



Mission Statement

To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

Vision Statement

To be the global leader in community and humanitarian service.

History

In 1917, [Melvin Jones](#), a 38-year-old Chicago business leader, told members of his local business club they should reach beyond business issues and address the betterment of their communities and the world.

Melvin Jones asked a simple and world-changing question – what if people put their talents to work improving their communities?

Almost 100 years later, Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization, with 1.4 million members in 210 countries in more than 46,000 clubs, and countless stories of Lions acting on the same simple idea: let's improve our communities.

Since then, we've earned high marks for both integrity and transparency. We're a well-run organization with a steady vision, a clear mission, and a long – and proud – history.

1925: Eradicating Blindness

[Helen Keller](#) addressed the Lions Clubs International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, USA, and challenged Lions to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." Since then, we have worked tirelessly to aid the [blind and visually impaired](#).

1945: Uniting Nations

The ideal of an international organization is exemplified by our enduring relationship with the United Nations. We were one of the first nongovernmental organizations invited to assist in the drafting of the United Nations Charter and have supported the work of the UN ever since.

1990: Launching SightFirst

Through SightFirst, Lions are restoring sight and preventing blindness on a global scale. Launched in 1990, Lions have raised more than \$346 million for this initiative. SightFirst targets the major causes of blindness: cataract, trachoma, river blindness, childhood blindness, diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma.

Today: Extending Our Reach

Lions Clubs International extends our mission of service every day – in local communities, in all corners of the globe. The needs are great and our services broad, including sight, health, youth, elderly, the environment and disaster relief. Our international network has grown to include [over 200 countries and geographic areas](#).

This is a brief view of Lions Clubs International's history.

Lions Clubs in Massachusetts

Lions started in South Eastern Massachusetts in 1923 and has been involved in humanitarian services for their communities and around the world. In 1952 the Lions throughout Massachusetts started the "Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund" in which all Lions Clubs in Massachusetts donate to a single fund that at the end of the Lions fiscal year are donated as grant money to the several research hospitals in Boston to find a cure to preventable and reversible blindness.

For more information and club locations email: Membership: gmt@district33s.org