Lions KidSight USA Foundation

**Chairman’s Message**

Greetings Lions, I hope each of you have been having a wonderful Holiday Season full of Joy and the true spirit of the Holidays. I also hope those of you who have experienced the various hurricanes, fires and other natural disasters are recovering well, and life is getting back to normal.

As we enter the year of 2018 we not only reflect on our past accomplishments, but also plan for an active, productive future. Our President, Dr. Naresh Aggarwal, has challenged us to use the Power of We to implement the Power of Action into the Power of Service so Lionism can accomplish even more during the coming years. This challenge is certainly applicable to Lions KidSight USA and our children’s vision screening programs throughout the nation.

I am very proud of the tremendous growth in vision screening activities Lions have achieved since Lions KidSight USA was formed. We are currently doing more than 1.5 million screenings a year. Each of you should be congratulated for what you have accomplished and the lives you have changed. With that said I would like to remind everyone of a few important principles Lions KidSight should follow.

First, we must all keep in mind that, while we all spend a lot of time discussing vision screening, and the number of children we have screened, the ultimate goal is to ensure that every child who needs eye care is able to receive it. The most important accomplishment we have is the number of children we refer who actually obtain professional eye care. Remember, vision screening is a tool we utilize to identify those children most at risk for having eye problems. Vision screening is not the goal, it is a method we use to reach our goal of every child receiving the professional care they need. In an ideal world Lions would not need to

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**Paradise Host Lions Club Project**

Four years ago, Paradise Host Lions Club in California saw a need in their community to provide free vision screening. It was decided to convert an old trailer into an iconic lions project.

A great invitation for Lion Al Howard to join our club made this conversion possible, as he is in the RV repair business. He and some of our other club members helped to make this cute trailer available for our local Chocolate Fest event that May. At Chocolate Fest we screened the first of our community who attended this annual event.

Our vision screening project trailer has become quite the talk of our town. Through screenings in the public schools of Paradise Unified School District, and the charter schools, our club checked the eye sight of over 1,200 children last year.

This year we have decided to implement the use of the spot camera to do even more. Since using the cameras so far this lions year (2017-18) we have screened over 60 kids and found 3 with indications of further exam needed.

We plan to continue working hard to schedule schools and events in our town to find those in need. We think that an automated screening device like the Welch Allyn Spot or PlusoptiX are a vital tool in this effort.

Lion President Oney & Donna Carrell
Paradise Host Lions Club

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**KidSight Catalog Store**

The Lions KidSight Foundation Board has developed an on-line Catalog Store, so Clubs, Districts and Multiple Districts can order standardized memorabilia, including Banner Patches, Vest Patches, Reward Stickers, Embroidered Shirts. Addition Items will become available.

[Hat](www.lionskidsightstore.org/Hats.htm)
Chairman Message, continued from page 1

Do vision screening. Every family would take their children for a routine comprehensive eye exam as a matter of course. They would not wait for a problem to appear or for someone to point out a potential problem. Children would just automatically be examined by an eye doctor. Unfortunately, we do not live in an ideal world. I have read that less than 20% of families routinely take their children for eye care – this is true even when there is a family history of a problem!

So, Lions, those of you in the field doing screening, are filling the need of identifying those children who most need the care. You are in the forefront bringing the goal of comprehensive eye care for children to your communities. You can be very proud of this. Keep up the good work.

Another item I would like to emphasize is ensuring that we all understand what the conditions are for which we are screening. It is important to have a good understanding of this as more and more school systems, state agencies, and governmental organizations are evaluating the vision screening processes employed under their jurisdiction. It is incumbent upon Lions involved with vision screening to know exactly what our testing accomplishes, and frankly, what it does not. More and more of you are having conversations with officials about Lions KidSight USA. You are being challenged on the effectiveness of our program. You must be able to discuss the risk factors for which we test and why our program is effective.

We test for the following risk factors: Myopia, Hyperopia, Astigmatism, Strabismus, Anisocoria, and Anisometropia. That is all we do. As many of you are aware, some jurisdictions require, or strongly suggest, a visual acuity at distance and/or near be recorded. Our instrumentation cannot record or report this measurement. There is no way to indirectly determine an acuity from our measurements. The test must be performed by a well-trained person in addition to our usual instrument based screening.

In another section of this newsletter you will read about the roll out of our Lions KidSight USA Foundation certification process. The manual which is to be utilized in becoming certified has detailed explanations of the risk factors mentioned above. Please study these terms and obtain a good understanding of what they mean and how they contribute to visual difficulties a child may experience.

Thank you again for your dedication to Lions KidSight USA Foundation and the great work you are doing on behalf of the children we serve.

Yours in Service,

Dr. Edward V. Cordes, PID
Chairman LKSUSAF

KidSight Store, continued from page 1

Simple Screening Tip
Some ideas about lighting

In some rooms, lighting can be a difficult problem. Even a small amount of sunshine can make it very difficult, so that turning of the lights doesn’t help much.

The Goal is to get the child’s pupils larger (4 mm)

- Remember that the “Camera” is using Infra-red Light. One idea that works is to have the child wear Sunglasses. Keep in mind that it may take a minute or two for the Pupils to dilate enough. Be sure to wipe down the frames with an Alcohol wipe after each child. You will need several sunglasses if the number of children that need them is high. Buy different sizes.
- Lions should wear darker colors. A white shirt or jacket will reflect light into the child’s eyes to cause the pupils to get smaller. Keep in mind that the child has ‘wandering eyes’ Try to make the backdrop darker when possible.

Stickers
lionskidsightstore.org/Stickers.htm

Watch for updates at our Store - www.LionsKidSightStore.org

Name Badge
lionskidsightstore.org/Name_Badge.htm

Shirts (others available)
www.lionskidsightstore.org/Shirts.htm

Lapel Pin
www.lionskidsightstore.org/Lapel_Pin.htm

Stickers
lionskidsightstore.org/Stickers.htm
Editor’s Note: These are the kinds of letters that begin to pour into Lions Clubs and Districts that help to motivate Lions Club members in this work. Hands on Lions should learn of these messages.

A note provided by Barbara K. Trinks, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education Services, Plymouth Public Schools

From: Carol Giannini
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2016
To: Barbara Trinks, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education Services
Subject: Lions Club – KidSight Program

Hi Barbara,

For the past 5 years, the nurses at the elementary schools in Plymouth have coordinated with the Lions Club to offer an enhanced vision screening for all students in Pre K and K. This program requires parental consent. A standard vision screening is offered by the school nurse to all K students, but the state of CT guidelines do not include the Pre K students in the vision screening guidelines for nurses, making the Lions club screening the only avenue for screening Pre K students in the school setting. This year the program was expanded to offer this screening to all students in grades PK-8.

The benefits of this enhanced screening cannot be overstated. The standard school screening checks each child's eye for distance vision only. It is a multistep process, and for young children who are unfamiliar with the process, a false first failure is common. For older students, who have learned to compensate for vision issues, a false pass is also not uncommon. If a child fails the initial screening, they are retested after 2 weeks because of the likelihood of a false failure. If the child fails a second time, a referral is sent.

The Lions Club screening is able to check for 6 separate vision issues all in a matter of seconds. Children do not need to do anything more than look into a device that looks like a camera. Parents receive a print out of the computerized results the same day, whether the child passes or fails.

Since 80% of learning is visual, the benefits of early, accurate screening are essential. By offering the program to grades 1-8 an additional 460 children were screened by the Lions club over a 3 week period. We are hoping to continue to offer this program to grades 1-8 and that more parents will take advantage of this program in the future. The nurses strongly value this partnership and hope it continues for many years.

Carol Giannini BSN, RN
Nursing Coordinator, Plymouth Public Schools
School Nurse, Plymouth Center School
107 North St
Plymouth, CT 06782

Hi Lion Joe Rocky

I am a parent of 2 Region 12 students, one of which attends the Primary School. I received your contact information from Pat Howard, the school nurse.

I wanted to reach out to say, Thank You! My daughter greatly benefitted from the screening the Lions Club provided for the students. She failed her test which prompted us to schedule an appointment with a specialist. In addition to being diagnosed as farsighted, which was a new finding since her appointment just this last March of 2017, she was also found to have amblyopia. The important thing to note is that this condition can be treated prior to a child reaching visual maturity which is between 8 and 13 years of age. Her ophthalmologist explained that most children reach visual maturity between 9 and 10, making the window in which to correct this, smaller.

If my daughter did not get screened by the Lions Club, she most likely would not have returned to the eye doctor until her next annual appointment, making this window of opportunity even smaller for her, if not missing it all together. Missing this window would have resulted in a permanent inability for her to have 20/20 vision, even with glasses.

She is anxiously awaiting the arrival of her new glasses!

Our family wanted to extend our sincere gratitude for this screening being provided for our daughter and the students of Washington Primary School. (Connecticut)

Please feel free to share this with other members and to pass along our thanks.

a Parent
Lions KidSight Training

Taking the Test

The Lions KidSight USA provides a webpage that is dedicated to provide training to our volunteers. There are manuals and links to video presentations that cover.

Visit www.lionskidsightusa.org/training

Be sure to study the guides and Training Manual found at the website: http://lionskidsightusa.org/training/


You are welcome to apply, study and take the Lions KidSight USA Certification Test. The test will result in receiving a Certificate upon successfully passing the test. Send an email to dan@uitti.net to attain the registration information.

Be sure to know your LCI Membership ID.

When you get a confirmation, you will be given instructions on how to log in and take the test.

We have run the test using tablets and Smart Phones. There may be difficulties navigating with a touch screen. None of our Testers Failed the test.

Family credits early eye test for saving child’s sight.
From www.local8now.com

Lions KidSight USA Foundation Vision Screening Certification

A free children’s vision screening was performed by Lions from Somersworth and Hampstead and volunteers from Liberty Mutual. They screened 331 children at Garrison Elementary School in Dover.

Bob Laferriere

NH Lions Operation KidSight

Lions KidSight USA Foundation - PCC Gary is one of several Lions beta testing our new Lions KidSight USA Foundation Vision Screening Certification process. Lions will be able to log in with your Lions member ship number to download the training manual and take the on line test. The results will be graded in real time. If you get 37 questions correct out of 50 you will "pass". Certification will be valid for 5 years and then has to be renewed. You can download the manual from our website now. The training and test concentrates on the theory and underlying principles behind the results of the screening. We are leaving it up to the manufacturers to teach the details of their device operation.

Today, we have 115 Certified Vision Screeners nationwide.

From our Facebook Page ~ www.facebook.com/lksusaf

Submit Articles in March for the April Edition
Contact PDG Dan Uitti
Dan Uitti
223 Buckingham St
Oakville, CT 06779
Email: dan@uitti.net

Board Members
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Dr. Hauser Weiler, PID Vice Chair
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David Kingsbury, LCI Legal
Steve Lomonaco - Welch Allyn
Tammy Johnson - PlusoptiX

The Burleson Lions are taking their motto, “We serve,” even more seriously these days ever since the club bought a precious piece of equipment for some of the community’s smallest citizens. “The Burleson Lions Club emphasis is on sight,” Philo Waters, club member, said. “We thought we needed to be more active when it came to giving sight.”

Those of you who have heard me speak have heard me say that the gold standard for children’s eye care is a comprehensive eye exam. This article is why in an ideal world Lions KidSight children’s vision screenings would not be needed.

Lions Club International
Lions KidSight USA Foundation

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