



***17 Lions Clubs respond to Helen Keller's 1925 challenge to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness"***

In the spirit of the Lions motto, "We Serve", 16 Lions Clubs and 1 Lioness Club representing Districts A-9, A-7/11 and A-15 along with 350 members from throughout the Orangeville area, joined together to raise \$243,000 to purchase much-needed ophthalmology / vision care equipment for the Headwaters Health Care Centre. This partnership of participating Clubs is the first joint fundraising initiative of its kind in this community.

The state-of-the-art ophthalmology equipment will improve local access and reduce waiting times for vision related medical procedures for patients requiring treatment of cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and emergency vision situations. Presently, many patients must travel to locations outside the community to receive this treatment. This may involve travel distances in excess of 100 kilometres, which can be very difficult to arrange for patients with eye conditions. Eye care treatment at other medical facilities also often involves lengthy wait times.

The Orangeville community is extremely fortunate to have the expertise of Dr. Ray Seto, a highly qualified and respected ophthalmologist. This project will support Dr. Seto's medical expertise by providing the most up-to-date medical equipment, ensuring our community's ability to access needed eye care services.

Initially a five year fundraising goal was set. To launch this ambitious project the clubs undertook a car raffle for a 2006 Mustang GT. Through Lions efforts, 95% of the tickets were sold and the raffle raised in excess of \$65,000 toward the project. In addition, District A-9 Cabinet applied for and received approval for an LCIF grant of US \$59,406. This along with an outstanding show of community support for the Lions Clubs and generous donations from the community, the goal will now be reached within the first full year.

Clubs directly involved in the project include Amaranth, Caledon, Dundalk, Dundalk Lioness, Erin, Grand Valley, Orangeville and Shelburne. This was complimented by indirect involvement and support from clubs from Bellwood, Bolton, Caledon East, Chinguacousy, Elora, Fergus, Hillsburgh, Marsville and Neustadt.

Congratulations Headwaters Area Lions Clubs for an outstanding achievement and serving as "knights of the blind".

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