

Lions Blind & Charity Fund, Inc.
P.O. Box 2011
Buffalo, NY 14226

Chairman's Report 2/16/2006

Dear Member Clubs' Presidents and Directors:

It is my pleasure as Chairman to report the status of your Lions Blind & Charity Fund, Inc. (Fund) for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2006.

Most member clubs continue to respond to requests (see enclosed club activity summary sheet) for help assembling appeal packets and opening donations. Continued thanks to the Directors who have been so cooperative in getting Lion volunteers from their club to accomplish these tasks.

We continue to support the Upstate New York Transplant Organizations (UNYTS) Annual Dinner, renamed this year the "Gift of Life Dinner" as a major sponsor. This event provided us with great community exposure and the opportunity to advertise in the program booklet. Member Lions clubs' members were invited to attend, and seven clubs were represented. This year, UNYTS held a community open house to introduce their new facility. Our annual donation was made as part of this event's program.

The Fund was honored this past year when UNYTS nominated us as the Philanthropic Foundation of the Year. We were recognized as the runner up at a luncheon held in November at which three Member Lions clubs were represented. Twenty-eight Lions from thirteen of our Member Clubs attended a dinner hosted by UNYTS to thank the Fund for its support and introduce us to their new facility located at 110 Broadway.

At the 2005 Annual Meeting, the Directors voted to distribute 4% of the Fund's assets equally divided between UNYTS and the Member Clubs. While I am fiscally conservative, especially in light of recent lackluster market returns, I am also supportive of our need to challenge ourselves to support the things we believe in. Over the past several months a number of conversations have taken place suggesting that the Fund consider a significant gift to UNYTS to assist them in their soon to be publicly announced capital campaign. As a result of those conversations, the Executive Committee is suggesting that the Directors consider a special gift of approximately \$50,000 over the next five (5) years which when combined with our annual distribution, would result in a total gift of \$175,000. Such a gift would make us a lead donor in UNYTS "Transformations" Campaign. This initiative will be discussed later in this meeting.

Each year since becoming Fund Chairman I have commented that we achieved progress during the past year. From my perspective this year is no less rewarding as we made the move to the new UNYTS location without disrupting our annual appeal, solicited proposals for preparing and mailing our annual appeal packets for the next several years and spearheaded a campaign to increase donations from the Lions who make up our Member Clubs.

Additionally, the Executive Committee met regularly over the past year to establish plans for the annual appeal and the day-to-day management of the Fund. This same group also participated in several sessions to assemble appeal packets, record donations and prepare donor acknowledgement letters. It is fitting to note that each elected officer contributed many hours of service to the Fund in addition to formal meeting attendance.

Some notable accomplishments since last year's Annual Meeting are:

- Presented \$24,319 donation to UNYTS.
- Mailed 49,485 appeal packets using a "stamp" vs. indicia through Compu-Mail.
- Set Fall appeal mailing of 50,000 packets for November 2006.
- Mailed personalized appeal letters to over 3,238 donors from past appeal campaigns.
- Mailed personalized "Thank You" letters to all previous donors of \$20.00 or more.
- Responded to hundreds of calls to the Lions Blind & Charity Fund telephone.
- Maintained a database backup copy stored in Lion Koch's office.

During this past year we were notified of the following bequests:

- Martha H. Gomph \$3,000.00 Status - Pending
- John R. Sherwood \$4,000.00 Status - Pending

United Way donations received for the year ending 1/31/2006 were:

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|---|--------------------|
| • State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA - code # 571040) | \$ 1,523.13 |
| • United Way of Buffalo & Erie County | <u>\$ 316.01</u> |
| Total | \$ 1,839.14 |

I respectfully request that all Fund Directors encourage their Club members who are working to donate through the United Way by donor designating the Lions Blind & Charity Fund. Those who are currently making United Way donations through payroll deduction may change their agency of choice at any time throughout the year. By United Way directive, we may promote donor-designated donations only from Nov. 15 through Aug. 15 of each year.

I urge that Lions who are retired, or who work for companies that don't have a United Way campaign, to respond to our annual appeal as a show of support for the work that we do.

I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve this past year as Chairman, and thankful to the Member Clubs who responded to requests for help in opening returns and preparing appeal packets and thank you letters.

In closing this report I would like to especially note the work of the current Officers of the Fund: Lion Richard Koch, Treasurer; Lion James Martin, Vice-Chairman; and Lion Len Thornton, Secretary. Each has many times this past year taken on tasks that were over and above their normal duties. We owe them a loud Lion's roar and a debt of gratitude for their efforts.

Yours in Lionism,

Lion Tom Reinagel

Lion PDG Thomas H. Reinagel
Chairman, Lions Blind & Charity Fund, Inc.