

For Immediate Release  
June 22, 2011

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## **Project Kidsight receives \$2,500 donation**

**Sault Ste. Marie, MI** – The Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians recently donated \$2,500 to Project Kidsight to put towards the purchase of a Pedia Vision screening camera. The Pedia Vision camera is a digital vision screener that gives a reading in less than one second. Within that second, it takes 18 digital pictures of the eye and provides an immediate result letting the screener, parent and child know if they should be referred for additional testing. Screening with the Pedia Vision is recommended every two years for children age one to five.

The Lions Club of the area and of the Upper Peninsula has been providing vision screening to preschool aged children since October 2004 at no cost. Previously, the group used a Polaroid MTI photo screener which takes photos to measure how the light bounces off the front of the eye. This process requires multiple steps and take up to four weeks to receive results. The technology of the Pedia Vision digital camera will allow for immediate results and will allow the Lions Club to directly assist the parents should their child be referred for testing.

Most children do not receive their first eye exam until they enter kindergarten. Studies have shown that approximately 20% of preschool aged children have vision problems. The earlier a vision problem is detected, the more successful the treatment is and the less likely a child is to have a recurrence of a problem.

According to Dr. Sean P. Donahue, professor of ophthalmology, neurology and pediatrics at the Tennessee Lions Eye Care Center for Children at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, children who have problems diagnosed before the age of three are less likely to develop amblyopia, the loss of an eyes ability to see detail.

The Pedia Vision digital camera is designed to identify improperly aligned eyes, often referred to as crossed eye or lazy eye; abnormal refractive errors which result in nearsightedness, farsightedness or astigmatism; and cataracts or other obstructions.

To date, the 60 Lions Clubs of the Upper Peninsula have screened over 2,700 preschool aged children with over 60 referrals being recommended for further testing.

The Lions members of the area are very thankful to the Sault Tribe for supporting this project. Since 1925 when Helen Keller challenged the Lions to be Knights of the Blind, vision and helping those with vision loss has been the primary focus and goal of the club. “We are very excited to be able to continue to screen our most vulnerable populations with the most recent technology,” said Jenny Ware, Project Kidsight Chair for the Upper Peninsula. “If it saves the sight of one child, it makes it more than worth the time and effort. Without the financial assistance and collaboration of the Tribe, this project would be very difficult for the Lions to continue on our own.”

For more information on Project Kidsight, contact Bob St. Peter at [mstpeter29@gmail.com](mailto:mstpeter29@gmail.com).

Cut line: Gary Klop, Single District 10 Lions Governor (left) accepts \$2,500 from Tom Miller, Sault Tribe Board Member, to assist with purchasing a new Pedia Vision camera that will assist with diagnosing eye problems in preschool aged children.