



2nd Quarter, November, 2023 Vision Report

The Lions of District 49A are getting back to doing what we do best. The second quarter of the 2023-2024 Lions year our clubs in Anchorage, Big Lake, Eagle River, Girdwood, Katchemak Bay, Kodiak, and Palmer screened a total of 10,871 children with 2,599 referrals, a 23.9% referral rate. An additional 937 students were given distance acuity screening in Soldotna and the ASD.

Our photoscreening in the ASD was delayed this year so we could launch our newest project for the District and Multiple District. At our MD Convention in April I proposed a project to bring our vision services to rural Alaska. Since the pandemic many of our rural children in Alaska have not had the benefit of routine eye care. Many of our schools that previously had Lions doing their testings have not opened up to outside help. Our plan was to use our vision trailer and visit those schools offering our services. We called our project the Care-a-Van for Vision.

The plan came together the second week of September. We offered Visionscreening out of our trailer in the school's parking lot and distance acuity testing inside the schools done by our Lions. Every student that was referred through the visionscreening was seen by our volunteer eye doctor, Dr Patrick Campaign for further evaluation. If the student qualified, we would provide them with a pair of prescription eye glasses by ONESIGHT EssilorLuxottica Foundation through their Changing Lives through Lens Program. The glasses were later delivered to each student. We also offered free hearing tests for our students provided by 5 retired nurses from the Anchorage School District and 4 Public Health nurses.

This year our Care-a-Van for Vision started in Big Lake on Sept 11 then went on to Wasilla, Glennallen, Kenny Lake and ended up in Valdez on Sept 15. Each location was hosted by the local Lions Club. The Big Lake Lions organized the event at the Big Lake Elementary School. The vision trailer team of 8 lions and 1 outside volunteer organized the Iditarod Elementary School in Wasilla. The Palmer Lions lead the event at the 2 Wasilla CCS Head starts. Glennallen and Kenny Lake Elementary in Copper Center was hosted by the Copper River Basin Lions. They also led the new Valdez Motorsport Lions in setting up the Herman Hutchins Elementary in Valdez.

Our numbers are very impressive for a first-time project. We screened a total of 624 students. Our volunteer nurse team performed 370 hearing tests and our acuity team did 71 screenings. We projected doing more but outside the ASD every health screening done on a student has to be pre-approved by a parent. Many of the parents did not sign the paperwork for all 3 tests.

Next year we are planning a trip South through the Kenai Peninsula ending up in Homer and the following year, going North by way of Glennallen, to Fairbanks. Join our teams. Each community school event we visit is being organized by your local Lions club. Be a part of history. Please consider giving us your time or donations. If we are to make this an ongoing project, we need your help.

Our Lions are working on projects designed to prevent blindness, restore eyesight and improve eye health and eye care for millions of people around the world. This is how "We Serve."

Respectfully submitted,
PDG Esther L West
District 49A Sight/Vision Chair



