

DISTRICT 31-N

BRIGHTER VISIONS NEWS

DECEMBER 2022

ISSUE No.4

THE HOLIDAYS

This newsletter is being issued a bit early to wish you all a very happy Holiday season.

A well-deserved “Thank You” to all the clubs that came together for this year’s Lions Service Day. While searching the internet I found a new designation for hunger, “Food insecurity”. Regardless of how you describe it in 2019, **10.5% of Americans experienced food insecurity** or hunger. Lions can feel proud that we served by donating food to our local food kitchens. It’s also a fact that many Lions Clubs conduct food drives many times during the year. Please keep up the great work.

KIDSIGHT SCREENING UNIT

The KidSight vehicles have arrived! There is one in every district in North Carolina. For district 31-N the vehicle is housed in the Goldsboro area and is ready for dispatch to your community.

Why should my club bring the KidSight Unit (KSU) to my community?

Because our children’s vision is important! Project SEE CLEARLY 2022 is a national vision screening and correction campaign brought to you by the Lions KidSight USA to help clear the national backlog of the 25 MILLION children aged 6 months and through early grade school who have gone for nearly 3 years without a basic vision screening due to pandemic interruption.

According to educational experts, 80% of learning is visual. If children can’t see well, they will have more difficulty learning. With the transition to more and more “remote” learning on tiny screens and a decrease in outdoor playtime, there is mounting evidence that children at younger and younger ages are developing myopia and other vision challenges.

Amblyopia and its related issues need to be detected by age 6 in order to have the best chance of being corrected through proven therapeutic approaches, such as short-term patching, through the use of prescription eyeglasses, or, possibly surgery. To put the size of the challenge in some context, up to **5% of all children** will have some degree of amblyopia, and up to **30% of all young people** will eventually develop poor vision that will require prescription eyewear.

Fact is, 1-in-3 young children naturally have poor but correctable vision, often just needing eyeglasses. Seems to be happening at younger ages in recent years. Increased screen time and decreasing outdoor playtime is partially to blame.

Bottom-line, children can and should receive a basic, touchless, digital vision screening as young as 6 months. It’s now super easy, proven, and very effective at detecting early vision challenges that need professional care.

How can I schedule the KidSight Unit?

It all just starts with a simple call! All bookings for Lions KidSight Units are done through the MSU/KSU State Coordinator **Bryan Hoover**, either by email or phone, bryan@nclions.org or **828-478-2135 EXT 241**. We also ask that you notify the district chair.

What do we have to do once the KSU is here?

We need people to help with the screening. One KidSight certified screener is required on location. The KSU operator will be certified BUT we encourage clubs to have their own certified screener(s) to help. The KSU operator will be busy with set up and overall management at the screening. A minimum of three people should be at every screening. The amount will vary with the student group size.

Operating the PlusOptix device can be learned quickly, certification training focuses on why we are doing the screenings, what eye conditions we're looking for, and how some of those conditions may have very serious permanent effects on the kids. The certification process also includes information about many of the do's and don'ts during the screening event, how to speak with kids' parents, what records to keep and results to report, etc.

You can become certified by going to www.lionskidsightusa.org then click on the "Get Certified" tab. Access the Training Manual and take the test. You'll also need the following:

Username "**31nc**"

Password "**KidUSA**"

Your Lions **member number**.

DISTRICT 31-N SCREENING

Clubs with their own screeners are doing a great job. Here are the statistics from September through November.

Western Harnett LC	screened 1,285 with 174 referrals	13.5%
Wilmington LC	screened 958 with 73 referrals	7.6%
Hamstead LC	screened 98 with 21 referrals	21.4%
Goldsboro Downtown LC	screened 31 with 11 referrals	35.5%

Please remember to let your district KidSight Chairperson Gene Goetz know how many kids you screen, number of referral's, location of screening, and your club's name. ggoetz00@gmail.com

Clubs with Welch Allyn Spot screeners should be aware that their devices may be getting close to the end of your 5-year service agreement. **Beware** that **out of warranty** maintenance could be expensive. Welch Allen recommends that your battery be replaced after 2.5 years, the battery is covered under the service agreement. A new battery alone will cost \$144 and basic service is \$268 if your device is passed the 5-year agreement.

Call Welch Allyn customer service at 800-535-6663 please call to confirm that your covered under a service agreement.

ACTIVITIES FOR VIP's AT CAMP DOGWOOD

Camp for VIP's is in full swing this year!

Session 1	May 28-June 1	Session 4	June 25-June 2
Session 2	June 4-June 8	Session 5	July 2-July 6
Session 3	June 11-June 15	Session 6	July 9-July 13
Session 7	July 23-July 27 for Teens 13 – 17 years only		
Session 8	July 30-August 3 - Family Camp (Parents & VIP Youths only)		

If you're interested in volunteering at camp contact Tammy at 828-478-2135 or email at tammy@nclionsinc.org
Volunteer work week is March 30 thru April 3rd Camp for VIP's is in full swing this year!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE

In this difficult economy, **follow your heart** when considering your contribution to the Brighter Visions fund drive. Please think about supporting NCLI, your support is needed early in the year so the NCLI board can plan the year.

HERE ARE THE UPDATES AROUND THE STATE AS OF NOV 18:

District	Goal	Received	Difference	% of goal
L	\$75,000	\$20,586	\$54,414	27
I	\$125,000	\$51,443	\$73,557	41
O	\$120,000	\$52,125	\$67,875	43
N	\$90,000	\$31,906	\$58,094	35
S	\$93,100	\$36,480	\$56,620	39

DID YOU KNOW!

You can help your clubs' Brighter Visions fund drive by contributing a small amount every month. If you register your credit information with NCLI you can have a predetermined amount donated to Brighter Visions.

If each member in the state contributes, we can do so much more...

\$1 monthly for a year = \$56,064.00

\$5 monthly for a year = \$280,320.00

\$10 monthly for a year = \$560,650.00

\$20 monthly for a year = \$1,121,280.00

To learn more about the activities of NCLI go to www.nclionsinc.org then click on "In the Community" then click on Brighter Visions Newsletter to assess the new Digest publication.

It is our hope that you enjoy the content of this newsletter and find it useful. Comments on content and/or requests for articles to include in future issues of this newsletter can be sent to ggoetz00@gmail.com. Your comments **positive or negative** are appreciated!