



Lions's Roar 2025

Volume 2

The Chippewa Lake Lions Club and Foundation have been providing community support for 67 years. We thank our many members and the community at large for their ongoing support, as we endeavor to meet greater needs in our changing world. Since 2017, we have donated over \$425,000 to our local community. This year, funding sources have plummeted for many organizations; however, charitable support needs for individuals and organizations are growing.

Our newsletter offers a glimpse into the activities and goals of this long-serving community group. We have no paid employees. Our fundraising is done by volunteers to enable us to provide maximum help to those in need. As a provider of aid to organizations and individuals, it is important to note that we are a non-profit 501(c)3, which enables tax deductions for contributions.

IT TAKES A TEAM WORKING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO FULFILL NEEDS



One of the hallmarks of any successful charitable organization is its ability to adjust to the changing times, while networking with other organizations to provide seamless and expanded support to others.

The Chippewa Lake Lions Club Foundation prides itself on special relationships within our immediate area to rapidly provide assistance.

AN AWARD FOR TEAMWORK

The Ohio Provider Resource Assn. has just awarded the Chippewa Lake Lions Club and Foundation the OPRA Community Partner Award of the Year for 2025. This organization represents 200 providers which support 40,000 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Lions Club has proudly partnered with The Society for Handicapped Citizens for 13 years, helping to provide funding for recreation activities to enhance the lives of their clients. We are very proud of this honor and the support of The Society



TEAMWORK IN THE COMMUNITY - IT WORKS TEAM HELP FOR "R"

A disabled individual in our community was directed by United Way to contact Lions for help. No longer able to work and with only disability income, they needed to support their family. Lions members were joined by CrossPointe Church and The Church at the Lake UM to donate supplies and food, as well as financial support to help "R" and family get back on their feet. The Lions are proud to have been part of the Chippewa Community of response, and want to thank our partners, Church at the Lake UM and CrossPointe Community Church for their rapid response and out pouring of care and support.



**Chippewa Lake
Lions Club Foundation**

A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Public Charity



**CrossPointe
Community Church**



WE HELP INDIVIDUALS & CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

The Chippewa Lake Lions Club is actively involved in supporting charitable organizations in our area which serve the needs of citizens. We are also prepared to support emergency needs of individuals encountering unexpected life obstacles. Here is a partial list of help provided this year:

ORGANIZATIONS

Ohio Eye Research
Canines for the Blind
Church at the Lake Food Pantry
Free Clinic of Medina County
Chippewa Village Pride Program
Chippewa Lake Historical Society
Trinity Rose Foundation
Suicide Prevention Coalition
Greater Akron Eye Care
Lions International Foundation

Lafayette, Westfield & Seville Fire Departments
CrossPointe Community Church-Food Program
The Children's Center of Medina County
Free Senior Meals/Contessa's on the Lake
Medina Coalition for Suicide Prevention
Echo Hills Camp for Children with Disabilities
Chippewa Lake Water Ski Show Team
Next Step up Emergency Housing Shelter
Greater Akron Hearing Aid Program
Ohio Lions Pediatric Fund

Project Learn
Medina Co EMA
Save The Lake
The Society-SHC
Lifewise
The Giving Place
Guilford Fire Dept
Alzheimer Association
Lions Eye Program

INDIVIDUALS

Temporary Housing for Hurricane Victims (Operation Rising Sun)
Five local families who sustained loss of housing due to fires.
Six individuals who sustained injuries rendering them unable to work
Two individuals who needed help with eye exams and devices
Eighty Families in need of a Holiday Meal

WHO DID WE HELP-FIND OUT MORE !!

CONTESSA'S in Chippewa Lake

You might pass right by this charming little restaurant tucked off Lake Rd. in Chippewa. Don't let their small size surprise you. This family owned business serves wonderful meals in our community and is well known and loved by the locals. What many do not know is that the family is dedicated to helping others. The best example is a monthly free meal for Medina County seniors, which has been provided for years.

Seniors can just drive up and pick up a hot meal; no questions asked. In recent months, they have served 400 to 500 meals each time. They have also provided summer meals for kids in need, and emergency support to families in need, including \$8000 for a family who lost their home to fire. The Chippewa Lake Lions are proud to support the Cieker family/Contessa's in their effort to aid others.



NEXT STEP UP

Next Step Up Emergency Housing Shelter is a new program provided by Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority. The Chippewa Lions Club Foundation elected to help support their program this year.



It may surprise you to know that there is a shortage of emergency housing in Medina for those in need. MMHA receives almost 60 calls each month from those experiencing a housing crisis. This new facility provides space for 27 adults and children, including space for pets.

Even more important, they provide help and resources to help individuals build a future. A Case Manager is assigned to work on a plan of transition including employment, wellness, mental health support, etc. Additional services are nearby for veterans and those who need recovery support. The MMHA offers many other programs to meet the housing needs of our community.

Here is a link to their website: mmha.org



The Lions Club International mission has always included efforts towards eyesight- disease, healing and research around the world. The Trinity Rose Foundation was created by a local family devastated to learn that their child had a disease which caused lifetime blindness.

They found themselves confronted by the realization that serious eye disease afflicted people around the world, and there was not enough support for everyone. They created The Trinity Rose Foundation (named for their daughter) to help individuals and families struggling to cope. In seventeen years, the Foundation has helped people not only in their home state of Ohio, but across the US and world beyond.

Well over 90% of all donations to the Trinity Rose Foundation go directly to fund their threefold mission:

- Provide financial aid for families with children that are blind or suffering from severe vision issues
- Fund medical research to find cures for these conditions / diseases
- Provide educational resources and opportunities to communicate with others in similar situations

The Chippewa Lake Lions Club is proud to be part of this effort. See heartwarming individual stories on their website: trinityrose.org

PASSING THE TORCH AFTER DECADES OF SERVICE

We are proud to highlight the incredible contribution of our past officers, who are passing the torch to a new team this year. Their tenacity and longevity created the foundation of the Club we have today.

Mike Ross, member since 1999, served as President for 21 years.
Suzanne Rentschler, member since 1997, Secretary for 17 years.
Joanne Dodaro, member since 1995, Vice President for 12 years
Shelly Wharton, member since 2003, Treasurer for 18 years



THE POLAR BEAR PLUNGE FUNDRAISER



The Lions have been able to step up to the growing needs in our community through our major winter fundraiser. For the last 15 years, the Lions have hosted the annual Polar Bear Run/ Jump at beautiful Chippewa Lake. This event is supported by Medina County Parks, local Fire Departments, and staffed by Lions and partners like The Society and CrossPointe Community Church. Brave supporters take a plunge in the icy waters in a fun filled costumed event. This is the largest fundraiser for the Club. The event is all volunteer, to enable the majority of proceeds to be used to support those in need in our community. Last year, we raised over \$76,000 for the community. This year's event is scheduled for January 31, 2026. Join us or donate, WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

YOU ARE AN IMPORTANT LINK

As someone who has been associated with The Chippewa Lake Lions Foundation through event participation, support, or community involvement, you are key in helping us support and maintain ongoing efforts. Whether it is a humble request for help with food needs, an immediate response for emergency support, or even a response to a national disaster, The Lions Club is the most valuable local resource to deliver help when it is needed. You can click here to donate, go to the website to learn about the many endeavors of the Club or join the Club to directly participate in our volunteer activities. Lions website: <https://chippewalakelions.com/>.

BECOME A LION

The Chippewa Lake Lions Club and Foundation invites you to consider being a part of our amazing team, by becoming a member. This is an opportunity to "pay it forward or pay it back". As you can see, our reach of giving is diverse. We encourage members to source new charitable opportunities where we can use our resources to help others. For membership information, check the website, or contact Claire List, our Membership Director to find out more.... aclist1024@gmail.com

