

Abbeville Lions Screen Children at District Office

(Excerpt from article in *The Press and Banner*)

Local Lions helped out with the Abbeville County School District's *Child Find* project recently, screening children for vision with their PediaVision machine. *Child Find* is a program offered by the Abbeville County School District to provide opportunities for hearing and vision screenings for kids. Free to families, *Child Find* is offered through a number of clinics scheduled throughout the year. In addition, parents can make individual *Child Find* screening appointments through the year.

A clinic was held recently at the District office, where you could find Lions Rick Pressly and Lanny McKay of the Abbeville Lions Club testing kids with the special PediaVision machine.

There was no cost to the School District. It was all free to the kids, and everyone was pleased because in the past, School District personnel have had to use charts to provide vision screenings for the youngsters.



Using the PediaVision machine is much faster and more efficient. Simply put, PediaVision equipment uses an infrared camera which takes a digital picture, and the data acquired from that picture is used to assess the child's vision, according to a Lions of Virginia Website. That morning of service you could find Lions Lanny and Rick on one side of a table in a conference room at the District office. One by one, the kids would have their "pictures" taken. The Lions have used PediaVision screening before in the Abbeville County School District, and it is all in line with a primary focus of the Lions' service work--helping the visually impaired.

Back in the 1920s, Helen Keller called on Lions to be "knights of the blind" in a speech she gave at a Lions convention in 1925. Lions the world over have definitely been heeding her call. They operate a Leader Dog School in Michigan, where dogs are trained to be companions for the visually impaired, and PediaVision is used by Lions in other parts of the state, and indeed the country, as well. For more information on the District's *Child Find* program, one may call the District office at 864-366-5427.