

Rochester Lions Club

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Home of Leader Dogs for the Blind



Rochester Lions Club – year in review (2020 – 2021)

The pandemic of 2020 & 2021 resulted in many of our planned fundraising activities being cancelled. The 3 annual car shows which are an important events did not happen. However the Rochester Lions Club did have a productive year in spite of the restrictions and closures. The collection of coin canisters at local stores continued.

Returnable pop cans and bottles – The collecting and returning of returnable containers turned into a great fundraiser for the year. The program started with the initial collection in May and June of 2020 lead by Lion Kathy Gladd and Lion Bruce MacGregor. The pandemic of 2020 resulted in the closure of can and bottle machines in the spring at the grocery stores. This resulted in the stockpiling of the cans and bottles in the homes of the community. Once the machines were reopened, our collection program started. The photo below shows 31,267 cans and bottles ready for pick up by Powers Distributing. The Club received a check for \$3,126.70 from Powers. The Club avoided returning these cans and bottles to the grocery stores. However there were additional cans and bottles that were collected during the year and returned to the stores. The grand total for the year was \$6,721.

Initial collection of cans and bottles ready for pick up by Powers Distributing



Placing American flags at the Christian Memorial cemetery for Memorial Day 2020



Collecting cans and bottles to support the fundraising activities of local Girl Scout Malana Mentier. – The collection of over \$1,000 in cans and bottles was used to support the Silver Award project of a garden honoring Women Veterans. The Club collected the cans and the Girl Scouts return them to the store.



Annual Memorial Golf outing (Sept. 2020) – The Golf outing was held in 2020 and the event raised \$9,357 for our charities.

Supported the virtual JDRF walk (Sept. 2020) – The Rochester Lions were members of the 11 A2 Lions Club virtual walk team which raised funds for diabetes research.

Winter activities – The annual Kris Kringle Market and the Fire and Ice festival were cancelled. However the Lions Club did sell the toy cars and trucks on-line via the Lions website managed by Lion Larry Cole and Esty managed by Lion Don Ledwith. The Club did manage to raise \$385.60 for the Mimbirole Scholarship program. The Club got off to a late start on the website sales because the Kris Kringle Market was cancelled at the last minute.

Oakland County Sheriff's winter coat drive (Dec. 2020) – The Lions Club assisted the Sheriff's Office by placing collection boxes at local stores and then taking the donated coats and collection boxes back to the central warehouse.

Sorting and dating donated food at the Neighborhouse Food Pantry – The Lions Club supplied 138 hours of community service to the food pantry in December and January. The Lions dated and sorted donated food. The food pantry was overwhelmed with donations during the fall and winter. The Lions were successful in helping reduce the backlog of food in the storage room.



Donated wooden toy cars to the Neighborhood House Easter basket project – The Lions Club donated over \$300 in wooden toy cars and trucks to the Easter Basket project. The toys donated were the ones that were not selling during our on-line sales. We received permission from Craig Mimbiole to donate the slow moving inventory.



White Cane collections (April 2021) – The locations for the White Cane collections in 2021 were limited because of health restriction. However the collection was successful in that the funds collected were \$8,931.03. The White Cane collections were assisted by volunteers from the Leader Dog organization. Lion Kathy Gladd was able to find 12 Leader Dog volunteers to supplement our efforts.



Tienken Park clean up (May 2021) – The Lions Club supported the MyRochester group in cleaning up dead branches and brush at Tienken Park. This park is a greenspace area which belongs to the City of Rochester Hills. This was the first of many projects planned for this area.



Oakland County Sheriff's Recycle bike drive (May 2021) – The Lions Club assisted the Sheriff's bike drive by examining and repairing donated bikes to the program. The bike drive collected over 300 bikes.



Mulch project for the Rochester Area Neighbor House (May 2021) –The Rochester Lions lead a group of Neighborhood House volunteers to lay 133 bags of mulch at the Neighborhood House headquarters.



Bark and Brew Walk (June 2021) – The Rochester Lions team participated in the walk which raised funds for Leader Dog for the Blind.

