

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

October and November has Lions, Lionesses and Leos attending their District Conventions. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to showcase the work of our Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF).

In 2007-2008 the most important LCIF fundraising program is Campaign SightFirst II (CSF II) which concludes in June 2008. **All donations to CSF II go towards a Melvin Jones Fellowship.**

CSF II continues Australian Lions Commitment To Sight. Our goal is to raise A\$6 million that remains *in Australia* to be used for LCIF SightFirst grants such as

- Expanding the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centre
- Reduce preventable vision loss and blindness caused by diabetic eye disease and glaucoma
- Increase research funds to investigate major causes of blindness

In late November 2007 Lions of Australia are hosting a seminar of Australian ophthalmologists, World Health and Government officials, community leaders and Sight organisations to discuss the sight needs and programs of our young, elderly and aboriginal communities.

LCIF chairmen are working closely with their CSF II District and Group Coordinators to maximise donations to LCIF. Thank you for taking on the position of LCIF chairman.

Since 1976 Australian Lions have been awarded more than A\$7,671,000 in grants from LCIF.

This year the LCIF team are promoting the Melvin Jones Fellowship Progressive Program. Lions can acknowledge their Melvin Jones Fellows continuing years of service by recognising these dedicated Lions with a Melvin Jones Fellow Progressive Pin.

For a gift of US\$1000 up to US\$60,000 Melvin Jones Fellows receive diamond, sapphire or ruby pins to recognise each level of giving to the Progressive Program. The levels of the Progressive Program advance in US\$1000 increments and the monies to LCIF help fund Lions global projects.

Australians are becoming more aware of the opportunity to pledge monies to Lions Foundations. Pledges allow individuals and clubs to consider giving more than is possible through "one-time" gifts. Both individuals and clubs may make pledges for CSF II and each have a minimum of three years from the date the pledge is made to complete the payment.

An individual's pledge will be included in the clubs total funds raised for recognition purposes.

Often an individual Lion, family members or people in your community will make donations to a Charity like the Red Shield Appeal or World Vision and gain tax deductibility. Through a special agreement between the Australian Lions Foundation (ALF) and Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), all funds raised for CSF II in Australia makes these gifts to CSF II tax deductible.

Make cheques payable to 'ALF – Campaign SightFirst II/MJF Fund' and forward them to your District Treasurer.

Need more LCIF and CSF II brochures and information? Please get in touch with your LCIF State Co-ordinator. Contact details listed in the front of this year's 2007-2008 Lions Directory.

Every cent donated by individuals and clubs goes towards helping a person in need. Cost of brochures and promotions are paid out of interest earned by funds raised.

Good luck with your efforts to reach our goal.

Yours sincerely

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