

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free Eye and Hearing Testing

The Champaign Lions Club and the Lions of Illinois Foundation will provide free Hearing and Retinal eye screenings to help detect early warning of diabetic retinopathy or possible macular degeneration of the eye. The screenings will take place on **Tuesday, June 18, 2024, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm** at Promise Healthcare-Frances Nelson, 819 Bloomington Road in Champaign.

Testing is especially important for adults of age 55 and up. If undetected, diabetic retinopathy can have severe visual consequences and even lead to blindness. The hearing and retinal eye screening for diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration is a free service provided by the Lions of Illinois Foundation made possible by donations to local Lions Clubs and the Lions of Illinois Foundation.

The screenings are free and open to the general public. Individuals interested in having their eyes screened and/or hearing tested should register with the Lions volunteers when they arrive for the test. Each test will take approximately five minutes and the results will be mailed to each individual. In some cases, this test also provides an early indication of diabetes. This is not an eye test like one would do to receive glasses.

“We are pleased that the Lions Club has chosen Promise Healthcare to offer this service to our patients and the community as a whole,” says Melonie Richardson, Chief Medical Officer at Promise Healthcare.

“Lions Clubs are the largest service club in the world,” according to Marvin Paulsen, local member of the Champaign Lions Club. “Their main focus is and always has been on eyes, eyesight, and hearing.”

Other projects the Lions Club is involved in is the collection of used eyeglasses, low vision testing, providing eyeglasses for people in need, and reducing river blindness. The screening for diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration and hearing is a free service provided by the Lions of Illinois Foundation made possible by donations to local Lions Clubs and the Lions of Illinois Foundation.

Promise Healthcare is a community health center that serves all people regardless of their ability to pay and offers a sliding fee scale for those with qualifying incomes. They provide medical, dental, psychiatry, and mental health services and they also assist patients with Medicaid, Marketplace, and other programs.

Promise operates clinics at 821 S. Neil Street and 819 Bloomington Road in Champaign, 1002 S. Race Street in Urbana at the Urbana High School, and 424 E. Wabash Avenue in Rantoul at the JW Eater Jr. High School. Call (217) 356-1558 to schedule an appointment or go to promisehealth.org for more information.

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