



Our photoscreening for the Anchorage School District was delayed this year so we could launch our newest project for the District and Multiple District. At our Lions MD 49 Convention in April 2023, I proposed a project to bring our vision services to rural Alaska. Since the pandemic many of our rural children in Alaska have not had the benefit of routine eye care. Many of our schools that previously had Lions doing their testings have not opened up to outside help. Our plan was to use our vision trailer and visit those schools offering our services. We called our project the Care-a-Van for Vision.

The plan came together the second week of September 2023. We offered Visionscreening out of our trailer in the school's parking lot and distance acuity testing inside the schools done by our Lions. Every student that was referred through the visionscreening was seen by our volunteer eye doctor, Dr Patrick Campaign for further evaluation. If the student qualified, we would provide them with a pair of prescription eyeglasses by ONESIGHT EssilorLuxottica Foundation through their Changing Lives through Lens Program. Lion Sheri of the Big Lake Lions hand-delivered the students their new glasses. Our 5 retired school nurses from Anchorage along with 4 Public Health nurses offered free hearing tests for our students.

This year our Care-a-Van for Vision started in Big Lake on Sept 11 then went on to Wasilla, Glennallen, Kenny Lake and ended up in Valdez on Sept 15. Each location was hosted by the local Lions Club. The Big Lake Lions organized the event at the Big Lake Elementary School. The vision trailer team of 6 lions and 1 outside volunteer organized the Iditarod Elementary School in Wasilla. The Palmer Lions lead the event at the 2 Wasilla CCS Head starts. Glennallen and Kenny Lake Elementary in Copper Center was hosted by the Copper River Basin Lions. They also led the new Valdez Motorsport Lions in setting up the Herman Hutchins Elementary in Valdez.

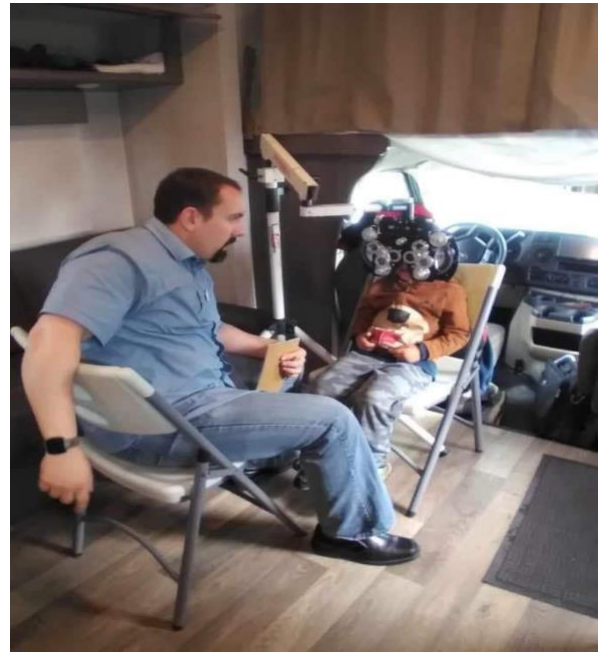
Our numbers are very impressive for a first-time project. We screened a total of 624 students. Our volunteer nurse team performed 370 hearing tests and our acuity team did 71 tests. We projected doing more but outside the ASD every health screening done on a student has to be pre-approved by a parent. Many of the parents did not sign the paperwork for all 3 tests.

Next year we are planning a trip South through the Kenai Peninsula ending up in Homer and the following year, going North, by way of Glennallen, to Fairbanks. Join our teams. Each community school we visit is being organized by your local Lions club. Be a part of history. Please consider giving us your time or donations. If we are to make this an ongoing project, we need your help.

Vision Team at Big Lake Elementary with Big Lake Lions.

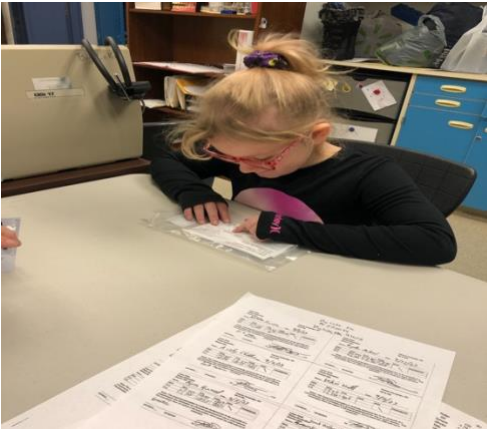


Lion Patrick was our eye doctor



Palmer Lions with vision team at Wasilla in trailer and with nurse Morgan





Lion Sheri delivering the free glasses at Big Lake Elementary

Lion Erv at Valdez



Big Lake nurse Rachel with team



Lion Joy at Valdez with stickers



Team getting instruction at Big Lake Elementary



Rain at Big Lake Elementary



Copper River Basin Lions at Glennallen Elementary.



Nurse Shelbie at Valdez with team



Dinner at the Grizzly



The kids found their clubs banner.