

## **Report to MD6 Council Ensignt Skills Center August 6, 2016**

GREAT NEWS! The Ensignt Skills Center has a new home. On July 28<sup>th</sup>, Ensignt moved into its new facility located at 1740 South College Avenue in Fort Collins. The new facility has more space; much better parking; and extremely high visibility. An open house is planned for September 10<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 4 PM. I hope you will plan to attend.

The Ensignt Skills Center held its annual meeting on Thursday, July 21, 2016. During his report Lion Doug Hutchinson, Ensignt Skills Center Chairman, reported that the following services were provided by Ensignt during 2015-16.

1. Ensignt served 7954 people of which 370 went thru the full service low vision program.
2. Ensignt provided \$25,474 in financial assistance to 65% of its clients.
3. Provided low vision services including Doctor of Optometry low vision evaluations; Occupational Therapist assessment; and Counseling for adjustment to vision loss.
4. Provided injury prevention courses; balance classes; blindness prevention classes; and support groups in Fort Collins.
5. Provided recreational programs including tandem cycling; water color painting and audio book club.
6. OnSite Services were provided to individuals in retirement, assisted living and senior centers.

Some of Ensignt's milestones during the past year included:

1. Celebrated 15 years of service. During this time Ensignt has served 65,954 individuals.
2. Hosted 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Halloween Eye Ball Fundraiser and raised six times more money than last year.
3. Significantly expanded relationships with Federal, State, and Local government agencies.
4. OnSite van was present at five Lions Conventions.
5. Over 100 volunteers supported projects, fundraisers and operations.
6. Started book club, balance classes and art classes.

Future plans for Ensignt include:

1. Grow and cultivate donor relations.
2. Continue Board of Directors development/extension with a goal of a Board member from every Colorado Lions District.
3. Expand sources of grant funding.
4. Continue to expand the OnSite program.
5. Increase low-vision recreational opportunities.
6. Work with CSU Adaptive Technology Department.
7. Begin developing capital campaign for permanent facility.

Finely, I would like to remind Lions that the 4th Annual Halloween Eye Ball will be held Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-11 PM. Details and tickets may be obtained by calling the Fort Collins Ensign offices at 970-407-9999.

Respectively Submitted,  
PCC Lion Ron Lockner