



# KANSAS MD 17 LIONS DISASTER RELIEF



MAY 4th, 2007

## WHAT A WEEKEND

(From my View: by David G. Orr Kansas MD17 K1 Governor)



*"If it wasn't for bad luck there would be no luck at all"*

Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, I was in McPherson, Kansas for a funeral of a long time friend & musician, Lions Club Rock Hall of Famer, Bob Hapgood, Drummer & Leader of "King Midas & the Mufflers". After the visitation where there were more than eight hundred people in attendance, and a three and a half hour wait to see the family, we all got back to my Lions Governor Motor-Coach to unwind and talk about the fun times we shared together knowing one of Kansas all time GREAT Musicians. While turning in for the night, I felt the Coach Rock & Lighting struck with some of the weirdest sounds.

May 5<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 6:00 AM: We learned that a tornado had hit Greensburg Friday night.

Saturday 10:00 AM: During the funeral I contacted MD17 K3 Lions Governor Denny Smith. He had stated he was working on the \$ 10,000 dollar grant from LCIF with PDG Craig Donecker from Great Bend, Kansas. He said everything was on track and Even PDG Craig had received damage on his business. I offered K1's assistance since tornados are very common in Southeast Kansas. Here in K1 (Southeast Kansas) Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) has given many more dollars to Disaster relief than Kansas Lions Members have ever paid in Membership fees.

As the morning went on we learned that during the storm that night Greensburg, Kansas had been wiped out! They were calling it an EF5 Tornado. As the thousand some people started coming into McPherson to honor Bob and his life, people who were supposed to show didn't. They were from the Greensburg area. Right before the Funeral I found out one of the first bodies found was a friend of Bob's cousin who was suppose to be at the Funeral. Everyone knew him and I then realized these were Kansas people in trouble.



Saturday 6:00 PM: Well, that night I was heading to Independence Kansas for the Independence Lions Club 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Also this would be the first time I would get to see my friend and fellow Lion PID Ed McCormick speak at a Lions function. On the way home I was traveling past Fall River on the 400 Highway I saw one after another of Ambulances and Police Cars traveling into Fall River. As District Governor of MD17 K1, I started to worry since the clouds were so strange that night that maybe the same thing happened to Fall River that happened in Greensburg. While traveling on to my scheduled stop I started making calls to find out what had happened. Well it wasn't a tornado but something almost as bad, a balcony on a resident's home who was having a family reunion collapsed killing several critically injuring fifty. All of this and my weekend was only half

done.



May 6<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 10:30 AM: While sitting in Church and dwelling upon all of the catastrophes that had happened that weekend to all of the good people in Kansas I felt compelled to get involved. I started talking to members in my Cabinet and my local Club with K1 figuring out a plan. I decided to leave Monday after arranging some start-up supplies. (That Sunday Greensburg people weren't sitting in their Churches. They had NO Church).

May 7<sup>th</sup>, Monday 9:00 AM: While calling on some of my Lions Members who I knew would be perfect candidates to go with me I found one of our very own Captain Andy Moffit of the Chanute Fire Department was already on sight with a First response team. Andy just happened to be out in Western Kansas doing a seminar when the Tornado hit Greensburg. I asked Andy if we could get our Lions Team into the community help us cut through the red tape this would put us in the heart of Ground Zero. He told me who to talk to when I got there. (Right: Fire Fighters working the Greensburg Recovery).



Monday 3:00 PM: Before leaving, Parsons President Lion Maggie Keene had agreed to make salads and beans for fifty for the Whitewater Lions Club picnic. We quickly changed it to be for the Greensburg relief. Lion Maggie said that if we could be there by 7:00 PM Monday night she would have it ready. Since our Chanute Lions Club meeting was Monday evening, I had asked my wife, Cheryl, who is a member of the Chanute Branch Club, to go do a presentation before the club to ask them to donate \$1,000 for Greensburg relief. Chanute Evening Club voted to give \$500 and challenged the Branch Club to give the other \$500. Cheryl called and relayed this information to me.

(Left are Lion President Maggie Keene and her husband Lion John Keene Kansas Highway Patrol fixing noodles for the annual Parsons Noodle Feed?) This time Lion Maggie did it for Greensburg. Throwing Johns name out to fellow Highway Patrol didn't hurt me any on getting special treatment for us Lions).

Monday 6:00 PM: I left immediately toward Greensburg feeling like I had a grip on what I was about to see. Governor Denny Smith of K3 had PDG Bob Courtney take charge at the Haviland Command Center ten miles to the east of Greensburg. PDG Bob, CC Anne Smarsh and I had already worked last year together as District Governors for the 2005 – 2006 seasons. My first five days in office I had my first disaster in Sycamore Kansas and had to ask for LCIF Relief, also PDG Bob had already gone through six Disaster Grants from LCIF during his time as a Lion.

Monday 9:00 PM: I contacted Lion Terri Phillips and asked her to e-mail a letter to all of the K1 District Clubs and newsletter mailing list to ask for donations. She also polled the Chanute Branch Club and they voted to give \$500. The next day I had an e-mail from Bernard Lee's club in Scranton matching Chanute's \$1,000. Bernard's comment was;



### **"The Scranton Lions respond to your Challenge."**

Dave, I received a copy of your letter Tuesday May 8, 2007 11:02 AM Entitled "Dear Fellow Lions," describing your plan of action to help the victims of the Greensburg tornado. I took notice of your challenge to the Chanute Branch Club to match the Chanute Lions Club \$500.00 donation.

We are a small farming community of 700 residents and a Lions club with 32 members. We met tonight for our regular bi-monthly meeting, I furnished written material with photo's of the Greensburg Tornado for all members to see, read, and understand. We believe that it is better to be on the sending end than on the receiving end of this kind of situation.

**Our membership voted 100% to send a check for \$1,000 to the Kansas Lions Foundation** Treasurer immediately for relief efforts in Greensburg Kansas.

Your Chanute Lions challenge has been answered, Governor David. We think that many more Clubs in District 17 should get on board and beat or equal our donation.

**Respectfully In Lions Service  
Bernard Lee -- IPDG - K 7.**

Monday 9:30 PM: While I was on the road we kept constant contact by cell phone and agreed to meet PDG Bob Courtney at Pratt and decide what our plan of attack would be. Bob and I met for dinner and I went to Dillon's and did a shopping spree to get ready for the next day.



May 8<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 5:30 AM: I called Hi-Tec Design's Fred Davis who has helped me many times with signs and banners for Lions events. Fred made us a wonderful banner with the Lions and LCIF logos which said, "LIONS DISASTER RELIEF." I felt it was important that people knew that Lions from all over the state were helping. Fred says, "That will be my donation to the Lions." This type of banner would normally cost hundreds of dollars.

I also called Council Chair, Anne Smarsh and spouse Tom Smarsh, State Chair of Campaign Sight First II and Sales Manager for Excel / Cargill. Lion Tom offered to donate Cargill's Sterling Silver Premium beef so we could all meet in Greensburg and cook Wednesday.

Because I had to cancel my attendance at the Winfield at noon Wednesday and Whitewater Lions Family Picnic to be held Wednesday night. Winfield Lions Treasurer Dee Ledy took 250 pork burgers to the Lions State Office for Tom Smarsh to pick up and bring on Wednesday. (Boy were they the best Pork Burgers Ever) The Greensburg people went nuts over them.

## COMMAND CENTER HAVILAND



I had been told by the K3 Lions that we were not allowed to go into Greensburg. I had arranged for one of my guys to bring out my backhoe, if needed, for recovery or cleanup the following day. I went on to Haviland the next morning for a reconnaissance mission to find out where we would be setting up. After arriving in Haviland I saw our Lions Mini home set up for doing vouchers, but was scheduled to open from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the evening. (Left: was the Mini home at the Haviland Command Center put in motion by the Bucklin Lions Club of K3).

Haviland was a zoo with media coverage and others gathered there.



I decided right then that waiting in Haviland was not going to get us anywhere. I did not feel that the battlefield was at Haviland, it was at Greensburg. So, I hopped back in my Motor-Coach and headed to Greensburg. There were three checkpoints on the edge of Greensburg. At every checkpoint when they saw my Lions International Logo and Badge on the Motor-Coach they motioned me through. When I got to the final checkpoint where they should have sent me back, I rolled down my window to tell them who I was. It was one of the most meaningful moments of my Governorship. A Highway Patrolman looked at my coach and said, "He's Governor of the Lions Club, let him in."

At this point I was on the phone with PDG Steve Dawson who rode out the storm in Greensburg which was his home.

For all of you who do not know Steve, he was the driver of our Kansas Sight Bus about four years ago. He had volunteered numerous hours to other communities for sight and hearing screenings previously. Steve was so thankful that the Kansas Lions had arrived.





PDG STEVE & CONNIE DAWSON  
HOUSE When I Arrived.

Tuesday 8:00 AM: Steve agreed to meet me at the city limits to guide me into a safe area where I could park my Lions Motor-Coach. Friday evening townspeople had been evacuated after the storm the night before. At this time many of the townspeople were arriving for the first time since the storm to see their homes.



### **"ALL I COULD DO WAS CRY WHEN I ARRIVED"**



I saw my first sight of the damage and no matter how prepared you think you are from TV and what you hear, nothing had prepared me for this! Take any pictures that you see and multiply it by three. My mind could not process the devastation that I was seeing, as I became tearful driving through the

town behind Steve and looking at what remained. I contacted State Secretary, Lion Linda McCormick and husband PID Ed McCormick and they were liaisons with the Lions Club International Foundation. The \$10,000 Lions Club International Foundation contribution had come through and Linda was working on additional funding.



Steve immediately took me into the neighborhood where he lived and all of the relatives and friends ran over to meet him. Most of the day was spent with people shaking hands and hugging each other. Steve searched out neighbors to make sure they made it through the ordeal. There was a lot of laughter going right into crying. People were happy to be alive! This was the first time Steve had gotten to see his home since the disaster.

At the time of the tornado Steve had been at work at Carriage House Assisted Living at the edge of town. His wife and grandchildren were at home. His sister owns the donut shop in town which normally would have been heading to work at the time when the tornado hit. While she was on the phone talking to Steve the sirens blew. Steve told his sister to get to his house which had a basement, she argued with him. Anyone knowing Steve had to get forceful with her and told her to get her rear to the house. Upon her first step to the basement, the tornado hit. Steve's whole family, as you can see survived the storm.

None of the elderly residents in the care facility were injured from the storm. After securing a plan to evacuate the care facility, when the storm was over it took Steve five hours to make his way five blocks to his home to check on his family. The cell phones would not work as the towers were down. No other phones were working either.

I checked with Steve to see if all other members of the Greensburg Lions Club had survived the storm and he assured me that they had.

## "FEEDING THE MULTITUDES"

Tuesday 9:00 AM: Steve gave me a quick tour of the southwest corner of the community in his van with the broken out window. All of his other vehicles were totaled and strewn around his yard. We proceeded on to the care home and found out that crews and family members were coming in to remove the residents' furniture and personal possessions. He asked me if I could come and help him with the evacuation of the residents' belongings. He needed a support for the care home employees and staff. I asked Steve how many were needed to cook for and he said, approximately 50.



Tuesday 10:00 AM: I told Steve I only had enough food on board my coach for approximately 10 servings that I had brought just to feed my team that was coming. I knew people would start getting hungry by noon. I got on the phone with PDG Bob Courtney and told him that I was inside Greensburg, which he hardly believed. After giving Bob my shopping list, I explained how he could get through the checkpoints. Bob told me he could not get there for several hours. I have never felt so alone and somewhat scared. I called Tom and Ann Smarsh and said bring more...this is on a much bigger scale than I realized. I also said I would return to Pratt and buy more that night. At the end of this story I will tell you the food quantities given out. I called my

Maintenance Man, Al Green, and said, I need you now and he took off from Chanute with the backhoe and the food from Maggie Keene.

Tuesday 12:00 Noon: The troops were getting restless. Steve came to me and said, "Fix what you can, Dave. Put one piece of bread, one piece of meat and cut it into fours and make it finger food." I emptied all of my bags of potato chips into big bowls and put them on my table from under my coach. I did what Steve said, cutting sandwiches into small pieces and setting them on plates on the table.



Tuesday 12:30PM: Every time I got out of the coach to put more food onto the table, with a line of fifty people lined up, my one loaf of bread became five. My ham, turkey and bologna became multiple packages lying on the table. I asked where it came from and people said they thought I had brought it. The coach was full of left over pop and water from our Lions Rock Hall of Fame concert.

## "THE MIRACLE"

Several hours later, after interviewing many people, I found that people driving by had taken food out of trunks of their cars and put it on the table to help me out. We fed fifty people plus some of the nearby National Guards members who were there cleaning up.

Tuesday 2:30 PM: Bob showed up with more food and pop. The funny part of the whole day was I left with more food than I came with. Bob and wife, Marian, also left me with fifty \$50 vouchers to distribute to storm victims at \$50 per family member.



We restocked the coach with food and drinks and continued to hand out snacks and water to the care home employees who were coming from all over the state to move the residents and their belongings. The facility was basically intact although the windows were blown out, but the rain the next night finished the building off with over a million in flood damage, since it could not be immediately repaired before the rains.

The care home owners showed up and asked who I was and they said, we were the Lions and they said, "They are feeding us?" I had helped load furniture and personal possessions at this time.



Alan Green arrives and we tour the community and survey the damaged homes and businesses. Alan made the comment, "David, what did we bring the equipment for, there is nothing here to use it on. It's all gone!" I told him my theory was, after seeing the ladies who wanted to sift through their houses I felt they needed to know that we tried. We went to a couple of houses and tried, but they found nothing after using the hoe. All personal possessions were basically destroyed and very little was salvageable. Only one street on the east and west ends of the town were damaged a little less and some items could be salvaged. The care home had been on one end of town and therefore was less damaged.

I was awful proud to be a Kansan, watching how our National Guardsmen helped this community, many of them were women. We were happy to give them any food and beverages we could spare. Southeast Kansas was very represented with troops from Iola, Coffeyville, and Chanute. The first day HBO was filming for a documentary and they filmed me talking about Lions Disaster Relief in exchange for a sandwich. The military was escorting the reporter.



Tuesday 6:00 PM: Left town and headed back to Pratt to purchase more supplies at the grocery store, even beyond what Tom and CC Anne were bringing. Every night before leaving people ran up and said, "Would you promise to come back tomorrow?" Even though I knew in my heart there was very little we could do for them except comfort them.



May 9<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 6:00 AM: We got up not even knowing if we could get into Greensburg as we knew that President Bush was visiting that day and we had heard that no one was going to be allowed into the town. Al and I stopped for a quick breakfast at McDonalds knowing that might be the only meal we would have that day, which it was. We also stopped for ice at Dillon's, where we staying in the parking lot. The Wal-Mart was full! I want to point out that all super centers had been totally stripped of their products on the shelves. I was on the phone with the Smarsh's telling them about all of the items I could not find, so they could get them before they got to the area. They also let me know that at Kingman the Dillon's

store there was an account of Tom's and also Lions and they donated all kinds of fresh produce to the cause. (Above: Greensburg Dillon's couldn't supply the food for this trip).



Wednesday 7:30 AM: Upon making it to the final checkpoint to enter town, everyone was being turned away because of the President's arrival it looked like we were going to be turned away until he left. Upon coming up to the checkpoint I saw several old friends including a KBI Agent who had escorted the Governor to one of our Kansas Lions Hall of Fame shows and he saw my Lions logo and said, "Dave, what are you doing here? Aren't you a little out of your territory?" I told him we had already been in yesterday and were setting up a disaster relief center for the people of Greensburg. He looked at me, smiled and said, "Go on in," although 20 cars ahead of me were told to turn around and go back. I was never so proud to be a Lion!

It was kind of eerie as we were the only ones there as no one else was getting in. It really felt like a ghost town. There was a curfew imposed everyday so that you were not to enter before 9:00 AM or leave after 6:00 PM. I called back to Tom and Anne and said the key to getting in was to say, "We are part of the Lions Disaster Relief Team." Then Alan and I proceeded to set up shop! Al and I installed the banner on the canopy of the coach and our LIONS FREE STORE was open for business.

Wednesday 10:00 AM: Al and I sat under the canopy in the rain, waiting for the President cavalcade to drive by. Anyone else would have been arrested for speeding like their caravan of officials whirlwind tour sped through the town. They ended up shaking hands down at the John Deere Agency two blocks down the street from us. (The President & Kansas Governor Swing by our Relief Center).



Wednesday 11:00 AM: After the President left, more vehicles were let in. Our new found home which Steve Dawson led us to which was an abandoned gas station with some intact cement. What was neat about that location was it was farther down the street than all of the other relief groups and closer to the residential people who were cleaning up. They did not have to go so far from their homes for services. Put a whole new meaning to, "Right on the Price" Right on your way home."

Tom and CC Anne Smarsh arrive with relatives in tow! We had help of Brad Hulett, cattle buyer with Cargill Meat Solutions, Dodge City and co-worker with Tom at Excell / Cargill Company. Tom's sister and

brother-in-law, Vickie and Ted Horsch helped out. Also their personal friend Debbie Stamback came along from Anndale, Kansas. I have a feeling even though they were not Lions they soon may be. For that day we had a seven person team. I have never felt better about the group of individuals that I got to work with than this team!

## LIONS REALLY COOKED!!!

I had anticipated that I would be cooking burgers for the day, but I did my first Greensburg, Kansas Tornado Disaster Assistance voucher at 11:00 AM and never stopped until 7:00 PM. Thank God for Tom's and his group's cooking. Tom's entourage cooked 160 lbs of beef, 250 pork burgers, and hundreds of hot dogs. Plus they fed people all of the fixings that Maggie had sent over and the extra stuff I had bought. Probably went through 8 cases of pop and 12 cases of water. Alan, after doing a little backhoe work, came back and served water and drinks to the locals. Even tough old Al was warming up to the crowd and overwhelmed with the good that we were accomplishing.



Tom's gals chopped onions and washed lettuce for the burgers. We emptied two bottles of propane on the event grill I had towed behind my coach.



## YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS "WE'RE OUT OF FOOD?"

Wednesday 12:00 Noon: Panic ensues after serving hundreds of people; we realized that we did not have enough food. We contacted PDG Bob and said, "You better be making a grocery run as we need more of everything!"

Starting to run out of water, I remembered seeing 4 cases of water at the care home and I asked Steve if we could use it and he said, "OK." When we got there we found only two cases.

Wednesday 1:30 PM: Due to the e-mail I put out, I kept getting calls from Lions around K1 (Augusta Servant, Baxter Springs, Columbus, Caney, Independence, Parsons, Coffeyville, Yates Center, & Towanda) and the state and e-mails telling us about the various clubs who were donating money. CC Anne received a call from the Downtown Wichita Lions Club giving \$5,000. Linda got a call from a Lions Club in the state of Florida giving \$1,000 and we felt we could not leave yet.



Wednesday 3:00 PM: Bob finally arrived and it was time to cook again. Chips and hot dogs! I was getting writer's cramp from all of the vouchers. We were all also getting sun burnt.

People were coming up to us and asking if we were coming back the next day, with tears in their eyes. They said, "You treated us better than anybody."

(Left: Bob & Marian Courtney at my Governors Ball. I Wish I had a picture of his cute little suit he had on during the crises).

Wednesday 7:00 PM: One hour past the Imposed curfew. Before leaving Lion Tom Smarsh says to me, "What do you think? Do you think we could pull off one more day?" I said, "Tom I have already been here two days, I'm exhausted, but if you'll do it, I'll do it." We had just told the residents that we didn't think we would be back.

Tom called Linda at Kansas Lions State Office she got on the phone and started calling all Lions to help the next day. Tom then called on his Lions Club at Maize to answer the call for HELP!

**"We knew we were on the front lines and there was no retreat.  
It was a battle we felt we were winning and leaving would feel like defeat"**

Wednesday 8:00 PM: We split up the shopping lists and headed off for supplies. Tom and Anne went back to Wichita for more meat, supplies and accessories. We were planning for 300. We were all too tired to shop that night, so knew we would have to shop the next morning early. As tired as they were the Smarsh family managed to make coleslaw and macaroni salad for 300. That's going the extra mile!!

May 10<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 7:00 AM: I was there when Dillon's opened and I filled up six grocery carts full of food, plus loads of ice. PDG Bob & I got 300 bottles of water and ten cases of pop. The deli chopped my onions as I bought enough food for 300 people, figuring we would not have as big a crowd as the day before. (WRONG) Tom and I each bought out the chips in all of our Dillon's stores. Knowing us, we did buy some extra just in case. PDG Bob showed up with his Pratt Lions credit card to help pay. Had to fill with propane too as we were completely out.



Thursday 9:00 AM: Arrived in Greensburg! This time I had to set up by myself as Alan had gone home with the backhoe. I looked like something out of the Beverly Hillbillies with three huge coolers full stacked on top of my event grill on the back. I had Groceries scattered all of the way up and down the inside of my Motor Home. I couldn't even walk down my isles to the bathroom. My 40 foot coach was bottoming out on the dips. I never knew I was going to turn it into a freight liner.

I was afraid of losing my parking spot as I was so late coming in. When I arrived there were two cars in my spot who were storm victims who were there from the day before. They were quick to give me the spot where they were parked. I had lost my Governor's badge the day before and they had found it and were waiting to give it back to me. Their son had ridden the storm out in the convenience store across the street by locking himself in the beer cooler in the store. He was a senior this year and was going to graduate this month.



They told the story of the car trailer that was at their house being thrown several blocks down to the Mennonite Church where they were able to retrieve it and it still worked. The son's truck was totaled at the convenience store. The Dad had been out of town on business, so had a working car to drive.

The locals all started helping me set up and I started writing vouchers again....other Lions started showing up for the second shift.... Tom Smarsh's Club the Maize Lions included: President Suzanne Carr and spouse Lion Shaun Carr, and Richard Craft. Linda McCormick, the hub: drafted Wichita Airport Lions Ken Oxley and Wichita Northwest President Larry Jamieson and Richard Darge.



By this time I am writing vouchers and wondering where the money was going to come from. I never even got to introduce myself to the Lions who were starting to set up and gather things around my motor coach.



Thursday 10:30 AM: Everyone pitched in and started loading out supplies out of Tom's trailer and my coach. By 11:00 AM the grills were fired up and the dogs were on! Also, as part of the journey, CC Anne got out of the truck with many stuffed Lions that she had

collected through the years for the children in the town. She ran out very quickly and then I turned to CC Anne and said you are welcome to take the many in my coach, which clubs had given me over this year.

As the families signed for their vouchers, the children were given their stuffed Lions.



**Do you think we may have some folks joining Lions after this or later in life?**

Thursday 11:00 AM: We served food to 600 in the first wave and called PDG Bob Courtney to bring more. We were wiped out with no water or pop. We had long lines, a hundred deep. At one point an elderly woman with a cane and on oxygen was in the back of the line. CC Anne tried to get her to the head of the line and she refused to cut in front of the military personnel who she said were helping them.

Thursday 2:30 PM: We were almost out of food! and only had a few hot dog buns left. I started going down the food lines to sign people up for their vouchers.

It was a challenge to keep the drinks cold with ice in the coolers. One man helping me with coolers and drinks I thought was someone from out of town here to help and it turned out to be a storm victim. They were helping work and help each other even though it was at a time when they had lost everything. They were so appreciative of all of the help and all day long they would thank us and tell us how wonderful we were and that they would never forget us.

I would always close every voucher with "When you see you're Greensburg Lions tell them how thankful you are that they had a Lions Club in your town." I expect that Lions Club of 14 to grow! I wrote **\$22,400 in \$50 vouchers** to families!

**LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION  
LIONS DISTRICT 17-K3**

**GREENSBURG, KANSAS TORNADO DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Dollar amount of assistance: **\$50.00** Voucher No. **294**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ This is not a check!  
Voucher must be redeemed within 90 days of receipt.

Signature of Lion issuing this voucher: \_\_\_\_\_

**Recipient information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number where recipient can be reached: \_\_\_\_\_

**Recipient's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_  
I certify that the information I have provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and I consent to the release of the same to the handling of my request for aid.

**MERCHANT INFORMATION - This voucher is limited to the following items:**  
GASOLINE . . . FOOD . . . CLOTHING . . . KITCHEN NECESSITIES  
MEDICAL SUPPLIES . . . TOILETRIES . . . BEDDING ITEMS  
NO alcohol, tobacco, lottery tickets or cash change to be given

**Merchant's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

This assistance is provided by Lions Clubs International Foundation and distributed by your local Lions Clubs of District 17-K3. Please address any questions to:  
Past District Governor Robert "Bob" Courtney OR District Governor Danny Smith  
423 South 19th (Highway 24)  
P.O. Box 67124, Uroon, Kansas 67380  
(620) 246-2679

LICIF is a public, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. It is the charitable branch of Lions Clubs International. The Foundation was established to receive donations from Lions and others interested in humanitarian projects, and through careful disbursements, to use these funds to help meet the needs of individuals and communities in need throughout the world.

1st copy to Lions Clubs International. 2nd copy to Merchant. 3rd copy to Recipient. LICIF Form No. 99-001

Thursday 5:30 PM: We were out of EVERYTHING!!! All we had left was some Country Time Lemonade left over from Chanute's Mexican Fiesta booth from the Branch Clubs snow cones that had been in a container under the coach. People kept coming up and asking us to stay one more day. By that time all I had left to give was a heart attack. Did God intend for the Motor-Coach to be used for this purpose? It was very visible from a long ways away?



As Tom and I and CC Anne were cleaning up after all the other Lions had left, Tom says, "Do you realize that the tornado wiped out this whole town faster than it is going to take us to clean this grill?"



CC Anne said, "During the years that we have all been Lions, wouldn't you say, David, that this has been the best moment in our lives to be a LION?" And, I agreed, this was what it was all about...if all of you could have been in our shoes, you would never complain about being a Lion. For me, it certainly was the best moment of my Governorship and it wasn't even in my district.



In closing: the need is far from over. I challenge every Lions Club in Kansas to send a minimum of \$500 to the Lions Club Foundation earmarked for Disaster Relief. CC Anne and I envision any extra funds being used to build a first response trailer stocked with supplies to be ready for the next time. What we have learned that when you get to the disaster sight, you can't come up with materials fast enough. Also go to the Disaster where the people just need a friend, a meal & a Hug.

May 11<sup>th</sup>, Friday 2:30 PM: Received a call from Linda McCormick and CC Anne Smarsh that LCIF has allocated another \$15,000 for Greensburg to follow the \$10,000 already given.

Will Greensburg rebuild? YES! Greensburg is Quality People & a GREAT group of citizens. They love their community and the word Community means "The People" & the perseverance to overcome.

After seeing all of the Tornadoes in S.E. Kansas Each & Every time with the help of their surrounding neighbors the Community & People will come-out better than they ever were! They just have to believe and as Lions that is what our mission is to help them know we're there for them in our motto "WE SERVE".



1<sup>st</sup> It's GREAT To Be a LION  
2<sup>nd</sup> It's GREAT to be a KANSAN  
3<sup>rd</sup> It's GREAT to Live in AMERICA

And Most of All Thank the Lord Almighty for Everything Above!

By the way K1 is still "ON TRACK" with a little help from a few friends!



THANKS TO: PDG Bob, Marian, Linda, CC Anne & Tom "What a Team"



# We Will Be Back!



David G. Orr / 201326  
District Governor MD 17K1  
4331 South Johnson Rd.  
Chanute, KS 66720  
Business: (620) 431-3490  
[dave@chanutelions.org](mailto:dave@chanutelions.org)  
[www.lions17k1.org](http://www.lions17k1.org)



## "WHAT A WEEK"

**Greensburg Disaster Relief - Make All Tax Deductible Checks to:  
Kansas Lions Foundation % Dan Funke  
9 Argon, Goddard, KS 67052**