

“We Serve”

Lions Clubs International is the world’s largest service organization with 1.35 million members in 202 countries. For nearly 100 years, our members have volunteered on projects designed to prevent blindness, restore eyesight and improve eye health for millions of people worldwide. But that’s not all we do. Did you know that Lions are providing hunger relief and mentoring youth right here in Southeastern Virginia?



International Youth Exchange Program - Every July nearly 30 youth from all over the world, ages 16 to 19, arrive in SE Virginia. With the combined efforts of many host families and dedicated Lions, these future leaders of the world experience American life and the beauty of Virginia first hand. Many clubs support these efforts to build bridges to other nations through this fun and friendship building effort.



Reading Action Program - Lions deliver books to local Head Start Centers as part of our Reading Action Program. Members all over eastern Virginia are collecting and donating books in an effort to see that every child in the program has a book of their own to take home. A major objective of RAP is to instill a lifelong love of reading. We are close to our goal of collecting 1,500 books and have no intention of stopping...



Children’s Eye Screenings - Lions are using a new technology to perform eye screenings to detect vision problems in children as young as six months old. We are screening children ages five and younger to detect the need for eyeglasses or a disorder commonly called “lazy eye.” If lazy eye is caught and treated early, it can prevent blindness in that eye. Since 2010, we have screened over 31,000 children and referred nearly 5,100 children to physicians for follow-up care.



College and Music Scholarships - Lions Clubs award scholarships to graduating seniors based on academic merit and volunteer service. We also hold the Bland music competition to promote cultural and educational opportunities for Virginia’s musically talented high school students. The 12 finalists on the state level are awarded a total of \$18,000 in scholarships.



Hunger Relief - Lions believe relieving hunger in our community is a priority. Clubs support local food banks by sponsoring food drives, providing volunteer services, and making financial donations. Some clubs provide Thanksgiving food baskets for the financially disadvantaged; others serve hot meals at homeless shelters and programs for homeless teens.



To learn more about Lions please visit our website at www.lions-of-virginia-24d.org