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| **LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION(LCIF)**  **DISTRICT 105D NEWSLETTER** |  |

**JANUARY** **2016**

**From: Lion Patrick Hamblin, LCIF Coordinator, District 105D.**

**Introduction**

I hope you found the December 2015 edition of my new newsletter interesting. This month I would like to let you know about a couple of LCIF recent projects and remind you of the continuing Measles Initiative, where currently 400 children die every single day.

**Microenterprise project is changing lives in Kenya**

LCIF and Lions are working together to reduce poverty. In Kenya, through microenterprise, small loans are awarded to individuals to help them purchase supplies and equipment needed to start their own businesses. These individuals are then able to provide for themselves and their families and to contribute to their communities. Microenterprise is an important opportunity to support and promote economic well-being for men and women who live at or below the poverty level, have limited skills and wish to improve their financial situation.

**Trachoma**

This is one of the oldest known infectious diseases. A bacterial disease, it is spread easily through contact with eye discharge of infected individuals and through transmission by flies attracted to eye discharge. After years of repeated infection the inside of the eyelid may be scarred so severely that the eyelid turns inward and the lashes rub on the eyeball, scarring the cornea. This results in a slow and painful process towards complete blindness. Children and women are the most susceptible to trachoma. LCIF has been fighting the disease, in partnership with the Carter Centre, since 1999. LCIF recently joined partners, including the Carter Centre, Pfizer and the International Trachoma Initiative, to celebrate the donation of the 500 millionth dose of Zithromax tablets, an antibiotic used to treat trachoma in certain countries.

**Measles Initiative**

I would now like to remind you about the continuing Measles Initiative. Lions Clubs International through LCIF has set a new objective for the Measles and Rubella Initiative. This is to partner with an organisation by the name of GAVI Alliance (a public-private partnership whose mission is to save children’s lives and protect people’s health by increasing access to immunization in the world’s poorest countries). The Gates Foundation and the UK Government (through the Department for International Development) have each agreed to provide 50% of the amount donated by Lions Clubs worldwide. The aim is that by the International Convention 2017 (our 100 years anniversary) Lions will have raised £20 million, which will reach £40 million when matched as above. Lions Clubs and GAVI will work with ministries of health in developing countries to ensure children are vaccinated against measles and rubella. Lions will also play a key role in social mobilization efforts by working with local leaders, coordinating community-level publicity and serving as volunteers at vaccination centres. Measles is a highly contagious virus spread by coughing and sneezing and kills about 160,000 people annually, mostly children under the age of five. GAVI provides the measles vaccine in one shot with the vaccine against rubella.

**Donations**

If your Club wishes to make a donation to LCIF, either for the Measles Initiative of for LCIF Funds to enable projects such as those described above to happen, any cheques should be made payable to LCI District 105D and endorsed on the back either ‘LCIF Lions Measles Initiative’ or ‘LCIF area of greatest need’.

**Donations to LCIF – 2014/2015**

In the year 2014/2015 Lions Clubs, individual Lions, partners and friends donated £26 million to LCIF. This was approximately 75% of the total amount of grants awarded awarded for the same period.

**Melvin Jones Fellowships (MJFs)**

Please contact me if you have any questions relating to MJFs or difficulties in applying for a MJF.

Contact: PDG Patrick Hamblin, 18 West Court, West Drive, Sonning, Reading, Berkshire RG4 6GL. Tele: 0118 969 3930. Mobile: 07917 300999. Email: [patrick.hamblin@btinternet.com](mailto:patrick.hamblin@btinternet.com).