



The screening that is done through our Vision Van Program is very thorough; and, the results are provided to those who need follow up treatment to share with their own eye care professional.



In the event that someone is identified with a potential problem, arrangements are made at the time of screening to assure them of any needed assistance. Our goal is to make sure that everyone will receive needed follow-up care or eyeglasses.

Lions – We Serve!

In addition to these concerns, we also screen everyone for visual acuity, a person's ability to see things at a distance as well as close-up.



Whenever problems are detected, the individual is referred to a professional for an appropriate follow exam and, when necessary, treatment. The Vision Van Program is strictly a screening program. We do not actually diagnose problems, or write prescriptions for eyeglasses. Our program is staffed completely with volunteers.



Lions Vision Van Program of District 25-F

The Lions Clubs of District 25-F (Southeastern Indiana) started a free mobile vision-screening program in March of 2004. During its first full year of operation, the Lions provided free screening to more than 7,000 people. Approximately half of these free screenings were for children.



Much of our screening program revolves around a 38-½ foot long bus that was purchased by the Lions of District 25-F. This bus provides us with a platform for mobile vision screening that can be operated almost anywhere.

Screening equipment for the program and training for our Lions volunteers have been generously provided by Prevent Blindness Indiana (PBI), another non-profit organization that has partnered with the Lions of District 25-F to help make this a successful program for the benefit of all Hoosiers – especially those who live in Southeastern Indiana.



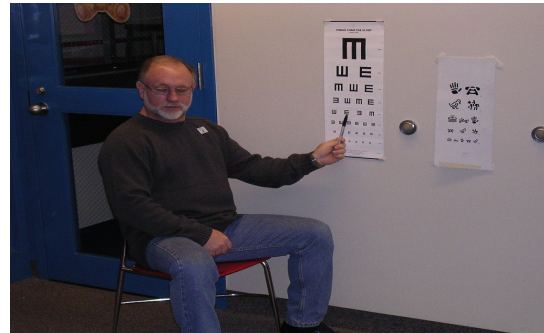
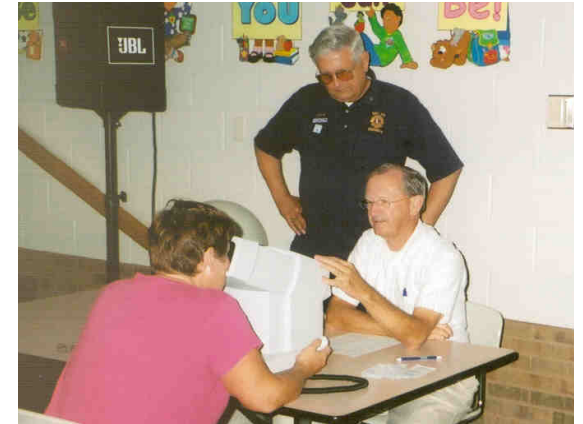
Our Vision Van even has its own onboard diesel electric generator for use in areas that do not have power available, and it also has a “shore power line” for use when a suitable electrical supply is available.

However, this same free mobile vision screening can also be done without the use of the bus, when there is a suitable location in which to conduct vision screenings. Some of our largest screenings have actually occurred without the use of the bus.



We screen for a variety of vision problems and conditions with the equipment that we have. For example, in pre-school aged children our largest concern is screening for Amblyopia, better known as “Lazy Eye.” This particular condition is very treatable when diagnosed and treated at an early age. However, once a child reaches the age of about 6 or so, it is too late, and the eyesight of the “lazy eye” will be irreversibly lost.

Another condition that is a priority for our screening program is Glaucoma. This is a condition that is normally found in people over the age of about 40, although in some instances it can occur at a much earlier age. Again, the key is early detection of the condition. Even though there is no way to reverse the effects of sight that has already been lost to Glaucoma, it is often treatable to prevent, or delay, a worsening of the condition when it is detected in its early stages.



The Vision Van (bus) has been used to provide free vision screening at Lions Club Home Shows, County Fairs, Car Shows, Community Health Fairs, and has even allowed us to target homeless shelters and pre-schools. You never know where you may see the bus parked, or when you may meet it traveling along the highways and back roads of Indiana.



We use a special piece of equipment that is designed specifically to check for blind spots in our peripheral vision. This could be an early indicator of problems that may lead to Glaucoma. Whenever a loss of peripheral vision is detected, the volunteer Lion doing the screening will generate a printout of that person’s test results for them to share with their own eye care professional.