

Lions of Yavapai Mobile Eye Care Van



Program Background

A study Lion Joe Preston initiated to try to better serve the sight impaired in Yavapai County included traveling to rural county towns and speaking to local people about eye care where they live, studying county demographics.

A study was done in 2014 to credibly measure the extent of eye care service need in every rural town in the county and local residents were asked about how eye care worked there. Towns visited included: Ash Fork, Bagdad, Black Canyon City, Camp Verde, Cordes Lakes, Mayer, Paulden and Seligman.

Each community had issues in common with other communities and other issues that were unique to that community. But one theme was a constant: Wherever there was a Lions club, there was support for eye care. However, most of these rural areas had no Lions clubs and indeed little access to, or scant funds for, eye care. People in rural areas many times went without proper eye care. And transportation to towns with eye care was not always available. It became clear that bringing eye care to these rural towns would be the best way to deliver eye care.

At the time the use of an AZ Lions Mobile Eye Lab was an available for a fee. Using this resource required a number of steps including scheduling the lab, enlisting volunteer doctors, notifying local residents with restricted incomes and setting appointments and running an eye clinic.

However, an other option became available. Through private and Lions club funding, we were able to procure a used mobile eye exam office set-up in an RV from the New Mexico Lions in 2015. This is now the Lions of Yavapai Mobile Eye Care Van.

The Mobile Eye Care Van is a fully equipped mobile eye doctor examination room. It can be used by volunteer eye doctors to give eye exams and write prescriptions for eye glasses. It was our mission to use this mobile doctor's office to bring eye care services to rural parts of Yavapai County, with particular attention to those residents who lack the means for or access to eye care services. There is no charge to the recipients of these services.

At the same time Lions of Yavapai was formed and began the process of accreditation with the IRS and LCI. The startup involved pilot events at the end of 2015 and in 2016, while we worked on an organizational structure and developed the funding parameters for utilizing the Mel Clack Fund. This also included trying to recruit eye doctors, which was one of our biggest challenges. We then began to run eye care events the second half of 2017.

Lions of Yavapai Eye Care Van Event

A typical eye care event entails giving eye exams for approximately 20 clients. In addition to their exam, the clients are given a choice of designer frames to choose from and will have a pair of glasses mailed to them as a result of this event.

The list of sites in Yavapai County where eye care events exams have been held are: Ash Fork, Bagdad, Black Canyon City, Camp Verde, Cordes Lakes, Mayer, Paulden, Seligman, Yarnell, and Wilhoit. Many of these have had two, and some three, events.

Approximately 7 Lions and a volunteer doctor staff each event along with the local site organizer. We also try to invite Lions from other Lions clubs in Yavapai County. These events are managed by PNL Lions Paul Chastain and Doug George

Table 7-4: Eye Care Van Clients That We Assisted Through 2021

Year	Clients Assisted	Number of Events
2017	85	4
2018	183	9
2019	234	10
*2020	190	9
*2021	140	6

*Note: One or more events cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic

2022 Remaining Eye Care Van Events

Date	Location	Time	Contact
August	Yarnell Presbyterian Church	9:00 - 4:00	Rosalie Lechner 928-427-3421
Saturdays			
August 20	CONFIRMED		
	Mayer Area Community Service Center	9:00 - 4:00	Anne Marie McCoy 928-632-7511
Weekdays			
Sept. 16	CONFIRMED		
October	Camp Verde Community Library	9:00 - 4:00	Carson Ralston 928-554-8391
Date open			
Weekdays			
TBD	PLANNING STAGE		
November	Prescott		
Date open			
In-town sign-up event			
TBD			
PLANNING STAGE			
December	Black Canyon City Squaw Peak Realty	9:00 - 4:00	Shawn Snelling 623-374-9363
Saturdays			
December 3	CONFIRMED		

Typical Event Activities



Interviewing an entering client



Interviewing a client for the Mel Clack qualification form



Greeting a client at the Intake Table



Assisting a client in filling out the doctor's examination form and recording preliminary refraction readings from the Spot Screener



Taking client's picture and assisting client in the selection of eye glass frames



Lions and with the doctor, optical tech and library coordinator after an event