

For Immediate Release

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Bristol Lions Club Supports Eye Surgery Services at Bristol Hospital

Bristol, CT (4/27/10) – The Bristol Lions Club has donated \$3,000 for the purchase of a Torsional Handpiece, a hand piece that is used during cataract surgery. The check was recently presented by officers of the Bristol Lions Club to staff at the Bristol Hospital Perioperative Center.

“We are thrilled to be able to contribute this donation to Bristol Hospital to help purchase this vital piece of equipment,” commented Lorraine Jacques, President, Bristol Lions Club. “Today, sight programs remain one of our defining causes. As a person with eye issues, I am personally honored to contribute to the eye surgery services at Bristol Hospital.”

The Torsional Handpiece holds the actual aspirator tips to remove the cataract material during surgery. . A handpiece is needed for each case. Currently, they are reprocessed and sterilized, and additional handpieces would eliminate this time consuming and inefficient process. The acquisition of this handpiece will provide a faster, more efficient surgical procedure for the benefit of patients.

Lions have gained worldwide recognition for our work to improve sight. Their work includes recycling glasses, supporting Lions Eye Banks, which annually provide quality eye tissue for 30,000 sight saving eye surgeries, medical education and eye research, they provide vision screenings and provide cataract surgeries to those at risk of losing their sight.

Bristol Hospital and the Bristol Lions Club partnered together a number of years ago and launched the Eye Care Project of Greater Bristol to create greater awareness about the importance of eye health and to spread the word about the need for early detection and the numerous sight saving strategies and resources available to those in the Greater Bristol area. The mission of the Eye Care Project is to promote healthy eye care resources and successful management of vision impairment.

The goal is to increase the number of people getting routine eye screenings and the necessary medical services. The efforts of this project, through the support of Bristol Hospital, the Bristol Lions Club and the Connecticut Lions Club, resulted in the opening the Lions Low Vision Center on 975 Farmington Ave., Bristol. The Center is designed to help people with limited vision live and work with greater independence and safety.

Photo Caption: From left to right – V. Everett Lyons, Jr., PhD, First Vice President, Bristol Lions Club; Gail Scott, RN, Bristol Hospital surgical nurse; Lynne Ramer, RN, MSN, CNOR, Clinical Operations Director, Bristol Hospital Perioperative Services; Lorraine Jacques, President, Bristol Lions Club; and Eva Wickwire, Assistant Vice President/Chief Development Officer, Bristol Hospital Development Foundation.