

Gearing up for Cowboy Cadillac!

It's that time again! The Oklahoma Lions Service Foundation is planning our annual Cowboy Cadillac Fundraiser to benefit the State Projects again. This is our Oklahoma Lions' premiere fundraising project. These donations do more to support the Oklahoma Lions Eye Bank and the Oklahoma Lions Boys Ranch Meadows of Hope than anything else we do.

Club participation in Cowboy Cadillac helps to restore sight through our Oklahoma Lions Eye Bank and provide children with a safe environment at the Oklahoma Lions Boys Ranch foster care community. We will still be asking each Lion member to **set a goal to collect \$30 in donations per member at a minimum**. This will be rewarded with a CC pin to wear proudly on your vest and the honor of helping those in need.

We will be holding the drawing thanks to the contacts made by our devoted highest salesman Elmo Castle in Enid this year. **Stevens Ford, 3101 West Garriott Rd. Enid, OK 73703, PH: 800-941-2375**. We plan to hold the drawing at 1:00 PM in the main showroom floor on December 12, 2015. This is a tentative schedule and subject to change. The Cowboy Cadillac Committee, Chaired by 1st Vice-President Terry Woodruff is heading the planning for this special event. We are excited to be offering a higher priced Ford F-150 with more options. Along with a high quality Ford F150, comes better alternate prizes! We hope everyone will be pleased with the campaign this year and the changes. We hope to have all the information and tickets available by the August Oklahoma State Council Meeting.

Remember all the clubs who participate receive recognition, but that is not the main reason why we hold this annual event! The most important reason is how these funds help those in need. The two Lions State Projects are vital to the community and state at large. *When you visit the Meadows of Hope in Perkins Oklahoma and see all the little feet running around and tiny voices laughing and having fun, it puts all these efforts into perspective.*

The Oklahoma Lions Boys Ranch has been serving the youth of Oklahoma for over 60 years. With over 9,000 in Oklahoma DHS custody at the end of FY12, and over 5,500 entering "out-of-home" care, the boy's ranch needed to expand the services offered. The Meadows of Hope can reach children at a younger age both boys and girls and keep sibling groups together. The ultimate goal is to work towards breaking the cycle of abuse from one generation to the next by providing a safe and loving atmosphere for Oklahoma children.

The Meadows of Hope is the logical next step in our serving the youth of Oklahoma by reducing operational costs, increasing oversight, training, and support for foster parents. Through the support of Paul Milburn and the rest of the Oklahoma Lions, as well as the support of corporate and private partners, this model will allow us to increase the number of children we can help.

The Oklahoma Lions Eye Bank was established in 1957 and is Oklahoma's only dedicated tissue recovery organization with the sole purpose of recovering corneal tissue and restoring sight through transplantation. The Eye Bank office opened December 2nd of that year with one employee, a Medical Director and the ophthalmology residents who performed the eye removals. The first eye enucleation course was given at Central State University through the

Department of Mortuary Service for Funeral Directors. In 1981, the Eye Bank was certified by the Eye Bank Association of America and we are charter members of this group. This is a non-profit organization collaboration of eye banks dedicated to the restoration of sight through the promotion and advancement of eye banking.

Throughout the years over 20,000 corneas have been recovered assisting those in need for cornea transplant. In 2014, the Eye Bank opened a new facility thanks to the dedication of its leadership and Oklahoma Lions. Oklahoma Lions are a driving force in both state projects and Cowboy Cadillac is one of the main fundraising campaigns we do to assist with these efforts.

Please remember it is about “Service” to aid those who have suffered and benefit from your hard work. Every ticket sold puts HOPE in their hands.

Sincerely,

Marie Burns
Executive Director

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FORD**

