

# Community

## Local Lions donate to cause

FOR THE CUMBERLAND TIMES NEWS

FROSTBURG — Kermit "Jake" Falinger recently presented the Frostburg Lions SightFirst II Program with a check for \$3,000, raising the local groups total contribution to just over \$5,000.

From May 11 through 17, Lions Clubs International summoned its nearly 45,000 Lions clubs in 202 countries and geographic areas to do one thing: Save sight.

During this week, Lions Clubs around the world hosted a fund raising event, made a pledge, or contributed a personal donation, all to raise funds for Campaign Sight-First II.

According to Deuel, "This contribution is the largest single individual contribution from the area. To say 'thank you' is simply not enough."

Falinger, noted Frostburg leader, has been involved with the Frostburg Lions for more than 40 years and currently heads up the Vision and Disabilities Committee, which is responsible for purchasing eye glasses.

Campaign SightFirst II Day efforts are just one part of CSFII fund raising to continue and expand the success of the Lions' SightFirst program. Lions have already exceeded their \$150 million CSFII minimum goal and now have through June to raise funds toward their \$200



Kermit "Jake" Falinger, left, Frostburg Lions Club, presents Edge Deuel, Lions SightFirst II coordinator, with a check for \$3,000. The money was raised during the Lions Club International's Campaign SightFirst II Day fundraising event.

million challenge goal.

Since 1990, Lions Sight-First programs has saved the sight of more than 27 million people and improved vision care for hundreds of millions of people by providing cataract surgeries, vision screenings, medication, treatment and community education to prevent blindness.

"Through the SightFirst program, \$6 is the average cost to save the sight of one person" said Falinger.

"This contribution will benefit some 500 individual," Falinger noted that locally, Frostburg Lions are in the forefront of helping with vision problems.

"We purchase eye glasses

and can help with eye exams" Falinger said. "Sometimes we are called on to purchase as many as six to eight pairs of glasses a month. That's why we have chicken barbecues" Falinger joked.

Vision Screening for children is another significant local aspect of the SightFirst II program.

This school year, Frostburg Lions screened nearly 100 children, with vision problems detected in about 10 percent. The Lions provide their vision services free of charge.

For more information about Lions local SightFirst Vision Programs, contact a local Lions club or call (301) 687-0212.