

## **LET'S CELEBRATE OUR MIRACLES AND HEROES**

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Do you believe in miracles? Do you know any heroes? Every Lion certainly can answer "yes" to both of these questions. All he or she needs to do to see the miracles is to take part in one of our service projects. The heroes are the Lions.

Maybe we've seen too many movies or read too many flattering profiles of heroes and expect a hero to be larger than life and miracles to be supernatural. But I believe heroes are part of everyday life and miracles happen in the ordinary course of a day. I learned at an early age from my parents about the importance of service and how members of a community can contribute to their community. Later, as a young Lion, I learned how a club's many acts of service, however small and seemingly commonplace and unremarkable, add up to something very significant and valuable.

During my presidential year I will salute Lions for performing miracles of service and for being everyday heroes. I will promote some of our Lions' programs in particular and focus on membership but I want to emphasize that our biggest asset is our members. It's you. It's you in California. It's you in Canada. It's you in China, France, Paraguay and Great Britain. It's the clubs in Germany, Russia and India. It's the Lions in Japan, South Africa, Brazil and District 105W.

Lions do the heavy lifting. You decide how effective Lions are. You exemplify who Lions are. Unfortunately, probably due to a certain humility, individual Lions tend to downplay their importance. "I'm just one Lion." No, you're not. You are Lions. "I'm not a club officer." No, you're playing your part. You're doing service. "We're just a small club." No, you are the club in your community that your community can't do without. If your community were to lose you, your community would be worse off in so many ways.

All of you are miracle workers. You are a fantastic part of a worldwide organization dedicated to improving the lives of millions. There is nothing I can say to make this more of a miracle other than to thank you, to encourage you and wish you the very best this year in making more miracles.

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