



November/December 2023

Lions Share

Serving People with Vision and Hearing Needs Since 1974

The Official Newsletter of the Lions of Illinois Foundation



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LIF Town Hall Meeting (Zoom)

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Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday 8am-4pm

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Contact for: Memorials and Endowments, LIF/LIEF Committees, Fundraising Development, Awards and Recognition

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Programs Director, Lions Share, M&E Newsletter, Marketing



Upcoming Events



November 2023

Look out for the 2024
Sight & Sound
Sweepstakes

Nov. 1st - Dec. 6th, 2023

Sparkle for a Cause
Student Low Vision
Fundraiser



Mark Your Calendar



November 2023

Sight & Sound Sweepstakes mailed to Club Secretaries



November 2023

Sparkle for a Cause (Student Low Vision Holiday Fundraiser)



December 2nd, 2023 C.O.G. Meeting

Abraham Lincoln Hotel Springfield, IL



January 27, 2024 Town Hall Meeting (Zoom)

9:00 am Webinar via Zoom



February 3rd, 2024 C.O.G. Meeting

Embassy Suites Hotel East Peoria, IL



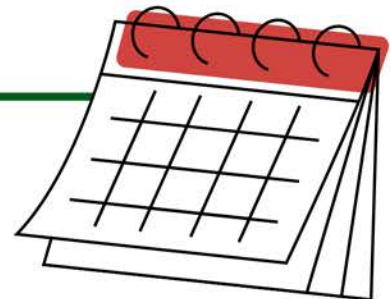
February 17th, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting

Holiday Inn & Suites East Peoria, IL



March 1st, 2024

Mobile Unit-Begins Health Fair Circuit



**Congratulations to *Lion Leslie Jefferson (Macomb Lions Club)*
our September/October Little Leo the Lion Drawing Winner!**

Don't forget to look for our little lost Lion! Tell us you found him, the page number and what was on that page to be placed into our drawing to win a Gift Card.

Just E-mail us at LIFoffice@lifnd.org



Happy Holidays

LIF Executive Director:
Lion Ronald Fruit, PDG



My Fellow Lions,

The holiday season is fast approaching. This time of year, it is good to look back and see where we have been, we at the Foundation have a front row seat to see the continuous support from all the Lions throughout Illinois coming together. Our programs and services have touched many this year with Camp Lions, Student Low Vision, Adult Low Vision, and Mobile Screenings.

Camp Lions hosted 137 individuals with hearing and/or vision needs this summer. The Clubs did a great job of hosting treat nights that the campers enjoyed themselves. Our partners have provided over 300 Student Low Vision screenings. I was able to attend the Jacksonville Fall Clinic and witness the level of complexity and compassion for each comprehensive exam performed. Every week, our partners teach Orientation and Mobility training as part of our Adult Low Vision Program, providing effective and safe navigation techniques. The Mobile Screening Unit has completed 130, Club hosted, events with 1,739 individuals screened to date, 97 of those screened were at risk for Macular Degeneration and 616 were screened as having a hearing loss.

The impact of the Foundation continues to grow as we help those with Vision and Hearing needs. These successes have come about not because of one large donation or one grand gesture, our programs succeed because of each and every donation, whether it be large or small, they come together to impact those we serve. Our Foundation exists to be a conduit for all, working together to create a permanent vehicle for those with vision and hearing needs in Illinois.

It is great to be a Lion in Illinois and be part of all that our Foundation does. The season of caring reinforces the importance of what we do as Lions and how the Foundation is an important part of that community service. The Foundation staff and I wish all our fellow Lions, Happy Holidays and warm wishes for the New Year.

Yours in Lionism,

Ronald Fruit, PDG
Executive Director
Lions of Illinois Foundation



DON'T FORGET TO ADD US...

Please add LIFOffice@lifnd.org to your list of email contacts to receive news correspondence from your Foundation.

Programs and Services

Student Low-Vision



We believe that no child needs to face blindness as their future.

Please Join us with your Donation Today.

With a donation of **\$290** we can continue our mission to make a difference in the lives of these children that we have pledged to serve.

Recycling

REMINDERS: Please DO NOT send Large Ink Toners or loose Lenses to LIF for recycling. Recycle large ink toners and plastic lenses locally. Please Remove Keys from the Key Rings, this saves time. Thank you for all of your sneaker donations for our sneaker recycling. We average \$8 per bag and we have sent out 60 bags!



Social Services: Contact Andrew at andrews@lifnd.org

Please go to our website for all Social Services Forms and applications www.LionsofIllinoisFoundation.org
We have Several Magnifying Units to distribute to people in need in your district. Also please distribute **Hearing-Aid Batteries** locally to Nursing Homes, Food Pantries, and Shelters.



Reconditioned Hearing Aids and Eyeglasses

What is O&M Training? Orientation and Mobility training focuses on instructing individuals who are blind or low vision with safe and effective travel skills through their environment. Common techniques taught through O&M training include cane travel, locating objects, navigating street crossings, and more.

Adult Low-Vision



Mobile Screening Unit

New Mobile Unit Update: chassis has been delivered to the fabricator they are lengthening the chassis. LIF will be heading to the facility as they move into the next construction phase, we will have more updates forthcoming.

Registration for Mobile Screenings - Opens January 1st, 2024.

Children's Vision Screening

The Lions of Illinois Foundation has collaborated with Plusoptix in order to use the Plusoptix S12 Camera to perform free vision screenings for the children of Illinois, specifically those in the formative years of infancy and early childhood. Screenings will be provided by trained Lions in each district. To learn more go to www.LionsOfIllinoisFoundation.org



Plusoptix S12 Camera

2023 Candy Day Recap

Thank You!

We'd like to thank all of the Lions who participated in our **Annual Candy Day Campaign**. Your donation will help individuals within your community and throughout the state of Illinois with vision and hearing programs and services offered by your Lions of Illinois Foundation.





LIONS OF ILLINOIS FOUNDATION

2023 CANDY DAY

FINAL REPORT



OFFICIAL REPORT of Candy Day Fund Raising for Humanitarian Services (Blind & Deaf).

_____ Yes, our Club participated in Candy Day on _____ (dates)

_____ No, our Club is **unable** to participate but enclosed is our donation of \$ _____ to the Lions of Illinois Foundation Candy Day Campaign.

CLUB NAME: _____ DISTRICT: _____ CLUB #: _____

CANDY DAY CHAIRPERSON: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____ EMAIL: _____

CANDY DAY RESULTS: (Please answer ALL questions ONLY if Club participated in Candy Day)

Number of (Lion) Workers/Volunteers _____

Number of Cases of Candy Purchased _____ Has Candy been purchased and paid for to LIF: Yes [☐] No [☐]

Collections from CANDY DAY \$ _____

Collections from UNDERWRITERS \$ _____

Collections from COUNTER TRAYS (from July 1st - Nov 30) \$ _____

GROSS TOTAL COLLECTION FROM ALL SOURCES \$ _____

COST OF CANDY (-) \$ _____

COST OF APRONS (-) \$ _____

OTHER COSTS Please explain/list: _____ (-) \$ _____

NET \$ _____

CONTRIBUTIONS TO: (Please make all checks payable to the **Lions of Illinois Foundation**)

THIS MUST EQUAL 60% of NET OR MORE to Lions of Illinois Projects \$ _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____ Title: _____

Your contributions to the Foundation will make the following projects possible:

Camp Lions for Children and Adults, Low Vision Program, Mobile Retinal Unit, Mobile Hearing Unit, Social Services and Referral, LIF Used Hearing Aid Collection & Hearing Aid Bank (H.A.B.), Used Eyeglass Collections, LIF Fund for Emergency (L.I.F.E.).

SUBMIT THIS REPORT AND CONTRIBUTIONS NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, 2023

LIONS OF ILLINOIS FOUNDATION
700 N PEACE ROAD, SUITE B
DEKALB, IL 60115

(815) 756-5633 -TELEPHONE (815) 758-8157- FAX dortega@lifnd.org - EMAIL

BINGO BONANZA Recap



Thank you to those who joined us for an evening of fun! We had a blast playing BINGO with each of you. It truly takes a village and we appreciate the donations, time, help and participation that made this event a success. Through your generosity, we are able to continue to help support adults throughout Illinois with vision needs.





Dear Fellow Lions,

I want to reiterate how happy we are for all your time and effort at the Bingo Bonanza!

Your help allows us to continue our low vision services in Central Illinois, including demonstration and instruction on low vision aids, instruction on assistive technology software and equipment, daily living and communication skills, orientation and mobility training, human guide methods, and support groups for those dealing with vision loss.

Our research shows there are approximately 20,500 Central Illinoisans over the age of 18 who have vision loss or blindness due to glaucoma, macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, other genetic diseases, traumatic brain injury, or stroke. We anticipate that number will double by 2050, so your support means more than ever.

Thank you to all of the volunteers, sponsors, donors, and players for a great event! And a special shout out to the Pekin Lions for their gracious hospitality. We look forward to the next Bingo Bonanza, which will allow us to bring more Center for Sight & Hearing services to your communities.

Together we serve,

Lion Maureen Koch
President
Center for Sight & Hearing



**RECEIVE YOUR TICKETS
BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS!**

**CONTACT THE FOUNDATION OFFICE
TODAY! (815) 756-5633 X250
DIANNE ORTEGA: dortega@lifnd.org**

SIGHT AND SOUND SWEEPSTAKES

Did you know?

The Early Bird Drawing
benefits the Club & Seller!
\$250 to the Club & \$250
to the Seller.

**2024
Early Bird
Drawing Dates:**



March 6, 2024 • April 3, 2024 • May 1, 2024

Send completed books and monies in by 3pm the
Tuesday before each Wednesday drawing to have
them entered into the Early Bird Drawing each month.
Remember these drawings benefit the Club & Seller!





Lions of Illinois Foundation

Gift Card Campaign Presents:



CARDS FOR CAMP

**Raise Money for Camp Lions,
By Purchasing Gift Cards through RaiseRight.**

If you do not already have a Gift Card Account through RaiseRight, please contact the LIF Office to receive the Online Code to open your account.

Don't 
FORGET

**ORDER YOUR
HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS
TODAY!**



CONTACT US



(815) 756-5633



LIFOffice@lifnd.org



CARDS FOR CAMP

Stocking Stuffer Ideas For the Holidays



**OVER
750
RETAILERS**

A percentage of each gift card purchased will help fund Camp Lions. Give the gift that gives back to youth and adults with vision and hearing impairments.



STARBUCKS



OLD COUNTRY STORE



Go to **RaiseRight.com** and place your order TODAY!



Tasting is Believing...



Whether you plan to gift a Terri Lynn snack to someone dear or place an order to enjoy at a gathering, these fresh, irresistible treats make the perfect addition to your Holidays.

To ensure delivery before Christmas please place your order no later than December 1st. Orders to each person totaling \$30 or more ship for FREE in the U.S.!



Shop now to support LIF Programs & Services



<https://LIF.terrilynn.com>

Just in Time for the Holidays. Stunning Swarovski Crystal Jewelry.



Lions of Illinois Foundation presents Sparkle for a Cause

Support Student Low Vision in your community by shopping
"Holiday Sparkle" now and help give the gift of sight.



In celebration of our 50th Anniversary, we are hosting the **Sparkle for a Cause** fundraiser, running **November 1st - December 6th**. Share with family and friends to further support Student Vision Services in your community this Holiday Season!

Use the link below or **scan the QR Code** to shop a selection of uniquely designed jewelry featuring the finest quality Swarovski crystal, zirconia and innovations.

<http://www.touchstonecrystal.com/ELIBG7XK>



Visit Facebook for more info on special promotions. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/847958763720161>

THANK YOU, Lions and Leos of Illinois!

Your support helped fulfill the wishes of eye donors to provide 7,743 people a second chance at sight last year, and help advance research to find new ways to prevent blindness.



In Illinois, your gift makes an impact through Eversight's ongoing partnership with the Lions of Illinois Foundation (LIF). To increase the value of your donation, we are asking your Club to donate directly to LIF's Birdies for Charity program noting Eversight in the memo line.

Would you like to learn more?

Contact Lion Marta Garczarczyk, Director of Philanthropy at (312) 469-5523 or mgarczarczyk@eversightvision.org.





Holiday Tributes

Lions of Illinois Endowment Fund

Serving People with Vision and Hearing Needs Since 1974

Holiday Greetings,

As the Holiday Season approaches and the year comes to a close, we are reminded of the warmth, joy and sense of community this special time brings. It's a period of reflection, gratitude, and an opportunity to show appreciation to those that have touched our lives.

This year the Lions of Illinois Foundation would like to encourage a wonderful way to celebrate the season: making tributes in honor of a loved one, mentor, or someone in your community who has made an impact on you personally or has shown great service to those in need. Contributions made to our Endowment Fund, on behalf of these tributes, not only serve as a heartfelt gesture to show your gratitude and respect, but also contribute to the spirit of giving and the broader mission of our Foundation.

Here's how you can participate:

- **Choose a Tribute:** Say thank you to a special person in your life with a monetary donation to the Lions of Illinois Endowment Fund, in their honor.
- **Share your Tribute:** We'd love to celebrate and acknowledge these meaningful gestures together. Starting today, through the end of January 2024, LIEF will send a special personalized thank you to your tribute explaining the reason for the contribution that has been made in their honor, on your behalf. We'll also acknowledge you and your tribute(s) in the Lions Share and Memorials & Endowment Newsletter.
- **Spread the Word:** Encourage others to participate. The more tributes we have, the more love and positivity we can spread this holiday season.

Thank you for considering this special Holiday Tribute Initiative. Your participation will not only bring joy to the individual(s) you're honoring but also help members of your community with hearing and vision needs. Together let's build a tapestry of tributes that reflect the love, respect and admiration we have for those committed to the service of others.

Sincerely,

Ronald Fruit

Lion Ronald Fruit, PDG
Executive Director





September/October Tributes



Honors

Steve & Gail Anton's 50th Wedding Anniversary

- Joe & Anne Vineyard
- Cheryl Warshaw

PDG John Chisum's 85th Birthday

- Steve & Gail Anton
- Jan Barber
- Chris Coleman
- Bill Lammel
- Mike & Carol Smigielski

Linda Hall's Birthday

- James & Lynda Middle Calf



Memorials

Matt Alberstett

- Russ & Susan Sarver

Linda Beck

- Morris Lions Club

Rosemary Block

- Steve & Gail Anton
- Thomas Elsey
- Steve & Rochelle Griffin
- John Joseph & Bobbi Honiotes
- Frank & Robin Kirar
- Larry & Ann McGuire
- Russ & Susan Sarver

Don Borgwardt, PFP

- Rich & Megan Borgwardt

Daniel L. Byford

- DeKalb LC

Louis Chavez

- Felicia Hojnicky

John Coleman, PDG

- Rafael Alvarado
- Steve & Gail Anton
- Dick & Barb Bark
- Bob & Brenda Block
- Bridgeview LC
- Robert Carmean
- Marlene Chaney
- Chicago Mount Greenwood LC
- Chicago Puerto Rico LC



September/October Tributes



Memorials continued

John Coleman, PDG

- Chicago Ridge LC
- John Chism
- Carol Daker
- District 1-A PDG Club
- Benjamin & Norma Fernandez
- Philip Foster
- David Hansen
- Gina Hartler
- Robert & Sandra Hoffman
- Frank & Robin Kirar
- James & Jeanne McAuliffe
- Gail Miller
- Jerry Novak
- Rex Nyquist
- Vivian Schillne
- Anthony Serratore
- Mike & Carol Smigielski
- Stephanie Spann
- Howard Swacker
- Thornton LC
- Tinley Park LC
- Rick & Rose Tonzzi
- Diane Viverito
- Louis Viverito
- Westchester LC
- Jack & Teresita Zaretsky

Chip Farrington, PDG

- Dick & Barb Bark
- Steve & Kelly Boettger
- Ken & Marie Horn

Shirley Fowler

- Huntley Area LC

Jim Frenchy

- Nicolette Frenchy

Manuel J. Garcia

- Lake Villa Township LC

Gerald Girard

- Joliet Noon LC

Joan Graves

- Huntley Area LC
- Charles & Sandra Williams

Allen Korte

- Highland LC

Rosemary Larsen

- Robert & Linda Jilke, Sr.

Bob Marten

- Don Robey

Larry Mehring, PDG

- Dick & Barb Bark
- Jerry Novak

Denise Pitcher

- Huntley Area LC

Betty Stein

- Highland LC

Sandor Toth, PDG

- Ken & Marie Horn

Jay Vogt

- Waterloo LC

Daniel Wagner

- Terry & Cathy Eberle

June Weise

- Highland LC



SAVE THE DATE

Lions of Illinois Foundation

50th Anniversary Gala Celebration

Saturday, September 28th, 2024

DoubleTree by Hilton Lisle Naperville
3003 Corporate West Drive, Naperville, IL 60532



Special Guest Speaker:
Douglas Alexander



Join us as we celebrate
50 Years of Service
Dinner, Guest Speaker, Live Music,
Awards, Raffles, Live Auction
and much more.

**Details about Sponsorships,
Tickets and Hotel
Reservations coming soon.**

For questions
contact us at LIFoffice@lifnd.org

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE

JOLLY



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM YOUR LIONS OF
ILLINOIS FOUNDATION

Lion Ron, Lion Trish, Lion Kirsten, Lion Jyllann,
Lion Dianne, Lion Max, Lion Andrew & Lion Nicole

Please join us...



**LIVE
WEBINAR**



**Lions of Illinois Foundation will be hosting a
Town Hall Meeting via Zoom
at 9:00 AM on Saturday, January 27, 2024**

**Lions of Illinois Foundation
Celebrating 50 Years of Service**

1974 ➡ 2024

**Join us as we look back and learn
more about the HISTORY of how the
Foundation began in 1974. Then
journey with us to discuss where our
FUTURE GOALS will lead us.**



**Lots of fun to be had
with TRIVIA and
opportunities to spin
the BIG WHEEL for
PRIZES!**



**MOVING FORWARD...
LOOKING BACK**

SPACE IS LIMITED!

**An e-mail notification will be sent out through your
Club Secretary to register for the event.**

Be sure to register to be included in the raffles.