

# CHARITIES Committee

*A Helping Hand*

Kevin Miller, Chairman



The RISAA Charities Committee exists to lend a helping hand to others in need, and is a way of giving back to our community.

**THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTION**

## Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation



Report by KEVIN MILLER

This month's donation was presented to the Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation, and the funds were used to help support their annual Visually Impaired Persons (VIP) Fishing Tournament which took place on June 23, 2013. This tournament is supported by donations from the Rhode Island Lions Clubs and individual contributors such as RISAA.



Kevin Miller (left) presents RISAA check to Ken Barthelemy, VIP Tournament chairman

Typical participants of this tournament are drawn from the Department of Veteran Affairs, the Rhode Island Federation of the Blind, Rhode Island State Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, INSIGHT and publicity in the local media.

This was the Lions' 6<sup>th</sup> annual tournament, which is a half day event held aboard the "Lady Francis" of the Francis Fleet of Galilee. They had a total of 66 participants, which included 39 VIPs with their Guides and they caught a total of 85 fish. They were all competing for trophies and an opportunity to represent Rhode Island at the Lions National VIP Tournament to be held on the Outer Banks of North Carolina in October.

The day for the VIPs and their Guides included

transportation to Galilee, breakfast in the morning, a half-day of fishing, including all equipment and bait, followed by a lunch and awards presentation at a local restaurant.

The first year the VIP Tournament took place was in 2008 with nine VIPs fishing and three were sent to compete in the national tournament. The excitement generated by the first year's tournament has led to a steady increase in the number of VIPs involved each year since then.

"For many years the Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation has organized weeklong summer and winter camps for the sight impaired children and teenagers of Rhode Island," said tournament chairman **Ken Barthelemy**.

In addition to this tournament the Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation has provided scores of grants to visually impaired Rhode Islanders for corrective surgery, prostheses and visual equipment to help them lead a full and productive life.

For more information or to make a donation, visit The Rhode Island Lions Sight Foundation at [www.lions4sight.org](http://www.lions4sight.org)



The 2013 VIP's before heading out fishing

### WE'RE HERE TO HELP

RISAA's support of charities in the community is a way for all of us to give something back to society. But in the end our members come first.

**DO YOU KNOW A MEMBER WHO NEEDS HELP?**

If you know of a member, or a family member or even yourself who may be going through a difficult time and could use a little help, please contact us *confidentially* by e-mail at [steve@risaa.org](mailto:steve@risaa.org) or 401-826-2121. Please know that all requests will be kept *confidential* to ensure your privacy. Don't be embarrassed or hesitant to ask.

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