



The "50 For 50 Challenge"

George "Jake" Jacobssen, PDG, Foundation Chair

As you are aware, the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation is celebrating its 50th year. Our founding Lions, who included Norm Ross, John Anderson and F. Lee Mellish, believed that if the Lions Clubs of MD-36 pooled some of their resources they could create an organization that could offer sight, hearing, health assistance and youth programs. They did it, and now thanks to them, we are celebrating 50 years of helping those in need.

The "50 for 50 Challenge" is a special fundraising campaign in honor of OLSHF's 50th anniversary. The campaign kicked-off at the District E Convention on March 28th; record attendance at the convention helped raise more than \$21,000 during the luncheon and parade of checks. The goal of this Challenge is to have 50 people enter the Sustainer Circle in honor of the 50th Anniversary.

Membership in the Sustainer Circle begins with the cumulative giving by an individual or couple to the Foundation of \$1,000. (The success of the "50 For 50 Challenge" would require 50 folks x \$1,000 to raise \$50,000). This means that all giving to the OLSHF counts, including memorial/honor gifts, award gifts, annual fund giving, convention giving, etc. Clubs can also enter the Sustainers Circle by making cumulative contributions of \$10,000 or more. Clubs can get even closer to entering the Sustainer Circle by purchasing a table at the 50th Gala Dinner on July 25th.

All funds raised during the Challenge will be used for patient services, including Low Vision Clinic, Hearing Aid Bank, and Patient Care. These services provide the sight and hearing saving surgeries, treatments and procedures to our neighbors in MD-36 who have no where else to turn.

The "50 For 50 Challenge" will run through June 30th; the results will be announced at the 50th Anniversary Gala in Canby on July 25th.

To find out how close you are to entering the Sustainer Circle, email Jeri Alcock, Interim Resource Development Officer, at giving@orlions.org or call the Foundation office at (503) 413-7399.

Why Our Mission Matters to Me Personally

Glen Gilbert, Executive Director



When I was just two-and-a-half years-old, I got my first pair of glasses. I did everything I could to lose them or break them. I must have gone through ten pairs of glasses over the next five years. Somehow my mother salvaged a pair from those years and recently gave them to me as a keepsake (one arm is broken off). When I look at them, I find it hard to believe they ever fit on my head.

The problem with my vision was that I had an extreme case of amblyopia. Amblyopia, or lazy eye, is a developmental problem in the brain, not a problem in the eye. The problem was fixable but it wasn't detected and treated early enough. By the time I was an adolescent, my brain shut off the signal to my right eye, and the problem could not be fixed. If my town had a Lions Mobile Health Screening Unit like the one we have in Oregon, my Amblyopia would have been detected and fixed. Instead I have lived my life concerned about losing vision in my good eye and being completely blind. I've been lucky; however, my life has not been dramatically affected by being blind in one eye. With a lack of good depth perception, I played second base rather than centerfield. I became an attorney then decided to dedicate my life to nonprofit service. I married the most incredible woman and traveled around the world with her. We lived in India, Prague and Palau. We have two terrific kids. Like I said, I consider myself very lucky.

Every month, the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation helps less fortunate kids (and adults) from losing vision like I did. Sometimes we do that by simply detecting the problem. Other times, we dramatically help solve the problem by providing funds to someone who could not afford a sight saving surgery. I am thrilled to be able to connect my personal story with the mission of the Foundation.

In 50 years, the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation has helped hundreds of thousands of people who could not help themselves. Our next 50 years starts on July 1. We face huge challenges in the toughest economy since 1932, but we will work to overcome those challenges and make the Foundation better and more effective than ever before. We cannot do it without you. Please help us set the vision for the next 50 years by making a generous donation to our work today.

I look forward to meeting many of you in Pendleton this month and in the year to come. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this amazing organization.

Memorials

Memorial Gifts

In memory of Betty Carpenter

Hilda Walker
R. E. Walker

In memory of Betty McGinty

North Medford Lions Club

In memory of Bill Wagner

George Sahlberg

In memory of Brenda Allen

Frederick Hirsch

In memory of Bob Nielson

Don Bowers

In memory of Carl Berry

Art Abbott
Fred McNaughton
Jamie Berry
Jean Zelnock
Joseph Thompson
Kenneth Lockett
Lee Vasquez
McMinnville Lions Club
M. M. Jaffer
R. E. Walker
Richard Larsen

In memory of Carolyn Howland

Gerald Hopkins

In memory of Don Giorgi

R. E. Walker

In memory of James Minnick

Dalles Lions Club

In memory of Inez Widman

James Cicchetti

Memorial Gifts

In memory of Gary Dahlinger

Dale Edwards
Marylee Murray
Ronald Popp

In memory of Jeff Davis

Don Bowers

In memory of John Chevront

Astoria Lions Club

In memory of Joseph Wayne Ferguson

Crooked River Lions Club

In memory of Lois O'Donnell

Pendleton Lionness Club

In memory of Mayme Rasmussen

Verie Reynolds

In memory of Norma Turner

Robt Turner

In memory of Royal Ward

Mary Warford

In memory of Patty Sell

Barbara Ventura
David Neisinger
Edna Koroch
Good Timers Bowling League
Jack Hanke
Jerry Keller
Lloyd Sell
Nancy Fredricks
Roy Brustad
Shirley Larson
W. H. Slinker

*This listing includes Memorial gifts received in March 2009. Club & Organization Gifts will be acknowledged in the June issue.

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of our list of donors. We apologize for any omission and would appreciate your bringing them to our attention.
info@orlions.org or (800) 635-4667.

Your generosity makes a tremendous difference in the lives of people every day.

Gifts by Mail, Phone or Web   

Gifts may be made by check, credit card or appreciated assets (such as stocks or real estate). You may also make an unrestricted gift or designate your gift to support a specific program. If you are interested in current or estate giving opportunities, or making a gift of stock or real estate, planning an estate gift, or arranging a life income gift plan (such as a gift annuity or charitable remainder trust), please contact us.

Other Ways to Donate

When you donate your vehicle, ink jet cartridges or cell phones you are helping the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation fund vital health needs of youth and adults throughout Oregon and Northern California. Please contact us for more information.

(800) 635-4667 ♦ www.orlions.org



Opportunity

Richard Smith, PDG
2008-10 Chairman, Lions Eye Bank of Oregon

"This is the first time in 30 years that I have been able to read or watch TV and now I can do both even without glasses. It seems like a miracle," stated the elderly individual following eye surgery. What has been accomplished through

research and advanced medical procedures to enhance the quality of life of those with preventable vision loss really does seem like a miracle.

The LEBO (Lions Eye Bank of Oregon) recently dedicated its new building to the Lions of Oregon, donor families and our Eye Bank couriers. These are critical components of your Eye Bank. The Lions of Oregon created the only Eye Bank in Oregon. It has grown to a premier facility that has improved the eyesight of thousands of citizens in the Northwest and around the world and provided quality eye tissue for research. The new building, with increased space and cutting edge facilities and equipment, now provides the Lions of Oregon with the opportunity to serve an increasing number of clients. Our increased capacity now allows us to provide our services to more donor families and provide more corneas for transplant. The increased space allows us to teach other surgeons and to do research on the newest types of transplant procedures. Dr. Terry recently held the first DALK course (a new type of cornea transplant), and surgeons from around the country came to learn this new procedure from him.

We are grateful to the many donor families that willingly contribute to the improved quality of life and consider the welfare of others in their time of loss by using the services of LEBO. It is critical to the operation of our Eye Bank and it is sincerely appreciated.

It takes approximately 100 couriers each month to provide the critical transportation of eye tissue to the Eye Bank. I cannot over emphasize the importance of our couriers to meet the needs of our clients. Couriers truly represent our motto, "We Serve" at all hours of the day and night.

Across the river from its previous location, the new space allows the Eye Bank to continue to maintain a strong presence in Oregon and SW Washington, thus providing enhanced visibility for the Lions and enabling them to fulfill their mission of serving those in need.

On behalf of the Board and staff of the Lions Eye Bank of Oregon, I want to sincerely welcome Glen Gilbert, the new Executive Director of the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation. We look forward to a working relationship that will enhance the mission of both the OLSHF and LEBO and to new opportunities that will provide the resources that will improve the quality of life for others.



Reflections

Barbara Crow, CEBO
Executive Director, Lions Eye Bank of Oregon

On March 6th, I celebrated 25 years in the field of eye banking. I began this career as the cornea transplant coordinator at Oregon Health & Sciences University in 1984 and became director of the Eye Bank at OHSU in 1987.

When LEBO and the University Eye Bank merged in 1998, I became the director. Throughout all of these years I have been fortunate to work with people who, in my opinion, represent some of the best humanitarians you will ever encounter. As I reflect on the people I have met and worked with, I want to include you, the reader.

I start with Mike Marquette who for seventeen years worked tirelessly around the clock to make LEBO a prime example of safety and efficiency in the provision of corneas for transplant and for research. He mentored many eye bank technicians, including me. Mike took very few vacations and always wore a pager. He worked to enhance eye bank technology in the development of the packing box that we use today to ship corneas to waiting recipients. He left eye banking in 1999 due in part to dissatisfaction with the changes brought about by increased regulation of eye banks, and he was simply burned out.

When I came to LEBO, a woman named Bev Thoman was chairman of the Eye Bank Board. Bev made a commitment to me that the Board would stand beside me and help me in the wonderful task of serving the people of Oregon and SW Washington. Bev gently persuaded others to support the Eye Bank, to consider eye donation and to serve on the Board. She and her husband Bob were eye tissue couriers, bringing tissue through the sometimes icy Columbia River Gorge, until she could no longer drive. When Bev's term as chairman ended, she accepted the position of Board secretary and served the Eye Bank in this role until her death on Christmas Day, 2003. Bev attended every meeting, every convention, worked behind the scenes and finally made the ultimate contribution to donate her eyes upon her death so that others would have a chance to see.

I mentioned the Eye Bank's tissue Courier Program. LEBO is envied throughout the country for this vital and very successful program. One courier comes to mind who epitomizes all of LEBO's couriers. Her name is Harue Ninomya. Throughout the years Harue has tirelessly and generously given of her time to carry eye tissue to hospitals and surgeons throughout Portland. On many days, Harue leaves her home at 5:30 in the morning, comes to the Eye Bank to pick up tissue, and drives it to the waiting surgeon or operating room in time for the first surgery of the day. On a recent rainy day not long ago, Harue was driving to the Portland Veterans Hospital to deliver tissue in time for an early morning surgery. Harue inadvertently maneuvered her car over the edge of the median and ended up with a flat tire. Surveying the damage to her tire, she despaired that she might not be able to fulfill her mission. When a Portland policeman came to inquire, she convinced the gentleman to leave her there and to instead deliver her precious cargo to the hospital in time for the surgery. He delivered the tissue and returned to let her know that he had gotten the tissue to the hospital just in time. Unfortunately Harue's physician says that she can no longer drive. She leaves a hole in our hearts because we won't see her as often. But, thankfully, Harue is one of our many dedicated couriers – people who leave their breakfast or dinner tables, get up at 2:00 AM, or drive hundreds of miles to deliver the precious cargo that will enable another to see.

My 25 years have gone by so quickly and I am grateful that I have this dream job. Reflecting always seems to make one aware of many blessings. I continue to be in awe of our donor families who reach out to help others at a time of such grief in the loss of a loved one. I hope to always be so fortunate to work with people who have the wings of angels, people like Mike, Bev, Harue, my extraordinary staff, my supportive Board. This job teaches me that each day is a gift and my reflections include many more than I can mention in this article. How lucky I am! Helen Keller was right, "Together we can do so much."

Eye Bank Couriers for March 2009

Albany East Lions Club
Craig Wibbens
Beavercreek Lions Club
Arthur Van Alstine (2)
Virgil Van Alstine (2)
Central Lions Club
Charlie Tate
Columbia Crest Lions Club
Lyle Williams (2)
Eugene Bethel Lions Club
Clyde & Ardyce Henager (4)
Ted Murray
Eugene Downtown Lions Club
Vic Bender
Wayne Musgrove (2)
Fort Vancouver Lions Club
David R. Rawson (5)
Ken Milligan
Paul & April Van Dyck
Taj Aoki
Tom M. Gay
Friends of the Lions
Steve Roden
Tom Carter
David Roberts
Gresham Supper Lions Club
Art Perkins (2)
R.D. Bob Sell
Judy & Don Giorgi
Ron Harlan
Klamath Falls Lions Club
Harold & Peggy Pickrell
Lake Oswego Lions Club
Jan Scott (2)
Medford Crater Lions Club
George & Brenda Taylor (3)

Medford Rogue Monarch Lions Club
J.R. Kuchler
Ken Gildner (2)
Orchard Evergreen Lions Club
Jack Robins
Jim Terrell (2)
Portland Bentham Lions Club
Don Roach
Linda Thomson (2)
Portland Cascade Lions Club
Kerita Vance
Portland Central Eastside
Iva Sue & Jack Elmer
Portland Downtown Lions Club
Gerald Monroe
Herman Meyer
Warren & Sue Heathman
Portland Hollywood Lions Club
Arlene Halvorson
Greg Arntson
Sandy Woolverson
Tom Barnett (2)
Portland Lloyd Lions Club
Gerald Caldwell (4)
Portland Nob Hill Lions Club
Randy Short (2)
Portland Parkrose Lions Club
Trevor Lewis (3)
Portland Roseway Lions Club
Bill Nelson
Don Groth
Eileen Stocker (2)
Melinda Palmer
Stan Wax
Salem Capitol Lions Club
Kelly Freels

Salem Downtown Lions Club
Bob Krebs
Gayle Gilmour
Salem Northeast Lions Club
Pete Larson (9)
Salem South Lions Club
Carol & Ed Casciato
Sam Angelos (2)
Hugh Erwin
Tom Makey (4)
Salem West Lions Club
Bob Franklin (2)

Salem West Lions Club (cont.)
Craig Urbani
Kay Franklin
Larry Drake
Springfield Lions Club
Dianne Rush
Frank Light
Lee Wacker
Ralph Smeed
Springfield Mohawk Lions Club
Les Schoonover
Warren Johns

Stayton Lions Club
Jack Fiske (2)
Tillamook Lions Club
Ray Ferguson
Troutdale Lions Club
Robert W. & Sherry Jacobs
Tualatin Lions Club
Art & Jean Rotter
Jean Stephens

OREGON LIONS SIGHT & HEARING FOUNDATION

Bringing Life Changing Assistance To Your Community
 1010 NW 22ND AVENUE, #N144 • PORTLAND, OR 97210
 (503) 413-7399 • (800) 635-4667 • WWW.ORLIONS.ORG



1990s Part II: Highlights of Expanding Outreach

Compiled by Amber Kern, Immediate Past Executive Director

In 1997, the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation sent its first team of eye doctors and assistants to Mexico where they provided glasses to people in need. The Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation, through the local Lions, collect an average of 100,000 pairs of eyeglasses each year, which are recycled and provided to other organizations with similar missions for distribution in developing countries.

Addressing an expanding staff and limited space, in 1997 the Foundation also moved to the Tiffany Center at 1410 SW Morrison Street; the Eye Bank staff and Vision Research Laboratory of Oregon remained at the Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital location at 1010 NW 22nd Avenue.

In the 1998-99 fiscal year, the Lions Foundation's theme was "The Year of the Ear." The year's hearing activities (a poster contest, giving away ear plugs, public awareness efforts) culminated on June 13 at a "Year of the Ear Conference" and the development of a Hearing Resource Book. The conference gathered people from various agencies, self-help groups and individuals from across the state to research the needs of people who are deaf and hard of hearing.

This same year, the Foundation, in partnership with MD-36, introduced the Lions Youth Speech Contest (now the Lions Young Ambassadors of the 21st Century Award) to recognize and encourage youth community service and leadership activities. Winners receive scholarship money to be used for educational purposes, including the Lions Youth Exchange Program.

With a two-year waiting list to use the Mobile Health Screening Unit, the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation unveiled a second Mobile Health Screening Unit Program on September 7, 2000. With the addition of the second vehicle, the MHSU Program doubled the number of screening days and people screened in Oregon.

In the next issue, learn about the Foundation's many accomplishments during the 21st century.



Past Foundation Chairmen: 1996-97: June Lindquist ❖ 1997-98: Majduddin "Mo" Jaffer, PCC ❖ 1998-99: James Simpson ❖ 1999-00: Otto Stadel

Community Partnerships Provide Free Eyeglasses to School Children



Essilor Vision Foundation partnered with the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation, Portland Public Schools and Prevent Blindness America to provide school children with comprehensive vision exams and eyeglasses. The two schools selected to kick-off this program were Grout and James John Elementary. Children were first screened through the Mobile Health Screening Unit and those who did not pass the vision screening were referred to Essilor. Essilor Vision Foundation's volunteer optometrists later provided comprehensive exams and prescriptions. Donna Dengal from Prevent Blindness America, provided volunteer training for vision needs; Portland Public Schools provided access and oversight, including coordination, volunteers and background checks for all volunteers.



On April 8, 39 children from Grout Elementary were fitted with their new eyeglasses during a Parents' Night. The family attended a brief program while the children received their glasses and participated in crafts and games. James John school children will receive their glasses in early May during a similar program.

Everyone involved is rooting for the success of this pilot program, which may eventually expand to other Oregon school districts.

"Nick had a hard time [in school] last year. We had him tested for learning disabilities and hearing problems. So we're very excited it was only his vision and that he can see now!" - Angie, mom



All collaborating partners and volunteers who made this event a tremendous success!

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, July 25, 2009

6:00 p.m. Social Hour ❖ 7:00 p.m. Dinner & Program ❖ 9:00 p.m. Dancing

"Roar: Celebrating 50 Years of Service" Dinner Gala
 Willamette Valley Country Club, Canby

Lion King Title Sponsor - \$5,000 ❖ Lion Heart Benefactor - \$2,500
 The Pride Table Sponsor - \$1,000 ❖ Lion Tamer Patron - \$100 (individual ticket)
 Individual Lion - \$50

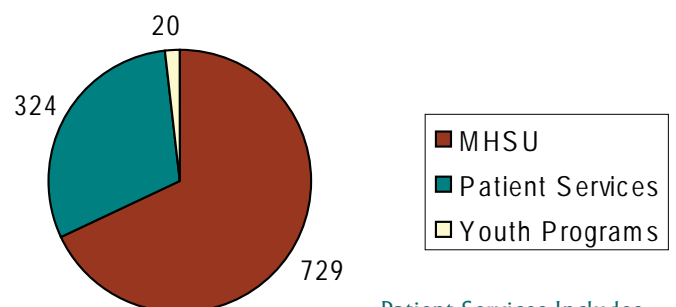
Please contact Jeri Alcock at (503) 413-7399 or giving@orlions.org
 for details on sponsorship benefits.

Wilsonville Holiday Inn rooms are blocked at \$89 for this event; please
 contact the hotel directly at (503) 682-2211. Gala reservations and
 credit card payments can be made by calling the Foundation at
 (503) 413-7399 or submitted by mail with accompanying check.
 Paid reservations are due no later than **JULY 1**.

Guest Keynote Speaker: Bill Biggs, PID ❖ Emcee: Lion Brad King
 ❖ Semi-Formal Attire; Black Tie optional ❖

March Impact Report: 1,478 Lives Impacted

Thank you to all Lions, community partners and
 volunteers who work diligently month after month to
 assist the members of our community in most need.
 Everything you do impacts a life!



Patient Services Includes:
 166 - KEX Vouchers
 95 - EG & HA Referrals
 28 - Hearing Aid Bank
 5 - Patient Care Vision Surgeries