



**Board of School Trustees
Mansfield Independent School District**

TITLE: Helen Keller Award

DATE: October 27, 2026

Recognition

BACKGROUND: Lions Clubs International (LCI) was founded in 1917. In 1925 during Helen Keller's keynote address at our international convention, Ms. Keller famously called on the organization's members to become "Knights of the Blind" in the crusade against darkness. (<https://afb.org/about-afb/history/helen-keller/books-essays-speeches/afb/address-lions-clubs-international>)

For the ensuing century, Lions have accepted that challenge and made vision and sight programs the primary mission LCI. Today internationally we serve in 210 countries through over 48,000 clubs and 1.4 million members.

Here in North Texas District 2-E2, we are 52 clubs, 1600 members, and our Lions Sight Restoration Foundation (LSRF). Lions are active in vision screening for children and adults; providing logistical and financial resources to identify and resolve sight impairment issues we encounter. Lions have a long-standing partnership with the Mansfield ISD, and Mansfield optometrists Drs. Kyle Cooke and Shawn Prapta to serve your students. The support of Drs. Cooke and Prapta has been essential to allow Lions to move beyond screening to diagnosis, prescription, and resolution for underserved students. This Mansfield ISD collaboration with Lions and the optometrists sets a "gold standard" for sight restoration programs.

It is in this spirit that our Lions Sight Restoration Foundation recognizes the essential contributions of Drs' Cooke and Prapta with our highest Helen Keller award.