

# A Labor of Love

by *Evet Hartvig, WLF Executive Director*

It's been just over 12 years since I received a telephone call that changed my life forever.

In January of 1997, Joe Desch, Executive Administrator of the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, called to ask if I'd be interested in interviewing for the secretary/bookkeeper position that was opening up in a few weeks.

I thought it was rather strange that he would call me at my place of employment, but I learned later that it was the only way he knew how to get in touch with me. It seems that his wife, Pat, mentioned to one of her good friends, who also was a friend of mine, that her husband's secretary was leaving and he was going to have to find a replacement. Well, fortunately for me, this mutual friend told Pat that she knew of someone that lived in Rosholt that would more than likely be interested in the position; and she was right, I was very interested.

As my first year of employment with the Foundation came to a close, I began to see just what Lions were all about. I had witnessed the 1997 summer camping season, Lions Day (n/k/a Lions Camp Open House), and the completion of the first two new duplex cabins.

I also realized the dedication and commitment it took from Lions, Lioness, Leos and Staff to make all of this happen. I went home and told my husband, Don that it was time we joined a Lions Club; within a few short weeks, we both became proud members of the Rosholt Lions Club.

"Lions" has become a way of life for Don and me. Just about everything we do, everywhere we go, and everyone we associate with



is somehow connected through Lionism. And that's just how we like it! It's unimaginable what our lives would be like without this great organization; what's even more unimaginable is what the lives of those thousands of kids would be like that attend Lions Camp each year, if we no longer existed. That's why Don and I support the WLF Lions Pride Endowment Fund Campaign.

We must not forget that in 1956, Lions throughout the State of Wisconsin voted to form the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Inc. to be the administrative arm of the Wisconsin Lions Camp.

Since that time, the Foundation's projects have grown in number, but the Camp remains its number one priority.

From the beginning, it was the clubs' annual donations that were expected to cover the cost of running summer camp. As we all know, donations are not keeping up with the rising costs each year, and the obligation to provide this experience to the kids remains with us. That's why Don and I are asking every club, as well as individual Lions and Lioness, to join us in donating to the Lions Pride Campaign.

Let's join together and stand behind the Lions' decision that was made 53 years ago - a decision that has helped thousands of children in the past and will continue to do so well into the future.