



Press Release

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FREE Health Screenings to be provided at the Pioneer Square on Friday April 20, 2007, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

- Join the Portland Downtown Lions Club for free health screenings to be provided in Pioneer Square on Friday, April 20th, from 9 am to 4 pm.
- This FREE Health Screening is made possible by the Oregon Lions Mobile Health Screening Program.

Portland, Ore. – April 20, 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. Near daily news reports indicate that lack of activity and weight gain is impacting the health of Americans. The result may be Type 2 Diabetes which represents more than 90% of all diabetes cases. People typically have Type 2 Diabetes for 7 to 10 years before it is diagnosed, by which time its untreated presence will often have led to complications. Lions Clubs are out to change that picture.

The Portland Downtown Lions is working with the Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation (OLSHF) to provide programs that positively impact quality of life in the community through FREE health screenings. On April 20, 2007 from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm, the Oregon Lions Mobile Health Screening Unit will provide free health screenings to the public for visual acuity, hearing, blood pressure, diabetes and glaucoma in Pioneer Square. (Diabetes testing requires a three hour fast time prior to the test.)

The MHSU Program, run by the OLSHF, has been providing free health screening to Oregon communities since 1994. Each year 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.

The colorfully painted truck & trailer, featuring a mural of Oregon scenic highlights, travels Oregon roads over 300 days of the year bringing health screenings to those who need it most – the thousands of uninsured Oregonians who can't afford health care. Each truck (there are two) is set up like a small clinic.

“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 serious health problems during our 12 years of service.”

The MHSU Program is a joint project of the 190 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 Regnce BlueCross BlueShield and Freightliner.

Since 1959, the Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation has supported the 190 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, recycles used eyeglasses and hearing aids and operates a children's statewide low-vision clinic.

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On the Internet:

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