



Nuda Veritas

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**University Club
Downtown Grand Rapids**
Meetings begin at 12:15 p.m.
unless otherwise noted.

----- **We Serve** -----

Monday, November 21, Lions
Bowling League, Northfield
Lanes, 4:45 pm

**Tuesday, November 22,
Jamaican Mission Trip, Ben
Eavey & Vision Mission Team**

Tuesday, November 22,
Eyeglass Recycling Session, 3 –
8:00 pm

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 -
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

Monday, November 28, Lions
Bowling League, Northfield
Lanes, 4:45 pm

Tuesday, November 29, Lions
Board Meeting, ABVI, Noon

**Tuesday, November 29, Lions
Meeting & Eyeglass Recycling
Session, 3 – 8:00 pm (Dinner at
6:00 pm)**

Monday, December 5, Lions
Bowling League, Northfield
Lanes, 4:45 pm

Tuesday, November 22 Jamaican Mission Trip, Ben Eavey & Vision Mission Team

On Saturday, November 12, 2016, a team of 12 Grand Rapids Lions Club members and spouses returned from a week-long vision mission trip to Ocho Rios, Jamaica. The team was hosted by the ISSA Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to “provide a system of prevention, health promotion and education, community health improvement and other services to promote well-being and development for the people of Jamaica.”

The trip was a bit different than the usual vision mission trips, in that it was dedicated to seeing children only. Under the able leadership of Diane Pollard, CEO of the ISSA Foundation, the team visited two elementary schools and one secondary school in the Ocho Rios region to provide four days of vision clinics. The team saw 1,500 children and dispensed about 300 pair of glasses. Additionally, 17 medical/eye surgical referrals were made.

The trip was an eye-opener for the ISSA Foundation about what the Lions can do for the visually impaired community. They are looking forward to working with us on future trips. It was also an eye-opener for the “newbies” on Vision Mission trips. Thanks to all Lions who contribute their time and talents at both the warehouse (we couldn’t do it without you) and abroad.

Team Jamaica:

Cheryl and Gary Anderson
Mary and Scott Brady
MP Chelsky and Mary Vanderlugt
Sherah and Ben Eavey
Jean and Jeff Kraai
Mary Beth Tupper and Brent Spoelstra

Tuesday, November 29
Eyeglasses Recycling Project & Dinner
6:00 – 8:00 pm, Jamark Labs
No Meeting at Noon at the University Club!

The Eyeglass Recycling Session/Dinner Meeting will be Tuesday, November 29 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm (with dinner about 6:00 pm). During these hours, please come and bring a guest or a prospective member who are interested in a hands-on service project. Your participation is always important. The mission trip could not happen if we didn't have enough glasses to take on the trip. We have lots and lots of eyeglasses to process at all stages before our mission trips in February.

The Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center is at Jamark Labs at 4282 Brockton SE, Suite D, Grand Rapids. It is approximately 1/2 mile east of Broadmore Avenue, about 1 block north of 44th street at the first traffic light and on the east side of Brockton. It is the northern-most suite in a series of connected businesses. Parking and entrances are available in the front of the building. If you have questions or want more information, please contact **Lion Scott Brady** at scottbrady2120@gmail.com or 616-283-0260, or one of the other committee members.

Note: The Recycling Center is open every Tuesday from 3:00 – 8:00 pm.

Replacing Ourselves as Lions



Membership in our Lions Club has been just over 100 members since, roughly, the year 2000. Part of this leveling-off of a gradually declining membership (like many service clubs) was the establishment of the Internet Branch which offered flexibility in providing service in the community. As you recall, the Internet Branch category was merged with the Affiliate category in July, 2016, and is now called the Branch Membership. The other category is the Regular membership, whose higher dues also cover meals.

In 2003, our club decided to focus our service and donations on Blind and Visually Impaired individuals and organizations who serve them. This had the outcome of making a bigger impact rather than spreading donations over a wider range of charities. Three or four years ago, we developed a strategic plan to strengthen our club – to be able to serve the community better.

For our club to stay healthy and thrive in future years, we need to double down in recruiting members. Unlike committee activity where several (or more) Lions participate, recruitment is an individual activity. Members simply need to identify someone and ask them to come to meeting or activity. This is when you can tell the prospective member about our Lions club and have them meet other members.

Our club would thrive if we could set a goal of replacing ourselves once a year. This should be a conscious effort. If half of us, Regular and Branch Club members, were successful, we could have at least 40-50 new members to keep our club strong.

We are asking each member to think about this and then, hopefully, set a goal for yourselves to help our club stay a lively, thriving organization.

John Rice

Lynn Francis

Making a Happier Holiday for Families Meijer Kids Holiday Shopping Event: December 10

Each year, the Grand Rapids Lions Club and our volunteers help to make the holidays a happier time for 40+ families in our area. We help children who are urban-city children in Grand Rapids (Saboath Ministries) or visually impaired children who qualify based upon financial need shop for holiday gifts of their families. The event this year will be held on Saturday morning, December 10, 2016, approximately from about 7:30 – 11:00 am.

We need volunteers for shopping on a one-to-one basis and possibly more for visually impaired children. These volunteers are our own members, spouses & guests and Grand Valley State University Campus Lions Club members. In addition, some drivers are needed to pick-up the kids from Saboath Ministries to take them to the Cascade Meijer store and return them home after the shopping excursion is finished. Parents with visually impaired kids are required to bring their children to Meijer in the morning, but our volunteers will drive them home after the event.

The kids are asked to come prepared with a list of family member's names, ages, and sizes to assist in choosing the items to be purchased. Each child is given a Meijer's gift card for their shopping. After the volunteers have helped the kids shop, the gifts are wrapped and name tags are placed on each gift.

In addition to the use of its conference room, Meijer generously donates a \$15 gift card per child within a total limit of \$1,000 for the event. The Grand Rapids Lions Club donates \$60 per child for a budget of \$75 per child to spend on their family members. At club luncheons, we "Pass the Hat" for donations to supplement the fund from the club to maximize the numbers of kids that can be accommodated. (For each \$75 collected, an additional child is able to attend). *Donations can also be mailed into Jeff Kraai for those who are unable to attend the meetings. (2276 Old Dominion Ct. SE, Kentwood, MI 49508)*

This event rewards all who participate. If you have questions or wish to volunteer, please sign up at the meetings or contact Anne Baird (baird@surfree.com) 616-446-9496 or Mike Thibodeau (muthibodeau@gmail.com).

Other Lion News

Welcome to Our Newest Member: Lion Mary Beth Eyestone, who is Office Manager at Eyestone Law Offices in Grandville, was inducted into our Lions Club on November 1, 2016; Her spouse and sponsor is our current President Shawn Eyestone. They are raising six children and live on Peshtigo Ct. SW in Grandville. Her contact information is in the member section on our website.

Holiday Social: The Holiday Social is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 13 at Blythefield Country Club. So, mark your calendars. We will confirm the date and details later.

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