NORTH CAROLINA Lions Foundation

Digest

April 2024 Edition

TAKING THE BIG STEP!
A PASSION FOR SUCCESSFUL SERVICE.

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

Since July of 2023 we have issued a monthly NCLF Newsletter. You have noticed the prominent theme of my year as President as **"Taking the Big Step"** reflecting my hobby of showing high action horses. I submit to you as leading NCLF that NOW is the time for **"Taking the Big Step"** in each Club within each District. We now stand woefully short in the fund-raising for the Brighter Visions Campaign and the Camp Dogwood Ticket Sales.

The Camp Dogwood Ticket Sales are purposed specifically for maintenance of the entire Camp Dogwood & the entire Property/Grounds.

Each Club member is given 5 books with 12 tickets to sell at $1 each or $10.00 per book. If you have not received your tickets, please speak to your Club Secretary. The Winner receives from the ticket sales $15,000.00 in addition to contributing to one of the country's most outstanding facilities for physically challenged.

The Brighter Visions Campaign is assigned to cover the cost of providing twelve (12) different initiatives and programs offered by NCLF.

These programs include the following:

- 8 weeks of Vacation for the Blind and Visually Impaired (one week for eight groups of clients set-up/ adapted)
- Deaf/Blind Retreat
- Low Vision Aids
- White Cane Distribution - some adapted to Smart Phone Maps
- Contribution to Clinical Eye Research for four research facilities
- LEHP – Lions education on early detection of sight challenges
- Matching Grants responding to individual Lions Clubs seeking assistance for local applicant needing vision assistance
- Assistance with eye and tissue donations
- Recycling glasses for repurposing with the total collected glasses reaching 200,000 pair
- Kids Sight Program Administrative -six vehicles placed around the State for the Kids Sight Program
- The Mobile Screening Unit (Tractor-Trailer) traveling around the State for Adult Screening
- The Administration of the VSP Program for aiding applicants to secure glasses

Lions Clubs work year-around on local projects in addition to supporting NCLF. The word Lions means Loving Individuals Offering Needed Service sponsoring youth sports to cleaning highway road shoulders to sorting food at the Food Bank of North Carolina.

We have a need NOW at the NCLF. Let's "Take the Big Step" and commit to Brighter Visions and the Camp Dogwood Campaigns.

Where there is a need, there is a Lion!

Steve McLaurin, NCLF President 2023-2024

Great Leadership Conquers Success

From Executive Director Carlton Metts

Wow! Sunny and 80 degrees here at Camp Dogwood today! Volunteers will be here on April 4th and the 2023-2024 Lions year is flying by. We are preparing for the NCLF 2024-2025 year starting now, budget process will be on April 5th and 6th.

Brighter Vision and Camp Dogwood Raffle training materials are being setup. We would like to re-start the 2024-2025 year with a back to old school method with training notebooks for all statewide committee members.

The all new NCLF Leadership and Development Committee will help guide the foundation back to the future. We want all Statewide and District Chairs to understand their jobs and not be afraid of making club visits. Knowing your subject matter will give you the confidence to perform. This Leadership and Development Committee along with the Foundation Staff will be here to assist you with your needs. We will also give access for Zoom Meetings and encourage the committees to meet monthly, no later than quarterly. Good Luck to all committees. I am excited that we can begin to make a difference. We are here to help you!

KidSight will also be off to a new start. We would like to increase our KSU Operators. Clubs don't be afraid to ask for the KSU Operator to come to your screenings. A $75 event is a lot cheaper than a $6,000 camera that is warrantied for continuous factory updates, hearing meter, stickers, cleaning materials or all other items you may need.

We will come close to 50,000 children being screened this year and with your future participation in the KidSight Program, we can exceed 150,000 children annually. There are three PlusOptix Cameras on each vehicle. Use two cameras to screen while charging one. We would like to establish some training events around the state to teach you on how to hold and operate a KidSight Event. Trust me, if you attend and participate in one KidSight Screening Event you will be hooked. Just remember when you are assisting in a screening event in your community you are probably screening your grandchild or a child or grandchild of a friend. The easiest part is operating the cameras and hearing units. After a couple of screening events it will become as easy as handling a camera. If you would like to get KidSight Certified call me and I can point you in the right direction. The KSU Operator training will need to be in person and will make you feel more comfortable about the KidSight Program.

Fellow Lions, this is my challenge to you. Accept a position as a statewide or district committee member. Participate in a KidSight Screening Event. Get your certification as a KSU Operator and become a Certified Screener. It is so easy and self-satisfying.

It's never too late to learn or teach good Lions "New Tricks!" Thank you for all you do in Lions.

Carlton

Springing Into Action for Our Camp Dogwood Summer Season

Happy Spring…

The trees are budding and the flowers are blooming; it is such a beautiful time of the year here at Camp Dogwood. Camp Applications continue to roll in. Sessions 3 and 4 are now full and others are filling fast. Session 7, our family week still has availability. So, please help spread the word.

We continue to ask Lions to serve as summer volunteers. We are especially in need for session 2 which is the week of June 2, 2024.

Many Lions ask what does as a Camp Dogwood volunteer do? Volunteers serve as table host by assisting the VIP's at meal service; helping with their drinks, condiments etc. Volunteers assist counselors with seminars and activities. Some of the activities at Camp Dogwood include: putt-putt, archery, boating, fishing, arts and crafts, line dance, and many more. We do our best to match each volunteer with activities that match their abilities. You are never left alone at anytime with an activity. Rooms and meals are given to you as a way to say Thank you for your service. If you would like to volunteer or have more questions please reach out to the Camp Office.

We have traveled across the state meeting with clubs talking about Camp Dogwood. So far, I have had the opportunity to visit with Oxford, Apex, Garner, Fuquay-Varina, Clinton, Kinston Host, Goldsboro Downtown, Western Harnett, and Smithfield. We have many more visits scheduled over the next few weeks. Remember, we are only a phone call away if you need assistance.

Join us at Camp Dogwood on April 13th from 9am – 2pm. We will be hosting a Spring Craft Bazaar. If you are in the neighborhood plan on stopping by. Our Christmas Bazaar was very successful with over 30 vendors and we expect this once to be exceptional. If shopping for craft items isn't your thing stop by anyway and enjoy lunch under the picnic pavilion. We will have many delicious items on the menu to choose from.

For those living in the Fayetteville area plan on stopping by Smith Lake Outdoor Center on April 12th from 10:30 am – 2:30 pm. Camp Dogwood will once again be presenting at an adaptive recreation and active living pop up event. Come out and play Beep Ball with us. This will be the 2nd of 3 we will be attending.

Thank you for all you do to support Camp Dogwood!

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Thomas, Camp Dogwood Director

Volunteers Are The Greatest

Many of you may remember the Uncle Sam picture of the 1940's.

"We Want YOU"!

Guest weeks for the visually impaired 2024

- Session 1 May 26th to May 30th Adults 18+
- Session 2 June 2nd to June 6th Adults 18+ NEED 8 VOLUNTEERS
- Session 3 June 9th to June 13h Adults 18+
- Session 4 June 23rd to Jun 27th Adults 18+ NEED 1 VOLUNTEER
- Session 5 June 30th to July 4th Adults 18+ NEED 1 VOLUNTEER
- Session 6 July 7th to July 11th Adults 18+ NEED 6 VOLUNTEERS
- Session 7 July 28th to August 1st Family Week for VIP's bringing minor children

After the pandemic, things changed, the world changed! I'm excited this year to see that we are back to having a sufficient group of councilors working for the summer season and we will have 7 full weeks of guests. To make activities enjoyable and to provide a quality, **safe** stay for our guests we need 10 Lion volunteers per week. The reason for this amount is that everywhere the guest goes on campus there must be least two volunteers in that area.

The volunteer jobs are easy at camp. Each volunteer is "Captain" of a table of 5 guests at each meal. We retrieve things for them like drinks, salt, pepper, and etc. We help them get to other places on the grounds. We talk to them. We guide them when they ask for assistance.

A while back we were taking guests on off campus trips, Walmart, outdoor zoo, bowling and yes, the movies. Until we have a full contingent of Lion volunteers each week we cannot offer off campus trips. Hopefully, **with your volunteer help**, soon we'll get back to those trips.

Watching these people overcome their disability and enjoy their stay is a humbling experience: Many guests enjoy fishing, …sometimes the fish are big BUT most of the time it would take 20 fish to serve one person... working on crafts, pontoon boat rides, a song as we retire the flag, dancing, bingo, mini golf, walks on the trail, archery, shooting, playing indoor games, marshmallows at the outdoor firepit and just plain relaxing in the rockers.

Many of us have jobs and family responsibilities but I ask you to come to camp for **YOURSELF!** "You will not regret the experience".

Volunteer Work Week April 4th to 10th

This event has a positive effect on our facility and on our maintenance budget! Please try to put in as much time as you can. Meals and lodging are on us! Come for one day or more, get a club crew together to complete a project. Most of all, "Have fun doing it!

Camp Dogwood Raffle

The income from the raffle is **$63,996.22 as of March 22**. Last year we brought in $103,335.70 and we had to dip into another account to pay for required maintenance. We were caught SHORT! So, please sell those tickets so we can keep the facility in great shape. Your help is appreciated!

FVDGE Gene Goetz
NCLF Camp Dogwood Chair

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

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

KINDNESS MATTERS

NCLF Fundraising Totals as of March 31, 2024		
Brighter Visions	C D Raffle	Mom & Honor
31-L $35,185	$8,629	$1,735
31-I $105,149	$13,881	$4,155
31-O $77,477	$17,795	$2,950
31-N $71,552	$9,494	$1,399
31-S $70852	$15,821	$1,750
Statewide $365,110	$65,820	$13,374
58 % YTD	Avg 1.45 books	
LYTD $311,683	LYTD $56,558	$13,376

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Introducing a New Way to Spread the Word About Our Foundation

Use your hand held device to scan the code and then go directly to the nclf.org website, donate now. The NCLF QR code is instant, secure, flexible, and easily printed on a range of media, it's the perfect way to get citizens to learn about our foundation and encourage donations, now!

NC Lions Foundation

NORTH CAROLINA Lions Foundation

Memorials & Honorariums

January 2024 - April 2024

Memorials

Given By:	Memory Of:
John C. Eller	Danny Wayne Poole
John C. Eller	Douglas Lamar "Doug" Suggs
Ken Coesens	Ron Staley
Eileen M. Artavia	Ron Staley
Carlton & Anne Metts	Ron Staley
Carlton & Anne Metts	Rodney Steven Sheline
Carlton & Anne Metts	Randy Vickers
PDG Organization	Ron Staley
Neal Alexander	Ron Staley
Tim and Debbie Williams	Ron Staley
PDG Organization	Rodney Steven Sheline
PDG Organization	Randy Vickers
NC Lions Past President As	Ron Staley
Paul and Nancy Bledsoe	Ron Staley
Leigh Ann &Robert Ruehlen	Ron Staley
Carlton V. Metts	Arthur Wade Turner
Carlton V. Metts	Ann Carol Tatum
Jim and Paula Maxwell	Ron Staley
Keith & Jana Peedin	Ron Staley
JanaKeit & Peedin	Randy Vickers
Neal Alexander	Rodney Steven Sheline
Neal Alexander	Randy Vickers
Bethlehem Lions Club	Carole Reising
Jane Lain	Ron Staley
Concord Lions Club	Ron Staley
Luther Creel	Ron Staley
Susan, Judy, Juanita, Bob, & Laraine	Glenn Stubits
South Iredell Lions Club	Max Barker
New Bern Twin Rivers LC	Phillip Lee Zellers
Carlton and Anne Metts	Phillip Lee Zellers
Carlton and Anne Metts	James A. "Dick" Spruill
Carlton and Anne Metts	Rodney K. Bell
Carlton and Anne Metts	Simual Burney Smith Jr
Jim and Lois Chandler	Allan Thompson
Jim and Lois Chandler	Kathleen Lazar DeBerry
Jim and Lois Chandler	Nancy Gilliam
Jim and Lois Chandler	Linda McCaskill
Jim and Lois Chandler	Michael Napier
Jim and Lois Chandler	Linda Sansbury Jarrell
Kathy & Joe Poirier	Katie Emerson
Kathy & Joe Poirier	Randy Vickers
Kathy & Joe Poirier	Ron Staley
Robert Loeblein	Ron Staley
Jim and Lois Chandler	Mary Claire Springer
Jim and Lois Chandler	Mary Claire Springer
Rodney McCaskill	Linda McCaskill
McLeansville Lions Club	Silas Cliff Michael
Barbara Linn	Mike Garcia
Cleveland Lions Club	Dennis Mitchell
Claremont Lions Club	Dale B. Setzer
Gil and Susan Kanner	Phillip Lee Zellers
Tommy & Lorraine Dixon	Arthur Wayne Turner
Tommy & Lorraine Dixon	Gene Marshburn
Dale & Laraine Dupree	Ron Staley
Dale & Laraine Dupree	Linda McCaskill
Dale & Laraine Dupree	Glenn Stubits
Dale & Laraine Dupree	Jerry Craiglow
Carlton & Anne Metts	Glenda Smith Holley
Elaine Hewitt & Butch Clements	Karen Knox
Elaine Hewitt & Butch Clements	Dennis Mitchell
Carlton & Anne Metts	Margaret Settle Joyce
Chris and Judy Headley	Randy Vickers
Chris and Judy Headley	Ron Staley
Chris and Judy Headley	Rodney Steven Sheline
Gene & Gloria English	Jerry Craiglow
NCLPTC	Jerry Craiglow
NCLF	Margaret Settle Joyce
Oford Lions Club	Linda Boddie
Susan & Michael O'Brien	Nell B. Jones
Randal Clapp	Robert Cobb
Randal Clapp	Delbert Phillips
Randal Clapp	Willie Gann
Randal Clapp	Donnie Summers
West Stanly Lions Club	Jake Nance
John Byrum	Chris O'Brien
Claremont Lions Club	Jack S. Whitener
Mt. Pleasant Lions Club	Glenn Allman
Brad & Barbara Logsdon	Jan Holleman
PDG Organization	PDG Jack Briggs

Honorariums

Given by:	Honoree
Alison Weller	Cathy Critz
Randy and Martha Collins	Dean and Edward Jordan
Thomasville LC	Priscilla Oldaker
Thomasville LC	Nancy M. Woods
Margaret Wilson Sink	Kirby Matthews
Terry & Robyn Cauble	David Smoot
WS Konnoak Hills LC	Mike Edwards
Eileen Artavia	Carlton & Anne Metts
Luther Creel	Luann Jordan
Luther Creel	Eileen Artavia
Carlton & Anne Metts	NCLF & Camp Dogwood Staff
Archdale Trinity Lions Club	Michelle Myers
Davidson Lions Club	Bob Elliot

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