

Medford Lakes Lions Club Charities

New Jersey Camp for Blind Children, Inc. (Camp Marcella)

The New Jersey Camp for Blind Children, commonly known as Camp Marcella, Inc., has provided a summer camping experience for blind children for over a half a century. It has grown into the premier facility it is today primarily from the support of the NJ Lions. A two week camping experience is provided each summer for more than 200 visually impaired children ranging in age from 5 through 16. Activities such as swimming, boating, fishing, skating, bicycle riding, basketball, bowling and arts and crafts are provided. In addition, a computer facility and a library are also available for the campers' use. The NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired provides funds for the operation of the facility. It cooperates with this private foundation in providing the physical needs of the camp while the summer funding for capital improvements as well as hands on assistance in the maintenance of the building.

Association of Blind Athletes of New Jersey

This Association became a state project in 1983. Lions provide funds that enable blind New Jersey athletes to compete in national and international "Blind Olympics." Funds are used to provide training facilities, transportation and other expenses involved in preparing for or participating in the games. Proven athletes help with the training of a new generation of blind athletes.

The Eye Institute of New Jersey

The Eye Institute has three primary goals: Service, Research and Education; Service to the community in eye care, Research to apply the most advanced technology to a variety of ocular/visual problems, Education through medical education and a residency program and health care.

An immediate goal is to assist raising funds for the Lions Research Chair in the Department of Ophthalmology, by matching donations from LERF up to the limit of donations to the eye institute by Lions.

The Institute provides eye care for Lions Club referrals with no charge for the first visit to the patient or sponsoring Lions Clubs. If follow-up care is needed, counseling on insurance procedures and how to obtain financial assistance through the University Hospital (Newark) for those without insurance.

Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley

Lions Clubs members from the states of New Jersey, Delaware and Southeast Pennsylvania founded LEBDV in 1957. What was once a volunteer effort has grown into a professional, non-profit organization. Since 1957, the eye bank has provided tissue for more than 30,000 individuals who have received the "Gift of Sight" through corneal transplant. Countless others have been helped through medical research and education make possible with tissue recovered by the eye bank staff.

Mission Statement: The Eye Bank of Delaware Valley is committed to enhancing a person's quality of life by restoring or improving vision through corneal transplantation, medical research and education.

Vision Statement: The Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley will be the region's leader in the procurement and processing of the highest quality ocular tissue.

Medford Lakes Lions Club Charities

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D)

This has been an approved State Project for the New Jersey Lions since 1979. It is the only non-profit organization that supplies free on-line recorded textbooks, library services and other educational resources to people who cannot read standard print material. It is used by people who are visually impaired, dyslexic or have other physical disabilities. All donations from the New Jersey Lions go to the New Jersey Unit, which produces recorded material in digital and analog form for textbooks from kindergarten through grade school. This Unit also has an outreach program to help students from New Jersey through RFB&D's "Learning Through Listening"™ program. Your support makes their academic success possible.

New Jersey Blind Citizens Association, Inc. (Camp Happiness)

Camp Happiness is wholly owned and operated by New Jersey Blind Citizens Association, and is the oldest blind organization in the state. It was founded in 1910 and incorporated in 1917. It has been operating free summer vacation program for the blind and visually impaired adults since 1930.

Today, Camp Happiness is a year-round facility for the blind. The day program offers a host of projects and activities. The computer program, featuring a narrative software (JAWS) and zoom text, and has become the cornerstone of the day program. A new computer program for blind/visually impaired children commenced in 2005. The Lions of New Jersey provide invaluable financial and work program support for the camp.

Lions Eye Research Foundation of New Jersey, Incorporated

A fully independent, charitable organization that serves Lions Multiple District 16. It is unique in that all Lions in good standing in New Jersey are automatically members of this foundation. The board of Trustees is composed of five elected trustees each of the five sub-districts and as well as each of the five current District Governors as voting Trustees of the Board. The aim of the Foundation is to raise money through individual contributions, corporate grants, Club donations and various fundraisers, and to use the money to support eye research particularly at the Lions eye Research Center which is housed at UMDNJ in Newark, and to help provide necessary equipment used in the service of eye research. The current focus is to raise money for the Lions Ophthalmology Research Chair at UMDNJ. The interest from the Chair Fund will support research efforts to develop new treatments for the major causes of blindness. The Chair will not support any salaries and such incidental expenses as travel to meetings.

The Marie H, Katzenbach School for the Deaf (MKSD)

MKSD, founded in 1883 as the New Jersey School for the Deaf, offers outreach to school districts and various agencies to improve the quality of services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing children throughout New Jersey. The Katzenbach School for the Deaf is within the New Jersey Department of Education. Consultation and technical assistance are provided to schools and agencies by appropriately trained and certified MKSD personnel and include: substance abuse prevention and intervention for students, in-service training for faculty and staff, and student observation and recommendations for appropriate instructional approaches. Additional services available to school districts are consultations with MKSD Curriculum Coordinator.

Medford Lakes Lions Club Charities

Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey

The Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey (LEBNJ) was founded in 1970 at the College of Medicine and Dentistry of Newark. Known as the Eye Bank of New Jersey, it became the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey in 1988 when it became a Multiple District 16 Project, and in 1993, became a State Project. LEBNJ serves the 14 northern and central counties of New Jersey.

The mission of LEBNJ is the restoration of sight through (1) recovery, evaluation and distribution of corneal tissue for transplantation; (2) research into the causes and cures of blinding eye conditions; (3) public and professional education programs that support eye, organ, and tissue donation; (4) eye banking services offered at no charge when patients are unable to afford transplant procedures.

The Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey operates on a 501(c)(3) public charity with a 15-member board of trustees. Under the terms of the acquisition agreement, a majority of the board members must be Lions from New Jersey. Two other members of the board are from Midwest Eye-Bank, and two members from LEBNJ serve on the Midwest board.

Housing and United Services

This project was adopted at the 2001 State Convention. The organization serves blind and the sight impaired in such areas as comprehensive information and referral service, housing information and consultations, multi-media transcription services (Braille, large print, audio cassettes, Etc.), transportation consultations, organization planning, counseling people with blindness and adjustment counseling of the newly blind and their families. A newsletter providing information on these programs and services is published periodically.

Canine Hearing Companions, Inc.

Designated a State Project in 2002, Canine Hearing Companions trains and provides "hearing dogs" to function as ears for the deaf. Hearing dogs help thousands of deaf and hearing impaired people lead more independent and secure lives. Hearing dogs are taught to recognize important sounds like smoke alarms, phones, doorbells, alarm clocks, tea kettles, and a baby's cry. The dogs have the same privileges as guiding eye dogs and may accompany their owner in all public places. Dogs can also be placed with people who have disabilities such as epilepsy.

Deborah Hospital Foundation

Deborah Heart and Lung was established in 1922 as a tuberculosis sanitarium and pulmonary center. With the development of antibiotic medications, which eradicated TB, Deborah began expanding its focus to other chest diseases. In 1958, Dr. Charles Bailey, a pioneer in heart surgery, performed the first open heart surgery at Deborah. The specialty of cardiac diseases was immediately embraced and Deborah evolved into the only cardiac and pulmonary specialty hospital in New Jersey. Today, Deborah offers the largest surgical techniques and non-surgical alternatives for diagnosing and treating all forms of cardiac, vascular and pulmonary diseases in adults, and congenital and acquired heart defects in neonates and children.

Medford Lakes Lions Club Charities

Juvenile Diabetes Foundation

This organization was accepted by the Lions of New Jersey as a State Project in 1979. Lions throughout the world have joined hands in donating funds for research in attempting to discover a cure for this dreaded disease, one of the major causes of blindness in children and adults. The increasing prevalence of diabetes makes it important to increase research directed to finding a cure. Blindness caused diabetes is our main concern. The Juvenile Diabetes Foundation provides an efficient medium through which individuals, businesses and industries can invest funds in diabetes research. These funds are distributed throughout the country to promising and productive research programs.

Music Association for the Visually Impaired Students of New Jersey (MAVIS)

Voted a State Project at the 2005 State Convention, MAVIS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing musical instruments and specialized music instruction to legally blind persons throughout the State. Students benefit by gaining confidence, greater independence and improved opportunities for socialization and employment. MAVIS receives referrals from the NJ Commission for the Blind and other sources. MAVIS will then provide the student with the instrument of their choice and reimburse the student or family for the instruction received. Due to budgetary constraints, MAVIS has a backlog of people awaiting entry to the program.

A favorite component of MAVIS' program is band composed of adults who are former students. The band performs at fundraising events and at various community functions. These performances become a showcase for MAVIS as well as its current and former students.

The Seeing Eye (Dog Program)

The Seeing Eye,[®] Inc., is the oldest existing dog guide school in the world. Twelve times a year, as many as 24 students at a time visit the Morristown, N.J., campus to discover the exhilarating experience of traveling with a Seeing Eye dog.

Our students – people who are blind or visually impaired – come from all over the United States and Canada to spend up to a month training with a new Seeing Eye dog. They range in age from 16 to senior citizens, their home environments may be rural or urban, and they may be homemakers, volunteers, or judges. But they all have this in common: They are motivated by a sense of independence and armed with the knowledge that Seeing Eye dogs will provide an extra edge to attain success, however they may choose to define it.

The Guide Dog Foundation

Mission: To improve the quality of life for people who are blind, visually impaired, or with other special needs.

Since 1946, the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc. has provided guide dogs free of charge to blind people who seek enhanced mobility and independence.

Our students come to us from all over the United States and many foreign countries. Our trademark small classes and individualized instruction often attract students who may have special requirements.

Medford Lakes Lions Club Charities

We have successfully trained hearing-impaired blind people as well as many physically challenged people.

Samaritan Hospice

Nine out of ten Americans, if given the choice, would prefer to spend their final months with dignity - free of pain and comforted by friends and family in familiar surroundings. Helping patients and families in central and southern New Jersey achieve that goal is the reason Samaritan Hospice was founded. Since 1980, Samaritan has provided comforting care and support for more than 30,000 patients and families through our growing Family of Services:

- Hospice and Palliative Care
- Grief Support and Counseling
- Transitional Support Services
- Professional and Community Education

Samaritan Hospice care is a positive choice you can make - *the something more you can do* - when an illness or injury is no longer responding to curative treatments.

Easter Seals Camp Merry Heart (for Christopher Farewell)

Easter Seals' Camp Merry Heart -- a beautiful facility in northern New Jersey's Warren County -- excels at making all campers feel at home. No disability, family status, race, or religion makes you unusual, as everyone has unique and special abilities at Camp Merry Heart. Individuals -- with and without disabilities -- enjoy the excitement and challenges of camping together, since all activities are inclusive.

Doctors Without Borders

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international medical humanitarian organization created by doctors and journalists in France in 1971.

Today, MSF provides aid in nearly 60 countries to people whose survival is threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe, primarily due to armed conflict, epidemics, malnutrition, exclusion from health care, or natural disasters. MSF provides independent, impartial assistance to those most in need. MSF reserves the right to speak out to bring attention to neglected crises, to challenge inadequacies or abuse of the aid system, and to advocate for improved medical treatments and protocols.

MSF's work is based on the humanitarian principles of medical ethics and impartiality. The organization is committed to bringing quality medical care to people caught in crisis regardless of race, religion, or political affiliation.

Sunshine Foundation

The Sunshine Foundation's sole purpose is to answer the dreams of seriously ill, physically challenged and abused children aged three to eighteen, whose families cannot fulfill their requests due to financial strain that the child's illness may cause.

Medford Lakes Lions Club Charities

In the 1960's, Philadelphia police officer Bill Sample was assigned to a local children's hospital. He encountered critically ill, and often terminally ill, children and saw first hand how these children's families were burdened not only by mounting medical bills, but also by the frustration of not being able to provide their children's special dream. In 1976, Bill took out a personal loan and, with the help of others, started the Sunshine Foundation and began making dreams come true for these truly deserving children. It was, in fact, the "original" wish granting organization.

Over the past years, Sunshine Foundation has granted the dreams of more than 32,000 children from across the country. The Sunshine Foundation managed to also help children across the world, including those suffering from the rare aging disorder Progeria. Each year, a Progeria Reunion is held to bring these children together to spend time together and to enjoy the company of those who are coping with similar obstacles.

Operation Blessings International

Operation Blessing International Relief and Development Corporation (OBI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, humanitarian organization with a mission to demonstrate God's love by alleviating human suffering in the United States and around the world. Through core programs of disaster relief, medical aid, hunger relief, orphan care, water wells and community development, OBI has helped more than 202 million people in more than 105 countries and all 50 states, providing goods and services valued at more than \$1.4 billion.

Today, OBI is ranked one of the top 100 largest charities in America by The NonProfit Times and has repeatedly filled the role of "logistical arm" to organizations including the International Red Cross, FEMA, UNICEF, The Salvation Army and the United Nations' World Food Programme.

Camp No Worries

Camp No Worries is a summer camp created solely to give children with cancer and their siblings an opportunity to relax, enjoy themselves and forget about their troubles for one week every summer.

It's a place that allows children facing a diagnosis of cancer to just be kids. It's a place of happiness, friendship and new adventures. It's a place of camaraderie and acceptance where everyone knows first-hand what it's like to live with cancer. And, it's a true summer camp experience in every sense of the word.

Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, Inc.

Elizabeth and James Woodford founded Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge in 1957, on land they purchased in 1951 in what was then the wilds of Medford, New Jersey. Over the next 40 years they devoted their lives to Pinelands preservation, environmental education and wildlife rehabilitation. Betty became an expert botanist, naturalist, nature photographer and wildlife rehabilitator. She was renowned for her Pinelands education programs. In 1997 the Woodford's dream was realized when a Green Acres grant preserved Cedar Run's land and buildings for future generations.

Missions

- Wildlife Rehabilitation
- Environmental Education
- Habitat Preservation

Medford Lakes Lions Club Charities

Facilities

- 184 wooded acres surrounding pristine Cedar Run Lake
- Wildlife rehabilitation hospital and outdoor live-animal compound
- Elizabeth Woodford Environmental Education and Nature Center with classrooms, hands-on exhibits, library and offices
- Wooded nature trails that link uplands and wetlands

Education

More than 18,000 students participate annually in the Refuge's education programs and hundreds more join outdoor adventures in the Pine Barrens and attend family weekend workshops. Programs include group tours, Refuge on Wheels, weekend workshops for families, field trips and adult courses.

Wildlife Rehabilitation

Nearly 4,000 wild animals were treated at the rehab hospital in 2004, with a 30% survival rate. Many are returned to the wild. Others, whose injuries prevent release, remain in our outdoor compound to help the public learn about native species.