

# Volunteer for Special Olympics Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes Program Events in 2017!

The Special Olympics Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes Program was established in 1991 and has been held in Wisconsin since 2001. In that time, over 130 different Wisconsin Optometric Association member optometrists have volunteered 474 days' worth of service, examining 7,402 athletes and dispensing 5,827 pairs of glasses and prescription sports goggles. In 2016, 23 optometrists, 3 optometry students, 22 para-optometric technicians and opticians, 66 Lions Club members, and 30 other volunteers assisted with the program over the course of two events held in April and June. Dr. Kellye Knueppel serves as program clinical director for the Special Olympics Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes Program in Wisconsin.

According to Special Olympics, "The mission of the initiative is to improve the quality of life for the millions of individuals diagnosed with intellectual disabilities by optimizing their vision, eye health and visual skills through quality eye care. Objectives of the program include providing screenings to Special Olympics athletes, educating athletes, parents and coaches about the importance of regular eye care, educating and changing attitudes of eye care professionals about the vision care needs of persons with intellectual disabilities worldwide, and increasing knowledge of the vision and eye health needs of persons with intellectual disabilities through research."

Areas of testing include vision history, near and far acuity, color vision, depth perception, eye alignment, internal and external health, auto refraction, intraocular pressure, and complete refraction when necessary.

International sponsors of the program include the following companies: Safilo – frames and sunglasses, Essilor (WOS in Wisconsin) – lenses and all finishing off-site, Liberty – sport goggles, and Santinelli – cuts and edges on-site.

To volunteer or get more information about the program, contact Dr. Kellye Knueppel's staff at The Vision Therapy Center at [sowioe@thevtc.com](mailto:sowioe@thevtc.com) or 262-784-9201.

## **2017 events will be held Saturday, April 8 in Oshkosh, WI and Friday, June 9 in Stevens Point, WI.**

Name:

Clinic:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Phone / Fax / Email:

I am an:    Optometrist        Para optometric        Technician        Optician        Lion        Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size:        S        M        L        XL        XXL        \_\_\_\_\_ I have a grey t-shirt shirt from a Special Olympics event.

I will be able to help:

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, April 8 in Oshkosh (UW-Oshkosh Campus)

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday, June 9 in Stevens Point (UWSP Campus)

\_\_\_\_\_ **I cannot participate this year, but am interested in future events.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will need information on hotels for the night before the event (reimbursement provided for anyone coming from >90 minutes away. Reservations must be made through us at least one month before the event. Space is limited, so please call Kim at The Vision Therapy Center, 262-784-9201).

\_\_\_\_\_ I can bring (*please circle*): auto lensometer    portable slit lamp    monocular indirect ophthalmoscope

*Please return this form via mail, fax, or email to:*

*The Vision Therapy Center  
13255 W. Bluemound Road  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
Phone: 262-784-9201  
Fax: 262-784-9206*

**Email: [contact@thevtc.com](mailto:contact@thevtc.com)**