

# Dixon Lions Club, District M1



Submitted By Lana Wilson

Where there is a need-there are Lions. In times of disaster, fighting disease, building playgrounds and health facilities to providing eyeglasses and hearing aids the Lions meet the challenge. Melvin Jones, a Chicago businessman, saw the need to organize business leaders to give back to their communities. In 1917, he spearheaded the formation of Lions Clubs. In 1925 Helen Keller, who became blind and deaf as a child, spoke at the International Lions Convention. She charged Lions to become "Knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." Since that time Lions have adopted that mission to fight preventable blindness and assisting those that are blind. The organization has grown to 1.4+ million members in 46,000 clubs across the globe. It is the largest volunteer service organization in the world.

The Dixon Lions Club is proud to be a part of Lions International. The Club was chartered in 1944 and celebrated 75 years of service recently. Currently the Dixon Lions Club has 20 volunteer members and meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 6:00 in the Oak Hills Country Club's banquet room. The Club has members from age 18 years to 88 years.

- The Dixon Lions provide eyeglasses and hearing aids for those who cannot afford them as referred by school nurses and other professionals.

- The Dixon Lions have provided child and handicapped swings, see saws, slides, pavilions, picnic tables, barbeque grills and other equipment in the Dixon Lions Club Park.

- The Dixon Lions assisted in the purchase of the warning lights for the Dixon school district.

- The Dixon Lions, along with the Chamber of Commerce, purchased the Christmas street light decorations. Each year the Lions spend an evening repairing and replacing bulbs for those decorations.

- The Dixon Lions have sponsored a high school band student to attend the Missouri Lions All-State band.

- The Dixon Lions have awarded a scholarship (as funds have allowed) to a high school senior.

- The Dixon Lions help to provide Christmas treats and Thanksgiving baskets.

- The Dixon Lions have donated to various local individuals and organizations in need of equipment or assistance.

In addition to the local donations, the Dixon Lions donate to:

- Leader Dogs for the Blind which provides service dogs to the blind at no charge to the recipient.

- Lions Clubs International Foundation which provides funds for disaster relief, programs for youth, programs for immunizations and grants for playgrounds, health facilities and community centers.

- World Services for the Blind which provides training for daily



**Bob Wilson, District Governor.** Submitted

living and career opportunities.

- Hearing Services which helps to provide hearing tests and hearing aids.

- Sight First which is an eye bank and recycling center for eyeglasses and provides eye tests for children.

- Mid-South Hearing and Sight in Memphis, TN which provides hearing and eye surgeries.

The Dixon Lions are able to donate to these worthy causes by raising money through various fundraisers. The Lions have a booth at the Dixon Cow Day Festival. The Lions host an annual golf tournament at the Oak Hills Country Club with businesses and individuals sponsoring a "hole" in the tournament.

All Dixon Lions are volunteers who give of their time and resources to provide the above for the community of Dixon and others who live in our area.

The things that we accomplish are only done through the GENEROSITY of the businesses and individuals who provide us support.



**Lions install swings at park.** Submitted



**New Dixon Lions Club members inducted.** Submitted

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