



PAWS-N-CLAWS

Lion Alison Claerhout

February 2009

MARCH SERVICE PROJECT

Our March service project will be in honor of Dr. Seuss's Birthday! Three volunteers are needed to read Dr. Seuss books to the children at Penrickton Center on Friday, March 20 from 1-2 p.m. The address of the Center is 26530 Eureka in Taylor. Let's Celebrate Reading with the Kids!!

COMMUNITY VOICE

By Maureen & Carl Van Curler

My husband and I had the great opportunity to raise a leader dog. What a challenge! It was our first leader dog so we had no idea what was ahead of us but we knew we loved dogs and wanted to do our best, so we took on the challenge.

Dexter is a yellow lab, full of energy and life. He had such a desire to work and please, our year went good and for a first experience, we can say we loved it. We returned the dog just after his first birthday to Leader Dog in



Rochester where he was in extensive formal training. It was our thrill when we were notified Dexter had graduated and we could meet the blind person Dexter was matched to. What an experience!

Miguel, the blind person, had waited three years for his first leader dog. He finally had one. He was so appreciative, grateful, and happy to have Dexter, he couldn't say it enough times to us. All the while he was talking he had his hand on the dog and the dog looking to him. It was sad for us, Miguel and Dexter now live in Madrid Spain, but the joy of giving to a blind person is so thrilling, we smiled and cheerfully said good-bye to both of them.

During this year we had many contacts with Leader Dog for the Blind in Rochester, MI. Every contact was so helpful to us as puppy raisers, fantastic people who care so much for these animals and those who raise them. Not once did we have a bad experience with Leader Dog and we were in contact for many different reasons. Leader Dog is just the best place and best organization I know of. I am happy to do a small thing for such a great place.

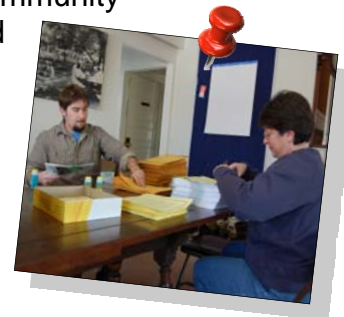
(Maureen was a guest speaker at our lunch meeting on January 20.)

CORRECTION

In a meeting a few months ago there was talk of placing a vest order and the prices were misquoted. The current price of a vest is \$38.70, significantly less than what was previously stated. If you would like to place an order, contact Lion Howard.

WE'RE GOIN' GREEN!

Lion Lisa and Lion Alison traveled to the Leslie Science Center (LSC) on January 16 for the club's monthly service project. The duo joined LSC Staff in preparing an Earth Day mailing that will be sent to schools, community groups, organizations and companies in Ann Arbor and surrounding cities.



The staff were extremely thankful for the help and invited us back anytime for a tour.

This was one of the first environmental service projects the Ann Arbor Host Lions Club has performed.

PROJECT KIDSIGHT

"Watch for the zebra," Lion Lisa would tell the children at Community Day Care. This was one of the many tactics used on January 29 for Project KidSight to encourage the children to look at the camera.



In order for a child's picture to be considered "readable" by an eye doctor, it must contain the four F's: focus, fixation, four pupils, four to eight mm pupils.



This was a great service project for the council. The mood was very lighthearted and the children had a great time watching for zebras, Spiderman and Sonic the Hedgehog to pop out of the camera.

"Thirty children were screened during our two and a half hour visit and we're hoping to hold another screening in the spring," said Lion Lisa.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!!

Happy Birthday to our February babies: John Krienke, Jean Ellis and Darcel Tolle!



We will celebrate birthdays this month during our February 17 meeting.

WEAR YOUR PRIDE!!

To spread the word about the good work we do as Lions, the Ann Arbor (Host) Lions Club has designed a T-Shirt to show people how we serve our local and global community.

The Royal Purple 100% pre-shrunk cotton T-Shirt displays the Lion's Logo in goldenrod on the front. The back of the shirt reads as follows:

This T-Shirt...

restored sight to a blind person
built a home for a family
recycled eye glasses for the needy
combated preventable blindness worldwide
sent a youth on a foreign exchange
provided a guide dog for a blind person
helped create a poster for peace
made the planet a little greener
sent a blind child to summer camp
provided supplies for natural disaster victims
taught kids what it means to be responsible citizens

Lions of Michigan...We Serve

(BACK)

T-Shirts range in sizes Youth Large through 3XL and can be purchased from Lion Alison for \$16.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 3: Lunch meeting with speaker, Lion Howard Conlon, about the Melvin Jones Memorial.

February 13, 14 & 15: Winter Camp for the Blind at the Outdoor Education Center in Dowling, MI.

February 17: Lunch meeting with a speaker from C.O.P.E. Learn more about it at www.cope1.org.

February 21: Lions of Michigan Forum, held at the Holiday Inn West in Lansing, MI, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

March 20: Service Project at Penrickton Center in honor of Dr. Seuss from 1 to 2 p.m.

April 6: Buddy Day. Contact Lion Lisa to sign up at 734-780-2135.

April 17 & 18: 11B-1 District Convention. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Lion Lisa by March 23.

April 24-May 2: White Cane Week

BUDDY DAY REMINDER

Buddy Day is a wonderful opportunity to educate Michigan residents at your local Secretary of State Branch Office about the importance of joining the Michigan Organ Donor Registry to help save and enhance lives. This year's *Buddy Day* is Monday, April 6. For more information, or to sign up for a shift, contact Lion Lisa at 734-780-2135.

THANK YOU DICK!

Lion Dick King is celebrating 25 years as a Lion! Dick is the retired owner of King's Keyboards, a piano store. He used to provide a piano for the Club's Christmas parties and the officer installation parties. Also, while his store was downtown, Dick would go out on Fridays during White Cane Week and collect. He has been one of the Club's most reliable members in attending meetings and is a past president of our Club.

SIGHT NIGHT

By Lion Howard Conlon

Sight Night is a national event sponsored by Give the Gift of Sight Foundation and Lions Clubs International. This past fall, Cub Scouts and Scouts from units located in Monroe and Washtenaw counties canvassed their neighborhoods and collected used eyeglasses during their communities designated trick-or-treat night. This was the third trick-or-treat evening that the Scouts have collected glasses; prescription eyeglasses and non-prescription sunglasses.



The Scouts deliver a flyer to their neighbors' doors a week before Halloween requesting the residents dig through their drawers and "scare up" their used eyeglasses. On trick-or-treat night the Scouts return and pick up the glasses and deliver them to a central location. The glasses the Scouts collected are repaired, cleaned, cataloged by prescription. The fall 2008 collection added 550 pairs of glasses to the previous two year total of 2734.

According to the World Health Organization, one-fourth of the world needs corrective eyewear, but many people, especially those in developing countries, do not have access to it. Each year Give the Gift of Sight Foundation sponsors optical missions to developing countries where the collected eyeglasses are fitted to men, women, and children in developing countries, such as Bolivia, Laos, and Thailand.

UPDATED WEBSITE

Lion Alison is busy updating our club's website. Take a look at every week and watch it grow with new information: www.annarborlions.org.