



LOUISIANA LIONS EYE FOUNDATION

CubSight Children's Vision Screening Program

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Since that life changing challenge presented to the Lions by Helen Keller in 1925 to become “Knights of the Blind”, the Lions of Louisiana have been doing their part to rid the world of treatable blindness.

Recycling used eyeglasses was the first project the Lions of Louisiana took on until local Lions in the New Orleans area, led by Dr. J. W. (Bill) Rosenthal, M.D., a fellow Lion, focused their energy to obtain funding for research in the Ophthalmology medical field in the late 1960's. To raise funds for this research, the Lions of Louisiana entered into an agreement with the New Orleans Saints to host a pre-season game.

In 1974, at State Convention, a resolution was accepted to establish the “LOUISIANA LIONS EYE FOUNDATION, INC.” There were 20 charter members with Lion A.F. “Al” Smuck as Charter President.

In the beginning, LLEF was associated with the Eye, Ears, Nose and Throat Hospital located in downtown New Orleans. Lion Dom Carlone represented LLEF on the Executive Committee of the EENT hospital beginning in 1976. During the first six months, the EENT hospital accepted 85 referrals from LLEF.

In 1978, the EENT hospital renamed the clinic the “LIONS-SAINTS Eye and Ear Clinic” because of the financial support from the Lions and their association with the New Orleans Saints.

In October 1984, construction began on a 140,000 square feet, seven story tall building to be located at 2020 Gravier Street in New Orleans. The Lions of Louisiana, along with the Louisiana State University, committed to raising \$18.5 million (original principal) to build this eye center that was completed and dedicated in October 1986.

To better serve the needs of the residents of the state, LLEF started to develop relationships with independent clinics throughout the state in 1997. As of January 2020, LLEF has an affiliation with 52 outlying clinics that provide vision care for the residents of their communities.

To extend our commitment to vision care, the LLEF established the “LOUISIANA LIONS CUBSIGHT” program. Development of the CubSight program was started in 1997 when LLEF, working with a few local Lions clubs strategically placed throughout the state, created a pilot program. The CubSight program officially began on July 1, 2001 with the help of a CORE 4 grant from LCIF.

From our modest beginning in 1974 when LLEF treated 85 patients till today, the Louisiana Lions Eye Foundation has provided vision and hearing care for over 75,000 local residents, screened over 380,000 children through our CubSight program and recycled over 3 million used eyeglasses which were sent to underdeveloped countries.

Lions Clubs International's motto is “WE SERVE”. The Lions of Louisiana honor that motto everyday by being the “**Knights of the Blind in the Crusade against Darkness**”.