

# 60 YEARS



# OF SERVICE

## Lions Clubs work to prevent blindness

(NC)—Did you know that 80 per cent of all blindness is reversible or preventable, and that the number of blind is expected to double over the next 20 years? Well, Lions Clubs International knows, and they've just launched a major program to do something about it. Sightfirst is a \$100 million-plus global campaign aimed at wiping out preventable blindness.

Over the next six years Lions will build clinics, educate the public, provide medical equipment and supplies, and support ophthalmic training for doctors, nurses and clinicians, in order to fight blindness around the world.

The Sightfirst program will rely on the work of local medical experts (technical advisors) to ensure the success of each individual project. "These advisors will assess the need for care in their area, propose projects and monitor them as they develop," said Lions International President William L. Biggs. "Our goal is to meet the needs of regions that are not being served by an existing project, and we



### We Serve

plan to work closely with other agencies to provide the best eye care possible for everyone in need."

#### Facts about blindness

•According to the World Health Organization, blindness is the inability of a person to distinguish the fingers on a hand at a distance of three meters.

•The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness estimates there are 40 million blind people throughout the world.

•Ninety per cent of the world's blind live in developing countries.

•The number of blind people is expected to double by the year 2015.

Lions Clubs International is the largest service organization in the world with nearly 1.4 million members supporting 39 000 clubs in 170 countries. In Canada there are more than 54 000 members volunteering their time with 1 914 clubs.

The Georgetown Lions Club is doing its share to provide the ability to see, to the disadvantaged in many far of lands where poverty and regular medical services are not available.

With the vast resources of hundreds of Lions Clubs in Ontario and Quebec thousands of used eyeglasses are being collected and forwarded to the Georgetown Lions Club for processing and delivery to countries such as Ecuador, Peru, Tibet and India.

Eyeglasses are processed at the Lions Hall by teams each Monday night. All glasses are washed and are then put through a Lensometer, which when properly focused by the operator reads the prescription and prints it on a label. The glasses are then sorted and packaged for shipment.

The glasses travel with large teams of volunteers who examine thousands of people, dispensing eyeglasses and providing cataract operations where required. Medical group missionaries through their leader, Ophthalmologist, Dr. Doug Harper of Etobicoke has been organizing these projects since 1969 and has provided sight improvement and restored sight to thousands of needy people.

Georgetown Lions were introduced to this project in 1982 by Lion Don Goghlan, a Georgetown optician who organized several nights of training with the help of several friends in the optical business. Through Lion Don, the club was able to purchase a \$7,000 Lensometer which aids in the processing of 12,600 to 15,000 eyeglasses annually.

It is most gratifying to the Lions who work on this project to know that they have provided a service that others may see.

Used eyeglasses are always in need. If any reader has old glasses lying around and wish to support this project please drop them off at Georgetown Optical at the Georgetown Market. We will ensure that they are put to good use.

(NC)—The world's population of blind people totals 40 million, and yet some countries have fewer than one ophthalmologist for every one million people. These statistics are alarming, but they don't scare the Lions away. In fact, Lions from around the world are staging a global fight against blindness.

Thanks to SightFirst, a \$102-million program to eliminate preventable blindness, Lions Clubs International will work to build clinics, educate the public, provide medical equipment and supplies, and support ophthalmic training for doctors, nurses and clinicians.

"All the new clinics in the world won't prevent blindness without properly trained professionals to run them," said Lions International President William L. Woolard. "That's why training is one of SightFirst's greatest priorities."

Dr. Carl Kupfer, Director of the U.S. National Eye Institute, led the international development of SightFirst, the most ambitious program ever undertaken by Lions Clubs International.

The SightFirst program begins in India, Latin America and Africa. Locally, Lions clubs world-wide will be busy providing SightFirst



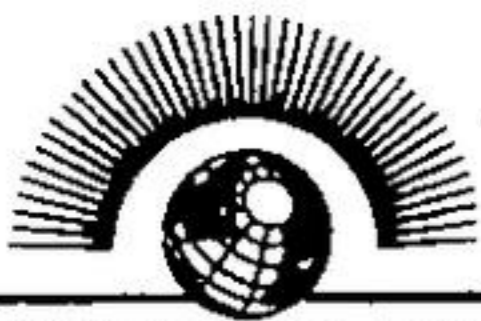
### We Serve

with funding, public education, program administration, and patient care and transportation.

What makes this program unique is SightFirst's use of local medical experts who will ensure the success of each individual project.

"As ophthalmic specialists, advisors will assess the need for care in their area, propose projects and monitor them as they develop," Woolard said.

Lions Clubs International is the largest service organization in the world, represented in 166 countries by 39 000 clubs with a total membership of 1.4 million. In Canada there are more than 54 000 members volunteering their time with 1 914 clubs.



LIONS CONQUERING BLINDNESS

## SIGHTFIRST

NC



Source: Lions Clubs International SightFirst

NC

### Message from the Mayor

On behalf of the Council for the Town of Halton Hills (Georgetown), it gives me great pleasure to bring congratulations to the Lions Club of Georgetown on their 60th Anniversary.

Over these many years, the members of this Service Club have worked for the betterment of the community, and have provided many services and community projects which have been a great benefit to Georgetown and district in the Town of Halton Hills. It is through the sincere dedication of its members that the Lions Club of Georgetown have been there in the time of need on so many occasions to not only help in providing projects, but through personal assistance to those in need.

At this time, we show our thanks to them, and wish them every success for the future, and we know in our hearts that they will continue to be there when they are called upon for any project.

May God Bless and Keep Them in their future endeavors.

Yours sincerely,  
Russell Miller  
Mayor,  
Halton Hills.



### We Serve



### Turner offers congratulations

January 31, 1991  
Re: Georgetown Lions Anniversary

One good measure of a community's spirit is the health and contribution of its service clubs. Judged that way, Georgetown is truly a favored place to live.

And among the town's club members, Lions can be especially proud of their accomplishments. For sixty years now, they have given new meaning to volunteerism. Lions have shown that we need not rely on government for everything in our lives. Instead, dedicated club members have gone the distance in everything from building swimming pools to mounting the Santa Claus parade.

As Member of Parliament, it gives me particular pleasure in congratulating the Georgetown Lions Club on six decades of service. You have added to our lives, our town and our country.

All the best to Lions in the years to come. And please never stop - we're hooked!

Garth Turner, MP  
Halton-Peel

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