



Lions Clubs International Foundation

Foundation Holiday Newsletter

December 2009

Season's Greetings Lion Jack,

As you gather this holiday season with your family and friends, I ask that you take a moment to reflect on all the good work LCIF has done worldwide over the last year. Together, we have brought joy and happiness to so many people who would have otherwise gone without. I would like to share a story about how Lions' good will has changed the life of a little girl from Texas and her family.



Good will in Texas, USA

Emelly was born with a chromosome disorder that resulted in her being intellectually disabled, unable to move and afflicted regular with seizures, she was unable to sit upright and indicated little, or no, awareness of activity or people.

With grant funding made possible from LCIF, Emelly attended a program at the Houston Therapeutic Equestrian Centers, whose mission is to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities through therapeutic horseback riding and related activities.

Since participating in the therapeutic riding program, Emelly has developed sufficient strength to sit upright. Her breathing has improved and the seizures are much less frequent.

"We're so grateful to the Houston East End Lions in Texas who helped make this program possible for our darling Emelly. I know that Lions do so much to help children," said Maria, Emelly's mother. "It really is difficult to describe the benefits of the therapy, but quality of life for Emelly and all our family members, has improved so much. We anticipate continued improvement with this invaluable therapy."

Give the Greatest Gift This Year

This holiday season you can [give the greatest gift](#) of all- the gift of sight. A donation of US\$1 will provide river blindness medication, US\$15 cataract surgery or US\$50 low vision adaptive devices. Please help us help more people in the coming year. I hope you'll also

consider sharing this [video on the impact](#) of our SightFirst Program with your friends and family. After they see all we've accomplished and that there is still a great need, I know they'll want to support the work we're doing together.

LCIF in the News

A short story and advertisement encouraging readers to support the SightFirst Program with a donation will be included in a special Vision Care insert in December 5 editions of the Wall Street Journal in the eastern part of the U.S. This insert section is also available online at www.lcif.org.

Learn More about LCIF

I often get asked a number of questions about LCIF. Make a resolution this year to learn more about the great work of your Foundation. You may be aware of the recently created LCIF District Coordinator position. This individual in your district has been trained on the types of grants and programs available as well as how to submit funds or Melvin Jones Fellowship applications. Please invite them to your club meeting or district convention to educate others about LCIF. E-mail the [LCIF Development Department](#) with the date of the event, and they will help put you in contact with your local coordinator.

I would like to offer my most sincere thanks to all of you who help LCIF make miracles happen every day. Its through the generous support of Lions like each of you that Emelly and her family have found a sense of hope for the future. She is just one of the millions of people LCIF helped this past year. Cataract surgery helped Huang in China to see his 14-year old grandson for the first time. Yanatou in Cameroon will not go blind from river blindness like her parents due to receiving bi-annual medication. Mikael in Norway learned to say no to drugs through Lions Quest. You have the power to help us help many more people this coming year.

In appreciation of the holiday spirit, Maureen and I are making a personal contribution to LCIF to help those in need worldwide. We ask that each of you consider helping someone during this season of giving, as many of you have done before.

On behalf of everyone at LCIF, Maureen and I wish you much joy this holiday season.

Thank you for your continued support.

Al Brandel
LCIF Chairperson
