**LCIF NEWS**

I am delighted to have a regular item in the future in the ‘105D Times’ on LCIF matters. This will replace my monthly newsletter that was issued as part of the monthly mailing and will give Lions an easier route to reading it. Unfortunately due to serious broadband problems I was not able to issue a newsletter in the May mailing, so some of this month’s news is a little old but I believe still newsworthy.

**Disaster relief grants.**

In April, in addition to the two major grants of £175,000 to Japan and £105,000 to Ecuador, both of which I referred to in my April Newsletter, there were four small emergency grants of £7,000 each made Malawi, Uruguay (2) and Texas, USA all following severe flooding.

In May you will recall there was the very serious wildfire in the vicinity of Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada. A major grant of £70,000 was made to the Canadian Lions to enable them to provide much needed assistance. Nine further grants were given to Thailand, Brazil, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. These were to assist following floods, windstorms and cyclones and totalled £55,000.

**Refugee assistance programmes**

In April LCIF approved grants totalling nearly £140,000 for refugee assistance. Lions in Macedonia, Turkey, Austria and the Netherlands are working diligently to provide refugees with food, water, shelter, clothing, medical supplies and even textbooks. These projects will benefit more than 13,000 people throughout the region. In total, LCIF has provided £417,000 for refugee relief and assistance programmes throughout Europe.

**Measles and Rubella programme**

I have written several times previously regarding the measles and rubella programme. Vaccinations are being carried out in a number of countries but, as an example of Lions involvement on the ground, in the African nation of Botswana local Lions helped the Ministry of Health conduct an intensive five days measles vaccination campaign by going door-to-door in the town of Selebi-Phikwe, where Lions talked one-to-one with mothers on their doorsteps to make sure they understood the importance of vaccinations.

The LCIF Measles and Rubella initiative is still continuing to prevent 400 children dying every day. I hope your Club is able to consider a donation if it has not given already this year. (Payments to LCI District 105D, marked ‘LCIF Measles’ and sent to the District Treasurer).

**Melvin Jones Fellowships**

Please contact me if you would like to know what credits your Club has earned towards Melvin Jones Fellowships. It is quite possible one or two could be obtained at no further cost to your Club.

Has your Club considered awarding a Melvin Jones Fellowship to someone in your town or village other than a Lions who has carried out humanitarian work or supported your Club in a major way?

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