**LCIF NEWS**

**Introduction**

In my September article I made reference to the fact that LCIF never knows when the next emergency will arise. On 7th December a 6.5 magnitude earthquake struck the Aceh province of Indonesia. More than 100 people died and many were injured. LCIF responded immediately with two grants of £8,000 and £80,000 for both immediate and longer-term relief.

**LCIF disaster grants**

In November 2016 ten emergency grants totalling £80,000 were made addressing immediate needs for floods, hurricanes, earthquakes and wildfires around the world.

**Sight for Kids Programme**

Many of you will be familiar with Helen Keller’s plea for Lions to be ‘knights of the blind’ as far back as 1925. Since that time Lions’ services relating to sight have been met in a very large number of ways. LCIF has had a partnership for almost 15 years with Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Inc (J & J) and as far back as 2002 LCIF and J & J launched a joint initiative ‘Sight for Kids’. This is a school-based programme that mobilises volunteers to provide vision screening, professional eye examinations, spectacles and other services. This programme has become one of the Lions’ largest and most impactful partnership programmes.

The most recent figures show that more than 125,000 Lions and other volunteers have worked to bring the ‘Sight for Kids’ programme to more than 20 million children throughout Asia, India and the Philippines. Sight for Kids has referred more than 800,000 children to eye care professionals for further evaluation and provided spectacles to more than 250,000 children. The programme now includes children in Turkey and Kenya. I believe this is another excellent example of the work done by our own Charity.

**LCIF Measles and Rubella Initiative**

As we move into the last twelve months of the Measles and Rubella Initiative I would like to repeat my previous comments on this amazing children’s humanitarian initiative. This is still continuing and tens of thousands of deaths have been averted – mostly of children. £16 million has been raised to date. LCIF has committed to providing Gavi Alliance (a public-private partnership whose mission is to save children’s lives and protect people’s health) a further £8 million by December 2017. In 2016 Lions and partners have conducted measles activities in six countries and over the next year this will extend into another five or more countries with support from local Lions who play a key role in social mobilisation efforts by working with local leaders, coordinating community-level publicity and serving as volunteers at vaccination centres. Until the involvement of Gavi and LCIF approximately four hundred children were dying every day from measles and rubella. I do hope your Club can make a donation, or further donation, to the LCIF Measles and Rubella Initiative.

**Melvin Jones Fellowships**

Please contact me if your Club wishes to know its credits towards Melvin Jones Fellowships (MJFs) or if help is needed in making an application for a MJF.

**Presentations on LCIF**

As mentioned in previous articles I would be very pleased to give presentations to any Club or Zone on LCIF to assist members in understanding its amazing record of funding for disasters, sight, youth and humanitarian needs since 1968.

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