



**Lions Clubs International**



The Lions KidSight USA Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) organization that develops, trains, and promotes a Vision Screening program for children from 6 months old to 6 years old to find children who are at risk for Amblyopia and other vision issues. We also screen children in schools to 12th grade.

### **Brief history of the Lions KidSight USA Foundation**

It was established by the Service Activities Committee of the LCI Board of Directors in 2014 at the request and under the direction of International President Joe Preston. The Lions KidSight USA Committee was formed in response to a questionnaire sent to hundreds of Lions in various states in the US, and at all levels of membership, that asked what were the most important areas of Lions service. The answer: vision and children's needs. Hence, a national program to screen children for visual defects that could lead to amblyopia or the need for eyeglasses to enhance learning in school and spark membership through service. After consulting with eye care professionals, both on the Board and in leading centers in the US, the KidSight program was inaugurated. The Founders Committee consisted of PID Lion Dr. Ed Cordes, Chair, PID Lion Dr. Hauser Weiler, Vice Chair, IP Joe Preston, PIP Al Brandel, PIP Wayne Madden, VP Bob Corlew, PID Ed McCormick, PCC Tom Cummings, PDG Dan Uitti, Lions from Lions sight foundations in Colorado, Iowa, Tennessee and Indiana and manufacturer's representatives from PediaVision SPOT [now Welch Allyn] and Plusoptics USA. Also, in an advisory capacity, were Peter Lynch [LCI Global Strategy], Rebecca Daou [LCIF Executive Administrator], Amy Peña [LCI Legal] and Chris Bunch [LCI PR]. It was charged with developing a program for the US Lions which, using the latest digital screening devices, would enable any Lion to screen children from 6 months to 6 years of age for visual defects that, if undetected prior to 6 years of age, would hinder them in school or lead to amblyopia. LCIF provided a \$10,000 startup grant to facilitate the program's development.

As the committee developed its program, the consensus was that Lions needed to follow-up on those who were referred to make certain that the child was seen by an eye care provider. Why screen if we were not going to complete the job? It was determined that we needed a data collection system to record the work Lions were doing and the impact that screening was having. The only way to quantify was through a data entry and retrieval system, HIPAA compliant, and anonymous. Such a system that could accommodate data from all the Lions Clubs in the US was beyond what our Committee or the resources at LCI could develop, so we turned to CloudScaper, a well-known national IT Company. Using an LCIF grant of \$70,000, the Lions KidSight USA Committee, has been able to develop,

implement and maintain our system. 14 Multiple Districts were implemented as Beta test sites for the system – MD24 was one – where the bugs were worked out.

Lions KidSight USA evolved into a Lions 501 (c) (3) Foundation and is a national Lions organization under which Lions Districts can manage their own childhood vision screening programs. It has a Board of Directors made up of Optometrists, Ophthalmologists, Multiple District Lions Eye Foundation directors, Screening program leaders and experienced vision screeners as well as representatives from the leading corporations manufacturing eye screening devices. Lions KidSight USA has developed a Training Manual for vision screeners and a free certification examination for Lions Vision Screeners. When passed, the Lion gets a certificate good for 5 years before requiring renewal. The Foundation maintains a web site – [www.LionsKidSightUSA.org](http://www.LionsKidSightUSA.org) – on which can be found the Training Manual, Certification Test, a newsletter, the data entry system, various screening and permission forms and other items of interest to Lions and clubs performing childhood vision screenings.

The Lions KidSight USA Foundation exists for Lions. It is there to provide support for childhood vision screening and to help Lions conquer the ever-changing landscape. We urge Lions to always check with the local school board or school authority to determine what is needed to screen in their local schools and they can then turn to the Foundation for support. Your school board has the final word.