

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UNITED WAY OF LAKE COUNTY FUNDS
READING MACHINES FOR LOCAL SENIOR CENTERS AND LIBRARIES**

August is National Cataract Awareness Month

Mentor, OH - The United Way of Lake County is taking steps to make sure every Lake County senior citizen has access to equipment that will help them continue to read. To make this possible, The United Way teamed up with the Senior Citizens Solution Panel and Magnifiers & More of Mentor, OH to help fund the purchase of state of the art reading machines (called CCTV units) for senior centers and public libraries throughout Lake County.

The United Way contributed half of the cost of each machine as seed money for the project. The NorthCoast Lions Club, the Ohio Lions Foundation, the Association of Specialists in Aging (A.S.A.), the Cities of Madison, Wickliffe and Fairport Harbor provided matching funds to underwrite the purchase of six CCTV units. Magnifiers & More and Enhanced Vision, the CCTV manufacturer, contributed free shipping, instructions, delivery and a significant price reduction from the regular retail costs of the CCTV units.

By August 15, 2008 all six Enhanced Vision Merlin Video Magnification Units will be operational in three Lake County Senior Centers and three libraries.

The reading machines will help aid people with vision impairments in reading printed material, viewing

photographs, balancing their checkbooks, reading their prescription bottles, and so much more. "Enhanced Vision is pleased to partner with Magnifiers & More & the United Way of Lake County to meet the needs of the visually impaired individuals in Northern Ohio. They will enjoy many years of use from the Merlin video magnifiers", says James Bailey, Director of Sales.

Locations to receive the machines are:

Libraries: Wickliffe, Willowick, and Eastlake. These three libraries received their machines through a NorthCoast Lions Club and the Ohio Lions Foundation grant.

Senior Centers: Fairport Harbor, Wickliffe and Madison. The Association of Specialists in Aging donated toward this project for Madison Senior Center.

Statistics indicate that **More Americans than ever are facing the threat of blindness from age-related eye disease. More than 187,000 Ohioans age 40 and older are currently legally blind or visually impaired, largely resulting from the eye diseases of diabetic retinopathy, cataract, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The number of older Americans affected by these diseases is expected to double over the next 30 years as the Baby Boomer generation ages. More than 2.5 million Ohioans will be affected. *Source: Prevent Blindness Ohio**