

IN FOCUS



THANKFUL

The Crusade Against Darkness Specialty License Plates were sent out to County Clerk offices the week of October 25th. They will begin to prepare those plates for pick-up. The State of TN Revenue/ Vehicle Services Division is mailing out the letters needed to pick up the specialty plate. We are finally getting the plates out after a long, drawn out, and delayed process.

I am so thankful that we are finally getting the Crusade Against Darkness specialty license plates out. I am thankful that I will not be getting weekly emails and phone calls wanting to know when the plates will be ready. I am thankful that we will be seeing the Crusade Against Darkness specialty plates on the road. I am thankful for what the future sales of these specialty plates can do for Middle Tennessee Lions Sight Service.

APPLICATIONS

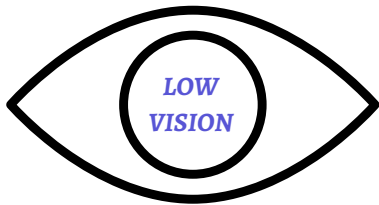


Middle Tennessee Lions Sight Service assists with those in need with cataract surgery. Cataracts are the leading cause of blindness of the world. Almost all cataract surgeries will restore vision. We can make the biggest difference with restoring vision by helping with cataract surgeries.

Please send us applications for those in your community who need cataract surgery. How to obtain services and guidelines are on the website.



Clarksville Queen City Lions Club sent in an application for a gentleman who was homeless and needed cataract surgery. He had worked for a tree surgeon and because of his vision loss was no longer able to work. He subsequently lost his housing. He needed cataract surgery in order to be able to work. The Application Review Committee approved his application. He had to have surgery on both eyes. He was able to return to his prior work position. He was a good worker; he just was unable to work due to vision loss. After he returned to work, he called Lion Ed Lantz and thanked him for his club's support with processing his application. Lion Ed asked him to come to the next club meeting. This gentleman came to the next club meeting with sawdust on his pants. He thanked the Clarksville Queen City Lions who supported him. Recently Lion Ed heard from him again. He was so excited. His boss was sending some of his workers to help with Hurricane Helene clean-up. The gentleman was so excited to be able to Pay It Forward. To each of you that have donated to Middle Tennessee Lions Sight Service you helped this gentleman. You gave him his vision back. You gave him his job back. You gave him back the ability to get a home again. You gave him the ability to Pay It Forward to help someone else. You make a difference in the lives of someone who matters. Thank you for what you do. MTLSS does more than just eye surgery. We change people's lives. We make a difference.



Let me introduce you to Lion Jerry Baker. Lion Jerry was using a very old Low Vision CCTV that was constantly breaking. Lion Maurice Pittman was contacted by a lady who had a slightly used Merlin Pro Elite. Her husband had this machine and only used it for 3 months. He then was bedridden and unable to use the machine. He has since passed away and she was clearing some things out. Lion Maurice gave that machine to MTLSS to be used. I was so excited to have this machine. It retails for \$5000-6000. I pulled the old machine from Jerry's house, and it was so broken that it landed in the dump. He was obviously ecstatic with this machine. It not only magnifies for reading; it also does text to talk. Lion Jerry loved hearing a page being read to him.



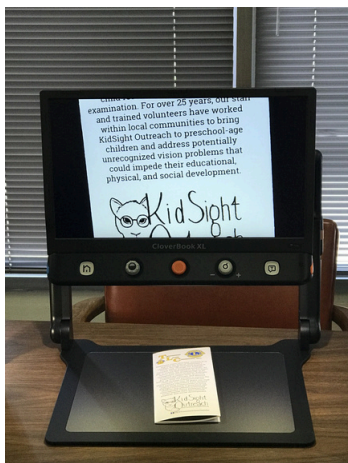
The Low Vision Department of Middle Tennessee Lions Sight Service is starting to replace the old equipment.

We have this newer machine that we placed with Lion Jerry. We have also purchased three brand new machines. The Low Vision Committee plans to purchase more new equipment later in the year. The new equipment is lightweight, foldable, portable. They have tactile controls and contrast modes. They are rechargeable battery operated. They have a 4K camera resolution with magnifiers 1X to 18X. We place equipment in the homes of those who have low vision.

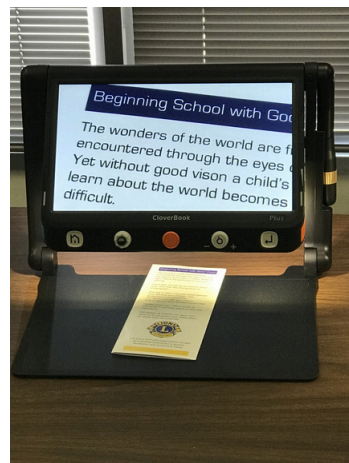
It is so satisfying to see the smile on the face when someone who has vision problems is able to see and read again.

Below is pictured the new equipment we have purchased.

We purchased two Clover Book XL Pro and one Clover Book Plus 12.



Clover Book XL Pro



Clover Book Plus 12

FOURTH ANNUAL GOLF BALL DROP

*We will have the Fourth Annual Golf Ball Drop at Hermitage Golf Course on Saturday, July 26, 2025.
Past President Lynn Wright will file this with the State soon.
We will start selling golf ball tickets next spring.*



Growth

At the last Board meeting we had Board of Directors sign Conflict of Interest forms. They also signed Roles and Responsibilities of Board of Directors or Executive Officers. We will work on a written assessment of the Executive Director at the January meeting. All of this along with our Strategic Planning are steps to make our organization better. We are growing and want to plan for more growth.



WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As we approach the holiday season, it's a time for reflection and gratitude. Looking back on the past year, we have much to be thankful for at MTLSS. Our organization is on a strong path forward, and this quarter has been particularly exciting with notable milestones like the successful golf ball drop and the upcoming launch of our license plates!

A special thanks to everyone who attended our quarterly meeting, and to Nathan Day of Tennessee Low Vision for showcasing the new low vision equipment we are acquiring. As we continue to grow as a nonprofit, we remain focused on advancing our strategic plan, expanding our social media presence, and promoting our fundraising efforts—all in pursuit of our mission to restore vision for those in need.

I am deeply grateful to each Lion and committee member for your dedication and hard work. You make MTLSS the incredible organization it is today.

Wishing you all a blessed holiday season.

*In Lionism,
Lion Chris Ross
President, MTLSS*