



COMMUNICATING
WITH THE LIONS
OF
MULTIPLE DISTRICT
13

Issue: January, 2010

WINTER RETREAT 2010

Weather was perfect for our first annual Winter Retreat. Ninety-six registrants enjoyed the many seminars, relaxing atmosphere and great speakers that defined the weekend. Planning is already in the works for next year's retreat. Please ask someone who attended how they liked the weekend; then plan on attending next year!!!

LCIF Responds with Hope for Haiti:

[an excerpt from a letter sent by IPP Al Brandel]

"Since I last wrote you, we have all learned more about the extent of the devastation in Haiti. At Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), we have also learned more about the situation on the ground from the Lions of Haiti. My heart goes out to all the Lions in Haiti, who have been personally affected by this disaster, losing at least two club members as well as many close relatives. Yet they have put aside their own needs to help their community. LCIF is working non-stop with Lions of that area to support "Lions Hope for Haiti."

Lions Hope for Haiti has mobilized more than US\$350,000, to date. Lions around the world are responding generously and quickly to the LCIF designated fund for this disaster. Donations are continuing to pour in from individuals, clubs and districts, and I thank all of you who have already pledged your support."

VOSH-OHIO MISSION INTO HAITI

Drums beating with people chanting in the night, roosters crowing, goats bleating, and the guard dogs barking. These are the sounds I hear as I lay awake in the early morning hours in

our safe walled-in mission compound, wondering our next plan for evacuation.

I am a member of a 16 member optometric team who has just completed our mission work into SOLT mission compound. A mission we had planned with Father Glenn for the past year. VOSH-Ohio sends teams into underserved countries around the world to provide eye care to those needing these services, and this was our first mission into Haiti.

This was a mission that saw 2,556 patients and provided glasses to many of these patients. Most all of the school children were screened and adults from the surrounding villages presented themselves to the compound to have their eyes screened for distance acuity, examination by autorefractor, a health exam by an optometrist, selection of glasses if needed, and fitting of these glasses. Those patients with surgical needs have been identified and will be referred for further care.

Now that the mission is complete, how do we get home? The most devastating earthquake in 100 years has hit Port-au-Prince this week, one that we felt here in Hinche 75 miles from the epicentre. After clinic on Tuesday, the team visited outside the walled compound to see the garden. While visiting, the earthquake hit Port-au-Prince. All of a sudden the entire team experienced extreme vertigo. Not knowing what was going on, it was a strange sensation. We did not feel the earth shake; however, there were several bouts with vertigo. The carpenter member had remained at the compound and he reported the house moving and a calendar swaying on the wall. We soon found out of the mass devastation as Father Glenn invited the team over to his house to watch CNN. The news was terrible; I immediately tried to contact four people in PAP and was not able to find out their well-being. As of today, I still have not found out about two of these persons. As a medical optometric team, we have no supplies or organized talent to help those affected; however, the desire remains to help these people and our hearts go out to the beautiful people of Haiti.

Our stay at SOLT has been most pleasant in this country of need. Father Glenn has provided to our team delicious food, homemade bread, Haitian and Cajun cooking at its best, and his presence has enriched the lives of our team members.

This is a first time visit to Haiti for 12 of the 16 member team and a lasting remembrance is one of love and fellowship with our Haitian helpers in the clinic, members of the team at SOLT,

and with the team members as we experience our next adventure to depart the country.

The location of SOLT required that the best way to get into the compound would be to be flown over the mountains to the mission. A missionary service provided four six-seater planes to lift the team. Because we carry over 5000 pairs of glasses, equipment, medications, and our own personal luggage, along with food for the team, our host sent a truck to deliver the supplies to the compound.

We found pleasant accommodations for the team amidst the poverty outside the compound. We housed in men's and women's guest houses. We had cold running water and electricity. So the fans were welcome in the hot weather, along with the cold showers.

Father Glenn and helpers cooked our evening Haitian meals with usually rice and beans, along with his Cajun cooking. The second day two goats were butchered. Warm bread from the bakery, that gives bread to the children in the school, was delicious. The compound teaches 1300 children and feeds these children 2 meals each day. Lunches consist of cabbage soup or a porage. Huge gardens are planted to provide food for the children. Hogs, chickens, and goats provide meat and eggs. It is a well run compound. Father Glenn has built 90 houses for the Haitians and set up an organized program for these houses.

Now as we are on our final flight to the States, it is still hard to believe what has happened this past week. We had to make a decision how to try to get out of Haiti. I called our airlines and rescheduled our flights. I was told they would begin flying in five days and so I rescheduled the team for the first flight available, which was in seven days. E-mails kept coming in from family, friends, and organizations giving us advice on how to depart. Options provided to us would be to try to cross the border into Dominican Republic, since the PAP airport was damaged. Then we were told the border into DR was closed. We were told to go north and fly out of Cap Haitien and get a lift by missionary flight services. This would be a five-hour trip in a Tap Tap or Chicken Bus over unpaved roads to reach the port, and then a missionary service could get us out. Another option would be to have the missionary service fly in Pagnon, 13 miles away, to pick us up. Calls to the missionary flight service told us that they were only taking supplies and rescue equipment into PAP and would not offer their services to us for probably six days. Even though the border to DR was only a few miles away, it was cut off; going north was also not available for us. We felt we needed to get out soon. Reports told us of the unrest and violence in the capitol city of PAP. The US Embassy recommended that US citizens leave, and contact with the embassy provided that, starting on Friday the US would evacuate their citizens. This is our only option.

Quickly the team packed and we rented an air conditioned (meaning the windows open) van and started our venture. We decided that each team member must get out with only one suitcase. Glasses, medications, and some equipment along with all our duffels were left behind. Excess clothes, shoes, and personal items were left behind. We did take toilet paper, water, surgical masks, breakfast bars, and the team made peanut-butter sandwiches for the members, as we had no idea how long we would be at the airport until we were evacuated.

Luggage was piled high on top of the van and tied down with a frayed rope. The van was supposed to hold sixteen and a front seat was to be used by a Haitian guard. Well, that would be sixteen Haitians, not Americans. Four persons were to sit across with a jump seat. No way! Our idea of taking a guard in the front seat was abruptly stopped. We put two team members in that seat and three to four across each bench in the back, assuring that the only two skinny team members were

distributed evenly. During the three hour trip I could hear "If you move this way, I could move my foot or shift to this cheek".

Travel over this road from Hinche to PAP had recently been completed to cut an eight to twelve hours trip down to three hours. Haitian roads are mostly not paved and have multiple rocks in the road bed. We honked and swerved the entire trip to miss goats, horses, people, and other vehicles. The bumpy travel was extremely exhausting for the young as well as the older team members. Then our adventure began!

Arriving at PAP we were immediately into a traffic jam. All were trying to pass in the streets scraping vehicles just to get through. Fallen buildings, Haitians walking in mass, Haitians in tap taps and chicken buses over-loaded inside and on top, heading out of the city with furniture, suitcases, chickens, and animals, whatever. Haitians wearing masks, riding motor bikes with multiple people on each bike any way to get out. And we were trying to get into the city.

Our driver inquired the best streets to take in order to get to the airport. Finally we arrived. We found the terminal damaged and the tower not working. We disembarked to a crowd of men wanting to grab our suitcases. I finally consented on 3 helpers, as all suitcases were tied on top of the van. Three were tipped much to dismay and shouting of the others. We were led through the fence to another exhausting part of our journey.

This was Friday at 12:30 PM, 2 ½ hours after leaving the safe compound. We were instructed to stay in line and stand, as the terminal was unsafe to enter. We stood there for five hours, eating our sandwiches for supper and distributing our remaining food to the people through the fence, as we were on our way home shortly. The US had soldiers surrounding the airport. We were safe and going home.

After about five hours in front of the terminal, the team members were looking for a rest room. Men were instructed to stand between two buildings and women were allowed to enter a single very undesirable toilet within the terminal.

Then we were led surrounded by US troops to go behind the terminal where many cargo planes were arriving and departing. The noise level was only shouting level. We were again told to stand in single lines. I think back to our five days of clinic as we had our patients "stand in straight lines". The only difference was the length of time we stood. Planes from all over the world were bringing in rescue teams, the dogs for body retrieval, all sorts of medical and rescue teams were arriving. Three patients with IVs were lying on gurneys on the tarmac waiting for smaller evacuation planes to arrive. We were interviewed by Portugal and French TV stations and some other radio station personnel. Again we stood for another five hours.

At 10:30 PM we were led out onto the tarmac to enter a US Air Force C 17 cargo plane. Probably around 100 people were strapped into seats along the wall and down the center in the belly of this plane. We talked to Brian Williams and Ann Curry. Katy Couric was also a member on this plane. We were treated well by providing blankets, pillows, and ear plugs to help with the noise level.

We needed to stop in Charleston to fuel up and then on to McGregor Air Force Base, as they had been commissioned by the government to deploy the refugees. When we boarded the plane, we had no idea where we would land. Previous flights had taken people into the Dominican Republic and Florida. Now a plan had been arranged with the Air Force base. Finally at 6 am on Saturday morning we arrived and bussed to the base. We had name bands placed on our wrists, given a health kit to shower, briefed by the air force personnel and taken to a

gymnasium full of cots, We were provided food and telephones, if need to make arrangements to fly home.

I felt like a refuge; however, it was such a good feeling to be home, especially since my skills as a nurse to help others would be hampered in this situation. After obtaining airline tickets we were led into buses to take the people either to Philadelphia or Newark airports for departure home. A state police was our escort with sirens going through each traffic light for our hour trip to the airport. We arrived at our final airport and home by midnight Saturday, two hours earlier than originally planned from our original flight one short week ago into Haiti. So much had happened after that 30 second shaking of the earth that will be remembered by many people for their entire lives.

Barbara Plaughter
VOSH-Ohio Mission Coordinator
January 17, 2010

Bellbrook Used Eyeglasses Project

Christy Noyes, the store assistant manager at **THE GOODWILL STORE** of Xenia, Ohio was talking with her fellow workers about used eyeglasses and was concerned that eyeglasses were being donated and were not being used or sold. They were sorted, placed in a barrel in the corner and after some time being disposed of as trash.

Christy knew that the Lions Club collects used eyeglasses. She said, "Why don't we collect the glasses and donate them to the Lions Club". She took the idea to her retail district manager, Tom Kingery. Tom liked the idea of helping the Lions Clubs and told her that since it was her idea that the project was hers and she should contact the Lions Club.

Christy made some phone calls and made contact with the **Bellbrook Ohio Lions Club in District 13-J**. Christy said that if the Lions Club would furnish containers for Goodwill, she would make arrangements to take them to their district meeting and distribute them to the 24 Goodwill store managers.

The project was presented to the Bellbrook Lions Club board of directors and the project was approved. The Club would fund the project and supply Goodwill with what they needed to help with eyeglasses collection. All that the Lions Club needed from Christy was a list of the Goodwill Stores, addresses of the stores and the manager or contact person at each store.

Christy was informed of our decision and a sample box was delivered for her approval within the week.

Christy liked the sample container. Arrangements were made with Christy for all the containers to be delivered to Xenia Goodwill store on January 22, 2008.

Tom informed Christy that he would like to start the Goodwill/Lions project at their district meeting on February 9, 2008. Christy would put the containers in storage until Tom picked them up for the district meeting with all stores receiving them on the same day.

This project with Goodwill is how you can make a difference and help **"LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT"**

The project started out with 24 Goodwill stores within a 75 mile radius of Dayton, Ohio. Bellbrook Lion Jerry Wannemacher made 24 identical collection boxes to be distributed to the 24 stores. The boxes have the Lions logo and 'Recycle for Sight' stickers on them and pick-up contact

information. Lion Jerry, along with his wife Evelyn, pick-up the glasses every 7-8 weeks. Recently, Lion Jerry has contacted Lions Clubs that are close to 16 of the 24 Goodwill stores and offered to let those Clubs take over the collection process and to donate those glasses in their Club's name. They were told to keep the collection box and were given all the Goodwill stores contact information. To get involved with Goodwill Stores, local Clubs can call direct to gain approval from the store's District Manager. If there is a problem, you can call Lion Wannemacher and he can put you in touch with the Miami Valley Goodwill District Manager, who is 100% behind this project. Lion Jerry also has collection at all area optical vision centers, schools and libraries. The entire Club has gotten behind this project. At every meeting, someone brings Lion Jerry a bag full of used eyeglasses. The Goodwill store collection started in March of 2008. Since that time, the Lions have collected 9,034 pairs of glasses and have donated them to VOSH for recycling. Lion Jerry has made a big impact with this service project and deserves all the credit. He has done a great job and many people will benefit.

Lion Jerry built the display trailer that contains the used eyeglasses. The trailer, which was pulled behind his truck, was a focal point of our annual festival parade this past August. Lion Jerry also put 6181 pairs of eyeglasses in the display, which resembles a huge Lions eyeglass collection box. After the parade, the display was set up at the festival site for festival attendees to guess the number of glasses contained therein for a 50-50 raffle, half of the proceeds to the person with the closest guess and the other half was donated to Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation. At the same booth, our Lions and Lioness membership chairpersons answered questions pertaining to Lionism. Because of the interest shown we now have 5 prospective Lions, 9 prospective Lioness and 1 prospective Leo member.



Bellbrook Lion Jerry Wannemacher standing by truck at Pandora Ohio - V.O.S.H.

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Council of Governors Mtg.	Feb 13
Governor Elect Training	Feb. 13-14
CST Training	Feb. 14
State Committee Meetings	Feb. 27

NEW CLUB CHARTER NIGHTS:

Carrollton Lions Club Charter Night 13-G
Date: January 30, 2010 at the Sleep Inn in Carrollton. PID Steven Sherer and Dr. Braden Kail are the speakers. Dr. Kail will be speaking on mission work in South America. More info to follow.

Columbus Downtown Charter Night 13-F
Date: February 6th at the Rotunda of the Statehouse on Capital Square. Cost: \$30/person, RSVP to Lion Heath Ackley at 614-302-9596 by Jan. 29th.

Martins Ferry Lions Club Charter Night – 13-G
Date: Feb. 20, 2010
Speaker: PID Steven Sherer
More details to follow.

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR, NOW!
SANDUSKY LIONS CLUB is CELEBRATING THEIR 85TH ANNIVERSARY SATURDAY, MAY 15TH 2010 at CEDAR POINT, the Home of Helen Keller's speech to all Lions. WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION IN FEBRUARY! PLAN ON JOINING US TO HONOR LIONS and HELEN KELLER straziusoteacher@aol.com

A word from your MD13
Webmaster
Lion Bill Keller

Have you updated your Lions club website lately?

Seventy Lions Club websites from Ohio have been left abandoned and have not been updated for many years. Here is a list of what you can do:

- A: delete the site.
- B: over-look the problem.
- C: or update the site.

If you answered C, convert your "Old" site to the new e-clubhouse at <http://lionwap.org/eclub/>

Why should you update your website?

By updating your website your community will know what you have done in the past and keep them informed of current events, also it will keep your club members updated. With your club website you should strive to keep it current with monthly updates and someone in place who is responsible for web management of that site.

Got to <http://www.ohiolions.org/inactivelionsclubwebsites.pdf> to see if your club has an inactive club website.

Contact me if you have any questions at wkeller2@columbus.rr.com or call 567-674-9093.