

LCIF Newsletter

March 2009

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"On behalf of The Carter Center, I'd like very much to take this opportunity to thank the Lions for their support and also for their participation, collaboration on the ground in the countries where we're working together to combat river blindness and trachoma. Together we can take care of these diseases and move on to other causes of blindness as well,"

Dr. Donald Hopkins of The Carter Center and member of the SightFirst Advisory Committee.

Message from Chairperson

Dear Fellow Lions,

The beginning of 2009 has been a great success for our Foundation. The Youth and Sight Partners Forums took place at the end of January and were a great success. The debut of the new Lions Clubs International Foundation Web site is quickly approaching. The Foundation and Lions are working together to aid the victims of wildfires that have devastated parts of Australia. Lions around the world continue to serve those in need through LCIF. Please enjoy the updates about our great accomplishments so far this year.

Yours in Lionism,

Mahendra Amarasuriya

LCIF Chairperson

Grants Awarded for Australian Wildfires

LCIF has awarded a US\$100,000 major catastrophe grant in addition to US\$30,000 total in emergency grants to Lions in Australia. An ["Australian Wildfire Disaster"](#) designated fund has been established for donors wishing to contribute directly to this disaster. The funds will be used by Lions in Australia to provide relief supplies to displaced families and assist in rebuilding efforts. To make a contribution, please visit www.lcif.org/donate.

New Foundation Web Site to Debut in March

A new Foundation Web site will debut in March, coinciding with the launch of the new Lions Clubs International site. As part of a major branding initiative of Lions Clubs International, the new Web site will explain who Lions are and what we do, while being more user-friendly. The new site will show the Foundation in a new light, through patient stories, donor spotlights and testimonies from our partners. To learn more about the new Web site, please read the March edition of LION Magazine, or visit www.lcif.org.

Former President Jimmy Carter Visits Lions Headquarters

Former U.S. President [Jimmy Carter](#) dedicated the "Gift of Sight" statue on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at Lions Clubs International headquarters. The statue symbolizes Lions Clubs International Foundation's ongoing collaborative efforts to combat preventable blindness and is a gift to Lions from The Carter Center. The dedication of the statue was part of a two-day commemorative event featuring sight and youth organizations from around the

For more information about Lions Clubs International Foundation contact [Alecia Dimar](#).

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part of a two-day symposium where leading sight and youth organizations from around the world gathered to discuss positive youth development and blindness prevention. Photos and interviews from the events are available on our [Web site](#).

CSFII, Fulfilled Pledges Fulfill “Vision for All”

As many of you know and made possible, Lions surpassed Campaign SightFirst II's (CSFII) challenge goal of US\$200 million raised in cash and pledges. Today, almost US\$150 million of these funds have been received by LCIF and are working to expand our SightFirst efforts to provide sight and fight preventable blindness around the globe. At the January 2009 SightFirst Advisory Committee meeting, 11 grants were approved for SightFirst projects in nine countries around the world. The need for the SightFirst program continues. As we each come closer to fulfilling our club and personal pledges to CSFII, we come closer to bridging the gap and making Lions' "Vision for All" a reality.

Cruise the Western Mediterranean with the Chairperson

Join 2009-2010 LCIF Chairperson Al Brandel and his wife, Dr. Maureen Murphy, on an exciting journey through the western Mediterranean aboard the *Celebrity Century* cruise ship. See the sights of Barcelona, Cannes and the historic cities of the Italian coast, while visiting with local Lions in ports of call. Help support LCIF and fund Lions projects around the world while enjoying a once-in-a-lifetime trip. For more information e-mail lcifdevelopment@lionsclubs.org. Spaces are limited, so act soon!

Opening Eyes Program at Special Olympics Winter Games

A Special Olympics-Lions Clubs International [Opening Eyes event](#) was held at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho in February. Opening Eyes is part of the Healthy Athletes program, which provides athletes with a variety of health screenings and diagnostics. The screenings took place from February 8 through 13 for 5 hours each day. During the screenings nearly 450 prescription eye glasses and sport glasses were distributed, 650 sunglasses were given to athletes. Nearly 200 Lions volunteers gave almost 1600 volunteer hours for the event. In total, more than 1,100 athletes went through the Opening Eyes screening.

Lions Night at the Ballgame

Come see the Minnesota Twins play against the New York Yankees on Wednesday, July 8, 2009. Increase awareness about Lions and raise money for a great cause at the same time! Tickets are \$20 or \$29 each, a savings of \$5 or \$7 off the normal ticket price, with \$3 from each ticket purchase donated to LCIF. A special pre-game presentation will honor Lions, and the Lions Michigan All-State band will perform the National Anthem. See the flyer [online](#) for more details and how to order tickets.

New Online Donation System

The [online donation](#) system on the Foundation Web site has been revised to allow for easier navigation among users. The new system offers the contributor a selection from three different types of donations: Humanitarian/Sight, Disaster and In Honor of/In Memory of. To make a contribution, please visit www.lcif.org/donate.

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