

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 105D SIGHT NEWSLETTER NO 4.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

October 2008.

This is the fourth of a series of Newsletters to give Members in District 105D a greater understanding of the various areas of activities Lions are involved with in connection with sight. The following questions have been asked in the last few months by Members:

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. *Is 'Lions Sightsavers' the same as 'Campaign Sightfirst II'?*

A. No! 'Lions Sightsavers' is an ongoing partnership with 'Sightsavers International' that has been in existence for some 25 years. All donations from Clubs to 'Lions Sightsavers' are passed to 'Sightsavers International' to carry out their 'Comprehensive Eye Services' (CES) work. Please see Sight Newsletter no: 3 for more information on 'Lions Sightsavers'.

Q2. *So, what is 'Campaign Sightfirst II'?*

A. To try to explain 'Campaign Sightfirst II' ('CSFII') I need to mention the first 'Sightfirst' campaign. This was held in the early 1990's and was a worldwide fundraising campaign organized by Oak Brook and extending over a three years' period (1991 – 1994). During this time some £70 million was raised and this increased to some £100 million due to investments and other donations. 'Lions Clubs International Foundation' ('LCIF') has awarded more than £105 million in grants for various sight projects since then and the funds were therefore depleted. A further campaign ('CSFII') was held between 2005 and 2008. This has now virtually ended, except for pledges still to come in, and a total of over £100 million was raised from Clubs and other

donations from all over the world. This will enable 'LCIF' to continue to fund many projects all over the world to combat blindness.

Q3. *So why are donations still required to 'Lions Sightsavers'?*

In reality, the problem of blindness, particularly in the developing countries but also elsewhere in the world, is an ever-growing problem, with the suggestion from the 'World Health Organisation' that the number of blind people will double by 2020 if nothing was done. 'LCIF' will certainly be able to help in some areas but the work of 'Sightsavers International' will also most certainly be required. Donations from Clubs to 'Lions Sightsavers' will enable 'Sightsavers International' to do many extra things under the 'CES' programme.

Q4. *Why is the Lions logo not on all the 'Sightsavers International' literature?*

'Sightsavers International' needs the support of a large number of partners and donors to enable it to carry out the work that is required. 'Lions Sightsavers' is one of those partners and donors but only contributes a portion of the funds required. The Lions logo is of course on the annual Newsletter that is produced on 'Lions Sightsavers' by 'Sightsavers International'.

Prepared by District Officer Lion Patrick Hamblin.

Distribution: Club Presidents, Region Chairmen, Zone Chairmen, District Governor, Vice District Governor.

'I call on you to be Knights of the Blind' – Helen Keller (1925)