

# The Lions Eye

A Publication of the  
Lions Eye Foundation of California-Nevada, Inc.



Winter 2010-2011

## LIFE'S JOURNEY

As he gets older Sesar Garcia realizes that the old adage “life is a long and winding road with many ups and downs” is true. And one’s journey through life can be even more unpredictable when you have an eye condition that requires constant monitoring. Sesar Garcia is a patient who knows this all too well since he has been coming to the Lions Eye Foundation clinic for care and treatment for the past seven years.

Sesar Garcia’s eye condition started 13 years ago, at the young age of 16, after recovering from a viral infection. He noticed changes in his vision and during a family gathering a relative noticed that his pupils “looked like flower petals.”

After seeing a number of doctors, he was eventually diagnosed with Reiter’s syndrome, a type of uveitic glaucoma, and referred to Lions Eye Foundation. Reactive arthritis (ReA), previously known as Reiter’s syndrome, is an autoimmune condition that develops in response to an infection in another part of the body. Coming into contact with bacteria and developing an infection can trigger reactive arthritis.

“I was referred to the Lions Eye Foundation by Dr. Jason Bacharach, a glaucoma specialist. Within weeks of being referred to the Lions Eye Foundation, Sesar had two surgical procedures as an outpatient at California Pacific Medical Center. He has also had many other procedures (in office) in the Lions Eye Clinic treatment room, primarily to control his eye pressures. Sesar says: “I have worked with numerous doctors at Lions. They have all treated me well and I’ve always felt that no matter which doctor I am seen by, that they will be honest and respond properly to the problem I may be having at the moment.” His condition requires frequent visits to the eye clinic and his mom often accompanies him. Both understand the need for careful monitoring of his health and his eyes. “They have provided me with all follow up eye care, procedures, medications and any official paperwork that I needed for work or school. They have worked with me to minimize



Sesar Garcia, LEF patient

any scheduling issues and they have always provided plenty of quality care,” states Sesar.

“I am extremely thankful to all the staff at the Lions Eye Clinic. Without the assistance they provide and the donations from others that support this program, I’d be left with hardly any vision, if any at all. I will always remember and be appreciative of those who have helped me.”

To have something wrong with your vision, particularly an eye condition that is not going away can be daunting and limiting. It has not always been easy for Sesar (remember what it was like to be a teenager!) but one constant has been his love of music and playing drums

in a band, “I have been able to stay active enough to pursue other goals and passions - especially my music. I have been in a group that plays rock music at several venues across the Bay Area”. He adds, “I try to lead an active life. Since Lions helped and while they have been treating me, I have attended courses at Santa Rosa Junior College and continue to pursue higher education, as long as my vision is stable. Since having surgery, I’ve been able to get back to being mobile and seeing well enough to perform most types of work. So as Sesar Garcia’s journey unfolds, with the many ups and some downs, he has embraced life and tries to play the cards that he has been dealt. Be it at work, playing with his band members, taking classes, spending quality time with his supportive mom, or even sitting in traffic on his way to the clinic for his appointments, Sesar’s positive attitude and interest in life shines through. Often he looks different every time he comes in. His hair is longer, he has a beard, and his clothes are different one time grunge, the next time hippie. He can readily change his appearance to fit his moods. He laughs when it is pointed out that he has the ability to seemingly change his ‘look’ on a whim. He notes that he is not always in control of everything about his eyes, but he can still be playful with the way he looks and presents himself. He is moving on down life’s highway, and he is enjoying the ride.

**Mission Statement:** “The Lions Eye Foundation preserves and restores the gift of sight by providing free ophthalmic examinations, operations and medications to the less fortunate members of our community.”

## *A Day at the CPMC Eye Clinic*

It is only 9:15 A.M., and eight patients scheduled for their eye clinic appointments are already here. One of those patients is scheduled for surgery the next day and the other seven are here for various follow-up appointments. There are three additional patients scheduled this morning, two of which are new (first-time) patients at our clinic.

Mark focused on the patient scheduled for surgery. Mark & Michelle (M/M) coordinate everything for this patient's pre-op prior to surgery. All paperwork must be in the CPMC medical chart for the patient and for our doctors to review and sign. Additionally, all results from eye testing, labs, EKG and the patient's primary doctor's medical history and physical are gathered and included in the chart. M/M meet all new patients and ones scheduled for surgery, but may not meet with every patient who has a surgical follow-up. In the afternoon, there are thirteen patients scheduled, three for a pre-op meeting, nine for follow-up, and one for a cornea procedure scheduled that same afternoon.

Between meeting patients, Mark is scheduling surgeries, calling patients, and gathering the materials to complete the surgical charts for the next day. Scheduling requires that the patient, the resident performing the surgery, and an attending MD all are available at the same time and during a block of time reserved for the operating room. About 10-15 times per month, surgeries need to be rescheduled. The primary reason for a cancelled surgery is a failed medical clearance. The patient is always informed ahead of time so there are no wasted trips. The whole process starts over again, and a new patient is scheduled for surgery in the open slot.

Meanwhile, Michelle is going over the referral forms that have come in. Unfortunately there are big, time-consuming problems with these. Roughly 70% come directly from the patient's doctor with no club identified. Roughly 60% have incomplete or insufficient detail. This means many phone calls and delays. To alleviate these problems, M/M developed a new set of forms that is being sent to all member clubs. These forms will also be available on our website. Clubs are urged to have a Sight Conservation Coordinator who will be the point-of-contact for both the patient's doctor and for CPMC.

Once Michelle has a completed referral form, the patient is called and scheduled. For a cataract, the wait time until the first visit to CPMC is about three months. Several weeks before surgery, M/M send a letter to the patient specifying the dates, locations, and times of each visit. Typically there are four visits – (1) Pre-op, (2) about one week later, surgery, (3) Post-op the next day, and (4) follow-up one week later. Pre-registration with a nurse from CPMC can be done by phone. Mark arranges for a motel stay for the patient as needed. For a more complex case, such as cornea transplant, the wait time is typically 1-2 months. There may be as many as 10 patient visits in the first six months after transplant surgery.

M/M usually accompany the patient to/from other sites within the complex. They also make sure that after surgery the patient is accompanied from CPMC to the motel. If the patient is alone, they take on this responsibility. They also arrange for medications for the patient at no cost. Typically, the patient only pays for local transportation within San Francisco, for parking and meals.

## *LEF's Residents Share Their Stories*



**Michael Chappell**  
**LEF Resident**

Michael Chappell grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas and earned his undergraduate degree from Hendrix College, a small, liberal arts college in Conway, Arkansas. He majored in biology and minored in history while also playing intercollegiate soccer and singing in the choir. He attended medical school at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and completed his internship in internal medicine at St. Mary's Medical Center in San Francisco. He became interested in ophthalmology when he discovered that being an eye doctor allows fulfillment of a wide spectrum of clinical and surgical responsibilities. Michael was drawn to California Pacific because of the outstanding clinical and surgical experience available in a variety of hospital and outpatient settings and the camaraderie that exists among the residents and teaching staff. The diversity of the patient populations and the complexity of the medical challenges that Michael has faced as a resident in settings such as the Lions clinic have been vital to his education and evolution as a physician in

training. After his residency at CPMC, Dr. Chappell will be continuing his medical training as a fellow in Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Washington in Seattle.

# Meet Steve Laden, LEF's President



**Steve Laden**

Does anyone have any idea what avocados and motorcycle parts have in common? The answer to this question happens to be "Lion Steve Laden," the current President of the Lions Eye Foundation. These are but two jobs President Steve held, working in an avocado orchard and in a motorcycle parts warehouse, while attending the University of California at Santa Barbara. And, this interesting bit of information gives us a large clue to Steve's personality, the understanding that he does not think there is any job too tough for him to tackle.

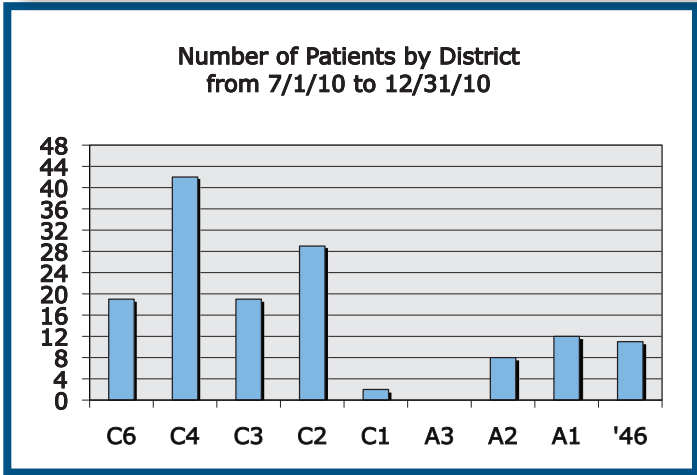
Steve, who was born in San Jose and grew up in Saratoga, California, went on to graduate from UC Santa Barbara in 1982, majoring in Business Economics, and is currently Senior Vice President-Investment Officer with Wells Fargo Advisors in Reno, Nevada. He, and his lovely wife Rita, have one son, Aaron, who is currently a sophomore attending the University of Oregon.

Joining the Reno Host Lions in 1988, Steve has, throughout the years, held all offices within the club. He has also taken his volunteerism outside of his club, serving as a board member on the Washoe County Lions Sight Conservation Committee and a Past President of the Reno Host Lions Charity Foundation. Steve has worked tirelessly for Lions and has been rewarded for his endeavors by being the recipient of the Lion of the Year Award, Melvin Jones, a Helen Keller fellowship and the George Hamilton Humanitarian Award for outstanding service to his community from his club.

Steve became a member of the LEF in 1995 and, due to his background as an Investment Officer, it was a natural fit that he be appointed to the Investment Committee. He eventually became Chair and under his stewardship, along with others who according to Steve "have nurtured the Foundation into what it is today," the Eye Foundation has survived the recession with a healthy bottom line.

Steve understands that as in life, the LEF is undergoing constant change and while there "is nothing wrong with change, we must identify and understand the issues we are and will be facing" in order to effectively implement change. He has concerns about the effect of the recently passed health care reform legislation on the LEF. He questions "how the LEF will be able to service more patients, and how will declining revenues affect patient service and our bottom line?" Also, with the continuing advances in communication technology, how will the LEF be able to utilize new technologies to improve communications among members? According to Steve, "it is important that the LEF begin to identify and develop new leaders who will guide the LEF forward into the next generation. These are just a few of the issues and only by addressing these issues will we be able to continue our service into the future."

## Statistics and Leverage



**Total number of Patients --- 142**  
**New Referrals ----- 224**  
**Actual Dollars Spent --- \$178,200**  
**Estimated Value ----- \$2,006,500**

**LEVERAGE 11.2:1**

### Fast Facts

- The most prevalent surgery was for cataracts
- There were 29 surgeries for retina, cornea or strabismus problems that would have cost \$25,000 each
- Youngest patient was 3 years old, oldest was 86 years old

## Acknowledgements and Thanks

**July - December 2010**

**New and Progressive Helen Keller Fellows**

- Jack Van Etten (Sapphire) • Joseph Guiffre • Ken Ibarra
- Lori Mogen • Robert Reuther • Wayne Saylor

**New Life Members**

- Mike Allen • Irene Bustichi • Robert Hobbs • Dan Marshall • Ed Meagher • Tracy Wingfield • Rio Vista Lions Club (in memory of Jack Anthony) • Valley of the Moon Lions Club (in memory of Jack Anthony)

**Memorial Donations (at least \$200)**

- Sam French • Warren Oglove • Don Stanaway
- Park Presidio Lions Club • San Carlos Lions Club
- Windsor Lions Club

**General Donations (at least \$200)**

- Barbara Anger • Peter Garrison • Laverne Maszk
- Jeanne Mok • Lisa Moniz • Richard Quadri
- Atherton Lions Club • Menlo Park Live Oaks Lions Club
- Oildale Lions Club • Visalia Breakfast Lions Club

**Donations (at least \$1000)**

- Sally Territo-Wong • Anonymous • Danford Foundation
- Executive Lions Club of Vallejo (in memory of Jack Anthony) • Geneva • Mission Lions Club • North Tahoe Lions Club • Palo Alto Lions Club

**Total Received:**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$56,857</b>
<b>Restricted (Life) Fund</b>	<b>\$ 4,350</b>



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### **Officers & Key Personnel**

President - Steve Laden  
First Vice President - Fred Sommer  
Second Vice President - Dennis Noble  
Treasurer - Leila Chinn  
Secretary - Jan Ahearn  
Executive Director - Don Stanaway  
Program Coordinator - Mark Paskvan

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***For More Information: [www.lionseyeca-nv.org](http://www.lionseyeca-nv.org)***

## ***From the Editor***

Welcome to a new member club, the Nipomo Lions Club located in District 4-A3. This club, chartered in 2006, has 30 members. Their principal fundraisers are a rummage sale in April, a golf tournament in October, and a Superbowl pool in January. The club supports a number of community projects, including backpacks for needy kids for school and examinations and glasses for needy people. The club meets at 8:00 AM on 1st and 3rd Thursdays.

We also would like to welcome the Santa Maria Lions Club, a second new member club from District 4-A3. This 15-member club has been chartered for at least 45 years. Their main fundraiser is a weekly Saturday night raffle at the ¼ mile dirt track Santa Maria Speedway. The proceeds fund sponsoring a family room at the Homeless Shelter and feeding about 150 people one day every two months. The club also supports the Santa Barbara Blind Institute by sponsoring 14-15 children to a camp. The four Lion clubs in Santa Barbara combine resources for eyeglass testing and glasses and holding an annual Blind Golf Tournament. The club meets Wednesdays at noon.

In the summer issue, we inadvertently misspelled the name of a new Life Member. We apologize to Terry Godwin for this error.

Questions keep being asked about who gets this publication. It is sent to all individual Lions in the California Districts we serve and all of Nevada. We do eliminate duplicate addresses (saving up to 1,000 copies), so please share. We get the address lists from Lions International. If your address is not correct, please inform Lions International since we cannot make changes ourselves. Lion Rollie Bigbee, I hope this answers your question.

If you have any questions that could be answered in this publication, please email them to me at [sommerfred@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sommerfred@sbcglobal.net). Do include your name, email address, and club/district affiliation so that we can give you credit.



**Fred Sommer**  
**Editor**