



2007-08 A Busy Time For NMLOKS

The NM Lions Operation Kid-Sight (NMLOKS) Program has come a long way since August 2007. At that time, there were only three Lions Clubs in NM (i.e., Alamogordo Breakfast, Carlsbad Downtown, and Ruidoso Noon) which had a children's screening program active in their communities. Lions Chuck Galusha and Bryson McCool, chairs of their respective Clubs' Screening Committees, decided to see if other NM Lions Clubs would be interested in adopting the program. Lion Miriam Stucker set up a KidSight presentation to the YDI Head Start in Albuquerque in August 2007. At that time, three screenings were scheduled for Espanola, Las Vegas, and Taos. The Clubs in those communities were notified and members from each participated in the screenings. Numerous demonstrations/screenings have occurred in various locations in NM to inform Lions about this important and exciting program. Lions Clubs who have adopted the program are noticing a positive impact on membership growth as well as member retention due to the publicity from Operation KidSight. Thus it is a win-win deal for NM Lions.

NMLOKS Collaborates With NM DOH

On 24 June 2008, Dr. Andrea Bethal, an optometric physician and Lion, and members of the NMLOKS Executive Committee met with Dr. Alfredo Vigil, Cabinet Secretary, NM Department of Health, and his staff regarding NMLOKS participation as a member of the Advisory Committee pursuant to SB 1149 which calls for the requirement that all Pre-K, K, 1st and 3rd grade children be annually screened.

The acceptance of NMLOKS as member of the Advisory Committee, as well as the support of our legislators, will be a major asset to NMLOKS with respect to serving the children of NM communities and possibly to have future state funds available for screening costs and treatment costs for needy children to help relieve the financial burden on NM Lions Clubs. Dr. Vigil has approved NMLOKS to have representation on the Advisory Committee.

NMLOKS Executive Committee Co-Chairs Chuck Galusha and Bill Waugh attended the first meeting of the Advisory Committee on 2 July 2008.

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Pictured: (L-R back row) Dr. Jack Callaghan, Director Public Health Division; Dr. Alfredo Vigil, Director, New Mexico Department of Health; Dave Miller (Taos Lions Club); PDG and President of the NM Lions Eye Foundation, Lion Tom Himrod; (L-R front row) Lions Bill Waugh (Taos Lions Club) and Chuck Galusha (Alamogordo Breakfast Lions Club), Co-Chairs of NMLOKS Executive Committee; Dr. Andrea E. Bethel Optometric Physician, Medical Director NMLOKS Bernalillo County and a charter member of the soon to be Albuquerque Uptown Lions Club; and Lion Bryson McCool, Secretary/Treasurer NMLOKS Executive Committee. Also in attendance but not pictured were Dr. Mary Ramos, MD, MPH, NMDOH Office of School and Adolescent Health; Lynn Christian, Children's Medical Services; and Jeanette Lang (Alamogordo Breakfast Lions Club).



NMLOKS

Vision Disorders Resulting in Referrals



Normal Reflex



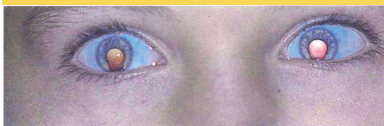
Anisometropia - unequal refraction



Anisocoria - unequal pupil size



Cataract



Coloboma



Hyperopia - Farsightedness



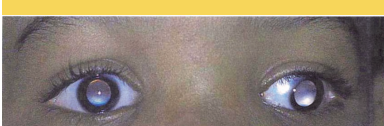
Myopia - Nearsightedness



Ptosis - Drooping Eyelid



Strabismus - Esotropia OD



Strabismus - Exotropia OS



Alamogordo Breakfast Lions

Operation KidSight Program is not designed to replace any existing eye screening now in place.....

The mother of four-year-old Randy thought he was just a klutz. While happy and active, he couldn't seem to run a straight line, he tripped over toys, and he often didn't seem quite aware of what was going on around him. As it turns out, Randy has severe vision problems and can barely see out of one eye. "There goes my mother of the year award," says Randy's mom. She can't be blamed too harshly for not recognizing Randy's vision problems sooner as he had actually been tested by the schools and had passed. Another screening, however, conducted by the Alamogordo Breakfast Lions "Operation KidSight" Program uncovered the problems that led to Randy's new glasses – and new found coordination. "He is a different kid," says his mother. "He has always been a bright child and now he is able to see and take in things that we didn't realize he was missing before."

Randy is playing soccer now and if he still runs the wrong way sometimes, it has nothing to do with his vision. "He's still a goofball," Mom says.

In 2002, the Alamogordo Breakfast Lions took over the responsibility of implementing and operating the "Operation KidSight" program locally. Since then, over 4,000 area children have been screened for vision problems completely free of charge.

A challenge with screening small children is their inability to give accurate feedback, particularly when they are not yet verbal. The Breakfast Lions (and other clubs in NM) use a new state of the art digital imaging camera to check for many common and potentially serious vision problems. The child merely needs to look straight ahead long enough for the picture to be snapped and computers do the rest.

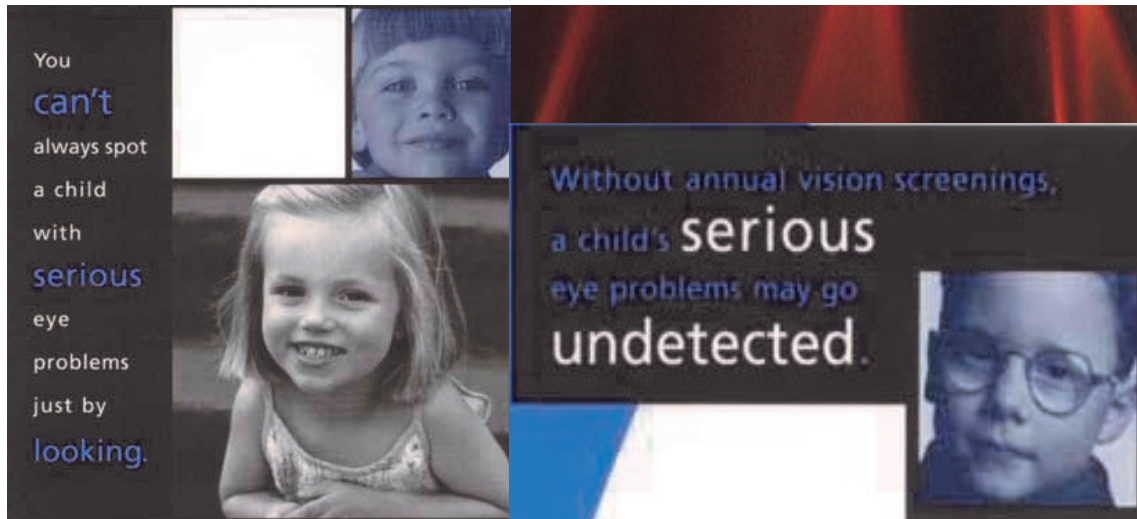
While thousands of children have had their vision screened through area schools, daycare centers, and Head Start, there are just as many children who do not attend any of these programs.

The Operation KidSight Program is not designed to replace any existing eye screening now in place. This process is a preliminary procedure only and does not constitute a diag-

nosis of, or absence of, vision problems. It is a recommendation that further evaluation and testing be done by an optometrist or ophthalmologist if the screening deems it necessary. Interpretation of the digital images may not identify all eye or vision problems. In the US, on the average, 1 child in 20 is afflicted with a serious eye disorder, but only one in four has their vision checked before the age of five. The Alamogordo Breakfast Lions join the American Academy of Ophthalmology in recommending vision screening at the age of 6 months, 3 ½ years, and five years of age.

"Operation KidSight" is budgeted as a separate entity within the Breakfast Lions Club. Its operation is supported by funds from Breakfast Lions' fundraisers, donations, and grants specifically for the program. You do not have to be a Lions Club member to assist with "Operation KidSight" screenings as members of the community are encouraged to participate.

For further information about "Operation KidSight" contact Lion Chuck Galusha at 575-434-6296.



NMDOH Advisory Committee Meeting Observations

Observations that came out of the meeting on 2 July 2008 are as follows: This opportunity will generate some changes in our scope and procedures as follows:

SCOPE OF SERVICE

Population Served – SB 1149 calls for screening for Pre K, K, 1st & 3rd grades. This will extend the age limit to 8 years. This will require coordination with elementary school management and staff in addition to that for Head Start and Pre-K/K .

Follow up – The emphasis of the legislation and NMDOH is to get glasses on faces. This will require follow up of referrals by either school personnel and/or Lions.

PROCEDURES

“Clustering” of screening sites – As the number of kids to be screened grows, combining small schools within reasonable distances may have to be considered. Screening of kids other than those in Head Start and public schools may have to be done at special “Saturday” sessions.

Introduction to school management – In some past instances, NMLOKS screening has been resisted by school. Schools using NMLOKS have found; 1) nurse time becomes more efficient/effective because of the screening capability of NMLOKS; and 2) Mass screening by class (at a maximum rate of one minute per student) results in less time being lost from instruction.

Parental Consent - Opt out vs. opt in; the legislation infers that all students will be screened unless parents opt out. Secretary Vigil has some reservations about initially using the “opt out” approach. Until these are resolved, we should continue using our “opt in” procedure requiring parental consent forms to be signed. The NMLOKS parental consent forms need to be modified to insert the student’s grade, which will be a screening input item to be collected.

Follow Up – Can be separated into two stages: 1) The parental referral notice will be mailed directly by Lions to the parents (this reduces delay and assures receipt by parents). The list of referrals is given to the school/Head Start administration & nurse. 2) After 30 days, a call to the parents of a referred child to determine exam activity and result and any indication of financial need.

NMLOKS Executive Committee

NM Lions In Action



LEFT. Santa Fe Capital City Lions DG 40N Tom Himrod and Jan McClanahan operating the camera during a Head Start screening in Santa Fe.

RIGHT. A welcome sign at the Chimayo Head Start that greeted Lions who conducted the screenings there



LEFT. (L-R) Ruidoso Noon Lion Bill Allen teaches Capitan Lion Ed Sanchez how to operate the camera.

RIGHT. Ruidoso Noon Lion Bryson McCool (Center) adjusts a child's head while Capitan Lions Ed Sanchez and Marcia Guynes screen the child.



NMLOKS NEWS UPDATE

□ The Carlsbad Downtown and Artesia Downtown Lions Club have collectively purchased an iScreen camera system. Members from the two Clubs were trained on 26 July 2008 by Lions Chuck Galusha and Bryson McCool. They will begin their screening programs in August 2008.

□ The Portales Lions Club have purchased their camera and have been trained by the Taos Lions.

□ The Santa Fe Capital City, Santa Fe Host, and Los Alamos Lions have collectively raised the funds to buy an iScreen camera system.

□ Lion Bryson McCool made a presentation on 18 July 2008 to the Albuquerque Rio Grande Lions on the NM Lions Operation KidSight. Afterwards, Club members voted to support the Program.

□ The Lions Clubs of Albuquerque recently received a matching funds grant from the American Optometric Association. Lion Dr. Andrea Bethal was instrumental in securing this grant. The Council of Albuquerque Lions Clubs, headed up by PDG Bill Davis, is now in the process of canvassing Clubs to raise the other \$5,000 to buy an iScreen Camera system.

□ Almost 4,500 NM children have been screened by NM Lions from September 2007 to June 2008. Clubs participating in the screenings were: Taos, Santa Fe Capital City, Carlsbad Downtown, Alamogordo Breakfast, Ruidoso Noon, Albuquerque Alameda, Albuquerque West Mesa, Greater Las Vegas, Espanola Valley, La Mesa, Las Cruces, Silver City, and Capitan Smokey Bear



Tennessee Lions Screening Program

Their weapon of choice is the PhotoScreener, their territory is Tennessee and beyond, their targeted beneficiaries are children younger than six and their enemy is "lazy eye," a rather benign description for a disorder that is a leading cause of blindness.

The Tennessee Lions Eye Center at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital has screened 82,203 children for amblyopia (lazy eye) and vision problems since 1997. The battle has produced significant results. The screenings have uncovered 1,980 children with amblyogenic factors, which, if not treated before kindergarten, can be very difficult or impossible to treat. In fact, amblyopia the leading cause of blindness in one eye in people younger than 20.

The screening is necessary because parents often have no clue their child is at risk. Rachel Stanton, 2, was recently screened by the Tennessee Lions Eye Center Outreach Program at her daycare center. The screening showed that her one eye wasn't seeing as well as the other, putting her at risk for amblyopia. "I'd never have known something was wrong," Michelle Stanton, her mother, told the Tennessean newspaper in Nashville.

The Tennessee Lions are proud of their program and persistent in making sure parents understand the screening results. Kim Eubank's son failed his eye screening. "The Lions Eye Center contacted me at work and urged me to bring my son in for further screening. I kind of blew it off at first," she recalled. But the urgency of the phone call convinced her to return. "He had only 5 percent vision in his right eye," she said. "If I had waited until he was older he would have been legally blind in his right eye. Because of the early detection his condition is correctable."

NMLOKS Times Issue 01 Aug/Sep 2008



NMLOKS

Executive Committee

Bill Waugh, Co-Chair
Chuck Galusha, Co-Chair
Bryson McCool, Sec./Treas.
311 E. Redwood
Ruidoso, NM 88345
555.257.0363 ph
www.nmlions.org