



Kent Island Lions Club: A Compassionate Community Organization
by
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Founded in the 1940's, the Kent Island Lions Club is a committed supporter of Character Counts! Community organizations such as the Lions Club are a key component for the on-going success of the Character Counts! initiative in QAC. During the past years, financial contributions from the Kent Island Lions Club were used for community meetings and character coaches' materials.

The Lions Club was organized internationally in 1917 with the goal to "end preventable blindness." Peter Lee, a member for at least 9 years, currently holds the title of 'Lion Tamer,' the person responsible for the non-monetary assets of the club and has held past positions including President (King Lion), Treasurer, and District Secretary in addition to many others. This club is one of 51 separate Lions Clubs on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and there are 1.3 million men and women in 200 countries that are active in local clubs.

Lee explains that the Kent Island Lions Club became involved with Character Counts! when members of the club volunteered as character coaches and brought their enthusiasm for the program with them into the club. Both Chip Brittingham at Bayside Elementary and Frank Kratovil at Stevensville Middle Schools are two current Lion's members volunteering as character coaches. With their zeal and input, it did not take long to decide to provide financial support to Character Counts!

The Lions Club, with approximately 28 members, supports youth in a multitude of ways in Queen Anne's County. In partnership with QAC Parks and Recreation, members provide parking assistance and transportation for the annual Lacrosse Tournaments each summer. The monetary proceeds that are earned are returned to the youth in the form of Lacrosse athletic scholarships. Educational scholarships are also given to graduating KIHS seniors. Contributions have been given towards the completion of the athletic facility at KIHS. Additionally, when a request is received for eye assistance such as glasses or eye exams, the Kent Island Lions respond as quickly as possible. For children with low vision disability, the club can also make connections with the Wilmer Eye Clinic at John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. The annual Wings and Wheels exhibition at the Bay Bridge Airport is also a venture for youth in the community.

Speaking on behalf of the Kent Island Lions Club, Lee believes that community organizations should support efforts such as Character Counts! “The core ethical values that comprise this program are key ingredients that enable people to unite and live in a civilized society. The Character Counts! program of bringing together the practical observations of the ‘wise elderly generation’ and then relating them to the modern youth of today reinforces the concepts that acting according to a set of ethical principals is a key ingredient of a satisfying life and successful community living.”

Character Counts! sincerely thanks all the members of the Kent Island Lions Club for its continuing support and wishes them much success in their philanthropic efforts. If you wish to assist Character Counts! or to find out more information about the Kent Island Lions Club, contact Jacki Carter at 410-758-6677.