



Gift for Living Report April 2025

PID Lion Phil Nathan MBE





Lions Clubs International



MD105 British Isles

Our Patron, HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh fully supports the Gift for Living project and encourages the family of Lions to continue to fund this very worthwhile programme of saving vulnerable mothers and their babies.

Trustees

- **Phil Nathan MBE** - *Grant Administrator - Chairman*
- **Linda Picton** - *Treasurer and Correspondent Trustee*
- **PDG John Bush** - *Secretary*
- **PID Geoff Leeder**
- **PCC Philip Goodier**

Charity Reg. No: 1070418

Grateful thanks to **PDG Tony Clarkson** for the upkeep of our website, Tony has now stepped down. We are grateful to **Robert Spragg** who through his company is now hosting the website. A big thank you to **Lion Brigitte Green** for managing the donated currency and it's conversion, along with the collection of used postage stamps these are growing into great fundraisers.



Introduction

In a world often fragmented by borders, beliefs, and backgrounds, Lions Clubs International stands as a beacon of unity and peace. By embedding the encouragement of peace and international understanding into our mission statement, Lions transcend the mere act of service to become a global symphony of compassion and cooperation. This noble mission resonates deeply in our collective quest for harmony, reminding us that amidst our differences, the desire for peace is universal.

The universal language of service acts as a bridge connecting diverse cultures, faiths, and communities. This language speaks to the heart, transcending linguistic and geographical barriers, and fostering a sense of belonging to a global family. Through acts of kindness, whether small gestures or monumental projects, Lions International demonstrates that service is a powerful tool for healing and bringing people together.

In every community service project, health initiative, or disaster relief effort, Lions members embody the principle that serving others not only addresses immediate needs but also plants seeds of peace and understanding. These acts of service are conversations without words, telling stories of empathy, respect, and mutual support. They remind us that in helping others, we discover our shared humanity and the interconnectedness of our destinies.

The encouragement of peace and international understanding challenges us to look beyond our differences and work together for a common good. It is a call to action to use our diverse talents and perspectives in a harmonious effort to create a better world. This mission inspires individuals from all walks of life to come together, learn from each other, and forge friendships that transcend traditional boundaries.

In fostering international understanding, Lions International also serves as an educational platform, providing its members and the communities they serve with opportunities to learn about different cultures and traditions. This education is not confined to books or lectures but is lived through service, creating a deeply personal and impactful learning experience. By understanding each other, we dismantle the foundations of fear and prejudice, building instead a world where peace is not just a dream but a growing reality.

Our commitment to encouraging peace and international understanding is a testament to the power of service to unite us. In a world often divided, their mission stands as a reminder that when we come together in the spirit of service, we speak a universal language that can bridge any divide. Through our actions, Lions members worldwide are not just serving their communities; they are nurturing a global family, bound together by the unshakeable belief that in unity, there is strength, and in understanding, there is peace.

Lion Daniel Marney Elkins



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Report No: E.2

Gift for Living - PID Lion Phil Nathan MBE

What is Gift for Living

Your charity, A Gift for Living (GFL) has been successfully caring for babies and children in the countries of the Balkans for over 25 years, following the violent conflict that took place in the 90's. Sadly, as has been seen, this even included ethnic cleansing! Thanks to the support given from Lions across the British Isles and Ireland and supported by our global Foundation, LCIF, well-trained doctors and nurses are now successfully treating thousands of babies and children each year. Some of the education provided has subsequently enabled "train the trainer" capability in surrounding countries.

Where we have left our footprints still shows us work is far from complete but there are so many places where the call to serve is loud!

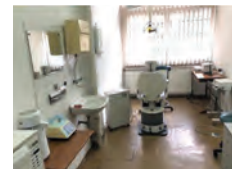
1. An overview of the three projects currently included in Gift for Living

PROJECT 1 – Our work is reaching completion at the school in Sarajevo.

The Vladimir Nazor Centre

A school in Sarajevo for some 300 children with a range of challenging intellectual disabilities has been a recent focus and work is now reaching completion to refurbish and repair the kitchen that had been condemned as being unfit for purpose.

We have provided a complete dental unit with a dentist employed by the local authority – again our thanks to PDG Lion Jarvis MacDonald and also Dentaid UK. Around 500 children from two special needs schools now receive regular dental care - an extraordinary advancement in their wellbeing.



PROJECT 2 – Work to support the Orphanage in Jinja, Uganda

Having recently concluded a visit to witness first hand, I have now seen and been emotionally touched by the needs of the children in an Orphanage in Jinja, Uganda. The orphanage had, potentially, only a short life left because of the complexities of Ugandan rules and regulations. If it closes, the Children are likely to end up on the street – I did not rate the street very highly. It was my hope that A Gift for Living could step in to support these children and to encourage the global lions community to sponsor these children. I am pleased to report that is the case and we have saved the orphanage.

PROJECT 3 – Supporting the Lions Club of Sarajevo Centar and the Lions of Bosnia

I received a request for a visit to celebrate 20 years' of support for this area. Whilst there a further project become evident and support from GFL was requested. The project is attempting to establish a system for monitoring the early and late consequences of the treatment of cancer in predominately children and the prevention of new malignant diseases in children and young people who were treated for malignant diseases in childhood.

About 51,955 KM (approx. 26,000 Euros) was collected through donations, tickets and an auction. The collected funds will be directed to the initial steps of the implementation of the above-mentioned project, which includes the establishment of co-operation with the University Clinical Centre of Ljubljana, Slovenia and the training of the professional staff of the Clinical Centre of the University of Sarajevo under their supervision.



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PROJECT 1

Work is almost complete at the Vladimir Nazor Centre. When I visited in 2023 just prior to Christmas, I was there to spend a few days in Bosnia Herzegovina completing Childrens' eye-screening and checking state of play on other ongoing projects. You may recall the school has 300 intellectually challenged primary school aged children and the sister school with one hundred similarly challenged in the kindergarten.

In previous updates I have reported on the difficulties working with the management team which have caused much anxiety for all concerned at the centre. I have extended my sincere thanks to Lion Edina Husejnovic for sticking with the project and wanting so much to see it through.

Due to the success of the foreign currency conversion many of the items on the shopping list have been purchased. We had at that point a shortfall of approx 14,000 euros to complete the kitchen.

The newly acquired whiteboard computers and laptops have made a huge difference to both teaching and learning. Armin Algic continues to be a great source of support and he knew that one of his friends, who has a local business specialising in the refurbishment of technological equipment, was nearby to the school. He has supplied Gift for Living on a number of occasions with refurbished laptops for use with the blind. Ten laptops supplied in Tuzla and another ten to the Vladimir centre. The software that was added to laptops has enabled blind or visually impaired children to join the world of technology. Our visit proved to be an amazing coincidence and turned out to be an opportunity not to be missed. The visit to the local business astounded me as he had just purchased 7 computerised white boards (even more astounding was there are seven classrooms needing some form of equipment)). The German Government had seized equipment from a company that they had closed, the equipment included 7 large whiteboards as you can see below and 25 laptops which they were willing to sell at hugely discounted prices. We negotiated and agreed the final price for the equipment. I acknowledge the great support, as ever, from Lion Armin Algic.



As you can see from the images the equipment funded by GFL is now in place at the school and everyone is benefiting from its instalment. Yet again something that GFL has achieved with your help.

Some of the IT equipment has had a huge impact on those children with severe disabilities who can only lay on the floor at home and using the new laptops can now look at the images on screen via the new computer equipment.

The computerised woodwork machinery has made a huge impact and the wax candle burner has allowed the children to make candles which the school sells. The new kitchen is almost complete thanks to a number of donors. No more rats or rat holes and the children are being taught to cook and how to bake. With the arrival of new sanitary ware the impact is overwhelming.

Publicity in 2024

Fantastic publicity for the Vladimir Nazor Centre project was the interview Edina managed to secure on prime time Sarajevo TV where she talked for 15 minutes about the project and even the work undertaken during Covid. Although in essence the kitchen project is now complete and I had the opportunity to see the completed work in June 2024.







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The new kitchen is now complete thanks to a number of donors. No more rats or rat holes and the children are being taught to cook and how to bake. With the arrival of new sanitary ware the impact is overwhelming.

LCIF have supported the rebuilding of this kitchen. As has happened worldwide the building work had almost doubled in cost which meant a huge step backwards. However because of the importance for the health of the children the Government did step in to undertake the responsibility of the construction. Both the Government and local Government stepped up with financial assistance towards the project.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks for the most generous personal donation made to the GFL project specifically to benefit the children of the Vladimir Nazor School from a member of a previous council.

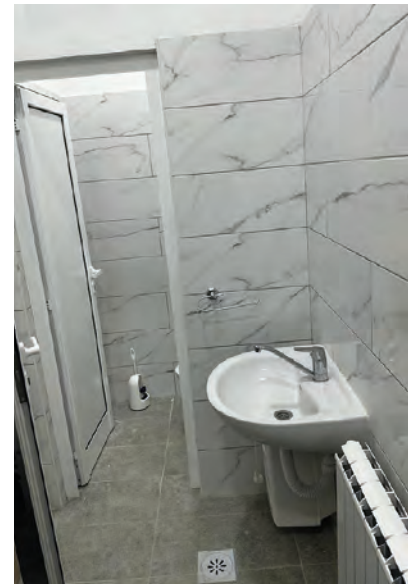
The kitchen opened in April 2024 and it is providing hot meals for 400 children and at other times the kitchen is used as a training facility teaching children the basics of self-sufficiency. The kitchen is now recognised as a HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) accreditation. The cost of this was 14,000 euros.

You can clearly see from the images how much the kitchen has changed to become a fully functioning kitchen capable of feeding the children at the centre. The plaques (right) will be attached to the building to thank all of those responsible for helping with this project once it is completed.

As an aside and as a wonderful example of the synergy of our work at the centre, during my last visit we took the opportunity to complete eye-screening of the children at the centre. 50% of them were found to have significant vision impairments. This finding is a crucial reminder of the importance of regular and comprehensive health screenings in special education health settings. For children with severe intellectual disabilities vision problems can significantly impact both their learning and daily life and yet these issues often go unnoticed due to communication barriers or an assumption that behavioural or learning difficulties are solely due to their intellectual disability.

As we continue our work to support the unique needs of these children the vision screening serves as a powerful reminder to educators, healthcare professionals and policy makers about the essential role of holistic care in special education. The sight camera has no boundaries — it's taken us beyond borders. Our vision screening project reached two schools in Serbia, highlighting just how vital this work is. Without this initiative, many of the children we screened might never have been tested. By taking a camera from the UK and using it to screen the children we have been able to make a real difference (*pictures on the next page show the use of the camera in Serbia and the Lions members of Novi Sad creating a dark room for the vision camera to function correctly*).

My fervent hope is that these findings act as a catalyst for change prompting schools, communities and healthcare systems to prioritise and improve the quality of vision care provided to children with severe intellectual disabilities. This is not just a question of seeing better; it's about giving these children a better chance to thrive in every aspect of their lives (*see the selection of photos on the next page*).



GFL Eye Screening





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Blood Cancer Screening Project

Working alongside Lions Clubs in Sarajevo, we secured a grant to establish a long-term monitoring initiative to assess the effects of cancer treatments on children and young people. A local support organisation has been instrumental in emotionally supporting survivors, marking a powerful moment during a recent commemorative event. LC Sarajevo Centre and **A Gift for Living** have successfully applied for an LCIF grant, and I am honoured to serve as the project co-ordinator.

Further to above we have given Support for Leos in Serbia

- Provided funds to assist in the purchase of pillows for a project benefitting senior citizens.
- Supported a Leo group in feeding a horse donated to a school for therapeutic riding - furthering access and enrichment for children with disabilities.

Individual Grant: Rehabilitation Support in Serbia

A Gift for Living offered critical financial support to a 9-year-old boy with Cerebral Palsy, enabling him and his mother to travel monthly from Serbia to Poland for specialised rehabilitation. His progress has been extraordinary: improved speech, mobility, confidence in swimming, and even the ability to experience horseback riding. His mother, having given up her professional career to support his therapy full-time, continues to provide daily care at home. This story is a testament to the power of hope and perseverance and is being followed by many supporters on Facebook





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PROJECT 2

There is currently a Trust operating, (Shield of Faith Community Empowerment), in the area that was set up by a totally dedicated young Lion who was himself an orphan and adopted.



There are currently 40 children aged 4-16 years who are cared for by the Trust and it's volunteers and these young adults are educated and taught a trade, until age 18. Amongst the challenges faced by the orphans include poverty, domestic violence, child labour and child abuse.

It takes \$40 US Dollars a month to feed, cloth, provide medication and educate a child even to provide training so that they may leave with a skill. Yes, it is a commitment, but sponsorship can provide a child/young adult with a better start in life – to be educated and provide some hope for a future. There is a distinct possibility that the Lions of USA and Canada are likely to be joining us in support of this programme. All efforts will be channelled through **Gift for Living**.

The partnership with Shield of Faith Community Empowerment Organisation (SOFCEO) in Jinja, Uganda, has reached a milestone. Thanks to dedicated clubs, MD105 Foundation, and international supporters, we have successfully secured sponsorship for all 40 children at the orphanage. Each child now receives essential food, shelter, medical care, clothing, and education.

For transparency, donations from **A Gift for Living** are transferred directly to the Bank of Uganda for the benefit of SOFCEO. Invoices and receipts are required for all expenditures.

What have we achieved

- **Education Support:** Due to the pandemic, many children fell behind academically. School fees are now fully paid, allowing all children to return to school and receive end-of-term certificates, shared with sponsors.
- **Skills for Life – Sewing Project:** A donation enabled the purchase of materials for the girls to sew reusable feminine hygiene pads, helping ensure regular school attendance.
- **Mosquito Nets:** Every child has now received a new mosquito net to protect them from malaria. The previous nets had sadly worn out and were no longer offering protection from mosquitoes, which is especially dangerous at this time of year when they are most active. In addition to the nets, new bedding has also been purchased. As you can see from the photo, both the nets and the bedding have been **very gratefully received** by the children.





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Emergency Relief

Recent storms severely damaged the orphanage infrastructure and ruined vital crops. Water sources were contaminated. Immediate funds were sent to cover:

- Basic food supply (100kg rice, 100kg beans, 200kg maize flour).
- Emergency school fees.
- Fumigation of latrines and deworming for all children.



We aim to raise funds for a **water filtration system** to improve access to clean water and prevent future health risks.

Community Support and Fundraising

- Lions Virtual supported a St. Patrick's Day online fundraiser, raising funds for essential bedding.
- Additional donations have pledged support for new mattresses and a crop irrigation pump.
- Sustainability remains a key focus, with annual sponsorship renewals due in June.

As we think about the delights of Easter just gone and all that it brings give a thought to the children who just in the week leading up to Easter were wormed and the latrines fumigated. It's quite levelling when you consider the conditions the children are surrounded by.

Special thanks must go to Lion Linda Picton for her steadfast support with the orphanage programme.

Any donations you may wish to make send to your District Treasurer by cheque, made payable to the District, and endorsed on the back with 'Gift for Living'. For those that might wish to sponsor a child individually please remember AGFL offers the facility of Gift Aid.



I am excited and delighted to have already received individual offers of sponsorship from outside of the UK, furthermore there are distinct possibilities of Multiple Districts getting involved.

An orphanage sponsored by the Lions global family would be a true reflection of who we are as an organisation.

On the next pages you will see a newsletter received from the Shield of Faith Community Empowerment Organisation outlining the recent milestones and achievements. In the first page of the newsletter you will note the table of registered exams, the abbreviation 'PLE' which refers to 'Primary Learning Examination' administered by 'UNAB' which is 'Uganda National Examinations Board'. You will also see 2 students who have completed their 'UCE' exams which stands for 'Uganda Certificate of Education', and equates to a GCSE 'O' Level in the UK.



MARCH MILESTONES / ACHIEVEMENTS

Children welfare

(i) Education

All our children have continued to attend school without any interruption during the month of March 2025. Records on their performance at school and wellbeing were evaluated and discussed by the schools' administrations and the SOFCEO representatives through our continuous visits to the schools where our children attend classes from. This has caused significant improvement in the general performance of our child.

We have managed to register our children in candidate classes for UNEB examinations. And these are;

S/NO.	NAME	CLASS	REGISTERED EXAMS
1.	Ekanya Moses	P.7	PLE
2.	Mutumba Abdulrahim	P.7	PLE
3.	Musana Abubakali	P.7	PLE
4.	Nabaweesi Hibah	S.4	UCE
5.	Nanyanzi Nimah	S.4	UCE

All funds used for their registration were from Gifts of Living (UK) March 2025 donations. All thanks goes to you our sponsors. May the great God Almighty bless you abundantly!!!

(ii) **Health**

We have had no serious medical issues apart from few cases of cold flu, Headache and minor cases of Typhoid which were handled locally in the nearby medical facility of Kedron Health Centre. With the provision of mattresses, mosquito nets and other materials, our children's comfort at the orphanage has improved with reduced illnesses at the orphanage. We therefore appreciate your continued support and endeavors, may God bless the work of your hands.

(iii) **Feeding**

There has been good feeding of our children with at least two meals a day and breakfast tea / porridge.



Preparing beans to be cooked at the Centre by Muduwa Hussina as a way of equipping them socially accepted home skills



Cleaning utensil by Buluka Mercy as a way of equipping them with hygiene and sanitary skills



Porridge being prepared for beneficiaries



Breeds for breakfast at the Centre

(iv) Accommodation

Sleeping improves after provision of mattresses and clothing but still we have a vacuum of bed sheets and blankets.

We have achieved all this because of Gifts of Living (UK) generous and continued support. May the Almighty God bless you!

(v) Spiritual growth

SOFCEO has continued to grow and develop God fearing children who are committed to engage in Christian norms. In this lent season, 18 children of SOFCEO have engaged in Fasting with continuous prayer and we thank God for the courage and endurance He has given to them.

(vi) Community empowerment

In line with our cardinal objectives, we have continued to empower single mothers so as to enable them look after their children. This is done through tailoring training and modern

agricultural methods training with free startup seeds given to them. In this month of March we have enrolled three single mother who are undertaking tailoring classes at our Centre.



Tailoring training of single mothers at SOFCEO

OUR PRAYERS

- We pray that God enables us to prepare Easter party for our Children.
- There is need for bed sheets and blankets for our children
- We pray that God enables us to complete the payment for the balance on the acquisition of land for SOFCEO's permanent home.
- We pray that God enable us access a water pump to facilitate irrigation on our gardens during dry seasons.
- We pray that God will bless both Gift of Living (UK) our Sponsors of SOFCEO activities and the children.



CONCLUSION

As you consider how God may be calling you to care for waiting children, take heart. "He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it" **(1 Thessalonians 5:24)**

With you SOFCEO is able to deliver its objectives and goals; thank you





PROJECT 3 - SUPPORTING THE LIONS CLUB OF SARAJEVO CENTAR AND THE LIONS OF BOSNIA

The project is attempting to establish a system for monitoring the early and late consequences of the treatment of cancer in predominately children and the prevention of new malignant diseases in children and young people who were treated for malignant diseases in childhood. Your Gift for Living Project donated 1000 euros towards this project and the intention is to approach LCIF to become part of a bigger project.

An evening of celebration was hosted by The Lions Club Sarajevo Centar and whilst attending the event we were introduced to an organisation that is providing networking and individual support to those that have survived cancer. It is hoped that we will be able to help this to grow internationally. About 51,955 KM (approx. 26,000 euros) was collected through donations, tickets and the auction on the night. The project will need approx. 100,000 euros to implement.

The collected funds will be directed to the initial steps of the implementation of the above mentioned project, which includes the establishment of co-operation with the University Clinical Centre of Ljubljana, Slovenia and the training of the professional staff of the Clinical Centre of the University of Sarajevo under their supervision.



At the celebrations of 20 years supporting projects in Sarajevo was honoured to be joined by the Prime Minister of the Canton of Sarajevo Nihad UK



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THE LEGACY OF GFL

Back in 1996 there was a headline in the local press that said '40 crazy Englishmen with big hearts' set out in a convoy of lorries with 100,000 boxes of small essentials collected and packed by Lions, partners and friends set of to help the stricken people of war torn Croatia. I was the District Governor at that time and what I witnessed inspired me to do more and from there Lions clubs International - A Gift for Living was born.

Here are some of the projects undertaken by GFL - your charity has undertaken since its inception:

East & West Mostar Project

- Life saving training implemented called Advance Paediatric Life Support.
- this training given to support lifesaving methods of caring for seriously ill babies.
- large numbers of doctors and nurses attending.
- Lions Intensive Care Unit established at Kosevo Hospital Sarajevo in partnership with LCIF.

Sarajevo Paediatric Hospital

- Establishment of Paediatric Intensive care unit (PICU) and neonatal intensive care unit. (NICU), including long term training for doctors and nurses in hospital paediatrics, obstetrics and neonatology.
- Oncology Department Sarajevo - establishment of children's oncology department for the treatment of cancer in children in Sarajevo hospital.
- Sarajevo Maternity Hospital (a tertiary neonatal department).
- Children's hospital services in the city of Bihac Children's paediatric ward are improved. A mobile clinic and child care literature was provided for the remote enclave of Gorazde.
- A children's unit was set up in Gorazde Hospital.
- Created the Sarajevo Blind School to protect children from landmines.
- Provided new medical equipment for the Banja Luka Children's Hospital - establishment of PICU and NICU.
- Sarajevo Casualty Department - ongoing work to build and equip a resuscitation box and training centre.
- A powerful and important legacy that was left with the doctors after the war was the implementation of APLS (Advanced Paediatric Life Support) and later MOET (Management of Obstetrics Emergencies and Trauma) these have been recognised worldwide as imperatives for sick babies.

A Gift for Living helped to co-ordinate a vision screening project in Albania. The target agreed with the Albanian Government was for 6,000 screenings. A total of 7,200 people, both old and young were screened. Two young girls were identified as being in need of surgical procedures and your Charity enabled these to be successfully carried out in Novi Sad, Serbia, one year later in November 2019. Life changing results for these two young girls. Lions and Leos from several countries played an important part in the success of these surgeries. Fundraising for this treatment took almost a year and came from many donations, as mentioned, the results of the treatment were life changing and consequently rewarding to all donors.

We are eternally grateful to the work of Professor Vladimir Canadanovic who performed the surgery (at no cost) and I was pleased to present him recently with a Melvin Jones Fellowship on behalf of MD105 for all the work he has undertaken.



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LET YOUR CHANGE (IN ANY CURRENCY) HELP MAKE THE CHANGE

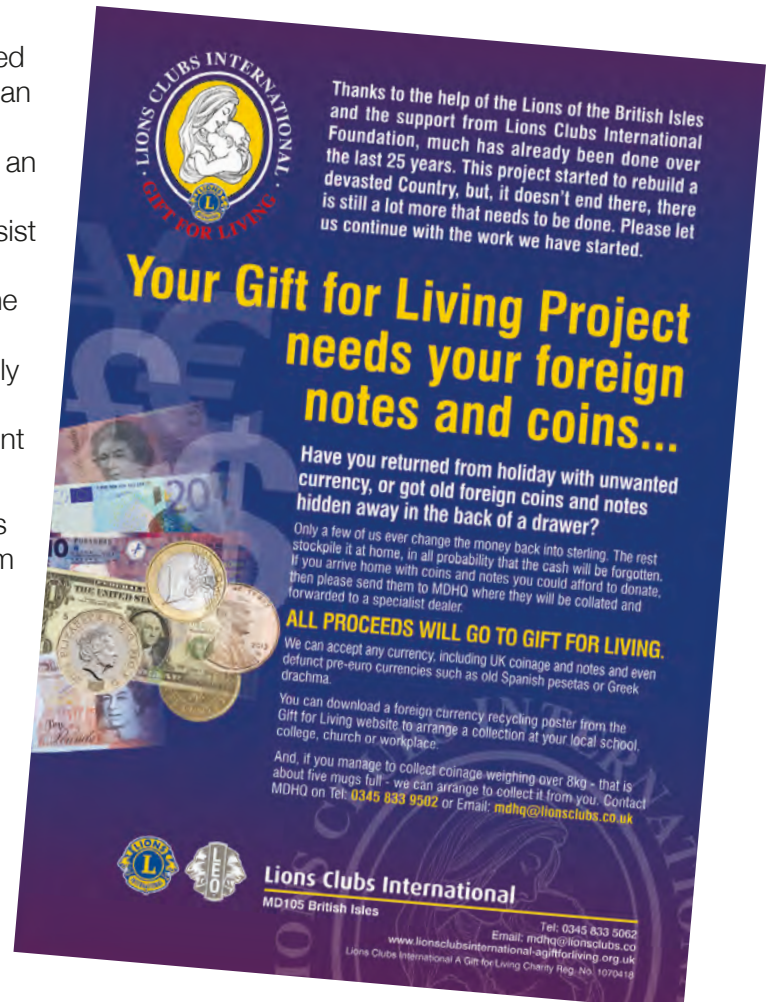
The request for foreign coins to be collected and donated continues and we now have an outlet to convert foreign and old coins into donations for this appeal. This has proved an excellent example of the synergy between two projects as one of the traders who assist with precious metals in the spectacle collection has volunteered to assist with the coin conversion into valuable donations to help fund this project. We have successfully converted the old coins and money has been banked into the Gift for Living Account to help with the much needed funds.

Please continue to send or take your coins to our National Headquarters - Birmingham and our team there will oversee the collection and conversion of coinage and notes.

If you are attending MD Convention Newcastle we shall have a collecting box at the supplies stall.

I am extremely grateful to Lion Brigitte at Lions Clubs National Headquarters who is overseeing this element of the programme.

Soon the Trustees will be announcing another fundraising idea **more to follow.**



Does the work we do make a difference..... a picture paints a thousand words and everyone involved is as delighted as I was from my recent visit.



Picture taken on the left 2022 and one year later - 2023, the same young lady is still so grateful of the support your Charity provided



GFL Roller banners are available from Lions National HQ and are shown on the following pages. These tell the Gift for Living story.

GFL Roller banners 1 & 2



The Lions Clubs International A Gift for Living Trust is 'our' charity and has been working successfully in the countries of the Balkans for 25 years. Its work started towards the end of what are now referred to as the Yugoslav Wars.

The Yugoslav Wars were a series of violent conflicts in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia that took place between 1991 and 2001.

During that period a savage civil war raged in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which tore the heart out of that beautiful area of Europe. Even before the sound of gunfire died down your charity was in there, bringing out babies and taking the first steps to help rebuild the medical infrastructure of this stricken society. Time passed, a kind of peace descended, and the local people began the heartbreaking task of picking up the wreckage of their lives. The medical infrastructure of the area had more or less been destroyed, with hospitals damaged beyond repair and doctors and nurses unable to train and work.





Our Patron, HRH The Countess of Wessex GCVO, fully supports the Gift for Living Project and encourages the family of Lions to continue to fund this very worthwhile programme of saving vulnerable mothers and their babies.




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As ever in human conflicts, the most innocent bore the brunt; babies and small children were dying from lack of specialised care. 41 critically ill small children who would otherwise have had no hope of survival were snatched out of danger and 'medi-vacced' to hospitals in our Multiple District where they were able to receive life-saving care. Just two of those infants lost the battle - two too many.

Most of the children - and in some cases the relatives who travelled with them stayed with Lions' families to convalesce. As soon as was humanly possible the charity, under the leadership of PID Phil Nathan, began working directly in the war zone, extending its activities by arranging for doctors and nurses from England, Ireland and elsewhere, all volunteers donating their own time to go to Bosnia and help train and re-train the local demoralised medical workforce, befriending and encouraging.




Work began in **MOSTAR** - a divided city with two separate hospitals, one in the east, one in the west - and then moved on to **SARAJEVO**, where the former modern and well-equipped hospital had been reduced to a bombed out shell. In 2001 in a partnership between Lions and ALSG Manchester, the APLS (Advanced Paediatric Life Support) course was established. **Thanks to the Lions of the Multiple District, well trained doctors and nurses are now successfully treating 400 to 500 babies and 300 to 400 children per year. A remarkable service given on behalf of and thanks to the support of the Lions of the British Isles. But, it doesn't end there, there is still much that needs to be done.**







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GFL Roller banners 3 & 4



Most Recent Projects

In November 2018, A Gift for Living co-ordinated a vision screening project in Albania. 34 Technicians and 15 Sight Doctors travelled from California at their own cost.

The target agreed with the Albanian Government was for 6,000 eye screenings. People came from everywhere. The queues did not stop, they started at 6.30am and finished at dusk, ultimately 7,200 people, both old and young were screened.

The screenings identified two young girls as having strabismus, a condition that could not be corrected by spectacles alone and would require an operation to correct. In November 2019 after several months of discussion notification came that the operations could be carried out. The girls, their mothers and an interpreter travelled from Tirana, Albania to Novi Sad, Serbia.

This was an excellent example of European Lions working together, funding was provided by Lions in MD105 British Isles and D133 Ireland, but could not have been achieved without the support of the Lions and Leos of Serbia.








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Current Projects

SARAJEVO – Repair of kitchens and equipment at a facility that helps those with intellectual disabilities. This is a facility that houses 200 children with various levels of intellectual disability in a building that is outdated, very cold, and desperately in need of support. The Government has recently condemned the kitchen as being unfit for purpose, no food can now be prepared as it is in need of complete refurbishment.



SARAJEVO – Provision of dental equipment to a school for children with intellectual disabilities. 300 children needing dentistry and the dentist chair has not worked for 4 years. The only treatment that has been available is if an "extraction" is required. The government have promised to allocate a dentist but there is no working equipment! Lion Jarvis MacDonald, (District Governor 105SC, 2019-2020), has generously sponsored the cost of purchasing a reconditioned chair and tools and to undertake delivery to Sarajevo. The British Embassy in Sarajevo has kindly offered to assist with customs entry. Ongoing support to dentists, technicians and dental nurses has now been arranged through a team of UK volunteer dental professionals from Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust which is led by the Consultant who was the Dental Clinical Director to Special Olympics GB for the Sheffield games.



GYNAECOLOGICAL BEDS
Our aim is to raise £75,000 and apply for a matching LCIF Grant in order that we can give dignity and hope to women to enable them to receive gynaecological procedures in a safe way using state of the art theatre equipment like this.





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GFL Roller banners 5 & 6



Current Projects

REFUGEES
Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia are countries rebuilding after the ravages of war. There are an estimated 23,000 individuals in Bosnia and Herzegovina all of whom are fleeing someone or something and all of whom are desperate for a chance of a better life, in Western Europe. More are expected to arrive in the Spring. The Lions Clubs in Bosnia and Herzegovina are doing what they can to support the refugees but have limited resources themselves. Winter is bitterly cold and refugees are dying on the streets.





MIGRANTS ENTERING THE EU ILLEGALLY IN 2014-15

SLEEP PODS
Provision of insulated 'Sleep pods' for the refugees for shelter.




Thanks to the help of the Lions of the British Isles and the support from Lions Clubs International Foundation, much has already been done over the last 25 years. This project started to rebuild a devastated Country, but, it doesn't end there, there is still a lot more that needs to be done. Please let us continue with the work we have started.




Lions Clubs International
MD105 British Isles Tel: 0345 833 5062
Email: mdhq@lionsclubs.co.uk
www.lionsclubsinternational.org.uk
Lions Clubs International A Gift for Living Charity Reg. No. 1070418



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Your Gift for Living Project needs your foreign notes and coins ...

Have you returned from holiday with unwanted currency, or got old foreign coins and notes hidden away in the back of a drawer?

Only a few of us ever change the money back into sterling. The rest stockpile it at home, in all probability that the cash will be forgotten. If you arrive home with coins and notes you could afford to donate, then please send them to MDHQ where they will be collated and forwarded to a specialist dealer.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO GIFT FOR LIVING.

We can accept any currency, including UK coinage and notes and even defunct pre-euro currencies such as old Spanish pesetas or Greek drachma.

You can download a foreign currency recycling poster from the Gift for Living website to arrange a collection at your local school, college, church or workplace.

And, if you manage to collect coinage weighing over 8kg - that is about five mugs full - we can arrange to collect it from you. Contact MDHQ on Tel: 0345 833 9502 or Email: mdhq@lionsclubs.co.uk




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GFL Promotional Flyers are available from Lions National HQ. These tell the Gift for Living story.

Current Projects

SARAJEVO – Repair of kitchens and equipment at a facility that helps those with intellectual disabilities. This is a facility that houses 200 children with various levels of intellectual disability in a building that is outdated, very cold, and desperately in need of support. The Government has recently condemned the kitchen as being unfit for purpose, no food can now be prepared as it is in need of complete refurbishment.

SARAJEVO – Provision of dental equipment to a school for children with intellectual disabilities. 300 children needing dentistry and the dentist chair has not worked for 4 years. The only treatment that has been available is if an "extraction" is required. The government have promised to allocate a dentist, but there is no working equipment. Lion Jarvis Macdonald, (District Governor 1055C, 2019-2020), has generously sponsored the cost of purchasing a reconditioned chair and tools and to undertake delivery to Sarajevo. The British Embassy in Sarajevo has kindly offered to assist with customs entry. Ongoing support to dentists, technicians and dental nurses has now been arranged through a team of UK volunteer dental professionals from Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust which is led by the Consultant who was the Dental Clinical Director to Special Olympics GB for the Sheffield games.

GYNAECOLOGICAL BEDS
Our aim is to raise £75,000 and apply for a matching LGIF Grant in order that we can give dignity and hope to women to enable them to receive gynaecological procedures in a safe way using state of the art theatre equipment like this.

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Lions Clubs International is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



Gift for Living Needs YOU

LIONS
- Giving people doing amazing things to help others

The Lions Clubs International Trust is "our" charity and has successfully in the countries 25 years. Its work started low, what are now referred to as the

The Yugoslav Wars were a series of violent conflicts in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia that took place between 1991 and 2001.

During that period a savage civil war raged in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which tore the heart out of that beautiful area of Europe. Even before the sound of gunfire died down your charity was in there, bringing out babies and taking the first steps to help rebuild the medical infrastructure of this stricken society.

Time passed, a kind of peace descended, and the local people began the heart-breaking task of picking up the wreckage of their lives. The medical infrastructure of the area had more or less been destroyed, with hospitals damaged beyond repair and doctors and nurses unable to train and work.

Our Patron

HRH The Countess of Wessex GCVO, fully supports the Gift for Living Project and encourages the family of Lions to continue to fund this very worthwhile programme of saving vulnerable mothers and their babies.

...of specialised care, 41 critically ill small children who would otherwise have had no hope of survival were snatched out of danger and 'mobi-vacced' to hospitals in our Multiple District where they were able to receive life-saving care. Just two of those infants lost the battle - two too many.

Most of the children - and in some cases the relatives who travelled with them stayed with Lions' families to convalesce. As soon as was humanly possible the charity, under the leadership of PID Phil Nathan, began working directly in the war zone, extending its activities by arranging for doctors and nurses from England, Ireland and elsewhere, all volunteers donating their own time to go to Bosnia and help train and re-train the local demoralised medical workforce, befriending and encouraging.

Work began in **MOSTAR** - a divided city with two separate hospitals, one in the east, one in the west - and then moved on to **SARAJEVO**, where the former modern and well-equipped hospital had been reduced to a bombed out shell. In 2001 in a partnership between Lions and ALSG Manchester, the APLS (Advanced Paediatric Life Support) course was established.

Thanks to the Lions of the Multiple District, well trained doctors and nurses are now successfully treating 400 to 500 babies and 300 to 400 children per year. A remarkable service given on behalf of and thanks to the support of the Lions of the British Isles. But, it doesn't end there, there is still much that needs to be done.

Most Recent Projects

In November 2018, A Gift for Living co-ordinated a vision screening project in Albania. 34 technicians and 15 Sight Doctors travelled from California at their own cost.

The target agreed with the Albanian Government was for 6,000 eye screenings. People came from everywhere. The queues did not stop, they started at 6.30am and finished at dusk, ultimately 7,200 people, both old and young were screened.

The screenings identified two young girls as having strabismus, a condition that could not be corrected by spectacles alone and would require an operation to correct. In November 2019 after several months of discussion notification came that the operations could be carried out. The girls, their mothers and an interpreter travelled from Tirana, Albania to New Sad, Serbia.

This was an excellent example of European Lions working together, funding was provided by Lions in MD105 British Isles and D133 Ireland, but could not have been achieved without the support of the Lions and Leos of Serbia.





Donations are even more critical now with new projects to support it is more vital than ever.

We ask any Clubs and individuals wishing to donate to this project can do so and they can liaise directly with myself or via Lions National HQ in Birmingham

Gift for Living and Easyfundraising

Please think about selecting A Gift for Living as your Charity of choice when shopping on line. Easyfundraising, when used as a tool for shopping on line will automatically and at no additional cost to you, donate a small percentage to GFL every time you shop.

Thank you

So there we are... we continue, and the question is will your Clubs help your Charity?

A Gift for Living has been your hands on Charity for almost 30 years.

Still much to do, but it's in your hands.

Together We Can...

www.lionsclubsinternational-agiftforliving.org.uk