

'RACE FOR SIGHT' TRIATHLON RAISES FUNDS FOR AMBLYOPIA SCREENING PROGRAM

Sunny skies and 70 degree weather greeted triathletes and spectators at the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation's (MLERF) first annual 'Race for Sight' Triathlon Challenge, held May 2nd, in Columbia. Over 215 athletes swam, cycled, and ran in the benefit race, which was held as a fund raiser for the Foundation's Amblyopia Screening program. Competitors traveled from all over Missouri as well as from Kansas, Iowa, and Minnesota to compete.



The Foundation raised more than \$2,000 from the triathlon and gained a great deal of publicity for its amblyopia screening program and the Missouri Lions. "We were extremely pleased with the outcome of our first triathlon event," stated Wendy Bahr, Director of Development & Public Relations for MLERF, "Plans are already underway for next year's event and we look forward to raising even more funds for this and other sight programs."

The response to the organization and management of the triathlon was overwhelmingly positive. Mark Livesay, Race Director and Associate Director at MLERF, received many compliments from experienced triathletes about how well organized and enjoyable the 'Race for Sight' was. One triathlete was especially impressed. He wrote, "I have done a number of races, and very few compare to the organization and support of your race. It was amazing. To have that happen on

the inaugural event is unheard of, and you should congratulate yourself and all of the volunteers." BN, of St.Louis.

Although the 'Race for Sight' was fun, more importantly, money was raised to benefit the Amblyopia Screening program. Amblyopia or 'lazy eye' is a disease in which one eye develops at a greater rate than the other eye. Amblyopia can lead to permanent vision damage in the affected eye, if not detected and treated early in a child's life. The Amblyopia Screening program has generated a great deal of gratitude from Missouri parents. Frequently, parents have no idea their preschool age children suffer from a vision deficiency until they are screened for amblyopia. The Amblyopia Screenings are a way for Lions to make a significant difference in the lives of Missouri's young children. Be a part of the fun and excitement next year - plan to volunteer at the MLERF's second annual 'Race for Sight' Triathlon

Eye Care Assistance FACTS

- √ MLERF covers all fees involved with eye care needs for those individuals who qualify for the Eye Care Assistance program.
- √ MLERF works with facilities all over the state to provide the eye care/treatments as close to home as possible for the patient.
- √ MLERF and Knights Templar work together to cover all expenses for eye surgeries of participating patients.
- √ The application is fast and easy to complete.

Call 573/443-1471

1999-2000 MLERF Board of Directors



The Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation is pleased to introduce the Board of Directors for the 1999-2000 fiscal year: Pictured (L to R, back row) PDG John Moreton (J); Dr. Bernie Esser, non-Lion; Jim Stock, non-Lion; DG Ron Jordan, Council Vice-Chairman (B); PDG W.R. O'Riley, Council Chairman (F); PDG Orval Heywood (F); Lion Ron Pauley (G); Dan Scotten, non-Lion; Dr. Gregg Berdy, M.D., non-Lion; PDG Sam Murabito (A1). Front row (L to R): PDG Bob Neier, Secretary (A-2); PID Harold Keely, Vice President (C); PDG Dan Bernskoetter, President (B); PDG Oren Fritz, Treasurer (E). Not pictured are: Lion J.C. Stallings (D); PDG Lane Blackwell (H); and PDG Bill Boehmer (I).