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Lions International and the Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists Establish a Cooperative Alliance

The Two Organizations Signed a Memorandum of Understanding

Oak Brook, Illinois, December 7, 2022 –Lions International and the Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists (ADCES) recently extended a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a cooperative alliance in the fight against type 2 diabetes. The two organizations will collaborate to help prevent or delay type 2 diabetes and improve the quality of life for those living with diabetes within the U.S.

Diabetes affects 425 million adults worldwide, with the total set to reach 629 million by 2045.¹ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 37.3 million Americans – 11.3 percent of the U.S. population – have diabetes; one in four do not know they have the disease. Another 96 million adults, or one in three Americans, have prediabetes, a serious condition that increases an individual's risk of developing type 2 diabetes, heart disease and stroke. Only two in 10 individuals with prediabetes are aware of their risk.

In response to this low level of awareness of both prediabetes and diabetes, Lions International and ADCES will work together to connect U.S.-based Lions/Leo clubs with ADCES diabetes professionals at the community level. Through education, resource sharing and community programming, Lions, Leos and ADCES members will increase awareness of prediabetes and diabetes, refer individuals with diabetes to diabetes self-management education and support (DSMES) programs, and connect those with prediabetes to intensive lifestyle change programs that can prevent or delay the disease. The signing of the MOU solidifies a partnership that will operate at the national level.

The two organizations agree to cooperate in good faith to achieve these common objectives with the goal of preventing or delaying type 2 diabetes and improving the quality of life for those diagnosed with the disease by:

- Raising awareness of diabetes and prediabetes through community education programs
- Connecting individuals at high risk of type 2 diabetes and complications of type 2 diabetes with DSMES and diabetes prevention programs

- Developing collaborative diabetes service projects such as Strides: Lions for Diabetes Awareness and PreventT2 lifestyle change programs

Lions serve a world in need by addressing some of the most pressing issues facing humanity, including reducing the prevalence of diabetes and improving the quality of life for those diagnosed. "Lions Clubs International and Lions Clubs International Foundation are dedicated to empowering Lions and Leos around the world to fight diabetes by serving their communities one by one," said Brian E. Sheehan, international president of Lions International. "We are honored to join forces with ADCES. Each of us can do so much good on our own, but together we can accomplish so much more and make a larger impact in communities across the nation."

"ADCES is proud to partner with Lions International to promote resources that help people prevent, delay or manage type 2 diabetes," said Angela M. Forfia, MA, associate director of diabetes education and prevention programs for ADCES. "Through our work together, we hope to connect more people with these resources. By raising awareness of prediabetes and diabetes, and these effective services, Lions and Leos can make a real impact in their local communities."

Lions International is the largest service organization in the world. Powered by Lions Clubs International's 1.4 million Lions members in more than 49,000 clubs and the grant-funding support of Lions Clubs International Foundation, Lions International takes on some of the greatest challenges facing our communities and our world. Through our local and global efforts, we improve health and well-being, strengthen communities and support those in need.

ADCES is an interdisciplinary professional membership organization dedicated to improving prediabetes, diabetes and cardiometabolic care through innovative education, management and support. With more than 12,000 professional members, including nurses, dietitians, pharmacists, exercise specialists and others, ADCES has a vast network of practitioners working with people who have, are affected by or are at risk for diabetes.

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References:

1. *International Diabetes Federation. IDF Diabetes Atlas, 8th edn. Brussels, Belgium: International Diabetes Federation, 2017.*