

# LIONS LOW VISION CENTERS, INC.

Volume 1 Issue 2

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33 HIGHLAND AVE., NEW BRITAIN, CT 06052  
860-832-9601 800-676-5715 FAX 860-832-9604

## Obtaining Appointments at the Lions Low Vision Center

Referrals come from many sources: Eye Care Providers, Lions, Friends, Family members, etc.

- All clients should have had a diluted eye exam and refraction in the past 6 months.
- All clients are asked to either bring or have their eye doctor fax us a copy of their most recent eye exam. This assures us of the accuracy of the diagnosis, and that the client is indeed under the care of an eye care provider.
- We see anyone with a diagnosis of vision loss, significant enough, even while wearing eyeglasses, to impede activities of daily living. The causes may include eye diseases such as macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic

retinopathy, cataracts, retinitis pigmentosa or vision loss due to trauma, strokes, corneal disease, optic neuritis or any number of other eye diseases.

Anyone can call for the appointment: the client, the physician, the office staff, a Lion, a friend, or a family member.

- The phone number to call is 860-832-9601 or 800-676-5715. If no one is available to take the call, please leave a message and someone will call you back.

Every client should bring with them their newest eyeglasses and any magnifier they are currently using.



Do you know anyone with low vision?

If so, what are you waiting for?

Call us!

860-832-9601

### Did you know ? :

- As a result of aging, vision loss has become a leading disability in the U.S.
- Vision impairment and blindness is increasing at a rapid rate. According to most estimates, the number of people who will be severely visually impaired will double by 2020.
- In the United States, there are 3.3 million people suffering from profound vision loss today.

## ***Lions Low Vision Centers, Inc.***

### **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.

### **Lions Low Vision Centers, Inc.**

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

Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation  
103 Old Iron 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**

Mary, age 88, lives in Southington, with her husband of 67 years. Peter, age 92, has a host of health issues common with senior citizens. Mary is her husband's primary care giver. They live in their own home.

Mary began to experience problems reading her morning paper. The kitchen light was not bright enough. Mary began to feel the newspaper changed the size of their print. Her hobbies include gardening, sewing, knitting, and crocheting. Gardening was not an issue, but her other hobbies became more difficult. Threading a needle to hem a pair of kitchen curtains was impossible. Her son threaded her sewing needles. He even learned how to thread her sewing machine.

Mary made an appointment with her regular ophthalmologist. The doctor told her she had a condition known as age related macular degeneration (AMD). He explained to Mary that macular degeneration was the leading

cause of severe vision loss in Caucasians over the age of 65. He insisted that Mary make an appointment to visit a retina specialist. Together, they found a local ophthalmologist that specialized in retina related diseases. Mary's appointment was booked for the next day. This doctor confirmed the diagnosis and prescribed a course of treatment.

Mary was fortunate, in that her form of AMD was the "wet" form of AMD. The "wet" form accounts for only 10% of all AMD cases. The doctor explained that the medical profession did not exactly know why it develops. He told Mary that an abnormal network of blood vessels forms at the back of the eye, under the retina. They lift and wrinkle the retina, causing distortion. These delicate, thin-walled blood vessels also leak fluid or blood, blurring her central vision. Her treatments temporarily stopped the progression of the disease,

but didn't correct her vision loss. The doctor referred Mary to a low vision specialist.

Mary chose the Lions Low Vision Center. Following her initial evaluation, Mary received an interesting device that threads her sewing needles. A new high intensity lamp helps her read the paper and work on her knitting and crocheting projects. Mary is once again knitting baby Afghans for great grand children. She also received training on the use of a magnifying device specially recommended to meet her needs. Mary uses her hand held magnifier to read her husband's favorite recipes, packaged food labels, and menus at her favorite restaurant.

Early detection of a serious eye disease is important. Routine follow up visits to your ophthalmologist are essential. Make vision rehabilitation an integral part of your treatment program. Call us today for an appointment.