

Lions Charity Foundation Donates \$10,000 to the Barrier Islands Center

Recently, the Lions Charity Foundation of District 24D donated \$10,000 to the Barrier Islands Center on behalf of the Eastern Shore Lions Clubs. The generous donation will be used to support the Barrier Islands Center's (BIC) *My First Field Trip* educational program designed to teach four and five year old children about art, music, manners and the history of the Barrier Islands. "The Lions of the Eastern Shore are proud of our community's history and we want to share the Shore's culture and traditions with the youth in our area. *My First Field Trip* provides this opportunity for over 160 local children," said Lion Ben Kidd, President of the Central



Shore Lions Club. This program brings educational lessons to life through the use of art and music. "Our manner goals include creating an environment of respect and good culture to create the Best base for children to be successful in life," explained Sally Dickinson, Barrier Islands Center Director of Education. Dickinson goes on to explain how history comes to life through creative lessons taught during the four visits the children make to BIC over a semester. She highlights a music lesson where the preschoolers learn the history of Cobb Island by viewing a harp used to entertain guests staying at the once famous Cobb's Island Hotel. Art teacher Charlene Huh, using her gentle ways and incredibly original art projects, works her magic in engaging children in the creative process of art. Each art lesson introduces a "master" artist to the students. As children are introduced to Katsushika Hokusai, a Japanese artist world renown for his wave paintings, the lesson quickly moves into an interactive tutorial on peninsula living and the Atlantic Ocean while the preschoolers create their own wave paintings. Children of migrant workers are included in the program over the summer semester which ends with an art work exposition during an open house for family members. In fact, Dickinson believes that involving parents is an added bonus of the program for BIC. Both local public and private schools support the program by providing

transportation for *My First Field Trip*. "BIC is working hard to engage community partners, children and their families in this worthwhile instructional program. That's why the Lions Clubs of the Eastern Shore felt it was important to get involved," said John Kluis, President of the Onancock Lions Club. A delegation of Lions had the opportunity to witness these creative learning techniques first-hand when they visited BIC to present the \$10,000 donation. "We were very impressed by the energy of Martha Giles, the music teacher. She had the kids completely captivated by the use of bells to teach them the music scale. The students' positive energy and enthusiasm for learning was absolutely



contagious,” said Steve Warren, President of the Cape Charles Lions Club. Everyone enjoyed the day interacting with the children, listening to their first attempts to play different musical instruments, and watching their eyes



light up as they learned something new. Lion Don Fuller, President of the Lions Charity Foundation, sums it up best. “As Lions, we strive to provide educational opportunities for the youth in our communities. Our Lions Charity Foundation of District 24D is here to assist Lions Clubs to turn this goal into a reality through financial support. We are excited to continue our partnership with the Barrier Islands Center’s *My First Field Trip* educational program.”