



THE CARLS FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A grant from The Carls Foundation will provide eye care and hearing health care services for children throughout Michigan, including vision screening for preschool and elementary school children.

Lansing, Michigan – June 2025 – The Lions of Michigan Foundation has received a \$79,689 grant from The Carls Foundation to increase access to eye care and hearing health care services for children in Michigan. The Lions of Michigan Foundation aims to identify and correct vision and hearing problems before they impede a child's learning, development, and social and emotional wellbeing, and this grant will enable the foundation to expand its programs in Michigan.

"We would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Our daughter attended a playgroup in the spring, and she had a picture taken with the Lions Club's special camera. This free vision screening was a blessing to our family. Victoria had a juvenile cataract in her left eye. The doctors believe she was born with a defect in the back of her eye which pre-disposed her to forming this type of cataract. Her eye problem was never found during her well child check-ups, and if it was not for the Lions Club finding it when they did, Victoria could have lost her sight." Amy F. - Gobles, Michigan

"Lions are well known throughout the world for the services we provide to help people with vision and hearing loss. Nearly a century ago, Helen Keller challenged us to be "Knights of the Blind," and she declared that "the problems of deafness are deeper and more complex, if not more important, than those of blindness. Deafness is a much worse misfortune, for it means the loss of the most vital stimulus — the sound of the voice that brings language, sets thoughts astir and keeps us in the intellectual company of man. The Carls Foundation understands that organizations such as the Lions of Michigan Foundation and our more than 400 Michigan Lions Clubs are essential to building stronger communities. Like us, The Carls Foundation is committed to helping families in need and improving our quality of life in Michigan," said Chad McCann.

The William and Marie Carls Foundation was established in 1961 and was utilized by Bill and Marie Carls to implement their charitable activities. Until the time of her death, the activities of the Foundation were the primary responsibility of Marie Carls and thereafter, Bill Carls took an active role the management until his death in 1995. The Foundation shortened its name to The Carls Foundation in 1992. Mr. Carls felt privileged and proud to be an American citizen and considered his funding of the Foundation as a way to return benefits to his community and country, and as an expression of his appreciation for the great opportunities which America afforded him. Close acquaintances of Mr. Carls also observed that throughout his life there were many instances of unobtrusive, private acts of generosity by him for the benefit of friends, employees and their families, and others in need. The Carls Foundation's principal purpose and mission is children's welfare and preservation of natural areas.

The Lions of Michigan Foundation is a public charity that works in partnership with its member Michigan Lions Clubs and other organizations to help Michigan residents in need. The Lions of Michigan Foundation operates a statewide Affordable Hearing Aid Program, an Eye Care Assistance Program, Project KIDSight (children's vision screening program), A Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Program, and other programs designed to improve the quality of life in Michigan communities.