

Paw Prints



A NEWSLETTER ABOUT LIONS CLUBS OF SW IDAHO AND E OREGON

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Lions Spread Good Will and Christmas Cheer



A van full of gifts for a Veteran and his family. (Photo by Lion Olie Olsen, Boise Bench Lions.)

The past several issues of this District 39W newsletter have celebrated the signature events of several Lions clubs as they raised funds for community projects. All the Lions clubs are involved in fundraising-it allows them to do the things they do.

And the things they do are never more evident than at Christmas time. While the Lions are really good at helping their communities and those in need, they are not always as good at publicizing their work.

So this month, just for Christmas, we're taking a look at how Lions play Santa and spread cheer throughout their communities. While time and space don't allow us to take note of

every club project, we are bringing you a sampling of Christmas projects throughout the district.

Boise Bench Lions

The Boise Bench Lions Club gives a generous donations to Chrysalis. Chrysalis homes provide women transitioning from incarceration back to society with a safe place to live with the structure and training they need to help them succeed. The club also collects food for the Friendship Food Pantry at the Presbyterian Church. They collect gifts and clothing for the boys and girls who are over 12 years old at the Boise Rescue Mission and not included in

the typical toy drive.

This year the Bench Lions are also helping a returning Veteran and his family with food, household items, and gifts.

Kimberly Lions Club

The Kimberly Lions Club makes a donation to East End Providers, a local non profit which this year is giving gifts to approximately 300 children in need. East End Providers assists families in the eastern portion of Twin Falls County, including Kimberly, Murtaugh, and Hansen.

Twin Falls Lions

The Twin Falls Lions Club delivers the trees and wreaths for the Festival of Trees. The Festival of Trees is a fund raiser for St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Hospital and has been an annual event for over 25 years with the Lions participating for the last 23 years. The Lions wrap and prepare the trees for delivery and then deliver the trees and wreaths to the purchasers.

HOW LIONS
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Lions Clubs of District 39W

October, 2010

Our Mission

To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

Our Vision

To be the global leader in community and humanitarian services.

Leadership

Pat Brown,

District Governor

Doug Beehler,

1st Vice District Governor

Ashley Seymour,

2nd Vice District Governor

Deanna Rostock,

District Secretary-Treasurer

Gary D'Orazio,

International Director

Connect with Us

Our Website: www.Lions39w.org

Our Blog: www.Lions39w.com

Facebook:

www.Facebook.com/lions39w

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Christmas banners in Star.

Star Lions Club

The community of Star had a city Christmas tree, but they didn't have Christmas decorations along the street until the Lions purchased holiday banners, installed the brackets to hang them on the light posts, and wrapped the poles in garland four years ago. The same year the Lions began serving hot chocolate and cookies at the city tree lighting. Since then, they've added a presence at the city's Christmas bazaar, a cookie contest for third, fourth and fifth graders, and they adopt a family for the Christmas holiday, providing food for Christmas dinner and gifts and necessities for the kids and Mom and Dad.

Gem Lions Club

The Gem Lions in Emmett are once again adopting a family for Christmas. This year, they are adopting the family of a National Guard soldier who is deployed to Iraq. They will be

providing gifts for the family, a Christmas dinner (courtesy of the local Albertsons), and other food items. Santa will help deliver the gifts and bring smiles to this military family.

The club also helps fill and deliver "Cheer Baskets", a program coordinated through the Emmet Valley Friendship Coalition, which is a collaborative effort between many organizations in the community. Over 300 boxes will be filled this year with canned goods, food staples, turkey, toys for the kids, and items for the families.

Boise Host Lions Club

Every Christmas, the Boise Host Lions Club adopts a family, this year and last through a program with Family Advocates. Family Advocate is a private non-profit that works to keep abused children safe and partners with parents to build strong families. This year's family of five only requested clothing for their two boys, but likely will find much more under the tree.

For the past four years, the club members have participated in the Salvation Army's Toy 'N' Joy project. Family, friends, and business associates join the Lions as they spend about 3 hours assisting families in need choose Christmas gifts for their children, select a ham or turkey for their holiday entrée, and then load their vehicle with the gifts and plenty of holiday cheer. The club typically has 25-30 participate in this event.



Nampa Lions Club

The Nampa Lions set a shining example of what Christmas giving is all about. This year the club is adopting not one, but 25 families. Each family will receive a basket of food for Christmas dinner and individual Lions are buying gifts for the children. At their annual Christmas potluck dinner, they wrap the gifts and fill the baskets.

The club is also helping out the Salvation Army. After learning that this year's kettle donations were down by 17%, the annual toy drive only brought in 200 toys instead of 1000, and that the number of families in need has doubled this year, the Lions reached into their own pockets to donate \$500. The Lions are also volunteering to ring bells for the Salvation Army in a challenge with other clubs and organizations in Nampa.



Nampa Lions Christmas wish tree.

Upcoming Events

For more information on upcoming Lions Club events, visit the online calendar at www.Lions39W.org/Calendar.

Date	Event	Place	Time
December 24	Support Our Service People Walk	Julia Davis Park to Capitol Steps	6:00-7:00 pm
January 17-21	Kuna Lions Vision Screening	Kuna Schools	9:00-3:00
January 22	Mobile Screening Unit at Canyon Co. Weight Loss Challenge	Family Medical Center Caldwell, ID	9:00-2:00
February 11-13	Lions 39W Midwinter Convention	Courtyard by Marriott Meridian, ID	TBA
February 26	Meridian Noon Lions Bowling for Sight and Hunger	Meridian, ID	TBA

Fruitland Lions Club

The Fruitland Lions Club is very active in the Fruitland community at Christmas time. Preparations begin early for the annual lighting of the community Peace Candle in Fruitland Park, hosted by the Lions Club, as they sponsor an art contest at Fruitland High School. The contest entries depict the event and awards are given to the winners selected out of the 60 plus entries received.

The Lions also assist with the community program, Help Them To Hope, a non profit which provides gifts, warm clothes, and food to hundreds of families in eastern Oregon and western Idaho. The Lions help deliver food and gifts to the families and make a generous donation to the organization.

Burley Lions Club

The Burley Lions Club donates money to the local Mini-Cassia Christmas Council to help with their mission of bringing Christmas to needy families in the area. They also purchase 25 \$100 gift certificates for food at a local grocery store to be given to families with young children who need assistance.

Rupert Syringa Lions

The Rupert Syringa Lions Club donates cases of food to the Mini-Cassia Christmas Council for distribution to needy families. The Christmas Council is a local non-profit that expects to distribute up to 600 Christmas boxes this year containing food, blankets, and gifts.

The Rupert Syringa Lions also support the Caring and Sharing

Christmas Tree Festival in Rupert with donations. The event is a fundraiser for the Minidoka Memorial Health Care Foundation.

Payette Syringa Lions

At their annual Christmas party, instead of a traditional gift exchange, the Payette Syringa Lions bring gifts for Dove Shelter in Ontario, Oregon. Project Dove offers a safe refuge and support for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

The club also purchases and delivers candy to residents of area care centers and donates money to the Payette Senior Center for the Meals of Wheels program and toward gifts for the local National Guard members.



Notes from Around the District

Boise Bench Lions sent 50 pairs of sunglasses and 250 readers to Uganda. They also purchased 2 eye exams and 2 pairs of glasses for local individuals in need.

On Veterans Day, the **Twin Falls Monarch Lions** placed American flags around Twin Falls.

The **Council Lions Club** donated money to the Council FFA to help them build emergency lock down kits for the school. They also posed for a community calendar dedicated to the service organizations in the area.

The **Mountain Home Lions** screened over 1100 children in Mountain Home, Bruneau-Grand View, Glens Ferry, and Pine elementary schools. They also collected 563 pairs of eyeglasses which they sent to the Idaho Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation.

Rupert Syringa Lions Club hosted a party for November birthdays at Country Side Living and served punch and cookies to all the residents.

Parma Lions donated food to the local food bank, the Sunshine Cupboard. They also purchased eye exams and eyeglasses for those in need.

The **Star Lions Club** placed American flags along the street and on Veterans' graves for Veterans Day. They decorated the city light posts with garland and holiday banners.

The **Eagle Lions Club** made generous donations to the Eagle Food Bank, to the Eagle High orchestra for its upcoming trip to perform at the Festival at Carnegie Hall, and to a local blind senior citizen to help with household bills.

We Serve.

LIONS DISTRICT 39W



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Caldwell Lions Club

The Caldwell Lions Club participates in the annual Caldwell Night Light Parade by entering a float and selling concessions along the parade route. They donate the proceeds to the Salvation Army. The Lions are a major sponsor of the Canyon County Festival of Trees which raises money for the Nampa and Caldwell Meals on Wheels program.



Kuna Lions Club

The Kuna Lions Club holds a coat drive in December, collecting warm coats to be distributed to children in need in Kuna. New this year is a "Zumbathon", two hours of Zumba dance to raise funds to buy Christmas gifts and Christmas dinner for local families.



Interested in becoming a Lion or just want to learn more? Visit www.Lions39w.org or email info@lions39W.org to find a club in your area.