

# The Melvin Jones Fellowship Program



The Melvin Jones Fellowship Program was established in 1973 in honor of Melvin Jones, the founder of Lions Clubs International. Melvin Jones Fellowships are given to individuals in recognition of unrestricted donations of US\$1,000 to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). Such a contribution illustrates a significant commitment to humanitarian service and allows LCIF to perform such miracles as preserving sight, combating disability, promoting health and providing disaster relief. New Melvin Jones Fellows receive an MJF pin, commemorative plaque and a letter from the LCIF Chairperson. If the donor so chooses, he/she may use their donation credit to honor another individual with a Melvin Jones Fellowship.

## The Melvin Jones Fellowship – Yesterday and Today

Since its inception, the Melvin Jones Fellowship program quickly became the backbone of LCIF's funding. The Foundation received a significant increase in MJF donations during Campaign SightFirst and its successor, Campaign SightFirst II. Most of the donations to both campaigns were MJF donations.

Today, MJF donations account for 70% of the Foundation's annual revenues. It is largely through the support of this program that LCIF continues to be a leader in providing humanitarian service throughout the world.

## The Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship Program

For those who are already a Melvin Jones Fellow, the Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship (PMJF) provides an opportunity to advance in the Fellowship program. For each donation of US\$1,000, beyond the initial MJF donation, donors receive a new level of recognition, signified by a PMJF pin in accordance with their level of giving. The PMJF program has 100 levels, representing gifts between US\$1,000 – US\$100,000, after the initial MJF donation. Each level has a unique pin, representing the PMJF level of the fellow. Like MJFs, donors can honor another individual with PMJF donations.

## Did you know...



- Seventy percent (70%) of LCIF's donations come from Melvin Jones Fellowships
- The MJF Program was established in 1973
- There are more than 280,000 MJFs and PMJFs as of September 2008. These Fellowships represent US\$338 million in LCIF funding.
- The names of all Melvin Jones Fellows are displayed on a rotating computer list in the LCIF Recognition Room at International Headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois, USA
- Each year, Fellowship recipients are invited to attend the Melvin Jones Fellows Luncheon at the International Convention
- Districts, clubs and individuals can donate to LCIF through the Melvin Jones Fellowship Program, but only an individual can receive the recognition
- Melvin Jones Fellowships can be named in honor or in memory of an individual
- Only unrestricted donations are eligible for Melvin Jones Fellowships unless otherwise approved by the LCIF Executive Committee.
- The MJF donation does not need to be paid at once; minimum installments to LCIF of US\$100 can be paid over a five-year period to total US\$1,000, at which time donor applies for the MJF

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## Contributing to LCIF through the MJF Program

### INDIVIDUAL MJF CONTRIBUTIONS

Lions around the world are encouraged and invited to become MJFs. The MJF program is a prestigious way to show commitment to the work of LCIF. This recognition piece is a symbol of dedication to humanitarian service and, for many, their fellowship pin is a source of great pride.

Donors who wish to make an MJF contribution but are unable to make the full commitment at once, have the option of paying in installments over time. Paying in installments enables many individuals to become Melvin Jones Fellows who would otherwise not be able to support the Foundation at this level.

### CLUB MJF DONATIONS

Clubs can also donate to LCIF through the Melvin Jones Fellowship program. With their donations, clubs can name individuals as MJFs and PMJFs. Many clubs have a tradition and set an annual goal to name at least one MJF using club funds. This is a great way for clubs to support the life-changing work of LCIF each year and share that gift with someone else.

## Next Steps to Applying for a Melvin Jones Fellowship

- 1. Download the MJF Application Form (LCIF-42M)** from the Web site [www.lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org) or ask local Lions leadership to provide the MJF Application Form.
- 2. Fill out the application thoroughly**  
If the recipient is to be named later, remember to check the box indicating that, and do not fill out the recipient information section. MJF applications using collective donations from multiple donors must be accompanied by written consent from all donors to use their donations for the MJF recognition specified on the application.
- 3. Submit payment with the application**  
Acceptable forms of payment include checks, money orders, bank deposits and credit cards. Payments can be made in one sum or in installments of a minimum of US\$100 over a five-year period.



Lions Clubs International Foundation  
300 W. 22nd Street • Oak Brook, IL 60523 USA  
Tel: 630-468-6901 • Web site: [www.lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org)  
E-mail: [lcif@lionsclubs.org](mailto:lcif@lionsclubs.org)