



## SPECIALTY CLUBS //

# Meet a Member

### **Lion Bill Graham** **North Carolina Blind Lions Centennial Branch Club**

#### **How long have you been a Lion?**

I have been a Lion for about nine years.

#### **What has made you most proud of being a Lion?**

I'm most proud of all the occasions where we could see how we helped people. It's also the fun and fellowship I've had with fellow Lions while doing these service projects.

#### **How have you benefitted from being a Lion?**

Everyone experiences blindness in a different way. In my case, I experienced lifestyle affecting blindness at about age 55. I had been pretty much of a go-getter type my whole life, and blindness made me wonder what I could continue to do. I got a lot of help from a variety of sources, especially the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Once I became functional again, I had a burning desire to help others. Lions Clubs International gave me the opportunity to do this in a way that makes a huge difference in people's lives. Lions have helped me feel like I am a fully-functioning person again.

#### **How did your club come into being?**

In the fall of 2016, several blind Lions in North Carolina realized there was a gap in the blind/visually-impaired community. We discovered that there were many blind and visually-impaired people who could not participate in many activities due to a lack of transportation. We're a specialty, cyber and branch club that helps the blind and visually impaired. We hold conference call meetings twice a month and stay connected by email, text, webpages and Dropbox.

#### **What would you tell someone who is interested in becoming a Lion?**

I would tell them that Lions Clubs International is the best community service organization in the world, and how I have personally seen the difference it makes in people's lives. I would tell him or her that 100% of the money raised from the public goes towards service projects and none of it can be spent on members, and about the fun and fellowship you have while helping others. It doesn't matter where you are, all you have to do is find a Lions club and you have friends.

#### **What is the most important thing you've learned along life's journey?**

The most important thing I've learned is that it is your choice to be happy or not, and the best way to be happy is to focus on what you can do, not on what you cannot do.

