

Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation Update



November is National Diabetes Month and November 14 World Diabetes Day. Throughout the entire month, your club has an opportunity to perform diabetes service projects – to raise awareness about diabetes and to share screening tools to help your family, friends and community learn about their risk for diabetes.

Around the World

International Diabetes Federation 2021 data shows:

538 + Million people birth to 79 live with diabetes (there are more people aged 80 and older living with diabetes)

240 + Million (1 in 2) adults have diabetes, but have not been diagnosed

21 + Million (1 in 6) live births are affected by diabetes during pregnancy

Every 5 seconds someone in the world dies of complications related to diabetes

In the United States

American Diabetes Association data shows:

37 + Million adults are diagnosed with diabetes

1 in 5 people don't know they have diabetes

96 Million (38 %) are pre-diabetic

More than 8 in 10 people do not know they are diabetic

Every 19 seconds someone is diagnosed with diabetes

Diabetes is 7th leading cause of death

In Minnesota

American Diabetes Association data shows:

358,000 + (8.4%) live with diabetes

118,000 + do not know they are diabetic

1.4 + Million (34%) are pre-diabetic

23,000 + are newly diagnosed diabetic every year

Diabetes Service



October 4, Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation worked with Lions International Directors' Partners-In-Service on a diabetes service project, putting together 2,000 **diabetes emergency hypoglycemia (low-blood sugar) kits**. These kits will be distributed to schools and other community locations throughout Minnesota. Your club's support in delivering to schools and other organizations is a great opportunity for your club to promote awareness about diabetes and your club's service within your community. Your club support in working with us to place these kits in your community – schools, fitness centers and other community locations is important. Please contact us about the kits and how you can help us place them in your community.

Share the Diabetes Risk Screening Tool. We can provide brochures that include the screening tool. And we can provide an online link to a risk screening tool for you to post on social media and email to your family, friends, co-workers, etc. Track the time spent on delivering the screening risk tool and the number of people who were sent the tool – and record a diabetes service project for your club.

Catch the Dream... Life without Diabetes

Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation is committed to supporting research for treatments and a cure for diabetes. At our October board meeting, trustees approved \$250,000 in funding for six research projects at the University of Minnesota. In future issues of the Informer, and at our Diabetes Update event in March 2023 we will provide more information about the status of this research. Funding was allocated for research related to:

- developing a drug that that will fight Type 2 diabetes by targeting adipose (body fat) tissue, blocking inflammation and irreversible arrest of cellular growth
- curing Type 1 diabetes by finding and controlling the inflammatory immune cells that destroy insulin-producing cells
- constructing a low-cost, compact MRI oxygen scanner that will assess oxygen levels of islets transplanted into bio-artificial pancreases
- supporting diabetes investigator training opportunities, pilot project research and availability of technology
- increasing immune tolerance – ensuring survival of pancreatic islet cell and kidney transplants without the need of drugs that suppress transplant recipient immune system – for people who are living with diabetes and kidney failure,
- supporting breeding program for genetically engineered pigs to provide donor organs (islet cells, kidneys, hearts) for clinical trials for pig-to-human transplants

Club Visits and Diabetes Service Projects

Please contact your MLDF Trustees to learn more about diabetes and diabetes service projects, and to schedule your club visit (in-person, or online).

Your support of MLDF is making a difference for countless people in your community and across the world, as new treatments are developed and progress toward a cure for diabetes advances.