

## White Cane Day

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In 1927 a Lion named George Bonham, of Peoria Illinois, created the White Cane. Since then it has become the symbol indicating that a person is blind. In addition, it is a tool of sight-by-feel for the blind.

Today White Cane Laws are on the books in all 50 states, as well as many other countries. This provides the blind with legal status should they be involved in an accident. The White Cane, with its red band at the bottom, now universally acknowledges that the bearer is blind or visually impaired. It is with that in mind that Lions Clubs of Maine hold White Cane Days around the state, to help increase the awareness of the use of the White Cane Lions help to educate the public about the aspirations, hopes and abilities of people who are blind or visually impaired.

The money raised through White Cane Days goes to the Maine Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation to support its programs and services.

## Maine Lions Sight &

**Hearing Foundation** was incorporated in 1955 and originally known as Maine Sight, Inc. and is run solely by volunteers.

Our mission is limited only by the generosity of the Lions and friends of the Foundation who believe in the Foundation's work to save and restore sight and hearing to those less fortunate. When the Foundation helps a child or an adult to see or hear better, it is a miracle. This miracle is shared by every Lion in Maine. The Foundation truly enables our Lions and clubs to be "Knights of the Blind".

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## Donations

Maine Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The Foundation gratefully accepts donations and bequests to further its service of providing sight and hearing care to the needy.

Mail your check or money order made out to MLSHF to:

MLSHF  
PO Box 525  
Sebago, ME 04029

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# Maine Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation



For more information about  
MLSHF please visit  
[www.maineions.org](http://www.maineions.org)

## MLSHF Programs

### Sight Saving Services

This program provides financial assistance to income-eligible Maine residents (*monthly income cap 300% of Federal Poverty Level*) who need eyeglasses or eye exams but are unable to afford or obtain through other coverage options. We ask that residents apply directly to their local or area Lions Club as listed on our website [www.MaineLions.org](http://www.MaineLions.org). If the need cannot be filled at the club level the Foundation may assist.

Applications are available online. Once an applicant is approved through the program, they will work from a list of local participating providers to receive a quote for the cost of an examination or one basic complete pair of eye glasses to meet the prescription need.

As Lions, we take pride in our motto “*We Serve*” and in assisting our Maine Lions Clubs and members of our communities.

### Hearing Aid Assistance

This program provides financial assistance to income-eligible Maine residents (*monthly income cap 300% of Federal Poverty Level*) who need hearing aid(s) and are unable to afford or obtain through other coverage options or through their local Lions Club.

Applicants are asked to pay \$65 for their hearing aid mold; the remainder is paid by their local Lions Club or through Foundation funds.

If an applicant has not had a current hearing examination one may be arranged, if not covered through any other coverage options.

Lions Clubs interested in sponsoring a hearing aid applicant can contact:

#### Maine Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation

[mainelionssightandhearing@gmail.com](mailto:mainelionssightandhearing@gmail.com)

207-613-7033



### Vision Screening

Maine Lions/Kid Sight USA Vision Screening Program provides early intervention in detecting eye disorders. Lions Club members throughout Maine screen children’s eyes with a special hand-held device that will help detect the possible presence of six vision problems that can be effectively treated if caught early. These eye disorders include near-sightedness, far-sightedness, astigmatism, eye misalignment (strabismus), unequal refractive power (anisometropia), and unequal pupil size (anisocoria).

More than 12 million school-age children in the United States have some form of vision problem, yet only one in three have received eye care services before age six. Many vision problems run the risk of becoming permanent if not corrected by age seven, when the eye reaches full maturity. Vision also plays an important role in education. According to educational experts, 80 percent of learning is visual.

To schedule a free Vision Screening Event at your school, day care, pre-school, or other facility, please contact us.