

A Report from the LCIF Chairman

LCIF is able to fulfill its mission of helping Lions serve worldwide through your support. In this message, I would like to update you on Campaign SightFirst II, grants awarded at the October Board Meeting, Lions World Sight Day, Melvin Jones Fellowships and new developments in Lions Quest.

Dedicated Lions have helped raise more than US\$53 million to date for [Campaign SightFirst II](#) to continue our fight against preventable blindness. National and Multi-National Coordinators reported the [fundraising goals](#) of thousands of clubs around the world during Worldwide Report Day on October 11, and more than 20,000 clubs plan to raise US\$64 million for CSFII this Lions year.

<http://www.lions-csfii.org/live/content/index.shtml>

http://www.lions-csfii.org/live/content/pdfs/wrd2_newsrelease_en.pdf

These goals leave more than US\$35 million to be raised in Lions year 2007-2008 in order to reach CSFII's minimum goal of US\$150 million and more than US\$85 million to be raised in 2007-2008 if we are to reach our challenge goal of US\$200 million. Please challenge your club to set and achieve its fundraising goal. We must succeed so that Lions can continue the SightFirst program. To date, SightFirst has funded vision projects that have protected and restored sight to more than 100 million individuals.

At the October Board Meeting, the LCIF Executive Committee approved [75 grants totaling US\\$3 million](#). Grants awarded will provide for international medical missions, expanding Lions Quest programs, equipping schools and hospitals, and constructing Habitat for Humanity Homes, to name a few. The full list of approved grants is available [online](#).

http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/lcif_gr_standard_recent.shtml

On October 12 Lions around the world marked [Lions World Sight Day](#) with sight-related activities such as eye screenings, cataract surgeries and vision awareness campaigns. LCIF and Lions Clubs International, in cooperation with Give the Gift of Sight Foundation, screened approximately 26,000 children and adults October 10-20 in Bamako, Mali. More than 2 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are blind and the rate of blindness is 10 times that of developing countries. Lions from Mali, through grant funding from LCIF, will arrange for additional care such as cataract surgery for those who need it at the African Institute for Tropical Ophthalmology (IOTA)-the premier eye hospital and training institute in West Africa.

http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/lions_lcif_lwsd.shtml

The number of individuals to attain the Foundation's highest donor honor of [Melvin Jones Fellow](#) continues to grow each year. The Melvin Jones Fellowship is the backbone of LCIF, providing 70 percent of the foundation's revenue. A recognition of humanitarian work, a MJF is awarded to those who donate US\$1,000 to LCIF or to people for whom a donation was made by others. Last year alone, 13,300 people became Melvin Jones Fellows and 7,076 individuals continued their support of the Foundation by becoming a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellows. Melvin Jones Fellows receive an attractive lapel pin, a plaque and a congratulatory letter. Consider recognizing a Lion in your club for their dedication or individual in the community for their humanitarian efforts by presenting him or her with a Melvin Jones Fellowship. The Fellowship can be attained through an installment payment plan, and donations to Campaign SightFirst II are eligible for MJF recognition.

http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/lcif_don_melvin.shtml

Lions and LCIF are making a difference in the lives of youths through Lions Quest, a schools-based life-skills program for young people from kindergarten to 12th grade. More than 350,000 teachers have been trained in the program, which is currently taught in about 30 countries, and 11 million children have learned to make responsible decisions, communicate effectively and avoid drugs through Lions Quest. A new online training program with background information and tools for effectively implementing Lions Quest is now available to any Lion who is interested in learning more about Lions Quest. [E-mail Shmir Corzine](#), Lions Quest

Coordinator, for a log on ID and password to utilize the newly developed online training course.

http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/lcif_gr_lions_quest.shtml

<mailto:Shmir.Corzine@lionsclubs.org>

I thank you for your continued support of the Foundation. Your support is integral to what we can accomplish together this year and in the future.

With a Passion to Serve,

Dr. Ashok Mehta

2006-2007 LCIF Chairperson