

## **Teulada Moraira Lions Club: Celebrating 3 Decades of Service and Community Impact**

In a world where small acts of kindness can spark significant change, The Lions organization stands as a global force dedicated to service. With over 1.4 million members worldwide, it's the largest service organization, uniting people passionate about making a difference in their communities. Locally, the Teulada Moraira Lions Club embodies this spirit, tirelessly supporting causes close to home through fundraising, volunteer work, and a well-loved charity shop known as "The Lions Den."

This year, the Teulada Moraira Lions proudly marked a milestone: the 10th anniversary of The Lions Den charity shop in Moraira. Since its opening in 2014, the shop has raised an incredible €287,524, all thanks to the donations, purchases, and volunteer hours contributed by the community. The Lions celebrated this anniversary in September 2024, expressing heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported their mission, from donors to customers and volunteers.

The funds raised over the years have enabled the Lions to champion a wide range of local causes. Just in 2024 alone, they have already raised €25,630, adding to annual totals that exemplify the community's ongoing generosity. Here's how these donations are making a tangible difference:

### **Recent Impactful Contributions**

. **Supporting Teulada Alzheimer Foundation:** In 2023, the Lions made their largest single donation to date, gifting €25,000 to the Teulada Alzheimer Foundation to purchase a new minibus. This vehicle helps transport individuals to essential care, while an additional €999 donation went toward a body hoist, improving safety and comfort for both patients and staff.

. **Life-Saving Equipment for Emergency Services:** Recognizing the importance of rapid response in emergencies, the Lions have provided portable defibrillators to various local services. The Balcon al Mar Fire Service received a new defibrillator in 2023, and over the years, similar devices have been supplied to the Moraira paddle club, Civil Protection in Benitachell, the local swimming pool, and the Benitachell Police Station.

- **Early Education Support:** The Lions also recognize the importance of early childhood education, having donated €5,899 over nine years to the preschool in Benitachell, ensuring that young children have access to enriching learning environments.

- **Festive Support for Children of Emaus:** The Teulada Moraira Lions have been committed to brightening the lives of children at Emaus in El Vergel. Over the past decade, the Lions have provided over €18,000 to fund holiday gifts and Easter treats, bringing smiles to children who face challenging circumstances.

- **Aiding the Homeless with Project For All:** In 2023, the Lions supported Project For All, a non-profit helping homeless individuals in the Costa Blanca North region, with a donation of €10,000 toward a delivery minivan and emergency supplies. This initiative strengthens the community's support system for those in crisis, reaffirming the Lions' commitment to inclusivity and care.

- **Special Education Resources for Raquel Payá School:** The Lions have a long-standing relationship with Raquel Payá School in Denia, a special needs school serving children with diverse learning requirements. Over the years, they have provided essential resources, including a dishwasher, a washing machine, specialized educational equipment, and even an outdoor play area and sensory room.

### **Additional Causes and Ongoing Support**

Beyond these core projects, the Teulada Moraira Lions also support a broad network of causes, including Caritas Food Bank, autism support programs, day care centers, Civil Protection, Gandia's Franciscan Hospice, women's shelters, and the Help of Denia organization. Each donation, no matter the size, embodies the Lions' dedication to lifting others up, creating a ripple of positivity that touches every corner of the community.

### **Join Us and Make a Difference**

The Teulada Moraira Lions are not just a group of volunteers—they are ordinary individuals with an extraordinary commitment to helping others. If their

work inspires you and you would like to contribute, please consider joining this impactful organization. Reach out to David on WhatsApp at +34 634 369 705 or contact Janet via email at janetdanel@gmail.com. Together, we can continue to bring hope and support to those who need it most.

Thank you to everyone who has made these achievements possible. Your generosity powers every initiative and breathes life into the Lions' mission of compassionate service.

As a relatively new member of the lions, my friends keep asking me what we do and what charities we support, as many people, I guess, are not really sure who or what we are. So I hope these bullet points might help and clarify and even inspire others to join us and be made aware of the great works we do and charities we support!

Okay soap box over-

I'd appreciate your thoughts on this idea !

1/ "The Lions" organisation is world wide. In fact it's the largest service organisation with more than 1.4 million people around the world who share a passion for making a difference.

2/ The branch of Teulada Moraira Lions is a very small but active, dynamic local group staffed entirely by volunteers, both as members and those generous volunteers who work in the Lions Den charity shop in Moraira.

3/ in Sept 2024 we celebrated the 10 anniversary of the opening of the charity shop, which was well attended and a n exciting milestone! As many local people support The Lions by donations or shopping in The Den we thought you might be interested in hearing what local causes we actually support and where your generous contributions are going.

Since opening the shop in 2014-2024 we have raised a staggering €287,524.00. We thank all our supporters from the bottom of our heart for your generosity and continued support.

2024 to date 25,630.00€

2023 42,355.00€

2022. 3408 ,00€ (pandemic)

2021. 28,284.00

2020 . 20,609.00

2019. 41,296.00

2018. 49,306,00

2017. 29,679.00

2016. 32,631.00

2015. 23,786.00

4/ let's just look at the more recent funding projects 2023-4 so far, but a complete list

of all expenditures and support for local projects is available if you would like more details.

5/ in 2023 our greatest achievement was donating €25,000.00 to the Teulada Alzheimer foundation towards funding their new minibus, plus an additional €999.00 for a new body hoist to make both patients and staff lives a little easier.

6/ A portable defibrillator was supplied to Balcon ar Mar fire service. In fact over the years we have supplied, and continue to do so, portable defibrillators to the local paddle club in moraira, civil protection Benitachell, the swimming pool, and 3 to the local Police station in Benitachell.

7/ over 9 years we have donated 5899€ to the pre school in Benitachell

8/ to the Children of Emaus in El Vergel, another favourite support organisation the lions over many years have helped the children at Christmas and Easter with vouchers to help put a smile back on the faces of the Children of Emaus with over €18000.00 provided over 10 years.

9/ Project For All - a non profit organisation that helps and supports the homeless and those in need in Costa Blanca North. Their aim is to help build a community who look after each other in times of need. In 2023 €10,000.00 were given towards a delivery/ minivan together with emergency and food donations.

10/ another favourite and long term project we support is with Raquel Paya school in Denia. In 1986 this special school opened to provide educational and rehabilitation response to children with very specific educational needs. Again over many years the Teulada-Moraira Lions have developed a very strong and ongoing relationship with this innovative and worthy programme, supplying dishwasher, washing machine, an outside play area, sensory room as well as very specialised educational equipment.

11/ amongst our other support interests are Caritas food bank, Autism, Day care centres, Protection Civil, the Gandia Franciscan Hospice, Women's shelter, Help of Denia are just a few of the needy causes Lions ? have helped in recent years.

12/ it's difficult to put all the funding and organisations we have helped with out it sounding like a " reading list" or just another list of deserving causes, but "The Lions" do make a difference. We are all volunteers, all normal individuals who care and want to help people and local deserving causes. So if you are inspired and want to join us , and we hope you do, please contact David on WhatsApp 634 369 705 or Janet on email- janetdanel@gmail.com