

February 17, 2009

Dear Cottage Grove Lions Club Members,

I am writing to you to ask for your assistance and support of a remarkable young woman who lives in the Monona Grove School District. Lauren Farnsworth of Cottage Grove is a 16 year old who is in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Monona Grove High School. Lauren is a very good student, but as of late school has become much more difficult for her due to the progressive loss of vision she experiences as a result of a rare eye condition that she was born with.

As Lauren's teacher of students who are blind or have low vision, I have had the honor to work with Lauren for the past couple of years. Lauren is learning Braille, is faithfully using magnifiers to read print, and is learning lots of other skills that enable her to remain a good student. Lauren has excellent reading and math skills and plans to attend college after high school. These hopes and dreams are affected, however, with the great increase in the length of time it now takes Lauren to read printed materials.

Lauren has recently had a trial period with a piece of technology called a Closed Circuit Television (CCTV for short). The CCTV allows Lauren to see any regularly printed materials in a size that she can easily read. She found this piece of equipment very valuable to her for reading at home. Lauren sought the expert advice of a Low Vision Practitioner, Marshall Flax, who also recommended the Lauren's family try to secure a CCTV for her to have on her desk at home.

There are several different models of CCTV on the market today. Each CCTV has features that make it the right fit for a certain individual. Lauren is still in the process of determining which CCTV best fits her needs. Funding for the CCTV is crucial to ability of the family to secure this needed piece of equipment for Lauren. Insurance does not cover the cost of this type of equipment. The cost for CCTVs can run any where between \$1,500 and \$3,500 depending on the different features they offer.

I have had the pleasure to work with several Lions clubs in the past and find your support of persons with low vision and blindness to be so valuable. I am hoping that you will be able to make the hope of having a CCTV for Lauren to use at home a reality for her and her family. Lauren has such a great attitude toward this very challenging time in her life. It is very encouraging to Lauren and other students with blindness and low vision to know there are organizations who really do care about what they are facing and who are willing to make a difference for someone in this world.

If I can assist you in any way or if you have any further questions regarding the CCTV I would be more than happy to talk with you. Please feel free to contact me at (608) 221-7677 x1142 or by email at [lisa\\_tomberlin@mononagrove.org](mailto:lisa_tomberlin@mononagrove.org).

Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of those with vision loss. Your contributions are so needed and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lisa Tomberlin, Teacher of Students who are Blind or Have Low Vision  
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