

Today, children need Lions more than ever.

MILLIONS of children suffer from poverty, homelessness, abuse, neglect, disease, and disabilities. Tragically, they often must live without essential health and education services that would alleviate their distress and give them hope for the future.

The Lions Services for Children Program was officially adopted in 2003, continuing Lions Clubs International's long tradition of helping the world's future generations. A district chairperson is officially approved and recommended for the program.



Here are **three** excellent ways Lions can address specific health and education needs of children.

The **Lions Children First Program** can provide your club with resources to develop turnkey service projects for children in need, with a focus on three key areas: food and shelter; health; and education/literacy. The program includes project ideas and a step-by-step guide to help your club organize and implement a successful children's service project in your community.

The **Lions Services for Children Worldwide Symposium Program** can be an effective way for a district or multiple district to develop collaborative relationships with governmental agencies, health care organizations, educators and others involved with providing aid to underserved children. Lions can determine the types of services that are needed and various ways to get involved. The symposium program can provide expense assistance for 28 symposiums per fiscal year, four in each of the seven LCI Constitutional Areas.

The **Lions/UNICEF School-in-a-Box Program** can provide a club or district with the opportunity to address the education needs of children where schooling has been disrupted by wars, disasters and other emergency situations. Lions, through a designated donation to Lions Clubs International Foundation, can help to provide a "School-in-a-Box" kit with essential school supplies for an instructor and up to 40 students.



Lions Clubs International

HEALTH AND CHILDREN'S
SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Lions Clubs International
300 W 22ND ST
Oak Brook IL 60523-8842 USA
www.lionsclubs.org
E-mail: children@lionsclubs.org
Phone: (630) 571-5466
FAX: (630) 571-1692

IAD-303 3/10



Lions Clubs International

LIONS SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

"To improve the lives of children and young adolescents in adverse circumstances through health and education services, locally and internationally."



AS A GLOBAL ORGANIZATION with community roots, Lions Clubs International is in an ideal position to improve the lives of children through local initiatives and international cooperation. The problems children face vary in degree from country to country, but the need for health and education services is constant and universal. Lions clubs can help by developing projects with specific, attainable goals in these two areas.

Every Lions club can participate in this effort by assessing the needs of children in its particular community and coordinating resources to address those needs. Assistance to children and young adolescents ages nine months to 15 years is especially recommended.

Lions can determine the most serious needs of children and young adolescents by consulting with specialists such as administrators at hospitals, schools, and youth services organizations.

These needs may include:

- Food, shelter, or clothing
- Vision and hearing screenings
- Immunizations
- Assistance in coping with illnesses or disabilities
- Information about proper nutrition
- Drug and alcohol abuse education
- Literacy programs
- Vocational training

A Lions Services for Children Community Needs Assessment may help your club to identify the children's services that would be most necessary in your community. A special form is available from the Health & Children's Services Department at International Headquarters.

Poverty impacts the lives of many families in the **PHILIPPINES**, and in some Filipino communities, there is only one textbook for every five students. Japanese and Filipino Lions teamed up to build a library in the Philippines for children in need. With the help of an LCIF international assistance grant, Lions also provided new computers and educational software for the library.

Lions in **INDIANA, USA** set aside one day of their annual fall festival to organize a VIP Carnival for people with special needs. Children from special education departments at area schools and other local groups are invited to attend. In addition to carnival rides, the children enjoy a free dinner, petting zoo and magic show. The Lions partner with other groups in their community to make the event possible.

Lions in **SWEDEN** bring happy memories and new opportunities to orphaned children by inviting them to a summer camp in Sweden. The camp hosts youth from homes for orphaned children in Lithuania and Poland and fosters a spirit of joy and hope. Lions and Leos volunteer at the camp, provide recreational activities and mentor the children through the 10-day camp sessions.

Lions in **UGANDA** began a nursery school to help working moms who didn't have a place to leave their children during the day. With the help of an LCIF grant, Uganda Lions were able to build and operate an early childhood education center serving over 200 preschool children each day, ranging in age from 3-6 years old. Lions volunteer on a regular basis, helping in the classroom and other areas.

*We are guilty of many errors and faults,
But our worst crime is abandoning
the children,
Neglecting the fountain of life.
Many of the things we need can wait.
The child cannot.
Right now is the time
His bones are being formed,
His blood is being made,
And his senses are being developed.
To him we cannot answer "Tomorrow."
His name is "Today."*

Gabriela Mistral

Children
First

