

Lions Clubs International Foundation Programs



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION



Local Service, Global Impact

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is the official charitable organization of Lions Clubs International. Through funding from LCIF, Lions are able to help others, both in their local community and around the world. LCIF partners with Lions clubs and districts from around the globe to perform large-scale humanitarian projects.

Donations from LCIF provide grant-based funding to financially assist Lions districts with projects that are too extensive for Lions to finance on their own. Foundation initiatives range from blindness prevention to youth development to emergency relief.

Since LCIF was founded in 1968, it has awarded more than 9,300 grants, totaling more than US\$660 million. Every dollar donated to LCIF supports an LCIF project; all administrative costs are paid for through interest earned on the investment of the funds, allowing LCIF to make the remarkable impact on the world for which it's known. Lions truly aid the world through their humanitarian efforts, further demonstrating their motto, "We Serve."

"We Serve."



Sight Initiatives

In 1925, Hellen Keller challenged Lions to become “Knights of the Blind.” That challenge led Lions to achieve a number of early, and now historic, achievements in sight, such as:

- Creation of the white cane in the 1940s, now a universally recognized mobility tool for the visually impaired
- Establishment of the world’s first eye bank in the 1950s
- Development of guide dog schools for the blind in the 1960s

In the decades since, Lions have made great strides in the fight against preventable and reversible blindness, particularly through its SightFirst program.

The SightFirst Program

In 1990, Lions established SightFirst, the world’s first humanitarian initiative to combat blindness on a global scale. Since its inception, SightFirst has become one of the world’s most effective and efficient public health initiatives, saving the sight of millions of people for an astonishing average of US\$6 per person.

The SightFirst program tackles blindness on all levels by fighting common blinding diseases, providing surgeries to reverse unnecessary blindness and supporting research initiatives to fight emerging threats to sight. Additionally, the SightFirst program provides assistive services to those with low vision or untreatable blindness. Through SightFirst, blindness has been prevented in or vision restored to more than 30 million people. Hundreds of millions more have received improved eye-care services around the globe.

Some of the special programs that SightFirst supports include:



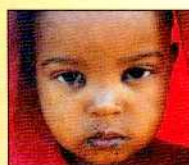
Lions-WHO Childhood Blindness Initiative

In 2002, Lions and the World Health Organization, joined together to address the problem of childhood blindness by establishing 34 need-based Lions eye care centers around the globe. These centers deliver preventative, therapeutic, and rehabilitative eye care services for 100 million children.



SightFirst China Action Project

In 1997, LCIF partnered with the Chinese Ministry of Health and the China Disabled Persons' Federation to launch SightFirst China Action (SFCA). To date, SFCA has provided more than 4.5 million sight-saving surgeries, established 31 new training centers and trained nearly 56,000 eye care personnel.



River Blindness Initiatives

SightFirst has supported more than 127 million treatments of river blindness in Africa and Latin America since the project began in the early nineties. LCIF forged a partnership with The Carter Center in 1999 to expand its efforts. As a result, experts foresee eradication of river blindness in Latin America by 2012.



Trachoma Initiatives

Together, Lions and LCIF, provide support for 4.5 million people who have trachoma. Through SightFirst, medication, surgery, training of healthcare workers and health education has helped alleviate the prevalence of trachoma worldwide.



Lions Eye Health Program

The Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP) is a community-based education program, primarily located in industrialized nations. This program allows Lions clubs, other community organizations and individuals to promote healthy vision and raise awareness of emerging causes of preventable vision loss including glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy.



SightFirst's accomplishments since 1990:

- Awarded 956 grants in 100 countries for a total of US\$232.5 million
- Restored sight to 7.55 million people through cataract surgeries
- Prevented serious vision loss for 30 million
- Improved eye-care services for hundreds of millions
- Provided 127 million treatments for river blindness
- Built or expanded 308 eye hospitals/clinics/wards
- Upgraded 372 eye centers with equipment
- Provided management training for 115 facilities
- Trained 345,000 eye care specialists

Campaign SightFirst II, was a coordinated, global fund-raising effort, that will enable Lions to expand the extraordinary work of the SightFirst program. The inaugural SightFirst campaign experienced tremendous success during the early 1990s, raising more than US\$143 million. Fifteen years later, LCIF launched Campaign SightFirst II (CSFII). Between 2005 and 2008, Lions exceeded their CSFII challenge goal of US\$200 million making it the greatest fund-raising effort in the history of LCIF. Thanks to SightFirst and Lions, the battle against preventable and reversible blindness remains a priority in communities throughout the globe.

Other major sight initiatives supported through LCIF outside of the SightFirst program include:

- **Sight For Kids**

LCIF and Johnson & Johnson Vision Care collaborated to develop Sight for Kids. This program has provided 10 million vision screenings and eye-health education programs for children throughout South Asia.

- **Core 4 Preschool Vision Screening**

LCIF's preschool vision screening program enables Lions to conduct vision screenings for children in preschools. The program strives to deliver early detection and treatment for the most common vision disorders that can lead to amblyopia, or "lazy eye." To date, one million children have been helped through the program.

- **Low Vision**

Low vision—an eye condition that cannot be improved medically, surgically or with conventional lenses—became part of the Core 4 grant program in 1999. Grants have supported the expansion of low vision services and education to those affected.

- **Special Olympics Opening Eyes**

The Opening Eyes Program was established as a partnership between LCIF and Special Olympics in 2001. To date, more than 150,000 vision screenings have been provided to Special Olympic athletes. More than 44,000 Special Olympic athletes have received free prescription eyeglasses to date.



Humanitarian Initiatives

LCIF supports many humanitarian efforts, in addition to sight initiatives. LCIF's successful programs range from combating disability to aiding disaster relief efforts. Working together through LCIF, Lions continue to develop projects that address the immediate and long-term needs of their local and global community.

Disaster Relief

To assist Lions in helping their communities following a natural disaster, LCIF Emergency Grants are issued for a maximum of US\$10,000. The funds help meet immediate needs such as food, water, clothing and medical supplies. Lions often offer assistance for emergency or non-emergency humanitarian projects, through volunteering their help, donating supplies or requesting assistance from the Foundation.

When disasters occur on a much larger scale, Major Catastrophe Grants are awarded for long-term reconstruction projects. LCIF and Lions have helped countries around the globe following major catastrophes, including the China earthquake, Hurricane Katrina and the South Asia tsunami.



Other major humanitarian initiatives include:

- **Diabetes Treatment/Prevention**

In 1999, LCIF established diabetes prevention and control as a part of the Core 4 grant program. Since beginning these efforts, LCIF has approved 15 diabetes-related grants totaling US\$1.3 million.

- **Habitat for Humanity Partnership**

LCIF partnered with Habitat for Humanity International in 1999 and has provided more than US\$12 million to help construct homes for people with disabilities. More than 1,000 homes have been built worldwide as a result of this partnership.

- **Affordable Hearing Aid Project**

This United States-based pilot program makes high-quality, affordable hearing aids available to Lions clubs who, in turn, provide the aids to low-income people with hearing impairment. LCIF has partnered with Rexton, Inc., a leading manufacturer of hearing aids, to provide two hearing aid models to Lions clubs and hearing programs.

Youth Initiatives

Supporting the development of youth is a major initiative of LCIF. Being able to nurture the growth of young kids is one of the most essential components to ensuring a healthier and happier tomorrow. Lions are bettering the future of children all over the world through improved education and health.

Lions Quest

Since 1984, Lions have fostered the use of the Lions Quest program in schools. Lions Quest is a school-based life-skills program for children from kindergarten to 12th grade. Lions Quest teaches responsible decision-making, effective communication and drug prevention. More than 11 million youths have taken part in a Lions Quest classroom, and more than 423,000 educators and other adults have been trained to implement the program in schools and community settings.



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