



**Chippewa Lake
Lions Club Foundation**
A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Public Charity

LION'S ROAR 2026

NEWSLETTER - VOLUME 3



Chippewa Lake Lions Club & Foundation
Annual 4th of July Parade Sponsor



A YEAR OF SERVICE, IMPACT AND COMMUNITY STRENGTH

For 68 years, the Chippewa Lake Lions Club and Foundation has stood as a steady, compassionate force in our community. What began as a small group of neighbors with a shared desire to help has grown into a powerful network of service, hope, and human connection.

The Chippewa Lake Lions Club is the long-standing sponsor of the July 4 Parade, which is completely FREE to hundreds of participants and thousands of spectators. This is our way of giving back to the community as well as raising awareness of our organization. With your help, our club has expanded its reach to embrace the needs of greater Medina County.

Because of you — our members, partners, and supporters — we have donated more than \$520,000 to individuals and organizations since 2017. Every dollar represents a story, a need met, a moment of relief, a spark of hope.

With no paid employees, our work is powered entirely by volunteers who give their time, their energy, and their hearts. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, every contribution to the Foundation is tax-deductible, allowing donors to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

OUR BROADER VISION

The world has changed dramatically over the past seven decades, and so have we. Today, information moves instantly, needs surface quickly, and communities rely on one another more than ever.

Chippewa Lake may be small, but our reach — and our responsibility — continues to grow. Through strong partnerships and the support of Lions Clubs International, we are becoming a more informed, more responsive, and more effective provider of service. We are proud to offer this newsletter which shows just how we are impacting lives and embracing new challenges with your continued support.

All charitable organizations face the same challenge to grow and adapt to change. Our commitment is simple: serve with integrity, act with compassion, and make every decision count.

Funding requests are carefully researched, discussed, and voted on. Organizations present directly to the Club, and individual emergencies are reviewed by our Emergency Response Team. These processes ensure that help goes exactly where it's needed, when it's needed.

WHAT IS THE LION'S FOUNDATION?

The Chippewa Lake Lions Foundation was created to expand our ability to support individuals and organizations in meaningful, lasting ways. Donor feedback helped shape the Foundation, ensuring tax-deductible giving and enabling record-breaking fundraising — including more than \$83,000 from the 2026 Polar Bear event alone. Every donation fuels hope, strengthens families, and builds a more resilient community.



FOCUS ON SERVICE

Our motto — “We Serve” — is more than a phrase. It’s a promise.

Throughout the year, Lions step forward to support families facing hardship, individuals navigating medical challenges, and neighbors recovering from disaster. We provide emergency assistance, offer hands-on help, financial support, and partner with organizations across Medina County to strengthen the fabric of our community.

We seek community projects where we can make a difference through volunteerism. We work alongside Village Council, Chippewa Pride, the Historical Society, and other local groups to build a community where people feel supported, connected, and valued.



Lion Claire & New Member Danny

EMBRACING A LARGER COMMUNITY A LIONS CLUB SUCCESS STORY

Service is not just about giving — it’s about welcoming, including, and uplifting. Across the world, Lions Clubs create opportunities for individuals of all backgrounds and abilities to make a difference.

This year, we proudly welcomed six individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, supported by The Society, as new Lions Club members. Their involvement proves that everyone has something to contribute to our community.

This is what true inclusion looks like: opening doors, sharing experiences, and standing shoulder to shoulder in service. Together, we are proving that community is strongest when everyone has a place in it.

EDUCATE & INFORM: GUEST SPEAKERS

To make wise, compassionate decisions, we first understand the needs around us. This year, we invited several organizations to share their missions, challenges, and successes:

- Trinity Foundation
- Main Street Medina & Produce Perks
- Grace House
- Next Step Up Shelter
- Bucky Cares
- Friends & Focus Club – Vision impairment support- Fuch’s Disease
- Serenite Restaurant – Leadership in Recovery

Each conversation deepens our understanding and strengthens our commitment to serve with purpose.



Friends & Focus Donation-Kelly Schmotzer presented by Lion Shelly

GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS SERVED (2025-2026)

Individuals

- 80 Families recieved Holiday Food Support
- One Individual recieved eye exam & glasses
- An individual in recovery needing basic supplies
- One individual who required orthopedicshoes after foot surgery shoes
- Four families whose homes were devastated by fire
- An individual facing serious surgery, needing help with basic support
- A single Mom working three jobs and raisng several children, needed new tires for her car

Organizations

- Contessa’s- Food for Seniors Program
- Westfield Fire and Rescue
- Seville Guilford Fire Assn.
- Chippewa Historical Society
- Chippewa Pride Program
- Church at the Lake UM Food Pantry
- The Society for Handicapped Citizens
- Save the Lake Coalition
- Medina County Project Learn
- The Giving Place
- Lions Eye Program
- Lions International Fund
- Lafayette Twp Fire Assn
- Medina Emergency Mgmt Assn.
- Medina County Career Center
- Medina County Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Chippewa Lake Water Ski Show Team
- Medina County Walk for the Alzheimer Association
- Medina County Senior and Adult Foundation
- Camp Echoing Hills (children with disabilities)
- CrossPointe Community Church- community support programs
- Greater Akron Hearing Aid Program
- Akron Children’s Hospital Diabetes Program
- Free Clinic of Medina County

CREATING A LEGACY OF GIVING

A PERSONAL STORY FROM SHANE HAUMESSER, PRESIDENT BUILDING 9, INC.

Shane Haumesser lived in Chippewa Lake as a child and attended local schools. He was one of 5 children being raised by a single parent during rough times. The difficult times of his childhood left a lasting memory of what happens to struggling families. After attending Medina County Career Center, he went to work at Building 9, as a warehouse worker.

At age 35, he became a partner in the business, and today is President of the bustling building materials company. Along the way, he married Deb, who was an Army combat veteran (Desert Storm and Desert Shield). She later worked in Medina County for several agencies supporting community and individual needs. She had also struggled through difficult times as a child, which shaped the couple's charitable initiatives as adults.

Shane and Deb raised their nephew/ aka son, to recognize the importance of giving back. Shane gives Deb the credit for teaching him that life lesson, as well.

Shane immersed himself in the community. He has participated in the Lion's Polar Bear Plunge since 2016, and has been a primary sponsor/ donor throughout those years. He is on the Board of Directors of The Society for Handicapped Citizens, and is a member and trustee of CrossPointe Community Church.

Shane lost Deb in 2023 to cancer, and became involved in the CrossPointe Church Grief Support , which was healing for him. He is now a co- leader of the program and supported the building of a room to house these community activities.

He honors Deb's legacy by continuing to find ways to give back. He believes that the Lions Polar Bear event is a wonderful opportunity to support local volunteers who are visibly impacting the lives of others in our community. He credits the Lions for recently helping a close friend and partner through a family death, validating the Lions impact. Many thanks to Shane for sharing his story. His story is a powerful reminder that service is not an act — it's a way of life.



THE POLAR BEAR PLUNGE FUNDRAISER

For 15 years, the Polar Bear Run/Jump at Chippewa Lake has been our largest and most spirited fundraiser. Supported by Medina County Parks, local Fire Departments, The Society, and CrossPointe Community Church, this volunteer-run event brings brave souls — and unforgettable costumes — to the icy lake for a cause that warms hearts.

Last year, we raised over \$83,000. Next year's event is scheduled for February 6, 2027. Join us, jump, run or walk, and make a splash for good. You will be "FREEZIN' for a REASON"!



THE BRIDGE BUILDERS AWARD

Chippewa Lake Lions are deeply honored to receive The Society for Handicapped Citizens' Bridge Builder Award, recognizing individuals and organizations that go above and beyond to support The Society's mission.

Our partnership is built on shared values — compassion, dignity, and opportunity. From sponsoring camp tuition to volunteering at events, serving on the Board of Directors, and supporting "Adopt a Home," our work with The Society reflects the heart of what it means to serve.

This award is not just a recognition. It is a reminder of the lives touched and the bridges built together.



Lions Vanna & Alan accepting the award

YOU ARE THE IMPORTANT LINK

Every act of kindness, every donation, every volunteer hour strengthens the chain of service that holds our community together. From food assistance to emergency response to national disaster relief, the Lions are here — ready to help, ready to serve, ready to stand with those who need us. Learn more or donate at: <https://chippewalakeions.com/> or

Join us on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/chippewalakeionsclubfoundation>

BECOME A LION

We invite you to join us. Your voice, your ideas, and your compassion can help shape the next chapter of our service. Lions Club meetings are the third Monday of the month at 6PM at The Village Inn in Chippewa Lake.

Membership resources:

Membership App is online at <https://chippewalakeions.com/membership-application/> .

Member Solicitation Letter [Membership-Solicitation-Letter-updated-6.7.2026.pdf](#)

Member Welcome Letter at [Membership-Welcome-Letter-updated-6.7.2026.pdf](#).



Member Info & App

We invite you to come to a meeting, or contact Claire, our Membership Director to find out more.... ac1ist1024@gmail.com.

Chippewa Lake Lions Club & Foundation-Home of the Polar Bear Fundraiser-See you February 6, 2027



OUR SPONSORS

To our sponsors — thank you. Your generosity fuels every person helped, every emergency response, every moment of relief we provide. You are essential to our mission, and we are deeply grateful.

- Melter Consulting LLC
- Bright Ideas Shops
- Armbruster Moving & Storage
- After Hours Family Medicine
- Yurich Creative
- ABC Therapy, LTD
- Landry Family Dentistry
- Tilted Farmer Restaurant
- Log Cabin Sport Shop
- Shale Creek Golf Club
- Pallotta Ford Inc.
- Medina Auto Mall
- Cloverleaf Area Kiwanis Club
- Boyerts, Inc.
- Pearle Vision of Medina
- Melanie & Harold Kasten-Krause
- Contessa's on the Lake
- Bradley Henderson
- Crossroads Home Loans
- Transfer Title Agency, Inc
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- Tarrytown Expocare Pharmacy
- Trinel, Inc.-Martella Family
- Building 9-Haumesser Family
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- MC Real Estate-Leslie Burns
- Lake Refrigeration
- Landmark Homes
- Judge William Hutson
- Akron Canton CPCU Society
- Chippewa Roofing LLC
- Richardson Farms
- Wadsworth Freemasons
- Don & Alice Spickler Trust
- Jimmy Ploucha
- Trillium Creek Dermatology
- Ellen & Richard Pignatiello
- Cycles R Us
- Gridirne Cookery
- Horner Heating & Air Inc.
- Lynda & Bob Frechette
- The Village Inn
- Wolf Bros. Supply
- Reidy Medical Supply
- Save the Lake Coalition
- Albrecht Trucking Company
- JTS Landscaping
- Amer-Cal Corp
- Groetz Remodeling
- Armbruster Family
- Independant Painting & Remodeling LLC
- C & T Crate & Pallets
- The Searles Family
- Beaver Wholesale Meats
- Russ Martin Storm Door & Airlines Co
- Julie Reeves, MD, Inc
- G & C Rental
- Hank & Nanette Waite
- Custom Sign & Design
- Lake Anna Dental
- Liz & Joe Vereb
- Friends of Julie Mc Nabb