



Executive Director Message

“Will you not constitute yourselves **Knights of the Blind** in this crusade against darkness”
– Helen Keller, 1925



Barry Elliott
Executive Director

The Lions of Alabama have taken the challenge of Helen Keller to heart. More than 400,000 people in the past 76 years have been helped with their vision needs and each one is an individual story that would warm your heart!

The Mobile Eye Clinic (MEC) was initiated in February 2016 by *Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association* and it has been in continuous operation since that time, save for a brief suspension in 2020 due to the pandemic. The mission of the MEC is to increase access to quality, affordable eye, and vision care to the citizens of (primarily) rural Alabama. Since the start of the MEC in February 2016, the MEC has visited 33 different sites in 23 counties in Alabama. In providing its services, the MEC has traveled a total of 110,371 miles, the equivalent to traveling back and forth across the United States 40 times or around the world nearly five times. Dedicated to its mission the MEC has completed 6630 total patient encounters and of these patients have provided nearly 5000 (4978) pairs of glasses. Caring for patients with ocular disease is an important aspect of the MEC since 31% of patients seen by the MEC have been diagnosed with diabetes and about 1 in 5 or 6 diabetics have some form of diabetic retinopathy and are at heightened risk of serious vision loss. A high proportion of patients have some sign of cataract (45%) or glaucoma. Referrals for secondary care, such as cataract surgery, are common and make up nearly 5% of patient encounters. Since its inception in February 2016, the MEC has completed 852 total site visits, consisting of 33 different sites in 23 counties by the end of 2020. Lions you can be proud to know that because of Lions no one walks out of the MEC who needs a pair of glasses regardless of the ability to pay that doesn't receive them. The only people leaving the clinic without glasses are those who do not need them.

Alabama Lions Sight Mobile Eye Clinic on February 12, set up in Fultondale to see the victims of the recent tornado in Fultondale. Lions, generous neighbors and friends in Adamsville are providing funds so that these victims could receive an eye exam and glasses free of charge.



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The clinic saw seventeen patients that really did need eye care. It really warms your heart to know that their vision will be greatly improved. The clinic will return to Fultondale on February 20th to further serve the community. Thank you lions, neighbors, and friends!

Lions vision screenings can safely begin again. Please begin reaching out to those your club have previously provided eye screenings in the past. New protocols are in place for our screeners to be able to provide safe screenings. Call Paula and schedule your screenings. Please remember to report all your screening results as well, to Paula so ALS can report to KidSight (especially if you conduct your own screenings).

ALS is currently looking to hire as a part time vision screener to serve in District 34 B. Lion Linda Nixon has done a great job the past couple of years as our screener, but has resigned. We are very thankful for Lion Linda and the service she has rendered. You may call Paula at the office or send us an email if you or someone you know is interested.

Lions, I am so thankful to be a part of the service you are providing to the people in Alabama in vision care!

We Serve!

PDG Barry Elliott
Executive Director