

Vision Statement

The Vision of the Lions of Illinois Foundation is to create a permanent vehicle for the delivery of programs and services to people with vision and hearing needs.

Mission Statement

The Lions of Illinois Foundation exists to assist in the general improvement of the quality of life of those in Illinois having unmet needs. It is the specific mission of the Foundation to provide quality programs and services to the people of Illinois for the detection, treatment, and rehabilitation of visual and hearing impairments. The Foundation, solely, or in conjunction with the Lions/Lioness Clubs, Foundations, and other organizations, shall provide its assistance through grant processes or delivered through direct or indirect programs and services.

Monetary Support

The Lions of Illinois Foundation is funded mainly by club contributions from Candy Day, Sight and Sound Sweepstakes, Tootsie Pop Day, Gift Card Campaign, Annual Gala, Car Show and BBQ.

The Foundation led the campaign to raise \$5 million to finance construction of the Lions of Illinois Eye Research Institute (L.I.E.R.I.) in Chicago, as well as the campaign to raise \$1.1 million to finance the Charles I. Young Professional Chair.

Why the Lions Help

The Lions of Illinois Foundation is a nonprofit organization with members throughout the state of Illinois. Since 1925, the Lions have taken the challenge given to them by Helen Keller. Addressing the Lions at their convention she urged them to become:

“Knights of the Blind in the Crusade Against Blindness.”



Scan here to learn more about LIF.

Lions of Illinois Foundation

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#SLV-01



Lions of Illinois Foundation

Serving People with Vision and Hearing Needs Since 1974.

Low Vision Programs for Students



“EL-Vee” our Low Vision Mascot

“Seeing Is Believing”

A statewide low vision evaluation program for youth

What is the “Seeing Is Believing” Program?

The “Seeing Is Believing” program is designed to help severely visually impaired youth make the most of their remaining sight. The Lions of Illinois Foundation partners with Spectrios Institute for Low Vision, the Illinois College of Optometry, and the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind to provide a FREE comprehensive visual evaluation to Illinois students in grades K-12. Referrals of students are made by special education staff employed by the Illinois Board of Education.



Low vision optometrists travel to the screening location, bringing equipment for examinations & demonstrations of low vision devices such as magnifiers and telescopes. The prescribed lenses are sent to the Vision Coordinators of the school districts, who then distribute the devices and provide the youth with user instructions.

Other components of the program include:

- Referring parents to vocational counseling
- Braille reading instruction
- Orientation and mobility training for child
- Adaptive technology training

What is the benefit of the program to my child?

Students from Kindergarten through twelfth grade gain a better understanding and awareness of their vision loss. They learn to maximize their remaining sight with prescribed optical devices which make print information more accessible. All diagnostic services, glasses, and devices are provided free to eligible students by the Lions of Illinois Foundation.



Student evaluations are performed by the personnel at Spectrios Institute for Low Vision, at the Jacksonville Semi-Annual Low Vision Clinic, and through the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind.

The program furthers a visually impaired youth’s ability to increase their academic potential, enrich their social skills, and future employment opportunities. In addition helping to address their daily challenges growing up with vision loss.

How much does the program cost?

The “Seeing Is Believing” Program costs the Lions of Illinois Foundation \$290 per student. The actual cost for the exam and prescribed optical tools & devices, including telescopic eyeglasses, is \$1,000. All services & prescribed devices are FREE of charge to the screened students. The goal of our Low Vision program is to protect our youth from blindness.

In 1991, Lions made a pledge to the children of Illinois.

We believe that no child needs to face blindness as their future. Please help us to preserve that pledge with your donation.

Please return and make checks payable to Lions of Illinois Foundation.

Club Name _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

_____ Student(s) at a cost of \$290 each

Amount of donation \$ _____

If you would like to place a birdies guess, please fill in your number here:
