

**Donation Boxes on Signal Mountain are located at the following businesses:**

**Signal Mountain Post Office**

**Signal Mountain Pharmacy**

**Signal Mountain Bread Basket**

**Eyes on the Mountain**

**Alexian Village**

**The Hamilton County Lions Sight Service Association** was chartered as a 501(c)(3) organization in 1959 as the Tennessee Valley Lions Sight Service Association. The association was renamed the Hamilton County Lions Sight Service Association to provide services only in Hamilton County. Currently the association provides eyesight services to Hamilton County residents through its Eyeglasses program.

Applications are accepted monthly, on a rotational schedule, member clubs have representatives at 8 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at Erlanger Hospital to accept applications for new eyeglasses.

The association meets the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Red Bank Lions Club building on Dayton Boulevard.

Information on the program is available through an AT&T Wireless phone number, 315-0350. The phone service is not monitored but messages can be left, and follow-ups are made as needed. For the application sessions, applicants must meet certain criteria to qualify for Lions assistance, such as being within Federal Poverty income guidelines or other factors, including being a child under 18 and family cannot provide glasses, unemployed single parent having a disability and being unable to work, or being over age 62 on fixed income. Following the application session, a Lion will conduct a review of the application to confirm the information from the application and if approved the applicant will

be sent a letter which explains how and where the glasses can be obtained. Applicants also agree to pay \$15 toward the cost of the glasses.

Membership in the HCLSSA is composed of representatives from Hamilton County Lions Clubs. Funding is provided by donations from the member clubs and by direct donations from individuals and local businesses, like Wal-Mart. Support is also provided through free or reduced costs of services from Lens Crafters, Eye Ear Optical, North Park Eye Center, Erlanger Hospital and AT&T Wireless.

In addition, with the support of individual Hamilton County Lions Clubs, the association collects used eye glasses, which are shipped to the Lions Recycle Center in Roanoke, Va., where they are sorted according to prescription, cleaned and repacked in plastic sleeves in boxes of 400. The glasses are then available for the cost of shipping to church groups, civic or medical organizations going on humanitarian missions throughout the world.



Yearly the clubs collected more than 20,000 pairs of old eyeglasses. Collection boxes can find in optical shops, post offices, churches, YMCAs, and many other locations throughout Hamilton County.



What do an estimated 5000 pairs of recycled eyeglasses look like? **Red Bank Lion Charles Peek** wheels out the glasses packed at the February meeting of the **Hamilton County Lions sight Services Association** as **Soddy-Daisy Lion Frank Mulkey** looks on.

# EYEGASSES THROUGH THE LIONS CLUB



## Some Questions and Answers:

Q: *Who are the "Lions?"*

A: The Lions is an international organization that has better sight as its main mission. In Hamilton County, TN, the 11 Lions Clubs formed an association, called the *Hamilton County Lions Sight Services Association (HCLSSA)*, more than fifty years ago to help the residents of Hamilton County obtain needed eyeglasses. Here we will simply call the group "Lions."

Q: *What are the eligibility requirements?*

A: First, you must be a resident of Hamilton County, TN, and you must provide proof of residency when you apply. Second, there must be a demonstrated need for help from the Lions, as indicated by personal/family income. The Lions use the poverty guidelines as set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to help determine if they can aid.

Q: *How and where can I apply?*

A: Most applications are taken at the Medical Mall, Erlanger Hospital, downtown Chattanooga, at 8:00 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. Those who arrive are given a number and are helped in order of arrival. It is important to be there as close to 8:00 as possible, as the Lions are generally finished taking applications and gone by 9 a.m.

Applications can also be taken by individual Lions Clubs. If a person is disabled and cannot attend the Erlanger screening, the Lions may be able to make other arrangements.

Q: *How will I know if I am approved for eyeglasses?*

A: If you are approved you will be sent a letter, generally within two weeks of making application. The letter will contain instructions about where to call for an appointment to obtain eyeglasses.

Q: *Will the Lions pay for my eyeglasses?*

A: If you are approved, the Lions will pay for most of the cost of either single-vision or bi-focal eyeglasses. You may be required to make a \$15 co-pay, but that is all.

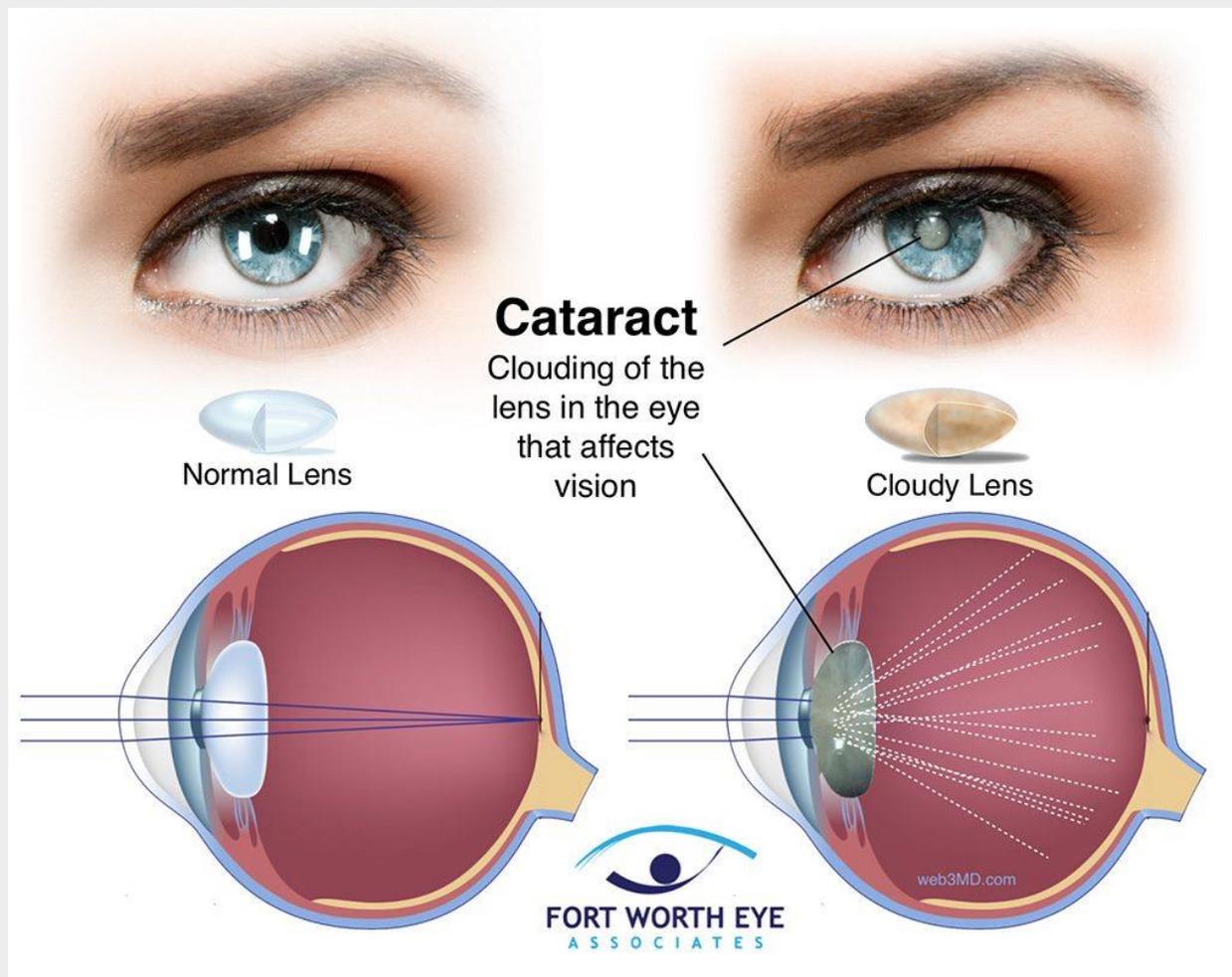
Q: *I don't have a prescription and need an eye exam. Will the Lions pay for that?*

A: No, the Lions cannot pay for eye examinations / prescriptions. However, if you are approved by the Lions you can make an appointment with the optical shop identified in your letter and receive an eye examination for a discounted fee, typically no more than \$35.

Q: *What if I have other questions?*

A: The Lions maintain a HELP LINE that is monitored several times a week. If you need further information, call **423-315-0350**.

**DISTRICT 12-O SIGHT RESTORATIONS** is an organization that provides funding for needy individuals in the District's 18 county area to receive corrective eye surgery. This is made possible by contributions to the District White Cane Fund and by pro-bono work of several doctors and their staffs. For over 40 years District 12-O Lions have provided this service.



Typical ocular procedures include cornea transplant or cataract surgery. Applications for this type of help are available through local Lions Clubs. Assistance is provided on a first come first served basis. Lions on average will help 20-25 patients per year in District 12-O.

Contact a Signal Mountain Lion for more information.