

4-L4 Hearing and Speech Action

August, 2010

As Helen Keller also said....

"I'm just as deaf as I am blind, and if had the choice, I'd rather have my hearing restored than my sight. With vision, you can see things, but with hearing you can hear and interact with people!"
And when you tell people that they generally act surprised and tend to disagree with that idea.

So tell me, why do Lions work so hard on projects like SightFirst, eyeglass recycling, guide dogs for the blind, etc. but practically ignore LCI programs like HARP – Hearing Aid Recycling Project and AHAP – Affordable Hearing Aid Project? My theory, after 25 years in the business of coaxing people to do something about their hearing loss, is that human nature in the form of vanity, ego or whatever you want to call it interferes with common sense and consideration for the people who have to put up with your problem.

OK, you can do as you wish about your own situation, but as Lions, we can and should put forth a reasonable effort to help others cope with hearing loss. "We serve", right? Now here is something you can do with little effort and minimal cost. This is not like organizing a mission to Mexico to fit glasses or helping to raise a couple million dollars to fight river blindness. The Hearing Aid Recycling Project can be your Club Project for the coming Lion's year. It's as easy as 1-2-3.

Here's how.

1. Get some eyeglass collection boxes from LCI, about \$7 each in boxes of 10.
2. Add a label – "LIONS RECYCLE Eyeglasses; Hearing Aids; Cell Phones"
3. Place boxes in mobile home parks, senior centers, optometrists and audiologists offices, libraries, drug stores, etc. and follow up with monthly inspections.

Call me to process the hearing aids, give the glasses to Lion Diane Martin or PDG Jack Luellen and keep the cell phone income for your Club's charities – like the Hearing Aid Bank, maybe?

Keith Campbell, Chairman

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