

Northwest Lions Foundation Report

Report by: Bill Lundin - Board of Trustees -Chairman

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Fellow Lions of MD19, it is with great pleasure, that I present some great news on the growth of SightLife and The Northwest Lions Foundation for year 2019.

At the outset, we are celebrating our 50th Anniversary. In 1969, Lions Jim Smalley, Chet Lesh and Jack Radford organized the Lions of MD-19 to establish an eye bank. Little did they know that someday that eyebank would become the largest eye bank on the planet?

We hope that many of you had a chance to attend the presentation we made at the recent USA/Canada Forum. For those unable to attend, I will highlight the accomplishment of our eye bank SightLife and our local Northwest Lions Foundation.

SightLife continues to not only serve the Pacific Northwest with outstanding service, but has reached incredible growth of over 12,000 corneal transplants in the United States. In addition, we will provide 24,000 additional corneal transplants to needy people in our global program. Domestically, SightLife now operates in nine states in America.

However, our greatest strides have been in SightLife's Global program. We have partnered with 30 eye banks spanning Asia, Africa and Latin America. In dozens of cases, we work with local Lions Clubs in these countries. While we have trained thousands of Doctors in corneal surgery, we are most proud of training over 400 Community Health Workers who can provide early treatment at a fraction of the cost of eye surgery. Next year we will be able to report on some of the new technological innovations we are beginning to employ in our mission to eliminate Corneal Blindness by 2040.

We are very pleased the Northwest Lions Foundation's community service programs continue to screen thousands of school children across the MD-19 service area. Most of these screens were provided by using our four mini-units. Our large screening unit has been out of service much of this year for lack of a driver. We are happy to report that we have recruited a new driver who will join us late in the fall.

Finally, The Foundation has launched its new state of the art hearing aids. Last year the market value of the aids distributed thru our Lions program exceeded TWO million Dollars.

In closing, The Board of Trustees of The Northwest Lions Foundation would like to thank all the Lions and Lions Clubs in MD-19 for their continued support of White Cane Days. Thank you for your support, as we continue to review and improve our services to your clubs and communities.