

## Who are the Lions of MD-35?

Lions are volunteer members of clubs grouped under an international organization, where they enjoy fellowship, develop their leadership capabilities, and dedicate part of their free time to help those in need all over the world, while making their individual communities a better place to live.

The Lions are most known for their efforts with the preservation and restoration of vision. Whether they are doing visual screening, testing for glaucoma, raising money to support eye research, providing eyeglasses to those in need, sponsoring eye care for needy patients, or providing information to the public about vision or eye disease, Lions are constantly striving to improve eye health in their communities.

In Multiple District-35 (Florida and The Bahamas) Lions sponsor numerous projects to help those in need within their own individual communities.

As a Multiple District, these Lions support eight major projects located within the State of Florida. All eight projects are important and each is designed to help a different segment of the needy, blind, and handicapped.

Visit us at [www.lionsofflorida.org](http://www.lionsofflorida.org).



The Foundation was founded in 1958 to assist the Lions Clubs of Multiple District 35 by helping to provide sight care (surgery) for needy individuals within their communities. This has remained the Foundation's prime objective over the years.

This assistance is only given through requests originating in the individual clubs of MD-35. Through an evaluation process a Foundation Projects Chairperson qualifies the client and then negotiates with the medical providers to obtain the lowest fee possible without compromising the quality of care.

Funds to support this eye care program are received only by club donations, interest from trust funds, grants, and bequests.

The Foundation prides itself in keeping expenses at a minimum due to the fact that there is no overhead with the exception of one paid position.

From time-to-time, when funds are available, the Foundation issues grants to the other Florida charitable entities for capital improvements.

## For Additional Information

Florida Lions Foundation for the Blind, Inc.  
8804 41st ST N Pinellas Park FL 33782-5824  
352-452-0806 or  
[www.floralionsfoundation.org](http://www.floralionsfoundation.org)

Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.  
4210 77th St E Palmetto FL 34221-9270  
941-729-5665 or [www.guidedogs.org](http://www.guidedogs.org)

Lions Diabetes Awareness Foundation of MD-35  
[www.dafmd35.org](http://www.dafmd35.org)

Conklin Centers for the Blind  
405 White St Daytona Beach FL 32114-2925  
386-258-3441 or [www.conklincenter.org](http://www.conklincenter.org)

Florida Dog Guides for the Deaf  
2016 27th St E Bradenton FL 34208-0602  
941-748-8245 or [www.floridadogguides.org](http://www.floridadogguides.org)

Florida Lions Eye Bank  
900 NW 17th St Miami FL 33136-1119  
305-324-4340 or [www.fleb.org](http://www.fleb.org)

Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research  
1410 N 21st St Tampa FL 33605-5313  
813-289-1200 or [www.lionseyeinstitute.org](http://www.lionseyeinstitute.org)

North Florida Lions Eye Foundation  
2033 Raley Creek Dr E Jacksonville 32225-2303  
904-645-7759 or [jr6764@gmail.com](mailto:jr6764@gmail.com)

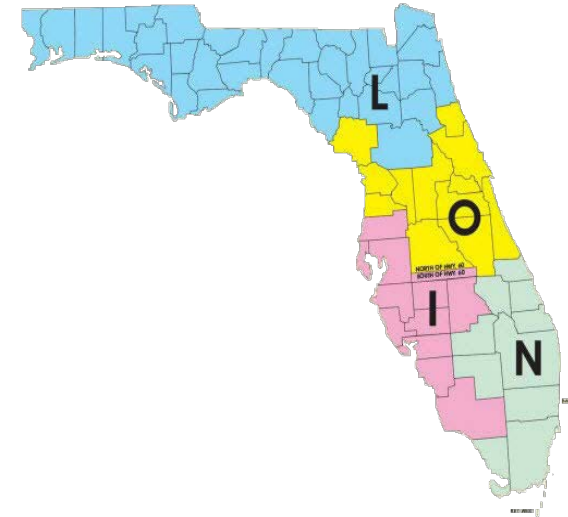
Plus

Lions Clubs International Foundation  
[www.lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org)

Leader Dogs for the Blind  
[www.leaderdog.org](http://www.leaderdog.org)

International Hearing Dog, Inc.  
[www.ihdi.org](http://www.ihdi.org)

## Major Projects Supported by MD-35 The Lions of Florida & The Bahamas



## Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.

For 30 years, Southeastern Guide Dogs has trained and placed extraordinary dogs that transform lives. We feature three programs:

**PAWS FOR INDEPENDENCE** - One foot in front of the other towards freedom. Our students are as different as young from old, city from country. But all of them deserve a chance for self-sufficiency. Our Paws for Independence program matches highly trained guide dogs with visually impaired individuals, providing the gift of an independent lifestyle. Students train on our Palmetto FL campus for 26 days, venturing from our seclude Freedom Walk out to city streets, shopping malls, and public transportation. Most leave here with a new spring in their step and a wider smile. We include a lifetime of follow-up services.

**PAWS FOR PATRIOTS** - They served us. Now it's our turn. Our Paws for Patriots program serves those who have sacrificially served our country. We match visually impaired and physically disabled veterans with highly trained guide dogs, veteran service dogs and facility therapy dogs to complement individual needs. Veteran service partnerships include a lifetime of follow up services.

**GIFTED CANINES** - They're dog-gone talented! Dogs not suited to serve as guides are career changed and enter our Gifted Canine program where other careers await them. These other careers are important and provide great value to people. We charge nothings for our services. These are provided at no cost, thanks to our generous supporters.

## Lions Diabetes Awareness Foundation of MD-35

The Diabetes Awareness Foundation of MD-35 provides training for diabetes screeners, serves our communities by providing free diabetic screening for the public, and supports three diabetic camps for youngsters from around our Multiple District.

Our project was begun as a Core-4 grant pilot program from Lions Clubs International Foundation and in our first three years, we trained over 1,000 Lions as screeners and tested over 50,000 people for diabetes - the number one cause of blindness worldwide. Thousands have been referred for medical evaluation or treatment. Our program has helped prevent blindness, as well as heart disease and a myriad of other complications that can result from diabetes.

Since the end of the grant, the program has actually been expanded and held screenings throughout Florida and the Bahamas. The diabetes awareness program has been so successful that Lions Clubs International has now expanded it to six other multiple districts worldwide.



The Conklin Center's mission is to empower children and adults who are blind and have one or more additional disabilities to develop their potential to be able to obtain competitive employment, live independently and fully participate in community life.

Each student has unique abilities and needs, but they all share the same dream - to be productive members of society: to work, to make the decisions that affect their lives and live with dignity. At the Conklin Center we teach the daily living and vocational skills our students need to live on their own and offer ongoing supported employment and supported living services.

Our vision for the future is to reduce dependence on institutional or homebound care. To ensure that children who are blind don't need our services as young adults, the Early Intervention Program for children from birth to age five and their families was begun in 2000.



## Florida Dog Guides for the Deaf, Inc.

Florida Dog Guides FTD trains hearing, service, and specialty dogs for Florida's deaf, legally deaf, and physically challenged residents.

Hearing Dog Guides are individually trained to work and perform tasks for their deaf or hearing-impaired owners. These specially trained dogs alert their owners to a variety of sounds they may not be able to hear themselves.

## Florida Lions Eye Banks

The gift of sight, most cherished of our senses, is why the Lions of MD-35 support the Eye Banks and Eye Foundations within Florida. This gift of sight is made possible by the eye banks through their programs to obtain and provide corneas to the blind and visually challenged.

Suitable corneas retrieved from donors are provided to individuals waiting for transplant. Those not suitable for transplant are used for research. Because of the dedication of the Lion sponsored eye banks and foundations, thousands of patients will continue to have their vision restored each year regardless of their ability to pay.



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