P R O C L A M A T I O N

LIONS WORLD SIGHT DAY

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has estimated that the number of blind people in the world could double in the next 25 years and the Lions World Sight Day aims to heighten awareness and education about sight preservation and preventable blindness; and

WHEREAS, since 1990 SightFirst has helped improve or restore sight for more than 30 million people worldwide; and

WHEREAS, along with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Lions are helping eradicate measles in Africa and continue to fight river blindness and also support low vision groups and educate visually disabled children in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, in the United States approximately 750,000 people are blind with an additional 50,000 more becoming blind each year, and on a worldwide scale, an estimated 75% of all blindness is found in Africa and Asia; and

WHEREAS, on "Lions World Sight Day", which is October 11, 2012, the Muscatine Lions will work in unison with Lions clubs around the world to educate millions of people on the importance of proper eye health care; and

WHEREAS, in 2011-2012 the Muscatine Lions helped three needy adults to have an eye exam and a pair of glasses, have taken training to give children, ages 6 to 48 months, free vision screening, bought a white cane for a person with macular degeneration, in 2006 provided rides to low-vision/blind adults to the Voices Summitt held in Bettendorf, and are currently raising money to purchase "readers" for people with macular degeneration to be placed in senior housing; and

WHEREAS, Lions World Sight Day is a global vision initiative sponsored by Lions Clubs International and held annually on the second Thursday of October in an effort to raise awareness about sight-related issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DeWayne Hopkins, Mayor of the City of Muscatine, Iowa, do hereby proclaim October 11, 2012 as Lions World Sight Day.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name to be affixed this 4th day of October, 2012.

DeWayne Hopkins, Mayor