

Focus

Volume 1, Issue 1

Official opening of new premises

On the 9th of November 2007, the new Brightsight premises were officially opened by Dale Boozyen, representing the Timken Foundation, the main sponsor.

We were honoured to have the Council Chairperson, Tony Schefel, the District Governors and representatives from Lions Clubs throughout the Multiple District at the opening.

Since then we have come a long way in improving the service to Lions Clubs throughout the Multiple District and we plan to keep the good service going and even improve further.

Brightsight has now also moved into the electronic age and the systems at the new premises have been up and running for some time now and most scripts are now received electronically. This, together with other changes made by the Management has resulted in significantly improved turn-



Some of the dignitaries that attended the official opening

around times and most glasses are dispatched to Clubs within 10 days of us receiving the script. We would like to improve on this service and would appreciate any comments that you may have regarding the service and any suggestions that you may have with regard to improving the ser-

vice.

Your new premises are situated in a safe environment at 110 Woburn Avenue Benoni and we would like to extend an invitation to Lions throughout the Multiple District to visit us when you are in the area. Without your continued support this project cannot be successful.

Pedal for Campaign Sightfirst II

On 3 September 2007 the first communication with regard to Pedal for Campaign Sightfirst II was sent out.

Mark Melzer of the Lions Club of Glenoaks heard that there were a number of Lions that were entering and ordered Lions cycling jerseys for them to wear. These keen cyclists approached various companies for sponsorships, the proceeds of which would be donated to Campaign Sightfirst II. We do not have the amount raised, but will publish this in the following issue.



Mark Meltzer, DG Holger Sircoulomb and other Lions at the Argus

For those Lions that participated in the Argus under other colours, why

not look at making this a big Lions publicity event in the future.



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How can my Club get involved

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The gift of sight is one of the greatest gifts that a Lions Club can give to anyone.. The satisfaction that one gets when an aged person says "Now I can see my grandchildren" or "Now I can read again" is undescrivable.

There are different ways that Lions Clubs go about getting the scripts and we will mention a few.

Arrange with your local optometrist/s to give you an afternoon of their time per month for the testing of identified persons.

Obtain the services of an optometrist for a specific day .

Where do we find the persons in need of glasses?

Local hospitals and clinics do eye screening and identify persons that are in need of glasses. Contact with these persons allows you to take the process further.

Advertising in local newspapers. There are many people who do not have medical aid that require glasses. By advertising in a local paper or by means of billboards one

can get into contact with these persons and refer them to the optometrist for an eye test. There are many domestic servants that require glasses, but cannot afford them. Through networking you can get them to attend an eye testing session. Every person that is assisted is one more to which you have given the gift of sight.

We have challenged each District to give us 100 scripts per month and we are not there yet. Every contribution, however small, will help to get us there. Get involved and give the greatest gift of all—*Sight.*

MEMBER NEWS

Saturday Dispatch, December 1, 2007

EL schools receive free spectacles

Pupils see world through different eyes

By NICOLETTE SCROOBY
Lifestyle Reporter

TEN Cambridge Junior School pupils received the special gift of improved sight yesterday when they were given new spectacles before heading off to enjoy their festive season holidays.

They were among hundreds of

pupils in the Eastern Cape to benefit from Operation Bright Sight, an international campaign that seeks to provide underprivileged children and those without medical aids, with spectacles.

The project is run in different areas of the province by various Lions Clubs, who arrange eye tests and provide the children with spectacles.

Cambridge Lions Club president Cyril Raitt said he was thrilled to be able to provide the children with improved sight before Christmas.

"If you can't see the board at school, you can't learn and it can become a major problem," Raitt said.

The new spectacles lit up the faces of the lucky few



HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU: Siphokazi Jack, 10, (middle) with some of her Cambridge Junior school friends who received the gift of improved sight when they got their first pair of spectacles yesterday. Picture: NIGEL LOUW

who received them, literally opening up a new world for the recipients.

"I didn't realise the glasses would make such a difference because I just got used to seeing not so clearly. They really chose nice frames for me as well," said Ashley Cockeroff, 13.

Fellow pupil Siphokazi Jack, 10, could barely contain her enthusiasm. "I'm so happy, these are going to really help me in class and they look quite cool," she said.

Another recipient Hlumulo Botha, 12, said: "I will be able to see properly now."

Raitt said Lions members did the initial screen tests for pupils at Crewe Primary, Grens, Voorpos, Hudson Park and Cambridge schools in August.

Forms were filled in and sent home for parents to sign. These then took their children to a local optometrist to undergo further testing. The forms were completed by the optometrist indicating what type of lenses the children needed.

This information was then given back to Lions who sent it off to their Johannesburg office. After a brief

period, the glasses were sent back to the schools and distributed.

Cambridge Junior School was among the last to receive glasses this year. Raitt said they would be back at the school in January to test the eyes of the children who received glasses. He said they would continue the programme next January so more children who needed glasses could use them throughout the year. Cambridge principal, Neil McIntyre said: "It's a blessing that we can get sight for some of the children who really need it."

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