



Florida Lions Eye Clinic, Inc. Year End Report 2022

What a year 2022 has been for the Florida Lions Eye Clinic! Still reeling from the wrench the pandemic threw into things, we were then hit with the setbacks from Hurricane Ian. Because so much of the services we provide had traditionally been covered by volunteer hours, we had to take a different approach to servicing our patients and the Clinic needs by hiring staff after the pandemic when volunteer positions were hard to fill. Pair that with missing a few important in-person fundraisers the last few years, and you can imagine the challenges that came up along the way. It's made our Clinic goals even bigger and more important, especially with a new location opening in 2023!

Sadly, our beautiful SWFL landscape has been changed forever and rebuilding our communities will take a long time. We are proud to say that despite what everyone was going through in the aftermath, we had our Clinic back up and running with all of our staff in attendance the Monday after the hurricane tore through our neighborhood! Patients were so thankful to still have the opportunity to attend their appointments and many of whom shared stories of their own losses. However, no matter what they were experiencing they showed up to get the valuable eye care that the Clinic provides. This was proof enough to all of us, just how important it is for us to be here for our community. For many of our patients, among the items they lost in the hurricane were eyeglasses, eye care products and eye medications. Our services have become more valuable than ever to our underserved community.

Over the course of the last year, the Florida Lions Eye Clinic has made significant progress and has seen more patients. As a result, the Clinic continues to pro-actively recruit additional doctors that can provide services throughout the month when volunteers are not available. We employ one Retina Specialist, a Pediatric Ophthalmologist and one general Ophthalmologist. The paid doctors work alongside the volunteer doctors to add dependability and reliability to the services the Clinic provides to the community and increases the Clinic's ability to see patients on a regular basis. The Clinic has 15 volunteer doctors providing services at the Clinic and two additional volunteer doctors providing services (to include surgeries) at their locations. There was a total of 530 volunteer doctor hours at the Clinic location for the Fiscal Year July 01, 2021 - June 30, 2022. Though hiring doctors is an expensive endeavor, the Clinic is now very well positioned with a full and competent paid staff to see patients and work at capacity.

As of October 2022, the Clinic now employs the following full-time employees: Executive Director, Clinic Supervisor, Director of Development and Marketing, and an Ophthalmic Technician along with the following part-time positions: 3 Ophthalmologists, an Ophthalmic Technician (open), and 2 patient coordinators (one open). Hiring additional staff to work with our volunteers has been proven very successful. Not only is the clinic able to provide services to more patients, additional types of services are being provided in house and by third parties at the expense of the Clinic.

For the period July 01, 2021 thru June 30, 2022, the Clinic serviced over 2044 patient appointments, of which exceeds the number seen last year by 48%. In addition, with the dependability, reliability and expertise of the paid Ophthalmologists and Ophthalmic technicians, and with the purchase of new equipment, the Clinic's need to send patients out for referral surgery has significantly decreased, lowering the expense of having to pay for referral surgeries. The Clinic has performed 67 surgeries in house for the fiscal year, of which surgeries would have been referred out to a third party.

For the fiscal year 21-22, the Clinic has engaged several area Ophthalmologist and Surgery Centers to provide pro-bono surgeries to our patients, under Sovereign Immunity with the State of Florida, that cannot be performed at the Clinic location due to the need of anesthesia. Prior to engaging these doctors to provide pro-bono surgeries, the Florida Lions Eye Clinic paid all fees associated with the surgeries performed by third parties for the benefit of our clients. Approximately 127 patients have been served through these third-party relationships so far this year. When the third-party provider does not offer pro-bono services, or when the quantity of patients needing surgery is beyond the number agreed to, the Clinic will continue to pay for the surgeries being provided to our patients.

The need for additional equipment and updated equipment is so important when treating our patients at the Florida Lions Eye Clinic. The Clinic recently purchased B-Scan Plus Ultrasound Equipment. As a result of purchasing the B-Scan, the clinic is able to provide diagnostic services at the clinic location, without having to send the patient to a third-party provider. The B-scan provides immediate results in diagnosing lesions of the posterior segment of the eyeball. Common conditions such as cataract, vitreous degeneration, retinal detachment, ocular trauma, choroidal melanoma, and retinoblastoma can be accurately evaluated and immediately diagnosed with this equipment. Cataracts and other conditions make it difficult to see the back of the eye using standard ophthalmological equipment and the eye ultrasound / B-scan can help in the diagnosis. In addition, the clinic purchased a new Tono-Pen. A Tono-Pen is an electronic applanation tonometer, easy to use, portable, light weight, and battery operated. It is a handheld device shaped like a large marker, that allows the doctor to gently tap the front of the eye to obtain a pressure reading. Early detection will allow the clinic to provide immediate care to those individuals who are diagnosed with a treatable condition. Early treatment can prevent loss of precious sight.

Thank you for your continued support of the Florida Lions Eye Clinic and the community we serve. There is a dire need in our community to provide free eye care services to those without insurance and are 200% or below the Federal Poverty Guidelines. This population is often isolated from normal daily activities because of their lack of access to quality eye healthcare, or simply can't afford it. A person who has experienced an onset of visual impairment due to an eye condition, may experience depression and feelings of anxiety. Unfortunately, patients in need of surgery may need to wait weeks, or even months, to receive these sight saving services. Eye diseases also increase the likelihood of social withdrawal, isolation, falls, and mistakes in taking medications. Vision loss constitutes more than a physiological loss, as it can substantially impair day-to-day routines such as job performance and leisure time, especially in those with recent vision loss.

Sight can make a difference between a life of poverty and social withdrawal and a life of opportunity and community involvement. Thank you for Sharing the Vision!



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