



Steve McLaurin
NCLF President 2023-2024

A Mission to Care, Support and Help Our North Carolina Citizens

The North Carolina Lions Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established in 1934. As the official charitable organization for the Lions of North Carolina and working closely with community based North Carolina Lions Clubs, we collectively enrich the lives of those blind and visually impaired, offer needed services for those less fortunate in each community and a hallmark of continuous support of research for health related issues concerning vision and overall wellness of all our citizens.

Letter from the President

Happy Holidays! Just one day after I returned from the weekend attending the quarterly meeting for the North Carolina Lions Foundation and attending the Lions State Council Meeting, I am profoundly proud to be a Lion. There were other meetings Saturday afternoon also; I am compelled to inform you I am energized by spending time with all the Lions attending. The District Governors and the NCLF Committee Chairs filled me with pride in how their efforts and the service fulfilled by Lions Clubs around the State are bringing service to those less fortunate.

We are just mid-way into the Second Quarter of the year, and there remains work to be done; but the strides in service are profound! Keep up the pace and we can set records in providing service and spreading the word of our Motto—WE SERVE.

District 31-L in the Western Part of our State hosted their Mid-Winter Convention in Asheville November 17 and 18. I learned more about the successful service these Lions have completed even since this week's reports. We have screened over 29,000 children since July 1, 2023, Wow. District 31- L leads the State in the screening program. With their efforts and the other four Districts keeping pace, we should reach 75,000 or more children screening before the Lions Year concludes June 30, 2024. All Clubs should remain aware there is a KidSight Vehicle in your District ready to respond to your call to Bryan Hoover at the NCLF Office with each vehicle possessing three machines. Equally important to making the call and completing the service, it is vital a report specifying the school receiving service, the number of kids screened, and the number of kids referred is made to Bryan Hoover with the email copies to the KidSight Co- Chairs – Curtis Erikson and Lorraine Dupree. The KidSight program is powerful in showing how we can make a difference in service AND as a recruiting tool in bringing more members when the parents learn what we do in our service efforts.

Please keep in mind the Concerts we are planning this coming Spring. We will need your participation and your promotional efforts by informing families about these family-friendly events. These concerts are intended to provide funds to expand what we do for Brighter Visions and for Clinical Eye Research. A donation required of just \$20 or more per person, if you like also allows children under 12 at no charge. The first Concert will be in Wendell near Raleigh April 13th with the Wendell Lions Club Hosting the event. You will hear more about these Concerts and our efforts to spread the word about the Mission of Lions! Stay tuned.

IT'S GREAT TO BE A LION!!!

Your NCLF President 2023-2024,
Steve McLaurin





Our Impact in NC Continues to Shine With Smiles From Those Who Need Us Most

From Executive Director Carlton Metts



We are now heading in the sixth month of the year and the Brighter Visions goals are on target. Good job to all Districts with Districts 31-I and 31-N leading the way. Don't forget contacting your District Brighter Vision Chairs for programs. Invite these chairs so your clubs can learn all about the foundation's programs and services: Woolard Partner in Service, Sid L. Scruggs Beacon of Hope, Jack Stickley Fellowships, NC Lions Ambassadors and Sight and Hearing.

I am very proud of the efforts of our KidSight Drivers for their dedication to this program. We have completed the sale of the Transit Van and the purchase of the addition of the sixth 2022 Chevrolet Equinox. We are waiting for wrapping but it is

currently being used. This unit is garaged at Camp Dogwood for our State Coordinator's use in all areas, plus is available to all surrounding clubs in both Districts 31-L and 31-I. It is available for use in other areas when needed. The cost was reduced to \$75 per screening thanks to a couple of grants. Thank you, Raleigh Host Lions Foundation and North State Bank of Raleigh for your interest in our Kids. To be a qualified driver please contact Bryan Hoover. Thank you, drivers and club screeners.

Congratulations to the Etowah Lions Club and Diane Buchanan for winning the first two \$200 gift cards from District 31-L Camp Dogwood Raffle Drawing. Don't forget the raffle is used only for the maintenance of facilities. Contact your District Camp Dogwood Chairs for programs.

We are surveying the possibility of using the four Duplexes for Airbnb's when not in use. We could possibly get approximately 8-9 months rental annually out of these that could help stabilize our facility maintenance budget. It could add \$75K-\$80K plus to our maintenance income. Reminder, they will not be available during Lions events. Right now, the duplex's need a little updating to get ready.

A couple of little housekeeping items... When mailing checks and envelopes please use PO Box 39, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673, and when mailing boxes send to 7062 Camp Dogwood Drive, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673. *The Post Office will deliver boxes to this address only- 7062 Camp Dogwood Drive, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673.*

Thank you North Carolina Lions for all you do!
Carlton

Brighter Visions Totals, 11/30/23	
31-L	\$31,361.00
31-I	\$84,102.00
31-0	\$46,690.00
31.N	\$48,687.00
31-S	\$36,373.00
State	\$250,559.00
40% YTD	

Camp Dogwood Raffle Totals, 11/30/23	
31-L	\$6,040.00
31-I	\$230.00
31-0	\$1,952.00
31.N	\$840.00
31-S	\$6,523.00
State	\$15,385.00
13.7% YTD	

In The News... North Carolina Lions Camp Dogwood

As we move into the month of December the nights are getting longer and the weather is getting colder; but the days around Camp Dogwood are starting to heat up. We just completed our first Christmas Bazaar since Covid. We hosted 52 vendors from across the area on December 2nd and it was a complete success. The event was attended by approximately 500 customers purchasing food and crafts. Guests traveled from as far as Winston Salem to shop.



We hope to make this at least an annual event to build on every year.

The Camp Staff at Camp Dogwood would like to thank each and every Lion from across the state for all the support you have given us this year. We can't wait to see many of you at the upcoming mid-winter conventions in January. Remember to SELL, SELL, SELL those Camp Dogwood Raffle Tickets and bring them to turn in at each convention.

The Camp Dogwood Staff would like to wish each and every one Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Just a reminder the Camp Offices will be closed from 5pm on December 22nd until 8:30 am on January 2nd, 2024.

With a passion to serve,

Tammy Thomas, Camp Director



Community Eye Screening For Children

Facts

80% of Learning is Visual

Vision Problems Undetected by the Age of 7 Can Become Permanent

Screening Children 6 months to 7 Years of Age Provides Early Detection

A Special Report

Miracles In Sight

NCLF State Chairs
Sight & Hearing Conservation, Paulette Gasperson
Clinical Eye Research, Joe Poirier

Our Process

Our work begins when a donor family chooses to give the precious gift of sight.

Donor referral is received — After someone passes away, hospitals, hospices, EMS, and funeral homes notify Miracles In Sight (MIS) of the death. An MIS Donor Coordinator contacts the next-of-kin to discuss a donation and obtain a medical and social history.

Recovery and evaluation of the donated tissue — If tissue is suitable for transplant and research, MIS's trained Surgical Recovery Specialists recover ocular tissue. A team of Eye Bank Technicians will then evaluate the tissue for transplant, research, and education.

Cornea request received and transplantation occurs — Ophthalmologists worldwide work with patients suffering from eye diseases, injuries, and ailments. Once it is determined that a transplant is the appropriate medical treatment, the physician contacts MIS to request a cornea. MIS will surgically process the tissue to the specific recipient needs and deliver the tissue for surgery.

The recipient receives the gift of sight — Corneal transplantation is a well established procedure that is up to 99 percent effective.

Our Past Informs Our Future

In 1951, a team of visionaries and many dedicated Lions Club members saw the possibilities in this revolutionary procedure and organized to lobby the state legislature for the establishment of The North Carolina Eye & Human Tissue Bank. The organization evolved to become The North Carolina Eye Bank in 1996, the fifth eye bank established in the US. In 2014, the name was changed to Miracles In Sight to reflect the organization's broader role.

MIS history is intrinsically connected to Lions Clubs. For decades, the organizations have been going hand in hand supporting each other. MIS has been carefully preserving the history of its relations with Lions Clubs. Today, at least three long serving Board members with many years of eye banking leadership David Barnwell, PhD, Robert Enzenauer, MD, and Dean Vavra, MS are long serving members of Lions Clubs. Several MIS staff are involved with the Lions Clubs, and a staff member is a Lions Club President.



Miracles in Sight Historical Fact

In 1982, Winston-Salem Twin City Host Lions Club's donation of a specular microscope valued over \$18,000 created the foundation for the N.C. Eye Bank to achieve national certification and accreditation to receive and process eye tissue. The equipment was utilized during evaluation and preparation of eye tissue for Ophthalmic research.

Our Need

Due to a catastrophic and devastating flood of MIS leased space in April of 2022, the MIS Board voted to conduct a capital campaign to help acquire and build-out a new facility in Clemmons, NC. The new state-of-the-art building, once renovated, will house the new MIS headquarters. It will include four specialty labs indispensable for preparing eye tissue for transplant and research facilities. The new building and its highly technical clean rooms will meet and exceed industry and regulatory standards.

MIS is in need of capital funding to upfit its new facility. We appreciate your consideration of support. For further information and donations, note contacts below.

Lion Dean Vavra
email: deanvavra@gmail.com
336-816-4105

Ksenia Richards, Director Fund Development MIS
email: krichards@miraclesinsight.org
336-765-0932 Ext. 1106



Memorials and Honorariums

October - November 2023

Memorials

Given By:	Memory Of:
North Davidson Lions Club	Jennie Jo Hill
Eileen M. Artavia	M&H
Oxford Lions Club	Donna Joy
Jack D & Joan C Briggs	Allan Thompson
Chris Headley	Allan Thompson
Paul R & Nancy Bledsoe	Allan Thompson
Jerry Austin	Allan Thompson
Dale Dupree	Allan Thompson -
Eileen M. Artavia	M&H
North Carolina PDG	Allan Thompson
Mocksville Lions Club	Frankie Gregory
Eileen M. Artavia	M&H
Carlton V Metts	Allan Thompson
Carlton V Metts	Jayne Simpkins
Carlton V Metts	Sharon Lea Dwyer
Carlton V Metts	Joan Moore Reid
Theresa W Matthews	Frankie Gregory
Theresa W Matthews	Allan Thompson
Theresa W Matthews	Frankie Gregory
Davidson Lions Club	Frankie Gregory
Theresa W Matthews	Allan Thompson
Neal Alexander	Allan Thompson
County Lions Club	Carol Kutzner
Bethlehem Lions Club	Bill Seaver
Eileen M. Artavia	M&H
New Bern Lions Club	Charles Blythe
Myra Davidson Lanier	Frankie Gregory
Davidson Lanier	Allan Thompson
Heidi L. Reckard	Robert Reese
Heidi L. Reckard	Kenneth Norton
Hendersonville Lions Club	Fred Higgins
Juan & Susan Fernandez	Doc Newsom
Pleasant Lions Club	Ira Howard Mauldin
Chris Headley	Linda McCaskill
Mark and Jeanna White	Joseph C White
Paul and Nancy Bledsoe	R. O. Lanier
Clay County Lions Club	Ken Woodard
Eileen M. Artavia	M&H
Rockwell Lions Club	Berthalene Payne

Honorariums

Given by:	Honoree
Stuart Ballinger	Kristy Brown
	Greene
New Bern Lions Club	Tom Snively
Wake Forest Lions Club	Lorraine Dixon
Eileen M. Artavia	Honor
James Collins Chandler	Ann Mason
Keith and Jana Peedin	Shirley Black
Rocky Mount Evening LC	Ella Flora
Eileen M. Artavia	Honor
Mount Airy Lions Club	Kathleen Poirier
Mount Pleasants LC	Kathleen Poirier
Smithfield Lions Club	Shirley Black

Donations can be credited to your club's **Brighter Visions Annual Fund Drive Goals.**

Visit: NCLF.org for Forms



*The Season's Best to You and Your Family,
PDG Paul Bledsoe, NCLF Public Information & Education*