

LCIF Newsletter



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**

February 2011

Dear Lions,

It is a great pleasure to speak about something near and dear to my heart - Lions Quest. Some of you may not know much about Lions Quest and others of you are already very involved. So why is Lions Quest so important to us as Lions and so important to me personally? It gives hope to youth. It gives hope to communities. Most importantly, it gives hope for a better tomorrow.



With our Lions Quest program, we deliver values to live a healthy life. We give answers to questions such as - What does violence mean? What is frustration? How can I say



NO to drugs? What is personal responsibility? It is not enough to deliver facts only in school, but also life skills for more harmony and success.

There is no other youth program in the world that is in more than 60 countries offering life skills to youth. This is why we have set a goal of expansion to more than 10 additional countries. Just last month 14 new grants were approved which will continue supporting our goal of expansion. Through our efforts, 12 million youth have received health benefits and skills for life. Half a million educators have been trained to deliver the Lions Quest curriculum. Do you agree with me that these are truly incredible results? We must continue working together to achieve even more.

Lions in countries throughout the world have experienced the positive sensations of Lions Quest first hand. For the first time ever, I was present with our Lions Quest Team at every Lions' Constitutional Forum, where we received a very encouraging response. This month I traveled to Bhutan and Nepal to share the sensations of Lions Quest with Lions interested in starting the program. It is truly exciting and promising that so many Lions are engaged in Lions Quest.



I ask that you join in helping expand this amazing program to make a better life a reality for youth around the world. The youth of today is the future of tomorrow. We need your help. With your support, we will turn our goal into a reality. I count on you. We truly rely on you. I challenge you all to be our ambassador in these months to come. Make sure to help us in our efforts.

With my cordial regards,

Eberhard J. Wirfs

Chairperson, Lions Clubs International Foundation

Lions Quest Growth

The [Lions Quest](#) program continues to grow worldwide. New countries implementing Lions Quest this year include Bulgaria, Malawi, Mauritius and the Philippines. In addition, four new countries recently received funding to support implementation, including Egypt, Indonesia, Moldova and Uruguay.



New Grants Approved

At the January SightFirst Advisory Committee Meeting, 18 grants were approved for US\$5,430,891. This includes a grant to expand the Childhood Blindness project over the next two years to 18 additional centers in eight new countries or areas. Additionally, 14 grants were approved totaling US\$540,000 at the Lions Quest Advisory Committee Meeting. More information about all the recently approved grants is [online](#). To date, LCIF has awarded 10,057 grants totaling US\$708 million.

Relief Following Disasters

Following devastating flooding in Australia, LCIF provided four emergency grants totaling US\$50,000 to aid local Lions in their relief efforts. LCIF also awarded US\$10,000 to Lions in Brazil following massive flooding. Funds helped purchase relief



supplies for those who have been displaced by the flooding, including food, water and medicines. Lions wishing to help in relief efforts can make a [designated donation](#) to LCIF for Australia or Brazil.

Additionally, LCIF provided [relief](#) for other recent natural disasters, including in Sri Lanka, Philippines and elsewhere. When disasters strike, Lions are often first on the scene to provide immediate relief and the last to leave. Each year, LCIF awards nearly US\$2 million in funds to support both immediate and long-term relief. These humanitarian efforts are a direct result of Lions' generous support from around the world.

New Publications Available

LCIF has a number of new publications for download online and in hard copy by request. The 2009-2010 [Annual Report](#) is now available. Additionally, there are two newly created pieces available, [LCIF By the Numbers](#) and [International Lions Quest How to Guide](#). More resources on LCIF are available [online](#).

What Lions are saying about the LCIF Newsletter.....

"Thanks for sending the Lions Clubs International Foundation Newsletter. I am so pleased to see so much progress in rebuilding efforts in Haiti, and all the updates of disaster relief going on around the world. The LCIF Newsletter really helps us to see the progress we are making around the world. So much help is needed, and our Lions are there!" -

-Debra Day,

Support UNICEF's School-in-a-Box Program

In 1996, [Lions Clubs International](#) began working with UNICEF to support the School-in-a-Box program. For 15 years, the [Lions/UNICEF School-in-a-Box](#) program has provided educational supplies to teachers in areas affected by civil unrest and natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes and tsunamis. To commemorate this program, a special check presentation to the U.S. Fund UNICEF is planned for Lions Day at the United Nations in March. Lions can support this program by donating to LCIF. Donations in any amount are welcome. Each UNICEF School-in-a-Box costs approximately US\$257. Lions clubs, Leo clubs, districts or multiple districts that wish to support the purchase of a School-in-a-Box kit should [donate](#) to LCIF, noting "School-in-a-Box" in the comments section. Contact [LCIF Donor Services](#) for assistance with donations. Clubs, districts or multiple districts that contribute US\$500 or more in each fiscal year can receive a [Lions/UNICEF School-in-a-Box banner patch](#).

Why do you like receiving the LCIF Newsletter? Let us know and you may be featured next month!

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