

5M7 Parade of Green – Explained (2024-2025)

- 1) **LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (LCIF)**: This is a 501(c)(3), eligible for either gambling or project fund donations. LCIF is the main humanitarian arm of the Lions around the world.
 - a) **WE GIVE SIGHT**. LCIF helps restore sight and prevent blindness by improving eye care.
 - b) **WE SUPPORT YOUTH**. Through Lions Quest and other projects, youth enjoy opportunities to develop and succeed.
 - c) **WE PROVIDE DISASTER RELIEF**. LCIF is committed to immediate and long-term assistance.
 - d) **WE MEET HUMANITARIAN NEEDS**. Programs improve health, fight measles, and provide aid to disabled people and hearing impaired.CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO **LCIF**. YOUR CLUB MAY EARMARK AREA OF **GREATEST NEED, MEASLES INITIATIVE, DISASTER RELIEF, HUMANITARIAN NEEDS, SIGHT PROGRAMS OR YOUTH PROGRAMS** IN THE MEMO LINE OF YOUR CHECK. Donated funds are recorded as a Melvin Jones donation. For every \$1,000 donated, your Club may present a Melvin Jones Fellow Award. Records for donations are kept by LCIF.
- 2) **Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation**: This is a 501(c)(3), eligible for either gambling or project fund donations. Established in 1960 the Foundation has worked to help the blind and visually impaired. The Lions Gift of Sight Eye Bank provides corneas for transplants and eye tissue for research. The Lions Children’s Eye Clinic treats over 5,000 children each year, giving each child the best chance for a lifetime of sight. The Lions Macular Degeneration Center studies and treats macular degeneration which is the leading cause of blindness in the USA. The Vision Foundation has the following areas of focus: Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, Lions Children’s Eye Clinic, MN Lions Macular Degeneration Research and Rehabilitation Center, Ophthalmology Research Support, Used Eyeglass Recycling. CHECKS SHOULD BE WRITTEN TO **MINNESOTA LIONS VISION FOUNDATION OR LIONS GIFT OF SIGHT**. Donations written to entities other than the MN Lions Vision Foundation that are put into the memo line on your check will not be honored by the Lions Vision Foundation. It is best that you give directly to that entity. Donated funds are recorded as a Helen Keller donation. For every \$1,000 donated, your club may present a Hellen Keller Award in honor or those who have distinguished themselves on behalf of sight. Records for donations are kept by the Vision Foundation.
- 3) **Minnesota Lions Hearing Foundation**: This is a 501(c)(3), eligible for either gambling or project fund donations. This Foundation provides grants for funding of Research Projects and Equipment Purchases for the Hearing Center at the University of Minnesota. MD5M Lions have a special focus on the Children’s Hearing Center. This Foundation also supports the Lions Voice Clinic, Lions International Hearing Foundation, and a Professorial Research Grant. CHECKS SHOULD BE WRITTEN TO THE **MINNESOTA HEARING FOUNDATION**. EARMARK THE **CHILDREN’S HEARING CENTER, LIONS PROFESSORSHIP OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY, LIONS VOICE CLINICS, LIONS HEARING RESEARCH GRANTS OR “GREATEST NEED”** IN THE MEMO LINE OF YOUR CHECK. For every \$1,000 donated your Club may present a Hearing Research Fellowship. A second donation in the same named individual will receive a Progressive Fellowship.
- 4) **Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation**: This is a 501(c)(3), eligible for either gambling or project fund donations. The Foundation is founded by the Lions Clubs of Minnesota. The Foundation does diabetes research, diabetes education and sponsors preventative health activities. CHECKS SHOULD BE WRITTEN TO THE **MINNESOTA LIONS DIABETES FOUNDATION**. Donated funds are recorded as a Dream Catcher donation. For every \$1,000 donated, your Club may present a Dream Catcher Award.
- 5) **Minnesota Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation**: This is a 501(c)(3), eligible for either gambling or project fund donations. CHECKS SHOULD BE WRITTEN TO **MINNESOTA LIONS CHILDHOOD CANCER FOUNDATION**. For every \$1,000 donated your club may present a Believe Award.
- 6) **Minnesota Lions Missions, Inc**: This is a 501(c)(3), eligible for either gambling or project fund donations. This organization will primarily provide eyeglass missions to Guatemala when it is safe to do so. They do need to purchase some equipment to be able to operate their missions. Please watch for more information about this organization. CHECKS SHOULD BE WRITTEN TO **MINNESOTA LIONS MISSIONS**.
- 7) **MD5M KidSight Foundation**: This is a 501(c)(3), eligible for either gambling or project fund donations. KidSight is a program to screen the vision of children, primarily between the ages of 6 months and 6 years . About 7 to 15% of children screened will be referred for follow-up professional exams. CHECKS SHOULD BE WRITTEN TO **MD5M KidSight Foundation**. For every \$1,000 donated your club may present a “Sight Saver” award.

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- 8) **TEAM SHEEHAN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION:** This is a 501(c)(3), eligible for either gambling or project fund donations. Team Sheehan Charitable Foundation’s mission is to help local Lions clubs fund projects and activities with matching grants; initially. CHECKS SHOULD BE WRITTEN TO **TEAM SHEEHAN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION.**
- 9) **CAN DO CANINES:** This is a 501(c)(3), eligible for either gambling or project fund donations. Can do Canines raises and trains Mobility Assist, Diabetes Assist, Autism Assist, Hearing Assist, Seizure Assist and other Service Dogs. The dogs are provided at no charge to the recipient. CHECKS SHOULD BE WRITTEN TO **CAN DO CANINES.** For every \$1,000 donated your club may present a “Top Dog” award. Donation records are kept by Can do Canines.
- 10) **LEADER DOG:** This is a 501(c)(3), eligible for either gambling or project fund donations. Leader Dogs for the Blind “empowers people who are blind, visually impaired or Deaf-Blind with skills for a lifetime of independent travel, opening doors that may seem to have closed with the loss of sight”. CHECKS SHOULD BE WRITTEN TO **LEADER DOG.**
- 11) **PROJECT NEW HOPE:** This is a 501(c)(3), eligible for either gambling or project fund donations. Project New Hope mission is “To provide veterans and their families the education, training and skills necessary to manage their lives after wartime service.” Project New Hope was founded in 2007 to work with Veterans and their families. A donation of \$300 will put a family and their share of support staff through the Retreat for the weekend. CHECKS SHOULD BE WRITTEN TO **PROJECT NEW HOPE.** Project New Hope Awards are cumulative. \$5 for a wristband. Other donations are medals that can be added to your banner or put in a trophy case. A donation of \$300 will put an individual or a Club at the Gold level. An additional \$300 (total \$600) is the Blue level. An additional \$600 is the red level. Clubs can reach more than one red level. Above and Beyond medal is for service towards Project New Hope that goes “Above and Beyond.” Project New Hope keeps track of the donations and issues the awards as earned.
- 12) **TRUE FRIENDS:** This is a 501(c)(3), eligible for either gambling or project fund donations. True Friends is a new name for Camps we have known for a long time. Camps covered under the True Friends umbrella are Friendship, Courage, Courage North, and Eden Wood. The camps “provide life-changing experiences that enhance independence and self-esteem for children and adults with disabilities. Our array of services includes Developmentally disabled, such as individuals with Down Syndrome or autism, physically disabled, such as individuals with cerebral palsy or seizure disorder. Learning disabled, such as individuals with ADD/ADHD or non-verbal learning disabilities. CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO **TRUE FRIENDS.** YOUR CLUB MAY EARMARK A SPECIAL CAMP BY WRITING THAT CAMP ON THE MEMO LINE.
- 13) **CAMP SWEET LIFE:** Camp Sweet Life Adventures Inc is a 501(c)(3), eligible for either gambling or project fund donations. Our goal is to provide a safe environment so that kids with diabetes can have an outdoor, summer camp experience, just like any other child. Not only do they get to have a wonderful recreational experience, campers also learn about their disease by receiving informal education in diabetes self-management under the supervision of camp nurses and through counselors who model responsible diabetes management. Throughout camp, we also provide formal and informal education regarding diabetes self-management. We also serve the needs of parents and family members who need support and opportunities to meet other families. We hope that Camp Sweet Life provides a good foundation so that kids with Type 1 can successfully develop emotionally, socially, and physically in spite of their disease. CHECKS SHOULD BE WRITTEN TO **CAMP SWEET LIFE ADVENTURES, INC.**
- 14) **SPECIAL OLYMPICS:** This is a 501(c)(3), eligible for either gambling or project fund donations. “Special Olympics is a global movement of people creating a new world of inclusion and community, a world in which every single person is accepted and welcomed regardless of ability or disability. We are helping to make the world a better, healthier, and more joyful place---one athlete, one volunteer, one family member at a time.” CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO **SPECIAL OLYMPICS.** YOUR CLUB MAY EARMARK MINNESOTA BY WRITING THAT ON THE MEMO LINE.
- 15) **OTHER:** This line is unique for each Club. Your Club may wish to donate to United Way, American Cancer Society, Leukemia Foundation, Liver Foundation, Ronald McDonald House, or a variety of other very worthwhile causes.
- 16) **5M7 LEOS:** The Leos (under 18 in the US) are part of the Lions Organization so funding may only come from project monies. Lions Multiple 5M7 currently has 6 active Leo Groups in Andover, Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids, Rush City and Spring Lake Park. There are no dues for the individual Leos but the parent Club pays an annual fee. CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO **5M7 LEOS.**
- 17) **5M7 YOUTH OUTREACH:** The Youth Outreach program is a part of the Lions organization so funding may only come from Project monies. Youth Outreach encompasses the Drug Awareness Program, the Peace Poster Contest, bullying, homeless youth, bombs guns, sex abuse, smoking, hunger, and the list goes on. We want our kids to be safe and have the ability to learn. CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO **5M7 YOUTH OUTREACH.**