



Olympia Host Lions

February 2021



Olympia Host Lions meets weekly Tuesday from Noon to 1PM • First Baptist Church 9th E. & Washington, Olympia, WA

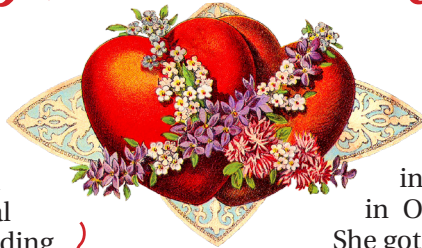
Welcome New Members to the Olympia Host Lions



My name is Ashley Lewis and I moved to beautiful Olympia 3 years ago. I have volunteered for many local organizations, including Friendly Water for the World, StreamTeam, and Center for Natural Land Management. I completed Thurston County's Master Recycler and Composter training in Fall 2019. I am studying agricultural ecology and sustainable agriculture at Evergreen State College and I work at Eastside Urban Farm and Garden Center in the nursery. When I am not gardening or volunteering, I like to paint, play the flute, and gallivant around the marvelous forests of the PNW. Thank you to James Reddick who invited me to join the Lions Club. I am very excited to serve our community with you!

Thank you for the board meeting invite, I will try to attend!

-Ashley Lewis

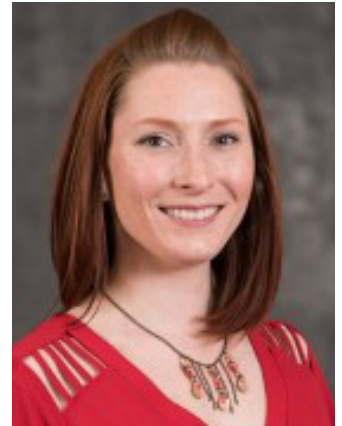


Hailing from Vidalia, GA, Ashley is a passionate community driven individual that has lived in Olympia for 10 years.

She got her start in customer service and soon progressed to management where she moved around the state of GA doing trainings and helping establish new stores for a corporate chain.

After deciding to do more community oriented work, she decided to continue her education and graduated for South Puget Sound Community College in 2013 and then The Evergreen State College in 2015. She then began working with Harlequin Productions in Olympia, WA as their Box Office Manager. Later, during her time with Harlequin she became their Director of Operations. She thoroughly loved her time at Harlequin and only recently (due to Covid) found a need to reorient her professional endeavors.

She is now one of the newest team members for the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce in member engagement and visibility. Ashley volunteers with The Bridge Music Project in her spare time and also works with the PARC Foundation of Thurston County to promote Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture within Thurston County. She is an avid singer and performer, gardener, and lover of animals and the outdoors.



“New” Member Meaningful Lions Orientation

Question: When is the best time to orient new members?

Answer: Before they leave Lions!

On December 29, 2020, Olympia Host Lions conducted a Zoom orientation for 13 new and not so new Lions. After up to 2 years of membership in the club and branch (Steamboat Peninsula Branch Club) the members eagerly engaged in power point presentation tailored to feature the current activities of the club and branch, and the support of the district, multiple district and LCI.

At this point, you might ask why would these members both- er to come?

Creative preparation for the event set the tone for success. Each Lion was invited with a phone conversation and email, confirmation of attendance, and a personalized notebook of club and branch history. And now the clever twist: the note- book, cocoa and popcorn snacks were delivered to their door- step the day before the Zoom meeting!

President Michael Petty and Past District Governors Karen Sell and Jan Weatherly put their heads together to create the

novel approach. The 60-minute session encouraged Lion en- gagement with service and fundraising activities they partici- pated in. The notebook reinforced the slide set with descrip- tions and pictures of club activities, club operations and how the club fit into the larger Lions organization.

Keys to Success Personal invitation with how long it would take; Personal delivery of the support materials and snack; Notebook with their name on the cover page; Upbeat conver- sation they could participate in because they each had been in- volved at some level in the club. Key concept here, if you didn't catch it: personal! People want to feel valued and how they fit into the club.

So now these 13 members are nudged along their Lion's Jour- ney. The Lion's Journey document, prominently featured in their notebook, ended the evening with each person complet- ing the Orientation date on the Journey document. And just as important, they saw the other steps on that first section of the journey, a journey we Lions all continue, some quickly and other at a meandering pace!

LION'S HISTORY

We celebrated our 100th anniversary in 2017. Let's look back on our long and proud tradition of service and the numerous achievements of our association and Lions around the world.



1917: Melvin Jones and fellow Chicago businessmen found Lions Clubs to improve the community.

The first convention takes place at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas, TX.

1920: Lions Clubs become international by chartering a club in Windsor, Canada.

1925: During the international convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, Helen Keller charges Lions with becoming "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness."

1926: Polar explorer and member of the Washington D.C. Lions Club, Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Jr. flies over the North Pole and carries the Lions flag with him. He flies over the South Pole later that same year.

1930: Lion George Bonham paints a cane white with a wide red band to aid the visually impaired after he witnesses a blind man having trouble crossing the street.

1931: Lions head south and establish a club in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.

The first international convention outside of the U.S. is held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

1933: Visitors to the Chicago World's Fair learn about Lions clubs at the fair's Social Science Division.

1935: Amelia Earhart, honorary member of the New York City Lions Club, completes a record-breaking nonstop flight from Los Angeles to Mexico during the Lions Clubs International Convention in Mexico City.

Local Lions donate a Talking Book machine to the Milwaukee Public Library, allowing the blind to hear books.

1939: Members of the Detroit Uptown Lions Club turn an old Michigan farmhouse into a school to train dog guides for the visually impaired, helping to popularize dog guides worldwide.

To provide an organized baseball program for children, Lion Carl Edwin Stotz of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, appeals for support from Lions clubs, YMCAs and other community partners. On June 6, 1939, the very first Little League baseball game is played at Park Point in Williamsport.

1944: The world's first eye bank is created in New York City. Today, most eye banks are Lions-sponsored.

1945: Lions assist in drafting the United

Nations Charter, starting a lasting bond with the U.N.

1946: The Lions Blind Camp on Casper Mountain in Wyoming hosts its first group of blind children.

1947: In October, Lions celebrate the 30th anniversary of the association at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. It had become the world's largest service club organization at the time with 324,690 members in 19 nations.

Lions are given consultant status with the U.N. Economic and Social Council.

1948: Only three years after World War II, Europe sees its first Lions club in Stockholm, Sweden. Geneva, Switzerland, follows suit just days later.

A Lions club is formed in Kalaupapa on the island of Molokai, Hawaii. Kalaupapa is a leper colony and the charter members all have Hansen's disease (leprosy).

1952: Filipino Lions reach out to Japan and encourage the chartering of the first Japanese Lions club.

1954: After an international contest among Lions, an official motto is chosen: "We Serve." The motto was submitted by Lion D. A. Stevenson of Font Hill, Ontario, Canada.

1956: The Detroit Lions Club gives 6-year-old Stevie Wonder a Christmas gift – a drum set.

The Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station is built. Soon after, 16 scientists and military personnel charter the 59ers Lions Club there.

1957: Lions launch youth programs, including the very successful Leo Clubs.

1965: Lions build the Melvin Jones Lions International Memorial in Fort Thomas, Arizona.

1968: The Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is established. Since its founding, LCIF has given more than US\$826 million in grants to support the humanitarian work of Lions.

1971: LCI moves to its fourth and final location in Oak Brook, IL, after decades in downtown Chicago.

1972: LCIF sends out its first grant – US\$5,000 to assist victims of flooding in South Dakota.

1973: In February, the association welcomes its one millionth member.

1977: Lion Jimmy Carter, a peanut farmer from Georgia, becomes president of the United States of America.

1985: LCIF awards its first Major Catastrophe Grant of US\$50,000 for earthquake relief in Mexico.

1986: Mother Teresa accepts the Lions Humanitarian Award.

1987: The association amends its by-laws and invites women to become members. Women are now the fastest growing segment of new members.

1990: SightFirst is launched, eventually raising more than \$415 million dollars to help eradicate major causes of blindness.

French Lion Michael Baury helps build an electric traction car and races it at a Grand Prix event.

1995: LCIF partners with The Carter Center, led by former US president and Lion Jimmy Carter, to combat river blindness in Africa and Latin America.

1999: Nilofer Bakhtiar of Pakistan is elected as the first female international director of the association.

2001: LCIF and Special Olympics partner on Opening Eyes, an initiative to screen the vision of Special Olympics athletes.

2002: Lions charter two clubs in China, the nation's first voluntary membership group since the 1950s.

2003: Through SightFirst, Lions and The Carter Center record their 50 millionth river blindness treatment.

2004: Lions mobilize more than US\$15 million for South Asia tsunami relief following the disaster.

2007: The Financial Times ranks LCIF as best non-governmental organization worldwide to partner with.

2010: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation contributes US\$5 million to the One Shot: One Life campaign, and Lions raise more than US\$10 million to support measles efforts over the next two years.

2011: LCIF awards its 10,000th grant – bringing the total amount awarded to US\$708 million.

Lions help administer 148 millionth dose of Mectizan to treat river blindness.

Following the Japan earthquake and tsunami, Lions mobilize over US\$21 million for relief efforts.

2013: LCIF partners with the GAVI Alliance to protect millions of children from measles and rubella. LCIF commits US\$30 million for immunizations, matched by US\$30 million from UK Government and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, bringing the total to US\$60 million.

Colombia eliminates river blindness with the support of Lions and The Carter Center partnership.

2014: Lions launch the Centennial Service Challenge, a global initiative to serve 100 million people around the world.

2017: Lions celebrate their 100th anniversary and first century of service!

From the Desk of President Michael Petty

Olympia Host Lions Awards

The Olympia Host Lions Club has again demonstrated success in two important areas.

The Club Excellence Award for the lion year 2019-2020 was received this past fall. This award is based upon showing excellence in Membership Growth, Club Planning, Setting Goals, Service Activities, Leadership Training and outreach in marketing and communication. Olympia Host was one of seven clubs in MD 19C that received this award.

The Membership Satisfaction Award presented by Lions Clubs International for the lions' year 2019-2020 was also

received this past December. In the letter from International President Sr. Jung-Yul Choe, he stated "once again, your club has earned the Membership Satisfaction Award because of your hard work during the 2019-2020 lions' year."

It is a great honor and privilege to serve as your Club President as we continue to demonstrate our commitment to service and our community as evidenced by these two awards.

Congratulations to all club members and leaders for your great work.

Michael K Petty, MBA
President, Olympia Host Lions Club



LIONS PLASTIC RECYCLING PROGRAM

A Joint Project Between Olympia Host
Lions, West Olympia Lions, and the
Thurston County Food Bank
January 2021

Olympia Host Lions, West Olympia Lions and the Thurston County Food Bank have teamed up with the Trex Company, Inc., maker of Trex decking, to help keep household plastic waste out of our landfills and Puget Sound.

Lions will gather and recycle plastic not currently accepted through local waste collection. In general, the items being recycled include the soft plastics from many common household products, including plastic overwrap on packaging for paper towels and toilet paper, dry cleaner bags, newspaper bags, grocery bags, and shopping bags.

The Lions/Food Bank project involves collecting 500 pounds of recycled material over a six-month period. If Lions and the Thurston County Food Bank collect 500 pounds of plastic in the six-month period, Trex will give Lions a free Trex Bench for placement at a location of the Lions' choice. Each six months, the project can start a new six-months period for collecting another 500 pounds of plastic and seek to get another bench.

What happens to the plastic that Olympia Lions and Thurston County Food Bank Collect?

All the plastic will be collected at the Thurston County Food Bank, put into specially marked bags, and weighed. Bags will then be transported by the Food Bank each week to the Safeway store on Martin Way. (Trex partners with businesses that ship their recycled film plastic to Trex for reuse. Safeway is one of those partners.) At the Safeway store, the bags will be logged into the Lions' account and shipped to Trex.

How can individual Lions help?

Collect your own plastic.

Talk with neighbors and friends about collecting for you. Have friends and relatives bring plastic to you or you could pick it from them.

Drop off collected plastic at the Thurston County Food Bank Warehouse on Mottman Road on Monday each week from 8

AM to 5 PM. Bins will be placed outside the entrance to the Thurston County Food Bank Warehouse.

Volunteer – to pick up plastics from satellite collections and transport to the Food Bank. Additional volunteer opportunities may appear as this project grows. Contact James Reddick for more information.

Should I approach businesses? We want to be careful here. Big Box stores have their own plastic programs so we will not be working with them since Trex pays them for their recycled plastic.

For local non-chain businesses, we want only one individual to contact each business, so we are running all business contacts through James Reddick, telephone 360-352-0980 or email Lehnert-reddick@comcast.net. A planned approach will us help explain the program, arrange for pickup of the plastic they gather, and set them up as a drop-off location if they would like to participate in that way.

Currently, we have two locations that have offered to be a drop off location for the public.

NOTE: Please call to arrange drop off during COVID-19.

Olympia Computer, 209 Washington Street NE in downtown Olympia – call Lion Erik Johnson at 360 995-1010

Lions Low Vision Resource Center on Harrison– Call Lion Paul Swanda at 360 878-1059.

If you would like to recommend a business for participation, please provide the business information before contacting the business.

NAME:

PHONE:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

We want to make a list of businesses and who will be picking up the plastic for recycling. We do not want to have multiple individuals contacting the same business.

To learn more about the Trex recycling program, visit <https://www.trex.com/recycling/recycling-programs/>. We are taking part in the University and Community Recycling programs.

To learn more about Lions Clubs International's commitment to the environment, visit

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-global-causes/environment>.

If you have any questions about the project, contact project chairman James Reddick, Lehnert-reddick@comcast.net or 360-352-0980 or cell 360-338-1838

~~~~~ How We Serve ~~~~~

Sight & Hearing Tests for Children

Former OHLC President John Calhoun Sponsored by Don White, John joined OHLC in 1986. Since his induction he has worked on several projects, including the Lions and Lions Sensory Parks, vision and hearing screenings for children, LURK, The Burger Den, apple sales and distribution and pretty much anything he has been asked to help with.

Before he retired John worked for the State of Washington Transportation as a labor relations expert in the Human Resources Department.

Interest in the Lion Sensory Parks came when he was asked to manage plantings and maintenance – trees and foliage – were planted followed by a bench and bird house.

John's hobbies include property management of his and his daughter's homes.

His daughter and her family live in their second house.

His daughter's first home was flooded out in 2001 when the Chehalis River backed up. True to form, several club members came down one weekend and helped clean up.

The former LURK sight manager came down from Gig Harbor and asked former club president Darryl Weaver if he would take over as manager and he said he would if John would, so they are co-managers of the local LURK operations.

Screening at schools were originally organized by former club president Jim Pitchford. But after Jim began serving on the board for the Senior Center he asked John to take over. For eight years John and his fellow volunteers used the Lion's sight/hearing screening van but last year



Former Club Presidents Violet Hofman and John Calhoun testing out the hearing screening equipment.

they used the borrowed equipment from the district for the screenings.

As you can see, John is truly a great asset to our club and inspiration for us all.

Unique low-vision clinic serves Thurston County residents

The west coast's only such clinic is just one of several ongoing programs of the Olympia Host Lions Club



By Kathleen Anderson

Did you know that the only low-vision clinic on the west coast that offers free vision-aid equipment and referrals is right here in Thurston County?

It's the Corbin Low Vision Resource Clinic, operated by the Olympia Host Lions Club. And it's operated by volunteer Lions. All of the money raised from the public by Olympia Host Lions is returned to the public, through service projects and donations to help those in need.

For 85 years the Olympia Host Lions Club has served the Olympia community with annual vision and hearing tests for approximately 2,700 school-aged chil-

dren, as well as feeding the hungry and supporting various community projects.

Client Jean Cook said about the clinic, "I saw what was there and was absolutely dumbfounded with what was available".

One of the former club presidents, Carl Corbin, started the Low Vision Resource Center (LVRC) and rallied the club to support the program, which was later named for him. Realtor Carolyn Graden was club president for two years and arranged for its low-rent facility. New member Paul Swanda is now the LVRC coordinator and they have continued to serve the low vision community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adding to our community support is Olympia Optometrist, Dr. Mary Farris, OD, who donates her time to train Lion volunteers on equipment and referral information. Panowicz Jewelers have shown their support by donating the replacement and installation of new batteries for the talking watches the clinic makes available to its clients.

Those who qualify can receive referrals for free eye examinations and glasses. Pins that can be worn alerting others to hearing or sight loss are sold for a minimum fee.

According to the report for the 2017 National Health Interview Survey, 26.9 million adult Americans 18 and older reported experiencing vision loss. Of these 26.9 million American adults, 16.4 million women and 10.5 million men, report

experiencing significant vision loss. With the graying of America, low-vision problems have grown tremendously and will likely continue to do so.

Although the LVRC serves all ages, the senior population provides the largest number of those in need of these services.

While there is no charge for the equipment, or income limits, donations are gratefully accepted to help obtain upgraded equipment, repair existing vision aids and visual additions to their inventory, so no one is turned away due to lack of equipment. All administrative costs are paid by the Lions themselves.

When the equipment is no longer needed or vision equipment is donated, an Olympia Host Lions Club volunteers will pick it up.

Any Thurston county resident is eligible for these services. Donations can be mailed to Olympia Host Lions Club Corbin Low Vision Resource Center, P.O. Box 416, Olympia WA, 98507. The Olympia Host Lions Club is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible.

Appointments to visit the Corbin Low Vision Center or to find out how to become a Lion member can be made by calling 360-790-8667.

Kathleen Anderson, herself a "proud Lion" writes this column each week. Contact her at kathleen@theJOLTnews.com

Time To Celebrate!

Corbin Low Vision Resource Center

Several years ago as part of the Lions International Centennial Program, Oly Host decided to declare the Low Vision Resource Center as our Heritage Project. That commitment to provide long-term resources to the low-vision members of the community requires dedicated resources: a consistent space, available and relevant equipment, staffing, and community out-reach. The first two requirements of space and equipment need a consistent source of revenue to pay the bills. This message addresses our recent advancements in that area.

The LVRC has been receiving consistent support from Olympia Host Lions fund-raising activities. Though this support has been valuable in maintaining LVRC administrative costs, the Olympia Host Lions Board has felt that a broader support from the community would also help to “spread the word” about the services we provide. The Board decided to create the Olympia Host Lions Club Foundation – an entity formed as a 501(c)(3) corporation recognized as a tax-exempt Not-For-Profit that can receive deductible gifts. This Foundation also provides a gateway to solicited Grants from a broader base of community sources.

As a result of creating our Foundation, we received a generous donation from Jan Weatherly that was distributed during 2020, and will be reflected as a deposit under the January 2021 financial report. The check in the amount of \$474.00 is dedicated “For Support of Corbin Low Vision Resource Center”. We have been the beneficiary of this support for two years now, and that support is truly appreciated – particularly as demand on the LVRC increases.

We also just received a \$3,000.00 grant from the Nisqually Indian Tribe. These funds will certainly support our ability to procure or refurbish the type of equipment that can best serve the needs of the folks we serve at the LVRC.

We are in the process of applying to the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) for a grant in the amount of \$750.00 – most of which can be applied toward operational costs. We have a very high confidence that we will receive the requested amount.

We are also in the early stages of applying for a Washington State Employee Credit Union (WSECU) for a Community Involvement Grant -an award that could be in the form of cash or goods. I feel that we have been a valuable customer of WSECU and that we have a valuable service to the community.

Lastly, the LVRC has been the beneficiary of small contributions of cash and checks from the folks we serve. Even though we make sure our clients know that we offer our services free of charge, they have been excited to offer some small recognition of their appreciation. Every gift is welcome and helps in our effort.

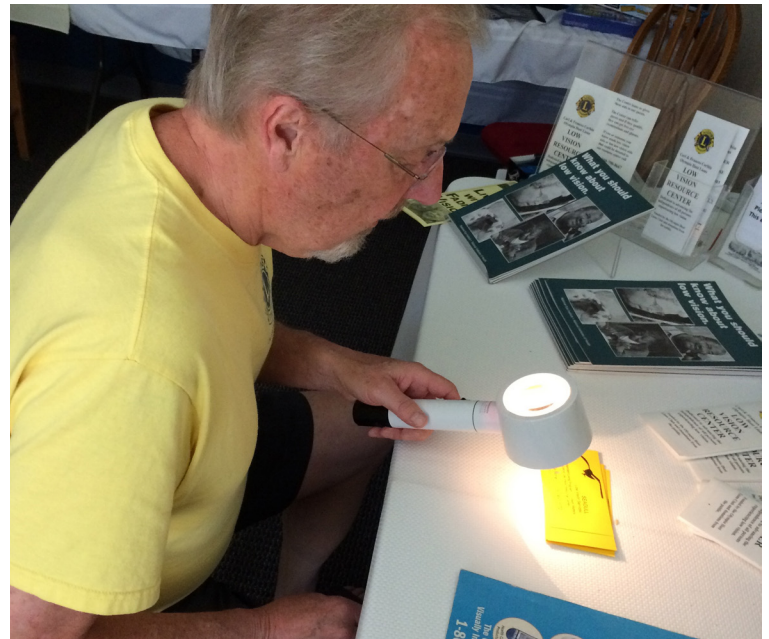
Olympia Host Lions is proud of the LVRC resource to the community, and we invite all our members to participate in its success. Your commitment of time, energy, participate in Club Projects, or simply cash would certainly we welcome at any time.

Blessings to all our members,
Andy Stepelton - Treasurer



One of our many devices loaned to the low vision public free of charge at the **Corbin Low Vision Resource Center** – the dream come true of Past President Carl Corbin with the help of the club volunteers.

One of our former club presidents, Carl Corbin started the Corbin Low Vision Resource Center and rallied the club to support the program. Realtor Carolyn Graden was president for



two years and arranged for our low rent facility. New member Paul Swanda is now the LVRC coordinator and we have continued to serve the low vision community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Panowicz Jewelers is a community partner of the Corbin Low Vision Resource center, supplying and inserting batteries for our talking watches.



Lions' Eyeglass Recycling Center

Lion **Michael Petty** inspects a pair of donated eyeglasses at the Lions' Eyeglass Recycling Center (LERC) on Mullen Road in Lacey. The eyeglasses are cleaned, packaged and shipped to countries throughout the third world. In 2016, Michael and Sandra Petty went out on a mission to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and helped pick out eyeglasses for over 1000 low income residents of that community. On the first Wednesday of the month, Lions Darrell Weaver and John Calhoun lead a crew of volunteers at LERC. It's a fun job and all club members (and spouses) are welcome.

FYI – Earth Day 2021 will be very limited in 2021 – mostly virtual.

We wanted to provide some information regarding Earth Day 2021. The PARC Foundation, Lions Clubs, park departments/FOTP parks, and other partners will not be organizing the Earth Day event like was held 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. Hopefully, the Earth Day event will be held in 2022.

With the community still in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic, any Earth Day 2021 events will be virtual or very limited to a few individuals. Also, with the schools still doing on-line learning, there really no access to the schools or teachers.

Tenino – Friends of Tenino Parks

Tenino will not be holding their normal Earth Day Event; however, they may have some individuals working on their Bird Cam Project with the community around/on that date.

Contact: Aimee Richardson aimeer999@gmail.com

Tumwater Parks and Recreation Departments:

Tumwater will be holding some type of event, virtual or in-person depending on COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines.

Contact: Todd Anderson tanderson@ci.tumwater.wa.us

Olympia Parks and Recreation Department:

Olympia's goal will be to do something to commemorate the day. Olympia, like many, want to return to in person events when it is safe to do so.

Contact: Jennifer Gessley Gayman jgessley@ci.olympia.wa.us

Lacey Parks and Recreation Department:

Lacey will most likely not be holding an in person event but are looking into virtual options. Right now we're developing another video contest where students submit a video surrounding one of Stream Team's actions for clean water and are entered to win prizes. This contest will be similar and correspond with Earth Day.

Contact: Emily Watts ewatts@ci.lacey.wa.us

If the cities or Friends of Tenino Parks desire some assistant, they can reach out to me and I will reach out to the Lions in their area.

Thanks for your passed years support of Earth Day event.

James D. Reddick

Vice-President of the Board of Trustees
PARC Foundation of Thurston County, WA

723 Eastside Street NE

Olympia, WA 98506

www.parcfoundation.org

<https://www.facebook.com/PARCFoundationThurstonCounty>
info@parcfoundation.org

360-352-0980

360-338-1838



StoweGood Concert

A few months back, Olympia Host and Lacey Sunrise Lions teamed up to offer a concert online. The hour long event featured musicians Karen Taylor Good and Stowe Daily, performing as StoweGood. The performers - both residents of Nashville Tennessee but Lions at Lacey Sunrise - offered the free concert for Lions as a thank you for Lions' support over the years.

Since Karen and Stowe often receive donations during their concerts, they offered the idea that any monies donated during this concert would go directly to Lions Clubs International Foundation to help with disaster funding.

The concert attracted more than 400 registrations, including a number of non-Lions who got to learn a little about the work our Foundation does internationally. With about 130 sign ins, many by groups attending together, actual attendees were estimated at somewhere around 275 people and LCIF reports they received nearly \$1000 during the event.



Olympia Host Sunshine Program

The purpose of the Sunshine Program is to let our members know we care about and support them. Members are not forgotten even though they can no longer attend meetings or participate in Olympia Host projects. Besides acknowledging members birthdays, we also send cards to those experiencing health challenges or loss of a family member. If you know of such circumstances, please email me. I would appreciate your help.

Thank you,

Cathy Weaver, Program Director

Cathweaver@comcast.net

Steamboat Peninsula Lions Participate in Season of Sharing

During the month of December the Griffin School Community reached out to the residents and businesses of Steamboat Peninsula with their project "Season of Sharing." This project anonymously identified young families in need to help make their Christmas a little brighter with gifts. Families varied in size, and each member of the family gave a "wish list" for gifts.

The Steamboat Lions were able to meet the requests of two families, one with four members and the other with three members. With funds from the club treasury and monies donated by individual members the Lions were able to allot \$450 per family. Debbie Swift and Adriane Smolen took on the challenge and were successful in purchasing all gifts requested by each family. Gifts for children included toys (helicopter Lego kit, fishing pole set, hackney sack ball to name a few) and clothing (jeans, sweaters, sweatshirts, shirts, shoes and socks and \$25 gift card). In one family the adults requested a 3-man tent which was also purchased along with a tarp to go under it. In addition, each family was given a \$100 grocery card and \$100

gas card. All gifts were wrapped and delivered to the school with a smile and a full heart.

Two other members of the Steamboat Lions took it upon themselves to help two more families in the community, Annette and Cheryl Piliaris. With their generous purchases of toys and clothes the grand total donated by the Lions was nearly \$1000.

The Steamboat Peninsula Lions are making great efforts to help in any way to meet the needs of its local community. They collaborated with the Griffin Community Organization last year to sponsor a "Trunk or Treat" which provided a safe and fun way for children to receive Halloween candy. They are trying to find ways to identify senior citizens in the local area who may be shut in with very little contact with others or have other needs such as driving to doctor appointments or grocery shopping. The Steamboat Peninsula Lion's Club will continue to bring its local community closer by the activities it sponsors and participates in. They welcome any new members.



Car full of donated bags for distribution.



Griffin Firefighter helping load the bags into Lion's vehicle.

Steamboat Bags for the Bank Project Resonates with Community

"The bags just keep coming - and now people are dropping off food for the Food Bank and checks too."

That's how Steamboat Lion Keith Clark characterizes community response to the Branch "Bags for the Bank" project. The project provides a way for Steamboat residents to recycle clean grocery size bags for use by the Food Bank.

In a partnership with the Griffin Fire Department, Steamboat Lions collect about a car full of donated paper grocery bags each week.

"And we do mean a car full - trunk, back seat and more. The Fire Department helps us load up the bags and last trip they almost didn't leave room for me to get in the driver's seat," Clark laughs.

The Lions advertise the collection program through free posts on NextDoor. The Fire Department serves as a collection site, and the Lions transport donated bags - and now food and

money as well - to the west Olympia Food Bank warehouse.

"We didn't ask for food but it just started arriving with the bags - and now money shows up too," Clark says. A \$1000 donation came in at Christmas and last week there was a \$500 check from Steamboat residents who want to help the Food Bank.

Lion Shelley Kaurin originally came up with the bag recycling idea to help the Food Bank meet higher than usual food distribution during the Covid-19 slowdown. Steamboat President Debbie Swift contacted the Fire Department and the program kicked off about 6 months ago.

"When we saw how the community responded to our first call for bags, Branch Lions decided this was a program they need to continue as long as the Food Bank needs the extra bags. They are reducing waste, helping to get food to people who need it - and the project is giving the Lions great positive exposure in the community," Steamboat Branch Liaison Karen Sell reports.