



## **Proposal to the KEX Kids Fund Board for the Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation's Mobile Health Screening Program**

The Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation (OLSHF) is grateful to partner with KEX Kids Fund to provide eye exams and eyeglasses for children in need. Thanks to your support many students receive the help they need to succeed in the classroom. We'd like to deepen the impact that our partnership provides through a KEX Kids Fund sponsorship of our Mobile Health Screening Program (MHSP).

**The Need.** 25% of children have vision issues; of that number less than 10% have eyeglasses. Kids that don't see well struggle to learn well and keep up with daily lessons. When it comes to identifying vision health issues, most of us assume that our schools are getting the job done when in fact, the State of Oregon requires sight and hearing screenings for students but not all schools can afford to do so. OLSHF has recently increased the number of children screened in Oregon. So far in this school year 2014-15, **we've screened over 140,000 students.** In order to maintain this level of screening, we need to secure new funding partners that share our vision.



**MHSP helps school districts lacking resources.** The Mobile Health Screening Program (MHSP) addresses the community issue that if children do not see or hear well, then they will not learn to their potential. When schools lack the resources to screen their students, sight and hearing problems go undetected and untreated. Most often children simply need glasses; sometimes there are more serious problems, such as amblyopia, which left untreated, can cause blindness in the weak eye. Oregon ranks 49<sup>th</sup> nationally for its overburdened school nurse to student ratio. Many school districts request our assistance in screening because they lack the resources to be compliant with the unfunded mandate of House Bill 3000 which requires children to have an eye exam or vision screening by age 7.

**MHSP is nationally recognized.** MHSP has been recognized as "one of the premier health screening programs in the U.S." by School Health, Inc. and is the largest program of its kind in Oregon. Our SPOT photo screening devices have revolutionized the school-based screening process. The SPOT, an objective and accurate tool, eliminates various barriers in screening children's vision. The SPOT also removes the challenge of screening special needs students, pre-verbal children and non-English speaking students. SPOT devices reduce human error and the rate of over referrals for follow up care. In seconds we can screen a child for most vision problems. Nurses and



parents regularly tell MHSP staff what a difference screening makes for children and boosts their ability to learn. MHSP screens a full class in approximately 10 minutes. Children stay in class, uninterrupted from learning.

**Testimonial:** Paige, a 10 year old from Newberg, is a perfect example of how the Spot device catches vision problems objectively and can impact a child's educational success. Paige is a bright child but has always struggled in the classroom and has failed to complete assignments due to the inability to focus on her schoolwork. The Mobile Health Screening Program staff screened at Paige's elementary school last Fall and identified that Paige's left eye was very far sighted and slow to focus. Her parents, surprised, immediately scheduled an exam with a Pediatric Optometrist. The doctor confirmed what the Spot caught. Paige's optometrist informed them, "[that] system catches more kids like your daughter than any other because most children can't explain well at a young age that they have a weak eye that gets tired. Instead they just compensate and work twice as hard or give up." Paige's parents are so grateful MHSP reached her school and they hope all other children find the help they need through Spot screening. Paige added that her first week at school with her new glasses has been "the easiest and most fun week at school ever!"



**Our request:** We hope you'll consider supporting the Mobile Health Screening Program (MHSP) in the amount of \$25,000 for the 2015 – 16 school year. This funding will provide resources for up to 25 more schools to provide vision screening for their students. Your support means that statewide 10,000 more children will receive state-of-the-art screening.

Thank you for your consideration!



#### MHSP Screening Event Expenses Breakdown

Staffing	\$ 647
Transportation/lodging	\$ 131
Technology/software/supplies	\$ 25
Operations/printing/postage	\$ 127
Insurance	\$ 42
<b>Total expenses per event</b>	<b>\$ 972</b>

**KEX Kids Fund sponsorship of \$25,000 could provide over 25 school screening events!**