

February, 2014

To: Lions Clubs of Ohio From: Ohio Lions Foundation Board of Trustees

Fellow Lions:

The need for Low Vision Readers and other types of magnification equipment for individuals who have sight limitations is a constant challenge. The OLF Board would like for every Lions Club to become more aware of this need and to assist those individuals in the best possible way. We believe clubs and individual Lions may be aware of LVR units that are currently in personal homes, public libraries, or other public places and that these units are not being used. We also believe that clubs may know individuals who need such devices but cannot afford to purchase them. Therefore, we encourage anyone who knows of persons who need a unit and/or magnifier to let someone in their local Lions club know about it. We also ask that if there are units available for loan or gifting to needy individuals that the local Lions should be contacted and the information passed on. The District OLF Trustees will be happy to assist in this endeavor if needed. Our goal is to put those who need the equipment in touch with those who might be able to provide it. We suggest that the units be loaned with the understanding that they can be passed on to someone else when the original individual no longer has need. The OLF cannot house the units but we hope this method of communicating will help serve the needs of many.

The OLF cannot purchase LVR units for individuals because funding is not available for such a large number of potential recipients. However, Lions clubs may be able to purchase various types of magnification equipment and provide it for individuals in their local communities. Such involvement is encouraged and appreciated. The new Ipad matching funds program that has been introduced through OLF this year is another method by which libraries and not-for-profit organizations may be able to assist those who have vision impairment. The local Lions Club simply provides its share of the matching funds in a manner similar to that used for several years with the LVR units. The advantage of the Ipad program is that the Ipads cost approximately $650.00 so the club needs to provide only the matching amount of approximately $325.00.

Websites such as visualtechconnection.com and ulva.com can provide valuable information when looking for magnification equipment. However, the OLF does not endorse any particular company or website. Please contact us if you have questions. Lion Jim Faust, OLF Trustee from District J, has agreed to serve as the interim OLF Board contact person for this project. His phone number is 937-288-2235. His email address is pjames.faust@gmail.com. However, please feel free to contact any District OLF Trustee for information.