



## **“In The Beginning”**

**The year 1990 brought about a great change in Lions around the world. Lions Clubs International announced an aggressive global blindness prevention program called “Sight First”. Since that time, vision has been restored to millions around the world. In the same year a handful of Lions from south Alabama met weekly to determine how they could participate in this wonderful project. The Lions/USA Eye Research Institute was born, with many hours spent getting permission to use the name “Lions” and “USA” in the title, working on By-Laws, becoming incorporated for tax purposes, promoting the institute at the conventions and raising funds, to investing in an endowment, spending the income for eye research. There are no salaries and very little expense.**

**The Eye Research Institute is an official District 34C project being approved at the District Convention in 1991 as District “N” and approved in 2009 as District “C”. This doesn’t mean that the whole state should not be involved. Lions all over Alabama contribute to Alabama Sight in Birmingham. Our methods are different but our goals are the same – “To eradicate blindness”. We need Alabama Lions Sight to take care**

**of eye problems that have already occurred and we need Eye Research to find a means of prevention.**

**Since 1990, we:**

- **We have raised over \$716,000 and spent only the interest on principal funds**
- **Awarded more than \$161,000 (interest earned on endowed funds) to our scientists**
- **Received matching funds from LCIF for the purchase of more than \$250,000 in research equipment**
- **Net assets of \$502,000 as of June 30, 2011**

**Our goal is to prevent blindness; at this time we have four scientists working on vision research projects. We hope that you and your club will consider supporting this worthwhile venture.**