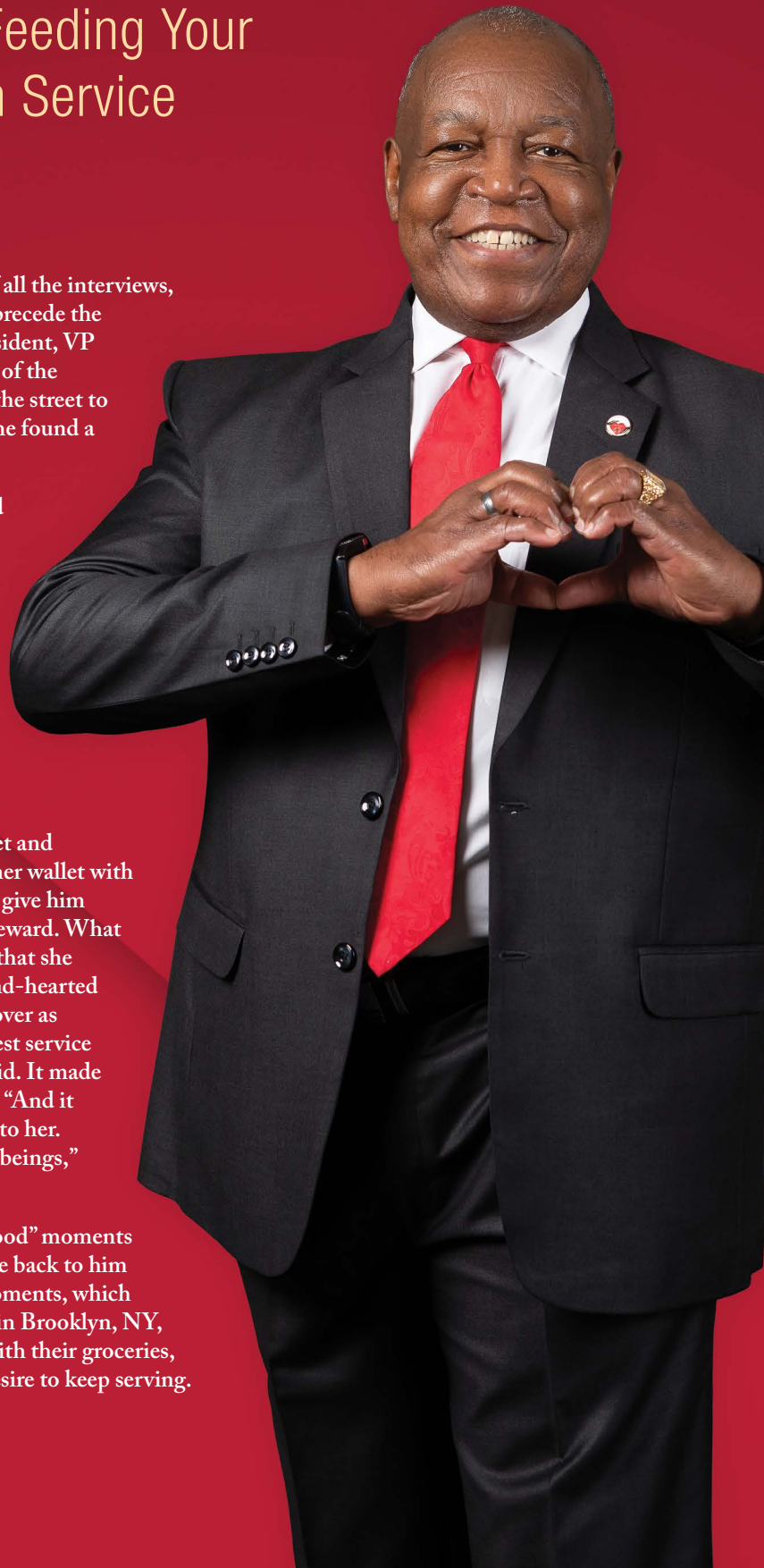
By Joan Cary

In early May, in the midst of all the interviews, pictures, and meetings that precede the announcement of a new President, VP Doug Alexander walked out of the Dollar Tree, heading across the street to complete his errands, when he found a wallet on the ground.

Inside was a woman's ID and \$140 in cash. Alexander saw from her address that she lived only a few blocks away, so he went there to return what belonged to her. But she wasn't home, someone said. She was at Dollar Tree, looking for her wallet. We all know how that feels.

When the two eventually met and Alexander gave the woman her wallet with all her money, she wanted to give him some of that cash back as a reward. What the woman didn't know was that she was face-to-face with the kind-hearted man who was about to take over as President of the world's largest service organization. "Oh no," he said. It made her feel good to have it back. "And it made me feel good to give it to her. That's what we do as human beings," he says.

Alexander calls these "feel good" moments and he says they quietly come back to him when he serves. It's these moments, which began as a child growing up in Brooklyn, NY, when he helped neighbors with their groceries, that reinforced in him the desire to keep serving.



Doug Alexander was born the middle child of nine children. Three sisters, Cleo, Doris, and Sandra preceded him, two brothers, Andra and Stanley, came after him, and then three more girls, Gladys, Verna, and Yolanda followed.

It can be easy to get lost in the middle of a big family, but he didn't. They were a religious family, spending all day Sunday in the Baptist church, he remembers. Dad was a truck driver. Mom stayed home with the children. Sometimes money was tight. Sometimes you had to put cardboard in the bottom of your shoe because you had worn a hole in it. But they always had a roof over their heads and food to eat.

When the children were grown, his mother went back to school, earned her high school diploma, and became a registered nurse. Alexander says he is proud of her.

"My siblings always said I was my mother's favorite," says Alexander with a chuckle. "I don't know where that came from." But when he was about 12, out of the blue a neighbor said, "We always knew you were going to do well." He has not forgotten that.

As a young boy, Alexander made his first money at the grocery store helping shoppers carry their bags home. Some people gave a \$1 tip, and others, a quarter. Quickly the boys at the store, including Alexander, determined which people were which and hoped they would get to help the folks with more money. But, says Alexander, "It also felt good when you helped somebody who didn't have the money. I remember that, too. You just do it because it's the right thing to do."

That same desire to help and do the right thing continued into his young adult years. As a branch manager at the bank, eager to get more involved in his community, Alexander was invited to a Lions meeting. That evening he walked into the McDonald's Dining Room, a family restaurant not connected to the franchise, and saw a group of men, members of the Brooklyn Bedford Stuyvesant Lions Club, discussing projects that would benefit their community.

"I knew I wanted to be a part of that," says Alexander.

On October 1, 1984 he became an official Lion, but it wasn't until a little later that he actually felt like one. He volunteered to be part of the club's Thanksgiving basket program bringing food to needy families. At one house a woman answered the door. "This is for your family," said a Lion, handing her a basket of food. Another behind him carried the turkey and a jug of cider.

Alexander remembers what she said in response: "Thank you so much. No one has ever done anything like this for my family."

"I walked down those stairs feeling so good about that experience," he says. "That's the day I became a Lion, knowing we were truly making a difference."

Our new president has many more memories just like these. But for now, Doug Alexander is focusing on the future, which includes growing membership and bringing even more diversity to Lions.

As the Lions' fourth African American International Director, from 2010 to 2012, and the first African

“People always say to me, ‘*you speak from the heart.*’ But this isn’t about me. It’s about us, and what we can do to make a difference in this world. That has served me well and I will continue in that way.”

American man to lead Lions, he has seen firsthand the importance of diversity. In North America, he says, "I think there's a lot of room for improvement. There are few places where I've gone in my years of serving where I've looked out and seen a true melting pot of all denominations of people. I think there's an opportunity to change that for our organization."

When given the opportunity to run for president, Alexander says he thought long and hard, praying over the decision.

"And I kept coming back with the same answer," he says. "Go for it."

"People always say to me, 'you speak from the heart.' But this isn't about me. It's about us, and what we can do to make a difference in this world. That has served me well and I will continue in that way. It's not about me."

That is what so many who have come across Alexander's kindness have learned. Alexander promises to lead Lions the way he leads his life: with courage and kindness. Straight from his heart. **L**



# TWENTY YEARS LATER

## REMEMBERING 9/11 AND THE ROLE LIONS CONTINUE TO PLAY IN MOVING FORWARD

By Jay Copp

On Sept. 11, 2001, Shirley Brooks-Jones was on Delta Flight 15, headed from Frankfurt to Atlanta, from where she'd fly to her home in Ohio. She had no idea what was happening in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania or the real reason their plane was being diverted to Newfoundland. "We've got a problem with the signal indicator," the captain, not wanting to panic the passengers, announced over the intercom.

A small town, Gander in Newfoundland had once served as a refueling station for planes and had some of the world's longest runways. Brooks-Jones, 65, an administrator at Ohio State University, watched anxiously as her plane nestled itself among a row of jumbo jets. Before long there would be 39 planes with 10,000 passengers and crew members.

U.S. airspace was closed because of the terror attacks, Brooks-Jones and other passengers finally were told. For nearly four days, the "plane people," as they came to be called, were housed, fed, and lovingly attended to by Canadians in Gander and other nearby small towns.

The local school bus drivers were on strike. But they agreed to ferry the passengers to accommodations. Brooks-Jones was among the

100 passengers driven 40 miles to hardscrabble Lewisporte, a tiny town with one main street and no stop lights. But it had an active Lions club with a clubhouse the size of a small gym.

Brooks-Jones cried when she saw Lions greet them and fly about the clubhouse to convert it into a temporary shelter. She had grown up poor in a large family. Years ago, as a schoolgirl, Lions arranged for her eye exam and then made sure she got glasses.

"It was the first time I could see the trees on the leaves and see what was for sale in store windows," she says of getting her first glasses. "I couldn't believe it. Here were Lions taking care of me again."

The passengers had not been allowed to take their luggage with them. They literally only had the clothes on their backs and shoes on their feet. Lions provided bedding, blankets, washcloths, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hairbrushes, combs, tampons and more. They cooked lavish meals. They set up a bank of phones, computers, and TV sets.

There was no charge for using the phones or anything else. "These were not wealthy people at all. These were people who had so little but had such big hearts," says Brooks-Jones.





## "I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT. HERE WERE LIONS TAKING CARE OF ME AGAIN."



**TOP LEFT:** Ojas Chitnis, now 18 and a Lion, spent his youth in Leos clubs, carrying on a legacy of helping others in times of need. | **TOP RIGHT:** Shirley Brooks-Jones became a Lion after they helped her and her fellow passengers on 9/11. | **BOTTOM LEFT:** Steve Tremaroli was one of many Lions in New York who sprang into action on 9/11 and in the days and weeks after. | **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Gary Fellows had the difficult job of helping identify remains.

Two Lions stood out. There was Mayor Bill Hooper. "He was a short fellow with a cowlick and a smile and running all over," says Brooks-Jones. His wife, Thelma, was quiet and sweet. When a young girl saw the 9/11 destruction on TV and fell to the ground in grief, Thelma put her arms around her. "You just cry as long as you want to. You're here with friends," she comforted her.

When the passengers finally were allowed to fly home, Brooks-Jones conferred with another passenger on the flight. A suggestion had been made to pass the hat for people in Lewisporte. Brooks-Jones wanted to do more. "They took care of us for days," she insisted.

It was decided to start a scholarship fund for local high school students, many of whom did not go to college or technical school. The captain gave permission for Brooks-Jones to make the announcement over the intercom. "We may be down, but good eventually overtakes evil," she told her fellow passengers. By the time the plane had landed in Atlanta, passengers had pledged US\$15,000. That amount grew and grew.

In the following months, Brooks-Jones told the story of the plane people to countless civic groups including the Tri-Village Lions Club near her home in Ohio. "When I was finished, they asked me to join. How could I say no?" recalls Brooks-Jones, who later served as club president.

Meanwhile, the Lewisporte Area Flight 15 Scholarship Fund has raised more than US\$1 million and assisted 313 students. Brooks-Jones regularly flies back to Canada for the award ceremonies or to commemorate 9/11. She's made 29 trips so far.

Nearly 15 years ago, in recognition of her service to youth, she became an honorary member of the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador, the province's highest honor. That honor eventually landed her an audience with Prince Charles, who was very interested in the plane story and the role of Lions.

That's hardly her only claim to fame. "Come from Away" was a rousing Broadway musical in 2017 that recounted the plight of the stranded passengers. It

was a hit with audiences and critics, gaining seven Tony nominations. One of the characters was based on Brooks-Jones. In the touring version of the play, her character was played by James Earl Jones II, a distant cousin of the famous actor. (The play takes poetic license with some of the identifying characteristics of the real people.)

The attention and awards are great. But Brooks-Jones is grateful to the Lions of Lewisporte who stepped up after the World Trade Center collapsed. "My life wouldn't be a fraction of what it has been without the Lions. They made it all possible," she says.

### 'It's What You Do'

Like many others, Lion Steve Tremaroli remembers precisely where he was and what he was doing on Sept. 11. "I was painting the den. Watching the Today show," says Tremaroli, who lives near New York City in Syosset. He roused his son, a college student at home that day. "Get up," he told him. "We're under attack."

The fear of another attack loomed for weeks. "We could hear the fighter jets overhead. It was really eye-opening," he recalls. He and his wife, Marianne, also a Lion, soon decided to shop and patronize stores as a small act of solidarity. "It was about doing something to help the community. We were very nervous. We didn't know if the other shoe would drop," says Tremaroli, a chiropractor.

Also like so many others, particularly Lions in New York and nearby, Tremaroli sprang into action as a volunteer. His service for weeks in the city has been one of the defining moments of his long tenure as a Lion, which began in 1981. At a warehouse near Ground Zero he distributed masks, flashlights, and other essential gear as well as food and water to recovery workers.

He also volunteered with United Way for a Lions-supported effort to provide financial assistance to those affected by Sept. 11. People lost their jobs and homes in the wake of the attack, and he interviewed applicants and reviewed supporting documentation.



Tremaroli was one of thousands of Lions who helped ease the pain and suffering caused by Sept. 11. Fueled by donations from Lions worldwide to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), Lions volunteered at the warehouse to assist recovery efforts at Ground Zero and also supported recovery efforts at the Pentagon. Lions funded mentoring programs for children and job search services and sponsored camps for families that lost loved ones.

In supplying emergency personnel and volunteers at Ground Zero Tremaroli was privileged to witness their resolve and generosity of spirit in the grim task of locating remains. In speaking with families personally impacted by Sept. 11 he came face-to-face with the human toll of the tragedy.

"People told harrowing stories of what they experienced that day. It was heart wrenching," says Tremaroli. "I'm pretty inquisitive, so if they wanted to talk about it they would. Sometimes it was a case of needing someone to hold their hand."

While he was district governor in 2006, he and other Lions served at a Lions-supported camp for those who lost loved ones on Sept. 11. The families enjoyed typical camp activities such as swimming and arts and crafts but also could avail themselves of music therapy and psychological counseling. "It was very emotional. It was very gratifying to help others," he recalls.

Tremaroli was an international director from 2013-15. That's a rare accomplishment among Lions, but his service after 9/11, he says, was part and parcel of his membership. "It's what you do as a Lion. It was natural," he says.

### Child of 9/11

Ojas Chitnis, 18, lives in New Jersey but close enough to New York City that his township is considered part of the metropolitan area. He was born after Sept. 11. But that day is unforgettable for many adults and thus part of his growing up, too.

"Being so close to the city, many people have memories of that day. Some of my teachers were able to see smoke from the city from a hill in town," he says. "We learned about 9/11 every year in grade school."

His parents, Mahesh and Anu, are very active in the

Edison Visionary Lions Club. Ojas accompanied them to international conventions and pitched in on service projects. After Hurricane Sandy in 2012, his family, along with other club members, helped run a shelter and distributed water bottles and blankets.

Becoming a Lion probably was a given. Still, Ojas says Sept. 11 convinced him that being a Lion was his destiny. In 2016 at the New Jersey Lions' state convention, marking the 15th anniversary of the attack, he heard a riveting summary of the many ways Lions responded after the tragedy.

"Lions did so much to help. It really made an impression on me," he says.

A longtime Leo, Ojas became a Lion, joining his parents' club, on the earliest possible date--on his 18th birthday in April. That just happened to be Worldwide Induction Day.

There is a neat symmetry to that. But it goes even deeper. His father became a Leo in India 30 years ago on that very same day.

Both his parents came to the United States in the mid-1990s. They saw this country as a land of opportunity, as a safe harbor. Thus, Ojas says, Sept. 11 has even more resonance for him than its geographic proximity.

"They thought they had left all that stuff behind them. Their adopted country was under attack," he says.

His Leo club has been particularly active and innovative. The New Jersey Visionary Cyber Leos held a food drive and made it into a sculpture competition as well. They also collected eyeglasses for a medical mission to the Dominican Republic.

Ojas has been a leader. He was the charter Leo club president at age 12 and then the president of the cyber Leo club. He serves as chair of the membership committee for the Leo Club Program Advisory Panel for Lions Clubs International.

Next fall he will study international business at George Washington University, where he intends to charter a campus Lions club. Meanwhile, he plans to volunteer very soon at the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center in West Trenton. He also is glad to know his multiple district has sent oxygen concentrators for COVID-19 patients to a region in India his family happens to be from.

### Grim, Necessary Service

By 2001, Gary Fellows of Maryland had been a Lion for nearly three decades. He also had another important volunteer role. A funeral director, he was co-commander of the Maryland State Funeral Directors Disaster Response Team.

Before Sept. 11, it was easy to conceive how that position might entail him to serve. "We trained for things like airplane accidents, major floods and catastrophes. The scope and breadth of 9/11 went beyond our conception of what could happen. It was overwhelming," says Fellows, a four-time president of the Millington Lions Club and a past zone chair.

A grim necessity in the months after the attack was retrieving, storing, and cataloging body remnants from the World Trade Center and attaching a name to them so they could be respectfully returned to loved ones. For some victims, only a single shard of bone remained. For others, just as macabre, there were as many as 200 pieces. DNA extracted from body remnants needed to be compared to DNA lifted from victims' personal effects or blood relatives.

The forensic work was mostly done at the medical examiner's building, two miles from Ground Zero. DNA specialists, pathologists, forensic dentists, fingerprint analysts, and other experts diligently worked day and night.

The body fragments were kept in 16 refrigerated trailers in Memorial Park, a tented lot across the street from the building. By June 2002, when Fellows lent his expertise, nearly 20,000 body remnants had been retrieved and stored in the trailers. His first assignment was to meet with family members and solicit personal effects such as hairbrushes, toothbrushes, and razors. The work was steeped in unimaginable sorrow and heartache. But this was not unfamiliar territory for him.

"Every loss is a tragedy. Family members are deeply affected by the death of a loved one," he says. "I had to bring my utmost dignity, compassion, and kindness as a funeral director to try to be of help."

The second half of his work at Memorial Park was even more moving. Three times a day, precisely at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 4 p.m., all work at the site shut down. Family members were allowed to enter the site and

sit near the trailers. Clergy assigned to Memorial Park often accompanied them. Fellows walked and sat with families as well.

"They didn't know what trailers had what remains. But they wanted to be in the environment where the remains were," says Fellows. "Emotions ran high. There were lots of tears. It also got very quiet. It was a place of solitude and memories."


Fellows was fully aware he stood at a unique juncture in U.S. history. His role was almost unbearably sad but also a privilege. "Other than Pearl Harbor, nothing like this has ever happened in our country. It was humbling for me to be with these families," he says.

Mourning can be fraught with resentment. It also can lead to revelation and solidarity. Fellows says the most powerful utterance he heard during that time came from a firefighter to a woman who apparently lost her son. A contingent of firefighters were honoring a fallen colleague with a dignified procession complete with fire engines.

The woman stood on the street forlornly holding a large image of her missing son. She was distressed at the focus on the fallen firefighters and felt her son was being left out.

One of the firefighters paused and stood with her. He recognized her grief and told her that her son didn't deserve to die. He then said that they honor their fallen firefighter brother in this way because he chose to die trying to save her son. And without women and men choosing to do that, more sons, daughters, husbands, and wives would have been lost.

That was a lesson of 9/11: loss and grief do not divide but unite. "It's opposite what many people believe. Americans share so much common ground. We Americans come together in the worst times," says Fellows, recently retired after nearly a half century as a funeral director.

Sept. 11 was a unifier for Fellows as well and, by extension, other Lions. That darkest of days shed a bright light on who he was, as a Lion and as a person. "The opportunity to serve others at a time like that epitomized everything that Lions is about," he says. "Stepping up for those in need is what we do as Lions. It touched all parts of my life. 





# Chocolate Tator Tots and Blue Feet

Minnesota mom finds  
learning to live with blindness  
is easier with a sense of humor

*by Jay Copp*

Losing her sight has not stopped Heather Bitzan from making her fabulous soups for her three sons. She can read recipes and food labels thanks to an ingenious device called the OrCam, a small camera attached to her eyeglasses that translates information into spoken words.

"You know how boys are and eating," says Bitzan with a chuckle. Her sons are 21, 19, and 16, and the Bitzans live in Brandon, a bucolic town of 450 in northern Minnesota. Provided to her by Lions, OrCam also can identify faces, so Bitzan knows immediately which son has walked into the room or, while doing errands in town, who exactly has approached her and asks how she is faring.

Seven years ago, she lost her sight in her right eye after a tumor was detected. Two years ago, afflicted with a tumor near her left eye, she underwent an operation at the Mayo Clinic. "I could see for 22 hours. I took a nap, and they came in and said, 'Time for dinner.' I said turn on the light.

"It was hell. It was like a bad dream. They were yelling code red, and people were all over me."

Her husband, Tim, and her sons were in the middle of the harvest. The family farms 1,000 acres of corn and beans. "Come tomorrow," she told him. "They made it by 12:30 in the morning. He said, 'Well, it's the next day.'"

The Bitzans are well-known in town. "The boys play sports. In Brandon, that means football, basketball, and baseball," says Lisa Hynes, a friend and president of the Brandon Lions Club. "She is very active in town. She's at every game. She's very well-known. It's nice to see our dollars making someone's life a little bit easier."

Brandon is so small and cozy it does not have a single stoplight. Residents meet for coffee at Joe's Gas & Deli, enthusiastically support the Chargers of Brandon-Evansville High and come out in large numbers for the annual Summer Fest, which ends with a crowded street dance.

Saying everyone knows everyone else in Brandon hardly describes the closeness of the community. "We celebrate together when someone graduates, gets married or has a baby," says Hynes. "We grieve together when someone loses a family member or even a pet."



# Technology Makes Everyday Tasks Easier



## Walking aid

Bitzan's Smartcane uses sensors to send vibrations to warn her of obstacles.



## Attachment

The OrCam is a camera, mounted on Bitzan's eyeglasses, which takes a picture of a person's face.



## Software

Facial recognition software alerts Bitzan when she encounters that face again.

Chartered in 1969 and now with about a dozen active members, the Brandon Lions are especially visible during Summer Fest. They hold a Fish Fry, run Bingo and sell burgers and hot dogs.

The club first purchased for Bitzan a Smartcane, which uses sensors to send vibrations to the user to warn of obstacles. She uses and likes that. But after the Bitzans saw a Dr. Phil show on the OrCam, Heather asked the club if they would consider helping to pay for one. The club pitched in US\$500, as did the nearby Evansville Lions Club. The fire department also kicked in US\$200.

OrCam's facial recognition software takes a picture of a person's face and associates it with the name provided by the wearer. The device's camera later will recognize that person, and a small speaker above the wearer's ear tells them who that is. In her own voice, Bitzan is able to quickly discover the identity of more than two dozen family members and friends "It's been a real blessing," Bitzan says of the OrCam. "It's helped me get my confidence back. To be dependent on others—not at the age of 44."

She learned how to use it through a DVD tutorial, which her husband helped her with. After losing her sight, she also spent six weeks in Duluth at the Lighthouse Center for Vision Loss (partly supported by Lions) learning to handle basic things such as cooking and getting around. Bitzan likes to stay busy, blindness or not. She cleaned houses for 19 years and after losing her vision continued to tidy up the fire department hall. "People say I clean better now when I'm blind. Touch is my eyes. I can feel the dirt," she says.

She also continued to volunteer at the Relay of Life, a fundraiser for fighting cancer. She handed out soda and chips and even announced the names of the seven major donors. "I was holding the sheet, and people were confused. They thought I was reading it. But I memorized it," she said.

A fundraiser in town for her brought out 600 people. They bought enough pasta dinners to help the Bitzans pay off their home.

Acquaintances who see her around town marvel at her mobility and say something along the lines of "you can't be blind." She replies, "Well, take a look at my leg. See the bumps and bruises." Added Hynes, "She doesn't sit around feeling sorry for herself. She has a sense of humor about it and tries to make you feel comfortable."

Being blind has its comic moments. Before she received the OrCam, she cooked a tater tot dish and pulled the correct ingredients from the freezer. Or so she thought. She ended up using chocolate-covered peanuts. A son posted the results on social media. "His friends were saying, 'I want to come over for some of that chocolate dish,'" she recalled with a chuckle.

Then there was the time she scoured the toilet bowl with a blue-colored cleaning solution. Not realizing she had closed the garbage lid and not the toilet lid, she stepped right into the toilet. "I walked around with a Smurf foot for two days," she said.

Losing her sight means adjusting to a new reality. "You have to figure it out. You have to adapt," she said.

Still, not being able to see her sons in action is a hard reality. "I was the first one there at the games and the last to leave. I always had a camera in my face," she said. "I went to the graduation. I was there, but I didn't get to see him."

The loss of her sight was compounded by the loss of her dad three years ago to cancer. The losses make her reflective of mortality and time and making the most of it. "They gave him 18 months and it took six. So, I have to look at it that way," she said.

When her remaining good eye went bad, doctors said it might regain its function within a year. "It's been two years, so I am not holding my breath," she said, adding, "There's also a chance of a robotic eye or medication to regenerate it."

Until then, she'll stick with the OrCam. 1



Since losing her eyesight, Bitzan can better navigate the world with the devices Lions have provided.



The **Kensington Lions Club** on **Prince Edward Island, Canada**, donated money to cover the cost for the water system in the lower level at Kensington Intermediate Senior High.



**Houston Lady Lions** in **Texas** gathered outside to honor and celebrate with Korean War Veteran Joe Ramirez Sr. on his 89th birthday.

In **Texas**, the **Houston Lady Lions** planned a parade in honor of Master Sgt., POW, Purple Heart Recipient, 22-year retiree Army/Korean War Veteran Joe Ramirez Sr. who was in hospice at home and celebrating his 89th birthday. With the support of the **Houston King of the Jungle Lions**, the **Houston Montrose Lions**, and the **Magnolia Lions Club**, the Lions organized a parade with more than 100 cars. Ramirez died 10 days after the honor.



Veteran Joe Ramirez Sr.

In **Oregon**, the **Silverton Lions** and the Silverton Elks Club ended their emergency field kitchen for those impacted by the Canyon Wildfire. They hosted a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for residents, recovery workers, and first responders.

The **Winchendon Lions Club** in **Massachusetts** donated face shields to the police and fire departments. Harvard Lion Bob Vincini researched and selected a design, and then began production with his 3D printers. Over two months he produced and delivered 350 face shields to more than 25 local towns and service organizations. He received a grant from the Harvard Lions to help defray costs and the Harvard Lions secured a US\$10,000 grant from LCIF.

In **Iowa**, the **Charles City Lions Club's** annual book sale set a new record for the largest number of books for sale. Admission was free.

The **Boulder Junction Lions Club** in **Colorado** held its annual catch and release walleye classic fishing tournament. Participants take a picture of their catch and send it back.

In **Georgia**, the **Atlanta Lions** partnered with the Young Generation Movement and Lakewood Environmental Arts Foundation to unload 13,000 boxes of fresh produce for families as part of the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program.

The Belvidere Park District and the **Rockford Noon Lions Club** are partnering with the **Belvidere Lions Club** in **Illinois** to build an accessible, ADA-compliant, all-inclusive playground and ball diamond complex. The Belvidere Lions Club celebrates its 75th anniversary of service.

In **Hawaii**, the **Kailua-Kona Lions** and **Kona Lions clubs** have a new mascot thanks to the donation of a large wooden lion carving. After some touch up and repairs, the sculpture will be displayed at upcoming Lions events.

The **Daleville Lions Club** in **Alabama** had a food drive as part of the Lions' global "Relieving the Hunger" campaign.

In a joint project, the **Robinson Lions** and the **Hiawatha Lions** in **Kansas** sent out positive messages with signs made by Lion Mike Brown of Hiawatha. It copies a Montana town's "Be Kind" campaign.



**Robinson and Hiawatha Lions** in **Kansas** made these friendly reminders to post about their towns.

The **Fort Atkinson Lions Club** in **Wisconsin** donated a "Taking Diabetes to School" book to each of the Fort Atkinson public and private elementary schools for their libraries. Lions hope teachers will use the book to inform students about diabetes.



The **Margaret Lions Club** in **Alabama** added 20 members at their December meeting.

In **Alabama**, the **Margaret Lions Club** welcomed 20 new members during a special December membership meeting.

The **Clarendon Hills Lions Club** in **Illinois** made it possible for the People's Resource Center to

distribute food more efficiently to those in need by donating US\$110,000 for a 20-foot refrigerated box truck. The truck allows the center to have safe food transportation of fresh items, especially during summer months.

The **Pickerel Lions** in **Wisconsin** are thankful for members Alan Quig, an ambulance driver, and his wife, Amy Quig, DG of 27B2. The rescue squad in their rural town was desperate for new recruits, and the Quigs were busy, But when Covid-19 shutdowns began, the Quigs found time to begin Emergency Responder classes, and Amy Quig continued on to achieve EMT certification, finding yet another opportunity to serve.

On **Prince Edward Island, Canada**, the **Summerside Lions** were unable to have their usual fundraisers so they pitched in to help other organizations with their projects. The **Summerside Lions** helped the **Kensington Lions** with their ham and scalloped potato take-out dinner, helped

the Summerside Legion with their annual poppy program, laid a wreath for remembrance day, rang bells for the Salvation Army, sold Christmas trees with the Summerside YMCA, and distributed more than 200 hampers with the Kinsmen.



**Arizona's South Tucson Cyber Lions** made 300 fleece blankets for kids.

The **South Tucson Cyber Lions** in **Arizona** had a successful, "We've Got You Covered" project. They made 300 fleece blankets for needy children in their school district and distributed them at a Thanksgiving drive-through meal for needy families.

For decades, the **Natoma Lions Club** in **Kansas** delivered poinsettias with Christmas cheer to Natoma residents, 80 years and older. "Remember the Elderly" began in the heart of Arthur Hachmeister, who was 90 at the time. His vision was to bless the current and remote elderly residents with a Christmas poinsettia personally delivered to each one. Due to the pandemic, poinsettias could not be delivered this year, yet prayers with "glad



tidings of great joy" were mailed to each one with anticipation for the program to continue in 2021.

The **Norwalk Lions Club** in **Wisconsin** made donations of US\$3,000 to the library for a disc cleaning machine, and US\$10,000 to the Norwalk Area Fire District to replace turnout gear.

The **Avon Grove High School Leos** in **Pennsylvania** helped clean and put up Christmas decorations at the Penn Township Book Nook.

In **New York**, the **Orchard Park Lions** delivered holiday cheer to a local nursing home at Christmas. Since Santa couldn't appear, the Lions became elves and worked with staff to obtain gifts for every resident.

The **Tunkhannock Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** had its annual Chicken and Biscuit Dinner and toy collection take-out style. Many toys were collected, and more than 70 dinners were sold.

In **Illinois**, the **Aurora Noon Lions** worked with the Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry for their first drive-thru Kids' Pop-Up pantry at the park. The free event served 130 patrons. Partnered with Calvary Church of Naperville and Fox Valley Park District, volunteers loaded bags and boxes into vehicles, distributing peanut butter, jelly, cereal, oranges, skillet meals, pancake mix, syrup, Pop Tarts, applesauce, canned fruit, juice boxes, and hand sanitizer.

In **Texas**, the **Lubbock Lions Club** had a virtual 69th Annual Pancake Festival, a Facebook event, "Pancakes@Home" to engage the community and the Lions. Families

shared as they ate pancakes at home. The festival is their largest fundraiser, with proceeds supporting more than 30 charities.

The **Columbus Lions Club** in **Texas** honored member Doug Lilie for his 54 years of illustrious and dedicated service. Lilie joined the Lions in 1967 when Lyndon Johnson was in the White House, a stamp cost five cents, a dozen eggs, 39 cents, and gas, 33 cents a gallon.

**Illinois District 1BK Lions Clubs**, following a challenge by the **Joliet Noon Lions**, raised more than US\$10,000. With a matching grant from LCIF, the district presented more than US\$20,000 to the Joliet Area Community Hospice to furnish a new patient suite in their addition. Joliet Area Community Hospice serves more than 350 people daily.

In **New York**, the **Brooklyn Transition Club** presented a



The **Dalles Lions** in **Oregon** worked as a team to pick up discarded Christmas trees.

check for US\$6,600 to a family in need on the tiny Caribbean island of Grenada. The donation represents a small portion of the cost of medical treatment required for a 9-year-old girl diagnosed with a rare form of lymphoma.



The **Kiel Lions** in **Wisconsin** wrapped presents as a fundraiser.

Eight **Kiel Lions** from **Wisconsin** and four spouses giftwrapped 684 Christmas presents for Van Horn Automotive's company Christmas party as a fundraiser.

The **Dalles Lions** in **Oregon** gathered along with 10 drivers and spotters from Dalles Disposal and 10 volunteers from Community Corrections to pick up Christmas trees. The Dalles Lions Club has been doing this project as a fundraiser since the early 1970s and brings in US\$2,000 each year from donations. The work is done by 1:00 p.m., and workers head to Big Jim's, a local favorite for lunch. Big Jim's donates gift certificates for everyone involved.

The **Lions Club of Pawtucket, Inc.**, in **Rhode Island** mailed 54 pandemic relief checks to targeted Pawtucket families. Checks ranging from US\$500 to US\$530 were made possible by a grant from

the **Pawtucket Lions Memorial Foundation, Inc.**, the nonprofit charitable arm of the club.



The **Hebron Lions** in **Connecticut** lit up the town with a Deck the Jeeps competition.

The **Portage Lions** in **Michigan** collected items for "Bags of Love," a community project benefitting children whose lives have been disrupted through crises. A Bag of Love serves as a security blanket but also provides the children with age-appropriate items such as clothing, toiletries, and toys that they can call their own.

The **Fonthill Lions Club** in **Ontario** launched their Drive-Thru Meals program, starting with "Breakfast with a Side of Santa," in late November. This inaugural drive-through was a pilot event, and more than 165 breakfasts were served by members of the Fonthill Lions and Lioness clubs. Their second meal was a chicken dinner in mid-January.

In **New Jersey**, the **Hackensack Lions** led by their club Vice President Leo Battaglia delivered a second batch of restaurant gift cards to St. Anthony of Padua Church in Hackensack to provide food assistance to those who are struggling in the economy.

The **Hebron Lions** in **Connecticut**, working with two Connecticut Jeep social groups, planned their first Deck the Jeeps event. Competitors from around the state decorated their jeeps, flatbeds, military vehicles, and trucks with lights, Christmas trees, and more to raise money for gifts for children spending the holidays at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. More than 100 vehicles competed and 500-plus paid admission as drive-through spectators, raising more than US\$6,000 for the children.

In **Maryland**, the **Takoma Park Lions** have helped their community for 90 years with winter coat drives, hot meals, and more, but Lion Jim Jarboe wanted to spread the word about Covid-19 safety. He passed his home-bound days making more than 120 doodles. Jarboe's doodles of funny characters help spread public safety messages to children and adults. Lions can reach out to him at [jejarboe@aol.com](mailto:jejarboe@aol.com).

The **Ashtabula Lions Club** in **Ohio** delivered pastries to first responders, including the Ashtabula Township Fire Department, to thank them for their hard work and dedication throughout the pandemic.

The **Chester Lions Club** in **New Jersey** continued successful blood drives in cooperation with New Jersey Blood Services and the club continues to fund efforts to support organizations like the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) providing services for children who have been abused and neglected, removed from their homes, and placed in foster care.



The **Lancaster Lions** in Texas delivered Christmas joy to a family of nine.

The **Dryden Trillium Lions Club** in **Ontario** wrapped up their Plastic Bag Challenge, challenging area schools to collect plastic bags. St. Joseph's School took the top spot with 18,650 bags. Overall, roughly 50,780 plastic bags were collected and kept out of the landfill.

In **Texas**, the **Lancaster New Centennial Lions Club** supported the Courageous Cancer Survivors of Lancaster Independent School District in February. Members donated wigs, hair products, body care, clothes, food, gift cards and more.



In 1954, in a small rural town in **Ontario**, 50 men were given a charter for the **Ilderton and District Lions Club**. After 66 years, one of these members is still active, and the club, until three years ago, never had a repeating president. The Lions recently completed a five-year project in partnership with the local school board to upgrade the high school outdoor athletic facility with a donation of more than CAN\$900,000. The club's popular fundraiser, a monthly Wing Night, forged on with online ordering and COVID safety regulations. All six monthly events were sold out, and proceeds will go to the development off a Lions' Park in Ilderton.



Leos in **Haddonfield, New Jersey**, made tissue paper flowers for seniors when their annual senior prom had to be canceled.

When the **Haddonfield Memorial High School Leo Club** in **New Jersey** could not hold its annual Senior Prom, a dance for senior citizens in assisted living communities, Lion coordinator Heather Lacy came up with a new idea. The Leos made tissue paper flowers and cards for the senior

citizens. With the help of students, including 25 Leos making flowers from home, 180 colorful flower arrangements were delivered to two area nursing homes.

The **Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions** in **New York** joined with Mamaroneck's Sedona Tap House for their Monday Dine Out for Charity to raise funds for the Community Resource Center's eviction relief program that works with at-risk households to keep people in their homes. Lions matched the restaurant contributions, and with private donations added, contributed US\$1,610 for the CRC.

The **Almaguin Highland Lions Club** sponsored a snowman contest in **Ontario** to support local business and encourage families to get outside and have some winter fun. Families were asked to build a snowman and post a picture of it on the club's Facebook page. Five winners based on the number of Facebook "likes" they received, got gift certificates to local businesses.

In **Alabama**, the **Adamsville-Forestdale Lions Club** set up a tent across from the Fultondale City Hall to hand out emergency items to tornado victims. Lions also covered the cost of prescription medication, and provided eye exams and glasses free of charge.

In **Maine**, the **Fort Kent Lions** had several motivational banners made to lift the spirits of the community. Banners were posted in prominent spots around town. A Lion who is a pharmacist helped the club make 500 bottles of hand sanitizer for school employees and local businesses. And because the area has a rich potato farm history,



**Almaguin Highland Lions** in **Ontario** sponsored a just-for-fun snowman competition on their club's Facebook page. Winners received gift certificates to local businesses and proved no two snowmen are alike.

the club distributed free potatoes to restaurants, stores, and food pantries for families in need. To get the club of 120 in the spirit, they made a "Potato Toss" video featuring 80 Lions "tossing" a potato to one another. You can check out the video on their facebook page.

In **Hawaii**, 15 **East Kaua'i Lions**, five **Kaua'i Lions**, King Kaunalei Elementary School staff, Alaska Airlines staff, and community volunteers packed and distributed food baskets with food provided by the Kauai Independent Food Bank and the Wailua Meat Company.

The **Rogers Lions Club** of **Minnesota** had successful drive-up Fish & Shrimp Fries in February and March. Close to 800 meals were served during the two events, and another 100 were donated to those in need at the Brockton Meadows Neighborhood.

**Stafford Township Lions Club** in **New Jersey** started a Go Fund Me page for fundraising to support community projects including scholarships for graduating seniors, food gift cards, support of the Southern Regional Leo Club, free vision screenings in schools, and more.

In **Virginia**, the **Burke Lions** partnered with others to conduct a Community Food Drive to benefit Food for Others Warehouse, local high schools, and church pantries. The Lions received 2,834 pounds of food and US\$320. A Burke Lions convoy delivered the food, and an additional US\$500 from Lions to the Food for Others Warehouse. Lions also hosted the Virginia Lions Eye Institute Foundation event on Zoom, honoring the Joe Lipomi Merit Grant recipients. Unique to District 24-L, the merit grants honor Lipomi, a **Falls Church Lion** in **Virginia** who committed to work for the visually impaired.



In **Oregon**, 8-year-old Isaac uses his new OrCam My Eye received with support from the **Eugene Bethel Lions**.



The **Tri-Valley Lions** of **New York** raffled off this handmade quilt to support Lions' causes.

The Hickory Creek Middle School Student Council and the **Lions Club of Frankfort** in **Illinois**, partnered to collect more than 3,000 pairs of socks from students, staff and the community, more than doubling its original goal of 1,500 pairs for those in need.

The **Eugene Bethel Lions** in **Oregon** continue to help 8-year-old Isaac who was blinded by a rare brain tumor. The Lions assisted his family with the purchase of an OrCam My Eye that clips to his sunglasses and tells him what is in front of him. A **Springfield Lions Club Foundation** grant provided US\$500 to cover his trips to Portland for medical treatment and built railings for his family's porch.

The **Salmon Creek Lions Club** in **Washington** held its second free paper shredding event to benefit the Clark County Food Bank. The first event in October benefitted the local Lions Sight Foundation. Donations from local businesses and individuals covered the cost of the shredding truck, and Lions also collected six 55-gallon barrels

of food and US\$3,239 for the Food Bank. Most cardboard brought in during the event will be used to construct a pollinator garden and a picnic/meeting area near the community garden's 24 raised beds.

The **Tri-Valley Lions** of **New York**, with the support and artistry of the Calico Geese Quilters Group, had a Quilt Raffle Fundraiser. In the middle of the quilt is a woven-in Lions Clubs International insignia. Proceeds will support Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Cancer Awareness, five food pantries, eye tests, and more.

In **Quebec**, the **Repentigny Lions**, celebrating their 60th year in April, were pleased to report that over the last 20 years their members have collected and processed more than 61,000 glasses.

For more than 30 years the **Sleeping Lady Mountain Lions** and **Eagle River Lions** in **Alaska** sponsored an Easter egg hunt for 400 children in the Chugiak-Eagle River area. Because this year's had to be cancelled, they got together and prepared more than 90 Easter



baskets to be delivered by three bunnies to local children. Girls from the softball team, Leos, and Lions came together to organize and sort items.



The **Boise Beach Lions** in **Idaho** cleaned up a riverbank.

The **Boise Bench Lions** of **Idaho** completed a riverbank cleanup in a wetlands area for the Boise River Enhancement Network, furthering their efforts to improve fishing habitat in a section of the river that runs through Barber Park. The Lions also collected 464 pounds of food for the Friendship Food Pantry, and donated 70 purses filled with personal items to Purses for a Purpose.

The **Boca Raton Lions Club** in **Florida** received a donation of five cartons of used eyeglasses from the Rand Eye Institute of Deerfield Beach.

In **Ohio**, the **Alexander Lions** sold raffle tickets for 10 tons of gravel to be delivered and spread.

The **Lemon Grove Lions** in **California** joined in the “I Love A Clean San Diego’s 19th Annual Creek to Bay Cleanup,” picking up 1,240 pounds of trash in their area, including mattresses, clothes and a couch. They also shared news about their club at the opening day for their city’s Little League, one of the Lions’ projects.

After several cancellations due to COVID-19, the **Rocky Ford, Colorado Lions Club** got to celebrate its 100th anniversary with a steak dinner. Guests of honor Truman Lusk and Ed Klute were named Lifetime Members

of the Rocky Ford Lions Club for their years of service.

The **Sun City Host Lions Club** in **Arizona** had its annual yard sale at the Lions Club Foundation Building, selling everything from furniture to records and lamps that were donated by people who support the club’s charitable activities.

In **British Columbia**, the **Comox Valley Monarch Lions Club’s** inaugural bottle drive was a roaring success. The Monarch Lions were busy all day accepting, sorting, and tallying beverage containers for their fundraiser.

In **Tennessee**, the **Fountain City Lions** are applauding Lion Cheri Doane’s new children’s’ book, “Levi the Lion Cub.” A preschool teacher and author, Doane’s proceeds will benefit the East Tennessee Lions Eye Bank and LCIF.

In **Illinois**, the **Batavia Lions Club** prepared for their 39th annual plant sale fundraiser offering a variety of annuals. Charter members of the club founded in 1974, sold baskets of flowers.



The **Lemon Grove Lions** in **California** picked up more than 1,000 pounds of trash in San Diego.

The **Heartland Lions Club** in **Vermont** collected more than 1,500 pounds of recyclable plastic film, the equivalent of 121,500 plastic bags, for the Trex® Plastic Film Community Recycling Challenge. For each 500 pounds of reclaimed plastic film, Trex® donates a composite bench to the participating community organization. The Lions set a goal to earn a bench for each of the three libraries in their service area. They are now collecting plastic to earn a fourth bench they plan to raffle to raise funds for their community service initiatives.

In **Illinois**, the **Breese Lions** continued their work at the local Jaycee Park, adding more than US\$5,000 of rip rock to the shoreline. They have also financed the fountain and a pedestrian bridge connecting two lakes, and paid for equipment needed on the city’s new fire truck.



**Breese Lions** take pride in Upgrading and maintaining local Jaycee Park.

The **North Delta Lions** in **British Columbia** were unable to continue their 52-year tradition of staging an Easter egg hunt because of Covid-19 restrictions, so they changed gears and distributed more than CAN\$1,000 worth of chocolate to nearly 400 children through an Easter Egg Drive-Through in the parking lot of a local arena.

The **Lions Clubs of District 16-N** in **New Jersey** collected 20,000 pairs of used eyeglasses that were transported to the New Jersey Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center.

The **Mount Cheam Lions** in **British Columbia** made 27 blankets, then rolled them up and tied them with a “wee stuffy” (small stuffed animal) to take to Canuck Place for children with life-threatening illnesses for distribution to their wee visitors.

The **Western Pocono Lions** in **Pennsylvania** visited a nursing home for Easter, including a visit from the Easter Bunny riding the Big Bad Bunny Bike with the Lion logo on the back.

The **Norfolk Lions Club** in **Nebraska** held their 61st annual Pancake Feed fundraiser.

The **Bancroft Lions** in **Wisconsin** had two projects completed with the help of students from Almond-Bancroft High School. They completed a Little Library stocked with books for all ages where people can take one and leave one. And they built a “Free Little Pantry” where members worked hard to keep it stocked to meet the needs of their community.

In **Texas**, the **Goliad Lions Club** held their first gumbo fundraiser on May 8 at the Community



The **Bancroft Lions** in **Wisconsin** built this “Free Little Pantry” for the people of their community. Lions and students from the Almond-Bancroft High School have kept it stocked.

Center in Goliad, serving a home cooked meal of chicken and sausage gumbo, rice, potato salad, cornbread and dessert. Proceeds benefitted the Lions Eye Bank of Texas.

The **Los Angeles Diamond Lions Club** in **California** is a model club and the largest Chinese Lions club in the United States. During the pandemic, LA Diamond Lions invited senior detectives from the Los Angeles Police Department to promote self-defense and donated to numerous charities and people in need.

In **Kansas**, the **Emporia Lions** dedicated the completed Harold Trusler/Cleve Cook/ Lions Patio at the Lyon County fairgrounds as part of their centennial celebration.



## LCIF: A Foundation of Lions, a Foundation of Service

*Join LCIF as we enter the final year of Campaign 100:  
 LCIF Empowering Service!*

### LCIF MAGNIFIES SERVICE DURING DISASTER

*What's more powerful than a pandemic intensified by wildfires, hurricanes, typhoons, and earthquakes? Lions. Magnifying their service through LCIF.*

To support communities through the COVID-19 pandemic, LCIF awarded Lions across the world more than US\$5.3 million, which they used to protect frontline medical workers, provide food for people out of work, increase handwashing opportunities, and connect patients in isolation with loved ones.

At the same time, the world's other challenges never stopped. Disasters continued to deliver devastating blows, even as COVID-19 shut down the world as we knew it.

Hundreds of wildfires raged throughout the western United States, burning more than 10 million acres, destroying more than 13,000 buildings, and causing more than US\$19.8 billion in damage.

An explosion in Beirut killed more than 200 people and injured more than 7,500 others.

After Typhoon Haishen pummeled

Japan, causing more than US\$118 million in agricultural damage and disrupting power for hundreds of thousands of people.

A 6.4 magnitude earthquake rocked Croatia, killing 7 people and causing more than US\$6 billion in damage.

Uncontrollable bushfires in Australia scorched more than 46 million acres of land.

Hurricane Eta and Hurricane Iota, Category 4 and 5 storms, caused unimaginable destruction in Central America, taking a total of 272 lives, with 161 people still missing.

To magnify the disaster relief Lions were providing their communities, LCIF awarded Lions worldwide a total of another US\$5 million from January 2020 through April

2021. Lions were able to provide support, comfort, and hope through clean water, food, blankets, shelter, medicine, and more.

Together, LCIF and Lions are helping the world make one of the greatest comebacks in human history.

## VOICES FROM LEADERSHIP – WHY WE SUPPORT LCIF

Lion leaders from around the world tell us why our Foundation is so important, and what compels them to give. As we begin Campaign 100's final push, supporting LCIF is vital.

"Because of our Foundation and the generosity of our donors, even though the challenges we face may change, our service will remain the same. Our goals are ambitious, and it will take all of us working together to make a difference."  
 – LCIF Chairperson Dr. Jung -Yul Choi

"100 percent of every gift, of every size, given in support of Campaign 100 returns to a community in need."  
 –Past International President and International Chairperson of Campaign 100, Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada

"By myself, I can do a little. With my club, I can do even more. With our Foundation, my service is limitless. I support LCIF because together, we can do so much more."  
 –Past International President and International Vice Chairperson of Campaign 100, J. Frank Moore III

"I am honored to be a part of LCIF. Our Foundation is a light to so many people in my own backyard and on the other side of the world. Together, we accomplish what so many others are afraid to even try."  
 –Past International Director Alexis Gomes

"In this campaign, we are making an investment that is strengthening our ability to serve over the next 50 years."  
 –Trustee Aruna Oswal

"If you put your money in the bank, you can get interest. But, if you put your money in LCIF, you can save the world. LCIF is using our donations to serve the world and make a big difference."  
 –Past International Director Magnet Lin







## LCIF Helps Save Lives in IP Alexander's Beloved Home Community

BY JAMIE WEBER

Desperate need. That's one way to describe the situation in Brooklyn, New York's Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, which happens to be home to International President Douglas Alexander.

Historically a disadvantaged neighborhood, Bed-Stuy, as it's known to locals, needed an ambulance, residents often waiting 45 minutes for help to arrive. With demand outpacing resources, people were dying.

Eager to help, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) James 'Rocky' Robinson and Joe Perez launched Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps (BSVAC) with a single used vehicle. Passionate about improving outcomes, the duo worked tirelessly to bring average emergency response time below four minutes. It's no wonder countless lives were saved through BSVAC, which provided service at no charge to those without insurance.



In addition to emergency medical services, BSVAC is a training facility, training first responders of all ages, from teaching children to how to administer first aid and perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, to an EMT training program. More than 2,000 local residents have learned to deliver these critical services, hundreds going on to become professional EMTs, nurses, paramedics, and doctors.



"We started mainly to save lives," said BSVAC Commanding Officer Antoine Robinson, son of the late Rocky Robinson. "But we also wanted to change lives. People on welfare, who have no way out, no connections to plug into... We give them opportunity. BSVAC is now more of a life-changing, career-starting organization."

"When we serve together, our hearts beat stronger," said IP Alexander. Together, LCIF and dedicated Bed-Stuy Lions have created deep and lasting change in a beloved community.

Learn more about LCIF grant opportunities at [lcf.org/grants](https://lcf.org/grants), then empower Lions service in your community. Help Campaign 100 reach its US\$300 million goal by donating at [lcf.org/donate](https://lcf.org/donate).



**Did You Know?** You can create your personal Lions legacy by including a gift to LCIF in your estate plan. [lcf.myplannedgift.org](https://lcf.myplannedgift.org)





## LCIF HELPS INDIA LIONS MOVE CHILDREN FROM HUNGRY TO HOPEFUL

Hunger, a sad and pervasive issue worldwide, affects communities – especially children – in immeasurable ways. Chronic undernutrition leads to illness and delayed physical and mental development.

According to the India FoodBanking Network, four in 10 children in India face undernutrition or stunting. There to support children in rural India facing food insecurity are government-run childcare centers known as Anganwadies. In addition to receiving preschool education, children at the centers receive meals and learn about nutrition.

Thousands of children in rural Kerala depend on these Anganwadies for their meals, but many of these facilities had old equipment in need of repair. Hygiene was often lacking as well. While caring staff did their

best with the challenging circumstances, the children suffered. Lions, knowing how important Anganwadies are to communities, took action. They turned to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), which awarded a more than US\$84,000 Hunger grant and a District and Club Community Impact grant of over US\$11,000.

To ensure children had fresh, healthy meals, Lions used the LCIF funds to refurbish kitchen and dining facilities in 90 Kerala Anganwadies. Upgrades included stainless steel countertops and sinks, renovated plumbing, added worktables with stovetops, and new refrigerators. They also installed stainless steel dining tables and benches in the dining rooms for ease of cleaning and increased sanitation. Nearly 1,000 Lions helped install the upgrades and continue to monitor facilities for functionality. Though the project took place during COVID-19, while Anganwadies were closed, Lions persisted,

working with the government and teachers to receive and install the new equipment.

“The most modern and hygienic equipment, along with a refrigerator, were unimaginable to these centres without your support,” said V.P. Sajeendran, Kerala legislative member of Kunnathunad. “I appreciate LCIF for enabling Lions to implement such a project, which is a dire need of the community.”

Through LCIF grant funding and Lions’ kindness and service, more than 2,200 children annually who depend on Anganwadies now enjoy fresh, nutritious meals in clean environments.

Campaign 100 exists in part to expand Lions’ service to new cause areas, such as addressing hunger. Give today at [lcf.org/donate](https://lcf.org/donate). To learn more about how LCIF empowers Lions to support their communities, visit [lcf.org](https://lcf.org).



# THE POWER OF YOU AND LCIF!

100% of your gift to LCIF and Campaign 100 creates moments and milestones like these.

## Vision

- LCIF Grant: \$69,000
- 25,000 children in Colombia receive vision screenings through 10 new screening devices

## Youth

- LCIF Grant: \$100,000
- Cameroon schools expanding social and emotional learning program Lions Quest; 360,000 students throughout Africa benefitted to date

## Disaster Relief

- LCIF Grant: \$870,000 (\$210,000 from partner Manappuram Finance)
- 120 Kerala, India, homes reconstructed after devastating floods

## Humanitarian Efforts

- LCIF Grants: \$5.3+ million
- COVID-19 relief efforts spread globally; nearly \$1.7 million awarded to CA IV alone

## Diabetes

- LCIF Grant: \$10,400+
- 21 Australian teens with diabetes enjoy week-long camp highlighting nutrition, healthy lifestyle, and fun

## Childhood Cancer

- LCIF Grant: \$57,000
- 300 cancer patients annually enjoy new Teen Zone in pediatric oncology unit of Ontario, Canada, children’s hospital.

## Hunger

- LCIF Grant: \$45,000
- Capacity expanded at Michigan, USA, Hungry for Christ food pantry; additional 18,000 people monthly fed

## Environment

- LCIF Grant: \$3,000
- Japan’s Hyogo prefecture cleaner thanks to Lions’ clean-up event

## CAMPAIGN 100’S FINAL YEAR

Help Campaign 100 reach its goal of US\$300 million by June 30, 2022!

## DOING + GIVING = SERVICE

Take your service from good to great. Donate to LCIF today.

**100% OF YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS LIONS SERVICE AND MAGNIFIES YOUR COMMUNITY IMPACT.**

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



**Lions Clubs International  
FOUNDATION**



## PARTING SHOT

### High Five!

Lion Owen O’Riordan shares a moment with Lions Clubs International founder Melvin Jones outside Headquarters after a successful first-ever virtual flag ceremony.

# LION



Lions Clubs International

#### STAFF

Editor-in-Chief: Sanjeev Ahuja  
Creative Director: Dan Hervey  
Managing Editor: Christopher Bunch  
Senior Editor: Erin Kasdin  
Assistant Editor: Joan Cary  
Art Director: Andrea Burns  
Graphic Designer: Lisa Smith  
Graphic Designer: Jason Lynch  
Graphic Designer: Chris Weibring  
Graphic Designer: Sunya Hintz  
Production Designer: Morgan Atkins

Two issues published yearly by Lions Clubs International  
300 W. 22nd St. Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842  
(630) 571-5466 / Fax: (630) 571-8890  
lionmagazine@lionsclubs.org  
lionmagazine.org

(ISSN 0024-4163) (R-124397233)  
(PRINTED IN U.S.A.)

Official publication of Lions Clubs International. The following are recognized as official editions: Australia and Papua New Guinea, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Britain-Ireland, Brazil, Canada, China Hong Kong, China Taiwan, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece and Cyprus, Headquarters (in English and Spanish), Iceland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and Turkey.

Contents copyrighted © 2021 by the International Association of Lions Clubs. All rights reserved. Reproduction wholly or in part, except as brief quotations, is prohibited except with written permission.

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS (2020-2021)

President Dr. Jung-Yul Choi, Korea; Immediate Past President Gudrun Yngvadottir, Iceland; First Vice President Douglas X. Alexander, United States; Second Vice President Brian E. Sheehan, United States; Third Vice President Dr. Patti Hill, Canada.

#### DIRECTORS

##### Second year directors

Muhammad Adrees, Pakistan; Qazi Akram Uddin Ahmed, Bangladesh; Shoichi Anzawa, Japan; Billy J. (B.J.) Blankenship, United States; Gary F. Brown, United States; Rodolfo Espinal, Dominican Republic; Liao-Chuan Huang, China Taiwan; Jongseok Kim, Korea; Dr. Nawal Jugalkishor Malu, India; Geoffrey Leeder, England; Mark S. Lyon, United States; Heimo Potinkara, Finland; JP Singh, India; Steve Thornton, United States; Juswan Tjoe, Indonesia; A. Geoffrey Wade, United States; Dr. Walter Zemrosser, Austria.

##### First year directors

Michael D. Banks, United States; Robert Block, United States; Kyu-Dong Choi, Korea; Larry L. Edwards, United States; Justin K. Faber, United States; Allan J. Hunt, Canada; Daniel Isenrich, Germany; Bent Jespersen, Denmark; Masayuki Kawashima, Japan; Dr. Jose A. Marrero, Puerto Rico; Nicole Miquel-Belaud, France; VP Nandakumar, India; Judge Christopher Shea Nickell, United States; Sampath Ranganathan, India; Marciano Silvestre, Brazil; Masafumi Watanabe, Japan; Guo-jun Zhang, China.

#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

## UNLOCK YOUR LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL

Growing your leadership skills is a lifelong journey — and Lions Clubs International has the tools you need to help you grow, including:

- Online learning opportunities through the Lions Learning Center
- In-person training opportunities, officer trainings and leadership institutes
- Resources on a variety of topics, including hosting virtual seminars
- Leadership development grants to encourage ongoing training in your district

Visit [lionsclubs.org/learn](https://lionsclubs.org/learn) to find out more about Leadership Development opportunities available to you and start your leadership journey today!



Lions Clubs International





## SHOP

### Spread kindness with the **NEW** Kindness Matters Collection

Show the world how kindness matters to you with new items from our Kindness Matters collection now available in the Lions Shop. From facemasks and lapel tacks to buttons, pens and wine tumblers, you can spread a little kindness and show off your Lions pride in style.

To see the Kindness Matters collection, visit [lionsclubinternational.myshopify.com/collections/kindness-matters](https://lionsclubinternational.myshopify.com/collections/kindness-matters) or use your phone's camera to scan the QR code.



SCAN ME!

