2017-2018 PROGRAM YEAR RESULTS Protecting Vision In Your Community ...





The Ohio Affiliate of Prevent Blindness is Ohio's leading volunteer nonprofit public health organization dedicated to preventing blindness and preserving sight.

Prevent Blindness SIGHT SAVING SUCCESS STORIES

"Tenth grader, Rajah Shepard was complaining of how she struggled to read the board in class and directions when working on science labs. Her mom didn't understand why she was having issues. However, thanks to the Prevent Blindness program, Rajah received a voucher to get an eye exam and new glasses. Since mom does not have vision insurance and limited funds to purchase new glasses, she was very grateful for the voucher. Rajah's grades are now improving in her science class because she is able to pay more attention to the directions because she can now see. Thanks again to the Prevent Blindness program in helping Rajah strive to be a great student."

-Staff Member at Roger Bacon High School

"One of my favorite past times is reading. I knew my eyes were getting bad because I was getting headaches. I had no insurance that covered eye exams or glasses. I don't receive enough income to save for that either. My last eye exam had been between eight to eleven years ago. Then while I was reading the lines would start to blur, and when I looked up something in the phone book I couldn't tell eight and six apart or read the addresses. That not only concerned me, it scared me.

Because of Prevent Blindness I got an excellent eye exam and nice glasses. I can now see 20/20 vision with these new glasses. I really appreciate Prevent Blindness!"

– Betty Elkins

In 2009, I was first trained to be a preschool vision screener by Prevent Blindness. Having worn glasses since age four, it was important to me for these children to be properly screened. While in the two years while I conducted screening, I personally did not find a child needing further evaluation. I never forgot the training and often saw children I wished I had the courage to talk to their parents about their vision.

Fast forward to 2016, I ran into a fellow Boy Scout volunteer whose preschooler has the most infectious smile. I could not help but to notice his eye turning in as he focused on the object he picked up and then at me as he focused on my face. With a bit of trepidation I began to share with my friend about my training as a preschool vision screener and asked if he might consider taking his son to an eye care professional. This conversation was not easy telling a parent that there might be something wrong with their child's vision. However, a few months later, I noticed young Joe in glasses in photos on Facebook. Since then Joe has had two surgeries to fix his eyes, this was a scary time for Joe and his family.

Since 2009, my life has changed. I've traded preschool volunteering for a full-time job as a digital marketing manager for a Fortune 500 company. However, I will never forget the valuable training I received from Prevent Blindness. I may never meet another young, Joe but if I do, I hope I have the courage to talk to his parents, like I did Joe's in hope they too will take their child for further testing.

- Heidi Snow

"In 2013, Prevent Blindness provided me with glasses after my eye surgery. My vision has changed because of Wet Macular Degeneration. I never dreamed that Prevent Blindness would provide new glasses for this progressive eye disease. God Bless your charity! You saved my life!"

– Linda Chase



