



Press Release

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Free Vision Screenings Help to Detect Major Cause of Blindness

During National Glaucoma Awareness Month in January, the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation continues to help Missourians in early detection of this blinding disease.

Columbia, Mo. (December 27, 2006) – While over 46,000 Missourians suffer from irreversible vision loss due to glaucoma, the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation is attempting help aid in the early detection of this disease, hoping to halt its progress in thousands of undiagnosed cases.

Glaucoma - the second leading cause of blindness in the world - is a disease that gradually causes vision loss due to damage to the optic nerve from elevated pressure within the eye. In most cases of glaucoma, vision loss is gradual and painless- often making the disease undetectable without the help of regular eye examinations. Unfortunately, vision that is lost to glaucoma cannot be regained. However, through early detection and the help of medications and/or surgery it is possible to slow down and even halt further vision loss.

Through its glaucoma detection program, the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation offers free vision screenings at community events throughout the state of Missouri. The quick and effective screening uses a non-contact tonometer to emit a “puff” of air into the eye that measures pressure levels within the eye. If a high pressure reading is given, the Foundation’s staff encourages the screening participant to visit an eye care provider for further diagnosis and treatment.

Since the program’s inception in 1981, the Foundation has screened more than 90,000 Missourians for glaucoma. To view upcoming screening dates and locations in your area, please visit www.mleerf.org.

The Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation based out of Columbia, Mo. The Foundation is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of sight through its vision programs including: Amblyopia Prevention Screening, Glaucoma Detection Screening, Eyeglass Recycling, Eye Care Assistance, the Heartland Lions Eye Banks and the support of ocular research. For more information on our programs, please visit www.mleerf.org.

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