



Lions Charity Foundation Fact Sheet

Who We Are:

The Lions Charity Foundation of District 24D, Inc. is an IRS designated 501(c)(3) Charity governed by a Board of Directors elected by Lions Clubs located within District 24D. The Foundation changed its name in 2018 to the Lions Charity Foundation of Southeastern Virginia, Inc.

Our Mission:

Our charity Foundation is committed to providing funding on behalf of Lions Clubs across Southeastern Virginia through a grant application process. These grants are designed to provide assistance to local Lions Clubs meeting community needs beyond the club's financial resources. Grant requests must support financially disadvantaged individuals' vision/hearing needs or nonprofit organizations providing services. These services must fall into one of our focus areas of charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes.

Our History:

In the mid 1970's Lions strived to create large-scale service projects with long-lasting durability. To meet this objective, the idea for a charity foundation was conceived in the fall of 1976 by Lion John R. Langston of the Hampton Northampton Lions Club. After considerable deliberation a decision was made to establish a nonprofit corporation governed by a board of directors comprised of Lions with fund raising expertise and representative of all areas of the district. The directors would serve staggered terms to provide the continuity necessary for development of long-range commitments. This idea was presented to and received approval from the District 24D Cabinet at the 1976 Fall Conference. Over the next few years Lion Langston and Lion Richard A. Rilee, Newport News Host Lions Club, prepared articles of incorporation, bylaws, submitted state incorporation paperwork and guided the fledgling Foundation through the Virginia and Lions' approval process. In 1978, a new committee called the District 24-D Charity Fund Committee was established with Lions John and Richard as co-chairmen. In 1984, the name was officially changed to the Lions Charity Foundation of District 24D, Inc. In 2018, the name was officially changed again, this time to The Lions Charity Foundation of Southeastern Virginia, Inc.

Our Funding Sources:

Initially, the Foundation relied heavily on the generosity of individual Lions and local Lions Clubs. In 1981, a new fundraising opportunity arose. The Anheuser-Busch Company decided to move the company sponsored PGA Golf Tournament from California to its own course at Kingsmill in Williamsburg, Virginia. Past District Governor Alexander N. Branch discussed Lions involvement in the tournament with Kingsmill Properties General Manager Harry D. Knight. An agreement was reached that the Lions would provide volunteers for the tournament and Anheuser-Busch company would make a sizable donation to our Charity Fund. Over the years, this was the only source of funding and ensured the future of the Foundation. In 2002 the PGA Golf Tournament withdrew from Kingsmill. Anheuser-Busch immediately invited the LPGA and began hosting the LPGA Michelob Ultra Tournament at Kingsmill. The Lions partnership with Anheuser-Busch discontinued in 2013. In 2010, the Board of Directors established the Bid 'N Buy Charity Auction as an alternative funding source and remains the primary fundraiser for the Foundation today. Other current funding streams include interest on investments, endowment funds, Good Samaritan Recognition Program and donations from local Lions Clubs. We are seeking new community partners to strengthen our Charity Auction in order to maintain our annual commitments.

How You Can Help:

If you would like to make a financial donation to support the work of Lions, please visit our website at www.lcfsv24i.com for an online donation or mail a check to: Treasurer, Lions Charity Foundation of Southeastern Virginia, Inc., 1229 Course View Circle, Virginia Beach VA 23455. If you would like to volunteer with us, please call Lion Mack Stevens at 757-368-8055 or email lionstevens@cox.net.