



— Oregon Lions —  
Sight & Hearing Foundation

Good afternoon Chairman Wagner and members of the Committee. My name is Brad King. I'm a Lion from Tualatin and a Lead Screening Event Coordinator for the Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation's School Vision Screening Program. I retired from local law enforcement 8 years ago and have worked for the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation for over 6 years.

I'm a lucky Lion that gets to go out almost every day and manage vision screening for students all over Oregon, helping to consistently identify just over 10% of those students who need more vision assistance, like an exam and eye glasses or medical optical assistance. There are tremendous resources available in Oregon for students to get those exams and glasses or medical optical treatment, but those students must be identified first and that happens at school based vision screenings.

I sorely wish that some of the incredible school nurses I get to work with as well as those my partners get to work with all over Oregon could be here to tell you about the impact of early quality vision screening for students. They would tell you that they have seen the positive, for-the-good results of students getting the vision assistance they need and doing better in school. But ... they're all at their schools doing the very important work they do, so you get me. But ... a Salem school nurse recently told me that she's seeing more and more students wearing glasses since they've been getting quality vision screening.

School District Superintendent Bryan Trendell, from the southern Oregon Coast tells us: "It's a great program. They try to catch something that may not have been caught otherwise because not everyone gets their eyes checked on an annual basis. This is a good way to catch that and provide our kids a level playing field."

A school nurse from the valley tells us: "So much time is save with OLSHF! We can't afford a SPOT device and Snellen charts are not as accurate. We consider Lions Clubs a stepping stone to help our students' access eye care resources."

A Bend Lion told us that a child was screened at a school in Bend and he was found to have a lazy eye problem (amblyopia) of which his parent was not aware until the screening. She said that she didn't even suspect he had an eye problem. She is so grateful for the school screening program!



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From up in far northeastern Oregon we hear that while screening students at the Imbler School, librarian Gidget Sannar offered a thanks of appreciation to the Lions Club. The Spot device found that her daughter had a problem that may have never been detected on a normal eye screening. The doctor said she was very close to losing vision in the left eye had her mom not taken action after the school vision screening event.

A Jennings Lodge mom wrote: “Thank you for screening my kindergartner’s eyes. We had no idea he had a condition! Because of you, he is now a very hip and properly sighted little boy with glasses. He loves them. Thank you!”

As you heard, last school year, our organization helped do vision screening for more than 180,000 school students in Oregon, with a “referral rate” of over 10%, or ... over 18,000 families who found out that their child needed to go to the eye doctor, who likely would not have known that without that screening.

The partners in these school based vision screenings, teachers, principals, school secretaries, administrators and especially school nurses appreciate, support and endorse this program. It takes an untenable amount of work off the shoulders of over-burdened and scarce school nurses and provides an equitable, efficient and effective vision screening for all students, backed up by a variety of resources for families for vision care for those children.

As a respected school nurse says: “If Johnny can’t see, Johnny can’t read. If Johnny can’t read, Johnny can’t learn.” Since 80% of learning is visual, we are denying these children access to an appropriate education. Ensuring that a child has needed glasses may also reduce the costs of providing intensive interventions. A \$3.20 vision screening is a dollar’s worth of prevention as opposed to thousands in intervention, support and other costs that fail to “cure” the life-time of problems as an under-educated adult in Oregon. Let’s not fail these students.

We screen school children’s vision all over Oregon, in inner cities, in big towns, in suburbs, small communities and in remote rural areas. All over Oregon.

\*Senator Gelser – We screen students in your district in Albany, Corvallis, Philomath, Tangent, virtually all the school districts in District 8. (\*31 Events, 8,033screened/780 referred = 9.7% referral rate.)



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\*Senator Hurd – We screen at schools and school districts all over District 1, including Brookings, Bandon, Roseburg, Coquille and Myrtle Point, just to name a few. (\*26 Events, 6,895 screened/587 referred = 8.5% referral rate.)

\*Senator Haas – District 14 includes all of the Beaverton School District where we screen at all 34 public schools. (\*34 Events, 17,048 screened/1,955 referred = 11.5% referral rate.)

\*Senator Thomsen – We screen children at all of the public schools and some private schools in your District in Clackamas County and Hood River County with Lions from Milwaukie and all over Hood River County, (my autumn vacation is a week in the Hood River County School District). (\*31 Events, 8,787 screened/911 referrals = 10.4% referral rate.)

\*Senator Wagner – In district 19 we screen all of the students in the Lake Oswego and Tigard/Tualatin School Districts, including Durham and all of the public schools in West Linn. (\* 22 Events, 8,715 screened/792 referred = 9.1% referral rate.)

Senators, we help do the vision screening of almost all the students in your district. But that's not all. We virtually cover the state of Oregon, screening children from Astoria to Jordan Valley, from Wallowa to Brookings ... and everywhere in between. Even if OLSHF doesn't do the screening, we believe all Oregon students deserve an equal chance at a quality education and a quality future.

Thank you.

It's now an honor to introduce you to Lynn Gruss, a mom from Jennings Lodge Elementary in the Oregon City School District. In 2014, when Lynn's son Ethan was 8 years old, he received a screening from one of my teammates and Lynn is here to tell you how important that turned out to be.