

WISCONSIN LIONS FOUNDATION, INC.
PROJECT REPORT FORM
PRESENTED TO
THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS
APRIL, 2025

1. Project name:
Lions Camp
2. Goals of project:
 - To foster positive self-concept development of campers.***
 - The opportunity for development of a more positive attitude toward disability and the realization of individual capability.***
 - To promote greater independence and self-advocacy skills.***
 - The development of a personal awareness and relationship with the natural environment.***
 - The opportunity for social interaction and the development of social skills.***
 - The development of outdoor recreational skills.***
 - To provide opportunities for campers to have fun.***
3. Total WLF costs of project:
2024: \$1,134,752
4. Number of clubs participating:
2024: 81% of all Lions Clubs made an annual donation at the end of 2023-24 Lionistic year.
5. Number of Lion and Leo members involved with project:
This number is impossible to even estimate as 411 clubs donated, so each club member would have probably been involved in the fundraising efforts to make that donation. Members from around the State help Camp in other ways, such as volunteering to drive campers to and from Camp, distribute information to schools and other organizations about Lions Camp to recruit both campers and counselors, as well as volunteer to help with specific work projects at Camp.
6. Total number of people served by project:
2024: 924 Campers along with their families and friends. We did have over 1,000 registered, but cancellations reduced the number to the current 924 total which is still an increase over 2023. We continue to develop promotional information in both digital and paper formats for Lions, schools and other partners to share with potential campers.
7. Background Information of other organizations participating in project:
We continue to develop relationships with organizations that serve our campers in the community. The current relationships include schools (public, private and post-secondary), State agencies (Office for the Blind or Visually Impaired, Council for the Blind, WESP-DHH, Health and Human Service Agencies) and specialized schools (Wisconsin School for the Blind, Wisconsin School for the Deaf, Milwaukee Sign Language School). We have begun the process of connecting with medical facilities including Medical College of Wisconsin and UW-Health and other organizations including Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF) and Special Olympics.
8. Estimated costs to WLF:
2025 Budget: \$1,239,564

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1. Project name:
Wisconsin Lions Eyeglass Recycling Project
2. Goal of project:
Provide recycled eyeglasses to missions for developing countries across the globe. With the addition of new technology in our lensometers, we aligned a focus to increase Lion involvement through volunteerism and remote locations.
3. Net cost to WLF:
2024: \$88,885
4. Number of clubs participating:
Estimated 450 Wisconsin Lions Clubs with over 1,300 collection sites statewide.
5. Number of Lion and Leo members involved with project:
Majority of Wisconsin Lions as well as Minnesota, Michigan, Nebraska, Iowa and Florida Lions. In 2024, the Center received 1,207,248 pairs to process.
6. Total number of people served by project:
In 2024, 210,767 pairs of used eyeglasses were sent to 107 missions.
7. Background Information of other organizations participating in project:
International Children's Fund – is a non-profit that provides humanitarian aid to desperately poor children and their families. They operate through a network of dedicated indigenous pastors within rural villages in Africa and India.
(VOSH)-Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity and several church groups send glasses to the Center and use glasses for their missions.
Wisconsin Lions Missions - Every year, numerous Lions head to countries south of our borders with used eyeglasses. While on a mission, thousands of used eyeglasses are given out to local residents who probably have never had a pair of glasses in their life.
PazSalud, an El Salvador-based non-profit, continues to serve patients living in poverty by providing Optometry and Cataract Screening (OCS) missions to the most vulnerable senior members of society. An OCS mission provides rare opportunities for economically marginalized patients to receive an eye exam, prescription glasses, reading glasses, eye lubricating drops, cataract and pterygium screening.
Inmates from two State Correctional Facilities supply free labor to wash, read, and bag glasses. With new lensometers, we were able to produce 96,500 eyeglasses within our own facility through our part-time staff and volunteers.
Respecs is a company out of California that specializes in restoration of vintage eyeglasses and recycling unusable eyewear. This partnership has enabled the Eyeglass Center to fully recycle all of the unusable eyeglasses at no cost.
8. Estimated cost to WLF
2025 Budget: \$156,040

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1. Project Name:
Vision Screening
2. Goal of Project:
Ensure that every child from six months to eighteen years old is properly screened, as well as identify adults who may be at risk for eye disorders through screenings.
3. Net Cost to WLF:
2024: \$26,700
4. Number of Clubs participating:
205 Lion Clubs reported their children's vision screening numbers to Lions KidSight USA and WLF. The club count is lower than actual as some groups include multiple clubs and report under one name.
5. Number of Lion and Leo members involved with project:
752 Lions are certified through the WLF vision screening training program. This number does not include those that are certified through Lions KidSight USA.
6. Total number of people served by this project:
In 2024, the 205 clubs who reported their numbers to WLF screened 123,364 children. Of the screened children, 17,066 were referred for an examination by an eye care professional. (This referral number is approximately 14%. This is an increase of 3% year over year.)
7. Background information of other organizations participating in project:
The Wisconsin Lions Foundation and Lions KidSight USA work in partnership to help the fight against blindness and preserve vision health of Wisconsin's children. According to Lions Kidsight USA, while basic eye-chart screenings have been around since 1899, eye chart screenings have some limitations when used for large-scale children's vision screenings. Eye chart screenings can miss such potential issues, such as farsightedness, amblyopia factors, low-grade cases of myopia and astigmatism. In contrast, the digital, touch-less technology used in our primary screening devices is highly accurate, automatic and reliable. Our testing systems also provide immediate results. Shopko Optical process changes were made to help drive utilization of Kids in Focus Vouchers. Preliminary relationship established with Cherry Optical to obtain new eyeglasses for individuals at whole sale cost. This relationship hopefully enables clubs to sponsor individuals in need through a more consistent source.
8. Projected net cost to WLF:
2025 Budget: \$27,440

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1. Project name:
Hearing Aid Project
2. Goal of project:
To provide hearing aids to Wisconsin residents who cannot afford them
3. Net cost to WLF:
2024: \$18,800
4. Number of clubs participating:
124 Clubs, all 10 Districts and many hearing clinics
5. Number of Lion and Leo members involved with project:
There are 10 District Hearing Chairs working with the project, and numerous clubs collecting used hearing aids.
6. Total number of people served by this project:
2024: 39 people were approved to receive a hearing aid - 46 hearing aids have been fully paid for by the Lions.
7. Background information of other organizations participating in project:
Hearing aid manufacturers give us discounted prices on hearing aids. Currently working with Starkey, Signia, Oticon, Unitron, Phonak, Widex and GN Resound. Starkey provides salvage credit for used hearing aids. In 2024, we collected 7,948 hearing aids and turned them in for credit. Lions and many of our participating hearing clinics send us their used hearing devices in support of our mission.
8. Estimated net cost:
2025 Budget: \$14,000

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PROJECT REPORT FORM PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS APRIL, 2025

1. Project name:
Diabetes Awareness Project
2. Goal of project:
Clubs across Wisconsin can help get the word out about prediabetes and the importance of reversing prediabetes before it becomes type 2 diabetes. Helping people prevent type 2 diabetes is important because it comes with many additional health complications and increased annual health care costs.
3. Net Cost to WLF:
2024-\$8,551.74
4. Number of Clubs participating:
Over 100 Lions Clubs ordered diabetes awareness materials from the Wisconsin Lions Foundation. Many more clubs performed diabetes awareness projects in their communities with other partnerships.
5. Number of Lion and Leo members involved with project:
Estimate is 250 members participated in the project.
6. Total number of people served by this project:
In 2024, clubs distributed over 143,000 diabetes awareness materials. Clubs can order children's books, diabetes water bottle stickers, coffee sleeves and other brochures and booklets from the Wisconsin Lions Foundation Office. Online orders can be placed at www.wlf.info under the diabetes awareness resource page.
7. Background information of other organizations participating in project:
The Wisconsin Department of Health Services-Chronic Disease Prevention Program (CDPP)-leads an effort to serve the needs of people affected by diabetes in the State through partnership building, best practices identification, and unification of strategic emphasis and approaches.

Wisconsin Diabetes Advisory Group (DAG) – convened by the Wisconsin Diabetes Prevention and Control Program (DPCP) in 1997, provides the Foundation for active partnerships across the State. It includes representatives from over 80 key organizations involved in diabetes in Wisconsin.
8. Estimated net cost to WLF:
2025 Budget: \$10,506 ***Fund balance 12/31/24: \$22,228***

****WLF continues to receive grant funding from various sources for the Diabetes Awareness Project.***