

## **SACRAMENTO ZOO “SENSORY GARDEN”**

Over the past 15 plus years as the Senator Lions Club adopted the highly attended Sacramento William Land Park Zoo and it's Fairytale Town area, the Senator Lions Club was one of the first Lions Club's within District 4-C5 to start the concept of the “Signature Project” and since its involvement, has continually been working and expanding our involvement with the project. With this major project in an area where the Club felt would benefit many hundreds as well as thousands of people who visits these venues and being enjoyed by adults as well as children of all ages, it was felt that this hands on project by the Senator Lions Club members would also enhance the image and the reputation of the Club.

After spending some \$72,000 on building and donating a “Sensory Garden” at the Sacramento Zoo and spending over 1,000 person hours on the project utilizing over 50% of our membership with also the help of our spouses, we were finally able to construct and finish the project. After a few years of it's dedication, we worked on and spent an additional \$2,000 on the clean up and the replacement of the water pump circulating the Sensory Pound that was built into this “Sensory Garden”.

The goal of this project was to not only benefit the sighted persons but also the visually handicapped people appreciate the various plants and the calming benefit of a running Japanese water fall and fulfill the another sensory benefit of smelling the various flowers planted around the area. On a warm beautiful day, one can see many children and families enjoying the picnic area just in front of this Sensory Garden where in addition to the garden, the Senator Lions also replanted the large area for picnic with sod and a new lawn. All the work on this area was also provided by the many Senator Lions Members.

To date, the Senator Lions Members are helping to provide clean up crews and making efforts to help the Zoo maintain this project.

## **FAIRYTALE TOWN REBUILDING OF THE “JAPANESE TEA GARDEN” AND “THE MOTHER GOOSE OUTDOOR THEATER”**

One of the most popular sites in the greater Sacramento area is the Fairytale Town playground right across from the Sacramento Zoo. Every year, thousands of children and adults and grandparents frequent this site so that children of all ages can enjoy some of the fairytales in living exhibits that they can see, touch, ride and feel.

The Sacramento Senator Lions Club spent \$42,000 on the complete removal and rebuilding of the Japanese Tea Garden area with the center piece being the “Urashima Taro”, a very popular Japanese fable that the visiting children can read about as they enjoy a cultural experience with their parents and grandparents. Everything from a Japanese arch way to a bridge to the grounds along with a donation from the Twinning Club in Osaka, Japan, the Tezukayama Lions Club was added with the statue of the “Urashima Taro” was incorporated in this area. From an overgrown bamboo jungle and grass patch, the members of the Senator Lions Club completely redid this whole area to the beautiful exhibit that is today.

This project took 50% of our Club Members involvement and about another 1,000 hours to complete the project. During this reconstruction, a video was taken to document the hands on efforts of our Lions that became part of a documentary film by LCI. This project also has been taking on going person hours to do the upkeep and cleaning necessary to maintain this project.

Next to this Japanese Tea Garden Project and our latest project called the Mother Goose Outdoor Project that cast the Club \$20,000 to help support the efforts to build this theater along with other community organizations. It is also being used during the Spring and Summer months by various community groups and the members of the Senator Lions Club take pride in their involvement with this project as well which only took the time of some 20% of our membership.

Collectively, the Sacramento Senator Lions Club has been calling these various projects in this area, our Sacramento Zoo “Signature Project” and for this reason, we are submitting for consideration our request to be honored with a District 4-C5 “Signature Project Award for 2008-2009.

Presented on behalf of the Senator Lions Club by,

Kay K. Fukushima, PIP