

Blythewood Lions and LEO's Serve Athletes



Blythewood Lions were on hand at Fort Jackson on Saturday, May 2nd, for the Special Olympics State Games. The Lions, accompanied by LEOs and many eye doctors from different areas of the state worked together to screen 96 athletes. The athletes who need eyeglasses receive them completely free, and those that don't need vision correction receive great sunglasses. This special program is called "Opening Eyes", a joint partnership between Lions Clubs International and Special Olympics. This was the 13th year that Blythewood Lions have participated at Fort Jackson.

The Special Olympics-Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes Program began 2001. Since the program's inception, more than 350,000 athletes have been screened with prescription eyewear provided to more than 110,000 athletes. To date, LCIF has awarded more than US\$13.3 million to Special Olympics for the Opening Eyes program, and pledged US\$7.8 million in 2013 to expand the partnership for five years.

Photo: Blythewood Lions, LEOs, Eye Doctors and their staff from across the state pose for a quick photo before the rush of athletes begin.