

PAST PRESIDENT BEHAR DIES

As Lions' international president for the new millennium, Dr. Jean Behar of France took it upon himself to be innovative and forward-looking. Begun during his presidency in 2000-2001 were New Century Lions Clubs for younger members, club branches for smaller clubs and online leadership courses for Lions. One of the most important Lions in Europe, Behar died on Oct. 2 at his home in France. He was 87. A busy radiologist in the early 1970s, Behar rebuffed friends who asked him to join a service club (non-Lion). But he became a Lion in 1975 when he learned about Lions and was invited to become a charter member of the Le Havre Expansion Lions Club. His club soon began music lessons for young laborers. Later he founded the Medico Lions Club, which coordinated medical missions and donations of eyeglasses from French Lions to developing nations such as Niger and Senegal. As president his theme was Quality: Key to the Future, and he was particularly proud of the



International President Dr. Jean Behar presents the 2001 Humanitarian Award to Barbara Hendricks, an opera singer with many charitable endeavors.

successes of SightFirst. The number of cataract surgeries performed in China through the SightFirst China Action Plan reached 3.5 million during his term. Soft-spoken and modest, Behar greatly valued the friendships he made as a Lion. "Now I have good friends in many parts of the world, a reward that has enabled me to appreciate a number of cultures and human feelings," he wrote in the LION in 2000.

LCIF PROVIDES AID AFTER HURRICANE MATTHEW

Hurricane Matthew in October was the deadliest hurricane in the Atlantic Ocean since 2005. LCIF awarded an Emergency grant to Haiti to address immediate needs of disaster victims. Lions and Leos from Port-au-Prince traveled to Petit-Goâve to work with clubs there. They packed and distributed more than 2,000 relief kits of medicine and food. LCIF also awarded an Emergency grant to the Lions of 31 N in North Carolina. Lions there braved the conditions to bring food, water, blankets and medical supplies to those affected most by the storm. "When disaster strikes, Lions are among the first to offer help to the victims, even though they are often victims themselves," says Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada, LCIF chairperson. "Working together, LCIF, local Lions and Lions leaders assess the urgent needs and quickly deliver the aid most required by victims."