



LIONS FOUNDATION

of Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario



A CANADA DAY NEWSLETTER

Dear friends and supporters,

As we celebrate Canada Day, we're reminded of what makes this country truly special. It's not just the landscapes or the traditions, but the people who stand by one another and offer support when it's needed most.

That's the spirit at the heart of everything we do at the Lions Foundation of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. It's in every child who sees more clearly thanks to the vision screening. It's in every warm bed offered to a family during medical travel. It's in every act of kindness, small or large, that brings comfort and care where it's needed most.

So today, on July 1st, we're not just waving flags. We're celebrating connection, compassion, and community.

Let's take a look at what we've accomplished together this past month.

Journey for Sight: 40 Years on the Trail

What began in Birtle, Manitoba, in 1983 as a one-sled-one-rider pledge campaign has grown into a powerful movement. Each winter, dedicated snowmobile riders from



Northern, Central, and Southern Manitoba, and now Northwestern Ontario, brave the elements to raise funds and awareness through one of our most iconic fundraising efforts: **Journey for Sight**.

Over the course of a week, riders travel more than 200 kilometres, stopping in rural communities to collect pledges before gathering in Brandon for a final celebration and cheque presentation.

But this ride isn't just about the journey. It's about what those pledges make possible.



Funds raised through Journey for Sight help support the Foundation's programs, like:

- **Giving Glances and KidSight**, offering early vision screening for children
- **Simply Sound**, connecting people with hearing loss to the support they need
- **Helping Hands**, which provides financial assistance to people in need
- **Serenity Suites**, offering a home away from home

Since 1983, the event has raised nearly \$2.5 million. It's a true testament to the determination of our riders, the generosity of donors, and the deep-rooted spirit of service that fuels our Lions Clubs.

This past winter, just 11 riders raised an incredible \$51,000+ on the trail from Dauphin to Brandon.

And now, the road to the 40th Anniversary Ride has officially begun. On June 1, riders and Lions gathered in Dauphin to kick off the planning for this exciting milestone.

So, mark your calendars!



for families during
medical treatment

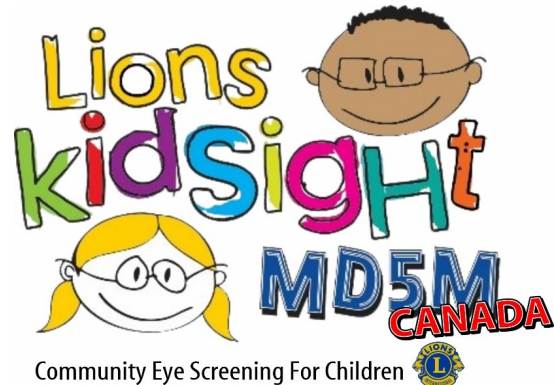
This year's event will be more than a ride. It will be a celebration of four decades of generosity, service, and community care.

We're honoured to ride alongside these fundraising heroes as they help fuel a future filled with vision, sound, healing, and hope.

Stay tuned and ride on!

KidSight: A Clear Mission with a Growing Impact

Vision is one of the most essential tools in a child's development, and thanks to KidSight, more families than ever are getting the early answers they need.



This June, our hands-free vision screening program proved once again just how vital and in-demand it is. Across Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, Lions Clubs and volunteers brought KidSight into the heart of local communities. From daycares to school gyms and community festivals, screenings happened where families naturally gather.



One shining example?

The Summer in the City Festival in Steinbach, where nearly 300 children were screened over just two days.

Out of those, 43 were referred for follow-up care.

Many of these kids are under six years old, when early intervention can make all the difference. Events like this demonstrate not only a strong turnout but also reveal a real need. And they're not the only ones.

And this is just one snapshot. Across the region, countless Lions volunteers dedicated their time, energy, and heart to bringing KidSight to their

communities this June. Thanks to their care, hundreds of children now have a brighter, clearer path ahead.

To every volunteer who helped make this possible, we are endlessly grateful. Your kindness, commitment, and belief in early care are what make this work shine. Without you, none of this would be possible.



Right now, our dedicated volunteers are doing amazing work with just nine KidSight screening cameras. Imagine how many more children we could serve with just a few more in the field!

Your donation can help us grow this program, place more cameras in more communities, and bring the gift of clear sight to even more children, especially in areas where screening opportunities are limited.

Make a gift today to ensure that every child has a chance to see a bright future, clearly.

[Support Now](#)



Two New Serenity Suites Now Available.

We're thrilled to share some big news: two brand-new Serenity Suites are now ready to welcome guests! With these additions, the Lions Foundation now offers a total of seven fully furnished suites for individuals and families travelling to Winnipeg for medical treatment.

That means more room, more comfort, and more support for those who need it most. Serenity Suites began with a simple belief: no one should have to worry about where they'll stay while dealing with a health challenge. Whether someone is here for cancer care, surgery, a child's treatment, or follow-up appointments, having a peaceful, affordable place to stay makes all the difference.

Why Serenity Suites?

- Medical travel can be overwhelming, either emotionally, physically, or financially.
- Hotel costs add up quickly, and not everyone has friends or family to stay with in the city.

WHY?



- Serenity Suites offer a warm, welcoming space just minutes from major hospitals like Health Sciences Centre, Children's Hospital, and CancerCare Manitoba.

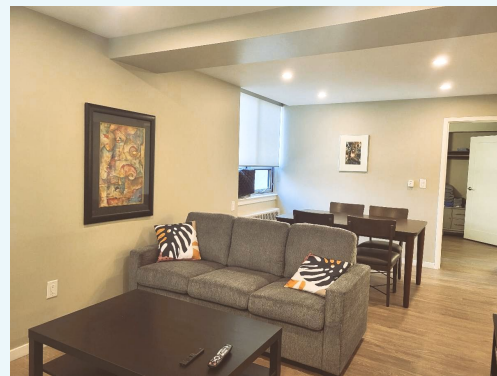
RATES

All rates are subsidized and include parking, internet, and full access to amenities. Taxes are included in the price.



Standard One-Bedroom Suites:

1–7 nights: \$90 per night
 8–29 nights: \$80 per night
 30+ nights: \$70 per night



Large One-Bedroom Suite:

1–7 nights: \$105 per night
 8–29 nights: \$95 per night
 30+ nights: \$85 per night

Need a suite or know someone who does? Call us at 204-784-1650 or email us at info@lionsfoundation.org to check availability or book your stay.

Whether you're here for a few days or several weeks, Serenity Suites is here to support your journey, because healing starts with having a place to rest your head.

Helping Families in Ukraine Stay Warm This Winter

In times of struggle, even the simplest comforts, such as a warm room or a hot meal, can feel out of reach. That's why, for the past three years, our Lions Clubs across Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario have joined hands with fellow Lions worldwide to help families in southeastern Ukraine face the cold with dignity and hope.



Through the Winter is Coming to Ukraine initiative, Lions have come together to provide families with wood-burning stoves. It's a vital lifeline in areas where power, gas, or fuel shortages make basic daily needs a struggle. These stoves do more than heat a home. They keep children warm through long nights, allow parents to cook nourishing meals, and offer a sense of stability during uncertain times.



LIONS FOUNDATION
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Thank you to our Lions Clubs, LCIF, donors, and partners for bringing warmth, hope, and dignity to families in Ukraine.

Thanks to your generosity and a powerful collaboration with Lions Clubs International Foundation, we're thrilled to share that 105 new stoves have recently been built and delivered to families who need them most.

This effort is 100% Lions-driven, from the manufacturing process to the delivery on the ground, powered by a shared commitment to serving others, even across continents.

To every donor, every Club, and every individual who shared, gave, or advocated for this project: thank you. You've helped bring comfort and reminded families in crisis that they're not alone.

**Behind the Scenes.
A Better Giving Experience
Starts Here**

We're always looking for ways to make supporting our mission easier, more personal, and more meaningful for you. We're excited to share that our new donation page is now live!

This updated giving experience was designed with you, our generous supporters, in mind.



Here's what's new

Choose your level of giving

Whether it's a one-time gift or monthly support, you can now select a donation amount that feels right for you, with clear options to guide your impact.



Dedicate your donation

Want to honour someone special? You can now make a donation in their name, and if you choose, they'll instantly receive a personalized notification of your gift. It's a beautiful way to share kindness that ripples outward.



Instant tax receipts

As soon as your donation is made, you'll automatically receive a tax receipt that's fully compatible with Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) requirements, delivered by email for your convenience.



Prefer paper? No problem!

We're happy to send your tax receipt by mail if that's what works best for you. Every update is made to enhance your experience as a valued donor and ensure your generosity continues to change lives with ease and clarity. We invite you to explore our new donation page and consider making a gift today.

Make a Difference

Club of the Month: Crystal City Lions Celebrate with a Gift for the Future

This month, we're celebrating the Crystal City Lions Club, a team of dedicated volunteers who marked a very special moment in their community.



In June, the Crystal City Community Daycare celebrated its 10th anniversary, and the Lions were there to help make the day even brighter.

As part of the celebration, the club proudly presented a \$3,000 donation to support the daycare's yard expansion project. It's a much-needed improvement that will give the children more room to grow, play, and thrive.



During the celebration, Lion Bill McKitrick and President David Mutch joined daycare staff and local families to present the cheque. It was a moment full of smiles, gratitude, and community pride.

The daycare serves 46 children, ranging from infants to preschool and school-age kids. With 10 staff members, it's a vital service that supports working families and helps build a strong, connected community.



Thank you, Crystal City Lions, for supporting the next generation and for showing us all what thoughtful, grassroots service looks like. Your generosity helps create safer, happier places for children to learn and belong.

Why It All Matters And How You Can Help



Every story in this newsletter, every child who sees clearly, every family who finds a safe place to stay, every stove that brings warmth to a cold home is possible because people like you choose to care.

At the Lions Foundation of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, we believe that health, dignity, and support should never depend on where someone lives, their income, or the challenges they face. We believe in a community that shows up with kindness, with service, and with heart. But none of it happens without you.

Your generosity fuels our mission. Your compassion drives real change. Your choice to give, whether in time, resources, or simply by spreading the word, helps create a world where no one is left behind.

If you believe in that world too, we invite you to take the next step. Make a donation. Share our story. Get involved with your local Lions Club.

Together, we can turn hope into action, and action into impact.

[DONATE NOW](#)

Happy Canada Day from All of Us

As we celebrate this beautiful country we call home, we're reminded of the values that unite us: compassion, service, and community. Thank you for helping us live those values every day through your generosity and support.



From our Lions Foundation family to yours, Happy Canada Day!
May it be filled with joy, pride, and a deep sense of belonging.

*With heartfelt gratitude,
The Lions Foundation Team*



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