



East Grinstead & District Lions Club
(International Association of Lions Clubs)
District 105 SE England

WE SERVE

News Release

[Contact PRO](#)

8 April 2005

SPREADING THE LIONS' MESSAGE!

Lions Clubs International is not a "Robin Hood" organisation that simply redistributes money from the rich to the poor.

Lions Clubs International is not a third party charity, it is the world's largest and premier "Volunteer Service Organisation".

Our motto is "We Serve".

If you were to visit Sri Lanka at the moment, you would find the Lions working a 20 hour day to bring some normality back to their communities, following the terrible Tsunami tragedy and yes, there are Lions from the British Isles and Ireland working along side them. Indeed, with the full support of the Sri Lankan Government, it is the Lions who are leading and coordinating these activities. Work has just commenced on rebuilding 3,000 homes, with the physical and financial resources being provided by the Lions of the 193 countries of the world, where we have a presence.

If you were to visit Indonesia, Thailand or India at the moment you would find much the same. The Lions will be there rebuilding those communities long after the Aid Agencies have packed their bags and returned home.

The Lions of the British Isles and Ireland have provided most precious gifts to many parts of the world: The gift of fresh, clean water to parts of Africa and India, through the provision of water wells. We have also trained the locals to be able to operate and maintain this equipment for themselves, so that they are not dependent on others for this support. We have restored the sight of countless thousands of people world wide through our programmes of sight conservation and attempts to eradicate preventable blindness throughout the world. These programmes also extend into the British Isles and Ireland, where we are just establishing an eye bank at a major London Hospital. The Lions of the British Isles and Ireland have rebuilt hospitals and schools in parts of the war torn former Yugoslavia.

If you were to visit parts of South America and South East Asia, you would find Lions working to relieve the pain and suffering of Street Children and, I might add, I could also take you to towns and cities in the UK, where the Lions are actively engaged in similar work - it is not just somebody else's problem.

The Lions of the British Isles and Ireland are actively engaged in supporting the youth of our country, through programmes of education in the fields of drug and alcohol abuse and many other areas which support the development of our young people over and above the provision made by Local Education Authorities, so that these young people may find their rightful place in our communities in later life. We do this through a **partnership** formed with TACADE & our contributions are recognised by our Government who welcome us to the House of Lords so that together with TACADE we can launch each new initiative.

The Government also welcomes us to the House of Commons to thank us for our contributions to UNICEF. On this occasion we award the prize for our Peace Poster competition, which we run for the benefit of Children, to develop their creative talents & to encourage them to think about World Wide Peace. The winning entry from the British Isles & Ireland goes onto a worldwide competition in New York.

We run a National Youth Football competition with the final being played at a prestigious professional Club.

We run a National Music competition, with the winner going on to compete in Europe.

We run a National "Young Ambassador of the 21st Century" competition, where we recognise youth who have made a significant contribution to the well being of their local communities.

Over 1 million pairs of spectacles are collected each year, refurbished and distributed to countries of the developing world, where but for this work, many people simply could not afford to enjoy the benefits of near normal sight. We are actively engaged in similar work with hearing aids and dental equipment, we support the vulnerable in our communities through the Medic Alert and Message in a Bottle schemes and we support deserving causes in our local communities in any way we can. In short, we support those in our communities and, the wider world less fortunate than ourselves, to help improve *their* quality of life.

All of this requires hands on work - yes, we roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty for the benefit of others. It also requires money to support some of these activities, money which we go out and earn through fundraising events.

Furthermore, **every penny we raise goes to the intended cause, no money is deducted for administrative purposes.**

How many Charities in this country or, for that matter anywhere else, can match that?

Visit www.lions.org.uk, or get involved with *your* local Lions Club and gain first hand experience of their work or, even better, become a member and put a little something back into *your* community.

Lions Clubs International is a caring organisation, that is why I am proud to be a member.

Anyone interested in applying for membership should contact the Club Secretary Jim Ikin.

Email: secretary@eastgrinsteadlions.org.uk