



Lions Clubs
International
Foundation

MARCH 2011
LIONS AFFORDABLE HEARING AID PROJECT
(AHAP)

Lions are reaching hearing-impaired people of limited income in almost every community in the U.S., by using the Lions volunteer infrastructure of over 12,000 clubs in 48 districts. Lions are providing high-quality, low-cost hearing aids through **AHAP**, a project of Lions Clubs International Foundation. Lions AHAP is dedicated to helping provide aids to people who could not otherwise afford them. Individuals cannot apply directly to LCIF but must work through their local Lions Club.

The World Health Organization estimates that 278 million people worldwide suffer from severe hearing or worse. Thirty million Americans suffer from hearing loss. Nearly seven million Americans who need hearing aids cannot afford them. Most insurance companies do not cover hearing aids, and the "low-priced" hearing aids often are poor in quality and of little use.

How does this program work? Lions AHAP involves using hearing care professionals and focuses on low-income beneficiaries. The services of hearing care professionals are needed to conduct tests, order ear molds, program the hearing aids and do follow-up care. Currently Lions AHAP is distributing to types of hearing aids through a partnership with Rexton, Inc. in cooperation with participating Lions foundations, districts and clubs, and hearing care professionals. Lions clubs, districts and hearing programs are able to order one or both aids from Lions AHAP.

The aids are available to both existing and new Lions hearing programs. Lions AHAP will assist Lions clubs and districts wishing to begin distributing the aid.

Lions AHAP has also established an agreement with HearUSA for a negotiated rate for audiologists at the company's 170 stores in 10 states to provide fittings and screenings at a negotiated reduced rate. To find a store, you can visit the website HearUSA.com. This agreement only covers HearUSA businesses and does not extend to other providers in the network.

Just one of the great ways LCIF helps those in need!

Sincerely yours in Lionism,
PDG Marie Petraitis, LCIF District Coordinator



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**FEBRUARY 2011
THE VALUE OF GIVING
(FROM THE "LION")**

How much would you pay for a pair of shoes? Would you pay \$50, \$150? Before paying, ask yourself a few questions. How often will I wear these shoes? Will they last? Do they match my navy suit or red skirt? What is the value of these shoes to me?

Now, consider the value you might place on helping someone. Will your assistance really make a difference? What would happen if you didn't help? What do you have to do?

When a Lion says, "We Serve", does that only relate to working on a community project or does that also extend to giving? Would you consider service as working an extra hour if it supports Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and helps an individual receive cataract surgery?

Your donations to LCIF are extremely valuable to those served. A donation of \$20 helped Felecia Oteria from Chiapas, Mexico, receive sight-saving cataract surgery. She can now see her grandchildren for the first time. Dan McCarthy of Iowa knows the value of this gift. His son, Tye, received glasses through Opening Eyes, an LCIF partnership program with Special Olympics.

These are a couple of examples of what LCIF programs accomplish each day. With a small donation of \$20, LCIF can save three people from preventable or reversible blindness, support a Lions Quest student or help provide aid to those affected by natural disasters. By donating only \$20 – less than the cost of a dinner for two – you could have a life altering impact on three individuals who would be facing a lifetime of blindness without your help.

Although November was Contributing Member month, I encourage all of you to make a \$20 donation. I still have pins for those of you who want to donate. As a matter of fact, for a donation of \$30, you can get this year's Contributing Member pin as well as last year's. Just let me know when I visit your clubs or send me a check (payable to LCIF) and I'll get the pins to you. Hoping to hear from many of you.

**Sincerely yours in Lionism,
PDG Marie Petraitis
LCIF District Coordinator 2009-2012**



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JANUARY 2100
THE MEASLES INITIATIVE

Just to let you know that, if you are an MJF or PMJF, LCIF made a direct appeal to you during December. There were 100,000 donors who received letters encouraging them to donate to LCIF during the holiday season. It was an opportunity, if you hadn't already done so, to have made a contribution at that time. It is still not too late. LCIF accepts contributions at any time. Just think of all the good your contributions can do. The following is just one of the ways that your contributions can help.

Just want to talk about measles. LCIF is becoming more involved in the fight against measles and strengthening routine immunization.

Measles is one of the leading causes of death and preventable blindness among children:

- 10% of all measles cases are fatal in the developing world
- 450 people die from measles every day
- Since 2001, the Measles Initiative has vaccinated more than 700 million children worldwide, saving 3.8 million lives
- Lions Clubs International is partnering with the Measles Initiative to eliminate this debilitating disease
- For less than \$1.00, a child can be protected against measles for life

What is the Measles Initiative?

The World Health Organization, the United Nations Foundation, UNICEF, the American Red Cross and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention created the **Measles Initiative** in 2001. This initiative is committed to achieving the United Nations' goal of reducing measles deaths. Measles is a major cause of childhood blindness and is the leading cause of vaccine-preventable deaths among children, worldwide. **Please consider making a donation to support LCIF's efforts to combat measles.**

As I have already said, you can contribute in many ways. Consider becoming a **Contributing Member**. For \$20, you can receive a 2010-2011 pin. For \$30, you can this year's pin and the 2009-2010 pin and have a set. I have the pins. Just let me know.

Hope all this info helps you understand the MJF Program.

Sincerely yours in Lionism,
PDG Marie Petraitis
LCIF District Coordinator 2009-2012



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**DECEMBER 2010
THE IMPACT OF LCIF**

Just to give you an idea of the impact that LCIF has worldwide:

Children in Ethiopia and three other African nations will receive measles vaccinations through a new LCIF partnership effort with the **Gates Foundation for the Measles Initiative**. Children are most at-risk for the disease. To support the Lions-Measles Initiative pilot program, the Gates Foundation awarded a \$400,000 grant to LCIF and LCIF will contribute an additional \$300,000.

Lions approached the Gosford East Public School in Australia about building a special needs activity center supported by LCIF and local Lions of MD 201. Now a seven-year old child, Amber Farlow, who was unable to walk and confined to a wheelchair, knows the joy of walking on her own, using a cane that she calls her "magic stick". Amber has suffered much throughout her short life. She was born with breathing difficulties, was in the hospital for the first 18 months of her life, has undergone 55 operations and still needs help from a machine for the majority of the day and night to breathe. Without funding from LCIF, the center could not have been built. LCIF awarded a \$57,596 grant to construct the playground for kids in wheelchairs and walking devices. Lions are dedicated to helping disabled people. And that is why we support LCIF.

Everyone can help by becoming a part of the "**Contributing Member Program**". This program is separate from the Melvin Jones Fellowship program. If Lions think they might reach a \$1,000 donation within five years, they should always let it be known that their donations are designated for a Melvin Jones Fellowship. If a Lion gives only small donations of \$20-\$50 and would not reach \$1,000 within five years, he/she should go with the Contributing Member Program. I have the latest Contributing Member 2010-2011 pins, which you can get for \$20 and if you want a set, which consists of this year's pin and the 2009-2010 pin, I can get you that for \$30. Just let me know! If you want details about both these programs, just e-mail me or phone me.

**Sincerely yours in Lionism,
PDG Marie Petraitis
LCIF District Coordinator 2009-2012**



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**NOVEMBER 2010
FYI**

For your information:

- As of the end of September, Lions around the world responded quickly and generously to the tragedy in Haiti. LCIF received in cash donations \$6,117,564 from Lions around the world. The largest contributor was MD 105 (British Isles and Ireland). In the U.S., the largest contributor was MD 4 (California). One American (Susan Lanier) donated \$10,000.
- 600 Haitian families will move into new homes thanks to an initiative between LCIF, the Lions of MD 111 (Germany) and HELP, an international non-governmental organization (NGO). Through this project, homes will be erected directly on a family's plot of land.
- 3,000 people continue to live and receive their basic needs in three Lions-sponsored tent cities in the communities of Delmas, Blanchard and Carrefour-Feuille.
- The Haitian Lions operate a house in Port-au-Prince that serves as temporary housing for skilled volunteers.

For your information:

- At the 93rd Lions International Convention in Sydney, Lions Quest celebrated its 25th Year Anniversary. Since 1985, Lions have supported this teacher training and lesson based curriculum for children ages 5-18 that teaches young people the skills needed for success in school and life.
- Lions Quest provides for children's mental health needs by encouraging mental health needs by encompassing drug and violence prevention, character education and social and emotional skill building. Teaching these skills to children not only impacts their self confidence and relationship skill but also increases academic achievement. Lions Quest has been translated into 30 languages and is implemented in over 50 countries worldwide.

Hope all this info helps and makes you want to contribute to LCIF!

**Sincerely yours in Lionism,
PDG Marie Petraitis. LCIF DC 2009-2012**



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OCTOBER 2010

New LCIF Partnership with Bausch & Lomb

At the 2010 International Convention in Sydney, Australia, it was announced that LCIF has formed a partnership with Bausch & Lomb Early Vision Institute, which aims to prevent childhood blindness by treating pediatric cataracts.

The Pediatric Cataract Initiative will seek out and fund innovative programs to prevent and treat cataract in infants and children and promote early childhood screenings. Bausch & Lomb is contributing \$350,000 in the pilot year to launch the partnership program. The Pediatric Cataract Initiative will utilize the resources of both organizations to identify, fund and promote innovative methods of overcoming this challenge for the long-term benefit of children, their families and their communities.

To quote PIP Al Brandel "LCIF remains committed to saving the sight of millions of people worldwide and is excited about the prospects of the Pediatric Cataract Initiative and the new partnership with the Bausch & Lomb Early Vision Institute."

Pediatric cataract is a clouding of the eye's natural lens in children. Left untreated, it quickly becomes a critical cause of childhood vision loss and blindness. This new partnership will help prevent pediatric cataract.

The rate of pediatric cataract in developed nations is one to four children per 100,000 births. However, in underserved countries, the rate can be 10 times greater. Hence, during the first year, the initiative will focus on aiding children with China, where an estimated 40,000 children suffer from pediatric cataract.

For more information, you can visit the website:

www.PediatricCataract.org

Hope this information helps your understanding of one of the newest ways in which LCIF works.

YIL - PDG Marie Petraitis LCIF District Coordinator



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SEPTEMBER 2010

The Melvin Jones Fellowship Program

The MJF Program was established in 1973 in honor of Melvin Jones, the founder of Lions Clubs International. The MJF is a recognition of unrestricted donations of \$1,000 to Lions Clubs International Foundation. New MJF's receive a pin, a commemorative plaque and a letter from the LCIF Chairperson. If the donor so chooses, he/she may use their donation credit to recognize another individual with an MJF.

For those who are already an MJF, the Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship (PMJF) provides the opportunity to advance in the Fellowship program. For each subsequent donation of \$1,000 beyond the initial MJF donation, donors receive a new level of recognition, signified by a unique PMJF pin in accordance with their level of giving. The PMJF program has 100 levels, representing gifts between \$2,000 - \$100,000. Like MJFs, donors can honor another individual with PMJF donations.

Individuals can make MJF contributions for themselves or to recognize another individual. Clubs can donate to the MJF program and name an individual as an MJF or PMJF.

Did you know:

- Districts, clubs and individuals can donate to LCIF, but only an individual can receive the recognition.
- MJF's can be named in honor or in memory of an individual.
- Only unrestricted donations are eligible for MJF's unless otherwise approved by the LCIF Executive Committee.
- An MJF does not need to be paid in full at one time. Minimum installments of \$100 can be paid over a five year period to total \$1,000 at which time the MJF application is completed.

Hope all this info helps you understand the MJF Program.

**Sincerely yours in Lionism,
PDG Marie Petraitis
LCIF District Coordinator 2009-2012**



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**AUGUST 2010
LCIF
Ranked Best NGO**

In July 2007, Lions Clubs International Foundation was ranked best non-governmental organization (NGO) worldwide with which to work, according to ratings compiled by the *Financial Times* in association with Dalberg Global Development Advisers and the United Nations Global Compact.

The rankings assessed 34 global organizations ranked by 445 companies involved with NGOs and international agencies. **Lions Clubs International Foundation was rated most highly and ranked first for program execution, communication, adaptability and accountability in the fast-growing world of non-profits.**

This assessment, published in the *Financial Times'* Corporate Citizenship and Philanthropy special report, highlights companies growing interest in long-term partnerships to tackle an expanding range of social issues!

LCIF is the official charitable organization of Lions Clubs International. LCIF funding is provided in the form of grants to support Lions-led projects. These grants aid 1.3 million Lions worldwide in humanitarian efforts too large for individual clubs or districts to fund alone.

The mission of humanitarian service is at the core of Lions Clubs International. LCIF grants support five unique areas of service. The Foundation's primary philanthropic objectives are:

- **Preserving Sight**
- **Combating Disability**
- **Promoting Health**
- **Service Youth**
- **Providing Disaster Relief**

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**Sincerely yours in Lionism,
PDG Marie Petraitis,
LCIF DC 2009-2012**