



# PAWS--CLAWS

**Lion Alison Claerhout**

**April 2010**

## **COSTA RICA**

By Lisa Langley

Lion Kevin and I recently had the opportunity to be part of a team that visited Costa Rica in an effort to help re-establish their Lion-sponsored eye clinic and eye bank. From the moment we arrived at the airport, the San Pedro de Montes de Oca Lions Club greeted us with open arms and hearts. They fed us, chauffeured us around, gave us a place to sleep and shared their accomplishments and challenges. They are incredible people and so proud to be Lions.

One of the most memorable events of the trip was our visit to the home of 11-year-old Michelle. Michelle lives with her mother, Nancy, and her 5-year-old brother, Dixon. They live in one of the poorest neighborhoods in the country, yet there was a great sense of pride and joy in their home. You see, Michelle is unable to speak or move anything but her arms. She breathes through a small tube in her neck and receives her nourishment via a syringe, through a small opening in her abdomen.



Their makeshift home was spotless, and it was obvious that Michelle's mother has done an extraordinary job in caring for her adopted child. I was amazed by the beautiful condition of Michelle's skin and hair as she lay on pink sheets in her



hospital bed. A teacher comes to their home twice a week to stimulate Michelle through art. I wish you could have all been there to see her mother's smile when she showed us Michelle's artwork on the walls.

I asked myself, how does Nancy carry Michelle down the rutted dirt road four times a week to catch a bus to the hospital for Michelle's doctor visits? How does she keep her home so clean and her child so beautiful with only minimal resources? But most importantly, I asked, how can we help this family?

In the next few weeks, I would like to discuss the possibility of having a fundraiser to help Michelle and her family, just as the San Pedro de Montes de Oca Lions Club is doing. Can we help the Club help this family? I hope so.



## **IN THE SPOTLIGHT: BRUCE KINTZ**

By Amy Mueller

This month, we're spotlighting Ann Arbor Host Lions Club member Bruce Kintz.

Here are a few facts about Lion Bruce:

A native of Flint, Michigan, Lion Bruce joined the Club in 1985 after being introduced to the organization by Lion Bill Dufek. In the early-1990s, he ran the Club's Christmas parties that were held at Weber's. One of the most popular features at these parties was the wine auction.

When it comes to reading materials, you're most likely to find Lion Bruce reading magazines about financial services, but he also enjoys John Grisham books. He also enjoys watching "anything to do with U of M" on television.

His favorite food is barbecued ribs.

Three words that Lion Bruce believes describe him are positive-attitude, fun and laughter.

## **AA HOST IN ACTION**

In March, Ypsilanti resident Kim D contacted the Ann Arbor Host Lions Club requesting assistance. Kim suffers from Keratoconus and recently received a cornea transplant. In order for the transplanted cornea to function properly, a special contact lens must be worn. Although the lens is absolutely necessary to save the cornea and prevent another transplant, Kim's insurance provider refused to cover it. Being on a fixed income, and unable to pay for it herself, Kim faced a difficult situation. Our Club agreed to help Kim, and purchased her contact lens for her for \$150.

Lion Lisa called Kim after the meeting to inform her of our decision and Kim was overjoyed with the news. She thanked the club a thousand times for our assistance and service to the community. See Kim's message below:

*Hi Lisa and Lions Club Board Members,*

*I picked up my right contact and my life has changed dramatically! My vision is now 20/20 in my right eye! I can now see life in color! Everything is so clear! It is so wonderful! I want to thank each and every one of you from my whole heart. Your kindness means the world to me and my family. Your love for helping others will always provide you with intrinsic rewards as well as divine rewards.*

*With Love, Kim D.*

*P.S. Now I can see the stars!*

## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS!!**

Happy Birthday to our April babies: Charles Carey, Zach Ribble, Adrienne Logeman and Bryan Singer.

Birthdays will be celebrated at the April 7 meeting.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lion Jeanne and Lion Lisa need two volunteers to help with eyeglass recycling collection throughout the Ann Arbor area. If you're able to help, contact Lion Jeanne at 734-994-6629.

## NOMINATIONS, MARCH, 2010

OFFICE	2010-11 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
President	Collin Ross
1st V P	Howard Conlon
2nd V P	Alison Claerhout
Secretary	Zach Ribble
Treasurer	John Krienke
Membership Chair	Alison Claerhout
1yr Director	Bill Brogan
1yr Director	LuAnne Bullington
2yr Director	Bill Farrand
2yr Director	Kevin Ross
Lion Tamer	Amy Mueller
Tail Twister	Appointed as Needed
Immediate Past Pres.	Lisa Langley

## FAMILY HEALTH FAIR

Thank you to everyone that helped plan and volunteered to work at the Ann Arbor Community Center Family Health Fair, sponsored by the Ann Arbor Council of Lions. Your support was greatly appreciated!

Lion Zach agreed to be the Easter Bunny for the day and was a big hit! He even learned a few new dance moves from some of the other Lions.



Everyone present learned about the hard work and dedication of the Ann Arbor Lions, and will hopefully plan to join us again in the future.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**John Krienke, Zach Ribble, Amy Mueller, Jeanne Snyder, Lisa Langley, Luanne Bullington, Alison Claerhout, George Williams, Jenny Vander Meullen Doris Walker, Jack & Jan Stankrauff, Tom Tyson, Cathy Koning, Larry France**



## YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY HEALTH FAIR

The Ann Arbor Council of Lions has been invited to do adult vision screening and Project Kidsight at the Ypsilanti District Library Health Fair on June 12 from 11-4 p.m. Volunteers and trained Kidsight leaders will be needed to man the table and do screenings. To volunteer, contact Lion Alison at 734-887-2304.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY DR. SEUSS!

For the second year in a row, the Ann Arbor Host Lions Club and the Ypsilanti Lions at EMU visited Penrickton Center for Blind Children in Taylor on March 2 to read books to the children in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday.



"Everyone really enjoyed this project," said Ann Arbor Host Lions Club Member Zach Ribble. "We read books to the kids for 45 minutes, and then we toured the facility with Sharlene Welch, Penrickton's volunteer coordinator."



On the tour, members learned that families can bring their children to Penrickton at no cost because the facility runs solely on private donations. One third of funding comes from service organizations like Lions Clubs.

Penrickton does not receive any Federal, State or insurance funding.

Because the EMU Lions showed such enthusiasm for the project, the Host Club has decided to turn it over to them and hope that they will continue with it in the future.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 7:** Lunch meeting at Ann Arbor City Club at noon with three new member inductions!

**April 16-17:** District 11-B1 Convention, Clarion Hotel in Ann Arbor.

**April 18:** Cabinet Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

**April 21:** Lunch meeting at Ann Arbor City Club, NOON with a guest speaker from the Ann Arbor Jaycees.

**April 21-May 3:** White Cane Week

**May 21-22:** Multiple District Convention on Mackinaw Island.

**June 12:** Mini Cabinet Meeting- 9:15 a.m. at Vandercook Lake.

**June 17-20:** MICHIGAN CENTER LIONS Carp Carnival

**June 28- July 2:** Lions International Convention in Sydney, Australia.