



## **HISTORY OF THE CARE - LIONS CLUBS RELATIONSHIP**

### **CARE INTERNATIONAL**

CARE began in 1946 when it distributed surplus military rations to the needy of war-torn Europe. The initials originally stood for “Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe” but have been changed to “Cooperative for Assistance and Relief for Everywhere.” With offices today in Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, Japan, Norway and the U.S., the organization is now called “CARE.” Each branch of CARE is referred to as CARE plus the country name, such as CARE-Canada, CARE-Italy, etc.

### **HISTORY OF LIONS CLUBS/CARE RELATIONSHIP**

Lions Clubs International joined forces with CARE in 1946 by raising funds to send CARE Packages to post-war Europe. As CARE shifted its focus to developing nations in the fifties, Lions Clubs increased their support of CARE. In 1952 Lions Clubs International took its first official action by recommending CARE as a channel for helping victims of the Korean War. By 1957 Lions were so active that they were invited to become a member agency of CARE’s Board of Directors. Lions-CARE “Friend-Ship” was celebrated in 1967 in honor of Lions’ 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. German Lions raised almost half a million dollars in 1972 in their “Dank an CARE” campaign, a response to CARE’s assistance following World War II. Lions Clubs of North America set a record in 1980 when they contributed over \$320,000 to CARE.

### **MD-19 LIONS/CARE HISTORY**

MD-19 Lions began its affiliation with CARE in 1951, by supporting CARE’s relief efforts through Lions Clubs International. During the fifties Lions Clubs International operated humanitarian projects in developing countries similar to CARE’s projects. MD-19 Lions determined that CARE, with its ability to leverage additional funds, was able to provide services at one-third the cost of the Lions’ projects.

MD-19 Lions entered into an agreement with the Northwest CARE office in 1958 to provide direct support of CARE projects chosen by the group. For several years this relationship was unique among Lions Clubs and attracted attention because of its success.

### **SUMMARY**

Over the years, MD-19 Lions, Lionesses and Leos have provided over \$1.2 million in support of CARE projects around the world. This makes them one of the largest private contributors to CARE in the history of its organization. These contributions have enabled millions of needy people to improve their health and standard of living. This consistent dedication to serving others has made MD-19 Lions a valuable partner in CARE’s efforts to improve self-sufficiency and well-being in developing countries. This is a unique program in Lionism, of which MD-19 Lions can surely be proud.