

IDAHO / E. OREGON LIONS SIGHT AND HEARING FOUNDATION

The Idaho / E. Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation (S&H Foundation) and its many sight and hearing conservation programs, as outlined below, is operated completely by donations from corporations and individuals like your self. All of the Lions Clubs in Multiple District 39 (southern Idaho) support the S&H Foundation through local fundraisers and through a golf tournament in Jackpot, Nevada. This past year's tournament (Hit the Jackpot 9), our ninth year, was held September 9 – 11 which raised \$14,500. We hope you review the information below and provide any assistance to help us in achieving our public service goals.

IDAHO LIONS EYE BANK

After many years of great sponsorship and support from Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center for the S&H Foundation and its Idaho Lions Eye Bank, St. Al's and the S&H Foundation have mutually separated operations and support of the Eye Bank from St. Al's. The Idaho Lions Eye Bank is transitioning from its current location near St. Al's to a new Boise location with the transition complete with no interruptions in Eye Bank services by February 2006.

The S&H Foundation is in the process of leasing with an option to buy the new location for the Eye Bank. The new location will cost approximately \$175,000. In addition the new location will require upgrades to its water system, remodeling for the Eye Bank's offices and laboratory spaces and adding in an emergency power source for its Tissue repository that will cost approximately \$20,000. In addition, the Eye Bank will need to purchase new equipment to replace older equipment that St. Al's loaned to the Eye Bank for a cost of approximately \$10,000.

The Eye Bank provides the gift of Sight for those in need. The purpose of the Eye Bank is to obtain, medically evaluate, and process eye tissue for transplantation services, mostly Cornea transplants. The Idaho Lions Eye Bank is highly rated by the Eye Bank Association of America. Before the Eye Bank, the demand for donor corneal tissue was far outpacing the supply. The Eye Bank success has been phenomenal, reducing transplant waiting time by 75% in the state of Idaho.

The Eye Bank receives its corneas and eye tissues for its sight saving and preservation work through volunteers who sign organ donation cards. You can help by signing an Organ Donor Card and by encouraging others to do the same. Talk to your family about donation, and give the gift of sight at the following web address:

<http://www.yesidaho.org/>

The Idaho Lions Eye Bank continues to grow, doubling the amount of donors and quadrupling the amount of transplants for local patients. The eye tissue is harvested and is transported to Boise using volunteers (local Lions Clubs and Horizon Air). The Eye Bank is in the process of expanding its service area with an increase from 260 to 350 eye donations per year.

MOBILE SCREENING UNIT

The S&H Foundation operates a Mobile Screening Unit (MSU) that provides sight, hearing and health care services to rural communities, and businesses. The MSU is operated at local, county, and state fairs to provide health screenings and information to the general public. The MSU offers health screenings for visual acuity, Glaucoma, blood pressure, hearing, and Diabetes and is operated by Lions Club volunteers. The cost to maintain the MSU is approximately \$10,000 per year plus the cost to transport the MSU to eye, hearing and health screening locations.

EYE GLASS AND HEARING AID RECYCLING

Local Lions Clubs collect over 10,000 pairs of donated eyeglasses for recycling every year. Recently the S&H Foundation started a Lions Hearing Aid Loaner Bank at the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind in Gooding. Hearing aids are collected for the Loaner Bank. This gives the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind a supply of hearing aids to replace lost or broken hearing aids on a temporary basis until a replacement can be acquired. To contribute eyeglasses or hearing aids for these efforts, please contact the S&H Foundation or your local Lions Club.

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The S&H Foundation currently provides \$100K in assistance annually to individuals in need that can not afford sight and hearing conservation, rehabilitation and restoration services. The Personal Assistance Program also negotiates with health service providers for individuals for their health services. In addition, local Lions Clubs provide personal assistance to individuals for eyeglasses, hearing aids and operations.

SIGHT SCREENING EQUIPMENT FOR LOCAL LIONS CLUBS

The S&H Foundation provides sight-screening equipment to local Lions Clubs for use in our local schools. The local Lions Clubs currently screen approximately 30,000 elementary age students every year in our local schools. Those families that are not financially able to afford eyeglasses, the local Lions Clubs provide the needed eyeglasses. The manual sight screening equipment currently runs approximately \$2,000 per unit. The S&H Foundation is looking into upgrading to computerized sight screening equipment to better serve the communities and provide for a more accurate sight screening to be used in our Mobile Screening Unit. The new computerized sight screening equipment cost \$15,000 per unit with 2 needed for the MSU.

PEDIATRIC DIGITAL RETINA CAMERA

The S&H Foundation teamed up with Saint Luke's Hospital in Boise to provide a Pediatric Digital Retina Camera (RETCAM II) that is very effective in finding sight problems and preventing blindness in pre mature babies and young children. In addition, the RETCAM II provides the most effective method of determining shaking baby syndrome for law enforcement that is defensible in a court of law. The S&H Foundation is in the beginning stages of working with hospitals and doctors in Eastern Idaho to purchase and provide a RETCAM II for use in that part of the state. The cost of a RETCAM II is approximately \$90,000.