



LIONS FOUNDATION
of Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario

November

NEWSLETTER

Dear Lions Friends and Supporters,

November carries a special kind of warmth. The kind that doesn't come from the sun, but from people getting together with purpose and heart. We felt that warmth in full as our team joined Lions from across the region at the 5M13 District Convention in Russell, Manitoba.



The room was filled with smiles, laughter, and that unmistakable Lions spirit, a mix of friendship, service, and shared purpose. It was wonderful to reconnect, share ideas, and celebrate the incredible work happening in our communities. Every story we heard — of new projects, milestones, and challenges overcome — was a reminder of what's possible when people care and work together.

The Lions Foundation also had a few meaningful updates to share. We spoke about the continued growth of Serenity Suites, which offers affordable accommodations for people travelling to Winnipeg for medical care, and about Helping Hands, a program that



helps families facing health-related challenges find comfort and stability when life feels uncertain.

We were also happy to share updates on Bringing Care Closer, our mobile vision and hearing screening program that continues to gain support across the region. This initiative will soon reach about 40,000 children each year throughout Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, ensuring that early care is within reach for every family, no matter where they live.

The excitement around this project could truly be felt throughout the Convention. As hosts of the event, the Russell and Area Lions Club made the weekend especially memorable by surprising our team with a thoughtful contribution toward the Bringing Care Closer initiative. Their kindness and hospitality truly reflect what it means to serve with heart.



Our heartfelt thanks also go to the Oakburn and Area Lions Club, the Lions Club of Holland, and the Swan River Lions Club, whose support means the world to us. Their generosity helps Bringing Care Closer reach even more children and families across Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

During the District 5M13 Convention, we also received incredible support from several other Lions Clubs for our ongoing programs. Thanks to their contributions, initiatives like Helping Hands, Giving Glances, and others continue to grow and provide life-changing care to people in need throughout our region.

Moments like these truly capture what the Lions' spirit is all about — generosity, teamwork, and a shared

commitment to serving others. The Convention was filled with energy and inspiration. There were stories of service, new community projects taking shape, and plenty of excitement for the Journey for Sight team's 40th-anniversary ride.



For four decades, this winter tradition has united Lions and communities in raising funds for the Lions Foundation, enabling people across Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario to see, hear, and live better.

Journey for Sight — 40 Years on the Trail



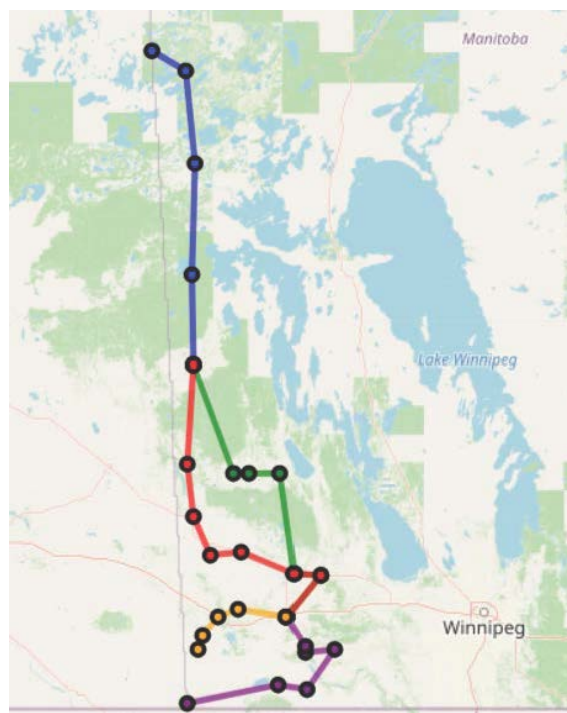
Since 1983, Journey for Sight has united Lions and communities across Manitoba in one incredible winter tradition. Each year, riders travel hundreds of kilometres through snow and wind, raising funds that support the Lions Foundation's programs — helping people see, hear, and live better.

Over the past four decades, this event has raised over \$2.5 million, and this

year's ride will once again help power our newest initiative, Bringing Care Closer, delivering free vision and hearing screenings to children across Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.



Their route stretches across Manitoba — connecting towns, small communities, and big-hearted people along the way.



And if you'd like to show your support even before the riders hit the trails, there's a great way to do it:

Journey for Sight 50/50 Raffle — Win Big, Give Back

The Journey for Sight 50/50 Raffle is officially open! All proceeds will go directly toward Bringing Care Closer, helping us deliver free vision and hearing screenings to children across Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.



Want to purchase the tickets? Contact Journey For Sight's Chair, Todd Rathwell, at smfarest@mymts.net or by phone: (204) 638-8022

[Learn more about Journey for Sight here](#)

Bringing Care Closer — Growing Support and Excitement

The same spirit that fuels Journey for Sight is what inspired Bringing Care Closer — a shared commitment to reach people, not wait for them to find us. It's about meeting families where they are, making care easier to access, and showing what's possible when Lions and communities work side by side.

And that spirit is already spreading. Across the region, Lions Clubs and community partners are rallying behind this initiative, helping turn an idea into reality.

Bringing Care Closer:

Free Mobile Vision and Hearing Screenings for Kids



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT:



We're thrilled to share that the Carberry and Area Community Foundation has joined this growing effort with a kind contribution toward the mobile screening unit. Their support brings us one step closer to launching a program that will deliver free vision and hearing screenings to more than 40,000 children each year.

And the wave of support continues to grow! In the past month, four more Lions Clubs have joined this effort, helping turn Bringing Care Closer from an idea into a movement. This initiative exists because of the care and commitment of our Lions Clubs. Together, you're making brighter futures possible for thousands of children.

With Gratitude to Our Incredible Lions



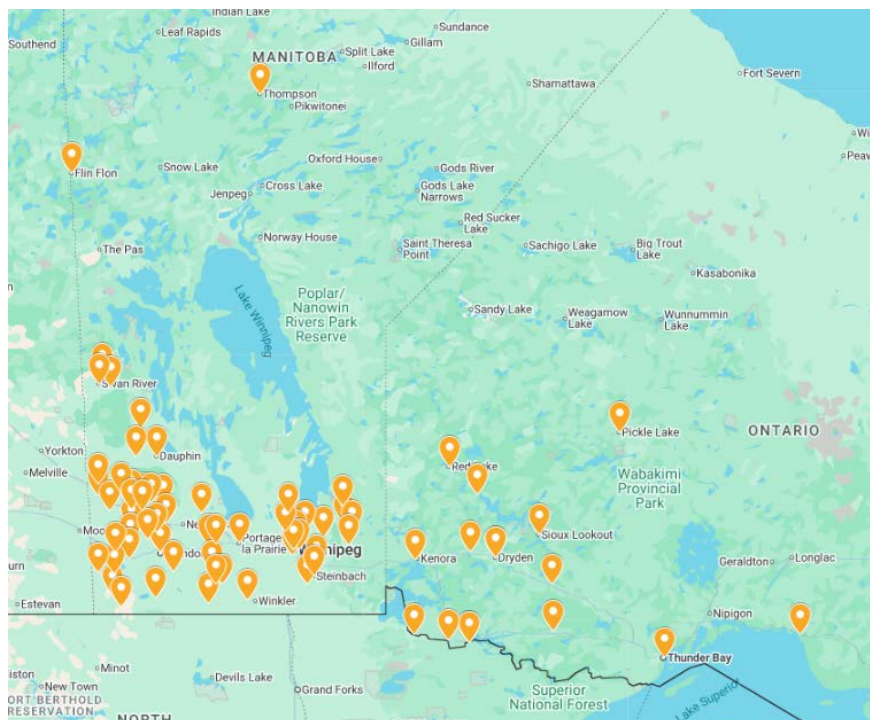
LIONS CLUB OF WINNIPEG



CRYSTAL CITY LIONS CLUB



Want to see our reach?



We've mapped all 78 Lions Clubs across Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario so you can see just how many communities are part of this effort. Each dot on the map represents people who care deeply about making a difference. And together, they'll help bring care closer to every home.

[Explore the Map Online](#)

Where Every Screening Tells a Story



The inspiration for Bringing Care Closer came from one of our proudest ongoing programs — KidSight. As students returned to classrooms this fall, our dedicated volunteer Lions didn't waste a moment. In just the past few weeks, Lions in the Sunrise School Division visited several schools and daycares, screening over 300 children aged 1 to 12. Their efforts revealed that nearly 40 children needed referrals to eye specialists for conditions such as myopia, hyperopia, astigmatism, gaze asymmetry, and anisometropia. That's roughly 1 in every 7 children — a number that reminds us just how vital early vision screening is.



Thanks to the Lions' dedication, these children can now receive timely diagnoses and treatments before vision issues begin to affect their learning and quality of life.

Meanwhile, the Lions in the city of Winnipeg have also been hard at work, screening children across the Seven Oaks School Division — already completing 9 of 21 schools scheduled this season.

To every Lion who gives their time to this life-changing work — thank you. Every child who sees the world a little clearer because of you is living proof that your efforts matter.

Together, We Make It Happen

As we head into the final month of fall, we're filled with gratitude for everyone who helps keep our mission strong — the Lions Clubs who organize and serve, the riders who brave the trails, the volunteers who give their time, and the donors whose generosity makes it all possible.

Whether it's a child seeing clearly for the first time, a family finding comfort at Serenity Suites, or someone hearing their loved one's voice again — every story begins with your kindness.



If you'd like to help us continue this work, please consider making a donation.

Every dollar counts — and contributions starting at \$20 are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.

Yes, I'd Like to Support

Thank you for believing in what we do and for helping us bring care closer to those who need it most.

***With heartfelt appreciation,
The Lions Foundation Team***

Together, We Serve

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