

DISTRICT 412

PASSION IN SERVICE



OCTOBER 2014

LIONS DISTRICT 412 GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER



President of Lions Club of Gaborone, Lion Sangeeta Aswin and Lion Laphy Mudhina handover a pair of spectacles on World Sight Day.

WE SHARE THE VISION

‘Service with Passion’
‘Strengthen the Pride’



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

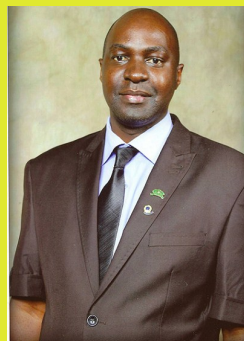
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Everyone over the age of 50 should have a comprehensive dilated eye examination. It is one of the best things you can do to protect your sight.

Editorial Comments



Fellow Lions, in the month of October we focus our service efforts towards SIGHT. What has your Club done in that regard?

The issue of Sight First is incomplete without the mention of Helen Keller. She was a unique individual in many ways and as Lions we pay tribute to her challenge in this month of October with numerous efforts to rid the world of preventable blindness.

I have covered extensively the inspirational and famous speech by Helen Keller to the Lions family back in 1925 as a constant reminder to us as we journey through Lionism.

The theme for this year's World Sight day is "NO MORE PREVENTABLE BLINDNESS"

In this month's issue I also feature activities from 8 clubs and 2 Regions within our District 412.

In the month of November let us all remember the Diabetes scourge that is threatening our existence. As Lions let's join our societies to raise awareness of Diabetes and play a part in its containment.

Once again I thank all the Clubs, Zones and Regions who contributed to this month's newsletter, keep up the good work!

With PASSION, WE SERVE!

Lion Piraisha Mabheba

D412 Newsletter Editor



FROM THE DG's DESK

Dear Club and District Leaders,



With excitement, I announce the birth of a new Club in the District!... **Lions Club of Tete Zambezia in Mozambique**. The Club was chartered on 9th of this month. This means that we have added twenty more members to the Pride through Mozambique in addition to many more additions throughout the District. Our big thank you should go to our GMT Team for Mozambique for a job well done. They worked hard; they persevered; they exercised patience. All these could be summarised as Service with Passion. **THANK YOU TEAM!**

Yes! For us to continue offering meaningful service to communities, we need more hands. Hence the need to grow our membership. I really believe attainment of our District constitutional status is within our grasp. However, it is up to each one of us in well-established clubs and in relatively new clubs to channel our passion for Lions into an enthusiasm for inviting others to share in our service.

Lions, never forget that we are indispensable. The service we provide is invaluable. We give young people an opportunity to learn how to read and exercise self-control and self-discipline through our Quest and RAP programs; we care for the elderly; we serve vision of many; we care for disaster victims...we clothe them, feed them and house them. Yes, Lions do great work. October was for sharing vision. Did we work on vision programs? Again, did we celebrate our WORLD SERVICE DAY? We need to make sure our level of service remains high as this is one way of strengthening our Pride. Fellow Lions, remember, all of us are also being asked to participate in the Centennial Service Challenge. This challenge dovetails with our four Global Service Action Campaigns: Engaging Our Youth; Sharing the Vision; Relieving Hunger and Protecting our Environment. In keeping with this campaign, I will be announcing a few competitions for the District to enhance our participation in the Campaign. The first one will be rolled out at our 2nd Cabinet meeting in Harare. Through these competitions, I believe, as a District, we will be able to publicise our activities more and let more people know who we are.

Fellow Lions, let us also make sure that we cultivate our own growth as a Lion by taking advantage of the best resource we have; and this is other Lions. President Joe Preston is urging us to look at Role models and mentors that surround each of us. May I quote him **"Let us all grow our clubs and our personal desire to serve by leaning on each other and learning from each other"**. When we come together at small and big gatherings, we also learn from each other. I am happy to share with you that all the four Regions in our District have conducted their Regional Conferences and/or are holding one soon. Region 3 started the ball rolling. They gathered at their Conference last month. BRAVO! Region 3. Region 1 Lions, gathered at their Regional Conference over the weekend of 18th to 19th October in Blantyre. Congratulations Region 1 Leaders and Lions. It is my belief that you went back to your respective Clubs rejuvenated to serve better. Region 4 are next, weekend of 1st to 2nd November. We wish you all the best Region 4. Region 2 will be holding their Conference in two weeks-time. We also wish them all the best.

As we get closer to our 2nd Cabinet meeting, I look forward to recognising Lions, Clubs and Zones that have excelled in service in this quarter.

May you all continue to Serve with Passion!

DG Jean Mathanga



LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL

THE DISTRICT 412 GOVERNOR

LION JEAN MATHANGA

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO

The 2nd Cabinet Meeting 2014

08 NOVEMBER 2014 1:30PM - 4:30PM

**PADHARI LODGE AND
CONFERENCE CENTRE,
HARARE, ZIMBABWE**

**CABINET MEETING +
SPECIAL OLYMPICS
FUNDRAISING DINNER**

RSVP:

CABINET SECRETARY

LION KEN BANDA

bandaken@gmail.com

LION PRESIDENT

LION NOREEN GODDARD

goddardn@continentalloutdoor.com



Donate to LCIF and Earn Centennial Recognition!

By [donating to Lions Clubs International Foundation](#) (LCIF), your club can play a part in reaching our Centennial Service Challenge goal of serving 100 million people by December 2017 and earn special Centennial recognition.

Any LCIF donation earmarked for sight, youth, measles or disaster relief can help your club earn a Centennial Banner Patch with a progressive gemstone design. Learn more about [your Foundation](#) and the [Centennial Service Challenge](#) today. There's never been a better time to give than now!



CARE FOR THE AGED



Lion club of Triangle got some flour from N. Richards. We also bought some foodstuffs using part of the donation from OK Zimbabwe. Lions met on Saturday 11 October to pack food hampers for the fifteen identified less privileged senior citizens in and around Triangle. On Sunday 12 October, "the Pride" met again to distribute the food hampers and spend some time with the golden girls. It was an afternoon of "passionate" services.

THE PRIDE, SERVING WITH PRIDE (AND PASSION)

On the 20 September, 2014, the **Lions Club of Triangle** visited Mutikizizi Old People's home in Bikita and spent the day with the three golden girls and two golden boys at the home. Lions also prepared lunch for the elderly and their caregivers. The Lions donated various food stuffs and second hand clothes.

RIP LION SELWYN PALMER

1957 - 2014

On the 30th of September 2014, we received the sad news of the passing on of PDG spouse, Lion Selwyn Palmer. Lion Selwyn had a long battle with cancer which he eventually succumbed to in the early hours of the 30th.



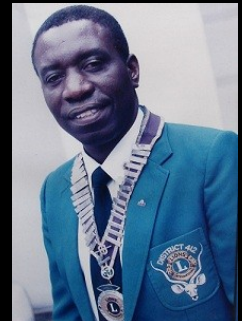
Lion Selwyn is survived by his wife PDG Frances, a daughter Tonette and son Rondell.

As District 412, we convey our deepest sympathies to PDG Frances Palmer, the Palmer family and the Lions of Maun! May his Soul rest in peace.

RIP LION LOVEMORE MATIVI

1946 - 2014

On the 22nd of October 2014, we received the sad news of the passing on of Lion Lovemore of Gweru Lions Clubs.



He joined Lions club of Gweru on the 11th of January in 1987. He held various posts within the Lions family serving as Club President for 3 terms, Zone Chair and Club Treasurer. He was a Melvin Jones Fellow. A teacher by profession. He sponsored a number of Lions including PDG Ray Sibanda. He is survived by his wife Audrey, daughter Tsungie, son Farai, both married and two grand children. He demonstrated good leadership development skills and mentorship. At the time of his death he had a group of orphans which he was offering free Maths lessons. He spent many hours cleaning the Batanai Old Aged Home and planted fruit trees and flowers at the home and at Mudavanhu Zimcare Trust Home.

As District 412, we convey our deepest sympathies to Mativi family and the Lions of Gweru! May his Soul rest in peace.



THE HELEN KELLER CHALLENGE

Helen Keller's Speech at 1925 International Convention Cedar Point, Ohio, USA
June 30, 1925

Dear Lions and Ladies:

I suppose you have heard the legend that represents opportunity as a capricious lady, who knocks at every door but once, and if the door isn't opened quickly, she passes on, never to return. And that is as it should be. Lovely, desirable ladies won't wait. You have to go out and grab 'em.

I am your opportunity. I am knocking at your door. I want to be adopted. The legend doesn't say what you are to do when several beautiful opportunities present themselves at the same door. I guess you have to choose the one you love best. I hope you will adopt me. I am the youngest here, and what I offer you is full of splendid opportunities for service.

The American Foundation for the Blind is only four years old. It grew out of the imperative needs of the blind, and was called into existence by the sightless themselves. It is national and international in scope and in importance. It represents the best and most enlightened thought on our subject that has been reached so far. Its object is to make the lives of the blind more worthwhile everywhere by increasing their economic value and giving them the joy of normal activity.

Try to imagine how you would feel if you were suddenly stricken blind today. Picture yourself stumbling and groping at noonday as in the night; your work, your independence, gone. In that dark world wouldn't you be glad if a friend took you by the hand and said, "Come with me and I will teach you how to do some of the things you used to do when you could see?" That is just the kind of friend the American Foundation is going to be to all the blind in this country if seeing people will give it the support it must have.



You have heard how through a little word dropped from the fingers of another, a ray of light from another soul touched the darkness of my mind and I found myself, found the world, found God. It is because my teacher learned about me and broke through the dark, silent imprisonment which held me that I am able to work for myself and for others. It is the caring we want more than money. The gift without the sympathy and interest of the giver is empty. If you care, if we can make the people of this great country care, the blind will indeed triumph over blindness.

The opportunity I bring to you, Lions, is this: To foster and sponsor the work of the American Foundation for the Blind. Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind child untaught; no blind man or woman unaided? I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. **Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?**

I thank you.

Helen Keller



SHARE THE VISION



On **World Sight Day**, 09 October 2014, **Lions club of Gaborone** made the day a "Christmas day" as mentioned by one of the beneficiaries. We donated few glasses to the students present today. We are happy to bring clear vision into these students lives. An event with such short notice would not have been made possible without efforts of Lion Laphy and Lion Tanuja. Thanks to Lion Elizebeth, Lion Gwen, Lion Rajasekhar who was part of this team effort for sight project. Thanks to all the members who support in every possible way they can.

Lion Sangeeta, President 2014-2015



On **World Sight Day, 09 October 2014**, **Lions of Chiredzi** convened an eye clinic at South Eastern College. 63 pupils and staff members were screened with at least 15 found to be in need of attention. Thanks to Mr. Gwisayi, an eye specialist from Mkwasine Estates who conducted the screening free of charge and the 13 Lions and Prospective Lions from Chiredzi who attended the event.



'The mission of the Lions' SightFirst program is to support the development of comprehensive eye care systems to fight the major causes of blindness and vision loss and care for the blind and visually impaired. The program funds high quality, sustainable projects that deliver eye care services, develop infrastructure, train personnel and/or provide rehabilitation & education in underserved communities.

Since its inception in 1990, LCIF's SightFirst program has played a key role in reducing blindness, especially blindness due to cataract. To date, the SightFirst program has awarded **US\$71.6 million for 526 cataract-related projects**.



READING ACTION PROGRAM



HANDOVER OF MTSILIZA PRIMARY SCHOOL LIBRARY BY THE LIONS CLUB OF LILONGWE

It was all smiles at the Mtsiliza Primary School on Friday, 3rd October 2014 when the Lions Club of Lilongwe donated a spacious library to the school. You just had to look at the glowing faces of the beneficiaries of the project, the students and their teachers for you to understand and appreciate the happiness and excitement within them.

The students' performances that included drama, singing, dancing and poetry recitals just clearly showed how excited they were to finally have a well-stocked library where they will now sit and engross themselves in books to enhance their knowledge and understanding of a variety of subject areas.

For the Lions Club, this was a culmination of a journey that started a couple of years ago. The happiness and a sense of satisfaction at what they had come to achieve was apparent on the faces of the Lions who had taken their time off from their respective work places to come and witness this colorful occasion.

The library was constructed to a tune of slightly over MK2.4 million by the charitable organization, Lions Club of Lilongwe whose current President is a renown educationist Lion Maina Mkandawire of the famous Bambino Schools of Lilongwe. In her speech, she emphasized about the importance the club puts in promoting education thereby giving opportunities to many young Malawian girls and boys an opportunity to attain and achieve a good education that will act as a catalyst for both personal and national socio-economic development. She also pledged continued support from the organization realizing that there are many problems that the school in particular and the community at large are facing. However, she also appealed to the school authorities and the community of Mtsiliza to take good care of the library among the other school learning facilities.

In his speech, the guest of honour at the function who is also the Head of National Library Services, Mr Grey Nyali echoed Lion Maina's remarks on the need for the community to care for the library and the books therein. He also spoke about the need and importance for each school to have a library as a very vital component in the education system. Mr Nyali expressed his gratitude for the work that the Lions Club had done, giving Mtsiliza LEA School such a beautiful and well stocked library. He also called on educational authorities in the country to make the construction of a library an integral part of any school construction project. On his part, he pledged his department's continued support to the newly opened library and other libraries in the country. Perhaps to show that he meant what he said, the National Library Services donated two boxes of textbooks to the new library and announced the construction of a community library in Mtsiliza next year.

The occasion was also attended by Local Educational and Traditional Leaders, the Head Teacher and students of Bambino High School. In their speeches, the leaders commended Lions Club of Lilongwe for the gift of the Library and advised the students and everyone concerned to care for the books and in the library and not steal them. The Students of Bambino High School through a newly established Leo Club under the Lions Club of Lilongwe have pledged to facilitate the reading action at Mtsiliza Primary School every Wednesday afternoon during school time.



Some of the Lilongwe Lions club members, School leaders and Chiefs



Head of National Library Services, Mr Grey Nyali donating books to Mtsiliza primary school.



Head Teacher of Mtsiliza Primary School addressing the audience



Lion Ken Banda introducing the Bambino Leo Club members who will facilitate the reading action at Mtsiliza primary school.



REGIONAL CONFERENCES



On the 27th of September, Region Chair Lion Cosmas Chisare assisted by the Zone 3A Chairman Lion David Saunyama and the Lions of Zvishavane hosted the Region 3 Conference in Zvishavane town. In this picture: Region 3 Lions pose for a group photo after a successful Regional Conference held in the Zimbabwean town of Zvishavane



On October 18, Zone Chair Abraham George and Lions Club of Blantyre convened the 10th Region 1 Conference in Malawi's commercial city Blantyre. The event attended by Lions from across Malawi was officially opened by the City Mayor. The theme for this year's conference was **"Strengthening Membership to care about others"**

LOBATSE HEALTH CAMP

On the 13th of September 2014, The Lions of Lobatse convened a HEALTH CAMP HELD in their town.

Members of the public were screened for EYES, HYPERTENSION, DIABETES and HIV.

From the EYE SCREENING the following statistics were gathered;

Total screened = 176

Dispensed ready readers on the spot = 69

Require spectacles through Bright Sight = 23

Referred to the Hospital for further diagnosis = 14





LIONS QUIZ COMPETITIONS



Lions Club of Kadoma had their induction luncheon on the 4th of October. The club began by hosting a quiz competition for 16 Primary Schools in and around Kadoma. The event was at Sir John Kennedy Primary School Hall. The first prize went to ZRP Primary School. They won a trophy, prize and a certificate. Each school had three contestants.



After the Quiz, the Induction Luncheon followed. The FDVG Lion Dr Alva Senderayi officiated at the induction and schools of instruction was done by GMTL PDG Lion Ray Sibanda whose main theme was "Membership Drive, There is strength in numbers."

Lion Cathrine Marapira
Zone 2D Chairperson





EARLY CHRISTMAS FOR THE ELDERLY

Spotting a grey beard that tells the story of a man who has seen better days, Tongoono Murefu (81) waits anxiously for the waitress to serve him the grilled drumsticks. His eyes remain fixed on the waitress as his facial expression denotes that of a man who doesn't want to miss out on the mouthwatering food. Or is it that it has been long since he ate food at the hotel? Or maybe he is going down memory lane to days when he was still able to do things for himself? Only he knew what he was thinking, but all those who were around could tell that the octogenarian could no longer afford to wait to for his own share of the food.

With Christmas just two months away, last Saturday, 18 October 2014 a number of old men and women at the Mother

Theresa Home in Waterfalls had an early Christmas treat, thanks to Cresta Hotel and **Lions Club of Harare West** who organized a mini-party that also saw a donation of a number of goods to the elderly people. "Cresta Oasis Hotels has a social responsibility where annually we dip into our pockets and assist the less privileged.

"But this is the first time we have donated something here, and thanks to Lions Club Harare West for identifying the area of need. "We also help other organizations in the country as part of our social responsibility programme," said Chipso Mandela, Cresta Hotels Head of Finance and Administration.

To the sponsors, it was just a donation but to the habitats of Mother Theresa it was a thing not to forget. It was an interesting sight as elders, most of them with a few teeth, tried to munch the chicken and other food stuffs. They faced difficulties in dealing with the bones but at the end of the day, nothing was left in their plates.

It is not that they do not eat good food at the home, but it was the atmosphere created by the visitors that left the elderly grateful.

"This is great food, my son who worked at Sheraton used to bring this kind of food home sometime back," said one elderly man.

Mother Theresa has 55 and 25 elderly women and men. The eldest is 102 years old but it is the story of how these people ended at the Roman Catholic premise that is most striking. There are 18 permanent workers who take care

of the elderly while six sisters run the charity organization. A senior sister who works at the home who declined to disclose her name to The Zimbabwe Mail said most of the old people at Mother Theresa were neglected in hospitals by their relatives.

"Most of these elderly people were neglected by their relatives and left in hospitals. So hospitals approach us asking for a place for people of this kind, and this is how they end up here. Some of these people come from as far as Malawi.

"We also take care of the terminally ill neglected people, for example those suffering from HIV," she said.

Despite being confined and neglected, each one of the people has one thing in common, to live each day that comes,

praise the Lord for it and fight to the last day.

"This is not the first time for us to be here, we have been sourcing goods for this organization after realizing their plight. We are happy that Cresta Group of Hotels came on board by providing lunch for these people, among other goods. The elderly people benefitted towels, blankets and sheets, among other things," said Caleb Jera, President of Lions Club of Harare West.

The Lions Club is an organization that has branches all over the world, and whose objective is to source goods and money for social development.

Mother Theresa Home in Waterfalls has accommodated a number of elderly people in the country. The centre derives its name from the famous philanthropist and care-giver, Mother Theresa of India.



Chipso Mandela (Left) and IPDG Lion Clever Mugadza handed over various goods to the Mother Theresa Home's senior sister, in Waterfalls, Harare, recently

An extract from the Zimbabwean Mail Newspaper dated 21 October 2014. Well done Lions of Harare West for putting Lions in the spotlight.



GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

Lions Club of Capital City

GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Wednesday, 15th October 2014 (Mother's Day Holiday), The Lions Club of Capital City hosted a Charity Golf Competition at the Lilongwe Golf Club. The format of the Tournament was Four Ball Better Ball.

The Tournament was a fundraiser in support of one of the four themes of Lions Clubs International which is "Protecting the Environment". You may wish to know



that according to the United Nations Environment Programme, 80% of the world's original forests are gone and as a result only about 20 % of the world's population has access to clean water. You will agree with me that there is no country where this is more true than our own mother Malawi. In this regard, the Lions Club of Capital city would like to partner with you to raise funds that will go towards projects that will help to protect Malawi's environment.

One such project is the planting of natural trees along river banks. Lions Club of Capital City has partnered with the Lilongwe City Assembly to plant natural trees along some of the bare banks of the rivers passing through the City. Therefore the funds raised from the Golf tournament will go towards the procurement of natural trees which, with the guidance of the Lilongwe City Assembly, will be planted along some the most desolate river banks in Lilongwe City.

We serve the community in which we live with pride, passion and excellence.

Lion Chisomo Gunda
President 2014-2015; Lions Club of Capital City



Above: left to right. Lady Lion Upile Kaimvi, Lion Alick Asedi, Lion Doria Chipili, Lion Keta Mwalweni

The Charity Golf Tournament organized by the Lions Club of Capital City and convened by Lion DG Spouse, Lion Henry Mathanga raised K2 million equivalent to US\$4,400! This was the biggest fundraiser in the history of the Club.

Special appreciation goes to Lion Morgan and Lion Nancy Tembo (couple) who donated all the trophies worth US\$ 1000!

BELOW: The MDF winning team (Former Commander Henry Odillo, Retired Commander Lieutenant General John Msonti, Jnr, Colonel Chikunkha Soko, Justin Mkandawire) is presented with the Trophies by the District Governor Lion Jean Mathanga.





SPECIAL OLYMPICS FUNDRAISER



Special Olympics
Z I M B A B W E



Special Olympics International, a global social movement which offers sport for people with intellectual disabilities hosts World Cup Summer Games every four years and in 2015, the games will be held in Los Angeles USA from the 25th of July 2015 to the 3rd of August 2015. Special Olympics Zimbabwe will be sending a team of thirty seven which will compete in Golf, Soccer and Athletics as well as officials to the Games. Fundraising initiatives organized by Special Olympics Zimbabwe in partnership with The Lions Club of Harare The Phoenix aims at raising funds for air tickets and it costs \$2500 to kit and fly each athlete to the World Games.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS ZIMBABWE
in partnership with
LIONS CLUB OF HARARE THE PHOENIX



FUNDRAISING DINNER

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2014

6:30PM FOR 7:00PM

PANDHARI LODGE AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

TICKETS:

\$50 INDIVIDUAL

\$1000 TABLE

ENTERTAINMENT BY

VICTOR KUNONGA

PATIENCE MUSA

RUTE MBANGWA

www.lionsclubs.org

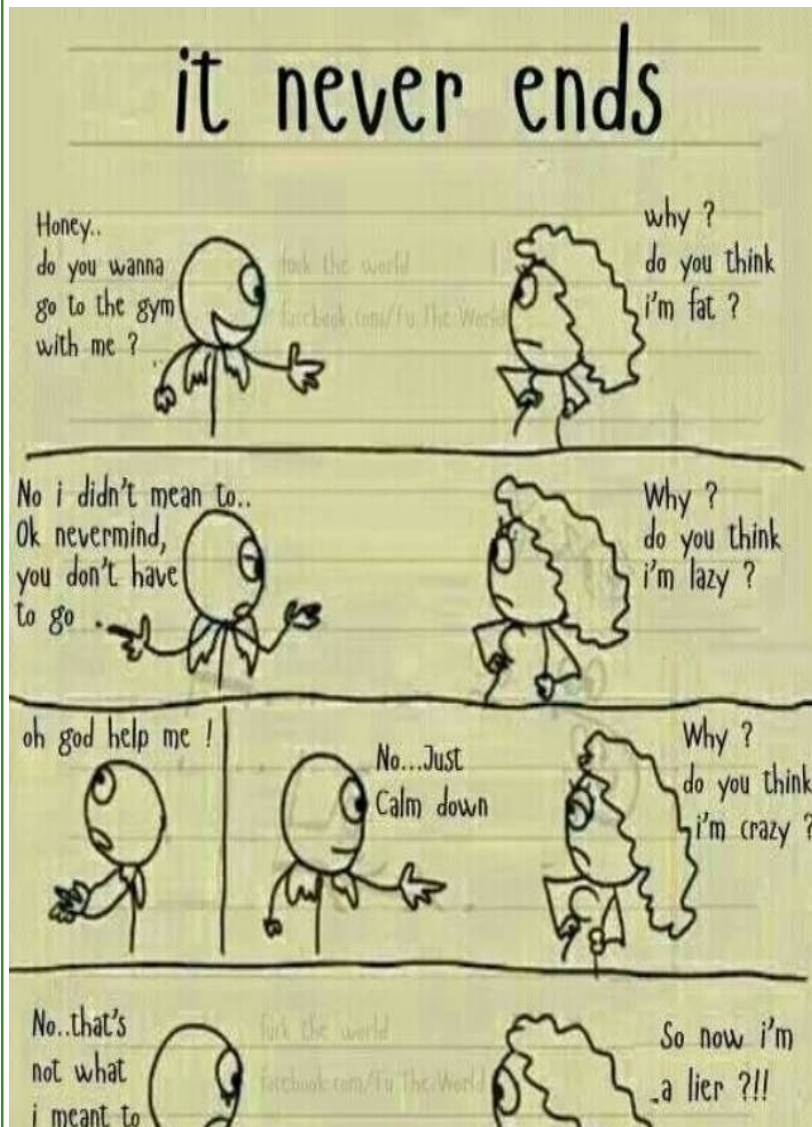
INFO: 0772 286 097, 0772 272 972, 0736 085 210

By sponsoring Special Olympics athletes, you will change lives through the power of sport by encouraging and empowering them, promoting acceptance for all, and fostering communities of understanding and respect world-wide.

The Ultimate goal of Special Olympics is to help persons with intellectual disabilities participate as productive and respected members of the society at large, by offering them a fair opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills and talents through sports and by increasing the public's awareness of their capabilities and needs.



Laughter is the Best Medicine



Pay Attention

First year medical students were attending their first anatomy class.

They all gathered around the table and there was a real dead body on the table. The professor started by teaching them two important qualities of a DOCTOR.

The first is, 'Never be DISGUSTED about anything in the body'. So he inserted his finger into the dead body's anus, put the finger in his own mouth and tasted it. Then he asked the students to do same.

They hesitated for several minutes, but eventually everyone inserted their fingers in the body's anus and tasted it, frowning.

Then the professor looked at them and said, 'The most important second quality is OBSERVATION. I inserted my MIDDLE finger but tasted the 2nd finger. Now learn to pay attention!'

All the students fainted..

A sincere apology

A man received a message from his neighbor..

Sorry sir, I am using your wife... day and night.. when you are not present at home... In fact, much more than you do. I confess this now because I am feeling very guilty. Hope you will accept my sincere apologies.

The man shot his wife... dead!

A few minutes later he received another message:

Sorry sir, a spelling mistake..

I meant wifi.

"Ever loved someone so much, you would do anything for them? Yeah, well, make that someone yourself and do whatever the hell you want"

-not my words!!!