



# Executive Director Message

**“Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light.” -  
Helen Keller**



**Barry Elliott  
Executive Director**

The blessing of sight is easily taken for granted. However, to those with vision impairments it is such a precious gift. Lions have such a heart of serving those with impairments. I see the heart of lions displayed on a daily basis as they reach out to family, friends, neighbors, and even total strangers to make a difference. I would like to tell you of a few that want to make a difference.

Lion Katie Simpson of the Pike Road Lions Club recently asked, “I have a car that I no longer need and it still has some life, could Alabama Lions Sight use it?” She began checking it out and in September she donated her 2006 Ford Freestyle SUV to ALS. It is such a coincidence that we have received two donated vehicles in consecutive months but they both will be put to use. Helen Keller’s statement “alone we can do so little but together we can do so much” is so true. It is through the heart of generosity and service of lions and friends of lions that ALS is able to help so many in Alabama with vision challenges. ALS has screened 486 adults and referred 128 with 421 children and referred 69 since July 1st.

The Haleyville Lions Club on September 25th had their first vision screening in both the Haleyville Middle School and high school. It came largely as a result of Lion Michael Humphries. Lion Michael has the heart of a lion that is as big as it comes. As we arrived at the middle school that morning Michael had arranged for a photo op with the school superintendent, principal, and lions for the local newspaper. As we were waiting for all to arrive several commented, “It is hard to say no to the “Hump.” Michael said it was his goal to see that every student had the opportunity to be screened.

Vision screener in District C, VDG Yvonne Burroughs conducted a vision screening sponsored by the Fairhope Lions Club with the Prodissee Pantry. It is a local non-profit agency that provides groceries for local needy residents. On this occasion in partnership with an ophthalmologist, there were 32 screened and 29 referred with 21 tested for glaucoma. The Prodissee Pantry was very appreciative and wants to partner again.



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Calling for lions or a club to step up? The Mobile Eye Clinic is providing such a wonderful service in parts of Alabama where there is little or no vision care for folks who are not able to drive to where they can receive it or afford it. Dr. Daum called me with five individuals he has recently seen in the different clinics. These individuals have a condition called “keratoconus.” It is a condition that requires a special fitted contacts. It is beyond the scope and expertise of Dr. Daum. It requires a special mapping of the eye by equipment ALS does not have. It is also beyond the financial ability of each individual as well, as much as several thousands of dollars. The cost of the special mapping is \$77.00 each. The cost of special fitted contact will be around \$350 each. Would you or your club consider this special project? This is such a need that we, as lions are the last hope these folks have. I know that the lions of Alabama will step up. Please, give me a call.

Several visits have been scheduled in the next few weeks. If you would like me to come to your club please give Paula (800 -96-Sight) a call and she will schedule a time that I can come. Isn't it great to be a lion?

We Serve!

PDG Barry Elliott  
Executive Director