



Notes from the President – Fall 2025

As always, thanks to our Board of Trustees for continuing to volunteer your precious time to make sure that we stay focused and provide the most help possible for the visually impaired communities. The visually impaired community owes you a debt of gratitude.

Many thanks to the clubs who donate/participate. Our success is because of your dedication, participation and support. Without you, we would not exist.

Thanks to the Scholastic Grant Committee, as in previous years, they took the time and thoroughly examined each application to determine the needs and wants of each. Thanks for your very fine efforts to be fair and judicious with the funds provided. At our Scholastic presentation earlier this year, we awarded \$49,550.00 in scholastic Grants to qualified students.

This year in honor of our recently deceased, long-time Board Member Lion Ralph Thompson, we established a grant for Teachers of the Vision Impaired (TVIs). This grant provides \$1,000.00 to participating teachers so that they can purchase equipment to assist them in their classes for vision impaired students. Four grants were provided to eligible Teachers. The Grant committee suggests that, going forward, we do five (5) grants per year.

Thanks to the Low Vision Learning Centers and Prevention of Blindness Society of the Washington Metropolitan Area for continuing to partner with us to provide a very high level of service to those in need. Your partnership is appreciated, and it has helped us to provide a much higher level of care and assistance for the vision impaired. Check out the newest visual aids at our Alexandria Low Vision Learning Center on Mondays by appointment only.

Our Lions Eye Clinic continues to be a shining example of our dedication to helping the Vision Impaired, especially those who are indigent and have no other means of eyecare. We celebrated 50 years of partnership with this clinic and witnessed a complete renovation of the facility.

Our quarterly meeting was held on September 17th hosted by Inova. The venue was great, the food was excellent, and the hospitality once again was spectacular. We are doing the zoom hybrid, and although there were some glitches, we managed to muddle through. We get better each time, but we still hope that most of you will be able to attend in person. We all enjoy each other's company and accomplish a lot. Our next quarterly meeting will be on December 17th.

Sincerely,
Ed "Woody" Woodard – President

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we don't
SEE THINGS
AS THEY ARE,
we see things as
WE ARE.
- Anais Nin

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website and donate
if you can



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**True
Sight comes
From
understanding
Not just
vision**



The challenge of leadership
is to be strong, but not rude;
be kind, but not weak;
be bold, but not bully;
be thoughtful, but not lazy;
be humble, but not timid;
be proud, but not arrogant;
have humor, but without folly.

- Jim Rohn

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VLEIF, Inc. c/o Sandy Armendaris, 7623 Virginia Ave, Falls Church, VA 22043

Scholastic Grant Wrap-up –2/22/2025

This year, the Scholastic Grant Committee reviewed 25 Scholastic Grants:

Two (2) were declined as not eligible. One requested Physical Fitness Equipment and follow-up did not resolve anything. One was not clear on what they planned to do with the funds, follow-ups did not receive a favorable reply.

The Committee approved 23 Applicants, and the qualified recipients split \$49,500.00. Grants were from \$1,000.00 to \$3,000.00 based on number of times applied and/or stated need. The committee paid special attention to the essays and other data to make these decisions.

The presentation ceremony was held on Saturday February 22, 2025, starting at noon and was attended by 20 of the 23 recipients and their families/friends. One Recipient lives in Schuyler VA and the Scottsville Lions Club will present her the check in a venue beneficial to the club's image. Two others in the Fairfax area had other commitments and their checks will be presented in a timely and fitting manner.

We had four TVIs qualify for the inaugural "Ralph A. Thompson TVI Grant". This will be an annual event to reward the efforts of the "Teachers of the Visually Impaired" who assist their students and often provide extra to them at their own expense.

Although we always have last-minute unexpected events happen to some who were expecting to attend, we still had slightly over 100 in attendance for this event which included Recipients, TVIs, Families, Friends, Lions and VLEIF Board Members. Everyone seemed to enjoy the moments, especially the recipients. The Elks Lodge outdid themselves in their serving of food and furnishing the venue. We have booked with them for next year. We are grateful for this alliance. As a side note, Dr. Alibhai managed to sneak in a birthday cake for a very old guy (Me, age 90). Although very embarrassed, I thoroughly enjoyed the moment and relished the fact that so many remembered. Thanks to one and all.

We had the distinct pleasure of having as our guest speakers Dr. Mohammed Jaafar, Chief Emeritus of Ophthalmology at Children's National Hospital and Lion Dr. Suleiman Alibhai, Low Vision Expert who is the eyecare professional for many of the Recipients as well. Both Doctors wowed the crowd and provided important information pertinent to vision care. Dr. Alibhai invited one of his former patients, "Angel" who suffers from Albinism and is now an accomplished attorney and he did an excellent presentation, sharing some of how he overcame his impairment and continued to move forward. All seem to enjoy the presentations as they were all entertaining and informative.

Sponsoring clubs all attended and got to know the recipients and families so that they may reach out for future club involvement. The Sponsoring Clubs were an integral part of the presentation ceremony.

Sincerely,

Woody

President VLEIF - for the Scholarship Committee



VLEIF.org



VLEIF Through the Lions of District 24L sponsored 4 attendees to the "Goal Ball Camp"

This would not have been possible without the support of the Clubs



Celebrating Over a Decade of Service:

The Low-Vision Learning Center in Old Town Alexandria

The Low-Vision Learning Center in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, has now been open for over 10 years! Thanks to a collaborative effort between the Virginia Lions Eye Institute Foundation (VLEIF) and the Prevention of Blindness Society (POB), the center continues to thrive, offering critical resources, comprehensive evaluations, and a welcoming space for individuals with visual impairments.

The inspiration to create the vision center came from a visually impaired patient, Mr. Julius Fleishman. Despite facing ongoing challenges with his vision, Mr. Fleishman remained committed to living independently. He generously offered the Prevention of Blindness Society a grant to establish a dedicated low-vision center. Since POB already owned a building operating as a thrift store in Old Town Alexandria, 500 square feet of space was carved out to house the center.

Twelve years ago, the Low-Vision Learning Center officially opened its doors. The Virginia Lions Eye Institute Foundation joined the effort, supplying an exam lane equipped with tools typically found in any eye care clinic. This equipment came from a previous collaboration between VLEIF and INOVA, further solidifying the partnership.

Ongoing Services and Support

Currently, the center is open three days a week, offering low-vision evaluations for patients referred by area ophthalmologists. These patients often have conditions such as macular degeneration, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy. The Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) also refers patients who are seeking vocational rehabilitation to assess visual aids and strategies to support employment. Additionally, local school systems refer children with congenital visual impairments to explore accommodations that can help them succeed both academically and socially at school despite their vision limitations.

One day each week, the center operates as a Low-Vision Resource Center. Staffed by individuals who are visually impaired themselves, this by appointment only service provides peer-led support. Visually



impaired individuals have the opportunity to learn about strategies to maintain independence, experiment with visual aids and reinforce techniques presented during the formal low vision evaluation by the low vision specialist.

What Is a Low-Vision Evaluation?

Most people are unaware of the difference between a standard eye exam and a low-vision evaluation. The latter is specifically designed for individuals with chronic visual impairments that cannot be corrected with glasses, contact lenses, or surgery. These patients experience significant limitations that interfere with daily living and require adaptive solutions beyond conventional eyeglasses.

While VLEIF also supports the Indigent Eye Clinic on Woodburn Road near Fairfax Hospital—which offers diagnosis, treatment, and surgical recommendations for treatable eye conditions—the Low-Vision Learning Center focuses on rehabilitation. Rather than surgery or glasses, patients receive assistance with visual aids, magnification devices, and learn about modifications that can be made to computers and smartphones to enable them to participate in everyday activities.

Addressing a Critical Shortage

There is currently a nationwide shortage of eye care professionals specializing in vision rehabilitation. As a result, it can take six months or more to secure an appointment for a formal low-vision evaluation. Nevertheless, patients can still benefit from the Low-Vision Resource Center, where they can meet with visually impaired coordinators to explore basic strategies. These initial conversations lay the groundwork for more customized care during the formal evaluation, which typically takes an hour or more due to its depth and complexity.

Broader Community Connections



Talking Books, available through the Library of Congress, providing access to audiobooks via cassette or mobile app

Support groups hosted by the Prevention of Blindness Society, which meet both in person and online to address topics like travel, dressing and grooming, and digital accessibility

A Legacy of Advocacy and Growth

The Virginia Lions Eye Institute Foundation continues to play a vital role in supporting the Low-Vision Learning Center. VLEIF is especially committed to expanding collaborations with educators and children who are visually impaired. Many recipients of the Joe Lipomi Scholarship have been patients at the center, and the teachers of the visually impaired (TVI) often accompany their students to the annual award ceremony, strengthening these community ties.

An Invitation to Lions Club Members

We hope to continue growing this vital partnership and providing essential services to our community—whether it's elderly individuals striving to remain independent, working-age adults seeking workplace accommodations, or children pursuing academic success despite vision limitations. All members of the Lions Club are invited to visit the Low-Vision Center in Alexandria. Just check with Woody about an appropriate time when patients are not being evaluated. Thank you to VLEIF for your decade-long commitment to empowering the visually impaired and enriching our community.



“A Ball For All”

Lions from across Virginia have adopted our “Ball For All” project aimed at providing specially designed mini soccer balls that rattle to blind and visually impaired children. These balls invited by a Greek soccer player are designed so that they can be active with their sighted friends and family. The response so far has been overwhelming. Parents appreciate our efforts to make their children feel special. Lions are having the opportunity to make contacts with the families and to share resources like Orientation and Mobility Training, Summer Camp Experiences and the possibility of test driving a guide dog in the future.

We are already seeing some amazing results from our efforts. A young lady after receiving her ball asked us about getting a guide dog. She is currently applying to Leader Dog and is excited about the possibility to be more independent when she goes to college. Her mother has also approached us to start a Lions Club in her community where there currently isn’t one. This is just one example of the lives we are touching.

Thanks to LOVF, individual Lions and Lions Clubs, we are able to provide these balls and make connections that will hopefully last for years. Balls have been given to children in pre-school through high school with all levels of vision impairment. Recently, we have been asked to explore using these same balls in autistic communities.

100 years ago, Helen Keller asked Lions to be her “Knights of the Blind”. I can’t think of a better time to start this statewide project. Think of the lives that we will touch in the years ahead.

VDG Chuck Schwab
540-476-1041





VLEIF, Inc. c/o Sandra Armendaris, 7623 Virginia Ave, Falls Church, VA 22043
April 21, 2025

REPORT FROM VLEIF

1. **Scholastic Grants** – We received and approved 23 eligible Scholastic Grant Applications totaling \$49,700.00. None of this would be possible without the Clubs. Thanks to the sponsoring clubs for your participation.

1(a) This year, in honor of, recently deceased, long time board member Lion Ralph Thompson, we established a grant in his honor for Teachers of the Vision Impaired (TVIs). We awarded four (4) participating teachers with grants of \$1,000.00 each to purchase items to assist them in their classrooms. The Grant Committee has suggested that going forward, we do \$5,000.00 per year (5 Grants). The board is expected to approve this.
2. **Eye Care for the needy** was expanded to Fredericksburg, VA: VLEIF donated an eyecare lane to the “Moss Free Clinic” in Fredericksburg, VA. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding, the Moss Free Clinic has now closed. Hopefully some philanthropic endeavors will re-open the very necessary facility.
3. The “Lion Richard A. Falls Research Grant” program with an annual budget of \$40,000.00 is continuing to fund research projects dedicated to curing and/or preventing eye diseases and improving the life of those with vision impairments.
4. VLEIF continues to fund and support the Lions Eye Clinic at the Inova complex. We contribute \$25,000.00 per year to the operating expenses. This clinic provides eyecare to indigents who have no insurance and periodically perform eye exams and provide eyeglasses to needy individuals. This year we celebrated 50 years of association with the Clinic. The clinic underwent a total renovation at a cost of around \$250,000.00. VLEIF committed to donating \$50,000.00 over a two-year period for the new furniture.
5. The VLEIF Board also approves needed purchases of equipment for the Lions Eye Clinic on an as needed basis in partnership with Inova. VLEIF Donated \$50,000.00 for updated equipment. This brings the clinic up to date and ensures that the clinic can provide the volunteer Doctors the most modern equipment to perform their much-needed services for years to come.
6. VLEIF also joins with the “Prevention of Blindness Society of the Washington Metropolitan Area” in support of the Alexandria Low Vision Learning Center. This practice is dedicated to serving those who are chronically visually impaired in our community.

7. The VLEIF Board has approved funds to assist the clubs with providing needed eyecare assistance when they come up against budget shortfalls. The remaining funds from the dissolution of the Sight and Hearing Van Corporation were turned over to VLEIF, and these funds will be used to assist the Clubs in their screening efforts. Contact me or our District Representative and we will help when we can.

Ed “Woody” Woodard, PDG

President VLEIF – E-mail: Woodywoodard@cox.net Cell Ph: 703-314-0889

Lion Sheryl Bass – District VLEIF Representative - s.l.bass@verizon.net Ph: 703-361-4980



VLEIF - Facebook



VLEIF Website

The infographic features a blue background with white text. At the top, '20-20-20' is written in a large, bold font, with 'RULE' below it in an even larger, bold font. A horizontal line separates the title from the three components of the rule. Each component is represented by an icon: a clock face for '20 min', a stopwatch for '20 sec', and a ruler for '20 ft'. Below each icon is a descriptive phrase: 'Every 20 minutes', 'Take a 20 second break', and 'And look at something 20 feet away'. At the bottom, there is a logo consisting of an eye icon and the text 'ALL ABOUT VISION'.

20-20-20 RULE

20
min

Every 20
minutes

20
sec

Take a 20
second break

20ft

And look at
something
20 feet away

ALL ABOUT VISION



APPS/LINKS DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Be My Eyes – Connects visually impaired users with sighted volunteers for assistance via live video calls. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eo2P9guQtz4>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GRfFuWsjNU>

Seeing AI – Developed by Microsoft, this app narrates the world around you using AI-powered image recognition. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RH8FNP5TanI>

Voice Dream Reader – A powerful text-to-speech app that reads documents, books, and web pages aloud. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0-4V42k_P4

Aira – Provides live, on-demand visual assistance from trained professionals. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEC_4bZHlmw

Lookout by Google – Uses AI to help users identify objects, read text, and navigate their surroundings. <https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=lookout%20app%20for%20visually%20impaired&mid=E801CB745A9F77F5FAEFE801CB745A9F77F5FAEF&ajaxhist=0>

Envision AI – Helps users read text, recognize faces, and identify objects using their smartphone camera. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZbOu520JLw>

TapTapSee – Designed to identify objects through photos taken with a smartphone. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGnNLSXWNrg>

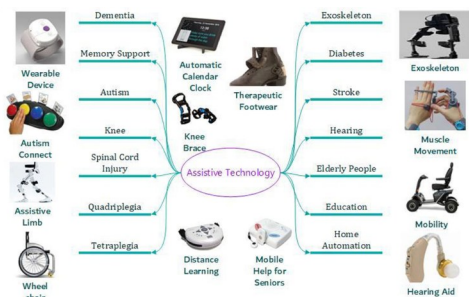
Lazarillo – A navigation app that provides audio guidance for visually impaired users. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JA7w1vO6OJ0>

<https://www.davechaffey.com/assistive-technology/ios-for-blind-and-visually-impaired/the-best-android-and-ios-mobile-apps-for-blind-and-partially-sighted-people-2022/>

<https://discoversight.com/apps-for-blind-and-visually-impaired/>

<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/tips-prevention/low-vision-impairment-apps-tech-assistive-devices>

PROVIDED ONLY FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES



Breaking New Ground: Latest Advances in Assistive Technology for the Blind and Visually Impaired

By PCC Glen Logan (and ChatGPT)

The world of assistive technology for the blind and visually impaired is rapidly evolving, bringing innovative tools that empower independence and enhance daily living. From smart devices to AI-driven solutions, here are some of the latest advancements making waves:

- 1. AI-Powered Navigation Systems** - Smart navigation tools are changing the way visually impaired individuals move through their environments. Systems like Aira (www.aira.io) and NavCog (<https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~NavCog/navcog.html>) combine artificial intelligence with real-time data to provide audio guidance, helping users navigate cities, public transportation, and even indoor spaces with greater ease. These tools offer precise directions and obstacle alerts, improving safety and autonomy.
- 2. Wearable Tech for Enhanced Mobility** - New wearable devices are improving mobility for individuals with vision loss. The Sunu Band, for instance, is a sleek, smart bracelet that uses sonar to detect objects in the user's path, providing haptic feedback to guide them around obstacles. The OrCam MyEye (OrCam MyEye), a tiny, discreet camera that attaches to glasses, reads text aloud from books, signs, and even people's faces, offering hands-free convenience.
- 3. Voice-Activated Smart Assistants** - Voice-controlled technology continues to improve daily tasks for those with vision impairments. Devices like Amazon's Alexa and Google's Assistant are now equipped with enhanced accessibility features, such as reading out calendar events, setting reminders, or even shopping online—all through simple voice commands.
- 4. Text-to-Speech and OCR Technologies** - Advances in optical character recognition (OCR) and text-to-speech technology are making printed text more accessible. Tools like Seeing AI by Microsoft (seeingsai.com) use a smartphone camera to scan text and convert it to speech, instantly reading anything from menus to handwritten notes.

These groundbreaking innovations are not only enhancing the independence of blind and visually impaired individuals but are also opening doors to a more inclusive, accessible world. As technology continues to evolve, the possibilities for improving the lives of those with vision loss are limitless.



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Quick Pass/Refer – Everybody Can Screen

Speed up your workflow with MAICO's new headphone-audiometer easyTone. Its intuitive tablet interface and trouble-free work-flow enables hearing screening significantly faster than with conventional audiometers. easyTone shows clear pass/refer results that do not need any further interpretation. Advance your pure tone hearing screening program to the next level!

Protocol Customization – Screen Your Way

With easyTone you can't go wrong. Creating protocols tailored to your individual screening needs and test guidelines has never been easier. The quick and simple protocol setup wizard guides you through all selections to be certain in screening choices. Creating a personalized screening protocol for improved accuracy and consistency.

Guided Screening Workflow – Save Time and Focus

Your time is valuable. The easyTone has been designed to save you time by providing a guided screening workflow. The device is operated by only two buttons: "present tone" and "save result". Everything else – like switching test frequencies and ears – works automatically. It makes screening a breeze!

Digitized Data Management

Frustrated by stacks of paper and hours of post-processing? easyTone minimizes the need for printed lists and for manually transferring results. Just export results as a pdf or send as an e-mail attachment. With the added desktop companion software you can easily exchange screening lists and results between your computer and easyTone. This saves time, resources and is cost-efficient.

Audiometer Headphone – Full Function in Compact Design

The power of a state-of-the-art audiometer in a convenient headphone. The unique design incorporates an ANSI Type 4 audiometer with calibration housed within the headphone and not bound to a specific tablet. The proven circumaural design offers high sound attenuation. A built-in noise monitor ensures ambient noise compliance requirements. Fast and dependable test results – that's easyTone.

EASYTONE SPECIFICATIONS

Test Signals

Pure tone and warble tone steady and pulse

Test Frequencies

125, 250, 500, 750, 1000, 1500, 2000, 3000, 4000, 6000, 8000 Hz

Level Steps

5 dB

Hearing Level Range AC

10 dB HL to 100 dB HL

Language

English

Dimensions

7.5"W x 3.6"D x 5.3"H

Weight

0.85 lbs

Power Supply

via USB

Output

USB-C

Input

Patient response switch

Noise Monitor

Built-in microphone

MAICO easyTone DD65 v2A Pure Tone Headphone Audiometer with Tablet. **1040843** \$1,843.99 ea.

Includes:



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easyTone



Android tablet
with tablet case



Carrying case



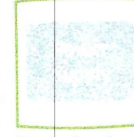
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Our Grant Recipients show their skills

Hello,

I have a submission for your consideration for your spring newsletter. This piece of art is from my student (and grant recipient), Alison Link, who won Gold, Silver, and Honorable Mention from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. It is called "Birds of a Feather". Alison is a junior at HB Woodlawn interested in studying art in college. She wrote up the short description below. Let me know if you need more information on the piece, or about her.

Carolyn "Karen" Samson

Teacher of the Visually Impaired

Arlington Public Schools

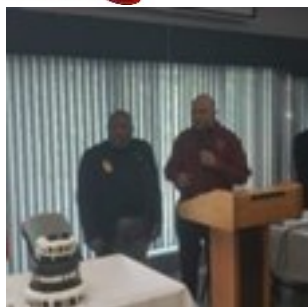
I made this piece after receiving some mixed media materials from my friend. She has been very close with me for a while. Both her and I are legally blind so I wanted to add texture to this so she could enjoy it as well.





Scholastic Grant Presentation Ceremony

My Spidey senses are tingling with excitement



**JOE LIPOMI MEMORIAL SCHOLASTIC GRANT
APPLICATION**

Purpose: The Virginia Lions Eye Institute Joe Lipomi Memorial Scholastic Grants are given to qualified visually impaired individuals and sponsored by individual Lions clubs of District 24-L. The overriding objectives of the grants are to enhance the potential for the recipients to achieve an independent, self-supporting life. Grant dollars may be used for assistive devices, educational/training expenses, and other expenses associated with the objectives of the Grants and the recipients in the year in which the grants are received.

Qualifications:

1) Visual acuity must be limited to 20/70 or less, best corrected in the best eye or a binocular visual field of 30 degrees or less. Sight must be documented by an eye care professional (Ophthalmologist or Optometrist).

2) Sponsorship by a Lions Club with a recommendation by the sponsoring club. VLEI will find a sponsoring club if the applicant needs that service.

3) The Grant Application must be accompanied by a separate Essay explaining why the grant is needed and how the funds will be used, along with the approximate expense. It is helpful if the applicants "introduce themselves" and describe their interests and objectives for the future. Other than 1) above, the Essay is the only information the Board of Trustees have to distinguish between applicants when the number of applications exceed the annual budget for Grants. First time applicants receive priority over applications from those who have received previous Grants. Applicants are limited to three years of awards.

Required Personal Data (SSN may be ATTACHED on a plain sheet without name if desired)

Name: _____ SSN: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

(Must be Legible to be useful)

Visual Disability:

Visual acuity with best correction: Right eye _____ Left eye _____

Visual field (binocular) Degrees _____

Ophthalmologist/Optometrist evaluation with signature and contact information should be attached

Amount Requested: \$ _____ (Maximums - \$3,000 1st time; \$2,000 2nd time; \$1,000 3rd time.)

Name of your TVI (Teacher of Visually Impaired): _____

Sponsoring Lions Club: _____

Completed applications must be mailed to: VLEIF, C/O Sandi Armendaris, 7623 Virginia Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22043-3202, and must arrive NLT December 5th. Approved applicants will be notified when the selection process is completed. The grants will be presented at a venue determined by the Scholastic Grant Committee. Details will be announced when finalized. Questions should be sent via e-mail to: woodywoodard@cox.net (subject: Scholastic Grant) or call 703-314-088

For more information on our mission to serve, visit our Website at: <http://vleif.org/>



Lion Ralph Thompson TVI Scholastic Grant

This Grant honors the memory of the late Lion Ralph Thompson who was a long-time dedicated member of the VLEIF Board and an avid supporter of the Scholastic Grant Program. This fund has been established to reward a Teacher of the Vision Impaired (TVI) who has encouraged and assisted a student in applying for the Joe Lipomi Scholastic Grant.

We will award five (5) \$1,000.00 Grants per year and the selection will be a random drawing of the qualified participants (One chance per qualified applicant). Winners will not be eligible again for 2 years.

Funds are to be used to help purchase equipment/materials for your students.

Name: _____ **SSN** _____
(May be sent separately)

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____
(Must be Legible to be useful)

School/District: _____

First Name of your Student(s): _____

(Student must have submitted a qualified Grant Application)

Please attach a short essay stating how this Grant will be of benefit to you and your students.

Grant applications should coincide with the “Joe Lipomi Scholastic Grant Applications” of your students. Submission deadline December 15th of each year. Results will be announced along with the Scholastic Grants. TVI Grants will be presented at the Scholastic Grant Ceremony which will be announced. Usually held around the latter part of February weather permitting.

E-Mail to: woodywoodard@cox.net

Or mail to: VLEIF c/o Sandy Armendaris
7623 Virginia Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22043



VLEIF Website



VLEIF Face-
book



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VLEIF Board, TVIs, Lions of District 24L

JOE LIPOMI SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

It's that time of year when back to school is in progress, and we should all be looking for students who are eligible for Joe Lipomi Scholarship grants. Although Grant applications are due by early December, the Grant Committee has been very flexible with deadlines and tries to accommodate all who enters.

The Scholarship grant committee is eagerly looking forward to finding ways to ensure that all eligible applicants are given equal opportunities to grant funds within our budget limits.

TVIs (Teachers of the Visually Impaired)– Please check the students in your classes for those whom a grant would help open up otherwise untapped possibilities. The applications are on the website, and most of you already know that we will work with you to make sure that all your eligible vision impaired students get considered. If you know of other TVIs that I don't have contact information for, please let me know and I will be happy to include them in my distributions and invitations to the presentation ceremony.

Lions Club Leaders – Get to know the schools in your area and find out who the TVIs (Teachers of the Visually Impaired) are and find out if you can sponsor an eligible applicant. Most of the clubs are familiar with the process and know that there is no downside to this. All of our scholarships are presented with a club acting as sponsor to ensure that grant recipients/families know that without the support of the clubs, this would not be possible. So, if your club is chosen as a sponsor to a grant recipient, please give it serious consideration. The cost is minimal, usually the price of lunch for the parents, if your club can afford it.

District Lions Leadership – We depend on you to help spread the word about what we do, so as you travel around the District, please let the membership know that we are willing to come visit and give presentations to highlight the work that we do for our vision impaired citizens. Please pass this on to your Lions Club Members so that every Lion is given the opportunity to participate. Our Sight Chair Lion Davida Luehrs is one of our most ardent spokespersons and she has been spearheading the drive for these scholarships for a number of years, and we know she will continue to be an advocate for the program.

REMEMBER US IN YOUR BUDGET

We could not continue to do what we do without the support of the clubs of our district, and for this we are very thankful. If you would like to know more about what we do, please contact me or the District VLEIF Representative Lion Sheryl Bass to arrange a visit and presentation. We eagerly await your invitations. Also visit us on our Website and Facebook.

Sincerely,

Woody

President VLEIF – woodywoodard@cox.net

District Rep – Lion Sheryl Bass - s.l.bass@verizon.net



VLEIF



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