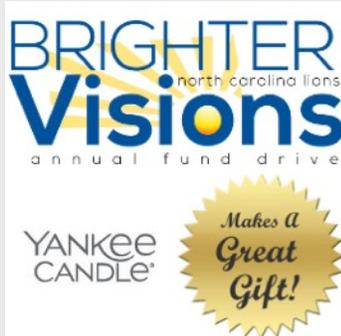


Insights to a *Brighter Vision*

A Mission to Care, Enrich and Serve Our North Carolina Citizens



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Inside This Issue

- NC Lions, Inc., New Executive Director
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The NCLI Website has recently gone through a revamp. The newly

updated website has improved accessibility and usability, enhanced efficiency, and an improved online giving system through Network for Good. Make sure you visit us at www.nclionsinc.org TODAY!



Lions & Leo Club Labor of Love

A New Awareness of the Inspiring Camp Dogwood

February 11, 2017 dawned as a beautiful Saturday as five Lions from the Greensboro Lions Club along with five Leos from Page High School Leo Club visited Camp Dogwood.

This would be a new experience for most of the group had not visited the camp for the blind previously. For the three Lions who had been previously it had been ten years or more since the last visit so they were in for a lot of changes.

Upon arriving, the group was warmly met by an enthusiastic Camp Director Susan King who shared a wonderful history of the camp, a Camp Dogwood/Brighter Visions Video and plans for the upcoming camping season. It was obvious to all who heard her that Susan has a passion for VIP's as well as a great vision of what the Camp can be. She then gave us a tour of the main building including a fascinating tour of the library which contains much of the latest tools in assistive technology for those who are blind or visually impaired. Our group was interested in the braille hymnals but had difficulty figuring out the hymns! We then enjoyed seeing the renovated dining area with the beautiful view of Lake Norman. Our tour concluded with a walk out to the pier and a discussion of the water sports available to the campers. It was now time to work!

(continued next page)



Support
the NC Lions Foundation

#MissionMonday

At NCLI we CARE,
we ENRICH, and we
SERVE! Share our
mission with someone
new TODAY and help
make a difference in the
lives of the blind and
visually impaired of
North Carolina!

(continued from page one)

Susan asked if we would paint one of the large meeting rooms in a lodge. We went to the room, taped the edges and laid down plastic to hopefully avoid paint on the carpet. (We were not completely successful in that regard.) Soon our ten plus Susan were rolling paint on the walls and ceiling hoping to get more paint on the walls than on ourselves. For some of the Leos this was their first experience with a paint brush or roller but you would never have known it. After completing about sixty percent of the room it was time for lunch so we washed up and enjoyed some tasty tomato bisque soup, sandwiches, a salad bar with lots of healthy vegetables and some cheesecake. Unfortunately, when we finished lunch it was time to return to painting. By two p.m. we had finished (if one did not look too carefully) with the painting and began cleaning up which, as anyone who paints much knows, is the worse part. It took almost an hour to clean brushes and rollers and work on removing the paint which had been tracked on the carpet. My paint jeans and shirt had a few more spots to wear home but overall most of the paint ended up on the walls and ceiling.



For our group, this was a wonderful time of bonding between the Lions and Leos as well as a chance to see the latest changes to Camp Dogwood. For those who have never been to the camp, I would strongly encourage you or your club to go. I'm sure Susan King can find something for your group to do! You will not regret going."

Written by Paul E. Marth



Hillary Brodofsky
NC Lions, Inc.
Executive Director



We want to hear your favorite North Carolina Lions, Inc. experiences.

Help us spread the mission of NCLI by sharing your stories with us TODAY!

Please email Hannah Earnhardt, Director of Development at hannah@nclionsinc.org

Your memories will help us make a difference!

Share the Vision...

Timing is everything...the 100th anniversary of Lions Clubs International, the 50th Anniversary of Camp Dogwood. What an honor to join an organization decorated with rich legacies and carry on the good work of great things to come at such a time as this! Having only been in my role for six weeks, I am flooded with friendly faces, new ideas and shared stories of who we are and what we do. I've been shadowing Steve Walker trying to soak up the history of our programs and procedures, finances and fundraisers, challenges and choices, and volunteers and victories. Knowing that he will continue to serve in this transition has been a blessing and I am thankful for his leadership and continued commitment to our organization.

So how do we carry on the good work of things to come? I am reminded of Philippians 1:6 that says "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus". Where we began all those years ago is likely still how we want to finish—strong, committed, faithful, and determined. We know the good work we have done and know that we are only just beginning. This next chapter is a time to serve whole-heartedly committed to Lionism, to aid our communities as champions for vision and eye health through our mobile screening unit. We will be better connectors to those with blindness and visual impairment to a myriad of services, support, and fellowship through our programs and assistance services. We will be stronger advocates and storytellers across the state of the good work the over 6,000 Lions members do in their communities each and every day.

I thank everyone for the warm welcome these past few weeks and I am proud to serve alongside our volunteers who have been called to serve in such a time as this. We all have a story to tell in this next chapter, and I invite everyone to take a moment and share their vision of what is to come through our Brighter Visions Campaign and the North Carolina Lions, Inc. We truly are just getting started in this incredible journey ahead.

Hillary



Making a Difference – One STEP at a Time... Now that we discover a problem, what do we do next?

By Lion Ginny Barney

Sight is the underpinning focus for much of what the Lions do - Lions International, regional and local clubs work to prevent blindness and offer early intervention opportunities to protect the precious gift of sight. Toward this end our local club completed screenings for 4,671 children and 28 adults this past calendar year, and made referrals for 448 children and 16 adults. This is the foundation component of the screening process, however the balance of the process requires a follow through on the referral and completion of any needed services. Our club has made the BIG STEP, now we must move towards helping to ensure those we serve actually are able to process the referral recommendation to the next level.

Data suggests as many as 60% of those referred for further eye care will not follow up. Why not you say? A large number of those referred may be Medicaid eligible and involves communicating with the Department of Social Services, which some families are often reluctant to do so. Another key barrier is getting the information from the screening site to the responsible adult thus ensuring the parents/guardians know about the needed for follow-up eye care. We provide a piece of paper to the school and they in turn provide this to the child to take home. This can be unreliable and we cannot be sure the information is passed to their parents. Additionally, many individuals do not know how to access care that is affordable. Yet another barrier involves the marginally employed adult in need of eye care; they cannot get Medicaid, do not have the capacity to purchase eye care insurance and do not have the means to pay for care.

The Western Harnett Lions Club has taken some initial steps to make a difference – we purchased the Spot machine, arranged for and provide onsite eye screenings at pre-schools, day cares and in the public elementary schools and coordinate services with the school nurses. Our Lions volunteer to make the screenings a reality and we also schedule the Mobile Screening Unit annually. **We now are at the next turn in the road and need to work towards ensuring the “circle is closed” – identification --- referral --- service!!!!** And when/where this is done or being done we need data to support this process – facts are what others require to continue to provide funds for these critical activities.

In January we took the first step towards being able to have the funds to develop tracking systems and tighten up the referral process as well evaluating ways to ensure access to services – we have applied to Central Electric for a Round up Grant.

I believe we are at a critical junction must develop systems which take us to the next step – that being helping those in need of eye care once a screening has been completed. The NCLI Matching Funds program is a component to our success. (continued next page)

Camp Dogwood Celebrates 50 Years

Hannah Earnhardt, Director of Development and Susan King, Camp Director

During the summer of 1967, North Carolina Lions, Inc., formerly known as North Carolina Lions Foundation, introduced a one-of-a-kind program to the blind and visually impaired community; Camp Dogwood for the Blind and Visually Impaired. This program has seen many changes over the years, but it has made countless positive impacts on the lives of North Carolina citizens. This summer we celebrate the Camp's 50th Anniversary.

“When camp was founded half a century ago, the desire of its founders was to have a place for blind people unlike any available to them. They wanted a place to have fun, to pursue thrills, to push boundaries, a place where they could be accepted as who they were, wherever they were from. While social, recreational, and vocational opportunities and challenges for blind people have changed drastically in the last half century, the immense value, and rarity, of the camp its founders envisioned have truly stood the test of time” highlights Jeremiah Rogers, Camper, former Camp Dogwood Counselor, and friend of North Carolina Lions, Inc.



Camp Dogwood for the Blind and Visually Impaired is a summer destination that provides a wonderful and therapeutic vacation retreat for persons with blindness and visual impairment. Camp extends over 10 weeks from June to August and offers a number of activities and opportunities to campers such as tubing, fishing, arts and craft, bingo, and so much more.

On Wednesday, July 19, 2017 campers and counselors new and old, staff, NC Lions, and community members will join together at the Camp Dogwood campus in Sherrills Ford (7050 Camp Dogwood Drive, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673) in celebration of the 50th Anniversary. We will be uncovering a 20 year old time capsule while also burying a new one.

Travis Sherrill, Camp Dogwood Counselor and former Camper, is famously known for putting “the candy bar” in the time capsule 20 years ago. “I am one of a few people that have experienced camp in every aspect, as a youth camper, as a volunteer, and as a summer counselor... it’s hard to believe that I have been associated with Camp Dogwood for nearly half of its existence. I look forward to being affiliated with camp for 50 more years” states Sherrill.

Along with the time capsule, community members can relish in a delicious Camp Dogwood cookout, enjoy live music by Caution Blind Driver (the band of our very own Camper, Jeff Balek), dance the night away during our Camp’s second chance prom, and just have an all-around great time!



Susan King, Camp Director speaks to the impact the Lions have made on the lives of many throughout North Carolina. “The idea of a camp program for adults with severe visual impairment or blindness is very progressive now in 2017. In 1967 it was unheard of. The Lions took this amazing leap into the future of philanthropy and social service with enthusiasm and full hearts. The current well equipped facility and expansive program are testament to the Lions vision. This program thrives because of the need in our communities for it, and the goodwill and passion of the NC Lions. Please join us in July to celebrate this remarkable adventure that we are on. Keep Camp Dogwood in your hearts, minds, and actions

to continue this direct support of the people with blindness or severe visually impairment in our state.”

Make sure you sign-up for the North Carolina Lions, Inc. email list at www.nclionsinc.org at the bottom the webpage. We will be sending out information leading up to the event. RSVP to the event by contacting Hannah Earnhardt, Director of Development at hannah@nclionsinc.org. If you are interested in submitting an item(s) for the time capsule, please contact Susan King, Camp Director for a submission form at susan@nclionsinc.org. We can’t wait to see you on Wednesday, July 19th!

Thinking of Volunteering this Summer at Camp Dogwood?

Please call our offices at 828-478-2135 and speak with Keisha Ramseur, Camp Assistant or Susan King, Camp Director for more information.

In the words of Jamie Chandler, “My life without Camp Dogwood would be empty and useless. Being a Lion and working for NCLI has brought me nothing but joy. Where else can a person work hard to help others and get to experience firsthand the results. I am honored to be a Lion, joyful for being a volunteer, and thankful for the best job on earth.” Won’t you join us this summer?

Did you know, you can now connect with North Carolina Lions, Inc. on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Pinterest?

-  Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/nclionsbrightervisions/>
-  Twitter - <https://twitter.com/NCLionsInc>
-  LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company-beta/16169174/>
-  Pinterest - <https://www.pinterest.com/NCLI1934/>

Like/follow and make sure you share NCLI with your friends, family, and colleagues.