



# Lions KidSight USA Foundation



Community Eye Screening For Children

## Lions KidSight USA Foundation Chairman's Message

Hello Lions. I am very proud to be writing this first installment of a "Chairman's Message" for the new Lions KidSight USA Foundation newsletter. Lions KidSight USA has been very busy over the past year developing many exciting new initiatives. I will detail some of the exciting progress we have made since we began operation in April 2014.

The first, and most important, accomplishment is the increased number of children who were screened by Lions. During the Lions' year 2014-15 approximately 500,000 children were screened nationwide, with an approximate 15% referral rate. Three years later the Lions of the USA have screened approximately 1.5 million children, with about a 15% referral rate. Lions in all 50 states are performing at least some vision screening. Congratulations to all the Lions who have been working so hard to advance children's vision screening throughout the USA. You have made a huge difference in the lives of those you identified as needing professional care.

I am very excited to write that Lions KidSight USA has incorporated and become a Lions Foundation with full IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. This change will allow us to develop more tools for Lions to use in enhancing their own local vision screening programs. Our board of directors has approved an ambitious set of new initiatives. I will briefly list some of them, but more details will follow.

**Data Management** – Lions KidSight USA Foundation (LKSUSAF) with the assistance and advice of LCIF has contracted with a data development company, CloudScaper, to develop a nationwide system to collect national vision screening data from all Lions' screening programs. This system is currently being vetted by Lions experienced in data management. Following this, the process will be beta



Dr. Edward V. Cordes, PID  
Chairman LKSUSAF

## Kansas Lions Sight Foundation Promotes Kansas Lions Vision Programs at annual Kansas Department of Early Childhood Conference March 1, 2, & 3, 2017

Several of the Kansas Lions Vision Programs focus on children's vision especially our participation in the KidSight USA vision screening program for children. A number of the participants at this conference work specifically with young children, many pre-school age including those with cognitive challenges. There was significant interest in the Kansas Lions Children's Vision Screenings with the automated screeners and our KanLovKids program for those diagnosed with visual limitations.

One of the goals of the Kansas Lions is to detect subnormal vision or risk factors that threaten visual development. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology these screenings need to be completed at a time when treatment can be initiated to yield the highest benefit. The optimal time for this is before the child turns three, no later than the child's first

**Our Internet Presence**

Website - [www.lionskidsightusa.org](http://www.lionskidsightusa.org)  
 Facebook - [www.facebook.com/lksusaf](http://www.facebook.com/lksusaf)

**What's at the website?**

- The Need is Real
- Information for Parents
- Sample Forms
- Standards for Screening
- Screening Models
- Training Manual & Videos
- Success Videos
- - and more -

day of school. The preferred method for doing these screenings is instrument based automated vision screening. Thanks to the Kansas Lions the knowledge and utilization of these screeners has greatly increased.

This conference provided an opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness and ease of using these screeners. It was also a chance to connect with those agencies wanting Lions assistance to provide these vision screenings. An undiagnosed or untreated vision disorder is a more significant predictor of academic problems than race or socioeconomic status. Lack of corrective action can clearly leave a child behind in the classroom and life. Kansas Lions can be proud of the strides we have made to help children see.

Lions Jim Huenergarde,  
PDG Marilyn Sorenson,  
Lion Sylvia Reinhardt

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tested by a wide range of Lions' screening programs before it is rolled out nationwide. The result of this program will not only allow us to document the tremendous accomplishments of Lions, but also create a national database of children's vision conditions which can be used by vision professionals to better understand the vision care needs of the younger population.

**LKSUSAF Supplies Store** – We are in the process of creating an on-line catalogue for Lions to order Lions KidSight USA branded items to enhance the screening process and make children's vision screening more fun. Items like hats, shirts, pins, screening stickers, banners, posters, recognition plaques are some of the products which will be available. The page will be available on our website at [www.LionsKidSightUSA.org](http://www.LionsKidSightUSA.org)

**LKSUSAF Training and Certification** – One of the original and continuing goals for LKSUSAF has been to create uniform policies and procedures for children's vision screening, which will meet the highest professional standards of all scientific, academic, governmental and professional

organizations. We are currently developing a curriculum and training manual which will be distributed nationwide to accomplish this goal. We are planning to train regional "train the trainer" Lions who will assist in disseminating the curriculum throughout the USA. Lions, after taking the course, will be asked to take a test on the material. Upon passing, Lions will be Lions KidSight USA Foundation "Certified Vision Screeners". Since Lions use various screening devices throughout the country accommodations will be made for the individual differences in device operation.

So, as you can see, Lions KidSight USA Foundation has not only progressed since our beginning 3 years ago, we have set significant goals for the future. We are dedicated to assisting all Lions doing children's vision screening in providing the highest quality of service to their communities. This will, in turn, make a significant difference in the lives of an even larger number of children who need professional vision care. I am very proud to be the chair of this exciting program.

Yours in Service,

*Dr. Edward V. Cordes, PID*



LKSUSAF Board meeting at LDUN in March 2017.

**Board Members**

- Dr. Edward V. Cordes, PID Chair
  - Dr. Hauser Weiler, PID Vice Chair
  - Dan Uitti, PDG Secretary
  - Ed Farrington, PID Treasurer
  - Tom Cummings, PCC
  - Al Brandel, PIP
  - Bob Corlew, IP
  - Joe Preston, PIP
- Advisors:  
 Peter Lynch  
 Rebecca Daou  
 David Kingsbury  
 Steve Lomonaco - Welch Allyn  
 Tammy Johnson - Plusoptix

**Connecticut Changing Law Concerning Vision Screening in Schools**

With a great deal of support from the medical field, Connecticut will alter the law concerning Vision Screenings in Schools.

SB 1014, section 10 (a):  
 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide annually to each pupil in kindergarten and grades one and three to five, inclusive, a vision screening, using a Snellen chart, or equivalent screening device, including, but not limited to, an automated vision screening device.

This will allow the Connecticut Lions to perform updated vision screenings for older children using an approved device. For these mandatory grades and partnership with the School Nurse will mean that Parental Consent may not be necessary. This is a task that is offered for free.

**From Facebook**

Lions KidSight USA Foundation shared Dianne Corlew's photo.  
 Published by Dan Uitti · October 23, 2016



Dianne Corlew with Guðrún Yngvadóttir. October 22, 2016

LCI 2nd VP Guðrún Yngvadóttir using Plusoptix vision screener

Lions KidSight USA Foundation shared Dianne Corlew's photo



Dianne Corlew October 22, 2016

LCI President Bob Corlew showing Welch Allyn Spot vision screener.

**Simple Screening Tip**

**Bring the Brave Child First**

When working with toddlers & infants, some are very timid about seeing a group of strange adults. Sometimes it helps when the Teacher or Nurse picks the "Brave Child" to go first, to be an example to their friends. But there are other ideas to help.

- ◆ Everyone smile
- ◆ Only one adult speaks
- ◆ Give out a Reward, but show everyone that the Brave Child received it.

**Submit Articles in June for the July Edition**

Contact PDG Dan Uitti

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