

Community News...

The Warren Township Lions Club - 66 Years and Strong!

Submitted By: Anthony Franchini

The Warren Township Lions Club was founded in 1948 by a group of 20 diverse business owners representing various types of businesses. Their purpose in establishing a local Lions Club was to further the charitable objectives of Lions International, one of the largest service organizations in the world, and in the process, make Warren a better place to live and do business in. The local Club has historically focused its attention on both sight related charities, the traditional focus of the international Lions organization, as well as on the needs of our local community here in Warren.

Our local Lions Club continues that tradition today. With almost 60 active members, the Club is the most active service club in Warren Township, generously supporting the local community and its needs in every imaginable way.

Recent donations have included grants to township organizations, school programs, sports teams, and township events. The Club is the largest provider of scholarships to college bound students at Watchung Hills

Regional High School. The Club collaborates with local Parent-Teacher Organizations on numerous projects. It sponsors local recreation sports teams, as well as numerous township projects and events.

The Club was instrumental in building the Lions Pavilion, which is located behind the Municipal Building. It has also built playgrounds throughout the township. The Club was the main supporter of Pride in Warren Day and the Warren Bicentennial Day celebration. Donations have been made to the Warren Township Police Unity Tour. The Club purchased the first police bike in Warren Township. Throughout the years, it has been a major donor to the Warren Township Library, and contributed to the cost of the construction of its new building. The Lions were also instrumental in funding the child ID program conducted every year at the Warren Lions EXPO as well as funding the DARE program for many years at Watchung Hills Regional High School.



The Warren Township Lions Club also provides Thanksgiving meals each year for over 350 families throughout Warren Township and Somerset County. This program grows every year, and it is one of the most rewarding programs that the Club is involved with. Contributions have been made to local food banks as well.

The annual Lions EXPO has been a township tradition now for 49 years. It is a great family oriented event where children can have fun and families can get together. The Lions EXPO is the Club's major fundraising event and allows it to fund all of the charitable programs that it contributes to every year. The Club has recently begun a collaboration with the Washington Valley Fire Department to run a pancake breakfast in March of every year, the proceeds of which assist a township resident with significant medical needs.

Besides funding these local efforts, the Club

supports many sight and hearing organizations throughout the State and country. Since the Lions' primary goal is the cure and prevention of blindness and hearing loss, the Club has been involved with eyeglass collection, free eye screening for those in need, and the provision of financial support to research organizations whose goals are finding cures for blindness.

Additionally, throughout the years, the Club has provided financial support to victims of natural disasters, both national and international, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and the like.

The Warren Township Lions Club continues to grow its membership with men and women who all endeavor to continue the tradition of making Warren Township a great place to live and raise a family. The Club is always looking for new and dedicated members who share that goal.

Anyone interested in joining the Club should visit its website: warrenlionsclub.org or contact the Membership Chairman, Lion Mark, at adstavesqs@aol.com.

www.theconnectionsny.com