



# PAWS-N-CLAWS

Lion Alison Claerhout

December 2009

## WELCOME, LION TOM SHURMUR!

For those of you whom have attended meetings in the last few months, you would have had the opportunity to meet Tom Shurmur, a friend and co-worker of Lion Harold.

Tom has a similar schedule to Harold's in that he travels back and forth between Michigan and Virginia as a Systems Developer and Integrator for Advance Auto Parts. After attending several meetings, Tom agreed to join our club and was inducted at the Holiday Bookwrap in November.



Lion Tom is married to wife, Cathy, and has one daughter and four stepchildren. His free time consists of playing tennis, golfing, spending time with his children and grandchildren and watching a lot of hockey. Tom's stepson, Brian Rafalski, plays defense for the Detroit Red Wings.

In addition to hobbies, Lion Tom and Cathy also work with people as debt counselors, "It's a ministry for us," says Tom. "We also deal a lot with diabetes and eye problems. The Lions Club is a perfect fit for us."

## HOLIDAY PARTY

The Ann Arbor Host Lions Club Holiday Party will be held at Lion Howard Conlon's house at 2001 Marra Drive in Ann Arbor, on December 15 at 5:30 p.m. The event will be catered and everyone is invited to bring a spouse or significant other. Please RSVP by December 13.



## FAST FACTS FROM THE VISION HEALTH INITIATIVE

- Approximately 14 million individuals aged 12 years and older have visual impairment, among which more than 80% could be corrected to good vision with refractive correction.
- As of 2004, blindness or low vision affects more than 3.3 million Americans aged 40 years and older; this number is predicted to double by 2030 due to the increasing epidemics of diabetes and other chronic diseases and our rapidly aging U.S. population.
- Approximately 6.8% of children younger than 18 years in the United States have a diagnosed eye and vision condition.
- In 2001, about 2 million Americans sustained eye injuries that required medical attention.
- An estimated 61 million adults in the United States are at high risk for serious vision loss, but only half visited an eye doctor in the past 12 months.
- The annual economic impact of major vision problems among the adult population 40 years and older is more than \$51 billion.
- Vision disability is one of the top 10 disabilities among adults 18 years and older and one of the most prevalent disabling conditions among children.
- The National Commission on Prevention Priorities has identified vision screening among adults aged 65 years and older as one of the top 10 priorities among effective clinical preventive services.
- Vision loss causes a substantial social and economic toll for millions of people including significant suffering, disability, loss of productivity, and diminished quality of life.
- National and state data show that more than half of adult Americans who did not seek eye care are due to lack of awareness or costs; which often exacerbated by lack of adequate health insurance.

## FEASTS FOR FAMILIES

Words cannot describe the gratitude Rev. Yolanda Whiten, Director of the Ann Arbor Community Center, expressed when the Ann Arbor Host Lions Club delivered 5 baskets, each containing all the fixins' for a Thanksgiving Feast on November 16. The baskets will go to families in need throughout the Ann Arbor community just in time for the holiday.



"The Ann Arbor Community Center will help more than 220 families this Thanksgiving, but the need is much greater than that. We could still use some help," said Whiten.

Several boxes of books, gift wrapped for seniors and children around the holidays, were also donated from the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti Lions Clubs, along with hand knitted blankets, hats and scarves made by Elizabeth Link, friend of the Ann Arbor Host Lions Club.

After learning of the strong need for assistance in the community, the Ann Arbor Host Lions Club jumped to the challenge and is also currently in the process of planning a free family health fair at the center in the spring.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!

Happy Birthday to our December babies: Robert Hoisington, Robert Goldsmith and Alison Claerhout.



## MONTHLY SERVICE PROJECTS

**JANUARY-** Eyeglass Collection

**FEBRUARY-** KidSight, Winter Camp for Blind

**MARCH-** Penrickton Read to Children

**APRIL-** Eyeglass Collection, Buddy Day

**MAY-** Family Health Fair @ Ann Arbor Community Center

**JUNE-** Golf Outing, Green Fair, Ann Arbor Summer Festival?

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOOKWRAP

Thank you to everyone that made this year's Holiday Bookwrap another success! Two thousand books were wrapped and distributed to local organizations to be handed out to seniors and children during the holiday season.



During a break in the festivities, Lion Tom Shurmur was inducted into the Ann Arbor Host Club, along with Lion Mary Ford into the Ann Arbor Evening. Lion Lisa and Lion John also received Membership Keys from Lions Clubs International for bringing two or more members into the club.

## DECEMBER MEETING

The lunch meeting on December 1 is a business meeting. It is imperative that we have as many members present as possible to vote on the proposed by-laws; meeting location, date and time and various other club happenings.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 1:** Business meeting at the Ann Arbor City Club, NOON.

**December 4-6:** Council of Governors in Lansing.

**December 7:** Honorary Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

**December 15:** Ann Arbor Host Lions Club Holiday Party/Potluck.

**January 12:** Lunch meeting at Ann Arbor City Club, NOON.

**January 23:** Cabinet Meeting, Vandercook Lake @ 9:15 a.m.

**January 26:** Lunch meeting at Ann Arbor City Club, NOON.

**February 5-7:** Winter Camp for the Blind

**February 9:** Project KidSight at Community Daycare.