

Oct/Nov
2008

2008-09 Holds Bright Future For NMLOKS

The NM Lions Operation KidSight (NMLOKS) Program achieved much during the 2007-08 year. As of September 2007, three NM Lions Clubs were screening children with almost 4000 children being screened during the year. As of September 2008, we have over 21 clubs involved with NMLOKS with more coming on board as we speak. Since 1 July 2008, NM Lions have already screened more kids than we did all of last year. The NMLOKS Executive Committee is represented (Lion Bill Waugh) on the NM Department of Health Advisory Committee which has been tasked to develop an implementation plan of how pre-K, K, 1st grade, and 3rd grade children will be annually screened as directed by Senate Bill 1149 which was passed January 2008. Once the plan is formalized, we will know how the NMLOKS program will fit into the state plan of annually screening children.



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Greater Las Vegas Lions Join Operation KidSight

The Greater LV Lions Club initiative to join the NM Lions KidSight Vision Screening Program received a major gift of \$2500 from the Alta Vista Regional Hospital in Las Vegas. The hospital's gift was presented October 8 by CEO Richard Grogan to Lion President Carlos Lopez. The gift, joined with funds raised internally by the club, will allow the Greater Las Vegas Lions to purchase the \$8000 iScreen camera and begin Phase 1 of the program. The Lions continue to seek funding for Phase 2 which is for follow-up assistance for referred children (i.e., those children with a vision problem as indicated by the screening) not covered by insurance. This assistance can include eye exams, glasses, and even surgery.

The Greater Las Vegas Lions Club's immediate goal is to train members and other community volunteers to use the iScreen camera in classroom space offered by Alta Vista. Then the Lions will introduce the service to Head Start and school administrators and nurses so that screenings in Pre-K-3 may begin in early 2009 and Head Start units in the Fall of 2009. The Club intends to eventually serve Head Start units in San Miguel, Mora, Harding, and Guadalupe Counties and further if possible.

"We are pleased to assist the Greater Las Vegas Lions Club with the *KidSight Vision Screening Program*," says Richard Grogan, Alta Vista Regional Hospital CEO. We remain committed in supporting important programs that have an

immense impact on the communities we serve. This is one of many ways we can give back to the community.

"We are very gratified by Alta Vista's belief in and significant assistance to the KidSight Program in our region," said Club President Carlos Lopez. This KidSight gift is one of the largest received by any of New Mexico's Lions Clubs participating in the program.



Richard Grogan, Alta Vista Regional Hospital CEO (left), presents a check for \$2500 to Carlos Lopez, Greater L.V. Lions Club President (right), to assist the club in purchasing an iScreen camera. The local Lions Club is participating in the NM Lions KidSight program designed to detect vision defects in children ages 3-6. Alta Vista's gift is one of the largest received by any of New Mexico's Lions Clubs for this project.



NMLOKS

Health Considerations During Screening

Head lice are small parasitic insects that are about the size of a sesame seed and live on the human scalp. They are brownish, tan or gray in color and move by crawling.

Lice do not jump or fly, and do not transmit diseases. They feed on human blood and without it they can't survive. Head lice can only live on human scalps. Lice are not known to cause disease. Lice infestations are not due to poor hygiene. Lice live on people's scalps, not on animals.

Lice do not travel great distances on their own. In fact, they can only survive away from a human host for 48 hours. They crawl from one person to another and are spread by direct hair-to-hair contact. Other means of spreading is from the sharing of combs, hats, helmets, scarves, headphones, pillows or other personal items, and by handling consecutive children's heads as we do during an eye screening session.

It is imperative that Lions observe a strict mode of operation to ensure we do not inadvertently spread head lice from one child to another. To achieve this goal, the Lion handling the child's head should use a fresh pair of latex gloves for each child (preferred method) or wash their hands with an antiseptic gel after screening each child. Also the headrest should be washed off with an antiseptic cloth between each child. Note that this preventative operation may also deter germs from being passed from child to child and maybe, child to Lion.

The ultimate preventative method that will be used by Lions will be decided by the NMDOH Advisory Committee that is currently formulating a state children screening program. Until that time, it is advised Lions use the preferred method.



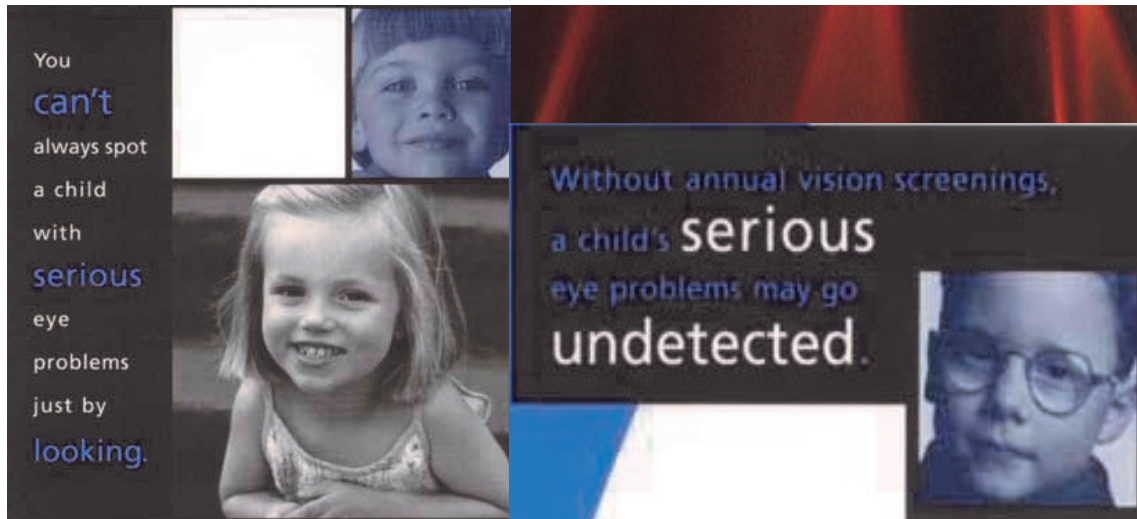
Head Lice

CLUB NEWS

Santa Fe & Los Alamos Lions Initiate KidSight Program

In August 2008, the Santa Fe Capital City, Santa Fe Host, and Los Alamos Lions Clubs decided to jointly purchase an iScreen camera. On 7 September 2008, a "Camera Box Opening" party was held in Santa Fe. Almost 50 Lions from Albuquerque, Corrales, Las Vegas, Espanola, Santa Fe, and Los Alamos attended. Part of the festivities included a training session conducted by the Taos Lions. Pictures provided by Lion Rose Himrod.





NMLOKS Notes

Liability Insurance. Lions Clubs International (LCI) has reported back that the NMLOKS program is covered with respect to liability by the “umbrella” insurance policy provided to all Lions Clubs. However, if a liability issue occurs that involves a doctor who is assisting/ conducting eye screenings with the Lions, that doctor (unless he/she is a Lion) will not be covered by the LCI policy but rather by his/her own insurance.

Importance of Early Treatment. Early treatment of amblyopia is usually simple, employing glasses, drops, vision therapy, and/ or eye patching. While detection and correction before the age of two is considered to offer the best outcomes, recent scientific research has disproven the long held belief that children over seven years old cannot be successfully treated. In conclusion, improvements are possible at any age, but early detection and treatment of amblyopia offer the best outcome. *If not detected and treated early in life, amblyopia can cause a permanent loss of vision with associated loss of stereopsis (two eyed depth perception).* Vision screenings such as those conducted by the Lions are needed for all young children. The 20/20 eye chart or acuity screening is not adequate. Note that amblyopia causes more visual loss in the under 40 group than all the injuries and diseases combined in this age group.

NM Lions Operation KidSight Continues To Grow

Pictured are District 40-N VDG Miriam Stucker, of the Albuquerque NE Lions Club and Bryson McCool, NM Operation Kidsight Executive Committee, who are discussing techniques for adjusting young children's head position during eye screening operations.

Their discussion followed a demonstration of the IScreeni Camera System in Albuquerque. Lions Clubs in the Albuquerque and Rio Rancho area have donated \$5,000 of matching funds from the NM Optometric Association's grant for the purchase of a screening system.

The participating clubs will schedule screenings through a central committee comprised of participating club presidents. The Albuquerque operation is scheduled for initial screening of Head Start children starting in October 2008 and joins Santa Fe area Lions and Taos Lions in the District in this vital Lions role to assist the State's youth.

Lions requesting additional information on the Albuquerque screenings should contact one of the following Lions: Glenn Young (planedriver1@msn.com), Shelly Smith (505-453-2159 or shellysmith@hotmail.com) or PDG Bill Davis (505-9221718).



NMLOKS NEWS UPDATE

□ After Head Start screenings in Deming, Columbus, and Lordsburg assisted by the Alamogordo Breakfast Lions and their camera, the Deming Lions Club are in the process of raising funds to purchase an iScreen camera system to screen the Deming, Animas, and Lordsburg School Districts. PDG LeRoy Rapp of the Deming Lions is directing the effort.

□ Three of the four Roswell Lions Clubs received an NMLOKS presentation on 4 November 2008. They are in the process of scheduling Head Start screenings in Roswell. The Ruidoso Noon Lions will use their camera and assist the Roswell Lions in conducting the screenings.

□ When dealing with school or Head Start nurses and administrators, Lions must stress that the screening done by NMLOKS is primarily to detect possible vision disorders that can cause amblyopia and are only part of the comprehensive screening regimen that every young child should be receiving on an annual basis if a complete exam is not performed by an eye professional. Examples of other types screening the child should be receiving annually are for acuity, color blindness, and depth perception.

□ Lion Bill Waugh, Co-Chair of the NMLOKS Executive Committee, applied for a CONALMA grant a couple months ago. It was just announced that a grant of \$25,000 has been approved and will be formally announced on 14 November 2008.

Primary Goal of NMLOKS. At a minimum, the primary goal of NM Lions Operation KidSight is to ensure that every Pre-K and K child (3 -5 year old) is screened annually. Children younger and older than this age range can be screened if a club has the equipment, financial, and personnel resources to do so. NMLOKS will also assist needy parents to fund their child's eye exam and treatment if there is no other source (e.g., Medicaid, state children's financial assistance program, etc.).





NM Lions Operation Kid Sight Reaches T or C

The T or C, Elephant Butte, and Alamogordo Breakfast Lions conducted an eye screening at the T or C Head Start on 24 September 2008. Lions from the three clubs were there to lend a helping hand with the screening of 18 youngsters. Pictured (L-R) are Alamogordo Breakfast Lions Chuck Galusha, Georgia Qualls, and Jeanette Lang; Elephant Butte Host Lion Ruth Gange; T or C Lion Bettie Brannon; Head Start Center Director Diane Terrazas and parent-volunteer Gloria Ontiveros. Seated and surrounded by little tykes is T or C Lion PDG Jim Brannon. There has been a lot of positive feed-back in the community regarding NM Lions Operation Kid Sight.



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NMLOKS

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