



## **“Seeing is Believing”**

**Low-Vision Evaluations for Students**

**In 1991, Lions made a pledge to the children of Illinois.**

**We believe that no child needs to face blindness as their future.**

**Dear Lions Members & Friends,**

*Launched in the spring of 1991 as a pilot program between the Spectrios Institute for Low Vision, the Illinois College of Optometry, the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind, and the Lions of Illinois Foundation, the “Seeing is Believing” Program has benefitted thousands of students over the years.*

*Your Foundation was able to help over 300 students through your Low Vision Program last year.*

*As the school year gets underway. This year will be no different. Your Foundation, with the collaborations through our Low Vision partners, and the generous support from the clubs throughout Illinois, can make this year an even better year. There was not one student turned away from the necessary services last year and we do not want to turn any away this year. Your Foundation strives to keep all of your programs and services alive and thriving.*

*Remember we are not asking for a donation, we are asking for the opportunity to provide a student with Low Vision. A chance to excel in school, in society, in job placement, and in their future. We can continue our mission to make a difference in the lives that we have pledged to serve. **Can we count on you this year.***

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mario J. Gumino'.

**Lion Mario J. Gumino, PDG**  
**Executive Director**



**“EI-VEE”**

**Our “Seeing is Believing”  
Mascot**



## Dear Lions Members & Friends,

The Lions of Illinois Foundation partnering with Spectrios Institute for Low Vision, Center for Sight and Hearing, the Illinois College of Optometry, and the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind. To provide a FREE comprehensive visual evaluation to Illinois students in grades K-12. Students are referred by special education staff employed by the Illinois Board of Education. The exams are performed by licensed optometrists that travel to the different screening locations throughout the state.

**Other components of the program include:**

- Referring parents to vocational counseling
- Braille reading instruction
- Orientation and mobility training for child
- Adaptive technology training

The LIF "Seeing is Believing" Low Vision Program for Students provides a visually impaired child with the optical tools and training necessary to help prevent further vision loss or even blindness. But more importantly, these are the children we have promised to help by preserving what sight they have left. Their future is in our hands.



Seeing is Believing Mascot, EL-Vee

**In 1991 Lions made a pledge to the children of Illinois.**  
**We believe that no child needs to face blindness as their future.**  
 Please help to preserve that pledge with your donation.

Enclosed is our check/money order to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ student (s) at a cost of \$290 each.  
Included is the cost of a vision screen & any optical tools youth are recommended or prescribed by the optometrist.

Amount of donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name/or Individual Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Address / Individual's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone number(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check payable to: LIF**  
**We also accept credit cards, please call us.**

Submit form & donation to:  
**Lions of Illinois Foundation**  
2254 Oakland Drive  
Sycamore, IL 60178



Phone: 815-756-5633  
[Lionsofillinoisfoundation.org](http://Lionsofillinoisfoundation.org)  
[Facebook.com/LionsofIL](https://Facebook.com/LionsofIL)

**Remember we are not asking for a donation, we are asking for the opportunity to provide a student with low vision a chance to excel in school, in society, in job placement, in their future.**

**We can continue our mission to make a difference in the lives that we have pledged to serve.**

**Please join us with your donation today.**

**If you would like to place a birdies guess, please fill in your number here \_\_\_\_\_**

## Vision Statement

The Vision of the Lions of Illinois Foundation is to create a permanent vehicle for the delivery of programs and services to people with vision and hearing needs.

## Mission Statement

The Lions of Illinois Foundation exists to assist in the general improvement of the quality of life of those in Illinois having unmet needs. It is the specific mission of the Foundation to provide quality programs and services to the people of Illinois for the detection, treatment, and rehabilitation of visual and hearing impairments. The Foundation, solely, or in conjunction with the Lions/Lioness Clubs, Foundations, and other organizations, shall provide its assistance through grant processes or delivered through direct or indirect programs and services.

## Monetary Support

The Lions of Illinois Foundation is funded mainly by club contributions from Candy Day, Sight and Sound Sweepstakes, Tootsie Pop Day, Gift Card Campaign, Annual Gala, Car Show and BBQ.

The Foundation led the campaign to raise \$5 million to finance construction of the Lions of Illinois Eye Research Institute (L.I.E.R.I.) in Chicago, as well as the campaign to raise \$1.1 million to finance the Charles I. Young Professional Chair.

## Why the Lions Help

The Lions of Illinois Foundation is a nonprofit organization with members throughout the state of Illinois.

Since 1925, the Lions have taken the challenge given to them by Helen Keller. Addressing the Lions at their convention she urged them to become:

**“Knights of the Blind in the Crusade Against Blindness.”**



*Scan here to learn more about LIF.*

Lions of Illinois  
Foundation



2254 Oakland Drive  
Sycamore, Illinois 60178  
Phone: 815-756-5633 V & TV relay  
LionsOfIllinoisFoundation.org  
Facebook.com/LIFnd/

#SLV-01



Lions of Illinois  
Foundation

*Serving People with Vision and Hearing Needs  
Since 1974.*

**Low Vision Programs  
for Students**



“EL-Vee” our  
Low Vision  
Mascot

**“Seeing Is Believing”**

**A statewide low vision evaluation  
program for youth**



## What is the “Seeing Is Believing” Program?

The “Seeing Is Believing” program is designed to help severely visually impaired youth make the most of their remaining sight. The Lions of Illinois Foundation partners with Spectrios Institute for Low Vision, the Illinois College of Optometry, and the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind to provide a FREE comprehensive visual evaluation to Illinois students in grades K-12. Referrals of students are made by special education staff employed by the Illinois Board of Education.



Low vision optometrists travel to the screening location, bringing equipment for examinations & demonstrations of low vision devices such as magnifiers and telescopes. The prescribed lenses are sent to the Vision Coordinators of the school districts, who then distribute the devices and provide the youth with user instructions.

### **Other components of the program include:**

- Referring parents to vocational counseling
- Braille reading instruction
- Orientation and mobility training for child
- Adaptive technology training

## What is the benefit of the program to my child?

Students from Kindergarten through twelfth grade gain a better understanding and awareness of their vision loss. They learn to maximize their remaining sight with prescribed optical devices which make print information more accessible. All diagnostic services, glasses, and devices are provided free to eligible students by the Lions of Illinois Foundation.



*Student evaluations are performed by the personnel at Spectrios Institute for Low Vision, at the Jacksonville Semi-Annual Low Vision Clinic, and through the Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind.*

The program furthers a visually impaired youth's ability to increase their academic potential, enrich their social skills, and future employment opportunities. In addition helping to address their daily challenges growing up with vision loss.

### **How much does the program cost?**

The “Seeing Is Believing” Program costs the Lions of Illinois Foundation \$290 per student. The actual cost for the exam and prescribed optical tools & devices, including telescopic eyeglasses, is \$1,000.

All services & prescribed devices are FREE of charge to the screened students. The goal of our Low Vision program is to protect our youth from blindness.

## In 1991, Lions made a pledge to the children of Illinois.

**We believe that no child needs to face blindness as their future. Please help us to preserve that pledge with your donation.**

**Please return and make checks payable to Lions of Illinois Foundation.**

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Student(s) at a cost of \$290 each

Amount of donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**If you would like to place a birdies guess, please fill in your number here:**

\_\_\_\_\_