

DONATE TO LCIF

Keep Lions Clubs International Foundation a strong and viable vehicle of assistance to provide immediate assistance when disaster strikes; set aside a percentage of fundraising profits to help others.

ENCOURAGE YOUTH

Family-friendly Lions clubs encourage children to follow the examples of their parents and other Lions who give of themselves to help others.

KEEP A VISUAL RECORD

Appoint a club photographer to keep a photo album of community projects to show prospective members that Lions have fun working together to accomplish good things.

SERVICE IDEA HELP VETERANS



Lions regularly donate food to missions and homeless veterans, who show their gratitude with salutes.

Photo by Gwen Strain

Focus on Veterans

Members of the Bayview Hunters Point Lions Club in San Francisco are supporting homeless veterans not only with food donations, but also by initiating a “Bikes 4 Vets” program. Collecting donated bikes and giving them to the veterans not only facilitates transportation and exercise; the bicycles are also sometimes necessary to offset medical conditions that make walking long stretches difficult for disabled veterans. “If the bikes are in need of repairs, they’re sent to San Quentin Prison, where the inmates fix them and return to us,” says Lion Gwen Strain.

Strain personally delivers and distributes donated food to the Veteran’s Memorial Building every other Sunday. “Every Wednesday morning we distribute food to the San Francisco VA Medical Center. With the help of the San Mateo Lions Club and Amvets, we were able to give 55 homeless veterans plenty of new socks in a new program called Socks for Soul,” she adds.

Ski Service Breaks Barriers

As a skier for more than 40 years, Canandaigua, New York, Lion Dick Ernst is familiar with the feeling of freedom that comes with strapping on a pair of skis to make a run down a mountainside. He gladly represented Canandaigua Lions as one of many “mountain guides” for the Special Olympics of New York when its Alpine and Nordic competitions were held at Bristol Mountain last winter. More than 80 athletes participated.

Ernst, who served as District 20-E2 governor in 2010-11, also volunteers with OASIS (Outdoor Adventures for Sacrifices in Service), an organization that assists disabled military veterans in Central and Western New York. Ernst participated in a chairlift evacuation drill with OASIS and the ski patrol. “The training is invaluable,” he says. “If there’s a malfunction and a chairlift becomes inoperable, we need to know how to get disabled skiers down and out safely.” He’s hoping to turn more Lions into mountain guides by promoting the organization through a district-wide campaign. Canandaigua Lions are facilitating meetings with other area Lions clubs and representatives of OASIS, which also supports archery, sailing and equestrian programs.

SERVICE IDEA PARTNER TO PROVIDE SERVICE



Sitting on the far right, Canandaigua, New York, Lion Dick Ernst learns how to help safely evacuate a disabled skier from a chair lift using a rope and harness during a training exercise with the ski patrol and OASIS, an organization that promotes sports for disabled veterans and those suffering from PTSD.