

Results of the first Form A-1 Report

Lions Donate Millions in Funds and Service Hours

It's official. Results from the first (1999-2000) Annual Lions Club Activities Report (Form A-1) reveal the generosity of Lions worldwide.

– Lions clubs donated an average of US\$20,045 per club to charitable causes. Worldwide, the projected total of contributions is US\$898,737,620 (based on the total number of clubs as of 6/30/00).

– Lions clubs provided an average of 1,326 volunteer service hours to the community. Worldwide, this represents an estimated 59,452,536 hours of community service (based on the total number of clubs as of 6/30/00).

– The most commonly reported individual service activities were:

- aid to the elderly (51% of clubs),
- eyeglass collections (47% of clubs);
- community clean-up campaigns (39% of clubs);
- scholarships (39% of clubs);
- youth recreation/sports (39% of clubs);
- disaster relief (34% of clubs);
- dog guides (32% of clubs);
- blood donations (32% of clubs);
- community recreation (31% of clubs);
- eye banks (30% of clubs).

Form A-1 results revealed a variety of service interests among Lions clubs. In both the USA (87%) and Canada (69%), collecting eyeglasses was the most common Lions service project.

In Europe (59%), Latin America (65%), Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Ocean islands (71%), aid to the elderly was the most common Lions service project.



The McGregor, Minnesota, Lions invested 800 hours over a two-year period transforming an old metal building into a new banquet hall.

Donating blood was the most popular service project undertaken by Lions in the Orient and Southeast Asia (76%).

Organizing vision screenings was the most common service activity among Lions clubs in the Middle East, South Asia and Africa (58%).

In the near future, the Lions Web site (www.lionsclubs.org) will feature a summary of the 1999-2000 club report totals.

About the Form A-1

In 1999, the Annual Lions Club

Activity Report (Form A-1) was adopted for the gathering of statistical information about the activities of Lions clubs worldwide.

At the end of each fiscal year, club secretaries submit the specially designed Form A-1 to International Headquarters. The form features a list of 77 types of service activities. Beside each activity is a small box. For each activity completed by a Lions club, the secretary places a check mark in the corresponding box. For additional activities, secretaries can check the "other" box.

Before July 15, secretaries submit (by mail or computer only) Form A-1 to International Headquarters. A computer then scans the aligned boxes and totals the number of clubs participating in activities and the number of Lions service hours. The computer also converts all currencies into US dollars.

High-tech Results

The Form A-1 s provided by thousands of club secretaries were computer scanned. The activities provided valuable information about Lions clubs worldwide. As a result, Lions can boast about their contributions to their communities and humanity.

This year's secretaries received their official 2000-2001 Form A-1s with the April 2001 issue of the Update newsletter.

Secretaries with access to the Internet can complete and submit Form A-1 online. Available in the Member and Officer Reports / Directory Information section of the Lions Web site (www.lionsclubs.org), secretaries can either:

1. print Form A-1 as it appears on screen, complete the form in ink and mail it to International Headquarters;
2. complete Form A-1 as it appears on screen and submit the form electronically to International Headquarters.

Both the paper and electronic versions of Form A-1 have been specially formatted for scanning by a computer. Therefore, only information from official Form A-1s (both the paper and electronic versions) will be scanned for the 2000-2001 worldwide activities report. Information on unofficial, altered or faxed Form A-1s cannot be included in the final report.

LIONS DONATE TIME AND TALENTS

Each check mark on a Form A-1 represents a successful Lions club service project.

Donate 1,000 Hours of Time

In Michigan, Davidson Lions Club Secretary Jo Poe reported that the club's 26 members donated 1000 hours for a recycling project.

"We have a trailer located in the middle of town" states Poe. "We recycle paper, aluminum, and phone books. One trailer full of paper is worth about US\$800 (depending on current paper prices)."

In addition, the local telephone company contacted the Lions about recycling their excess phone books. "We raised almost \$1 3,000 last year through recycling," states Poe. "We've been doing this for at least 10 years."

A Large Monetary Donation

The Form A-1 submitted by Secretary Robert Lewis of the McGregor Lions Club, Minnesota, indicated that the club donated US\$117,000 for a community center.

"It was a two year project," states Lewis. "Our club had a metal building which we used for club meetings and BINGO sessions. We owned the building and donated it to the town (population: 400). We rented out the hall for weddings and parties but only during the summer months."

All 85 club members volunteered their time and talents to insulate and upgrade the metal building. One club member is an architect; another is a kitchen rebuilder.

Eight hundred hours later, the new McGregor Community Center had two meeting rooms with seating for 250 people, a new roof, a tiled floor, remodeled bathrooms, and a new kitchen.

A Variety of Community Services

Club Secretary Monica Palmer, Kingston Mona Lions Club, Jamaica, reported that her 46 fellow club members served:

- street children - by donating funds to a local facility for street children;
- parents - by presenting lectures about child abuse at local schools;
- blind students - by creating audiotapes of university textbooks;
- those with AIDS - by donating funds to an AIDS hospice;
- the elderly - by funding the purchase of prescriptions for persons in a geriatrics home;
- the environment - by planting trees around local schools and hospitals;
- the disabled - by painting disability signs at parks, banks, and parking lots.

One Large Community Project

Lion Dick Moon, secretary of the Cayucos Lions Club, California, noted one large project on his club's Form A-1 - a skateboard park.

"Our planning committee included kids ages 10-23, parents, school authorities, and county authorities," states Moon.

To finance the park, the Lions organized a one-day fundraiser. "In the morning, we had a breakfast, then a rummage sale, followed by a silent auction, a live art auction, and a dinner/dance," he states. The Lions raised US\$13,000.

With funds in hand, members volunteered 800 hours of time to build a 40 foot by 70 foot wooden skateboard park. "The project has been well-received by the community," states Moon. "The skateboard park features half-pipes and quarter-pipes. All skateboarders must wear helmets and knee pads. Admission to the park is free."

Moon added that the park created an unexpected bonus. "It's provided great public relations for our club."