



THE OHIO LIONS FOUNDATION



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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2005

New Website

The Ohio Lions Foundation's new website www.ohiolionsfoundation.org is up and running. The new website contains contact information for the Foundation's officers; a list of the Foundation's district trustees with their address, telephone number and email address; copies of the Foundation's organizational documents; financial information, including a complete copy of the most recent IRS Form 990; disaster relief grant procedures; information regarding the Ohio Lions Foundation Helen Keller Scholarship Program, including contact information for the participating universities; a report of the Low Vision Reader Matching Grant Program, including a downloadable grant application form; information regarding the James T. and Betty Coffey Fellowship Program; and news articles, including pictures of the recent flooding in southern Ohio. Lion Dan Lester (Dist. 13-C) serves as our webmaster.

Ohio Lions Foundation – Helen Keller Scholarship Program

A total of ten visually impaired Ohio students are currently receiving *Ohio Lions Foundation Helen Keller Scholarship* grants, in the amount of \$2,750.00 each, for the 2004-2005 academic year at six participating state-supported universities: The Ohio State University, Ohio University, Bowling Green State University, Cleveland State University, Wright State University, and Youngstown State University. The *OLF Helen Keller Scholarship Program* is one of the very few scholarship programs available for visually impaired students pursuing post-graduate courses of study. Since inception of the program, over \$261,000 in Helen Keller Scholarships have been awarded to students in nearly every academic field of study, including nursing, education, rehabilitation, electrical engineering, finance, mathematics, computer / information science, music, law, and veterinary medicine.

Disaster relief grants

The Foundation continues to be proud of its record of responding quickly with disaster relief grants for food, clothing, blankets, temporary shelter, home heating fuel, medical expenses, eyeglasses and sanitation supplies for victims of floods, tornados, ice storms, fires, and other disasters striking Ohio. In September, 2004, when unusually heavy rains flooded much of southern Ohio, the OLF responded immediately with flood relief grants (primarily in the form of vouchers for food, prescriptions and clothing) for the Marietta, Belpre, Lisbon, and Adena communities. Again with the second round of flooding in January, 2005, additional flood relief grants were awarded in the Belpre and Marietta areas. So far this fiscal year more than \$23,700 has been awarded in disaster relief grants throughout Ohio.

Capital matching grants

The Foundation has just completed a matching grant in the amount of \$1,862 for the Sight Center of Northwest Ohio for the purchase of a new computerized vision testing device for use in its Roving Eye Vision Van.

Low Vision Reader Matching Grants

So far this year an additional four matching grants have been awarded for the acquisition of low vision readers to be placed in public libraries or community based senior centers. A total of 50 low vision readers have now been placed through this program. As a follow up, the Foundation will be sending a survey questionnaire to each recipient public library to ascertain the level of usage and overall satisfaction with the units.

Pre-School Vision Screening Grants

A pre-school vision screening grant in the amount of \$2,317 has been awarded to the Lynchburg-Clay School District (Highland County, Dist. 13-J).

James T. and Betty Coffey Fellowship Restricted Fund

Eighteen program grants of \$500 each have been awarded to schools throughout Ohio.

Plain City Lions Scholarship Restricted Fund

A new advised restricted fund has been created, with the Plain City Lions Club serving as the Fund Advisor, to provide college scholarships to graduates of Jonathan Alder High School in Plain City (Dist 13-F). Funding for the scholarships, to be known as the *Plain City Lions – Vowell Scholarships*, have been made possible through a very generous contribution from the Vowell Charitable Remainder Trust.

Other Advised Restricted Funds

Other advised restricted funds maintained by the Foundation have provided grants for individual eye cases (\$16,700), maintained the Lions Sensory Garden at the Ohio State School for the Blind (\$1,600), and provided support grants for various Lions supported sight-related organizations (\$17,500).

A \$3,000 grant from the Tri-Village Lions Restricted Fund has been awarded to the Global Village of Humanity, a charitable organization started by a Lion from central Ohio, for the “*Shoes for Humanity*” project. This project collects and distributes free recycled shoes to impoverished barefoot people in equatorial regions experiencing endemic and epidemic parasitic infections. These recycled shoes act as a physical barrier to protect barefoot people from soil-borne diseases and the debilitating personal and social pathology that follows. Globally, 43.5 million life-years are lost due to soil-transmitted parasites.