



Lions Screen Kids Sight

Overview – Lions of Yavapai

Lions of Yavapai is a coalition of Lions from clubs throughout Yavapai County with the goal to provide service beyond what individual clubs can do, especially in underserved parts of the Yavapai community. Participation in LOY is voluntary and its activities purposely avoid interfering with all clubs' work.

LOY is an Arizona corporation with an IRS 501(c)(3) certification as a Public Charity. It currently conducts activities under sponsorship by a Lions Club because it is in the process of being recognized by Lions Clubs International headquarters as an official non-club Lions organization.

This LOY organization has real potential to do good for persons in need in the region and for Arizona Lionism. That is the reason for developing LOY as another Lions presence here. It is actively expressing its potential, proving its benefit.

Mobile Eye Care Service

Many clubs are out of funds for eye care before they are out of need in their town, and there is little Lions service in rural areas where many poor people live outside of the larger towns. There is a significant funding source available for Lions to deliver eye care to residents in Yavapai County called the Melvin Clack Fund. Lions of Yavapai developed the capability and is delivering eye care service to the underserved, putting that resource into service. LOY is also encouraging clubs to access that Fund, if they wish, to perform additional eye care beyond the care their clubs can fund. This degree of organization and mobilization is an asset LOY is providing. Many persons in need have been and will be served because of this.

Specifically, LOY owns and operates a Mobile Eye Care Van with a fully equipped eye doctors examination room. It travels to the rural burgs in Yavapai County where poor people need eye care and cannot afford such luxury. With volunteer doctors and volunteer Lions, LOY delivers Lions eye care service, enriching lives of struggling folks. This care gets funded due to LOY working out access to the Melvin Clack Fund for this service activity.

Student Vision Screening

Due to awareness created by this mobile eye care, LOY was invited to apply for a grant from Arizona Community Foundation to vision screen young students in Yavapai County schools. Here too, LOY developed the capability and is delivering eye care service to kids in pre-K through grade four across the county, a task beyond a single club's ability. ACF provided \$25,000 to purchase sophisticated state-of-the-art photoscreener/autorefractors and associated equipment and startup costs in 2018.

Lion volunteers, working as LOY, created the methods for screening students, engaged the schools in this pilot program, and created volunteer training. Twenty-three recruited volunteers from every Lions Club and a Lioness Club trained on eye problems, autorefractor operation, and screening procedures. In eleven schools, Lions provided vision screening service to 1,258 young students in 2018 during the pilot program. This helped identify and then correct vision for kids whose learning might be impeded by sight.

Since 2018, these volunteers working in vision screening teams, each school year manage the service for schools in their club's area, and recruit more Lion volunteers.

Additional Opportunities

Lions of Yavapai is a platform that can enable other service and fundraising activities that are beyond the capability of one club, or can have greater reach if multiple clubs coalesce around a project.

If you have an idea for doing more good for persons in need in the region or for improving Arizona Lionism – that is Lions of Yavapai's purpose.