

BELIEVE IN SAVING SIGHT

From: **Mary Ann Bullock** (maryannbullock@hotmail.com)

Sent: Tue 10/16/12 2:22 PM

To: Me (maryannbullock@hotmail.com)



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

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Dear Lion,

Earlier this month I was in Bangkok, Thailand, to celebrate 10 years of [Sight for Kids](#), one of our most successful partnerships. While celebrating our accomplishments, such as the vision screening of more than 16 million children, I was also struck by the fact that many people are still needlessly blind or visually impaired. Did you know that 80 percent of visual impairment in the world can be avoided or cured? That is why our Foundation provides support for preventing avoidable blindness and restoring sight to those in need.



LCIF has been collaborating with the [Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases](#) through the Sabin Vaccine Institute to help end suffering caused by neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), including ones that affect sight. More than 1.4 billion people in the world are affected by these diseases. The Global Network envisions a world where children and families can grow in a community free of NTDs, with a goal to eliminate or control 10 common NTDs by 2020.

Through LCIF's [SightFirst](#) program, Lions have already been working towards this goal by focusing on two of the most common NTDs that affect sight: trachoma and onchocerciasis (river blindness). Through initiatives that prevent and treat infectious diseases, like our SightFirst programs, visual impairment around the world has been decreasing, according to the World Health Organization.

Another area of health where Lions' efforts are helping to make a difference is with measles. Thanks to routine immunization and vaccination campaigns, fewer children die each day. Though the number has declined, 380 children still die each day from this easily preventable disease. We have the power to help them.

With less than US\$1 million left to meet the US\$10 million challenge grant issued by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we will help vaccinate 157 million children this year alongside our partners through the [One Shot, One Life: Lions Measles Initiative](#). Thank you for your [continued donations and support](#) of this initiative. We are truly making an impact on the world.

Sincerely,

Wing-Kun Tam

Chairperson, Lions Clubs International Foundation

Celebrating 10 Years of Sight for Kids

LCIF and Johnson & Johnson Vision Care are celebrating 10 years of partnership this year and reaching a vision screening milestone of more than 16 million children through the [Sight for Kids](#) program. Sight for Kids addresses childhood visual impairment and blindness in Asia, an area of great need. Led by Lions and local partners, Sight for Kids recruits eye care professionals who train local teachers and Lions clubs members to conduct school-based vision screenings and eye health education in underserved communities.



When needed, students are referred to a local eye care professional and receive an eye exam, eyeglasses and further care at no cost. During this anniversary year, the Sight for Kids partners are celebrating accomplishments and also focusing on the program's potential and a new decade of efforts.

Pediatric Cataract Initiative Continues to Save Children's Sight

Ten-year-old Ruma Roy had been living with pediatric cataract for several years. In school, Ruma struggled due to her poor eye sight. With her eye condition worsening, Ruma's parents took her to the Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital in West Bengal, India, where her sight was improved through new equipment provided by a capacity building grant from the [Pediatric Cataract Initiative](#) (PCI). The PCI is a collaboration between Bausch + Lomb and LCIF which supports innovative methods for overcoming visual impairments caused by pediatric cataracts and other pediatric eye disease.



Through the PCI, the Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital [received a grant](#) of US\$150,000 to help children like Ruma. The hospital is creating an early detection

and treatment program for pediatric cataract and children's eye health, training ophthalmologists and providing pediatric eye health education to local communities. In addition, 130,000 children will have their vision screened and 200 children will receive sight-restoring cataract surgery, long-term follow-up care and a brighter future.

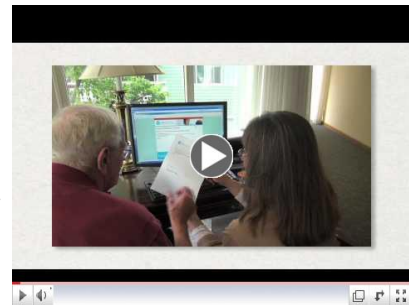
Meeting Needs through the Lions Lens®

Lions in the United States have a long history of helping restore vision to community members in need. To aid Lions in these efforts, LCIF and Essilor International have developed a high-quality, low-cost Lions Lens® for Lions' refractive error programs for underserved populations. This lens is available to large-scale Lions or Lions-affiliated nonprofit eye care institutions/clinics in the United States and is to be used only for qualified patients. Additional [Lions Lens® information](#) and a [program application](#) are available on the LCIF website.

EyeCare America Offers Free Eye Exam Eligibility

By the age of 65, one in three Americans has some form of vision-limiting eye disease. To help address this growing need, EyeCare America provides eye care to U.S. citizens and legal residents through volunteer ophthalmologists (Eye M.D.s) at no out-of-pocket cost to those who qualify. After answering a few questions online, you can find out instantly if someone is eligible to be matched with one of EyeCare America's nearly 7,000 volunteer ophthalmologists.

Visit www.eyecareamerica.org to watch a brief video and see how you can help people in need access eye care.



Note: This message has been sent to all Lions clubs members.