



Lions's Roar October 2024

Volume 1

The Chippewa Lake Lions Club Foundation invites you to learn about our charitable and humanitarian efforts in the community. Our First Newsletter is geared to help you understand our journey from humble roots to our outreach and goals today.

THE BEGINNING

Lions International was founded in 1917, to help restore a world which had been devastated by World War One. The Chippewa Lake Lions Club was founded in 1958 to promote the objectives of The International Association of Lions Clubs: "to serve communities locally and globally, giving hope and impacting lives through humanitarian service projects and grants."

TODAY

Lions International boasts 1.4 million members and 49,000 clubs around the world. The Chippewa Lake Lions Club has been a community resource for 66 years, with over 40 local members. It is now a 501(C)3 charitable organization (the Foundation), which allows supporters to obtain charitable deductions for their donations. We reach out to help community organizations and individuals with the funds we raise.

Over the years, the Lions have continued to host fund raisers such as the Mother's Day Plant Sale, Christmas wreaths and candle sales, license plate covers, etc. After initiating an incredible major fund raiser: "The Polar Bear Plunge", the Lions Club Foundation was able to give over \$400,000 back to the community in the last ten years. This event more than tripled the funds we are able to distribute to the community.

Our fund raising is graciously supported by local businesses who sponsor events, and individuals who open their hearts to help us raise money through these events. The 15th Annual "Polar Bear Plunge" will take place in February of 2025, and it remains the major annual event for fundraising. Of course, the Lions are widely known for the annual **FREE** July 4 Parade, which attracts thousands of families and friends. It remains one of the largest and oldest parades in the area and is our way of saying **THANKS** to the community.

YOU CAN'T GO IT ALONE

Our Club has learned that people need support in many ways. Our outreach has been made stronger by partnerships developed over the years with other organizations, which can expand our ability to serve diverse needs and connect people with specialized resources effortlessly. We would like to introduce you to two of our cherished partners, which participate in our fundraising. In addition, they provide substantial help and services to our community.



The Society

The Society for Handicapped Citizens of Medina County Inc., was founded in 1953 by a group of parents who wanted services in their communities for their children with special needs. At that time, the only option was to place these children in an institution. Rebranded as "The Society", they have evolved over seven decades as advocates for and with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Today, The Society provides access to education, recreation (Camp Paradise), as well as a variety of housing and support services. Clients have a universe of opportunities to live their best lives, their way, in their communities! Read on to find out more!



We provide day services at our "Links" in four counties – Medina, Wayne, Ashland & Huron. Individuals spend the day with our team increasing social skills, learning life skills (cooking is a fan favorite), volunteering and engaging in the community." If there is a museum, event, fair, carnival, etc. in Ohio, we find it and head out! From "free to fee" we are on the lookout and have had so many wonderful opportunities to learn, grow and have fun!

We are lucky to have wonderful park systems and other public sites to visit at no cost. However, to fully engage in the community, additional funding IS required. The individuals we serve are supported by Medicaid and there isn't much money to engage in the communities in which they live. The financial support we receive from the Chippewa Lake Lions Club & Foundation has been instrumental in allowing the individuals we serve to have well rounded and enjoyable lives.

Please visit the website to learn about the many wonderful opportunities within the Society.

<https://www.thesocietylink.org/>

Crosspointe Community Church



Our goal at CrossPointe Community Church is to be a Community Church. The word community is not only in our name, but also in our purpose statement: Sharing God's Grace with Our Community.

Our first worship service was held in the cafeteria of Cloverleaf High School on June 11, 2000. We had services in two other locations before purchasing our present building on Lake Rd. in Chippewa Lake in 2010. Within the small communities of The Village of Chippewa Lake and neighboring Gloria Glens, we established relationships with the Village Councils as well as volunteer organizations within the communities.

We share worthy projects with these Villages, which support our purpose statement and goals. Every month when there is a 5th Sunday on the calendar, our members "Gather to Scatter". We take on a project in the community and provide labor and supplies to complete needed projects.

The Lions Club offered a unique opportunity to participate as a partner in the Annual Polar Bear Plunge. Our Team has worked on all elements of fund raising and execution of this fun filled event for many years. As a result of the growing success of the event, CrossPointe Community Church has been able to use their donations to reinvest in our communities. The funding we receive each year from the Polar Bear Event helps with the monthly free meal that we offer to the community, Thanksgiving boxes, Grief Recovery and Divorce Care programs. Find out more about CrossPointe Church at <https://crosspointe.cc/>

BEYOND PARTNERSHIPS: How Broad is the Reach of Our Gifts?

In addition to the substantial reach of The Society and CrossPointe, The Lions Club Foundation has also supported efforts of the following groups:

Lions Club Holiday food gifts	Lafayette, Westfield & Seville Fire Departments	Project Learn
Canines for the Blind	Junior Leadership Medina Scholarships	Alzheimer Association
Church at the Lake Food Pantry	The Childrens' Center of Medina County	Lifewise
Free Clinic of Medina County	Free Senior Meals/ Contessa's on the Lake	Ormaco for the Arts
Chippewa Village Pride Program	Medina Coalition for Suicide Prevention	Save The Lake
Chippewa Lake Historical Society	Echo Hills Camp for Children with Disabilities	The Giving Place
Medina Junior and Adult Foundation	Lions Club National and International- Charities and Emergencies	

The Lions Provide Emergency Help For Individuals

Our community organization partnerships have allowed us to participate in a broad safety net to address many community needs. The Lions Club & Foundation also offer emergency support for individuals and families who may suffer from an unexpected catastrophe or overwhelming need. The Lions Club can react immediately to provide assistance, which can make a big difference to people who are desperate for help.

THE UNSUNG HEROES WHO HELP THE LIONS

None of our community support efforts could happen without the support of individuals & organizations which help us raise the money required to give assistance to others. We would like to highlight one of our most valued contributors.

"A Childhood Love Affair with Chippewa Lake"

Jim Martella and his brother own and operate Trinel, Inc. in Brookpark, which has been in business for 38 years. Raised in Parma, he remembers coming to Chippewa Lake Park as a child for Italian Day. There were rides, food, contests, and voyages on the lake- a child's dream day!

Years went by, and Jim finally returned to Chippewa Lake after his own children were grown. He fell in love "again", and patiently sought a home to purchase. As time passed, his daughter and her husband also moved to Chippewa Lake.

Quite by accident, his whole family has become totally involved in the Polar Bear Plunge. Jim and his wife attended the first event, to "walk", but he ended up jumping, and made their donation. This created the inspiration and excitement for a new tradition with family to participate as a team. Adding to the groundswell, friends and customers support them by adding their donations to support the family. Jim and his team pride themselves on being a "fully involved team" by voting on themes and costumes to ramp up the fun. He admits that some people think they are "crazy", but they have a "blast" and love giving back to the community.

Jim sincerely believes that the Lions Club is a wonderful organization which helps the community "in so many ways". His family's commitment to the event highlights his belief that his family is blessed; "giving back" gives them great joy. Now a participant for fourteen years, Jim, his family and friends, have quietly become pillars of our fund raising efforts.

The Lions Club and Foundation wanted to share this heartwarming story and we gratefully offer a huge thanks to Jim, the Martella family and their friends.



THE POLAR BEAR PLUNGE FUNDRAISER



The Martella story highlights the major event in which The Lions have been able to step up to the growing needs in our community. In February, for the last 14 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 Church. Brave supporters, like the Martella family, take a plunge in the icy waters in a fun filled costumed event. This is the largest fund raiser for the Club. The event is all volunteer, enabling the majority of proceeds to go to individuals and the community.

You Are The 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/>.

You Can Become Part Of Us

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 Tony, our Membership Director to find out more... tonykirkby@hotmail.com

