



Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation

Eye Care Assistance Program Saves Sight of 7-Year-Old

Seven-year-old Dylan Coday was never treated for the amblyopia that was discovered in his left eye as a toddler. After Dylan was forced to attend summer school and repeat the first grade, Betty Coday realized that her son must receive care for the amblyopia. Luckily, Betty discovered MLERF's Eye Care Assistance program and Dylan began vision therapy on November 1, 1999.

Now, MLERF's youngest Eye Care Assistance patient is making great progress towards regaining control of his left eye muscles. Dr. Susan Hogue, Dylan's optometrist, notes the following improvements:

- A greater amount of depth perception
- A greater ability to align his eyes in a straightforward position
- The suppression of the left eye occurs much less frequently
- The acuity in left eye has improved to 20/30 to 20/25 from 20/50 to 20/40

Betty Coday stated that the vision therapy has also resulted in greater confidence for Dylan. "The first line of defense for children in the first grade is to call

others names," Betty said, "Dylan's classmates have called him 'stupid' and 'four eyes'. Now that Dylan is being treated for this condition, he is able to handle other children who treat him harshly because of his eye problems. "Since starting the therapy he now replies, 'I'm not stupid, my left eye isn't hooked up to my brain'," said Betty.

Dr. Hogue explains the reply Dylan gives to his classmates by saying that because the left eye muscles are weak, the brain receives blurred information. It takes less effort to stop using the weak eye than for the brain to unscramble the information. When the weak eye is not used, the muscle relaxes and the eye turns inward, towards the nose.

MLERF is providing vision therapy for Dylan every week, through the ECA program. During the therapy sessions, an arsenal of different methods are used to help strengthen Dylan's left eye. For example,

- The right lens of Dylan's eyeglasses is taped so that he is forced to use the left, weaker eye.

• Dylan walks on a balance beam and stands on a seesaw to improve his balance and increase his depth perception.

• A special machine is used to put light on both eyelids for five to ten minutes, stimulating the retinas. This helps decrease the suppression experienced by the left eye.

Betty Coday explained her gratefulness and the importance of MLERF's eye care program by stating, "I do not believe that Dylan should suffer because I have no way to pay for this treatment. Thank God you guys are here, your program is wonderful."

If you know of someone in need of assistance, call MLERF at 1-800-753-2265.



Eye Bank Program Celebrates 40th Anniversary

The Missouri Lions' eye banking program is celebrating 40 years of providing restored sight to those in need. Since the first cornea was provided for transplant by the eye bank in 1960, more than 14,000 people have been given the gift of sight.

The anniversary offers a chance to recognize the success of the eye banking program, the recipients who have received cornea transplants, the donors and their families who have made the donation possible, the enucleators for retrieving the donor eye tissue and the Lion transport volunteers as well as the Highway Patrol, who donate their time to deliver the tissue to the eye bank.

During the past 40 years, the eye bank has grown to become one of the largest eye banks in the nation, and now operates six facilities located in Missouri, Kansas and Illinois. The eye bank has served patients from age 6 days to 105 years.

"We're very proud of the progress the eye bank has made over the years and the impact it has made on so many lives," stated Lion Wendy Bahr, assistant director. "The success of the program can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of every member of our staff and volunteers. Providing a service to those in need for 40 years is a cause for celebration for all of us."

Governors' Forum Scheduled For July 8, 2000

The annual Governors' Forum training session for fiscal year 2000-2001 District Governors and their appointed district sight chairmen will be held Saturday, July 8th, 2000.

The one-day training session will be held at the Health Pavilion, in Columbia.

Incoming District Governors and their Sight Chairmen will receive detailed information about the training in the coming weeks.

Individual and Group Tours of the Foundation are always available.

Contact the PR office at 573-443-1471 to schedule a tour today.



Year 2000 Brings Changes To Foundation Board of Directors Plans For New Age Style Meeting

The March MLERF Board of Directors meeting will begin at a new time and offer new features to the Missouri Lions.

The Board is changing the meeting time to 1:00 p.m. in order to offer the opportunity for more Lions to attend the meeting and allow time for travel.

The meeting will be held Saturday, March 11th, at the Health Pavilion in Columbia. The Health Pavilion is located on the south side of the Columbia Regional Hospital, at 404 Keene Street.

With the Foundation's newly expanded computing services division, the Board will offer some added features at the upcoming Board meeting.

"Our geographic challenges (statewide sight programs and eye banking in three states) are calling for improved methods of communications," explained Mark Livesay, associate director at MLERF, "As a result we have expanded our services to adopt an advanced communications method of on-line and internet resources for the Foundation and its programs."

MLERF will use these new communication methods to broadcast the March Board of Directors meeting to the Lions at their homes and at the Springfield and Kansas City eye bank facilities. A few features that will be offered at the March meeting include:

- Internet streamed live audio of the Board

Second Annual Race For Sight

MLERF will be hosting the second annual 'Race For Sight' on Sunday, April 30th beginning at 8 a.m., at the Wilson's Fitness Center in Columbia. The event will raise funds for the Foundation's amblyopia screening program.

This years race will include a duathlon as well as the triathlon event. Volunteers are also needed. If you or your club is interested in volunteering, or you would like to learn more about the event or obtain a race application, visit our website at www.raceforsight.org.

This is one event you wont want to miss - up to 500 participants from Missouri and surrounding states - see for yourself, just how big this race has become.

meeting from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m, however, there will be a limited number of participants available.

- Web-based question submittal forum, with a few selected to be answered live during the meeting. Remaining questions will be answered by the Executive Director via email the following Monday.

- Periodically refreshed still photos of the meeting

- Role Call for internet connected Lions members and their clubs - continually showing all virtual participants.

- Documents from the meeting will be available from the site, in printable form.

To be a virtual participant, visit the MLERF website at www.mlerf.org. All technical specifications and information needed will be available on the website.

Future Board of Directors meetings are: June 10th, September 9th and December 9th. The annual Governors' Forum will be held Saturday, July 8th.

FUTURE ATTRACTIONS

- **On-line memorial site**

Allowing Lions and general public to make gifts in memory or in honor of a friend or loved one, and receive a personalized acknowledgment upon completion of the transaction.

The site will also post all memorial funds established and list the 'Memorial Wall'-as displayed in the Foundation lobby, listing all memorial funds of \$500 or more.

- **Virtual Lions Club Ambassadors**

Any Lions member may register as the clubs Virtual Ambassador to receive the most current updates on the Foundation's programs, then share this information or print if off and take it to the club meeting.

- **Web email system for Missouri Lions**

A complete resource for the Missouri Lions. Offering a browser based email system, free of charge, to the Missouri Lions. Allowing a better way to communicate messages to the Missouri Lions, and an opportunity to link other Lion sites for one-stop browsing.

ZAPM TRAINING ATTENDEES...



Zone Amblyopia Project Managers (ZAPM) are being trained throughout the state on how to conduct free amblyopia screens at local daycares and preschools. District A-2 was the first to undergo the training and District G has followed with two ZAPM training sessions. Other districts are being scheduled as volunteer applications are received. Pictured at the A-2 training session are Tina Twenter, Amblyopia Screen Coordinator, demonstrating the use of the photoscreener camera to (l-r) Becky Henderson, PID Wayne Henderson, Jeanette Garrett and Lion Susie Neier, District Sight Chairman.