

Aquia Lions Charity, Inc. A 501(c)(3) Charity



WE SERVE ...



Our Beginnings

Lions have been helping people since 1917. That year, Melvin Jones, a Chicago businessman, encouraged his club, the Chicago Business Circle, to go beyond promoting good business practices. He convinced the members that selfless service to others would create a better community – and a better world – for all.

Melvin Jones also saw that a network of clubs working together could do much more than individual clubs acting alone. He invited similar groups from around the United States to a meeting on June 7, 1917, in Chicago, Illinois. There, the new group assumed the name of one of the invited clubs and the Association of Lions Clubs was born. Later that year, a convention was held in Dallas, Texas, to formally adopt a constitution, by-laws and a code of ethics. The fledgling group became the International Association of Lions Clubs just three years later when a new Lions Club was formed in Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

In the 100 years since its founding, the association – usually called Lions Clubs International – has spread to all corners of the globe. You will find Lions Clubs in Rome, Italy and Rome, New York. There are Lions in Beijing and Brussels, in Tokyo and Tanzania. In all these places and many more, Lions are welcomed and respected for their vision, integrity and dedication to our official motto:

“We Serve.”



OUR LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL EMBLEM

The Lions Clubs emblem. It is one of the most recognized and respected symbols in the world.

Although it has been modified and modernized in recent years, the basic design of the Lions Club emblem dates back to the earliest days of the Association. It consists of a gold “L” on a blue field surrounded by a gold circle. On either side of the circle is the profile of a Lion’s head, one looking back upon a proud past and the other optimistically toward the future.

Aquia Harbour Host Lions Club History

The Aquia Harbour Host Lions Club was chartered in April of 1980, with 48 members as part of Lions Club International. In 2016, we were chartered as Aquia Lions Charity, Inc., a 501(c)(3) charity. Based on the International Lions Club focus, the local club concentrated on promoting sight conservation and assistance to the vision-impaired. We then branched into nearly every type of community service, from hunger to hearing to youth support and diabetes prevention.

In Lion Year 2006/2007, we sponsored the creation of the Stafford Regional LEO Club for children ages 10-17. Our club has also sponsored the Parkridge and the Greater Falls Run Lions Clubs.

Over more than 30 years, our club has been dedicated to providing community service through various service projects and donations. These projects and donations have been made possible through the dedication of the membership and the success of our major fundraisers, which over the years, have included: Oktoberfests, Mulch Sales, Christmas Tree Sales, White House Ornament Sales, Reverse Raffles, Diabetes Walk-A-Thon, White Cane, Football Manias, Antique Car Shows, Golf Tournaments, and many more. By generating nearly \$30K per year, our club has been able to help many deserving individuals in the community, state, and throughout the world through: Special Needs Holiday Parties, Thanksgiving and Easter Baskets, donations to S.E.R.V.E., eyeglasses and eye exams, scholarships, donations to Lions District 24-A activities (Leader Dog, Old Dominion Eye Bank, Mobile Sight and Hearing Van, Youth Camp, ...), donations to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) activities, youth sports and many others.

The Aquia Harbour Lions Club has served the Stafford community for more than 30 years and will continue to help those less fortunate and live in the Lion's motto: WE SERVE!



We Serve

Our Activities

What we do can be summed up in two words: **WE SERVE**. We serve first in our own communities, but today more than ever we see the need to serve the world community.

At this very moment, Lions are at work in hospitals and senior centers, in regions battered by natural disaster, in schools and in eyeglass recycling centers. Because Lions seek to serve wherever the need is greatest, our activities are as varied as the needs of the communities we serve. However, service activities fall into some general categories and there are some areas in which we have special experience and expertise.

SIGHT

Lions have long been associated with blindness prevention and sight restoration and that subject alone could fill a book! In 1925, the American author and activist Helen Keller, who was both blind and deaf, personally challenged Lions to “hasten the day when there would be no preventable blindness.” Since embracing that challenge, Lions Clubs International has gained unmatched experience and expertise in the field and has become an irreplaceable presence among the world’s leading international agencies dedicated to sight preservation.

Lions attack the worldwide problem of blindness on a massive scale. Because Lions are committed to sight, more than 10 million children have been screened for eye disease and vision problems, 7.6 million people have regained their sight through cataract surgery and 400,000 people each year receive recycled eyeglasses. But Lions also help people conquer blindness one person at a time, like Lions in Wisconsin, who made sure that a local woman, born blind, received the cornea transplant she needed to see her family for the first time.

We want
everyone to
see a better
tomorrow.



YOUTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

Lions care about kids. Wherever children are in need of food, medical care, educational materials or other necessities of life, Lions are there to help. We make growing up safer and healthier for some of the world's poorest and most at-risk children and young adults. We help young people cope with today's complex world with an international life-skills program and help children make international friends at our youth camps. Our annual Peace Poster Contest makes it possible for children around the world to express their most fervent hope for peace for us all.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Each year the Sölvesborg Lions Club in Sweden brings children from orphanages in Poland and Lithuania to Sweden for ten days of fun at summer camp. The children, who otherwise lead hard and troubled lives, enjoy experiences they could have in no other way. The Lions who live and work at the camp say the most important thing the children learn is that there are people in other countries who care for them very much.

Lions serve everywhere and have for a long time. In 1945, Lions Clubs International helped write the United Nations Charter for Non-Governmental Organizations and still maintains active relationships with UNESCO, UNICEF and other UN agencies. But we also take more direct action to fulfill the third of Lions International Purposes: "To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the people of the world."

Lions in Germany reach across borders to help children injured in war zones and other areas in crisis. They have helped create a safe, comfortable environment at Germany's Peace Village where as many as 300 children from many nations receive medical treatment for their injuries, and perhaps just as important, live together in peace.

HEALTH

Lions began saving people's eyesight in 1925, and it's still a priority. But Lions also focus on hearing, working with the deaf and raising awareness about the dangers of diabetes. Recently, Lions in various parts of the world have taken it upon themselves to raise breast cancer awareness and provide emergency medical equipment to war-torn countries.

In the Cayman Islands, the Lions Club of Tropical Gardens is saving lives by helping more women learn about breast cancer. The club holds informational meetings, sponsors five-kilometer walks and distributes vouchers for free mammograms to women who could not afford them. As a result, more cases of breast cancer are discovered at an early, more treatable stage and more women are living longer.

Virginia Lions Hearing Foundation and Research Center, Inc.

For more than 30 years the Lions of Virginia organization has partnered with the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Virginia to operate the Virginia Lions Hearing Foundation and Research Center, Inc., located in Charlottesville, Virginia. The foundation is supported by contributions from Lions Clubs in Virginia. Since the foundation opened, contributions have totaled approximately \$2 million.

The objectives of the foundation are:

- To initiate and support research on deafness and hearing problems in all age groups, including:
 - ◆ Basic research in ototoxicity, noise damage, electrical stimulation of auditory nerves, and regeneration of hair cells.
 - ◆ Clinical research through the study of temporal bone anatomy and the testing of new surgical procedures and/or new implantable devices to cope with ear diseases and hearing disorders.
- To conduct clinical examinations and treatments to restore all or part of an individual's hearing.
- To educate the public on hearing disorders and to encourage hearing protection.
- To educate practicing surgeons on the latest surgical techniques to help hearing-impaired individuals throughout Virginia.

Our mission at the local level is to:

- Raise donations in support of our mission to offer hearing screening at no cost to all public and private schools, and adult community centers as per their request.
- Identify and make people aware of hearing problems and help people improve their quality of life.
- Our Hearing Aid Recycling Program (HARP) enables Lions to provide refurbished hearing aids to individuals with limited financial resources.



Lions Make A Difference Fighting Diabetes

Lions have a strong commitment to fight diabetes and diabetic eye diseases. Whether they are hosting screenings in their local communities or volunteering at a diabetes recreational camp, they meet the challenge head on in various Community Outreach ways. Lions work together to enhance existing programs or provide life-saving services where non exist, including:

- ◆ Community education outreach programs
- ◆ Provision of medication and supplies for families in need
- ◆ Support of diabetes foundations and recreational camps

Together, we can fight diabetes. Help us raise the awareness of diabetes and its serious complications.

- ◆ Sponsor a Strides* event to promote greater awareness
- ◆ Host a health fair at a school or community center
- ◆ Coordinate meals or transportation for a children's diabetes camp
- ◆ Invite healthcare professionals to speak at your organization
- ◆ Partner with local healthcare providers to organize diabetes and vision screenings
- ◆ Reach out to populations at high risk for diabetes
- ◆ Distribute educational resources to increase community awareness
- ◆ Organize a support group for people with diabetes

Learn how you can help with diabetes programs in your community

Partnerships for Diabetes

Lions collaborate with local health care providers, diabetes associations and national partners to provide information, materials and resources best suited for their communities. Lions Clubs International's collaborate partners for diabetes include:

International Diabetes Federation (IDF)
www.idf.org

World Health Organization (WHO)
www.who.int

Diabetes Education and Camping Association (DECA)
www.diabetescamps.org

National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP)

*For more diabetes materials and resources, including *Strides...Lions for Diabetes Awareness*, visit the Lions Clubs International website at www.lionsclubs.org and keyword search "diabetes."

"No country is immune to diabetes. No country has all the answers to this common enemy. No country has yet managed to reverse the rising prevalence. Defeating diabetes will take every ounce of commitment and ingenuity that we can summon."

Jean Claude Mbanya, President (2009-2012)
International Diabetes Federation

Taking on a New Challenge

Childhood Cancer

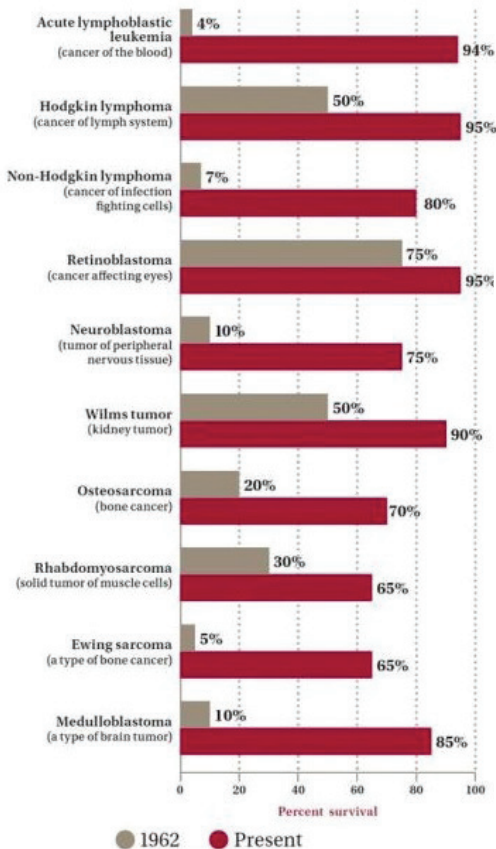
Lions world wide have begun a drive to stamp out childhood cancer. Mr. Danny Thomas, the founder of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital once promised that St. Jude would treat children with cancer regardless of race, religion or creed and that families would never receive a bill from St. Jude for anything--not for treatment, travel, housing or food. St. Jude has pioneered the integration of research and care for deadly childhood diseases.

As doctors and researchers work together under one roof, St. Jude has made discoveries that might not have been made separately. Working side by side their teams have quickly moved their findings from the laboratory into effective treatments for desperately ill children. Look closely at the chart below and see the differences over time, St. Jude has made.

We support St. Jude's mission in finding cures and saving children.

Help us help St. Jude and other Children's Cancer Research Facilities and Hospitals!

5-year Cancer Survival Rates 1962 vs. present*



*Cancer survival of five years or greater based on national averages from 2001-2007.



Aquia Lions Charity Inc.

A 501(c)(3) Charity

FAST FACTS about our club

- 100% OF THE MONEY WE RAISE GOES TO CHARITY (NO KIDDING!). Member dues pay for club overhead.
- We raise nearly \$30,000 per year through our fundraisers: White House Ornament sales, Christmas Tree sales, Texas Hold'em, Mulch sales, Reverse Raffle, Hoops/Football Mania, and White Cane.
- We award an annual \$1K college scholarship to a worthy graduating member at all 5 Stafford High Schools.
- We provide eye exams and glasses to dozens of needy people in the community every year.
- We deliver Easter and Thanksgiving baskets to needy members of the local community.
- We sponsor an annual Special Needs Christmas Party for 60+ special needs adults, where we serve dinner and have a personal gift for each of them, given to them in person by Santa!
- We donate to S.E.R.V.E., Hospice, Hope House, Leader Dogs, Old Dominion Eye Bank, Ronald McDonald House and local sports teams.
- We collect used eye glasses for reconditioning to be sent to needy recipients in foreign countries.
- We sponsor and assist in the Diabetes Walk-A-Thon and 5K runs.

Service to The Community

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Vision exams and glasses | • Local scholarships | • Scouting projects |
| • Hearing conservation | • Disabled programs | • Sports teams |
| • Diabetes assistance | • Senior outings | • Emergency relief |
| • Food donations | • Community recreational facilities | |

How You Can Help

Make a tax deductible contribution to the Aquia Lions Charity, Inc. We are an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) not for profit public charity and are eligible to receive tax deductible contributions as the Aquia Lions Charity, Inc. (ID 81-2306887). We have no administrative expenses, therefore all profits raised from donations and fund raisers go directly to support our sight, hearing, and diabetes programs AND other charitable organizations we support.

We hope you and your organization will consider making a tax-deductible donation to support our efforts.



We Serve

Aquia Lions Charity, Inc. was formed as an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) organization in 2016. It operates in conjunction with Aquia Harbor Host Lions, whose members are also members of the Charity. Each entity, however, has a different Board of Directors and will make decisions to the extent possible independent of each other.

Where There's a Need, There's a Lion



Aquia Lions Charity, Inc.
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