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we serve



District 201Q2

If it is Right for Lions - Just Do It"

11th January 2010

District Governors, Executive Team and Lions,
Lions Multiple District 201
Australia.

Dear Lions Club Members,

I write in my capacity as District Governor of Lions District 201Q2 (North Queensland and Papua New Guinea) to inform you of our involvement with the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Australia & PNG Ship Tour.

YWAM's Medical Ship actively seeks to enrich the lives of those throughout Papua New Guinea in a number of ways. One of these includes collecting used spectacles to distribute throughout the Gulf Province of Papua New Guinea next year. According to the Fred Hollows Foundation, 550,000 people in PNG have low vision, correctable with spectacles.

In February 2010, the Australia & PNG medical ship tour will begin at Newcastle with the arrival of the M/V Pacific Link from New Zealand. It will sail to Adelaide stopping in various ports welcoming visitors all along the east coast of Australia to tour the ship, learn more about its purpose and how to become involved. It will then arrive in Townsville, her home port, in June 2010 for a break before sailing onto Cairns, Thursday Island, and then to Port Moresby in August to provide health care & community development in the Gulf Province of Papua New Guinea.

The tour will promote Papua New Guinea and its Millennium Development Goals. Opportunities will be given for generosity and volunteers, young and old, skilled and unskilled as well as health professionals, marine specialists, crew, businesses, churches, service clubs and schools that will be called upon to be involved and to collect spectacles and supplies. Aussie youth will be given training and service opportunities to help them with their faith and to serve those in need.

I am happy to say that we as Lions share a part in this venture, by providing spectacles for the ship to deliver to the people of Papua New Guinea. Lions Recycle for Sight Australia Inc has recently partnered with YWAM's Medical Ship through a Memorandum of Understanding. YWAM has agreed to collect spectacles to be sent to Papua New Guinea and to display our logo on their collection boxes, spectacle banners and the appropriate web locations while Lions Recycle for Sight Australia Inc agrees to sort, tag and label these spectacles.

I believe it is a great opportunity to see Lions members from all over the nation work together in this singular purpose and I **would like to invite you to participate in three specific ways:-**

- 1. Assist with the spectacle collection project, especially while the Ship is visiting and docked in your City.**
Why not have a good supply of used glasses already available which can be added to the collection when the ship arrives. Then using the free postage available to Lions through our Corporate Connection with Australia Post, assist the crew to forward all glasses collected to our Recycling Centre in Clontarf, Qld where they will be cleaned, re-calibrated and packaged in readiness for collection by the Crew when the ship arrives in Brisbane on its way North to PNG.

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- 2. Invite YWAM representatives to speak at your local Lions Club meeting.** I am sure your members will be enthused and invigorated to hear of the work being done, and the opportunities provided to the youth of the World (and of course including Australia – why not involve our own Leo Clubs in this project) through the work being done by YWAM

- 3. Consider how your club can take on a special project to help strengthen the efforts in Australia & PNG**
Is there an opportunity to provide funding for a specific piece of medical equipment needed for the mission, or perhaps simply to assist the ship with hosting a reception while in port, with the obvious benefits to both organizations of positive P/R opportunities.

I commend this opportunity to you, and to do what the Lions of Australia do best – providing Service which will enrich the lives of those less fortunate perhaps than you and I. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further details and information regarding this Project.

Yours in Lionism,

John Muller

John D W Muller OAM
District Governor
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