



GRAND RAPIDS LIONS CLUB

Nuda Veritas

LATIN FOR THE "NAKED TRUTH"

Published for Members by the
Grand Rapids Lions Club District 11-C-1



NOV 2023

WOW our Lions calendar remains FULL of opportunities!!!! See below and SEE YOU THERE!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **NOVEMBER 13 - NOVEMBER SERVICE PROJECT 5:30- 8PM** TONIGHT!
 - **EYEGASS WASHERS NEEDED TO WASH READING GLASSES FOR DISTRIBUTION TO LOCAL NONPROFITS!**
 - **LOCATION: 616 PHOTOGRAPHY 4060 29TH STREET (NOT FAR FROM BURGER KING) ENTER THROUGH BACK DOOR FOR LIONS EYEGASS WAREHOUSE. PLEASE RSVP TO SHERAH EAVEY AT [SHERAH@EAVEY.COM](mailto:sherah@eavey.com)**
- **NOVEMBER 21 - LUNCH MEETING!**
 - **LUNCH MEETING AT THE UNIVERSITY CLUB DOWNTOWN**
 - **5/3 BLDG (TOP FLOOR) | 111 LYON ST NW | GRAND RAPIDS**
 - **RSVP TO CHERYL BY 12 NOON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17**
- **DECEMBER 2: HOLIDAY SHOPPING**
 - **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR IN-PERSON SHOPPING ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023 | SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS**
- **DECEMBER 5 - LUNCH MEETING!**
 - **LUNCH MEETING**
 - **RSVP TO CHERYL BY 12 NOON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1**
- **DECEMBER 16: HOLIDAY PARTY - MARK YOUR CALENDARS :)**
 - **LOCATION: WALLINGWOOD SPRINGS IN JENISON**
 - **MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW VIA EMAIL**
- **JANUARY 30 - BLIND DINNER DATE: 6-9PM MEIJER GARDENS**
 - **MORE INFO ON PAGE 4**

NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT: DR GARY ANDERSON



Why be a Lion ?

Make a difference in the lives of those in need and make lifelong friends from all walks of life while doing it.

Our Lions vision mission team was in Jamaica the week of Oct 23rd, performing 3,000 eye exams on students that would never have vision care. We prescribed and provided 300 pairs of used eyeglasses for those that need them. Considering that 80% of what is taught in school is presented visually, this makes a great difference in their future and the country of Jamaica. This doesn't happen just because of the 19 Lions on the trip. Lions collecting used eyeglasses, sorting, cleaning, measuring, inputting computer data, packing, making shipping and flight arrangements, on-site planning by the local Lions and our hosts, arranging transportation, food and lodging in country. Without that "other work", the mission does not happen.

Teamwork, of 100's of "Lions Changing the World".

Thank you for all you do.

Why not invite someone new to have this great experience of making a difference and making new lifelong friends. Bring a friend or family member to our next meeting or service project and let them experience Lionism.

We Serve.

Gary Anderson
President, Grand Rapids Lions Club 2022-2024
ga@andersoneye.com | cell: 616-460-2012



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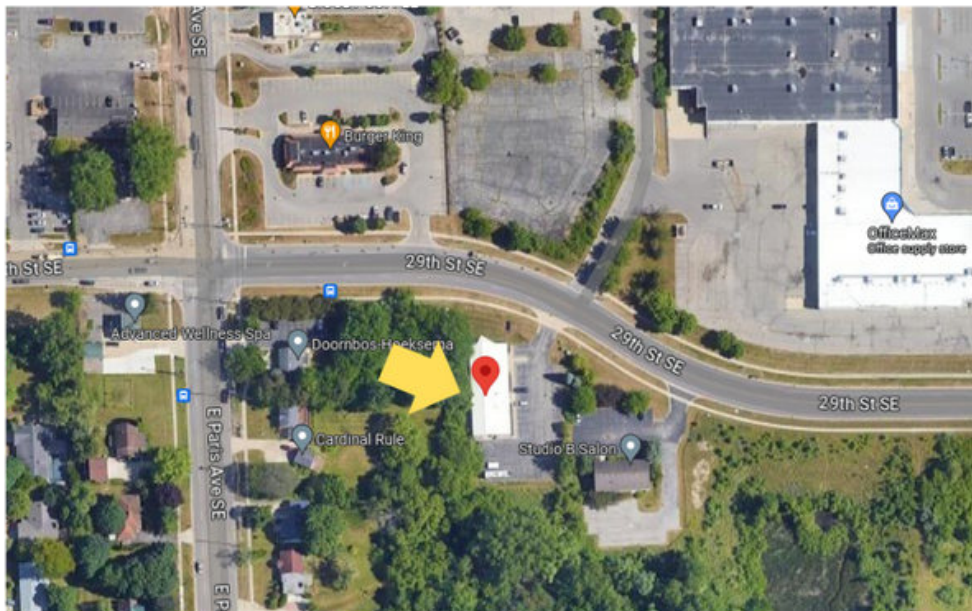
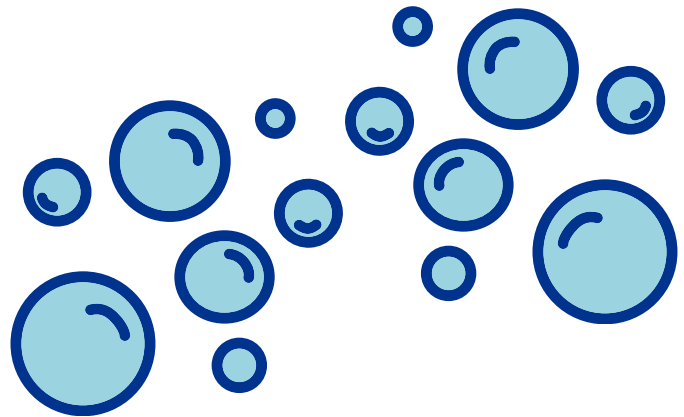
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LIONS DISTRICT 11-C1: ALLEGAN, BARRY, IONIA, KENT, MUSKEGON, OTTAWA

TONIGHT!

SERVICE PROJECT: NOV 13 5:30- 8PM

- Eyeglass washers needed to wash reading glasses for distribution to local nonprofits!
- Location: 616 Photography 4060 29th Street (Not far from Burger King) Enter through back door for Lions Eyeglass Warehouse.
- **Please RSVP to Sherah Eavey at sherah@eavey.com**



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BLIND DINNER DATE

The Grand Rapids Lions Club is excited to present the 18th Annual Blind Dinner Date!

Dear Lion,

We are extending an invitation for you to join us for an impactful event at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park (1000 E Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525) on **Tuesday, January 30, 2024 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm** for an evening of celebration in a gorgeous venue filled with great appetizers, drinks, and music.

We are privileged to have Katie Mawby, a member of the USA Adaptive Water Ski and Wake Sports Team, as our featured guest. The evening will also highlight the commendable efforts of local professionals who are committed to improving the quality of life for individuals with vision loss.

80% of the information we take in each day is processed through our eyes. Too often, and without thought, the ability to see is taken for granted. Grand Rapids Lions is committed to partnering with organizations working to help individuals living with vision loss.

All funds raised through the Blind Dinner Date provide:

- **Eye care to all ages** through the Grand Rapids Lions Club Vision Clinic at Cherry Health, including children with special needs.
- **Rehabilitation services for individuals in West Michigan with visual impairment or blindness** through the Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired (ABVI).

We need your help supporting our mission! – Please review the sponsorship opportunities and participation levels that have been added to the website. You can click through to that information here:

<https://www.grandrapidslionsclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Lions-Copy-of-BDD-2023-Sponsor-letter-v5.pdf>



For more information, please contact Jim Schuyler, 2023 Blind Dinner Date Chair, at 616-325-6107 or jimcschuyler@gmail.com.

LAST CALL!

To be included in the program, the form must be received by **October 31, 2023,**



Thank you for sharing our vision, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Jim Schuyler
Blind Dinner Date Chair

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IMPORTANT UPDATE TO OUR CHARITY FUNDS

Over the years our club has been building a fund at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation (GRCF). As of June 30, 2023, we have approximately \$1,200,000 in this fund. Each year the fund generates approximately \$45,000 in spendable grant making dollars. The Board uses this spendable amount to support many charities annually such as Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired, The Cherry Health Lions Club Vision Clinic at Heart of the City Health Center, Michigan Service Foundation, Bear Lake Camp, Leader Dog, Lions Club International Foundation and many more worthwhile charities. Some of the funds from GRCF help support the used eyeglass program. The arrangement with GRCF has served us well over the years but has some drawbacks. When funds are sent to GRCF, they are "in perpetuity" gifts and become the property of that foundation. The advantage of a "in perpetuity" gift is it will continue to provide annually for our charities for generations to come. A disadvantage is it provides no flexibility for use of funds for special club projects. We believe a self-managed fund can add some flexibility, improve the rate of return on investments and reduce the high costs that typically are present in a community foundation. We would like Lions members to have both options available.

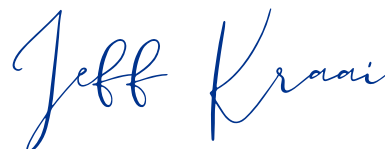
Starting 6/30/23, at the request of the Board, donors will have this second option on where their donation will be held. While the GRCF "in perpetuity" gift options will remain, our club has set up a second option within the Grand Rapids Lions Club Charities corporation to hold and invest these donations. The intention of this new fund (called the Flex Fund) is to be close to a permanent foundation with an exception that will allow the Board to spend up to 25% once every 5 years of the assets on special projects that will help serve the visually impaired individuals or other community endeavors that Lions typically support. There will also be a 5% annual spendable allocation similar to the GRCF program. The advantage of this fund over the GRCF will be the assets remain under the ownership of the club and provide some flexibility as to use. The hope is that return on assets will be higher and costs to operate the fund will be lower and thereby generate more annual spendable grant dollars.

An example of how this might work somewhere down the road is let's say Cherry Health Lions Club Vision Clinic needs to renovate the vision clinic. They have requested our club support this endeavor to the tune of \$100,000. The Board could authorize say \$25,000, if assets are available, to be spent from this fund and have a fundraising drive to raise another \$25,000. Then the club would request a matching grant from Lions Club International for a total of \$100,000 toward this special project.

If you are considering a donation to the club or are setting up a will, trust or estate, you will be asked if you want your donation to be an "in perpetuity" donation and go to the Grand Rapids Community Foundation or if the donation will be held in the Grand Rapids Lions Club Flex Fund account. Guidelines on how the fund is operated are available to anyone who asks.

Importantly, for those of you who have already made commitments to "Legacy gifts" that are part of your wills and/or trusts, any such designations dated prior to June 30, 2023 will automatically go to the GRCF unless you provide clear guidance that you prefer your donation stay within the fund held by the club.

Should you have any questions, please contact Jeff Kraai



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LIONS ROAR!: MEMBER UPDATE SECTION

Fellow Lions: Have something new in your life you would like to share? Time to shout it out! We are looking to be sure that if you have something you would like the Grand Rapids Lions Club family to know about - please let us know. Examples might be:

- New additions (kids, grandkids, marriages,)
- Business Happenings: Did you buy or sell a business? Retire? Start a new company?
- Awards, Career Updates, Illness or reason you need some extra support - we are here for you!!!
- Reach out and we can place in an upcoming newsletter.



 Call or Text: 616-951-4663

 Email: JohnRiceOnline@gmail.com

DECEMBER 2: HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Volunteers needed for in-person shopping on Saturday, December 2, 2023

Meijer generously donates a \$30 gift card per child within a total limit of \$1500 for the event. The Grand Rapids Lions Club donates \$95 per child (up to \$4750 for 50 children) to set a budget of \$125 per gift card for children to spend on their family members. "Pass the Hat" donations through collections at Lions luncheons assist in supplementing the cost of having additional children participate. For each \$125 collected, an additional child is able to attend.

WHAT: The first shift is designated for the children with visual impairments and begins PROMPTLY at 7:15 a.m. The second group of children begin at 8:30 a.m. when the Base Camp Sabbath children arrive with their staff. ****Due to the large number of children who are being referred, we are looking for at least 35 volunteers or more, if possible, so the ratio would be no more than 2 children to every 1 volunteer.

WHEN: Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 at 7:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Meijer on 28th & I-96 in Cascade



Members are welcome to make this a "family event" and include spouses, children or acquaintances who are interested in volunteering.

Contact: Anne Baird | baird@surfree.com | 616-446-9496

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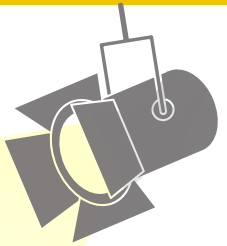
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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

HIGHLIGHTING A MEMBER OF THE GRAND RAPIDS LIONS CLUB



Name: Anne Baird

Profession: Retired; Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Orientation & Mobility Specialist

Years as a Lion: Just received my 20 year pin.

Spouse/family: Jim (Spouse), 2 married children and 5 grandchildren

Do you hold positions within the club?

Past President, Present and Past Director

What is your favorite thing about being a Lion? OR a favorite memory you would like to share.

AB: I love that everyone is welcoming and willing to be active in the community. Everyone wants to serve each other and the community because they get to not because they have to!

What are the top 3 words that come to mind when you think of Lionism?

AB: Service, Kindness, and Support

Name your favorite movie, book, board game or all three:

AB: Non-fiction novels with historical references; Family Scrabble

When not at Lions, what do you like to do for fun?

AB: Enjoy my family and grandkids in every possible way, volunteering through our church and the Hospital Guild

What is a "secret" skill you have no one knows about?

AB: I enjoy creative writing, art (painting and pottery) and music.

Where is your favorite place to travel? What is the top place on your travel bucket list?

AB: I love to travel to places we have never been with historical meaning (in the United States or anywhere in the world). Any meal (including hot dogs) with my family gathering at our table.

LIONS: BE IN THE KNOW

DISTRICT 11-C1 NEWS

To find out more about news in our Lions Club District 11-C1 covering Lions in Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Muskegon, and Ottawa visit on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/115990828419557>



Curious about eyeglass recycling locations around town?

We have the perfect "site" to restore your sight ... For an

interactive map visit:

<https://www.grandrapidlionsclub.org/glasses-drop-off/>

STATE LION NEWS

To find out more about news in our Michigan Lions visit:

<http://lionsofmi.com/>



LIONS INTERNATIONAL

To find out more about news in Lions International visit:

<https://lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/lions-events-calendar>

“Be true to yourself. Make each day a masterpiece. Help others.
Drink deeply from good books. Make friendship a fine art.
Build a shelter against a rainy day.”

— *John Wooden*



Happy Birthday!

- BRENT SPOELSTRA 11/3
- LYNN FRANCIS 11/4
- BOYD GRISWOLD 11/9
- THADDEUS PHELPS 11/9
- ERIK ANDERSON 11/10
- RICK WALKER 11/14
- RAY WEIDENFELLER 11/29



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