

NORTH CAROLINA LIONS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

The official publication of the Foundation

NORTH CAROLINA
Lions Foundation

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President's Message

NCLF President, Lorraine Dixon



Fellow Lions, it is my honor to serve as President of NCLF this year. I have followed many great leaders in this position that inspired me to continue to serve others. Together we can make a difference in many lives. I would like to congratulate our districts on surpassing the goals for Brighter Visions this year, the Lions of NC have made a comeback.

I would also like to add a note of thanks to the council that I had the privilege of sharing our governor's year with, you inspired me to continue to serve in this leadership capacity. Past President Allen Swaim also added inspiration to this journey with his motivational speeches.

For this year, we will be working together on service projects at each Council of Governors meetings, information will be sent out with registration. I am excited to share the theme for this year, "Rooted in Service", serving others will be the goal and reporting service the result.

This summer Tommy and I have volunteered at Camp Dogwood with the VIP's, what a heartwarming privilege to share this time. If you have an opportunity to volunteer to serve others, Camp Dogwood VIP's will bring joy to your life.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

NCLF President Lorraine Dixon



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Executive Director Report

Carlie Metts, NCLF Executive Director



As we begin another exciting year for the North Carolina Lions Foundation, I am pleased to share several initiatives that will help strengthen our mission and expand our impact across North Carolina.

One of the most significant developments is the creation of an Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee. This committee has been charged with seeking major gifts, corporate sponsorships, and larger donations that will help ensure the long-term sustainability of our Foundation and the programs we provide. We are grateful to the Lions who have stepped forward to serve in this important effort.

Across the state, Brighter Visions and Camp Dogwood Raffle Kick-Off events have been met with tremendous enthusiasm. The energy, commitment, and generosity shown by our Lions have been inspiring, and we are looking forward to another successful year for both campaigns. Together, these initiatives provide critical support for Camp Dogwood and the many services of NCLF.

We are also excited to begin this year under the leadership of our new NCLF President, Lion Lorraine Dixon. Her dedication and vision will guide us as we continue to advance the Foundation's mission.

Looking ahead, 2027 will mark the 60th Anniversary of Camp Dogwood. Plans are already beginning to celebrate this remarkable milestone and the generations of lives that have been impacted by camp. Finally, we enjoyed a very successful camp season this summer. Camp Director Lee Jones is already reviewing the season and exploring opportunities for enhancements that will make next year's camp experience even better.

Thank you for your continued support of NCLF and Camp Dogwood.

Carlton "Carlie" Metts

Executive Director

North Carolina Lions Foundation, Inc.

Hurricane Season in North Carolina: Prepare Before a Storm Threatens

North Carolina's hurricane season runs through November 30, and tropical systems can affect every part of the state - not only coastal communities. Storm surge and destructive winds threaten the coast, while heavy rain, flash flooding, tornadoes, and power outages can reach communities hundreds of miles inland. A storm's category describes wind speed, but it does not capture every danger. Historically, water has caused most direct deaths from tropical systems, so residents should pay close attention to all forecast impacts.



Hurricane Preparedness Information for Southeast North Carolina & Northeast South Carolina

The best time to prepare is before a storm appears in the forecast. Every household should create a written emergency plan and make sure everyone knows where to go, how to communicate, and what to do if separated. Learn whether your home is in a flood-prone area or coastal evacuation zone, identify several evacuation routes, and arrange a safe destination in advance. Include plans for children, older adults, people with disabilities, medical needs, and pets. If local authorities order an evacuation, leave promptly and follow the designated route.

Build an emergency kit that can sustain everyone in the household for several days. Include:

- Water and nonperishable food, along with a manual can opener.
 - Prescription medications, first-aid supplies, and essential medical equipment.
 - Flashlights, batteries, phone chargers, and a battery-powered radio.
 - Personal hygiene products, masks, cash, and supplies for infants or pets.
 - Copies of identification, insurance policies, medical information, and emergency contacts stored in a waterproof container.
- (article continues next page)

(continued article from page 3)

Prepare your property as well. Trim weak branches, clear gutters and drains, secure outdoor furniture, and determine how you will protect windows and doors. Keep vehicles fueled or charged when a storm threatens. Photograph your home and belongings for insurance records, review your coverage, and remember that standard homeowners policies generally do not cover flood damage. Governor Stein Urges North Carolinians to Prepare for Hurricane Season.

During a storm, rely on official information from local emergency management, the National Weather Service, and the National Hurricane Center. Never walk, swim, or drive through floodwater; flooded roads may hide washouts, debris, or dangerous currents. If sheltering at home, stay in an interior room away from windows and remain there until officials say conditions are safe.

Afterward, avoid downed power lines, standing water, unstable buildings, and improperly operated generators. Use generators outdoors and well away from doors, windows, and vents to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Wear protective clothing during cleanup, discard food exposed to floodwater or unsafe temperatures, and wait for official confirmation before drinking tap water if local service has been disrupted.

1. [Preparing for Hurricanes or Other Tropical Storms | Hurricanes | CDC](#)
2. [Hurricane Preparedness | Red Cross](#)

Preparation for a storm does not stop the storm but it would give you a sense of comfort when it comes. Let us be prepared and be ready to serve others.

PDG DeAngelo Jackson
MD 31 Alert Chair



NCLF HONORS PID LACY PRESNELL

Joyce Building Lobby Dedicated to Raleigh Host Lion & Wife

By PCC Michael Schwartz

On Aug. 8, the North Carolina Lions Foundation dedicated the lobby and front porch area in the William Joyce Building at Camp Dogwood to one of Lions Clubs' most enduring and influential leaders.

An important gathering space for visitors, families, and Lions from across the state, the lobby and back porch area were dedicated to Past International Director Lacy & Esther Presnell.

The Presnell family was present as Past International President Sid L. Scruggs III reflected on Lacy Presnell's lasting legacy within the North Carolina Lions. Following his remarks, Scruggs and Presnell unveiled a plaque dedicating the space.



This tribute recognizes Presnell's extraordinary legacy, his decades of leadership, and his unwavering commitment to the mission of Lionism in North Carolina and beyond.

A member of the Raleigh Host Lions Club in District 31-S, Presnell holds the distinction of being the longest-serving Lions member in the world. He served as international director from 1975-1977. From his early days as a club member to his tenure as an international director, Presnell

has shaped programs, inspired volunteers, and strengthened our commitment to serving individuals with visual impairments, supporting youth, and up-lifting communities across the state.

The Brighter Visions Kickoffs for 2026-2027 are complete and all 5 districts were overwhelmingly successful. We're off to a great start!

By PDG Gene Goetz

Our most valuable asset at Camp Dogwood is our Lion volunteers. It is through your volunteerism that keeps the property in pristine condition, provides a safe and friendly environment and guarantees a secure future for NCLF. Camp Dogwood is your camp, show your pride of this facility by volunteering!



The Camp Dogwood raffle was designed to raise funds to support maintenance required at Camp Dogwood. We are looking to Lions as well as the general public for funding. We appreciate Lions purchasing tickets, but also request that you sell them at your fundraiser projects when possible.

Use the raffle as a marketing tool, each sale to a person in your community can be used as an ice breaker, allowing you the opportunity to share stories of the fantastic projects Lions across the state are doing. The opportunity to win \$15,000 will interest most people.

Income from the raffle is important but, what Camp Dogwood needs most is YOU...Your Service! Your Volunteerism! With more volunteers we can do so much more.

- During our VIP weeks help is needed us to provide our visually impaired guests off campus trips, and friendly assistance while visiting our facility.
- Come as an individual or as a club group to maintain the property. Just give the staff prior notice and they'll find a project for you.

Do yourself a favor and spend 5 days at camp as a volunteer. Helping VIPs overcome their disability and enjoying camp is a humbling experience. The volunteer jobs are easy; you will NEVER be asked to do a job you don't like or cannot handle.

One of our jobs is to support them during meals. Meals are brought to them by the counselors. Your job is to fetch drinks and promote conversation. Many of the VIP's have limited opportunities to travel outside their homes. They enjoy having conversations during meals. You will not regret the experience.

I hope you are looking forward to helping at camp this summer. I guarantee you an inspiring and humbling experience. It's Your Facility.

NCLF Awarded Vision Grant from LCIF for Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Eye Center

By PCC Michael Schwartz

The North Carolina Lions Foundation has received a \$25,000 Vision Grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation to provide equipment for Atrium Health Wake Forest University Eye Center Department of Ophthalmology—an exciting step forward in strengthening clinical eye research and expanding access to advanced vision care across our state. As part of the grant request, NCLF will contribute an additional \$25,000, bringing the total investment to \$50,000 dedicated to purchasing specialized equipment for the department.

NCLF Executive Director Carlton (Carlie) Metts said this partnership reflects the Lions' long-standing commitment to improving sight, supporting medical innovation, and ensuring that North Carolinians benefit from world-class ophthalmic research and services.

This latest LCIF award is one piece of a broader, multi-institution initiative led by NCLF to expand clinical eye research capabilities across North Carolina. The Foundation is working to strengthen collaboration and support for four major partners: Wake Forest University, Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Diabetic Eye Center, and Miracles In Sight, one of the nation's leading eye banks. Earlier this year, NCLF provided equipment for ocular tissue research. LCIF provided \$25,000 to the Foundation to make this project happen.

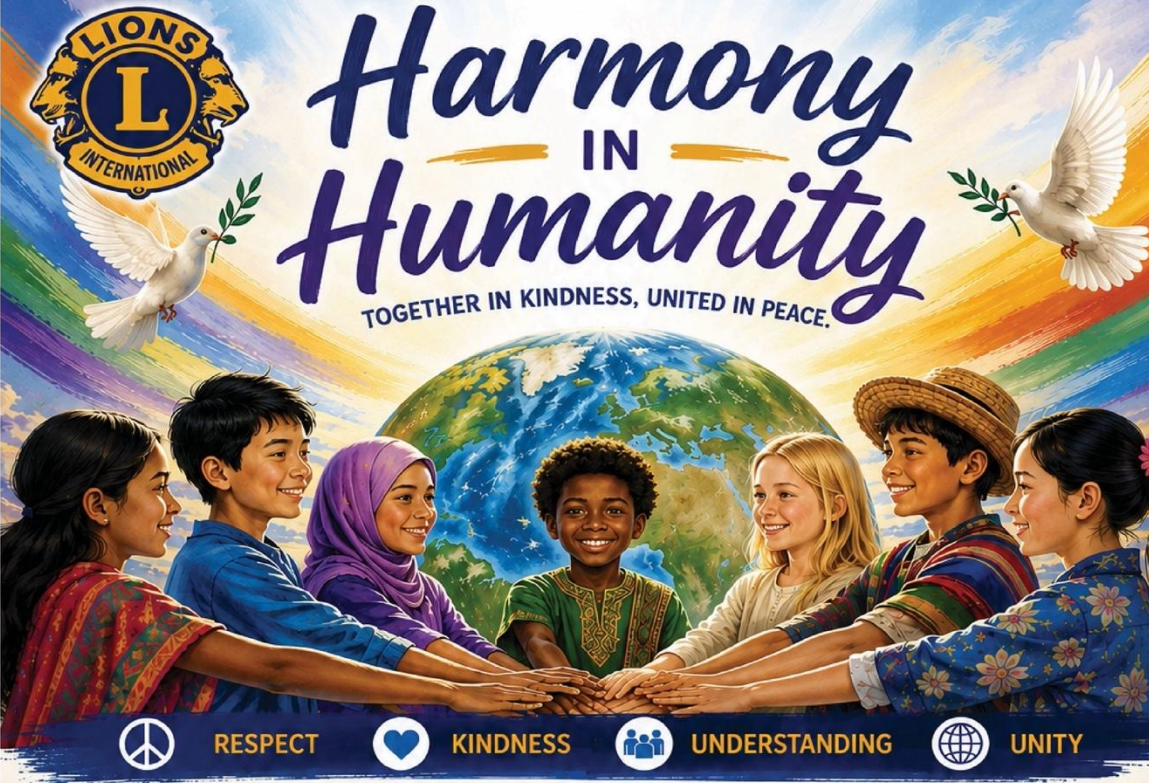
With the Wake Forest project now underway, NCLF plans to apply for additional LCIF Vision Grants to support UNC and Duke—continuing a statewide effort to advance discovery, improve treatment options, and expand hope for individuals facing vision loss.

The grant to Wake Forest represents a major investment in the future of ophthalmology, combining clinical care, re-search, and education under one roof. The equipment funded through this LCIF grant will help accelerate research breakthroughs, enhance diagnostic capabilities, and support innovative therapies that can benefit patients.

NCLF's leadership in securing funding—both through LCIF and through its own financial commitment demonstrates the Foundation's dedication to ensuring that North Carolina remains at the forefront of vision research and care.

As NCLF continues its statewide initiative, Lions across North Carolina can take pride in knowing their support is fueling meaningful progress. These grants strengthen partnerships, expand resources, and help build a future where fewer people face preventable vision loss. The Foundation's work is far from finished—but with each grant, each collaboration, and each investment in research, NCLF is bringing us closer to a brighter, clearer tomorrow for all.

LIONS INTERNATIONAL PEACE POSTER CONTEST



Harmony IN Humanity
TOGETHER IN KINDNESS, UNITED IN PEACE.

RESPECT KINDNESS UNDERSTANDING UNITY

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

				
JANUARY 15, 2026	OCTOBER 1, 2026	NOVEMBER 15, 2026	DECEMBER 1, 2026	DECEMBER 15, 2026
Peace Poster kits became available.	Last day for clubs to purchase contest kits.	Club must send its winning poster to the District Governor.	District Governor sends the district winner to the Multiple District Council Chair.	Multiple District submits its winning poster to Lions International Headquarters.

YOUR DISTRICT PEACE POSTER CHAIRS

DISTRICT L	DISTRICT I	DISTRICT O	DISTRICT N	DISTRICT S
Rick Hazzard haphazzard1@bellsouth.net	Emily Cook ecook0821@yahoo.com	Brenda Cox blcox52@gmail.com	Marilyn Jackson m5djack@yahoo.com	Becky Burt mommdburt@gmail.com

ONE WORLD. MANY CULTURES.
HARMONY IN HUMANITY.

Imagine Peace
Create Harmony

Your Art.
Your Voice.
Our Future.

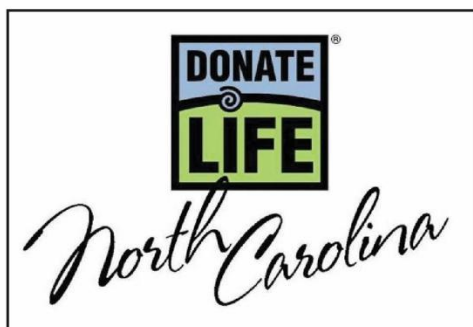
Refreshed Public Information and Education Material Available

By Paul R. Bledsoe, NCLF Public Information/Education Chair

We are constantly refreshing our printed materials. We just completed an updated a brochure for our See the 21st Century Mobile Screening Unit, and we have updated the year round NCLF Pledge Card for everyone who would like to donate to our foundation.

We have upgraded our Memorials and Honorariums printed self-mailer envelopes. What a wonderful way to show your respect for a person who has passed away and their family members. Or offer a special personal acknowledgment to someone for an achievement, or just being special with n honorarium! For a supply of these self mailers, contact the NCLF Administrative Office.

For the KidSight Screening Events, you have available through Bryan Hoover personalized posters and self-standing banners. These self-standing banners are a great marketing tool to display throughout the year. Just call Bryan for complete details.



Eye and Tissue Donation has been a part of our NCLF programs at the foundation for many years. I recently had a meeting with Allison Broulette, Executive Director of Donate Life North Carolina. Ms Broulette stated in our conversation, organ and tissue donations are down in NC, especially with younger adults. It seems some bad press and stories have been circulating around, our state and creating confusion. In fact, organ and tissue donation sign-up is being overlooked, and or forgotten about at some DMV offices.

So, when she asked me what would be some of our marketing solutions, I told her, NC Lions have been very involved through the years with eye and tissue donation. And it's an ongoing program with our North Carolina Lions Foundation. And that we are here to help. We understand the value of eye and tissue donation means to restoring sight and eye research. So, lets make an effort to drive new tissue and eye donations in our state. Donate Life, NC has sent a shipment of brochures to the NCLF office. Please contact the office for copies of the brochure.

Submitted by Lion Glenda Grant, NCLF Sight and Hearing Conservation Chair

NORTH CAROLINA
 **Lions Foundation**
EDUCATION GRANT

Helping students pursue education beyond high school.

UP TO \$1,500 PER YEAR

 **COMMUNITY COLLEGE
TRADE/TECHNICAL SCHOOL
FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE**

 **ECONOMIC NEED,
SCHOLASTIC RECORD &
CHARACTER CONSIDERED**

 **FOR SIGHTED CHILDREN
OF BLIND OR VISUALLY
IMPAIRED PARENT(S).**

 *Grants may be renewed year-by-year when requirements are met.*

 **APPLY BY MARCH 31**

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

 Completed application	 Certification of parent visual impairment
 Scholastic information (class rank, SAT, GPA)	 College/school acceptance letter
 Minimum 2 character references	 Current tax return and statement of assets

Scan to Apply!



North Carolina Lions Foundation • Education Grant Program