

## Why is NM Lions Operation KidSight Necessary?

\* The eye, muscles that control the eye, optic nerve, and the area of the brain that gives us vision are completely developed, no matter how perfectly or imperfectly, by the age of six.

\* Vision deficiencies that may have occurred during development will be very difficult or impossible to treat after the age of 6 when vision development is completed. Many of these problems when caught early enough can be completely corrected, and the earlier they are diagnosed, the better the chance of correction and the easier and less expensive the treatment.

\* Photo Eye Screening is a tool to identify children whose eyes may have some type of defect, which, if left untreated, may lead to a lifetime of vision problems or blindness.

\* Photo screening is not a diagnostic tool as parents are advised to have the child seen by an eye doctor to get a proper diagnosis and treatment as may be indicated by the screening results.



## Example: Tennessee Lions Eye Screening Program

Their weapon of choice is the PhotoScreener, their territory is Tennessee and beyond, their targeted beneficiaries are children younger than six and their enemy is “lazy eye,” a rather benign description for a disorder that is a leading cause of blindness.

The Tennessee Lions Eye Center at Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital has screened 82,203 children for amblyopia (lazy eye) and vision problems since 1997. The battle has produced significant results. The screenings have uncovered 1,980 children with amblyogenic factors, which, if not treated before kindergarten, can be very difficult or impossible to treat. In fact, amblyopia the leading cause of blindness in one eye in people younger than 20.

The screening is necessary because parents often have no clue their child is at risk. Rachel Stanton, 2, was recently screened by the Tennessee Lions Eye Center Outreach Program at her daycare center. The screening showed that her one eye wasn’t seeing as well as the other, putting her at risk for amblyopia. “I’d never have known something was wrong,” Michelle Stanton, her mother, told the Tennessean newspaper in Nashville.

The Tennessee Lions are proud of their program and persistent in making sure parents understand the screening results. Kim Eubank’s son failed his eye screening. “The Lions Eye Center contacted me at work and urged me to bring my son in for further screening. I kind of blew it off at first,” she recalled. But the urgency of the phone call convinced her to return. “He had only 5 percent vision in his right eye,” she said. “If I had waited until he was older he would have been legally blind in his right eye. Because of the early detection his condition is correctable.”

# NM Lions Operation KidSight



Program To Identify  
& Treat NM Children’s  
Vision Disorders

## A NM Lions Eye Foundation Project

For more information, please  
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[www.nmlions.org](http://www.nmlions.org)



**We Serve**

The cost of screening a child is approximately \$3. Your contribution, which will be greatly appreciated, will help the Lions Clubs of NM reach their ultimate goal to annually screen every 3-6 year old child in NM.



The digital iScreen System used by NM Lions.



Lions conducting an eye screening in Taos, NM



A referred child from the eye screening receives an eye exam.

## NM LIONS OPERATION KIDSIGHT

**MISSION:** NM Lions Operation KidSight is a state-wide project with an ultimate goal to screen 100% of NM children (3-6 years old) for amblyogenic risk factors and to fund treatment for referred children whose families cannot afford it.

**Amblyopia** or “lazy eye,” which is the most common cause of visual impairment in childhood, can be caused by any condition that affects normal vision development or use of the eyes such as:

Strabismus (esotropia where eyes turn in)

Strabismus (exotropia where eyes turn out)

Myopia (nearsightedness)

Hyperopia (farsightedness)

Cataracts

Astigmatism (eye is not perfectly round causing focusing problems)

Anisometropia (refractive errors differ in each eye)

Anisocoria (pupil sizes are different)

Coloboma (a gap in part of the structures of the eye)

Ptosis (drooping eye lid)

**FACT: More than 60% of the children in the United States have not been examined by an optometrist or ophthalmologist by the age of 6!**