

Wars pass

their legacy lasts for years...



Fifteen years ago you, the Lions of Multiple District 105, took up the challenge of saving young lives:

Towards the end of the 20th Century a savage civil war raged in Bosnia/Herzegovina, which tore the heart out of that beautiful area of Europe. Time passed, a kind of peace descended, and the local people began the heartbreaking task of picking up the wreckage of their lives.

The medical infrastructure of the area had effectively been destroyed, with hospitals damaged beyond repair and doctors and nurses unable to train and work.

Everyone suffered, but, as ever in human conflicts, the most innocent bore the brunt; babies and small children were dying from lack of specialised care.

It was then that the Lions of the British Isles and Ireland entered into a partnership with the charity then known as Child Advocacy International, which is devoted to helping children whose health and life chances have been blighted by war.

The partnership, spurred by necessity and with the support of our Lions, took immediate and daring steps. The war at that time was in fact still going on, but during the first year of the partnership 41 critically ill small children who would otherwise have had no hope of survival were snatched out of danger and 'medi-vacc'd' to hospitals in our Multiple District where they received life-saving care. Just two of those infants lost the battle, and most of the children - and in some cases the relatives who travelled with them - stayed with Lions' families to convalesce.

The work escalated, and as soon as humanly possible the charity, now under the leadership of Lion (now Past International Director) Phil Nathan, began working directly in the war zone, extending its activities by arranging for doctors and nurses from England, Ireland and elsewhere - all volunteers donating their own time - to go to Bosnia and help train and re-train the local demoralised medical workforce, befriending and encouraging.

Work began in Mostar - a divided city with two separate hospitals, one in the east, one in the west. With the help of a Major Catastrophe Grant from LCIF (see page IV) work was undertaken to repair and redevelop the paediatric Intensive Care Units, and purchase and install incubators and other life-saving equipment in

both hospitals. To this day the Mostar hospitals are working well.

The partnership moved on to Sarajevo, where the former modern and well-equipped hospital had been reduced to a bombed out shell. (Row upon row of graves tell of the men, women and children who died in the 1400-day siege of the city.)

The Lions/CAI partnership created an Intensive Care Unit for children, with the aid of grants. A measure of the need is that in all the years since almost all the beds and incubators have been full, many very sick infants having been brought in by long and difficult journeys. Well over 1200 young lives have been saved.

Children's hospital services in the city of Bihac were improved, and a mobile clinic in Gorazde, a difficult to reach area, helped improve the quality of healthcare, backed by the distribution of simple literature in the local languages, funded by the Gift for Living partnership.

All these years on, hope is once more in the ascendant. A perfect replica of the iconic and beautiful 'Stari Most', the Old Bridge of Mostar, destroyed in the war, has been constructed and now stands proudly connecting the two sides of the city where a new atmosphere prevails.

And 'Lions Clubs International - a Gift for Living' has helped to forge a strong human bridge between the medical professionals on both sides. The 'invisible line' has been breached, and, as one paediatrician working in the Intensive Care Unit in Mostar said: "Here we provide care for *all* children."

Fifteen years on, we are building on the foundations created in those desperate early years, and the work of 'Gift' is coming full circle.

Training of doctors and other medical professionals is moving onto a higher level, a major step forward from the situation where it all began. Sophisticated - and expensive - equipment is still needed for the vital task of treating vulnerable tiny babies and sick children; ventilators, incubators, machinery for keeping delicate bodies at exactly the right temperature. All these and more are still needed.

'Gift' is still bringing life and hope. Your Gift is still needed if we are to make the vision of Lion Phil Nathan, expressed all those years ago, come about. (See back page)

"If we can heal the suffering children of a nation we may go some way towards healing the suffering of that nation itself..." - Past International Director Phil Nathan



Prince Andrew paid a visit to Sarajevo



Past International President Augustin Soliva with Lion Phil Nathan in Mostar



Two babies sharing...

Where it all began...

From shoeboxes full of small gifts to state - of - the - art hospital equipment: From a desperate flight through the night to save a dying baby to the situation today. This has been the Gift of YOU, the Lions of MD105



The 105-EA 'ShoeBox Appeal' (see page VII.)



The only water supply



The hospital laundry! The only 'Steriliser' was the boiler in the background



'If you can heal the suffering of one child...'



Thousands of graves



A building - ruined by war



Meggie Szczesny of Child Health, in the early days



The British Army constructed this temporary bridge to replace the historic Bridge of Mostar (now rebuilt)

The situation which confronted "Gift for Living" in the early days.



This giant mascot, Leo, was brought by 'ShoeBox' and presented to Hana by Lion David Woodruff

“You stepped in when things were blackest for us...”

This letter, from paediatricians throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina was sent recently to the Lions of our Multiple District...

We would like first to wish you all the best for the New Year! Almost 17 years have passed since we first met some of your members. It took a major crisis in the Balkans to make us acquainted with your organisation. You stepped in when things were blackest for us. We greatly appreciate the fact that 17 years later the Lions are still with us in our recovering country, and are helping to speed up that recovery.

Sadly, some of your members have passed away, and so have some of our colleagues, but our joint project/legacy is still up and running! Not only that – it has gone further than we ever expected!

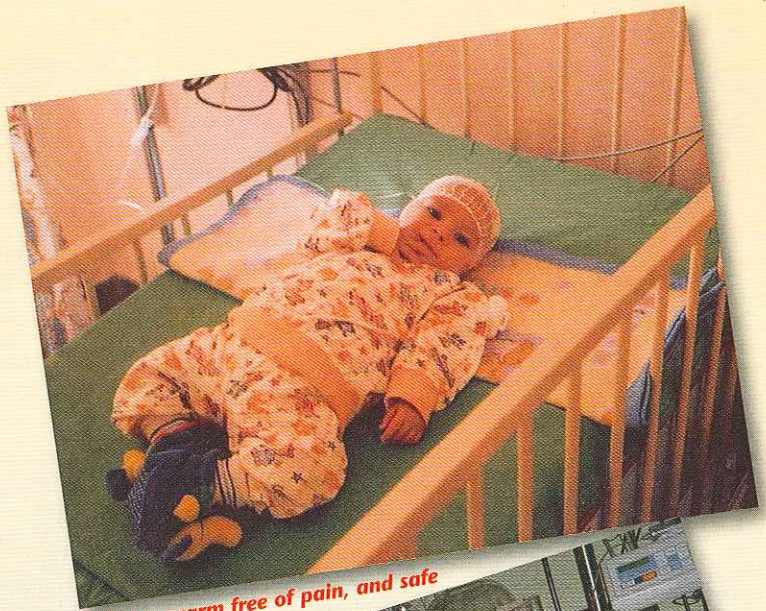
As you know, it has not always been easy, but there has always been steady progress and now we are seeing the results. Paediatricians from Sarajevo, Tuzla, Mostar and Banja Luka, whom you helped to train, are now holding annual Advanced Paediatric Life Support (APLS) courses all around Bosnia and Herzegovina. The next one will be in April this year. This course is teaching medical staff the most advanced techniques in emergency medicine for babies in crisis, or children who have suffered from mine explosions or car accidents.

Hospital equipment donated by you is up and running in seven paediatric hospitals in this country. Thanks very largely to your donations in terms of both equipment and education, the mortality rate among hospitalised babies and children has fallen by almost 60 per cent. In other words, around 3500 babies and children have been saved, largely because of you! And best of all, these achievements are sustainable, because the education of staff is continuing all the time. When we consider these achievements, and realise how much is due to your generosity, we want to pass on to you our warmest gratitude and hope that perhaps one day you will come and visit our hospitals and talk to our staff. We can thank you directly ourselves, even if we cannot pass on all the thanks from the families of children whom you have helped to save.

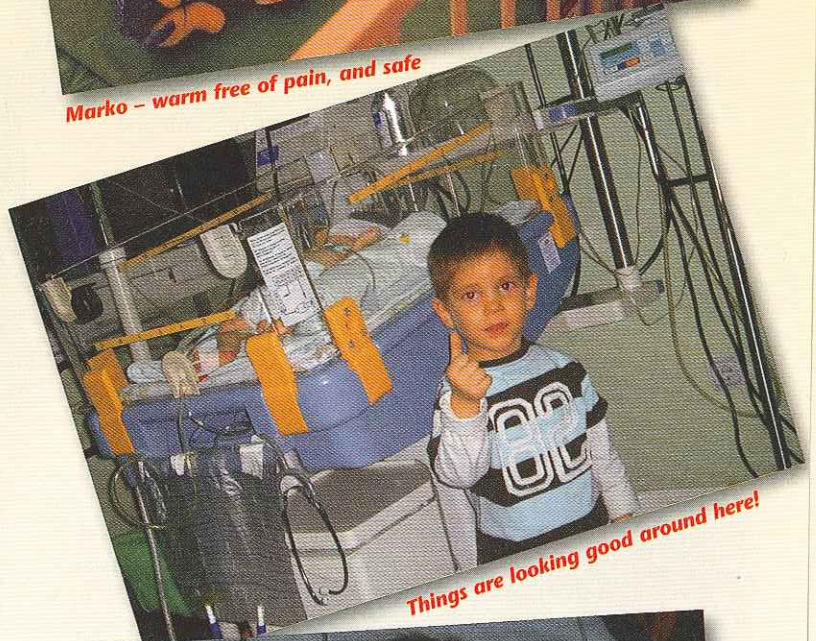
So you can be proud of what you have done, and proud of your organisation and its principles. We want you to know that you have not only our thanks but also our warmest support!

Note:

This letter was dictated to Field Officer Armin Alagic MJF (see page VI) by the heads of the Paediatric Clinics in Sarajevo, Mostar, Banja Luka, Gorazde and Bihac and nurses, and it attempts to summarise everything that was said!



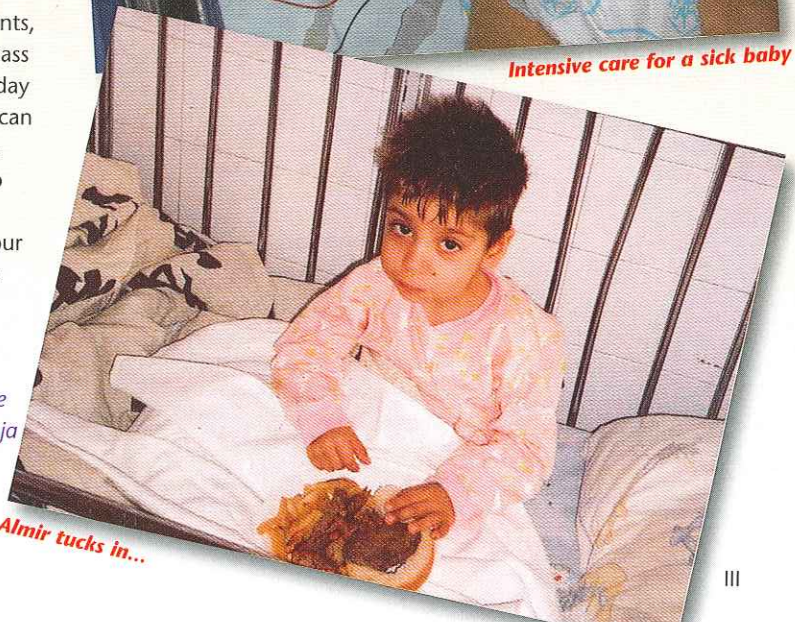
Marko – warm free of pain, and safe



Things are looking good around here!



Intensive care for a sick baby



Almir tucks in...

Out of fear and destruction comes hope...

These pictures perhaps sum up the history of your charity, Lions Clubs International – A Gift for Living. This little girl (top right) is a true symbol of the work of your charity. Safe, warm and secure, she can sleep happily, oblivious to the carnage her country has been through. For her, truly, her sufferings have been healed, and she may yet be a leader in a peaceful land where the scars of war have also been healed.

Hopefully long forgotten is that most feared of images, a tank emerging from woodland, (below) something which became all too familiar to the stricken people of the former Yugoslavia.

Enter 'Gift'. Even before the sound of gunfire died down your charity was in there, bringing out babies and taking the first steps to help rebuild the medical infrastructure of this stricken society.



Medical staff in Sarajevo (right) showed their gratitude for the help of 'Gift' in their fight to save the lives of sick babies and children. (and also for warm T-shirts bearing the Lions' logo!) This was in 2001. Eight years on, things are going well in Sarajevo and you, the Lions of MD105, are continuing the work in Banja Luka (see page v).

"APLS" - What is it?

The initials stand for 'Advanced Paediatric Life Support'. This highly successful and life-saving method of caring for seriously ill babies in their early days can easily be taught to doctors and other medical professionals. 'Gift' has carried out training in the former Yugoslavia with large numbers of doctors and nurses attending and a CD Rom featuring APLS has been created by your charity. Infinitely reproducible, this CD Rom can be used world-wide where direct teaching is not possible.

LCIF – Support for 'Gift' down the years....

- 1995** \$75,000 - to help with the costs of evacuation and medical treatment of the first babies
- 1996** \$250,000 – a Major Catastrophe Grant toward the development of Paediatric Intensive Care Units in the hospitals of East and West Mostar.
- 1997** \$500,000 – A further Major Catastrophe Grant to develop the Lions' Intensive Care Unit at the Kosevo University Hospital, Sarajevo
- 1998** \$250,000 – for the same project
 - \$50,000 – to complete the unit and upgrade the adjoining Maternity Unit
 - \$60,000 – helped to improve hospital services in Bihac, provide a mobile clinic and simple literature in Gorazde and a small Children's Unit in Gorazde Hospital
- 2006/7/2008** \$50,000 – A Matching Grant applied for to help with the work of LGFL in Banja Luka

A measure of the high regard in which "Lions Clubs International - a Gift for Living" is held may be inferred from the support your charity has received down the years from our great Foundation. This ongoing support is also indicative of the Foundation's respect for the high standards of stewardship exercised by Grant Administrator PID Phil Nathan (pictured).

But, two things have to be remembered. First, the grants outlined here are historical, and have been used; secondly in general grants have to be matched by a similar contribution from the Multiple District.

A grant application is currently in process for work at Banja Luka (see page v) This will need matching funding to be put in place by our Multiple District. Your input to your charity is still vital.





Doctor Brigid Hayden, Medical Director of Childhealth, visited Banja Luka and witnessed at first hand the results of phase one. She was pictured with Doctor Stevan Bajic Head of the Children's Hospital, and Doctor Vesria, Head of the Intensive Care Unit.

Banja Luka – the way forward

Banja Luka, the second largest city in Bosnia Herzegovina, is situated to the north towards the border with Croatia. Situated in the Republika Srpska, the town escaped physical destruction in the war. However, a report last year by Doctor Kim Cheetham, a retired British paediatrician then working for Lions/Child Advocacy* in Bosnia, said of the city's University Hospital - a teaching hospital - that ".....while the paediatric department is well staffed and sited in a well-constructed building with reliable general services, no medical equipment has been bought since 1996 when the civil war ended..."

In the first phase of your charity's involvement in Banja Luka basic new medical equipment was provided, ensuring that seriously sick infants and children had adequate oxygen, warmth and

monitoring. Doctor Cheetham observed that with the help of Lions/Child Advocacy the department had reached a stage where staff would be able to manage more intensive treatment.

To achieve this, sophisticated (and expensive) equipment is required; two infant incubators and two infant ventilators which can deliver care to babies with respiratory failure who would otherwise not survive (some 3000 babies are born in the maternity department every year and the hospital treats seriously ill or injured children from a wide surrounding area)

The hospital serves a community of more than 1 million people, and there has been very limited investment in health infrastructure over the years since the end of the Bosnian civil war.

The proposed equipment, for which funding is urgently needed, is very expensive to provide, but will enable staff to give intensive care to babies who are now dying. The support of you, the Lions of Multiple District 105, is needed.

**Child Advocacy International has since changed its name to ChildHealth Advocacy International*

"It takes a long time to save the lives of babies and children when it's all down to funding. When the equipment and on going training are in place "Miracles Happen!" – PID Phil Nathan

Doctor Brigid writes:

Last year I took over from Doctor Kim Cheetham as Honorary Country Director for Bosnia for Childhealth Advocacy.

The Lions have been extremely generous in supporting paediatric services in Bosnia with the introduction of Advanced Paediatric Life Support (APLS) courses, the extensive funding of medical equipment and supplies for the care of sick babies and children in a number of hospitals and health centres, and by financing the educational placements for international doctors and nurses to visit Bosnia and for Bosnian doctors to visit Multiple District 105.

My understanding is that the paediatric project in Banja Luka

will be completed once we have purchased two more incubators and two more ventilators.

From talking to Kim and to Armin it is clear that local maternity services are also in need of support including educational courses for healthcare professionals as well as providing equipment for the care of pregnant women. Good medical and midwifery care is crucial to the delivery of healthy babies as well as to protecting the health and well-being of the women themselves.

I am very much looking forward to continuing working with Lions Clubs International and helping to improve the quality of medical services in Bosnia.

Our man Armin, MJF

(without whom everything would have been, if not impossible, at least very difficult...)



The king pin on the ground' our man on the spot' Armin Alagic is officially known as the Field Officer for 'Lions Clubs International - a Gift for Living'. He, quite literally, keeps the wheels turning (see pictures) and is always on hand to take care of the logistics of any situation, ensuring that every last detail falls successfully into place, every piece of equipment is where it should be, and the often tricky process of importing and moving equipment goes swimmingly. This was especially important in the early years when the country was still terribly sensitive from the civil war.

Officially based in Sarajevo, Armin, a restless force of nature, moves around the country endlessly. He is incredibly resourceful, a real 'fixer' always full of useful ideas and contacts, and equally at home negotiating with high-ranking military personnel and diplomats or helping traumatised people.

His untiring devotion and work for 'Gift' earned him a Melvin Jones Fellowship which was presented at the Multiple District Convention in 1999. His response was typical: "...This is not for me....it is for the sick children of my country, for their mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers, and for you, the Lions who have made them well again...."

To Project Chairman Past International Director Phil Nathan he is "...beyond praise, a fantastic colleague and friend, and a dear brother..."

(And in his 'spare time' over the years Armin has acquired a wonderful - and understanding - British wife, Marina, and they have two small children!)

Armin travelled many thousands of miles in the Land Rover (right) and became an expert in keeping this beaten-up warrior on the road. But it was so expensive to fix and run that Armin - 'I have managed to find a very good deal!' - replaced it with the Volkswagen Golf (below) very reliable, environmentally friendly, and, says Armin, "quicker and safer..."



**Footnote: Concerning the vehicle deal above, Armin was offered a 'personal discount' of 5 per cent as a sweetener to encourage him to buy. He accepted - and the discount went directly to LGFL! As Chairman Phil Nathan says: "That's the measure of this man's integrity."*

Over the years

- 1995 As war raged the Lions of MD105 and Child Advocacy (now Child Health Advocacy - see above) worked together to medi-vac critically ill children.
- 1995 Later that year LCIF granted \$75,000 to help with the costs.
- 1996 Work began on paediatric intensive care units in East and West Mostar.
- 1997 The Partnership developed the 'Lions Intensive Care Unit' at the Kosevo Hospital in Sarajevo.
- 1998/1999 Work continues in Sarajevo, with the aid of LCIF.
- Children's hospital services in the city of Bihac are improved.
- A mobile clinic, and child-care information leaflets provided for the remote enclave of Gorazde.
- A children's unit set up in Gorazde Hospital.
- Help for the Sarajevo Blind school to protect children from land mines.
- APLS, a basic training programme for delivering care to babies.
- Help for the Children's Hospital in Banja Luka.
- Now the need is for more training and life - saving equipment.

'Lions show there are those who care'



That was the headline in the local press back in 1996 when '40 crazy Englishmen with big hearts', as the locals called them when they arrived, set out with a convoy of lorries containing 96,000 boxes of small essentials, collected and packed by the Lions, partners and friends of District 105-EA to help the stricken people of Croatia.

The gift-laden shoe boxes were worth an estimated £1,250,000 and after a gruelling drive through snow-covered scenes of terrible devastation, desperation, death, sorrow and carnage the 'crazy Englishmen' (who included women as well..) reached their goal and were able to make this remarkable contribution to the lives of those who had nothing.



The District Governor of 105-EA at the time of that Easter mercy mission was Lion Phil Nathan, and what he saw during that journey inspired him to do what he could to help. The 1995/96 Council of Governors agreed, and an opportunity came along to team with Child Advocacy International as it was then known to bring very sick babies to MD105 for treatment. With the assistance of his fellow District Governor, now the late, Michael Hall of 105-E, their Council Chairman Tony Williamson and other leading Lions, what was to become your charity "Lions Clubs International - a Gift for Living"- was soon to be born.

PID Lion Phil has been Chairman and Grant Administrator from the very early stages.

Centre above: Lion Phil Nathan and friend. He recalls the joy of holding this small child and knowing that the gruelling journey across Europe (over 800 miles, a host of vehicles including 40-tonner lorries) had brought help – and he smiled for the first time since leaving England...

The other pictures were taken before and during the journey and include destroyed homes and refugees without hope whom they encountered.

Recording down the years

THE LION supplements have traced the progress of your Gift...

The Gift for Living Goes On

As the Lions of our Multiple District enter the third year of helping to heal the children of war

Jasmin came to this country last Christmas, a very sick little four-year-old suffering from cancer

He had little or no hope of surviving in his own country, where the medical services, hospitals, nurses and doctors are suffering the direst privations of war. Damaged buildings and equipment, lack of resources, the inability to train and all the wreckage of war which goes hand in hand with conflict.

Jasmin was one of the lucky ones. He was brought out in what has become an historic partnership between the Lions of Great Britain and Ireland and Child Advocacy International, the charity dedicated to giving a chance to the children of war.

On Monday, Jasmin returned to Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool in the care of Dr Barry and hope into the hands of the chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

He will still need more treatment at home, but 99 per cent of the horror in his life there is every hope that the remaining

one per cent, in his lung, will respond to a final few months of treatment at home.

Then he is being cared for by paediatrician Dr Edin Hasanbegovic, who is applying the skills he acquired during a three-month training period in Britain in the management of cancer in children, funded by Lions Clubs International and in Sarajevo. Little Jasmin, whose father accompanied him to England, would have been separated from his mother and his baby brother for a year if Dr Edin had not volunteered this training in the UK.

Jasmin's smile says it all, and is a tribute to the generosity of the Lions of Child Advocacy International. He is just one of

the cutting-edge technology appeared in a special feature in The Sunday Times Colour Magazine about cancer in children. His reproduction is gratefully acknowledged.

Jasmin in buoyant mood.

nearly 40 children brought to our Multiple District, the vast majority of whom have been treated, cared, and, who know, peace-makers of their unhappy homeland.

Just because she was here, RCC Phil the 'Gift for Living' appeal (see overleaf) took dozens of pictures portraying the suffering of this sad land, but couldn't resist this one getting across the lines of our small children - to be happy, healthy and playing, about some of the front lines.

The good news - half a million dollars worth of ill - is that the light can go on. The Lions of our Multiple District and their supporters are unbundled in their generosity, but big money is undoubtedly needed. See page 2 of this special supplement for the fantastic news of funding from the Lions' own mighty charitable trust fund, LDC.



CHILD ADVOCACY INTERNATIONAL

Building Bridges for Children



Meggie Sczesany, Charity Co-ordinator for Child Advocacy International, with baby Amar.

The Lions organisation of the British Isles and Ireland - 24,000 men, women and young people united behind a small but highly effective charity. Child has shown its weight behind a small but highly effective charity. Child Advocacy International, to bring sick children out of the conflict-torn former Yugoslavia for hospital treatment and care not currently available in their troubled homeland.

Between June 1995 and June 1996 some 30 seriously ill children were evacuated from their shattered homeland for treatment here, and in the current year the project is entering a new and further children out, the Lions and Child Advocacy International are delivering sophisticated medical care directly into the heart of the war zone, using desperately-needed special hospital beds and the sophisticated equipment to service intensive care treatment to be installed in hospitals in Mostar and Sarajevo.

Two doctors from the former Yugoslavia are being trained over here in the use of the equipment (their work at home is being covered by two doctors from England), all at the expense of LionsCAI.

Such work does not come cheap, which is why again the Lions of Multiple District 100 (The Lions of Great Britain and Ireland) are appealing to the public.

The treatment of these Child Advocacy and the Lions, and makes an economic effort health service resources of the British Isles and Ireland) are appealing to the public.

Child Advocacy International has worked in partnership with the Lions Clubs of Great Britain and Ireland since shortly after it was set up 18 months ago and the Lions have obtained three grants, of \$25,000, \$75,000, and \$250,000, from the Association's International Charitable Foundation, LDCI, to assist in the evacuation and treatment of youngsters, and, in the coming year, the provision of intensive care and special care beds for hospitals in Mostar and Sarajevo.

"By healing may take on the nation its

Lions - your Gift goes on into the Millennium!

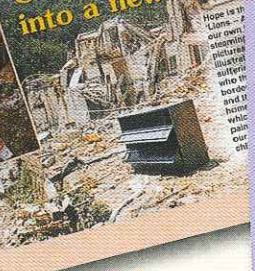
A little boy - a small child poor hospital through the heavy cut in a land torn by war. The small human beings, for whom the Lions of The British Isles and Ireland have been striving joined forces with Child Advocacy International in 'A Gift for Living' to bring health and hope into the lives of defenceless children in war torn

In spite of all the problems and setbacks of this and nation every penny of your money has been well spent and the progress you have made possible is still flourishing. Every drop of equipment, every dressing, every spring, has reached its destination, and is being used to great effect. But much remains to be done. We are forging into the new century together, building on those rock solid foundations, teaching doctors, passing on skills and experience and helping the people of this land to rebuild their lives and protect their children's health.

1996

1998

Out of despair - into a new life



Hope is in Lions' own strength. Children who suffer who in border and help while pain our

'If you can't see children's tears - can you see anything at all? If you can't hear children crying - can you hear anything at all? If you can't feel children's pain - can you feel anything at all?'

The Lions of the British Isles and Ireland have raised hundreds of thousands of pounds to bring health and a future to the children of the former Yugoslavia.

In the early days very sick children were flown out of the stricken land to be treated in returned home healthy and happy.

The Lions moved on, going into the heart of troubled country; hospitals have been provided with sophisticated equipment for the care of very sick babies and children; a mobile clinic is in operation; children; a handbook teaching basic health care have been produced for the local health care and fresh medical staff have worked alongside local doctors and nurses, helping and training in paediatric care, some of them being financed by the chance of survival.

These children are the future of a traumatised nation who would otherwise have had no chance of survival.

'Our Doctors' - In a land where the infrastructure of medical care has been severely basic care, the Lions of Great Britain and Ireland pitched in with funds to Britain and Ireland to travel to the former Yugoslavia and the and work alongside local medical professionals, as well as financing the training of doctors from Yugoslavia in England.

Philby Nathan, Chairman of Past International Directors of Lions - 'A Gift for Living'.



1999

Your Gift - Their Lives

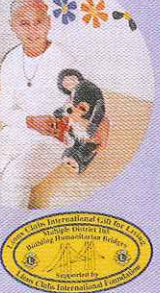
For nearly ten years the Lions of our Multiple District have been saving the lives of children in the former Yugoslavia through our own charity - Lions Clubs International - A Gift for Living.

Your gifts, backed up by some of the largest grants which have ever been given by our great Lions Clubs International Foundation, have brought health and hope to the children of a ravaged country where medical services, the training of doctors and nurses and the very hospitals themselves were all but destroyed by the effects of years of conflict.

The work goes on. Send your donations and help save more lives to: PDG Lion Stefan Erentraut, (Project Treasurer), Lions Clubs International - A Gift for Living, PO Box 2, Woodhall Spa, LN10 6XQ or telephone Stefan on 0845 1294948



'If we can heal the suffering children of a nation we may go some way towards healing the sufferings of that nation itself'



2004

Please send, donations for your charity to: District Treasurer who will forward it to the 'Gift for Living' Project Treasurer PDG Stefan Erentraut.

Please send your donations to: PDG Lion Stefan Erentraut (Project Treasurer), PO Box 2, Woodhall Spa, LN10 6XQ or telephone stefan on 0845 1294948



1999