

LCIF Newsletter



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**

April 2011

Dear Lions,

This year I've had the great opportunity to witness many of our successful partnerships in action. During my visit to New Zealand following the devastating earthquake, I saw how Lions quickly joined with others to implement a plan for relief.

And when I visited Ethiopia and Madagascar I witnessed how we are working with the Gates Foundation and other Measles Initiative partners to provide needed vaccinations to 41 million children. The moment when a mother said to me, "Thank you for saving my child," was one of those touching moments in life. It is when you say to yourself, "This is why I am a Lion." Please come and witness the results of this partnership during the Second Plenary Session at the Lions Clubs International Convention, including a presentation by Mr. Bill Gates Sr.



Providing youth with a bright, healthy future is a priority of Lions and our Foundation. We place great emphasis on building strong, successful partnerships for all of our programs. But we recognize we can't do it alone. Working with select partners that share our ideals we can improve lives and give hope for a brighter future to even more people around the world.

Our Lions Quest program is also benefiting from partnership support. NoVo Foundation has awarded US\$100,000 to help expand Lions Quest across one entire United States school district by 2013. Expansion of our successful worldwide program will ensure even more students learn valuable life skills.

For the last year we have been partnering with Bausch + Lomb on the Pediatric Cataract Initiative to combat childhood blindness. But I'm happy to say that for the first time this partnership has led to additional support for other programs. Bausch +



Lomb has given US\$100,000 to support relief efforts in Japan, and they're encouraging their employees to do the same by matching donations. Isn't this wonderful?

These are only a few examples of valuable partnerships and collaborative programs. We will continue to seek out valuable partners. But we also, and especially, need your support. It is Lions' generosity, active participation and personal involvement in projects that enables us to attract these valuable partners. I strongly count on you to continue to support our Foundation, - and you can count on me and my service team to support you wherever you need us.

With my cordial regards,

Eberhard J. Wirfs
Chairperson, Lions Clubs International Foundation

Rebuilding Lives Following Disasters

Lions have a special dedication to providing relief and rebuilding lives in their communities for as long as it takes. In Japan, Lions are shifting their focus to mid-term relief efforts, including helping find jobs and providing 100 tents to shelter relief workers. In New Zealand, Lions are providing needed services and weekend escapes from the city to give families a needed break. And in Haiti, we are rebuilding homes and the National Nurse's School to help rebuild the health care system. All of these projects would not be possible without the generous support of our international family of Lions but also valuable partnerships with other organizations to further leverage our funds in order to have a greater long-term impact.

Launching a New Web Site

The Foundation recognizes the importance of continuing to grow the Foundation and enhance our message to you, our Lions' supporters, as well as those who may not know our great work. As part of this ongoing effort, we are in the final stages of developing a new Web site. In late May the site will launch in English, with language sites to follow in July. The Web site address will remain the same - www.lcif.org. The site includes more stories of those we've helped, those who have donated and partner organizations, as well as new look that better reflects our brand.

Growing Lions Quest

In effort to grow Lions Quest, Lions from Europe and the Middle East took part in a two-day training to learn more about the program and how to begin it in their country. Each country developed a plan of action to grow Lions Quest and also had a chance to experience first-hand how Lions Quest teaches cooperation through hands-on team building exercises. In May, an additional regional workshop will be held for Brazil. A new "how-to" kit is available to help Lions expand this important life-skills program.

Reducing Blindness Globally

A 2010 study just released by the World Health Organization, shows that [blindness has been reduced globally](#) by nine percent, or 26 million people, since 2004. Through SightFirst, Lions have had a significant role in this achievement, helping to end preventable blindness and restoring sight to tens of millions of people.

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