



## For Immediate Release

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## **AUTZEN FOUNDATION ENSURES LIONS MOBILE HEALTH SCREENINGS “MAKE A DIFFERENCE” IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS OREGON WITH \$2,500 GRANT.**

**Portland, Ore. – Nov. 19, 2007** – Unchecked, diabetes can lead to kidney failure, blindness, heart disease, and even amputations, Yet thousands of Oregonians are living with this silent disease and don't know it. Lions Clubs are out to change that picture.

Thanks to a recent grant for \$2,500 from the Autzen Foundation, the Mobile Health Screening Units (MHSU) will be able to provide free health screening services to citizens throughout the state of Oregon.

The MHSU Program, run by the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation, has been providing free health screening for vision, hearing, blood pressure, and diabetes to Oregon communities since 1994. Each year the MHSU screens roughly 10,000 adults statewide. Additionally, the MHSU provides free screenings to nearly 20,000 school children statewide for visual acuity and hearing. All events are coordinated through local Lions Clubs and community volunteers.



“To the hundreds of thousands of Oregonians who may suffer from vision, hearing, diabetes and blood pressure problems and do not know it, early detection is crucial,” says Amber Kern, Executive Director of the OLSHF. “We are here to provide a screening, not a medical diagnosis. Our services have helped identify more than 100,000 potentially serious health problems during our 13 years of service.”

The MHSU Program is a joint project of the 188 Lions, Lioness and Auxiliary Clubs in Oregon and the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation, a non-profit organization formed by the Lions and dedicated to serve Lions Clubs by supporting their efforts in humanitarian assistance. The MHSU Program has received extensive support from Regence BlueCross BlueShield.

### **About Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation**

Since 1959, the Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation has supported the 188 Lions Clubs throughout Oregon and operates the Lions Eye Bank at Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland. The Foundation also provides financial assistance for eye and ear surgeries, provides vital health screenings through the Mobile Health Screening Program, and operates a children’s statewide low-vision clinic.

### **On the Internet:**

Visit the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation website at <http://www.orlions.org/> for additional information.

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