



for more information contact  
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### ***Who are the Lions?***

Lions are volunteer members of local clubs where they enjoy fellowship, develop leadership capabilities, and dedicate part of their free time to help those in need all over the world, while making their individual communities a better place in which to live. The clubs are chartered by Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service club organization.

### ***Our Origin***

In 1917 a Chicago, Illinois insurance agent named Melvin Jones founded Lions Clubs International to help the less fortunate. The organization was involved in various social projects until the 1925 International Convention when Helen Keller challenged Lions to become "Knights of the Blind in the crusade against darkness." This is still the main focus of Lionism within the local community and around the world. Even with this focus, Lions also meet a variety of other needs that are identified in their communities.

### ***Our Motto: "We Serve"***

The Lions of Tennessee have worked millions of hours and raised millions of dollars in our communities as we truly live our motto, "WE SERVE."

### ***World Wide Growth***

The International Association of Lions Clubs has grown to be the largest service club organization in the world, representing over 46,000 clubs with about 1,360,000 members in 209 countries and geographical areas around the world.

### ***Vision Screening Children – A Major Project of the Tennessee Lions***

In addition to the projects described on the other side of this sheet, and the many ways the local clubs serve their communities, the Lions of Tennessee have teamed up with the Department of Ophthalmology at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital with the goal of providing quality eye care for children statewide. Lions Clubs across the state raised over \$4 million for a project that created the Tennessee Lions Eye Center (TLEC) at Vanderbilt Children Hospital, a pediatric ophthalmology center.

From the beginning, an important part of this unique partnership has been the Tennessee Lions Eye Center Outreach Program, the "clinic without walls," a program of free vision screening of young children in their own neighborhoods, with evaluation of the screening and follow-up by professionals at TLEC. Trained Lions members screen children from 12 months to 72 months of age in their own neighborhoods to detect eye disorders that can lead to serious eye problems and/or blindness at an early age when treatment is most effective. The process is noninvasive which makes it ideal for use with young children. Vision screenings are evaluated by Vanderbilt physicians, and those who have potential eye problems are referred to ophthalmologists or optometrists in their local area for a more detailed examination.

### ***Membership***

Any person of legal majority, good moral character and good reputation in his or her community may be granted membership in a chartered Lions Club. **If there were more of us, we could help more people!**

**To learn how you may become a Lion, contact a member of your local Lions Club or check out <http://tnlions.org> to learn more about a Lions Club in your area.**



# Lions Clubs of East Tennessee

## White Cane Days

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**THANK YOU!** Your contribution helps these Lions Projects:

▪ **Childhood Cancer**

An initiative to expand access to life-saving treatment and provide support to the children and families who face childhood cancers.

▪ **Diabetes Awareness**

A program designed to bring awareness of Juvenile and Adult diabetes; early detection and treatment for a disease that is the number one cause of blindness within the USA.

▪ **East Tennessee Lions Eye Bank**

A Knoxville clearinghouse between persons donating their eyes after death and the recipients of corneal transplants. ETLEB has been ranked within the top ten in the world.

▪ **Lions Volunteer Blind Industries**

An agency providing rehabilitation services, employment and training opportunities for hundreds of blind East Tennesseans annually.

▪ **Learning Ally (formerly Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic)**

Learning Ally records printed texts for educational and personal pursuits providing classroom material for student with print disabilities.

▪ **Leader Dogs for the Blind**

This agency provides guide dogs for blind persons at no cost, aiding the recipients in their mobility and independence. Several local Lions raise puppies to become leader dogs.

▪ **Lions Quest**

A comprehensive youth development program involving home, school and community which helps to cultivate strong character in healthy young people through life skills education.

▪ **Tennessee School for the Blind**

A state-operated school for visually impaired children located near Nashville providing educational opportunities through 12th grade. Lions fund the Boy and Girl Scout troops and provide \$50.00 for each student at Christmas.

▪ **Tennessee School for the Deaf**

A state-operated school for children with hearing impairments located in Knoxville providing educational opportunities through 12th grade. Lions help fund personal needs for some students and the summer camp programs that are not state funded.

▪ **The Hearing & Speech Foundation**

Empowering individuals with communication deficits to live their lives to the fullest by giving children and adults the gift of sound through hearing aids and services.

▪ **World Services for the Blind**

A comprehensive rehabilitation center for blind adults that provides counseling for emotional and psychological adjustments to blindness as well as vocational training.