

Urbandale Lioness Club

In October the Lioness Club of Urbandale celebrated its founding 35 years ago in 1976. Sponsored by the Urbandale Lions Club, it was the first Lioness Club in Iowa. Madeline Kaloides was elected president. There were 49 charter members. Some of the members that started the Lioness Club are also long-time members of the Urbandale Historical Society. Those members include; Velma Caldbeck, Marian Chase, Hazel Demirjean, Joanne Hanson, Karolyn Hatch, Deloris Lewis, Mary Sherer, Delores Van Horn, Janice Winey, and Marjory Wittenbaugh.

From the beginning, the Lioness have promoted projects related to sight-saving; i.e. collecting eyeglasses, recruiting eye donors, preliminary eye testing of children in preschool and day care centers, programs to prevent blindness, supporting Leader Dog programs, and helping with Glacomobile.

Service projects expand to other areas. Joan Sievers involved the Lioness group with the Urbandale Schools' ESL programs, and helped organize the annual Scholarship Brunch to raise money for Dollars for Scholars. Thousands of dollars have been awarded to Urbandale students through the years.

Numerous Urbandale organizations also have received their support, such as: Urbandale Public Library, Caring Corps, Senior Center, Food Pantry, High School Performing Arts, Lions Park Shelter House, Youth in the Park, Living History Farms, and the Historical Society.

Thanks go to the Lioness members for their years of service to our community! The group currently has about 40 members with Brenda Smith as the president. New members are welcome to join at any time.

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