

LIONS VISION

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF MULTIPLE DISTRICT 22 LIONS, LIONESS AND LEO CLUBS

SPRING, 2017

Sounds Across America

As I write I hear all kinds of sounds around me. I hear the sounds of Democracy as people on either side of the various national issues take to the streets, social media, or gather around the water cooler to profess their particular point of view. Sometimes I hear shouts and the sounds of broken things, but I also listen to that inner voice that tells me our Founding Fathers created this messy thing called Democracy and that the people will figure it out.

I hear the familiar “whompf!” in the catcher’s mitt as the major league pitcher throws his best 95 mph fast ball in the first inning of Spring’s opening game. The umpire calls “Strike three!” and the batter’s bat goes silent. I hear the “whoosh!” of the three pointers as America’s best college players participate in that rite of Spring known as “March Madness.” If you get your ear real close to the ground you can hear the daffodils, crocuses, and tulips push their way through Mother Earth as they begin their role in Nature’s drama. When they punch through they will find the robins and the other birds of Spring waiting for them. Nature’s annual awakening puts a smile on people’s faces and if only for just a while, hearts and minds are full of optimism.



I hear a crunchy “clomp, clomp, clomp”. That is the sound of Lions climbing mountains. In small towns and great cities Lions are climbing mountains of challenges so that someone in need is served. At the local levels I hear Lions proudly talking about their projects and how they helped someone. The Lions of MD-22 planted a flag atop one mountain when they created the MD-22 Lions Vision Research Foundation. They planted another when



they joined with the Wilmer Eye Institute to establish the Lions Vision Center, and then another when they completed the \$4 million Endowment Fund to guarantee the Lions Vision Center would operate in perpetuity.

Now we have another opportunity to climb another mountain and plant another flag. The LVRFB Board of Trustees have agreed to lead the raising of a new \$2.5-2.8 million Fund to endow the Fellowship program at the Lions Vision Center. Right now I’m probably hearing some “gasps” from Lions who realize that is a lot of money. Yes it is. But we are going to do this slowly, steadily, and hopefully with significant help from outside sources like Lions from beyond the borders of MD-22, businesses, foundations, and generous individuals. Why should we climb this mountain you ask? I could give Sir Edmond Hillary’s answer when asked why he climbed Mt. Everest. He said simply “Because it’s there” My answer is going to be in unison with that of Dr. Robert Massof, Director of the Lions Vision Center. Dr. Massof states “This is an invaluable program, one of only two in the USA that provides this level of low vision training for interns”. “Graduate interns who then stay at Wilmer or take their knowledge throughout the world.”



I hope that sound I now hear is a big “Ah ha!” “I get it!” “Count me in!” And the next sound I hope to hear is more crisp, crunchy “clomp, clomp, clomps” as more Lions and Lions Clubs join in the climb to the top.

Contributed by PDG John J. Shwed
LVRFB Development Committee Chair

Linus P. Lion, Home at Last!

Last November 19, at the Great Lions Roar, the Lions Low Vision Clinic received a mosaic mascot. Since a few days ago it is in its new place of honor, greeting all patients as they walk from the waiting room to the exam and rehab area. What those patients may not know is how Linus P. Lion came to be there, how he got his name, and where he was born. It’s a convoluted story, involving a deaf-blind artist, travel, and 2 Lions International Presidents, among others, so bear with me and I’ll try to keep it short.

It all started some 15 years ago when Mary Dignan, a talented environmental lawyer in Sacramento, CA, realized that her on-going vision loss from retinitis pigmentosa (RP), com-

bined with hearing loss from Usher syndrome, was becoming too much of an obstacle for continued success in her career. After surviving an encounter with a light rail train, being diagnosed with an acoustic neuroma, and surgery that left her completely deaf on one side, she received a cochlear implant to partially restore hearing on the opposite side and transformed herself into an artist making mosaics, and teaching others with severe vision loss how to make them too. Somewhere during this process Mary had joined the Embarcadero Lions Club in her hometown and gotten their support in hosting a 4-day reunion of RP and Usher patients – twice, with tremendous help from her fellow Lions and her husband Andy. That’s how I know Mary and Andy.

(Linus Continued on Page 7)

LVRF Chairman's Message

Where is your LVRF today? We are starting our second 25 years; we had a fantastic Rally and birthday party in November. I personally cannot wait to see what the next 25 years have in store for us and what strides will be made in Low Vision and how we will improve the lives of those who have low vision. Look what we have done in the first 25!

We have some big plans for our future, including a new Endowment to fund our LVRF fellowship, separate from our yearly budget to give us more to use for research. We are expanding our services and funding beyond the borders of MD-22; we are partnering with some non-Lions businesses in the eye field to help with our Mission, while expanding our own services thru out MD-22. Sounds like a big job, and it is but we're Lions, and we love a big challenge and we never back down.

So how can you help your foundation? If you are asked by your district leadership to serve LVRF, say yes! Make sure your club has a LVRF program so your new Lions and our wise Lions see

the amazing things they are doing with their support of LVRF.

As we all move forward with our Foundation with our association with Johns Hopkins, Wilmer and LOVERNET, there are no mountains we cannot climb. Let's all work towards that day when Low Vision will be as fixable as poor vision is today. LVRF needs every Lion to remember this is your foundation and we can only continue the fight against Low Vision with the support of all our MD-22 Lions.



Yours in Lionism,

PDG Lion Karl E. Gude
Chairman, LVRF

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- Dr. Robert Massof*
- Dr. Gislin Dagnelie*
- Dr. Judy Goldstein*

LVRF Orientation

All Lions take note! There will be an LVRF Orientation on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at the residence of Immediate Past LVRF Chairman, Lion Rodney Timmons and LVRF Administrative Manager PDG Susan Timmons, 724 Pensinger Road, Greencastle, PA 17225.

A light lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m. for those traveling followed by the Orientation which is scheduled to conclude at 4:00 p.m.

Topics are: (1) Goals to Advance the LVRF Mission; (2) Policy and Procedure; (3) Development, Past, Present and Future; (4) Newsletter; (5) Website; (6) Donation & Recognition Request Forms; (7) LOVRNET; (8) Lions Low Vision Fellowship Endowment.

This Orientation is a must for those who will be new on the 2017-2018 Board, i.e. District Governors Elect, 1st & 2nd VDGs Elect, and the 3-year term District Trustees. District LVRF Committee Chairs and all other Lions interested in LVRF are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Following the Orientation, those in attendance will be served up with a very special BBQ of smoked pork and all the trimmings prepared by master BBQ chef, Lion Rodney Timmons. Ask anyone who has tasted his BBQ. They will say that *it is the best there is!*



Please make reservations by contacting the LVRF Administrative Manager, PDG Susan Timmons before May 29 at:

E-Mail: LVRF.info@gmail.com

Address: 724 Pensinger Road, Greencastle, PA 17225.

LOVRNET Update!

PDG Ken Chew
LOVRNET Co-Chair

Sometimes when I think of LOVRNET, I feel like the character in Lewis Carroll's story of Alice in Wonderland as she looks through the mirror trying to see where she is going.

MD 22 LOVRNET is now a reality. After three-years of putting LOVRNET together with grants from LCIF, Reader's Digest, and LVRF, the LOVRNET Executive/Steering Committee is now ready to move into the next phase of LOVRNET.

LOVRNET has been awarded a 1-year \$130,000 grant from LCI. LOVRNET Central is about to be launched as we send out Memorandums of Understanding to the Lions of Tennessee who received an LCIF grant to bring LOVRNET services to their low vision patients, and the Lions of Massachusetts, who received an LCIF grant for their version of LOVRNET.

The LOVRNET Sustainability Committee headed by PCC John Lawrence has formed a new non-profit foundation called *MD 22 Lions Low Vision Rehabilitation Foundation*. It has been formed in the state of Maryland and is now seeking 501C (3) status with the IRS. The purpose of this Foundation is to allow other nonprofit foundations to make tax deductible contributions to LOVRNET. The President of this new foundation is PCC John Lawrence, Vice President is PDG Steve Finger, Secretary is PDG Ken Chew, and Treasurer is IPDG Larry Burton. Dr. Bob Massof and Jim Deremeik are Advisors, PID Joe Gaffigan is Legal Counsel, and PDG Paul Hawkins is the Marketing Person.

LOVRNET continues to evolve and grow both at our local MD 22 level and nationally as more Lion Multiple Districts join

LOVRNET. Locally, there is a club packet that is being given out to every Lion's Club in MD 22. This packet contains the following items: (1) a DVD about the standard of care for low vision patients supplied by the president of the Ophthalmologist Society of America; (2) a handbook of how clubs can be involved in LOVRNET; and (3) other LOVRNET promotional items. The goal of this effort is to have a LOVRNET contact Lion in every club in MD 22. Many clubs already have an LCIF chair or a LOVRNET volunteer who is doing patient interviews or direct service, so it should be easy to name the LOVRNET contact person.

Finally, there is a concerted effort to market LOVRNET both within MD 22 and outside MD 22. This effort is headed up by PDG Steve Finger and non-Lion volunteers Amy Hartman and Ken Wenzel. This is being done mostly through social media and the LOVRNET website.

As we continue down our LOVRNET path in MD 22, it should become more and more clear how LOVRNET and the Lions of MD 22 are serving the visually impaired and pioneering this type of needed service throughout the whole country.

LOVRNET Steps Out!

PDG Paul Hawkins
LOVRNET Central Marketing

Members of the LOVRNET team have embarked on an initiative to market the program to the general public, eye care professionals, and organizations that have similar objectives. Within the past month members attended community expositions to publicize the project and potentially gain new participants.

On March 22, 2017, Lions Dr. Bob Massof, John Lawrence, John Kirby, and Melanie Donophan participated in the Eastern Shore Health Fair in Easton. Their display featured equipment that will assist people with low vision (provided by Dr. Debbie Steele-Moore) and literature on the program. They found a good deal of interest among attendees at the Fair and made some valuable contacts with the county Office of Aging as well as some local support organizations.

Lions Bob Bullock and Paul Hawkins participated in the Carroll County "Seniors on the Go Expo" in Westminster on April 5, 2017. They also noted high interest from attendees in the samples of equipment available from the LOVRNET online shopping cart. Several attendees indicated that they were looking for equipment for friends and relatives and were directed to the LOVRNET store. An additional benefit of this event was experienced when local Lions who also had a table at the Expo dropped by and signed up as volunteers for LOVRNET. And, a lady expressing interest in Lions asked to be contacted by a local Club to join a Lions Club.

LOVRNET is procuring a sampling of equipment for each District in the Multiple to use when the opportunity arises for similar events or during presentations to Lions Clubs or other interested groups. If you are aware of similar opportunities in your area to market LOVRNET, contact the LOVRNET office (410-737-2671 or info@lovrnet.org) and we will be pleased to participate.



Lion Bob Bullock and PDG Paul Hawkins man the LVRF booth at the "Seniors on the Go Expo".



Dr. Massof in his Lions vest talks with attendees at the Eastern Shore Health Fair.

REMEMBERING THE GREAT LIONS

Board of Trustees Meeting In Turner Auditorium

Wilmer Eye Institute Presentations



*Sheila West, Ph.D., El-Maghraby
Professor of Preventive Ophthalmology
and Vice Chair for Research*



*Dr. Judith Goldstein
reports at the Board of
Trustees Meeting*



*Pradeep Ramulu, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor*

Testimonials

“Art prevails where sight fails.” These inspiring words come from 18-year-old Laurel Cummings. Laurel has selected to attend Southern Virginia university on scholarship. She will major in art and psychology. Laurel is visually challenged. Art is Laurel’s passion but she knows art jobs are often tough to find so she will also major in art therapy. Laurel has worked with pre-school autistic and Downs Syndrome children and has seen firsthand how art can help them.



When Carla Sullivan sang, “The Wind Beneath My Wings”, everyone was deeply moved by her beautiful voice. Carla began experiencing serious eye problems in 2011. In 2012, she found herself at the Wilmer Eye Institute with diabetic neuropathy, detached retinas, and a diagnosis that left little hope of restoring vision. After five surgeries, she was told her sight would not return. But, during an eye test at Wilmer, she discovered that she was able to read the eye chart! She will tell you that God and the doctors at Wilmer Eye Institute performed a miracle.

Lions of MD22 present donations which were received by PDG John Schued (white jacket) for the LURF



ROAR OF NOVEMBER 19, 2016

At the Luncheon in the Turner Concourse



Remarks by Dr. Judith Goldstein, Chief, Low Vision & Low Vision Rehabilitation



Mike Piurunski, Wilmer Library Coordinator presented a colorful history of the Wilmer Eye Institute



*Remarks by Dr. Gislín Dagnelie, PhD, Associate Professor.
Note Linus on lectern - See Page 1*



International Director Richard Liebno Introduces the Guest Speaker



Guest Speaker Morton F. Goldberg, MD, Joseph E. Green Professor of Ophthalmology & Director Emeritus, Wilmer Eye Institute



PDG Steve Finger, Donor Recognition and Finance Chair with PDG John Schued (at podium), Development Committee Chair



Shown above are recipients of the Arnal Patz Fellowship - those without plaques are progressive Arnal Patz Fellows

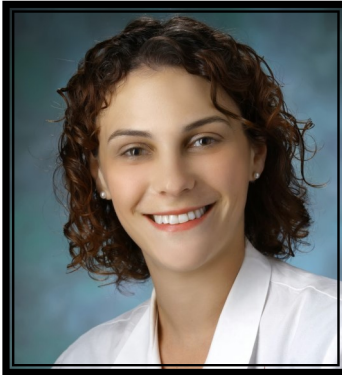
Where Are They Now? #1

Editor's Note:

One of the most successful programs of the LVRF is the funding of the Lions Vision Center Fellowship program. This was an experimental program at first to attract doctors who would study at Wilmer for a period of one year. It was felt that this program would not only help the Low Vision Center but also in the future as these Fellows went out into the world and established their own practices and impacted on low vision people outside Johns Hopkins.

At the suggestion of Dr. Goldstein, Chief, Low Vision and Vision Rehabilitation, we are initiating a series of articles which will highlight one of our past Fellows and find out "Where are they now" and how they are using knowledge gained in this program. Dr. Lexie Malkin, who was the first Fellow, has consented to be first, again. We thank her for that.

Her words follow.



Dr. Lexie Malkin

I first learned of the Lions Low Vision Fellowship when one of my mentors in my residency program printed out the informational email he had received and left it on my desk. He didn't know much about the program and I wasn't sure what my post-residency plans were but something about the low vision fellowship resonated with me. I filled out my application, flew down to Baltimore for an interview and then returned to New York to anxiously wait.

When I was offered the position of the first Lions Vision Rehabilitation Fellow, I was ecstatic—I felt like I was on my way to finding my "home" in optometry.

My optometric journey began during my sophomore year at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. I was entrenched in my psychology and linguistics courses to fulfill the requirements of the joint major and I found myself drawn to the coursework related to vision and visual development. Optometry seemed like the perfect fit with its foundations in comprehensive patient care and evidence-based medicine. I entered NECO as the Red Sox were in the midst of what would turn out to be a historic season and The Elder's Right to Sight Collaborative was underway. Faculty provided opportunities for first and second year students to become involved in this community outreach project to understand the ways that visual impairment impacted older adults living in Boston public housing. It was during these experiences that my passion for low vision developed.

Although I gained valuable patient care experience during optometry school and in my residency, there is nothing that could substitute for the intense learning experience of the low vision fellowship. To say that the fellowship changed my life as an individual would be a disservice - the fellowship has allowed me to become a teacher and mentor to so many others who are now beginning their low vision journeys.

The fellowship and my subsequent time at Hopkins introduced me to the national and international low vision communities. I developed the skill-set to speak to small support groups, to large rooms of Lions club members and to present my research in front of the leaders in the field. I honed my clinical skills, and developed my own practice style so that I could care for patients in hospitals, private clinics and even on an RV with the New England Eye On-Site mobile van.

After completing the fellowship, I split my time between Johns Hopkins and a low vision private practice for 6 years. Two years ago, I returned to Boston to join the faculty at the New England College of Optometry and to help grow the low vision program. Since joining the NECO faculty, I have been working closely with Nicole Ross, who is also a graduate of the Lions

Low Vision Fellowship. She and I are expanding the clinical program, increasing low vision education and mentoring students as they take on low vision research projects. We have initiated a strong collaboration with the LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India and we were so proud as we saw Lions logos throughout the hospital and at the optometry school.

Inspired by my mentors in the Lions Fellowship, I have been working to develop relationships with the many organizations in Massachusetts who serve the blind and visually impaired. I have students shadowing me in clinic and joining my research and outreach projects. My fellowship helped shape the course of my career and I hope generations of future optometrists will have the opportunity to be similarly inspired.

Donating to the Lions Vision Center Fellowship

Lions and Clubs can help endow the Lions Vision Center Fellowship program by continuing their generous support of the LVRF operational budget through Annual Gifts, Vision Days and special fundraisers like "Aim for Sight" (see page 7) and "Trunk of Treasures" (see below). LVRF needs about \$150,000 annually to operate which includes \$100,000 to fund the Fellowship program at the LVC while the new \$2.8 million LVC Fellowship Endowment Fund is building.

Clubs or individuals can make a \$2,500 pledge towards an Arnall Patz Fellowship which can be paid in 5 annual payments. Lesser amounts would qualify for a Knights of the Blind Pyramid (\$1,000) or for a 120 Club pin (\$120). (See page 6 of the 2016 Fall edition of Lions Vision for a complete description of the levels of giving.)

Donating a gift of stock from appreciated gains gives the donor a nice tax deduction while advancing the cause of the campaign.

Finally clubs and Lions could contact businesses in their local community for donations to LVRF.

Making donations to the Lions Fellowship Endowment may be done by downloading the Donation Form from the LVRF web site: www.lionsvision.org. Click on DONATE located on the top ribbon and then on DONATE FORM.

Trunk of Treasures

Tickets for the Trunk of Treasures will be available for purchase at the MD22 Convention at the LVRF booth. The raffle tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. The drawing will be held on Saturday, October 14th, 2017 at the LVRF Aim for Sight Sporting Clays Shoot at Schrader's Outdoors, 16090 Oakland Rd, Henderson, MD 21640. Need not be present to win. (See Page 7)



Tickets will also be available from any LVRF Committee Member or call: (410) 310-6660.

Talk for Sight

On April 8th, Dr. Bob Massof (pictured) addressed DISTRICT 22-C Clubs on the subject of LOVRNET at the Old Line Bistro in Beltsville. There were 22 attending this "Talk for Sight" who contributed over \$3,600 to the LVRF. This is an annual function in honor of the late PDG Gene Hoffmaster, who served as Chair of the LVRF during 1992-93.



(Lynus - Continued from Page 1)



Over time Mary's reputation as a mosaic artist and teacher grew, and she was invited to come teach in several schools for the blind, and not just in the U.S. This is how she spent 2 months in Bangalore, India, a little over 3 years ago, and that is where the story takes an extraordinary Lions tale twist. Traveling alone internationally had become difficult for Mary, so Andy accompanied her on the way out, and a friend was supposed to come pick her up two months later and accompany her on side trips to blind organizations in Sri Lanka and

the Philippines, with a short stay in Hong Kong in between. But the friend landed in the hospital with a burst appendix, and no one else was available on short notice. Mary could manage taking the flights by herself and had friends in Manila, but the stay in Colombo and layover in Hong Kong would be too complex. Help was needed, and quick.

A fellow Lion in Sacramento suggested calling on local Lions, but had no contacts. So I did what any of you would do: Use the tom-tom, in this case PID Joe Gaffigan and PIP Clem Kusiak, who put me in touch with PIP Mahendra Amarasuriya in Colombo, Sri Lanka and PIP Wing Kun Tam in Hong Kong. They came through, and how! Mary was accompanied to and from airports and given all the help she needed in both places, and what could have been a nightmare became a roaring tri-

umph for Lions helping a Lion in need.

Fast forward to the summer of 2016, when Mary decided to embark on a series of mosaics of lions with the intention of using the proceeds from their sale to assist deaf-blind guide dog users. One of the first she created was Embarcadero Leo, and when I saw a picture of him, last September, I decided our Lions Low Vision Service needed one of these, and what better opportunity than the upcoming Silver Anniversary to commission it. So I asked Mary for a design that had silver in it, and thus Linus was conceived. All Mary's lion mosaics have names starting with L, and that's how I came up with Linus.

But Linus turned out to have an unruly streak: He was shipped FedEx ground 10 days before the Great Lions Roar, and thanks to the magic of tracking numbers we followed his cross-country trek – which came to a halt after about 3 days, in Grove City, OH. He may have just liked the Buckeye State, or maybe he attended a few Club Meetings along the way, we'll never know, but as November 19 grew nearer Mary and I became more than a little concerned That's when he acquired his middle initial P for Peripatetic, the Wanderer. He ended up arriving on the 18th, just in time.

Unfortunately, after the Roar, he ended up hibernating in his shipping box instead of hanging on a wall. Truth is, being busy people, Judy Goldstein and I did not get together to decide on a spot. If it hadn't been for our LVRF Newsletter editor, Lion Bill, asking me about Linus's new location, and could I please tell his story, Linus might still have been in that box today. I decided the time was now; Dr. Goldstein and I quickly found the perfect spot; and JHH Facilities took less than 24 hours to come and hang him, for all to see. So next time you visit the Clinic, please ask to be introduced to Linus P. Lion.

Submitted by Dr. Gislin Dagnelle, Associate Director, Lions Vision Research & Rehabilitation Center, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology

Set Your Sights on This!



The Lions Vision Research Foundation Annual **Aim for Sight** Sporting Clays Shoot Events will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2017 at the Mayberry Gun Range, 2555 Mayberry RD, Westminster, MD 21158 and on

Saturday, October 14, 2017 at Schrader's Outdoors, 16090 Oakland Rd, Henderson, MD 21640



FOR THE MAYBERRY GUN CLUB VENUE

The cost is \$65 per shooter or \$240 per team
Lunch will be served from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
Registration is from 8:30 am to 11:30 am

Lewis Class Scoring is used - everyone has a chance to win a prize

For more information contact:
ID Richard Liebno (410) 848-4929, Richard.lion@comcast.net
or Gary Burdette (301) 916-3098, glburd54@comcast.net

FOR THE SCHRADER'S OUTDOORS VENUE

The cost is \$75 per shooter or \$280 per team
Lunch will be served from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
Registration is from 8:30 am to 11:30 am (Scorecards in by 12:30 pm)

Lewis Class Scoring is used - everyone has a chance to win a prize

Bring your gun if you have one - If not, a gun is provided

For more information contact:
PDG Dal Mann (410) 673-9085, dmanninmd@gmail.com
or PCC John Lawrence (410) 725-0150, lions@johnlawrence.name

Come out and test your shooting skills and sense of humor during these **fun** charity events. All proceeds will be used to support the Lions Vision Research Foundation. To register, use Table 2 and send a check made payable to "LVRF Aim For Sight" to Lion Richard Liebno, 115 Rockland Road, Westminster, MD 21158 for the **Mayberry Gun Range** venue and to Lion Dal Mann, 22944 Lyn Oaks Drive, Preston, MD 21655 for the **Schrader's Outdoors** venue.

If you're not a shooter (or even if you are a shooter) and wish to support these events, sign up to become a **Sponsor** or put an ad in the **Program Book**. **Sponsor** levels and **Program Book** ad prices are listed in Table 1.

Checks for Sponsors and Ads should be made payable to "LVRF Aim For Sight" and sent to Lion Dal Mann, 22944 Lyn Oaks Drive, Preston, MD 21655.

Table 1

Sponsor Level	Donation
Platinum Sponsor	\$1,000
Gold Sponsor	\$500
Station Sponsor	\$100
Program Book Ad:	
Full Page 7½" x 9"	\$100
Half Page 7½" x 4½"	\$60
Quarter Page 3¾" x 4½"	\$40

Table 2

Shooters Name	Phone	Team Name	Amount	Location MGC/SO
1-				
2-				
3-				
4-				
Total =				

LIONS VISION

The Multiple District 22
Lions Vision Research Foundation, Inc.
At the Wilmer Eye Institute, the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions
P. O. Box 1714, Baltimore, MD 21203-1714



Dr. Arnall Patz was the Wilmer visionary who desired a partnership with Lions International. Helen Keller had previously suggested to him that he work with the Lions, who were active in helping the blind. He concluded that a joint service project between the world's largest service organization and the world's leading eye institute would result in great discoveries which would help people worldwide. During the period 1978 to 1985 Dr. Patz made several overtures to Lions International, including a trip to Lions Headquarters in 1979, to encourage the Lions to collaborate with the Wilmer Eye Institute. With time, support for the partnership grew among the Lions of MD22 representing Delaware, the District of Columbia, and Maryland.

In May of 1988, delegates to the 66th MD22 Lions Convention approved the establishment of the Lions Vision Research Foundation. In March of 1991, Rob-

ert Massof, Director of the Lions Vision Center, recommended that the Center's research be focused on the problem of low vision for which there is no cure. "Low vision" is vision loss that cannot be corrected by eyeglasses, medicines, or surgery. Major causes of low vision

are macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and inherited eye diseases.

Five million people in the US suffer from low vision; twenty-five million people are impacted worldwide.

Dr. Massof proposed further that the Lions create a \$4 million endowment fund to guarantee the Lions Vision Center would operate in perpetuity.

In November 1991, with then Lions International President Don Banker in attendance, the Lions and the Wilmer Eye Institute entered into a formal memo of understanding, officially creating the Lions Vision Center and committing the Lions to the raising of the endowment fund.

