



## Jasper Lions Club helps local boy with serious vision problem

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by Steve W Stewart



*Left to right; Joseph Taylor, Tessa LaCox, Jasper Lions President Lequin Hilderbrand, Jonathan Lancaster, Amy Martindale, and Vista Admin Assistant Jackie Anders. Photo by Steve W Stewart.*

Even though the Jasper Lions Club raises money all year long for their many different benevolent causes, the month of May and the Rodeo usually highlights their year of activities.

Where does the money go and what is it used for? A bright example of what the Lions Club does was evident this week when the group helped a local boy.

A Jasper child, who was recently diagnosed with a serious vision problem, received some much needed help from the Jasper Lions Club on Thursday.

Jonathan Lancaster, a 6th grade student at Jasper's Vista Academy, was diagnosed in November with Scotopic Sensitivity, commonly known as "Irlen Syndrome", or "Visual Stress Syndrome", which causes him to have difficulty with depth perception, and also affects his reading and writing skills.

Jonathan's teachers at Vista Academy say that he's had reading problems all of his life, and the problem seemed to become worse last year. However, it turned out that the problem had nothing to do with his ability to read, but instead, his ability to see.

There is help for Jonathan, in the form of special glasses that will allow him to see more normally. However, they're expensive, and strangely enough, although the Lancasters have vision insurance, the only clinic in this area that can deal with the problem does not take insurance.

That's where the Lions Club stepped into the picture.



**Vista Academy 6th grader Jonathan Lancaster will soon have improved vision thanks to a large donation from the Jasper Lions Club. Photo by Steve W Stewart.**

On Thursday, Jasper Lions Club President Lequin Hilderbrand presented a check to Jonathan in the amount of \$1,000.00, which will be used for treatment, and a pair of special glasses from an eye clinic in Baytown, that can deal with Jonathan's unique situation.

Lions Club International was founded in the United States in 1917 by Melvin Jones, a Chicago businessman with a strong drive to help his community.

The Lions are now in 206 countries, with approximately 44,500 clubs, and more than 1.3 million members worldwide.

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