



# Children in Focus

A newsletter for district Lions Services for Children chairpersons

June 2008

Your involvement with the Lions Services for Children Program can help provide support and services to meet the needs of disadvantaged children, encourage others to join in your efforts and highlight Lions clubs in communities. This newsletter features information about the Lions Services for Children Program. Please share this publication with your fellow Lions.

**The Lions Services for Children Program** can help to continue Lions Clubs International's long tradition of helping the world's future generations. The mission of the program is: "to improve the lives of children and adolescents in adverse circumstances through health and education services, locally and internationally."

Today, children need Lions more than ever. Lions can help to provide: food, shelter, or clothing; access to basic healthcare; 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 and other needs.

## Chairperson Information

Please visit the association's Web site ([www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)) to become familiar with information for **Lions Services for Children chairpersons**. Please access the following link:  
[www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/youth\\_outreach\\_lschair.shtml](http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/youth_outreach_lschair.shtml)



## The 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Lions Clubs International Convention

will be held June 23–27, 2008, in Bangkok, Thailand. Attending convention is an excellent opportunity to share ideas and accomplishments with fellow Lions from around the world. Don't miss outstanding seminars planned for you, such as the **Lions Services for Children Seminar on Tuesday, June 24, from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**.

Learn how your club or district can create a better world for underprivileged children in your area. Find out how to identify specific needs, develop an action plan and gain community support for your project. Meet a panel of enthusiastic, experienced Lions who are actively involved in services for children and share your ideas, challenges and success stories. Lions Services for Children chairpersons, Leo chairpersons, council chairpersons, district governors and interested Lions are encouraged to attend.

## Program News

After a three-year successful pilot, the **Lions Services for Children Worldwide Symposium Program** was adopted by the board of directors at the March 2008 meeting, effective July 1, 2008. This program provides expense assistance to qualifying districts or multiple districts that hold a forum for Lions, educators, health professionals and other local community organizations to address the needs of underprivileged children in their respective areas. Symposiums are an effective way to promote community awareness and develop collaborative relationships with other interested organizations. Lions may lend their support to existing programs or develop new projects and activities. Symposium topics can also include **Lions Quest** and other Lions programs for youth.

The children's worldwide symposium program allows for funding of up to US \$1,000 for each of four (4) symposiums per Constitutional Area per fiscal year. Each district or multiple district may apply for reimbursement funding for one symposium every three years. Applications for funding will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning July 1, 2008, for fiscal year 2008-2009. To apply for funding, submit the official [application](#) to the Health & Children's Services Department at Lions Clubs International. All reimbursements will be subject to the [Rules of Audit](#) developed specifically for this program.

Some examples of children's symposiums held throughout the world during fiscal year 2007-2008 are as follows:

- "The Young Child in Poverty" (*District 28-U, Utah, USA*)
- "Child Labor" (*District H, Peru, South America*)
- "Violence – Is it a Solution or Means to Lose (Children Under Threat)" (*Multiple District 118, Turkey*)
- "Rights of the Child – Key Factor in Development" (*District 310-D, Thailand*)
- "Our Youth – The Future Generation" (*District 410-A, Rep. of South Africa*)
- "A Healthy Child Getting a Good and Adequate Education, in a Healthy Environment is a High Achiever" (*District 413, Zambia*)

## Program Resources

**Lions Services for Children brochure (IAD-303)** gives an overview of the program and encourages Lions' participation through assessment of serious needs and development of projects with specific goals in the areas of health and education. You can download the brochure at the following link: <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/iad303.pdf>

**Lions Services for Children Community Needs Assessment (IAD-304)** can help a club or district to determine the services that would most benefit local children living in adverse circumstances. This easy-to-use form will also help to identify various opportunities for collaboration with individuals and organizations to meet the health and educational needs of children. You may download the form at the following link: <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/iad304.pdf>



**Lions/UNICEF School-in-a-Box Program** can help children in areas where schooling has been disrupted by wars, disasters and other emergencies. Using a locally developed teaching guide, curriculum and school supplies, teachers can establish temporary classrooms almost anywhere, thus ensuring children's access to educational services in times of crisis. Each box costs approximately US\$190, and donations can be sent to: Lions Clubs International Foundation, 300 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA.

**School-in-a-Box Banner Patch:** For a donation totaling US\$500 or more in each fiscal year, a Lions or Leo club, district or multiple district will be recognized with a "School-in-a-Box" banner patch. For each subsequent annual donation of US\$500 or more, the club, district or multiple district will receive a dated chevron banner patch. For more information, download the fact sheet and banner patch application:

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/iad306.pdf>

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/iad306-a.pdf>

## Important Dates – 2008

- **July 1:** Beginning this date, applications for the **2008-2009 Lions Services for Children Worldwide Symposium Program** may be submitted to the Health & Children's Services Department (details highlighted on page 1, "Program News" section of this newsletter).
- **October 9 - World Sight Day:** an annual day of awareness held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of October to focus global attention on blindness and visual impairment.
- **November 14 - World Diabetes Day:** designated as the primary global awareness campaign for diabetes. This year's theme is "Diabetes in Children and Adolescents." For more information, visit [www.worlddiabetesday.org](http://www.worlddiabetesday.org)

## Vision and Hearing Screenings



Lions are encouraged to partner with schools, clinics, eye care organizations and community groups to sponsor free vision and hearing screenings. The screenings do not replace a doctor's exam, but they are a valuable means to help identify children who may be experiencing vision or hearing impairment, or who are at risk for eye disease. Lions are also encouraged to provide screenings at community district and multiple district events. For more information, see the following links:

**Vision screenings:** [http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/vision\\_services\\_screenings.shtml](http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/vision_services_screenings.shtml)

**Hearing screenings:** [http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/programs\\_hear\\_screen.shtml](http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/programs_hear_screen.shtml)

## The Hadley School for The Blind

The Hadley School for the Blind, one of Lions Clubs International's partners, is the largest worldwide distance educator of blind and visually impaired people, their families and blindness service professionals. Hadley offers classes free of charge to its blind and visually impaired students and their families and affordable tuition classes to blindness professionals. There are more than 100 courses offered in Braille, large print, cassette and online. Hadley serves more than 10,000 students annually in 100 countries. For more information, visit [www.hadley.edu](http://www.hadley.edu)

## Camp Information Needed!



Lions Clubs International is updating its listing of camps that are affiliated with Lions in their service to children and/or adults who are blind or visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, who have diabetes or general disabilities. If you have not already done so, please forward to the Health & Children's Services Department a list of the Lions-supported camp(s) in your district, so that we may post this information on the LCI Web site.

## Lions Assistance Program Builds Teamwork

**Lions Emergency/Non-Emergency Assistance** (previously known as Lions Serving Humanity) is a web-based location for the exchange of volunteer services and materials for emergency and non-emergency Lions projects. This is an effective way for Lions to communicate, enabling them to: volunteer or request assistance for medical, dental or eye care missions; offer a donation of needed

supplies; collaborate on projects for children in need; volunteer to help re-build a home or school destroyed by a natural disaster; and more. With teamwork, Lions can accomplish even more. If you would like to volunteer your help, donate resources, or request assistance for a Lions emergency or non-emergency project, please access the following link:

[http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/lions\\_assistance.shtml](http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/lions_assistance.shtml)

## Chairperson Award

**Certificate of Achievement:** At the conclusion of the fiscal year, the district governor may present an award certificate to the Lions Services for Children chairperson for outstanding leadership in promoting and supporting projects for children in adverse circumstances. For more information, see the Lions Services for Children Chairperson Web page at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)

## Online Resources

- **Lions Learning Center:** offers free online courses to enhance skills for a successful leadership role. You'll find many topics, including setting goals, developing effective teams, providing community service and public relations, just to name a few. For more information: [http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/resources\\_learning\\_center.shtml](http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/resources_learning_center.shtml)
- **Lions Newswire:** stay up to date with the latest Lions information, announcements and program information.
- **Public Relations Tools:** contain fill-in-the-blank press releases, public service announcements (PSA's) print ads and other tools to promote your projects and activities.

## Stay in Touch!



The objective of the **Children in Focus** newsletter is to provide you, our district chairpersons, with information and program updates to assist you in your leadership roles. If you have an idea or suggestion for future issues, please let us know. We would also appreciate receiving news and photos about any successful children's projects in your club or district that we may share with other Lions involved in serving the needs of underprivileged children. Your news and comments will be welcomed at: [children@lionsclubs.org](mailto:children@lionsclubs.org). Also, remember to send us your current contact information, so that you may continue to receive this newsletter and other important announcements throughout the year.

**Children in Focus** newsletter is published by:  
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