THE DURHAM LIONS

The Durham Lions Club has hewed to the motto “We Serve” since October 1951. We enjoy good times together while serving our community. *Contact us to talk to us about joining. You will find being part of our group is pleasurable and rewarding!*

Recent activity. For decades and continuing, our biggest fund raiser is a food booth at the Durham Agricultural Fair. Originally, the Club ran a nickel toss game on the town green during the fair. That evolved into a series of temporary food booths. Finally, in 1976, the Club built the first permanent food booth on the fairgrounds. Currently, Spanish Honor Society students work with us during the Fair, thereby earning community service credits and funding for activities.

The Club has always provided eye exams and glasses for needy folks. Currently, we conduct, alongside the Middlefield Lions, State mandated vision screenings for schools in RSD13 and Middletown.

The Club collects eyeglasses that are refurbished for people needing eyewear. In 2025, we collected, sorted, and donated to a regional Lions collection 2,100 pair of eyeglasses.

Beginning in 1958, and continuing today, the Durham Club awards college scholarships to graduating high school students. We award both an academic scholarship and an award to a gifted, community-oriented art student. Tens of thousands of dollars have been distributed since 1958.

The Club’s annual Comedy Show is a fund raiser, but is also a most popular fun night in town. The show includes professional stand-up comedy, a full dinner, and a raffle featuring around 40 prizes.

Lions constructed a compost bin at a community vegetable garden called the Giving Garden. We also donated money toward the construction of a shed at the garden.

The Club participates in the Recreation Department’s Trunk of Treat Halloween event. Durham Lions also hand out free coffee and water to parade goers before and during the annual Memorial Day Parade.

Throughout the Durham Lions Clubs’ existence, the Club has donated money to many worthy causes. Community donations: Durham Animal Rescue Team, youth sports teams, the public library, turkeys at Thanksgiving, children’s presents at Christmas, the town’s America 250 celebration, and Camp Rising Sun. Lions causes: LCIF, Low Vision Center of Eastern CT, CLERF, CRIS Radio, disaster relief, and Fidelco.