



PATCHWORK OF PURPOSE

A Traveling Tactile Quilt Project by Lions, for All Hands and Hearts

2026–2027 MD4 Lions for Access Project

Kickoff: MD4 Council of Governors Meeting • August 22, 2026

OUR INVITATION TO LIONS

Help us stitch the service of MD4 together—one 6-inch square, one story, and one sense at a time. Every square becomes part of a larger message of inclusion, vision, leadership, and community.

*Inspired by International Week of Lions Vision Service •
October 8–18*

Prepared by MD4 Lions for Access

1. Project Overview

A Note of Appreciation

Thank you, Lions International President Mark S. Lyon, for bringing our focus back to vision and meaningful service. Patchwork of Purpose is designed as a hands-on way for Lions to celebrate vision service during International Week of Lions Vision Service, October 8–18, and to carry that spirit of inclusion and service throughout the 2026–2027 Lions Year.

Patchwork of Purpose is a collaborative, hands-on art and service project inviting Lions, Leos, and community participants from across Multiple District 4 to create a 6-inch by 6-inch tactile quilt square.

Each square will represent a club, a service project, a personal message of hope, or a vision for a more inclusive community. The squares will be joined into one or more large-scale traveling quilts, assembled during a Lions-hosted community service day.

The finished quilt(s) will travel among participating districts and clubs as a tool for visibility, education, conversation, and connection. At the end of the 2026–2027 Lions Year, the quilt(s) will be presented to a worthy blind or low-vision community leader selected through a nomination process.

Why a Tactile Quilt?

A traditional quilt is usually experienced visually. Patchwork of Purpose expands that experience so that the artwork can also be explored through touch and sound. Texture, raised imagery, Braille, symbols, and optional audio stories can make each square meaningful to people with little or no vision.

THE VISION

This is more than a quilt. It is a living, touchable archive of Lions' creativity, service, voices, and care. It is unity you can feel—literally.

Project Goals

- Celebrate vision service and Lions' commitment to people who are blind or low vision.
- Create an inclusive project that can be experienced through touch, sound, and sight.
- Connect Lions, Leos, and community members through a shared creative service project.
- Give clubs a visible, hands-on way to start conversations about accessibility and inclusion.
- Recognize a blind or low-vision individual who demonstrates leadership and makes a difference in their community.
- Create a traveling legacy project that can educate and inspire Lions throughout MD4.

2. Quilt Square Design Guide

THE BASIC REQUIREMENT

Create one tactile square measuring exactly 6 inches by 6 inches. The square should be sturdy enough to handle, travel, and eventually be stitched into a quilt.

Color Theme: Peacock Colors

● **Purple** • ● **Blue** • ● **Green** — We want our recipient to be proud as a peacock! Please use shades of purple, blue, and green as the primary colors of your square.

Make It Speak Through Touch

Use texture intentionally. Your square should invite a person to explore it with their hands and discover what it represents.

- Fabric with different textures or patterns
- Yarn, ribbon, or cord
- Embroidery or decorative stitching
- Buttons or other securely attached objects
- Leather or faux leather
- Puff paint or other raised fabric-safe materials
- Raised symbols or simple tactile imagery
- Braille, when possible and accurately produced
- Other durable, securely attached textured materials

Accessibility and Safety Tips

- Avoid sharp, loose, or fragile materials that could injure someone exploring the square by touch.
- Secure every embellishment firmly; the quilt will be handled and transported.
- Keep the design tactile and understandable rather than relying only on color.
- If using Braille, have the Braille checked by a competent Braille reader or qualified resource before submission.
- Avoid very small loose items that could detach during handling.
- Leave enough fabric around the edges so the square can be joined to neighboring squares.
- Think about what a person might discover with their fingertips. Texture is the artwork.

Optional: Add a Personal Message

Your square may include a club name, Lions emblem, service symbol, local landmark, tactile pattern, inspirational word, or another meaningful representation. Keep the design inclusive and focused on service.

3. How the Project Works

- 1. Make Your Patch** — Create a tactile 6-inch by 6-inch square that tells a story through texture. Be creative, intentional, and inclusive.
- 2. Record Your Audio Story** — Optional but strongly encouraged. Record a 1–2 minute description explaining your square, what inspired it, and what you hope people will feel or understand when they explore it.
- 3. Identify Your Square** — Include the designer’s name, email address, and the Lions club or district represented. Non-Lions and Leos are welcome to participate.
- 4. Submit Your Square** — Bring completed squares to the MD4 Convention or mail them to the project coordinator. Audio files may be sent by email or shared as an accessible link.
- 5. Join Stitch Day** — Lions will come together for a community service day to assemble the quilt. Date, location, and time will be announced.
- 6. Share the Quilt** — Participating districts and clubs will take turns hosting the traveling quilt at events, service projects, and educational activities.
- 7. Recognize a Community Leader** — At the end of the Lions Year, the completed quilt(s) will be presented to a selected blind or low-vision individual who demonstrates leadership and makes a difference in their community.

Audio Story and QR Code Experience

Each participant is encouraged to submit a 1–2 minute audio story. The project team may connect audio stories to accessible QR codes or other audio-access methods on the quilt’s identification tags. This will create a multi-sensory experience in which visitors can touch a square and hear the story behind it.

AUDIO STORY PROMPT

“My name is _____. I am from _____. My square represents _____. I chose these textures because _____. I hope the person who experiences this square feels or understands _____.”

Submission Information

Project Coordinator	Lion Jennifer Gass
Mailing Address	c/o San Joaquin Lions Club PO Box 692168 Stockton, CA 95269
Audio Email	LionsForAccess@gmail.com
Email Subject	Patchwork of Purpose — [Participant Name]
Submission Deadline	February 28, 2027

4. Nominate a Blind or Low-Vision Community Leader

The Patchwork of Purpose project is also an opportunity for Lions to recognize people who are helping make their communities stronger. Each Lions club is encouraged to nominate a blind or low-vision individual who demonstrates leadership, service, advocacy, creativity, or another meaningful contribution to the community.

Who can be nominated? A blind or low-vision person in your community who is making a difference. The nominee does not need to be a Lion.

How Lions Can Find Candidates

- Ask your local blind center, low-vision organization, rehabilitation program, or community agency for suggestions.
- Connect with local schools, colleges, employers, civic organizations, and disability organizations.
- Consider people who mentor others, advocate for accessibility, volunteer, lead programs, create opportunities, or serve as positive role models.
- Use the nomination process as a way to build new relationships and identify potential future Lions members and community partners.

Nomination Requirements

- Nominee's full name
- Nominee's contact information
- Lions club, district, or community organization making the nomination
- Up to 500 words explaining why the nominee deserves recognition
- Examples of the nominee's leadership, service, advocacy, or positive community impact

NOMINATION DEADLINE

All nominations must be received no later than April 30, 2027.

Submit nominations by email to: LionsForAccess@gmail.com | **Subject:** Lions "Quilt Project"

Recognition

The selected recipient will be honored at the MD4 Council of Governors year-end celebration in June 2027, where the completed Patchwork of Purpose quilt will be presented as a symbol of Lions' shared commitment to vision, accessibility, leadership, and service.

5. Patchwork of Purpose — Square Submission Form

Please complete this information and submit it with your 6-inch by 6-inch quilt square. If you are submitting an audio story, email the audio file or an accessible link to LionsForAccess@gmail.com.

Square Designer's Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone (optional): _____

Lions Club / Leo Club / Community Group: _____

District (if applicable): _____

City / Community Represented: _____

Title or Name of Square: _____

Brief Description of Square: _____

Audio Story Submitted: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Permission to Include Audio With Quilt Exhibit: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Accessibility Check Before You Submit

- The finished square is 6 inches by 6 inches.
- The square primarily uses purple, blue, and/or green tones.
- Textures and embellishments are securely attached.
- There are no sharp or hazardous elements.
- Any Braille or raised text has been checked for accuracy.
- The square can be safely handled by a person exploring it by touch.
- Designer information is included.
- Audio story has been emailed or an accessible audio link has been provided, if participating.

Mail Your Square

Lion Jennifer Gass

c/o San Joaquin Lions Club

PO Box 692168

Stockton, CA 95269

Email audio files or accessible audio links: LionsForAccess@gmail.com

6. Lions Call-to-Action

LET'S STITCH OUR SERVICE TOGETHER!

One square. One story. One sense at a time.

Lions of MD4, this is your invitation to create something beautiful, meaningful, and accessible. Gather your club. Invite your Leos. Reach out to community partners. Visit a local blind or low-vision organization. Then create a tactile square that tells the world what your Lions service means.

YOUR CLUB CAN DO THIS!

Create one square—or organize a club activity where several members create squares together. Invite non-Lions and Leos to participate. Use the project to start a conversation about accessibility, vision service, and inclusion.

Key Dates for the 2026–2027 Lions Year

Date	Milestone
August 22, 2026	Patchwork of Purpose kickoff at the MD4 Council of Governors Meeting
October 8–18, 2026	International Week of Lions Vision Service
February 28, 2027	Deadline to submit quilt squares
April 30, 2027	Deadline to submit nominations for blind and low-vision community leaders
June 2027	Year-end recognition and presentation of the completed quilt(s) at the MD4 Council of Governors celebration

Questions and Submissions

Lion Jennifer Gass

MD4 Lions for Access

Email: LionsForAccess@gmail.com

Mail: c/o San Joaquin Lions Club, PO Box 692168, Stockton, CA 95269

BRING YOUR HANDS. BRING YOUR HEART. BRING YOUR STORY.

Together, Lions can create a quilt that can be seen, touched, heard, shared, and remembered.