

# Wisconsin Lions Foundation Project Updates for 2023-2024

We would like to thank the Lions Clubs in our District for your increased financial support to your Wisconsin Lions Camp this past year. The Clubs increased their donations by over \$15,000 compared to 2022-2023. That is about a 29% increase in donations. Some Clubs need to be recognized for their donations to your Camp. Those Clubs are Waunakee \$10,100, Arlington \$6,300, and Cross Plains \$5,000. The Lancaster Lions Club donated \$5,000 to the Friends & Honor Garden. A job well done Lions!

## Diabetes Awareness

- This past year over 98,000 pieces of diabetes awareness materials were ordered from WLF and distributed around Wisconsin.
- A new children's diabetes book is in the works from the author of the other books. Books can be ordered from the WLF office.

## Vision Screening

- Wisconsin Lions screened over 124,000 children with over 16,000 being referred for a full eye exam. The Plus Optix 3 year warranty renewal invoices are being mailed out to Clubs owning the devices. District vision screening chair Lion Milo Parker was instrumental in negotiating the new warranty for all the devices in our District.
- Staff from Plus Optix conducted a Train the Trainer session on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the WLF office.

## Eyeglass Recycling

- Eyeglasses collections continue to increase with over 1.3 million pairs collected in 2023-2024.
- 80 mission groups distributed over 167,000 pairs around the world including a distribution in Madison in April 2024. Eleven countries were visited by mission groups.
- Quotes for a new storage shed are being received for the storage of eyeglasses waiting to be processed at WLF and 2 prisons.
- A new plastic recycling partnership is being tested to ship broken plastic frames for recycling instead of going into the landfill. 30% of the eyeglasses collected cannot be used.
- The eyeglass center has an abundance of prescription reading glasses like the ones you would purchase at many retailers to be given away. Clubs are being asked to check with the senior centers, libraries, and retirement communities in their area about interest in ordering the reading glasses from WLF.

## Hearing Project

- WLF received 51 applications for hearing aid purchases with 26 of those being approved. The other applications are in various stages of being processed.
- WLF will be requesting a credit from Starkey for the used hearing aids that have been sent to them for recycling. The credit will be divided equally for the 10 Districts.

## Wisconsin Lions Camp

- This camper summer season there were 1,009 campers registered for one of the ten sessions. This is great news as the camp returns to pre pandemic levels.
- The disc golf course generated over \$2,600 for the camp operations from private users. The lack of snow allowed for the course to be open much of the winter. A new season pass option is selling well.
- Deer hide collections set another record for revenue for camp operations with over \$117,000 from the sale of hides, tails, separate club sales to buyers, and gloves. The gloves have become a very popular item and are available through WLF and your District WLF Directors.
- The Lions Camp for Kids Raffle tickets are selling well. The drawing will be at the camp on Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the District WLF Directors if you have ticket stubs, money, or unsold tickets to turn in. We will be traveling to the Directors meeting at the camp on August 16<sup>th</sup> and can turn them in at that time.
- Outside group rentals of the camp facilities continues to grow. The revenue generated through May 2024 was over \$69,000. The revenue generated helps fund the operation of the camp.



WLF Board of Directors

*Thank you for serving on the 2023-2024 WLF  
Board of Directors - President Brad Behrens*



If your Club would like a visit from your District WLF Directors please contact:

**PDG John Elvekrog, 608-575-7680 or Lion Jim Fletcher 608-712-8897**