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Stanton Lions

# Press Release

## What? Lions Provide Free and Low Cost Hearing Aids

### Stanton Lions can get hearing aids at little or no cost to lower income Stanton residents

Stanton, CA May 2012 The Stanton Lions Club is proud to announce that it is partnering with the *Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation of Southern California* to provide hearing aids at no cost to income qualified residents. The new *175 Program* provides reconditioned behind the ear hearing aids at no cost. Hearing aids are custom fit to each patient.

There are four qualifications to receive free hearing aids. First, someone must demonstrate that they have a hearing loss. Hearing tests are provided free by most insurance programs including Medicare. If the patient is uninsured, the Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation can arrange for a hearing test. Second, they must have no available medical coverage that would otherwise pay for hearing aids. Although many insurance programs pay for hearing tests, many will not pay for the hearing aids. In cases when an insurance programs pay for only one hearing aid; the *175 Program* will pay for a second hearing aid. If a patient has hearing loss in both ears, only having one hearing aid could become a problem, as the ear without a hearing aid may lose all ability to hear because of lack of use.

The third requirement is that income requirements be met. As of 2012, individuals making less than \$19,550 and couples making less than \$26,500 qualify for the *175 Program*. The fourth requirement is that we have an English speaking contact person to communicate with the patient. This can be a relative, social worker or friend.

Stanton Lion David Parikh explained, "there seems to be need for hearing aids in our community because many people are not covered by insurance and hearing aids cost over \$1,000. This means that a lot of people are doing with out hearing aids. Their quality of life is dramatically reduced; and their hearing impairment prevents them from gaining employment or learning in school. If a lower

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income resident does not qualify for the 175 Program, we still may be able to help them with a low cost hearing aid because we work with a couple of programs.”

When asked about how hearing aids could be given away for free, Parikh said, “Well, it is not really correct to say the hearing aids are free. Funding is provided by local Lions Clubs, donations, and Fundraising. And the costs are mitigated because there are a lot of volunteers who help out at the Foundation. The Lions Clubs and the Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation of Southern California are not taxpayer funded.”

If you know a Stanton resident who may benefit from hearing aids but cannot afford them, please see the Stanton Lions website [www.stantonlions.org](http://www.stantonlions.org) for an application. There are also applications for help with eyeglasses, vision therapy, and scholarships to help youth participate after school programs such as Little League Baseball, Football, and Scouting.

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