



INSIGHTS TO A BRIGHTER VISION

From the President's Desk

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Reminder

The editors of the newsletter would like to remind the leadership of Lions throughout North Carolina, that this publication should be sent to every Lion in North Carolina.

It's a publication to keep every owner of the foundation, all NC Lions up to date on communication and the opportunities to understand and help continue the numerous programs and services it delivers for our citizens in the state.

Greeting from Camp Dogwood!

Spring began this week and the flowers and trees around camp are quickly coming to life. We are excited about the next few weeks and the future of our camp.

Phase 1 of the Camp Dogwood Refurbishing Project is well underway. To date, the renovation project has covered the updates to the walls, floors, ceiling, and lighting of the White Lodge. This phase will be completed in the next few weeks just in time for Volunteer Week (April 8th – April 11th).

Volunteers will be able to assist in this project by hanging towel racks and other items in the newly renovated White Lodge. Support from the volunteers will save funds that were contributed to the Camp Dogwood Refurbishing Project. Due to the work of Past Presidents Carlton Metts, Jim Walker and Mike Flora, we have collected \$75,300.00 of the Refurbishing Project goal. Hats off to these fine gentlemen for their efforts and continued support.

Phase 2 of the Camp Dogwood Refurbishing Project will commence in late spring of 2018. This phase covers the furniture of the White Lodge, mattresses and additional amenities for all three lodges, the repaving of the driveway and parking lot, as well as the instillation of a new sidewalk. Video updates are available on the NCLI Brighter Visions Facebook page.

The camp season is just around the corner and our campers have been calling in to register daily. To date, we have 319 open slots of the 765 slot limit for all 9 weeks of camp. If you know of a camper(s) in need of assistance with the registration process, please provide them my contact information or offer to fill out the form for them. The online application is easy and only takes a few minutes to fill out. Once a camper has created their account, each camp season following will be as simple as

Significant Impact

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13,000+ Individuals are served annually through NCLI's 12 Brighter Visions Programs and Services throughout all 100 counties in North Carolina.



Matching Funds requests come from over 70 NC counties.

checking a box. Once we get through this season of online applications, campers will be talking about how easy it was to sign up.

The NCLI house across the street from Camp Dogwood is being updated. Governor Curtis Erickson, Lion Cecelia Evans, and I are painting the interior of the house. At the beginning of March, the three of us spent 19 hours painting and getting the house ready for use. The NCLI Board will ultimately decide how the home will be used moving forward. In the next few weeks, we will be back at camp completing finishing touches and updating the exterior of the house.

Fellow Lions, I can't say it enough, I am proud to be a Lion, in particular I am proud to serve as your NCLI Board President. It is due to your overwhelming kindness and generosity that there is a bright light ahead for Camp Dogwood and all of the VIP campers who benefit from the program. We must continue to move forward, but because of each of you, our organization has a future. Thank you!

George Suggs
NCLI Board President

Subscribe to our
You Tube Channel

Let's Connect – YouTube

Did you know North Carolina Lions, Inc. has a collection of videos about our Brighter Visions programs and services? Did you know you could find them on YouTube? No! Well, North Carolina Lions, Inc. has a YouTube channel where you can access the Brighter Visions, Camp Dogwood, and MSU videos whenever and wherever. Go to www.youtube.com and search North Carolina Lions, Inc. We will be creating new video content that you will not want to miss. Stay tuned!

Fresh New Look...

Camp Dogwood Refurbishing Project Update



To start we want to say thank you. We are so appreciative of all the support we have received from Lions and Lions Clubs across the state in support of the North Carolina Lions, Inc. Camp Dogwood Refurbishing Project. We want to extend a special thank you to Past Presidents Carlton Metts, Mike Flora, and Jim Walker for initiating this special project. This renovation project is designed to improve ADA accessibility and enhance the Camp Dogwood experience for both campers and off-season patrons.

Phase 1 of the Camp Dogwood Refurbishing Project is underway. To date the renovation project has started on walls, floors, ceiling and lighting of the White Lodge. Video updates will be available on the NCLI Brighter Visions Facebook page (www.facebook.com/nclionsbrightervisioins/), so make sure you like our page to follow our journey.

Phase 2 of the Camp Dogwood Refurbishing Project will commence in late spring of 2018 (May). This phase covers the amenities of all three lodges, the repaving of the driveway and parking lot as well as the installation of a sidewalk around the perimeter of the driveway.

To see a current listing of clubs and individuals who have contributed to the Camp Dogwood Refurbishing Project, head on over to the NCLI Members Area >> <https://nclionsinc.org/members-area-files/> << and click "Camp Dogwood Refurbishing Project." We will be updating this listing regularly.

To learn how you can support the NCLI Camp Dogwood Refurbishing Project, please contact Past NCLI President, Carlton Metts, at carltonmetts@embarqmail.com or call our offices at 828-478-2135.

Hannah Earnhardt, Director of Development



A Legacy for NCLI

North Carolina Lions, Inc. has introduced a new legacy giving program. This pledge based program is designed to recognize individuals who plan to give to NCLI to sustain the programs and services for years to come. If you or your club is interested in learning more about the NCLI Giving Program, please contact Hannah Earnhardt, Director of Development at hannah@nclionsinc.org or 828-478-2135 ext. 222.

Owens on the Road with a Brighter Vision



Don't ever underestimate the importance of what you do as a Lion. This was brought home to me very unexpectedly in January of this year. At our District O Mid-Winter Convention, I was wearing my Lions vest at breakfast in the motel restaurant on Saturday morning. All of a sudden, a nice lady walked up to our table and thanked us for what Lions do everywhere for visually impaired people. She was from Tennessee and worked in an eye doctor's office. She thanked me profusely for what Lions do for persons in need, saying she had no idea of the huge number of eyeglasses that Lions had donated to individuals in her area.



What a wonderful testimony! It makes all that we do seem so very worthwhile just knowing that we have improved the lives of many individual persons. For years, the Brighter Visions Program of North Carolina Lions Inc. has helped many local clubs provide eyeglasses through the matching funds program. Unfortunately, that matching funds program has been suspended for this year because of budget restraints. Hopefully most of the clubs will be

able to continue providing eyeglass donations by fully funding the requests on their own. Also hopefully in the near future the NCLI budget will be sufficient to reinstate the program. We want to continue all the programs that benefit V.I.P.s.

As of this spring, we are entering the last three months of the year's Brighter Visions Campaign. As of March 1, we are right at the halfway mark of our goal of \$684,500, having made exceptional progress as of now. However, we are now at a critical time needing to raise the other half our goal before June 30. With many clubs having spring fund-raisers, we are sure of success. Let's let the Tennessee lady's appreciation be a challenge to all of us to continue our service to persons in need everywhere.

PCC John Owens, NCLI Brighter Visions Chair



-  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/>

Volunteers Needed



Volunteer Week is Almost Here

It's almost here — the annual North Carolina Lions Volunteer Week. This year from Sunday, April 8, 2018 to Wednesday, April 11, 2018, Lions from all over the state can gather at our beautiful Camp Dogwood property for service, fellowship, and fun. From landscaping, to maintenance, eyeglass sorting, and more, there are so many different projects Lions can assist with on the Camp Dogwood property. If you are interested in participating in the NCLI Volunteer Week, please fill out this registration form >>

<https://nclionsinc.org/uploads/2018/02/2018-Spring-Volunteer-Week-Reservation-Form-2.pdf> << and turn it into the NCLI offices by Friday, March 23, 2018 by faxing it to 828-478-4419, emailing it to Keisha@NCLionsInc.org, or mailing it into the NCLI offices at 7050 Camp Dogwood, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673. We hope to see you there!

Hannah Earnhardt, Director of Development



Applications Are Now Digital

As you may be aware, Camp Dogwood Camper Applications have transitioned into a digital format. We are now using this format in order to make applying for camp as easy as a few clicks for years to come.

With anything new, there comes growing pains, but once a camper is full registered in our system, they will never have to fill out the same information again.



Next year, previously registered campers will only have to log into their accounts, pick their desired week of camp, and hit submit. It's as simple as that!

With this said, we have many campers registering for camp right now who have to fill out their account information. If you know a camper in need of assistance with registering for camp please offer to fill out their application for them, connect them with a fellow Lion, or someone in the community who can offer their assistance. If the camper still needs help filling out their form, they can call our offices at 828-478-2135 ext. 230 and make an appointment to complete their camper application.

The link to the online Camper Application can be found on the Camp Dogwood website www.nclionscampdogwood.org/fee-schedule/. Please note, weeks 2 (June 17-June22), 4 (July 1-July 6), and 7 (July 22-July 27) are full. Spots are guaranteed once camper fees have been paid in full. Campers are also required to have a signed Camp Waiver and Medical Form. These can be found on the Camp Dogwood website and can be faxed into our offices at 828-478-4419 or mailed to 7050 Camp Dogwood Drive, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673.

Summer Camp 2018 is going to be great experience for North Carolina VIPs and beyond!

Camp Dogwood Volunteers Needed



Are you looking for a way to give back? Look no further! Volunteer this summer at Camp Dogwood. We need Lions and community members across the state to assist our camp program and all of our wonderful VIP (visually impaired persons) campers. We need between 6 to 8 volunteers each week. Meals and lodging are provided to all of our volunteers. This is a one week commitment and a background check is required of all volunteers.

To apply to be a Camp Dogwood volunteer, please fill out the form on the Camp Dogwood website >> www.nclionscampdogwood.org/staff-volunteers << or if you have any other questions, please call our offices at 828-478-2135.