

LIONS LOW VISION CENTERS, INC.

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Enhancing the Quality of Life

The Lions of District 23B own and operate Low Vision Centers throughout Hartford and Litchfield counties. These not-for-profit centers provide services at no out of pocket expense to the client. All clients must be under the care of an eye care provider and must have a current report or diagnosis detailing the client's visual acuity and reason for vision loss in order to schedule an appointment with the Low Vision Center. Qualifying clients have vision that can not be corrected beyond 20/60 and/or are experiencing a reduced field of vision that impacts activities of daily life.

Low vision is a loss of eyesight that makes daily tasks difficult, such as reading the mail or a prescription bottle, writing a check, recognizing faces, crossing a street, cooking, and shopping.

When not treated early or in their later stages, eye diseases such as macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma impair vision to the

extent that glasses, contact lenses, medication, and surgery cannot provide any improvement.

The Lions Low Vision Center provides vision rehabilitation services, training people with low vision to optimize their remaining eyesight and enhance the quality of their lives. The center does not restore lost vision, but teaches each individual to effectively use his or her remaining vision. Our low vision specialist completes a comprehensive low vision evaluation working with the client, the client's ophthalmologist, and the client's family.

Low vision devices are recommended and provided based on the individual's goals and daily activities. Such devices might include hand held magnifiers, large button phones, talking clocks, talking pill boxes, large print books and high intensity lamps just to name a few.



The goal of the Lions Low Vision Center is to restore confidence and independence to those with impaired vision. We teach new techniques needed to safely accomplish routine daily tasks. We restore hope, and increase safety allowing our clients to lead fuller and more productive lives.

If you or someone you know would benefit from our services, please contact your eye care provider to obtain a diagnosis, and then call us at 1-800-676-5715 to schedule an appointment.

Did you know ? :

- There are 15,000 registered Legally Blind people in the state of Connecticut
- It is estimated that there are over 80,000 visually impaired people in the state of Connecticut
- People over the age of 65 have a 30% chance of developing age-related macular degeneration. It is the leading of blindness for those aged 65 and older.
- Blindness is the number one complication of people with diabetes.

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Lions Low Vision Center Funding:

Funding for the Lions Low Vision Centers, Inc. is provided by Lions Clubs of District 23B. Special fundraising events have been established by Lions Clubs in Berlin, East Windsor, Enfield, Plainville, Bristol, West Hartford, and Harwinton.

As a 501(c)3 organization, all donations are tax deductible. We are especially pleased to receive donations from individuals whose company has a matching gift program.

Please consider making a small donation to assist us in serving the visually impaired so that they can lead fuller and more productive lives.

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33 Highland Avenue
New Britain, CT 06052
1-800-676-5715

Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation
Old Ire Ore Road
Bloomfield, CT 06002
1-800-676-5715

Sullivan Senior Center
Albert Street
Torrington, CT 06790
1-800-676-5715

Rehab Dynamics
975 Farmington Ave.
Bristol, CT 06010
1-860-589-3587

Client Spotlight

Vera lived alone in Hartford for many years. She was an energetic, free spirited woman, with a love for the outdoors. At the age of 78, she was slowly losing her "straight-ahead" vision that allowed her to recognize faces and read. She had been diagnosed with macular degeneration. Her options to lead an independent life were running out. As her remaining eyesight deteriorated, her ophthalmologist recommended that she purchase adaptive devices to aid her in daily tasks.

Vera soon realized that without training and assistance, the devices were of no use to her. She was very disappointed.

Vera then visited the Lions Low Vision Center.

Following her initial evaluation, Vera received training on the use of a new magnifying device specifically recommended to meet her needs. Vera also received vision rehabilitation training that taught her new ways of doing basic tasks. She learned how to color match her clothing by sewing a series of knots on the hems of her slacks and blouses. A special illuminated magnifier allowed her to continue her knitting. She learned about helpful devices such as talking clocks. Vera learned how to apply raised markings to common settings on her stove and oven. Special checks, designed for people with low vision, allowed Vera to continue to write her own checks and pay her own bills.

Vera's association with the Lions Low Vision Center renewed and energized her self-confidence, increased her safety, and provided her more freedom. Vera walked into the Lions Low Vision Center handicapped with low vision, but walked out of the Center empowered.

Vera had great confidence in her doctor. She said her doctor understood her eye disease but he didn't understand that every morning she had to get up, get dressed, read her mail, knit, write a check, make a meal, and shop for groceries. Vera thanked the Lions Low Vision Center for filling that void.

How can we serve you?