



Kingman County Commission

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Carol F. Voran, County Commissioner District #2
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Kingman Lions Club Board of Directors members pose with Mary Schwartz, Health Department nurse, and the new vision screener equipment. They are, left to right, Richard Davis, Lance Dixon, Emily Graf, Schwartz, Carol Voran and Bob Diepenbrock.

Photo by Nancy D. Borst

Kingman County partners with Lions club to buy screener

Kingman County has entered into a unique partnership with the Kingman Lions Club to purchase a Spot Vision Screener.

The Kingman County Health Department had been using an outdated machine to screen vision that was not portable and dated back to the 1950s. The need to update that equipment coincided with the availability of grant funds from the parent organization of all Lions clubs – the Lions Clubs International Foundation – to purchase modern Welch-Allyn Spot vision screeners.

Kingman County Commissioner Carol Voran and County Communications Coordinator Nancy Borst, who are both members of the Kingman Lions Club, investigated the grant. The application for the

grant had to come from a local Lions club and the club had to match about half of the cost of the new device.

It was determined that Kingman County could provide the matching portion to the Lions club, which in turn submitted the grant application. The partnership allowed the county to update its vision screener and save taxpayer dollars. Instead of paying the full price for a screener (approximately \$7,000), the county only paid \$3,574. Plus the grant also included a printer with a wireless Internet connection (to print reports), a carrying case for the screener, an extended warranty for both devices and other accessories.

The screener and printer are stored at the Health Department but are owned by the Kingman Lions Club. Lions can conduct vision screenings at club-sponsored events. The equipment is simple to use and requires minimal training to operate.

The Spot Vision Screener looks like an oversized camera and is designed to quickly and easily detect vision issues in children as young as 6 months old. All it requires is a steady gaze of a few seconds to evaluate vision and generate a report. The new screener, which is intended for use with children, already has been used to screen incoming kindergartners in Cunningham.

Mary Schwartz, a registered nurse with the Health Department, recently demonstrated the screener to the Kingman Lions Club and thanked the club for its help in purchasing the device.



John Schwartz helps his mother, Mary, demonstrate the vision screener to the Kingman Lions Club.

A total of 12 screeners were purchased by Lions clubs in Kansas with grant funds totaling \$94,000. The Kingman Lions Club partnership with the county was unique among grant recipients.

Borst noted that saving sight has been the primary mission of Lions clubs since Helen Keller challenged Lions in 1925 to become “Knights of the Blind.” The Kingman Lions Club also provides eye exams and eyeglasses to those in need.

“This is what we do as Lions,” Borst said. “This partnership between Kingman County and the Kingman Lions Club will ensure that local children have the best possible vision screening.”

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