

# LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

## Lion's Quest



### What is Quest?

Lions Quest is a life skills and prevention program of Lions Clubs International Foundation, implemented in more than 50 countries around the world. Lions Quest programs teach young people skills necessary for everyday success. These skills include: Learning to accept responsibility, communicating effectively, setting goals, making healthy decisions and resisting pressure to use alcohol and drugs. Today, it is one of the most widely used social and emotional learning programs in the world.

### When Did Quest Begin?

Lions Quest began as one teenager's passion to find a better way to prepare young people to handle life's challenges. In 1975, 19-year-old Rick Little of Findlay, Ohio, suffered severe back injuries in an auto accident. Immobilized for six months, Little found himself with a lot of time to contemplate why schools were doing so little to help youth develop the life skills and strength of character needed to succeed as adults. When his injuries healed, Little set out on a nationwide pursuit for answers, interviewing teenagers, teachers and experts in child and adolescent development. After a struggle to find initial funding, Little established Quest International in 1977 with the help of a US\$130,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to design and develop values-based curricula and drug-use prevention programs.

### What Do the Lions Do for Quest?

The Lions got involved in 1984 when the Lions Clubs International Foundation made its first grant to Quest International, a grant that funded additional program development and expansion. Later that year, Lions Clubs International formed a working partnership with Quest International to launch a major drug prevention initiative called Lions Quest Skills for Adolescence, targeting middle-school grades 6 through 8.

Over the next 18 years, Lion's partnership with Little's organization grew in scope and impact. Lions introduced programs to serve students at all grade levels, from kindergarten through high school. Independent researchers gave the programs high marks for promoting positive behaviors and boosting academic performance.

In 2002, LCIF acquired formal ownership of the curriculum materials. Lions Quest soon became Lions' signature youth development program worldwide. By 2015, Lions Quest had grown to include 36 languages in 85 countries reaching more than 13 million students.

Lions clubs around the world have been key to the success and expansion of Lions Quest, supporting the program through local funding, coordinating teacher training, co-hosting parent meetings, speaking to youth and undertaking joint service projects with students.

### What are the Programs?

**Skills for Growing** Through a series of thematic teaching units, Skills for Growing will help create a classroom environment that nurtures and enhances learning. This primary school program contains thematic units designed to teach young learners how to make positive decisions and maintain positive self-esteem.

**Skills for Adolescence** The most widely used of the three Lions Quest programs worldwide, Skills for Adolescence helps middle school youth, parents and teachers cope with the physical, emotional and social challenges of the early adolescent years. The program builds important competencies by promoting positive social attitudes, respect and responsibility, while serving as a strong prevention tool – guiding young people toward healthy choices and a drug and violence-free lifestyle.

**Skills for Action** A unique secondary school (high school) curriculum, Skills for Action combines the development of personal, social and thinking skills with service-learning to help young people improve self-confidence and build resilience, maintain connectedness to school, engage in real-life issues and learn 21st century workplace skills. The flexible design of the program provides a valuable curriculum in a broad range of settings.