



NORTHERN PLAINS EYE
FOUNDATION

Winter 2016

The Eye Opener

Northern Plains Eye Foundation (NPEF) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect and preserve vision and restore sight for people of the Northern Plains.



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The holidays bring on a wave of nostalgia. We pause to reflect on the past and contemplate our hopes for the New Year. As we do so, we are oftentimes reminded life's richest blessings come not in receiving, but in giving.

The photos in the center of this page are some of Northern Plains Eye Foundation's (NPEF) rich blessings. They are the people whose lives are touched by the work of area eye care professionals, dozens of dedicated volunteers, members of the NPEF Board of Directors, and devoted staff – and by your giving.

Through these gifts of time, talent, and generous financial resources, we carry out the mission of our Foundation – to protect and preserve vision and restore sight.

The faces in these photos bring our mission to life and illustrate our purpose through a storyboard of NPEF's day-to-day outreach. Some of the photos illustrate children served by the **Northern Plains Eye Foundation Western South Dakota Lions Children's Vision Screening Initiative (CVSI)**, a key area of outreach. CVSI's purpose is to identify risk factors that may inhibit proper vision development and handicap a child's potential. To date, the program has provided over 14,500 free vision screenings to preschool and elementary age children across the region. Moreover, through CVSI, over 1,500 children have been identified with undetected vision disorders and referred to an eye care professional for diagnosis and treatment.

The meaningful mission of our Foundation unfolds, as well, through the images of grateful recipients of NPEF's Christmas Gift of Sight Program and Dr. Paul L. Zimmerman Memorial

Scholarship. **Christmas Gift of Sight** awards the gift of sight-saving surgery to underserved patients with severely impaired vision, who are going through difficult times and experiencing financial hardship. Through your gifts, almost forty sight-saving surgeries have been donated, helping recipients regain their vision, and most importantly, reclaim their independence, mobility, and quality of life.

A grateful recipient concisely summarized Christmas Gift of Sight as "proving hope exists."

The important mission of NPEF is also demonstrated through educational scholarships, awarded by our Foundation since 2005 to ensure future generations have access to quality eye care. Beginning in 2011, the **Dr. Paul L. Zimmerman Memorial Scholarship** was named in tribute to past NPEF Board Member, Dr. Paul Zimmerman. Dr. Z, as he was affectionately referenced, taught us invaluable, life-long lessons on how to live our journey through giving. The scholarship, supported by your giving, is awarded annually to a fourth year student accepted into The University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine,

who has an expressed interest in ophthalmology and most embodies Dr. Zimmerman's legacy of leadership, service, and kindness. The photo of this year's grateful recipient, Trevor Kindle, is inside.

While these photos are but a few of the people touched by your gifts, know there are many, many grateful recipients. **We enormously value your gifts and ask you to once again please consider making a year-end donation to fund NPEF's essential vision outreach, ensuring the work of our Foundation is sustained and the faces on our storyboard continue to receive the gift of sight through your giving.**

LIFE'S RICHEST BLESSINGS



COME NOT IN RECEIVING, BUT IN GIVING

EYE TO EYE: THE DIRECTOR'S VIEW



Thank you, Sharon!

Longtime Northern Plains Eye Foundation (NPEF) Board Member, **Sharon Zeller**, steps off the NPEF Board at the end of this month. Sharon served our Foundation's Board of Directors for the past decade and was Board Chair of Northern Plains Eye Foundation from 2011 to 2015 – an astonishing five years!

During this time, Sharon provided integral leadership that moved our Foundation forward and brought opportunity to create a lasting legacy of vision-related community outreach to literally thousands of individuals across our region. A large part of this legacy is the Northern Plains Eye Foundation Western South Dakota Lions Children's Vision Screening Initiative (CVSI). Under Sharon's leadership and supported by her passion and diligence, CVSI has brought over 14,500 free children's vision screenings to young children in communities across the Black Hills. In addition, Sharon guided NPEF's other signature education and community outreach programs, which include Christmas Gift of Sight, Dr. Paul L. Zimmerman Memorial Scholarship, and Workplace Vision Wellness. Most importantly, Sharon inspired our Foundation's Board and Staff to believe and personally invest in NPEF as key stakeholders, so that together we fulfill our mission to protect and preserve vision and restore sight.

On behalf of NPEF's Board of Directors and Staff, I would like to personally thank you, Sharon, for the very important role you played in support of our Foundation's mission through the donation of your valued time, talents, and expertise. Your passion, dedication, and leadership will be truly missed.

As we say goodbye to 2016, on behalf of the NPEF's Board of Directors and Staff, may your holidays be bright and your New Year be filled with health, happiness, and prosperity.

Ronda Musinsky
Executive Director
Northern Plains Eye Foundation



LIONS TRIBUTE

Elsewhere in this newsletter, we share the successes of the Northern Plains Eye Foundation Western South Dakota Lions Children's Vision Screening Initiative (CVSI), a key area of community outreach for Northern Plains Eye Foundation (NPEF).

These achievements are possible thanks to our CVSI partnership with area Lions Clubs and a wonderful group of core volunteers from Rapid City Downtown, Metro, and Rushmore Lions Clubs, Hill City Lions Club, and Piedmont Valley Lions Club. These enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers invest hundreds of hours each year administering screenings, assisting with clerical tasks, and raising funds to sustain this vital program that identifies undetected vision disorders in thousands of children each year.

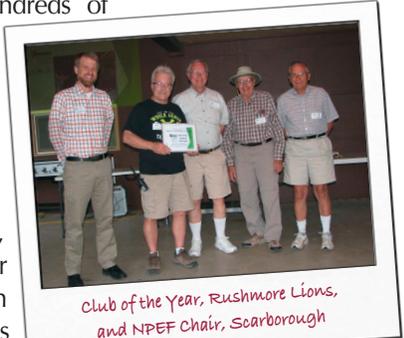
To express our gratitude, NPEF hosts an annual Volunteer Picnic & Salute at Storm Mountain Center. This year, the 2016 awards were presented by NPEF Chair Dr. Ryan Scarborough to:

2016 CVSI Club of the Year – Rushmore Lions – 184 combined volunteer hours;

2016 Volunteer of the Year – Dick Fischer, Piedmont Valley Lions – 55 volunteer hours;

2016 Volunteer Couple of the Year – Norm and Sherry Denke, Metro Lions – 64 combined volunteer hours.

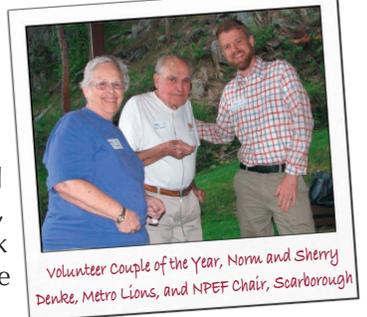
We are deeply grateful to these honorees and each Lions Club CVSI Volunteer, totaling thirty-three strong, for their partnership and dedication to the CVSI program, as well as the opportunity to work hand-in-hand to make a difference for children in our community.



Club of the Year, Rushmore Lions, and NPEF Chair, Scarborough



Volunteer of the Year, Dick Fischer, Piedmont Valley Lions, and NPEF Chair, Scarborough



Volunteer Couple of the Year, Norm and Sherry Denke, Metro Lions, and NPEF Chair, Scarborough

WELCOME TO NPEF'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS



Rebecca Linquist, MD

Rebecca Linquist, MD, practices general ophthalmology with The Eye Doctors at Rapid City Medical Center. She is a native of Sturgis, South Dakota, who received her undergraduate degree from Black Hills State University prior to attending the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine. Rebecca then completed her residency in ophthalmology at the University of Kansas and returned to the Black Hills in 2013 to join Rapid City Medical Center. She and her husband, Scott, and their Weimaraners enjoy spending time with family and experiencing outdoor activities including running, snowmobiling, and camping.



Sarah Kuipers, OD

Sarah Kuipers, OD, is a Rapid City native who attended Stevens High School, completed her undergraduate degree at the University of South Dakota, and graduated from Indiana University School of Optometry. She recently returned to Rapid City to open her own optometry practice, Independent Eyes, next door to Independent Optical, a business founded and still operated by her grandfather, Chuck Mordhorst. Sarah's passion is pediatric optometry, and she is fluent in Spanish, offering bilingual services to the Hispanic community. Sarah and her husband, Jeremy, and son are excited to once again call Rapid City home.

Welcome, Rebecca and Sarah! We are glad to have you as members of our Northern Plains Eye Foundation Board of Directors.

KINDLE AWARDED 2016 ZIMMERMAN SCHOLARSHIP

In 2011, Northern Plains Eye Foundation (NPEF) created the Dr. Paul L. Zimmerman Memorial Scholarship to honor Dr. Paul L. Zimmerman, a respected partner in ophthalmology at Black Hills Regional Eye Institute and much-loved member of our Foundation's Board of Directors who passed away after a courageous battle with malignant melanoma of the eye.

Since that time, the Northern Plains Eye Foundation Dr. Paul L. Zimmerman Memorial Scholarship is presented to a scholar with a passion for the eye care field who most embodies Dr. Zimmerman's legacy of leadership, service, and kindness. The scholarship is given on NPEF's behalf by The University of South Dakota Foundation for award by the Sanford School of Medicine.

The 2016 recipient is Trevor Kindle. Trevor



grew up in Yankton, South Dakota, where he graduated from high school in 2009. He pursued a degree in Chemistry from The University of South Dakota, graduating in 2013, and currently attends The University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine (USDSSM). While at USDSSM, Trevor has immersed himself in ophthalmic research, including a current research project with NPEF on the Northern Plains Eye Foundation Western South Dakota Lions Children's Vision Screening Initiative.

Ophthalmology interests Trevor from several perspectives. He enjoys surgery, is attracted to the mixture of acute and chronic pathology, and looks forward to creating and maintaining relationships with patients of all ages. His hope is to return to the southeast corner of the state to practice comprehensive ophthalmology.

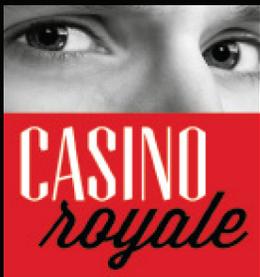
Congratulations, Trevor.



Welcome, Rachel!

Meet Rachel Swarthout, Northern Plains Eye Foundation's new Administrative Assistant! Rachel joined the staff in September after recently moving to Rapid City with her husband, Chris, a pastor at Fountain Springs Church, and their four daughters. Welcome, Rachel!

NPEF HOSTS 4TH ANNUAL CASINO ROYALE



Northern Plains Eye Foundation (NPEF) is so very grateful to once again have the privilege of extending our heartfelt appreciation to the wonderful guests, event sponsors, promotional partners, auction donors, volunteers, and celebrity dealers who joined NPEF in celebrating our 4th Annual Casino Royale Charity Affair on Saturday, October 1st, at Hilton Garden Inn Rapid City.

Thanks to you, our casino-themed "Party with a Purpose" truly lived up to its name, raising over \$26,000 to fund essential vision outreach. From youngsters encountering undetected vision disorders, to low income adults in need of sight-saving surgery, your support of Casino Royale brings the gift of sight to thousands in our community each year.

We enormously value your generosity and will utilize the funds raised by Casino Royale Charity Affair wisely to carry forward the work of our Foundation to protect and preserve vision and restore sight.

We invite you to join us for the 5th Annual Casino Royale Charity Affair, on Saturday, September 30th, 2017. Watch NPEF's Facebook page and www.npef.org for details!

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