

MD31L-News

Caring for our Community & Loving our Lions Pride

UPDATES

#LionFamilyStrong

Every county within District 31L has been affected by Hurricane Helene. Lions have been affected varying from no water, no power, dwindling resources of gasoline and food. Some have had flooding in their home, tree damage to their homes, and worse. Some have lost their homes and everything they own. Let's all keep each other in our thoughts and prayers and check in on one another.

ATTENTION

Any NC Lion that has been displaced due to the effects of Tropical Storm Helene, may receive free lodging for themselves and their family members by calling the Camp Dogwood office. The kitchen will not be opened, so bring your own meals. The dorms have refrigerators and microwaves. Laundry facilities are available. Camp Dogwood has acted as a shelter for at least six families in need.

Additionally, Camp Dogwood has welcomed nightly accommodations to visiting helicopter pilots who have been flying out of the Statesville and Lincoln County airports for disaster relief.

If you are able to, please check in with DG Dawson to let us know if you are safe or need help.
cell: (828) 302-6957
dawsonhart313@gmail.com



Clubs: [have had contact with at least one member]

- Andrews
- Black Mountain
- Black Mountain McCune
- Clay County
- Catawba County NC:
 - ~Claremont LC, Conover LC, Long View LC, St. Stephens LC, Sherrills Ford LC
- Edneyville Community
- Etowah
- Franklin
- Granite Falls
- Greater Asheville
- Hendersonville
- Hot Springs
- Hudson
- Lake Lure
- Lincolnton
- Gastonia
- Rutherford College
- Sand Hill
- Spruce Pine
- Valdese
- Valley Springs
- Waynesville
- Weaverville

No contact/information yet from the following clubs:

- Balls Creek
- Brevard
- Charles D. Owen Leos
- Lake Lure Leos
- Newton
- West Hickory VIPs
- Brevard Davidson River
- East Gastonia
- Marion
- PFHS Leos
- Candler
- Edneyville Community Leos
- Mars Hill
- Rutherfordton
- Chase
- Erwin District
- Mount Holly
- Shelby



Visit the NCLF website: <https://nclf.org> and click on "DONATE TODAY" You will be redirected to the Zeffy page Be sure to note that donation is for Western NC Disaster Relief

Donations can be made out to and mailed to NCLF at PO Box 39, Sherrills Ford NC 28673- note in memo Disaster Relief.

DISCLAIMER

The below information shared about disaster relief efforts are not complete. These are only efforts that we currently are aware of through social media sharing and in conversation. We recognize that there is much more work that is being done than we know about or could possibly share, especially the work being done by lions in the areas hit the hardest. There are still many without power, water, or internet access. Additionally, the focus right now is doing the work. This newsletter aims to keep our lions best informed as we can about the safety of our lions and the ongoing relief efforts. We will continue to share more news as it becomes available. It also is intended to act as a reassuring reminder of the family that is lions as we cope with the circumstances of today. With time and working together, we will overcome the mass tragedies that were created by Hurricane Helene. May it bring us closer to one another.

In addition to damage and destruction of lions' homes, we have learned that some lions clubs' structures have total and or serious damage. These include:

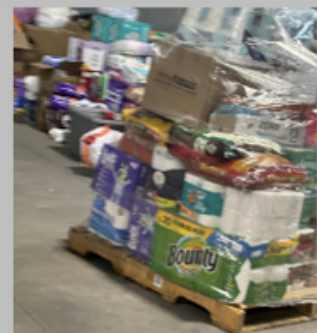
- Hot Springs Lions Club House
- Canton Lions Club Picnic Shelter





Funds being donated to North Carolina Lions Foundation for Western NC Disaster Relief are actively being carried out as soon as they are coming in. Pictured above are supplies being delivered to Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach Food Pantry in Lake Lure on Friday, October 4th.

Conditions in Lake Lure: At least one member from the Lake Lure Lions Club has had internet service restored as of Sunday, October 6th. Electric services are still down, and it is not known when they will be restored. There are many downed trees in Lake Lure. Fire departments have cut out a path of the downed trees, but many roads are inaccessible. Many bridges are down and much of highway 9 got knocked out. They will not have road access to Hendersonville or Asheville for much time.



NC Lions Foundation supply delivery to Hendersonville on Monday, October 7th.



On Saturday, October 5th, District 31N Lions delivered a disaster trailer of supplies to the Emergency Operations Center in Flat Rock, North Carolina; a project headed by Past District Governors Carlie Metts and Bob Block.



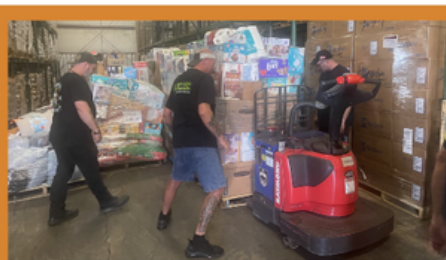
On Saturday, October 5th at Julian Trading Post, the Lions Clubs of Julian, Liberty, Climax, Pleasant Garden and Siler City hosted a hot dog sale raising nearly \$2,000 that will be sent directly to help Western NC with disaster relief.



The Kinston Host Lions Club held a family fun day at the park where they collected supplies to send to Western NC for disaster relief.



Wednesday, October 9th:
The NC Lions Foundation took much needed blankets, quilts and winter wear to Creston Riverview Lions Club.



On Saturday, October 5th, Volunteers and Lions helped Lion George, MD31 [Multiple District] Council Chair at his business warehouse to unload and reload disaster relief supplies in Asheville getting ready to be shipped out to those effected in Waynesville by Hurricane Helene.



This year for the Denver Iowa Leo Club's annual coat and clothing drive, they collected for those impacted in Western NC. A member of their sponsoring lions club drove the donations to the North Carolina Lions Foundation to carry out distribution.





The Litchfield Kentucky Lions, 4 Marines, and 1 Army Soldier clean-up trees lost due to Hurricane Helene at one of our lion's home in District L.



The Lake Gaston Lions held their eastcoast-wide known Seafood Festival and matched the profits raised to be donated to the Western NC Disaster Relief through the Samaritan's Purse.

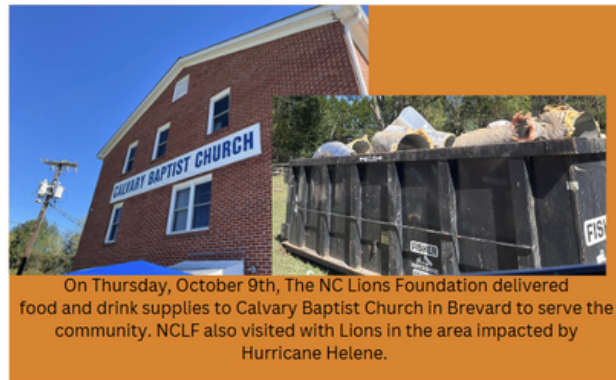
And on the day of the Festival, one of their lions who is a private pilot stayed behind the event to deliver 400 pounds of essential goods to Ashe County via the Statesville Airport



Amidst the disaster the Town of Canton has experienced, the Canton Lions Club has donated free brooms to assist in cleanup efforts. Many other clubs throughout the state have followed their lead in donating brooms to cleanup efforts.



The North Moore Lions Club have been diligently working hard collecting items in the community and delivering them to the Western part of our state.



On Thursday, October 9th, The NC Lions Foundation delivered food and drink supplies to Calvary Baptist Church in Brevard to serve the community. NCLF also visited with Lions in the area impacted by Hurricane Helene.



The Bainbridge Lions Club of NY prepare a load to be delivered to Lions in Boone, NC to help their fellow community members effected by Hurricane Helene.



On Saturday, October 12th, approximately 40 volunteers including Lions from across the state of NC, the local fire department, and many local community volunteers gathered to help unload three truckloads of donations that Lions from the state of New York delivered to the warehouse of the North Carolina Lions Foundation to be delivered to those in need in Western NC effected by Hurricane Helene.



Thank you to all community members and lions for all your support you have shown and continue to show through endless disaster relief efforts to restore our beautiful Western NC Mountains, home to NC Lions Districts L and I, and to aid their communities members as they navigate a new life!!!

As immediate Past International President of Lions Clubs International, Dr. Patti Hill said, "Together we Can"



On Tuesday, October 8th, the McCune Community regained power; however, the flooding following Helene washed out the main water lines and they have been told that it may be three to six months before it can be restored. A local good Samaritan has been filling a 250-gallon tote from a nearby creek that has allowed them to manually flush toilets. Additionally, the Lions recently delivered a tote of well water to them.

Clubs in the eastern part of our district who were only affected by Helene minimally and for a short time have been working to ensure that the McCune has at least one pallet of drinking water per week. They currently have five pallets of water as of Friday, October 11th that should last them approximately 4 to 6 weeks. The Claremont Lions Club has been doing 80 loads of laundry per week for the McCune Community.

Blue Coast Camping donated a tankless camping shower that is scheduled to be delivered to McCune on Saturday, October 12th. PDG Curtis Erickson, the President of the overseeing board, the Western NC Lions Board of Directors Inc, stated the donations of needed food and other hygiene items have been flowing in and currently they are in good shape. The most needed item now will be financial to help cover the additional cost of operations under these difficult circumstances. In addition, the McCune Community is working to ensure that employees who have been affected by Helene are also be assisted as they adjust to their new home circumstances. Please keep the operating board, the staff, and residents in your prayers.

If you would like to assist the McCune Community in anyway, please reach out to your zone chair. They will assist in facilitating communication.

Marjorie McCune Community
101 Lions Way
Black Mountain, NC 28711
Note on Check: Disaster Relief Fund

The Storm Pushes Past Boundaries

Our neighboring MD31I [Multiple District] was also affected by Hurricane Helene. So far, we believe the Boone area lions are safe from the last time MD31L First Lady Liz reached out to the club. Lion Tammy is working to get a generator to a VIP in the Boone area is without power and does not know when their power will be restored.

Please also keep our Lions in our neighboring states of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee in your prayers as they recover from Hurricane Helene and Florida who has been setback even further from recovery from Hurricane Milton. Past Council Chair Max Bumgardner who moved from Canton, NC to Canton, GA is safe. Canton, GA was not affected by the storm.



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

UPDATE FROM LCIF RE HURRICANE HELENE

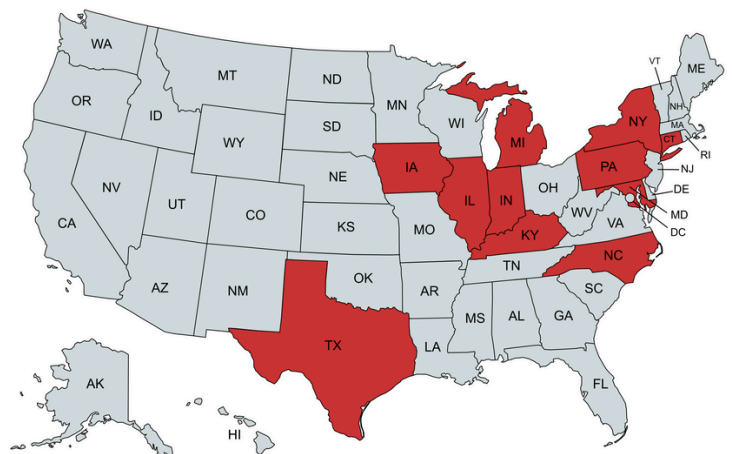
From July 1, 2024, to October 3, 2024, LCIF has awarded a total of 125 disaster relief grants globally, amounting to \$2,018,452. In response to Hurricane Helene, we are actively collaborating with Lions across multiple states to assess and address the immediate needs on the ground.

As of October 3, 2024, we have awarded 8 Emergency grants totaling \$120,000 for districts in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. We are in contact with several more districts and anticipate additional Emergency grants will be issued soon.

Additionally, Major Catastrophe grants of \$100,000 each have been awarded to Multiple District 35 (Florida) and Multiple District 31 (North Carolina)

We recognize the extensive damage across these states and are in continuous communication with Lions from affected areas. We are reviewing new requests daily, and we understand that districts may require further assistance. Our commitment to supporting relief activities remains strong, and we appreciate the dedication of Lions who are actively helping in these devastated communities.

Here is a map of lions and leos that have assisted in NC relief efforts or have reached out about assisting of which we know of so far.



TOGETHER, WE WILL OVERCOME THIS TRADGEY



HOT SPRINGS

Home to Hot Springs Lions Club



Rutherford County

Home to...
Chase Lions Club
Lake Lure Lions Club
Lake Lure Leos Club
Rutherfordton Lions Club



Buncombe County

Home to...
Black Mountain Lions Club
Charles D. Owens Leo Club
Black Mountain McCune Lions Club
Candler Lions Club
Greater Asheville Lions Club
Erwin District Lions Club
Sand Hill Lions Club
Swannanoa Valley Lions Club
Valley Springs Lions Club
Weaverville Lions Club
Western NC Lions Board of Director's
Majorie McCune Community:
Assisted & Independent Living



Marion

Home to Marion Lions Club
and their Blue Ridge Terrace Apartments
[HUD- for low income individuals]



Burke County

Home to...
Rutherford College Lions Club
Valdese Lions Club



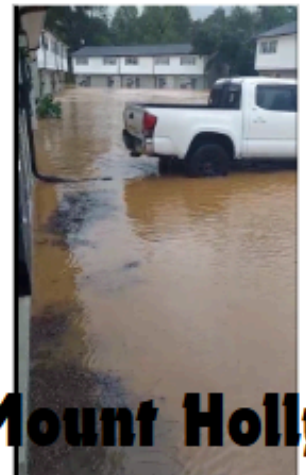
Shelby

Home to Shelby Lions Club



Pisgah Forest

Home to...
Brevard Lions Club
Brevard Davidson River Lions Club
Pisgah Forest Lions Club



Mount Holly

Home to...
Mount Holly Lions Club



Henderson County

Home to...
Edneyville Community Lions Club
Edneyville Community Leos Club
Etowah Lions Club
Hendersonville Lions Club
Mills River Lions Club



Haywood County

Home to...
Canton Lions Club
Pisgah High School Leo Club
Clyde Lions Club
Waynesville Lions Club



Franklin

Home to Franklin Lions Club



Spruce Pine

Home to Spruce Pine Lions Club
and their Sunshine Hill Apartments
[HUD-for low income individuals]



NOTE

These are just some of the
damages we are facing in District L