

December 2014

Riding High with the Lions

DG Carl Gentzel



HELLO FELLOW LIONS,

Wow, the first half of my term is about over, and it has been pretty smooth. As I visit clubs and club events, it is amazing what members are doing for their communities. At the Centennial Airport club Christmas breakfast last week, they handed out over \$20,000 in donations, to Kidsight, the Lions Camp, International Hearing Dogs and 15 more organizations. They also had a raffle, and I picked up my white elephant Christmas gift – a pink pig night light!

The Park Hill club had its Christmas breakfast honoring the late PDG Chuck Elliston this past Saturday. The event was very well done and they had a speaker who leads the Martin Luther King 'Maurade' in Denver each year. It is the largest in the United States.

This past week I attended a Zone C meeting with Chair Steve Kinsky. It was well attended with 18 members and Lion Steve, and his wife Suzy, showed us a power point presentation of their eye care mission to Katmandu, Nepal this past November.

The November Club of the Month goes to **Denver Five-Points**. They are involved with soooo many service projects and they have brought in a net 3 new members. Congratulations!

There has been one thing on my mind these past few weeks, and I can't seem to shake it. I've even had dreams about it. What is it? – **New Members!** Let's continue to ask our warm market for help with our service projects. I've been working on my sister for a few years, and she finally said '**yes**'. She'll be going to a Highlands Ranch club meeting in the near future. If at first you don't succeed, try and try again!

Right now 6C has a membership deficit of 5. My goal is a positive 10, and to reach that we need to continue to ASK our family, friends, church members, business associates, and candle-stick makers to help us help their communities.

I want to wish each one of you, and your families, a merry Holiday Season and a great New Year! It is my favorite time of the year.

ONE VERY PROUD DISTRICT 6C GOVERNOR

DG Carl Gentzel





December 2014

1st Vice District Governor



Happy Holidays and MERRY CHRISTMAS Lions! Hope your holiday season is a special one, especially with your friends and family. The last 30 days have been interesting and very rewarding. I have completed my DGE Training assignments. These will be discussed at the Area G DGE training in Phoenix January 10th and 11th. This time of year 1VDG's are pulled in two directions.

I'm concentrating on the future while helping DG Carl Gentzel with his goals for this year. Sure it's a lot of work, but I encourage all of you who want to be leaders in Lions to step up. It is very rewarding to be able to see and participate in Lions service and fund raising projects around the district and beyond.

I had the pleasure to speak at length with GLT-D Cathy Pergola and GMT-D Donna Sly Redd . They both have a vast wealth of knowledge that I have stored in my memory banks for later use. DG Carl visited my Club the Thornton lions and inducted our newest member. I had the privilege of visiting our only Lioness Club left in our district. These ladies are dedicated to helping others and are having fun doing it. They have collected food for the Arvada Food Bank. They participate in "Pennies for People" to help the Lions Camp. They also sold 100 Village Inn Pies for a fundraiser. The Lionesses donated a basket full of goods for the Hearing Dogs. I apologize for not being able to attend their Christmas Party as I had a previous Lions engagement. Thank You Lionesses for all you do!!!

Zone C Chair Steve Kinsky had his meeting at the Lincoln School of Technology. He talked about his trip to Nepal and all the work the Lions did by handing out glasses to the kids. Clubs reported on their activities.

I feel very honored and humbled to attend the funeral service for Georgia Elliston (PDG Chuck Elliston's wife). She was a remarkable lady who was a pioneer in her work life and a great volunteer for Lions. Although I did not know her, I am glad I attended. She was well loved and admired by friends and family. I also attended the Park Hill Lions "Memorial Christmas Breakfast " honoring PDG Chuck Elliston. He led a good life with a wonderful family. His granddaughter sang a couple of songs. She is Ten years old and has a golden voice. She was so well liked that she was invited to sing at the annual Mirade next month by the guest speaker. The guest speaker was Vern L Howard. He is well know in Denver City Government and his work with Correta Scott King. Well done Denver Park Hill Lions!!

I know there is more but its time to say "See you all soon" Thank you for your service!

Andy Smith
1st VDG





December 2014

2nd Vice District Governor



A great Lions “Roar” to all of you. And thank you for all that you do in service to your local community and to your greater Lions community. It is refreshing looking over your reports and seeing all that you do. It is that time of year when everyone is busy with family and holiday cheer and I want to wish you and your families and your circle of friends, the happiest Christmas and the most Joyous New Year and Happy Chanukah. As Lions, we truly cross all borders of faith and good cheer.

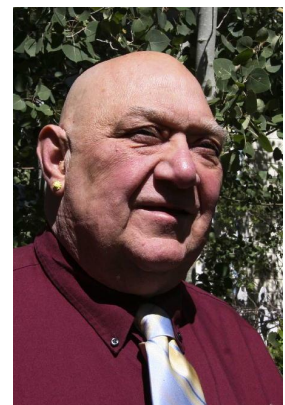
Governor Carl and PDG Donna have been reporting on the great strides 6C has been making in getting new members and renewing members. Yeah team! That is really important and it makes our work easier for it means more happy hands doing our Lions service. In the coming months I really want to be talking about two things that are related to membership growth. The first is mentoring and the second is new club extension.

Mentoring is based on the idea that orienting, indoctrinating and growing a lion is a team effort. If each person on the membership committee has a task with new members, the work load is spread, the new members get a variety of exposure to members and bonds are strengthened. Remember that the idea of Proud Lions is to expose members to a variety of social, organizational and project experiences early in their membership experience. And keep in mind that the mentors accompany the new members and introduce them, and the President should ask the new members to report on their activities and welcome them. The first six months of mentoring are most important, but to some degree it should continue for three years. After one year a sponsor can do most of the mentoring but it is more effective if sponsors “tag-team” new recruits. My personal belief is that older members need encouragement as well, possibly with rides to meetings or asking them to make a presentation at a meeting.

New clubs are an often overlooked membership extension opportunities. New clubs, branch clubs, family clubs and specialty clubs are all opportunities for more Lions activities. We have all had that moment of epiphany that reminds us that we cannot be all things to all people. But the next logical step is to put together a group of potential Lions who might have a special interest such as Veterans, or family projects or animal welfare. Your service area might have a secondary population center where a branch club might be a good idea for outreach seasonally or quarterly. Or possibly your supper hour club doesn’t work for potential new members and a breakfast or lunch club might work. The opportunities are endless and the service potential and the fellowship of lions is limited only by your imagination.

As 2014 draws to a close and spirit of giving pervades, I say, “thank you”, again, good cheer to you and yours and “ROAR” to all good Lions everywhere.

Yours in Service,
2nd VDG Jack Russalesi





December 2014

Colorado Lions KidSight Program 6C



Our Screenings Make a Difference

I talked with a nurse at Murphy Creek Elementary in the Aurora School District about one of the children we recently screened and referred for a complete eye exam. According to the nurse, Diego was a “mess”, unable to focus and always in trouble and way behind in learning. They had scheduled a conference and evaluation to see whether a special education placement was needed. The child saw the eye doctor and was prescribed very thick glasses for farsightedness. The parents didn’t believe he needed the thick glasses and sought a second opinion which confirmed the need. After two days in the classroom with the new glasses the preschool teacher suggested they re-schedule and possibly cancel the special education evaluation because he was seeing a different child in the classroom. The school nurse wanted to let me know that our screening was fantastic because the staff doesn’t have to do the evaluation and the district saves money because no special services are needed. And best of all Diego is learning, playing and having fun with his new glasses. Thanks to all Colorado Lions for your volunteer and financial support of our wonderful program. **You make a difference!**



News about KidSight Colorado

Last month we welcomed back Elvira Chavez Watkins (former KidSight Director) to our staff. She joins Michele Remley-Hanna in working with our database and sending out referrals to schools and sites. We are really happy to have her back with KidSight! Both Michele and Elvira work on a part-time basis.

25,697 screenings have been processed in Colorado since July 1 with 2,603 children referred. The rate of referral is 10.1%. In 6C 14,383 children have been screened and 1,575 referred. The referral rate is 11%.

Colorado Gives Day (December 9, 2014)

Thank you so much for your donations to the Colorado Lions KidSight Program on Colorado Gives Day. Official numbers will be published in the January newsletter. Didn’t have time to contribute on Colorado Gives Day? You can still go to our website

www.kidsightcolorado.org and click on the DONATE NOW button and make a donation. Or if you prefer you can send donations to our address below. All donations to KidSight Colorado are tax deductible.



Attention Online Holiday Shoppers!

Another way to donate is through the iGive and Amazon Smile programs. As you make your holiday gift purchases you can log in to the iGive.com website or AmazonSmile.com and purchase your gifts online. All you need to do is designate KidSight Colorado as your cause. When you purchase participating merchants will contribute a percentage of your total shopping purchase to KidSight Colorado. Because the merchants make the contribution it doesn’t cost you anything to participate in the program and KidSight benefits from your purchases. Go to www.iGive.com or www.AmazonSmile.com or call me for more information.

Let KidSight Colorado Help You Get New Members

Here’s an easy way to promote your club – include a letter about your club when schools in your area send out consent forms for vision screening. Write a letter to parents talking about the upcoming vision screening and inviting them to come to an event or meeting your club is hosting. You can include details in your letter such as a contact person, meeting times, service activities you do for the community and much more. Contact Holly about how to get started. See her contact information below.

I want to wish you the happiest of holidays and joy in the NewYear. Thank you for all you do for the Colorado Lions KidSight Program.

Holly Rutherford-Allen,
Executive Director & proud member of the Chatfield Lions Club
8200 S. Quebec St. A3-704, Centennial, CO 80112
720-325-7078
www.KidSightColorado.org (website) KidSightColorado@gmail.com (email)





December 2014

Club Paw Prints



Douglas County Senior Party

The Douglas County Lions conducted their 54th Annual Christmas Party, on Saturday December 6th, for the Seniors living in the Castle Rock Area. 135 turkey "plus" meals were served, all of which, are prepared in the club member's homes. Lions PDG Corky and Pat Carlson visited from Hi Ranch, and led the audience in several songs. Subject meals were served by the young men of Cub Scout Troop 252, which is sponsored by the Lion's club.

A door prize drawing was held for 9 crystal cut dishes, glasses, etc. Everyone received a "hand made" Christmas ornament for their tree, which again the club members made in their homes. The feedback from the Senior Center Staff has been very complimentary, and the seniors very much enjoyed their night out.





December 2014

Club Paw Prints



Denver Five Points gave out 27 full Thanksgiving Baskets to those in need!



Kidsight volunteer team from Lafayette, Louisville, Nederland and Douglas County clubs celebrating the holidays and the completion of testing of over 3,700 kids in 47 schools since the start of this school year. Jane Bright, Fran Bauer, Lynette Sipe, AnnMarie Morgan, Karen Siefert, Julie Reimer, Jeanne Barrett, Linda Stephens, Sadie Crocker, Jack Beckfield, Sharon Beckfield and Holly Rutherford-Allen. Missing Carl Gentzel and Barbara Walmsley



December 2014 Club Paw Prints



Broomfield Lions - Breakfast with Santa



Used Eye Glasses Update December 10, 2014



6-C Clubs That Collected Used Eyeglasses

After a recent trip to Sterling with a load of glasses, they are asking that we:

- Toss all the cases unless you have a source for them locally.
Cases take a lot of room and for that reason none of the mission groups request them.
- Put everything in a box before you send them on their journey to Sterling.
It is a shame when a large bag is emptied and the bottom is full of broken or damaged glasses.
This is probably due to the weight and rough handling in shipment.

I see most of the glasses from 6-C before they are shipped and there are very few trash bags full of glasses anymore. Keep up the good work. J

Lion Jon Berquist
MD-6 Used Eyeglass Chair



December 2014

Fundraiser / Paw Prints



Special KidSight Fundraiser

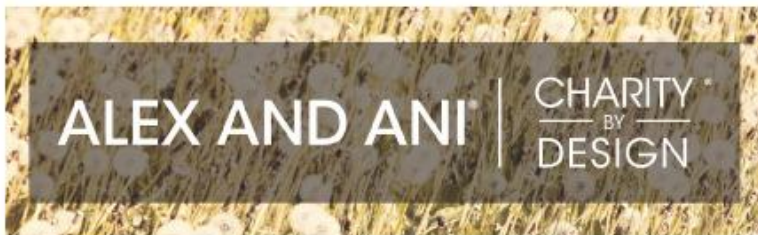


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TO A CHARMED BY CHARITY[™] EVENT TO BENEFIT
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Colorado Kidsight Program



WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 28 | 5PM - 7PM

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ENJOY LITE BITES
AND (+) ENERGY PUNCH

Hosted by: Jeanne Barrett
RSVP: jeannebarrett4@msn.com



**CRM Cyber Lions Celebrated the Holiday Season December 6th with guests:
Sharon Buckner and guest – American Legion
sabell and Anthony -National Federation for the Blind**

Lion Henrietta Jones was able to participate in the holiday festivities after recuperating from knee surgery.



Dinner and a Show at Spring Valley Golf Club

I followed a row of tail lights, all turning in at the same destination: the Spring Valley Golf Club, the night after Halloween. As we piled out of the car into the brisk night air, my friend from Colorado Springs asked, "I didn't know that they ever did things like this in Elizabeth. Have you ever been to this dinner playhouse before?"

"Nope!" I answered.

My experiences with live theater have ranged from down-home amateur theatricals to full-blown dinner playhouses with a major price tag attached. I didn't know quite what to expect entering the annual Elizabeth Lion's Club fundraiser, but I knew one thing walking out three hours later: it was *fun*.

Upon entering and handing over our tickets, we were waylaid by a "lounge" singer in full costume, who proceeded to stress that she absolutely did *not* murder her 97 year old husband, despite the rumors going around. Another passing actor, decked out in full African safari garb, scoffed. He and the half dozen other performers, from a scientist to a sharp-tongued maid, wandered from table to table telling portions of their story and trying to elicit sympathy from the audience while they mingled, partook of the open bar, and munched on goodies.

Dinner was served, and we stuffed ourselves with delicious mashed potatoes, green beans that obviously had a spell on them (I had a large helping and I happen to *hate* green beans), gravy-drenched chicken, and salad. I was almost too full to stomach the mouth-watering carrot cake for desert, but ... I couldn't resist. The room was packed out, every ticket sold, and a constant hum of activity as people laughed, talked, and looked at the silent auction items, which ranged from an unusual mailbox to jewelry.

Then, the murder mystery began. With the death of a wealthy old geezer, his money was up for grabs ... and everyone in his life wanted a part of it, including his lounge singer wife (who actually did belt out a number of tunes over the course of the evening, much to the amazement and delight of the audience) and his son, who ... well, died within minutes. Who killed him? Why? These questions were tossed around as a detective came in to ask them. Everyone had a motive. Half of them had the opportunity. All of them were suspicious. In the end, everyone in the room was summarily made a part of the official "Detective Squad" and asked to solve the case. Hilarity ensued with a number of guesses, but the murder was unmasked and, presumably, toted off to jail.

Those at the middle section of our table dubbed ourselves the "Tolkienites," and guessed everyone did it together, in homage to Agatha Christie. We were dead wrong but had fun anyway. The winners of guessing "whodunit?" were the United Methodists (maybe a little divine inspiration?), who walked out with grins and prizes. The silent auction was also a success, and our "entertainers" were the Adams Mystery Playhouse Performers (voted *Best Mystery Dinner Theatre in Denver* three years in a row).

"Oh, that was so much fun!" my friend gushed as we left late in the evening. "I've never been to a dinner playhouse that was so interactive before! Can we go next year?"

I'm up for it. Are you?

The Elizabeth Lions Club fundraises so they can do good in the local community. If you would like to be involved or learn about upcoming events, you can find out more by contacting their president, Terry Clayton: 303-885-4355 or e-mailing clayton.terry@gmail.com. They also have a website at www.elizabethlionsclub.org.

—C.B.





December 2014

News & Events



New Colorado Lions Camp Executive Director

Approximately 21 applicants were received for the executive director position. From there the list was taken down to eight persons that would be sent to the review committee (Lion Barbara Guest, Camp Board President; PCC Bob Selle, Camp Board Vice President; PDG Steve LeRoux; and Lion Harry Garner, both Board Trustees). The review committee brought this down to their top three candidates that would be interviewed. After the interviews were complete, we are proud to announce our new Executive Director for the Colorado Lions Camp is Lion Sharron Nickerson. Lion Sharron has a Bachelor's degree in Therapeutic Recreation and is experienced in working with special needs people. She also has several years of administrative experience in human services. Lion Sharron will be moving to the camp shortly after Thanksgiving.



Cabinet Meeting

February 14, 2015 10:30 am
at International Hearing Dogs
in Henderson, Colorado

Yes this is Valentine's Day
The prize for the club with the
most members in attendance
and the door prize may get your
significant other in the mood





December 2014

Events



WIN **\$100** AT THE **THORNTON LIONS CLUB TREASURE HUNT**

Here's how you can join in the **FUN**:

CONTACT: Cindy Marlowe 303-912-1478

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, January 15, 2015

TIME: 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM



WHAT: Find all the clues to unbury the treasure! But hurry – you only have **ONE HOUR**!

The first clue is:

Take a Gander to the Mountain that you do not have to climb.

But you had better hurry, or you will run out of time.

Here you will find the very first clue. Keep it with you to put in your queue

WHY: First place wins \$100 cash; second place wins \$50 Anthony's Pizza gift card; and third place will be a \$25 gift card. Door prizes will be given to participants.

THE RULES:

To win you must turn in all numbered clues

You cannot in any way keep anyone else from finding or obtaining the clues.

No speeding, the police know we are doing this and are monitoring the route.

REGISTER ONLINE <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/thornton-lions-clubs-treasure-hunt-tickets-13642889249?aff=eivtefrnd>



Lions Clubs International



December 2014 *Eyesight Mission*



Halfway Around the World - Our Lions Eyesight Mission to Nepal by Lion Steve Kinsky

It's late November 2014 and I've just returned from an eyesight mission in Nepal. Here's the story of how this began, what it took to get it rolling, and how it all went at the site in Nepal. During our time there my wife Lion Susana (Susy) Osorio and I learned a great deal, and it has opened our eyes to the value of Lionism in this part of the world.

Beginnings

I was President of the Lions Club of Denver for 2012-13. In March of 2013 I received a nice email from Lions Club of Kathmandu Gliese Secretary Sunit Shrestha, complimenting us on being among the most "well-know and reputed" Clubs in our country and commending us for our "social work {among} helpless people." Sunit also expressed an interest in furthering our relationship via what's called "twinning" among Lions Clubs internationally. It was intriguing. I was flattered by his entreaty and decided to reach out to him and look into this some more.

What began as a process of getting to know each other and vetting Nepal as a site for an eyesight mission evolved gradually into the real thing. Susy and I felt that it didn't make sense merely to go to Nepal and check things out - why not actually do some screenings and distribute eyeglasses in the process?

So developed Susy's and my relationship with Sunit and our Club's with his. Via email, Skype and even Facebook at times, between March 2013 and November 2014 we planned our mission, successfully overcoming the roughly 12-hour-time difference between our countries by writing and talking mostly in the mornings and evenings, when we were all awake.



Nepal is nestled between India and China. Its altitude ranges from 194 feet in the Terai lowlands to 29,029 feet at Mount Everest

Getting There

Getting there would be no easy task. Nepal is opposite Colorado on the globe. We needed three flights ... one of them nearly 16 hours long! Amazingly, we arrived with little jet lag, possibly aided by the magnificent reception the Gliese Lions gave us, replete with flowers, multiple scarves as a show of friendship and, of course, broad smiles on the faces of all our greeters. There was one possible glitch, though. Customs informed us of the need to hold on to our mission-related materials and equipment until we could get a letter from Nepal's Ministry of Health authorizing these for our mission. Fortunately, we'd worn our colorful yellow Lions polo shirts to gain us some credibility, and we'd had the foresight to request a letter from Lion Dr Nirmal Rimal, Gliese's Club President, addressing the purpose of our mission and what we'd be bringing. With this letter and Dr Rimal's presence to explain things at the airport, Customs waived this requirement, and we were good to go.

That evening we had dinner at Nanglo Restaurant in Kathmandu with Lions Sunit, Nirmal and his wife DiLu, and also Past President Kritina Dongol and Shahadev Shrestha, Rudra Bhandari and his wife Babita. We got better acquainted and talked with them about Nepali culture and the work we were about to do.



December 2014

Eyesight Mission cont.



Preparations



Balkhu

Our mission would take place in Balkhu, a slum area in Kathmandu. It's one of 65 around the city, I learned, and populated by many immigrants from surrounding countries like India. I also learned how appropriate it would be for us to work here. We could see first-hand the level of poverty in Nepal and perhaps understand as well the selflessness and dedication to community service of Nepali Lions Club members, not only from just Gliese but also 2 other Clubs, Balaju Height and Kathmandu Height, that we were introduced to. Nepal's GDP, adjusted for what's called "purchasing power parity," ranks it as the 19th most impoverished country of 184 measured in the world, poorer than Rwanda, Honduras and Ecuador, three other countries in which our Club's members had done missions before. Balkhu nevertheless had the advantage of being in Kathmandu, as opposed to other possible sites that we might have looked at in rural areas that would have required excess costs for transportation and lodging not just, for Susy and me but also for our many volunteers.

We'd brought 1,200 pairs of the used eyeglasses stored by the Sterling Lions and 2 pieces of equipment - a Nikon autorefractor that we had arranged to purchase in 2013 for screening patients of any age and a Colorado Kidsight Plusoptix machine for children up to age 15. Lion Sunit had arranged also for eyeglasses to be custom-made at a local shop for the fairly reasonable price of around \$10 per pair. This would be economical for those patients whose prescription we simply could not fill with the used eyeglasses. As for the machines, we brought extra batteries and chargers in case of a power outage (a common occurrence in Nepal) and simply plugged those in using the 220-to-110 volt converters that we'd also brought.

Sunit had also done a good job of recruiting volunteers from a Kathmandu NGO called Nepal Gyration, which worked with college-age youth there, and also from the slum area itself. Several Gliese Lions and family members, of course, including Dilu and Kritina, helped as well. Mr Prokash from the local eye medicine teaching hospital would also be with us, along with several optometrists and ophthalmologists from the same hospital, who would come and go throughout the 4 days that we screened. Because most volunteers spoke and understood at least a little English, language never posed too big a problem.

We visited the site on the Tuesday before our start date. We'd be working at Jagaran Pre-Primary, School in Balkhu, run by a Christian organization. (I was a little surprised by this given that most Nepalis are either Hindu or Buddhist.) Not the least of concerns was getting there itself; the road was unpaved for the last kilometer or so, and the ruts were incredibly deep, requiring masterful maneuvering by any driver who took us there. (Many Nepalis don't own cars but get around Kathmandu on motorcycles, which can weave in and out of traffic better. My understanding is that you can't even rent a car in Nepali if you're a foreigner, and observing the traffic there quickly made me realize that this was a good law!) Also, there was considerable dust, enough so that we would need to wear face masks from time to time.



Using a Nikon autorefractor, Susy screens a young girl with a severe eye problem.

The Mission Itself

On Wednesday, November 5, we began. Over the 4 days, Wednesday through Saturday, we would see 850 people and distribute 360 pairs of glasses, 200 that we'd brought and 160 that we'd had custom-made. (We wouldn't have had to customize so many had we known just how many prescriptions with low corrections, i.e., between -1.00 and +1.00, were needed. Next time, we won't make the same mistake of omitting these low correction prescriptions from our request of Sterling.) While that ratio (360/850) seemed high to me, I suspected that maybe many went to



December 2014 *Eyesight Mission cont.*



A student volunteer fits a patient with custom eyeglasses..

adults who'd probably been struggling with eyesight issues requiring corrective lenses for a while, and I also figured that, especially for adults, most people with good vision probably didn't even come to be screened. And this was born out by the even higher ratio of those that we referred on to the eye doctors after the refractive screening with the Nikon; even those with no apparent refraction problem would often complain that they had other problems that needed review. Many of these patients received prescriptions for eye drops or other medicines - enough so to prompt a question whether we also needed to bring these with us next time.

The process was straightforward. First, every patient completed an intake form, often with the help of the volunteers if literacy was a problem. Next, they underwent a Snellen eye chart test (the one with the big E at the top or a similar one for those who couldn't read) and had the results recorded for each eye, 20/20 or 20/40 or whatever. After this, they came to us. Susy did most of the Nikon screenings of adults, although I would help her out on occasion. I performed most of the youth screenings. Next, they went on to the eye doctors and their assistants to fine-tune the corrections and provide the Rx. Lastly, they went to the room where the used eyeglasses themselves were. There our student volunteers fitted them with used glasses or recorded the Rx for delivery to the lens makers if we didn't have the glasses. Those with custom glasses being made were instructed to return either the following Monday or next Saturday to receive them.

We had several groups of visitors while there. One was the Lions Council Treasurer, Manoj Sapkota, and Lion Narayan Upadhaya from the Kathmandu Heights Lions Club. Narayan and Lion President Shiva Battarai both worked at Ghorkapatra, the government newspaper, which published a nice article about us. The Executive Director of Kathmandu's B.P. Eye Foundation, Anand Sharma, also visited. Finally, two members of a local branch of a Finnish NGO that worked with underserved citizens of Nepal came by to interview Sunit about our work in Balkhu.



Balkhu residents waiting in line to see the doctors

Some humor occasionally distracted us. Like the little boy who came in without a problem except that his eyes teared up from time to time. When questioned further, he admitted that this was mostly due to "yawning." We'd also see a few people more than once. Presumably, these people weren't getting what they wanted the first time - so would show up again. We asked of ourselves: "Didn't we see her before?" 4 or 5 times through the 4 days.

What We Learned

We learned that Nepalis are resilient and upbeat people. When we smiled at them, Nepalis always smiled back, whatever the circumstances, but especially when we'd utter "namaste." I don't recall running into any problems any patients, under what could probably be described as a stressful situation - waiting in line in the hot sun to be screened and then maybe some more in line for eyeglasses if you discovered that you needed them.

I learned from one of our Lions friends that they understood Susy's spoken English better than mine. I attributed this to the similarities between the pronunciation of certain letters in Spanish and Nepalese. But probably it has more to do with the fact that, despite my not having lived in New York State since 1973, I still speak too fast!

We learned of a practical reason why our presence there helped. Sunit mentioned to us that Nepali people tend to listen to and abide by the advice of Westerners over their own. I thought that maybe this might arise from their mistaking us for eyecare professionals, but Sunit insisted not - that it was just generally the attitude of Nepalis towards Westerners.



December 2014

Eyesight Mission cont.



We learned that although sometimes the slum areas of Kathmandu can be somewhat dangerous places, Sunit had taken care of this problem ahead of time in Balkhu by familiarizing himself with many of the politicians in the area. He arranged with them to make sure the word got out and that no trouble would be tolerated. Neither Susy nor I recall ever feeling unsafe while there. Finally, we learned that being poor doesn't necessarily mean being unhappy. Susy encountered this little girl doing her homework one day inside her modest abode, when she dropped her pencil and we helped her to retrieve it. This image seemed to say it all.



All the volunteers just after the mission was completed.

Twinning

We also ended up having twinning ceremonies with 2 Clubs - Gliese and Balaju Height. The Balaju Height relationship developed in a curious manner. In May 2014 I received a call from Lion Krishna Sharma, who was driving up from New Mexico to visit his sister in Colorado and said he wanted to talk about twinning. I just assumed that, given the timing of his call, he was also from the Gliese Club. We arranged to meet at his sister's place in Boulder, where I found out that he was instead from the Balaju Club. We certainly didn't want to pose any conflicts with Gliese, so Krishna creatively suggested that any further eyesight-related would continue to be with Gliese, while Balaju Height would focus instead on education-related projects.

With Gliese our ceremony took place at the end of the mission. What better way to commemorate the collaboration that LCI's twinning program is supposed to engender than to reminisce and take pride in all the work we'd successfully accomplished just beforehand.

Final Thoughts

There was something special about the way we were treated while in Nepal. Susy said several times that we felt like royalty. Our Lions hosts were hospitable and generous and met our every need. We look forward to future opportunities to serve there and hope that the next time many of the Lions reading this will accompany us.

I've tried to mention by name all the people who helped us out, but I want to give special mention here to a couple more.

Colorado's Used Eyeglasses Program, co-ordinated by the Sterling Lions Club, was extremely helpful. I'd like to thank Sterling's Lion David Conley for his help in ordering and delivering the glasses to us. I'd also like to thank Lion Jon Berquist of the Golden Lions Club for his help as a liaison in the process.

Most of all, I want to thank Lion Sunit Shrestha of Lions Club of Kathmandu Gliese. This "campaign" (that's Sunit's word for a project such as this) would simply not have happened without his help. He was proactive and handled all the arrangements thoroughly and in an orderly fashion, and he did so with thoughtfulness, grace and style.



December 2014

Fundraiser



Announcing The
Golden Lions Club
46th Annual
Chili Supper
And Bake Sale

Friday, January 30, 2015
5:00 PM to 7:30 PM
First United Methodist Church
15th & Jackson, Golden

Adult \$5.00
Children (under twelve) \$3.50

*Bring Your Old Unused Eyeglasses and
Hearing Aids to Recycle*

Our Motto is
"We Serve"





6C December Calendar



January 10

Guiding Lion Training 10:00 am

January 10th-15th

Lions World Wide Week of Service

January 15

Thornton Lions Treasure Hunt

January 28

Charmed by Charity Event - Benefit KidSight

January 30

Golden Chili Supper & Bake Sale

February 14

Cabinet Meeting - International Hearing Dogs

April 18th - 26th

9Health Fair - Denver Metro Sites

May 1 & 2

District 6C Convention - Holiday Inn-Lakewood

District Governor Carl Gentzel

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**Please submit articles by the 15th
of the month.**

District 6C website:

<http://e-district.org/sites/6c/>

State website: www.colions.org



District 6C Lions
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