

2015 Cowboy Cadillac Fundraiser News!

Oklahoma Lions club members gathered at Stevens Ford in Enid Oklahoma at 11:00 AM to sell and buy last minute tickets before the 1:00 PM drawing. Lions balloons colored the showroom floor as families entered the dealership. Tables displayed Lions information and sold Cowboy Cadillac t-shirts. The t-shirt will be sold year round. The Mobile Health Screening Unit set up for critical health screenings from 10:00 AM till 2:00 PM. Lion members attended from all over the state from Enid and Garber to Coalgate. District Governors Jacque Mooney and Joe Chandler both attended as well as 1st Vice DG Dan Farrell. Board Members Campaign Chair Terry Woodruff, Cyndy Farrell, Nancy Cook-Seen, Russell Wright, Elmo Castle, and Charles Michael Jr also attended. Emily Sommers from the Enid News and Eagle covered the event. Lions sold over \$750 dollars at the drawing! The long awaited day had arrived!

Opening remarks were presented by Chair-Terry Woodruff who welcomed everyone to the event and stressed the importance of community service. He stressed the importance of state projects and the expansion of the Meadows of Hope to provide these children with a safe stable environment to grow.

Chairman Terry Woodruff also presented a brief report from OLEB Executive Director Lori Miller. "OLEB has recovered 987 corneas! That is 145 more than last year. As of November 30 (the latest data), we have placed 614 of those corneas for transplant, 265 to research. He read a letter written by Melisa Weathers, a double cornea recipient. Excerpt *"The gift of sight means so much to me. This gift has helped me complete my Bachelor of Science degree and succeed in many goals in my career path. The gift of sight also has given me the chance to see the world. I love to travel and see the ocean and with this gift I can see all the beautiful things around me. I can never repay the donors for this gift but I hope the families know that I am forever grateful for this gift of sight. They saved my life."*

Bryan Larison, Executive Director of the Meadows of Hope, stressed the importance of keeping foster children together in a safe family environment. Many of these children just want a family, and the Meadows of Hope provides a community of family support! The program will serve both boys and girls in the hopes of future adoption for a permanent placement. Bryan also stressed the importance of fundraisers such as Cowboy Cadillac to provide children the opportunity to attend activities they may not otherwise be able to attend in DHS custody. Bryan stated, there are many children in foster care that we as Lions can help to make the system better.

The Oklahoma Lions Service Foundation, Executive Director, Marie Burns announced the guidelines for the drawing process as the refurbished drawing bin (thanks to our MHSU Driver Keven Kody) was brought to the center of the Stevens Ford Showroom floor. District A Governor Joe Chandler, the North Enid Lion, and local children came to share in the drawing for the winning tickets! Drum Roll!!!!

The Oklahoma Lions Service Foundation gave away 5 iPad Minis, one to each of the 5 Oklahoma Districts. The Winners were: **MD3-O- Cary McElrath, MD3-K-Cloye Thompson, MD3-L-Dan Farrel, MD3-A-David Merrill, and MD3-H-Joe Ball.**

The final Grand Prize ticket was drawn by Randy Floyd, the dealership area Manager. The Winner is James Tittle from Norman, Oklahoma MD3-H!

Lions have opened up their hearts and wallets to make the event a success! So almost \$ 79,000 has been collected with more still coming in. This shows the caring and serving heart of Oklahoma Lions.

Recognitions for all the behind the scenes work including **Oklahoma Lions Clubs** first and foremost. The work at the **Meadows of Hope and the Oklahoma Lions Eye Bank. The Host Clubs in District –A, including North Enid, Garber County Lions.** Recognition of Winners last year's winner Aaron Hoggard and Family. How wonderful it was to be a blessing to families at Christmas time. Special thanks to **Stevens Ford** for co-sponsoring the event! Thanks to the **OLSF Cowboy Cadillac committee** for the planning and preparation of the event. The office staff for the extra work put into the event.

Every Lion is a winner because this event changes lives!

Merry Christmas!

Marie Burns