

# LCIF Newsletter

May 2008

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*Estella Gonzales made her living as a seamstress sewing school uniforms each day, carefully following the seams with her sewing machine. She did not make much*

## Message from LCIF Chairperson

Dear Fellow Lions,

I would like to update you on recent LCIF news. This spring has brought many great achievements for our Foundation. With surpassing the US\$150 million CSFII minimum goal, the onset of Convention 2008 and many other exciting happenings, there is a lot to be proud of as a fellow Lion. Please share this information with your club and district to spread the good will of LCIF.

Yours in Lionism,  
Jimmy Ross  
LCIF Chairperson

## Landmark Donations Given to CSFII

Two landmark donations were recently given to LCIF. The family of [PDG Mrs. Aruna A. Oswal](#) gave US\$3 million, the largest, single personal gift that has ever been made to the Foundation. [Moorfields Eye Hospital Foundation Trust](#), a United Kingdom-based international center for the treatment of eye diseases, gave US\$4 million, the largest donation in LCIF's 40-year history. Both donations were made in support of Campaign SightFirst II and further sustain the fight against preventable blindness throughout the world. To learn more about ways to donate to LCIF, contact the [LCIF development department](#).

## LCIF at Convention 2008

Lions Clubs International Convention 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand is quickly approaching. LCIF will be on site during the entire week, giving seminars, hosting events and staffing an LCIF booth. Convention is a great time to find out more about all of LCIF's programs, learn about new ways to support your foundation and meet LCIF staff. Also available at the LCIF booth will be tickets for the MJF luncheon. For additional information about Lions Clubs International Convention in Bangkok, visit the [LCI Web site](#).

## Study Garners National Publicity

*money at her job, but what she earned clothed and fed her family.*

*However, there was no access to an eye exam and more importantly no money for glasses. Through SightFirst, Lions were able to help Estella and her family. Her eyeglasses were provided by a SightFirst-funded eyeglass distribution center in her small village.*

*“I came to get an eye exam and eyeglasses from the Lions. I’m very thankful the Lions have given me these glasses,” said Gonzales. “They will provide a better life for my family.”*

*Estella Gonzales,  
Tapachula, Mexico*

For more information about Lions Clubs International Foundation contact [Alecia Dimar](#).

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A [recent study](#) by LCIF and the National Eye Institute (NEI) revealed that Americans lack critical facts about maintaining eye health, with the greatest disparities being among Hispanics. LCIF Chairperson Jimmy Ross was joined by actor Ernest Borgnine and an NEI spokes person to promote the results through a national radio and television tour. In addition to broadcast coverage, the study also received print coverage in publications such as, U.S. News & World Report, Forbes and The Washington Post. The study aims to raise awareness about eye health and incite more Americans to obtain annual eye exams and checkups.

## **Lions Rally for CSFII Day in May**

From May 11 through May 17, Lions Clubs International will summon nearly 45,000 Lions clubs from around the world to save sight. During this week, clubs are encouraged to dedicate one day to “[Campaign SightFirst II Day](#)” by hosting a fund-raising event, making a pledge or contributing with a personal donation. Lions have already exceeded their US\$150 million CSFII minimum goal and are working toward their US\$200 million challenge goal. Campaign SightFirst II Day is only one part of fund-raising for CSFII. Funds raised during the final weeks of CSFII will help Lions reach their US\$200 million challenge goal. Visit the [Campaign SightFirst II Web site](#) for more information or to donate now.

## **Humanitarian Grants Awarded**

At the March 2008 LCIF Board Meeting in Vienna, Austria, [73 grants](#), totaling more than US\$2.83 million, were awarded to Lions clubs all over the world to help fund humanitarian projects. Included in the approved grants was a Core 4 Grant to construct the 1,000<sup>th</sup> Habitat for Humanity home through the partnership program. LCIF continues to provide financial support for large-scale humanitarian projects which are too extensive for Lions districts to finance on their own. For more grant information, visit the [LCIF Web site](#).

## **Headquarters Presented with “Gift of Sight” Statue**

At the 90<sup>th</sup> Lions Clubs International Convention in Chicago, Illinois, former U.S. President, Jimmy Carter, presented LCIF with the “Gift of Sight” statue, to recognize Lions efforts to collaboratively combat preventable blindness. The same statue, which was created by R. T. Wallen, is also at the Merck Headquarters in Whitehouse Station, New Jersey and on the grounds of The Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia. The “Gift of Sight” statue, commonly known as the river blindness sculpture, shows a child leading a blind man, which is a common sight in many areas of Africa. This statue serves to recognize the humanitarian efforts of Lions worldwide in their fight against preventable blindness.

## **Celebrate Healthy Vision for Women on Mother’s Day**

LCIF has partnered with Women’s Eye Hearth.org to encourage regular and timely eye care treatment for women. Mother’s Day is the perfect time to protect the vision of the women in all of our lives. Nearly 70 percent of all people who are blind or visually impaired are women. Factors like age, nutrition, hormone-related

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issues, as well as access to information and treatment all put women at greater risk for eye disease. As populations continue to age, vision problems for women are expected to increase. It is important for everyone, especially women, to see an eye care specialist annually for a complete eye exam. Additional eye health information is available from the [LCIF Web site](#) and the [Women's Eye Health.org Web site](#).

## **New Publications Available**

LCIF has two new publications available. The [Annual Report](#) is a comprehensive review of the Foundation's past fiscal year. The new [ForSight](#), a publication that highlights the achievements of the SightFirst program, is also available. Both publications can be downloaded through our Web site or delivered by mail. Contact the LCIF Communications department for more information about publications offered by the Foundation.