



Norwich Lions Receive “Top Ten” Award for Vision Screening

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By Stephen Flanders

Norwich, Vermont: The Norwich Lions Club received a [letter](#), dated February 28, 2022, from the [Lions KidSight USA Foundation](#), informing the club that it was the recipient of the foundation’s “Top Ten Club Award” for providing vision screening to school children in Vermont. Included was a [KidSight insignia](#) to add to the club’s ceremonial banner. The citation noted the club’s dedication to the task, despite the challenge of working safely under the constraints of the COVID pandemic.



Award insignia (left), Welch Allyn Spot® Vision Screener in action (right)

[The Project See Clearly '21 “Top Ten” Awards and Recognition Program](#) is an initiative of the Lions KidSight USA Foundation to encourage Lions Clubs to resume their vision screening of school children in the last quarter of 2021, with a goal of screening **one million children**. In a typical non-COVID year, US Lions Clubs screen two million children.

To earn its “Top-Ten” status within Vermont’s [District 45 of Lions Clubs International](#), the Norwich Lions visited Norwich’s Marion Cross School in September, 2021 and the Sharon Elementary School in November, where they screened a total of 443 students of whom 8% were referred for a complete eye exam. “Visioneers”, Gary DeGasta, Stephen Flanders and Peter Stanzel, used a [Welch Allyn Spot® Vision Screener](#), which resembles a Polaroid camera and quickly assesses six parameters: myopia (near-sightedness), hyperopia (far-sightedness), astigmatism (blurred vision), anisocoria (unequal pupil size), anisometropia (unequal vision between eyes), and gaze symmetry.

Norwich Lions Club

P.O. Box 854

Norwich, VT 05055-0854

Email: norwichvtlions@gmail.com

Website: norwichlionsclub.org