

Special Olympics Lions Clubs International **Opening Eyes®**



WHAT IS OPENING EYES?

The Special Olympics-Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes program is a vision and eye health screening in partnership with the Lions Clubs International Foundation designed to provide quality eye care for all people with developmental disabilities, and particularly for those who are competing as Special Olympics athletes.

Opening Eyes is changing lives in communities across the globe, providing free eye assessments, prescription eyewear, sunglasses and sports goggles to people with intellectual disabilities.

At a Special Olympics Wisconsin (SOWI) Opening Eyes event, eye care professionals and volunteers provide eye assessments and prescription eyewear and goggles for athletes.

GOALS

1. Increase access to eye care for Special Olympics athletes, as well as all people with intellectual disabilities.
2. Raise eye care professionals' awareness of vision and eye health concerns for people with special needs, including difficulties involved in accessing treatment.
3. Provide a list of regional eye care providers who care for people with special needs to all athletes who participate in the Special Olympics Opening Eyes program.
4. Develop a body of knowledge about vision and eye health of children and adults with special needs.

IMPACT

Opening Eyes screenings have found that 28% of athletes worldwide need new prescription glasses and 23% have never had an eye exam.

Since 2001, SOWI's Opening Eyes program has provided 8,282 vision assessments and 6,642 pairs of glasses and sport goggles.

In 2018, 401 SOWI athletes participated in an Opening Eyes screening and 502 pairs of prescription glasses and sport goggles were distributed to athletes.

LOCATIONS

State Indoor Sports Tournament

April 6, 2019

Gruenhagen Conference Center, UW-Oshkosh
Oshkosh, WI

State Summer Games

June 7, 2019

Health Enhancement Center, UW-Stevens Point
Stevens Point, WI

SOWI Opening Eyes Clinical Director:

Kellye Knueppel, OD, FCOVD

VOLUNTEER CONTACT:

Heather Motisi, OD, FCOVD

SOWIOE@thevtc.com

SOWI Sr. Director of Health Programs

Melissa Schoenbrodt

(608) 442-5676

mschoenbrodt@specialolympicswisconsin.org

