

WHO ARE THE LIONS?



A group of dedicated people, who are your neighbors, friends and local business community, looking to serve people in need and those less fortunate than themselves. They have banded together to do things which they could not do as individuals. In Massachusetts, we have over 9,000 Lions, Lioness and Leos representing 275 Clubs dedicated to eliminating blindness and helping in community service.

THE CHALLENGE

The challenge was presented to the Lions in 1925 by Helen Keller, to become **“Knights of the Blind”**. The challenge was accepted. Since 1952 when Eye Research was voted to be the official project of the Massachusetts Lions, the Lions of the state have dedicated themselves to this one primary statewide project—**EYE RESEARCH**.

WHAT DO THEY DO?

Through the local Clubs, which are the heart of our Association, Lions plan and conduct fundraising and service projects to help those who are less fortunate. Each Club participates in our statewide **“JOURNEY FOR SIGHT”** project, to raise funds for Massachusetts Lions Eye Research.

OUR STORY

In 1951, the Lions of Massachusetts became aware that each year, 2,500 premature babies were losing their sight at birth from so-called ‘baby blindness’.

Because of this, ‘Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund’ was formed in October 1951 dedicating itself to funding research.

The first grant of \$5,000 was given to Dr. Ingalls of Harvard Medical School who was instrumental in discovering that the cause of baby blindness was that of too much oxygen being used in the incubators of premature babies. Today, over 125,000 adults can see because of the foresight and concern of these Lions.

The Lions Roar in Massachusetts



The fund established two major research centers in Boston. The first was Howe Laboratory at Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary and in 1970 the Massachusetts Lion Eye Research Laboratory was dedicated at Boston University Medical Center as a result of the Lions support. Major commitments have been made to the Schepens Eye Research Institute (formerly the Retina Foundation) and the Joslin Diabetes Center.

Because of the Lions support over the years, Boston has become one of the leading Eye Research and Diabetes Treatment centers in the world.

The Boston laboratories have made many discoveries in diseases and pioneered instrumentation used for both surgery and diagnostic purposes. Some of the major accomplishments are laser beam treatments, upside-down tables for detached retinas, corneal Transplants, soft contact lenses, specular photomicroscope, instrumentation for diseased vitreous, therapeutic contact lenses, equator plus camera and most recently a scanning laser ophthalmoscope.

The Lions of Massachusetts have awarded grants totaling over \$20,000,000.00.

How can you help?

Support your local Lions Club members as they embark on their 'Journey for Sight' to raise funds to help the blind, sight impaired and those who may someday lose the precious gift of sight.

Tax Deductible

If you prefer, send your donation to:

Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund., Inc.
 PO Box 6050
 New Bedford MA 02742

Name: _____

Address: _____

City State Zip _____



Your donations have helped support the following institutions

- ◆ Boston University Medical Center
- ◆ Harvard School of Public Health
- ◆ Children's Hospital
- ◆ Howe Laboratory
- ◆ Schepens Eye Research Institute
- ◆ Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- ◆ Joslin Diabetes Center
- ◆ E. B. Dunphy Fellowship
- ◆ Ophthalmic Plastics Laboratory
- ◆ Tufts N.E. Medical Center
- ◆ Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary
- ◆ Williams College
- ◆ Southeastern Massachusetts University
- ◆ Brigham and Women's Hospital
- ◆ Boston University Ocular
- ◆ Tufts Nutrition
- ◆ Worcester State Hospital
- ◆ Boston College
- ◆ New England College of Optometry
- ◆ Dept. of Veterans Affairs Medical Center



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