



Certified for vision screening are, from the left, Frostburg Lions Club members Cindy Powers, Edge Deuel, chairman, Frostburg Vision Screening Program; Bill Munck, and Susan Munck.

Three Frostburg Lions certified in vision screening program

FOR THE FROSTBURG EXPRESS

FROSTBURG — Three members of the Frostburg Lions Club, were recently certified in the Lions Vision Screening Program for children. Certification is required to conduct the screening program in Maryland, Washington and Delaware.

LaVale Lion Elwood Glass, Western Maryland Vision Screening coordinator, conducted the training in January for the Frostburg Lions Club. Glass, who has been involved in the screening program since its inception said, "We require our camera technicians, and volunteer staff to be fully certified to insure grassroots success of the program."

Trainees learn proper camera techniques, focusing, initial photo screening verification, and a range of other technical aspects to ensure that the photos taken of children's eyes are properly focused, and balanced, for professional reading. Photos are then sent to the University of Iowa, Ophthalmology Department, for final reading.

"The more Lions we certify," Glass said, "the more children we can screen, and if problems are found, the more we can cor-

rect."

Lion Edge Deuel, Frostburg Lions Program coordinator, agreed. "We have screened approximately 100 children so far this school year in the Frostburg area. The more volunteer staff we have, the better we can coordinate the program."

Frostburg Lions have screened children at Beall Elementary, Westport, Georges Creek F.S.U. day care and the Methodist Day Care.

Lions report that at one of these screening parents of 20 percent of the children screened, received letters indicating that further examination was necessary. "Twenty percent of the children had undetected eye problems," said Deuel, "until they were screened in this program."

Glass cited another example, where a child had had an eye injury, "and no one detected it, until we tried to take photos. Fortunately, we detected the problem and got the child immediate first aid, potentially saving the vision."

Currently in Western Maryland, LaVale, Frostburg, Cumberland and Lonsconing Lions are providing the screenings. Garrett county Lions are now

being trained and certified to expand the program.

Lion Cindy Powers, a police officer at Frostburg State, said, "My work schedule is such that I can be available during the day, it just makes sense to learn the techniques and try to preserve vision."

The photo screening is a non-invasive, totally painless process where two Polaroid photographs are taken of a child's eyes, using a special camera. These photographs are then analyzed and a report is provided directly to parents. Parents are advised if problems are found, so that they can do follow up with their physician. The program is provided free of charge by Lions Clubs.

If a problem is found, parents can contact their local Lions Club for assistance in locating eye professionals in the area, or should they need financial assistance. Lions Clubs can provide a wide range of vision related services. Frostburg Lions, as an example, will assist with the purchase of glasses if necessary.

For additional information on vision screening for your child, call the Frostburg Lions Club at (301) 467-8222.