



March 2016

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

My aim as the LCIF District representative is to give all members a better understanding of LCIF by the issuing of regular newsletters. This edition was originally issued in the papers available for attendees at the District Convention held earlier this month but is reissued in view of the importance of the 'One Shot One Life Measles Initiative'.

If I was a Rotarian I would have the wonderful legacy of knowing that I was a member of an organisation that was involved in the worldwide elimination of the very serious disease of polio. I know the work is not quite concluded but massive steps have been made in its elimination and it is understood that Rotary, along with its partners, has reduced polio cases by 99.9% worldwide since the first project to vaccinate children in 1979.

We as Lions have a similar amazing opportunity for a lasting health related legacy and this involves the prevention of measles and rubella. Measles is one of the most contagious yet easily prevented diseases in the world. 335 children die each day from measles or **one every four minutes**, mainly in unvaccinated children under five years old. 30% of survivors experience complications. For less than 67 pence (or US\$1)a child can be vaccinated against measles.

Lions have partnered with GAVI and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the Measles Initiative – '**One Shot One Life**'. All donations by Lions Clubs around the world are matched 50% by the Gates Foundation and 50% by our own Government's Department for International Aid (DFID). This means that for every £1.00 given by your Club the amount available for measles vaccinations is £2.00.

Lions Clubs International Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Gates Foundation, DFID and GAVI that we as Lions would pledge to raise US\$30M by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 (our 100 years birthday!). With the contributions from the Gates Foundation and DFID this would increase to US\$60M (approximately £40M). A month or so ago approximately US\$16M had been raised towards the US\$30M by Lions Clubs worldwide. Since July 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 Clubs in our District have only donated £660.00.

As I mentioned above, there is an amazing legacy for all Lions Clubs and all individual Lions to be associated with the potential for reducing the massive number of deaths from measles. I do hope that your Club will make a donation. All donations count towards Melvin Jones Fellowships. Donations should be made to the District Treasurer with cheques payable to LCI District 105D and endorsed on the back 'Measles Initiative'. Electronic payments to the District Treasurer should also indicate the same information.

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