Starting in 1959, the Santa Monica Lions Eye Clinic, directed by Dr. Robert Sinskey, provided eye surgery to needy local residents.
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DONOR SOCIETIES

Diamond Society
$100,000 +
Hurm Family Trust

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The Satterburg Foundation
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Gold Society
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Estate of Alwyn Weber
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Estate of Jack Gibson

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CLIENT STORIES

At LSH, we’re in the business of changing lives.

When someone loses their vision or their hearing, it’s devastating—and even more so if the person doesn’t have the means to fix the problem. What do you do if you’re in your 20s, going blind and have no health insurance? Or if you lose your hearing in your 70s and find that Medicare doesn’t cover hearing aids?

With the help of our generous donors, we’ve been able to step in and provide help for so many Californians over the past year.

Here are a few of their stories.

Lucinda Goodwin never had very good eyesight, but things got a lot worse about three years ago. “I had almost no night vision,” she told us. “Crossing the street, the headlights would hurt my eyes. Eventually I couldn’t see even in the daytime.”

Lucinda takes care of her young nephew after school, and helping him with his homework was a challenge. “At the park, I couldn’t see him. I would tell him, ‘Your auntie can’t see very well.’

“Finally I realized that I probably had cataracts. I had an eye exam, and the doctor confirmed it.”

Lucinda had recently retired, so she didn’t have health insurance—but she was still too young for Medicare. Fortunately, a friend talked to a member of the San Diego FTC Lions Club, who referred Lucinda to LSH.

“I was impressed with how quickly it happened,” she told us. After her surgery, her eyesight was good enough to pass the DMV exam. “It was such a relief—I would say a miracle.”
When Betty Hansen began to lose her hearing, she was working, and getting hearing aids wasn’t a problem. But 10 years later, after retiring, her hearing had gotten worse and the old hearing aids no longer worked for her.

“I couldn’t hear the TV,” she told us, and it was hard communicating with her family. “My granddaughters talk way too fast!” she says with a laugh.

At 83, Betty is still active in her community as a chaplain with the local Elks Lodge, but it was frustrating when she went to meetings and couldn’t hear what was going on.

“They’d vote on something, and I’d just vote,” she admits, not knowing exactly what she was voting for.

“Over 10 years,” she says, “I couldn’t hear properly. It sneaks up on you – I don’t think you realize how bad it is.”

Finally a friend of Betty’s directed her to LSH through the El Cajon-Singing Hills Lions Club. After she sent her application in, “they got back to me within five or six days. I couldn’t believe it happened that fast.”

Now she talks happily on the phone with her grandchildren. “I can hear the refrigerator when it comes on. I can hear when someone’s knocking on my door, and I couldn’t before. When I’m driving, I can hear when someone is coming up beside me.”

Best of all: “I’m so happy that I can hear when I go to meetings!” Now Betty knows what she’s voting for.

Last year Tim Seward was working as a bartender in Tustin when he noticed a change in his eyesight. “It was like a curtain fell over my vision,” he remembers.

Tim headed to an optometrist, who sent him to an ophthalmologist, and he ended up seeing three doctors in one day. “I kept getting referred, till I got to a retinal consultant. I was diagnosed with retinal detachment in both eyes.”
That was pretty scary, because Tim had no health insurance. He had no way to pay for the surgery he needed, and he now faced the terrifying prospect of going blind at the age of 27.

Tim got in touch with a former boss who lived in his hometown of Big Bear. He hadn’t realized that his old mentor was a Lion, but that was his lucky break. “He said to contact you guys.”

Tim contacted LSH. “I submitted my paperwork; within a couple of days I got approved.”

Within a month, Tim had surgery on both eyes.

When all this happened to him, Tim had dropped out of college, and didn’t really know what his next move would be. But now, with a big scare behind him, he has found new motivation. He’s back in school, studying environmental engineering. “It changed my perspective,” Tim says. He has one more semester to go, and has maintained a GPA of 3.8.

“I want to work in conservation, help preserve the planet for future generations.”

He’ll always be grateful to LSH, he says. “You guys were there when I had nowhere else to go.”

Gloria Montoya works as a housekeeper, and she started noticing that she couldn’t see the small things. She was also seeing spots in front of her eyes.

As the days and weeks passed, her eyesight worsened. She knew she needed help, but she didn’t have health insurance. She decided to go to Walmart Optics, the only alternative she could afford.

The results were sobering: she had cataracts, and would need surgery as soon as possible. But there was no way Gloria could afford the cost.

One of her clients, Terrye Peterson, noticed that something was wrong, and Gloria confided in her.

Terrye did some research and found her way to LSH. She shared Gloria’s story, and soon Gloria was scheduled for surgery.

“I couldn’t believe how nice they were,” she told us. “They treated me with gentleness and respect.”

Gloria is back at work now, and her vision is excellent. “I feel truly blessed,” she says.
2018-2019 Demographics

Statement of Financial Position
FYE 6/30/2019

Total Assets $1,279,022
Total Liabilities $19,709
Net Assets
Unrestricted Net Assets 29,133
Board Designated NA 1,228,172
Temporarily Restricted NA 0
Permanently Restricted NA 2,028
Total Net Assets 1,259,313
Total Liabilities and Net Assets $1,736,737

Volunteer Data
Volunteer Hours Value $258,139
In-Kind Medical Services Value $456,601

Revenue, Gains and Support
Donation Income $94,756
Investment Returns 42,719
Total Revenue, Gains and Support 137,475

Expenses
Program 74% 456,799
Support Services 10% 59,474
Fundraising 16% 96,955
Total Expenses 100% 613,228

Change in Net Assets $(475,753)

NOTE: Information is pre-990 filing.
CEO’S MESSAGE  Randy Stein

One of the most gratifying things about my job is finding partners in our community who truly understand what we do and are willing to invest in helping us make a difference in the lives of so many people in California.

Around 70 percent of our financial support comes from individual donations, so I want to say a huge thank-you to the generous folks who come through for us.

I’m also very gratified that we’ve attracted the support of institutions like the Annenberg Foundation, the Satterburg Foundation and the Allergan Foundation. These organizations vet their projects thoroughly and it’s nice to know that LSH has earned their approval. We may have a bit of a rocky road ahead as the economy slows down, but we’re preparing ourselves and we’re confident that our supporters will stick with us and continue to make our work possible.

In fact, we are exploring ways to expand our programs to offer help to more people in need. Stay tuned!

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE  Gene Johnson: President, Board of Directors

This year LSH celebrates 60 years of humanitarian support for Californians experiencing loss of sight and hearing.

It’s a remarkable history, starting back in 1959, when the Santa Monica Lions Club opened a clinic at Saint John’s Hospital to provide eye surgery for those who couldn’t afford treatment.

LSH can now take its place as a legacy foundation, serving Californians from the Central Coast and the Eastern Sierras down to the Mexican border.

But our expansion isn’t just geographic. In recent years we’re reaching more people who desperately need our services.

We all know how difficult life can be in this area for those on lower incomes: we live in one of the country’s most expensive housing markets, and many people are just one minor emergency away from financial disaster. But loss of sight or hearing is hardly minor, and can easily ruin a life. Our services are needed now more than ever, and I’m so grateful that we have the resources to help.
“We want to assist efforts to adjust society, so that people have access to housing, food and medical care. The work of LSH fits right into that description.”