



**ONE SHOT
ONE LIFE**
Lions Measles Initiative

We Care. We Serve. We Accomplish.

August 24- 2013

Dear Lions,

Did you know that up to **80 percent of global blindness is preventable?** Lions and LCIF are working hard to reduce that number and I am happy to say that we are making a difference.

An example of this is our efforts and partnerships aimed at eliminating onchocerciasis (**River Blindness**), a disease that can lead to blindness. Last month, **Lion President Madden** was able to join former **U.S. President and Lion Jimmy Carter** at a special celebration in Colombia. Through the work of LCIF and Lions, The Carter Center, the Colombian government and other dedicated people and organizations, Colombia became the **first of six countries in the Americas to [Eliminate River Blindness](#)**. I am so proud of our role in this achievement.



It is through the [Sight First](#) program that LCIF helps Lions deliver services that target diseases such as **River Blindness, cataract and trachoma**; build or expand facilities; train professionals; and build awareness about eye health in underserved communities. LCIF also supports many services for the visually impaired, including education and rehabilitation. Just last week, LCIF's **Sight First** Advisory Committee approved **32 Sight First grants for a total of US\$7.5 million**. These projects will help Lions in Belize, the **United States**, Brazil, Nepal and other countries complete diverse sight-saving projects.

Lion President Madden was recently able to see a great example of a project in the United States at the Spectrios Institute for Low Vision in Illinois. There, dedicated staff and doctors help people with low vision obtain tools, technology, training and support. An **LCIF grant helped expand a portion of the institute**, and it was inspiring to hear the stories of the people who have been helped.

From helping a country eliminate a blinding disease to helping a person with reduced vision realize that they can still read, **you are making a difference**. And **LCIF is here to help you make that difference**.

Generous Commitment to LCIF during Convention

In a **surprise announcement**, Board Appointee and Past District Governor Aruna Oswal and her husband, Lion Abhey Oswal, **committed US\$5 million to Lions Clubs International Foundation** on stage during the annual Lions Clubs International Convention.

"My husband has always supported me...he wanted to pledge something for society, for **humanitarian causes**. So he pledged US\$5 million to be spread globally," said **PDG Oswal of India**. "I feel this is the best Foundation. I have seen it working...I have felt it with my heart and soul. That is why I am so **passionate about LCIF**, because I have seen the success stories. Today, it was a very big deal for all of us. Let us try to **make this world a beautiful world and let us create a difference in society**."

In addition to this incredible commitment, **Lions in attendance generously made donations at the Foundation booth**. LCIF relies on the **generosity of individuals** to carry out worldwide efforts to **restore sight**, provide **disaster relief**, support **youth** and address **humanitarian needs**. Thank you for [your support](#).



**Lion Noel Wychico, Zone "C" Chair, LCIF President Dr. Wing-Kun Tam,
& Lion David C. Williamson, LCIF Chair in Hamburg at the LCIF MJF Booth**

Lions and Special Olympics: Partners in Unity

LCIF [announced a five-year expansion](#) of the partnership with Special Olympics during the 96th Lions Clubs International Convention in Germany. Through [Opening Eyes](#), Lions already help provide vision screenings and eyeglasses to Special Olympic athletes. Now, Lions and LCIF will help create leadership opportunities for Special Olympics athletes, increase the health work of Special Olympics, conduct outreach to families for additional support and reach more young people through inclusive sports and advocacy programs.

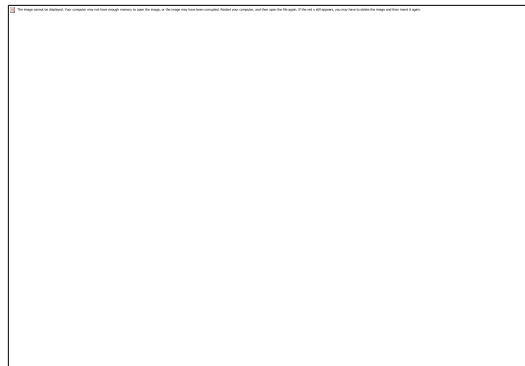
Learn more [in this video](#) about the announcement:



LCIF at the USA/Canada Forum

Experience the impact of [Lions Clubs International Foundation](#) at this year's USA/Canada forum from **September 19 through 21 in Kansas, USA.**

LCIF will have a booth in the exhibit hall where staff can answer questions regarding **grant programs** and the **application process**, provide informational **materials**, and **accept donations**. Contributing Member and Melvin Jones Fellow replacement pins will be available at the booth. Please stop by and inquire about the **Lions Measles Initiative** and the [recently announced GAVI partnership](#).



This year, there are a number of **LCIF [informational sessions](#)**, open to all Lions in attendance:

- **Lions Quest** will have pre-forum session taking place on Thursday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the convention center in Courtyard Rooms 4-5.
- On Friday, take part in a focused presentation on **LCIF Emergency Grants** (session 35) from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in Leatherwood Room 3 at the Sheraton Hotel.
- Also on Friday, learn about **Sight First** grant opportunities in the U.S. and Canada through Knights of the Blind: Qualify for a Sight First Grant (session 64) from 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. in Leatherwood Room 2 at the Sheraton Hotel.
- **Chairperson Madden** will host a session on Saturday (session 36) from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. that will provide an overview of Foundation initiatives and grant opportunities. This session will take place at the convention center in Courtyard Rooms 4-5.
- **LCIF Coordinators** are invited to a special session in Courtyard Rooms 4-5 in the convention center at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.



Respectfully Submitted,

Lion David C. Williamson,

LCIF Chair MD-4-L2 term 2012 thru 2015.