

LCIF coordinators

9 October, 14:30 – 16:00

HypoVereinsbank Room

Georges Placet, PID, LCIF Board of Trustees

Speakers:

- Joseph Preston, IPIP and chairman, LCIF
- Katherine Leander, Regional Development Specialist, LCIF
- Georges Placet

Summary:

The meeting informed the LCIF coordinators of the activities in the Lions year 2015 – 2016, and the events in the Lions year 2014 – 2015, including information on fund-raising approvals and special initiatives.

1. Welcome & introduction
2. 2014 – 2015 fund-raising result
3. 2015 – 2016: Objectives and initiatives
4. Final thoughts; questions and answers

Key message:

Opportunity for all LCIF coordinators to keep up to date with current activities and to find out about the plans for the future.

LF George Placet welcomes all present. Change to the agenda: we start with the topic of refugees/migration. Jo Preston chairs the discussions on this topic.

The topic of migration and refugees is a broad one and hard to grasp in precise terms. Many countries face unprecedented numbers of refugees at their borders. The situation changes by the day. LCIF has already started to provide support. Today, we already heard about a project in Sweden. We must agree on a coherent response/approach within the Lions organisation. Ideally, this should be done in a working group.

This group should focus on two objectives: assisting countries that are currently hosting refugees and supporting refugees directly, through launching a fund-raising campaign.

For a European working group, we need two types of members: 1. representatives of transit countries; 2. representatives of host countries where refugees are to stay for longer.

Discussion of this proposal: Jo Preston, says that LCIF should ask the Lions worldwide for support. LCIF can make limited amount of money available (10,000 – 15,000 US Dollars per district/country).

At the moment, 7 million Syrians are homeless, living in Syria but without a roof over their head. LCIF can help more effectively, if it knows exactly what is needed. For MJF, every donation counts. Lions should play

a pro-active role in supporting refugees. The districts/multi-district organisations are called upon to devise concrete projects:

Suggestions:

Financial support to front-line services that are already working in the region.

Purchasing prostheses.

Money is one thing, but what about the children who have lost their parents? Could each Lion take a child into his/her home?

What is crucial: all help must be coordinated; there are enough resources and materials available, but their distribution must be coordinated.

What about the people who live in countries bordering Syria? Jordan, Lebanon, etc. urgently need help.

Can we decide on our own who we support, or should be coordinate our aid with the respective governments?

Health services alone are a huge problem. Each refugee is suffering from 10 to 15 diseases and illnesses. Lions cannot do everything at the same time, a step-by-step approach is needed.

Sweden has donated 300,000 US Dollars to Syria and Lebanon, and has sent tents and money to Turkey. LCIF has received 100,000 US Dollars from Sweden. We hope that decisions are made speedily. The countries bearing the greatest burden urgently need the money to fund their projects.

Pilot-grant project to help refugees: 10,000 – 15,000 US Dollars per emergency relief project. The Lions must decide whether these funds are to be spent locally and for specific projects, or whether there should be a separate and concerted Lions action programme. Also to be clarified: which migrants are deemed refugees, based on their country of origin?

Concrete programme facts and topics:

1. Donations have increased by 10 percent. Approx. 38 percent of the European clubs are making donations to LCIF, whereby special tax arrangements must be taken into account, especially in Europe. We must discuss the arguments to be used to further increase donations. LCIF would like to raise 41.2 billion US Dollars in 2015/16.

LCIF has a board of 21 trustees (Lions with various roles within the organisation). The board was established in order to strengthen the LCIF and enhance its profile.

2. Projects: Measles, Syrian refugees
3. Planning for success: Setting goals, locally devised projects
4. Next step: best possible support of all coordinators

End: approx. 15:45