**LCIF NEWS**

**Introduction**

I wrote my last Newsletter on 20th September and made reference to ‘the work of LCIF goes on, with natural disasters occurring in different parts of the world with regularity…….’. How true this was, with Hurricane Matthew occurring at the end of September into early October with winds up to 145 mph and torrential rain. This hurricane affected the entire Caribbean area, particularly the western edge, and in the USA North Carolina, Florida and Georgia were hit. Hurricane Matthew’s path also impacted Newfoundland and Labrador in Canada. To date LCIF has awarded eight emergency grants of £7,500.

In Haiti the Lions were able to immediately respond and Lions and Leos packed and helped distribute 1,500 disaster kits to hurricane victims in more remote regions where help would likely be delayed. The Lions have been in regular communication with LCIF sending updates. The local Lions did report that the homes built following the 2010 earthquake in Blanchard, Cite Soleil were not impacted by the storm. The Lions of Haiti are consulting with local relief agencies (i.e. Red Cross and UNICEF) to identify more strategic approaches for their on-going relief efforts. It is expected that additional requests from other Districts for emergency grants will be received in the coming days.

There are always long-term requirements such as rebuilding and the like. I am certain that LCIF will be helping in Haiti, and also Italy, with not only the immediate aid but also the funding of rebuilding of a particular project or projects in conjunction with the local Lions Clubs.

Thank you on behalf of LCIF to all those Clubs that have donated to the special appeals for Italy and Haiti. If any further Clubs wish to donate, these should be sent to the District Treasurer marked ‘LCIF Disaster Fund’. These donations will count towards credits for future Melvin Jones Fellowships.

**LCIF Website**

I am often being told the LCIF website does not reflect what is done by way of pictorial or other information following both special appeals and other grants. I am discussing this issue with LCIF through the Multiple District LCIF Coordinator.

**LCIF video**

Notwithstanding my comments above, LCIF has issued a really good video and I urge you to click on the following link to see it. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pw_BWrGjMdg>

**LCIF Disaster and Community Recovery Grants**

In September LCIF awarded 22 grants totalling £157,500 for Clubs to provide assistance in areas following floods, earthquakes, typhoons and hurricanes.

**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**

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.

PDG Lion Patrick Hamblin, District 105D LCIF Coordinator (patrick.hamblin@btinternet.com)

28th October 2016