

Children in Focus

Volume 4: Issue 1



Lions Clubs International

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Follow Your Dream

During this fiscal year, International President Barry Palmer is encouraging all of us to “follow our dream.” Why do you suppose this is so important for you as a person, and as a Lion?



“The secret of living is giving, if you follow your dreams then you will have something worth sharing with others, hope, inspiration and a meaning to live, and that to me, is a great contribution.”

(Joel Brown, CEO and Founder of “Addicted2Success”)



When Lions Clubs International Facebook recently posted the question, “What is your favorite part of being a Lion?” there were many great answers, most having to do with being able to help others who are in need. We share two of the many responses with you:

- “The most rewarding part is when I know I have made a positive difference in somebody’s life...” (Lion Sajee Singh, India)
- “Making dreams come true.” (A Leo from Cairo Egypt)

“Matteo’s Dream,” an inclusive playground for children of all abilities, inspired the Lions float for the 2014 world famous New Year’s Day Rose Bowl Parade. Learn how one Lion’s dream for her son [Matteo](#) was realized.

In Austria, the Vorarlberger Lions clubs joined together to help provide a specially trained “Diabetes” service dog named Rocco to Sarah, a 9-year old girl who has Type 1 Diabetes. Her situation requires around-the-clock glycemic level monitoring. At any time, her levels could drastically change, causing serious danger to her health. Rocco, who is trained to react to changes in Sarah’s blood sugar level, provides a great help and relief to Sarah and her mother. The Lions followed their dream of helping, and Sarah will also be able to follow her own dreams too!

Have you begun to follow your dream?

Are you helping others follow their dreams?

How is your club following its dream?



Ideas for Service

Are you looking for new ideas for service, new projects, or ways to feature the projects you currently do? Lions Clubs International has a variety of tools and ideas for you. We invite you to explore and consider how you might incorporate or utilize them for your club's projects and to help follow your dream. The Service Activities Division offers the following programs and resources:

- [Lions Services for Children](#)
- [Lions Services for Children Symposium Program](#)
- [Diabetes Awareness](#)
- [Hearing Preservation, Awareness and Action](#)
- [Sight Preservation, Awareness and Action](#)
- [Reading Action Program](#)
- [Service Activities Webinars](#)

You can also access free LCI courses to enhance your leadership skills and stay current with LCI news and events:

- [Lions Learning Center](#)
- [News & Events](#)
 - Blog
 - Lions Online Radio
 - e-Newsletter
 - Lions Quarterly
 - International Convention
 - *and more*

Save These Dates!

March 3: International Ear Care Day

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), over 360 million people live with disabling hearing loss, and 32 million are children. WHO's [International Ear Care Day](#) provides you with an opportunity to raise awareness and carry out community-based activities for promoting ear and hearing care. Locate resources and information on LCI's [Hearing](#) web pages.

April: "Lions Family and Friends Month"

This is a special opportunity for you to share the experience of service with family and friends in your community. Showcase your club and its joy of helping others – consider inviting family and friends to join you to serve in these or other service projects:

- [Strides: Lions for Diabetes Awareness](#) event, which is an enjoyable way to increase awareness of diabetes and promote a healthy lifestyle to prevent or manage the disease

- Projects to serve children in need ([Lions Children First 25 Project Ideas](#))
- Share the joy of reading with adults and children ([Reading Action Program Project Ideas](#))

May: [Lions Recycle for Sight Month](#)

This campaign provides an opportunity for your club to place an added emphasis on eyeglass collection. Official Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers receive the collected glasses and prepare them for proper distribution to people in need of them, according to local regulations.

July 4 – 8: Join us at the 97th International [Convention](#) in Toronto, Canada!

Meet and network with fellow Lions from near and far. Visit the Service Activities booth and meet international staff. Learn what's new! There will be seminars to enrich your club, plenary sessions, entertainment, and more!

LCIF Grants

Do you want to expand your service to children in need? An [LCIF grant](#) can provide funding to assist Lions districts in developing and implementing large-scale humanitarian projects. These humanitarian grants help Lions expand their outreach and increase their impact within local and global communities to serve even more people in need around the world. For example, a grant of US\$30,000 was recently given to Lions in District 334-B, Japan, to construct a daycare center in Kampung Ayer Resam in Malaysia. The new center will serve approximately 100 children annually. Learn more about LCIF [recent grants](#).

Share Your Stories of Service

- [MyLCI – online Service Activity Report](#)
- [Lions Children First Facebook](#)
- [Online Community](#)
- [Lions News Network](#)

The staff in the Health & Children's Services Department is eager to work with you as you serve children in need in your community. Please [contact us](#) if you have questions.