

Lion Kate

A Reason for Giving

by PDG Dennis Knott and Lion Judeen

Several years ago we had the privilege of sending our daughter, Kate, to Lions Camp. Since she was diagnosed early on, through testing at school, as being severely cognitively disabled, we weren't able to have her accepted until we became actively involved in Lions and Camp directors came to know her and see the possibilities.

That is exactly what Lions Camp provided--possibilities that hadn't existed before. Mom and Dad had a break to do something by themselves and Kate grew more wings. She has always been a special child with a special heart, but Camp made her even more independent. It also gave her more social contacts within her own age group as well as her "best friend counselors."

We took on the District Governor role to give back and Kate gave back with us. She spoke about her camping experiences at club visits during Dennis' year as District Governor and was a great ambassador at every level.

She became a Lion in the Merrill Lions Club upon graduating from high school in 2002, and works most club projects--the fair stand (many shifts), highway clean-up,



LION KATE RECEIVING HER CHECK FOR WINNING *last year's State Bowling award for winning second place handicap singles from 2008-2009 Merrill Lions Club President Mike Semlng. PDG Dennis Knott, partner-in-service Lion Judeen and daughter Lion Kate have a unique and heartwarming perspective on Lions Camp and the experiences it provides.*

raffles, camp tours, and currently serves as Club Lion Tamer. Last year, she took second place in the singles handicap at the Lions State Bowling Tournament with a 771 series!

We are affectionately known as "Kate's parents" wherever we go! The confidence to do these activities was enhanced by her Camp experience. So, we donate to the Lions Pride Endowment Fund and we hope that you will too, so that other campers will be assured of the same opportunities well into the future.