

Leader Dog Committee Report

Report by: PDG Carol Whitman / PZC Debbie Mansell Co-Chairs

Date Report Sent: October 6, 2020

The following data reflects the MD 19 Leader Dog donations for the 2019-2020 Lions year.

<u>District</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A	\$ 0.00
B	\$4,744.18
C	\$2,900.00
D	\$4,504.21
E	\$6,954.02
F	\$3,648.73
G	\$4,396.66
H	\$3,500.00
I	<u>\$ 56.05</u>
	\$31,203.85

Listed below are the MD19 Leader Dog donations for the past 5 years. Please note, last years total donation was down over \$5,000.00.

<u>Lions Year</u>	<u>Total MD 19 Donation</u>
2015-2016	\$26,225.30
2016-2017	\$27,521.13
2017-2018	\$40,916.82
2018-2019	\$36,497.16
2019-2020	\$31,203.85

Just like clubs in our multiple district *Leader Dogs for the Blind* has been seriously impacted by Covid-19. Leader Dog was ready to accept a new group of clients at the facility when the shutdowns began in March. The clients were called and their training was postponed. The dogs on site that hadn't yet begun training were sent back to the puppy raisers and volunteers. The breeding program was stopped. The non-essential staff worked from home and volunteers were not allowed on site. No guided tours were given at the campus. The gift shop was closed. The good news was that guide dog trainers were able to continue working with the dogs already started training.

In July, Leader Dog was granted permission from Michigan authorities to open again and the first post Covid class graduated in August. There are limits now for the number of clients that can be in training on campus. There are 30 client rooms available and only half of them can be occupied. All training is done at the campus and trips to work in downtown Rochester has been suspended. Just like our clubs, many of the fundraising events that Leader Dog had planned were cancelled. Leader Dog depends on supports from Lions Clubs. Please continue to support this organization that was started by Lions over 80 years ago.