

# **LIONS SERVE ---NOW IS THE TIME**

**Your help is needed!** One of the worst hurricanes in this countries history struck the southeast part of our country a week or so ago leaving behind unbelievable devastation and sadly, many deaths. Wisconsin Lions have several times in the last 15 years risen up and accepted the challenge of helping to restore hope and bring back order to the lives of those impacted. We can do so again.

As soon as the storm ended I began phone calls into eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina trying to reach Lion leaders in those areas. Lack of phone service made that problematic but I have reached a District Governor, a Council Chair, the TN Lions Foundation and numerous Club leaders. I have told them Wisconsin Lions want to help and they are very excited about that.

Here is where the thinking is at the moment. They are going to be telling me what their most critical needs are and hopefully we will be able to fulfill many. From past experience I know that mattresses are critical after floods. We just happen to have the Lions trailer filled with about 40 queen mattresses and box springs that were headed to the Pine Ridge Reservation but now will go to the flooded areas. We have most of another trailer load of nice furniture in storage here that we will take to them. Based on past experiences we know they need cleaning supplies, paper products, baby and adult diapers, infant food and so much more. No clothing.

Again, based on what we have learned from past missions, we will not go there for 3-4 weeks. They need to get roads restored, power restored, distribution centers established and more before they get inundated with donations. Further, furniture etc. is of little use until people have a place to put it.

**How can you help?** We need to get this information to every Lions Club and Lion in the state. Governors, can you put this in the hands of your District WLM chair and ask him/her to launch an effort in your District? Hopefully we will be sending out an email to all Lions but that needs reinforcement. What are we asking from our membership?

- Donate needed items - put them on the Lions trailer or take a load down yourself. I can give you contacts.
- Donate money - Districts, clubs, individuals ?? Checks payable to WI Lions Missions marked Helena donation. Send them to: Bill Taubman, Wisconsin Lions Missions, N3391 Pine Tree Lane, Shell Lake 54871

Money donated is used to buy needed items, to donate to the clubs we work with for them to distribute, to buy Walmart gift cards that we put in an envelope with a note from Wisconsin Lions and give them to people in food lines or wherever. While we can take money even months from now and forward it on we would like to have everything by October 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Questions** Contact me: Bill Taubman, WLM Chair 715-520-7692 [wct38@centurytel.net](mailto:wct38@centurytel.net)