

LIONS FOUNDATION

of Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario

ANNUAL REPORT

2024
2025





Our Mission

We foster a caring environment that supports and empowers individuals facing challenges, nurturing hope for a brighter future.

Our Vision

Needs met, lives improved.

The Lions Foundation of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario envisions communities where everyone has access to the support they need, no matter their age, background, or health challenges. By bringing together donors, Lions Clubs, volunteers, and partners, the Foundation strives to build stronger, healthier, and more inclusive communities throughout the region.

Our Values

- C** – Compassion: Support with care and empathy
- A** – Accountability: To our stakeholders
- R** – Respect: We show respect to all
- E** – Ethics: Integrity in all we do



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024/2025

EXECUTIVE

ID Joanne Ogden, Chair of the Board

PDG Dwayne Moncur, Vice Chair

PDG Cheryl McKittrick, Secretary

Lion Rick Pinchin, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Lion Tammy Wheatley

Lion Betty Ollerhead

Lion Patty Lyle

Lion Gordon Zeglinski

Lion Bonnie Popowich

Lion Ryan Hamilton

Lion Tanya Cameron

DISTRICT GOVERNORS

DG Robert Woodke - 5M10

DG Allen Bertilrud - 5M11

DG Shannon Dueck - 5M13

STAFF 2024/2025

Yulia Zmerzla, Executive Director, since February 2025

Maryna Radyk, Fundraising and Marketing Coordinator, since April 2025

Karen Beaudoin, Administrative Assistant, till June 2025

Tetiana Pavliuk, Executive Assistant, since June 2025





MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

It's been a very busy year here at the Lions Foundation of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, and we wish to express our sincere gratitude to all our Lions members for their dedication and contributions to our Foundation. We could not have gotten through these times without you. We know it has been difficult for our clubs and Districts and we appreciate you all so much for having the fortitude to continue to serve your communities as well as to continue to contribute to the Foundation.

The past year has seen some wonderful advancements in programming and fundraising, thanks to the addition of our new Executive Director, Yulia Zmerzla, MA, PMP, who brings extensive international experience in business development, project management and fundraising. Yulia started her position in February and expanded our support team in April with the addition of Maryna Radyk as Fundraising and Marketing Coordinator. Maryna has vast experience in media, marketing and communications and will strengthen our strategic plans in the years ahead.

June 2025 saw the retirement of long-time Administrative Assistant Karen Beaudoin. The board is grateful for her years of service and dedication to supporting the Foundation through challenges and growth. We wish her well in her well-deserved retirement! This opened the door for our newest team member, Tetiana Pavliuk, who will fill Karen's vacated role as Executive Assistant.

The board was busy prior to the addition of our new administration team, as we engaged in an intensive review of our strategic plan and the process of engagement to plan our future. We set goals and objectives for all 4 of our pillars for the years to come.



We updated our values to ensure that we remember our why...C.A.R.E- Compassion, Accountability, Respect and Ethics. Our Vision updated to “Needs Met, Lives Improved” and our Mission to “We foster a caring environment that supports and empowers individuals facing challenges; nurturing hope for a brighter future”. We look forward to meeting our strategic priorities of Financial Stability, Improved Visibility and Connections, Strategic Alliances, Program Development and Leadership Excellence.

In a time plagued with uncertainty in the world around us, we are certain of one thing. The Foundation will flourish because of the dedication and commitment of Lions and friends of Lions. It’s a new year, a new focus and a time to look with new eyes to ensure the longevity of this organization. It’s a time to work together and remember why this organization was created...to assist those in need through the auspices of our Lions and all the Clubs they represent. I leave you with the words of a mentor...

Together We Can Bring Care Closer...

Sincerely in Service

ID Joanne Ogden
Chair of the Board



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Lions, Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on my first half a year as Executive Director of Lions Foundation of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and excitement for our organization's future. Since stepping into this role in February 2025, I have had the privilege of witnessing our profound impact on our communities and the deep, transformative connections we foster between Lions and community members. I am looking forward to many years of exciting opportunities for the Lions Foundation to continue to serve its communities, to provide the necessary services and care to our clients in the most effective way possible.

As we look back at the past year at the Lions Foundation, we are very grateful for the strong support of our Lions Clubs who are working very hard to ensure that our communities are healthy and safe. We are incredibly thankful to the Lions Club of Lac du Bonnet for their generous \$10,000 donation to the Lions Foundation to help us offering the essential services.

With the overwhelming support of our community, our biggest annual fundraiser Journey for Sight has brought us over \$50,000! We are incredibly grateful to all the donors, riders and volunteers who continue to support Lions Foundation through this significant fundraising initiative for almost 40 years.

Our Serenity Suites Program is well-known nationally and our clients arrive to stay with us from every part of the county. With the addition of two Serenity Suites, we have now seven Suites in total that is your home away from home.

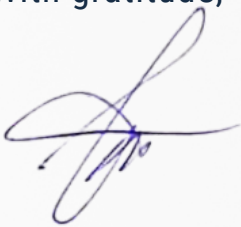
One of the most rewarding aspects of my role has been seeing the positive impact of our programs Giving Glances, Simply Sound, Helping Hands and Serenity Suites, and the powerful stories of those we serve have been constant reminders of why our work is so essential. We are proud to share that almost 100 clients were able to use our services through our core programs last year.

The demand for our KidSight and Kids Hearing Programs has been growing. Recognizing the importance of early detection and growing interest in our services, the Lions Foundation launched the Bringing Care Closer initiative: a fully equipped mobile outreach unit that will provide free vision and hearing screenings directly in schools, daycares and community events. Stay tuned for more information to come!

Lions Foundation ended this year on a high note, welcoming new staff and new opportunities. Our successes over the past year were only possible because of the diligence, dedication, and hard work of our Board of Directors team and office, who, over this transitional period, continued offering our vital programs to those who need them most.

As we look ahead, I am filled with anticipation for the growth and opportunities that await us. Thank you to everyone who has supported Lions Foundation this year. Your generosity, dedication, and belief in our mission make everything we do possible.

With gratitude,



Lion Yulia Zmerzla
Executive Director



QFC COMMITTEE REPORT

The Quality, Fundraising and Community committee would like to thank all the clubs with their continued support of our foundation through the Parade of Green.

The QFC committee for this year consisted of Patty Lyle (5M10), Tanya Cameron (5M13), Tammy Wheatley (5M10) and Joanne Ogden, Chair of the Board (5M10). Our executive director joined us upon her hiring in February 2025.

The beginning of the year saw the board without an executive director due to illness. We were able to fill the vacancy in February 2025 with our now executive director, Yulia Zmerzla. Prior to the hiring of Yulia, the QFC committee worked hard to maintain a presence on our social media platforms as well as monitoring the monthly program usages.

December saw the board as a whole coming together to develop a strategic plan. The QFC committee will benefit from the outcome of this plan.

With the hiring of our executive director in February, we were able to put the focus back on the programs of QFC committee. Website, social media and newsletter updates were made with the help of our Marketing & Fundraising Coordinator who was hired in April.

We were able to add 2 more suites to our very lucrative Serenity Suite Program. The Serenity Suite program is a great source of income for our foundation.

Journey for Sight snowmobile ride took place in February 2025, with proceeds being donated to the foundation.

The QFC committee worked hard to develop the work plan for the 25/26 calendar year.



The foundation continues to receive income from various forms of donation services. We are happy to announce that we now have a direct line to donate on our website, making the process easier for many. We continue to receive funds from our other sources. Flip Give is a way for the foundation to earn cash back on your online purchases. Simply download the Flip Give app and join our team to start the process. A percentage of your purchases will be given back to the foundation. Donations can be made through your workplace with All Charities. This can be set up as a payroll deduction. Canada Helps continues to be a source of donation income.

The foundation offers a legacy program. You can delegate your gift to the foundation in your will.

The QFC looks forward to starting a new year with a new committee for the 2025/26 year.

Thank You,

Lion Tammy Wheatley
QFC Chair

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Lions Cheryl McKittrick (5M13), Joanne Ogden (5M10), Gordon Zeglinski (5M11), Dwayne Moncur (5M13)

The Governance Committee met monthly throughout the year to review, update, and improve board policies, processes, and job descriptions. These efforts ensure that the Lions Foundation of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario continues to meet all standards required of a non-profit corporation. All policies developed or revised by the committee during this period were reviewed and approved by the Board.

During this fiscal year, the Foundation held its Strategic Planning Session to outline goals for the next five years. Short-term, medium-term, and long-term objectives were identified to guide the organization's direction. The Governance Committee continues to focus on establishing solid policies and guidelines to develop a comprehensive succession plan; design and deliver leadership training programs; strengthen overall board governance; align all initiatives with the Foundation's strategic goals and governance priorities

Policies are reviewed on a continuous basis, and changes are identified if needed. We did totally dissect and implement a new Harassment Policy, as the verbiage was outdated. We could tell the policy was a few old.

Into this new Foundation year, subtle changes have been made to a select few. In many cases, it's a matter of different wording to either expand the scope of the policy or to change wording to eliminate the opportunity for different interpretations. The policies are living documents. As times change, so does the need to update our policy manual.

Looking ahead, the committee will maintain its focus on enhancing board efficiency through recruitment, evaluation, and ongoing policy reviews. We are excited about the continued growth and success of our organization.

Respectfully submitted,
Lion Dwayne Moncur
Governance Committee Chair



FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

As I write this report, we are awaiting the return of our audited statement for the year-end. With our new accounting software system, our records were not completed as quickly as in previous years.

The Foundation's accounting records had been maintained on a desktop version of QuickBooks since 2017. This has been upgraded to a 2025 online version. There are significantly different procedures for entering and reviewing our records, and this has been a learning curve.

The Finance Committee met monthly by Zoom to review the financial statements, comparing actual results to the budget on a year-to-date basis. The committee also provided input for an updated Work Plan.

The daily banking operations of the Foundation were moved to the TD Bank, to be with the same bank where our investments are managed. Our investment policy was reviewed with the banker responsible for our investments. In a meeting with that banker, he confirmed and documented how we are fully compliant with that policy.

My thanks to the committee members: Betty Ollerhead (5M10), Bonnie Popowich (5M11), Ryan Hamilton (5M13), and Board President Joanne Ogden. With Betty, Ryan, and Joanne retiring from the Board and Bonnie moving to a new committee, Finance will have a new face for 2025-2026.

Lion Rick Pinchin,
Treasurer



**LIONS FOUNDATION OF
MANITOBA AND NORTHWESTERN
ONTARIO INCORPORATED**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2025

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the directors of **Lions Foundation of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Incorporated**,

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Lions Foundation of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Incorporated, which comprise the statement of financial position as at June 30, 2025, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Lions Foundation of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Incorporated as at June 30, 2025, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cause significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosure are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Gislason Targownik Peters

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS LLP

Winkler, Manitoba
December 6, 2025

LIONS FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA AND NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO INCORPORATED

Statement of Operations

For the year ended June 30, 2025

	2025	2024
REVENUE		
Rental income	\$ 93,991	\$ 42,291
Fundraising	68,765	75,234
Medical assistance	35,039	21,803
Public donations	21,910	12,951
Parade of Green	18,750	16,425
Grants	3,267	1,102
	241,722	169,806
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Advertising and promotion	6,776	-
Amortization	13,699	21,026
Apartment occupancy costs	79,887	67,392
Directors meeting	19,360	7,588
Fundraising	8,573	36,880
Interest and bank charges	1,691	1,477
Investment management fees	11,104	11,718
Medical and funding assistance	51,089	14,139
Office rent	26,595	22,785
Office, stationery and postage	9,705	5,827
Professional fees	58,107	8,842
Salaries and wages	110,862	112,543
Travel	1,080	846
	398,528	311,063
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES BEFORE OTHER ITEMS	(156,806)	(141,257)
Gain on disposal of investments	80,118	12,162
Interest income	45,354	40,667
Unrealized holding gains (losses) on investments	(28,842)	58,778
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ (60,176)	\$ (29,650)

LIONS FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA AND NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO INCORPORATED

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended June 30, 2025

	General Fund	Invested in Capital Assets	2025	2024
NET ASSETS - Beginning	\$ 881,104	\$ 36,349	\$ 917,453	\$ 947,103
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(46,477)	(13,699)	(60,176)	(29,650)
Investment in capital assets	(51,137)	51,137	-	-
NET ASSETS - Ending	\$ 783,490	\$ 73,787	\$ 857,277	\$ 917,453

LIONS FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA AND NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO INCORPORATED

Statement of Financial Position

As at June 30, 2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 6,528	\$ 172
Government remittances refundable	5,676	1,456
Prepaid expenses	4,002	3,153
	16,206	4,781
RESTRICTED CASH (Note 3)	67,147	77,671
INVESTMENTS (Note 4)	805,237	944,994
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 5)	73,787	36,349
	\$ 962,377	\$ 1,063,795
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Bank indebtedness (Note 6)	\$ 13,585	\$ 53,701
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	15,552	7,998
Government remittances payable	8,816	6,972
	37,953	68,671
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS (Note 7)	67,147	77,671
	105,100	146,342
NET ASSETS		
General fund	783,490	881,104
Invested in capital assets	73,787	36,349
	857,277	917,453
	\$ 962,377	\$ 1,063,795

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

Trustee

Trustee

LIONS FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA AND NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO INCORPORATED

Statement of Cash Flow

For the year ended June 30, 2025

	2025	2024
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	\$ (60,176)	\$ (29,650)
Non-cash items affecting operations:		
Amortization	13,699	21,026
Gain on sale of investments	(80,118)	(12,162)
Unrealized holding gains (losses) on investments	28,842	(58,778)
Net change in non-cash working capital balances	(6,191)	30,565
	(103,944)	(48,999)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Acquisition of capital assets	(51,137)	(14,358)
Investments	191,029	71,376
	139,892	57,018
INCREASE IN CASH AND EQUIVALENTS	35,948	8,019
CASH AND EQUIVALENTS - Beginning	24,142	16,123
CASH AND EQUIVALENTS - Ending	\$ 60,090	\$ 24,142
CASH AND EQUIVALENTS REPRESENTED BY:		
Cash	\$ 6,528	\$ 172
Restricted cash	67,147	77,671
Bank indebtedness	(13,585)	(53,701)
	\$ 60,090	\$ 24,142

LIONS FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA AND NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO INCORPORATED

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended June 30, 2025

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Lions Foundation of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Inc. is a corporation without share capital, incorporated in 1981 under the laws of Canada. The corporation is a registered charity under section 149 of the Income Tax Act (Canada) and is therefore exempt from income tax. The organization's mission is to support, promote, and foster programs for the benefit of both children and adults that are in need of assistance who live in communities throughout Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation

The financial statements of the organization have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at fair value. Subsequent measurement of financial assets and liabilities are at amortized cost unless otherwise noted. Financial assets and liabilities measured at amortized cost consist of cash, restricted cash, receivables and accounts payable.

It is management's opinion that the organization is not exposed to significant credit, currency, interest rate, liquidity or market risks arising from these financial instruments, unless otherwise noted.

Investments

The organization uses the fair value method to record investments traded on an active market. Unrealized gains and losses are reported in income.

LIONS FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA AND NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO INCORPORATED

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended June 30, 2025

Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost and are being amortized on the declining balance basis at the following rates based on estimated useful life, except in the year of acquisition, when one-half of the rate is used:

Computer hardware	20%
Furniture and fixtures	20%

Amortization of leasehold improvements is recorded over the term of the lease.

The organization reviews capital assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

Revenue recognition

The organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Unrestricted donations are recognized as revenue in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Externally restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are recognized.

Rental, fundraising and investment income are recorded when earned.

Use of estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities as at the date of the financial statements, as well as reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Significant items subject to such estimates and assumptions include the estimated useful life of capital assets. These estimates are subject to measurement uncertainty, and the effect on the financial statements of changes in such estimates in future periods could be significant.

Contributed services and materials

A substantial number of volunteers contribute a significant amount of their time each year. Due to the difficulty of determining the fair market value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

Contributed materials which are used in the normal course of the organization's operations and would otherwise have been purchased are recorded at their fair value at the date of contribution if fair value can be reasonably estimated.

LIONS FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA AND NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO INCORPORATED

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended June 30, 2025

3. RESTRICTED CASH

The restricted cash balance consists of externally restricted contributions for future expenditures. See Note 7.

4. INVESTMENTS

	2025	2024
Canadian cash and money market	\$ 5,051	\$ 11,868
Canadian equity mutual funds	410,818	574,137
Foreign cash and money market	5,099	11,234
Foreign equity mutual funds	384,269	347,755
	\$ 805,237	\$ 944,994

5. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net 2025	Net 2024
Furniture and fixtures	\$ 153,023	\$ 84,970	\$ 68,053	\$ 31,278
Leasehold improvements	143,618	142,922	696	2,515
Computer hardware	12,492	7,454	5,038	2,556
	\$ 309,133	\$ 235,346	\$ 73,787	\$ 36,349

6. BANK INDEBTEDNESS

	2025	2024
Canadian banks - bank accounts	\$ 53,562	\$ 23,970
Less: restricted cash	67,147	77,671
	\$ (13,585)	\$ (53,701)

LIONS FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA AND NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO INCORPORATED

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended June 30, 2025

7. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

	2025	2024
Health Support:		
Opening	\$ 6,766	\$ 3,299
Add: Restricted contributions received	9,954	6,712
Less: Contributions recognized	(12,457)	(3,245)
	4,263	6,766
Hearing Program:		
Opening	44,997	44,241
Add: Restricted contributions received	900	2,681
Less: Contributions recognized	(5,154)	(1,925)
	40,743	44,997
Canada Post Grant		
Opening	23,898	-
Add: Restricted contributions received	-	25,000
Less: Contributions recognized	(3,267)	(1,102)
	20,631	23,898
Eye support program:		
Opening	2,010	-
Add: Restricted contributions received	4,312	2,420
Less: Contributions recognized	(4,812)	(410)
	1,510	2,010
	\$ 67,147	\$ 77,671

Deferred contributions represents the unrecognized portion of externally restricted contributions for various expenditures.

8. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain balances of the preceding period have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation.



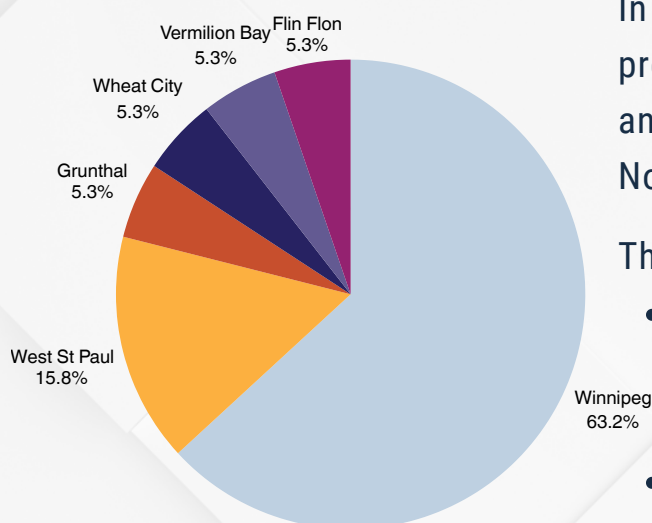
HELPING HANDS: NO ONE HAS TO FACE IT ALONE

At the Lions Foundation of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, our Helping Hands Program is all about supporting individuals and families when unexpected health challenges arise.

We know that medical needs don't always fit within Provincial Health Care coverage, and the financial burden can feel overwhelming. Helping Hands exists to ease that pressure and make sure no one feels alone in their time of need.

Through this program, we offer assistance with:

- **Medical equipment** such as walkers, wheelchair components, medical supplies and other mobility aids;
- **Home accessibility upgrades**, including safety rails, floor poles, accessible showers, and vehicle mobility supports
- **Medical travel** costs, helping families cover accommodation, fuel, and meals when care requires travel



In the 2024–2025 fiscal year, Helping Hands provided **\$18,093.37** in support to individuals and families across Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

This was made possible through:

- \$9,953.65 in donations from Lions Clubs in Winnipeg, West St Paul, Grunthal, Brandon, Wheat City, Flin Flon and Vermillion Bay.
- \$8,139.72 in matching funds from the Foundation

Each request we receive through Helping Hands is reviewed with care, and we do our very best to support every applicant. Our goal is simple: to make life a little easier during moments when help matters most.

GIVING GLANCES: YOUR SIGHT IS OUR VISION

The Lions Foundation of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario is dedicated to supporting people affected by vision loss in achieving their goals with minimal disruption. We support programs for those with vision impairments or related issues, providing early detection, financial assistance, and access to vision care.

In partnership with Lions Clubs, the Lions Foundation operates **KidSight**, a quick, non-invasive vision screening program for children. The Foundation now uses ten specialized cameras, including one newly purchased this fiscal year, to support screenings across the region.

From July 2024 to June 2025, our dedicated volunteers screened over **20,000** children, helping identify potential vision issues early. About **20%** were referred to a specialist, a clear reminder of why regular vision screening is an absolute must.



The Foundation provides financial support for a range of vision-related needs, including vision therapy, specialized lenses, and eye prosthetics. In the 2024–2025 fiscal year, the program offered **\$8,624.50** in assistance, with \$4,312.25 contributed by Lions Club case donations and \$4,312.25 matched by the Foundation. In addition, we continue our partnership with LensCrafters through the OneSight program, providing free glasses to individuals in need.

The Foundation collects donated eyewear, sorts it, and ships it to the Canadian Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centre (CLERC). From there, the glasses are distributed worldwide to communities in need. In 2024–2025, we shipped **59,139** pairs of glasses to CLERC.

Through Giving Glances, the Lions Foundation ensures that individuals of all ages have access to the eye care and resources they need to see clearly and live fully.

SIMPLY SOUND: WE ARE “HEAR” FOR YOU

In the 2024–2025 fiscal year, the Lions Foundation of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario took an important step forward in hearing health by purchasing three new **GSI Corti** portable audiometric devices. These handheld, professional devices allow us to screen for and diagnose hearing loss in infants, children, and adults. This investment marks the beginning of our KidsHear initiative, modelled after our successful KidSight program.

Through KidsHear, in partnership with local Lions Clubs, we will offer fast, contact-free hearing screenings at schools, daycares, and community events. The goal is simple: to prevent hearing loss, enable early diagnosis, and ensure timely treatment for children in our communities. Plans are underway to provide certified training for future volunteers, ensuring every screening is conducted professionally and safely.



Our commitment extends beyond screenings. We collect, sort, and recycle hearing aids, giving them a second life for those in need. In 2024–2025, we collected nearly 200 used hearing aids.

We also provide financial assistance for individuals who require hearing aids but do not qualify for federal, provincial, or private health programs. Donated hearing aids are refurbished and tuned with the help of our partners, ensuring they meet the unique needs of each applicant. Last year, the program provided **\$1,800** in support for these needs, with \$900 contributed by Lions Clubs and \$900 matched by the Foundation.

From KidsHear screenings to hearing aid collection and financial assistance, Simply Sound reflects our commitment to service, compassion, and making a tangible difference in the lives of those we support.



SERENITY SUITES: A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

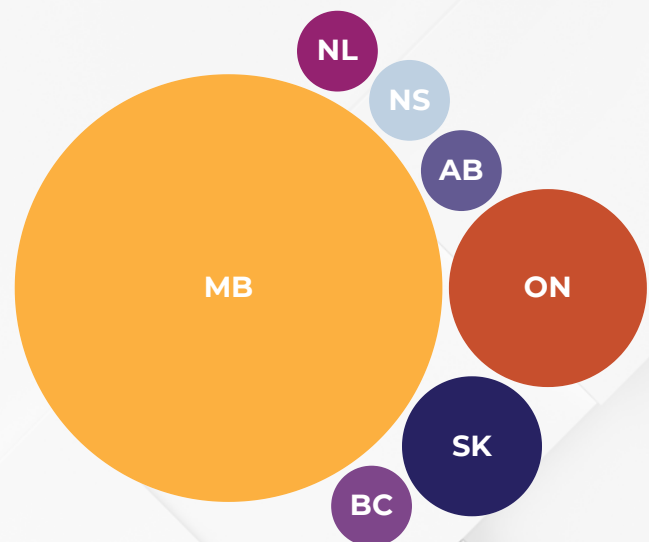
When life brings medical challenges, travel and uncertainty can add extra weight to an already difficult journey. Serenity Suites was created to help lift some of that burden – offering a comfortable, affordable home away from home for individuals and families coming to Winnipeg for medical care.

Whether guests arrive for their own treatments, to support a loved one, or to visit someone in hospital care, Serenity Suites provides more than just accommodation – it offers a sense of peace, privacy, and compassion. Rates for a one-night stay vary depending on the length of the visit, with prices starting as low as \$70 per night for stays longer than a month. Each stay includes complimentary Wi-Fi, cable, and laundry services.

This year, the program expanded its capacity with two new fully furnished one-bedroom apartments, bringing the total to seven. Every suite is thoughtfully equipped with a queen-sized bed, a full kitchen, and a cozy living space. Some also feature fold-out sofas, providing extra comfort for families traveling with children.

During the 2024/2025 fiscal year, Serenity Suites welcomed guests from seven provinces across Canada, with the majority (**68.29%**) coming from communities throughout Manitoba. On average, guests stayed **21** days, and together, the suites were occupied for an impressive **1,130** nights.

Behind each stay is a story – of care, courage, and community. Serenity Suites continues to stand as a quiet haven where healing begins, and where kindness makes every stay feel a little more like home.





JOURNEY FOR SIGHT: A LEGACY IN MOTION

Since its beginning in 1983, Journey for Sight has become one of the most cherished traditions within the Lions community. A winter ride that blends adventure, service, and compassion in support of those in need.

In January 2025, a team of 11 dedicated riders once again braved Manitoba's winter trails, covering hundreds of kilometres across the province during their weeklong fundraising journey.

Their commitment, teamwork, and generosity of spirit resulted in more than **\$53,000** raised in support of the Lions Foundation of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario's essential programs. What started as a small, local effort almost 40 years ago has grown into a movement that has raised over **\$2.5 million** to date.



We're deeply grateful to every rider, volunteer, and donor whose commitment keeps this incredible journey going year after year. Your dedication reflects the true Lions spirit – serving others with compassion and community at heart.

As we look ahead, 2026 will mark the 40th anniversary of this remarkable tradition. A true celebration of every mile, every rider, and every life changed along the way. The countdown is on, and the excitement is building for what promises to be the most memorable Journey for Sight yet!

LIONS STOVES: BRINGING WARMTH TO UKRAINE

In 2024, Lions across Canada once again joined forces to bring warmth and hope to families in Ukraine.

In its third year, the Winter Is Coming to Ukraine initiative continued to deliver Lions Stoves. These high-quality, steel heating and cooking units are designed to withstand harsh conditions and bring comfort to those living in the shadow of war. Each stove provides not only heat but also a way to cook meals, offering families a sense of normalcy amid ongoing uncertainty.

Throughout the spring and summer, further development and testing took place to enhance the stoves' efficiency. The latest models can now burn wood, pellets, briquettes, and coal, ensuring greater flexibility for families across different regions.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Lions and supporters across Canada, **\$51,245** was raised – enough to provide at least 205 stoves. That means at least 205 Ukrainian families now have the means to cook hot meals and heat their homes through the winter.

We're proud to stand together with LCIF in making this initiative possible. This project reflects what Lions do best, working together to bring real help where it's needed most.

As winter approaches once again, the call to help continues. Together, we can keep the fires of hope burning for hundreds more families in Ukraine, bringing warmth, comfort, and a reminder that they are not alone.





CLUB HIGHLIGHT: LAC DU BONNET LIONS

This year, we're proud to shine a spotlight on the incredible generosity of the Lions Club of Lac du Bonnet and their devoted President, Lion Greg Short.

Their recent \$10,000 donation to the Lions Foundation of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario is more than a contribution. It's an investment in care, compassion, and the community we serve.

Their support strengthens all four of our service pillars – helping more children see clearly, learn with confidence, and reach their full potential.

To Lion Greg and the entire Lac du Bonnet Lions Club: thank you. Your compassion, leadership, and steadfast belief in service truly embody the Lions' spirit.





AWARDS 2024/2025

BJ "BEN" WARD FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Lion Jean Thompson 5M13

Lion Gary Hutchison 5M10

Lion Betty Ollerhead 5M10



KIDSIGHT "SIGHT SAVER" AWARD

Lion Debbie Kuzub 5M13

Lion Bonnie Popowich 5M11

Lion Susan Mann 5M10



HOPE MEDAL

Lion Sandra Birch

Lion Sheila Mills

Lion Joy Toole

Lion Harris Toole

Lion Karen Thomson

Lion Doug Gourlay



Lion Pierre Sylvain

Lion Caroline Parenteau

Lion Sandra Robson

Lion Charlene McCarthy

Lion Ron Wauer

Paul Lueken

