



Steve McLaurin
NCLF President 2023-2024

A Mission to Care, Support and Help Our North Carolina Citizens

The North Carolina Lions Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established in 1934. As the official charitable organization for the Lions of North Carolina and working closely with community based North Carolina Lions Clubs, we collectively enrich the lives of those blind and visually impaired, offer needed services for those less fortunate in each community and a hallmark of continuous support of research for health related issues concerning vision and overall wellness of all our citizens.

Letter from the President

Greetings Lions of North Carolina. We are rapidly moving toward the Holiday Season when family becomes the focus. With that time a few weeks from now, it is time to assess where your Club is in providing Service to those in need. Whether your Club has completed one service project or multiple service projects, now is the time to reflect upon the success of your work and to plan your next service project. Service is not only our motto, it is the essence of Lions as we are Loving Individuals Offering Needed Service.

It is my belief each of us has a heart for helping others. Joining Lions was the best way to catapult your service efforts by working with other individuals who share your passion. We can accomplish so much more when we work together. When all Clubs in North Carolina work together we can create opportunities for service on a grand scale. Such is the case for our two efforts in selling the tickets for Camp Dogwood. The opportunity to win \$15,000.00 is an attraction, but the entire effort of this fundraiser is to provide funding for maintenance of Camp Dogwood. Perhaps the grandest facility in the country for providing opportunities for the Blind and Visually

Impaired and the Lions of North Carolina own this facility. There are nine buildings at this location on Lake Norman and maintenance is required to keep them all in working order. Your efforts working with 248 Lions Clubs in North Carolina are the needed ingredients for success in this effort.



Brighter Visions provides the funding for twelve different services provided to those in need on the scale of reaching across the State. One notable service provided are the vehicles provided in each of the five districts for the Kids Sight Program. With over 50,000 children screened so far this year, we could reach 100,000 more children with screening if we all work together. This project is a perfect example of how we can recruit more people to Lions when they experience the profound difference the Lions are making. This project is one of twelve efforts provided on a State Level each year.

As you plan your Club's efforts for service, please keep your active participation in selling Camp Dogwood Tickets and funding your Clubs Part in Brighter Visions in mind. We can accomplish so much when we work together. Thank you for what you do to help those less fortunate. It is Great to be a Lion!

Steve McLaurin
President NCLF 2023-2024



Working Together Accomplishing Remarkable Things

From Executive Director Carlton Metts



I just returned from the NC Lions VIP Fishing Tournament, where the VIPs had a wonderful time, great weather and most importantly caught lots of fish. During the week I often asked myself, did I volunteer for all of this, then on the way home I'm thinking to myself that was a lot of work but so much fun! Along with Lion Anne, we had Tammy Thomas there who was going wide open. We are all back at our real jobs at Camp Dogwood. The NC Lions VIP Fishing Tournament had it all, good VIPs, volunteers, speakers, lots of past international directors, and two past international presidents. My son and I, DG Carlie Metts had the pleasure transporting PIP Douglas Alexander to and from Norfolk International Airport. What a down to earth nice guy representing Lions Club International, he was a scorer on Jenette's Pier and worked like everyone else. Outstanding speaker with a great message.

The Board of Directors and Council of Governors meetings are scheduled for the second weekend in November. Following on the third weekend is the first of the District Conventions, District 31-L in Asheville. We are back in the saddle again with the first Camp Dogwood Raffle Drawing for (2) Two Hundred Dollar Gift Cards at District 31-L. Good Luck and hope to see you there.

Sorry we had a little delay with the LCIF/VSP Vouchers but our supplier LCIF ran out along with us. Thank you for your patience, they are back in stock now and we are now filling orders again. North Carolina is one of many states that receives the vouchers from LCIF/VSP program and now issuing nearly 100 per month. This LCIF/VSP Program is much bigger and easier on our clubs than the old Matching Funds program. Please take time vetting the recipients so it can speed up the process.

I reported about New Bern and Twin Rivers Lions Clubs assisting Garber Methodist Church of New Bern with their Faith in Action Vision Clinic last month. The Lions were armed with the KidSight equipment along with District 31N KidSight Operator 2nd VDG Gene Goetz. The total screened that Saturday was 270 with 250 pairs of glasses supplied to the patients. This is an advertised screening that draws recipients from several surrounding counties. Requirements for patients are no insurance and in need of vision care. All doctors are volunteers and the vision specialists provide follow-up to those in need at no cost. The Lions of New Bern, Aurora and Kinston assisted Garber Church volunteers that do so much good for the community. No one turned down! Awesome Clinic to be a volunteer. Thank you, Garber Methodist Church for your biennial Faith in Action Vision Clinic, all professionals and volunteers. Awesome job! Our Lions are proud to be part of your vision clinic.

Thank you, North Carolina Lions for allowing me to serve you!
 Carlton

Brighter Visions Totals, 10/23/23	
31-L	\$18,068.00
31-I	\$68,381.00
31-0	\$45,705.00
31.N	\$42,696.00
31-S	\$35,348.00
State	\$211,683.00
34% YTD	

Camp Dogwood Raffle Totals, 10/23/23	
31-L	\$2,549.00
31-I	0
31-0	\$562.00
31.N	\$420.00
31-S	\$4,932.00
State	\$8,463.00
8% YTD	



A Picturesque Facility on the Banks of Lake Norman

We have a gorgeous camp for our North Carolina Visually Impaired People. In fact, It's the best available in Southeastern United States. We all should be proud of our camp.

Along with being "The best" comes the responsibility to maintain the facility. That responsibility falls on the Lions of North Carolina through the sale of Camp Dogwood Raffle tickets. The income from the sale of camp dogwood raffle tickets goes exclusively to support the maintenance needs of our camp. Supplies such as, tires for golf carts, mulch, screws, nails, bolts, paint, cleaning supplies, gutters on our buildings. These items are all necessary, and as we are all aware those costs increase every year.



Many of our members and clubs buy the tickets themselves, this year we would like to see more of the tickets sold to members of the community. Each club was given extra books this year. Our hope is that you will ask for help from the community and sell them to the public. Last month our club set up an information booth at a church festival and sold 10 books, it's not a windfall but every \$100 helps. If your club has a booth at a fair or you're selling brooms, why integrate camp dogwood raffle tickets into your fundraiser?

Our maintenance budget at camp dogwood is \$150,000. Please remember that the money currently raised is also the money available to pay the current bills so, please send the funds raised to NCLF as soon as possible.

Let's try to get, not only Lions members, but the citizens of North Carolina to help us keep the camp we love so much in great shape.

2nd VDG Gene Goetz, District 31-N / NCLF State Camp Dogwood Chairperson

North Carolina Lions KidSight Program

The North Carolina Lions KidSight Program has been in high gear since the middle of September. With the help of many Lions across the state, we have conducted 36 KidSight screenings between September 16th and October 17th. At those screenings we screened 5,603 kids and we referred 880 children for further evaluation. I would personally like to thank all of the Lions and school nurses that made this possible! Without each of you and your continued drive to help children see better, this program would not exist.



We have some great opportunities to get out in our communities and find the many schools/preschools and daycares that would love to have us screen their students. Please reach out to the places in your town and surrounding communities. We have to ask these places, because the Lions are still one of the best kept secrets across the state. So, get out there and let your community hear you ROAR! You will be amazed how many schools/preschools and daycares will welcome us in to help the children!

Yours in Lionism,
 Bryan Hoover, MSU/KSU State Coordinator

Meet Your North Carolina Lions Foundation Staff



Hello, my name is Brittany Guerrero, and I'm the Administrative Assistant for NCLF.

Earlier this year I graduated Salutatorian in my class at Full Sail University to gain my Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology. Having a job that makes a positive impact makes a big difference for me so when this opportunity became available shortly after I finished school it seemed like it was meant to be. I started here this past summer and I've already met so many amazing people, and seeing everything that the Lions do I quickly decided that I wanted to be a member of my local club. I've really enjoyed meeting and working with those of you that I've had the pleasure of meeting and really look forward to meeting those of you that I haven't.

Alan Bridges, Camp Dogwood Administrative Assistant

I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from Western Carolina University, where my passion for making a difference began to flourish. Throughout my undergraduate journey, I dedicated five unforgettable summers as a counselor at Camp Dogwood. It was during this time that I developed a profound appreciation for the transformative impact that the Lions and Camp Dogwood have on the lives of the blind and visually impaired.

After completing my undergraduate studies, I pursued further education at UNC Charlotte, where I achieved my Master's in Public Administration. Simultaneously, I embarked on a career in property management as an Assistant Community Manager. In 2022, I proudly graduated, armed with the ambition to contribute my skills and knowledge to service-driven organizations.



My journey took an exciting turn when I was graciously offered a full-time position at Camp Dogwood. I also eagerly embrace the opportunity to make a difference as a Project Coordinator for the Sherrills Ford Lions Club and as a member of the board for the McCune Center. My enthusiasm for this multifaceted path is boundless, and I look forward to the adventures that lie ahead.



April George, Camp Dogwood Office Manager

Hello everyone! For those who don't know me, I am Lion April George. I've been working for NCLF Camp Dogwood/ Dogwood on Lake Norman for a little over a year. I was formerly working as a 31B (Military Police) in the Army and was stationed in Colorado. Once my service was complete I moved back to my heart and home, Sherrills Ford. I was unsure what I wanted to do, who I wanted to work for, and what my goal would be. That is until I found out Camp Dogwood was hiring. I stepped foot into the double doors and never looked back. Each day that gets spent at work is fulfilling, heartwarming, and fun. I am so grateful to be part of an organization that gives back in more ways than one.



Memorials and Honorariums

September - October 2023

Memorials

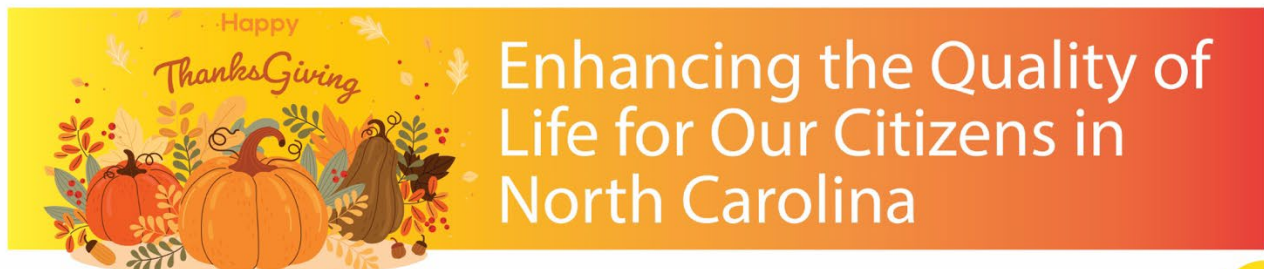
Given By:	Memory Of:
Scott & Michelle Stephenson	Linda Jackson
Reidsville Lions Club	Kevin Mauldin
Edward H. Jordan	Scott Noble
Bethlehem Lions Club	George Beckom
James Collins Chandler	Trish Harris
James Collins Chandler	Mary Flowers
James Collins Chandler	Wayne Baker
James Collins Chandler	E.R. Crump
James Collins Chandler	Robert Stuart
Wilson Evening Lions Club	Brenda Wilson
Carlton V Metts	Robert Scott
Reidsville Lions Club	Carole Rumley
North Davidson Lions Club	Jennie Jo Hill
Eileen M. Artavia	M&H
Oxford Lions Club	Donna Joy
Jack D & Joan C Briggs	Allan Thompson
Chris Headley	Allan Thompson
Paul R & Nancy Bledsoe	Allan Thompson
Jerry Austin	Allan Thompson
Dale Dupree	Allan Thompson - M&H
Eileen M. Artavia	Allan Thompson
North Carolina PDG	Frankie Gregory
Mocksville Lions Club	M&H
Eileen M. Artavia	Allan Thompson
Carlton V Metts	Jayne Simpkins
Carlton V Metts	Sharon Lea Dwyer
Carlton V Metts	Joan Moore Reid

Honorariums

Given by:	Honoree
Stuart Ballinger	Kristy Brown Greene
New Bern Lions Club	Tom Snively
Wake Forest Lions Club	Lorraine Dixon
Eileen M. Artavia	Honor
James Collins Chandler	Ann Mason

Donations can be credited
to your club's
Brighter Visions Annual
Fund Drive Goals.

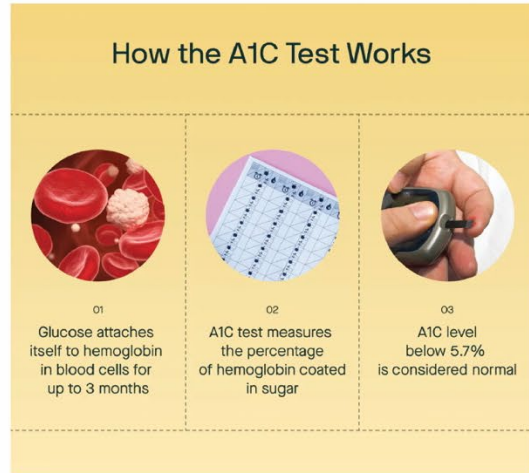
Visit: NCLF.org for Forms



Fellow Lions,

Did you know that every year approximately 63,124 North Carolinians are diagnosed with diabetes? This is only a small part of the 1,014,358 plus people in N.C. that have been diagnosed with diabetes. Approximately 5% of diabetics suffer from vision loss or vision impairment. Five percent doesn't sound like a lot but when you do the math that is a total of 50,717 people state wide that experience some type of visual impairment directly related to diabetes.

So many people suffer from diabetes and go undiagnosed. We have a program we are wanting to launch for the summer of 2024 at Camp Dogwood. We are wanting to offer every VIP attending 2024 Summer Camp the opportunity to receive a FREE A1C test. The A1C test is a simple blood test that measures your average blood sugar levels over the past 3 months. So, while it is important to measure your blood sugar regularly to see how much sugar is in your blood at any given time, measuring your A1C gives you a more definitive look at whether your blood sugar levels have been on track over the last two to three months.



If given the opportunity we would like to purchase A1C test kits to make testing available to each VIP attending Summer Camp 2024. We have found that testing will run approximately \$15 per person. If you or your club have any questions or would like to assist Camp Dogwood with this project please let me know.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tammy Thomas, NC Lions Foundation, Camp Dogwood Director



Diabetes Awareness



North Carolina ranks relatively high among states in terms of the prevalence of diabetes. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), North Carolina has one of the highest rates of diabetes in the United States, with an estimated 14% of the adult population living with the disease. This puts North Carolina in the top 20 states for diabetes prevalence.

Additionally, North Carolina has a high rate of childhood obesity, which increases the risk of developing type 2 diabetes in adulthood. The state also has a significant rural population, who may face barriers to accessing healthcare and diabetes education and management resources. These factors contribute to the high incidence of diabetes in North Carolina.