



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.



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President's Message

Lions:

What is the old saying about April? In like a lion and out like a lamb? Since we are Lions, let's start May like the beginning of April, stay strong, proud, and serving those in need around us!

Spring has so much to look forward to: flowers, warm weather, and a few tornadoes or strong storms. We need to make sure we are ready for the spring. Tune up those chain saws, get the cookers ready to serve emergency food, and pray that we do not need them. Lions serve during the worst of times, when the worst that life offers - brings out the best of our clubs and members. The strength of every club comes from the spirit of each of the members; therefore, we need to keep looking for those folks around us that can lift up the serving spirit of our clubs. Spring is a great opportunity to find those members who we need, just keep your eyes open and ask if they would like to help the community.

This weekend our local club is hosting a "dry run of the pancake trail" aka "crank up the cookers and see how many free pancakes we can give away before people like them enough to leave a few bucks in the donation jar." Hopefully we learn to make good pancakes Saturday because we are scheduled to feed the homeless Sunday morning. It would really be embarrassing if the folks on Sunday refuse to eat our pancakes, but it is an honorable way to practice. New members are needed to help feed the hungry; keep your eyes open and ask if they would be able to lend a hand.

Lion PDG Sherman Leathers used to preach the Five-P's of projects: Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance. Sometimes he made it a little more colorful, but that saying has stayed with me for the better part of thirty years. There are many things those Lions who have been around a while can teach us; however, they need younger Lions to receive their knowledge. It is all of our responsibility to recruit new Lions. So again, keep your eyes open and ask folks to join your projects.

The Lions State Convention is complete. Lion Susie and her crew worked so hard to make it a wonderful experience. We need to make sure we thank them for a great convention. The convention was a place and time to renew your energy and spirit to serve. *(continued page 2)*

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There is no place any better to take new members and let them learn from other Lions. So lastly, be sure to invite those around you who enjoy getting out to learn new things from others to attend the next convention. We gain new members in many different ways. I have demonstrated several in this column. They all have something in common – did you catch it? First, get out there and “do something” that allows others to see your service. Second, when someone engages with your service, make it easy for them to join you in the endeavor. Third, after you get them interested in what you are doing (community service, lending a hand, feeding the hungry, or attending the convention, etc.) invite them to come along and join the club. The best Lions will be put in your path, but you will need to ask most of them to join. Don’t be afraid of being turned down; sponsoring a new member will more than offset being turned down.

So, get out there and enjoy the Spring, engage those around you in your projects, and recruit some new members while having fun in Lions. See ya’ll at the next convention!

Allen Swaim
President of NC Lions Foundation 25-26
See the Need, Take the Lead

UPDATE Brighter Vision Report

As of April 21, 2026, the Brighter Visions campaign has reached 75% of the District Governors’ Goals \$398,821 of \$532,762, reflecting the dedication and generosity of Lions across North Carolina. This progress is a testament to the commitment of our clubs and individual donors who continue to support the mission of the North Carolina Lions Foundation. Because of you, children receive vision screenings, individuals gain access to essential eye care, and blind and visually impaired campers experience life changing weeks at Camp Dogwood.

We extend our sincere appreciation to every club, individual donor, and those who have contributed through memorials and honorariums. Your gifts not only honor loved ones but also create lasting impact in the lives of those who depend on our services. Each contribution—large or small helps ensure that no one is left behind when it comes to vision care and support.

While reaching 75% is an important milestone, we still have a tremendous opportunity ahead. With continued effort and generosity, we can reach 100% and fully meet the goals set for this year. Every club and every Lion can still make a difference. Whether through a one time gift, a club fundraiser, or a personal monthly contribution, your support moves us closer to transforming even more lives.

Brighter Visions is more than a campaign, it is a promise of hope, independence, and service. Together, we can finish strong and ensure that our programs remain vibrant for all who rely on them.

Message from the Executive Director...



NCLF Highlights Impactful KidSight Training and Inspiring State Convention

The North Carolina Lions Foundation (NCLF) continues to advance its mission of service and vision care across our state, most recently through a highly successful KidSight training held during the State Convention. This hands-on training was led by Bryan Hoover and Jon Snelling, whose expertise and passion brought clarity and confidence to more than 35 Lions eager to expand their KidSight involvement.

The training covered the full spectrum of the KidSight process—from organizing and planning a screening event to effectively marketing it within the community. Participants received practical instruction on conducting vision screenings, understanding post-screening actions, and ensuring children and families are connected to appropriate follow-up resources. The session also walked Lions through the steps to becoming a Certified Vision Screener and a KidSight Operator, empowering clubs with the knowledge and tools needed to grow and sustain local KidSight programs. The enthusiasm in the room was unmistakable, and it was inspiring to see so many Lions committed to protecting the vision of North Carolina’s children.

Beyond the KidSight training, the State Convention itself was outstanding. It was energizing to gather with Lions from across North Carolina, sharing ideas, celebrating service, and strengthening our collective commitment. I was proud to be present along with fellow NCLF officers, representing the Foundation and engaging with clubs and leaders about the vital work being done statewide.

One of the convention highlights was our featured speaker, Past International Director Gary Anderson. PID Anderson shared insights on a variety of topics impacting Lions today, but one point in particular stood out: North Carolina currently ranks sixth in the nation in reporting KidSight screenings. This is a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to the dedication and diligence of Lions across our state. Accurate reporting reflects real children served, real needs met, and real impact made. For that achievement, I extend my sincere thanks to each of you. You truly are seeing and serving the needs of North Carolina.

If you happened to miss this announcement at convention, I want to be sure you mark your calendars for an exciting milestone ahead. Camp Dogwood will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2027, and this historic occasion will be recognized during the State Convention that year. We are already working on some wonderful ideas to honor this achievement and look forward to bringing Lions from across the state together throughout the year to celebrate Camp Dogwood’s legacy and future. (continued next page)

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As I've been reading more about the history of the Foundation and how Camp Dogwood came to be, one theme is abundantly clear: it all began with Lions who simply wanted to make the world a better place. Through thoughtful, sometimes simple acts of service, something extraordinary was built. At times, I wonder if we as Lions forget why we first joined—yet there are countless moments when I am amazed at what happens when Lions come together, united by purpose, and produce truly life-changing outcomes.

As we bring this Lions year to a close, let us remember our past, appreciate the shoulders we stand on, and look forward with renewed energy and vision. The Foundation staff stands ready and eager to support your efforts and to serve the citizens of North Carolina. With your continued partnership and passion for service, there is no limit to what we can accomplish together.

Yours in Lionism,
PDG Carlie Metts
Executive Director
North Carolina Lions Foundation

On the Road with ID Gary Steele...



Travel has been hectic lately, but incredibly rewarding. We visited Illinois (1CN) during the third weekend of February, had one weekend at home, and then headed out again to Missouri and Tennessee. Each convention was a wonderful experience, and we were even able to fit in a few memorable side trips along the way.

While in Missouri, we toured the Veterans Museum in St. Louis and then visited the Budweiser Factory. Elizabeth even found herself standing beside the Clydesdales as they were getting their bath—a moment she won't soon forget.

We were also invited to visit Wonderland Camp, a remarkable camp serving individuals with challenges from elementary age through senior adults. Their program offerings are impressive, ranging from rock climbing and axe throwing to rope bridges and themed events throughout the year. They operate with full time staff and ensure that every camper can participate—there is even a chair lift so no one is excluded from the climbing wall.

One of the most meaningful parts of our travels has been learning about the incredible service projects happening in other communities and sharing the work we are doing here in North Carolina. We even saw a project where volunteers pack suitcases for families whose children are undergoing cancer treatment. Each suitcase includes a change of clothes for both the child and the parents in case they need to make an unexpected trip to the hospital.

These visits continue to inspire us, and we are grateful for the opportunity to represent our state while learning from Lions across the country.

Gary Steele, International Director 2025–2027 | PCC, MD31

NCLF Director of Operations...



What is a Volunteer?

The dictionary defines a volunteer as someone who freely gives their time—unpaid—to benefit others. While that definition is accurate, it barely scratches the surface of what it truly means to serve, especially for those who answer the call to volunteer at summer camp.

For a Lion, volunteering at camp is not simply about giving time. It is about giving heart.

Each summer, volunteers become the backbone of camp life. They step into roles both big and small—walking alongside campers, guiding them from place to place, sharing meals, lending a hand with activities, and often just being present in the quiet, meaningful moments that matter most. From baiting a fishing hook to celebrating the “big catch,” from playing putt-putt to dancing under the lights, from archery to kayaking to arts and crafts—volunteers help transform ordinary moments into unforgettable experiences.

And then, something remarkable happens.

All it takes is one visit, one shared laugh, one moment—and you are hooked.

There is something profoundly moving about spending time with a VIP—a visually impaired person. Watching someone hold a bow and arrow for the very first time. Hearing the sharp “ping” of a BB striking a metal target, followed by the quiet pause—and then the emotion. The smile. Sometimes even a tear. These are moments that many sighted individuals take for granted, yet at camp, they become milestones—victories worth celebrating.

Volunteers have the privilege of helping campers navigate not just the physical landscape of camp, but their own growing independence. Whether guiding someone from their dorm to the lodge, assisting with cane use, or simply being the “eyes” during a lively game of bingo, each act of service builds confidence, dignity, and trust.

But the impact of volunteering does not flow in just one direction.

Yes, volunteers empower independence. They help develop life skills, build confidence, and prepare for the future. They create a safe, supportive environment where campers can try new things, take risks, and discover their own capabilities.

But volunteers themselves are changed, too.

They gain patience. They strengthen communication. They learn adaptability in ways no classroom can teach. They build friendships—with campers and fellow volunteers—that last far beyond the summer. They become part of a community rooted in compassion, service, and shared purpose.

And perhaps most importantly, they gain perspective. (continued next page)

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At camp, differences fade away, and what remains is connection—genuine, human connection. Laughter over meals. Encouragement on the archery range. Quiet conversations at the end of the day. These are the moments that stay with you long after the summer ends.

Volunteering at a camp for the blind is not just about helping—it is about belonging. It is about creating a space where everyone is seen, valued, and included. It is about fostering independence while building a community that feels like family.

For those willing to give just one week of their summer, the rewards are immeasurable. There is no cost—only opportunity. Opportunity to serve. Opportunity to grow. Opportunity to make a lasting difference in the lives of individuals across the state.

And in return, you may find that your own life has been changed just as deeply.

So, what is a volunteer?

A volunteer is more than a definition.

A volunteer is a guide, a teacher, a friend.

A volunteer is the steady hand, the encouraging voice, the shared laughter.

A volunteer is the heart of camp.

And at Camp Dogwood, that heart beats stronger every summer.



Respectfully submitted,
Tammy MacLean
Director of Operations

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Incredible Lion Volunteers!

Volunteer Week has wrapped up, and what an amazing impact you made at Camp Dogwood. Lions from across the state traveled from near and far, giving their time, energy, and dedication to help prepare the camp for our VIP guests this summer.

From mulching and weeding, to sealing benches and swings, cleaning fences and sidewalks, refinishing patio tables, and so much more—you truly poured your hearts into every project.

Because of you, Camp Dogwood is more beautiful, welcoming, and ready than ever. 44 Lions from 18 clubs contributed an incredible 635 volunteer hours! **Breakdown by District:**

**District L – 8 Lions, 163.5 hours • District I – 14 Lions, 132 hours • District O – 4 Lions, 70.5 hours
District N – 3 Lions, 20.5 hours • District S – 14 Lions, 249.25 hours**

Because of you, we are ready to welcome our campers for a summer full of joy, connection, and unforgettable experiences.

Thank you for making a difference!
Tammy MacLean, Director of Operations



NEW! Updated KidSight Materials Now Available on the NCLF Website

The North Carolina Lions Foundation is pleased to announce that the KidSight resource section on our website has been fully updated to better support clubs, screeners, and families across the state. These improvements ensure that every Lion has access to clear, consistent, and easy to use materials that strengthen our mission of protecting children's vision.

The updated resources include the KidSight Consent Form in both English and Spanish, making it easier for families to understand and authorize screenings. We have also added the KidSight Information Forms, also available in English and Spanish, which provide parents and guardians with a clear explanation of the screening process and its importance.

To support follow up care, the KidSight Referral Assistance Letter has been refreshed and standardized. This letter helps guide families when a child needs additional evaluation from an eye care professional, ensuring that no child falls through the cracks after a screening.

For Lions conducting screenings, the updated KidSight Vision Screening Manual is now available. This manual outlines best practices, equipment guidance, and step by step procedures to ensure screenings are accurate, consistent, and child friendly.

In addition, the website now includes the Matching Funds Policy and Forms, which provide financial assistance guidelines for children who need further care after a referral.

These updates reflect our continued commitment to supporting clubs and strengthening early childhood vision screening across North Carolina. We encourage all Lions to visit the NCLF website, download the new materials, and share them widely as we work together to protect the sight of every child we serve.



BRIGHTER
north carolina lions
Visions
annual fund drive

A Mission to Care, to Enrich
and to Serve Our
North Carolina Citizens

Lions KidSight USA Program Recognized as Champions for Vision

(Oak Brook, Ill., March 11, 2025) – Lions KidSight USA, a program of Lions International, was recognized with the Champion for Vision award at the annual American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS) meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, last week.

The Lions KidSight program began in 2014 with the understanding that most kids are visual learners, but many do not have their vision screened until they begin school. With some vision conditions, the chances of successful treatment drop off dramatically after age six, so oftentimes the threshold for successful treatment has passed. The aim of Lions KidSight is



to reach young kids before it's too late, arranging free screenings at schools and daycare centers. In addition to the concentration on younger children, Lions also screen kids through high school to reach those who may need glasses. Using a high-tech screening device, the Lions check the children for visual disturbances. Children who are found to have a vision issue are then referred to an eye doctor for further evaluation.

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) supports the Lions clubs involved with Lions KidSight by awarding grants that help pay for the required vision screening devices.

“Lions International has championed the vision cause since our organization’s inception more than 100 years ago, and LCIF is proud to support the impact Lions worldwide are making in children’s vision through the Lions KidSight program,” said LCIF Chairperson Dr. Patti Hill. “This award is a true testament to the work Lions are doing to help children see the world more clearly.”

Retired optometrist, Lions KidSight USA Chairman and Lions Clubs International Past International Director Dr. Edward Cordes accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

“I was honored to accept this award on behalf of Lions International, LCIF and Lions around the world,” Cordes said. “We recognize that 80% of a child’s learning and development requires healthy, corrected vision. Through the Lions KidSight program, Lions train and mobilize caring people to easily and efficiently screen the vision health of youth to help ensure they receive interventions to promote the academic and social development success that we all deserve.”

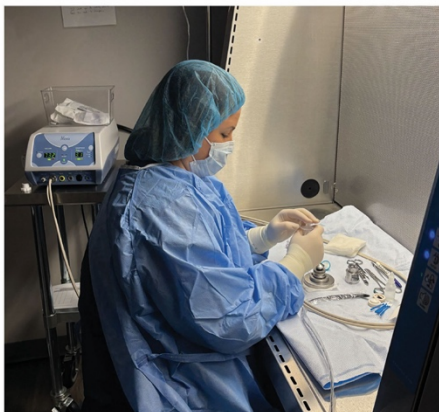
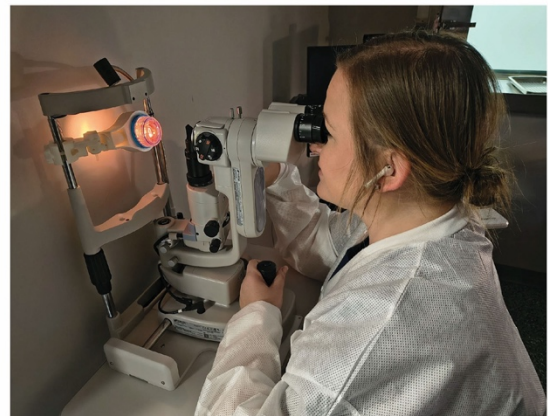
The Champion for Vision award is a joint award presented by the Children’s Eye Foundation of AAPOS (CEF of AAPOS) and AAPOS, and it celebrates organizations and/or individuals that have made extraordinary efforts to champion children’s vision. Organizations or individuals that have made an extraordinary impact on children’s vision and children’s blindness prevention efforts are considered for this award.

Executive Vice President of the Children’s Eye Foundation of AAPOS, Christie Morse, MD noted that “the Lions KidSight USA have provided extraordinary support for vision screenings performed throughout the United States and have identified thousands of children in need of follow-up eye examinations.”

Last Year’s Eye Research Grant for Medical Equipment is on the Job at Precision Ocular Network

In recent conversations with Ksenia Richards, VP of Philanthropy and Family Services at Precision Ocular Network, formerly Miracles In Sight in Clemmons, NC, Ksenia gave us an update on the medical equipment provided by LCIF, NCLF and AJ Fletcher Foundation. She stated, we use both pieces of equipment so generously provided by you and other Lions to evaluate tissue for various research projects in which we are involved. Some researchers partnering with us require healthy tissue (transplant quality) others need certain eye/tissue conditions to be present. Having access to this equipment allows us to use the tissue specifically for research projects without disrupting our regular operations. We can continue our regular tissue preparation and evaluation for transplant without stopping to evaluate and process research tissue.

As an example of a project, we are currently involved in a study conducted by Aurion Biotech, a clinical-stage regenerative medicine company, where we are supplying tissue with healthy endothelial cells for their clinical trials. The slit lamp generously provided by the Lions helps us assess the quality of the eye tissue and the health of the endothelial layer of the cornea specifically. Aurion’s clinical trials are targeting conditions such as Fuch’s dystrophy, trauma, congenital dystrophies, and other causes of endothelial dysfunction. Their researchers are attempting to use a single donor for multiple tissue grafts to enable treatment for up to a thousand recipients from one cornea. This would be a scientific breakthrough eventually available to patients worldwide if they are successfully able to provide minimally invasive care for patients, optimize utilization of precious donated tissue, and support a potentially shorter and more comfortable recovery experience. Precision Ocular Network is proud to partner with Aurion Biotech on this project, and we hope you are sharing our excitement.



The Moria microkeratome generously provided by the Lions has become indispensable for our cross-functional training program where we work towards achieving best possible results in tissue processing by our lab technicians. The best possible results in tissue preparation are directly related to better patient outcomes and shorter recovery times. We are thrilled we can make use of this equipment every day thus helping us conduct our internal studies and are thankful to you for this opportunity.

Needless to say, both pieces of equipment provide us with the peace of mind that if our only other slit lamp in the facility or a Moria piece go down, we are covered and will continue operating as normal – thank you Lions.

Honoring Our Monthly Brighter Visions Donors

The North Carolina Lions Foundation extends heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated Monthly Brighter Visions Donors. These Lions demonstrate the true spirit of service by choosing to give consistently throughout the year, providing reliable support for vision services, Camp Dogwood, community outreach, and the many life changing programs made possible through Brighter Visions.

Monthly giving is one of the most powerful ways a Lion can support our mission. It creates a steady foundation that allows us to plan ahead, respond quickly to needs, and expand services where they are needed most. We are deeply grateful for the Lions who have committed to this meaningful level of support.

Their generosity reflects the heart of Lionism—quiet, steady service that makes a lasting difference.

Now imagine the impact if every Lion in North Carolina contributed just \$25 a month. Together, we would generate an additional \$1,272,000 each year for Brighter Visions. That level of support would transform our ability to serve, expand programs, and reach even more individuals in need.

Signing up for monthly giving is simple and secure through our **Zeffy** platform, making it easier than ever to support Brighter Visions all year long.

To all our Monthly Donors—thank you for your unwavering commitment. Your support strengthens our foundation and brings hope to countless North Carolinians.



District 31-O is in the Game and Growing!

During our March Madness Membership Blitz, Lions across the district took action to strengthen our clubs and expand our service. District 31-O is not sitting on the sidelines—we are actively in the game during this March Madness Membership Blitz! Our clubs are stepping up with energy, creativity, and purpose to grow our Lions family and expand our service impact.

What is 31-O doing?

- Inviting new members—each Lion is encouraged to bring at least one guest
- Hosting open houses and guest nights to showcase Lionism
- Increasing community visibility through service projects and events
- Sharing our story on social media, newspapers, and radio to reach new audiences
- Engaging younger members and families to build the future of our clubs
- Celebrating every new member and the Lions who sponsor them
- Adding friendly competition between clubs to boost excitement

March Madness Moment

We're proudly celebrating a historic win by **my alma mater**, High Point University, whose men's basketball team earned its **first-ever NCAA tournament victory**, defeating the Wisconsin Badgers men's basketball team 83–82. That's some true March Madness excitement—and definite bragging rights!

Our game plan is simple: Invite. Engage. Serve. Grow.

Together, District 31-O is building stronger clubs, stronger communities, and a winning future!

Juanita Brown, District Governor 31-O

North Carolina Lions in Action Service from the Heart

Dear Twin Rivers Lions Club, Carlton Metts,

On behalf of Havelock High School, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to you and the entire Twin Rivers Lions Club for arranging and covering the cost of Gladys's eye exam and glasses. Because of your generosity, she can now see clearly something so simple, yet truly life-changing.

Your kindness will make a meaningful difference in Gladys's life every single day. Being able to see clearly will help her succeed at school, feel more confident, and experience the world around her in ways that were previously difficult. Opportunities like this can have a lasting impact, and we are deeply grateful that you stepped in to make it possible.

Your thoughtfulness and willingness to help remind us just how powerful a caring and compassionate community can be. Acts of generosity like yours change lives in ways that go far beyond the moment. 🙏

Please accept our sincere thanks and appreciation from the bottom of our hearts for your support and kindness. We are truly grateful.

Con profunda gratitud Muchas Gracias!
Gracias por ayudar a Gladys a ver el mundo con claridad 🙏❤️

(Translation – With deep gratitude Thank you very much!
Thank you for helping Gladys see the world clearly 🙏❤️)

Sincerely,
Havelock High School

P.S. Please note the pic of Gladys with her new glasses, and her email to me yesterday about them! (and me, her school counselor advocate.)

P.S. This is the email I received from Gladys about her glasses! So sweet!

"Lentes!!👁️👁️ Hola, señora Martínez, buenos días. Para decirle que ya tengo mis lentes, se los quisiera mostrar ."

Translation:
"Glasses!! 👁️👁️ Hello, Mrs. Martinez, good morning. To tell you that I already have my glasses, I would like to show them to you."



North Carolina Lions in Action Service from the Heart

Clinton Lions Club Provides Free Hearing Screenings for Students

The Clinton Lions Club recently performed 16 audio screenings at New Life Christian School in Clinton, as part of the North Carolina Lions Foundation's auditory screening program.

The program is a mobile, community-based early detection system, a press release from the Lions Club explained.

"It doesn't diagnose conditions—but it flags potential hearing problems early and gets people into proper care, which is where the real long-term benefit comes from. It's not a standalone program, but part of the foundation's broader mobile health screening services (vision and hearing)."

Screenings are usually delivered via a mobile screening unit or at community events run by local Lions Clubs. "The goal is early detection of hearing loss so people can be referred for full medical evaluation and treatment," the press release stated.

Of the 16 screenings performed, one individual showed a need for full medical evaluation and treatment.

Clinton Lions who assisted with the screening included Kay West and Lee West. They were joined by District Governor Gene Goetz, Jon Snellings, statewide chairperson of the Mobile Screening Programs Committee, and Bryan Hoover, state director of vision screening programs for the NC Lions Foundation.

Courtesy photo | Steve Cox

The Clinton Lions Club recently helped bring free hearing screenings to New Life Christian Academy in Clinton. Pictured, from left, are: Gene Goetz, District Governor; Jon Snellings, Statewide Chairperson/Mobile Screening Programs Committee; Kay West, secretary of the Clinton Lions Club; Ann Byars, secretary at New Life Christian Academy; Bryan Hoover, State Director of Vision Screening Programs for the NC Lions Foundation; and Lee West, Clinton Lions Club member.



Bryan Hoover, State Director of Vision Screening Programs for the NC Lions Foundation, left, and Gene Goetz, District Governor, test a New Life Christian Academy student's hearing

North Carolina Lions in Action Service from the Heart

Cheers for Girl Scout Lauren Cox as She Improves Early Vision Care in Lumberton



Lauren Cox, a Girl Scout from Lumberton, has made a meaningful and lasting impact on her community through her Girl Scout Gold Award project, “Seeing the Future: One Child at a Time.” A student at Lumberton High School, Lauren is the daughter of Past District Governor David Cox and Michelle Cox. She is among a small number of girls from Robeson County to earn the prestigious Gold Award—and the first since 2019.

For her Gold Award project, Lauren set out to address an often-overlooked issue: undetected vision problems in preschool-aged children. Partnering with the Lumberton Lions Club, she expanded existing school-based screenings into local daycare centers, reaching children at a much earlier and more critical stage of development. While school-age students are routinely screened, many daycare and preschool children had never received vision checks during key developmental years. Studies show that most childhood vision problems can be corrected if identified early, yet many go unnoticed before age seven. According to Prevent Blindness North Carolina, approximately 13% of children in North Carolina experience vision issues.

During the 2024–2025 school year, the Lumberton Lions Club screened 3,500 school-aged children, with 735 referred for further evaluation—a 21% referral rate, nearly double the state average. Building on this need, Lauren’s project focused on younger children who are often missed. Her team screened 290 preschoolers, identifying 49 children—16%—in need of follow-up care, with a plan in place for each child.

Beyond the numbers, Lauren’s project created lasting change. The Lumberton Lions Club has committed to continuing daycare screenings, ensuring expanded access to early detection. By reaching children who may not yet realize they are struggling, Lauren’s work helps ensure that no child’s potential is limited by an unseen barrier.

The Girl Scouts of the USA Gold Award is the highest achievement in Girl Scouting, recognizing girls who identify a community need, develop a sustainable solution, and create lasting change. Fewer than 6% of eligible Girl Scouts earn this distinction, making it a significant and selective accomplishment. Lauren’s project exemplifies that mission through both its measurable impact and its long-term sustainability.

