



EATONTOWN LIONS CLUB FOUNDATION

PO Box 74
Eatontown, NJ 07724

March 4, 2026

Dear Mayor Talerico,

The Eatontown Lions Club Foundation respectfully requests \$115,000 in funding support, to be utilized over the next three years, to ensure the continuation of our long-standing mission of serving the greater Eatontown community. This request follows the unexpected loss of our major fundraising source, resulting in an anticipated substantial reduction in revenue. This loss threatens the continuity of programs that directly support vulnerable populations, including seniors, low-income families, and children. Temporary support will allow the Foundation to maintain operations while developing and implementing new long-term fundraising strategies.

The Eatontown Lions Club Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that has been rooted in Eatontown since 1948. With a diverse membership of 40–45 dedicated volunteers, the Club has become an integral part of the community for more than seven decades. Our members have consistently invested time, resources, and leadership into projects that directly improve the lives of Eatontown residents.

Community Impact and Accomplishments

The Eatontown Lions Club has contributed to the well-being and vitality of the Borough through projects such as:

- Building an all-inclusive playground, serving families across five surrounding communities, handicap ramps, and gazebos for the town and senior housing complex.
- Constructing a blind trail, suspension bridge, boys' and girls' dormitories and an observatory at Walpack Environmental Center.
- Organizing community parades and hosted holiday events for homeless and temporarily displaced children.
- Supporting numerous local organizations and youth programs.
- Awarding scholarships to ten Eatontown high school seniors annually and two Memorial Middle School graduates.
- Providing uniforms and funding for youth recreational activities.
- Offering over 40 years of financial and volunteer support to the Eatontown Food Coop, assuming full operational responsibility in 2011.
- Providing food to 90–110 residents every other week, including delivering food to 25 homebound seniors at Meadowbrook Senior Housing.
- Conducting vision screenings for more than 12,000 children in Eatontown, Deal, and Ocean Township, and provided financial assistance for follow-up exams and glasses.
- Providing members to assist in the Spring and Fall Eatontown cleanups and Adopted Highway 36 – providing a cleanup crew several times each year.
- Engaging the community with our two annual pancake breakfasts – with no charge to those experiencing financial difficulties.
- Providing affordable Christmas trees to the public for over 40 years.

These programs represent essential services that address food insecurity, youth development, accessibility, community engagement, and public health.

Purpose of Funding Request

The requested funding will allow the Lions Club to maintain core community programs while we rebuild our fundraising capacity. Over the next three years, funds will help support:

- **Youth and Education Programs** — Continuation of ten annual high school scholarships to Eatontown high school seniors, two Memorial Middle School graduation awards, the Peace Poster contest award, and financial assistance for optometrist exams and prescription eyeglasses for families in need.
Estimated cost: \$48,000 over three years.
- **Food Pantry Operations** — Purchase of food, supplies, shelving, refrigerators, freezers, and necessary upgrades to support more than 100 clients each month.
Estimated cost: \$45,000 over three years.
- **Holiday Party for Displaced Families** — A long-standing tradition including a pizza party, magician performance, and gifts with Santa. *Estimated cost: \$5,000 over three years.*
- **Equipment Storage** — Acquisition of a storage shed in a single location, as opposed to members' homes, that will provide ready access to our equipment required at community events such as pancake breakfasts, Christmas tree sales, Community Day, and Borough cleanups.
Estimated one-time cost: up to \$6,000.
- **Trailer Upgrades** — Heat, lighting, paint, shelving, and a mini-refrigerator to support event operations. *Estimated one-time cost: \$3,000.*
- **Vision Screening Equipment** — Replacement of the aging camera used to screen students in local schools. *Estimated one-time cost: \$8,000.*

Your support will help ensure that Eatontown Lions Club Foundation can continue providing essential services, programs, and assistance to Eatontown residents during this transitional period. We remain deeply committed to our shared vision of strengthening and uplifting the community.

Thank you for your consideration. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this request further and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Eatontown Lions Club Foundation



William Diedrichsen, President

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BOROUGH OF EATONTOWN
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Eatontown, New Jersey 07724
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April 29, 2026

William Diedrichsen
President
Eatontown Lions Club Foundation
PO Box 74
Eatontown, NJ 07724

Dear Mr. Diedrichsen,

The Community Benefits Advisory Committee is in receipt of your letter dated March 4, 2026, wherein you requested \$115,000 to be used toward Youth and Education Programs, Food Pantry Operations, Holiday Parties for Displaced Families, Equipment Storage, Trailer Upgrades and Vision Screening Equipment. Your letter also described the work the Lions have done in town and are in the process of doing.

The Community Benefits Advisory Committee is charged with overseeing the implementation of the Community Benefits Agreement between the Borough of Eatontown, Netflix and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. In this regard, it considered your request at its meeting of March 31, 2026, found it to be a locally prioritized community benefit and approved your request.

Please sign below indicating your intention to: (1) use the funds as stated in your letter dated March 4, 2026, (2) send the Borough updates on the expenditures of funds and (3) return to the Borough any funds that are not expended for the stated purposes.

Thank you,

Anthony Talerico, Jr.
Mayor

Agreed:

William Diedrichsen, President
Eatontown Lions Club Foundation