



Peace Health Network Bellingham Central Lions Club



Essential Information About Our Services

Sight Services

Glasses for the needy. Through a series of partnerships, the Bellingham Central Lions Club (BCLC) provides eye exams and new glasses for the needy. In general, a needy family is any that falls below 125% of the poverty line. Exceptions may be made in unusual circumstances. The application may be downloaded at: www.bellinghamcentrallions.org/Apply/BCLC_Eyeglasses_Application.pdf.

Most Lions Clubs in Whatcom County support this program. Individuals should apply to the closest Lions Club. BCLC primarily services the core city. If we get an application from outside our area, we forward it to the appropriate Club for action.

Special needs service. Sometimes, sight-impaired individuals cannot afford the special equipment or medical procedures they dearly need. To help fill these needs, we partner with the Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight and Hearing. Applications may be downloaded at: <http://www.nlfoundation.org/sight/pcq.htm>.

Low vision aids. We loan a small number of low vision aids through our durable medical equipment program. There is usually a waiting list. To see if we have any aids in stock (not too likely) or to get on the waiting list, call the Wheelchair Warehouse at (360) 752-5526. We are actively seeking donations of additional low vision aids and would appreciate your help in this regard.

Recycled eyeglasses. We recycle used eyeglasses through the Northwest Lions Eyeglasses Recycling Center (NWLERC), one of 17 Lions-operated centers worldwide. These eyeglasses are distributed to the needy outside the United States. BCLC also works directly with Lions-sponsored clinics in El Salvador to provide eye exams and glasses to the poor. Glasses may be donated at more than 20 localities in Bellingham. For a current list, please go to: http://www.bellinghamcentrallions.org/Eye-Ear_Dropoffs.html.

Screening Unit. In partnership with the Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight and Hearing, we sponsor a mobile screening unit that provides free tests for glaucoma, diabetes and sight loss. It comes to Bellingham about once a year.

Hearing Services

Hearing Aids. In partnership with the Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight and Hearing, we provide refurbished hearing aids to those with no ability to pay and discounted Audient hearing aids to others who are income qualified. Guidelines and applications may be downloaded at: <http://www.nlfoundation.org/hearing/hab.htm>.

Special needs service. In partnership with the Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight and Hearing, we can also provide specialized hearing care. More information including application forms at: <http://www.nlfoundation.org/hearing/pcg.htm>.

Screening Unit. In partnership with the Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight and Hearing, we sponsor a mobile screening unit that provides free tests for hearing loss. It comes to Bellingham about once a year.

Recycled hearing aids. We recycle used hearing aids through the Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight and Hearing. These hearing aids are given to needy people throughout the Pacific Northwest. Hearing aids may be donated at more than 20 localities in Bellingham. For a current list, please go to: [http://www.bellinghamcentrallions.org/Eye-Ear Dropoffs.html](http://www.bellinghamcentrallions.org/Eye-Ear_Dropoffs.html).

Medical Equipment – aka The Al Boe Wheelchair Warehouse

[www.bellinghamcentrallions.org/Programs/WCW/Wheelchair Warehouse.html](http://www.bellinghamcentrallions.org/Programs/WCW/Wheelchair_Warehouse.html)

Equipment commonly loaned. With the help of volunteers, the BCLC operates the Al Boe Wheelchair Warehouse (WCW), loaning a wide variety of durable medical equipment to community members. Items commonly loaned include:

Power wheelchairs & scooters	Transfer benches
Manual wheelchairs	Commodes & toilet risers
Chair pads & baskets	Reachers & sock pullers
Manual & power transfer chairs	Rails and poles
Two and four wheel walkers	Bedside & bed-top trays
Powered lift chairs	Low vision viewers
Manual & powered Hoyer lifts	Magnifier
Crutches & canes of all types	Braille equipment
Shower/tub chairs/benches	Portable wheelchair ramps

Loan terms. No rent or fee is charged. Manual and power chairs, four-wheel walkers and knee walkers are initially provided as an unqualified loan for a period of three months. Persons needing equipment for an extended, indefinite period, are encouraged to apply for it through insurance, Medicaid or Medicare, using the loan of our equipment to bridge the application period. We may waive our usual requirements if an applicant is issued a Medicaid coupon with the code "CNP" (Certified Needy Person).

All other equipment is provided for a term of six months; the contract may be renewed as needed.

Service area. The WCW serves anyone in the Pacific Northwest who can come (or send a caregiver) to the Warehouse to select the equipment they need. In practice, this means that about 98% of our equipment is loaned out to people in Whatcom County. Although 60% of our wheelchair loans are to residents of Bellingham, our loan rate in Bellingham is only 4.5 chairs per 1000 people. Our highest rate is 9.8 chairs per 1000 in Blaine. Figures for other equipment categories are similar.

Hours open. The WCW is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. The telephone number there is (360) **752-5526**.

Institutions supported. We provide long-term loans to churches and community-based organizations, and encourage the development of programs similar to our own. For example, we work with the Orcas Island Lions Club to provide equipment to help them partner with the Orcas Senior Center to provide wheelchairs and other equipment to their fellow islanders.

More equipment needed. All our equipment has been donated to us. The need for equipment is growing at a rate of 15% to 20% per year. When attrition is taken into account, we must add four to five wheelchairs to our inventory each week. The same is true for other categories of equipment, and we have waiting lists for items such as large wheelchairs (20" or more between the arms), children's chairs, knee walkers, four-wheel walkers, low vision aids, transfer benches with sliding platforms and bariatric items of all kinds. Bottom line – we need a continuous flow of equipment donations to keep ahead of demand. Any help you can provide will be deeply appreciated.

Volunteers needed. We are open only two mornings a week because these are the hours we can reliably staff with the number of regular volunteers available. To make our current operation more efficient, we need volunteers to pick up donated and broken-down equipment, staff the phones, and wait on clients. We especially need a couple of volunteers who have nursing experience and understand the utility and requirements of durable medical equipment.

To expand the hours we are open, we need more mechanically and electrically skillful persons to help service and repair our equipment as well as a record keeper, phone monitors, and service providers.

Special Projects

Through our Special Projects Committee, we help a wide variety of organizations in our community. Grants commonly range from \$100 to \$4,000 and should focus on a specific project rather than general operating costs. Get the application at: http://www.bellinghamcentrallions.org/Apply/Project_application.pdf.

Past recipients at: <http://www.bellinghamcentrallions.org/Charities/Charities.html>.

Contact

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