

LCIF Update

Small Donations Make a Big Difference

What do nearly 100,000 Lions have in common each year? They become Contributing Members by donating at least US\$20 to LCIF.

A small donation of US\$20 to LCIF makes a big difference. For about the same cost of going to the movies, LCIF can provide sight-restoring cataract surgery in Africa and South Asia.

The Contributing Membership program recognizes three levels of support: US\$20, US\$50 and US\$100. For US\$20, donors receive a Contributing Member lapel pin. For US\$50, donors receive a pin and a silver wreath. For US\$100, donors receive a pin and a gold wreath.

The Contributing Membership program is an annual program, and the annual pin design always includes the fiscal year in which the donation was made.

Contributing Memberships, along with Melvin Jones Fellowships, are the primary support of LCIF's grant-giving. LCIF awarded 458 grants for US\$20 million in the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

Contributing Memberships arise in a variety of ways. Many Lions individually decide to become a Contributing Member year after year. Some clubs have a tradition of strongly encouraging Contributing Memberships. A club receives a 100% Member Support banner patch and chevron once every member of the club becomes a Contributing Member. The club receives a chevron for each subsequent year of 100% Contributing Membership. Some districts strongly promote Contributing Memberships. Districts in which every member donates at least US\$20 on average are recognized with a 100% District Member Support Certificate.

Dr. Tae-Sup Lee, LCIF Chairperson for 2004-2005, is encouraging Lions to become Contributing Members. "Lions are dedicated to serving others," says Chairperson Lee. "Contributing Memberships allow an individual Lion to in essence partner with LCIF to restore sight, bring aid to disaster victims and offer vocational training for the disabled."

Contributions can be made by completing the Contribution Form/MJF form (LCIF-42) and mailing it to LCIF. The form is available on the LCIF Web site at www.lcif.org or by contacting LCIF at 630-571-5466, ext. 581 or 574 or gbara@lionsclubs.org.



This platinum pin is given to individuals who donate more than US\$500,000 to LCIF.

The most efficient way for clubs to handle Contributing Member donations is to accumulate all contributions and send them at one time to LCIF Donor & Financial Services. Please remember to include a list of donor names for appropriate recognition. ■

LCIF has added two new awards and a new donor recognition level.

The **LCIF Friend of Humanity Award** will honor individuals who have made significant efforts to promote financial support of LCIF and advance its mission. No more than 50 people will be honored each year. The International President, in consultation with the LCIF Chair, will choose the recipients. Recipients will receive an attractive gold medal with a ribbon.

The **LCIF Helping Hands Award** will honor those who promote understanding and support of LCIF on a club, region, district or multiple district level by leading LCIF presentations, writing articles for Lions' newsletters and otherwise communicating with members and clubs on LCIF's behalf. Recipients will be honored with a gold lapel pin.

LCIF's **Humanitarian Partner** recognition award honors individuals whose cumulative donations exceed US\$100,000, \$200,000, \$350,000 and \$500,000, respectively. Recipients receive an elegant bronze, silver, gold or platinum pin. Past International President Kajit Habanananda and Past District Governor Harumasa Mihara received silver Humanitarian Partner pins and LCIF Chairperson Dr. Tae-Sup Lee received the bronze award at the convention in Detroit.