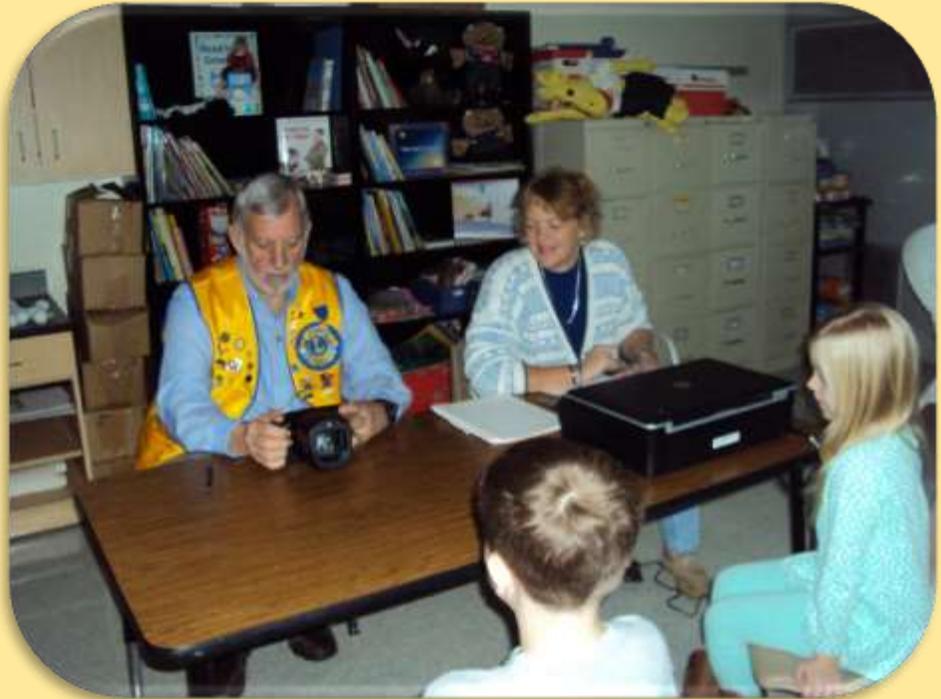


## Making a Difference – One Screening at a Time

Lions, we have a huge opportunity with the new SPOT Cameras that have now spread throughout our state. When Helen Keller challenged the Lions to be the “Knights of the Blind” in 1925, she had no way of knowing what new technologies would come along 90 years later and exponentially expand Lions’ sight conservation work. We have the means to change our world; to improve the quality of life for many children and adults who have undiagnosed vision problems.



Ginger from the Federation for the Blind helped with

District Governor Rick Pressly has worked continuously throughout our district to expand SPOT Camera Screenings. He reported that in Abbeville, Anderson, and Laurens counties, Lions have screened 3,856 children and adults resulting in 457 referrals. Also, Lions in neighboring Greenwood County,



(Greenwood, The Mathews, and Ninety Six) have screened 7,004, resulting in 958 referrals in the past year since obtaining their own SPOT camera. Even with these screening numbers, we are just scratching the surface of the vision problems that exist in our local schools today. We need every Lions Club in every county in our state to contact their School Superintendents with this information and request permission to conduct vision screenings free of charge in every school across South Carolina.

Left to right is: a teacher, Joyce Rambo (now a member of the Laurens Lions) and Mary the daughter of the head of the Federation for the Blind

We now have cameras in every District of Multiple District and there is no reason that these cameras should be waiting to be used. Lions, please take up the charge and be "Knights of the Blind". We have been given great tools; let's use them.

In closing I am reminded in 2007 when my oldest grandson was 3 years old. I was currently the Vice District Governor for 32D. I believed in our Lions' work and wanted to help those with vision impairments to get eye exams or glasses or even surgery, but never thought it would touch me personally. One afternoon in October, I was making pumpkin cookies for Halloween with my grandson, Nicholas. When he posed for his photo with cookies in hand, his left eye turned down in the socket and the cornea disappeared. I was frightened. How could this be? He was treated by a pediatric ophthalmologist and prescribed strong glasses and special treatments. I am thankful today that he is progressing in his schoolwork and the vision problem has not hindered him. I can only imagine how many other children suffer the same problems and have not been diagnosed. Let's join together and vow to screen every child --- we have the tools and the hearts and hands to do the work!



PDG Barbara Beckham

The lady on the left is a Minister in Laurens and the other lady is Christi Coats (now a member of the Laurens Lions). Joyce and Christi assisted DG Rick with screenings at two day cares and three Elementary schools in Laurens county and will be assisting with two more schools in the coming weeks.