

WAYS TO GIVE AND TYPES OF RECOGNITION



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

LCIF Donor Recognition

Every Donation Matters

Lions around the world are united in our spirit of bringing healing and hope to those who are most in need. Through Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), 1.35 million Lions in 206 countries are able to turn compassion into action. As the official charitable organization of Lions Clubs International, LCIF has awarded more than 10,268 grants totaling more than US\$729 million since its founding in 1968. The generosity of Lions has provided most of this revenue.

But, there is much work still to be done, and the support of Lions is crucial. Each donation is important to fulfilling LCIF's mission. **One-hundred percent of every dollar donated to LCIF goes to someone in need; all administrative costs are paid through interest earned on investments.** LCIF receives no part of club dues.

Lions' donations have helped make these impacts:

- Prevented serious vision loss for 30 million
- Provided vision screening for more than 250,000 Special Olympics athletes from 85 countries
- Engaged more than 12 million students in the youth development program Lions Quest
- Built or expanded 315 eye hospitals/clinics/wards
- Trained 659,000 eye care specialists
- Raised more than US\$200 million through Campaign SightFirst II to support the SightFirst program
- Conducted 14 million vision screenings for children through Sight for Kids

Recognizing Your Generosity

In appreciation of donors making accomplishments like these possible, LCIF has a number of recognition programs. Recognition varies depending upon level of support, and is available to individuals, clubs, districts and corporations and can include pins, plaques, acknowledgement cards and other forms of appreciation.

> **We Care. We Serve. We Accomplish.**



"Before the Mectizan® reached our community, we did not know that this disease (river blindness) was curable...To the people who make this medicine possible—thank you."

— Yanatou, a villager in Makouossap, Cameroon who received one of the 148 million river blindness treatments that Lions have distributed.

Types of Recognition

Melvin Jones Fellowship

Established in 1973, the Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) recognizes donations of US\$1,000. With more than 318,070 Melvin Jones Fellows worldwide, the MJF program is the backbone of LCIF and provides 75 percent of the Foundation's revenue. Contributions can be made by individuals (including non-Lions), clubs or districts, in one sum, or in installments of a minimum of US\$100 over a five-year period.

MJF Recognition:

- MJFs receive an attractive lapel pin, plaque and congratulatory letter.
- All MJFs are invited to an annual luncheon at the Lions Clubs International Convention.
- MJF names are listed on a scrolling list at International Headquarters.
- Clubs receive an MJF banner patch and chevron the first time a member receives an MJF; each subsequent year the club receives a chevron for the first member to receive an MJF.
- When all current club members are MJFs, the club receives a 100 percent MJF banner and a Certificate of Distinction.

To become an MJF, Lions may download the MJF program application at www.lcif.org/donate. Or, to request an MJF form, contact the LCIF Donor Services Department at 630-203-3836 or donations@lionsclubs.org.

An MJF plaque will not be automatically sent upon a donation of US\$1,000. A recipient must be identified and shipping information provided on the MJF form.



Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship

The Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship (PMJF) program is a way for donors to extend their commitment to LCIF and advance in the Fellowship program by donating beyond the initial US\$1,000 MJF. Lions can join the 58,126 PMJFs who have committed to this program. The PMJF program has 100 levels, representing gifts of between US\$2,000 to US\$100,000. After contributing US\$100,000, donors become Humanitarian Partners.

PMJF Recognition:

- PMJFs receive an attractive lapel pin for the first level of the Progressive Fellowship.
- For each subsequent donation of US\$1,000 beyond the initial MJF donation, PMJF donors receive a unique pin.
- Clubs receive a diamond-shaped banner patch when all current members reach the first level of the PMJF program.
- Clubs receive additional banner patches when all members reach each subsequent level.



Contributing Member

The Contributing Membership program is an annual program that recognizes three levels of support: US\$20, \$50 and \$100. Contributing membership donations are used to support LCIF humanitarian grant programs.

Contributing Member Recognition:

- For US\$20, \$50 and \$100 donors receive a Contributing Member lapel pin identifying the fiscal year in which the donation is made. For all levels, the pin design changes annually.
- Clubs are awarded a 100 percent Member Support banner patch and chevron for the first year of 100 percent Contributing Membership.
- For each subsequent year of 100 percent Contributing Membership, clubs receive a chevron.



Additional Recognition

Humanitarian Partners

Part of the MJF program, the Humanitarian Partner program honors individuals whose cumulative donations exceed US\$100,000, \$200,000, \$350,000 and \$500,000. Recipients receive an elegant bronze, silver, gold or platinum pin.



Honor Roll

The LCIF Honor Roll recognizes individuals who donate US\$100 or in whose name a donation was made. Recipients receive an Honor Roll Certificate and their names are added to the Honor Roll at International Headquarters.



Memorial Donations

LCIF recognizes individuals who donate to LCIF in memory of another. The donor receives an acknowledgement card, and the family of the deceased receives a card informing them of the donation. Memorial brochures with acknowledgement to be given to the family of the deceased are available upon request.

Club Plaque

Clubs that donate US\$1,000 or more to the undesignated general fund receive a plaque, or if requested, a banner patch and chevron.



District Certificate of Appreciation

Districts in which every club donates to LCIF in a fiscal year receive a Certificate of Appreciation. The District Governor and LCIF District Coordinator also receive a certificate.

Top Ten Certificate

The 10 districts worldwide that donate the most to LCIF in a fiscal year receive a Top Ten Certificate and are included in the LCIF Annual Report. The LCIF District Coordinator also receives a certificate.



Corporate Plaque

Corporations that donate US\$1,000 or more to LCIF receive a corporate plaque.

"I once had cataracts but was easily able to have cataract surgery. I want everyone to have this same opportunity. It is my goal to help as many people as possible. I donate US\$1,000 every month, and I hope to be able to reach US\$100,000."

*– Lion Isamu Arino,
Japan*

How to Donate

Donating Online

Donations may be made online with a credit card, and recognitions of MJF, PMJF, Contributing Member, and Corporate and Club Plaques can be selected. Complete the form and make donations at www.lcif.org/donate.

Sending Donations by Mail

The Foundation has begun using a lock box service to receive and process all donations. **Check and credit card donations should be mailed to the below address, not LCIF headquarters.** Mail donations along with the Donation Recognition Form (found at www.lcif.org) to:

Lions Clubs International Foundation, Department 4547, Carol Stream, IL 60122-4547, USA

Please see the **LCIF Donations and Recognition: Frequently Asked Questions** insert for further instructions on donating by check.

Wire Transfer

LCIF's bank account is faster than sending overseas donations by mail. In countries outside the U.S., many have found this to also be the most economical method.

Wire Transfer Information:

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. 10 S. Dearborn Street Chicago, IL 60603
ABA Routing No. 021000021 Account Name: Lions Clubs International Foundation
Account No. 754487312 **(Be sure to use this account number.)**
Swift International Banking number: CHASUS33

Present the above information to your bank along with the local currency amount, plus bank charges, and request the wire transfer of U.S. dollars to LCIF's bank. Next, fax or mail a copy of the receipt or wire transfer form to LCIF, 300 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842 USA, Fax: 630-571-5735.

Include on the form the recipient's name, district, club and member number as well as the donor's name, district and club number, and the form of recognition requested (i.e., MJF, club plaque, etc.).

Phone

To make a credit card donation over the phone, please call 630-203-3836.

Receiving Recognition: Important Details

- To ensure the correct recognition item is received, fill out the online form, download the Donation Recognition Form at www.lcif.org or call 630-203-3836 to receive a form.
- Recognition is sent once the donation and application are received and processed at LCIF headquarters.
- Melvin Jones Fellow recognition plaques should be requested with ample shipping time. Please allow 15 days for U.S. shipping and 30 days for international shipping.
- Many countries charge customs and value added tax (VAT) charges for the importation of plaques. These fees are the responsibility of the individual or local club receiving the plaque.
- Recognition materials cannot be sent to a P.O. Box. If no mailing address is provided, materials will be sent to club president.

"Thank you so much, Lions, for what you have done for the school, my daughter, and everyone there. It's absolutely amazing. It's made them happy children who enjoy their lives a lot more."

– Michelle Farlow, whose disabled daughter greatly improved her mobility after Lions built a special needs playground with funds from LCIF at her school in New South Wales, Australia.



Thank you for supporting LCIF.

Frequently Asked Questions

LCIF General Information

How does LCIF compare to other charitable organizations in terms of financial efficiency?

Quite well. LCIF's administrative costs over the last 10 years average 13.7 percent, a very good ratio.

How effective is LCIF as a charitable organization?

LCIF prides itself on its longstanding record of successful projects. LCIF stands for quality (effective programs with excellent follow-up), efficiency (every dollar donated is for grants; very low administrative costs) and uniqueness (the only Lions' Foundation that serves the world).

Are contributions to LCIF tax-deductible?

Yes, LCIF is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation, as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax-deductible, as allowed under the Internal Revenue Service code. In other countries, contributions may be tax deductible as allowed by local law.

Making Donations

I am interested in making a charitable donation to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). What are the possibilities?

LCIF has many ways to donate and forms of recognition. For information on the types of donation and recognition programs, visit www.lcif.org, e-mail donorassistance@lcif.org or call 630-203-3836.

I want to give a charitable donation directly to a humanitarian project and not have it be used for administrative purposes. Can I be assured of that?

Absolutely. By ruling of LCIF's Board of Trustees, all of LCIF's administrative and promotional expenses must be paid from interest on investments. Donations are used solely for grants.

Should contributions be accumulated and periodically sent to LCIF?

Funds should be forwarded without delay. Doing so ensures prompt crediting of the donor's record and issuance of LCIF recognition and awards. In addition, checks held for an extended period become dated, sometimes requiring a new check from the donor.

What is the difference between unrestricted and restricted donations?

Unrestricted donations are those that are not identified by the donor for a specific need. The importance of unrestricted donations cannot be over-emphasized because they are the primary funding source for many of LCIF's programs. Restricted donations are those identified by the donor for a specific area of need. Restricted gifts may not be applied toward MJF recognition.

How are donations to be sent?

In the U.S., it is best to send personal or bank checks. Checks sent from outside the U.S. should be in U.S. dollars drawn on U.S. banks, which expedites processing and reduces costly international bank collection charges. In countries where LCI or LCIF has bank accounts, funds may be deposited in local currency in amounts equivalent to the required U.S. dollars, using the association's official exchange rate shown on monthly club statements. A copy of the bank deposit receipt must be sent to LCIF along with a completed Contribution or MJF Application form. Fax or mail documentation to LCIF Donor Services.

How are checks or bank drafts to be made out?

Make checks or bank drafts payable to "LCIF." If the gift is restricted for a specific purpose, write the name of the account to be credited on the face of the check and on related documentation (for example: "Haiti Earthquake Relief"). For unrestricted donations, write the purpose of the donation, such as "Melvin Jones Fellowship/recipient's name," "club plaque," "36 contributing memberships," "toward Melvin Jones Fellowship," etc.

May I charge my donation to my credit card?

LCIF accepts charitable donations charged to Visa, MasterCard and American Express credit cards. You will find a space for credit card donations on the Contribution or MJF Application forms. Be sure to show which credit card you want us to charge, give the account number and expiration date, and fill in the amount to be charged. Sign your name as it appears on your credit card in the space provided on the donation form. Credit card donations can also be made safely and instantly online at www.lcif.org/donate.

Are there other donation programs, such as planned giving?

Yes, LCIF donor programs include the Corporate Humanitarian Partnership Program, planned giving and gifts of securities. Please visit www.lcif.org, e-mail lcifdevelopment@lionsclubs.org or call 630-468-6829 to find out about these programs.

Donor Recognition/MJF

Can a form of recognition such as a Melvin Jones Fellowship be sent out before donation is received by LCIF?

LCIF board policy requires that donations must be received at headquarters before recognition can be sent. To ensure accurate and timely processing and the prompt issuance of recognition, please include necessary documentation such as a completed Melvin Jones Fellowship application form.

Is it possible to make a donation and choose the MJF recipient later, or give the Fellowship as a memorial?

Yes, you may indicate this on the MJF application. Write "Melvin Jones Fellow to be named later" on the check or bank draft. When an individual's or group's personal donation(s) are accumulated for a club's or district's use to select a MJF, LCIF needs the signed consent. Please include such documentation with the completed MJF application that is sent to LCIF Donor Services.

Can I replace my lost MJF or PMJF pin?

Yes, contact Donor Services at 630-203-3836 or donations@lionsclubs.org to find out costs and make arrangements for replacement.

Donor Assistance

Are donor reports available from LCIF?

Reports are available upon request by contacting Donor Assistance at donorassistance@lcif.org or 630-203-3836.

Can I inquire about a previous donation?

Yes, please contact Donor Assistance at donorassistance@lcif.org or 630-203-3836.

**Every donation
is important to
fulfilling our
mission.**



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FOUNDATION**

Lions Clubs International Foundation
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Tel: 630-203-3836 • Web site: www.lcif.org
E-mail: donorassistance@lcif.org