

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 105D SIGHT NEWSLETTER NO 3.

LIONS SIGHTSAVERS

September 2008.

This is the third of a series of Newsletters to give Members in District 105D a greater understanding of the various areas of activities Lions are involved with in connection with sight.

LIONS SIGHTSAVERS

Lions Sightsavers Trust celebrated its 25th Anniversary last year, having been formed by Lion Christopher Friend on the 1st July 1982. In the last ten years Lions Clubs in Multiple District 105 have donated over £1.1 million to Lions Sightsavers, thus giving the gift of sight to thousands of men, women and children and transforming their lives forever.

All the Trustees of Lions Sight Savers are Lion members and there are no administration costs incurred, with 100% of the donations going to projects managed by Sightsavers International.

Originally the operations were carried out in the back of Land Rovers or in huts but with time conditions have improved and now those requiring treatment are taken to hospitals (some of which were built with our 'Campaign SightFirst' funds) for improved treatment.

With the large numbers of persons coming for examinations there would be those who were either blind or had conditions that could not be treated, meaning they would go blind. The original 'Eye Camp' arrangements did not cater for these persons. Now the situation has changed. With the launch of the Comprehensive Eye Services (CES) Programme some years ago, incurably blind children are given assistance to attend ordinary schools. In addition, there is access to rehabilitation training for incurably blind adults. Furthermore, communities are provided with

education in preventing eye disease and in recognising treatable eye conditions at an early stage.

This means that Lions Clubs' donations now provide even better value for the community concerned. Donations will support these integrated services of eye care, education and rehabilitation within a specific community of approximately 0.5 to 2.5 million people. The end result is that Club donations will be providing even better value for money.

Reports continue to be issued to Clubs that donate £250 or more. The report identifies the 'medical' partner and gives results of the last twelve months and also the projected plans for the Partner for the next twelve months. The report includes a map identifying the area of the country where Comprehensive Eye Services are being provided. It will not be possible for numbers treated by a particular donation to be provided in the future. Tracking costs for this information are high. 'Sightsavers International' selects the Partners and donating Lions Clubs are supporting the Partner and the totality of what the Partner is doing.

The Banner Patch awards continue for Clubs that have been sponsoring eye camps over the years. A bronze patch is given for 10 donations of £250; silver for 20 and gold for 40.

The support of Clubs around the Multiple District over the years has been tremendous. I do urge all Clubs to continue their support for Comprehensive Eye Services

Cheques should be made payable to Lions Clubs International District 105D and endorsed on the back 'Lions Sightsavers'.

Prepared by District Officer Lion Patrick Hamblin.

Distribution: Club Presidents, Region Chairmen, Zone Chairmen, District Governor, Vice District Governor.

'I call on you to be Knights of the Blind' – Helen Keller (1925)